

Merrijig Matters

Merrijig's Monthly Newsletter

February 2015

Issue No. 22

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New Newsletter email address:-

From now on if you have news to share via this media, please use this email address.

merrijignewsletter@gmail.com is where you need to direct your articles, reports or promos for the upcoming activities of groups you belong to.

Please remember to welcome your new neighbours via the community news and share a few pictures of your most recent or exciting holiday adventure.

Quote of the month



Back issues of the newsletters can be viewed on the web at

http://www.merrijig.com.au/html/local_news.html

*Some articles in this newsletter may be picked up by the **Mansfield Courier** so consider this if you are submitting stories you could be sensitive about sharing with the community wider than Merrijig.*

If you're looking for a **Justice of the Peace**

Catherine McNish, Sawmill Settlement 0429 482 309

Merrijig Defibrillator is located at Merrijig Motor Inn

The procedure in case of an emergency where a person is possibly having a heart attack is to dial **Triple Zero**. The call takers at **Triple Zero** have the location of the Merrijig AED registered and will advise the caller of the closest unit.

If it is the Merrijig Motor Inn you should then ring the motel.

The Motor Inn phone number is **5777 5702**.

February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Muscle group	4 New Residents and Multi cultural group get together 6pm	5 Rubbish & Recycling Pilates pay as you go in the hall 9:30 to 10:30 Sitching group	6	7
8	9	10 Muscle group	11 Photography evening Sharpshooters2	12 Rubbish Pilates pay as you go in the hall 9:30 to 10:30 Sitching group	13	14
15	16 Walking club social evening	17 Muscle group	18	19 Rubbish & Recycling Pilates pay as you go in the hall 9:30 to 10:30 Sitching group	20	21 Walking club Richies Hut walk
22 Walking club Richies Hut walk	23	24 Muscle group	25	26 Rubbish Pilates pay as you go in the hall 9:30 to 10:30 Ambulance Aux fundraiser The 2nd Best exotic Marigold Hotel	27	28

Feedback

Thanks Adele for your great work putting together the newsletter.

Kind regards
Nicole Gibson

Thank you for the wonderful job you do with the newsletter. I enjoy reading it and keeping abreast of local happenings.

Best regards,
Steve Chiodo.

Who's doing what lately?

Back in London for Buttercup Rd couple

Louise and Laurie Jacob have headed back to London for their annual housesitting task. Louise has started their 2015 blog which can be found at: www.buttercuptolondon.blogspot.co.uk

Older posts can be found on the right hand side of the site from newest to oldest.

Taken from the blog the news is that Louise and Laurie stopped over in Singapore rather than arriving worn out at Heathrow on their annual trip to London for 2015. They shared a few pictures via Louise's blog.



Singapore's Marina Bay Sands Hotel dominates the skyline and coloured shutters on houses in Singapore

I will be keeping an eye on the blog so you too can keep up with their adventures.

Visiting Changue Road

Joan and Graham Godber said "We have had many visitors to our (*special*) district in recent weeks of course, with so many seeking a short respite from the hustle and bustle of Melbourne. People walking or jogging around the Alpine Ridge/Sawmill Settlement area have been a frequent sight but this dad and his two youngsters seen strolling down Changue Road, was something a little out of the ordinary."



In case your curious emu, like the cassuary, leave the responsibility of raising the young to the male. He will sit on the eggs and hatch them then teach his young how to survive. When this was explained to me (Adele) while being told about the cassuary in North Queensland I asked what did the female do while the father was busy child raring. I was told “she was off looking for another partner – the floosey.”

On my travels down in Whyalla in South Australia I learned that the male seahorse actually carries and gives birth to the baby sea horses. The New Zealand nations bird the kiwi are shocking parents I learned when visiting a wild life establishment. But the male sits on the eggs there too but then both parents leave the young to fend for themeselves immediately. There is a scheme where kiwi are tagged with trackable monitors and once the eggs are laid, someone goes in and removes them and they are then hatched in a controlled enviroment. The young are raised to be big enough to survive on their own and are released into the same area from where the eggs were taken. If this step is left out the infants are often taken by preditors, cats, big birds etc.

“Incidentally” Graham said, “rhubarb leaves are said to be somewhat toxic and we are told not to eat them.” But - Graham assures us that “fallow deer love them.”

PILATES AT MERRIJIG HALL

This popular activity is from 9.30 - 10.30 Thursday mornings pay-as-you-go for \$10.

Shona Stoneman has lately been asked to hold evening classes but she needs to know numbers who would attend before she can decide to take on that challenge. Please give Shona a call on 0419 007 663 if an evening class would interest you and discuss this idea with her. Shona is a qualified personal and group fitness trainer from Mansfield.



There is no-one you know in these pictures, they are taken from the internet to show what Pilates is for those who are not familiar with the program.

Helen Edwards commented “I have been attending Shona's pilates class on Thursday mornings at 9.30, along with several other locals (men and women), and just wanted to spread the good word.” She went on to say “The classes are very informal and Shona gives heaps of instruction throughout the class so no Pilates experience is needed.”

Helen concluded “We who take the classes would Love to have you join us - give Shona a call if you would like more information. 0419 007 663”

Horse riding lessons on January 18

Clinic organiser, Kylie Hutcheon, reported for the newsletter “On Sunday, January 18 local riders and their horses spent a wonderful day at McCormack Park soaking up the knowledge of a visiting instructor.” She went on to elaborate, “There were a total of six riders attending with seven lessons held over the day using the arena and grassy areas. Merrijig turned on some amazing whether and lessons were enjoyed by all.” As an extra bit of entertainment Kylie added, “During the lunch break a local rider came in practising some barrel racing most energetically while we all sat back in chairs and enjoyed the sunshine.” “The grounds were great and all riders had a ball. Thank you for allowing us the use of the facilities it was greatly appreciated!” concluded Kylie.

Fiona Dearing the teacher of the clinic told me “It was lovely to see people from many different backgrounds coming to have lessons. We had people from a dressage background, endurance, people who ride bitless, those who wanted to improve their control of the horses on the ground and all in-between.” Testing her talent as an instructor Fiona went on to say, “As a coach it was a super interesting day with no two lessons the same! It helps that McCormack Park grounds are in such a picturesque location also!” Fiona supplied her business details if anyone would wish to be included next time she visits.

www.remote-coach.com or www.facebook.com/remotecoach

Shelly Haley, one of the people taking part in the riding lesson said, “We had a wonderful day on Sunday with our riding lessons. Thank you once again for the use of McCormack Park. The arena surface was great this time (*without a huge downpour the day before like last year!*) Although there are a few small rocks but nothing to get too concerned about.



Shelly, concentrating on what she was being told while her mount who wears a bitless bridle, which her business Nungar Knots has created, takes in the scenery.



Rider under instruction



And in action.

Australia Day awards nomination afternoon tea

There was quite a Merrijig contingent at the Australia Day Awards nominations afternoon tea at the Mansfield Shire Offices on Wednesday, January 14. As mentioned in the January newsletter I was proud to be nominated again for bringing out this newsletter with much appreciation to the person who nominated me.

Also attending was Geoff Webb with his wife, Nan. Geoff was nominated in the 'Senior Citizen of the Year' section for his dedication to the Merrijig Campdraft Committee and the development of the grounds work to bring the McCormack Park venue up to Campdraft standard.

Tess and Frank Johnson were present because Frank had been nominated 'Citizen of the Year' for his work as the Activities Co-ordinator of the Maerrijig Public Hall sub-committee which provides activities for Merrijig including two Bush Poetry afternoons and one Rock and Roll night held in the Merrijig Hall. He has also been instrumental in getting the Merrijig Family Fun Day off the ground and initiating a Merrijig section to "Adopt a Highway" to keep the roadsides clean.

Peter Smiles was there too, as a representative for the Mansfield Race Club, due to his work on the musical entertainment of 'Tenors on the Turf' evening at the Racecourse, which is to be repeated this coming March. This was nominated for 'Event of the Year'.

Merrijig had no winners in any categories, yet we were very well represented having four nominations where the total number of nominations was only 11 from the entire shire. Well done Merrijig.

Michele Padbury took out the 'Citizen of the Year' award for a long list of community's latest production The Sound of Music. Mmuds took out the 'Event of the Year' with The Sound of Music. The 'Young Citizen of the Year' was a young lady who works with the Youth of Mansfield, 18 year old Shannon Stephens. While the 'Senior Citizen of the Year' was announced as Neville Mathieson for his life-long dedication to the Country Fire Authority, Rotary and various other areas of community life.

Then on Australia Day, Merrijig was again in the front line with three generations of the Webb family of Buttercup Road performing the flag bearing 'Horses of the High Country' part of the ceremony, pictured below.



When it came to the part of the Australia Day program to present the poetry writing prize for primary school children I felt very proud to walk my nine year old granddaughter Ailish Lunam up to receive her prize. She claimed she was too nervous to read her poem to such a large crowd if 'Gran' did not go with her. The shire's Chef Executive Officer, David Roff, knelt down beside her holding the microphone and she read her piece about "What Australia day means to me". Ailish won a bag full of wonderful things including a \$30 voucher from Country Tales Bookshop which allowed her to buy three more books. Having had experience writing and presenting her poems at the Merrijig Bush Poetry afternoon two years in a row, she is now becoming a very experienced little poetry writer and presenter.



I love to see the smiling faces of the people in the background. Our local member of State Parliament, Cindy McLeish, asked for a photo with Ailish after the ceremony finished. I am one proud Gran. Although the poetry events in the hall were not all that well patronised, the experience has

given Ailish enough confidence in her ability to enter another competition, to win the contest and also have the fond approval of a large audience. So Merrijig has had a big hand in giving her this belief in herself.

Merrijig Primary School News

All back to the fold on January 29, "Thank Heaven" sighs the mums and dads of the district! But I am sure they all enjoyed not having to rush around each morning to get ready on time.

Old fashioned ball at Merrijig Hall?

There were a few people who gave some constructive feedback on the request for suggestions to encourage people to attend activities organised to make more use of the Merrijig Hall.

Several people suggested a shorter time span for the Bush Poetry event, saying that the long time slot was a 'turn off'.

This has been taken on board. The long time slot was to allow as many people as were interested to participate in presenting their poetry or music which of course didn't happen as not as many people as was hoped came.

The Rock and Roll night attracted some interest but only from about six people, so it's not really worth putting on that event again for so few people - although it was a great night last year.

There was one new idea for a local dance where people could get their 'good duds on' and dance the night away in their finery. It would be nice to know if anyone would like to have an old fashioned ball in the hall.

That was the only other idea to try, so unless there is a sudden rush of interest it's likely there will be no extra activities in the hall organised by the sub-committee.

Let any member of the hall sub - committee know if you like the sound of a 'ball' at the hall! That's Frank or Adele or Judy Kirkham, see below.

Ambulance Auxiliary fundraiser

The next fundraising effort by the Mansfield Ambulance Auxiliary will be a ripper of a show. Personally I (Adele) have very much enjoyed the original The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, seeing it three or four times. I laughed at different places with each viewing as well as at some of the funniest lines and situations ever put into a movie.

President of the auxiliary is Merrijig's Judy Kirkham said the next fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, February 26 - an evening showing (*time to be confirmed but about 7pm*) with usual 'nibblies' prior to the show. Cost is \$20 per head. Tickets can be purchased from Judy or Wallaby Ritz." To my surprise she added "Apparently the 1st movie was hilarious!" indicating she has not yet seen it. Boy has Judy missed a fantastic movie. It's a MUST SEE Judy.



A scene from the Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel. Stars include Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Bill Nighy, Celia Imrie, Penelope Wilton, Ronald Pickup, Diana Hardcastle, Tena Desae, Dev Patel, Lillete Dubey, David Strathairn and Richard Gere.

The description provided says that the new release is the dream of young Sonny who created the original Best Exotic Marigold Hotel as the business became so popular there was only one vacancy and demand is high. Although his time was under pressure with his impending marriage to the love of his life, Sonny takes on the new venture. A top quality cast, as with the original movie, providing much entertainment as their characters negotiate through life.

Merrijig War Memorial Site

Anzac Day 2015 will see Australians remember the sacrifices made by our Armed Services over more than a century which now centres around our landing in Gallipoli on April 25, 1915. To remember the five local Merrijig volunteers of World War 1 and all following conflicts there is a Memorial Site in the reserve close to the intersection of Buttercup Road and Mt Buller Road, locally known as 'The Five Pines'.

Since 2008, Merrijig's Paul Jackson has, organised local horse riders in remembrance and as a mark of respect to ride from the Hunt Club Hotel along the Merrijig valley and up to 'The Five Pines' memorial.

This year will be no exception and over the years, residents have placed memorial stones, including the names of relatives and loved ones who have served. In many cases those made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, for our freedom and independence.

Recently Frank Johnson inspected the Memorial site and noticed that a number of the names and details on the memorial rocks placed at the site have deteriorated. He urges all members of the local community who have placed memorial rocks at the Five Pines Memorial to call past to check theirs'. If necessary and where possible, take it away and renovate the details then re-position it or bring it with them to the ANZAC Day Ceremony.

"Any person attending who has a relative or loved one who served in a conflict in any of the Armed Services are welcomed to place a wreath or rock (*with details inscribed onto the rock*) on ANZAC Day

2015,” Frank mentioned. This practise is making the local site relevant to today’s Merrijig community and any service personnel who are a relation of someone with associations to Merrijig can have a stone laid to acknowledge their contribution to our country’s security.

A Gunfire Breakfast will be held again this year for a donation of a gold coin. The profits from this money will go towards the costs of maintaining the site.



Riders seeming to rise from the mist out of the Merrijig Valley in a recent ANZAC Day dawn ride



Some of the family Rocks

Frank commented “Everyone is invited to attend, to witness and to be part of this great mark of respect and remembrance as well as to watch or to be one of the Local Horsemen/Ladies to ride up the valley to the Five Pines Memorial at sunrise with the High Country in the background on ANZAC Day. This is definitely always a photographic opportunity.”

He went on to say “ANZAC Day this year is a Saturday and as such will become a long weekend which will give our part-time residents and visitors the chance to join us for this day of National significance and remembrance.”



A police car leads the horse riders along the road towards the memorial, followed by support vehicles, during last year’s ANZAC Day.

Regular users of the Mt Buller Rd will notice a lot of work has been carried out at the site at the top of the hill at Buttercup Rd, making the trees safe, cleaning up fallen branches and mulching in preparation for this year's service.



Gonzaga Lane Phone Tree

A phone tree is a network of people organised in such a way that they can quickly and easily spread information amongst each other. These trees are especially useful during the fire season to get the word directly to people whose homes may be in the danger zone. Setting up a solid phone tree takes time, but many people feel that it is well worth the effort, since the list can be used again and again. Buttercup Road has a phone tree which is regularly up dated. Many others have fallen by the way side but Adam Thomson has taken over the phone tree for Gonzaga Lane from Peg Himmelreich.

Adam invites residents of Gonzaga Lane who would like to be included to let him have your contact details including landline and mobile phone numbers as well as your email address then Adam can update and distribute the list.

Adam says, "Thank you" in anticipation of your helping him pull this valuable community asset together.



A different sort of phone tree!

Contact Adam on 0490 192 749 or perhaps by email on axtmail@gmail.com

Merrijig Family Fun Day



Saturday, March 28th 2015

The committee and support team sincerely thank the financial sponsors:-

New Sponsor Dean Grinning of Mansfield Climate Control will cover the cost of portable toilets from pacific hire

Other general expenses have been covered by the generous support of locals

Peter Arundel - who is a partner in Arundel Constructions,

Kate Bergmuller -the owner of Take 2 Real Estate, just set up in Brighton

Adele McCormack - who owns M'shed at Merrijig

Mansfield shire -Tourism & Economic Development

Eliza Foster - owner of Made In The Shade Umbrellas

Merrijig Hall Committee will cover some Advertising expenses using part of a community grant entrusted to them by Mansfield Shire

I am pleased to announce that our new president is Frank Johnson. If being involved in getting this event off the ground interests you, please contact secretary, Adele McCormack on adelemac15@bigpond.com you are invited to be part of the organising committee or one of the growing Friends of group.

Stall holder forms were sent out in early January and there has been a favourable response already.

Confirmed is Chele's Face painting. Voted the BEST EVER face painter by our Mayor, Cr Marg Attley, following Michele face painting at the Christmas Tolmie Market - a vote supported by John (who doubled as Santa). John said he was constantly amazed by the variety of different faces which came to his market stall.

Michele will also have on her site a \$2- 'Snap a Prop Pic' corner. This is a new idea where numerous props and fancy dress items will be available for people to use then take pictures of each other (or selfies) with their own camera/phone.



This can be a lot of fun!

A second hand clothing stall and toys with Lucky Dips have also been booked and this is just the beginning.

If you are a member of a community group encourage them to become involved for local community organisations - there is no stall fee. All the money you make is for your club or group, so run a raffle, sell some cakes or handmade goodies. Organise a fun game which will generate some money. Eg **AJ's Laundry** came up with the idea of a trailer with a top of reinforcing grid used in concrete strengthening on which blocks of chocolate are placed. People then throw a gold coin and hope it lands on the chocolate which they then WIN. If it doesn't of course it drops through the grid and lands in the trailer. That money then goes to their chosen fundraising which in this case is toward the costs of the **Merrijig Family Fun Day**. Something the Fun day committee is very grateful to **AJ's Laundry** for.

Games of chance like this can be great fundraisers for local clubs too and people love having a go. You could have "guess the weight of something", "guess the number of jelly beans in a container", your fundraising idea doesn't have to be as big as **AJ's Laundry** idea.

Some of the program has been prepared:

Ideas for the pedestrian and equestrian programs are below.
Some of these events can be run simultaneously
in different parts of the venue, McCormack Park.

Free entry to these games

Running races

Children's events

Pre school - U/8 - U/10 - U/12 – U/15 – U/18

Adult events

Singles race – open women – Open Men

Mum's against Mum's - Dad's against Dad's - Grandparents

Novelty events

Three legged race

Anyone can team up

Hobby Horse race

Children's events:- U/6 – U/12 – U/18

Adult events:- Singles – Mum's – Dad's –Grandparents

Egg and spoon race

Anyone can team up

Throw the raw egg

Anyone can team up

Punch the footy (We will need a target for this game Footy club may loan us something)

Anyone

Gumboot toss (We will need a collection of gumboots, small for kids, large for adults approx. same weights for fair playing)

Kids - Adults

Potato Peeling (We will need new peelers so everyone starts with good equipment)

Anyone who can safely handle a peeler

Other fun day committee run activities – where a small entry fee may apply

The Dog Jump event – David Lovick in charge assisted by Brian Pollard -Two sections one for small dogs one for regular dogs

Equestrian fun games – Jacquie Pollard in Charge assisted by Rhyl McCormack with Barrel Race organized by Kate Bergmuller
Jacquie has a program worked out see below.

Horse obstacle quest – Paul Jackson's vision – he seeks assistance so volunteer if you would like to help with this.

This is not a timed event but where skill of the rider and horse team is evaluated as they pass through the obstacle course so speed is not the main consideration.

To take place in First Paddock beyond car park area the event includes weaving around saplings, riding through a creek cut away, up a steep incline, along a ridge, down a cattle track through a rocky creek, across the flat, through the side of the dam and back to near the start to finish.

Other games

Choco Toss – sponsored by AJ's Laundry

Bash the rat being built by Nick Reynolds

Photo board,- (where people put their heads through a hole and someone takes their picture)

Ideas welcome – plenty of opportunity for any community group, school or club to get involved with a game or contest.

Equestrian Events

- Rough program open to suggestions and alterations

1. Led Pony 12HH & under/ 12HH & under 14HH /Galloway/14HH & Under 15HH
2. Neatest & Cleanest Rider and mount
3. Rider 7 Years and Under (Novice)/ 8 Years and Under 11 Years (Novice)/ 11 Years and Under 14 Years (Novice)/ 14 Years and Under 18 Years (Novice)/ 18 Years and over (Novice)
4. Local Rider of Any Age (Merrijig & Mansfield District)
5. Pair of Riders, Any size - Any age
6. Quietest horse or Pony (Rider 10 years & Under)/ Rider 11 years & older)
7. Prettiest Horse or Pony (Rider 10 years & Under)/ (Rider 11 years & older)
8. Pony with the Longest Tail/ Horse with the Longest Tail
9. Horse or Pony with the longest Mane
10. Hairiest Pony/Horse
11. Consolation Ride (for anyone who has not won any prizes all day)

Novelty Events

1. Musical Chairs (Rider 12 years & Under)/ (Rider 13 years & Under 16 years)/ (Rider 16 years & over)
2. Sack Race (Rider 12 years & Under) /(open)
3. Apple Bob Race (Rider 12 years & Under)/ (Rider 13 years & over)
4. Fancy Dress (Rider 12 years & Under)/ (Rider 13 years & over)

Barrel Race

1. (Rider 12 years & Under)/ Rider 13 years & Under 16 years/ Rider 16 years & over
2. **Obstacle course** (timed and judged event)
U/10 (led by parent)/ 11 to 14/ Over 15/ Veteran (over 40 riders)

The new president is Frank Johnson.

If being involved in getting this event off the ground interests you, contact Secretary Adele McCormack on adelemac15@bigpond.com you are invited to be part of the organizing committee or one of the growing Friend of group.

A new major sponsor of Merrijig Family Fun day



Mansfield Climate Control is a 'U Beaut - Go Anywhere Company'. There is no need to be too hot or too cold in the whole shire as you only have to call Dean Grinning of Mansfield Climate Control on 0457 638 153 and he or one of his team will be able to solve your problems.

I can recommend Dean as he especially impressed me when he asked if he could use the vacuum cleaner to clean up after he had cut holes in the plaster to put in a heat transfer system for me.



Howqua River Trees

This year's Howqua River Trees Annual Sale will be held over this coming **Easter** Weekend – Friday, April 3 to Sunday, April 4 and not ANZAC Day long weekend as in previous years.

Jan Ash (*now there's a good shade tree the Ash*) said "We have a large number of different variety trees to beautify anyone's property with a horticulturalist on hand to advise and assist in selection – all at great prices too!

Jan Ash & Brett Shady
Howqua River Trees
325 Howqua River Road,
HOWQUA,
Victoria 3723
Tel: 03 5777 3340
Website: www.howquarivertrees.com.au (currently under construction)
Email: info@howquarivertrees.com.au



Merrijig Alpacas

A new stud business begun by Steve and Mary Chiodo with Steve Klingsporn, farm manager, has already attracted attention from overseas Alpaca studs, even from where Alpaca studs began in Peru.

The property on which Steve and Mary have established their all new operation was formally owned by the Klingsporn family who were pioneers in Merrijig. Robert Klingsporn's son, Jack Klingsporn along with Jack, George and Frank Lovick opened up the way for Mt Buller to become the tourist mountain it is today. So perhaps the property has some magic to encourage people with foresight to build on what already exists to create something wonderful.

From what has been reported on Merrijig Alpacas short life, being officially a little more than 12 months old, this business will be a benchmark for others to be compared against.



The all new shearing shed with shearing underway

During shearing time in mid-November Merrijig Alpacas sent out an invitation to other alpaca business owners to come and view the shearing and fleece testing in the modern purpose-built shearing shed. “After discussions with the key people at Merrijig, it is clear they are on the right track to create a viable commercial venture for producing and consigning alpaca fibre,” commented Paul Vallely of AAFT on the Facebook web page.

Steve and Mary decided to breed only black and white alpacas referred to as ‘solid’ colours, and to be assured the plans will succeed the females will be implanted with embryos from the elite female core of the 1200 strong herd which also includes some 50 top male alpacas.

A great deal of planning by Steve and Mary has gone into the designing of the facility which has been described as “state of the art” so that the herd can be managed most efficiently. There is even an alpaca hospital on site for the embryo transplant process. All the animals are electronically tagged to avoid mis-mating as well as allowing for DNA analysis for recording of specifics about animals for future genetic consideration.

With all this ground work now in place it appears everything that can be done has been set in place for this Merrijig business to become a force to be reckoned with in the very near future and beyond.

Legends of the High Country edited for local interest

Chris Donnelley, who a few years ago worked on Mt Buller and is fondly remembered by his nick name of Spotter, spent hours in his spare time creating a short edited version of the TV special on the making of the High Country Myths and Legends which aired recently on Channel 9. He sent through a link to where his work can be viewed along with this short message “Hi Adele, I’ve just finished this project and I thought you might like and share with friends <http://youtu.be/4XYBBXurC50>.”

Chris has done an amazing job and it must have taken him umpteen hours to do it but he says “This video has been shortened for the McCormack and Lovick families of Merrijig, Victoria.” He continued “I have edited from the TV documentary 'High Country Legends', some of the highlights of the high country cattlemen.”

Blurb from the promo on the TV special is as follows “Welcome to a place where time is measured by the seasons and the land is untameable... A place where men and women are bred tough and true legends are born...!”

Welcome to the High Country!

“Saddle up and join us on a captivating journey to the snow peaked mountains of the high country where enchanted whispers and legendary yarns come alive with the most inspiring stories of Australian characters.

“Be dazzled like never before by the amazing animal stars. See death defying stunts and aerial performances as you hear the brave tale of the Aussie girl sold to the circus at the tender age of seven.

“Be mesmerised by the biggest display of special effects ever seen as you travel the Road to Omeo with Australia’s yesteryear ghosts. With all the drama and action guests have come to expect from Australia’s favourite dinner show, prepare for the most breathtaking arena production ever created under the Australian Outback Spectacular roof.”

Friends of Changuer Road Reserve

Check out the web site www.friendsofchangueroadreserve.weebly.com for updates including the working bee with had to be cancelled due to extreme heat.

Kirsten Lingard - Shire of Mansfield Community Resilience Coordinator has written “Dear Upper Delatite Community Member,

“The following was mailed to the ratepayer database, so hopefully you have received this in hard copy. If not, please see below. Also please feel free to forward this onto any other interested residents in the area.

November there was a community meeting to establish a collective vision and plan for the Changuer Road Reserve. 18 community members attended the meeting and as a result of the meeting, Council was asked to develop a simple survey for rate payers in the Upper Delatite region. A full report of this meeting is available online at <http://www.mansfield.vic.gov.au/aboutmansfield/townsandlocalities/upperdelatite.aspx>

The survey consists of a number of options, the simplest being a path, the most extensive including all items listed in project vision developed by community members at the meeting.

Council will make a decision based on the survey results and this will be communicated broadly via newsletters, email databases, websites and newspaper.

Please carefully read the instructions for completing the survey. For those wishing to complete the survey online visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ChanguerRoad>. Also attached is a fact sheet outlining some considerations for the various options proposed.”

MANSFIELD COMMUNITY FUND PRESENTS

WEDNESDAY 11th FEB

6—7 p.m.

THE DECK ON HIGH

**PLACES
STRICTLY
LIMITED!**



SHARPSHOOTERS 2

“A Bird’s Eye View”

Ladies, would you like to...

- Learn more about photography?
- Know how to create amazing shots?
- Be part of a FABULOUS community exhibition?

MCF invites YOU to SHARPSHOOTERS 2!

Want to know more?

Join us in a complimentary champagne and nibbles for an overview and project registration.

Bring your friends!



For catering, please register expressions of interest with Julie on 0407 688 981

You can print off just this page to fill in and send back by the due date if you cannot do it any other way.



CHANGUE ROAD RESERVE SURVEY

Instructions for completing the survey

- Please complete **one survey per family**. Survey is open to both tenants and property owners.
- Number responses 1-5, with **1 being your preferred option** and **5 being your least preferred option**
- Make sure that you number **every** box
- Make sure that **each box has a different number**
- **Do NOT** respond by ticking or crossing the box
- Responses that have tick, crosses or are numbered incorrectly will be invalid

Household address in the Upper Delatite area _____ **(Required)**

Number responses 1-5, with **1 being your preferred option** and **5 being your least preferred option**

- Option 1: Formed walking path only
- Option 2: Formed walking path with park benches, signage and shade trees
- Option 3: Formed walking path with park benches, signage, shade trees and flat community area
- Option 4: Formed walking path with park benches, signage shade trees, exercise stations/natural exploration area
- Option 5: Formed walking path with benches, signage, native shade trees, flat community area and exercise stations/natural exploration area

Please keep me informed of the survey outcome

Name:

Email:

The survey is available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ChangueRoad>

If you are unable to access the internet, please fill in this form and return:

Post: Private Bag 1000 Mansfield Vic 3724

Email: kirsten.lingard@mansfield.vic.gov.au

Fax: 03 5775 2677

Please complete and return your survey before **Friday 6 March 2015**. **Your time and feedback is much appreciated.**

Changue Road Reserve Survey Information sheet

Reserve maintenance

- Council maintains reserves based on infrastructure requirements. Currently the Changue Road Reserve is maintained for fire prevention only.

Walking paths

- Path to provide a loop around the Reserve including a link through to Sawmill Settlement and a link to the bus stop on Mt Buller Road.
- Where possible path will follow contours of the land
- Council has advised that the type of path required is a formed path, rather than a mown track. A formed path is required primarily for maintenance as well as health and safety requirements
- If the path is over 100m long a Cultural Heritage Management Plan may be required
- A planning permit will be required



Example of formed walking path
(Recently completed project at Maindample Park).

Community Flat Area

- Excavations are likely to be required for the flat community area, this will require a Cultural Heritage Management Plan
- A planning permit will be required

Exercise stations/natural exploration area (all built with natural materials ie logs and rocks),

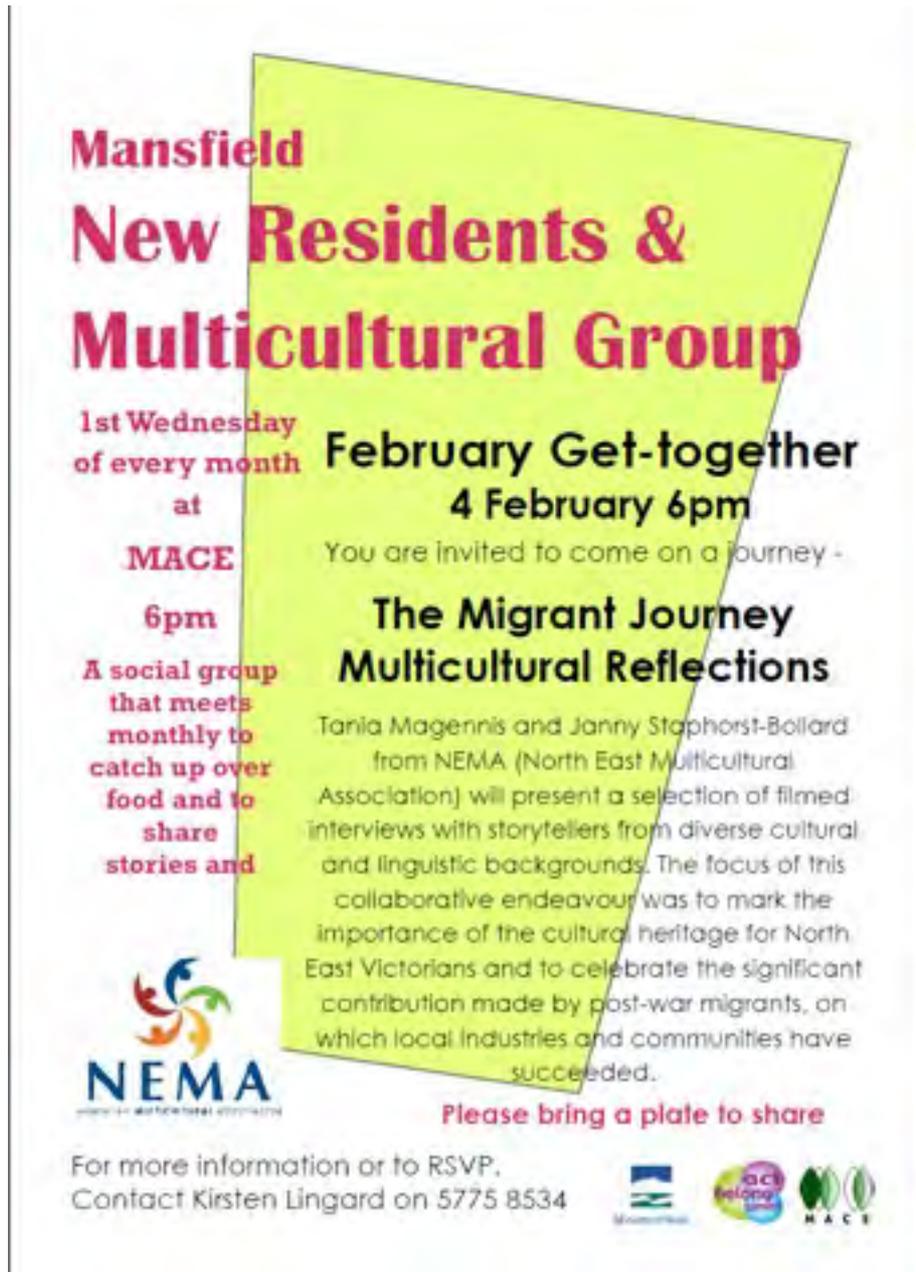
- A planning permit will be required



Examples of exercise stations/natural exploration area



Cr Marg Attley is your local representative on Mansfield Shire Council.
She is available to be contacted on: 5776 2231 or marg.attley@mansfield.vic.gov.au



**Mansfield
New Residents &
Multicultural Group**

1st Wednesday
of every month
at
MACE
6pm

A social group
that meets
monthly to
catch up over
food and to
share
stories and

**February Get-together
4 February 6pm**

You are invited to come on a journey -
**The Migrant Journey
Multicultural Reflections**

Tania Magennis and Janny Staphorst-Bollard
from NEMA (North East Multicultural
Association) will present a selection of filmed
interviews with storytellers from diverse cultural
and linguistic backgrounds. The focus of this
collaborative endeavour was to mark the
importance of the cultural heritage for North
East Victorians and to celebrate the significant
contribution made by post-war migrants, on
which local industries and communities have
succeeded.

Please bring a plate to share

For more information or to RSVP,
Contact Kirsten Lingard on 5775 8534



Merrijig Rodeo

A few local riders have booked time at McCormack Park in February to work with their mounts.

Then March sees working bees come into play as the Merrijig Rodeo committee and team of helpers get ready for their big event on March 7.

Adele has reported: "I have it on good authority too that the alterations to the rules of association have been approved by Consumer Affairs which will allow members from the local community to become members of the association. No need to commit to regular committee meetings but if you are interested in supporting the Merrijig Rodeo Association your opportunity is opening up in the very near future. Having a healthy Merrijig Rodeo and Sports Association will see this popular event continue with a strong support base way into the future which will be acknowledgement to all those who have worked so hard in the past to build on its humble beginnings as a fundraiser for the footy club when Kerry Lovick (now Burrowes) was running for the Queen contest in about 1978.

"From that first fundraiser just about all the locals were involved in one way or another; some on the organising committee some just backing the committee up. They all worked hard on the day but didn't bat an eyelid when it came round to do it all again next year. These days were part of the Merrijig social calendar as after the cleanup, there was always a barbecue and a few drinks; it was a great sociable time much like a huge Merrijig picnic."



Charlie Lovick steer riding 1978



Above are some of the original locals who helped the committee pull off one successful event after another annually. From left are Wendy Walsh, Aileen Canterford (wearing a committee ribbon), Celia Brandl and Wendy's mum, who we usually called Mrs Figgis Circa 1983

Following this year's rodeo, the very next event is the first ever Merrijig Family Fun Day and it's looking good, stall site forms have been circulated, if you would like one contact Adele adelemac15@bigpond.com clubs, schools and community organisations stall sites are free so get a raffle together, gather up all those craft items, bake a few cakes and make some money for your group. There are more details about the event elsewhere in this newsletter including the program of happenings.

Work continues on the plans to build an ablutions block and have permanent power brought to the site, those two additions will make the venue far more user-friendly.

Bonfire building at Merrijig

It is very pleasing to see the bonfire growing as some locals have taken up the offer to get rid of their green waste and combustible materials on the bonfire site at "Bally Patrick" mentioned in last month's newsletter.

You do realise that the bonfire will be a good excuse for a party when the fire restrictions are lifted. Sadly fire crackers are illegal but toasting marshmallows on a side fire and sharing a barbecue and a few drinks around a big bonfire is still a very appealing way to pass an evening before the weather gets too cold to be out of doors at night.

You will be given plenty of warning to mark the date on the calendar so you won't miss out when the time comes.

Keep the bonfire in mind when you find you have a trailer full of green waste, save fuel and tip fees as well as help save the land fill too by building the bonfire.

Want to dump some clean fill?

Anyone with clean fill looking for a new home, contact Frank Johnson as his neighbours are in need of some to fill a spot. Call Frank on 0400 315 344 to arrange to drop it off.

FOUND: Near the intersection of School Road/McCormack Road/Mt Buller Road a small knife in a leather pouch lying on the southern side of the bitumen in School Road. Anyone losing this item can contact Mansfield Police on 5775 2555 or Frank Johnson on 0400 315 344.

Mansfield Walking Club

Social Gathering Monday, February 16

7.45pm. Delatite Hotel - Speakers topic - Larapinta Trail near Alice Springs.

A three - week walk on this iconic Australian trail.

Walk February, 21 & 22

Walking in / out to Ritchies Hut along the high track beside the Howqua River.
Novice's introduction to pack, carrying, walk - Assistance with gear available also.
Contact Maureen 0419 307 409.

Experienced walkers welcome as well of course.

Contact person:- Jacky Noble. - Secretary,
Mansfield Bushwalking Club
PO Box 344
Mansfield 3724
walkers3722@mail.com



It's a good idea to have some useful extinguishing products handy where you could possibly be faced with a fire outbreak. A fire blanket is made from fibreglass fire-proofed material and can be thrown over the flames to smother them by denying the fire oxygen.

Fire blankets can be used to extinguish small fires in the home, caravan, boat or garage. They can also be used to wrap around a person whose clothes have caught alight. It is best to store fire blankets in or adjacent to a kitchen but not too close to a potential hazard for example above a stove.

Being constructed of fibreglass, fire blankets can withstand temperatures up to 500 Celsius, are compact and portable and easily stored. The blankets are packaged in a high quality, quick-release PVC container.

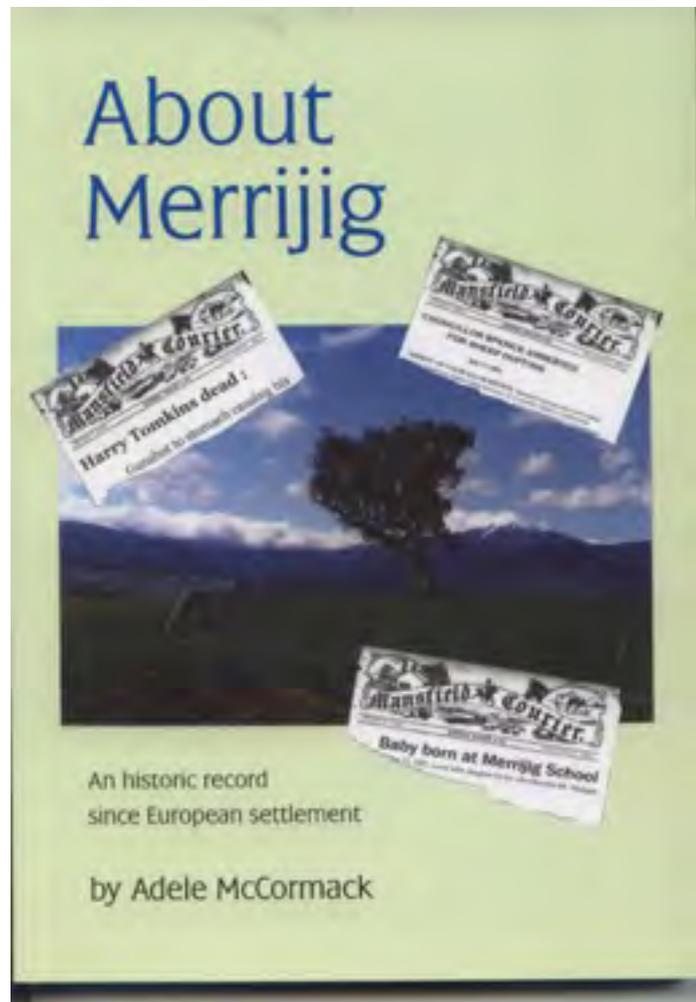
Fire blankets come in a range of sizes and can be purchased from fire safety equipment suppliers and major hardware stores. They range in price from \$10 to \$30 depending on the size.

It is recommended that fire blankets should only be used once and then replaced.

Fire extinguishers

It is very important to purchase the correct fire extinguisher to suit the environment in which it will be used.

Using the wrong extinguisher type on a fire may have disastrous consequences, causing the fire to spread or result in the operator being injured. The prices range according to capacity and usage and are from anything between \$22 and \$100.



There has been some renewed interest in the book “About Merrijig” which had its launch at the first Merrijig Rodeo held on Bally Patrick in 2004. This venue is now known as ‘McCormack Park’.

The production and publication of this book was a two year project, which was a great pleasure as it included collecting local knowledge from some of the oldest Merrijiggers. Some who grew up on bush blocks, some who rode horses to school and some who remembered the hall jumping to local dances, most of whom have now taken their stories with them on their passing.

Several people have commented that there is probably room for a sequel with this publication now being 11 years old and so much has happened in that time.

It could be worth the effort in another nine years to update ‘About Merrijig’ but it won’t be as exciting as uncovering the forgotten past like an archeologist peeling away layers of years to uncover stories through reading the microfische of the old Couriers.

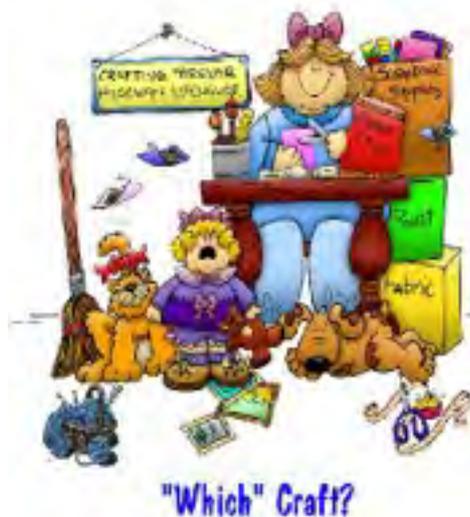
There are a limited number of books still available from the original print run.

Merrijig Hall is available for hire for any function

at most reasonable rates

when looking for a venue
for a birthday party, wedding family reunion
keep your community hall in mind - it's there for your use

Call Sen Weir 0407 565 962 or 5777 5656



The group gathers on Thursdays at 11am, finishing up around 3pm. Everyone brings along a small plate of goodies to share for morning tea and/or lunch. Tea and coffee are supplied.

New members welcome.
Cost per session is \$4.
For further details contact Kerrie on 04 3738 0384



Sue O'Brien created more than fresh scones

Tis Thursday morn,
The washings done.
Our scones are baked
It's time for fun.
So gather your threads
Some wool 'n' whatnot
Come join us do
Ahh.... We're a hilarious lot
But wait a minute
There's one of us late
She's loading cattle
Down there at the gate

She's been to the hall
And set things a ready
The sewing machine,
the urn and even a plate
I love our group
And the company we share
It's so darn good
I wouldn't miss it
Nope, I wouldn't dare.

By Sue O'Brien



A colorful flyer for a "Muscle Group" exercise class. The flyer is framed in a thick purple border. At the top, it says "At Merrijig Hall On Tuesdays between 10 to 12 & only costing \$3.00". Below this, the words "Muscle Group" are written in large, 3D, green and brown letters. The central text reads "Don't do any of these workouts pictured. Its good fun & light muscle strengthening exercises". Surrounding the text are several illustrations of people performing different exercises: a woman flexing her arm, a woman on a step aerobics machine, a woman on a stationary bike, a woman on a step aerobics machine, a woman jumping rope, a woman doing a sit-up, and a man with dumbbells.

and don't forget Pilates on Thursday mornings



Quick catering
Emergency Chef
 filling in for sick staff. As well as
 Group catering, Private parties,
 Weddings & Wakes
 including advice and preparation
 also hiring table waiting teams.

Phone Paul Jackson
 0427 384 648

EVER NEEDED A FACE PAINTER

*Keep Michele in mind for
 when you find you need a childrens' entertainer.*

**Michele has been busy face painting for a birthday parties
 And was a big hit at the Christmas market in Tolmie**

To hire Michele for a birthday party or club fundraiser
 check out the notice below.

Chele's Face~Painting,
 \$50- p/h



Fundraisers
 Having a Family Fun Day, Fete, Trash & Treasure?
 Pay for 2 hours get 4 hours and charge a minimum of \$6 per full face and \$3- per cheek to keep for yourself



AJ's Laundry Services

4 Stirling St Merrijig
Juliet Mobile 0419 210468
Merrijig Office: (03)5777 5967

NOW FOR A FINAL GOOD LAUGH!

Three golfers are in a car on their way to the golf course when they are involved in a tragic accident. They are all killed instantly. They get to the pearly gates, and St Peter is there to welcome them to the most magnificent golf course they have ever seen. He tells them that they are welcome to play for as long as they feel like, BUT... DON'T hit any ducks for the first three months! (There are lots of ducks on the golf course) "Once you hit a duck, it quacks... then the next duck quacks, and the next... until there is such a din that God gets annoyed... and there WILL be consequences!"

After six weeks, one of the golfer hits a duck... they then understand about the noise! St Peter walks up to him with handcuffs and with him, is the ugliest woman any of them have ever seen. He handcuffs the golfer to her and tells them that they are to spend the rest of eternity handcuffed together.

The remaining two golfers are now very careful to not hit the ducks, but six weeks later, one of them hits a duck. St Peter walks up with the handcuffs and an even uglier woman and handcuffs them together.

The remaining golfer is so careful and finally gets to the three months without hitting a duck. St Peter walks up to him with handcuffs and the most beautiful woman he has ever seen and handcuffs them together.

He can't believe his luck and says "What, in God's name, did I ever do to deserve this?" The beautiful woman looks at him and says "Well, I don't know about you, but I hit a duck!"

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The importance of pronunciation

Story provided by a man who was at Wagga Wagga doing his military training. There was an old Flight Sergeant called Danny Woodhouse. He was a pukka military type with a very strong Welsh accent.

He would be in control of our morning role call and march, he recalled that he had an LAC GH (and I don't know what those initials stand for) who had come for re-muster; his name was Les McCormack.

One morning Danny was in his usual brilliant form bellowing out our names. When he came to Macka, he yells McCormick! Macka remained silent. Again Danny in a higher more forceful tone belted out **McCormick!** Again Macka remained silent.

Danny strode over to Macka, pulled himself up to his full 5'4" and said "are you deaf McCormick? I've called your name twice."

Macka fully composed looked down at Danny's now flushed face and calmly replied "sorry Flight, I thought you were calling McCormick, my name is McCormack."

Danny, nearly bursting a valve, retorted "McCormick, McCormack; what's the difference?"

"That's right Flight," Macka again calmly replied "Woodhouse, Shithouse, what's the difference?" All semblance of military decorum went out the window as we all buckled with laughter.

Flight Sergeant Woodhouse was a little more particular with his accent after that!



Bye for now Adele

Adele McCormack
45 McCormacks Rd
Merrijig 3723
☎ 03 5777 5637 Mob: 0409 600 655

This Merrijig Community Newsletter is compiled by Adele McCormack of Merrijig and edited and published on this website by Louise Jacob also of Merrijig, as a community service.

The newsletter is an outcome of the Merrijig Community Plan initiated by the Shire of Mansfield Council.

Every care has been taken in gathering and presenting the information on this site.

Enquiries can be directed to enquiries@merrijig.com.au or regarding the newsletter content to merrijignewsletter@gmail.com

The website is designed and sponsored by Merrijig resident, Steve Thompson of Appaloosa Films www.appaloosafilms.tv