

The Boolarra Link

THE OLD MILL SITE REVITALISED

Volume 29, Edition 4

A timber mill operated in Foster Road for many years. It was established by the Thorburns in the 1880's. The Dyers took over from Thorburns and Kevin Tyers took over from Dyers. The lease expired in the 1990's and the land reverted to the Department of Sustainability & Environment (DSE). The mill site occupies 5 acres and is bounded by State Forest. There were a number of popular walking tracks through the bush but these had been covered in regrowth since the fires and so the area was not being used. The Boolarra South Landcare Group (BSLG) had done some planting on the site before the fires but many of these trees had been burnt. We decided to re-plant and began removing weeds and collecting seed so we could establish local plant species.

In February 2010 we were fortunate to have the help of 5 Korean volunteers with a supervisor from Conservation Victoria. They routed-out lots of blackberries and made a significant contribution to our seed bank.

As work progressed at the site we realised we had a wonderful asset right on our doorstep. The bush is a beautiful area with some lovely fern gullies and a dam. As the terrain is relatively flat we decided we could make walking tracks, a picnic area and car-park which would be of benefit to our community. It is quite a big area to develop and so we needed

some funds to get things underway. The DSE advised they were happy for us to develop the area and will provide advice, clear dangerous trees and put up signs. We made a submission to the Boolarra Community Development Group (BCDG) and they kindly agreed to provide \$6,000 which we will use to construct our first track. We earned \$1,500 from planting the Monash Way/Bastin Street intersection and this enabled us to purchase a 5 hp mower to mark out the track and will also be used to maintain the area. We also bought crushed rock and gravel and the pipes to go under the track. Mick Schiller, Mick Crowley, Tony Minter and Geoff from GEST began the work, surveying the area and marking out the first track.

There was some preliminary clearing needed, so David O'Brien organised the removal of old car bodies and other metal that went into the CFA recycling skip. On 26th October the DSE burnt two big fires for us. Brent O'Brien of Prosper Valley Excavations has had his big machines at work to begin the transformation by forming the first track which links Foster Road to the cemetery. It is approx one kilometre in length and will have drains, pipes and crushed rock to create an easy walk through the bush. Our ultimate aim is to



Work gets underway

create a circular walk with a picnic area and already locals are using the track and have plenty of suggestions for ways of further developing the area. We want this to be an area for walking and passive recreation and hope that motor bikes and horses will not use this particular part of the forest. There are several other tracks in the bush that will be more suitable for these activities.

We have been looking at Gazebos and have sub-

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Korean students volunteer to help out

GREAT TURN UP FOR BOOLLARRA FIRE STATION OPENING

Approximately 250 people, mainly local residents, turned out for the official opening of the redevelopment and extension of the Boolarra Fire Station

Following the Delburn Complex fires, substantial donations of over \$150,000 were received from businesses, groups and individuals from around Australia and the Boolarra Fire Brigade was able to finance the extension and redevelopment of the existing fire shed. As Mirboo East Fire Brigade amalgamated with Boolarra two years ago, money has also been set aside for improvements to the satellite Mirboo East shed.

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The Boolarra Fire Station

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mitted funding applications to see if we can have one erected. We would like picnic tables, a meadow area, an arboretum, beautification of the dam and ultimately a composting toilet included in the project.

Andrew Wolstenholme, the Landcare weed expert has again helped us identify plants in the area we have marked for tracks. We do have some significant plants and two or three quite unusual species. He was amazed at the profusion of beautiful pink Trigger plants at the cemetery and identified three species of native orchids and some native grasses, in particular Wallaby grass, Weeping grass and Vernal grass. If we can create an arboretum and a meadow these could become an educational experience. We hope to find funds for signage and plant identification tags.

The Boolarra South Landcare group is very grateful to the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) for enabling the group to purchase a laptop computer, screen, projector and printer. We would also like to recognize the Foundation for its contribution to funding our library.

How quickly improvements appear will depend on funding. Linda Minter, our secretary is always on the look out for sources of money and has been very successful so far. We had glowing letters from 14 groups from the town to support funding applications and Linda has quite a few of these in the pipeline. Preparing these submissions is quite onerous so we hope that her work is fruitful. We envisage this area being a significant asset to our town which could be used in conjunction with the Rail Trail to attract visitors to this beautiful setting.

Denise Schiller - BSLG



One of the the new sections of the track

DIGITAL TV RECEPTION IN BOOLARRA

The following information is being published in an attempt to explain what is known at the moment about digital TV reception, as the changeover from analogue to digital TV transmission could have a profound effect on reception in Boolarra.

The Federal Government has announced that the changeover at the repeater station in Bunderra Drive will take place in February 2011. They are saying that this will happen on one day. In other words there will be no joint transmission trial. One day will be analogue and the next day will be digital. The main transmitter at Mt Tassie, which transmits to the Valley generally, will be switched over in May 2011 also on one day.

In regard to the Boolarra repeater station, Latrobe City have announced, after extensive lobbying by the Boolarra Community Development Group, that they have agreed to the offer by the broadcasters to upgrade the equipment at both Boolarra and Jeeralang, on the condition that Latrobe City install air conditioning in the two repeater stations and continue to maintain them for the next 10 years.

The Municipal Association Victoria have advertised (last week) for people to be appointed as digital changeover agents and one of these people will be allocated to Latrobe City. Their role will be to service the requirements of all residents affected.

The Federal Government strategy means that the Boolarra/Jeeralang repeater stations must be ready in February 2011, otherwise the residents who depend on those repeater stations will not get any reception at all.

At this stage there is no way of knowing who will get signals from the Boolarra station, who will get it from Mt Tassie or who will not get it at all unless they tune into the satellite. Whatever is required to get digital reception will require a change in equipment and this could include new receivers, set top boxes, new antenna's or satellite dishes. The Federal Government is saying that there will be subsidies to cover some of the cost on an individual basis but the level is unclear.

The Boolarra Community Development Group (BCDG) will invite the changeover agent to come to one of our meetings as soon as he/she is appointed. Residents will need advice on what to do to get the best reception at minimum cost and minimum disruption. This will mean being alert to what is happening and making decisions about new equipment.

Some residents are getting good digital reception now and others are getting high definition analogue on new TV receivers. Many others do not know what the options are. Some reception seems to have improved as a result of the fires but as the terrain recovers this could change.

Clarification of the options will be a high priority of the BCDG and assistance provided where possible but at present there is a high degree of uncertainty.

We will engage with Latrobe City seeking regular updates and both our State and Federal Members to ensure minimum disruption.

Les Hunt - BCDG



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Substantial donations were received from various businesses and organisations including International Power, C.F.M.E.U., Bendigo Bank and RACV to name but a few as well as much appreciated smaller donations from individuals and groups formed the bulk of the donations.

Improvements that have led to the Boolarra Fire Shed being re-categorised as the Boolarra Fire Station have included a large new motor room, turn out area and communications room, the modernisation of the kitchen and toilets and the redevelopment of the former shed section into a modern meeting /training facility.

Various other items of equipment such as pro-tech nozzles, beacons, generators, a computer with printer, GPS units, a large plasma TV and a DVD have also been purchased with the donations.

Although much of the building work was sub-contracted to tradesmen, brigade members were able to keep costs low by completing some of the work themselves. Many local businesses supplied goods or carried out work at cost price or under to assist the brigade to complete the project within budget. A large board listing all businesses that generously assisted in the project is on display near the main entrance.

Following extensive research into the history of the Boolarra and Mirboo East Fire Brigades (established in 1944 and 1953 respectively), honour boards were unveiled listing every member who held a formal position in the brigades since their inception.

Fifteen past and present members of at least 25 years service, who held formal positions in the brigades for much of that time and who have

contributed significantly to the operation and development of the brigade were honoured with "Exemplary Service" recognition plaques and their names were included on the "Exemplary Service Honour Board" which was on view for the first time.

To record a photographic history of the brigade, an impressive display of photographs that have been enlarged and framed and span over 60 years are on permanent display in the new facility.

Guest speakers included Jack Richards, who recalled the "early days" of the Boolarra Fire Brigade, Dave O'Brien who talked about the Honour Boards and Exemplary Service Awards, Neil Lawson – International Power and Trevor Birkbeck - C.F.M.E.U. explained the contribution their organizations have made to communities and Malcolm McKenzie talked about the CFA Service awards. Di Billingsley capably controlled the proceedings and kept everything moving in her role as M.C.

A special presentation was made to local resident and DSE employee, Mr Rick Teychenne, for the

assistance he gave to our fire brigade and the local community during the Delburn Complex fires. Rick assisted in arranging DSE slip-on units and also manned a CFA tanker when the fire was threatening Boolarra. While Rick was fighting the fires and defending the town, his own house was destroyed.

Thirty-one brigade members received long service awards that were presented by Mr Malcolm McKenzie, CFA Gippsland Regional Manager and Mr Shane Mynard, Acting Operations Officer - Morwell. Awards ranged from the 5 Year Certificate to the Thirty Year Clasp.

Boolarra captain, Mr Todd Birkbeck, unveiled a plaque and all brigade members simultaneously cut the red and white CFA symbolic ribbon, formally opening the new station.

At the completion of the opening all present toured the new facility and participated in a free barbecue lunch, which was provided by the brigade but prepared by the Yinnar – Churchill Lions Club.

Dave O'Brien



Community gathers for the opening of the redeveloped fire station

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Boolarra Stompers - Winners of the "The Spirit of the Relay" trophy

This event is run annually to raise money to support cancer sufferers and to fund Research into the different types of cancer and we all know there are too many of those. We would all like to see a cure for cancer.

It was a privilege to Captain such a wonderful team. The team that wouldn't stop growing! We thought 20 people in the team would be great, but by the day of the Relay there were 54 registered members. Most of those were from Boolarra and surrounds, some from Melbourne, some from Traralgon and 13 from the Latrobe Valley Buslines. The Buslines left a bus at the oval for our use and it came in handy especially when the tents had to be taken down for safety reasons when the weather soured around midnight on Saturday.

During Saturday afternoon there were fun competitions conducted every hour. A goal kicking comp, egg and spoon race – at which Pam Warren and Rachel Pearce excelled. Fiona had a go at spaghetti eating and Natalie Roy blitzed all the younger entrants in the dry Wheat Bix Eating competition. Go Nat! There was also had hourly trivia quiz and live music was on the go to keep the momentum going. The committee had done a good job with all the organising.

We were able to put together a great roster which meant if we spread our times out properly we could have lots of breaks in between our laps. It worked very well until the middle of the Saturday night when the weather really roughed up and the organisers decided it was too dangerous to continue, so we ended a bit early. You can't pick the weather. Still, it was a lot of fun.

Gwenda Pither after accepting the 'Spirit of the Relay' trophy



When Colin and Sam came in at midnight they found they had to take down the tents instead of walking and then call it a day (or night). Fiona, Marlene and myself stayed the whole 24 hours. Thanks for your company. Had lots of laughs.

The total money raised by all the teams that took part was over \$100,000.

Thorpy Blues got the trophy for raising the most money. Boolarra Stompers raised just over \$5,000. I don't have the exact figure at this time as all our deposit and receipt books had to be handed in for checking. We were still getting money into our team tally at the last minute before the Closing Ceremony thanks to Roger and his efforts on the phone Saturday night.

Other fund raisers included Raffles, Trivia Night, Car Boot Sale and guessing the lollies in the jars as well as some very welcome donations. Most of us want to get into the spirit again for the next Relay which will be in November next year so already the cogs are turning for raising more for this worthwhile cause.

It was an incredible experience really. About 20 other teams from throughout the Valley gathered at the oval at Gaskin Park, Churchill – ending up with about 300 relay members taking part. Unfortunately because of the poor weather we didn't have many spectators, however you wouldn't have known it because of the number of participants and their support crews. There always looked to be a good crowd present. There was ample food available at a low cost and the breakfast on the Sunday morning was superb and plentiful.

One of the things that will stick in my mind for a long time is the dedication of our team members. Even when the event was stopped because of the weather, the early shift arrived on Sunday morning ready to walk, and did so for their rostered time. Now that's dedication and I believe is part of the reason we came away with the award for the Spirit of the Relay. It was the first time this award had been part of the Event and the trophy is taking pride of place at the Post Office for all to see. Our banner, which was put together by Libby Robertson and decorated with all the little shoes and ribbons which Fiona Grima sourced on the internet, and our fantastic Batton, which was generously made by Geoff Dunkley are also on display. Why

would anybody not be happy with all that we had going for us.

The support of the community here was fantastic to say the least. Without your support it wouldn't have been the great success it was for us. So a big thank you to you all.

Looking forward to the next one in 2011, so come in and register with me if you wish or you can also register on-line. Have a go. You too may just enjoy the challenge.

Boolarra Stompers - Never say never!

*Have a safe and healthy Christmas and
all the best for 2011.*

Gwenda Pither



Members & supporters of the Boolarra Stompers

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Message from Russell Northe

It's terrific to see the reinvigoration of the Boolarra Link and I commend all associated with the production and distribution of this important communication medium. The Boolarra Link provides vital information to the local community and assists in enhancing social interaction and inclusiveness in Boolarra and District.

I have had the opportunity to visit Boolarra on a number of occasions over these past weeks. Some of the more memorable moments included the opening of the redeveloped Boolarra Fire Station. It is an impressive facility indeed and a tribute to the wonderful men and women of the Country Fire Authority. We are all acutely aware of their heroics in January and February of 2009 and it was just sensational to see so many community members attend this special event.

The facility itself is terrific in that it not only accommodates existing vehicles and equipment but showcases the history of the local CFA. The day itself was not just a tribute to current members but recognised those long serving members who gave so much in previous eras. A number of Boolarra CFA members received awards for their years of service, and I congratulate all for their commitment and dedication in protecting the safety and lives of others. It's such a selfless act to become involved in volunteering and giving up personal time to serve our community.

We should also recognise those who contributed to the redevelopment because without their financial and moral support this would not have happened. So thank you to one and all! It really was just a sensational day and thoroughly enjoyed by all those in attendance. So to Captain Todd Birkebeck and your team well done and good luck!

On that same day I conducted an open invitation for residents of Boolarra and District to come and speak with me on any State Government topics at

EXTRA! EXTRA!

The new size of The Boolarra Link will allow for more articles, stories and information sharing. So, if you have a tale to tell, a poem to share, interesting photo you've snapped, a favourite recipe or a piece of information you would be happy to have published - talk to a member of the committee about having your suggestion included in the Link.

It would be very helpful if articles, photographs and submissions could be supplied in an electronic format, sent to us at BoolarraLink@hotmail.com. Written material can be addressed to The Boolarra Link and left with Gwenda or Roger at the Boolarra Post Office.

REMEMBER to include your contact details so we can get in touch to discuss your ideas.

Jan Thomson - Editor

the Boolarra Top Shop. It was a great opportunity to hear the thoughts of the community, and the issues that are pertinent to the town and surrounding districts.

I was able to engage in a number of conversations with many Boolarra residents and listen to suggested improvements from a State Government perspective and to also learn of many positive happenings in our region. I'd like to thank everyone who came along for giving up their time to come and have a chat with me on their time off during the weekend, it was certainly appreciated. I'd also like to thank the girls at the Top Shop for their kind hospitality.

In the middle of November I attended the Boolarra Bowls Club and assisted with presentation duties following a fun day of competition with other clubs from around the region and beyond. It

really is a unique setting and the rinks were in fine order despite inclement weather on the preceding days. The hospitality from Committee Members and volunteers was first class and a special well done for to the ladies for their catering during the course of the day. Hopefully I can return soon and have a bowl myself!

I also had the opportunity in November to attend the official opening of the Boolarra Cemetery toilet and shed. A huge well done to all associated in ensuring this important project has come to fruition. In particular the Boolarra Cemetery Trust should be commended for their dedication and commitment in bringing these two important assets to reality that will benefit the community of Boolarra and District.

Russell Northe

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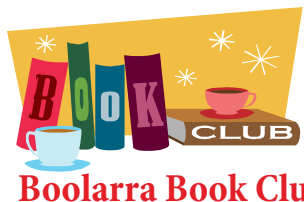
OPEN GARDEN BONANZA

The 2010 Boolarra Open Garden Bonanza was held on a lovely Spring day and was once again very successful. The gardeners had been under pressure because the inclement weather had hindered preparation. We were fortunate to have a fine day as the forecast rain held off.

More than 300 visited the eight open gardens and many commented positively on the gardens they saw. The sausage sizzle, Devonshire teas in the Hall and tea and coffee in Joan Collins' garden and the school plant sale were also well patronized and raised funds for various community groups.

Picnickers enjoyed the shady trees at Joan's and it was great to see the town so busy. Our special thanks to Jill Simmonds, and John too, for all the organisation. We wish Jill a speedy recovery from knee surgery and hope she is back gardening soon.

The Open Garden Bonanza is proving to be very popular with both locals and visitors and looks set to become a yearly event; so get gardening now and enter your garden in next year's bonanza. There are several categories of gardens so contact Jill Simmonds on 5169 6516 if you would like more information.



Boolarra Book Club

This year we have made a special study of China with our book choices. We have read *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* and watched DVDs of *The Boat*, *Sea of Poppies* (about the Opium Wars), *Bomb, Book and Compass* (did you know the Chinese invented toilet paper in 500 AD?) and *1421*, the date the Chinese discovered Australia.

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One of the open gardens in full bloom

We have all learnt a lot, enjoyed the films and book discussions and of course the talks by Archer Roborn about Chinese Home Stays were always interesting. Our friendly chat and catch-up over supper has also been a highlight of our gatherings.

November's book was *"Morality for Beautiful Girls"* by African born author Alexander McCall Smith, who has written more than fifty books, including a number of specialist titles, but is best known for *'The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency'* series, which has achieved bestseller status on four continents. In 2004 he was awarded British Book Awards Author of the Year and Booksellers Association Author of the Year. He is now Professor of Medical Law at the University of Edinburgh.

Our books encompass a wide range of topics from both contemporary and classic authors and are chosen by our members each year from a very comprehensive list provided by the Centre for Adult Education (CAE). Through our book choices we strive to understand the point of view, hopes and aspirations of others in our discussions and thinking.

We are finishing the year with a bring-&-share Christmas Tea at Ruth's home, where we will each share one of our favourite Christmas experiences.

New members will be made to feel very welcome, so if you think you would enjoy the challenge of reading interesting books you may not normally choose for yourself, please contact Roborn Lubawski on 5169 6494 for more details.

Dr M Costello

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BRIEFLY . . .

BOOLARRA TABLE TENNIS CLUB



We have been fortunate to receive a grant from the Department of Planning and Community Development on behalf of the Victorian Bush-fire Appeal Fund through the Health and Wellbeing for Older People Program!

This grant will enable us to provide a free Table Tennis activity for older people for 12 months. We are looking for expressions of interest from people who would like to participate, if you would like a social/non competitive/all ages and abilities exercise, this may be for you!

We guarantee lots of fun and laughter, no experience needed. We will commence early next year, Daytime and Evening sessions.

The Table Tennis tables are available for Community use and any responsible adult is welcome to use this equipment for a fun activity for friends and family or could be used for an activity during the school holidays, regular Hall Hire fees apply.

Please phone Marietta on 51696355 or 0427548554

MORWELL STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

The Morwell Stroke Support Group is a community organization where those attending can learn more about the effects of stroke, share their personal experiences and also find inspiration to enable you to move forward.

We usually meet on the 1st Tuesday of each

month at Nicholson Rehabilitation Ward meeting room, Latrobe Regional Hospital, at 1.30 p.m. We are a happy, positive band of people and you would be made to feel most welcome should you decide to join us sometime. Please come along and see for yourself if this is a group that would suit you.

Occasionally we organise an outing, so it would be wise to contact one of the following people if you are intending to come along.

All enquiries can be made to:
Marlene Austin - 5668 1355 OR
Coralie Pickett - 5169 6496.

BOOLARRA BLAZERS The Walk & Talk Club



Club members meet every Thursday at 9.00 am, usually at the Oval, however, for special walks we meet at the Post Office.

November was a busy month with lunch at the Waratah Restaurant then a very pleasant walk around the lake. We also visited one of our member's gardens in Mirboo East for a walk around the property and a discussion of various plants, followed by a delicious morning tea. We are now the walk, talk, eat and garden group!

Our Christmas walk will be on Thursday, 16th December 2010, when we will do the new walk from the Old Mill Site to the Cemetery (to check out the new loo!), with a special Christmas morning tea at my place.

Any enquiries, please give me a ring at 5169 6494.
John Lubawski

RUBBISH ROUND-UP **BIN IT - DON'T RUBBISH** **BOOLARRA**

We here in Boolarra love our clean and tidy environment and are proud of our Parks and Trails through our precious bush. Wildlife doesn't need bottles, cans and cartons or bags and paper to survive.

Unfortunately, all of this is becoming an ugly blot on our beautiful landscape. There is no "Rubbish Fairy" (or Council worker for that matter) who magically makes it all disappear, although there are several responsible and caring citizens who regularly assume this role.

Rubbish has no place in our environment and there are plenty of bins provided in our parks. The skate ramp, picnic tables, BBQ shelter, shop and Hall are all provided with bins and emptied weekly by Council.

If you're out and about in our town, whether you are one of the many visitors or horse riders we welcome, or just enjoying a break in the Park, **PLEASE** set the example yourselves and encourage your children and teenagers to deposit rubbish in the bins.

We are very lucky in Boolarra to live in such a beautiful environment - let's keep it that way.



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1st Yinnar Scout Group has had a fantastic year in 2010. We started the year off on New Year's Day with nine of our Scouts, two Venturers, a Rover and two Leaders departing for the Australian Scout Jamboree 2010, held at Cataract Park near Appin in NSW. Our country kids enjoyed nearly two weeks of camping, activities and excursions with 14,000 other Scouts from across Australia and overseas. The Australian Jamboree is held every three years and is a major event in the life of any Scout.

Another highlight of 2010 was Cuboree, held for Cubs aged 7-10 years old at Gilwell Park in Gembrook. Britney Dubber of Yinnar attended with Cubs from Morwell East and Churchill and spent five days packed with exciting activities (and mud) with 3,500 other Cubs from across the state. Cuboree is normally held every three years but will be held again in 2011 before reverting to its tri-annual schedule.

We have also seen some major personal achievements this year, with Angus Sauppe winning 'Scout of the Year' for Strzelecki District, sponsored by Hazelwood Rotary Club. Angus has also recently completed all of the requirements for the Australian Scout Medallion, presented at Tintern Grammar School in Ringwood on 20th Nov 2010. Congratulations to Angus on achieving the highest award in the Scout section. After all the hard work, careful planning, teamwork and sheer determination, he most surely deserves it.

Another major achievement, and one we have not seen at Yinnar for about 8 years, is Craig Millsom's successful completion of the requirements for the Queen Scout Award. This is an amazing achievement, involving a lot of planning, paperwork, activities, community service, teamwork and careful planning as each task had to be proposed formally

and accepted by his peers prior to commencement. After completion Craig was formally awarded his Queen Scout at Government House on 2nd Oct 2010 and celebrated with a less formal occasion at Walhalla on 20th Nov 2010.

Cubs (7-10 years), Scouts (10-14 years), Venturers (14-17 years) and Rovers (17-25 years) have all been running very active programs with a great variety of activities being run throughout the year. Many thanks to the Leaders for all their hard work during the year.

Group Committee has also had a very active year with many fund-raisers, from the cake stall at the Boolarra Folk Festival, sausage sizzles at the Boolarra Rodeo(s) and the Hazelwood Pondage Car Show, selling tickets for the Victorian Scout Raffle (1000 tickets sold!!!) and raffle tickets at the Yinnar Community Hotel for the weekly meat tray. The committee has also continued with maintenance and minor improvements. A big thank-you to all parents who have been involved during the year.

A Scout Group like ours would not be possible without help from the community and there are many people and groups that have helped throughout the year, but most notably we'd like to thank the Boolarra CFA, Yinnar Community Hotel, the Yinnar Angling Club, Webster's Butchery, Jack Scott & Sons, Loy Yang Power and Churchill Ritchie's IGA. Thank you also to the many people who have bought cakes, sausages and raffle tickets from us during the year!

I'd like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and New Year, and I'm looking forward to seeing the kids enjoy some really exciting activities we have planned for next year!!!!

Colin Richards
Group Leader
1st Yinnar Scout Group

At 1st Yinnar Scout Group we always welcome new members and offer the opportunity for kids to come and try 'three for free' ie. come for three weeks to see if we offer what you're looking for.

Contact: Cubs - Anita Bailey on 5163 1646
 Scouts - Sylvia Sauppe on 5169 6321
 Venturers - Colin Richards on 0438 357 843
 Rovers - Daniel Cook on 0423 495 977.

**Enquiries are also welcome to our Secretary - Kerry Alexander on 5169 1662
Treasurer - Leanne Millsom on 5122 3099
Group Leader - Colin Richards on 0438 357 843**

The Aim of Scouting is to encourage the physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual development of young people so that they take a constructive place in society as a member of their local, national and international community.



Craig Millsom (centre) with his fellow 'Queen's Scouts' award recipients at Parliament House



Leo Billington (L) Angus Sauppe (M) & Jeff Kemp at the presentation of the 'Hazelwood Rotary Strzelecki District Scout of the Year Award'

BOOLARRA MEMORIAL HALL

The Hall has seen fairly steady use. At the moment we have Exercise Classes on Monday at 9.30am-10.30am, Boolarra Youth Theatre/Music Group meet each Sunday from 2.00pm-4.00pm., BCDG meetings, Cemetery Trust and of course the Hall Committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Hopefully we'll see the Table Tennis Club start up once again.

The Hall kitchen is up and working but has yet to be "officially" opened. Watch out for the announcement of that date! Meanwhile, the Hall has already had a very good workout with a recent local wedding.

The Salvation Army have very generously donated \$1,500 for a new fridge! We have also been fortunate to receive a community grant which will enable the purchase of a new vacuum cleaner and utensils for the kitchen. The Hall Committee has also gratefully received a donation of new Tupperware which may be used by various groups who use the Hall and of course, the Hall Committee. We have also received sets of beautiful teacups, saucers and plates, so now we are on the lookout for some really nice ceramic teapots. Hopefully we can organise "A Nice Cuppa Tea" one morning as a fund raiser.

The kitchen is of a standard that allows it to be a 'Commercially Registered Kitchen'. The kitchen will be available for hire to Community Groups for use in preparing produce (sauces, jams, cakes etc.) for fundraising events, cooking classes and to caterers for food preparation. If you have a good idea for use of the kitchen please phone Marietta on 5169 6355.

At our AGM in September, the following Office Bearers were elected for 2010-2011:

President - Roborn Lubawski – 5169 6494

Secretary - Roz Carstairs – 5169 6445

Treasurer - John Lubawski – 5169 6494

Fund Raising/Grants - Marietta Herni –
5169 6355

Committee Members - Liz Black, Kat Kershaw,
Jeff Henderson

Once again Hall Committee members are very appreciative of the hard work Bill Armstrong does mowing the lawns and generally keeping the roses and bushes looking beautiful. We have had a few maintenance problems lately and must thank the Latrobe City Council for assisting financially so we could fix the problems.

When 2011 arrives hire charges for the Hall will have changed. All organisations will be contacted regarding new hiring charges.

Just a reminder as Christmas approaches - The Hall hires trestle tables for \$5.00 each and chairs for \$1 each. Crockery/cutlery may also be hired just in case you have all the rellies arriving for Christmas dinner!

Our Committee may be small but we are friendly, co-operative and hard at work improving the facilities at YOUR Hall. We meet every two months on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. We would love to welcome new members so feel free to just come along to one of our meetings.

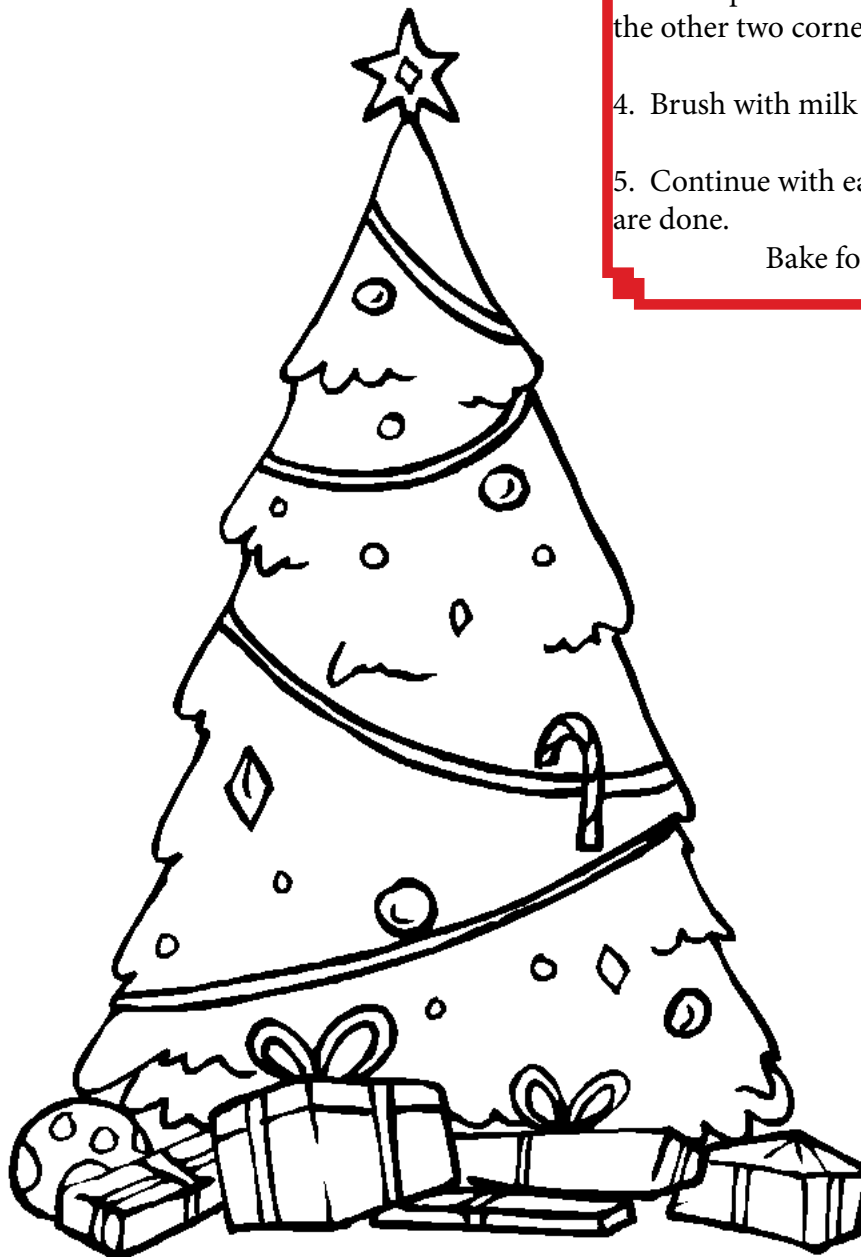
Best Wishes for the Festive Season

Roz Carstairs - Secretary

Wuzzle Answers from page 4

1. Falling Temperature
2. Two Under Par
3. Fat Chance
4. Broken Heart
5. Hot Under the Collar
6. Head in the Sand

Colour the Christmas Tree



KIDS CORNER



Banana & Chocolate Parcels

You will need:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2 sheets puff pastry, thawed | 1 Tabs milk |
| 2 bananas, mashed | 2 tsp brown sugar |
| 2 Tabs flaked almonds | 2 Tabs choc chips |

How to make them:

1. Preheat oven to 180C. Place a sheet of baking paper on a baking tray & set aside.
2. In a bowl, mash bananas & stir in brown sugar, almond flakes & chocolate chips.
3. Cut pastry sheet into 4 squares & place a tablespoonful of the mixture in the centre of a square. Bring in the opposite corners to the centre & press them together, then repeat with the other two corners.
4. Brush with milk & place on baking tray.
5. Continue with each parcel until all 8 parcels are done.

Bake for 25-30 minutes

Community Development Committee

2011 Australia Day Boolarra Community Celebration

To celebrate our National Day, and the wonderful spirit in our lovely town the Development Group has developed a tradition of having an Australia Day Breakfast in the Park, which has gone from strength to strength.

From 8.30 am until 10.00 am in Railway Park we will be providing Egg and Bacon sandwiches and snags, tea and coffee and some drinks for the kids. We'll raise the flag, sing the anthem, have some fun activities for all the family and generally have a good time!

There will also be the opportunity to review action items identified for the Community Building Initiative on election day.

Program

Commence breakfasts 8.30 am
Commence activities: 9.00 am

* *Hopscotch* * *Skipping* * *Quoits*
* *Sack Races* * *Gumboot throwing*
* *Talk to friends you haven't seen since?*
* *Australiana trivia*

Flag raising 9.40 am
Present certificates 9.50 am
National Anthem 10.00 am

One of the great features of our celebration has been the opportunity to recognise some of the unsung heroes of our town; the volunteers who do so much in so many spheres to make our town the rich, vibrant community it is.

The Development Group is once again seeking nominations from individuals, community groups and clubs of people or groups you believe deserve recognition for their contribution to our community. If you wish to nominate someone then please fill out the attached nomination form and drop it in at the Post Office.

If you're free to give a hand on the day, please give me a call. It's a great way to meet people if you're new to the community.

Colin Brick
Boolarra Community Development Group

THE BOOLARRA LINK NEW COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Boolarra Link Committee it is with pleasure and pride that we bring you the latest edition of The Boolarra Link, in a new format, with new logo and supported by a brand new Committee and Association members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all previous committee members and supporters of the Boolarra Link, but notably Doug Black, Colin Brick and Les Hunt of the Boolarra Community Development Group who have overseen the caretaker arrangements whilst a new Committee has been formed.

The new Committee is:


Mark Cooke	President
Lois Thornton	Secretary
Jan Thomson	Editor
Sylvia Sauppe	Treasurer
Jillian Simmonds	Member
Joy Swain	Member
Michael Watt	Member
Luke Potter	Public Officer

It is our advertisers and sponsors within this community newspaper who make it possible for us to provide this to you on a free of charge basis, and the Committee note its appreciation for their ongoing support of our quarterly newspaper.

We will of course be looking at ways we can further improve our community newspaper and will be pleased to receive your feedback, which you can provide by email at BoolarraLink@hotmail.com or by letter addressed to Boolarra Link and dropped off with Gwenda or Roger at the Boolarra Post Office.

We do hope you enjoy your copy of The Boolarra Link and wish you well for the festive season and for the new year.

Mark Cooke
President – The Boolarra Link



Victoria's Coat of Arms

In 1910 King George V granted a coat of arms to the state of Victoria, which was named after his grandmother.

In 1973 additions were made to the coat of arms and a Royal Warrant was issued by Queen Elizabeth II. The description of the arms is the motto '**Peace and Prosperity**'.



Australia Day Boolarra Community Award

We recognise _____ for his/her community contribution.

(Please describe their contribution in 25-30 words)

Nomination By: _____ **Ph:** _____

Seconded By: _____ **Ph:** _____

BOOLARRA CEMETERY TRUST

Well, it has been a long time in the planning and many, many hours of hard work by volunteers, but at last the Enviro Toilet is completed! And, as a very valuable bonus, a storage shed has been constructed adjacent to the new toilet. The Cemetery Trust members celebrated with an official opening on Saturday, 20th November 2010.

Trust members saw this opening as an opportunity to say a personal "thank you!" to everybody who has helped at the Cemetery during the last 5 years, as well as to those who were part of the team who assembled the toilet off-site and then transported it to the Cemetery.

The President, Ian Blake, welcomed all who were able to attend and expressed the gratitude of the Trust to all the volunteers involved in the clean-up after the bushfire; those involved in the construction of the Enviro Toilet; the people and local Groups who have assisted the Trust financially; and those who prepared the submissions for grants from D.H.S, Rural Finance and Bush Fire Recovery (Latrobe City). It has been a real team effort with ongoing support from the Boolarra Community and we thank everyone concerned for their contributions.

We have been greatly encouraged by the feedback from visitors and community members - all positive! All we need now is another grant to purchase equipment to store in our beautiful new shed!

At the close of his remarks, Ian Blake called on Russell Northe to cut the ribbon to officially open the Toilet, followed by Councillor Darrell White to officially open the Storage Shed.



A light morning tea was then enjoyed by all present.

Glenys Morgan, Secretary

*At the official opening -
(from left) Russell Northe, MLA
Member for Morwell, Ian Blake,
President & Glenys Morgan,
Secretary - Boolarra
Cemetery Trust & Darrell
White, Councillor - Firmin
Ward -Latrobe City Council*

BOOLARRA POST OFFICE

7 Tarwin Street, Boolarra Vic 3870

Ph: 5169 6209 Fx: 03 5169 6523 Em: rgp@speedweb.com.au

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We also stock a range of Stationery, Cards, Books, Toys & Gift ideas

Christmas stock now in and selling fast

****Santa's Mailbox - direct delivery to the North Pole**

*Season's Greetings to all our customers
from Gwenda, Roger and Staff*



ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are young and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.

*In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.*

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.

*In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.*

*My early new year's resolution is to learn the
second verse of our National Anthem so I can
sing it **all** at our Australia Day celebrations.
See page 10 for details of the program.
Jan Thomson - Editor*

Spinach Pie

1 sheet ready rolled Puff pastry
Milk & cream
6 - 8 large Silverbeet leaves or use approx.
100g Spinach leaves
2 rashers of bacon - chopped
1 brown onion - chopped
Tasty cheese Salt & Pepper
4 - 6 eggs - lightly beaten

- Preheat oven to 210C.
- Slightly defrost pastry sheet. Prick the base well with a fork & cook for 10 minutes.
- Set aside to cool slightly.
- Reduce heat to moderate - 180C.
- Fry chopped onion and bacon till soft.
- Add leaves and stir until just wilted.
- Mix eggs, milk & cream, salt & pepper to taste in a large bowl.
- Evenly distribute onion, bacon and spinach mixture over pastry. Sprinkle on the tasty cheese & mix it through a little.
- Pour egg mixture over, return to the oven & bake 20 - 30 mins until eggs are set.

Serve hot with salad.



IN MEMORY

Annie May (Maisie) Fox - (nee Cochrane)
28th January 1909 – 20th October 2010.



A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Annie May (Maisie) Fox was held at the Anglican/Christ Church Boolarra on 27th October. Reverend Canon Jeff Richardson conducted the service. Noel Fox, her son, gave a light hearted eulogy and great granddaughter Katie Fox read a very moving and appropriate poem.

Maisie was well into her 102nd year and we believe that she was probably the oldest person to have resided in Boolarra.

Maisie was a very independent lady who lived in her home in Church Street Boolarra until she was 98, after which time she became a resident at Hazelwood House, Churchill.

On her 100th birthday the staff at the nursing home arranged a party for Maisie, and family and friends attended. One of the high lights on this occasion was the reading of a message of congratulations from the Queen and various political identities. Maisie's family sincerely thank all Hazelwood House staff for their dedicated care during her residency there.

Life of Maisie Fox

Maisie was the daughter of May and Rueben Cochrane. She was born at Traralgon Hospital on 28th January 1909. She was an only child. Her mother died soon after her birth, so she was brought up by her Grandparents, George and Janet Archbold. Maisie spent her early life on their farm at Tyers and attended Tyers Primary School. Her cousins, Harry, Hugh, Alex and Trix Archbold who lived nearby were her constant companions. Maisie loved to play tennis and became a very competitive player, playing for Traralgon.

Maisie met Frank Fox when travelling on a train to Sale and started up a friendship. They married in Traralgon on 22nd May 1930 and settled on the Fox family farm at River Road, Boolarra. Over the following years they had three children Ron,

Lorna and Noel. Maisie helped with all the farm chores including milking the cows by hand. She was very attached to her horse, Ginger.

Maisie involved herself in the Boolarra community, becoming a member of the CWA and Red Cross. She also took up tennis again and played for Boolarra for many years.

In the early 1960's Frank and Maisie moved into the township and enjoyed activities together until his passing in 1970.

Maisie's great passion in later years was lawn bowls which she continued playing until 96 years of age. She made valuable friends and won many events during this time. She also drove her car until she was 96.

Over the years one of Maisie's great loves was her garden which was admired by many people. She kept it in immaculate condition by spending several hours weekly attending to it.

Most of all her love had been for her three children, nine grandchildren, twenty great grandchildren and their partners and one great, great grandchild, always being concerned for their happiness and welfare.

We will remember Maisie for her true qualities as a gracious lady with high principles and loving her family dearly. She remained quick witted with a sense of humour until the end.
B.F.

BOOLARRA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Hi Folks,
With Christmas around the corner, it's time to reflect on love and good cheer again! That does not mean spending big and then regretting it all afterwards. It's really your choice if you break the budget! Besides the joy is in the thought of giving and receiving, not making the stores rich, or who gives or gets the biggest, most expensive presents. The getting together in good spirits, the sharing of time, that rare, precious commodity, and the forgiving nature with each other that really matters.

Time and love are our greatest gifts to each other. We don't even need lavish food to celebrate, just good, healthy food and in moderate amounts. Don't be sucked in to commercialism and you'll feel better immediately at any time, whether at Christmas or otherwise.

Peace to all men on earth.
Merry Christmas to all Boolarians and their families and friends.
Above all, Happy Birthday Jesus.
After all, Jesus is the reason for the season

BOOLARRA AND DISTRICT GARDEN GROUP

The Boolarra and District garden group was formed in December 2009 with a few like-minded people getting together. We had our first formal meeting in January 2010 with approximately 10 members; our numbers have since grown to 17.

We have enjoyed many trips throughout the year including, Raesowna - a local garden, Cloudhill in Olinda, Wilson Botanic Gardens in Berwick, William Ricketts Sanctuary in the Dandenong Ranges, a guided tour at Coal Creek with the gardener, Beleura House and Gardens in Mornington, Hinkley Hill n Dale and Lillico glass and then Tempo Two in Pearcedale, finishing with our Christmas lunch in December.

It has been a great year with lots of laughs and talking (about gardening of course) in the bus on the way to our outings

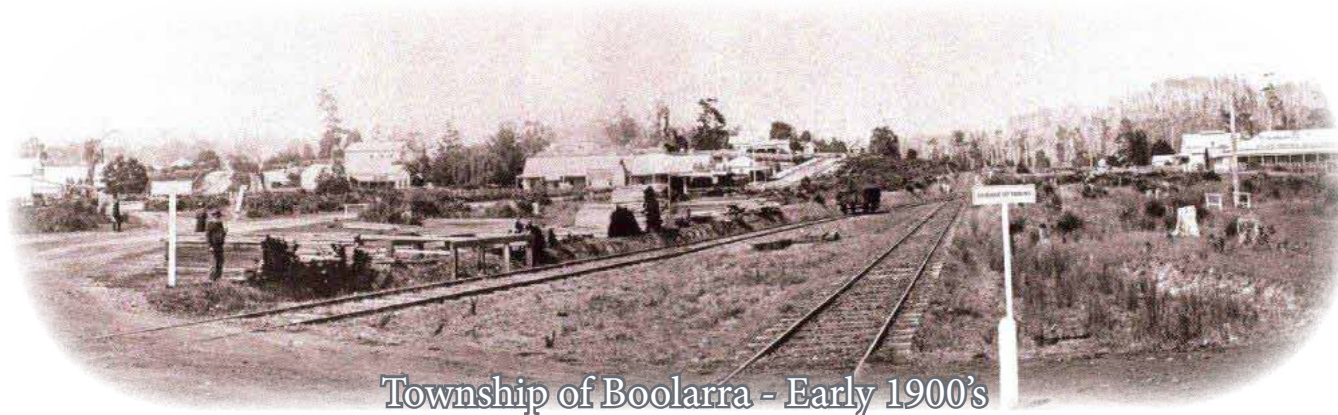
If anybody is interested we meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month so please contact me on 5169 6516 for more information.

Jill Simmonds

Some people believe by being a Christian, you can't smoke, drink, have fun, swear, get angry, or dislike others, and must be at church every Sunday. Not true!! It's all between you and God. Your relationship with Him will determine how you handle those issues. Want to know more? Talk to Him personally or come see us at Boolarra Christian Fellowship Church at Tarwin St, next door to the Primary School. We meet every 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays at 10am and every 2nd and 4th Sundays at 5pm for dinner and meeting.

We are a Pentecostal/Charismatic, Bible-centred church with a mix of all sorts of people. Our meetings include singing with the band, prayer time, teachings, fellowship and fun. Come with no expectations, as we are all human like you with many faults! We, too, like to have fun and good times together. We are in the business of preparing for Jesus Christ's return and we welcome you to join us anytime.

Now, for those who are fortunate to realize we are about to celebrate Jesus Christ's birth know that because He was born, we have the choice to go to heaven. If you make room for Jesus in your hearts, He will make room for you in heaven.



Township of Boolarra - Early 1900's

A Brief History of Boolarra and surrounds

A place of Abundance

The Early Years

Boolarra forms part of the Latrobe City area, which lies at the heart of Gippsland, nestled between the Strzelecki Ranges and the Baw Baw Plateau. Although Angus McMillan was the first European to visit the region in 1840, it was Polish explorer Paul Edmund de Strzelecki who led the first expedition to enter the area now known as Boolarra. What he found was a diverse landscape of valleys, mountains, forests and wetlands. Their journey through the scrub and hills became so tough that they abandoned their horses and equipment at a spot near Boolarra and proceeded on foot until they struggled out at Western Port Bay three weeks later. Although the Boolarra area was one of the first places reached in the southern districts, it was not settled until almost forty years later in 1878.

The area that is now Latrobe City formed part of the traditional lands of the Gunai Kurnai people. The Brataualung, a clan of the Gunai Kurnai, claimed the land south of the Latrobe River, while the Briakalong people occupied land to the north.

Reliable food sources were to be found on the plains and in the river valleys and the people had a valuable supply of silcrete from quarries found in the Haunted Hills. This was used to make tools for hunting kangaroo and wallaby on the open plains. The rivers and swamps supplied abundant food such as fish, eels, reptiles, freshwater mussels, waterbirds and eggs. The women gathered plants and small animals. Recent archaeological surveys along the Morwell River valley provide an insight to how people lived and where they camped. Besides camping close to water, higher sites such as Macmillan's hill were also important places. From these vantage points, Aboriginal people had good views of the surrounding plains where they could

keep an eye on their campfires and other clans' movements.

By 1843 the region was known as Gipps Land and had been proclaimed a squatters district where settlers were able to buy runs (land) for an annual fee and as more squatters occupied their runs, European names began to replace the traditional indigenous names.

In 1874, Henry Godridge, who was looking for gold, found brown coal instead. This led to the formation of the Great Morwell Coal Mining Company in 1889. The mining of brown coal commenced and the provision of a reliable, abundant fuel source for the eastern regions was established. The discovery and excavation of brown coal led to the development of new towns, increased population and prosperity in the district. As the population of the district continued to increase and with the commencement of the construction of a railway network in 1883 the focus began to change from agriculture to industry. This new direction of growth led to the establishment of several new population centres and the inevitably demise of others.



Bullock teams were used for heavy moving - seen here moving the Budgeree School in 1908

Boolarra District

The name 'Boolarra' is aboriginal, meaning 'plenty' or 'abundance' and is thought to be taken from the language of the Wumman Tribe, a sub-branch of the greater Briakalong Tribe of Gippsland. The name Boolarra was first applied to the general area where the first settler, W.H. Penaluna, arrived around 1878 to take up land along the Morwell River and in 1884 erected the Settlers' Arms Hotel.

In the early 1880s, selectors began penetrating more southern regions of the area, selecting land in Boolarra, Budgeree and Callignee among other districts. The rainfall was higher in the densely forested Strzelecki Ranges and it was assumed the land was fertile because of the giant trees that grew there. Many of the selections in the steeper areas of the Strzeleckis proved to be unviable and were later abandoned as the task of clearing the giant trees and trying to get their produce to market proved to be almost impossible.

Continued on page 14



**Proudly supported by Regional Development Victoria
as part of Victoria's 175th Anniversary celebrations**

The less rugged hill country south and east of the Morwell River however, soon began to be cleared of forest to develop farms and a series of small communities such as Gunyah, Ruyton Junction, English's Corner and Darlimurla began to flourish as goods and services flowed to and from the area. Initially, the early settlers depended on timber and mixed farming for their livelihood. Several sawmills operated and paling splitting was also widespread, with palings and blackwood logs later being sent out by rail to areas as far away as Melbourne. Saw mills operating at Darlimurla from the 1880s also produced significant numbers of sawn logs. While some black and brown coal was mined in the area, the conditions proved too demanding and the attempts were short-lived.

The disastrous 1898 bushfires burned large areas of scrub in the area and hundreds of homes and thousands of head of cattle were lost throughout Gippsland. The only good to come out of the fires was the bed ash that enriched the soil and stimulated the rapid growth of grass, further enhancing the land's suitability for dairy farming.

Boolarra Township

A township was surveyed and named "Boolarra" at the place where a railway station was established at the "12 mile peg" from Morwell during the construction of the Morwell to Mirboo North rail line in 1884. The first plan bore the signatures of John Lardner, Assistant Surveyor and M. M. Callander, District Surveyor. In addition to residential blocks, land was reserved for Police, Bank of Australia, public buildings, churches and a block for the Mechanics Institute.

The township of Boolarra became the commercial and agricultural centre of the district and in its heyday was home to three general stores, four churches, three hotels, bakers, butter factory, blacksmiths, several saw mills, butchers, three confectionery shops, boot makers, a tinsmith and coach builder.

The monthly cattle sales brought people into town from the surrounding districts and soon a flourishing social scene based on sports meetings, woodchops, horse races and dances was established. During this period Boolarra became the second largest town in Morwell Shire with a population of over 200 in the 1890s - rivalling that of Morwell! The 1891 Census recorded Boolarra as having a population of 220 people with 44 dwellings.

Tarwin Street prior to the fire that destroyed many of the shop-fronts in 1937

A Budding Community

To satisfy the needs of a growing community, buildings quickly appeared to house new residents and accommodate the increasing range of services available to the public.

Railway Station – With the opening of the rail line in 1885, Boolarra became very prosperous and began to grow quickly. One of the earliest stationmasters was Mr. Gliddon, with the railway gates being kept by Mrs. O'Rourke. Later, under the care of Mr. Austin the station won the prize for 'Best Kept Station' for 1910 and 1911.

Postal Service - Until 1908 the railway station also operated as the post office, with the Station Master taking on the role of Post Master as well. Under pressure from the Progress Association the Post Master General (PMG) decided to erect a building on the corner of Duke and Christian Streets and appointed Mr T. Scanlon as the first Post Master. The following year this building was burnt down and the present building was erected to take its place. In November 1915, Ted Wilkins joined the horse-back mail delivery service, delivering mail and other goods through all weathers until the 1930s, when he gladly climbed off his horse and began delivering the mail by utility.

Law & Order - A permanent police presence did not come to Boolarra until 1907 when the Police Station was erected on the corner of Mechanics & Church Streets in 1907 and Constable Alex Millar became the first policeman to be stationed in the town.

Hotels - Boolarra's first hotel 'The Selectors Arms' was built in 1884 and was licensed until approximately 1916, after which it is thought to have operated as a boarding house. Later named "Old Boolarra Pub", it has now been restored and is currently a very attractive private residence. Clarke's Club Hotel and Maher's Railway Hotel also opened during the 1880's. Maher's Railway Hotel (located where today's Memorial Hall stands) was destroyed in the 1937 fire.

Churches - The Presbyterian Church was the first church built in Boolarra in 1885. The Church was used to accommodate the State School as soon as it was completed as the School's original home was a slab hut in very poor condition, making the children's school life a misery. The School remained there until early 1890 when a new school and a four-roomed residence were erected. The Methodist Church in was completed in 1905 and moved to its present site in 1929 when the Country Roads Board needed the land to construct the Morwell-Boolarra Road. The Roman Catholic Church was built in 1907 on its present site, with the Church of England being erected in 1911.

State School 2617 - Boolarra State School opened with approximately 26 pupils on 17th October 1884 in a small slab hut and lean-to owned by a Mr. Hutton. Knee-deep mud, stagnant water and bitter cold in the winter, followed by snakes in the summer made conditions very challenging so Head Teacher, Mr. John Irving immediately sought a new site for the school. As he reported in a letter to the Minister of Education "Some of the parents object to sending their children to school on account of the wretched accommodation."

The school found temporary accommodation in the Presbyterian Church until a permanent home was completed in February 1890, by which time pupil numbers had risen to 47. Pupil numbers continued to rise with the growth of the town and by 1909 there were 92 pupils enrolled.



*Gathering outside the Boolarra State School
c1900*



New Prosperity with the arrival of the Railway

The railway line between Morwell and Mirboo North was approved for construction by the Victorian parliament in November 1880, as the result of a great deal of agitation by the local settlers. Roads in the area at the time were virtually non-existent and it was difficult for settlers to bring in their families and supplies and almost impossible to send produce out in an economic manner.

Construction commenced in January 1883 and work progressed very slowly due to the difficult terrain and the very wet weather. The surveyed route did not follow the contours, but necessitated immense cuttings and massive embankments be made to reduce the gradient to workable levels and the building of **29 bridges in 20 miles** to cope with the watercourses along the way.

The rail line to Boolarra opened on 10th April 1885, to Darlimurla on 8th September 1885 and the completed line to Mirboo North was formally declared open on 7th January 1886. The total length of the line was 20 miles 15 chains, at a total cost of construction of approximately £75,000 – a massive job for the day. There are four stations on the line - Yinnar at 8 miles, Boolarra at 12 miles, Darlimurla at 16 miles and Mirboo at the end of the line at 20 miles.

With the opening of the first section of the line to Boolarra on 10th April 1885, the timetable provided for a "*Mixed Train*" leaving Morwell each morning after connecting with the Melbourne train, arriving at Boolarra at 12.25 p.m. The train departed Boolarra next day at 7.15 am, the engine being stationed at Boolarra overnight. When the Darlimurla section was completed, the trains went on to that terminus, arriving at 12.45 pm and departing the next morning at 6.55 am.

Occasional passenger trains were run during holiday seasons and the line soon warranted a twice daily service of mixed trains, which was introduced with a new timetable on 3rd November 1886. Timber and timber products formed the main traffic of the line of the early days, but as the land was cleared, tonnages of agricultural products increased including potatoes, butter, chaff and hay. The popularity of rail travel and transport declined and between 1903 and 1912, trains were reduced to three times weekly and services were based at Morwell rather than at Mirboo North.

With the merging of the Boolarra and Mirboo North Butter factories outward revenue again increased until a 3-week rail strike in November 1950 jeopardised this and other industries, that were forced to look at road transport to move their products. When the strike finally finished, most

of the industries never returned to the rail, having found that road transport was more economical.

One commodity that was railed from Boolarra and Mirboo North in large quantities was the mineral rock Bauxite, a sedimentary rock used in cement, chemicals, face makeup, drink cans, dishwashers, siding for houses and numerous other aluminium products. Up to 12 rail trucks a day were railed from Boolarra during the 1940's and 22 wagons per day were railed from Mirboo North in the years between 1967 to 1974.

During the late 1960's and early 1970's, Superphosphate formed the bulk of the inward traffic on the line. Superphosphate is a fertilizer mainly used as a maintenance fertiliser that was also ideal for pastoral development and arable/horticultural situations.

The Final Rail Years

As a consequence of the decline in the popularity of rail travel, the passenger service on the line finished altogether when the rail motor was withdrawn on 7th September 1968 and the freight service was reduced to twice weekly. The exception to this was during the period 1967 to 1970 when the loadings from the Bauxite Mine at Mirboo North were being railed out on a daily train.

The last timetabled train ran on Tuesday 18th June 1974, however the very last train to Mirboo North ran on Thursday 27th June 1974 when Steam Locomotive J550, together with a passenger carriage and guards van were towed to Mirboo North to be used as a static display. Steam Locomotive Y130 then collected the remaining freight wagons

from the yard and after completing station work, departed for Morwell, thus ending 88 years of railway service to the towns of Yinnar, Boolarra, Darlimurla and Mirboo North. The railway was defeated by the economies of road transport.

Rail Trails

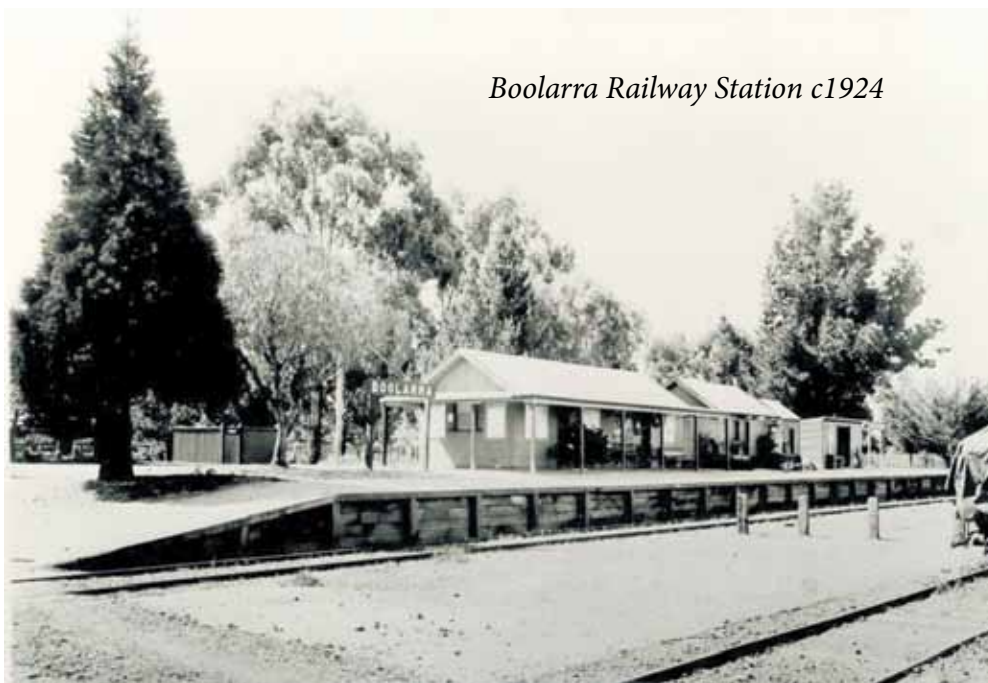
On entering Boolarra today, Railway Park is located on the right hand side of the road. Nothing remains of the former station and sadly, in 1937, a fire raged through Tarwin Street, destroying many of the original shop fronts.

There is however, a well-defined track in the park that marks the start of the Grand Ridge Rail Trail to Mirboo North. Several closed rail lines throughout the Valley are now being developed as rail trails so walkers, cyclists and horse riders can have first-hand experience of the surviving railway infrastructure: the cuttings and embankments, the remains of platforms and bridges, the fruit trees that have grown along the lines and the resilient bulbs that flower every year in long abandoned railway workers' gardens.

As well as the Boolarra to Mirboo North trail, visits to the Moe to Yallourn and Traralgon to Stratford are becoming increasingly popular.



Entrance to the Rail Trail which follows the old rail line to Mirboo North



Boolarra Railway Station c1924



Heyman's Butter Factory c1905

Livelihoods for Locals

Timber - One of the earliest endeavours of settlers was clearing land for roads and farms and from this grew the timber industry, with blackwood, mountain ash, fiddleback and other timbers being felled then milled for palings, logs, furniture and housing. Much of the timber going to Melbourne. A record 9,600 palings were split from one tree. Several large saw mills operated throughout the area, with the last mill closing in the early 1980's.

In 1926, legendary paling splitter Jim Pattinson went to a height of 163' (almost 50m) using 54 boards placed vertically, not spirally. When almost at the top of the tree, he removed his shirt and hung it on a branch, stating that if anyone could retrieve it he would place four more boards in the tree. The shirt was retrieved and Pattinson had to set the extra four boards to the top of the tree.



Newspapers - 'The Auctioneer' was the first newspaper in Boolarra, hitting the streets on 6th September 1932. Issued every Tuesday it supplied market reports, news, sport and topics of the day until the depression and the outbreak of World War II saw the demise of the newspaper.

There were a few editions of the 'Boolarra Citizens' and Ratepayers' newsletter issued, however it was not until March 1982 that a public meeting was held to form Boolarra's current community newspaper, 'The Boolarra Link'.

Cattle Saleyards - Boolarra has supported a busy cattle sale calendar since its earliest days, however, like all industries, there has been boom and bust times. In the 1930's 500 - 600 head of cattle would pass through the yards but by the 1950's this had

dropped to the point where the yards were closed. When the yards were reconstructed in the early 1960's there was one sale a month until the last sale conducted on 4th May 1982, with Jack Richards as Auctioneer.

Dairy Farming - Because of the dense forests in the region, there was very little farming carried out until cleared land became readily available. In 1894, Mr. Harry brought the first separator to Boolarra and dairying increased rapidly.

Butter was traditionally salted and packed on individual farms and then sent to surrounding areas for sale. In 1905, the Danish firm Heyman set up a butter factory in Boolarra and dairy farming further developed as the leading industry in the district, with the factory providing much needed employment for the youth of the area.

A Piggery was established to use the whey from the factory, however the butter factory was sold to the Mirboo Co-op in 1949 and the piggery was closed.

Coal - In 1888, the Mirboo, Boolarra and Moe Coal Syndicate Company secured 3,840 acres of coal-bearing land just west of Boolarra and at one time 300 men were employed at mines in the region. However, the opening of Wonthaggi, Korumburra and Yallorn mines caused work to cease in the Boolarra area.

Head Teacher of Boolarra State School, Mr. John Irvine wrote in 1889 "Boolarra has one of the best coal seams yet discovered in the Colony. The Boolarra Black Coal Mine will shortly employ 18 men and another brown coal mine will have 30 men".

Boolarra Moving Forward

The rapid development of the then State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SEC) and other major institutions throughout the valley during the 1960s and 1970s affected the development of smaller towns such as Boolarra and Yinnar. The decline in Boolarra's population reversed during this period when workers coming to Latrobe Valley began to appreciate its rural lifestyle.

This has been reflected in new layers of housing in the town and acreages in the hills. Sections of farming properties have been subdivided to provide large blocks for people who work in Latrobe Valley but are attracted to a rural lifestyle, where they can have a substantial garden and a few livestock.

This embracing of a rural lifestyle has meant a revitalisation for small rural towns like Boolarra where new residents also chose to relocate and refurbish Yallourn houses to house blocks in Boolarra and the community also relocated a Yallourn building to house its infant welfare centre and playgroup.

Boolarra Today

Modernisation of farming and improved transport links have brought changes to many small rural towns like Boolarra, with vehicle travel to the larger commercial centres in the Latrobe Valley increasing to make commuting to employment possible.

Boolarra has settled down to become an attractive residential town with a friendly rural atmosphere whose population hovers around 600. There has been a recent influx of new residents, retirees and young families from the city, all seeking a more relaxed, tranquil lifestyle.

Farming is still important, as is timber, which is harvested from plantation forests in the hills. Today, a large fish farm exports goldfish to the international market.

There is a Post Office, a general store and a Pub. A modern primary school and kindergarten provide excellent facilities in Boolarra, with numerous secondary schools in close proximity and the Monash University - Gippsland Campus at nearby Churchill.

Boolarra Historical Society has converted the old Boolarra School building into a museum used to preserve and house items of local heritage. The Multi-purpose building is kept busy with the Doctor's surgery, service group meetings, playgroups, craft groups and private functions.

The recently refurbished Memorial Hall is available for community meetings, private functions and has a raised stage for small theatre productions and concerts.

The Boolarra Bowls Club formed on 17th December 1957 and has been a busy meeting place ever since.

Following World War II Boolarra residents banded together to erect a Memorial Park with the names of the town's fallen soldiers inscribed on the entrance gates. Today, the football, netball, cricket and pony clubs all use these facilities in season and local residents walk, jog and exercise their dogs on the oval.

The Boolarra to Mirboo North Rail Trail is used by horse riders, bike riders and walkers with their dogs.

Boolarra - It really is a place of abundance!

Information sourced from:
Latrobe City Heritage Study Volume 1: Thematic Environmental History, Final Report, December 2008 - prepared for LaTrobe City Council
'The Twelve Mile Peg - Boolarra 1884-1984' Roslyn M. Carstairs
'The History of Boolarra' extract from "The Morwell Historical Society News" Vol t, No: 1, 10/02/1967 by I T Maddern

Here we are again! Christmas is almost here and another year gone. At the Post Office you can find lots of interesting things for gifts - books, soft toys, puzzles, scrapbooking kits, fishing sets and picnic sets in nice cases. We also have BBQ tool sets and a nice idea to go with that is a BBQ cookbook and perhaps a set of steak knives and forks. Most of you have seen the singing bears, that are very popular - but how about a singing Fire Dog! This year we also have Large Telescopes with stand in a nice case. There is also a good range of Christmas cards, gift cards and also wrapping paper

Many other things are hanging around for your perusal but I have to mention the collapsible Garden Tidy - complete with 2 scoops and a kneepad at only \$19.95.

Kids, don't forget your letters to Santa. We have a very special letter box for him this year as most of you will have already noticed. Remember to put your name and address on the back for him or he won't know who sent it or where you live. He loves to get your letters.

Remember, we also sell mobile phone and internet recharge which saves Boolarra people having to shop elsewhere.

The Christmas stamps are nice this year and are 55c for Australia and \$1.30 for international card only at the standard size. Unfortunately oversize cards will be charged at the normal letter rates.

Other things you can do here at your local Post Office is bill paying - as long as the bill has a barcode for postbillpay and remember, to save on cheque fees - more than one bill can be paid with one cheque. There are exceptions to this though -

Craig Young Butchery Gourmet Meats

Specialising in bulk meats

Fresh Fish Friday

*Have your stock slaughtered, cut-up,
packed & frozen to your requirements*

Phone Orders Taken

90 Ridgway, Mirboo North

Ph: 5668 1632

Superb Spit Roasts

& Catering Available

Proprietors: Fiona & Craig Young

Banking and Taxation must be done on a separate cheque for each transaction. Ambulance enrolments and renewals can be done here.

Well, that's all for now.

Seasons Greetings to you all and thank you for your support through the year

Gwenda, Roger and Staff



Around The Traps with Roger Rabbit

As I hop around from place to place I'm finding it increasingly more dangerous to cross the roads! Due to the wonderful wet weather and sunshine we have been having, the road edge grass has grown very tall. In some cases covering not only the edge of the road but the safety posts as well. This makes it very difficult for us cottontails to see, let alone avoid being threatened or injured, not to mention extinction, by anything from 2 wheels to 34 wheelers. It was difficult enough to avoid the spinning blades of the slasher monster, which I point out seems to be less often rather than more often these days.

So as we hop towards Christmas, please be wary of all wildlife, as we want to enjoy our Christmas too and to be able to enjoy the coming of 2011.

Skippity do hi ho. Have a Merry Christmas & a joyous New Year but watch out for me and my friends please.

Arthur Robbins (1920 - 2010)

In November Boolarra farewellled Arthur Robbins, one of its greatly respected citizens. Arthur was the 3rd child of William and Amy Robbins who arrived from the Dumbalk area to Boolarra just before he was born in 1920. They took up a farm along Limonite Road on the Bastin Street corner. There were eight Robbins siblings.

Arthur got his Merit Certificate at Boolarra State School and then went to work on the family farm for several years.

At 19 he began his football career which lasted until he was 35. At 20 he joined the army and was sent to the Middle East and then to Ceylon. When the war in the Pacific was at its height he transferred to the Navy, training at 'Cerberus' at Crib Point. He sailed on the "Shropshire", an Australian artillery ship (anti-aircraft) attached to the American Navy 7th Fleet. He saw action near Tokyo, finally towing Eisenhower's boat. Arthur had a distinguished war record.

He married Ivy Fullerton from Mirboo North in 1947 and joined the Gas & Fuel Company, where he worked for some years. He then worked at the Morwell Briquette Factory for the next 20 years until he retired. He and Ivy had two boys and one girl.

Arthur was a very active member of the community, particularly in sport. He was a Best & Fairest winner in the Mid-Gippsland League and a keen bowler. He was secretary of the Boolarra Bowling Club for 23 years and also President of the Gippsland Bowls Group.

He will be greatly missed by his children, friends and the Boolarra community.

LOCAL BUSINESS REGISTER

A new service available to all residents of Boolarra and surrounds

This Register is being made available to everyone who:

- | | |
|--|--|
| # Lives in Boolarra or surrounding areas | # Small, large, all trades, hobby or spare time activities |
| # Owns, operates or runs a business | # Operates/services the local area or elsewhere |
| # Would like to expand their customer base | # Provide their product/service to local residents |

The Register is located at the Boolarra Post Office on the business card shelf. Services are listed alphabetically in **TYPE OF BUSINESS** order - eg. if your business makes jewellery & is called 'Sparklers' you **list it under 'J' for jewellery** NOT under 'S' for Sparklers. Include your name, business name and contact details.

The hope is that the Register will provide information on a range of required services and/or trades-people to Boolarra residents and at the same time, support local businesses. If successful, a Business Register may be printed to include all local businesses.

In the meantime, if you are looking for a trades-person, a service, home-made craft items or some assistance with a job - **make the Local Business Register your first port of call.**

Carol Craddock

BOOLARRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Members were co-opted into hard labour over the winter months when major renovations to the Old School took place. Huge display cabinets, farming memorabilia, giant crosscut saws along with china teacups and a piano were shifted or packed up to make way for the floor polisher, and then unpacked and moved back again. What emerged from the process is a beautiful Australian hardwood floor, some of it in much sought-after Jarrah. With the purchase of heritage furniture, a built-in vacuum system and blinds we now have a very pleasant building to display the history of Boolarra.

One of the past teachers at the Old School returned to tell us what it was like when she arrived as a newly trained graduate of Toorak Teachers' College in the early 1950s. Betty Fox was brought up in Western Victoria, so being stationed in the depths of Gippsland meant she was not going to be able to go home for weekends. She arrived in July 1953 in the depths of winter. Like all resourceful young women she embraced the town, living at the old hotel till suitable housing could be found. She loved sport so she joined the Tennis Club in summer and started up the Netball Team in winter. As fate would have it she met one of Boolarra's champion cricketers, Ron Fox, and has remained here ever since. Marriage for female teachers at that time meant the end of a teaching career. What a loss! Betty described vividly her work day, the grades she taught and the books she used. She remembered too the children she taught, some of whom were among her audience. We thank her for her talk.

Patrick Morgan gave us a pre-launch glimpse of his latest book, Foothill Farmers – the Literature of Gippsland, at our last meeting. The book covers the history of imaginative writing about the region and works that have Gippsland as a set-

ting. It includes such famous writers as Mary Grant Bruce, Hal Porter, E J Brady and Eve Langley. Patrick also used photographs of authors and lithographs of particular places to capture the atmosphere of the region. Foothill Farmers is obtainable at bookshops and newsagents throughout Gippsland.

It was Boolarra's turn to host the recent six-monthly gathering of the Latrobe Combined History Group (LCHG). Member societies share news, ideas, historical material and experiences and the LCHG acts as a heritage lobby group dealing with Local and State Governments. Our visitors were impressed with the transformations and additions to the museum.

The Boolarra Historical Museum is open on the 1st Sunday of each month from 2-4 pm, or by appointment with the Secretary, Mengar Hibbins (5169 6216). The Boolarra and District Historical Society meets at the Boolarra Museum on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. New members are always welcome. Information on our activities can be obtained from Mengar Hibbins (5169 6216), Judy Webster (51696351) or Beth Price (51696241).



Boolarra Wool Group

Over the past few months our member numbers have increased, hence we are very pleased to welcome our new ladies - Lyn, Maryanne, Pam, Kay and Anna. We hope they enjoy many happy days with us in years to come.

Early in winter many of us were involved in knitting socks on a circular needle. Lori, our teacher, has been extremely patient with us. Each week we sat around with furrowed brow, totally absorbed in our new task; each of us taking a turn sitting beside Lori while she shows/teaches us the next

step. Occasionally a soft expletive would be heard as someone realises a mistake has been made, so it was back to the 'Learning Chair' beside Lori while she helped us sort out our hic-cup. When a completed pair of socks appears for 'show and tell' there are congratulations all around.

Some of us have made a few trips up to Stokesay Mohair Farm at Boolarra South. Alison, the owner, has a huge range of 'goodies' for us to enjoy and we usually leave with arms laden with various yarns, patterns etc. Our stash has been constantly growing.

Our grant application from Women Gathering After the Fires (WGAF) was successful, which will be a great help in covering our rental costs and other expenses, this will enable us to keep our charge to members to a minimum.

Our new member Lyn bought a beautiful teddy bear 'Fairfloss' along for 'Show and Tell'. We were all so impressed with beautiful little 'Flossy' that Lyn offered to give us a workshop in bear making; so those keen to make a bear got busy with Lyn's help. We've all had great fun and our bears have taken on a personality all of their own. They each have a name and on completion are issued with a birth certificate.

Our next challenge was making Christmas decorations and we now have some beautiful new creations to hang for the festive season.

Lori is very pleased to report that her new house is almost finished and she's looking forward to the day when we can all go and visit.

If you would like to join us at Wool Group, we meet every Thursday from 11.30 am to 3.30 pm in the Multi-Purpose building and we always have a delicious shared lunch.

Our Christmas lunch was held on 9th December and we will be having a well earned break until we resume on Thursday, 20th January 2011.

River Road Electrical Services

Domestic Rural
Industrial Commercial
Bruce Craddock

Ph: (03) 5169 6640
(Answering Machine)

Mobile: 0427 696 640

Expressions of Interest

Attention all Dance Enthusiasts

If you are interested in forming an organising committee for dance nights, please contact

Carol - 0488 055 574 or 5169 6640

All dance forms such as ballroom, rock n' roll, disco, Latin, group dances, bollywood, etc would be considered, with a view to holding dance classes and/or dance nights to bring community members together for an enjoyable activity.

BOOLARRA MEMORIAL HALL

The Hall has seen fairly steady use. At the moment we have Exercise Classes on Monday at 9.30am-10.30am, Boolarra Youth Theatre/Music Group meet each Sunday from 2.00pm-4.00pm., BCDG meetings, Cemetery Trust and of course the Hall Committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Hopefully we'll see the Table Tennis Club start up once again.

The Hall kitchen is up and working but has yet to be "officially" opened. Watch out for the announcement of that date! Meanwhile, the Hall has already had a very good workout with a recent local wedding.

The Salvation Army have very generously donated \$1,500 for a new fridge! We have also been fortunate to receive a Community Grant which will enable the purchase of a new vacuum cleaner and utensils for the kitchen. The Hall Committee has also gratefully received a donation of new Tupperware which may be used by various groups who use the Hall and of course, the Hall Committee. We have also received sets of beautiful teacups, saucers and plates, so now we are on the lookout for some really nice ceramic teapots. Hopefully we can organise "A Nice Cuppa Tea" one morning as a fund raiser.

The kitchen is of a standard that allows it to be a 'Commercially Registered Kitchen'. The kitchen

will be available for hire to Community Groups for use in preparing produce (sauces, jams, cakes etc.) for fundraising events, Cooking Classes and to caterers for food preparation. If you have a good idea for use of the Kitchen please phone Marietta on 5169 6355.

At our AGM in September, the following Office Bearers were elected for 2010-2011:

- President - Robern Lubawski - 5169 6494
- Secretary - Roz Carstairs - 5169 6445
- Treasurer - John Lubawski - 5169 6494
- Fund Raising/Grants - Marietta Herni - 5169 6355
- Committee Members - Liz Black, Kat Kershaw, Jeff Henderson

Once again Hall Committee members are very appreciative of the hard work Bill Armstrong does mowing the lawns and generally keeping the roses and bushes looking beautiful. We have had a few maintenance problems lately and must thank the Latrobe City Council for assisting financially so we could fix the problems.

When 2011 arrives hire charges for the Hall will have changed. All organisations will be contacted regarding new hiring charges.

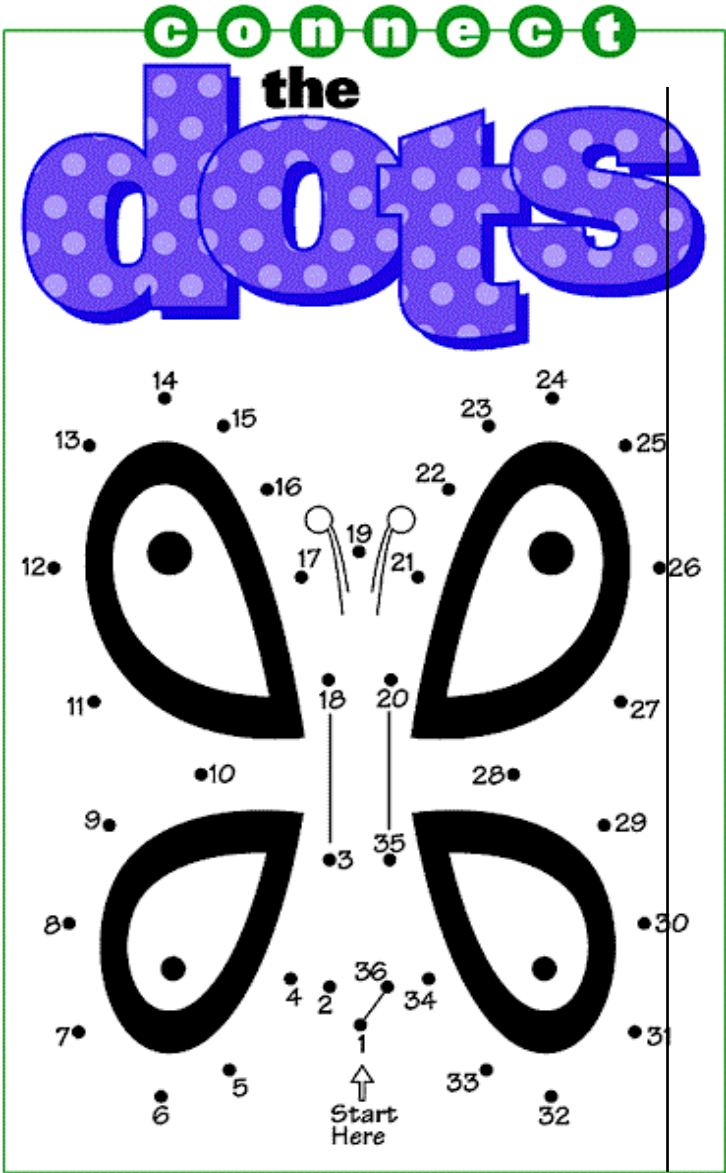
Just a reminder as Christmas approaches - The Hall hires trestle tables for \$5.00 each and chairs for \$1 each. Crockery/cutlery may also be hired just in case you have all the rellies arriving for Christmas dinner!

The Riddler . . .

- Q. What does a cat have for breakfast?
A. *Mice Bubbles.*
- Q. What happened to the boy who ate the Christmas decorations?
A. *He got tinselitis.*
- Q. Why did the little vampires stay up late?
A. *They were studying for a blood test.*
- Q. What do you call two spiders who just got married?
A. *Newly-webs.*
- Q. Why was the bee's hair sticky?
A. *Because he used a honey-comb.*

Interesting Creatures
Seahorses

- Seahorses can rotate their eyes 360°, each independent of the other.
- They have no teeth & swallow their food whole.
- Ranges in size from 1 cm (smaller than a thumbnail) to little over 30 cm.
- Born with a pouch like a kangaroo, *male* seahorses carry and protect seahorse eggs and hatchlings until the babies are big enough to leave home.
- Because of their upright bodies, seahorses are not good swimmers, so spend most of their time in the same place, holding on to vegetation with their tail.
- Seahorses mate for life & are never far from each other.
- When courting, male & female seahorses lock tails in the morning & evening for a swim.
- Seahorses eat up to 3000 plankton, brine shrimp, & other microscopic marine life each day.



A father seahorse carrying his babies in his pouch, like a kangaroo

There are as many as 25 different seahorse species living in Australian waters and they have many different colours, markings and sizes



Community Engagement Policy 2010 - 2014

In 2009 Council commenced a process to review the Council's Community Engagement Policy and Strategy. The purpose of the review was to develop a revised Community Engagement Plan because of its pivotal role in facilitating community involvement by Latrobe City residents in Council's future decision making processes.

A draft Community Engagement Plan 2010-2014 was developed following a process of consultation and engagement with key internal and external stakeholders.

More than 1300 Latrobe Valley residents participated in the community consultation program. Findings and recommendations from the program were considered in the development of the revised Community Engagement Plan.

The "draft" Community Engagement Plan 2010-2014 outlined a range of actions that could be undertaken by the Council to ensure a high quality of community engagement into the future.

"Community Sounding Board"

A key new initiative in this Plan is the creation of a Community Sounding Board which is designed to provide our Council with a broader platform on which to make well informed decisions whilst contributing to the development of a participatory relationship with a wide cross section of our community.

Although a comprehensive scoping exercise will be necessary in year one of this Plan, it is envisaged that the Sounding Board would be an email/internet based system with a large database of members who are regularly contacted for comment on a range of Council plans, strategies and activities.

"Sounding Boards" have been developed as a pivotal link between local government and the community in many countries across the world. In 2000, Stirling Council, in Scotland established a citizens' panel, the Stirling Sounding Board. This sounding board is made up of 1,300 residents and is representative of the wider community by such factors as age, gender, working status, tenure, urban and rural localities. The sounding board is refreshed periodically to ensure that the views reflect those of all citizens.

Wyndham City Council in Victoria has established a community panel to act as a sounding board and also has a program called "community talk" which

is designed to provide feedback to Council on issues of importance to their community. In New South Wales, Mosman Council has a sounding board which emphasises the importance of community involvement in planning for the future of their municipality.

The development of a Community Sounding Board will provide our Council with a new and broader platform on which to make well informed decisions. The establishment of such a Sounding Board will also create more of a participatory relationship with a wide cross section of our community.

The Community Sounding Board will help to create new contacts and help Council to deepen its coverage whilst inviting our community to be a more integral part of planning for our future development.

The Sounding Boards' main function will enable Council to:

- Gain different viewpoints regarding a range of issues that may confront our community;
- Listen to a wide range of voices on important issues within the community so that a range of opinions are heard;
- Provide an opportunity to present Council proposals to a broad cross section of the community to get their input;
- Consider and report on matters of interest or concern to the community;
- Assist in keeping in contact with community groups, special interest groups, residents and businesses in the community.

The development of a Community Sounding Board will enable Council to be better positioned to make informed decisions about issues that affect the local community. It will provide Council with increased confidence that a cross section of the community is engaging on issues of concern. In turn, the community will have the knowledge that the Council is accountable and in tune with its wishes.

It is planned that the Sounding Board will provide residents with the opportunity, through a range of processes, to express their views on issues and to propose local solutions to local issues where change or improvement is required.

It is also planned that a public expression of interest in participating in the Sounding Board will be advertised so as to encourage wide community involvement. In addition, specific interest and stakeholder groups will be invited to participate so that the Sounding Board will have access to, and the capacity to canvass, a wide range of views on key issues. These interest groups include voluntary and not-for-profit, health, tourism and education,

key local industries, small business and other sectors that play a key role and have an interest in our community.

It is envisaged that the Sounding Board will have a significant membership and communication with participants will be through the internet. Council has a number of options regarding online community consultation interfaces.

At its Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 18th October 2010, Council resolved that, after having received and considered all public submissions, to adopt the Community Engagement Plan 2010-2014.

TOURISM PRODUCT AUDIT & REVIEW - LATROBE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Consultants have been appointed to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the tourism product within the municipality and a review of the Latrobe Visitor Information Centre, both with a view to strengthening the marketing and potential investment attraction of the region. The final report will provide a basis and framework for strategic actions to drive tourism for Latrobe City into the future.

The Tourism Product Audit will provide a tool for understanding Latrobe City's products and strengths, our point of difference and how we fit within the wider Gippsland branding. It will also assist Council make informed decisions for strategic actions for appropriate marketing, funding applications and investment attraction.

The review of the Latrobe Visitor Information Centre will provide an understanding of issues impacting visitation and service delivery from the current location of the information centre and will consider emerging visitor and technological trends and how these may influence future service delivery.

Consultation will be undertaken with a range of stakeholders and community members including local and state government, businesses, town groups, and individuals. The community will have an opportunity for input and consultation early next year.

For further information or enquiries, please contact the project officer, Linda Brock, Tourism Coordinator on 5128 5655 or email Linda.brock@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Darrell White
Councillor - Firmin Ward -Latrobe City Council

'Quotable Quotes'

"Nothing wilts faster than laurels
that have been rested upon."

Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822) England



Boolarra's first hotel - The Settlers Arms, later
renamed 'The Old Pub' - now a private residence



We all need a "Local Emergency Action Plan" so I'm on
my way to the LEAP meeting - Which way to the
Memorial Hall??

Photo courtesy of Simon Pickett

LOCAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (LEAP) TO BE DELIVERED TO EVERY HOME IN THE BOOLLARRA DISTRICT

The Boolarra **LOCAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (LEAP)** was launched at a special meeting held at the Boolarra Memorial Hall on Sunday 28th November 2010.

The **BOOLLARRA LEAP** is designed to assist local residents to **PREPARE FOR** and **RESPOND TO**, A **LOCAL EMERGENCY**. It also gives guidance for locals to **MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION ABOUT LEAVING THEIR PROPERTY** and if they choose to do so, when they should go, where they may go too, what they should take and whom they should tell.

Every household in our area will be provided with a copy of the **ACTION PLAN** and the **INFORMATION KIT**. These will be distributed by nominated "Street Captains" in the near future.

The three-page **ACTION PLAN** highlights how you can prepare on an ongoing basis for an emergency, what to do in a developing emergency and what to do if you plan to leave. This **ACTION PLAN** is designed to be hung in a prominent position in your home so it is easily accessible.

The **INFORMATION KIT** is more comprehensive, contains more information and provides advice on where to get further information related to emergencies. The post-Royal Commission CFA - **FIRE READY BOOKLET** and the **SES EMERGENCY GUIDANCE BOOKLET** is also contained in the LEAP KIT together with a host of emergency related phone numbers and web sites.

The performing group **MOARTZ** performed a very humorous skit entitled "**LEAP the LESSON**" which was written and performed free of charge to assist with the launch.

PLEASE REMEMBER - THE LEAP IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR YOUR PERSONAL SURVIVAL PLAN BUT CAN SIGNIFICANTLY SUPPLEMENT IT.

Also at the meeting, which was attended by approximately 125 local concerned residents, John Henshaw - Community Safety Presenter from the CFA spoke about the formation of "Community Fire Guard Groups" in our area. The basic concept is for neighbours to form a "Fire Guard Group" and assist each other in an emergency. Several groups of people have already indicated that they wish to form a "Fire Guard Group" in their area. John can be contacted on **0417 041 145**.

Mr Lance King (LaTrobe City) spoke about Boolarra's designated "**NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACE**" which is the Boolarra Memorial Hall. To gain a full understanding of what is (or is not), on offer at our "**SAFER PLACE**", residents are urged to read the sign attached to the side entrance of the hall. This is a last resort evacuation point as very little is on offer and no guarantees from LaTrobe City are given. Read the sign and you will understand what I mean.

The parents of the Boolarra Primary School should be congratulated for the lavish afternoon tea they provided for everyone at the conclusion of the proceedings.

Dave O'Brien



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Life's Miracles

Life really begins in our advancing years,
When our children have children through
trials & tears,

These wonderful treasures expound our existence,
We help form their lives, with a little persistence.

The meaning of living is enriched & enhanced,
To watch them develop, has me entranced.
This time of my life is the best part for certain,
I'm loved for myself, by each little person.

For just being me, tho' vague & confused,
Loving & watching & being amused,
By these perfect creations, whose love is complete,
I applaud, I give thanks, I rise to my feet.

Joy Swain

Boolarra Primary School

Literacy/Numeracy Week

We recently staged a very well attended Open Evening to show-case the fantastic work being undertaken in our classes. The students chose special work they wanted to display for their parents and other visitors. Our Reading Recovery and Art teacher, Ms Karen Twomey organized a Scavenger Hunt on the evening, with clues in every classroom. All the families that entered this competition won a prize and those who submitted correct entries won some extra goodies too.

Footy Theme Day

On the last day of term 3, Junior School Council held an out of uniform day, with everyone invited to come in their favourite team's colours. Collingwood were the best supported team with 14 followers, closely followed by Essendon who had 13 keen supporters. Donations for State Schools Relief were collected on the day, this raised \$41:05. We finished up, as has become our tradition, with the 5/6s battling the staff and parents in a game of football. As usual, this was a tightly contested

battle with the 'oldies' prevailing by just 6 points. The grade 3/4s did a magnificent job helping out with the umpiring, scoring and time keeping. Best on Ground performance was awarded to Ms Megan Clymo. Best legs went to Darren Cornell and Bravest on the Field (for tackling his teacher to the ground) went to Jason Pickett. Thanks to everyone who joined in the fun!

Respect

To reinforce this very important core school value, we devoted a week to practising and celebrating respect. It was wonderful to hear from some of our students that respect is about treating others the way we want them to treat us and if we are kind to others they are more likely to be kind to us. Caterina in prep summed it all up beautifully when she said "We make ourselves and others happy by showing respect!"

Environment Week

On the last Wednesday of term 3 we staged a Save Power Day. Everyone went out of their way to reduce our use of electricity. Many students brought extra warm clothing so the heaters could be turned down and we did things such as turn off our com-

puters and monitors at their power source.

Free Fruit Friday

Our students continue to enjoy a range of fruits each Friday. We are grateful to parent Amada Noy who sources this for us from Ritchies.

Fantastic Effort!

Our fabulous Bike Ed team came third in the regional final. Some of our riders really improved on their previous individual scores, which was impressive since we've had little opportunity for them to practice. This achievement earned \$350 for the school (which will be used to purchase resources for our traffic education program) and qualified our team for the state final, to be staged on the 19th November.



Jo Dryden with her book made by grade 3/4 children

Happy & Sad News

Ms Jo Dryden is on family leave and we are delighted to have Ms Roz Carstairs filling in for her and teaching our grade 3/4s. Ms Dryden had her babies on Thursday 28th October. Sadly one of her boys, Kayd Jack was stillborn but her other baby Kahil Robert is thriving and gorgeous! The grade 3/4s made a beautiful book for Ms Dryden's baby called "Your Mummy". Jo and Kahil will be visiting us at school as soon as possible.



Action on the field for footy day Grades 5&6



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ALL WELCOME

Children's Day

We recently marked Children's Day with lots of fun and frivolity. Dressing up, cooking and riding bikes about the school were the order of the day!

Reading Recovery Works!

Some schools do not run this program as it is very labour intensive and expensive to provide such one on one support. We continue this program because it helps students who show early signs that they might have some literacy difficulties to overcome. We've gotten used to seeing our grade ones come ahead in leaps and bounds as they work with Ms Karen Twomey (and before this, Ms Cheryl Hilton). However one of our students has managed to achieve progress above and beyond anything we've ever seen before. Our most recent Reading Recovery Graduate, Declan has improved a massive 16 reading levels in his time on the program. Well done Declan!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Shari and Thomas received Ms Karen Twomey's very special "Artist of the Term" awards. Some of the outstanding work they have produced during Art classes has been framed and will hang in pride of place near our main entranceway until later this term when Shari and Thomas will take it home.

Walk to School Day

On Wednesday 20th October our Junior School Council encouraged as many people as possible to walk to school. It was great that we had 39 students take this opportunity to enjoy some fresh air and sunshine whilst getting some exercises. On the day before we only had 19 students walk to school so we know that some extras were encouraged to walk through this initiative. Hopefully they will keep this up and boost their fitness and wellbeing in the process!



Maddi, Rory & James walk to school

World Teachers' Day

It was lovely to have this opportunity to recognise the dedicated and capable teachers at our school who work hard to provide rich learning opportunities for our students and really care about their welfare. The students showed their appreciation by making large posters, developing some rap music that celebrated our teachers (that we played

as our come inside music all day) and presenting the teachers with special badges. Grade 6 students Georgina Brick found this quote that summed up the why we have such a day: "Teachers I believe are the most responsible and important members of society because their professional efforts affect the fate of the earth."

Thanks To You All!

We are very grateful to everyone who has collected Coles Sports Vouchers for us. We received well over 3,000 and are eagerly waiting to see what this will entitle us to. We think our Sports Shed should soon have lots more balls, at the very least!



James Potter & his father Luke



The Boolarra Folk Festival Committee held their Annual General Meeting on 7th September 2010 at the Memorial Hall.

The guest speaker on the night was Ian Southall from Latrobe City Business Tourism Association, who gave a talk on promoting tourism in the region. Ian is also involved with Destination Gippsland, who have selected the 2011 Boolarra Folk Festival as one of the major events they will be promoting in the new year.

The planning for the next festival is well underway; however there is still a lot to do before the 5th March 2011. Councillor Darrell White was in attendance to oversee the selection of the new committee with the following people being elected.

Ray Stewart	President
Wendy Stewart	Minutes Secretary
Regina Teychenne	Treasurer
Rick Teychenne	Music Co-ordinator
Darren Cornell	Logistics Officer
Chelsea Stewart	Design
Kate Reiske	Publicity Officer
Leanne Blake	Grants Officer
Marietta Herni	Markets Co-ordinator
Keith Robertson	Wine Co-ordinator
Adrian Giannini	After Dark Event
Terry Cupples	ARC Yinnar Event
Bronwen Hilton	Website Manager.
Darren Cornell	Logistics Officer (New Position)

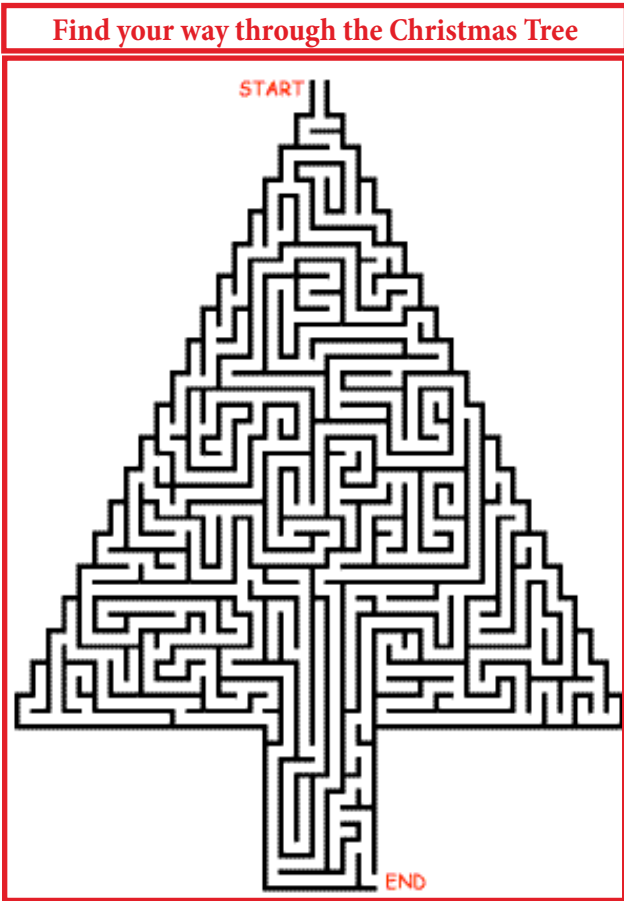
We are thrilled that Kristy Mills is willing to take over from Marietta Herni as our Market Co-ordinator, as Marietta would like to stand down from that position after the next festival.

We are desperately seeking two Volunteer Co-ordinators - preferably one male and one female. Their job will be to enlist people on Festival Day to sell wine, work in the Information Tent, help

park cars and conduct surveys. We also need a person(s) to take charge of the car parking arrangements as this is the first contact visitors have with the Festival on the day, so it is important we appear organised.

If you think you can take on one of the roles mentioned above or can spare an hour or so as a volunteer on festival day, please contact me on 5169 6275 or email razzmond1@bigpond.com.

Ray Stewart - President



Boolarra Bowls & Recreation Club

Season 2010/2011 officially started with the opening of the greens on 19th September 2010. All members had a good day with the weather being kind.

The Men's Section of pennants first game in Division 4 saw us host Yarragon and Division 6 host Morwell Club. The weather was threatening to turn nasty, but the rain held off and the bowlers enjoyed a good game. Unfortunately neither Division could bring home the winning points.

The second game for Division 6 was played at Morwell Bowls Club but rain saw play abandoned. Division 4 had a wet day at Traralgon Bowls Club, however we soldiered on to play a required 60 ends so a result could be achieved – Traralgon were the victors.

In the third game of Men's Pennant, Division Four hosted Traralgon RSL Club, unfortunately we were out-played with some extremely good bowls put in by both sides.

Division Six hosted our closest rival Yinnar and were victorious – well done Division Six. Good Bowling.

On a sad note, we have lost one of our earliest members with Arthur Robbins passing away at age 90. Arthur was Secretary for 20 years, President of Mid Gippsland Bowls Association, President of Boolarra Bowls Club and also Life Member of Boolarra Bowls & Recreation Club. Arthur was also Club Champion several times. Arthur and his late wife Ivy, were very passionate club people, both on the green and off. The greens, surrounds and lovely gardens were a credit to them. Thank you for your dedication to the Club – Rest In Peace.

From Ladies Section of Boolarra Bowling Club

Over the past few months the Boolarra Bowling Club has been saddened by the loss of three lady stalwarts. Condolences from our members go out to their families.

Evelyn Richards in her 90th year, Thelma Depeler aged 85 and Maisie Fox in her 102nd year. (We believe she was probably the oldest person to reside in Boolarra).

Evelyn was a member for about 45 years and during this time, worked tirelessly for the club, including craftwork, knitting and crocheting articles for our stalls or to raffle to raise funds. It has been documented that in the early days our associates were not lacking in assisting with manual labour. Ev skippered a Division One pennant team, represented Boolarra in Inter Association games and won G.D.L.B.A champion pairs and fours.

Thelma had been a member for about 40 years. She was one of the skippers in Division Three when we won the premiership in 84-85. Thelma was a good club member enjoying life to the fullest with a drink and loved to tell stories and jokes. She has been president of the G.D.L.B.A Past Presidents Association, helping with the organisation of their trips and social events.

Maisie had been a club member for 51 years. For her 90th birthday she received a set of new narrow bias bowls. Her achievements have included being the winner of G.D.L.B.A State Title Singles and fours, winner of many Boolarra Club games including three single championships and championship pairs with her daughter Lorna. She has also skippered in Division One pennant and played her last pennant game when she was aged 96. At bowling functions her sponges and pavlovas were always in great demand.

These three ladies have all been Presidents of our club and great role models by being actively involved in every aspect of club life, also representing us at numerous tournaments and invitation days. Each one of them has enriched our club in various ways and will be remembered fondly by all those who knew them.

The families of Evelyn, Thelma and Maisie have expressed their appreciation to all those involved in assisting with the catering for their wakes at the Bowling Club.

Boolarra Tennis Club News

The season has started with many wash outs which is very disappointing to our keen tennis players, Junior and Senior alike.

As a club we are very excited about the season ahead, lots of fun, laughs and tennis make for a great summer of activity and time with friends with similar interests. One thing as a Club we do ask our players is to enjoy the game and the social fun of being a member of our club, winning is 'GREAT', but if we lose one week but still enjoyed our tennis and had fun with our friends then that is 'GREAT' too!

Our Senior team this year has different players playing each and every week. We thank all of you for the commitment. We also thank our new club Secretary, Samantha Brick, for her efforts with filling a senior team every week. We were worried we could not field a senior team this year in the Loy Yang Yinnar & District Association and it was Samantha's drive and do not give up attitude that ensured we put in a team. It is now up to the rest of us to also have the same drive and keep senior tennis alive in our Club.

Boolarra Junior Player Matt Hammond took out the section 5 place in the LV Junior Tennis Tour-

Lawrie Havrillay

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1. You will need full-cream milk (or powdered milk is ok), Condyl's Crystals & Bi-carb soda.
2. Place 1 Litre milk in mixing bowl.
3. Add 1 teaspoon of bi-carb soda & 1 Litre of water & mix well.
4. Add a pinch of Condyl's Crystals & mix well again.
5. Use undiluted as a spray.

NOTE: Condyl's Crystals (potassium permanganate) is available at Chemists



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nament played at Traralgon recently. 60 Kids from all clubs within the LV participated, with 3 Boolarra players, Tiarne Bayley, Dana Flahavin and Matt Hammond competing in section 5. What a great result for a Boolarra player to win the tournament in section 5. We are very proud of his efforts and say 'Well done Matt'.

The club participated in fundraising at the Red Light Ride earlier this year and has been successful in obtaining some sponsorship for tennis coaching as a thank-you for our efforts and participation. All people in the community will be welcome to participate in the tennis coaching but we would really love to see each and every one of our juniors take advantage of this great FREE offer based on the efforts of our Club Volunteer's work. Honorary members of the club Marg and Stan Niddrie drove this effort and the club is forever grateful for their commitment.

In 2011 as a Club we have again committed to the Boolarra Folk Festival as our major fundraiser. Members and families please keep this in mind and be prepared to offer some time to fairy flossing or snow coneing ...

New Members are always welcome, all enquiries can be directed to:

Barb Webb (President) - 5176 5228 or 0415 696 144 (btc_inc@iprimuscom.au)
Samantha Brick (Secretary) - 5163 121 or 0427 824 722
Sharyn Giles (Junior Co-Ordinator) - 5169 6204 or 0410 036 175

Lastly, we thank the Parks Committee for their efforts - our reserve is in the best shape it can be.

Yours in tennis
Barb Webb, President BTC Inc



BOOLARRA UNIT

Our AGM was held at the Multi-Purpose Building on Monday, 5th July 2010, and we were happy to welcome friends from the other Units in Region 9 - Warragul, Erica/Rawson, Morwell and Traralgon. Soup and sandwiches were enjoyed by all before the formalities began.

The guest speaker was Helene Hayes, who gave us an update on the conditions in Haiti. It will be many years of hard work to get this country back on its feet - the devastation caused by the earthquake and the lack of basic infrastructure present huge challenges for the Aid Agencies who are working tirelessly to help those in desperate need.

The following Office Bearers were elected for 2010/2011:

Chairperson	Gladys Hall
Assistant Chair	Sue Warren
Secretary	Gay Henry
Treasurer	Glenys Morgan
Unit Representative	Gladys Hall

Stanis Alexander presented Nat Roy with her 3rd Bar - signifying 40 years of service to Red Cross. Not present, but also congratulated were Gladys Hall and Inge Bissell, who have both achieved 30 years of service - Well done, ladies!

On 11th October 2010 we held a successful fundraiser with Bev's Fashions and a fun afternoon was enjoyed by all present. We raised a total of \$176.00 on the day.

Our current fund-raiser is the "Super Santa Christmas Raffle", with three great prizes available.

Tickets are \$2.00 each and can be purchased at the Top Shop, the Post Office and the Boolarra Pub. All winners will be advised by phone after the draw.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support of Red Cross throughout 2010 and to wish you all a safe and happy Festive Season.

Glenys Morgan
Treasurer

The First Blooms



At the Sauppe home, one of the 70 heritage roses donated to fire affected residents in Boolarra came into full bloom this spring. Thanks go to the Heritage Rose Society for their generosity



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JEERALANG BOOLARRA CRICKET CLUB PANTHERS



Season 2010-2011 is well and truly underway. Both senior and junior sides have shown good early form, managing to pull off some early wins, even with the cancellation of rounds due to the terrible weather conditions in September. It's great to see everyone enjoying themselves and the atmosphere around the club is exciting and encouraging. Seeing some new faces (not only players but social members too) is also promising for the club in moving forward. Hopefully this will continue throughout the rest of the season and all sides can maintain their early success with the bat and ball and hopefully make it to the finals.

As with all prior seasons the first major event on the calendar is the club's AGM, held on Monday the 2nd of August at the Boolarra social rooms. The turn out on the night was fantastic. Nominations were called for the election of both board and committee members. Congratulations to our newly elected members for season 2010-2011.

President:	Phil Allen
Vice President:	Tim Laaks
Junior Vice President:	Matt Allan
Secretary:	Jack Cleaver
Assistant Secretary:	Julia Allen
Treasurer:	Julia Allen
Committee Members:	Dale Thomas, Paul Howes, Matthew McCormack, Nathern Spark, Scott Berechree, Sharron Pace & Wayne Redpath

As we embrace the new season, we welcome the addition of some new players to the Club. A big welcome to Brendon Wilson, Sam Mazou, Ryan Fisher, Dirk Nel and Tim Mowat. Welcome back to the club Ryan Wilk, Nathern Spark and Stan Urbanic Jnr who have all decided to return to the Panthers after playing a couple of seasons with other clubs. It's a pleasure to welcome you all and I wish you all the very best in the upcoming season. We always welcome new players; so if you feel like a hit or want to enjoy some great company come to either training on a Tuesday or Thursday night from 5.00 pm or to a home game every Saturday from mid-day. Everyone is most welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

Some events and projects that are coming up later in the season include our 20/20 Christmas breakup inter-club match. Last year was the first year that we ran this event and the day itself was a big success. This year we are expecting the 20/20 match to be held around the 18th December – the exact date will be advertised when it is confirmed. So bring the kids along for a BBQ lunch and support the Jeeralang Boolarra Cricket Club. It will be a great day.

The installation of a turf wicket on Boolarra 2 oval is set to go ahead and our clubrooms will be painted in Panther colours - hopefully prior to or just after Christmas. Dates and details for these events will be

advertised when confirmed.

A huge thank you goes out to all of you who helped the Club. Whether it's by helping with afternoon teas, the juniors, organising social events or just little things here and there, on behalf of the Jeeralang Boolarra Cricket Club we would personally like to thank all of you. Without your wonderful support and generosity, the club would not be in the position it is today. A massive thank you must also go to all our wonderful sponsors for season 2009-2010.

- Boolarra Fish Farm
- Boolarra Top Shop
- Boolarra Hotel
- Aspire Sheds
- Triangle Trophies
- Inspirations Paint & Colour
- Yinnar Hotel

It has been a pleasure working with you and we hope that with your ongoing support our success will continue into the season to come.

All the best to all the new players & good luck to everyone for the rest of the 2010 – 2011 season. I would also like to wish everyone a Happy and Safe Christmas Season.

Jack Cleaver - Secretary

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1 cup Lemonade
3 teaspoons ground wattleseed
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- Preheat oven to very hot 220C (210C fan-forced).

- Add lemonade & cream to sifted flour & wattleseed, mix to form soft dough with finger tips.

- Place mixture on floured surface & bring together gently to form a 2 cm thickness. This should make a soft, wet mix.

- Cut with a floured cutter or knife. Place close together on tray, brush with milk & bake for 10 - 15 minutes.

- Serve warm with cream & jam or honey.



Boolarra Football/ Netball Club

The Club looks to further improve in the 2011 season. After a testing 2009 where our football and netball teams didn't win too many games in the wake of the bushfires, performances were greatly improved in 2010. The club still has a very young list of talent and will no doubt continue to improve well into next season. The club now has a big focus on youth development and believes that the dedicated young folk of our little town have what it takes to bring our club into a new era of greatness.

A testament to the on-field improvement of our club was the reserve grade football team making the finals for the first time in over 10 years, especially after winning only one game in season 2009. This rewarded the hard work and commitment made by reserves coach Marcus Carnes, Senior coach Tony Giardina and their support staff and all the players involved. This being said, we want more teams playing finals next season.

Player recruitment in both the football and netball has been going well so far but we are always on the lookout for more players to add to our fantastic club. **Anyone who knows of any prospective players are urged to contact Senior Football Coach - Tony Giardina on 0429 431 356 or**

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Senior Netball Coach - Cherry Prior on (03) 5169 6368. For junior football enquiries please call Alf Shiels on (03) 5169 6607. All senior, reserve and junior grade players are welcome.

In season 2010 our social functions were also a great success with nights such as the Mid Year Ball, Boat Cruise night, Fancy Dress Ball, Duck Race day and Presentation Nights, just to name a few, all having great turnouts.

The club recently had a new kitchen installed which looks fantastic and will make it a lot easier for those slaving away in the kitchen on Thursday and Saturday nights next year. The club is currently in the process of applying for grants to fund a new decking area at the front of the clubrooms. This decking will provide a spectacular viewing area for those watching the football and an outdoor retreat for those needing some fresh air during social functions. Keep your ears to the ground in regards to when you can help out in the construction of the deck. Other notable constructions around the ground include the new fences around the netball courts and the sealing of the road around the recreation reserve. Thank you to all involved in projects such as these.

The senior football team recently held a spit roast day at coach Tony Giardina's farm with some of the tastiest roast lamb and chicken you can imagine, followed by some carp fishing in the dam for a bit of a laugh (we didn't cook up any or the carp for those wondering). It was a great day for all involved and we look forward to many more of these days in the coming months. Senior football training started on Wednesday the 1st December at the recreation reserve and will run Mondays and Wednesdays until Christmas. Training will recommence in the 2nd week of January with trainings running Monday and Wednesdays in Boolarra and a session every 2nd Friday in Traralgon. We hope to see everyone back on board for season 2011 and encourage any new members in the community to become a part of our great family and social club in 2011 and beyond.

For general enquiries call president Rusty McGlade on (03) 51 696 507.

Netball Update

It was a big year for the Club with a lot of player and coach development taking place, something that will continue in 2011. We also had some significant events - Boolarra hosted the WorkSafe/VCFL Game of the Month as well as the first semi-final. A big effort by many volunteers ensured we showcased the best of what Boolarra has to offer on both these occasions.

Congratulations to the committee for all their hard work and making it such a happy, positive year at the Club. Congratulations also to all our award winners for season 2010.

A grade: B&F Jasmin Hornsey; RU Up Anna McGlade; Coach's award Emma Lardner

B grade: B&F Amy Peters; RU Up Claire Tatterson; Coach's award Teigan Pike

C grade: B&F Gabrielle Francis; RU Up Ellina Den Toom; Coach's award Shelley McGrath

D grade: B&F Penny Owen; RU Up Jade Shoobert; Coach's award Alana Risely

17&U: B&F Erika Peters; RU Up Monique Beamish; Coach's award Alice Stewart

15&U: B&F Jaslyn McLennan-Shiels; RU Up Kaylah Pike; Coach's award Ashleigh Clissold

50 GAME CERTIFICATES: Ellina Den Toom, Jess McGrath, Shelley McGrath,

Janelle Warner, Jaslyn McLennan-Shiels

100 GAME MEDALLION: Erika Peters

150 GAME MEDALLION: Stacey Beamish, Zoe McGlade, Anna McGlade

200 GAME MEDALLION: Jackie McGlade

A big welcome to the new head of netball in Boolarra, Nancy McCallister. Nancy, mum to 2010 junior player Megan, takes over as the Boolarra Football Netball Club's netball vice president for season 2011.

Also joining us is Jackie McGlade (Secretary), Faye Taylor (Treasurer), Ann Reiske (Umpire Coordinator), Chris Wareham (Team Manager) and Camilla Ablitt-Collins (Committee Member).

Player numbers are already looking healthy for season 2011. Boolarra is again looking to field four senior teams (A, B, C and D grades), 17&U and 15&U teams, as well as up to three junior teams in the Churchill and District Indoor Junior Netball Association. Most of our coaches for next year have already been appointed.

A & B grades: Cherry Prior

C&D grades: Heather Knotting

17&U: Jody Shiels, Teigan Pike assisting

15&U: Janelle Warner

11&U: Darren Cornell.

Assistance is still needed from parents for the 13&U and Netta teams. If you can help out as a coach, trainer, scorer or volunteer please contact Nancy McAllister on 5169 6526 or 0422 979 488. Anyone interested in playing can contact Cherry Prior on 0427 696 368.

**For more club information visit
<http://www.boolarrafc.vcfl.com.au>**