

10 Years Boolarra Folk Festival

Rain doesn't dampen the spirits

There were gumboots galore, the reuniting of old friends, kids dancing in the mud and puddles, impromptu sessions and good times had at the recent Boolarra Folk Festival.

The Folk Festival 'logistics outfit' quickly adapted to the rainy conditions on the day. John Cargill, Colin Brick and the car-parking team ably guided the traffic and bore the brunt of the conditions. Darren Cornell and his team quickly organized the Memorial Hall as the main stage which was full to the brim for most of the festival. With much good humour, Rick Teychenne, Paul Johnson, Terry Cupples and Brett Van Hoorn worked tirelessly throughout the afternoon to keep the sound tight, the performers on song and the program moving along. Grant McNeill hosted an alternate and more informal open stage at the Bowling Club which was an ideal venue for people to enjoy a drink and delicious afternoon tea prepared by the efficient club caterers.

Once again the music began with a very robust and entertaining drumming sequence performed by the Boolarra Primary School children, led by the very talented and enthusiastic Steve Schulz.

Artists performing at this year's festival included:

Our ever-popular locals, the Strzelecki Stringbusters kept toes tapping while the Dukes of Despair also grabbed the attention of their audience with an energetic performance.

The Stillsons took time out from touring and recording their first album "Circus" to attend the festival. The 'lovely acoustic mess' from Melbourne, better known as Lily and King, kept people entertained with their joyful, beautiful and at times, wicked style of music-making.

Vocalists Nia Robertson, country with a hint of blues, and Jenny Biddle, 2010 Melbourne's Best Busker and 2011 Tamworth Busking Championship runner-up both provided terrific entertainment for festival goers.

The talented Hannafords, performed their own contemporary folk/country style of music. Borderline is made up of three experienced musicians Carolyn Boothman, Danny Boothman and Terry Cupples, who are generous support-



Top to bottom: Lexi Redpath, Boolarra Primary School drummers, Daniel Calabro, the Hannafords, Borderline, The Coffe Bus + Customers.

Next Page Top to bottom: Lily from lily and king, Mia O'Brien, Strzelecki Stringbusters, Go Set - vJ Keenan, lilly pilly steiner - playgroup, Daniel Calabro, Nigella's.

10 YEAR HISTORY OF THE FOLK FESTIVAL

2002

- At the last Music In The Park held 24 February 2002, two current committee members discussed the possibility of putting on a much bigger event.
- June 2002 the first Folk Festival meeting is held under the auspice of the newly formed Boolarra Community Development Group (BCDG). The bold decision to make it a free event was made at that first meeting.



2003

- First Festival, hoped to get at least 600 people turn up, got over 2000.
- Kids drumming was an instant success.
- Around 60 market stalls in Railway Park sets Boolarra apart from most other music festivals

2004

After the tremendous success of the first Festival, there just had to be another.

- Money was a big issue; Bricky secures some funding with only weeks to spare.
- The Herni's fine tune the market stalls in Railway Park, a major drawcard for the festival.

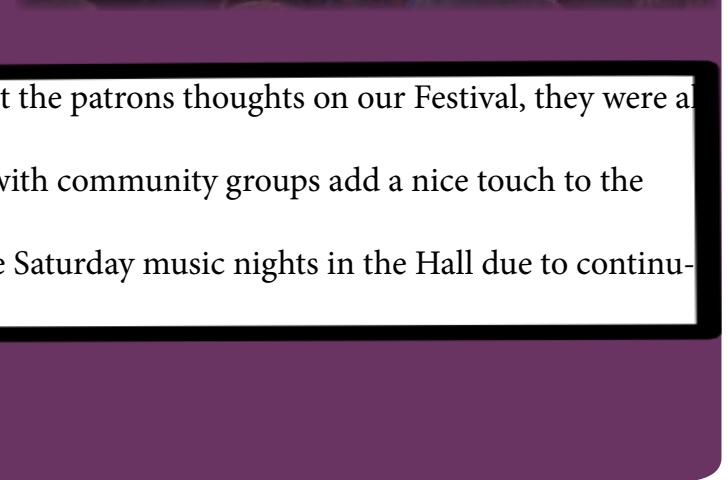
2005

- Heavy rain started at 11am, music had to be moved into the Hall, Market Stall numbers down.
- Rick T and his crew do an amazing job to get the music going in the Hall with very little delay.
- Wendy and Regina set up selling merchandise in the foyer of the Hall after moving from the Park.
- Attempted to set a new world record of how many people you can fit into a hall.
- Committee are astounded at the number of people who still attend the Festival in such shocking weather conditions.



2006

- Start doing Surveys to get the patrons thoughts on our Festival, they were a very positive.
- The Healing Tent along with community groups add a nice touch to the festival.
- This is the last year of the Saturday music nights in the Hall due to continuing poor attendances.



GRAND RIDGE RAIL TRAIL AND NEW BRIDGES OPENED

A very interested crowd of locals from Boolarra, Mirboo North & Yinnar were present on Friday 10 February 2012 when the official re-opening of our town's major tourism asset finally took place.

A convoy of community buses from the near localities conveyed many of those older folk in the community along the Rail Trail to the site of one of the Bridges, where they were met by many more walkers and cyclists and even a token dog who was happy to voice his excitement on behalf of the many of his kind who enjoy the Trail!

The crowd was welcomed by State MP Russell Northe, Federal MP Darren Chester, a DSE contingent and also many Grand Ridge Rail Trail members including Neil Trease, Chairperson of the Rail Trail Committee of Management. The

crowd was estimated to be around 80 people.

Local press were also in attendance and coverage of the ribbon being cut to re-open the Trail via the new bridges was aired on the evening news. Following the opening many of the crowd walked back over to the Boolarra side of the bridge and boarded the

Continued page 7



Rail Trail Bridge was put in place



MEN'S SHED ESTABLISHMENT NEARER

The establishment of a Men's Shed in Boolarra moved a step closer on 20 February 2012 with Latrobe City Council (LCC) finally signing off on the Planning Permit.

This will enable the application for a Building Permit to proceed and the Fair Dinkum Sheds local distributor, Proline Sheds have this in hand. Fair Dinkum Sheds are National sponsors of the Australian Men's Shed Association (AMSA).

As appears in the Media Release elsewhere in this edition, a cheque for \$25,000 was presented on 15 December last by Minister Mary Woolridge, following up on a pre-election promise by local MP Russell Northe.

Councillor Darrell White was also in attendance and dignitaries, Minister's Staff and interested locals joined the Boolarra Community Development Group (BCDG) and Men's Shed Sub-Committee members partaking in a delicious afternoon tea at the Memorial Hall.

Men's Sheds are a Men's Health initiative providing a place where men can gather and work and talk, not necessarily face to face, but definitely 'Shoulder to Shoulder', which is the Men's Shed motto. There are already some 25 people who have expressed interest in the establishment and use of the shed on a regular basis and it has been a long and frustrating process for the Sub-Committee complying firstly with Department of Sustainability & Environment (DSE) guidelines to obtain the former Shire Works Depot site and then LCC as the lengthy process to obtain a Planning Permit was worked through. The Sub-Committee are hopeful that the Building Permit Application will not suffer the same delays and that construction will soon be commenced.

Jeff Henderson, Chairman BCDG & Men's Shed Sub-Committee



"BCDG Men's Shed Sub-Committee members receiving their cheque. From L-R - Geoff Dunkley, Minister Mary Woolridge, Jeff Henderson, State MP Russell Northe, Rob Herni, Doug Black, Pat McAllister, Steve Mansfield, Cr. Darrell White"

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THE BOOLARRA LINK COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Boolarra Link AGM was held on Thursday, 22nd September 2011.

The new committee members are:

Mark Cooke - President

Lois Thornton - Secretary

Luke Potter - Treasurer & Public Officer

Sylvia Sauppe - Editor

Jan Thomson - Sub-editor

Michael Watt - Sub-editor

Joy Swain - Member

Feedback, articles, photos & correspondence can be provided via email to

BoolarraLink@hotmail.com or by letter addressed to The Boolarra Link and dropped off with Gwenda or Roger at the Boolarra Post Office.

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Boolarra Australia Day celebration

Another great Australia Day celebration was enjoyed at Railway Park in Boolarra with over 200 people turning out to enjoy an egg and bacon sandwich and a chance to have a chin wag with friends they don't run into often.

The kids had fun with the games organised by Samantha Brick. The older crowd members were kept on their toes by Australian Trivia questions. The CFA and other volunteers ensured the hungry masses were very well catered for. The day was also the first outing for new polo shirts worn by members of the Boolarra Community Development Group (BCDG) and they were very well received. A modified version has been offered for sale to the community orders are now being taken. Thanks to Tracy Anderson for her efforts in sourcing the shirts.

It was great to chat to a number of people new to the community attending their first Boolarra Australia Day and to see some expats in Les & Meryl Hunt who had come out to catch up with old friends. Cr Darrell White



spoke movingly of the significance of Australia Day. He then formally unveiled the Boolarra Historical mural that has recently been erected on the

wall of the Top Shop, congratulating artist Abbas Mehran on the quality of his work and on the research that has gone into the piece. The mural has been around 15 months in gestation and Abbas has had ongoing discussions with the Historical Society and local residents, to enable him to combine many important elements from Boolarra's history. Abbas also spoke to the Primary School and two local schoolchildren are immortalised in the montage. Darrell also noted the important contribution from Geoff Dunkley as Technical Manager in erecting the mural. The mural was funded by the Boolarra Community Development Group. Abbas was new to the town when he first approached us with his concept 15 months ago. After obtaining approval in principle, he brought successive drafts of the mural for comment and approval. The final product is a tribute to both his skill and his love of the town he has adopted.



the new mural on the topshop Wall



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Top: Cr Darrell White speaks to Crowd



Award recipients from the left:

Jack Richards, Mick Crowley, Tony & Linda Minter, Garryelle Rose, Jesse Giardina, Jack Cleaver, Jill Simmonds, Rob Herni, Samantha Brick

Thanks also to the Development Group members who helped put the mural up, especially Doug Black for installing the backing timbers, and of course to Belinda and Warren Richards, owners of the Top Shop.

There were a large number of nominations for Community Recognition Awards this year. This reflects the enthusiasm people have for being able to formally acknowledge others' efforts in front of an audience of their peers. Thank you to the people who made the effort to recognise these people.

Congratulations to the following recipients:

Donna Williamson. For her admirable efforts acting as a foster Mum to a number of children.

Jill Simmonds. For her ongoing efforts in organising one of the best run open garden

days in Victoria.

Jack Cleaver. For his tireless work on behalf of the Jeeralang-Boolarra Cricket Club.

John & Robern Lubawski. Over 43 years they have been involved in many community groups and committees.

Jesse Giardina. For showing real leadership and enthusiasm in recruiting young men to enable the Boolarra FC to establish an U16's team. Jesse also captained the MGFL U16 team with distinction.

Mick Crowley. For the many hours working to beautify the Old Mill Site and the associated walking tracks and for his input into developing facilities at the Morwell River Falls site.

Tony & Linda Minter. For the leadership they provide in a wide range of community

activities including the Old Mill Site, Land-care, the open garden day, the walking group, the wool group and yoga.

Rob Herni. For his outstanding efforts over many years as Chair of the BCDG.

Michelle Hassett. For her contribution to the Primary School over 13 years.

Samantha Brick. For her commitment to creating a better community through a wide range of community activities.

Garryelle Rose. In 2010 she fulfilled a long held ambition to establish the Boolarra & District Youth Theatre Company.

Jack Richards. For his efforts in fundraising on behalf of the Cemetery Trust. Jack maintains the park at the entrance to Boolarra. He is always ready to help people out.

Following the presentation to Jack, the BCDG Chair, Jeff Henderson, made a speech highlighting Jack's special role in the community and work he does in maintaining the Bastin St intersection and the park coming into Boolarra. Jeff then unveiled a sign acknowledging Jack's role that will be erected in the park. Very rarely have I seen Jack speechless, but this took the wind out of his sails completely and was a very satisfactory conclusion to the day's formalities, except of course the raising of the flag and singing the national anthem.

Another great Australia Day.

Colin Brick, OA

Boolarra Community Development Group

I don't think necessity is the mother of invention - invention, in my opinion, arises directly from idleness, possibly also from laziness.

To save oneself trouble.

Agatha Christie, *An Autobiography*, 1977



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We have started a secondhand book service & are getting an assortment in stock to purchase or hire. Proceeds will be going to our local 'Relay for Life'

Have a Very Happy and Safe Easter.

Cheers for now, Gwenda, Roger & Staff



MURAL PROJECT "LEST WE FORGET" BOOLARRA MEMORIAL HALL

In 2003, when one of our Committee members suggested a few murals on the outside of the Boolarra Memorial Hall, the next step was who to contact to do this project. As luck would have it we were steered towards a group of people who were doing Work For the Dole projects under the tutelage of artist Patricia Smithson.

Patricia had completed many similar projects around the valley and with government funding, the group started on our first mural "Lest We Forget". Quite a bit of liaison took place between the Hall Committee and Trish until we decided on what we wanted to achieve with our mural. The mural depicts the times and wars of the past through to present day. Each of the letters covered an era or theme of each conflict and period. Each participant had their own style and influences. Some of the participants were able to fully focus on their personal inspirations and ideas as they tackled each letter. Each artist researched the images for their letter/s and expressed their feelings in every brush stroke painted.

Creating the mural involved a long and complicated process of brainstorming, research and group discussion. Consideration had to be given to what the Hall Committee wanted the mural to depict. The mural was not specifically about war itself, rather it was to commemorate the men and women who lost their lives serving our country. After the artistic component was agreed on, then the practical work could begin. The surface of the cement sheet panels had to be prepared as a workable surface. They were primed and sealed and the foundation colours and the letters



painted on the boards.

The next step was to source the images to use. The group was able to find all they needed from books and photos mostly from local public libraries. For the more recent conflicts such as Vietnam, they visited various internet sites. Once the letters had been assigned a specific era or theme, the artists set about arranging the appropriate images within the space provided. They all tried to find images that best summed up the theme and were effective when viewed from a distance. Then the layouts were transferred to the panels. Contours of the images had to be traced onto tracing paper and then, by use of graphite, onto the letters. One of the most important elements of the overall design was the choice of colours. The group had accumulated a large colour library which was catalogued and sorted into groups of tone and hue. They had to paint a tone layer before

applying a colour layer to ensure longevity of the colour when exposed to the elements over time. Then painting of the final coat could begin.

All the time this was done, the artists were checking and re-checking their work and asking other group members for opinions of their contribution. This was always done constructively and assisted each artist in technique, ideas and approaches to the work.

Participants in this project were: Trish Smithson (Supervisor and Teacher), Andrew Shinn, Erin Lawrence, Michael Abbot, Ben Creighton, David Simpson, Lisa Wilson, Wayne Mifsud, Jamie Parsell and Darren Baird.

Over the next few issues I will introduce you to the artists who worked on this mural, their thoughts and feelings as they worked.

Roz Carstairs

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BRIDGES BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO THE GRAND RIDGE RAIL TRAIL

The official reopening of the Grand Ridge Rail Trail in South Gippsland was cause for celebration today, three years after it was severely impacted by the January 2009 Delburn Complex fire.

Russell Northe MP, Member for Morwell, representing the Hon Peter Ryan MP, Deputy Premier, and the Hon Ryan Smith MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, along with Darren Chester, Federal Member for Gippsland was present to cut the ribbon at one of two 66-metre steel span bridges installed along the trail as part of the fire recovery project.

"These magnificent bridges are much bigger than their predecessors and have been installed at points where steep gullies had previously made the trail impassable for the mobility impaired and those on bicycles – the trail is now accessible for all for the first time," said Mr Northe.

"Reopening the Grand Ridge Rail Trail today restores it back to its rightful place as a key tourism drawcard and recreational asset for this area - it is an exciting day for the Boolarra and Mirboo North communities and for the whole area," Mr Northe said.

Mr Northe noted that the redevelopment was assisted with State Government funding of \$1.6 million from Regional Development Victoria and the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

The bridges were designed, manufactured and installed by local companies Chris O'Brien and Company (based in Traralgon), Strzelecki Engineering (based in Mirboo North), and Hourigan and Walsh (based in Traralgon).

Media Release

Russell Northe MLA

Member for Morwell

Mr Northe also took the opportunity to acknowledge the dedication of the Wednesday Warriors Volunteers who worked tirelessly to re-instate and upgrade the track as part of the Bushfire recovery. They were ably assisted by other local groups such as the Junior Landcare Group.

In addition to the installation of the bridges, rehabilitation works included clearing dangerous trees and vegetation from the trail, reforming the drains, installing pipes in wet areas, and trail realignment in some areas.

"Resurfacing the entire 13km trail with a thicker surface has also made it more durable during wetter weather," Mr Northe said.

The project has not been without its challenges – the discovery that telecommunications cables ran directly under the location of the proposed bridges meant they had to be re-designed to avoid expensive relocation of the cables.

"In addition, ongoing wet weather in 2011 hampered our efforts to resurface the trail, which caused additional delays. We are elated to finally officially reopen the trail," Mr Neal Trease, Chairperson Rail Trail Committee Management said.

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"Working with local companies to get the work done was also a huge bonus – their local knowledge made getting the job done so much easier," Mr Trease said.

The Grand Ridge Rail Trail is a 13km rail trail

THE NATIONALS for Regional Victoria

that runs from Mirboo North to Boolarra in the Strzelecki ranges in South Gippsland. The new bridge crossings are near the half way point, just east of Darlimurla. For more information on the Trail, visit www.grandridgerailtrail.com.au

The project has been delivered in a partnership with the State Government and a Steering Committee made up of the trail's Committee of Management, volunteers, community reconstruction committees, the Latrobe and South Gippsland Shire Councils, and other stakeholders.

On 1 February 2012, the Government released the Victorian Bushfire Recovery Three Year Report which highlights the achievements of the past 12 months in supporting communities around reconstruction efforts and the continuation of support programs for the coming year.



Continued from page 3

buses back to Railway Park. Some were taken further along the trail over the second bridge and on to Darlimurla so they could view the work undertaken by the Wednesday Warriors at the old Station site, and then on to Railway Park where a new sign was unveiled at the Boolarra entrance to the Trail. Even pupils from the local Primary School joined in this occasion, as well as many locals who hadn't been out to the bridges. Cathy Bedford, ABC afternoon presenter, jogged down the trail.

Everyone was then invited to partake in a free sausage sizzle catered for by the Primary School mums with help from Boolarra CFA and Boolarra Football Netball Club who all did a great job. The re-opening of the Trail and the bridges is set to boost tourism to our town and the area in general, as this significant asset is used daily by walkers, cyclists, and horse riders. The entrance through our lovely Railway Park is particularly attractive and good use is made of the children's playground and shade trees by family groups enjoying a short break or a picnic. If you haven't been for a walk or ride along it in a while, take a drink and enjoy the experience and spread the word!

Val Henderson

Advertisement

Russell Northe MLA

Member For Morwell

I encourage you to contact me if I can be of assistance on any State Government matter.

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Authorised by Russell North MLA, 66 George Street, Morwell Vic 3840

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Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket in our Christmas Raffle and to all those who donated goods for the three hampers. We raised \$444.00 from this raffle.

The members of Boolarra Red Cross met at the Boolarra Pub on 13 December 2011 for our final meeting of the year, followed by a delicious Christmas Lunch (a special “thank you” to all the staff at the Boolarra Pub).

After a break of six weeks, we re-assembled in February, to plan our major fund-raiser of the year, the Bowls Day held at the Boolarra Club on Wednesday, 22 February 2012. A very big “thank you” to the Bowls Club who make their excellent facilities available to us. We raised \$885.90 on the day and we thank all who were involved in this project and in particular Nat Roy for her wonderful organizational skills. All of the money raised from the Christmas Raffle and the Bowls Day remains in Australia to support vulnerable individuals and families.

March is **Red Cross Calling** month and once again the Yinnar Scouts conducted our door knock in Boolarra and Yinnar. The Scouts collected a total of \$526 from the generous people in Boolarra on the 5th, with Yinnar’s collection scheduled for 13th March. Collection tins are also in the Top Shop and Post Office and we thank you for your support!

Red Cross Boolarra meet on the second Monday of the month (or, if this is a public holiday, on the third Monday) at 1.00pm at the Top Shop and enjoy a coffee after the meeting. Our numbers are small and we are keen to welcome new members, young or more mature and both men and women are welcome. Our next fund-raiser will be “Bev’s Fashions” which will be held in June – more details in the next issue of the Boolarra Link.

For further details on meetings contact Glenys on 5169 6721.

Glenys Morgan, Treasurer

THE TWELVE MILE PEG

The new edition of “The Twelve Mile Peg” is now available for purchase.

This edition, in content, is the same as the 1984 edition, with the addition of a Pictorial History, short index and a selection of new photographs throughout.

I would sincerely like to express my deepest appreciation to the Boolarra Community Development Group for funding the venture and the support given by the Boolarra and District Historical Society Inc.

I would also like to thank my proof readers, Kate Reiske, Elaine Smart and Di Billingsley. My thanks must also go to LV Printers in Traralgon and in particular Luke Degabriele, the Graphic Designer who worked with me to produce this edition. It has taken 2 years to complete and I am very proud of this edition. Copies may be purchased (cash only) at the Historical Society Museum (open first Sunday of the month 2-4pm), the Boolarra Post Office or by contacting Roz on **0429 383 686**. A copy of the “Twelve Mile Peg” will cost you \$20.

I hope you enjoy reading your copy as much as I have enjoyed writing it.

Roslyn Carstairs



SUPPORT NEEDED FOR YINNAR GREENSIDE VILLAS RETIREMENT VILLAGE EXPANSION

The Yinnar and District Housing Development (YDHD) has called for support to add another 10 units to the Greenside Villas Retirement Village.

The following information appeared in the Latrobe Valley Express recently and following a meeting held at the Yinnar Memorial Hall, members of The Boolarra Link committee decided that the information should be circulated to Boolarra residents who may be interested in retirement accommodation.

The YDHD has plans to build a further 10 units at the Greenside Villas Retirement Village, but needs the appropriate demand for the project to be most viable. “For the project to go ahead, we need buyers for the 10 new two-bedroom units who are able to make the (financial) commitment,” Yinnar and District Housing Development secretary Leigh Vains said.

Greenside Villas offer independent living at an affordable price for an increasing ageing population and presently includes 11 units. Most of its residents are from the surrounding

Yinnar and district areas, or are parents of current Yinnar residents.

It was a project started by former Yinnar General Store owner Ray Linton, who saw the need for affordable housing for ageing country-dwellers. According to Ms Vains, the drawcard for the village was its central location in Yinnar, which she described as being quiet and friendly. “We are a volunteer not-for-profit group, and are working on this as part of a service to the community. (Residents) would still have access to major shopping areas; the hospital is just 20 kilometres away, there is a regular train service to Melbourne, a very friendly environment and there is also a local friendship group who organises trips that people can join if they wish.” Ms Vains said.

YDHD had carried out a survey two years ago within the district to determine whether there was a need to expand. “We found at least 14 people who would be interested within the next 10 years, so we decided to look into expanding the number of units.” Ms Vains explained.



The YDHD committee is now inviting expressions of interest from potential residents and believe that if things progress well, the new 10 units would be completed in the next two years. For more information, phone Leigh Vains on 0409 136 440.

Jan Thomson – Sub-editor

Thank you to Latrobe Valley Express for providing this article.

www.lvexpress.com.au



Media release

The Hon Mary Wooldridge MP
Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Women's Affairs
Minister for Community Services

Thursday 15 December 2011

Boolarra Men's Shed a step closer with funding boost

The goal of establishing a Men's Shed in Boolarra has received a significant boost, with \$25,000 in funding from the Victorian Coalition Government.

Delivering on an election commitment made following strong representation from the Member for Morwell Russell Northe, the Minister for Community Services Mary Wooldridge today presented the cheque to the Boolarra Men's Shed group.

A town of approximately 600 people, Boolarra was ravaged by fire in January 2009. A large proportion of the men of the town were involved in fighting the fire, with many of them losing their own houses, including their tools and sheds.

"In the wake of this devastation, a group of men got together and decided that Boolarra needed a focus and started planning for a Men's Shed," Mr Northe said.

"They believed it could assist in improving the health and wellbeing of men in the community in the wake of the emotional and mental stress of the bushfires.

"The shed will provide an extremely important service to many of those men still coming to terms with the loss and devastation that occurred in the region."

The Boolarra Men's Shed will be auspiced by the Boolarra Community Development Group, with various partner organisations contributing to its development, including the Victorian Government and the Latrobe City Council.

Ms Wooldridge said Men's Sheds have been shown to improve men's health and wellbeing by involving men in activities that develop their skills and build social connections.

"They provide a physical space with workbenches, tools and informal areas for conversation, where men can connect, learn and work on local projects," Ms Wooldridge said.

There are about 160 sheds in Victoria, of which more than 100 have been established through government support. In the 2011/12 Budget, the Coalition Government committed \$4 million over four years to continue and expand the Men's Shed program across the state.



Boolarra & District Youth Theatre Company (BANDDY TC)

Dan Clancey, Drama Producer extraordinaire, is leading our young people up the dramatic path. There has been a big



Garielle Rose and Lisa Papa receiving a grant

contingent of primary school age kids strutting their stuff on the stage enjoying games and fun exercises. The high school group laugh a lot as they practice various skills related to stage presence, timing and projection. All the students will show case their skills at the end of the term. The older group might be performing at the Mirboo North Arti Gras in May.

Thanks again to the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation who provided a Grant so our youth can put on a major performance in October after building up their skills all year.

New youth are welcome to join in the fun: Primary school age 3.45 pm - 5.00 pm: High school age 5.15 pm - 6.30 pm. Another exciting development for the BANDDY TC is the commencement of music workshops and jam sessions to be facilitated by Clayton Cupples and Phill Schuhmann. This is open to all age groups. Jam sessions will commence on Sunday, 25 March 2012 and will held every fourth Sunday of each month from 2.00 pm - 5.00pm at a cost of \$2.00 per session.

Our other first workshop for the year will be a dance workshop to be held on Sunday, 11 March 2012. Learn to dance with Brittany from 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm at a cost of \$2.00, please bring a drink. For information on any of the above call Garryelle Rose on 5116 5163 or Lisa Papa on 5169 6371.

Samantha Brick



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BOOLARRA STOMPERS – RELAY FOR LIFE

Well, another year on the go for 2012. Registrations can be done on-line or come in and fill in a form and pay here, but please do it soon so you can get the right colour shirt before they run out as they do later on in the year. Hope it will be a better year than last year. At this stage I think our Relay at Churchill is 27 & 28 October 2012.

We've had a couple of fundraisers and raising lots for the Cancer Council of Victoria for Research and for Support for people going through the traumas of it all. So far we have had the Christmas Raffle and a fantastic Trivia Night and draws were going on throughout the night for lucky numbers. Food was served right through the evening as well. We must thank the Boolarra Bowling Club Social Committee for allowing us to have it there. Great crowd and we thank you as well because if you weren't there, it wouldn't have been such a success. We hope the big winners on the night enjoy their meals at the Boolarra Pub.

Our next fundraiser is on 17 March 2012. We are catering for a Clearing Sale and we hope to do well. Any money raised is money for Research and Support for the Cancer Coun-

cil and people who have been dealing with cancer. We have a few other ideas for our fundraising efforts which will happen in the next few months, so keep looking for posters around the town which will tell you what's on, when and where.

Remember last year? It was the worst day to be outside at all, and the Relay was cancelled for the 2nd time in as many years. This year we are looking for some sun, not hot, but nice warm sun and no rain!

WHO ARE WE? . WE ARE THE BOOLARRA STOMPERS

WHAT DO WE DO? WELL WE WANT TO STOMP AROUND OVALS FOR CANCER RESEARCH.

WHEN DO WE DO IT? OCTOBER 2012 – YEEEEHAAA!

See you soon.

Gwenda Pither

Team Captain for the Boolarra Stompers.



Middle photo: Leader Team from the left Sylvia Sauppe (Kaefer), Duncan Townsend (Baloo), Colin Richards (Grumpy), Katherine Gourley (Haiti), Andrew Millsom (Bagheera), Alec Scholes (Rama)



Top photo: Group Camp at Nyora January 2012



1st YINNAR SCOUT GROUP

Our Cubs, Scouts, Venturers & Rovers are already underway for 2012. Our Group camp at was held at Bell Park in January with 22 youths, leaders & parents participating in lots of activities.

We have a busy term planned as we are involved in several community events – Australia Day breakfast, Boolarra Folk Festival, Clean Up Australia, Red Cross Calling & Ritchies IGA Scout Month.

During the year we hope to see our new shed take shape and our Scouts will be getting organized for the Australian Jamboree in Maryborough (QLD) next January.

Several new families have joined our group and with them several new leaders. An open invitation is extended to all children in the area who would like to come along to one of our section nights. Parents are most welcome to come

along, meet the leaders and find out more about Scouting in Yinnar. Cub scouts caters for children from 7 years and Scouts from 11 years.

Our Cubs meet on Monday at 6pm at the Scout hall in Main Street Yinnar. Scouts meet on Tuesday night at 7pm and the Venturers meet on Monday at 7pm. Both our Scouts and Venturers are meeting with Churchill to facilitate better activities. The Rover crew meet on Monday night at 7.30 in the Rover Den.

To find out more please contact Col-

in on 0467 677 759 or Leanne on 5122 3099.

Leanne Millsom

Boolarra Shop

5169 6452

- * Take-away food * Milk & Bread
- * Cigarettes * Ice-creams
- * Fruit & Veg * Grocery Items
- * Ice * Papers & Magazines

DVD hire

Roast Chooks available

(Please order to avoid disappointment)

Coffee Shop now open!

Trading Hours

Summer:	Mon - Fri	-	6am to 9pm
	Sat & Sun	-	8am to 9pm
Winter:	Mon - Fri	-	6am to 8pm
	Sat & Sun	-	8am to 8pm
Public Holidays - Open from 9am			

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& Catering Available

Proprietors: Fiona & Craig Young

Boolarra Wool Group Report



Last December, members past and present enjoyed a beautiful Christmas lunch at Escargot, just out of Mirboo North. It was great to catch up with many of our friends who we don't get to see all that often. We also enjoyed perusing the very pretty jewellery that was on display and quite a few of us took the opportunity to purchase items for Christmas presents. Our lunch was delicious and I'm sure we'll look forward to future lunches at Escargot.

We are pleased to welcome our new member Robyn Thompson. Robyn and her husband Malcolm have recently moved from Langwarrin to Budgeree. Robyn has many interests including sewing, scroll saw and wood turning, and Malcolm also enjoys wood turning and has many awards for his work. They are very busy replanting their 4 acres at present with indigenous plants.

Margaret and her family are very pleased to welcome their new little family member Isobel.

Lois is busy knitting little items for her first great grandchild who will be arriving in May. Glenys is hard at work on a pink elephant blanket for her grand daughter Eleni and Kate has felted a beautiful turtle for her grand daughter to sit on and in the process has increased her muscle power. Sue is knitting a beautiful jacket for her almost 2 year old grand daughter.

Other members are working on wraps, scarves and the ever popular socks,



Boolarra Cemetery Trust

We are pleased to advise that our requests for funding from the Department of Health were successful. Consequently, we have been able to purchase a computer, printer and software for use in the Trust's meetings and records of the Cemetery, together with a grave cover to comply with the Departmental safety requirements.

We will not hear the result of our application for a Local History Grant until June/July 2012; but in the meanwhile, we are arranging our original documents in chronological order. At our February meeting, the President, Ian Blake, presented the original Minute book, receipt book and other articles. It is fascinating

reading and it seems that obtaining necessary money to do essential work has always been a problem! However, at a meeting held on 28 April 1906 it was moved: "That a Concert and Ball be held on 17 May 1906 and that the Secretary write to the Mirboo Dramatic Club, asking if they would give their services on that evening".

This was followed up by another fund-raiser – as per the minutes of 24 May 1906, it was moved: "That arrangements for a football match between Boolarra and North Mirboo, to take place on 13 June 1906, also entertainment by Mirboo North Dramatic Club and other matters be seen to by the Trustees".

Evidently, the Ball, entertainment and football match were all a great success!

The above match took place on Saturday, 13

while enjoying the relaxed conversation and of course the lovely lunches we share each week. We meet each Thursday at the Multi-Purpose Building at 11.30am. If you would like more information regarding the Wool Group, contact Lois Thornton, 5169 6618.

Lois Thornton



ANZAC SERVICE

The community of Boolarra and District are cordially invited to attend an ANZAC Service at Boolarra on Sunday, 22 April 2012 at 10.00am. The service will be held opposite the Hall at the Returned and Services League (RSL) Commemorative rock. All ex-service men and women are particularly encouraged to attend.

This Service has been organised with the assistance and support of the Morwell R.S.L. During the service there will be an opportunity to lay a wreath/flowers. The service will be followed by a morning tea at the Boolarra Memorial Hall. If the weather is inclement the service will be held at the Hall.



*Roz Carstairs
Organiser*



June 1906, at Boolarra, when a splendid contest was witnessed by a large number of people. Mirboo proved the victors, but only in beating Boolarra by 2 points.

The Match, Dramatic Entertainment and Ball proved a financial success, with gross proceeds amounting to 26/15/6. (Presumably 26 pounds 15 shillings and sixpence. Ed.)

So, does anyone have an old shoe box containing photos of the Ball, Dramatic Society performance or Football Match? If you can supply any further information on the early history of the cemetery, we would love to hear from you! Your precious memorabilia will be handled with care, copied and then returned to you.

Glenys Morgan

Secretary phone: 5169 6721

Boolarra PS

Magnificent Start to The School Year!

Our thirteen incoming preps (and their families), two new, two returning students and our two new and two returning staff members all settled in brilliantly.



Samantha with Carlene

Staff Changes

This year we are joined by Graduate Teacher Ms Taryn Sands who is teaching the 3/4s. Mr John Duck will take P.E. classes for all our students. Ms Jo Dryden returns from family leave to share Ms Finley Smith's P/1/2 class, Mr Herb Smith will work as a teacher's aide in Ms Cheryl Hilton's P/1/2 class.

2012 School Captains:

We are delighted to have Bella Papa and Harrison Tompsett as our School Captains.

Other 2012 Student Leaders

Junior School Council: Linc Oddy, Harri' Tompsett, Bella Papa, Airtrea Cupples, Lydia Reiske, Ella O'Kane, Lachlan Smith and Jemma Napier.

House Captains: Bella Papa, Tilly Chalmers, Daina Howard, Samuel Birkbeck, Ella O'Kane, Lydia Reiske, Harri' Tompsett & Jasmin Carroll.

Vice Captains: Linc Oddy, Rhianne Cameron, Blake Rudling, Rory Peter & Airtrea Cupples.

School Structure

We will operate 4 grades this year – two P/1/2 classes, a 3/4 and a 5/6, each with approximately 18 students. Karen Twomey will again provide a P-6 Art program, as well as conducting the Reading Recovery program. The Principal, Leanne Emond will conduct our P-6 Personal Development classes. We are fortunate to obtain lots of voluntary support from local Library teacher extraordinaire, Roz Carstairs.

Welcome Get Together

To meet and greet new families and staff, we had a Welcome Gathering in Boolarra Memorial Park. Our School Council President, Mandi Peter and local member Russell Northe presented our student leaders with their badges of office. Boolarra Community Development Group (BCDG) Secretary, Colin Brick presented a special Australia Day Community Award to Michelle Hassett for the excellent support she provided to our school for over 12 years. Lots of our families attended.



Pupil Free Days

Our School Council decided to have the 1st three days as pupil free days. During the pupil free days the teachers undertook some training with an Occupational Therapist on how to support students with Autism, attended a professional development forum at Monash University on Assessing for Learning, re-visited our assessment schedule and planned the themes for term 1. We will have one more pupil free day this year, in term 3.

School Pool

Thanks to the great work of our 2011 fundraising



Swimming Team

team and former parent Mal Payne, we now have solar heating for our pool.

Fundraising News

We hope to raise sufficient money to have a veranda (harvested from a previous school building) erected over the entrance way to the multi-purpose room and to have the student toilets re-painted. We are well underway with over \$800 already raised by Janet Napier and a team of helpers, catering lunch at the official opening of the Rail Trail. Preliminary work is underway to plan another especially themed dinner and a School Fete later in the year.

Facilities

A major Working Bee is planned for Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 March 2012. We're hoping that lots of folk will come along. A BBQ lunch will be provided on the Saturday.

Lunch-time Clubs

To provide some different activities for our students during their lunch breaks, we provide "Clubs". Currently Dan Aveling runs Chess Club, the Art Room is open and Mr Duck conducts a game. If any community members have any interests or hobbies they could share with our students from 1:30 – 2:00 pm one day a week we'd love to hear from them!

Shop at Ritchies in Churchill?

If so, could you please collect a "Community Benefits Card" from the office and have it swiped when you shop? Last year we received over \$500 from Ritchies through this program which was used to

buy books for our school Library.

Camps:

Thorpdale Primary School will organize the camps this year. The 5/6s will go to Melbourne in April. The grade 3/4s will go to Allambee in May.

Swimming Sports

Twelve swimmers represented us brilliantly at the Yinnar & District Swimming Sports. Lydia Reiske and Rivan Aveling will now go on to represent the Yinnar & District schools at the Zone Swimming Sports. Rory Peter and Jorja Oddy and our relay team comprising Airtrea Cupples, Daina Howard, Ella O'Kane & Lydia Reiske are emergencies for the next level.

Junior School Council (JSC)

At our meeting this week we decided to support the Cerebral Palsy Education Centre (CPEC). An out of uniform day in March 2012 will raise funds and we also hope that someone will be able to come along and share some of the wonderful work that is done at CPEC. Our Junior School Council (JSC) will be selling icy-poles for 50c during recess times for this good cause.

Super Helpful Students!

Our Grade 6's are doing a superb job as buddies to their preps. A number of our students recently pitched in and assisted move some of the 'soft-fall' mulch we got for the play-ground, others helped spread the long jump pit sand. Our school captains Bella & Harri, with a team of assistants, have been updating our Big Sign at the front of the school. Jaz and Daina are doing a wonderful job taking responsibility for getting the pool's solar heating switched on each hot day.

Swimming Lessons:

Currently we are exploring if it is viable to offer swimming lessons in our school pool. Local swimming teacher Tineka Stratford will assist in this regard if we have sufficient interest.

Family Murals:

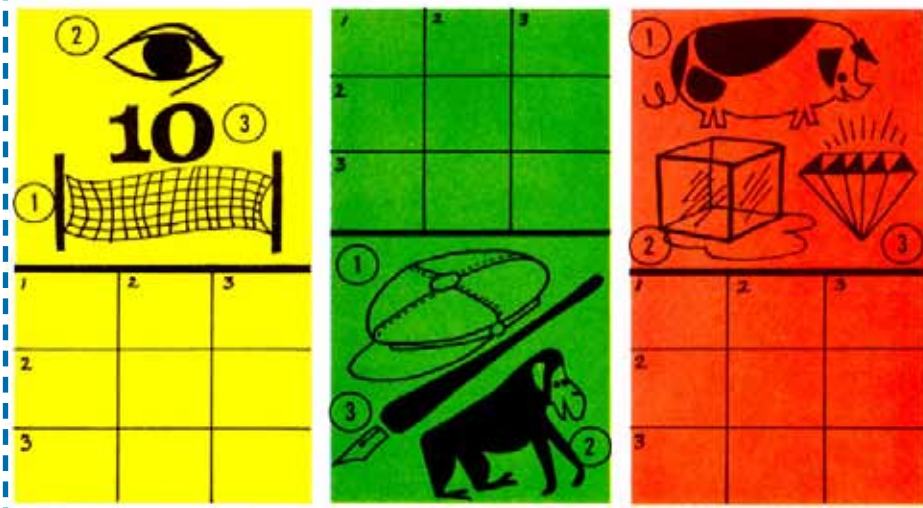
Our coordinator of this program, Melissa Pavey, worked with her husband over the holidays so the murals created by our students and their families were ready to be put on display around our Bus Loop.

Leanne Emond



Welcome Gathering

TWO-WAY CROSSWORD
Works out the same - ACROSS or DOWN!



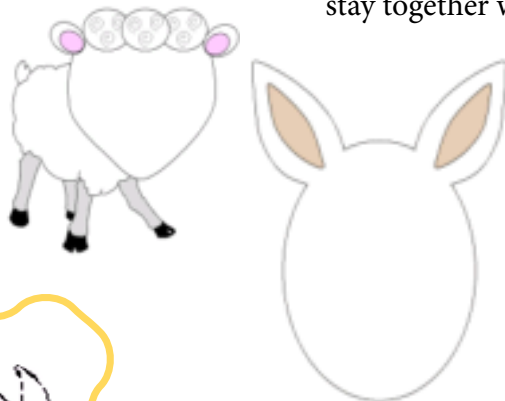
Make your own LCM's



- You'll need:
- 2 cups Rice Bubbles
 - ½ cup 100s and 1000s
 - 1 cups marshmallows, chopped
 - 125g unsalted butter, melted

Grease a 16cm x 26cm slice tray.
Combine Rice Bubbles, 100s and 1000s and 1 cup of the marshmallows in a bowl.
Melt remaining marshmallows in a heat proof bowl in the microwave (on high for 15-20 seconds).
Add melted marshmallows and melted butter to the Rice Bubble mixture. Stir well to combine.
Transfer mixture into tray and press down with the back of a metal spoon. Refrigerate until set, then cut into 16 bars.
Store in an air-tight container in the fridge.

Draw the details on the Easter animals



Easter Bunny's Funnies

- Q: Why did the Easter egg hide?
- A: He was a little chicken!
- Q: What do you call ten rabbits marching backwards?
- A: A receding hareline.
- Q: Why did the magician have to cancel his show?
- A: He'd just washed his hare and couldn't do a thing with it.
- Q: What's invisible and smells like carrots?
- A: The Ether Bunny
- Q: Why did the Easter bunny cross the road?
- A: Because it was the chicken's day off.

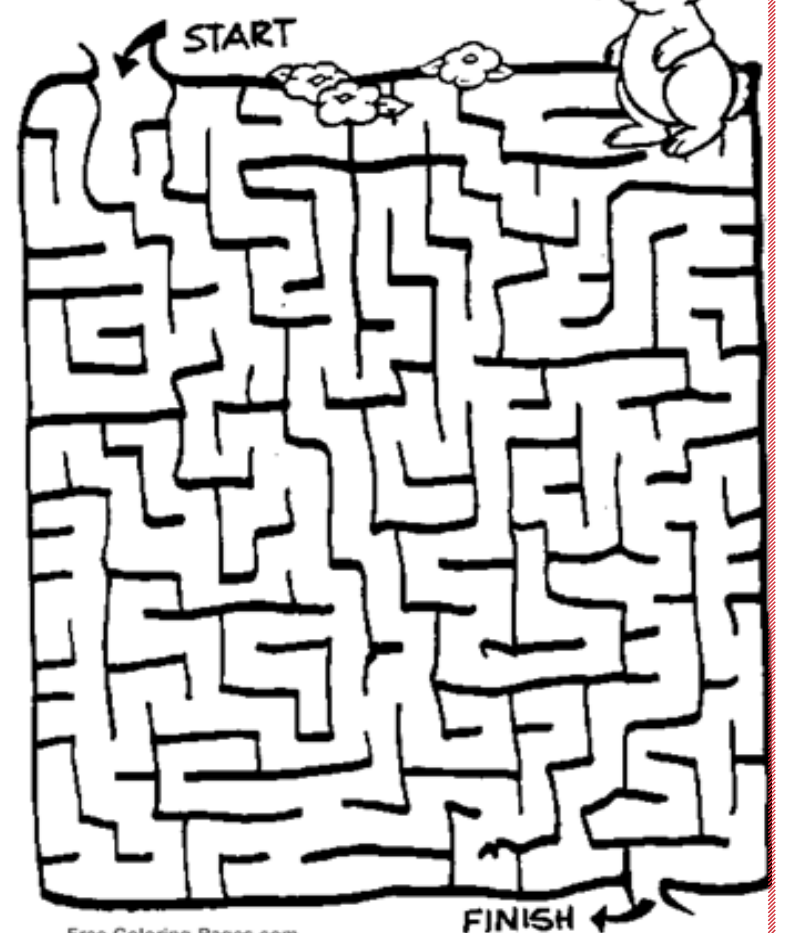
BIRDS IN OUR GARDENS

Superb Blue Wren
(*Malurus Cyaneus*)



There are quite a few species in the malurus genus of bird, commonly known as Fairy Wrens. These include: *Variegated* – very brightly coloured wrens found in diverse habitats right across Australia; *Red-winged* – found in the southwestern corner of Western Australia only; *Purple-crowned* – live in northern West Australia and the Northern Territory; and *Emperor* and *Broad-billed* wrens have established themselves in areas of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.
A subspecies of our local wrens can be found in Tasmania, King Island and Flinders Island and have a brighter, darker blue colouring.
Our local Superb Blue Wrens are beautiful little bird measuring only 14 cm, including the tail and weigh between 8-13 grams. The adult male is usually bigger than the female and has lovely blue head and tail plumage, while the female is a much more subdued brownish colour. Their tails always stick up and when they move about, they hop from place to place and do not walk at all.
Their call is like a bright musical trill and they tend to talk to each other quite a bit as they travel from place to place looking for food. Wren's mainly eat small insects that they find in trees and in the grass but will supplement their diet with seeds.
A wren's nest is constructed by the females in the family, is usually found near the ground and well hidden in thick bushes. It has a dome shape with a side entrance and is made from fibres, grass and cobwebs. It is lined with feathers to keep the babies warm as they grow. Only females incubate the eggs, however both sexes and other members of the group help with feeding all the young in the family.
Wren's are quite common in Boolarra as they live in woodlands and scrub and often visit our gardens looking for food. They live in family groups and tend to stay together when away from their nests.

Will you help this bunny find his way?





Media Release

Mirboo Nth and District Community Foundation Supporting our Seniors.

Mirboo North and District Community Foundation is pleased to be able to provide support to the more senior members of the community by assisting with transport costs to enable more people to attend the Baromi Centre (senior citizens centre) in Mirboo Nth.

Mirboo North and District Community Foundation is providing sponsorship of \$1,000 to the Mirboo North Senior Citizens Centre Inc. to support senior citizens to stay connected in their community by making transport available through the Mirboo North RSL Community Bus.

Some of our senior citizens have significant issues with transport to events and gatherings which they are very keen to attend. It is important that older people stay connected to others and the community and can participate fully in the activities provided by organisations such as the Senior Citizens Centre. This sponsorship will support some community members to participate more fully in local activities.

Gerry Rabach President of the Senior Citizens Centre said:

"This sponsorship will significantly assist our senior citizens who have difficulty in getting to events and functions through lack of transport, thus enriching their lives and enjoyment of companionship. We are grateful to the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation for this sponsorship. We also acknowledge the role and efforts of the Mirboo North RSL in providing the Community Bus transport."

For further information and queries contact:

Derrick Ehmke, Executive Officer

Mirboo North & District Community Foundation

PO Box 327. Mirboo North. VIC 3871

info@mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au

www.mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au

0418 301 092

Boolarra Post Office Natters



This year is flying by and Easter is nearly here, then we will be filling up on Chocolate Eggs. Kids, do share with your brothers and sisters because if you eat too much sweet stuff it's not good for you, so don't hog all the eggs.

Lots has been happening around our town. The Folk Festival provided some great music once again. Everyone loves it. And it's wonderful to see the parks full of activity. It's not hard to get visitors that weekend.

The Park is looking great these days and The Rail Trail is back in use again. Don't the new bridges look fantastic? Did you get

to the re-opening? We are so lucky to have some great places to go for a walk and a picnic, a ride too if you're fit enough. All nice and close to town centre too. The Old Mill Site is another place to have a nice walk. There are some places that we haven't even been to as yet but we will. The Morwell River Falls are a great spot for a picnic or just a bit of fishing or reading. Wear sturdy footwear though as it can get slippery. It's a lovely cool place to be on a hot day if you can spare the time.

I can't believe that the little kids that were babies not so long ago are now going to School or Kinder. They look at me so oddly when I show surprise or make a mistake by asking how long before they go to Kinder, but then our time at Boolarra has raced by so fast as there has been a lot going on with everyone around us. Five years in April!

That's it for now from your Post Office. "The Heart of Boolarra"

Happy Easter Gwenda

DOGS ABOUT TOWN

We see them here, we see them there

We see them almost everywhere.

All over town and at most events

The Pub dogs roam and follow scents.

BBQ's in the park and there they are

Manners are perfect, other dogs no bar.

Bundy's aloof, he seems far away

But Mitzi's a sweetie, she's a social sunny ray.

Down the Rail Trail they often trot

*They join others' walks – then Bundy decides
"not"*

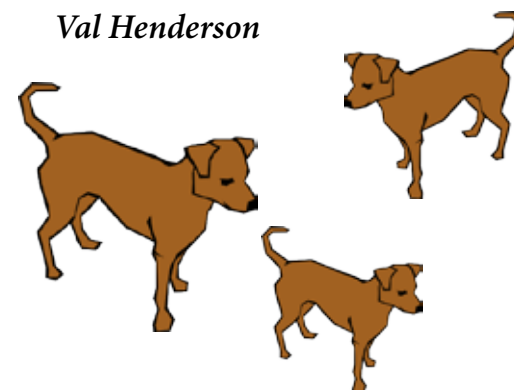
Off to the School is a regular thing

So Wendy calls Robyn – a "collection" ring.

*Then after their rounds they make their way
home*

To guard all the fowl, and rest for next roam.

Val Henderson



Samantha Brick

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**To improve health, to understand your
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BOOLARRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

After a year of solid activity and blessed rain that kept everybody busy, we launch into the New Year with renewed vigour. A run-down of some of last year's events is due.

The AGM for 2011 was held at the Boolarra Football-Netball Club rooms where we were served a pleasant meal by the catering committee. President John Parker summed up the past year's activities and presented some ideas for future projects. We look forward to the editing and republication of the Twelve Mile Peg by Roz Carstairs. We intend to have some excursions to other Gippsland regions beginning with the Poowong area next March.

Most people just go to Europe to enjoy the beautiful historical sites and the food, but Ian and Mengar Hibbins mixed pleasure with healthy exercise. During their trip to southern Europe they took a biking tour along the French canal system, resting overnight in a canal barge and riding through adjacent villages during the day. They had a close-up view of regional life and really felt part of the 'paysage'. Their tour presentation in August set some members wondering if they should slip on the lycra and test out the muscles.

The Derham family is well known in Boolarra and the wider Latrobe Valley district and we were pleased to have Joy Derham as our guest speaker in September. Her father was a prisoner of war on the Burma Railway. Joy made a trip to Myanmar a few years ago to visit the places where he had been. We have been made aware through films and the work of Weary Dunlop about the sufferings and spiritual triumph of those prisoners, so it was very instructive to hear the thoughts of one who was

so close to a survivor.

Digby Watson, a newcomer to Boolarra South, shared some of his philosophical musings about the nature of history, in telling about his childhood upbringing during the war in the new suburb of East Preston in 1941. He described the bush and dirt roads and odd farm houses that were then on the outskirts of Melbourne, his schooling in the 1950s, paper rounds on his bike, his swimming experience in the 1956 pre-Olympic squad and his later travels to the outback. His retelling of the details of his family life was met with sighs and occasionally groans of recognition. On leaving Northcote High School he became a draughtsman and then mechanical engineer. Finally, as a technician for Telstra, he worked on setting up the Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) system. Always interested in art, Digby sketched in his spare time. His curiosity about history was aroused when he began to sketch derelict old historical houses that the National Trust could not or would not restore. Income from his art financed his travels. He was a stimulating guest and we wish him a happy retirement in this district.

The Christmas break-up in November took the form of a progressive dinner at the homes of the Parkers, the Hibbins and the Prices. We enjoyed some superb food at each stage and the final treat was a visit from Mrs Beth Claus in a most extraordinary hat. Each member received a small gift which was woven into a narrative or history. It was a great finish to the year. Again we thank our all guest speakers who stimulated us to remember or imagine and gave most generously of their time.

The year was saddened for us by the death of a very valued member, Tom Lawless who was also a veteran of the War in the Pacific. The Lawless family settled in Budgeree early last century and with their Scanlon cousins, who ran the Club Hotel in Boolarra, helped run the Budgeree Hotel after the untimely death of William Scanlon. Tom's mother Anne Lawless (nee Browne) taught at the Budgeree School, married Jim Lawless. Then after WW1 they moved to farm the Hazelwood Flats. Like his forebears, Tom was a tireless giver of time, memory and support for local endeavours, especially history. He will be very much missed. As 2012 begins, we all look forward to an absorbing program of talks and excursions. We note with relief and appreciation the re-opening of the Rail Trail in early February. At our first meeting for 2012 members brought along an item of historical interest and gave its provenance. Called 'My mother had one of those', the evening produced mystery items (including some curious openers) as well as old staples such as meat mincers. The stories were engaging and often very amusing. We will set out on 18 March 2012 to visit Poowong and its district.

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 third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. New members are always welcome and information on our activities can be obtained from Mengar Hibbins (5169 6216), Judy Webster (5169 6351) or Beth Price (5169 6241).



BOOLARRA PUB

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FINE FOOD

GOOD WINE **GREAT TIME**

PIZZA ANY TIME

5169 6420

Open 7 Days
Meals available Thursday to Saturday



ALL WELCOME

Boolarra Community Development Group

It has been another busy few months as we try to finish off a few projects and deal with a few new issues.

Community Bus

As flagged in a previous report, the Boolarra Community Development Group (BCDG) has been considering the future of the Community Bus. The BCDG have agreed to transfer the Community Bus to the Boolarra Football Club for their use.

However, where a group, or individuals, propose to use a bus for a "community activity", the BCDG proposes to subsidise such bus usage. If they send an email to colin.brick@hotmail.com stating the date, group, and purpose of the hire, the BCDG will subsidise bus hire by \$50 on presentation of the supporting invoice. We will trial this for 12 months or so to see how it goes. Thanks to Jared Mills, Roger and Gwenda and Jeff & Val Henderson for the work they have put in coordinating the usage and maintenance of the bus over the past two years.

Christmas Carols

was a lovely evening with the beautiful weather encouraged a great turn out. Thanks to Garryelle Rose and all the people who assisted in the staging of the evening and of course a great thanks to the Boolarra CFA for delivering Santa safely. The hordes of children were certainly excited to see him arrive.

Digital TV reception has been the source of considerable dissatisfaction since its introduction in early 2011.

Val Henderson organised a petition which was passed on to Darren Chester. It was not

in the correct format for tabling in Parliament, however, Darren passed it on to the Telecommunications Minister, who reviewed it and referred it to the Digital Switchover Taskforce. Original petitioners will have received a copy of the Minister's response. Val has organised a new petition in the prescribed format as no progress was achieved and this is available at the Post Office for signature.

Cathleen Dodds has been following up with Southern Cross Austereo, who operates the transmitter, the reasons for poor service. A tree that partially masks the transmitter has been cut down, but did not make a major difference. Apparently the new transmitter has reduced performance compared to the previous transmitter in terms of the directionality of the signal and the effective distance of the signal, however, there was no mention of these factors during the change over process. There is a need to collect information on the number of interruptions that occur. Gwenda has been doing this, and will provide the results to the operator, Darren Chester and the Digital Handover Taskforce.

'The 12 Mile Peg'

Roz Carstairs has been preparing a revised edition of 'The 12 Mile Peg' for printing, which has now been completed. At the November meeting the BCDG agreed to assist in funding the re-print as we saw the book as a valuable community asset.

The Multipurpose Building plans have been assessed by a Quantity Surveyor and the quotes have

come in greater than the available funding. Discussions are continuing with Latrobe City Council (LCC) to resolve this and to get the upgrade underway.

Electoral Commission review

of the ward structure within Latrobe City is underway, with a number of alternatives being canvassed, including a single ward electing nine councilors, multi-councilor wards and the current structure of nine single councilor wards. The BCDG has made a submission to the review supporting the current structure, as we believe this enables small towns such as Boolarra to have the most effective representation, as we have a single representative clearly responsible for addressing our concerns.

The Men's Shed is covered in other reports. Hopefully with the completion of the transfer of responsibility from the Department of Sustainability & Environment (DSE) to the BCDG (as a Committee of Management) and the granting of the Planning Permit by LCC for the proposed Men's Shed we will soon begin to see some action on site.

Railway Park

The fabrication of the new gazebo for the Railway Park is underway; however, it was decided to delay installation until after the Folk Festival rather than risk having a construction site. Mirboo North Lions Club has very generously donated some funds towards the installation of additional seating at the facility.

Art exhibition

After last year's very success-

ful Community Art exhibition, Abbas Mehran queried the BCDG as to whether we felt that the exhibition should be held on an annual or bi-annual basis. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that following on from the success of last year's event, it would be great to hold another one this year. From the level of interest at this year's event we can gauge whether it should be annual or bi-annual.

Colin Brick, OA Secretary

Boolarra Community Development Group



BOOLARRA FOOTBALL / NETBALL CLUB NETBALL NEWS

We welcomed lots of new faces to our club for the first training session for season 2012 on 8 February and enjoyed a terrific BBQ with our dedicated coaches:

A grade – Rebecca Crick – assisted by Cherry Prior

B grade – Rebecca Crick – assisted by Teigan Pike

C grade – Heather Notting

D grade – Cherry Prior

17 & Under – Paula Mancarella

15 & under – Sue Mills

The club is looking forward to an exciting season with our very competitive teams. With two practice matches coming up against Gormanale and The Allies, our girls are looking forward to some real game action. Training is currently being held on Wednesday evenings from 6 – 7.30pm so come along to support our girls and see how they are shaping up for the new season.

The Netballers will be running the kitchen in the Social Rooms again this season with meals available on THURSDAY nights after training. Meals will be available from 22 MARCH 2012 so come down for a social evening while you enjoy a great meal at a budget price.

JUNIOR NETBALL (played at Churchill Indoor Stadium) held a meet and greet night on 29 February 2012. We had a great response and will be able to enter a full beginner player team and hopefully an 11 & Under team too. We would like to find a few more players for the 11 & Under team – Boys and Girls are able to play at the junior level so if you would like to give netball a go, please contact Tristan O'Kane on 5169 6746 or Jackie McGlade on 5169 6507. We will train on Wednesday afternoons from 5.00 – 6.00pm at the Netball Courts (Memorial Park).

Jackie McGlade



BOOLARRA'S BURNING ISSUES

CFA NEWS

SIREN TO BE TESTED ON MONDAY NIGHTS AT 7.00PM

The Boolarra CFA Siren, which has recently been reconnected, will be tested at 7:00pm on Monday evenings when we conduct our fortnightly training.

Apart from the Monday evening testing, the siren will be occasionally sounded to summons members to the station when we need a crew to man the tanker or ultra light to attend an incident. Do not be alarmed when you hear it sounding.

THE CFA SIREN WILL NOT BE USED AS A COMMUNITY EMERGENCY WARNING SIREN unless it has been decided to do so at a public meeting as was the case in the Boolarra Fires on 30 January 2009.

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE. – FIRE READY KIT

A recently published CFA booklet entitled PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE. Fire Ready Kit - has been distributed to our brigade. Copies have been placed at the Boolarra Shop so that interested residents can obtain one.



Above - Neil Lawson - International Power Latrobe Valley Public Affairs Manager unveiling the plaque

As Daylight Savings nears an end, we recommend that all householders change the batteries in their smoke detectors. The brigade will assist any Boolarra residents who are unable to complete the task safely.

PLAQUE PRESENTED

IPR-GDF SUEZ (International Power) recently presented the brigade with a plaque to recognise its financial support to our brigade under their Bushfire Recovery Fund. The plaque has been permanently positioned in the garden that surrounds our CFA sign and flagpoles.

QUIET SUMMER PERIOD FOR BRIGADE

Thankfully our brigade has only attended 5 incidents in our local area during this fire season. These included a car fire on Darlimurla Road, live fallen power lines in Bunderra Drive, two illegal burn offs (Morwell River and Darlimurla Roads) and assisting the ambos with an injured patient lift.

CAN I OR CAN'T I?

A leaflet entitled "Can I or Can't I?" has been produced by the CFA. It covers what you can and can't do within the Fire Danger Period (Fire Restriction Period) and on days of Total Fire Ban.

It covers such things as BBQ's, campfires, spits, incinerators, welding, grinding, soldering, gas cutting, chain sawing, grass trimming, lawn mowing or using various types of machinery including tractors and slashers. Copies are available from the fire station.

Dave O'Brien

ROAD RESCUE DEMONSTRATION

Recently, members of the Mirboo North Road Rescue Unit visited our brigade to demonstrate how equipment on the vehicle is used. Our members were mentored through the process of cutting up a car using their specialised equipment. All sections of the demolished car were placed in our scrap metal bin at the conclusion of the exercise.

CLEAN FLUES AND CHIM- NEYS BEFORE WINTER

Last winter our brigade attended several incidents where chimneys or flues had caught fire because they had not been cleaned for many years. We recommend that you clean your chimneys and flues prior to lighting your first fire for the year.

TIME TO CHANGE SMOKE DETECTOR BATTERIES



As part of their training Firefighters Michelle Birkbeck and Di Billingsley are mentored through a car dismantling rescue exercise by members of the Mirboo North Rescue Team



Left - Specialised equipment for road rescue operations from Mirboo North

“A Stitch in Time”

The third anniversary of the Boolarra fires is upon us. It is magnificent to see how the bush has come back, how the birds have come back, how the houses, families, gardens and spirit of Boolarra has come back stronger than ever expected.

After the fires, new shoots dotted the landscape and a little magic was brewing among a small group of creative souls. They gathered looking for a way to tell their story, to make sense of the flames and what was left behind: a devastated, blackened landscape and a shaken and baffled community.

The result is the brilliant Bushfire Quilt. It is a beautiful document of the destruction and loss, the hope and triumphs and the joy of seeing Boolarra come back to life.

What began as a quiet effort to find comfort in others and a stitch and chat has become a significant and cherished document in history.

On 3 December 2011, Russell Northe, the member for Morwell, proudly unveiled the Bushfire Quilt in all its splendour, newly mounted in a beautiful handmade cabinet built by cabinet maker, Joel Chapman of Yinnar.

The cabinet itself is a marvel with its own remarkable story worthy of commemoration. It was important to the community to protect the quilt in its pristine condition but also display it as a historical record for all to enjoy at the Boolarra Hall. Linda Minter, a coordinator of the project, arranged for funding from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) to have the quilt framed. Unfortunately, the size of the quilt meant finding a company to take on the big job was a challenge. Offers were made but then withdrawn. The task was too great and the quilters were left high and dry.

As a result of the Bushfire Quilt project and the vast donations, Boolarra established a keen quilting group. They received unfinished quilts as part of the donations after the bushfires. In no time the quilts were finished and three special quilts were given to three marvellous little Chapman girls in Yinnar. Kelly (4) and twins Katelyn and Emily (3) have a rare disease and require constant medication and trips to America for treatment. Joel Chapman, the girls' father heard of the framing dilemma and jumped at the opportunity to solve the problem of framing the large quilt. A talented cabinet maker, Joel built a sturdy and elegant cabinet for the admired quilt. He insisted he did not want to be paid for his work but was persuaded to make use of the money received from the FRRR grant. The quilt is beautifully housed in all Australian timbers with a relic of the fires at the foot of the cabinet. Linda and her husband Tony salvaged a piece of burned wood from The Old Mill Site after the fires and took it to Joel who engraved “A Stitch in Time”.

At the light lunch at the hall, hosted by Linda Minter, Russell Northe



The quilt framed in its cabinet built by Joel Chapman

commended all those involved in the collaborative quilt, “It is incredible to see what can be achieved when people come together for each other. It is so important to see how people in the community can come together to make something so expressive after such a devastating event as the fires.

Not only women but men as well because we all know how men express themselves differently so to see men getting in there is great.”

In its initial stages, artist Meg Viney was instrumental to beginning the project. Meg approached the Latrobe City Council offering her services after the fire as a fibre specialist. Paired with a very generous donation of fabric, scissors, rulers, books and sewing machines from quilters all over and as far as Wantirna and Raymond Island, Boolarra was all set to piece together something breathtaking. Denise Schiller who took part explained, “It wasn’t about talent, but expression, about having a go, trying to depict how you are feeling.” Most of the group were beginner sewers so it was a learning process for everyone.

Lyn King’s magic was the final touch; Lyn masterfully did the quilting of the quilt bringing everyone’s story together to create “A Stitch in Time”.

A Stitch in Time, Bushfire Recovery Quilting Project (pictured above) was supported with an Arts Recovery Quick Response Grant funded by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria and administered by Regional Arts Victoria.

Written by Eloise O’Brien Pictures by Melisa Caulcutt



Joel Chapman on the left of the cabinet with daughter Katelyn, other daughters Kelly and Emily on the right with their grandmother and the quilters.

Town's Folk Jean Quick

I have recently had the pleasure to have a coffee and a chat with Jean Quick, our local wildlife carer about her life and times and the wonderful work she does at her 'Jean E Us' wildlife shelter up on Darlimurla Road.

Born in Melbourne, Jean moved with her parents to Nyah West, near Swan Hill. Jean's father was a grape picker and they lived in Northern Victoria for the work.

Jean is the eldest of 6 children, with one brother and four sisters, and whilst she never really got on with her mother was her Dad's favourite.

She lived at Nyah West until she was 15 and describes her childhood as unsettled, but has childhood memories related to nature. Most notable are her memories related to the outdoors, nature and of passionfruit flowers and the portulaca flower (although she didn't know it's name at the time), and also of seeing robins on the fence during the winter times.

Jean remembers being good at sport and aged 14 played in the women's cricket team as wicket keeper.

Her parents separated when Jean was 15 and her Dad died the same year, aged 37, following a brutal bashing he received whilst he was working as a taxi driver in Collingwood. As you might expect it took Jean a good while to get over that.

Following the death of her father they moved to Hepburn Springs near Daylesford, which is where, aged 16 she met Don, her future husband. Don was two years older than Jean and a Daylesford boy who was a trainee with Telecom. Don's job took him and Jean to Wangaratta and two years later Jean and Don were married.

Their first child, Sandra was born the following year and just one month later, following Don's five year training with Telecom, he was stationed in Morwell, where they had three more children.

Don got promoted and they then moved to Neerim, lived there for four years and then onto Warragul and had two more children, but sadly baby Robyn died aged just 7 months. Jean said that the family moved home on a cattle truck but she didn't know as she was in hospital having a baby.

They owned their first house in Warragul, placing a \$1000 deposit on a new \$9000 home and lived there for the following 10 years, and in between looking after the children and the home, Jean enjoyed playing tennis and badminton. She also volunteered as a Brownie guide at Neerim for 5 years and established a new Brownie group at Warragul.

Don was promoted again and they moved to Wonthaggi, buying a house in Inverloch where

Jean had a coffee shop for a short time, called 'Jean E Us'.

Jean's husband Don died suddenly aged 53 and following his death Jean moved to a mud-brick property that they had been building in a 10 acre plot 7 km's out of Inverloch. This was Jean's grief therapy and where over the next 8 years or so enjoyed gardening and when she first became a wildlife carer.

She also undertook some voluntary work on Phillip Island cleaning penguins that had been affected by oil spills.

In around 1997, whilst looking for houses with a new boy friend, she first saw her current home on Darlimurla Road, and again named it 'Jean E Us' named after her name Jean Ellen and 'Us' representing any other bugger that wanted to help. Jean got back into wildlife caring pretty much straight away and that has been her life ever since.

In 2009 the Boolarra fires badly affected Jean's property, destroying all of the animal shelters and out buildings, but amazingly Jean and her son saved the house, and luckily had moved almost all of the animals to safety the night before. Just 5 silky bantam hens perished in the fires who has been hiding and not able to be rescued with the other animals.

Other than her saintly efforts to look after and protect our local wildlife, Jean's other pleasures include gardening, although since the fires this has diminished slightly. Jean says that it's the greatest feeling to be able to release a rescued animal.

None of Jean's work would be possible without her dedication, but also without her network of helpers, including; Tracy Anderson, who helps with shopping on Mondays; Heather Jones who helps with the animals and pen cleaning every Friday; Ashley(12) and mum Deb from Hazelwood North who come every Saturday morning to do the first feed; Jasmine(12) and Dad Mike from Moe who once a fortnight comes to help and assists with animal retrievals from the Moe area; Cathy Beamish (animal carer), husband Mike and daughter Nicole, who are always available 'on-call' to help when need; and finally to Ruth and Rex who live just up the road and who are great friends of the wildlife shelter. Jean



apologises to anyone else not mentioned (as there are many) who have helped since the 2009 fires.

Jean loves living in Boolarra and cites the best thing about Boolarra being her home where she loves living amongst the trees and wildlife.

As you'll note, Jean's life is an interesting one, not always filled with happy times, but as Jean says, that's the way life is and she just gets on with it.

My thanks to Jean for being one of Boolarra's most inspiring people and for taking the time away from the wombats, wallabies and koalas etc to talk to me.

(Mark Cooke, President Boolarra Link).



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BOOLARRA ART EXHIBITION 2012

Art is within all of us.

During our first Art Exhibition last year, many of the participants and visitors were surprised to see artwork from people whom they never thought to be artistic. Art is within all of us and we are all potentially creative. The trick is the willingness to begin to explore our creative potential and be brave enough to act.

Following our successful Art Exhibition last year, the Boolarra Community Development Group is determined to have another such event this year.

We encourage all members of the Boolarra community to get involved in some kind of creative activity. Take free art courses available in Boolarra and other nearby communities or choose a subject of your interest and take wonderful art classes at ARC Yinnar. Take out your paint brushes, pencils, easels, craft, woodwork, pottery clay, cameras or any other art related hobby equipment and get working on your latest masterpiece.

We are planning to have our Art Exhibition around the middle of this year. Please feel free to give us advice, let us know of your concerns, problems we might have had last year and so on. Last year's event was very well received and it was amazing to see the quality and range of exhibits from our talented community, with a great opening night and a steady stream of visitors through the Exhibition over the weekend. It is hoped that we will have a whole new show this year to be viewed by many.

On behalf of the sub-committee of the Boolarra Community Development Group.

Abbas Mehran - Abbasmehrnan@bigpond.com



WE CAN LAUGH NOW BUT...IT WASN'T FUNNY THEN!

This story relates to an incident that occurred in the Boolarra fires of 2009. I sincerely hope it does not offend or upset any of those people who were so severely affected by the fires.

On the morning of 28 February 2009 three members of the Boolarra Fire Brigade (including the captain) were out fishing off Welshpool. It was a warm morning with little breeze and calm seas. The fish were biting and all three were enjoying the situation immensely.

Suddenly the CFA Pagers sounded breaking the extremely tranquil environment. The message on the pagers reported a fire behind the Fish Farm. The three decided that as they were 2 hours from the fire and they didn't know the real extent of it, there was little that they could do, so they kept fishing.

After several phone calls were made to the Crew Leader of the Boolarra tanker they were advised that the fire had been extinguished and there was no need to return.

Around midday the wind picked up and the seas became very choppy. They decided it was time to go and headed for the boat ramp and then home. After cleaning the boat and running fresh water through the engine the boat was backed into the shed and uncoupled from the ute.

Almost instantaneously the pagers sounded again alerting them to the fact that the original fire had flared and was out of control.

They rushed to the station, manned the tankers and headed for the fire. What happened next is well known.

For the next six days, in unbelievable sweltering heat, the three members joined all other Boolarra members as well as members of many other brigades and battled the fires for up to 18 hours a day. Everyone was completely exhausted.

On the seventh day it was arranged by some of our neighbouring brigades that they would provide crews for the Boolarra and Mirboo East Tankers in order that the Boolarra volunteers could have a well-earned rest day. It was a truly wonderful gesture that was well appreciated.

It was around 8:00am and dressed only in shorts and a coffee in hand, one of the fishermen was wandering around his property checking things out – something he hadn't had the opportunity to do for the last week. Unfortunately, a couple of his chooks had perished in the extreme heat of the last week and the vegetable garden was wilted. Not much joy anywhere to be seen.

It was then that he copped a whiff of something dead. "Something else has succumbed to the heat and was rotting away", he thought. He investigated further. It seemed to be coming from the shed. Following his nose he moved around behind the boat but couldn't see anything.

He cautiously stepped up onto the mudguard of the boat trailer and looked into the boat and instantly he knew what it was. The esky with about 40 uncleaned flat head and with a swarm of blowflies hovering above it was in exactly the same place that it had been inadvertently left 7 days earlier. Stupidly he lifted the lid and peered inside. Low and behold he saw a moving mass of maggots accompanied by a stench that is truly indescribable.

He moved to the edge of the boat, leaned over and lost his entire breakfast. Boy was he sick!

Well that esky, together with its contents, was buried deep into the earth, never to be seen or smelt again.

We can laugh now – BUT – IT WASN'T FUNNY THEN!

Dave O'Brien

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KNOW YOUR LOCALS

Charlie and Nat Roy



My pleasure in this edition is to interview more stalwarts of the community in Charlie and Nat Roy from Budgeree, who presently live on land that was purchased by them in 1940. Originally the land was used for firewood and posts. Previously they lived on land that was selected by the Roy family in 1880.

Charlie was an only child. He was born in Morwell in 1925, and was schooled at Budgeree. Life on the farm was very labour intensive consisting mainly of clearing land and planting grass to make a bigger area to run cattle. Charlie's father started a Jersey Stud in 1925 and also had Berkshire pigs from 1937, which he exhibited at the Royal Melbourne Show winning many prize ribbons.

Horses and a Shave Plough were used to clear heavily timbered land. Cleared trees were cut for firewood and split for posts. Another difficult job was to eradicate bracken fern, as there were no chemicals or sprays in those days, all were done by hand. Rabbits were a huge problem, arriving in droves in the early 1900's. They had their good side as well; Charlie says his family was raised on rabbits and mushrooms, as both were very plentiful.

Bushfires raged through the area on 14 February 1944 and half of Budgeree was burnt out. There was no loss of life, but many houses including the Hall toilets, school residence, toilets and wash-house were burnt. Roy's farmhouse was saved due to the paddock behind the house being planted with potatoes. The fire was believed to have started near Sassafras Creek, (now Bellbrook Creek) by the train. There was also a fire on the same day at Hazelwood where 13 people lost their lives. Charlie has served on many local committees

during his lifetime. To name a few; the Budgeree Hall Committee for 20 years or so; the School Committee; Herd Testing Group President; Victorian Dairy Farmers member and Boolarra Bowling Club. He no longer plays bowls but is still keenly interested and hopes to start again when his health improves.

Natalie was born in 1926 at Rongowra private hospital in Warragul. She attended three schools at primary level, Yulungah, Trafalgar South and Glengarry, then to Traralgon Secondary and finally Notre Dame de Sion boarding school at Sale. After her school years, she started an apprentice dressmaking course in Melbourne. This included pattern drafting, designing and cutting. She proudly divulged that she drafted all her own patterns for herself and her family and also did all the family sewing.

She joined the Women's Land Army at the age of 18 in 1944 and was sent to Benalla to work on a dairy farm as she was brought up on a dairy farm and knew how to milk cows. She milked 36 cows on her own and learned all about sheep, as they were new to her. Whilst at the farm, the owners decided they didn't like the name Natalie and decided to call her Judy which stuck for many years until her grandchildren asked her "Why don't you use your real name?" When the cows at Benalla were "dried off" she was sent to Boolarra where she did farm work again, milking cows, feeding pigs, fencing, har-

vesting with a pitchfork and making hay stacks, as well as all other farm duties. At this stage there was only Nat and one other Land Army girl in the district, then one more joined. These three remained members for many years and to this day, a reunion is held "down the line" each year. Natalie very proudly still marches with the Land Army girls every ANZAC Day.

Charlie and Nat were married in October 1953 and have a story to tell. Their wedding had to be postponed for two weeks due to Charlie being hospitalised with pneumonia, however, the second date they chose was Charlie's Dad's birthday and a great day was had by all. They have two daughters, one of whom lives in America and one in Broome WA. Their Grandchildren and great grandchildren bring them much joy and happiness and the "greats" are the sixth generation to have connections with the Roy farm.

Nat has served on many committees and auxiliaries in the area. Some of which are: Budgeree Hall Committee; Historical Society; C.W.A.; Red Cross, where she was recently presented with her 40 year service bar; School Committees in Budgeree and Mirboo North Secondary; Church Guild and the Boolarra Bowling Club. She has held office in many and has been a great supporter of all. She is "famous" for her yummy sponges and it's been said that Natalie's sponges are so light they couldn't possibly be fattening. She has also cooked many goodies for various fund raising events over the years.

I thank you both for your input and information and the willingness with which you gave it for this article. You are remarkable folk. The saying "Golden Oldies" is true of you both.

Joy Swain



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Boolarra & District Horse & Trail Riding Club Inc.

The Boolarra & District Horse & Trail Riding Club Inc. was formed due to an increased need in the community for adults and children wanting a non competitive horse sport. It is a group of like-minded people members can turn to for help with their horses, have access to organised "Educational Clinic" days to further improve their horse skills and organised Trail Rides to enjoy and appreciate the outdoors on horseback.

Our aim is to provide a Club where horse riders, be they young children, nervous adults, those with young horses or those just getting back in the saddle after raising their families, can enjoy riding their horse within a safe group where it is non-competitive.

We held our first meeting on the 14 December 2011 which was attended by thirteen very enthusiastic riders and four disappointed (couldn't be there) apologies. Those present were surprised to find there were so many other horse riders looking for exactly the same thing, right on their doorstep.

We currently have twenty five members and have also received as many as ten e-mails from

interested persons wishing to be a part of this Club.

Boolarra & District Horse & Trail Riding Club Inc. is affiliated with ATHRA (Australian Trail Horse Riding Association), operates under ATHRA's Code of Conduct and we will

also operate under our own Pre Ride Agreement. On the weekend of January 28 and 29 seven of our members, Di Sharman, Maurice Papa, Vicki Weir, Teresa Wareham, Neville Gilpin, Tessa Libreri, and Mick Rasmus undertook Accreditation Training (Trail Boss Course). The Trail Boss/Ride Coordinators will be responsible for the successful and safe management of Club Trail Rides and training



Vicki & Maurice Watch On During Prac Session at Accreditation Training

days. This Training Weekend took place at the Boolarra Recreation Reserve and was also attended by five ATHRA Training Officials, two Traralgon ATHRA members and two Stratford ATHRA members. Everyone had a great time and many new friends were made along the way.

Our first official ride was held on the 26 February 2012 and explored the East Branch from Apex Park. We had 18 of our members, 6 interested parties from Lang Lang, 1 Traralgon ATHRA member and a number of local visitor riders. The ride was a great success and fun was had by all participating.

All riders are now looking forward to the next ride which will take place on 25 March 2012 and will take on the Rail Trail, riding from Boolarra to Mirboo North and return.

The support for our Club has been overwhelming, from the residents of Boolarra, the horse riders of Boolarra & District, the Boolarra Fire Brigade, Boolarra Football/Netball Club, ATHRA, Boolarra Pony Club and the Boolarra Parks Committee. We thank each and every one of you for your support.

Anyone interested in finding out more about our Club or joining are invited to contact Di Sharman on 0412 896 684.

"ATHRA is a way of life for the whole family; it provides access to the most remote and beautiful places most people only dream of!"

Jan Holt

President

Boolarra & District Horse & Trail Riding Club Inc.



Di & Vicki Undertake Prac Session During Accreditation Course

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Boolarra Bowling Club

Ladies Section

The bowling season has been progressing at a busy pace.

Pennants has been a busy time for the majority of the members, Tuesday and Thursday night practice and Saturday bowls taking up a lot of time. Thanks to all the wives and husbands for their patience.

Division 6 sadly did not make the finals, however, there were some close games towards the end of the season and some outstanding bowling played.

Division 4 were beaten in the preliminary final by Traralgon in a nail-biting playoff. Boolarra was defeated by 3 shots. The final at Moe was well supported by enthusiastic supporters from Boolarra and they were rewarded with some outstanding bowling by both teams. NEXT YEAR TEAM!

Club games are still in progress and are expected to continue through March.

Results of club championships will be published in the next Boolarra Link edition.

Working Bees are still happening around the green and our new sprinkler system has been installed. Special thanks to Dave Grima & Company, Stan Williams and the members who assisted.

For cold beers at club prices and a friendly game of bowls join us Tuesday and Thursday evenings all welcome.

Marilyn Hagley

Publicity Officer

Boolarra Bowling Club

The bowling season for 2011-12 is fast drawing to a close.

14 February 2012 culminated with an enjoyable pennant dinner at the Italian Australian Sporting Club, a valued sponsor.

Even though we struggled at times for available players, the season was very successful in that we finished in the middle of the ladder, so remain in Division Two.

Our club members are extremely proud of Janice Whelan, our ladies Club Champion who reached the semi-final of the West Gippsland Champion of Champions. At the end of the second last end of this game, Janice and her opponent, Rosemary Shaw a talented player from Garfield, were level. Last end Rosemary played a magnificent bowl close to the jack which Janice was unable to match, so after a hard fought game was beaten by one shot. Rosemary then went on to win the final to become West Gippsland Lady Champion. Janice

played excellent bowls over the three days, not disappointing spectators and supporters from many clubs including Boolarra, Yinnar and Mirboo North.

Janice and Jenny Medew also represented our club in the Championship Pairs (a new West Gippsland event for the ladies). After a close contest they were defeated in the first round by Pat Frazer Aurisch and Ronda Fawcett of Neerim. Other club games are underway, but not finalized yet.

Coming ladies events include the fours tournament on 20 March 2012, followed by Invitation Day on Friday, 30 March 2012. All rinks are full for these events so the committees and members are expecting two very successful days of bowling and fellowship.

As usual, our ladies will be serving their popular Devonshire tea at the club on Folk Festival day. We appreciate the on-going patronage of the public.

The ladies wish to thank our voluntary green keeper Howard Hill.

B. Fox.

Boolarra -Yinnar Exercise Group

Since 9 January 2012 the groups in both Boolarra and Yinnar have been thriving, welcoming continuing participants and several new members have become regulars to our happy band, who reap the benefits of regular exercise under the supervision of our qualified instructor Kathleen.

Many of us have had breaks for holidays or to babysit the grandchildren, but we all agree that it is good to get back to the toe tapping music of the Bee Gees or Buddy Holly and ease those stiff necks, shoulders, backs or hips.

Everyone is welcome and we are all too busy concentrating on the co-ordination to pick on newcomers so don't be shy. Come along and join the fun and good 'craic'.

Boolarra Memorial Hall Monday 9.30am 10.30am

Yinnar Memorial Hall Friday 10.00am -11.00am (Please note the earlier start time at Yinnar)

For further information call Kathleen Millet 5122 2591 or Kate Cartwright 5169 6592

Media Releases:

There are media releases that could be relevant to Boolarra residence. If you like to read the full release go to:

<http://www.boolarra.vic.au/index.php/the-boolarra-link/media-release>

- DOES THE LATROBE VALLEY HAVE VICTORIA'S TIDIEST TOWN?
Nationals Member for Morwell Russell Northe is calling on local communities to consider nominating for the 2012 Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria awards.

Entries for the Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Awards close on 11 May

- NEW ONLINE EMERGENCY VOLUNTEERING REGISTER LAUNCHED
Latrobe Valley residents who are willing and able to assist during an emergency are being encouraged to submit their details to a new Emergency Volunteer Register.

- TRIBUTE PAID IN PARLIAMENT TO BUSHFIRE VICTIMS

- LATROBE VALLEY BUS SERVICE CHANGES

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BOOLARRA PONY CLUB

The weather Gods smiled this year and our annual Gymkhana held on Sunday 5 February 2012 catered for over 200 riders on the day. There were three Open rings, a Senior and Junior Pony Club ring, an official HRCV (Adult Riding Club) ring, along with fun ring, games and activity course. The number of ponies with very young riders and Dads and Mums in tow was phenomenal and all seemed to have a great time in the fun ring.

It would not have been possible to put on an event of this size without the generous help from the many locals who willingly came along, manning the front gate and entries,

working in the canteen, helping us out with the announcing and stewarding. Our Club thanks each and every one of you for your support. We also thank our lovely Judges who did a grand job on a very warm and humid day and managed to keep to a pretty strict timetable, whilst still accommodating riders competing in clashing events.

They were also most generous in praise for our Announcer, Heather James, who did a brilliant job with her clear and concise announcements.

A big draw card to our Gymkhana is the number of rugs we award to winners of the Cham-

pion events. The purchase of these rugs is only made possible by the support given to us by businesses here in Boolarra and across the Latrobe Valley and we are most appreciative of this sponsorship.

Construction of our Cross Country course has progressed over the summer months. The practice jump arena for the Cross Country course is near completion, with the all weather surface and retaining boards in place. Our club would like to express our gratitude for the work done by two local businesses; Prosper Valley Excavation for the landscaping work undertaken and Prosper Valley Gravel for the supply of materials. This area provides a very professional looking warm-up facility and can only enhance what should prove to be another valuable asset to the Pony Club, providing the opportunity for more horse events to be held and promoting our town and its attractions to the wider community.

*Gary Mills
President, Boolarra Pony Club.*



Announcer's view of proceedings in some of the rings

Boolarra Tennis Club

The 2011-2012 Tennis season is coming to an end soon. The 3 Junior Teams will be playing in the finals which start mid March. The Section 4 and 6 Teams are 2nd on the ladder and the Section 8 Team is 3rd on the ladder. An excellent effort by all the players and Sharyn Giles, who coordinates them all. We wish them all the best in the finals.

The younger players have been having tennis clinics with Sally Kirstine in Churchill, rather than playing competitions. All the junior players have had the opportunity to have coaching clinics (6 for the season) with Sally Kirstine in Boolarra. Local coach Richard Gere has been helping out at Wednesday practice sessions too.

The Senior Team had to combine with Morwell East this year due to lack of numbers. We have had some good matches but won't be competing in the finals this year!!

Thanks to Barb Webb and Stan & Marg Niddrie who are arranging the stall at the Folk Festival. We hope to sell lots of popcorn, fairy floss and ice creams.

The Latrobe City Council and Boolarra Memorial Park Committee have been busy around the courts and facilities this year. All

4 courts have been resurfaced and the front court extended to meet Netball standards. The toilets have been revamped into a nice change room and a new toilet block has been installed. We are fortunate to have such great resources in our beautiful town.

New tennis players of all ages and abilities are welcome to join the club. The season starts again in October.

Contacts: Samantha Brick 0427 824 722 and Sharyn Giles 0427 619 650

COXY'S BIG BREAK EXPLORES THE RAIL TRAIL

On a cool and showery early January day, Coxy's Big Break came to town after filming along the Rail Trail from Mirboo North via Darlimurla. The weather wasn't very kind for filming and neither to the intrepid band of locals who answered the call put out by our Postmistress for cyclists, walkers and park users to gather in Railway Park.

The small crowd enjoyed a sausage sizzle whilst

awaiting the film crew's arrival, but due to the weather, their wait was approximately 3 ½ hours before three vehicles emerged from the Rail Trail into the park, preceded by two cyclists. The film crew was accompanied by DSE staff, and the Director quickly set about staging several "takes" of Coxy joining one other cyclist at the entrance to the trail, and passing our local Bike Brigade as they emerged from the Trail. On the program when it went to air, the several "takes" involving local cyclists appeared to be cut.

Whilst the Director thanked the crowd and advised when he thought the segment would be aired, the "star" of the show barely acknowledged anyone, let alone thanked them. The couple of people he did speak to were forward enough to approach him, but it would have been nice if he had acknowledged everyone in general.

As quickly as they finally arrived, the crew left, filming the Post Office and possibly some other buildings as they left town heading back to Mirboo North for The Chocolate shop delights. Any further filming in Boolarra also appeared to be cut from the program which went to air.

Good on all the locals who answered the call to be in the "rent a crowd", the highlight of their effort was probably the sausages they enjoyed in support of our Boolarra Stompers Relay for Life team!

Val Henderson

Boolarra's Sporting Memories - Boolarra Footballer's Cricket Club

Australians have always been passionate about their cricket, but never more so than in the seventies. The names Chappell, Lillee, Marsh and Thompson were household names and crowds flocked to watch them do battle with the West Indian and English teams.

Boolarra was no different and the young men of the town were always keen to try their arm. Unfortunately, Boolarra only had one team and was well represented by an established team which the young blokes found hard to break into. In the early seventies they made do by having impromptu games on Sundays. These games were often hastily organized with sides picked in the pub late on Saturday night or having a theme set; one side of the railway line versus the other. These games were always very competitive and unearthed lots of new talent.

Most of these fellows were regular members of the local football club and in 1978 they decided to form a new team, the Boolarra Footballers, to play in the Mid Gippsland Cricket Association. Over the years the Association had allowed new teams into their league only to have them fail due to lack of numbers or being non-competitive and they were reluctant to allow the Footballers in. After several months assuring the MGCA that they were sustainable and would behave in a gentlemanly manner, they were eventually allowed admission, but the battle was only half won. The Boolarra Park Committee were reluctant to allow the Footballers access to their ground,

so the Footballers decided to use the Mirboo Recreation Reserve which was at the time being used to graze sheep.

Gambling nights and raffles were quickly arranged to purchase some gear and on 7 October 1978 the Footballers played their first game against Thorpdale. Unfortunately, the Boolarra Football Club presentation night was held the night before and the boys (most of whom had had little or no sleep) struggled, but inspired efforts by Kev Morrissy and Noel Richards saw the newcomers win by 40 runs. That was the start of a great year for the Ballers, winning both local derbies against Boolarra and participating in the final series. The next year the Park Committee rescinded their earlier decision and allowed the Footballers to play at their spiritual home.

The expansion to a B Grade competition in the early 80's again saw a shortage of facilities. The new club would again be without a home unless they could provide an alternative. They decided their best option was to build the "No 2 oval" which was duly completed in time for the first game. The surface was leveled by local contractors and the fence was relocated from the No.2 Yallourn Oval.

The Footballers were known to play hard on and off the field and soon posted an impressive record only missing the finals once in ten years, but an A Grade Premiership eluded them being beaten in both their grand final appearances. Their B Grade team was also very successful winning their only flag in 1983.

Their style and preparation was innovative to say the least, but their presence saw a golden decade of cricket in the town. Both Boolarra sides soon had an A, B, C and Junior side in the competition, with over 90 players representing the town every weekend.

Whether you loved them or hated them, and most people had an opinion, for ten years at least they ignited cricket in Boolarra to a level not previously seen in the past or in the foreseeable future.

Graeme Colbert

VALE WAYNE BENNETT

Wayne Bennett was a founding member of the Boolarra Footballers Cricket Club. He sadly passed away in December 2011. Wayne was a medium fast bowler and an accomplished middle order batsman. His other claim to fame was that he was a drummer for pop group Blackfeather, who had a monster hit with 'Boppin the Blues'. Those who fielded with him in slips would never forget that.
- Thanks for the memories Benno -



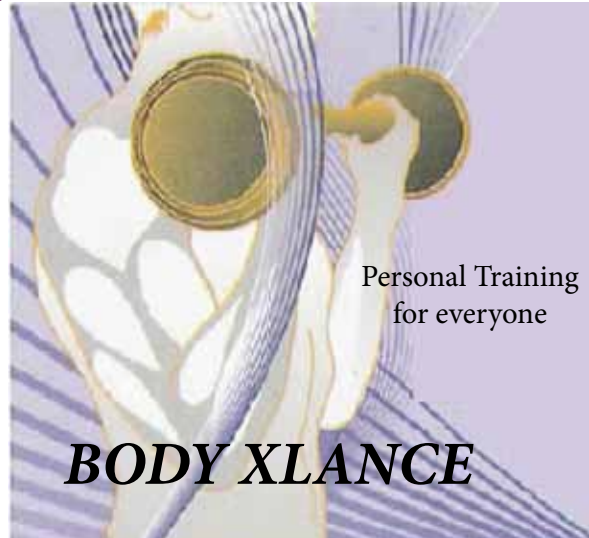
AROUND THE TRAPS WITH ROGER RABBIT.

While hopping around the trails, one cannot help but notice that there is a lack of clearly numbered residences both in and out of Boolarra. The Reindeers were discussing this with Mrs Wombat during the Christmas rush. With Easter on the way, we rabbits are going to have the same difficulty delivering Chocolate Eggs. BUT, more importantly it makes it very frustrating for the Ambulance, Police, SES or CFA, not to mention normal delivery drivers, to be able to locate a particular residence, which could be life threatening. So please skip around yourselves and correct this very necessary safety measure.

So with the mad Easter Egg Season upon us again, humans and others - please look after your wildlife friends but have a Happy Easter.

If you can be found for delivery, don't eat TOO many of those Easter eggs at once.





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COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Organisation	Contact Name	Phone	Organisation	Contact Name	Phone
Alcoholics Anonymous	Bert	0408 598 215	Catholic Church	Fr Hugh Brown	5122 2226
Boolarra Book Club & Blazers Walking Group	Robern Lubawski	5169 6494	Cooperating Church	Rev Dr Bob Brown	5122 1480
Boolarra Bowling Club	John Lubawski	5169 6494	Crickit Club	Phil Allen	5169 1686
Ladies Bowling	Tony Snell	5169 6762	Folk Festival	Ray Stewart	5169 6275
Boolarra Cemetery Trust	Betty Fox	5169 6291	Friends of the Morwell River	Catheryn Thompson	5169 6625
Boolarra & District Horse and Trail Riding Club	Glenys Morgan	5169 6721	Garden Club Tour	Denise Schiller	5169 6425
Boolarra CFA	Di Sharman	042 896 684	Glory to the King	Rev Lynn Fowler	5169 6788
Boolarra Christian Fellowship	Dave O'Brien	5169 6462	Christian Community	Rev Fran Marston	5169 6263
	Paul McGrath	5169 6424	Grand Ridge Rail Trail	Neil Trease	5668 1580
	Gerry DeBruin	5169 6336	Justice of the Peace	Matt Gleeson	0427 696 461
Boolarra Community Development Group				Gwenda Pither	5169 6209
Boolarra Football / Netball Club	Colin Brick	5163 1212		Jack Richards	5169 6283
Boolarra Historical Society	Russell McGlade	5169 6507	Latrobe CC Fire Recovery	Heather Farley	5128 5648
Boolarra Multi-Purpose Building	Mengar Hibbins	5169 6210	Latrobe City Council Mayor	Darrell White	5163 1461
Boolarra Pre-school			Local Emergency Action Plan	John Harris	0431 972 672
Boolarra Primary School	Sue Warren	5169 6395	Memorial Hall	Roz Carstairs	5169 6445
Boolarra Quilting Group	Kath Aveling	5169 6571	Memorial Park	Colin Brick	5163 1212
Boolarra Red Cross	Leanne Emond	5169 6471	Open Garden Day	Jill Simmons	5169 6516
Boolarra South Land Care	Linda Minter	5169 6702	Playgroup	Brooke Bridle	5169 6742
Boolarra Tennis Club	Glenys Morgan	5169 6721	Police Report	Gary Mills	5169 6222
Boolarra Wool & Spinning Group	Linda Minter	5169 6702	Pony Club	Gary Mills	5169 6222
	Samantha Brick	5163 1212	Relay For Life	Gwenda Pither	5169 6209
Boolarra & Yinnar Community Recovery Committee	Lois Thornton	5169 6618	Russell Northe	Russell Northe	5133 9088
Boolarra Youth Theatre Group			Scouts	Sylvia Sauppe	5169 6321
Budgerie Hall	Colin Brick	5163 1212	Stroke Support Group	Coralie Pickett	5668 2294
Bushfire Recovery Memorial	Garryelle Rose	5116 5163	Wildlife Assistance	Jean Quick	5169 6606
	Bruce Hall	5169 1573			
	Rob & Marietta Herni	5169 6355			

Please notify The Boolarra Link at boolarralink@hotmail.com of any changes to Community Directory information.

Church Services in Boolarra & Yinnar

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Tarwin Street, Boolarra.

Mass at 10.30am on 2nd & 4th Sunday in Boolarra &

10.30am on 1st & 3rd Sunday in Yinnar

Liturgy at 10.30am on 2nd Tuesday of the month

Contact - Pam Crowley 5169 6465 or

Denise Schiller 5169 6425

ANGLICAN & UNITING CHURCHES

IN CO-OPERATION

Tarwin Street, Boolarra

1st Sunday 11.00am & 2nd Sunday 10.00am in Boolarra

3rd Sunday 11.00am & 4th Sunday 10.00am in Yinnar

Contact Robern Lubawski 5169 6494

BOOLARRA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Contact Paul McGrath 5169 6424 or

Gerry DeBruin 5169 6336 for service times

GLORY TO THE KING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Cnr Young & Bastin Streets (Old Scout Hall)
Sunday Service - 4.00 pm

Mid-week Worship - 7.30 pm every Thursday

The Quiet Place & Mission Shop

Mon, Wed & Fri - 1.00 - 4.00 pm

(except Public Holidays)

GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS MEETING TIMES

Boolarra Community Development Group - Monthly - 1st Thursday at 7.30 pm - Memorial Hall

Boolarra Historical Society - Monthly - 3rd Tuesday at 7.30 pm - Museum

Cemetery Trust - Contact Glenys Morgan - 5169 6721

Red Cross - Monthly - 2nd Monday at 1.00 pm - The Boolarra Pub

Boolarra Memorial Hall - Monthly - 3rd Thursday at 7.30 pm - Memorial Hall

PLEASE NOTE:- If there are changes to any of these days or dates, please notify the Boolarra Link Secretary - **Lois Thornton on 5169 6618**

What's on

MONDAY

EXERCISE CLASS - All ages 9.30 am - Boolarra Memorial Hall - Kathleen Millett 5122 2591 or Kate 5169 6592

BOOK CLUB - 1st Monday of the month - 8.00 pm - Contact Robern Lubawski 5169 6494

TUESDAY

YOGA - Gentle Class - 6.00 - 7.15 pm **OR** Advanced Class - 7.30 - 8.45 pm - Primary School Multi Purpose Room - Contact Kristy Mills 5169 6226.

THURSDAY

WOOL GROUP - 11.00 am - 3.30 pm - Multipurpose Building - Contact Lois Thornton 5169 6618

WALKING GROUP - Meet 9.00 am at Boolarra Recreation Reserve - Contact John Lubawski 5169 6494

FRIDAY

EXERCISE CLASS - All ages 10.00 am - YINNAR Memorial Hall - Kathleen Millett 5122 2591 or Kate 5169 6592

SUNDAY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 2.00 - 4.00 pm - 1st Sunday of the month - Old School House (Museum)

PONY CLUB RALLY - 2nd Sunday of the month - Recreation Reserve

2007

- Counterfeit Gypsies, Grand Junction and Khristian Mizzi & the Sirens are just some of the high quality acts during yet another really good Festival.
- The first of the After Dark music nights held at the footy ground social room.
- Folk Festival is a finalist in the Event & Tourism Award and winner of Latrobe City Community Event of the Year Award



2008

- Number of Sponsors increases to 14
- Road car counters show numbers attending festival to be in excess of 6000
- Economic impact for the first time.
- Boolarra Festival is acknowledged as one of Gippsland's premier events

2009

- 5 weeks after the fires the 2009 Festival was perfect timing, it was a chance for people from our community and others to get together, relax and have fun.
- Huge challenge for the organising committee to cope and cater for what would be the biggest number of people ever to visit the town.
- Festival wins Latrobe City Event of the Year Award for the second time.
- Free buses run from Mirboo North and Latrobe Valley



2010

- Festival wins the Business Tourism Peoples Choice Award for the best event in the region
- The festival opening at ARC Yinnar is an outstanding success.
- The impact study carried out shows the festival generates over 1 million dollars on the day.

2011

- For the second year in a row Boolarra Folk Festival wins the Business Tourism Peoples Choice Award for the best event.
- Festival committee get much needed new members join.
- It's standing room only at the opening night at ARC Yinnar.
- Another Festival with great music and Markets in what has to be one of the prettiest settings for an outdoor event anywhere





Despite the conditions, the healing tent was full of dedicated practitioners and clients and the after dark session at the football/netball social rooms continues to be entertaining.

10 year festival veteran and President Ray Stewart co-ordinated the changes in proceedings and was seen having a well-earned 'rest' at the African Drumming Circle in the afternoon, whilst Wendy Stewart and all of the information providers assisted festival goers with their requests. The Strzelecki Stringbusters, Jenny Biddle and other musicians were generous with their time and when the performers chatted after their gigs, the word was that Boolarra has great community spirit and how good it is that live music is supported and appreciated in this district.

People made the best of the conditions and an estimate of between 1500 and 2000 people mingled amongst the market stalls and music venues.

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the day. A very special thank-you to all our spon-



ers of the festival and the local music scene; they performed a range of bluegrass, folk, modern country and their own compositions.

Solo artist Daniel Calabro delivered his innovative acoustic guitar performance with the use of a phase sampler, creating a unique sound for his set of original compositions.

Beggs2Differ have a diverse range of musical styles that always engages their audience and their performance at this year's festival was no exception. The Go Set made a very well received return this year with their raw energy and undeniable passion for music.

Local group, The Nigellas performed traditional folk, celtic tunes and bluegrass styles. The group features fiddle, tin whistle, banjo, guitar and bodhran in their performance.

Kristy Mills arranged for many interesting stalls to create a feast for our eyes and senses and Gab Francis marshalled volunteers to make the day a success. The festival was captured on film by Jared Mills, and Bronwen Hilton worked hard over the previous months to keep the folk festival website current.



sors, without whose support the festival would not be possible.

Kate Reiske
Publicity Officer



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Latrobe City
Business Tourism Association Inc.

The folk festival has won the People's Choice Award two years in a row, it would be great for Boolarra if we could win it for a third time, of course we need as many people as possible to vote before the end of April.

If you enjoyed the 2012 Boolarra Folk Festival and feel it's a worthy contender to be nominated as the best event for the Peoples Choice Awards, vote now.