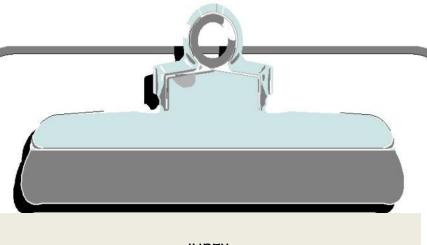
Merrijig Community Newsletter March 2017



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Quote of the month.

"Success isn't about how much money you make. It's about the difference you make in people's lives"

by Michelle Obama

Quote submitted by Eliza Foster

(this was on the tables at the "My Business" Awards in Sydney in 2014. I keep it on my desk Eliza said.)

Back issues of the newsletters can be viewed on the web at http://www.merrijig.com.au/html/local_news.html

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

If you're looking for a **Justice of the Peace**, Laurie Jacob, Buttercup Rd 0439 280 333 Catherine McNish. Sawmill Settlement0429 482 309

Merrijig Defibrillator is located at Merrijig Motor Inn

The procedure in case of an emergency where a person is possibly having a heart attack is to dial **Triple Zero**. The call takers at **Triple Zero** have the location of the Merrijig AED registered and will advise the caller of its location if that is the closest unit to your location. If it is then the Merrijig Motor Inn should be contacted by phone. The motor inn phone number is **5777 5702**.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			firewood collection season opens	2 Rubbish & Recycling	3 Flying doctor Dental Clinic comes to town	4
5	6	7	8	9 Rubbish	10 Talk in Library on Mrs Kelly (Ned's mum)	11 Merrijig Rodeo
12	13	14	15 Shire Budget Meeting at Merrijig Hall	16Rubbish & Recycling	17	18 M∉rrijig Family Fun Day
19 Motorbike club day at home track Merrijig	20	21	22	23 Rubbish	24	25
26	27	28	29	30Rubbish & Recycling	31 Flying Doctor Dental Clinic flies out of town.	Notes: Anzac day at 5 Pines 25 th April.



If you have a <u>pet rabbit</u> at home, you now need to make sure it's vaccinated.

A new Korean strain of the deadly Calicivirus is being released at nearly a thousand spots around

Australia next week.

Pets need the existing vaccine. Keep them indoors for 10 days after receiving it.



NOT EVERYONE CAN READ THIS

fi yuo cna raed tihs, yuo hvae a sgtrane mnid too. I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulaclty uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in waht oerdr the Itteres in a wrod are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is taht the frsit and Isat Itteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it whotuit a pboerlm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey Iteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Azanmig huh? Yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmorantt! If you can raed tihs SHARE IT

Cna yuo raed tihs? Olny 55 plepoe out of 100 can.



Isubmitted by Louise Jacob

Indi MP Cathy McGowan speaks out in parliament for Rural mobile childcare

Extracts from speech to parliament on 27/2/17

"Despite months of meetings, correspondence, questions in Parliament and even a Ministerial visit to Indi, the government confirmed last week that mobile childcare services would have to bid for grants for funding during a 'transition' period," Ms McGowan said.

"There's nothing to transition to. There are no other services in these towns. If there are no mobile childcare services, there's nowhere to go," Ms McGowan told Parliament.

"Why should rural and regional Australia have to apply for a grant and special conditions when we have as legitimate needs for child care as everybody else?"

Ms McGowan said rural and regional Australia was not an add-on to be treated as a disadvantaged demographic. "Farming families are mainstream parts of this country, working really hard to produce the commodities that make this country flourish. They deserve to have their needs front and center of this legislation. Sadly they do not."

"My commitment is that we are not going to let it go. We have a really good model, and we will continue to work with the government to make sure that in the long term we find a system that actually works for us, a system that acknowledges how important our children are.

"This fight has really just begun, and I am not going to let it go."

Ms McGowan's speech can be viewed here:

http://www.cathymcgowan.com.au/rural_and_regional_families_should_be_front_and_centre

What's coming up in March? Mark these activities on your calendar.





BUDGET INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION SESSIONS

2017-18 COUNCIL PLAN, BUDGET AND STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN

Mansfield Shire Council invites the community to attend an information and consultation session to discuss the strategies and rationale that surround the development of Council's 2017-18 Council Plan, Budget and Strategic Resource Plan.

WHEN: Wednesday 15 March 2017

WHERE: Merrijig Hall

TIME: 6.00 pm

All residents are invited and encouraged to come along.

More information about the budget sessions is available from Council's Finance Manager, Ms Mandy Kynnersley on (03) 5775 8574.

Big thank you to those who responded and volunteered.



Cost – All kids under 16 FREE \$10 Adults, \$5 Pensioners & Students



Enough volunteers have come forward to manage the entry gate and the parking

A few more people are needed to work on the cooking and selling chips, icy poles etc – it would be wonderful if you could assist – then a couple to check the rubbish bins and check the loos for paper and water is about all we need now.

Everything is falling into place beautifully with only a few weeks to go – see story below for more details about this fun event.





From the



The Merrijig CFA brigade members would like to pass on its gratitude to the community for ongoing support.

With generous donations from the public, fundraising, pub meat raffles and two successful grant applications we have been able to purchase new emergency service equipment.

Two portable generators which will be housed on the Quick fill trailer (not pictured), portable flood lighting



As well as three Protek firefighting nozzles. (pictured above)

Protek is a manufacturer of high performance firefighting equipment designed to improve the safety and efficiency of firefighting personnel and help protect people, property and the environment from fires.

All the equipment purchased will enhance the brigade's ability to respond to the community in the event of a fire or other emergency situations.

Submitted by Jen Lovick for

CFA Glenroy-Merrijig RFB 1821 Mt Buller Road, Merrijig, 3723

Captain:- Pete Bowker 0407 305 480 Secretary:- Jenny Lovick 0427 800 935 Treasurer:- Leanne Drake 0419 154 196 Comms Officer:- Noel Willaton 0459 773 995 Training:- Michael Wahren – 0418 210 758

Well attended Working Bee clean up at McCormack Park



Thanks and well done also goes out to the volunteers who worked at the .McCormack Park Grounds Management Committee when they had a great working bee on Sunday 22nd Jan. The volunteers included members from user groups Merrijig Rodeo, Merrijig Campdraft, Mansfield Jnr Motorcycle Club and Mountain Cattlemen's as well as some very enthusiastic and industrious members of 'Friends of McCormack Park'.

Tree guards were scraped and painted, 3 loads of rubbish went to the tip and the cool room has advanced in its instillation amongst other things.

<u>Tidying up at Five Pines Memorial Park</u>

Attention was called to the work being done by High Country Tree services at the five pines memorial park area on Monday 20th of Feb by locals passing by as one of the old pine trees was being chopped down. This shows the level of respect locals have

for the site and how since 2008 when the first ANZAC day ride took place the importance of the reserve has grown.





It is always sad to see a tree being removed but the tired 100 year old radiata pine was posing a potential danger to those who may move beneath it as it was dying. In the meantime the young Five Lone Pine trees planted a little over 12 months ago are thriving.



While one worker scaled the tree and chopped it down from the top 5 of his work mates cleared away the falling limbs and trunk to turn the tree into mulch to be used around the site that is quickly becoming a very attractive park area.

The fence line was cleaned up and all loose fallen branches put through the mulcher so that by the end of the work time the young men had done a wonderful job leaving our Five Pines Memorial park looking magnificent and what's more safe from falling old trees.



Where do we stand with Consumer Law? This question arose from the Feb 8th Forum on Community Insurance

You may recall that the Merrijig Hall committee initiated this forum with the support of the Mansfield Shire Community Development Team, This report is from my point of view Adele McCormack.

The Shire formally had an umbrella system in an arrangement with insurance brokers with allowed community based groups coverage at reasonable rates due to bulk policies. Last year the original insurance brokers changed the system, claiming to the community Development staff that our shire was "unique" in this practice and that by doing so were acting as a broker which was not allowed.

Now, it was not difficult to discover that these two claims were false. Firstly it has become apparent that there are community groups in other shires or cities who are in the same boat as we here find ourselves – no longer able to buy reasonably priced cover as the council is not an umbrella any longer. Secondly a broker is a person or business who receives commissions for arranging insurance cover for clients. Our shire was not receiving any commissions whatsoever, so therefore are not acting as brokers. The spokesman who delivered these blows to the meeting held at the shire last year on insurance, claimed volunteers were not covered by public liability insurance and that incorporated entities would also need to buy protection insurance for their members against prosecution.

Out of this forum developed a plan to have a panel of insurance representatives to speak to concerned community organization representatives which the Community Development staff offered to arrange at a future date.

One long standing self-help group, which has been in operation for more than 30 years in our shire, will have to fold if no reasonable cover can be found, as premiums are out of the realm of affordability as they are for most not for profit community groups.

It raises the question about whether this grab for cash, raised by volunteers for the betterment of their own community, by insurance companies, could be in breach of Australian consumer law, as it is a common conception that consumer law is in place to make sure that customers receive goods and services which are equal to the cost of those goods and services. It would seem that if public liability insurance could be provided under the umbrella of the shire council for \$ X then the following year the cost of the same cover was \$ XXX - the service is not in keeping with what customers could reasonably expect. One attendee outlined that two claims made under their public liability cover in past years, had both been refused. There are so many grey areas in insurance cover, and what the consumers imagine is reasonable to expect as covered is not seen in the same light by the insurance companies – yet their premiums continue to rise while the consumer's expectations are discarded. It is an offence in consumer law to mislead consumers and by implying that extra cover for volunteers and committee members of incorporated entities is required would be misleading, as if volunteers are working at an event with a cover for public liability it is reasonable to expect that they, being part of the public, are also covered. Being an incorporated body, the understanding of all those attending the meeting believed that protects the individuals from prosecution. So it does appear to the layman consumer that some misleading information has been provided to ensure a greater demand for insurance which may or may not even pay out in the event of a claim.

If no satisfaction comes from the next meeting with a panel of people from the insurance industry, those attending the forum were keen to look into the possibility of forming a consortium of community based not for profit groups. This it seems, is actually what they were under the Shire Community Development department umbrella. As many of those attending were also in sporting groups which can secure reasonable cover by being part of a larger buying group, it was thought that this could be a solution.

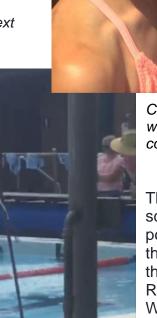
Both our members of parliament Federal and State have been made aware of this serious issue. It has also been discovered that the ACCC will look into issues where consumers feel disadvantaged or abused by dealings with providers of goods and services. This leaves a few avenues to explore.

Inter School Swimming Sports and Merrijig did well

Principal Carole McCluskey is very proud and gives a massive congratulations to Kevin, Montana, Briah and Cobie who represented the school at the District swim trials on Thursday Feb 16th.

"They all swam exceptionally well with Monty finishing first in the district in breaststroke." Ms McCluskey said, "then Kevin came third in freestyle, Cobie fourth in freestyle and Briah eighth in freestyle." With great pride she said "Montana will head on to the next level, which we think is at Seymour."

Montana with her first place ribbon to see her into the next level



Cobie taking over the pool winning her freestyle heat comfortably.

The day before Merrijig school kids did so well in the pool the Shire had posted this picture belowon their facebook page the Remember "When...sday". Way back when, before we had a fantastic swimming pool in town, local school

kids took their swimming lessons in the river.

This image, from 1931, shows Merrijig School children with their teacher, Ernie Osborn, in the Delatite River.

Some of the local children thought to be in this image are Jim O'Brien; Harry & Alma Hodge; Paddy, Jimmy & Eileen Dale; Monica Hearn; Jack, Tom and Norman Purcell; Mary, Jack & Keith Lovick and Leo & Dick Klingsporn.

With thanks to the Mansfield Historical Society for providing this fantastic image and information.



Mansfield Family History Group - Sheena Daykin

Our first meeting for the year was held at the Mansfield Library on Thursday February 23 at 2.00pm. Guest speakers were Jenny Redman and her colleague from the Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV). Members of the public are always welcome to attend, but will be asked for a \$5 entry. Afternoon tea provided.



Yet another Merrijig photo on - Remember "When...sday". Cast your mind back to 1983 when the first Cattlemen's Cup was held at Sheepyard Flat. This event was established as a result of the success of the Man from Snowy River movie, most of which was filmed here in Mansfield.

The Cattlemen's Cup became an annual event, and has now morphed into our popular High Country Festival.



See if you can recognise anyone in this photo - remember if they are lucky- they are all 34 years older.

The Race is still run annually at the Mountain Cattlemen's Get Together, which has twice now been held at McCormack Park attracting a huge crowd of really respectful visitors to Merrijig for the weekend of their event. Hopefully they will return again in another few years as other districts cattlemen also like to have the event close to home.



Feb 19th is the Free "Come and Try Day"

The parking area was packed with enthusiastic riders of all ages many taking to the track for the very first time helped by daddies and uncles Mums and Aunts often with Grandma and Grandpa watching form the side lines.

The club continues to grow even though some of the riders who began as 4 year olds on their Pee Wee 50's have learned enough to be safe riders into their future and have grown out of bike club. Each come and try day attracts a fresh batch of little enthusiasts who will like those who have left the club will grow through their motorbikes year by year improving their skills with lessons each month to practice on the track.

This is a wonderful family activity Merrijig can be proud to be hosting this club on their home track as safe riders are brought up through the ranks to be safe when they are young men and women who have the training to ride safely on tracks and trails.

Some comments from new members "Awesome day, can't wait till next month" and "Our kids thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A great day"

March 19th is the next Club Day in Merrijig

Arrive at 8:30 am - Register at secretary's office, pay fees and complete indemnity forms.

8:45am - 9:15am - Bike scrutineering. Ensure rider is kitted up and ready to start.

9:30am - Riders briefing and walk the track.

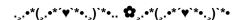
9:45am - Riding commences (parents are required to be present while their children child is riding).

11:00am - Short drink/rest break (parents assist riders with their bikes in the pit area.

12:00 noon - Lunch break commences (staggered times for each group)

1:00pm - Riding commences (staggered for each group)

2:00pm - finished



DAD JOKE

section...

Note: You must say the punchline with an accent.

Q: What do you call an Argentinian with a rubber toe?

A: Roberto!

&

Q: What do you call a Roman with a bad cold?

A: Julius Sneezar







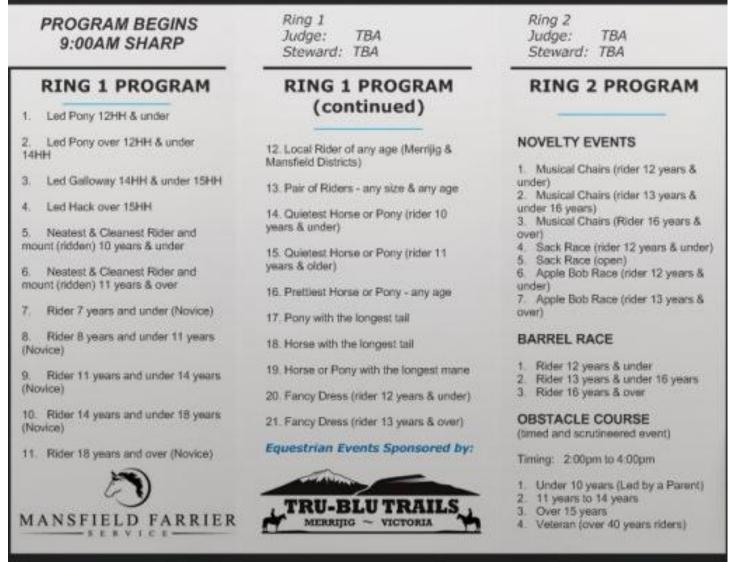


Merrijig Family Fun Day Sat 18th March

No one will want to miss Fun Day this year

The Gymkhana starts off the Fun for the day at 9am and it is a packed program of fun events for people of all ages- but mostly kids - who like the novelty games on horseback. No particular skill is required just a love of riding the horse or pony and a willingness to have a lot of fun doing so.

Entry through the gate for the gymkhana is free so if you have a horse with you – go through the first driveway gate on the left off McCormack Rd. There is a small entry fee for each event but every entrant wins a ribbon and there are special trophies for those who are particularly good participants throughout the gymkhana.



The Fun Day committee are always looking for ways to make fun day even more fun than the last 2 years

All the free games will be back, like bash the rat, and find the Easter egg in the hay stack, toss the footy through the target and horse shoe quoits along with the running events including egg and spoon race and 3 legged race and all the other favourites. There is also jumping castles and free face plant photo boards, but as well as all the free activities.

This year the committee have engaged a Bull ride on which you can test your skills at staying aboard a bucking bull for only \$2 a ride. Another new novelty ride is the horse



and cart hay ride also only \$2. Cyril the lovely little while Shetland pony is happy to come back again he is \$2 a ride as well. A new game "Catch the duck in the pond" offers a chance to win terrific prizes and along with the ever popular Choco Toss are a couple of games that attract a \$2 or gold coin cost.

The popular dog jumping is on again, dogs of all sizes are able to win themselves a supply of dog food as

well as a ribbon and perhaps a trophy if they are champion jumpers. Dogs need to be on leads unless and while they are in the dog jumping.

There are displays of vintage vehicles which will be setup around the park for visitors to enjoy as well as working dog and shearing displays.

There will be musicians and dancers and the highland pipe band and heaps of raffle prizes which will be drawn throughout the day with winners being able to choose their prize from the impressive list of donated goods from our wonderful sponsors.

There is a market place with stalls including face painting and plaster painting and I f you like you can bring your own picnic or enjoy the



Fun day food as there will be a BBq run by the Mini bike club, as well as delicious hot coffee and Pizza – fairy floss and slushies from vendors and hot chips and if we get more help hot donuts run by fun day volunteers.

To volunteer on this day for free entry and meal ticket contact Adele 0409600656 adelemac15@bigpond.com We only need a few more people to work at cooking chips and serving on the counter.



Autumn Firewood Collection Season opens on 1 March 2017 and ends 30 June 2017

From 1 March, maps showing designated collection areas will be available through the website at www.delwp.vic.gov.au/firewood

More than 100 Firewood Collection Areas will be opened in the Hume Region next Wednesday (1 March 2017) as the Autumn Firewood Collection Season for 2017 starts across Victoria.

It's important that people only collect firewood from designated areas and stay within collection limits.

People should check local weather and forest conditions to make sure it's safe before collecting firewood.

Fire danger or flooding may require the closure of firewood collection areas in some parts of the region. Firewood collection areas may also close if firewood supplies become low.

Firewood collected during the

firewood collection season may be green. Green wood burns well if cut, split and stored correctly for 12 months.

For more information, go to www.delwp.vic.gov.au/firewood or call 136 186. From 1 March, maps showing designated collection areas will be available through the website.

FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT VICTORIA
firewood collection season may be green. Green wood burns well if

Parks Victoria
Forest Fire Management Victoria



A word from the shire

Good day everyone,

Firstly, a big thank you to those who have responded to my asking for input into the description of your township for our new Council Plan.

It would be great to hear from all of our townships, so it is not too late to provide me with your feedback!

We're using a variety of means to get community input into our Council Plan and budget development processes.

One of these is asking the community to respond to a short, anonymous online survey (although you can provide a name and email address if you want to be kept informed).

Here is the link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CouncilPlanandbudgetsurvey

the link is also available under the What's New section on our website page as well as our Facebook page.

We'd love to hear your thoughts and are also seeking your help in asking others in your community to participate.

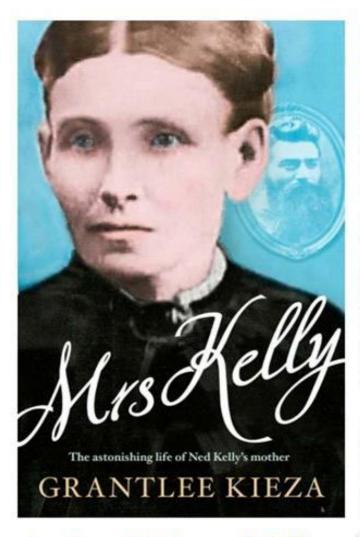
Please don't hesitate to give either myself or Moira Wells a call if you have any questions.

many thanks

Dawn Bray
Governance Coordinator

Phone: 03 5775 8615

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Mrs Kelly Grantlee Kieza

While we know much about the iconic outlaw Ned Kelly, his mother Ellen Kelly has been largely overlooked by Australian writers and historians.

Ned Kelly's mother, Ellen, arrived in Melbourne 1841 aged nine. She died at age ninety-one in 1923, outliving seven of her twelve children. Like so many pioneering women, Ellen, the wife of a convict, led a life of great hardship. Mrs Kelly (Harper Collins 2017) is the astonishing story of one of Australia's most notorious women and her wild family, but it's also the story of the making of Australia, from struggling colony and backwater to modern nation.

Grantlee Kieza is an accomplished biographer. His recent bestsellers include Bert Hinkler and Monash. He is also an award-winning journalist who has held senior editorial positions at the Daily Telegraph, Sunday Telegraph and the Courier-Mail.

Author Visit and Talk

Venue: Mansfield Library

Collopy Street

Date: Friday 10 March 2017

Time: 6.00pm

Cost: Free

Bookings: 5775 2176 or at

Mansfield Library



Copies of the book will be available for purchase on the evening.

Drinks and nibbles provided courtesy of the Friends of Mansfield Library.







Flying Doctor Dental Clinic



The Dentist is coming to Mansfield

Flying Doctor Dental Clinic is at Mansfield Shire Highett St (Midland Hwy) Carpark (Corner of High and Highett St)

6th March - 31st March, 2017



For bookings, contact the Flying Doctor Dental Clinic on (03) 8412 0444 or dental@rfdsvic.com.au

*Eligibility criteria applies

Who can receive treatment in the Dental Clinic?

- Children 0 12 years (FREE)
- Young people 13 17 years who have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession card or are dependents of concession card holders (FREE)
- Adults aged 18 years and over, who have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession card or are dependents of concession card holders (\$27.50 per visit up to a maximum of \$110)
- · Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have a Health Care or Pension Card (FREE)
- Refugees and asylum seekers (FREE)







Doctor Dental Service is coming to Mansfield.

Who can receive treatment in the Dental Clinic?

- Children 0 12 years (FREE)
- Young people 13 17 years who have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession card or are dependents of concession card holders (FREE)
- Adults aged 18 years and over, who have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession card or are dependents of concession card holders (\$27.50 per visit up to a maximum of \$110)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have a Health Care or Pension Card (FREE)
- Refugees and asylum seekers (FREE)

Eligibility criteria applies

Do you Need an industry recognized first aid certificate?

Get qualified in one day..

Many happy local businesses and residents have already attended North East Training first aid courses.

Www.northeasttraining.com.au

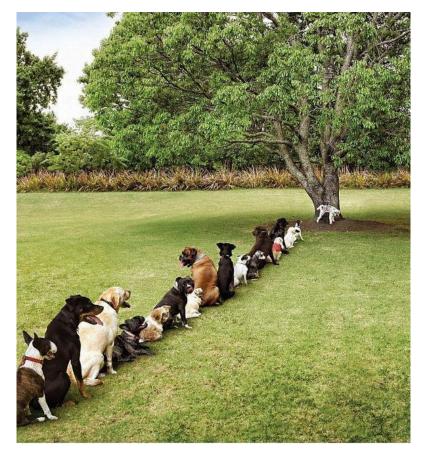


Look what happens when we cut down too many trees.
Global warming is one thing, but check out the site below to see what is happening if we continue to clear our forests!

We have to stop cutting down trees!

This is getting really serious! From Ed

Adamson





from Beryl Jolly via facebook

Bye for now Adele Adele McCormack 45 McCormacks Rd Merrijig 3723 0409 600 655

