

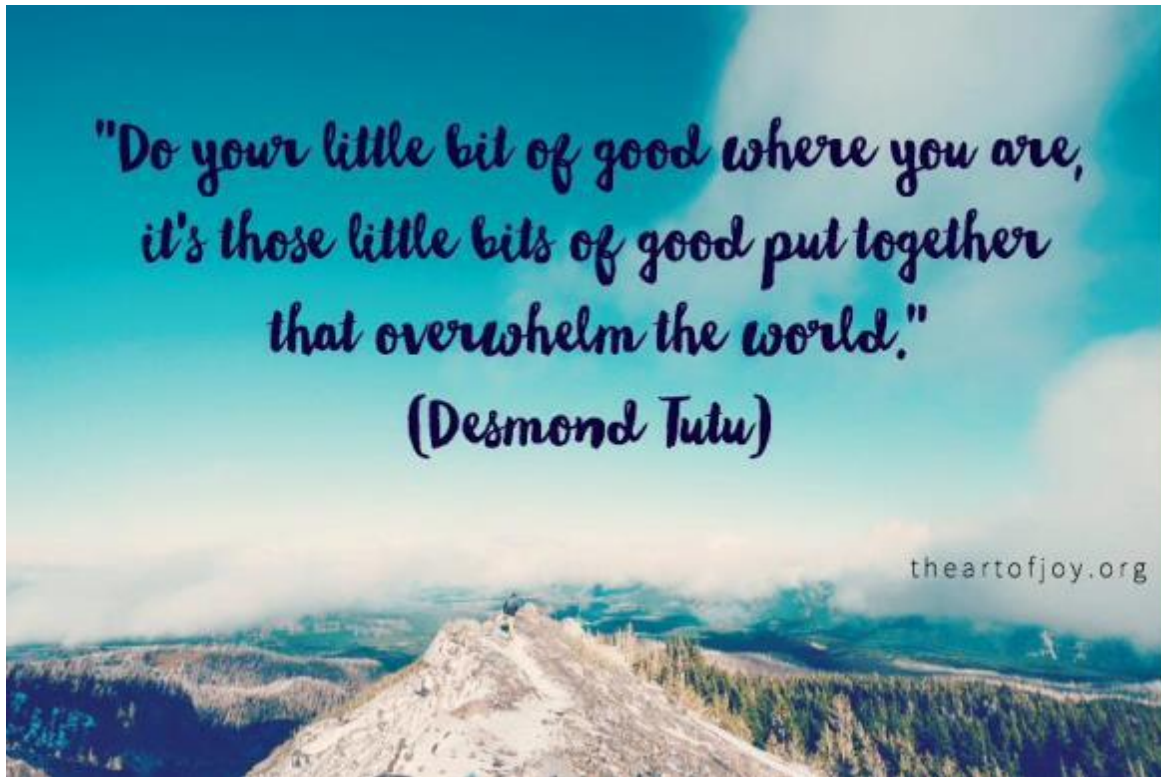
Merrijig Community Newsletter

March 2018

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Quote of the month.



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

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

If you're looking for a **Justice of the Peace**,
 Laurie Jacob, Buttercup Rd 0439 280 333
 Catherine McNish, Sawmill Settlement 0429 482 309

Merrijig Defibrillators are located at Merrijig Motor Inn & McCormack Park

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. McCormack Park unit is located in the machinery shed of the Motorbike Track. If it is the Merrijig Motor Inn should be contacted by phone.

The motor inn phone number is **5777 5702**.

March 2018						
◀ February						April ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Rubbish & Recycle	2	3
4	5	6 Clean Up Australia Day Trivia at the Pub	7	8 Int'l. Women's Day Rubbish	9	10 RODEO gates open at 12 noon
11	12 Labour day	13	14 Pi Day Learn about NDIS	15 Rubbish & Recycle	16	17
18 Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence	19	20 Int'l. day of happiness Trivia At the Pub	21 Harmony Day	22 Rubbish	23	24 Merrijig Family Fun Day & Gymkhana
25	26	27	28	29 Rubbish & Recycle	30 Good Friday	31 Easter Saturday

Calendars with Holidays - AUS [April](#), [May](#), [June](#)

I am sad to relate that we lost a Merrijig man at the end of last year



Graham MacArthur passed away on 29/12/2017. His son Brad said “His health has been up and down quite a bit over the last few years (which is why they moved from Merrijig to Mansfield), but he was reasonably well over Christmas.” Brad went on to say, “He was at home and felt unwell during the night and it was pretty much over shortly after that.”

Graeme was born in Scottsdale, Tasmania, in 1935. His father was the engineer in charge of a small hydro-electric power station in north-eastern Tasmania at a place called Moorina which was way out in the bush. He spent his pre-school years there in village that only had 3 families living there.

It was here that Graham developed his love of the bush. His family moved to Victoria when he was 14 years old, living in Melbourne. He finished his school years at Box Hill Tech and won a scholarship to Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology to study electrical engineering - the first member of his family to ever to have a tertiary education.

After a series of jobs, he worked for an electrical engineering company in Huntingdale for a number of years, finishing up as the Engineering Design Manager. The company wound up after being taken over by another and Graham was retrenched at the age of 55. He had to rethink how to earn his living and after a couple of false starts, set up a consulting business and was running that until he retired.

Graham and Bev started visiting a family member's property in Merrijig in 1998. They loved it so much; they decided to

retire there, building a house on the property after living in the shed on weekends. Graham was always a frustrated farmer and he got to play around on the land for a while.

When he reached the age of 80, his health was starting to decline rapidly and the 40 acres was getting too much to handle, so he and Bev moved into town at Mansfield, where Bev remains today.

Graham leaves behind his wife of 59 years, Beverley, sons Brad, Craig and Des, and 5 grand-children Stephanie, Nicholas, Grace, Ashlee and Jack.

The sympathies of everyone in Merrijig who knew Graham for his family and Bev to whom will also be sent all the best wishes as she works out how to now live her life without her partner of almost 6 decades.

Graham I, (*Adele*), personally found to be an interesting and intelligent man and I enjoyed the conversations we had together. I remember one time he approached me and began talking in such a comfortable friendly way - I was baffled as to who he was, because I did not recognise him at all. It had been some months since I had seen him and eventually it dawned on him that I was not sure who I was speaking to and told me who he was. He had a full beard when I had met him but was now clean shaven and looked completely different. I still find myself smiling over that puzzling conversation. I hope he is resting peacefully.

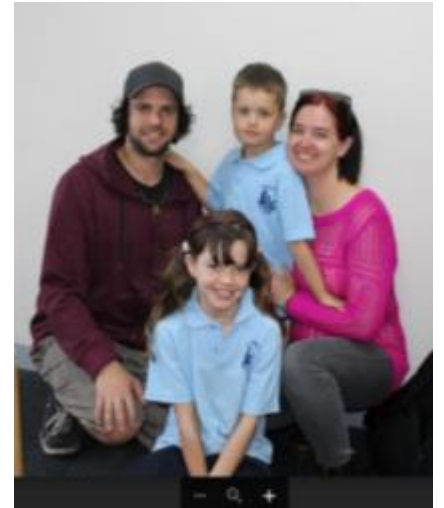
Following up on those happy smiling Preppies at Merrijig Primary School the newsletter started with last month is this lovely picture of

← **Isabella Aistroe**



siblings at Merrijig Primary was his great grandma, Betty, and

Prep 01: Young Carter Hardiman with his big sister, Quinn, and parents



Kimberley and Michael.
Prep 02: Joining his three older Miller McCormack, picture with his grandpa Geoff.

Prep 03: Lauren is another new prep for Merrijig, joining her big brothers Christian and Eden.



Prep 04: There are lots of siblings in this year's intake of preps at Merrijig Primary School, with young Ashleigh Bargerbos no exception. She joins brothers Caleb, Joshua and Christian, and is pictured with mum Saskia.



Prep 05: Jay Follett was very excited to start prep.



The 2018 prep class consists of Lauren Lulic, Ashleigh Bargerbos, Jay Follett, Bella Aistrope, Carter Hardiman, Miller McCormack and Adler Marshall.



fyi

Remember that rule we were all taught in about grade 4 about spelling – well It's NOT always true,

This mug has left off the 2nd half of the rhyme but still.....

The rhyme was made up to help us remember that when the two letters come after **C** they are more often than **NOT I** before **e**

Except for some – E.g. science-efficient-species

March 2018 Message:



Recognition of previous

Glenroy/Merrijig CFA members

Our local CFA is preparing a form of recognition of volunteers from the past, especially those with exceptionally long service as a volunteer firefighter. This will include Honour Boards for the wall in our brigade meeting room, and a presentation event.

CFA official records don't go back far enough for us to be sure that we will pick up all our previous captains, secretaries etc, so we need the help of those of you Merrijigsters who go back a few years. We need names, years, stories, and photos where possible.

If you know of a story of the Merrijig CFA "in the old days", then contact our secretary, Ross May on 0400 868 456, or John McCombe on 0409 230098.

The Amazing CFA – By Roger Gibson

We've all heard of Black Saturday, and we remember well
The blazing fires that swept our State; Infernos. Living Hell.
Well, I met a bloke from hereabouts having a beer with his mate
In what remained of a country pub on the outskirts of King Lake
His name is Curly and he was there on that awful, awful day
He's a Logger and a Volunteer in the amazing CFA

In low tones Curly told us how his home and shed burned down
While he was away, fighting fires, in another country town.
And as we listened, his sad eyes glistened, as he recounted what he saw;
Then a loud and laughing mob came through the lounge-room door.
They were a part of an 'official' team appointed to find out
Who did what and what went wrong, when the fires were about.

They ordered drinks and parked themselves at a table near the wall
And started talking noisily about what went wrong and all.
Who did this and who did that and who should take the blame;
Then Curly's hackles all burred up when they mentioned his fire chief's name.
He had heard enough of this idle chat and couldn't take much more,
So he slowly stood up from where we sat and headed for the door.

But then he stopped, and turned around; a hush fell in that place
He looked at them and quietly spoke; there was anger in his face.
"I am sick and tired of listnin' to yer jabber and yer guff



'Bout who's to blame and who to frame; I've had about enough.
Where wuz youse when we wuz fightin' in that hell-hole and the blaze?
Where wuz youse when the flames wuz hot, on them steamin' nights and days?"



All we hear is who dun wot, and who dun nuthin' too;
But we wuz there, doin' our best; so where the hell wuz you?
It don't matter wot the papers' say 'bout who's to bloody blame;
It's easy pointin' fingers once youse is away from heat and flame
We wuz there in the stinkin' smoke, right down to the wire.
We wuz there, not snug in bed; we wuz fightin' fire with fire."



"Youse have no idea wot it wuz like, breathin' smoke and heat,
With stingin' eyes and red hot skin and burnin' bloody feet.
When fire and embers all around wuz burnin' scrub and tree,
Youse don't know wot it wuz like, to see them animals flee.
We wuz there, we saw them die, we heard them frantic cries,
With burnt and bleedin' hair and paws and terror in them eyes."



"Let's start givin' credit mates, 'cause there's a lot of credit due
To all them teams in yella suits, and to our boys in blue.
Let's stop hurlin' all this abuse at them heroes of our State,
'Cause every bloody one of them deserves a medal, mate.
How would things be without them; and youse were on your own?
Let's give them thanks for the good they dun; give it a bloody bone!"



" 'Course we made some wrong mistakes, we're human after all;
Maybe next time some of yous'll be there to make the bloody call.
Now let me ask: Has any one of youse signed up to lend a helpin' hand
When next we have a Ragin' fire sweep through our lovely land?"
Needless to say the mob stayed mute; not one said a word.
As Curly spoke, calmer now; a pin-drop could be heard.



"This wuz no ordinary fire mates; this one wuz Livin' Hell.
No one could have called it; nor me, nor youse could tell.
It was like the great Tsunami or the Krakatoa blast;
And as natural disasters go, I'll bet it's not the last.
So maybe youse has a crystal ball, and maybe youse can see
Where and when and just wot size the next one's gonna be."

Then Curly went all silent as some thoughts went through his head,
'Will it be the same the next time? Have they heard a word I've said?
Will the findin's just be used for votes? And as with 'Black' days gone before,
Will they end up on some dusty shelf or in some bottom drawer.....?'
He touched his cap and said g'day, then he sadly walked away;
A credit to all the Volunteers in the amazing CFA.



Who's Doing What Lately?



State MP impressed with Five Pines Merrijig War and Service Memorial.

Cindy McLeish our member for Eildon came over to our War & Service Memorial after the Tolmie Sports and gave Peter Howarth, representing the Merrijig Hall Memorial sub-committee, a new large

National Flag.

Cindy spent considerable time looking at the work of the community and was very impressed, particularly with the pillars of the Remembrance Walk and the other great stonework by Chicken (Steve Srnec).

Cindy has always supported our grant applications and indicated she would like to be present at our 2019 ANZAC Day service, and she was assured by Peter, that she would be very welcome.



THE END OF AN ERA



Lovick's Mountain Safari's began in 1967 with Jack Lovick, the eldest grandson of pioneers William and Kate Lovick, who built up the business with his son Charlie and daughter in law Glenda. When Jack died Charlie and Glenda changed the name to embrace the area they took the trail rides and the business was called Lovick's High country Adventures - following the sudden and unexpected death of Glenda, Charlie handed the reigns over to their daughter Kellie, who although very bereaved following the loss of her much loved mum, made every effort to keep the business going but recently posted this letter on Facebook no doubt following soul searching considerations.

"To all our dear valued customers, friends and family.

After many hours, days and weeks of discussions we have come to the decision to call it a day on our business. The last 12 months has been one hell of a ride. We have lost and added to our family. This decision hasn't come lightly as there are a lot of you counting on us still being around forever. Something's have an expiry date and ours is here.

I was born into the business and have been a part of it for 31 years. I have seen you all come and go over this time. I have shared myself with you all and showed you my backyard. It is now time for me to share myself with my young growing family.

I cannot thank you all enough for staying with us over the years. Most of you have been with us for over 40 years. The next chapter for us is only around the corner. I will always call the mountains home. We will always be out in the bush on a horse.

I would love to see you all again for a ride before the end of our season. Come say goodbye to us and your favourite horse.

Truly yours,

Ben, Kellie, Jake, Corey, Charlie and all the Lovick staff members."



So many people responded to this announcement bringing up great memories of wonderful trips they took with the Lovicks into the mountains that Kellie responded by saying "thank you all for your thoughts and comments. - We have the following rides with availability between now and the end of our final season in operation. Get in quick if you would like to ride with the Lovick crew one last time!

February 11th - 19th: 9 Day ride, 4 spots available at \$2,700.00

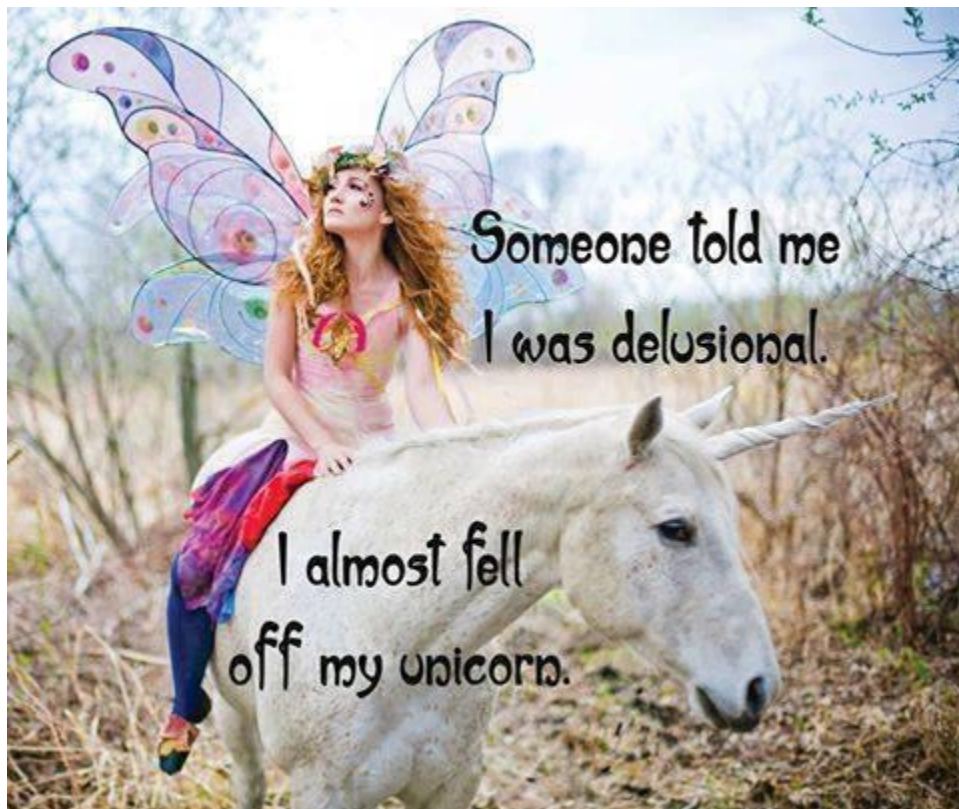
March 3rd - 4th: weekend ride, 3 spots available at \$500.00
 March 17th-18th: weekend ride, 1 spot available at \$500.00
 April 7th-8th, 14th-15th, 21st-22nd: weekend ride at \$500.00

AND:

Our Final Ride, Our Last Hoorah, End of Season ride on the 28th - 29th of April we have 8 spots available at \$480.00

Email contact@lovicks.com.au for further information or to book a spot with us.

As one door closes another will open – Charlie can enjoy his retirement after working in this area for 51 years alongside his father, his wife and his daughter and Kellie can enjoy her job as a mum. Who knows what lies around the corner?



If Cyril the Pony will agree to be dressed up,
 there will be Unicorn rides at Merrijig Family fun Day & Gymkhana
 on March 24th at McCormack Park.

Local Merrijig tree is a Victoria Champion.

ational Register of Big Trees

Australia's Champion Trees

TREE DETAILS

Common Name : **Box - Yellow "Eywa"**
Scientific Name : **Eucalyptus melliodora**
Circumference : **7.00 metres** (275 inches)
Height : **25.00 metres** (82 feet)
Crown : **37.00 metres** (121 feet)


Points : 387

State : **VIC**
Town : **Mansfield**
Access : **Private**

Location : **535 Buttercup Rd Merrijig**
Coordinates : **37° 04' 04.65" s 146° 16' 27.61" e**
[Click to view in maps](#)

Nominator : **Greg & Kerrie Purcell**
Year Measured : **2018**
Age : **275**
Type : **Remnant**

Comments : **VICTORIAN CHAMPION**






[\[Click to Enlarge\]](#)

[See High Resolution Photo](#)

Additional Information

[View Website Link](#)

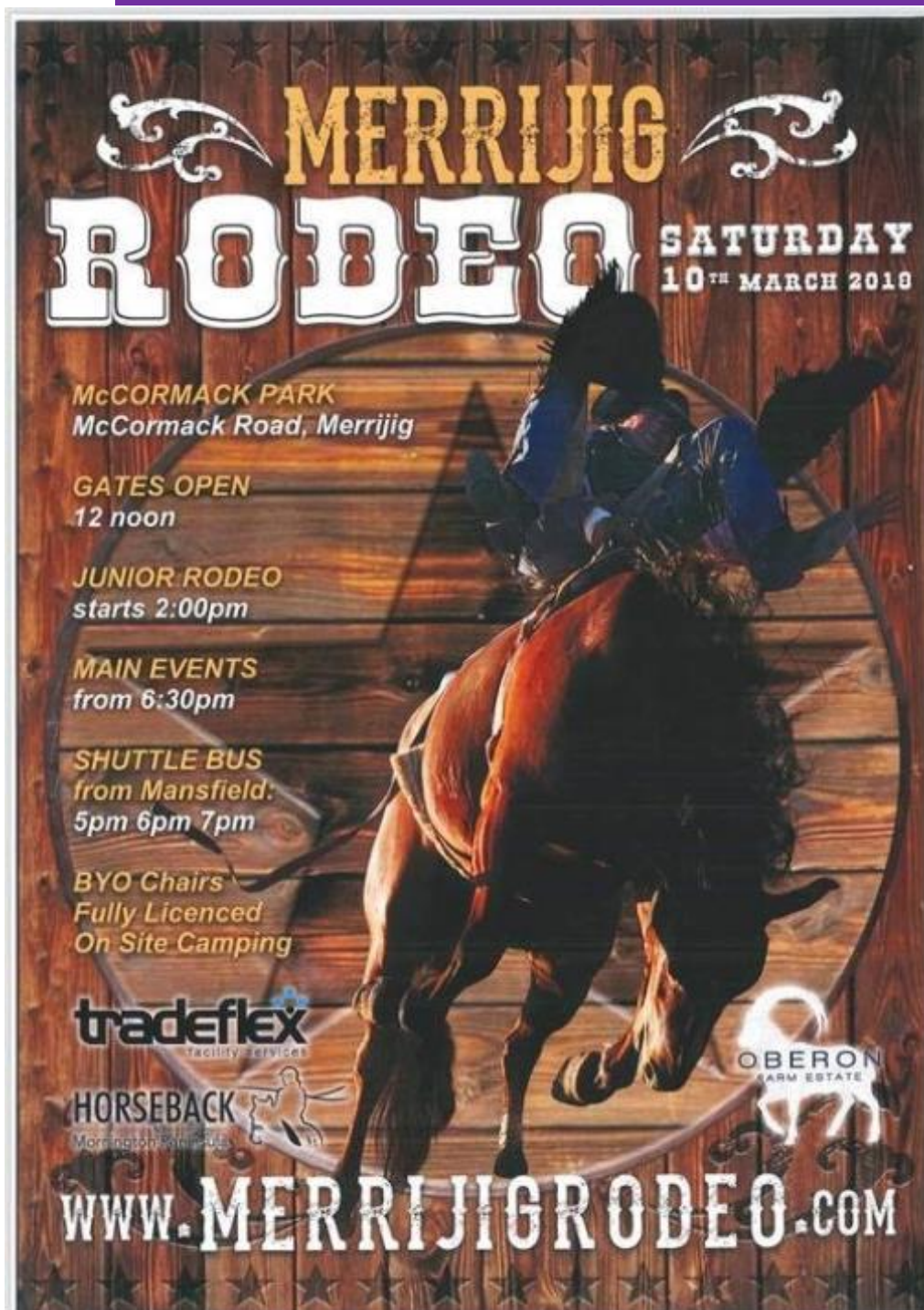




Scroll left to right for more photos.... Click on a photo to enlarge it

<https://www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au/index.php>

**Hunt Club Happy Hour: Every Thursday
6:00pm to 7:15pm
Trivia ever second Tuesday
Next is March 6th then 20th onto April 3rd and so on.**

What's happening around here in March?



**Two events
you don't want
to miss - so
mark them on
your calendar
today.**

Check out the poster for Shuttle bus times and not the gate opening time of mid day.

There is the Locals Steer ride included in the program – always a popular event, and locals are encouraged to give it a go.

Newly crowned Merrijig Rodeo Queen Danielle Stefanutti will be attending – come along and meet Danielle and wish her well in the crowning finals later on in the year.

Any queries or contact needed email Secretary Robyn on

merrijigrodeo@yahoo.com

Two weeks later - Another Merrijig Event

Merrijig Family fun Day is now preparing for its 4th event.

Entertainers there is space on the stage area for you to show your stuff.

Calling for musicians, singers, poets, jugglers, magicians, and comedians to register to be included in the program of entertainment on Fun Day.

Two more people for taking the entry money and handing out programs would be helpful.

The CFA and Hall committee are combining to cook the BBQ this year.

So come along and support YOUR community the aim of this day is to give opportunities to the local community and the local community is supported with Fun Day profits.

Contact Secretary
Tracey Kelly on
merrijigfunday@gmail.com





THANKS SPONSORS

Events such as Merrijig Family Fun Day & Gymkhana would not get off the ground if it were not for sponsors supporting the efforts of the committee

Every year since Fun Days began Locals have supported with cash or in kind donations. These donations provide the popular Monster raffle with amazing prizes, and the cash donations provide the free jumping castle and all the trophies and ribbons for both Gymkhana, Foot races and novelty events.

This year the show bag project has been really well supported by small businesses in the district.

As you wander around on Fun day you will be able to see the names of all the sponsors who have made the day happen.

We hope you will support the businesses and individuals who support local events such as Fun day and Gymkhana as well as all other events in Merrijig such as the Rodeo, Campdraft and Motorbike club events.

Such a great place to live where events are put on for enjoyment of the locals and supported by locals.



Then coming up in April



JOIN US FOR AN EASTER FEAST
ON EASTER SUNDAY FOR LUNCH
Sunday 1st April from 12.30pm

3 Course set menu - \$55.00 pp
includes a glass of wine

Children under 14 years
2 Course menu - \$25.00 pp
includes a glass of soft drink/juice

Booking essential 5777 5868
themillinn@bigpond.com
www.millinn-merrijig.com

THE MILL INN **SAWMILL MERRIJIG**

Also open every evening during Easter from 5.30pm
Full a la Carte menu available * Public holiday surcharges may apply

**I started a band called
999 Megabytes.**

We still haven't got a gig.

Alex's Dad Jokes

Yesterday a man attacked me with milk and cheese...

How dairy

The other day a man tried to mug me with a blunt knife...

It was pointless

When does a joke become a dad joke?

When the punchline becomes apparent.

I own a pencil that used to be owned by William Shakespeare, but he chewed it a lot...

Now I can't tell if it's 2B or not 2B



Autumn firewood collection season to open

The Autumn Firewood Collection Season for 2018 starts across Victoria on Thursday 1 March and closes on 30 June.

Hume Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Gill Metz announced that it will once again be legal to collect firewood from designated areas on public land across Victoria from 1 March 2018 until 30 June 2018.

Under the Forest Act 1958, people who collect firewood outside designated firewood collection areas or a firewood collection season or take more than the maximum allowable amounts can face an infringement notice of \$634, or a maximum penalty of one-year imprisonment or a fine of up to \$7,928 or both, if the matter proceeded to Court.

More information and updates, including interactive maps showing designated collection areas, will be available on www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood from 1 March, or you can call 136 186 to find out more.



Merrijig Family Fun Day ... this year on Saturday March 24th - 10 till 4 - you don't want to miss this - wonderful and inexpensive family day out.

November is the month for the lucky child whose parents Register for the draw of a FREE family pass to cover mum and dad and Uncle and Aunty or best friends family as well as Grandma and Grandpa. All you need to do is email merrijigfunday@gmail.com with your child's name and date of birth in November, along with your email address. Simple as that, no strings attached



YOU'RE INVITED TO HAVE



Book a stall extended to March 5th - its first in best dressed as we try not to double up on the same type of stall. Any club or group - school or organization that makes community great can have a site free of fee - private stalls are only \$25. Promote your club or group, have a fun activity to raise funds, or simply inform the visitors about what you have to offer. With an average of 1000 people visiting Fun Day this is a great opportunity for personal stalls or community stalls. Contact

Rhyll - the market manager via merrijigfunday@gmail.com

A Readers observations around Merrijig

30.1.2018 **Overcoming the dark** By Christine Sheldrick

While I was out walking I spotted something unusual on some young wattle suckers growing beside the track. Much of the fresh growth had been eaten and attached to the frail stems were many dark forms which I at first took to be caterpillars. Closer inspection showed that the capsules were chrysalis and they were covered with a swarm of black ants.

I stood and stared at this fascinating sight.

Out of this mess fluttered a delicate butterfly. Its wings were shaded in pastel colours, different on each side and it had a delicate, fretwork, black tail. With some struggle it made little fluttering flights between the denuded twigs, gathering strength with each attempt. I saw one, then another and soon there were half a dozen fluttering around, free of their cells and the clamouring ants. It was a miracle. Another miracle of life and overcoming, beauty out of mayhem.

So, the creatures were encased, imprisoned, time was needed for the metamorphoses to change the caterpillar into a butterfly. Did the ants help open the box? Did the possible predator enable the release?

We know butterflies have to struggle to release themselves and it is this struggle which sends the life giving "juices" into its wings to give it the strength to fly. Too much help prevents achievement and too little keeps the bars of prison shut.

What a education nature gives us. In times of dark and imprisonment, much miraculous change can take place. A time to be still and learn. It takes time to change us, locked in our confinement we are given that time. We can decide to grow or to shrivel there. If we see our difficult circumstances as a place of metamorphosis, our torturers as possible enablers, if we manage their impact, like the ants nibbling the encasing box, then, we see our release as our time to fly and spread beauty even though we have to learn a new way of being, exercise our new thinking, strengthen our faith and keep flying as we escape from the teaming tentacles of doubt and fear reaching out from our former captivity.

Post script:

Passing by the spot again I saw eaten sticks of wattle and some dark objects on them. The ants were finishing off the chrysalis. Any baby butterfly which had not fought its way free had become food. Food for thought!



MANSFIELD SHIRE

Cr Marg Attley:-Your local representative on Mansfield Shire Council. Available to be contacted on: 5776 2231 or marg.attley@mansfield.vic.gov.au

A WORD FROM THE SHIRE

<http://www.mansfield.vic.gov.au/home.aspx>



Delivering the NDIS in your community

Have you heard of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, but you're not sure if you're eligible?

Or maybe you just want to know how to get started?

Come and have an informal chat with staff from Latrobe Community Health Service, the local NDIS partner, and find out more about the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in your area.

When: Wednesday 14th March 2018

Where: Mansfield Library 10.00am – 12.00pm,
Jamieson Community Hall 2.00pm – 3.00pm

Appointments are not necessary, just drop in.

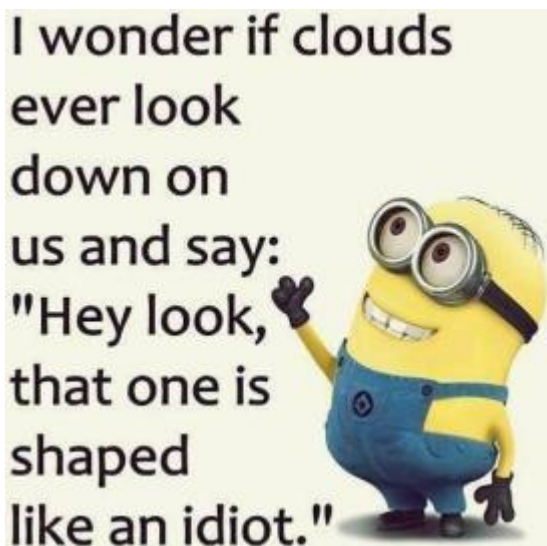
For further information contact Rural Access worker at Mansfield Shire Council,
03 5775 8555

Latrobe Community Health are coming to Mansfield to assist any person in the community who has questions on the NDIS. Please feel free to attend in Mansfield or Jamieson.



MANSFIELD SHIRE

NOW FOR A FINAL GOOD LAUGH!



Bye for now Adele

Adele McCormack
45 McCormacks Rd
Merrijig 3723
☎ 0409 600 655

