

Tarrangower Times

Est 1858

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Friday, October 1, 2021

The Great Macaw Escape



☆ Safe and well: Melitta Lee with Brenda (on the left) and Bruce, the colourful Macaws. See the story on p. 12.
Photos courtesy of Rob Leeson.

Maldon Hospital Update

There has been widespread concern throughout Maldon regarding the fact that, as from Friday 17 September, the Maldon Hospital is no longer running an Urgent Care Centre.

While all Hospital stakeholders were kept in the loop in the lead-up to the decision, the wider community was not consulted. The public was informed by a post on the Maldon Hospital's website, and in response to this report the *Times* published an article on 17 September.

In order to seek a little more clarity on the matter, the *Times* spoke to Maldon Hospital's Director of Nursing Shannon Uren and CEO Sue Race this week. Sue wears two CEO hats - she is CEO of Castlemaine Hospital as well as the Maldon Hospital.

The main message is: in terms of the medical assistance that the Maldon Hospital is able to provide, nothing has changed.

If you turn up at the Maldon Hospital seeking medical assistance, you will always be looked after. There will be

supportive care available and an ambulance will be called if needed.

If you ring the Maldon Hospital looking for medical guidance, there will be a nurse at the end of the phone giving the best advice that they can.

But always bear in mind that there is no capacity at the Maldon Hospital to provide advanced life support. If you

Continued on page 3

Financial incentives for kinder teachers.

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Community Diary

If you have a community event that you would like publicised in this Community Diary, please email: karen@tarrangowertimes.com.au or send details to us at PO Box 18 Maldon 3463, or drop a note into the letterbox in the office door to have it listed.

This is a free community service.
It is a good idea to advertise closer to the event.

EVERY DAY EXCEPT MONDAY

LIONS CLUB OP SHOP, 10am to 2pm. Enq: Jenny 0407 158 833.

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

CASTLEMAINE FARMERS MARKET, 9am to 1pm at the IGA carpark in Forest Street. Enq: www.castlemainefarmersmarket.org or 0490 366 243.

EVERY SUNDAY

MALDON MUSEUM, Shire Gardens, 11.30am - 2pm. Admission \$2.50 adults, children free.

EVERY SUNDAY FORTNIGHT

MALDON PÉTANQUE CLUB games every second Sunday at St. Brigid's at 1.30 for a 2pm start. Enq: Sandy Noble 0429 006 130. Andrew Leckie 5400 1054.

SOCIAL PÉTANQUE is played on the Penny School pistes every second Sunday, alternating with MPC, at 1.45 for a 2pm start, unless rain is bucketing down, or it is over 30°. Enq: 0459 093 452.

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

MALDON MARKET: Hand Made, Home Grown, 9am - 1.30pm. Bill Woodfull Recreation Reserve.

THE MALDON VINTAGE MACHINERY & MUSEUM is a haven for machinery enthusiast's before and after the industrial revolution, but with more. Open 10am-4pm. Entry free - donations welcome. More info: Peter 0408 146 537.

LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

CASTLEMAINE REPAIR CAFE, 10am - 1pm at Castlemaine Community House ,30 Templeton St. Enter from back door. Bring along broken electrical, general sewing repairs and maybe a cuppa and weekend paper in case you have to wait a while. No kitchen because of COVID. Gold coin donation. Learn to repair.

EVERY MONDAY

OCCASIONAL CHILDCARE, Maldon Neighbourhood Centre 9.30am-2.30pm. Enq. 5475 2093 or info@maldonnc.org.au.

ATHENAEUM LIBRARY, High Street, Maldon. 2-4pm. Suzette Phillips 0429 776 893.

MALDON BRIDGE CLUB at the Maldon Hotel, 1.15pm - 4.30pm. New players welcome including solo players. Enq: Danny Murphy 0430 733 782.

MALDON WALKING GROUP, starting at 9.30am for a gentle walk. Start at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre. No booking required. Cancelled if heavy rain or a Code Red Day. Enq: 5479 1000.

SOCIAL GOLF - 8.30am - 9 holes, free for members or \$10 green fees. Enq: maldongolf4u@gmail.com or Gay Reid 0413 013 766.

Tarrangower Times

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Est 1858

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CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES:

• Community and News 12noon Tuesday.

• Late notices such as Births and Deaths by 10.30am Wednesday.

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NORDIC POLE WALKING (during school terms), 9.30am at Castlemaine Botanical Gardens. Further info and bookings 5479 1000.

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD MORNINGS from 10am MNC Community garden.

SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH

THE MALDON GARDEN, FLORAL ART AND CRAFT CLUB, 2pm. Enqs: Carmel 0417 014 763 or Robyn 0418 544 966.

THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD MORNINGS from 10am MNC Community garden.

THE MALDON GARDEN, FLORAL ART AND CRAFT CLUB, 2pm. Enqs: Carmel 0417 014 763 or Robyn 0418 544 966.

EVERY TUESDAY

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICE. Book the day prior for your door-to-door service. Trips within and to Maldon & Castlemaine in the morning, fortnightly trips to Maryborough and Kangaroo Flat. Phone 5475 2093. \$3 one way, \$5 return. More info: www.maldonnc.org.au/community-bus.

MAH JONG for seniors 10am-1pm at Maldon Community Centre. Beginners welcome. Enquiries: Kerry 0407 738 855.

MALDON BOWLING CLUB, at 10am, as long as COVID restrictions allow.

MALDON BRISK WALKING GROUP, 7.30am meet at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre.

MALDON SOCIAL TABLE TENNIS, 1.30pm-3.30pm, Maldon Community Centre. Cost \$10 subscription to Maldon Seniors, \$2 donation on the day. Enq. Anne 0425 859 662.

MALDON CROQUET CLUB, 9.30am. New members welcome. Enq. Damien Kennedy 0428 130 764.

YOGA AND RELAXATION, Maldon Neighbourhood Centre Hall. Evenings 6-7.30pm. Come and try, first class free. Enq: Andrea 0427 772 878.

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

NUGGETTY LAND PROTECTION GROUP meeting. For further info contact Christine Fitzgerald - ckfitz5@bigpond.com - 0419 347 408.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

ATHENAEUM LIBRARY, High Street, Maldon. 2-4pm. Enqs Suzette Phillips 0429 776 893.

CANASTA for seniors 10am at Maldon Community Centre. Beginners welcome. Enquiries: Lyn 0409 566 551.

COMMUNITY LUNCH (no lockdowns) 12 noon, Maldon Community Centre. Delicious two-course lunch during school terms. All welcome. \$5. Enq: 5475 2093 **OR COMMUNITY PANTRY** (during lockdowns) Delicious home-delivered meals for a \$5 donation. Order info@maldonnc.org.au or 5475 2093.

EASY STEPS TO FITNESS AEROBICS, 9am - 10am Maldon Neighbourhood Centre, beginners welcome. Starts 5 May. \$10 concession, \$15 full. Enq: Sean 0419 210 043.

HATHA YOGA WITH WENDY, 5 - 6.30pm at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre.

MALDON MEN'S SHED, 10am to 4pm at rear of Vintage Machinery Museum (accessed from Phoenix Street). All welcome. Contact Barry Murfett 0403 352 753. (Note: Closed on days of Total Fire Ban or over 38°).

MALDON MUSEUM, Shire Gardens, 11.30am - 2pm. Admission \$2.50 adults, children free.

NORDIC POLE WALKING (during school terms), 5.30pm in Maldon. Further info and bookings 5479 1000.

THE MALDON VINTAGE MACHINERY & MUSEUM is a haven for machinery enthusiast's before and after the industrial revolution, but with more. Open 11am-3pm. Entry free - donations welcome. More info: Peter 0408 146 537.

YOUNG AT HEART PLAYGROUP, Maldon Neighbourhood Centre 10-11.30am. Enq. 5475 2093 or info@maldonnc.org.au.

EVERY WEDNESDAY FORTNIGHT

ART & CRAFT GROUP, 1.30pm - 4pm at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre.

EVERY FOURTH WEDNESDAY

MALDON CEMETERY FRIENDS WORKING BEE, 9.30am - 11.30am. Please come out and help get our historic cemetery clean, weed free and blooming! Our cemetery grounds and buildings need a little care and attention from some willing helpers on a regular basis. Training, equipment and morning tea provided. BYO Hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and especially gardening gloves.

EVERY THURSDAY

TAI CHI EXERCISE GROUP (CHIRP), 10.30-11.30am at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre. Contact Jenny 0417 475 270 to register.

MALDON BOWLS CLUB, Bowls practice anytime Thursday until dark.

MALDON BRIDGE CLUB, 12.45pm to 4.30pm at the Maldon Hotel. New players welcome including solo players. Enq: Danny Murphy 0430 733 782.

MALDON CROQUET CLUB, 9.30am. New members welcome. Enq. Damien Kennedy 0428 130 764.

MALDON CHESS CLUB, 10.30am. Do you play? Come along. Do you want to learn? Come along. For enquiries contact John 0438 012 076.

NORDIC POLE WALKING (during school terms), 9.30am at Castlemaine Botanical Gardens. Further info and bookings 5479 1000.

OASIS KID'S CLUB, 3.20pm-4.45pm Maldon Baptist Hall, Edward Street. All primary aged children welcome. Free. Enq Gavin & Julie 5475 2338 or 0458 084 728.

SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

FREEMASONS MALDON meet at 7.30pm. Enq: Peter 5472 2202.

EVERY FRIDAY

ATHENAEUM LIBRARY, High Street, Maldon. 2-4pm. Enqs Suzette Phillips 0429 776 893.

CHAIR YOGA, 11am - 12 noon at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre.

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COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICE. Book the day prior for your door-to-door service. Trips within and to Maldon & Castlemaine in the morning, fortnightly trips to Maryborough and Kangaroo Flat. Phone 5475 2093. \$3 one way, \$5 return. More info: www.maldonnc.org.au/community-bus.

MALDON MUSEUM HISTORY RESEARCH CENTRE, 10am - 1pm.

MALDON SOCIAL WALKING GROUP, Gentle walking. 9.30am meet at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre.

HATHA YOGA WITH WENDY, 9 - 10.30am at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre.

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SOCIAL GOLF - 8.30am - 9 holes, free for members or \$10 green fees. Enq: maldongolf4u@gmail.com or Gay Reid 0413 013 766.

SECOND FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

MALDON RSL SUB-BRANCH Monthly meeting in the Maldon RSL Hall behind the Athenaeum Library at 3pm. All Service and ex Service members are welcome to attend. No meeting in January.

LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

MAREE EDWARDS LISTENING POSTS are postponed until further notice. My office is still available for assistance, please contact us on 5410 2444 or maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au.

EVERY SATURDAY

ATHENAEUM LIBRARY, High Street, Maldon. 9.30am - noon. Enqs Suzette Phillips 0429 776 893.

MALDON MEN'S SHED, from 9am to 12pm at rear of Vintage Machinery Museum (accessed from Phoenix Street). All welcome. Contact Barry Murfett 0403 352 753. (Note: Closed on days of Total Fire Ban or over 38°).

MALDON CROQUET CLUB, 9.30am. New members welcome. Enq. Damien Kennedy 0428 130 764.

THE MALDON VINTAGE MACHINERY & MUSEUM is a haven for machinery enthusiasts before and after the industrial revolution, but with more. Open 10am-4pm. Entry free - donations welcome. More info: Peter 0408 146 537.

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Maldon Hospital Update

Continued from page 1

require immediate emergency care, always dial 000 and an ambulance will be called.

According to Ms Race, the Maldon Hospital Board's decision regarding the Urgent Care Centre was based on a clinical risk assessment of whether the Centre fell within Department of

Health guidelines governing the operation of emergency departments and urgent care centres. "The Board was simply formalising what has always been," she said. "By not advertising that we have an urgent care centre, we are being clear on what we can't treat. We are not misleading people."

In other words: the Maldon Hospital cannot provide the level of care that is available at the Bendigo Health and Castlemaine Health emergency departments.

While the Maldon Hospital has been in existence since 1859, there has not always been access to outpatient care in an emergency. Longtime

residents can probably recall the tragic death that was the catalyst for opening an urgent care centre at the Maldon Hospital, over 30 years ago. This was a man who, suffering a severe asthma attack, died while being driven in a private car to the Castlemaine Hospital.

The *Times* spoke to local builder Kinga Roy, who over the past 30 years has visited the Maldon Hospital many times to be patched up after on-site accidents. "I'm a tapestry of Chris Fowler's work and have nothing but praise for the Hospital," he said. "There were the 30 stitches that I needed after an angle grinder hit my head. And then there was the time that I severed my thumb. The Hospital was the first place I went to and they sent me to Bendigo. From there, I went to Melbourne for microsurgery. My apprentices also had the odd stitch up at the Hospital."

Kinga will no doubt be reassured by the news that, if he has a run-in with a power tool, he can still pop up to the Hospital to be assessed. "You can ring us up, and come up and see us," Ms Uren said. "We can have a look and see if you need stitching."

Maldon residents are justifiably proud of their Hospital, which they managed to hold onto during the slash and burn policies of the Kennett years. Autonomy for the Maldon Hospital is, according to many locals, paramount. There is often the concern that the smaller Maldon Hospital is in danger of being swallowed by the much larger Castlemaine Health.

"That simply won't happen," Ms Race said. "The Maldon Hospital has had a service agreement with Castlemaine Health for 42 years. We're interconnected in so many ways, but Maldon Hospital will always be independent of Castlemaine Health."

See the Maldon Hospital's Frequently Asked Questions advertisement on page 5 for further info.

COVID Update

THERE has been a slight easing of COVID-19 restrictions across the regions in Victoria this week.

The City of Greater Bendigo is one of the municipalities that has been selected to take part in a vaccinated economy trial. The trials will cover hospitality, hairdressing, beauty services and tourism businesses. Also included in the trials are events such as race meetings, community celebrations and concerts – allowing higher patron numbers with all attendees confirmed as being fully vaccinated.

The trials will begin on 11 October, with the State Government working with local councils and industry bodies to help identify suitable businesses and events. It is anticipated that the trials will confirm the best processes for establishing vaccination status, with work underway on how Commonwealth vaccination data can be best integrated with the Service Victoria app.

Opposition to Rates Rise Proposal

A significant number of submissions regarding Mount Alexander Shire's Draft Rating Strategy were considered at Council's Special Meeting on 14 September.

There were around 30 written submissions tabled at the meeting, while 11 people presented their submissions in person.

One recommendation of the Draft Rating Strategy, if adopted by Council, would see an increase of the commercial rate from 130% to 150% of the residential rate over a two-year period. This proposal has been opposed by a number of business owners, and that includes accommodation providers.

Maldon Inc President and accommodation provider Kate Gamble is one of the people who presented a submission to Council's Special Meeting. She was unhappy with the tight timeline in the lead-up to the meeting, with the Draft Rating Strategy being made public on 30 August, submissions closing on 8 September and the Special Meeting taking place on 14 September. That allowed only nine days for objectors to get their ducks all in a row.

"An increase like this will have a negative impact on small towns," Ms Gamble said. "These are really tough times for traders at the moment, so the timing of such a proposal is unbelievably bad."

Will the submissions made at the Special Meeting be taken on board by Council? The *Times* spoke to local Councillor Stephen Gardner and Mayor Tony Cordy. "Council is looking at it" was the response. They acknowledged that there was a strong representation from the business community to keep the commercial rate at the existing level.

A decision regarding the Draft Rating Strategy is expected to be made at Council's November meeting.

Panacea Estate Opens



☆ Darren Trotter holding a bottle of Panacea Estate 2019 Shiraz out in the vineyard. Darren is responsible for a number of maintenance duties at Panacea.

☆ *Photo courtesy Rob Leeson*

THE Panacea Estate winery opened its doors to the public last weekend, and welcomed the public with wine tastings and tours of the vineyard.

Located on Seers Road, south of Maldon, Panacea Estate was previously known as Chapples Cairn Curran Estate and was bought by Peter Christen from owners Arthur and Lynette Chapple earlier this year.

On offer at the vineyard are three different wines - Semillon, Rose and Shiraz - all produced under the Panacea label. There are also some reds available that were previously bottled under the Cairn Curran Estate label,

during Arthur's and Lynette's reign.

There are 11 and a half acres of vines at Panacea and that includes seven and a half acres of Shiraz. Further ground has been prepared to plant new vines. "I'm still deciding what I'm going to plant," Peter said. "It'll be varieties that like a warm climate."

Located on a slope leading down to Cairn Curran, the vineyard is, according to Peter, in an ideal position. "The lake acts as a heat sink, so there aren't a lot of frosts here," he said. "And there's always a breeze, which reduces the risks of moulds and funguses on the vines."

There's no doubt about it: the view from the vineyard across Cairn Curran is spectacular and, according to Peter, has restorative qualities. As does the wine! "Panacea was the goddess of healing, and I want our visitors to feel the curative effects of a visit to the vineyard," he said.

While Peter's career has largely been spent in the mining industry, he comes from a farming background which will stand him in good stead. And he's passionate about wine. Peter's looking forward to the challenge of owning a vineyard and making some outstanding wines.

ADVERTISEMENT

Maree Edwards MP

STATE MEMBER FOR BENDIGO WEST

Listening Posts are postponed until further notice.

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Councillor's Column

with Tarrengower Ward Councillor Stephen Gardner



ANOTHER busy couple of months on Council and Maldon in general.

We have been in and out of lockdown – which I know is very draining for everyone. We are close to meeting targets in the Vic Government's road map, so I am sure we are all looking forward to getting back to some sort of normal. Our local hospital, GPs and pharmacies have played a big part of getting us vaccinated and our Shire has one of the highest rates in Victoria – well done to all.

The Maldon Streetscape project is continuing and local heritage people have been working on the design of the proposed cross overs and I am looking forward to seeing what has been developed. These re-designed cross overs will be reviewed by the local committee overseeing this project. There has been delays in this due to COVID-19 restrictions and not being able to meet to discuss and finalise. Council is also about to launch the shop front rejuvenation component, where shop holders can apply for grants to upgrade infrastructure.

Council meetings

Since the last time I wrote for the *TT* there has been

three Council meetings. Unfortunately I couldn't attend the August Council meeting due to a prior work commitment but this meeting was via Zoom and was mainly an administrative one, so I didn't miss much.

In September there were two meetings of Council – a special meeting of Council and the usual monthly meeting of Council.

Special Meeting of Council

On 14 September, Council held a special meeting to hear public submissions on the proposed Draft Councils rating strategy. This strategy was developed by a consultant on behalf of Council who has a lot of experience on this topic. It is also a requirement of the Local Government Act that Councils review its rating strategy every four years. A decision will be made at the November Council meeting on this.

This strategy is attempting to address a number of problems with our current rating strategy. The farming community is paying very high rates; residential rates pay the majority of the total rates collected and some activities should be classified as commercial to make it equitable and fair.

There were a number of issues that this draft strategy raised that saw a number of submissions, such as:

- Increasing the commercial rates to 150% over the four-year period
- Reducing the farm rate to 80%
- Classification of short-term rental properties as commercial properties.

Maldon was well represented at this meeting with a

number of people representing local business and short-term accommodation. Obviously, all were against any rates increase. I am supportive of this position, particularly at the moment when the business community is suffering with on going restrictions and lockdowns. I feel it is not the right time to be increasing costs on business owners.

I do, though, support rating short term rental properties at commercial rates. I support this for the following reasons:

- These properties are competing against hotels and motels which are rated and classified as commercial. Renting houses for short term rental is for a commercial gain and should be rated as such;
- It may also see some of the property owners decide to either rent them out permanently or sell them. Either way, a house is better to be owned/rented on a permanent basis as we are in a housing crisis at the moment.

Having said this, I do believe it is not the time to be increasing anyone's rates (commercial or residential) and I will be working with my fellow Councillors to try and see a zero rate increase across the board for the remainder of my term.

September Council Meeting

This Council meeting was on zoom with limited public attendance. The main issues discussed include:

Council's draft financial statements for the period ending 30 June 2021. Despite COVID-19, Council has recorded a healthy surplus that was larger than anticipated. This was mainly due to projects not able to proceed as a direct result of COVID-19, such as material not available and staff not able to carry out work due to restrictions. This healthy surplus only reinforces in my mind that there should be no rate increases for the rest of my term.

Chewton Statue. This would have been one of the

most difficult planning matters to date and I would never have imagined that a simple statue on private property would result in so much angst and community division. I made it clear that in making my decision it was not about the merits of the person in the statue but purely a planning matter and personally I do not believe that such matter should be coming to Council.

The majority of Councillors supported this application and I now hope that the community of Chewton can get together and overcome this recent internal division.

On a personal note, I recently resigned from the Maldon Hospital Board as I do not agree with the direction the Board is heading and the closure of the urgent care centre is one these. I personally believe in local health services being run and managed by local communities. By remaining on the Maldon Hospital Board, it puts me in direct conflict with these beliefs and supporting my local communities going forward. I have been on this board for nearly seven years and it was very sad for me to come to this decision.

I am looking forward to warmer weather and getting back to normalish, so in the meantime be kind to each other and stay safe.

New Local Law for Weed Control in Shire



☆ Wheel Cactus in Flower.

Photo courtesy TCCG.

SPRINGTIME is full of glorious growth and colour, but alas this also includes some species that don't belong.

Some introduced plants have invaded our native landscapes and cause enormous problems to our native wildlife and our local farmers. Wheel Cactus (*Opuntia robusta*), from Mexico, is one of these introduced plants. Uncontrolled infestations of this cactus prevents growth of our indigenous plants, which causes an imbalance in the native ecosystem and lack of food source for native insects, birds etc.

Mount Alexander Shire Council have recently released a revised version of their Local Law, which includes a new Bylaw specific to the Control of Noxious Weeds (Clause 19). This new law makes it easier for Bylaw Officers to impose management of noxious weeds by landowners and will help reduce the spread of weeds. This will be especially effective for problem weed infestations on properties with absent owners, who are sometimes oblivious of their noxious weed responsibilities. If there's a Wheel Cactus infestation on a neighbouring property but you cannot connect with the landowner, don't hesitate to contact the Mt. Alexander Shire Bylaw Officer for assistance.

Tarrangower Cactus Control Group has had to again cancel the regular Community Field Day due to COVID-19 restrictions, but if you need any help and/or advice on how to control your Wheel Cactus infestation, then please contact us via our website www.cactuswarriors.org. Hopefully we'll be able to hold a field day at the end of October.

Lee Mead



ASX: KZR

Kalamazoo Resources Limited is a gold exploration company with a primary focus on identifying commercially viable gold deposits within the central Victorian Goldfields consisting of three key projects.

1. **Castlemaine Gold Project** is located ~120km NW of Melbourne. Granted licences (EL6679, EL6752 and EL7112) which lie East and South of the Castlemaine township, covering most of the historic Castlemaine Goldfield.
2. **South Muckleford Gold Project** is located ~150km NW of Melbourne. Granted licences (EL6959 and EL7021). This project is located only 10km from the Castlemaine Gold Project.
3. **Myrtle Gold Project** is located ~135km NW of Melbourne. Granted licence (EL7323) located just 30km south of the Fosterville Gold Mine.

Kalamazoo is planning to conduct low-impact gold exploration activities within these project areas.

To discuss any of our projects or if you require any further information, please visit <https://kzr.com.au/castlemaine-gold/> or Luke Mortimer on 03 9988 7796 or luke.mortimer@kzr.com.au.

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Urgent Care Centre change Frequently Asked Questions

Maldon Hospital wishes to explain how we deliver care to our community.



1. What did the Urgent Care Centre do?

The Urgent Care Centre was a nurse-led service (with our local GP on call) that focused on the treatment of injuries or illnesses that required immediate care, but were not serious enough to require an Emergency Department visit.

2. Where will I go if there is an emergency?

In any emergency, nothing changes – if you require immediate emergency care dial 000 and an ambulance will be called. In all other cases, please call the hospital on 5475 2000 for advice from the nurse on duty on what to do next.

3. What services do Maldon Hospital now offer?

All the services Maldon Hospital provided are still available from the hospital. We offer a nurse-led, primary care service in conjunction with our local GP Dr Chris Fowler. We have nurses on duty 24 hours a day and our GP on call. Should a patient present to Maldon Hospital with a life-threatening condition, we will stabilise them and transfer them to an Emergency Department.

4. What prompted the change?

The change reflected the need to adapt the way we operated in response to how our community uses Maldon Hospital, so we can best support our staff

to manage clinical risk. Some facts about how the Urgent Care Centre was used showed us that:

- around five people visited the Urgent Care Centre each month, which was less than 70 people a year, and this figure was declining

- when local residents have injuries or illness that need attention, the majority go to Castlemaine Health or other health services in the region.

Analysis of Urgent Care Centre usage showed that Maldon Hospital can provide better, safer, healthcare and ensure best use of hospital resources by changing the service it offered. The change allows Maldon Hospital to better support our aged care residents, our people and manage clinical risk.

5. What does this mean for acute care and residential care at Maldon Hospital?

There has been no change to acute care and residential services at the hospital. Maldon Hospital is still meeting the community's health needs for treatment of non-emergency injuries and illnesses through our Acute Care ward and providing aged care residential services.

6. What consultation are you doing or have you done with staff on this change?

We discussed the change with key staff who work at the Urgent Care Centre, including Dr Chris Fowler of Maldon Medical Clinic. We are continuing the conversation with our dedicated staff at the hospital

to understand their needs and support them to continue serving the people of Maldon and district.

7. Will this affect staff jobs at Maldon Hospital?

There has been no change to staffing at Maldon Hospital. The Urgent Care Centre is serviced by staff working in the hospital so there have been no changes to staff jobs at all.

8. How is the change being communicated to the community?

We are publishing information about the change in the media, on our website, making one-to-one contact with residents, families and District Nursing clients, as well as including it in Maldon Hospital newsletters. The change is consistent with our mission, which is to Build Community Health and Wellbeing alongside the community, and supports sustainability of our services into the future.

9. Will the change affect services to aged care residents and patients at the hospital?

The change has no impact on the ongoing care provided to the aged care residents but enables Maldon Hospital to better support our aged care residents, our people and manage clinical risk. All residents, families and current patients have been contacted to let them know about the change and answer any questions they may have.

10. When is the change taking place?

This change took place on Friday, 17 September 2021.

If you have any queries call Shannon Uren, Executive Director of Nursing at Maldon Hospital on 5479 8624.

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97 High Street, Maldon.

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maldonathenaeumlibrary@gmail.com

Historical Fiction reads

THIS week the Athenaeum Library offers lovers of historical fiction the following reads:

Filling a gap in our collection of stories by **Phillippa Gregory** comes **The Queen's Fool**. At a time when an innocent woman could be burned for heresy or strangled for witchcraft, to spy on a queen was the most dangerous act of all. Into a Tudor court on the brink of treason comes Hannah, a young Jewish girl sworn into the service of handsome Robert Dudley, the forgotten heir to King Edward's throne.

Instead of a tyrant, Hannah finds a woman waiting for her chance and only wanting the best for the kingdom, while her sister Elizabeth waits to take advantage of any mistakes she may make and longs for her death. Hannah must find a safe way through dangerous times. (*phillipagregory.com*).

In **Anna of Kleve, Queen of Secrets** bestselling author and acclaimed historian **Alison Weir** tells the little-known story of Henry VIII's fourth wife.

She is a German princess. The King, whom she hasn't met, has fallen in love with

her portrait. She has none of the accomplishments he admires in women and she lives with a guilty secret. If she doesn't please the King, will it be divorce or the headsman's sword?

Alison Weir reveals a charming, spirited woman loved by all who knew her and even, ultimately, by the King who rejected her. (*alisonweir.com.au*).

The omnibus book **Narrowboat Girl** and **Water Gypsies** provides a more contemporary historical fiction by **Annie Murray**.

Set in pre-war England the **Narrowboat Girl** follows the life of Maryann Nelson. Devastated when her father dies, worse is to come when her mother remarries the local undertaker who is not all he seems. Unable to turn to their mother, Maryann and her sister are left to bear their

harrowing secret alone. For Maryann's sister it's too much too bear.

When Maryann befriends Joel, she finds a new life aboard his narrowboat. But when Joel's feelings for Maryann begin to change, her old nightmares return and in panic and confusion she takes flight.

Water Gypsies, the sequel to the **Narrowboat Girl**, follows Maryann's story during wartime England. (*anniemurray.co.uk*).

The Girl at the Farmhouse Gate by **Julia Stoneham** also set in wartime England follows Alice Todd in her role as warden of the Women's Land Army hostel in the wild Devonshire countryside. The Land Army played an essential role in keeping England fed throughout WWII.

The Maldon Athenaeum Library Team

IMT - In Maldon Today Radio Program



WE were assuming/hoping restrictions on more than two in the studio would be lifted by now. No such luck; it's just Alison and Loz today.

Last week EC and Stevo (pictured, the man who knew too much) faced the challenge of a program without guests. They discussed the protests and protestors in Melbourne, and that led to a number of listener responses. Then there was the issue of football and the fact that although last weekend was Grand final time for the AFL, Melbourne was bereft. They touched on roadworks, skateparks, bees, crashed cars, the Maldon Portrait Prize and the new French restaurant, Table et Terroir. They also explored the correct colours to use for Breast and Prostate cancer – pink and blue, respectively.

Next Friday Nancy and EC look forward to interviewing Kate Edwards from Winter Creek Flowers (down on High Street near the Oppy and Maldon Crystals). It's likely to be a colourful meeting.

To catch up on our previous programs click on <https://www.mixcloud.com/nancymay007/>.

See our ad on page 10.

Mike Smythe

Lost Trucks!

A concerned local resident contacted the Times this week regarding the increase in the number of trucks – many of them huge B-doubles – that are wandering off the Allans Road truck route, which diverts heavy traffic away from having to use Main Street or Francis Street.

The 'lost truck' phenomenon, apparently, is a regular occurrence, with B-doubles often seen on Morris Street. It is usually southbound trucks – not northbound ones – that are wandering off course.

Why? There are a couple of possible reasons. Firstly, that the signage at Allans Road is insufficient. Secondly, it could be GPS systems that are directing truckies to take the Morris Street route instead of the Allans Road option.

Has anyone else noticed an increase in lost trucks?

Letter to the Editor

Does anyone remember when Graeme and Coral Gibb took over the Kangaroo Hotel in the 1980s, did a complete makeover and brought great pub food to Maldon? Here's a letter from Graeme, which he originally wrote around 10 years ago but never got around to sending.

In view of the recent big winning ticket that was purchased at the Maldon Newsagency, it's quite timely!

"I found out your publication is still going, after reading it online," Graeme writes in a covering note, "so the attached might be worth printing. We are both over 80 and enjoying Queensland but loved the years in the Roo."

I was a supporter of the Maldon Folk Festival (when it had no money) and a close friend of the late great man Neville (Fatty) Wilson who spent the odd day at our establishment the Kangaroo Hotel.

When called upon to supply a set of numbers for a system 7 or 8 for Tatts, Fatty's reply was always the same: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 etc. Obviously these numbers never came up in my seven and a half years at the Roo, but they did come up some time ago. Yes, 2 3 6 5 4 7 and guess what? NO WINNER.

So if you know of some way of getting a message to Fatty, please let him know his number(s) finally came up.

Best wishes to all your readers and may their numbers come up.

Graeme Gibb
Mooloolaba

May Your Numbers Come Up!

It was my intention to email this to your office but unfortunately some small fingers got to the computer first.

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BLAST FROM THE PAST

POSTER BALLS



In 1900 the 'Poster Ball' craze hit Australia. Poster balls combined advertising with the already popular fancy dress ball. In Melbourne Lady Janet Clarke organised the first poster ball as a major fund raising event for the Children's Hospital. Held at the Melbourne Town Hall, the ball was supported by many businesses and popular brands. It was a great success and raised £1,200 for the Hospital.

Tattersall's George Adams was a major supporter. Many of his sweeps were represented and Adams himself donated £100 to the Hospital. Many local breweries, champagne makers and tobacco brands were also prominent. Leading socialites dressed as characters from well known advertisements. Ruby Madden, daughter of the Lieutenant Governor, appeared as the girl from a Robur Tea poster, her sister Lesley came as a messenger for Buckley and Nunn and Lady Clarke represented the *Argus* newspaper. Various stout gentlemen came as advertisements for Quaker, John Bull and Tam O'Shanter Oats.

The Maldon Museum has a collection of photos taken by Castlemaine photographer Adolphus Verey. Included in this collection are several images of young women dressed in poster costumes, one of them is advertising John J McFarlane's Commercial House. McFarlane was a draper who traded in High Street in the building now occupied by Beaton's Stores. Another of the women is advertising Robur Tea in a costume that is virtually identical to that worn by Ruby Madden at the first poster ball held in Melbourne. Given the detail in these costumes, Robur may have provided them as part of an advertising campaign. Another young woman in Verey's photos is advertising Sunlight Soap.

Apart from the three women in 'poster' costumes there is another dressed as 'Federation'. The inclusion of this costume suggests that the photos were taken in the first years of the 1900s. A photo of 'Federation' alone shows that the flag she is carrying is not the Australian flag adopted in 1903 but is more likely the Herald Federal Flag of 1900. This flag was the winning entry in a competition to find a national flag that the *Melbourne Evening Herald* sponsored prior to Federation.

It is unclear where or when Adolphus Verey took these photos. Castlemaine's first poster ball was held in 1902 to celebrate the coronation of Edward VII. In later years poster balls were held to raise funds for the Camp Reserve Improvement Committee.

This information and photo was supplied by the Maldon Museum and Archives.



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INSPECT BY APPOINTMENT



Mandurang

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\$1,455,000

MARVELLOUS MANDURANG ENTERTAINER IN PARK-LIKE GROUNDS ENJOY PRIVATE STYLISH LIVING IN A SANDSTONE COUNTY VILLA!

3 2 2

Properties such as this don't come to market often, so don't miss this brilliant opportunity to purchase your dream retreat in tightly held Mandurang. Set on 2.85 acres, with a lake-like dam, stunning pool and fully equipped outdoor entertaining space, this picturesque property backs onto One Tree Hill National Park. Set to the back of the land, to take in spectacular views, the sandstone residence is a timeless family home with modern features throughout. Feature lead light glass and a bespoke double-sided stone fireplace add to the warmth and character of the home. A long driveway to the left of the property takes you to the house and a huge garage.

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Campbells Creek

1 Newell Court

\$755,000

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4 2 2

An absolute rarity, this single level custom built home showcases plenty of living space and flexible accommodation on a large level, garden of 1,120m2 featuring rear and side access perfect for a caravan, workshop or both! Boasting a double auto garage with convenient internal access to a butlers pantry, the interior is styled with superior comfort in mind. The spacious family room and dining room flow harmoniously to the sun-splashed north facing rear deck. There is a large formal lounge room with double doors, large well-appointed kitchen fitted with stainless steel appliances. Perfect for casual entertaining, relax with friends under the adjoining alfresco area. There are four generous double bedrooms, a walk-in linen press, and two stylish bathrooms including an ensuite with a separate toilet.

INSPECT BY APPOINTMENT



Castlemaine

14 Baird Street

\$639,000

SO MUCH SPACE IN THE WONDERFUL WESLEY HILL LOCALE!

3 1 2

This smartly updated and super spacious 1960s era Brick home enjoys a sunny garden setting in Baird Street with the nearby Wesley Hill market and Moonlight Flat walks all at your doorstep. The generous floor plan has over 144m2 of living space (15.5 Squares) and features 3 bedrooms (2 with robes), large windows, central bathroom, large entry vestibule, modern timber kitchen with walk-in pantry, and a very spacious lounge-dining room with reverse cycle air, and adjoining family room with wood fireplace and large glassed doors that open to a covered garden verandah and garden outdoor area. The front gardens have roses, shade trees with a north-east aspect plus there is large sunny patio entry and plenty of parking space. Invest or occupy, enjoy the space and convenience.

INSPECT BY APPOINTMENT



Castlemaine

7 Parkview Close

\$615,000 to \$630,000

QUIET ESTATE LIVING ON PARKVIEW CLOSE

3 1 1

On Parkview Close with with north outlook to Mount Alexander over a playground, this one owner home was custom built and offers great space on a level, yet elevated 680m2 garden. The brick veneer home offers 125m2 of living including 3 double bedrooms with built-in robes, a large 2 way bathroom with toilet, and a separate laundry with second toilet. There is a generous open plan lounge room, dining area, and spacious kitchen with pantry and garden outlook. The home has gas heating, ducted evaporative cooling, large single garage with direct home entry, and a pergola-patio area. The leafy gardens offer space and privacy, plus there is a pavement driveway with adjoining space for conversion for further parking if desired. Invest or occupy an enjoy the serenity and convenience.



Rob Waller

Director

rob@wallerrealty.com.au

0418 571 130



Narelle Waller

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Assistant Property Manager

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03 5475 1055

TT Dine Out Directory

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Wednesday - Saturday 9am - 10pm.



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Saturday and Sunday from 7.30am-3pm.

MALDON HOTEL - MALDON

58 Main Street - 5475 2231
OPENING HOURS
Monday & Tuesday: 4pm - close
Wednesday - Sunday: Midday - close
Bookings recommended

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(Established 1925)

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Vice President	Nick Kinross	0439 114 099
Secretary	Luke Cox	0438 058 665
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☆ Bev Phillips, photographed at the Bill Woodfull Reserve with one of the area's oldest trees - a Yellow Box that's estimated to be 535 years old. "The average growth of these trees is around 3.5mm in diameter per year," Bev said. "So many of the Box trees in the region are older than you think."

BEV Phillips is a woman who cares passionately about the environment and about native plants. It's no surprise, therefore, to learn that she signed up as a member to Maldon Urban Landcare (known as MULGA) almost as soon as she moved to Maldon over seven years ago.

"Before my move to Maldon, I lived on five acres in Red Lion and was a member of the McCallum's Creek Landcare group for eight years," she said. "When I first joined MULGA, the group was involved with clearing woody weeds from Long Gully. I swore at those blackberries!"

MULGA was the first urban Landcare group to be established in Victoria and has been in existence since 1992. Since its inception, it has had a long and proud history of caring for the Maldon Historic Reserve, which extends from Mount Tarrengower and the Rock of Ages down to the South German dam.

Bev became the secretary of MULGA five years ago. With 28 members, and a dozen active volunteers, it's a group that has achieved much and works hard across several fronts to conserve the natural environment surrounding the town.

It becomes clear, after speaking to Bev, that the

main enemies of MULGA are weeds - blackberries, gorse, broom, Cootamundra wattles and other exotic plants that spread into the bush areas. "Before the goldrush, the forests in this area would have consisted of well-spaced, large old trees with a significant understorey," Bev said. "Those old trees were cut down during the gold mining years so what you see now is secondary growth forests with a lot of smaller trees. The canopies join together, and this discourages smaller indigenous plants. The weeds tend to crowd out the indigenous species."

At present, MULGA's volunteers are - when COVID rules allow - working on the Eaglehawk pit. This is an area which runs from the old battery in Adair Street East down to Polsue Street. There was a small open cut mine opened up on this site in 2000 and it has since been revegetated. But more work needs to be done.

You will have received a brochure in your letterbox last month that was produced by MULGA. This publication encourages the planting of indigenous plants in Maldon gardens. It lists plants that are suited to the local environment, together with planting methods, care and other tips.

MULGA volunteers are also happy to give advice and practical assistance when it comes to indigenous plants. One example: when the Maldon Petanque Club wished to establish some plantings around its newly-built piste, it wanted plants that would be hardy, and provide some shade and wind protection. Bev provided a list of suitable indigenous plants, ordered them from Frances Cincotta's Newstead Natives nursery and directed traffic while Petanque Club volunteers planted them out.

MULGA volunteers have been closely involved with the restoration of the two tree circles on ANZAC hill. All but one of the original Mahogany Gums planted in 1917 have since died, and MULGA has replaced them with Yellow Gums. "These are indigenous plants, unlike the Mahogany Gums which were unsuited to the conditions," Bev said. "Planting on ANZAC hill has been a real challenge, because there's very little topsoil. The first year that we planted was very dry, and we had to replant half the trees the following

year. Since then we've had to replant less, and in June we replanted 14 out of 64 trees, so we're winning. We watered the Yellow Gums in when we planted, but since then they have received no additional water, apart from rain."

One ongoing project which is obviously dear to Bev's heart is the identification and description of the pre-1852 eucalypts in the area. This study was begun in 2010 by the late Wendy French, who was a well-known conservationist and one of the earliest members of MULGA. MULGA is the only Landcare group in the area who has undertaken such a task.

Considering that miners basically denuded the landscape of forest back in the 1850s, it is surprising how many old trees still survive. MULGA has catalogued over 300 trees that are estimated to pre-date European settlement. "There are around 200 on roadsides close to town, with the rest situated on public and private land," Bev said. "We have identified five trees that are estimated to be over 500 years old. The oldest we've surveyed is the Grey Box in Pond Drive, which has an estimated age of 645 years."

On the Bill Woodfull Reserve alone, there are still 15 pre-1852 eucalypts. According to Bev, they survived because the Reserve was originally a government camp, and some of the trees would have been preserved to provide shade and shelter for the men and horses stationed at the encampment. There are also two old eucalypts on the Police Station land.

MULGA members keep a close eye on the old eucalypts and liaise with Council officers when they are doing the tree pruning program.

When Bev and partner Barry Murfett moved house one year ago, they were delighted with the fact that the garden of their new home was pretty

much a blank canvas. They now have a thriving garden that for the main part consists of local indigenous plants. There are some exceptions to that rule, including some Western Australian natives that are planted in a sandy patch. "I lived in Perth for 20 years, so have a weakness for WA plants," Bev said. "A

trip to the West three years ago re-ignited that interest."

Bev's favourite indigenous plant? "I like them all, so that's a difficult choice," she said. "But the Pimelia - or Rice Flower - is a beautiful flower. And the Chocolate Lilies are going to be magnificent this year."

Maldon Hospital Fundraising Raffle



☆ L. to r. at the raffle draw last Saturday: Noel, Kerry and Blasi.

Photo courtesy Michael McCartney.

THE Maldon Hospital fundraising raffle draw took place as planned outside the Community Centre on Grand Final Day.

Representing both the Maldon Hospital and the Community Bank was Kerry Healy. Helping with the draw was Noel Farrington from the Murray to Moyne Cycling Group.

Importantly, our Principal Sponsor Waller Realty was represented by Narelle Waller

and Sales Consultant Blasi Mulholland. Their sponsorship allows the fundraising group to say to all ticket holders that every cent raised through ticket sales goes to the Hospital.

Thanks to everyone who supported the fundraiser. For full results of the raffle see Public Notices. Hopefully we will soon have some happy snaps of the winners with their prizes.

Michael McCartney

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Maldon Hospital Fundraising Raffle 2021

Drawn 25th September 2021 at The Community Centre

1 st	Pam Telford
2 nd	Bonnie
3 rd	Alison Martin
4 th	Chris Telford
5 th	Bryan Leak
6 th	Rob Jorritsma


PUBLIC NOTICES



Sunday 3 October 9am-1pm
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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SMS comments during the show (0488 863 186)

and sign it so we can read it out on air

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Call the *Times* on: 5475 2256

Maldon Show in a Bag....



pictures and Dog Tricks videos ready and sent in. Gardens should be looking fabulously photogenic so get out there, take some shots and send the best one in. For those who have taken on the beanstalk challenge, don't forget to water your plant.... as the weather warms up, it's important to keep your bean plant happy. Entries for these categories should be submitted via email to secretary@maldonshow.com by Sunday 17 October.

VAS and Midland Group Cooking, Craft and Photography Competitions will all take place in November - recipes and craft category instructions can be found on the Maldon Show website. Enquiries can be directed to secretary@maldonshow.com or by phone to 0407 833 380.

THE closing date for the first round of entries in the Maldon Show in a Bag is Sunday 3 October.

Colouring competition entries need to be lodged in the Big Box at the Maldon & District Community Bank by Saturday 2 October - there are prizes for all ages and special prizes for the winners of the cherry colouring page.

There's still plenty of time to get those Dog Lookalike

Tarrangower Times

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Monday:

9am - 11am

Tuesday:

9am - 12pm

Wednesday:

9am - 1pm

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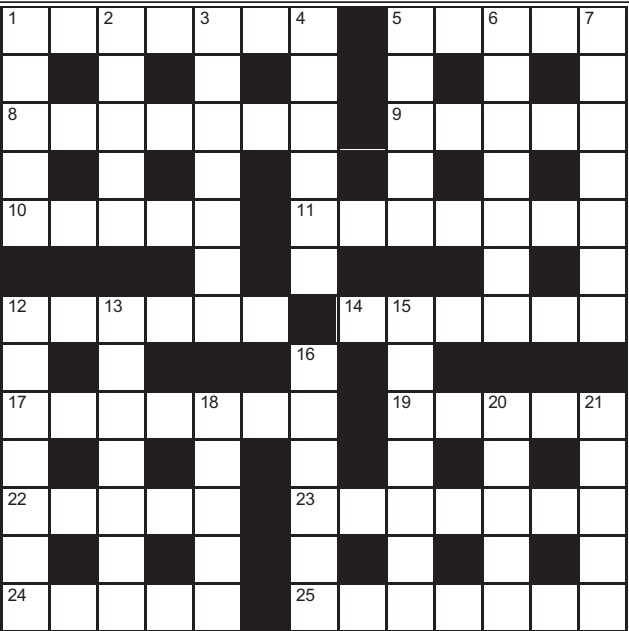
CROSSWORD Number 820

Across

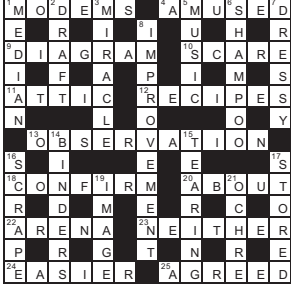
- 1 Least
- 5 Nips
- 8 Financial inspector
- 9 Ill will
- 10 Strict
- 11 Pardoned
- 12 Lumber
- 14 Solicitor
- 17 Memory loss
- 19 Divided
- 22 Destiny
- 23 Arm coverings
- 24 Toys
- 25 Earn

Down

- 1 Breakfast, lunch and dinner
- 2 Bump
- 3 Performance during the day
- 4 Stained
- 5 Fundamental
- 6 Parched



Solution to No. 819



Rainfall Baringhup

Week Ending 28.9.21

0.0mm

Monthly Totals So Far:

Month	2021	2020	2019
Jan	92.9	44.6	3.2
Feb	8.9	56.3	12.6
Mar	72.3	32.8	4.3
Apr	9.8	99.6	4.5
May	42.0	49.2	100.8
June	54.0	38.3	75.2
July	63.1	23.5	35.3
Aug	35.0	48.7	45.7
Sept	47.7	40.9	19.1
Oct		47.1	4.9
Nov		25.7	38.6
Dec		29.1	3.9
TOTAL	425.7	535.8	348.1

Rainfall Maldon

Week Ending 28.9.21

0.4mm

Monthly Totals So Far:

Month	2021	2020	2019
Jan	83.4	35.2	4.8
Feb	17.0	52.8	21.6
Mar	83.8	37.0	7.6
Apr	14.4	145.4	5.6
May	53.6	66.2	115.5
June	81.0	49.2	92.2
July	82.8	32.8	53.6
Aug	41.8	62.2	57.6
Sept	49.2	54.6	29.4
Oct		73.2	8.6
Nov		37.2	43.0
Dec		39.2	9.8
TOTAL	510.6	685.0	449.4

Rainfall Newstead

Week Ending 28.9.21

0.2mm

Monthly Totals So Far:

Month	2021	2020	2019
Jan	101.6	53.6	5.0
Feb	13.6	38.0	18.2
Mar	67.2	35.8	6.2
Apr	11.4	107.6	5.0
May	53.2	56.2	113.6
June	62.6	46.6	82.8
July	68.2	29.4	43.0
Aug	44.0	69.6	51.6
Sept	60.6	46.8	31.2
Oct		56.2	9.8
Nov		22.8	42.0
Dec		31.2	8.4
TOTAL	481.2	593.8	416.8

Water Storage Capacity as at 28.9.21

Site	Cairn Curran	Max ML	147,130	Current ML	93,965	% Full	63.87
Site	Malmsbury	Max ML	12,034	Current ML	12,291	% Full	104.2



The Book Wolf

'I am simply a book drunkard.'

(L M Montgomery)

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PÉTANQUE AND THE GRASSY KNOLL



☆ EC's elegant boot, sorting out who is closest to the coche.

ON Sunday 26 September six teams of intrepid piste artistes gathered at the Penny School in glorious sunshine for another afternoon of COVID free games.

The grassy knoll became a major issue during the afternoon, as it is starting to flourish due to the prolonged absence of our hosts. They are in lockdown in Melbourne. Various solutions were suggested including: salting, flame throwing and just plain weeding by hand, which a few players undertook between games.

Despite the growing abundance of grass, the players were greatly inspired by the exquisite, if somewhat drowsy weather. It made some of us lose track of where we were up to. It's the number of conversations around, when one has become used to none whatsoever, for what seems like years, but which is really only months, due to COVID restrictions on visitors and such.

At the conclusion of the afternoon, first place went to André, Judy, and Phil with 2 wins and +16 points. Equal second place went to Cap'n P, Mme Bleue and EC AND Matt, Joan and Stevie Wonder with I win and +2 points.

Geoff, Maxeen, and Blakey closely followed them in fourth place, with 1 win and +1 point. Fifth place went to Carole, Steve and Prakash, with 1 win and -9 points.

Elaine, Viv and Ian C were 'lucky last' with 0 wins and -12 points, thus winning the *Beautiful Losers' Chocs*. It was such a perfect day that people lingered longer than usual after the games concluded.

We play again, COVID willing, on Sunday 10 October, at 1.45 for a 2pm start. Come and join us. We have a QR code. *Mme Bleue*

- ALAN
- CHERYL
- STEVE

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The Great Macaw Escape



MALDON Takeaway owners Melitta Lee and Adam Isaacs are keen bird fanciers, and they decided to share the love by building a large aviary at the side of the shop. The birds have proved to be a huge attraction.

Just recently, Adam and Melitta decided to get a girlfriend for Bruce, the boy Macaw. They ended up buying a twelve-month-old girl Macaw they named Brenda. Before they bought it, they asked the previous owner to clip Brenda's wings.

"Adam's dream is to free fly our birds," Melitta said. "But we wanted Brenda's wings clipped so that she could bond with us first. It only takes 12 months for a bird's wings to grow back. By that stage, of course, she would have been trusting enough to fly off and come back when we called her."

But! Things didn't quite work out as planned.

Melitta and Adam bring their birds with them to work each day and put them in the aviary next to the shop. "They love being with people all day," Melitta said. "They got really cranky during lockdown."

They were following the usual procedure at 5pm to get the birds out of the aviary to take them home, when Brenda flew the coop. "Obviously, her wings hadn't been clipped enough," Melitta said. "And it happened just before the dinner rush."

Leaving their junior worker Finn behind, Melitta and Adam took off after Brenda. She landed in a very large shrub in the back yard of a neighbouring shop. "Fortunately, she was in the canopy and not near the top," Melitta said. "If she'd been near the top and she'd seen the sky, she would have taken off. We tried to talk her down, but of course she wasn't bonded with

us at that stage and she didn't respond."

In the meantime, Finn was holding the fort at the shop which by that stage was more than busy - phones ringing, customers coming in, orders backing up.

Brenda was still hanging around in the bush, but climbing ever higher through the canopy. Adam and Melitta realised that if she got to the top of the canopy, they might lose her all together. Finally,

armed with a bird net, they climbed up the fence beside the shrub and managed to rescue her.

Brenda is now starting to bond with her new owners and gets on with Bruce like a house on fire.

Melitta and Adam still have dreams of free flying Bruce and Brenda up and down Main Street.

Wouldn't that be a wonderful sight!

Daylight Savings Tips

WITH daylight savings around the corner, here are some tips to help adjust to the time shift and get a good night's sleep, including the kids.

Associate Professor Mark Stokes from Deakin's School of Psychology explained that our sleep-wake cycle takes a hit when the clocks change, leaving some people struggling to sleep. "Our internal body clock, or circadian rhythm, is regulated by exposure to bright sunlight. That repowers the rhythm and resets our body clock allowing us to adjust each day to lengthening and shortening days," he said. "Daylight savings shifts the outside clock an hour in one direction or another, but not your internal body clock. So you can tell it to adjust as much as you like, but it will only do so in response to the right stimuli: sunlight."

The following tips should help you get a good night's sleep:

- **Take a morning walk:** Exposure to as much morning light as early as possible repowers the body clock's rhythm and is important to maintaining stable strong sleep-wake cycles and enabling you to get the best sleep you can for your age.
- **Stick to a bedtime routine and no screens:** Parents can help children adjust by setting regular bedtimes and removing screens (TVs, computers, iPads, phones, game consoles).
- **Have a nap:** A 15-minute nap in the afternoon takes advantage of how our circadian rhythms are built - made of little, short rhythms all piled together.

Social housing funding up for grabs

BENDIGO West Member Maree Edwards MP is calling on all developers and landowners in the Mount Alexander region to put forward any developments or vacant land that could be turned into social or affordable housing.

The Victorian Government has plans to address a critical shortage of housing in regional Victoria, with recent rental market data showing housing affordability has fallen to its lowest level since data was first collected in 2000.

This is an opportunity for landowners and builders to contribute to the future of their communities by growing the supply of housing and creating jobs under the Government's landmark \$5.3 billion Big Housing Build.

This round of funding will focus on purchasing new homes, house and land packages and developable land that is zoned for residential use. Strict guidelines for proposals will need to be addressed including proximity to retail, schools and transport.

All Victorian regional areas will be considered, with a preference for a number of Local Government Areas including Mount Alexander.

Landowners and developers are encouraged to partner with community housing providers, local government and other organisations to submit proposals to Homes Victoria. They can tender more than one proposal, with submissions due no later than 2pm on Thursday 7 October through tenders.vic.gov.au (Buying for Victoria).

"We are calling on local landowners and developers to put their hand up to help make a contribution towards the future of Castlemaine, Maldon and district, create local jobs and put a roof over heads of those in our community who need it most," Ms Edwards said.

Carnie Fun



☆ The Curbside Carnies put on a great show at Bank Corner last Saturday morning and drew an enthusiastic audience. After their Maldon gig, they moved on to perform at Newstead and Castlemaine.