

# ABOUT Boort

EDITION 151 MAY 2017

## ANZAC march in Boort



A small contingent of marchers congregated at the War Memorial around 9:15 am on Anzac Day before leading the march to the Memorial Hall. A large crowd gathered at the hall to hear Boort District School Captains Charlotte Verley, Taylah Streader and Caleb Mayberry speak about the charge of the Light Horse Brigade at Beersheba. Lance Slatter, retiring RSL President, then addressed the crowd on the futility of war. Once again RSL Ladies Auxiliary assisted by Amity provided morning tea for the crowd who had time to reflect and reminisce.

## Boort Golf Club

Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	R.S.L Diggers Day
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Men's 1 <sup>st</sup> Round of Championships
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Ladies 1 <sup>st</sup> Round of Championships
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Farmer's 4 Ball event



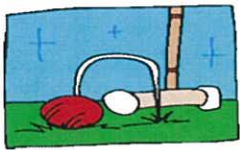
The Opening Day of golf for 2017 turned out to be a rather warm day with only a small number of men coming out to test the well prepared golf course. President Andrew Kane thanked all those people who had turned up for the working bees to get a very over grown golf course back into shape for golf. He then called on long standing Club Member Grant Weaver to hit the opening golf shot for the season.

The golf course is in a magnificent condition after all the summer rain. The club would welcome any members or non-members to come out for a social day of golf or perhaps you could join in with the Ladies on Wednesday or the men on Saturday for a day of golf. What about supporting the R.S.L. Diggers Day, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May?

The Ladies Opening Day was on the following Wednesday which was a lovely walk around 9 holes of the golf course, this was followed by a shared lunch and a meeting. Captain Lorraine is organizing a **Fun Day for Mother's Day** on May 10<sup>th</sup>, all are welcome to come along and give golf a go. The serious golfers will be commencing Pennant on 24<sup>th</sup> May playing at Wedderburn and the 2<sup>nd</sup> round will be at Boort.

Then on 17<sup>th</sup> May the Singles Knock-out competition will commence and on 7<sup>th</sup> June will be the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the Ladies Club Championship. All welcome to come and join us for a social day out and that lovely 'cuppa' afterwards.

In the Saturday Competition the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the singles Knock-out is 20<sup>th</sup> May, while the 1<sup>st</sup> round of their Club Championships is the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The Presentation Dinner is after the 3<sup>rd</sup> round on the Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June. There could be some social evenings happening, so listen carefully for any announcements.



## Boort Lakeside Croquet Club

The Boort Golf Croquet Tournament was played on the weekend of the 18-19 March. With perfect weather, 55 players registered in the tournament, travelling from across Victoria and Southern Riverina. President, Robert Coutts welcomed players to the Boort Tournament and wished them well for the weekend's play. In his opening remarks he mentioned the following clubs participating in the Boort Tournament; Ararat, Belmont, Charlton, Deniliquin, Donald, Drouin, Drysdale, Boort, Echuca/Moama, Essendon, Golden Square, Horsham, Kalimna Park, MCC, Macedon Ranges, Numurkah, Queenscliff, Rich River, and Swan Hill.

Saturday evening was a cordial time for all to chat and enjoy an evening meal at the Railway Hotel. Due to high numbers of players attending our Tournament, the croquet courts were fully utilised and extra courts were made available on the tennis courts for both days. A special 'Thank you' to the Boort Tennis Club for the use of their tennis courts on this occasion. Greatly appreciated!

Tournament winners were:

Saturday Singles: 44 entries

Level 1- Ian Potter (Boort). Runner up- Frank Creasey (Horsham)

Level 2- John Alstin (Rich River). Runner up- Ian Harrowfield (Essendon)

Level 3- Anne Dod (Echuca/Moama). Runner up- Darren Lester (Ararat)

Sunday Doubles : 48 entries

Section 1- Donna Frost (Horsham) and Heather Strano (Macedon Ranges)

Section 2- Fred Littman (Deniliquin) and Darren Lester (Ararat)

Section 3- Les Matthews (Drysdale) and Kristen Strike (Numurkah)

Section 4- Glenys Londey (Numurkah) and Roly Hall (Echuca/Moama)

Would you like to have your copy of "About Boort" posted to you each month?

"About Boort" subscriptions of \$14.00 are payable to BRIC at P.O. Box 152, Boort 3537.

Those who have access to email can have the "About Boort" Newsletter emailed to you each month for no charge. Submit your email address to [bric.boort@bigpond.com](mailto:bric.boort@bigpond.com) attention: About Boort

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**Articles for the newsletter need to arrive by 9:00 am on the 20th of May for inclusion in the June About Boort email to: [bric.boort@bid.com](mailto:bric.boort@bid.com)**



## BOORT LAWN TENNIS CLUB



### BOORT TENNIS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Towards the end of the tennis season, the 2016/2017 Club Championships were conducted with a number of tightly contested events.

The Meadows Cup had some great tennis being played. Fergus Bear proved too strong for Jake Boyd (8-2) in one Semi, whilst Archie Bear battled through 8-7 over Angus Potter in the other Semi. Therefore the Final saw the Bear brothers pitted against each other. After some very good tennis on display, Fergus proved to be just a little bit better by winning 8-7. Zailey Canfield was the winner of the Girls Meadows Cup.

The Men's Singles Championship was won by Nathan Gooding over Jacob Moresi 6-3, 7-6 in a match where it could easily have gone to a third set.

The Ladies' Singles Championship was won by Kellie Hare with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Laura Wright.

The Men's B-Grade Singles was a long match with the advantage see-sawing from one player to the other throughout. In the end, Damien Lanyon prevailed 6-3, 6-7, 6-4 over Craig Scott.

Judy Parker and Val Dobbie proved to be too strong for the gallant pairing of Kellie Hare and Glenda Bird in the Ladies' Championships event, winning 6-3, 6-4.

The B-Grade Ladies' Doubles saw Maree Stringer and Emma Pay win the battle with Rachel Weaver and Ros Wright 6-2, 6-3.

Angus Potter and Fergus Bear fought valiantly against Damien Lanyon and Craig Scott in the B-Grade Men's decider, but Damien and Craig won 6-0, 6-3.

In a tightly contested series of matches, the Men's Doubles Championship final had Greg Bear and Ash Ross winning through to be pitted against Adam Potter and Nathan Gooding. In three sets where the lead was see-sawing constantly, Adam and Nathan won 6-7, 6-4, 6-4 in a high standard match of tennis.

In the B-Grade Mixed Doubles final, Lynette Clark and Damien Lanyon proved to be just a little better than Anna Beamish and Craig Scott when they won 4-6, 6-1, 9-7.

In the main Mixed Doubles event, the tennis was just as exciting despite the final set not being an extended affair like the B-Grade final. Kathryn Lanyon and Chris Hatcher won in three very tight sets 6-7, 7-5, 6-4 over Carly Isaac and Jacob Moresi.



### VANDALISM

Would the person or people who for the last 3 years have trashed, killed or damaged the plants along the Prime Ministers walk please stop. Many garden stakes have been replaced after others disappeared....again and again....replacement plants which are donated are then trampled on and destroyed. The police have been advised that this is an ongoing problem which hopefully will cease as of now.

Honie Twedde

## Boort Netball Club Report



We have started the season strong in Round 1 with 4 out of 5 wins! The morale, enthusiasm, and dedication of all players this year is remarkable. Thank you to our sponsors for the 2017 season: North West Ag Services, Boort Emporium, Teazed Hair Boutique, Bendigo Bank, Rodwells/Bayer, Boundary Bend Estate, The Magic Bean, and Sportspower Kerang.

### **Round 1 Results**

U13A's had a great win against Donald 20 - 16. A slow to start but good team play and second half. Kerang Sportspower Award Annie Perryman.

There is fantastic eagerness in the U13B's, with so many girls excited to play.

U16A's have their first win under their belts 29 - 22. Kerang Sportspower Ebony Chamberlain, North West Ag Chloe Baker. C Grade defeated Donald 39-20 with strong defence adding to the win. Teazed Hair Boutique Bree Frankel, Boundary Bend Charlotte Verley.

B Grade had a successful start with a win over Donald 51 - 35, strong intensity throughout the whole game. Boort Emporium Kate Healey, Rodwells Tracey Bachelor.

A Grade fought hard but couldn't pull off a win going down 33 - 50. Defence played a key role on both sides. A lot of positives to take away from the game with Boort dominating the third quarter. Magic Bean Farin Gregg, Sportspower Kerang Courtney Lawrence.



### **Reflections on Netball in Boort**

I would like to congratulate the Boort Netball Club and Boort Park for the two great netball courts and facilities that they have now. When I first saw the new courts I thought wouldn't it be lovely to play on such great surfaces and to be able to use the facilities that they have. Why? Basketball as it was known as in the 1950's commenced playing competition with the football as noted in the Recorder on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 1953 "the girl's basketball association is something new in this league and should lend colour to the football fixtures. Games will be played adjacent to football arenas and should be watched with interest".

It was a much different game to the one played today in that the court was divided into more areas and players had less room to move in. The centre's shall face one another standing each end of the centre line and they are only allowed in the centre third. When the goaler received the ball, the defence stood beside her and there were no rebounds. If the goaler missed the defence then took a throw in from the baseline. There were severe penalties if players called out during the game so many types of sign language were invented!

The players of today have many luxuries compared to the 50's & 60's. The courts were either dirt or grass and the lines were lime and as you could imagine in wet conditions, the girls were nearly as muddy as the footballers. The change rooms were the local toilet, maybe a shed or the car and no showers or running water to wash off the mud.

In Boort the basketball court was at the north end of the footy oval where the hockey is now, with no lights we used the head lights of cars to get in a bit more training, but they did not last for long. When wet there were 14 very muddy girls and 1 very wet Umpire. Sometimes a kind supporter would offer to take us to their house for a shower.

The next step in Boort was when the basketball court was moved in front of the big wooden grandstand, still dirt, but we had the luxury of a room under the north end of the grandstand as a change room. More improvements came along with the sealing of a court in the present area and lighting - no more headlights needed. How the price of things has changed. At the Annual meeting 1960 subscription fees were set at 12/- (\$1.20) for adults, 5/- (50 cents) for school children and 2/- (20 cents) for insurance.

It was in the 60's that new rules came in with different court markings and playing areas for players. These court markings are the same as today and the gradual change towards today's style of play. With the new regulations came the radical method of using extra players with the Coach now able to give these players a run on the court without waiting for that "dreaded" injury to occur.

The players, coaches and volunteers have the wonderful luxury of lovely change rooms, hot showers and fantastic playing and coaching conditions, congratulations.

Margaret Nelson, Life Member BNC & NCNAssoc.

## Boort Business & Tourism Council COM

### Easter Market

It is disappointing to report that the Boort Business & Tourism Council were unable to run this event for 2017 due to lack of volunteers required. We have run numerous events over the years which have all been very successful and enjoyable to all that attend, but as a committee we are struggling with enough manpower to run each event. As a committee we are passionate about promoting our great town as a fantastic place to live and visit and we wish to continue working hard to ensure these events are continued, however we need more volunteers.

We urge anyone that would like to be involved in the planning and running of these events to do so by contacting our committee representatives: President – Kathryn Lanyon, Vice President – Sharlene Stringer, Secretary – Brooke Arnold, Treasurer – Kelly Hird, Administration Assistant – Cleo Lanyon.

Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month at BRIC at 8:00pm and everyone is welcome to attend.

### Boort Wer'zat Headboard.

Hopefully by now everyone has seen the Boort Business & Tourism headboard temporarily located on the foreshore at Little Lake Boort. This headboard is an initiative of our committee to promote the great lifestyle available in Boort. We ask that people help us promote Boort by taking their photos with the headboard and uploading to social media using the hashtag #boortwerzat.

### Commonwealth Bank Closure

The Boort Business & Tourism Council, along with the Boort community, are extremely concerned by the recent announcement of the proposed closure and downgrade of services by the Commonwealth Bank Boort branch. The closure will have a significant impact on local businesses and members of our community.

By forcing our local residents and business people out of town to complete their basic banking needs, it would also, undoubtedly, encourage out of town shopping. This will have a massive effect on the patronage in our local businesses, an issue which this committee has been successfully striving to improve over the past few years.

Access to banking is a vital service which must remain in Boort to ensure our viability in the future. Our town boasts a strong community, well established and successful local agricultural businesses, more than 50 small businesses servicing our community, large companies investing in our area and a brand new school with more than 200 students. Not only will our residents, tourists and businesses have no access to the local branch, but our students will also lose access to the school banking program.

We understand the current trend towards electronic banking, but there is ALWAYS going to be the need for face-to-face banking in our community. The CBA should remember that they are in a service industry and the customer should be treated as a priority.

Petitions can be signed online **or** at the Boort IGA and other local businesses. The online address is: <https://www.change.org/t/save-our-local-bank-en-au>

### **Buzzing Vibe in Boort**

Congratulations and welcome to our new businesses and business under new ownership in town.

Good luck for a prosperous business venture to Brooke and Kane Arnold at 'Godfrey and Bear', Renu Pattison at 'Café Renu' and Tim and Wendy at 'Boort Lakes Caravan Park'.

Here's hoping the locals and visitors continue to support these new ventures as they have thus far.

The town was busy over the Easter break with the two new cafes in full swing and the park busy as usual over Easter with many visitors here for the Easter Tennis Tournament.

Add to that was Michelle Ashton's organisation of a successful Art Exhibition at the Memorial Hall and Streader's Magic Bean in operation, all giving the town a real buzz for visitors and locals to enjoy.



### **Northern District Results**

Recently the Northern District Region held their Show Finals in Kerang.

Finalists competed with prize winning articles from their own Shows.

Local winners were -  
Kaitlyn Cockerell - Show Teenager 1st.  
Bonnie Leggett - Kerang 2nd.  
Gaye Sim - Crochet fine cotton 1st  
Crochet article 1st  
Nerrida Major - Handspun 2nd  
Lesley Kneeshaw - Sewing 2nd  
Michelle Henderson - Patchwork 2nd  
Ella Lanyon - Junior boiled fruit cake 3rd

The Boort Society would like to thank all participants for competing and congratulate the winners.

Looking forward to seeing you all competing at the 2017 Show.

**You are invited to join our  
Federal and State representatives  
Hon. Peter Walsh MP and  
Hon. Damian Drum MP  
when they visit our district on  
Thursday 4th May,  
for the following events -**

**2:00 pm Official unveiling of the re-  
stored WW1 Honour Boards & photos  
at the Mysia War Memorial School**

**3:00 pm Official Opening of  
"Cafe Renu" - afternoon tea available**

**4:30 pm Unveiling of commemorative  
plaque at Boort Railway Station**

**5:30 pm Official visit to Boort Football,  
Netball & Hockey clubs training  
Address to the players by Damian  
Drum MP**

**7:15 pm Dinner at Boort Park  
The public is most welcome to attend  
any or all of the above events**

**Please phone numbers to Bruce Malone  
on 54552403 or email  
boorthistoricalsociety@gmail.com**

**This is a great opportunity to raise any  
issues with your political representatives  
and also a time to show our  
appreciation for the funding assistance  
provided to our community in recent  
times.**

**A joint initiative of Boort  
Historical Society &  
The Nationals Boort Branch**

**Blumes Fashions  
Monday 22nd May  
at 2:00pm**

**At Senior Citizen Hall  
\$5.00 entry**

## **FEDERATION PATH PAVERS**

Is anyone interested in ordering a paver to be placed in the Federation Path?

The cost of pavers have increased to \$45 if we have an order of 20 or less pavers.

20 or more pavers in an order and the cost is approximately \$33.

Interested persons can make contact with Alister McDougal (Treasurer, Boort Development Committee) on 54 552 595 or 0427 22 10 98 to gain further information.



## **Boort Amity Auction**

**Sunday 30th April 2017**

**At Boort Park 12:00 noon start**

**Drop items off from 8:00 am**

**Yummy food available**

**Items left at own risk**

**10% commission charged**

**All items sold for \$5.00 and under  
become a donation**

**Money from our Auction comes back into  
our town**

**Auction will be in the horse stalls in bad  
weather**

**No dogs please**

**Ph Sandra 54552156 or 0428 552156**



## **BOORT BOWLS CLUB.**

The Boort Bowls Club had a very successful year in the Mid-Week Pennant.

After finishing second on the ladder they played Charlton at Wedderburn in the semi-final winning this match 91 shots to 52. Boort then met Korong Vale in the final. This match was not decided until after the last end was completed with Boort winning 76 shots to 73. The team then travelled to Horsham to compete at Regional level but were unsuccessful on this occasion.

On 24th. March the ladies held their Annual Invitation Day. They received entries from Wedderburn, Golden Square, Cohuna, Bendigo, Donald Golf, Dingee, Korong Vale, Charlton, Pyramid Hill, Wycbeproof, Donald, Kerang Golf, Calivil & Boort.

The day commenced with all ladies bowling to the 5 envelopes containing money, then all teams played 1 game of fours (12 ends), followed by 3 bowl pairs ( 8 ends) and finished with 1 game of fours (10 ends)

### **Winners.**

Fan The Cards. Lead-S. Lawson. (Bendigo) Second -T. Hancock. (Cohuna) Third - H. North. (Charlton) Skip-J. Wishart. (Wedderburn)

Two teams tied on points with a score of 82 1/2 points for the major prize so a countback was required to decide the winners.

Winners - J. Grylls. (Wycbeproof)

Runners - Up. R. Pearce. (Golden Square)



### **Boort Trotting Club Thank You**

Boort Trotting Club Committee gratefully acknowledges and thanks these local sponsors for Boort Cups Day 19/3/17.

Loddon Shire, Neil Beattie Family, Whitmores Buslines,, Neil Perry P/L, Aussie Wool Quilts, Railway Hotel, Boort IGA, Boort Community Pharmacy, George Tallis Hardware, Boort District School, Loddon Valley Stud, Norm Quinn Bluebird, Daryl and Roz Poxon, Ned Fitzpatrick Family, D W Foley Family, Keith McClelland Family E D Carmody Family, About Boort and Wally Manallack

### **Vision Australia Meeting**

1st May at 10:00am

At BRIC

All Welcome

John Poke (Vision Australia) will be in attendance

Small Plate Please

Gwen Parker Secretary

Boort Badminton Cub Inc  
Invites new and old players to come  
along to the  
2017 Season Opener

On  
Thursday 27th April at 7:30 pm

Boort Community Centre

Enquiries: Doug Perryman  
0409 527 363

## Boort Basketball

Boort Basketball held its semi finals and grand finals on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> of March.

### JUNIORS

The junior semi-finals provided some nail biting times with the first match between Goulding and Lavey, having 2 extra times before Goulding came out winners by 3 points. The other semi final between Phillips and Ingles came down to the last couple of minutes, in which Phillip's were able to capitalise and make their shots count to come away with a 5 point win.

The junior grand final was played between Phillips and Goulding, the 2 teams had been evenly matched during the season, the conditions were warm but the pace was fast. Scores were hard to come by for the whole game. Phillips had a 6-0 lead at half time but Goulding used there half time shots to get themselves back into the game. The final score was Phillips 11 to Goulding 5.



**Premiers Phillips** – Nick, Tom, Izzy & Brooke  
Front Sam, Annie & Eliza



Left -**Junior female leading Goal Scorer** – Sophie Perryman  
**Junior male leading Goal Scorer** - Will Toose

### Seniors

The senior semi finals were played at a fast and furious pace, with all teams making good use of the ball. In the first semi final Hodges defeated Mills. In a close encounter in the second semi final Dellavadova defeated Tolo.

The senior Grand final was played between Dellavadova and Hodges, this was poised to be a fantastic match as there previous 2 meetings had ended in a draw. The first half saw Elijah shoot very well, to give Dellavadova a 6 point lead at half time. The second half saw Hodges fight back under the leadership of Jordan, who shot 11 points for the half, unfortunately time wasn't on their side and they just couldn't quite get there with Dellavadova winning 28 to 24.



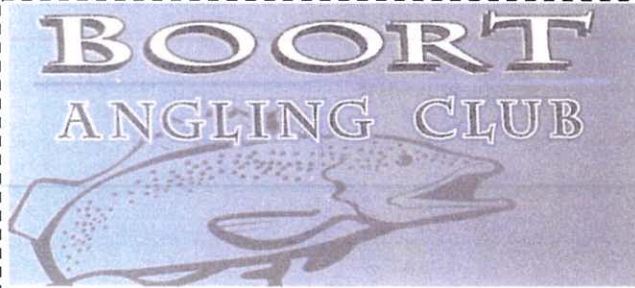
Left - **Winners:**  
Dellavadova –  
Chloe, Elijah, Emma & Lance  
Front – Macey and Jack –  
Absent Darcie

Right—**Senior female leading Goal Scorer** – Georgia Gardner  
**Senior male leading Goal Scorer** - Jordan Verley



A very big thank you to everyone who gave up their time to coach, umpire and score over the season, without this we would not be able to run the competition. Looking forward to seeing you all again at the end of the year.





## Angling Club Report

The March Fishing Comp and Fish 'n' Chip day was good. More juniors than adults attended. Josh Rothacker won the juniors.

There were lots of great comments about the food. We need to hold more of these.

Guy Contarino, our new Secretary had a great fishing experience when he went with Jeff and his crew from, REEL OBSESSION FISHING CHARTERS @ San Remo. Guy caught an elephant shark, some flathead and also some pinkies. The food and company was great.

The 2017 Carp Eradication Weekend will be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Keep these dates free because this will be a great weekend for all the family. Joe Page and Family will again sponsor the Tint Central Major Prize.

Invitations to all sponsors are currently going out and there will be great trophies and handouts available. More info as available.

Reminder, the next meeting of the Boort Angling Club Inc will be at 8:00pm 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

Any Queries call Rod on 0428 513 888

## **BOORT R.S.L. AUXILIARY - LAST REPORT - MARCH 2017**

We have nine financial members with an average of six at our meetings. We again catered for the R.S.L. Bowls and Golf days, and also gave a cuppa after the Anzac Day service. We held another successful card afternoon, too, and many thanks to the public for their support.

Our highlight of last year was celebrating our 70th Birthday in the Function Room and having it catered for. We had a great day and 57 attended the luncheon. We presented Thelma Powell with a certificate of appreciation for the service she has given to the Auxiliary. The birthday cake was made and beautifully decorated by Isabel Loader. Alan Powell supplied us with some lovely quiet music too.

We had 15 balloons floating from the tables and at the conclusion we took them outside and let them float away. There was a reason for this as we have lost 15 members since 2000.

Our donations went to Boort Memorial Hall, Cemetery Trust, and Women's Council. There has been a CD presented to the Boort Hospital in loving memory of Doug Haw who passed away recently.

Our Christmas Dinner was held at the Railway Hotel at which 24 were present. The meal was beautiful and enjoyed by all. Morrie Gierisch, again, played for us. Stella and I delivered shortbreads to the "shut-ins".

As we know, Lance Slatter has stepped down from Sub-Branch President, after many years of dedication, and Paul Haw is our President now. Thanks to Lance for the great job he did whilst he was President, and we wish him well.

At our R.S.L. Auxiliary meeting in February, we had a big discussion to decide if we carry on or not. We are getting less and getting older, and we are losing our President Stella, who is moving to Melbourne to live. Finally, we decided to disband and join with the Sub-Branch, so we are still helping the R.S.L.

As this is my last report from the R.S.L. Auxiliary, we the members of the Auxiliary sincerely thank the public for all the support you have given us over these last 70 years.

I feel a little sad about it all but times are changing. I personally, would like to thank all the members who have been a tower of strength to me over these last few years that I have been Secretary. We will miss Stella as she has been a great member of the Auxiliary, but we all wish her well in the future.

Good health to you all. Many thanks once again, Edna Boyle

The Boort Historical Society welcome the gift of eulogies to be kept as precious histories of their loved ones and the lives they lived.

Just once in a century we receive a eulogy such as this which we believe just has to be published for the appreciation of our readers.

With kind permission of her family we present to you Clara Stringer's story.

Jennie Weaver

Secretary Boort Historical Society Inc

### **Eulogy for Clara Stringer 3 January 1915 – 16 March 2017**

Today we celebrate the life of an amazing lady, Clara Stringer or as she was known to so many "Grandma Stringer". Small in stature but such an integral part of our lives and community.

Storytelling was a family trait that Clara carried on so well. She had a turn of phrase, a saying or quip for each situation along with that sparkle in her eye. It is impossible to share all these in a eulogy but her ability to make each person here feel special, will encourage you to share your memories and stories together later, the story does not end here.

Clara was born to Charles and Florence Maynard on the third of January 1915 in Boort at the hospital then situated in Lake View St. She was the youngest sister of Grace, Frank, Stephen, Arthur, Ray and Reta. The Maynards moved from three miles out into the township of Mysia when Clara was three years old. She attended the Mysia school from age four and a half to when she was thirteen years old.

While Clara was a child her eldest sister Grace was working away from home and they did not see a lot of her. Grace had very long black hair, one day Clara asked her, "How come your hair is black?" Grace answered, "Because I use a black comb." Clara and Reta spent ages looking for a black comb. It didn't work!

Sometimes in school holidays she would travel on the train up to Quambatook and Cannie with her mother, Ray and Reta to stay with her father and Frank who each worked horse teams and wagons carting wheat to the nearest railway stations. They camped in a "cabin on wheels" and the men in tents near the big dam. She loved these times when they would go on the loads, sometimes help sew the tops of the wheat bags or lead the horse to put the bags onto the wagon.

Other school holidays were spent in Yando with her mother's twin sister, Fanny Haw or her grandparents, Margaret and John McDonald. The McDonalds had a productive orchard and one Christmas time Clara had kept her eye on a peach that was ripening each day. She asked a number of times if she could pick it but was always told, "No, it isn't ready yet". On Christmas morning there it was tucked into her stocking!

In 1929 she went to work babysitting for Helen and Jack Stringer for two or three days a week for a start then left school and continued working. She was fourteen then and used to walk about two miles every morning, sometimes getting a ride home in the evening otherwise walking back. It was suggested she could have a bike but her father insisted that, "The exercise's good for her."

Clara worked in a number of different homes and farms around Mysia and Fernihurst mostly minding children. As her father and brothers were away working a lot she came home to keep her mother company and started working for Mrs Kirkham at the Farmers Arms Hotel, which was close and handy. Amongst other things one of her jobs was on a Saturday morning, to get down on her hands and knees to wash and polish the long passage that went the full length of the hotel, it had coconut matting down the middle but a foot or more of lino each side to be kept clean and shiny. It always looked great but a bit disheartening on Sunday morning after the local football teams and their supporters had traipsed up and down the passage on Saturday to use the billiard room as a change room. They often played football in the wet and mud. Sunday morning the billiard table too would need to be cleaned, but as the table was full-sized, and Clara was only small, she needed to take her shoes off, and climb onto the table to sweep it with a straw broom.

Clara was very shy and was glad that she was not old enough to work in the bar. It was very busy as there were boarders and the hotel served lunch and dinner. Reta and Thelma Carter would come and give a hand and Fred helped with the dishes (only to court Clara).

When Fred and Clara married on 6 February 1935, they had practically nothing but each other, a capacity for hard work, and determination. They leased land and farmed at Mysia, Fred also did a lot of contract carting. Lorraine, Phyl, Don, Gwen, Peter, Joy and Rod were all born while they were living in Mysia. Wendy was born after the family moved to Boort.

While still working the Mysia properties Fred bought ground at Yando in 1952 and they moved into the house at 59 Lake View St, Boort. In 1961 Fred and Clara moved out to "Loddon Lea" at Yando, and then closer to town in 1977 when McKenzies was purchased. Clara was always involved with the farm and the work entailed with it, this was a real and continuous partnership.

Family has always taken first priority in her life, her hospitality and care for them and their friends is legendary. Clara's family is widespread and diverse, but at Grandma's house they were all one, it was always a place to belong, relax and be together. Christmas at the Shearing Shed shared with five generations highlights this. Food, greetings, hugs, laughter, quiet moments, the eagerly awaited visit of Santa on the back of the ute, a time to catch up, to reminisce, to anticipate the year to come, to play cricket, and plan the Boxing Day Yabby Races. Each year there is a Cricket match that is taken extremely seriously.

Since 1990 a magnificent trophy has been presented to the winner of the "Person of the Match" carefully chosen by a "select" committee. Over the years, there has been all sorts of weather: very cold, very hot, very wet, a dust storm, and one year when it was too wet to play cricket – because the paddock was covered with a sheet of water, the trophy was awarded to Grandma Stringer, for keeping the pitch well-watered.

Animals were always a part of her life, the bullock teams of Charlie and Frank and then their horse teams along with the saddle horses, and Fred's horses too. Dogs, tortoises, lizards, chooks, rabbits there always seemed to be pets. From a letter she wrote in 1993, "I had better close now and go down for the mail. Rex, Belle (the two dogs) and the cats are waiting near the gate." The magpie that came for any scraps she had would also accompany them flying ahead to the next fence post, wait for her to catch up and then fly on ahead.

Clara lived at the farm six kilometres out the Yando Road until she was almost 99. Each evening she loved to sit out on the front verandah with her dog, Joker watching the light changing across the paddocks, keeping an eye on who was going past and whether they were heading to Boort or going home, and watching with interest the birds coming in to drink at her bird bath – white-eared honeyeaters, noisy miners, magpies, grey-crowned bblers, and rosellas were the most frequent.

Out in the paddock the galahs would roost in the box trees, she said they were like children as they settled down. First they would be making a racket and just when you think they have all gone to bed and settled one would start again and that would set off all the rest. It only takes one!

Clara was blessed to die peacefully and pain-free, her daily routine only halted by death. To the last she was thanking the staff at Loddon Place for anything they did for her, and caring for the other residents grateful for the care and friendship they offered her. She was still showing interest in all the family and what was happening in the wider community. On the Sunday before she died she was at the farm for afternoon tea with the family, or those who were around, as she was each Saturday and Sunday. There were twenty-two there, the large number no reason for her to be excused from doing the drying up.

Clara was 102, but our grief is very strong, somehow we weren't quite ready for her to not be here. None of us have known a time when Clara was not here. We all express this grief in our own personal way. One of her grandsons posted on Facebook late last Thursday night: "Sitting around drinking Milo with sugar in it, and it tastes like home and safety and love unconditional. Vale Grandma Stringer, our hero".

When we would leave Clara or finish a conversation on the phone, we would always say "Love you"; Clara almost always replied, "I love you too, I love you all." Words that highlighted her inclusiveness and her bigness of heart. Love made her resilient, love shaped her world and her family, love embraced the extras that were always at her home and love fed her witty sense of humour. Unconditional love. Words for us to cherish and hold on to. "I love you all".

### Thank You

Thank you to the wider Boort Community . We are grateful for the sympathy and support expressed to us in so many ways following the death of our loved mother and "Grandma Stringer". Thank you to the St Patricks Church congregation for your openness and generosity of spirit.

We also thank both the staff and residents of Boort District Health for your care, love and friendship given to Clara at the Boort Hostel and Loddon Place over the three years she was a resident.

Please accept this as our personal thanks.  
The family of Clara Stringer

## COMING EVENTS

Thursday 26/4	Badminton starts
Saturday 29/4	Wedderburn v Boort
Sunday 30/4	Amity Auction
Monday 1/5	Vision Australia Meeting
Tuesday 2/5	Dementia Information Session
Wednesday 3/5	NDIS van in Boort
Thursday 4/5	Story time at BRIC
Thursday 4/5	Peter Walsh & Damian Drum
Saturday 6/4	Boort v Charlton
Wednesday 10/5	Angling Club meeting
Thursday 11/5	Infant Immunisations
Saturday 13/5	North Central Interleague Match
Sunday 14/5	Mothers Day
Saturday 20/4	Sea Lake v Boort
Monday 22/5	Blumes Fashions at Senior Citizens
Saturday 27/5	Digger's Day at Golf
Saturday 27/5	Boort V Wycheproof
Saturday 3/6	Men's Golf Championships start
Wednesday 7/6	Ladies Golf Championships start
Thursday 8/6	Infant Immunisations
Friday 23/6	Farmers Four Ball at golf
Saturday 24/6	Golf Presentation Night
Thursday 13/7	Infant Immunisations
Thursday 14/9	Infant immunisations
Saturday 21/10	Carp Eradication weekend
Sunday 22/10	

*See inside for more details*



## Loddon Valley

### Physiotherapy

NOW OPEN AT THE  
BOORT MEDICAL CLINIC

2 Couatts Street Boort

For appointments please call

5451 5220

### Thank You

The Boort Amity Club would like to thank the Boort Community for their generosity to the Royal Children's Hospital Appeal.

The total amount raised was **\$2937.45**

Thanks to all who helped to raise this amount.

## Free Dementia Information Session at BRIC in Boort, 2:30pm Tuesday 2nd May 2017

### DEMENTIA AND OUR SERVICES

This session provides general information about dementia and services available at Alzheimer's Australia Vic. It will be presented by Annette Robertson, a local volunteer from Wedderburn.

*Annette is very passionate and knowledgeable about Dementia, and delivers the presentation on Dementia and Our Services, sharing her personal experience of caring for her late husband.*

Alzheimer's Australia Vic has been Victoria's leading organisation dedicated to supporting people living with dementia, their families and carers for more than 30 years

#### Followed by Afternoon Tea

RSVP 5455 2716 for catering purposes

To finish by 3:30pm

### NDIS VAN COMING TO BOORT

Do you want to know more about the National Disability Insurance Scheme?

The NDIS Intereach Information Van is travelling around the Loddon area and will be stopping off at Boort to talk to locals about the NDIS.

Intereach can answer your questions, and help you get ready for the NDIS which will start from 1 May 2017 in the Loddon area.

Staff can answer questions like:

What is the NDIS and how does it work?

What kind of support can I access through the NDIS?

How can I access the NDIS?

How is the NDIS rolling out in the Loddon area?

**Venue:** Boort Resource & Information Centre (BRIC)

**Date:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017

**Time:** 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Address:** 119-121 Godfrey St, Boort

#### For more information contact:

Intereach Local Area Coordination (LAC) - Loddon area  
Ph: 1300 968 140 or [lac\\_loddon@intereach.com.au](mailto:lac_loddon@intereach.com.au)