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A locally owned and operated family business, bringing a caring and compassionate service to our community, with over 30 years' experience in the funeral industry



29TH ANNUAL WEDDERBURN HISTORICAL ENGINE & MACHINERY RALLY

September 7 and 8
at the Engine Park,
Cnr Calder Highway
and Racecourse Rd,
Wedderburn

Sat 9am - 6pm & Sun 9am - 3pm

Admission: Adults \$5, Children U16 no charge
No charge for exhibitors

A great day out for the whole family.
Working historical engines, static displays, classic motor vehicles, farm machinery and many other items of interest from the past on display

Shearing demonstrations, chaff cutting display and a patchwork display in the old school building

Enquiries to: Trevor Bailey 0427 583 341 or Geoff Maxwell 0417 058 545



Charlton and Districts Community Bank customer service officer Lizzy McGrath, Boort historical society members Gayle Huggett, Margaret Nelson and secretary Jennie Weaver, Boort Bendigo Bank agency's Amanda Whykes, Boort and District Historical Society president Robert Coutts and Charlton and District Community Bank branch manager Glenden Watts at the cheque presentation. **Picture supplied.**

Have your say Towards Zero Road Safety Forum

Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Horsham, Loddon, Macedon Ranges, Mount Alexander, Mitchell, Northern Grampians and Strathbogie.

Have your say on how driving, riding and walking can be made safer in your community, everyone's welcome.

Help us develop Victoria's next road safety strategy, which will save lives and stop people from being injured on our roads.

Tuesday 3 September
5.45 – 7.30pm

Bendigo District RSL, 73-75 Havilah Road, Bendigo

Register your interest: email askus@tac.vic.gov.au or call 0466 620 869



Boost for Boort Historical Society

THE Boort and District Historical Society received more than \$5000 from the Bendigo Bank last week, which will help preserve historical photos and artefacts from the area.

The money, from the Charlton & District Community Bank Grants Program, was presented in Boort last Tuesday to historical society president Robert Coutts by Bendigo Bank branch manager Glenden Watts.

The \$5845 will be used to install new display cabinets in the Court House Museum and buy acid proof binders for photos.

The historical society is currently cataloguing 4000 photos of Boort and district over the years, secretary Jennie Weaver said, and

the binders are very important in preserving them.

"Everything we do, we do forever. It's there to last," Ms Weaver said.

Mr Watts congratulated the group on their work safekeeping the history of the area and said the grant was made possible by local residents.

"Projects like this are achievable as a result of community members' everyday banking," he said.

"The bank's income is shared back into your local clubs and their projects, supporting those who bank with the Bendigo Bank. That's the power of community banking."

Inglewood & Districts Community Bank® Branch

Apply online now

Inglewood & Districts Community Bank®, Community Grants Program

A Community Grant may be just what your organisation needs to make a great idea happen.

Visit our website www.bendigobank.com.au/foundation

Applications are NOW OPEN and close on Friday 6 September

For assistance contact Kim Hanlon on 0418 278 666

A Community Grant may be just what your organisation needs to make a great idea happen. Visit our website at www.bendigobank.com.au/foundation The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo, VIC, 3550. CEF8 (193750_v4) (30/07/2019)



Broader significance

JENNY DENTON

A RESEARCH and bush regeneration project north-west of Wedderburn is probably the biggest of its kind in Australia and will have significant benefits for the broader community, one of its designers says.

Research volunteer Garry McDonald has spent three years working with conservation group Bush Heritage Australia, as well as Melbourne University, the CSIRO and carbon offset provider Greenfleet, to set up a grey and yellow box regeneration project at the 1200-hectare Nardoo Hills conservation reserve.

Last month, 9000 grey and yellow box eucalypt seedlings propagated from seed collected in hot, dry areas of New South Wales were planted at Nardoo Hills, with some Bendigo TAFE and La Trobe ecology students involved in the planting, along with Bush Heritage staff, Greenfleet and Mr McDonald.

The aim is to counter the die back of the trees in the reserve and broaden their genetic diversity, with the introduced plants hopefully cross-pollinating with local ones to build the resilience of the species to the changing climate.

The project is also a major research initiative, which has been carefully designed to collect data from.

"It's a very big experiment that is set up to be easy for other groups, like universities, to participate in," Mr McDonald said.

"We've used the approach recommended by the CSIRO to set up the trial and have gone to incredible lengths to label each plant. We will know the parents of every seedling and can easily measure its difference.

"Of course we'll measure basic things like tree survival and growth rates and we'll monitor each of those trees - how they're surviving, how quickly they're growing. We'll have lots of data."

Mr McDonald said similar trials had been done with faster-growing plants like banksia, but scientists were worried about the time frame for eucalypts.



Bush Heritage scientist Dr Matt Appleby planting seedlings. Picture: AMELIA CADDY

"Because they're so slow we've got to get on with this. It takes 15 or so years for them to grow," he said.

An entomologist who worked for 40 years on agricultural issues, Mr McDonald said he had spoken to a lot of landholders who shared his concern about trees, particularly in the Strathbogie region, where "great stretches of forest have died."

"I seriously worry about our climate impacting our trees. You lose a big tree and it completely changes the landscape for birds, insects, reptiles. They're really important structural elements of our landscape," he said.

"It's my hope that we can take the best available knowledge from this and put it out there in the community."

The passionate program volunteer hopes to see the first of the new trees flowering and cross-pollinating in 10 to 15 years.

"Hopefully they'll be beautiful monsters in years to come," he said.