

From the Committee

The year is really flying and on 3 April we will see the end of daylight saving. Turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night prior to going to bed. At 3.00 am Sunday daylight saving time the clocks are turned back one hour to become 2.00 am eastern standard time.

A number of changes to venues are about to, or have taken place. Tai Chi is now at the Creswick Neighbourhood Centre on Thursdays at the same time; Scrabble will move to Monday 1.00–3.00 pm from the start of next term (Tuesday, 26 April) staying at the Neighbourhood Centre.

Ballroom Dancing will also return to the Creswick

Neighbourhood Centre on the same date.

Recently long term co-ordinator of the Neighbourhood Centre, Kim Gilliott, retired after 12 years at the helm. We wish her all the best for the future and thank her for her support over the years.

Her replacement is Chrissie Austin and we look forward to furthering our relationship.

Valé Geoff Rawson

Geoff Rawson was U3A Member No. 2. A former president and Vice President, he contributed greatly to the success of our U3A.

Kate Bindu sent me the following details about a friend we will all miss.

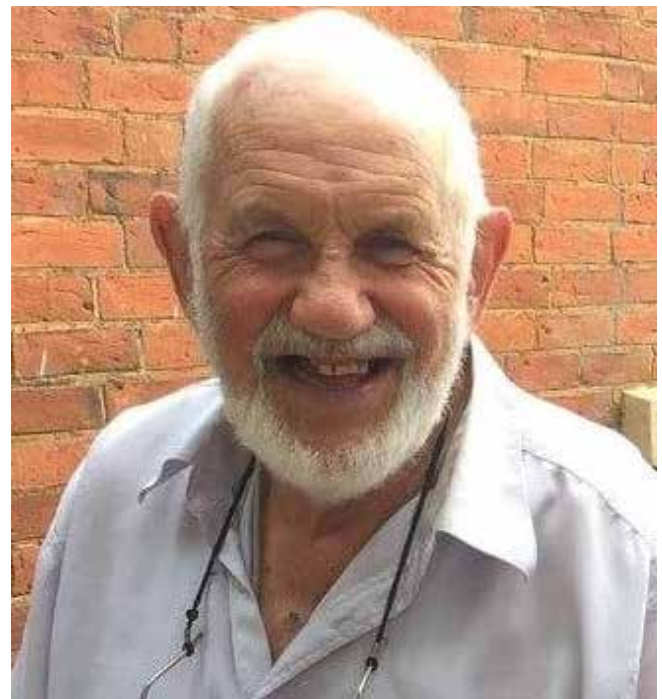
Geoff Rawson passed away with calm dignity and minimal fuss at 89, on 19 February 2022.

A father of three girls, he is remembered for his home workshops, smelling of resin and wood shavings. He created with recycled materials at minimal cost.

”He was the last of the Scallywags”, says his old and dear friend, Frank Walsh.

Geoff was a man with a well-developed sense of humour. Gentle and kind, he helped many people in his community, even teaching carpentry to local primary school children. If you needed help with anything he was there, often in his shed making a toy or practical object for someone.

He facilitated the U3A Philosophy group, frequented the Men’s Shed and was a tutor for our croquet group. He was a real whiz at the game and could beat us all most of the time, hands down. We called him “Dead Eye Dick”. For years he rode his bicycle everywhere, until recently, when he found it too difficult with his



painful “gammy leg”. Refusing any treatment, he stoically “soldiered on”. Geoff was artistic and he made friends easily. His home was adorned with his paintings.

Geoff never succumbed to the lure of fancy material possessions or sought social status. He quietly went about living a life that was embedded in principles that were true to him. His courage to do so endured to the end. He will be greatly missed, but he was the type of character that lives on in some way in everyone who knew him.

Ballarat Reform League Inc. Creswick Monument

On 18 October 2014 the Ballarat Reform League Inc. Creswick Monument was unveiled at Calemben Park by Professor Weston Bate



Samuel Thomas Gill, Creswick Creek (near Ballaarat) from Spring Hill, lithograph on paper, hand coloured. Art Gallery of Ballarat, Ronald Wrigley Estate, 1979.

Background

In late October 1854, the road to the Government Camp at Creswick Creek was crowded with diggers so incensed by the oppressive license system and general injustice that they threatened to burn the Camp and demanded the removal of all officials.

The protest was quelled, but the anger returned on 25 November when delegates from Ballarat's vigorous Reform League rode in to seek support for their democratic protest and their condemnation of officials. Four days later, about 2,000 men, from the population of 25,000, met at Long Point to promise support. Licenses were burnt and led by a German band, a contingent of about 150 set off for Ballarat travelling via Clarke's Flat and Black Lead, encouraging fellow miners to join them. Legend has it that some were caught in a thunderstorm at Mopoke and returned home. Yet it is recorded that about 500 Creswick men arrived at the stockade in Ballarat on 1 December 1854.

The [Ballarat Reform League](#), the pinnacle of goldfields unrest, was formed on 11 November 1854 to express great concern about the corruption, injustice and oppression of the Ballarat authorities. Its charter was a benchmark for democracy and its remonstrance a condemnation of official behaviour. It claimed a power 'rested by God in the people'

The Creswick meeting on 29 November was a response to the decision of a Ballarat meeting to march led, by [Peter Lalor](#), to Eureka with the Southern Cross flag, build a defensive stockade and stand up for their rights and liberties. They were no match for the Government forces who stormed the stockade and even massacred bystanders early on the morning of 3 December.



Left: Ballarat Reform League Creswick Memorial, 2014. Above: Professor Weston Bate unveils the Ballarat Reform League Creswick Memorial, 2014. Photographs: Clare Gervasoni. Source: Eurakapedia.

This monument mounted on a large piece of quartz is just inside the entrance to Calemben Park.

The following diggers were among those who left Creswick for the Eureka Stockade:

Antonio Capuano; Natale D'Angri; Charles Fenwick; John Fenwick; Patrick Gittings; Henry

Hammon; John Keenan; Thomas Kennedy; Thomas Marks; Edward McGowan; Antonio Nida; Henry Powell; Edward McGowan; Michael Tuohy; James Warner; James Woolcock.

Creswick Residents

Richard Allan; Gilbert Amos; William Bell; William Boase; Frederick Bury; George Colwell; Patrick M. Curtain; John Kennan; Alexander Mollison; Matthew McCormick; Charles Nicholls; Robert Nicholls; Thomas Phillips; Michael Tuohy.

Monument Project Ballarat Reform League.

Our first project, The Monument Project, was launched in 2003 to place plaques and monuments on sites across the Victorian goldfields where significant actions occurred that culminated in the formation of the Ballarat Reform League at a public meeting on 11 November 1854. These actions grew to a climax on 3 December 1854 in the battle at the stockade on the Eureka lead in Ballarat.

The project was made possible by the generous support of The Vera Moore Foundation and with advice from Professor Weston Bate.

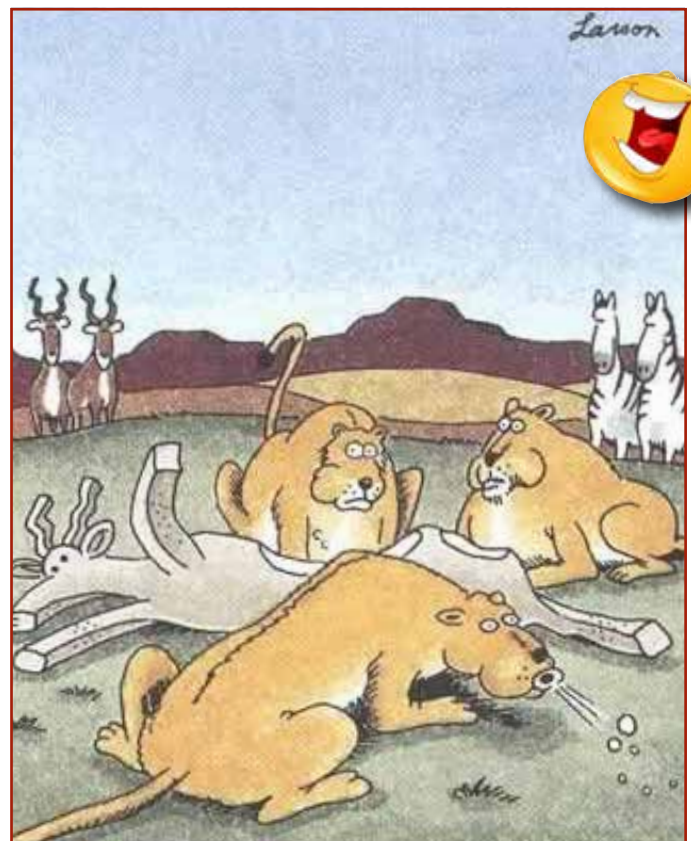
To date plaques and monuments have been placed at the following sites:

- The former **Star Hotel**, Main Road, Ballarat, the meeting place of the Ballarat Reform League in 1854.
- Hiscock Gully Road, **Buninyong** where gold was officially first discovered in August 1851 in Victoria and where the first protest meeting was held when the government announced it would charge an onerous licence fee.
- **Chewton** (Forest Creek) where the first Monster Meeting was held on 15 December 1851 objecting to the government's unjust and exorbitant tax on gold diggers and its plans to increase that tax.
- **Beechworth** at Madman's Gully, near 124 Stanley Road. It was here that the first demand for political representation in the Victorian Legislative Council was made on 2 April 1853.
- **Bendigo** where a Monster Meeting was held on Camp Hill on 28 August 1853 to protest against the licence fee and the way it was policed. Known as The Red Ribbon Agitation it resulted in suspension of the licence for September 1853, a victory for compromise and commonsense.

- **Creswick** A plaque was placed at the entrance to Calambeen Park to mark the angry protest of diggers in October 1854 against the oppressive licence system. On 29 November many Creswick diggers set out for Ballarat to support the Ballarat Reform League's protest.
- **Bakery Hill, Ballarat First plaque.** It was here on 11 November 1854 at a Monster Meeting that the Ballarat Reform League Charter was unanimously adopted calling for manhood suffrage and full and fair representation. The Ballarat Reform League was officially formed.
- **Bakery Hill, Ballarat Second plaque.** It was at Bakery Hill that on 29 November 1854 at a Monster Meeting, held around the new flag, the Southern Cross, the diggers learnt of the failure of talks with Governor Hotham and the Ballarat Reform League representatives. In anger the diggers voted to burn their licences.

On 30 November two further meetings were held calling for allegiance to the Eureka flag, the Southern Cross:

'We swear by the Southern Cross to stand truly by each other and defend our rights and liberties.'



In sudden disgust, the three lionesses realised they had killed a tofudebeest – one of the Serengeti's obnoxious health antelopes.

Coming to the Regent Multiplex on 31 March

The Duke is a 2020 British comedy-drama film directed by Roger Michell, with a screenplay by Richard Bean and Clive Coleman.



Dealing with the 1961 theft of the Portrait of the Duke of Wellington, the film stars Jim Broadbent, Helen Mirren, Fionn Whitehead, Anna Maxwell Martin and Matthew Goode.

A sweet swan song for director Roger Michell, *The Duke* offers a well-acted and engaging dramatization of an entertainingly improbable true story. It was Michell's final film before his death on 22 September 2021.

60-year-old self-educated working class Kempton Buntton (Broadbent) appears in Court Number 1 at the Old Bailey, pleading not guilty to charges of stealing Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington and its frame from the National Gallery in London.

He was previously jailed at Durham for 13 days for watching TV without a licence; although he can afford one he refuses to do so as part of his campaign against pensioners having to pay for it, part of his wider strong socialist beliefs about supporting the common man.

Kempton sends a series of ransom notes to the government, saying that he will return the painting on the condition that the elderly be exempted from paying for a TV licence.

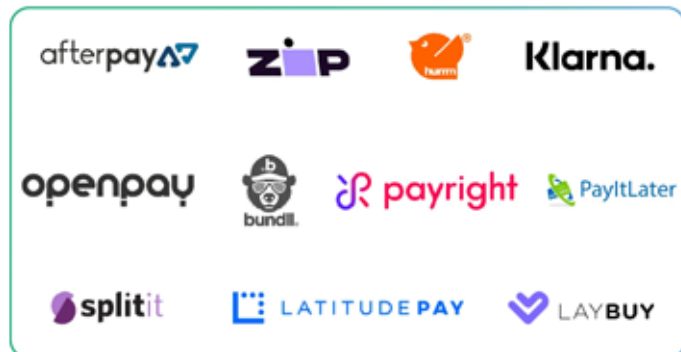


One type of debt is not subject to the same credit check requirements as others

Consumer groups from nine countries, including Australia, have come together to urge governments to take action against credit providers taking advantage of the most vulnerable.

Australian consumer group CHOICE has joined forces with consumer protection bodies from countries across Europe, Asia and both North and South America to urge national governments to take stronger action against debt providers exploiting loopholes.

In a statement, the group says buy now, pay later (BNPL) credit providers, such as Afterpay or Zip, target the most vulnerable in society by offering them credit they are unequipped to pay back. Currently, BNPL credit is not subject to the same requirements as a bank loan or credit card, and the group says this is allowing BNPL companies to target the most vulnerable in society.



The government has flagged BNPL for review, but as yet no firm commitments on regulation have been made.

Data compiled by CHOICE shows many Australians are struggling with this form of debt. Around 30 per cent of Aussies have used a BNPL in the past 12 months, with one in five of those using the services to pay for essential goods and services such as food, petrol or utilities. In addition, 15 per cent who had used BNPL services have missed or were late on a payment and 78 per cent of those went on to experience financial hardship as a result of the fees incurred.

“International consumer groups have sounded the alarm on the harm being caused by the unfettered

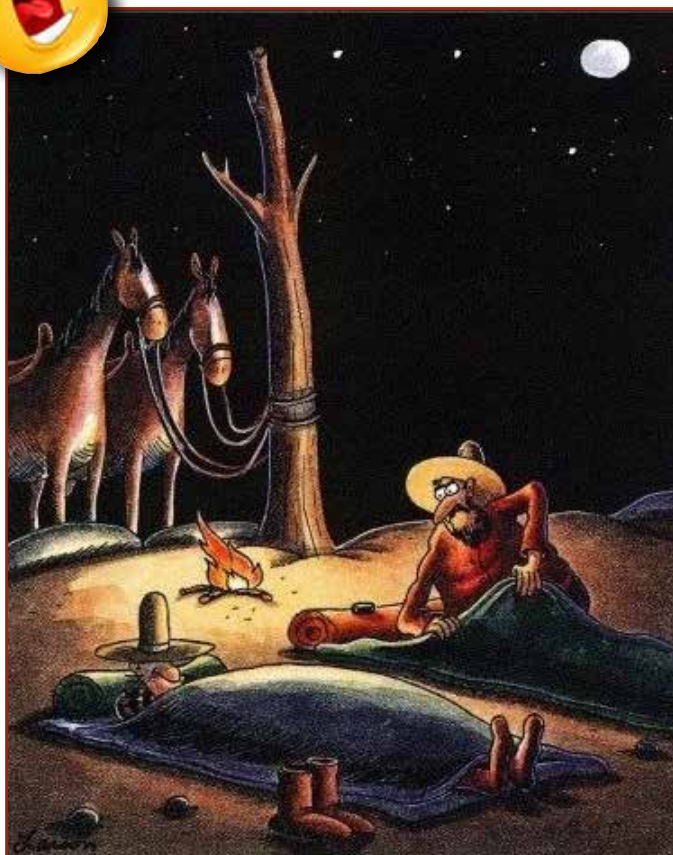
buy now, pay later industry,” says CHOICE CEO Alan Kirkland.

“We are calling for governments across the world – including the Australian government – to ensure that buy now, pay later providers are subject to the same consumer protection laws as other credit providers,” he said.

“It’s time to close the loophole in the buy now, pay later industry in Australia. For too long, companies have been allowed to sell unregulated loans to Australians. Failure to act will create further hardship for individuals and families who are already doing it tough.”

“Almost nine in 10 (87 per cent) Australians agree that BPNL companies should have to check someone’s capacity to repay a loan as part of the application process as credit cards are legally required to do,” Mr Kirkland says. “It is critical to fix this loophole in our laws, to ensure these businesses can’t create debt traps for low-income households by providing credit that looks easy but is ultimately unaffordable. In some cases, people spend years trying to pay back debt they have signed up for in minutes.”

Source Your Life Choices March 21, 2022



Zeke froze. For the longest time, all he could do was stare at the chocolate mint that “someone” had placed on his bedroll.

Latest Age Pension rates

(from 20 March 2022)

The rates for a full Age Pension for Australian residents for the period 20 March 2022 to 19 September 2022 are:

- **Single:** \$987.60 per fortnight (approximately \$25,678 per year)
- **Couple (each):** \$744.40 per fortnight (approximately \$19,354 per year)
- **Couple (combined):** \$1,488.80 per fortnight (approximately \$38,709 per year)
- **Couples separated due to illness** each receive the Single rate (see above), which combined is \$1,975.20 (approximately \$51,355 per year).



FOLK AND ROOTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Friday 1 April to Sunday 3 April 2022

JOIN CELEBRATED CONTEMPORARY FOLK AND WORLD MUSIC ARTISTS FOR A WEEKEND OF JOYFUL MUSICAL ENCOUNTERS IN THE FORESTED GOLDRUSH TOWN OF CRESWICK

Live performances include: Emma Donovan and The Putbacks, Eric Bogle Trio, The Maes, Lucy Wise, Fiona Ross and Shane O’Mara, Kee’ahn, FOOLS, Freya Josephine Hollick, Pete Denahy and more.

Details at: www.cresfest.com.au