



## CFA CELEBRATES IN WELL EARNED STYLE

On Sunday May 4th, locals & Blackwood CFA brigade members gathered to officially open the "Peter Brown" training room.

Former Captain, George Stockdale, outlined the history of the Blackwood Fire Brigade from its inception in the early 40's when, operating under the Forestry Commission, it met in Blackwood House (back then CFA only operated in flat country).

In the mid 60's the group was acknowledged under the CFA umbrella. The community built a pre-fab shed & bought its first tanker for £4,500 which CFA agreed to maintain.

Meetings were held on the bare, dirt floor of the shed on 'forms'. George fondly remembers these were "a bit like church pews, if someone got off one end, the person sitting on the other end would fall off".

After the Ash Wednesday fires in the 80's & the more recent Linton fires a greater emphasis has been placed on the training aspect of the brigade.

... cont p2



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE WALKER'S?

As often happens in a small community, conversation turned to the Walker's house in Martin Street when, after 40 years of residence, it was put on the market early last year. Who would buy it? What would they do with it? Then, when the sold sign went up ... more curiosity – who had bought it & why?

In May 2007 the new owners, Margaret Delvin & Mike Allen began extensive renovations & the whispers were that it was to be 'some sort of a conference centre'.

Built in 1862, it was originally the Bank of Australasia before being sold to the Walkers in 1967. During the filming of the Man From Snowy River series, the Walkers ran a tea room out of the cottage at the rear of the house, where well known celebrities could be seen relaxing in the garden.

A host of local tradies have been employed over the past 12 months to complete the elegant refurbishment & in April, after much anticipation, "Let's Talk Retreat" opened to its first guests. Let's Talk is more intimate than traditional corporate retreats and caters to small group workshops. The garden has been given new life despite the lack of rain, the house is filled with wonderful antiques (Mike's passion) & divine soft furnishings (Margaret's domain).

Mike & Margaret run their business, Centre for Organisation Development, from their Port Melbourne office but can frequently be seen taking a well earned break over a coffee at the Blackwood store.



Peter Brown (front) & Captain Ian Stewart (back) at the official opening of the CFA "Peter Brown Room"

## LOCAL SCULPTOR EXHIBITS IN MACEDON

Blackwood artist, Greg Cassidy, along with other local artists, recently took part in Artanica, an exciting annual exhibition showcasing diverse garden sculpture within the grounds of Duneira, a magnificent Mount Macedon garden.

Artanica is an annual event of the Mount Macedon Horticultural Society and is a chance to enjoy the gardens, beautiful music and the eye-catching outdoor art. The sculptural artworks are also offered for sale at the event which provides a chance to acquire a sculpture from the artists themselves.



... cont p2



## LOCAL ART ... cont from p1

This was the events third year and it has rapidly grown to become an anticipated display of work by some of our finest garden sculptors. Artanica has secured a permanent home in Duneira and this year's vibrant Autumn foliage, an exhibition in it's own right, was certainly a crowd pleaser.

Greg's work involves sculpting metal sourced from old farming implements into brilliant new pieces that compliment both rustic and modern landscapes.

A sample of Greg's artwork is displayed in the Blackwood general store's back garden which provides a backdrop for which they are intended. Those keen to see more can contact him on 5368 6740.



what's John up to? see page 7

Photo by Brendan Hehir



### MEALS

Wed to Mon ~12-2pm & 6-8pm

Sun lunch ~ 12-2.30pm

Tues ~ bar open 4-8pm (no meals)

TAKE AWAY now available (not Sat night)

**CHECK OUT the great specials board**

**BOOKINGS** essential on weekends

### ★ SPECIALS ★

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Parma & Pot OR Seafood Special & Pot \$12.00

THURSDAY NIGHT

2 course Asian Meals \$12.50

Martin St, Blackwood 3458

**ph 5368 6501**

**MOTEL ROOMS AVAILABLE**

## CFA CELEBRATES ... cont from p1

90% of running the brigade involved administration & training by the late 90's. It was clear a new meeting/training room was needed. Plans including a kitchenette, shower, toilet & dining area were drawn up.

Peter Brown was appointed the project manager of the building so the room was named after him in appreciation of this work.

"... but make sure you say it wasn't just me though, lots of people helped to build it" said Peter.

George also presented awards to acknowledge ex-councillor Jack Rayner's 30 years of service and Peter Brown's service (20 & 25 years).

A bouquet of flowers was presented to Kerryn Whiffen in thanks for her many years of work as secretary & treasurer to the Blackwood brigade.

The room opening was followed by a BBQ.

## welcome to Blackwood,

### welcome to the world ...



Tim and Heather Marsh made the tree-change in late February, moving into the house previously owned by the Watsons in Rayner Court.

Tim works as a criminal barrister, but devotes much of his spare time and energy to

building and riding bicycles. Heather is on maternity leave from her job as a youth arts company manager at Footscray Community Arts Centre, and is a visual artist and writer.

On the 16th of April, at 11.15pm, Tim and Heather welcomed their first baby, Rufus Griffin Marsh, into the world. He is a very healthy and lively little boy, weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces at birth ( 3.35 kilos). He had a complication-free birth at the Mercy Family Birth Centre, and came home to Blackwood three days later.

Tim and Heather say there is nowhere they would rather be with their new family, and thank their wonderful neighbours and the local community for the warm welcome they have received.



# where are they now?

## Louisa Hunter-Bradley



**then ...** spent many holidays in Blackwood with her family whose parents once owned the Garden of St Erth.

**now ...** operations Manager for Musica Viva which stages thousands of concerts across Australia every year. She also runs "Past Echoes" Autumn Music Festival. She sings & plays recorder.

... travels widely with her husband David Bartholomeusz (sound engineer) with the "Merchants of Bollywood".

... her parents Robin & Brenda now live permanently in Blackwood & run Woodbine holiday cottage.

## Heath Scotland



**then ...** born in 1980, his family moved to Blackwood when Heath was 4 years old.

... went to Trentham Primary school and then Bacchus Marsh Secondary

... started playing in the under 12's for Darley Football Club in Bacchus Marsh

... while in under 16's Western Jets football club asked him to come and train.

... trained there and went on to play with them in the under 18's

... he was picked up in the national draft by Collingwood Football Club at pick 44 in '98.

... played his 1st game in '99 and went on to play with Collingwood for next 5 years wearing #44 and played in Collingwoods two losing Grand Finals.

**now ...** Heath was traded to Carlton in '03 and played his first game for Carlton in '04.

.. played 144 games in total so far.

... Heath is now a personel trainer while completing an apprenticeship in carpentry.

... he and his fiance, Alisha Harris, are expecting their first child in September .

**IF YOU** know someone who has had a history in Blackwood and you would like to see featured in 'where are they now?'

**DROP US** a photo & a brief 'then & now' bio.

**USE THE** 'drop box' at the general store

**OR EMAIL** us at [blackwood@centralvic.com.au](mailto:blackwood@centralvic.com.au)

### LOCAL TIP hours

Trentham: Wed/Sat/Sun 9am-5pm

Ballan: Wed-Mon 1pm-5pm

a blackwood news community service notice

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jinny coyle

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**central vic:**

golden point road, blackwood 3458  
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Email [michael@michaelbascombe.com](mailto:michael@michaelbascombe.com)



**THE BLACKWOOD** Uniting Church is the little wooden Church on the hill in the village of Blackwood. The congregation at Blackwood is part of the Highlands Cluster Uniting Church and we are currently exploring how best to be Church in the Blackwood area. As we seek to discern our way forward we would like to hear your views on a range of issues. You may have already received a survey in your post office box, but if you are interested in contributing and missed out, please download a survey from the Blackwood News webpage or our own webpage [www.highlandsclusteruca.org.au](http://www.highlandsclusteruca.org.au). Completed surveys can be returned to the box at the Blackwood General Store or by post. In the meantime, you are very welcome to attend meditation, worship or the variety of other activities that we offer. For more information please call the Highlands Cluster Uniting Church office on 5348 2119.

~ Rev. Sally Douglas  
[www.highlandsclusteruca.au](http://www.highlandsclusteruca.au)

**Meditation** drawing from ancient Christian practice:  
1st & 3rd Mondays 7-8pm Blackwood Uniting Church  
**Weekly Sunday worship:**  
Trentham Uniting Church 9:30am  
Ballan Uniting Church 11:15am

### "Spirituality in the Bush"



Last Easter Sunday I was fortunate to meet Mary Walsh at the church of St. Malachy here in Blackwood. Her genuine warm welcome encouraged me to attend the next meeting of "Spirituality in the Bush".

As the leaflet she gave me said; "Spirituality in the Bush is about feeling welcomed to enjoy, participate and reflect while in the peace and natural surroundings of the church of St. Malachy, Blackwood.

On the last Sunday of each month a 5pm you will be welcomed to the Rosary, reflection and refreshments".

And indeed this was my experience. It was a delight for me to reconnect with the telling of the Rosary and

to share with others a desire for peace, understanding and compassion. To make space in our lives for prayer and reflection with others serves to encourage and uplift ones spirit. It was and is a delight to find this little light shining a top the hill in Blackwood's beautiful bush.

The next meetings are on June 29 and July 27.

~ Susie Ann Deeble

## blackwoofs



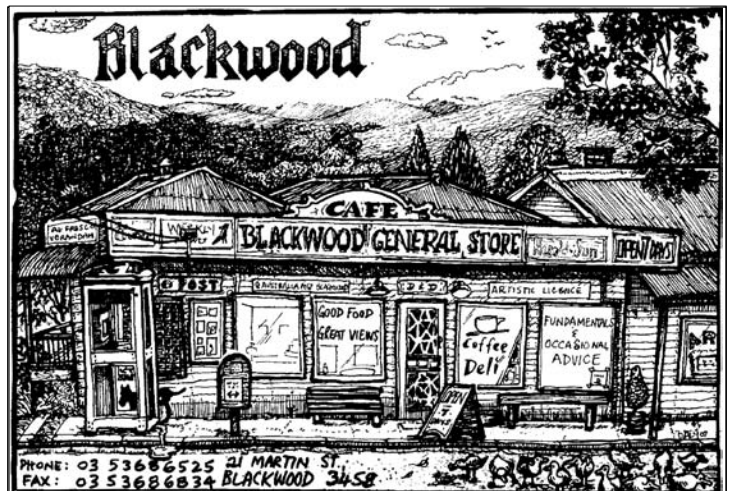
Meet 4 year old Katya, a German Shepherd who lives at Lost Valley with big sis Nadia, black cat Foxy and owners Brenda and Robin.

Last week Katya took off after a kangaroo (silly me left the gate open for visitors). When she didn't come back, I set off to look for her, first alerting the General Store where Judith de Groot was visiting.

After an hour or so of searching, I came back to big welcome from Katya. Luckily Judith had spotted her wandering the streets of Dales Creek looking lost, she invited her into her car and brought her home.

Thanks Judith,

~ Brenda Hunter.



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**GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL**

Congratulations to all residents of Blackwood for their generosity on Good Friday, with \$1283.65 being collected for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. A huge thankyou to the team of collectors, Michelle Osborne, Suzy Morris, Corey McKeone, Clare Bridson, Erin Bridson, Jim and Val McKeone, Mitchell and Teghan Unstad.

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**WE SAY** goodbye to Bronwyn Kennedy who lost her battle with cancer in May.

**THE TWO** peices of her artwork below were painstakingly created for CD covers while she was living in Blackwood in 2000.

**THEY REFLECT** so well what Bronwyn loved - animals, friends, music & Blackwood. The image on the left is a self-portrait.

**A GENTLE** person who will be missed by those whose lives she touched.



**A SPECIAL THANK-YOU FROM LORRAINE - re JOHN FARY**

**I WOULD** like to thank the community for the love, support and friendship shown to John and myself over the last 12 months.

**HE BATTLED** so hard - but always thought of the locals - you guys kept him going - he had great respect for you all.

**A SPECIAL** thank-you to our neighbour Sam. He called us "his 2 angels". She dedicated so many

hours to him with such love and kindness any hour of the day or night - she also was my greatest support - but not to omit the other wonderful "nurses", "certs" and "paramedics" of Blackwood - thanks guys - how dedicated you are.

**WHAT A** safe and wonderful community we live in.

**HE WILL** live in my heart forever

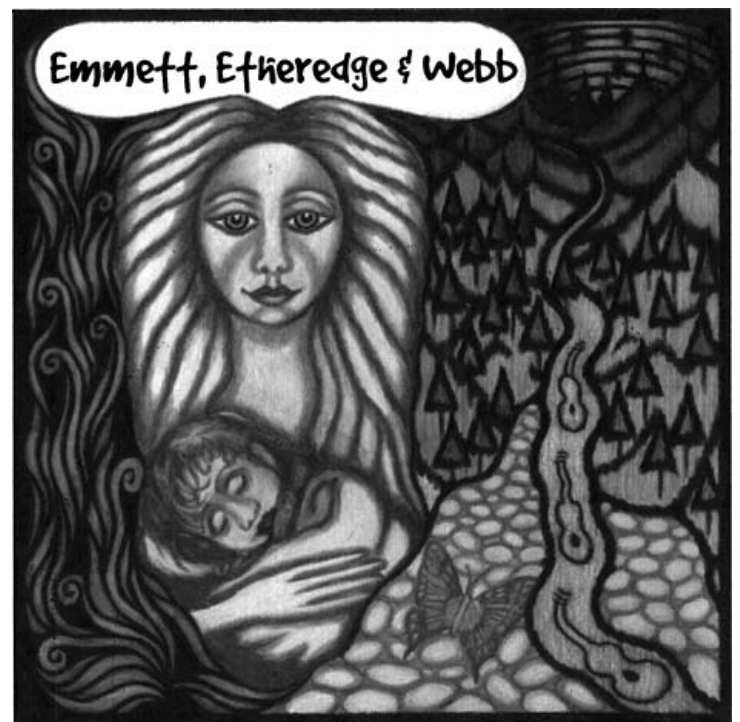
~ Lorraine



**EDDIE WEISS** Eddie & Helga first visited Blackwood in 1970. They built their home on a beautiful 2 1/2 acres at Simmon's Reef & became permanent residents in 1983. Eddie, a chef of some distinction, treated crowds at the Easter Carnival & Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinners to his skills. He & Helga were also early members of Blackwood

Cricket Club & Blackwood Progress Association. Helga continues her long run as treasurer for Blackwood Senior Citizens.

**EDDIE'S GENTLE** & generous spirit will be missed by the Blackwood community, his friends & family & Helga, his wife of 54 years.





# COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

## BLACKWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE INC.

Hello once again from the Blackwood Senior Citizens Club - we thank Jinny for undertaking this time consuming task of still keeping the Blackwood paper in circulation.

Our club is going ahead in leaps & bounds. We all look forward to our Wednesday get togethers - all new members would be made very welcome. Annual sub is \$5pa.

Xmas in July will be held on the 16th in our club room at \$25ph - all enquiries phone 5368 6551.

We welcomed Dot Williams as our new chef - she is doing a terrific job with Jenny as her able assistant.

Jay, from CFA headquarters in Ballarat, had lunch with us last Wednesday then gave a very informative talk about fire prevention in the home.

Quite a lot of our members went on a 4 day trip to Warnambool, they all reported back that it was a fantastic outing.

We had quite a spate of operations amongst our members - Grace Huggett has a hip replacement - not bad for a lady who is 80 years old! Sheila Tori is in Ararat hospital recovering from her knee replacement & Isa Hayler has had carpal tunnel surgery - we wish them all well & hope that they will be back at the club very soon.

Our heartfelt sympathy to our treasurer Helga Weiss at the passing of her dear husband Eddie - he was one of nature's gentleman & a very talented man but we would not wish him back so may he rest in peace.

This is all our news for now so till next time. Regards from

~ Barbara Sweet, (Hon) secretary

## BLACKWOOD CROWN LANDS COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

No news this month but watch out in the next issue of Blackwood News for their latest big project

~ Elizabeth Hall (quoted to the editor)

## BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT

### COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

The latest group of 6 trainees will soon be graduating (about 3 sessions to go).

The next training sessions will be Saturday 31 May & Sun 1 June.

All members are encouraged to attend. Please notify Bruce.

All other enquiries, also call Bruce on 5368 6628.

~ Bruce Henry, Team Leader

## BLACKWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

After a hectic few months in preparation for a very successful Easter Carnival, Progress is taking a well earned break.

~ the editor

## BLACKWOOD RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Thanks go to DSE for turning up to help us with the recent burn-offs. For other news ... see the front page ...

~ Ian Stewart, Captain (quoted to the editor)

## BLACKWOOD DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the beginning of March, BDHS received a copy of a letter plus envelope dated September 1855, to Blackwood's first postmaster. The copy had been sent to us by a Canadian postal historian who had purchased a bundle of old letters at a philatelic auction in England, amongst which was this rare envelope postmarked "Blackwood Diggings".

Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month,

Time: 10.30 am - 12.30 pm.

Location: Blackwood's Police Stables, Martin Street, diagonally opposite the Cobb & Co. Coffee Shop.

Annual membership fee: \$10.

Enquiries - 5368 6678 or 5368 6323.

~ Janis Chamberlain, co-secretary

## ACTION IN THE COMMUNITY

The Moorabool Communities in Action program (MCiA) has continued to work with the Blackwood community following the recent distribution of the Blackwood, Barry's Reef and Simmons Reef Community Action Plan. The action plan captures the priorities raised at the Community Planning Workshop held last November, listing twelve priorities that were identified by community representatives.

Currently, the toilet block at Blackwood Recreational Reserve (priority 2) and securing water for fire fighting and management (priority 3) have been put forward for consideration in the Council's 2008/09 Capital Bids planning and budget process with the outcomes of the Council deliberations due soon.

Work has also commenced on the following:

- Mobile phone coverage (priority 1) - MCiA Project Officer, Gaynor Atkin, has met with Telstra Countrywide in regards to the current status of mobile and Broadband coverage in the Blackwood and surrounding areas. Similar discussions have been organised with other telecommunication providers to identify the most viable options available to each community as this has been a priority identified across the Shire.

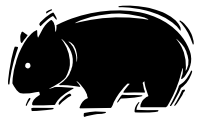
- Blackwood Bus Service (priority 10) - the Transport Connections Program is currently working on improving the Shire's transport issues and the need for a bus servicing the Blackwood area has been considered as part of this program.

MCiA will endeavour to keep the Blackwood and surrounding communities informed of the progress of the above mentioned priorities as well as continue to support the remaining priorities through guidance, advocacy and resourcing of alternative funding resources, where possible. For example, Gaynor recently met with The Blackwood District Historical Society and assisted them with resourcing additional funding avenues to be pursued as well as identified associated training and development opportunities.

If you would like to know more about the Moorabool Communities in Action Program or would like a copy of the Blackwood, Barry's Reef and Simmons Reef Community Action Plan, please contact Gaynor Atkin on 0400 653 423 or email [cia@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:cia@moorabool.vic.gov.au).

MCiA would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Blackwood News (priority 12) for providing a valuable resource of localised information in the Blackwood area and wish it well with future issues.

~ Gaynor Atken, MCiA Project Officer



## MOORABOOL/DAYLESFORD DSE INITIATIVE PUTS BLACKWOOD ON THE MAP.



During 2002, when the Great Dividing Trail Association held public meetings at Blackwood to outline their proposed Walk from Daylesford to Bacchus Marsh, the concept of ancillary walks around Blackwood was also suggested. Since then, so much has been achieved.

John Davies, Loop Walking Track via the Whipstick and Back Creek water races is nearing completion, the new GDТА walk from Blackwood to Mount Macedon has commenced, whilst Melbourne Water is busy

eliminating noxious weeds along the bed, banks and upper banks of the Lerdererg River and its tributaries.

Representatives from the GDТА, Moorabool Shire, Parks Victoria, DSE Daylesford, (Department of Sustainability & Environment) and the Blackwood community convene on a bi-monthly basis at Blackwood Historical Society's headquarters in Martin Street where it was noted that although there are direction maps in the Wombat Forest and Lerdererg State Park, there is minimal information in Blackwood.

Late January, we took scientist Neil Manning from the Shire's Department of Strategic Planning and Sustainable Development and Tourism officer, John Montgomery on a brief tour of Blackwood's Historical Society, Barry's Reef, Red Hill and Simmons Reef. Impressed with the area's historic and environmental potential and the need for a good map display, the present site was selected. At the February GDТА meeting, when DSE volunteered to construct the signboard, John Montgomery said that Council would fund the cost of materials.

Thanks to Blackwood Uniting Church for granting permission to site the showcase on their land opposite Blackwood Hotel, to Daylesford DSE's staff for building (Warren Shields) and installing this outstanding construction using DSE machinery (post hole digger, back hoe, vehicles etc.) and to Moorabool Shire for their financial contribution of \$3,119, a much needed Environmental, Information Board has finally eventuated.

~ P. Liffman, secretary, Blackwood/Barry's Reef Landcare.  
VFF/FTLA A0011936S.

### WATER WATCH REPORT: Upper Lerdererg River:

2/5/08, the newly appointed Water Watch convenor, Mikala Peters from Melbourne Water, (Werribee Region) inspected our sample sites. Her first comment was how lucky we are to live in such beautiful surroundings. Mikala and her assistant Richard Akers (who managed Melbourne Water's macro-invertebrate Water Watch trailer at the Easter Saturday Woodchop Carnival) took samples of milky algae (or so they seemed to be) growing in stagnant pools at the Mineral Springs and Povey's Reserve.

There have been no exceptional results in chemical analyses of the River since the December start. We have received a new test kit to detect ammonia.

~ David Rogers,  
Water Watch Convenor

## Missed it by that much!!

The government recently introduced free cervical cancer vaccinations for girls over 18 yrs old. Whilst this is a good effort it clearly wasn't thought through.

First of all, many girls are sexually active before they turn 18 so they are already at risk of exposure before they are vaccinated. Secondly, cervical cancer is not just a woman's problem, it is everybody's problem.

Some progressive countries vaccinate all school aged children for this condition. Since the virus is transmitted by uncircumcised boys, it makes sense to eliminate the infection from its source: boys.

By including this in the schedule for all children, governments reduce the incidence of this horrible disease for all of society and can avoid placing their value judgment on when people should become sexually active.

~ The Beak

### IN A MEDICAL EMERGENCY

always ring 000 & ask for an ambulance  
**BLACKWOOD CERT will be activated**  
automatically.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Djerriwarrh Health Services SOCIAL SUPPORT

**CAR TRANSPORT** to Doctor's appointments, shopping & essential services (subject to availability)

**A DONATION** to help cover costs is expected.

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**BALLAN Community House 5368 2934**

**TRENTHAM Community House 5424 1353**

a blackwood news community service notice



# BLACKWOOD CLUB UPDATES

## BLACKWOOD BOOKED OUT

Blackwood Booked Out is a recently formed book group comprising of 10 members. Offered as a CAE initiative, members choose 15 books from a comprehensive list. For a small fee, every 6 weeks CAE ships a new set of books, which are read and then discussed at the book club meetings. We are currently onto our third book. Notes are included with the books, which give background on the author, the content, further suggested reading and questions for discussion.

Meetings are held at Lerdies restaurant. Thank-you to Jill for hosting us. Discussions have proved lively, as opinions are strong and varied. It is a good opportunity to read books one may not have otherwise chosen and to have social interaction with a healthy focus on reading. The odd drink and dinner is optional and also enjoyable.

Our secretary is Sandy Meade and a big thanks also goes to her for the organization and effort she puts in.

~ Susie-Ann Deeble

## BLACKWOOD JUNIOR CRICKET CLUB

Junior cricket club has wrapped up for the season - watch in future issues of Blackwood News for what's happening next season.

## BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

Players, sponsors and supporters gathered together to celebrate the season at the club's Presentation Night, held at the Blackwood Town Hall. The winner of the Wally Sweet Memorial Trophy for club champion was Darren Woodward, for the second year running. Darren also won the Batting Average Trophy, both for our club and the whole Daylesford Cricket Association.

Congratulations Darren on a fantastic year. Matt O'Brien won the Bowling Average Trophy and Luke Whitehouse won the George Thwaites Memorial Trophy for the best U/21 player. The winner of the Bert Suters Memorial Trophy for best Clubman was Wade Szymanski and Chris Buckley won the Dick Cater Memorial Trophy Encouragement Award.

For the first time in the club's history there was a dead heat for the NACA Award, the judges not being able to separate the lovely couple of Alan Salmon and Kahlia Trewin. Also for the first time there was no winner of the dreaded Duck Award!

The club would like to thank all their tremendous sponsors, supporters and players and look forward to their involvement next season. Have a safe winter.

~ Scott Unstad

## BLACKWOOD ARTS SOCIETY Inc

Blackwood now has established a Blackwood Arts Society Inc. I would like to thank the Moorabool Shire Council and its Community Art Grants, for the funds they provided to promote and implement the Blackwood Arts Society Inc. The society is a "Not for Profit" organisation and all proceeds will go to support local Charities and Volunteer groups in Blackwood.

Blackwood will be hosting its 1st Arts Exhibition at the Blackwood Mechanic Hall on the 27th and 28th of September 2008.

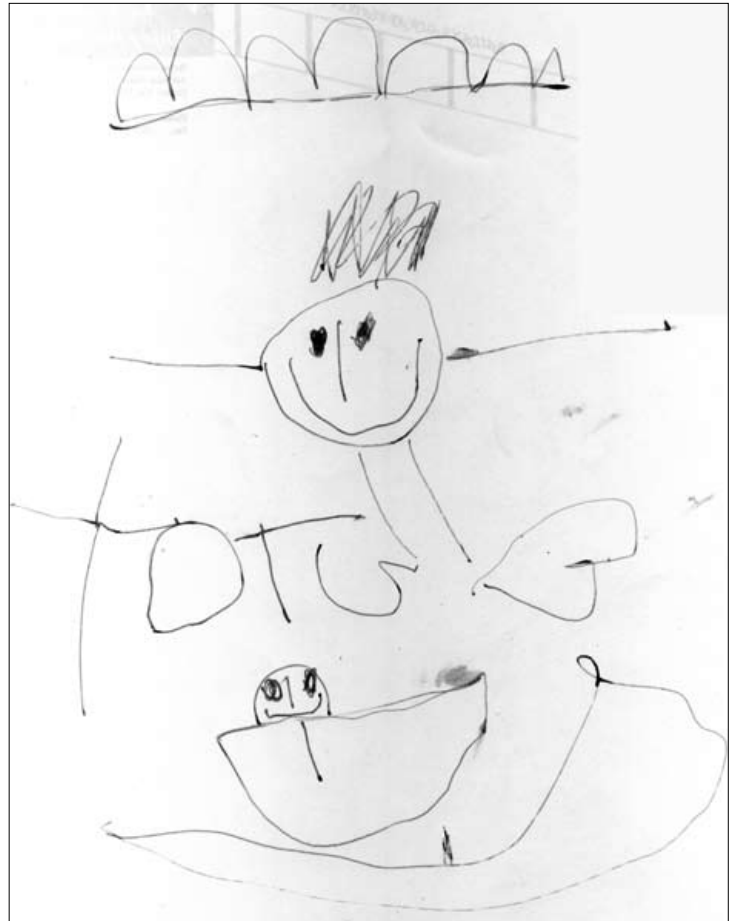
I hope it will encourage local and surrounding talent to participate in this coming event. We are already discussing possibility of holding a Crafts Exhibition next year.

I would like to thank the Blackwood Arts Society's Committee members, Mr Clem Mooney, Treasurer, Ms Kathy Perschel, Secretary, Ms Marilyn Lanigan, Mr Greg Cassidy for their support and input in this endeavour to put Blackwood on the map as a Artistic and Creative community. I believe it will promote Blackwood as a Tourist destination, support local business and the Wombat State Park.

The Blackwood Arts Society Inc, will be looking for sponsorships to fund the prizes and awards for the various entry classification. i.e Best Local Subject, Best Oil Painting, Best Water Colour, Best Multi Media, Best 3D, under 15 yrs and A Barbara Rosman Encouragement Award.

For those interested Exhibiting or joining as a member of the Blackwood Arts Society, or sponsorship, please contact: Ms Phillipa Osborn Smith on (03) 53 686 656

~ Phillipa Smith



Bumpy ground / Jinny / A boat by Oscar (4 3/4 yo)

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## BLACKWOOD SPECIAL SCHOOLS EDUCATION CENTRE

It has been a very busy five months at Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre with many changes.

At the end of January the Centre welcomed Harley Dalglish as a staff member. Harley comes to BSSOEC from Emerson School where he has been working for the past seven years. Emerson is a special school in Dandenong and a very active visitor to Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre throughout each Academic Year. Harley lives in Blackwood with his partner Elise – Elise is working at Ballarat Special School.

3rd–6th March: Ashwood School arrived with their Bronze & Silver Duke of Edinburgh students and thoroughly enjoyed walking and exploring in the Wombat State Forest. The Bronze students completed a day walk from O'Briens Crossing along Byers Back Track and back to BSSOEC. The Silver students walked from BSSOEC along Byers Back Track to O'Briens Crossing where they camped their first night. The next day they walked to the tunnel before climbing up the long steep ridge to Tunnel Track and finally along North Blackwood Road and into their 2nd campsite – Shaw's Lake. During the evening they enjoyed yabbing and star gazing. A very active and enjoyable program.

11th–14th March: 83 students & 39 staff from 16 Victorian Government Special Schools arrived in Myrtleford for the week where they enjoyed our 7th Annual Alpine Ride. Avoiding 38°C days the students were keen to get up and ride early completing the days ride by early afternoon. Satisfied with their achievement they enjoyed the afternoons in the Myrtleford swimming pool. As always the ride was fully supported by the Myrtleford & Bright Lions Clubs; the Australian Defence Forces School of Catering; Arderns Caravan Park; Myrtleford & Bright Police Stations; St John's Ambulance; Savoy Bocce Club; and Myrtleford & District Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.

18th April: After 10 months of renovations and hard work we officially opened our Residence Accommodation Site on Terrill Street. This has been a fantastic development and will benefit the students for decades to come.

The project has been financially supported by:- The Jack Brockhoff Foundation; Australian Geographic; Dick Smith; Harvey Norman; Tink Holdings and all the Schools that utilise and access Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre throughout each year.

There were many tradesmen that brought this development into reality and we would like to publicly thank; Stephen Empey; Brian Moore; Bryan Rainford; Absolute Locksmiths; Barbeques Galore – Shepparton; Crossroads Trading; Carpet Court – Melton; Craig Robertson; Direct Security Fencing; Econocycle; Gas Solar Plumbing & Electrical; Greendale Plaster; Paintright – Bacchus Marsh; Paul Turner Plumbing; Phil Skinner; Terry Hodge & Trevor Lawrence.

Throughout the past 10 months the redevelopment has been greatly supported by a number of volunteers including:- students & staff from Jackson, Emerson & Nelson Park Schools – who all completed volunteer work while on camp; Isabell & Kevin O'Neill; Craig Peart; Friends of Blackwood & Barbara Sweet. We would also like to thank the many people who encouraged, discussed and highlighted how they were impressed with the development and the camp throughout the redevelopment – their support is greatly appreciated.

17th–18th May: While the Residence has been officially opened there were a couple of final things to complete. On this week-end the Bacchus Marsh Lions Club arrived ready to work and while we had a long list of things to do we took full advantage of the wet weather and finished the Residence by painting all the architraves, skirts, doors and windows – while also hanging more pictures & pinboards. The Residence looks spectacular. Thank you Bacchus Marsh Lions Club and all the Tradesmen, volunteers and supporters who have made this redevelopment a reality.

Our current project is the redevelopment of our Yabby Dam on Cann Street. Fully funded by the Commonwealth Bank we are building a 2nd Jetty and a Bird & Animal Observation Hut. Every student will benefit from this project – especially our wheelchair students. Thank you Stephen Empey for your continued support and expertise in carpentry for continuing to bring our ideas into reality.

We are also currently updating and improving our website. If you'd like to check it out please visit:- [www.blackwoodssoc.vic.edu.au](http://www.blackwoodssoc.vic.edu.au)

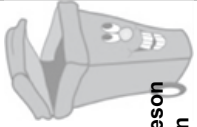


~ Tony Bellette & Harley Dalglish



# June

# 2008

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

<b>1</b> <i>first day of winter</i> Daylesford Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church CERT Training	<b>2</b> MEDITATION: Uniting Church  Peter Brown Monique Matheson Jamie Coolman	<b>3</b> <i>new moon</i> Joel Staub Kelly Matheson-Miller	<b>4</b> Dave Dandy Jill O'Connor	<b>5</b> John Bridgman	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Darley Market Ballan Lions Club Market Daylesford Farmers Market Wine Dinner @ Lerdies
<b>8</b> Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church	<b>9</b> <i>queen's birthday</i> Elija & Eva Pope	<b>10</b> Kaitlan Sutters	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Blackwood Winter Ball Lily Spurr
<b>15</b> Daylesford Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church	<b>16</b> MEDITATION: Uniting Church  Stephanie Stockwell	<b>17</b> <i>full moon</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Lucy Lysenko Rosie Aaron	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Daylesford Market Trentham Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church	<b>23</b> Bree Hillis Jesse McKeone	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Penny Garnett	<b>26</b> Kevin Smith art exhibition @ Lerdies 30 May - 26 June	<b>27</b> Art Exhibition opening Alison Wilson @ Lerdies	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Spirituality in the Bush	<b>30</b> MOBILE LIBRARY tuesdays 1-2.15 opposite Blackwood House 	<b>31</b> Barb Dandy Dennis Norgate				

# july

sunday

monday



tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

<p><b>Alison Wilson</b> art exhibition @ Lerdies 27 June - 24 July</p>							<p>Football and Netball club 3 year reunion @ Lerdies</p>	<p>Darley Market Ballan Lions Club Market Daylesford Farmers Market</p>
<p>Daylesford Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p>	<p>MEDITATION: Uniting Church</p>	<p>Matilda Cassidy</p>						
<p><b>Eamon Whitehouse</b> Jake McKeone</p>								<p>Mrs Huggett</p>
<p>Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p>	<p>14 </p>	<p>Jackson Waight</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 <i>full moon</i> Senior Cit's Xmas in July</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>Comedy Night @ Lerdies</p>
<p><b>Norma Stewart</b> Cheryle Meade</p>	<p>MEDITATION: Uniting Church</p>		<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	
<p>Daylesford Market Trentham Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p>			<p>Annalise Zanon Steve Hammond</p>			<p>Wilma Evans</p>		
<p>Blackwood News deadline <b>Oscar Macfarlane</b></p>		<p>Robyn Zanon Jack Rayner</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>			<p>Have we missed your birthday? Do you know of an event we should list? Please email us or pop the details in the DROP BOX at the General Store.</p>
<p>Daylesford Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Spirituality in the Bush</p>	<p>28 </p>	<p>Nicholas Matheson</p>	<p>Ray Castellin</p>	<p>Rob Hillis</p>				



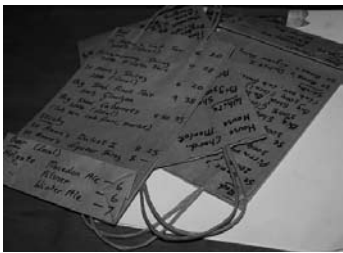
## THE NEW CHEF

It was only my second time in my new role as the Lois Lane of Blackwood News so I nervous when I got to Lerdies at the pre-arranged time to interview their fab new chef "Billy".

No one answered my knocks at the front door so, being a 'local' of 18 years I wondered around to the back door & knocked again. The door was flung open by a white haired bohemian in flour powdered chefs attire - apart from the embroidered skull cap I imagine was made by an exotic woman in Europe somewhere.

I was ushered into the tiny kitchen where he was busily flipping saucer-size cakes which he explained were flat breads to be served with dips. As I waited for his 'undivided attention' I spotted the wine list - hand written on brown paper shopping bags - the type you get in green conscious stores.

He had lit the fire in the dining room earlier so it was cosy on a blustery Blackwood wintery day.



I answered a barrage of lighthearted questions then suddenly realised this very confident man had turned the tables on me - I had somehow become the interviewee!

I imagine Billy McIlDowney will run a tight ship - he has previously worked in a number of high profile "hatted" Melbourne restaurants after serving his apprenticeship with Ian Hewittson (yes, of Huey fame!). He & his wife Lissa ran a restaurant in Airleys Inlet &, most recently,



ran The Cosmopolitan in Trentham until the fire.

His style of cooking is "eclectic, modern, Australian, borrowed from many cultures". Unsure what precisely this meant I asked about the produce he liked to use in cooking. He spoke dreamily of his visit each Thursday on the way to work to collect a basket of organics from Jules in Little Hampton. "The potatoes are this big (curling his thumb & fore finger into a circle) & taste wonderful!"

Still fumbling to get a story I asked what his favorite food was - ah but there are too many - so I narrowed the choice down to what his last meal would be.

Entrée: a good champagne with Lobster with tarragon butter & lime mayonnaise

Mains: a sparkling shiraz with hot smoked Duck with gingered greens

Desserts: Tokyo Musket with stone fruit set in passionfruit jelly with berries, berries & more berries & an assortment of Lissa's homemade ice-creams

Billy is a passionate man.

He goes for Collingwood, definitely dogs not cats & his favourite ingredients are 'love, care & passion which each go into every dish'.

~ Jinny Coyle

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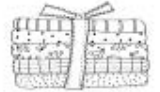
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# Blackwood WINTER BALL

## Sat. 14th June



For Tickets Phone.

# 5368 6313

*There are not many tickets left for the Blackwood Winter Ball, so if you are thinking of coming, ring and book your tickets now.*

a blackwood news community service notice



## TRENTHAM TRIM HAIR DESIGN STUDIO & RAINBOW THERAPIES

15 Market Street,  
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**ART EXHIBITIONS:**

**Friday May 30 - Thursday June 26**

• Vibrant landscape paintings by prize-winning Little Hampton artist Kevin Smith.

**Friday June 27 - Thursday July 24**

• Works by Daylesford artist Alison Wilken opening June 27, 6-7pm All Welcome

**Friday July 25 - Thursday August 28**

• new exhibition (TBA) check the website for details [www.lerdiesonmartinblackwood.websytle.com.au](http://www.lerdiesonmartinblackwood.websytle.com.au)

**BIG SHED WINE DINNER**

**Saturday 7 June 7pm**

Guest speaker Miranda Jones from Big Shed Wines, Glenlyon. Bookings essential

**COMEDY DINNER**

**Saturday 19 July**

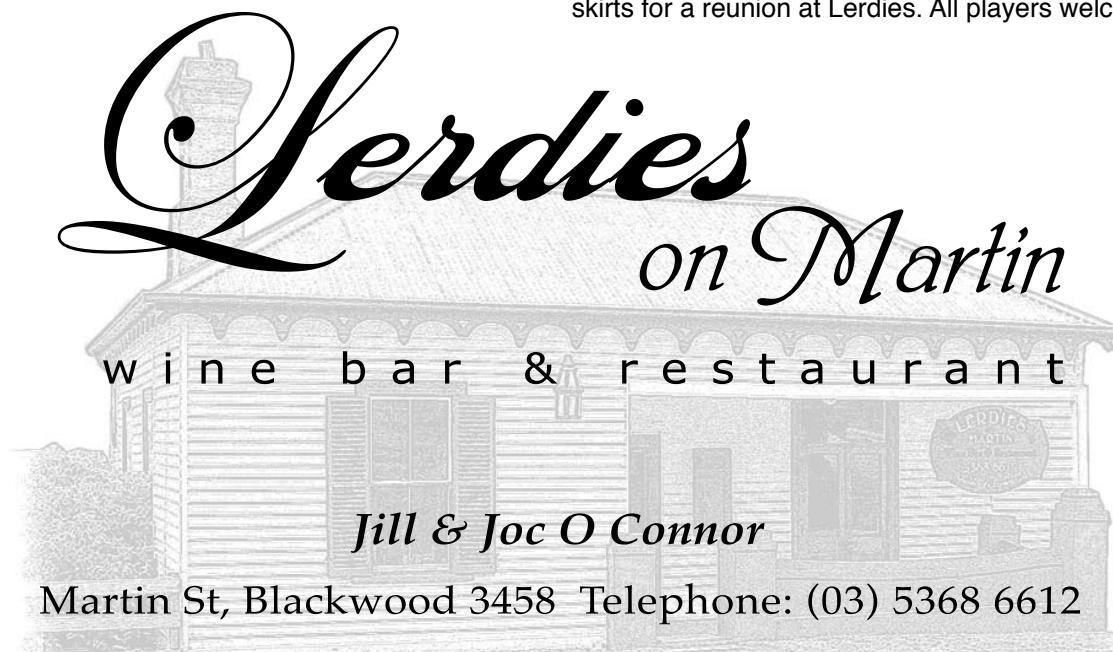
with local comedian Genevieve Messenger. Bookings essential

**Blackwood Wombat**

**Football and Netball club**

3 year reunion on Friday 4th July.

After being premiers in the football and netball for the season 2005, it is time to put on those jumpers and skirts for a reunion at Lerdies. All players welcome.



- **trading hours** are Thursday, Friday and Saturday night,
- **bar opens** at 5pm, meals from 6pm
- **Pizzas** are available to eat in or take away
- **Locals night** ~ Thursday with \$12.00 meals
- **blackboard menu** on Friday and Saturday nights~ menu changes each week

**WANTED:**

**Wedding Photos for community  
"WEDDING WALL"**

We are inviting Blackwood residents & friends to contribute family wedding photos for permanent display on our new "Wedding Wall" in our restaurant.

Historic and recent photos are all welcome, but please don't send originals as they won't be returned.

A note with the date & location of the wedding and the names of the people in the photo should be included if possible.

Photos can be left at Lerdies after 5pm any Thursday, Friday or Saturday.

The Wedding Wall will be launched at a special event on Friday 19 September 2008 at 6pm.

**Are you MODEL MATERIAL?**

- Do you love vintage clothes?
- Are you enthusiastic & outgoing?
- Would you like to help raise money for a worthwhile cause?

We need volunteer "cat walk models" for a vintage fashion parade on Saturday 18 October 2008 from 7pm.

The parade is part of our first "Sequins & Stiletto" Night to raise money for a local charity.

If this sounds like you, please call into Lerdies and leave your details or call us on 5368 6612



## “Chilli” Blackwood and Bees

“Chilli” a gorgeous brindle, female Staffordshire Bull Terrier, came to Blackwood for a holiday at the Blackwood General Store and canine B&B while her owners were swanning around the country side.

She was having the best holiday any dog could imagine in the lovely bush setting of the Wombat Forest and Lerderderg River and enjoying the hospitality of dog lovers Donna and Dennis for the long weekend.

Come Monday of the holiday and things changed. The owners were back and everyone, including “Chilli” was happy and excited to be re-united. Then the bees struck.

“Chilli” was having a Staffy good time while out walking and did the Staffy thing of crashing into a bush that just happened to be hosting a meeting of the bees. Well the bees took offense to her unwanted attention and gave her a stinging attack.

Call the Vet!!! He was hiding out the back pretending to be gardening and in races Donna.....“Doc you’ve got to come, our friends dog has been bitten by bees and is very unwell, her face is so swollen she can’t see!!!!

OK says the doc. He makes up two homoeopathic remedies in a dropper bottle and races to the general store to examine “Chilli”. Her face is so swollen that her eyes are closed, and a deep furrow sits upon the top of her head, her ears are standing out vertical to her head and raised lumps can be seen all over her chest.

The owner speaks...“have you seen anything like this before?”

“Yes”...says the Doc it is not uncommon. “Her breathing is OK and as soon as the remedy is administered she will be alright”.

Inside he thinks.....“this is really bad, I hope it goes well”.

Six drops are given into the mouth.....Ledum for the puncture of the bee sting and Apis made from crushed bees for the toxins.

Three minutes goe by and the owner declares...“she is better already, she can open her eyes, the swelling has gone down already!!!”The doc gives another dose just to make sure and sighs with relief.

Dennis asks...“is that an antihistamine?”

The Doc answers.....“yes...sort of”

Another miracle in a days work of holistic vet Dr Michael Bascombe using homoeopathic remedies.

## Dear Pet Guru,

*My pet Echidna is behaving oddly. Whenever we set the table he climbs up and sits on the plate.*

*from Bewildered, Barrys Reef*



Dear Bewildered,

Echidnas are notoriously bad at spelling.

I suspect he thinks he is an enchilada!

On no account attempt to eat him as this will entrench his delusion. I should gently carry him on his plate outside and put the plate next to a bullants’ nest.

He will be back to normal in no time.

with respect to James Thurber - Pet Guru

## The challenge of a “Tree Change” ... “Light my Fire”

I’m an inner city Fitzroy chic who has moved to the country for the first time in her life. A bit crazy when I know I’m bloody hopeless at chopping wood, weekly shopping and looking after stray dogs. But I’m very good at, buying latte’s at the General Store, admiring the view and running up big petrol bills.

Of course my house is not my house. It’s Kazza’s house because she was here before me, and once I move out it will be Gen’s house and once that person moves out it will be such and such’s house. And so it will go on...

Yes I have a fireplace, but lighting a fire is still an issue – in the Conara I mean. I could never be a pyromaniac because I don’t even know how to get past the child proof switch on a cigarette lighter, let alone rub two sticks together.

I keep asking people – how do I light a fire?“Just search for sticks for kindling and start it up,” they say. I thought it sounded a bit like learning to drive – and don’t you need a licence for that? I’m no girl scout and have hardly lit a fire before. I tried and the flames just kept going out, I smoked out my house, almost had an asthma attack and froze to death while opening every door and window in the house.

Then a neighbour came over and told me the fluww was blocked. I thought when you had the flu your nose was blocked. But apparently

not. The chimney sweep came round. I was expecting a leprechaun draped in ash with a cockney accent. Instead I found out the chimney sweep was an ex chef from a restaurant in Carlton. This is going to be very interesting, I thought.

No excuses now, I gathered my kindling and threw it on. The fire kept going out! Geez how bad can you be! When my technique was scrutinised at close range it was deducted that I had too little kindling, for such a big log. It was a bit like trying to match make me with Sam Newman, no matter what you did, the flame would go out for sure.

Finally a friend came to the rescue and bought me some fire starters and Briquettes. What a miracle! I kept a flame going for at least twenty minutes. Champion!

It was nice of Kazza to leave me a few logs and an old axe round the place, but the only thing is – I can’t chop wood. I’ll give anything a go though. I put a sturdy log on the chopping block, and went for my life. My friend who was watching me was suppressing her giggles, for what I lacked in accuracy I made up for in strength. A good swing I had, and a groan to go with it. Excellent anger management I’m told.

~ By Genevieve Messenger

*fictional names have been used*



Blackwood Autumn Baby

Photo by Heather Grant

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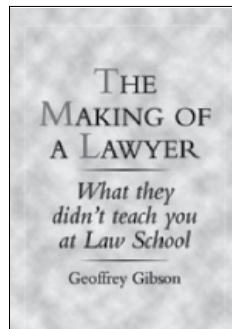
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## book review

### THE MAKING OF A LAWYER

#### What they didn't teach you at law school.



In this thought provoking book, Victorian barrister Geoffrey Gibson advances his belief that the next generation of lawyers are being denied the opportunity to learn by experience.

The Making of a Lawyer is Gibson's solution and its purpose is straightforward – to redress what he sees as an imbalance in the teachings of his profession. This book is, he believes, the first & only book to consider the basic rules of thinking and composition for lawyers in the context of their professional history, standing and ethics.

Peppered with anecdotes and lessons from Gibson's nearly 40 years in practice – at the bar and as a partner of an international law firm – The Making of a Lawyer seeks to teach the basics of his trade.

"You cannot teach people to be advocates, any more than you can teach them how to be concert pianists. But you can – and we must – teach people the basics of their trade – just as you can teach them how to read music."

The Making of a Lawyer was published in April 2008. It is the fourth book on law written by Geoffrey Gibson who divides his time between his Melbourne and Blackwood homes.

Geoffrey Gibson has been spending time in Blackwood over the last few years after he decided it was the last, real country town to resist invasion by lawyers and other layabouts from the smoke. He will shortly take up residence here permanently. You can gauge his long term plans from his participation in a working bee for the cemetery.

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### A LINE OR TWO...

**AND SO** we say BON VOYAGE to Ray & Georgine. We're losing them to the big smoke of Maryborough where there's more shops for Mum to spend money in & new pubs for Ray to drink beer in.

**THE HIGHLANDER** Haven on the Pyreness Highway will be their new home. On the outskirts of town, it's a 12 room motel that offers reasonable rates & clean rooms. (I'm sure they wanted us to mention that)

**IT'S GONNA** be a big adventure for them in a new town & making new friends (& all that renovating) & we know they'd love visitors.

**SO WE'RE** sending all of our good luck, love & well wishes their way.

~ **FROM** Kate, Lin & Greg & all at the Greendale Hotel

**MAY I** say a special thank-you to all you nice people who came to Eddie's funeral & your condolences to me & my family  
~ Helga

**BRONWYN KENNEDY:** an artist, a gardener, a musician, a friend. A courageous girl who will be missed.

### BRICKBATS & BOUQUETS

**BOUQUET TO** our garbo. Monday morning I heard banging from out on the road. On investigating I found him repairing the hinges on our wheelie bin. I know you didn't have to, so thanks a lot, mate - I wheelie appreciate it!

**BRICKBAT TO** those consumers of MacDonalds & canned drinks who replenished our roadside litter in the town centre the very day after our Clean up Australia Day effort.

~ **BH**

**BOUQUET TO** all the well wishers who have supported me in publishing this first issue of Blackwood News.

**BOUQUET ALSO** to Brendan (aka Jimmy Olsen) who always supports my (often over ambitious) ideas.

**ANDA** special **BOUQUET** to Ellen who didn't want her Mum to take on yet another new project! Sorry honey - I couldn't help myself!

~ **Jinny Coyle**

*Has someone in the community done something nice to or for you recently? Or are you unhappy about something that has happened locally? Let us know.*

*All 'B&B' must include author's name. Requests to withhold names from publication will be considered.*

### FAREWELL RAY

Anyone who knows Ray Meade knows him to be a man of few words. Rather, his actions speak for him.

He has always had a lot on his plate & community work has been a large portion.

Blackwood first caught sight of Ray in 1988 when he called in on a day visit. As often happens with visitors, the town kept calling him back.

After a couple of years he bought land in Wall Street & built his home.

He soon got involved in the community - President of the Cricket Club, President of the Hotel Social Club, President of Crown Reserves Management. This bloke could give Barack Obama some campaign advice!

In between running the Blackwood Hotel for 5 years & his various building & service businesses, Ray managed to tour-guide for visiting bus-loads, help out at the Easter Carnivals, organise the main street wood chops, plant gardens for Blackwood Streetscaping & install lots of seats around town so we could all take a break from the hills. Word has it he's been a doting Grandpa as well.

Now Ray is busying himself in Maryborough. He & Georgine will be operating the Highland Haven Motel & Reception. Sounds like a good excuse for an overnighter!

Good luck, Ray & Georgine. We will miss you. We'll keep the Wall Street house warm for your return (I bags the big bedroom).

~ **Brendan Hehir**



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a blackwood news community service notice

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## "Narrative Story"

Hi, my name is Lilly Evans & I am ten years old. I have come here to tell you about my holiday in Melbourne. It all started when my Mum decided to have a holiday in Melbourne. We packed our bags & got in the car straight away. Within 2 hours we were in Melbourne.

"So, what are we going to do now?" said my big brother Janosh.

"Uh, I hadn't thought that far" said Mum, "but I suggest we go & find a hotel first."

My sister, two brothers & I groaned. Mum took hours to find the perfect room. She always had to make sure the bathroom was pink, and the beds were embroidered, that they had plenty of pictures & mirrors & much, much more.

"You four can explore the shops, as long as you follow Janosh & follow the map" said Mum. I sighed with relief. No more being embarrassed by Mum in a hotel.

We headed towards the nearest Mall. There were heaps of cool shops there, including Van's beautiful diamond cave, Jessi's (a dress shop) & Smacko's, a restaurant. We looked around for an hour & then decided it was safe to go back to the hotel.

... to be continued

~ Lilly Evans

## Your June/July garden

With most of us having to prepare our properties for the bush fire season - now is the time to burn off or slash the common tussock grass plants (poa).

Burning or slashing the poa every one or two years removes dead foliage from previous years growth, enabling fresh new shoots to come through in spring.

Around our house I burn a few off in different sections, alternating the ones I burn year by year. Therefore I have last years poa looking fresh & green, hiding the plants I burnt this year.

### TIPS FOR PLANTING NATIVES

When planting natives, ensure the spot you have chosen suits the various species. For example, if you buy plants from nurseries pay attention to what is written on the labels 'guidelines to planting'.

The following are some plants that are indigenous (ie come from) our bush -

#### Round Leaf Mint Bush

*"Prostanthera rotundifolia"*

This shrub stands 0.5 - 3m high with aromatic leaves - oval in shape 3-20 x 3-15mm in size. The flowers (which are sometimes pinkish) are 10 - 15mm long.

This bush has been found around Blackwood in sheltered spots, moist but well drained soils. If the conditions are right, this plant will seed & reproduce.

#### Silver Banksia

Warrock (Aboriginal name)

*"Banksia marginata"*

This tree or shrub grows to 12m high. The leaves grow between 1-8cm x 3-15mm with the upper surface being dark green, glabrous & the lower side of the leaf is white-hairy; margins of the leaf are entire or sometimes serrate.

Flowers 3-13cm x 4-6cm.

This is widespread & locally common throughout the bush surrounding Blackwood in a wide range of habitats.

~ K Cassidy & J Davies

ref: Corrick M & Fuhrer "Wildflowers of Victoria"

## THE NEW BLACKWOOD NEWS

I hope you have enjoyed reading the first issue of Blackwood News. Robina, I now truly understand the work you put into the 100 issues of Blackwood Newsletter & thank you for trusting me with your baby. I hope you & your family have enjoyed your first months off in some 15 years!

Blackwood News is a bi-monthly, community resource produced for Blackwood, Victoria & its immediate surrounding area. It is available free from businesses in Blackwood or as a .pdf download from [www.blackwood.centralvic.com.au](http://www.blackwood.centralvic.com.au). If you would like to have it emailed send an email to [blackwood@centralvic.com.au](mailto:blackwood@centralvic.com.au)

Blackwood News relies on volunteers to bring news & items of interest to our attention.

We love fresh ideas! If you would like to submit a story, image or one-off article, include a regular column or take part in a one of our features, please contact us.

Also be sure to submit your birthday & events for the calendar.

Blackwood News relies on advertisers support, in turn I'm sure they will appreciate your supporting their businesses.

~ Jinny Coyle



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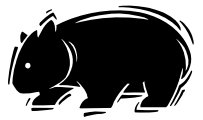
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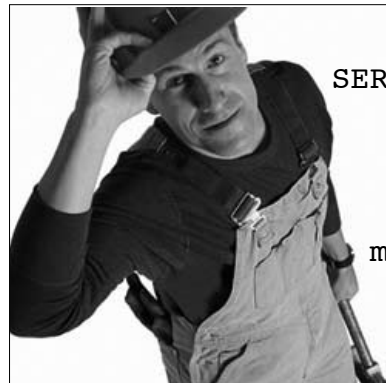
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## LOCAL LANDMARK GOES ON THE MARKET

In mid May the historic Cosmopolitan Hotel was put on the market just short of 3 years after it was tragically gutted by fire.

It is offered for sale by Expressions of Interest which close on June 19th.



**HEY JILL, I'VE BEEN** abducted! They have been kind enough to let me write and took my picture to prove they have me. Here I am where the houses are just the right size. Children pointed and noticed me! I wonder if you have noticed my absence, I hope so. I must say they have taken me places I would never have dreamed of, the big city!

**MY ABDUCTORS** say they will return me if a reward is posted. You can put that in

the next edition of the Blackwood News. I will be scanning the pages looking for it.

**I AM** hoping it won't be too long before I see you again; in the meantime they are looking after me well but I miss you.

**YOUR LOVING** Blackwood Gnome

**P.S. THEY** have named me Norbitt.

**DEADLINE** for the August/September issue is July 20. Advertisers should book their space by July 13. Please email submissions, display ads & articles to [blackwood@centralvic.com.au](mailto:blackwood@centralvic.com.au), put them in the 'drop box' outside the Blackwood General Store or post c/o Blackwood PO, Blackwood 3458

Blackwood News reserves the right to edit or refuse any article or advertising. The opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the editor

Blackwood News is produced as a community service by Jinny Coyle of FLUX New Media Solutions  
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