



BUS-ING OUT OF BLACKWOOD



On an 18 month trial, the new bus service running between Blackwood & Bacchus Marsh was launched on August 1.

The service stops at Greendale & Myrning & is timed to meet trains to Melbourne.

Cr. Don Nardella says "The new bus service will make it easier to travel to Bacchus Marsh for shopping, business & medical appointments, & provide direct access to the Melbourne & Ballarat V-line train services."

The Blackwood community has fought for transport services

for many years & this is a real step in the right direction. As the cost of living rises, in particular petrol prices, this is a service which many of our residents should find invaluable.

Within the trial period, the service is limited to a single return run each Friday but the hope is that the service will be increased if the service is popular.

TRENTHAM'S GOT TALENT, AND SHE LIVES IN BLACKWOOD!

Local poet, singer, and songwriter, Lauren Lee Williams, took out first prize in the 'Trentham's Got Talent' competition, held at the St. Mary Magdalen Hall in Trentham on the 24th August. Blackwood was well represented at the event, with another contestant being our own guitar-slinging vet, Michael Bascombe. Lauren's prize includes a performance at next February's Whittlesea Country Music Festival. She was also invited to perform at Feldspar in the Trentham Spring Festival on Sunday 5th October.



Those who attended Lerdie's comedy night in July will remember Lauren providing a couple of musical interludes between Genevieve Messenger's comedy sets. Her songs went down well with the audience, and proprietor Jill O'Connor was quick to engage Lauren for another gig at Lerdie's. This will take place on the evening of Saturday 1st November, and diners can expect more original country-style music laced with humour, pathos and good ol' fashioned heartbreak.

FAREWELL BIG FELLA!

At Peter Brown's funeral in September about 400 people overflowed out of the tiny Catholic Church into the grounds. Many did not hear the beginning of the eulogy read by Allan Peach, Principal of Myrning School & so it is, by community request & with the families permission, that Blackwood News publishes this edited version of the eulogy ...

I would like to say how privileged I feel to be invited to read Peters eulogy today. It is the celebration of a wonderful life & I hope these words will do Peter justice.

Peter was born in Melbourne to John & Lorna Brown on 2nd June 1954. He had older twin sisters Judy & Jenny. Barry & Rodney were born quite a few years after him.

We don't know if it was because he had sisters but Peter liked to dress up. Once he dressed as a

priest & went door knocking locally for donations. Believe it or not he was given some money. His mother made him return it all. On another occasion his sisters dressed him as a girl with a long wig, makeup, high heels & handbag & took him to the neighbours, introducing him as a cousin.

He attended Avondale Primary School then occasionally attended Footscray Technical College spending more time at the local pool parlour. His teen years were about mates, cars & having fun.

Once he was given a slug gun for his birthday. He was firing it in front of his house when a motor bike went past & the rider came off. Peter thought he had shot him & went screaming to the girls "HIDE ME, I'VE SHOT SOMEONE". In fact the rider had come off because of gravel on the road.

When Peter was 13 Barry was born, followed by Rodney a couple of years later. Peter loved the fact that he could be a leader & have his 2 young brothers look up to him. He took them on many adventures - fishing, shooting, camping. Barry has taken on Pete's adventurous traits while Rodney sits back & shakes his head at them. His parents probably don't know half of the things Peter & his siblings got up to & it's best kept that way.

Peters serious side came out when he joined the Army Cadets at Puckapunyal. This was his initiation into first aid training which he continued for the rest of his life.

In his first job, as an apprentice chef, he was to do eggs for breakfast. They had to be perfect. On his 2nd day someone played a joke on him breaking all the yokes. He left.

He then got an apprenticeship at STIHL chainsaws as a mechanic



which he enjoyed until the company relocated. He couldn't travel that far so left the job.

Peter looked much older than he was & because of his size he was driving trucks for his Dad long before he was old enough to get his license. Before he turned 18, he got a job at "Boral Asphaltting" driving trucks. While there he formed strong friendships with Bernie & Alex.

Peter worked at Boral for 10 years. It was during this time that

continued p19



HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

July looked good with around average rainfall but August was well below the long term average even though it was a particularly cold month.

Month & Year	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall Average (mm) 1879-2007	Minimum Temperature deg C	Maximum Temperature deg C
July 2008	106.0	102.8	-2.1	12.6
August 2008	56.6	110.7	-2.1	14.5

~ Don Owen

BLACKWOOD NEWS
with colour photos
can be downloaded free from
www.centralvic.com.au
& while you are there be sure to subscribe to
our eList so you are the first to see new issues!

Blackwood News info



Blackwood News relies on submissions from the community. Regular columns are: "Blackwoofs", "Where are they now?", "Pop the Fizz!" & obituaries (please supply recent photo) "Bouquets & Brickbats", "A Line or Two". Would parents please encourage their children to submit their stories, poems & artworks & NEWS! **DEADLINES** for the December/January issue are **Advertisers:** book space by **November 13** **Regular features & contributors:** **November 13** **One-off Features & Items of Interest:** **November 15** **Community Groups & Club Updates:** **November 15** **Display Ad Artwork/content:** **November 18** **News & Classifieds:** **November 20** **Late Breaking News (only!):** **November 22** Please email submissions, display ads & articles to blackwood@centralvic.com.au, put them in the 'drop box' outside the Blackwood General Store or post to c/o Blackwood PO, Blackwood 3458 If you would like a deadline reminder please email blackwood@centralvic.com.au 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.

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THE TABLE AT LAST



Through the generous patrons of the Blackwood Hotel & Lerdies, \$900 was finally raised with meat raffles & two very generous donations - Gary Matheson \$150 & the Winter Ball \$300. Brian Moore and his willing helpers Tony Bellette, Brendan Hehir & Ben Davie installed the monster.

To finish off, Steve Empey inserted 2 memorial plaques securely. Thankyou Steve. The table is in memory of John Fary.

On Friday August 22 a "free" raffle was held. The large scotch fillet prize was kindly donated by Brian Moore & won by the hotel. All participating patrons received a free ticket. Once again, thankyou to all the good folk of Blackwood.

~ Fred Moore

IN A MEDICAL EMERGENCY
always ring 000 & ask for an ambulance
BLACKWOOD CERT will be activated
automatically.



ANOTHER WINNER

Justin Edwards Osborn Smith won 3rd PRIZE in the SUTTON GRANGE ART EXHIBITION with his painting of the "Lion King". Justin won some hand made chocolates from the Colliers Chocolate Factory and a souvenir Mug from Sutton Grange Winery celebrating their 170 years. **Editors note:** Congratulations Justin - it just shows it's never too early to start!

Pick Up your FREE copy every Wednesday from the Blackwood Store
Send news, photos and info to – news@ballannews.com or 5368 1966
Advertisements/Trade/Classifieds - 5368 1966

The Moorabool News
Inc. Ballan News & Bacchus Marsh News
LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED



A TOUCH OF EUROPE

Hands up if you remember 'The Chimney' cafe in Trentham. Everywhere you looked were little displays made up of treasures collected from around the world. It was like a permanent Christmas display. On the walls was artwork by the proprietor, Ulrike von Radichevich, in her other life as a costume designer for the theatres of Europe. Uli frequently travels between her new country, Australia & her birth place in Europe where she continues her professional work as a set & costume designer for

European Theatre companies.

In her August show at Lerdies, Uli exhibited a diverse range of works from airy watercolour poppies to dense moody scenes inspired by glimpses of life captured & stored in her minds eye while travelling between Melbourne & Trentham.

POP THE FIZZ!



Heath and Alisha are proud to announce the arrival of their beautiful baby boy Riley Heath Scotland on September 15, weighing in at 7lb 10 oz. (3.475kg)

A CALL TO MUSIC

It appears that our little town and surrounding areas are full of talented and inspired musicians and artists, many we don't know about. I would like to invite all musicians to come along and have a jam session at Lerdies on Sunday afternoon 2nd November from 1pm. If you can sing, dance or play the spoons, bring your banjo or trumpet or whatever you have & get together on a pleasant Sunday afternoon to enjoy and entertain.

~ Jill O Conner

GLAMOUR SHOOT OUT AT LERDIES

In August, Lerdies Bar was transformed into a "Glamour Studio". The dining room was filled with lights, props & backdrops as our stunning young people, middle aged & older folk were treated to the delights of makeup, hairdressing and costume design ready for their 'Action' glamour shots.

It was fun - & of course the sparkling wine helped. The photographer was charming & very patient. The girls were friendly, putting all the clients at ease.

We sure don't sit still in Blackwood!

~ Fred Moore

BELINDA MUSCO'S "BELLA'S"

Although raised in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne, Belinda Musco is intrigued by her Southern Italian heritage. Visiting the towns where her family originated has influenced her ideas about the beauty of women. She has always found the human body interesting in all its shapes & forms which was reflected in her September exhibition at Lerdies.

Her 'Bellas', women with a black buns & red lips, have always featured in her work but since having her daughter two years ago she has begun incorporating children into her most of her work.

It is often said that artists are their own best model because they are always there to pose. I can't help thinking Belinda's 'Bellas' prove this to be true.



WHAT'S ON AT LERDIES ON MARTIN DURING OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

October 2008
Saturday 25th @ 8.30pm
 Jazz night with Genevieve Messenger, yes our local comedian also sings

November 2008
Saturday 1st @ 8.30pm
 Local poet, singer, and songwriter, Lauren Lee Williams

Sunday 2nd from 1pm
 Jam session, bring your instruments and jam along with other muso's

Thursday 6th from 12 noon LADIES DAY
 Crown Oaks Day is the traditional 'Ladies Day', where women join together in their most feminine outfits for a day of champagne, fashion and fun!
 Light lunch and snacks provided.



Lerdies
on Martin
 wine bar & restaurant

Jill & Joc O Connor

Martin St, Blackwood 3458 Telephone: (03) 5368 6612

- **trading hours:** Thurs, Fri and Sat night,
- **bar opens** at 5pm, meals from 6pm
- **Pizzas** available to eat in or take away
- **Locals night** Thur with \$12.00 meals
- **blackboard menu** Fri and Sat nights
- **menu changes** each week



REMEMBRANCE DAY NOVEMBER 11: Why this day is so special for Australians

At 11.00am on 11 November 1918 the guns of the Western Front in France fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. The allied armies had driven the German invaders back & had inflicted heavy defeats on them over the preceding four months. In November the Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted the allied terms of unconditional surrender.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month attended a special significance in the post war years. The moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. This modern war conflict had brought about the mobilization of over seventy million people & between nine & thirteen million dead, perhaps as many as one third with no known grave. The allied nations chose this day & time for the commemoration of their war dead. In Victoria there were some sixty thousand casualties with nineteen thousand paying the supreme sacrifice. At the time the population of Victoria was approximately one & a half million. In World War II Victorian casualties were some 70% of those in the first war & our population was then around 6 million.

On the first anniversary of the armistice, November 11, 1919, the two minute silence was instituted as part of the main commemorative ceremony at the new cenotaph in London. Silence was proposed by an Australian journalist working in Fleet Street, Edward Honey. About the same time, a South African statesman made a similar proposal to the British Cabinet, which endorsed it. King George V personally requested all the people of the British Empire to suspend normal activities for two minutes on the hour of the armistice, which stayed the world carnage of the four preceding years & marked the victory of Right & Freedom. The two minutes of silence was popularly adopted & it became the central feature of commemoration on Armistice Day.

On the second anniversary of the Armistice, 11th November 1920, the commemoration was given the added significance when it became a funeral, with the return of the remains of an Unknown Soldier from the battlefields of the Western Front. Unknown soldiers were interred with full military honours in Westminster Abbey in London & at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. The entombment in London attracted over one million people within a week to pay their respects at the Unknown Soldier's tomb. Most other allied nations adopted the tradition of entombing unknown soldiers over the following decade although this did not occur in Australia until 1993.

After the end of the World War II, the Australian & British governments changed the name to Remembrance Day. Armistice Day was no longer an appropriate title for a day which commemorates all war dead. In Australia on the 75th anniversary of the armistice, 11th November 1993, remembrance ceremonies again became the focus of national attention. On that day the remains of an unknown Australian soldier, exhumed a First World War cemetery in France were ceremoniously entombed in the Australian War Memorial. Remembrance Day ceremonies were conducted simultaneously in towns & cities all over the country culminating the moment of burial at 11am. And coinciding with the traditional two minutes silence. This ceremony, which touched a chord across the Australian nation, re-established Remembrance Day as a significant day of commemoration.

Four years later in November 1997, the Governor General, Sir William Deane, issued a proclamation formally declaring November, 11 Remembrance Day & urging all Australians to observe one minutes silence at 11am on November 11 each year to remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars & armed conflicts. The Victorian Education Department encourages schools (both primary & secondary) to visit the Shrine &

complete work books on the students' visit.

All the ANZACS are now dead but their story lives on. It has been said that if you want the ANZAC spirit & the Last Post & the sense that we are, sometimes at least, a great nation, look no further than the dedication, courage, endurance & mateship of those Australians who fought not only at Gallipoli & the Western Front in World War I, but also those who fought in the battles of Kokoda & Long Tan & those Prisoners of War who endured Hellfire Pass in WWII. This spirit of ANZAC was their legacy left for future generations of Australians.

~ **Graham Lockwood.**

acknowledgement: Shrine of Remembrance Sources.



THE 1914 - 1919 ROLL OF HONOUR - Mounted on the wall in the Blackwood Hall.

photo courtesy of Margot Hitchcock,

Wombat Regional Arts Network presents

MASQUERADE BALL

7.30pm Saturday Nov 29th
 St Anne's Vineyard
 Garrards L, Myrning
 \$65pp ~ ph 5368 7209
 masks & costumes essential

PROCEEDS TO
 BALLAN HEALTH & CARE HOSPITAL
 REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

a blackwood news community service notice



Wombat Arts are fundraising for Ballan District Health and Care's hospital refurbishment by holding a Masquerade Ball on Saturday 29th November at St Anne's Vineyard, Garrard's Lane, Myrning. All Blackwood readers are welcome!

MASKS & COSTUMES are essential for the spirit of the thing; anything glamorous and worn from 1850 to 1950 will do - masks are to add to the mystery and fun, but only work well if you can eat with them on.

Tickets are \$65 pp, available now from St Anne's - 5368 7209

(cheques, cash, and EFTPOS) and Ballan District Health & Care - 5368 1100 (cheque or cash).

The Entertainments will begin at 7.30, and will include music, dancing, history, mystery, artefacts, games, prizes, and a carriage ride for all those wishing a photo.

St Anne's will serve fabulous finger-food all evening, and drinks at bar prices (no EFTPOS).

Come and join us if you can for a district get-together with style - dress up assistance from Ballarat Light Opera Company (BLOC) or your grandma.



BLACKWOOD SOCIAL ALBUM ... BLACKWOOD HOTEL TURNS 140



SOME EARLY HISTORY OF THE BLACKWOOD HOTEL

The present Blackwood Hotel stands on land originally known as Grimes corner on Allotment 1, Section C on the corner of Martin Street & Golden Point Road, Red Hill. The land was bought for Mary Grimes on October 20, 1859 for £6.10, making it the first block of land granted on the Blackwood Goldfield at the first sale of Government land in the area.

Bridget Cruise bought the block of land in November 1867 &, with a series of big mortgages on this & other blocks, she built up the 'Family Hotel'.

Bridget Cruise had lost her husband, Joseph Cruise when he died in April 1867. Joseph Cruise had bought the Victoria Hotel in Red Hill (Blackwood) in 1864, which burnt down in December 1867. When this disaster struck Bridget lost all her possessions & her livelihood.

Bridget was left with four young children having lost three other children, whose deaths are some of the earliest tombstones found in the Blackwood Cemetery.

The Bacchus Marsh Express paper of March 21, 1868 states that a handsome hotel is being erected for Mrs Cruise of Red Hill, (Blackwood) with the contractor

being Mr Ross & the painting etc. by Mr Henry Greig of Blackwood. Mrs Cruise's Family Hotel commenced business with an opening ball on September 4 1868 (making the hotel 140 years old in September 2008).

In 1877 the 'Family' Hotel was sold to Joshua Vines & John McPhee with John Cann as hotel keeper. The Hotel was a booking office for the Cobb & Co coaches & the main doors into the public bar still have this sign on them today. In 1887 there was known to be a coach shed & stables behind the hotel & renovations some years ago unearthed some old horse-shoes. Also found under the hotel was a room used by a servant & a room which was kept as a temporary morgue should a person die accidentally & there had to be an inquest. The body was kept in this room until the magistrate could be sent for & an inquest held.

In 1889 the hotel was sold to John Cann & became known as John Cann's Family Hotel. In the late 1890's the verandah which still surrounds the hotel was added. John Cann died in February 1895 & his widow Rebecca Cann took over as hotel keeper holding the licence until

1907 when she handed it over to her son John William (Bill) Cann.

The Cann family sold the hotel in 1916 to the Fitzgerald's Brewing Co, who later became the Castlemaine Brewing Company. Carlton & United Breweries bought the hotel in 1920 & sold it to Cyril C Jones in 1927. The hotel was known as the Blackwood Hotel.

Cyril Jones was the longest owner, having owned it for 50 years until he sold it to George & Margaret Stockdale 1977. The Stockdale family with their daughter Sandra & son Ron ran the hotel & renovated the interior

as you see it today - in-keeping with the past. The Stockdale family were the licensees until 1987, when they sold the hotel in 1995 to Ken & Anne Cooke.

The current publican is Peter Olivieri & his business partner Lyn Wright. Old photos on the walls provide some history in one of the oldest buildings still standing in Blackwood.

~ Margot Hitchcock

© Some information from official records & the book 'Hotel & Hotelkeepers of the Blackwood Goldfield' by Andrew Robertson. Researched by Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society.



Blackwood Hotel with the Rapid Coach C. 1890. Photo courtesy of Margot Hitchcock, Historian, BDHS



COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

BLACKWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE INC.

Hello once again from the Blackwood Seniors. The club has had a couple of busy months.

We held Xmas in July in the club room on the 23rd - this was a great success. We had 54 guests join us for the day. The catering was excellent thanks to Dot, Kerry, Lisa & Taryn - Manda & Robin from Moorabool Shire attended. We were entertained by Lauren, a local lady. She was very good.



The Seniors Annual Meeting was held on August 13. Once again Manda McDermott represented Moorabool Shire - the same office bearers & committee were returned to office. We are pleased to report that the club now has 56 members & we are in a very good position financially.

The club had a visit from Alison Richardson - representing Vital-Call. She supplied us with a lot of information about this very important service for the elderly. Simon Evans from Moorabool Shire also attended & had lunch with us - he is one of the coordinators who has organised a weekly bus service from Blackwood to Bacchus Marsh each Friday. This bus leaves the general store at 9.05am.

Our very nice president, Ken, is recovering after his surgery & it has been pleasing to have both him & Betty back with us for the last 2 weeks. 2 of our oldest members, Linda Cameron & Sheila Tori, are also back with us after health setbacks. It is nice to have them back with us.

We have not had the services of Dot, our cook for the last couple of weeks, unfortunately she is in hospital battling quite a serious illness - we all wish her well & hope that it will not be very long before she is back with us again. In her absence Jenny is filling in - thanks Jen!

On September 8 some of our members went on a bus tour up to Halls Gap. We all enjoyed the outing & it was interesting to see how close the bush fires 2 years ago had come to destroying their township. The Good Lord & a wonderful dedicated CFA thankfully stopped this from happening.

We mourn the passing of Ron Maclay who was a very generous member of the club. Our sympathy has been conveyed to his wife Lilian - May he rest in peace.

No more news for now...

~ regards from Barbara Sweet, (Hon) secretary

BLACKWOOD CROWN LANDS COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

no report this issue

BLACKWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

no report this issue

BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

New members have finally completed training & exams. As soon as their marks are verified by Ambulance Victoria (AV) & certificates presented they will be available for roster.

Current members next training session will be Sunday October 4 at 0909 also re-examination for CPR.

~ Bruce Henry, Team Leader

BLACKWOOD RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

no report this issue

BLACKWOOD DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Blackwood District Historical Society's meetings are held from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm on the first Saturday of every month at the Blackwood Police Stables, (Martin Street) Blackwood where visitors are most welcome and our historical books can be purchased. Currently, a re-order for our first and feisty booklet, "The Story of Blackwood" is with the printer. It is anticipated that re-prints will be on sale at our Open Day on Sunday November 2. Membership is \$10 per annum.

Archivist Aline Thompson has recommended a wooden poppet head (constructed by President, Allan Hall) & sign board be erected at the Stables entrance. This will be a tangible reminder of Blackwood's mining origins.

~ Pat Liffman, co-Secretary

LANDCARE

August rainfall at Barry's Reef - 164 mms.

Information showcase, Blackwood., (opposite Blackwood Hotel).

Together with its current map featuring popular forest walks and the Wombat Forest Drive, DSE will be providing important information about their proposed Fuel Reduction Burns for 2008/2009.

Because Blackwood is in the Werribee Catchment area, by popular request, Melbourne Water is designing a comprehensive map of the Werribee River from its source at Bullarto beyond Spargo Creek and collaborating with FOLDERG (Friends of the Lerderderg) who monitor the Lerderderg river which emerges at Nolan's Picnic Ground and joins the Werribee at Bacchus Marsh. Of special interest will be enlarged colour photographs of invertebrates (beasties) which live a fascinating underworld existence in our waterways.

The Great Dividing Trail Association walk from Daylesford to Bacchus Marsh is already on display, but the new walk from Blackwood to Mount Macedon is still in the planning stage.

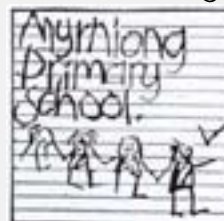
Thanks to John's untiring dedication and additional support from Moorabool Shire, the John Davies Loop Walking Track is nearing completion but signage and information maps are yet to be prepared.

The sixth window, the Ecumenical Window will reflect the more spiritual aspects within Blackwood's Community.

~ Pat Liffman, Secretary

MYRNIONG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Facing the Future Together



Motivating and Exciting Curriculum
Current Enrolment: 177

NOW ACCEPTING ENROLMENTS FOR 2009

for Inspection and guided tour call Allan Peach on 5368 7232

Muddy Lane Ph: 5368 7232 Fax: 5368 7309



BLACKWOOD CLUB UPDATES

BLACKWOOD JUNIOR CRICKET CLUB



U/14 Training Commences
Tuesday 7th October
5:30 – 6:30 pm

Blackwood Recreation Reserve



New players welcome
9 – 14 year old boys & girls

Enquiries:-
Steve Hammond
(03) 53 686 794

BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

The season is fast approaching & training is in full swing, with a practice match against Trentham on September 21. The team played a practice match against Ronny's Relics on Sunday September 14, with the "old timers" winning the match by 1 run. The club has two new recruits, with Dave Salmon making a comeback after several years in the cricketing wilderness. In his prime, Dave was the most feared bowler in the competition so, if he can recapture some of his previous form, he will be a force to be reckoned with. John Deveraux is a solid opening batsman who has just moved to Bacchus Marsh & has chosen to continue his career with the Blackwood Cricket Club. Both played in the Ronny's Relics game & showed fine form. Greg Crumpton was named man of the match for his 2 wickets & a fine run out from the boundary, as well as his solid 4 run opening partnership with Ronny Salmon. Other notable contributors were Tony Darwen, Keith Osborne & Darren Sweet. The season proper starts on Saturday October 4, with a home game against Trentham. See the membership form in this edition of the Blackwood News for information on becoming a member of the Blackwood Cricket Club. Sponsorship of the club is an affordable option for local businesses to support the town's only sporting team. For more information contact Scott on 53686889. The club runs Milo in2Cricket on Tuesday nights, which starts this season on October 28 (Registration Day, 5-6 pm). The club also has an Under 14 mixed side that plays on Wednesday nights & a combined Under 16 team with Trentham that plays on Saturday mornings. You can see that the club is committed to providing an activity for the youngsters of the area, so please support the club in anyway you can.

~ Scott Unstad

BLACKWOOD ARTS SOCIETY Inc

no report this issue

BLACKWOOD SOCIAL CLUB

no report this issue



ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH
 8am ~1st & 3rd Sunday

BLACKWOOD SPECIAL SCHOOLS EDUCATION CENTRE

BSSOEC has had a very busy Term 3. Redevelopment & upgrade work continued on the school building & when the first schools moved back in August they were very impressed. The biggest improvement is the installation of a new kitchen & the shower redevelopment.

Utilising & challenging the expertise & experience of Stephen Empey, Brian Moore & Bryan Rainford, the student shower room has been recreated from an inappropriate, out-of-date room with 3 showers, into a modern, hygienic and extremely appropriate facility with 4 showers - convertible into 2 wheelchair accessible showers. The re-creation of this shower room is greatly appreciated by all schools. Thank you Stephen, Brian & Bryan.

David Bellette – Tony's father – has also supported the camp by doing maintenance work, modifications and improvements to the Tent Shelter campsite at the top of Cann Street. It is now safer & more modern, ready for the visiting schools in Term 4.

Schools accessing the Centre this Term have thoroughly enjoyed Blackwood & the Wombat State Forest in Winter with many of the schools participating in bushwalks, bush cooking, mountain bike riding, initiative and leaderships activities, yabbing & low ropes.

UPCOMING EVENTS: VOLUNTEERS WANTED

On November 20 the 17th Annual Blackwood Super Ride will be conducted. The schools are very excited & looking forward to the event. Currently we have 21 Victorian Government Special Schools, 126 Students & 52 Staff attending this year's Super Ride

The success of the Super Ride is based on the support that we receive from the local communities so, if you are able to help with our ride it will be greatly appreciated.

Tony & Harley would also like to meet with all volunteers to finalise logistics and implement plans for the day of the ride on Tues Nov 18 at 8pm at 'The Residence' (4 Terrill Street) next door to Blackwood CFA.

If you are able to support the 2008 Blackwood Super Ride please contact Tony & Harley 5368-6768 or email bssoc@yahoo.com.au

SPECIAL SCHOOLS GOLF CHARITY DAY

It's time to dust off those golf clubs, clean your golf shoes & practice your putting - the BSSOEC Golf Charity Day is fast approaching. We would love to see you tee off & support the Centre by helping us raise money to improve & expand the activities offered at the Centre.

- Theme:- BUSH CHRISTMAS GOLF
- Date:- FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER 2008
- Location:- TRENTHAM GOLF CLUB
- Competition:- 4 BALL AMBROSE EVENT (STROKE)
(LADIES, MENS & MIXED)
- Tee Time:- SHOT GUN START 10:00am
- Cost:- \$35 per person
- Entry includes lunch, on course BBQ and minor raffle ticket entry
- Prizes:- 1st, 2nd & 3rd for Ladies, Mens & Mixed and Bush Christmas Theme Prizes

LIMITED TO ONLY 36 GROUPS OF 4 (144 PLAYERS) A & B TEES
 For further information and a full Golf Day Entry Form please visit www.blackwoodssoc.vic.edu.au

Bullarto Primary School

*"Where the forest meets the school
 and the children meet the future"*

**Currently accepting enrolments
 for 2009 academic year.**



Make an appointment for a tour of our beautiful school and meet teachers and students by phoning principal Sue Beel

on 53485559



TAKING A TEST RUN

As a parent, I was really pleased to hear that we were finally getting a bus service in Blackwood - great for the young ones in town & the oldies. But of course I had a car, I would never need to use the service ... or so I thought.

Two weeks after the bus service was launched I had to get down town to pick up a car I often look after for my sister. My husband & I generally co-ordinate to drive down in one car & bring 2 cars

back. Our daughter heard us trying to juggle our schedules & quietly asked why didn't I take the bus on Friday morning? Of course! A perfect solution - \$2.40 to get to the Marsh, a train ticket to Melbourne, take advantage of the opportunity to get a bit of shopping in, pick up the car & drive it back. Saves time, people power & petrol. Isn't it funny how we drivers get so used to our patterns that it takes a non-driver to see alternatives!

I really enjoyed my bus trip that Friday - I did stuff I can't do when I'm driving - I read my book, dozed, organised my day by text & watched the scenery go by. Won't it be great when the service is expanded so it becomes a convenient transport option for all Blackwoodians?

~ Jinny Coyle (aka Lois Lane)

blackwoofs



A girl called Jojo was giving away her pup at the Easter Carnival around 14 years ago. The puppy's name was Reuben, but since that's a boys name, we changed it to Ruby. It wasn't long before Ruby fell pregnant to the Stewart's very busy dog, Staggers (aka Shaggers). I think he was shepherd/collie - a long-nosed, black furball. They were nothing like each other & Ruby gave birth to 6 really strange-looking puppies.

Being a short haired dog with a fat, pink belly which she liked to bake in the sun, Ruby started to sprout cancers. She has just had her 5th tummy tuck in about 8 years & still sports 3 nipples (what a girl!).

Ruby has become a bit of a town matriarch over the years, helping to socialise many a young pup. She also dispenses sage advice about the use of sunscreen.

Her main love, though, has always been people (that's her above with Peta, one of her faves). She is always up for a pat, so don't hold back if she waddles up to you in the street.

BLACKWOODS OWN DR DOOLITTLE

In late June of 2008 I had the opportunity to meet Michael Bascombe, holistic veterinarian from Australia. We had corresponded via e-mail two years ago about the possibility of him coming to the United States to do a workshop in Animal Communication. When I received a phone call from a friend of mine that he was at an event not far from me I was surprised and very excited to meet him. Michael was going to be staying on in the States for another month so we offered his Level 1 course at my facility.

Seven people attended the workshop with only a weeks notice. Michael's energy set the tone for the weekend. On the first afternoon we stood in a circle and let the horses into the arena. The horses belong to me so I had to let "go" of my preconceived notions of how they would respond to the energy we sent out. One of the horses is Forest, a pinto/Trahkener cross that I had purchased a year earlier when I had to put down two horses within six months of each other. Forest was to "replace" the old dressage horse that I had owned for 24 years.

Forest walked slowly around the group touching and acknowledging almost every one there. He came and touched my hand and foot that had been bothering me as a result of a fall. He then went over close to Michael and proceeded to lie down in the wood shavings that cover the arena floor. At first I thought he was just going to roll and get back up. He did not. He lay flat out on his side and started to moan as though he had the colic. His eyes rolled back in his head and he just stayed there for what seemed an eternity. Michael asked him if he was all right and he swished his tail. The other horses stood by and observed. After fifteen minutes or so he finally sat up and then stood up and shook. In the imprint that he left in the floor I could see a "spirit" horse outline very plainly and then it slowly disappeared. Forest slowly moved around the circle again acknowledging people and touched me on the other hand and foot. I felt he was helping the spirits of Oakie and Dandy to let go and be released.

Since that time I have become strongly connected to Forest. He has definitely taken on the role of the leader that my old horse Oakie used to have. I have shown him in dressage and he knows that is what he is there for. Yet he is a comedian/clown the rest of the time, loves to be around people and/or horses and is truly a gift.

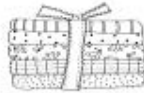
Michael has a gift and allows the space to be created that we can utilize ours. Thank you Michael!!

~ Judy Joba USA

A story about an 'animal communication with horses' workshop in USA in June this year.

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The Cocky Gardener

Oh, what a wonderful and brave new world it is for the gardener who arrives fresh from her six by eight meter city patch of yellowing grass and dog-mangled flowers to a rural heaven on an acre and a bit.

Initially I felt as though a hitherto unknown fairy godmother had waved her sparkly wand and procured for me my dream 'project'.

Our place, previously owned as a weekender by the Watson's, was partly sold on the lovely house (newly and very nicely renovated), partly on the shed (big enough for Tim to more than fulfil his fantasy workshop) and mostly sold on the garden.

I was pregnant at the time and Tim and I were thinking along the lines of cubby houses & swings but foremost in my mind was a GARDEN.

Now I don't want you to think I have delusions of grandeur. I had seen the block and the excellent landscaping work done by the Watson's and I thought – "Well, all this garden needs is a little native planting around the fence-line to help blend us to the bush, a modest flower and herb cutting patch in the little 'sundial' garden off the verandah, a scented white and silver walk down past the wood shed, a lavender and rosemary hedge around the clothes line and a formal kitchen garden with six raised beds, espaliered fruit trees and a berry cage. Did I mention the dry gravel border in plum, silver and burned orange? No? Oops, it must have slipped my mind while I was planning the tiered beds of hellebores, violets and old roses for outside the kitchen."

You may have guessed by now that when it comes to gardens I can be prone to wild flights of fancy.

I was already imagining my section in the Victorian Open Gardens yearbook.

In my happy, carefree world of make believe gardening I had mentally skipped some hundreds of hours of soil preparation, weeding, pruning, propagation and pest control.

It occurs to me in hindsight that the renowned garden designers Edna Walling and Vita Sackville-West might have had a little help with their gardens – probably a squadron of hardened stooped men who doffed their caps in between double digging the herbaceous border. They also probably didn't create their botanical masterpieces while looking after their first baby on maternity leave.

Rufus (my five month old baby) doesn't mind a bit of gardening as long as I pause from weeding every three or four seconds to wave wildly at him and say (in the high pitched voice reserved for infants) "Oh- THERE'S my boy!" or while bending my fork on our clay soil to sing enthusiastically all the songs I can remember from Play School that my brain has somehow retained after a thirty-odd year hiatus.

Then, there is the frost.

I must admit that I have never paid much attention before to the little snowflake on plant tags that indicates if the plant is 'frost hardy' or 'frost tender'. Frost was something of a novelty – all lovely and crunchy underfoot and sparkly in the morning light. It was only after three or four of the plants I had brought with me to transplant from my Footscray garden became blackened jelly that it made sense. "Ahh..." I thought wisely, "I must buy plants that don't mind getting frozen and thawed every night like a bag of peas."

Now I don't want you to think that it has been all doom and gloom for my 'dream project'. There have been small victories in my garden every week since moving here- the sea of daffodils that appeared one day to herald spring, twenty plectranthus cuttings all coming along nicely for my silver walk, two full bags of horse dung dug into the bed where all the roses will go next year, all the big eucalypt stumps ground out of the vegetable plot, and many frost hardy plants that do well in the area donated by kind locals (thank you Katie, Bec and Isabelle!).

The biggest blessing? I may have been a cocky gardener but the cockies haven't got so much as a leaf of any of my seedlings and it's all thanks to my dogs who have swapped city plant mauling for country bird harassment – Hurray!

~ Heather Marsh

Dear Pet Guru,

*My boxing kangaroo
keeps knocking me out!*



You ignorant lout.

I can tell by your drawing that it is not a boxing kangaroo you have, but a kick-boxing emu.

You will always lose.

I suggest that you teach him chess.

You may still lose, but it will be less painful

- Pet Guru



Blackwood Spring Babe

Photo by Heather Marsh



9th Annual Trentham Lions Cool Country Classic Fun Runs

10.30 a.m. Sunday 16 November 2008

Dust off those running shoes! The Trentham Lions are again hosting their 10 kms country-lane run this year on the breathlessly awaited new bucolic "Little Hampton variant" course.

The alternative 5 kms run/walk will take runners & walkers through the town of Trentham.

This is advanced notice of a wonderful opportunity to spring into summer & participate in a community event that promises to get bigger & bigger. All proceeds go to local charitable causes. Formidable cash prizes are also on offer.

Primary School children run/walk in the 5 kms event free of charge. Bullarto Primary School won for the first time the \$200 Primary School's Prize last year (greatest participation of participants in both runs as a proportion of the total school roll). They will be out to defend their title against all comers this year. This should serve as encouragement to all primary schools in the area (especially those with small rolls!) to get involved.

See www.coolcountryclassic.com for details, including discount pre-registration info, past results & pictures or email akincaid@vicbar.com.au or ring Andrew on 9225 6827 bh

Tree Challenge:

I've decided now that I've moved to the country I should cook scones, run up hills and plant a vegie patch. So far I've eaten at the general store, walked two minutes from my house to the pub (no hills) and collected empty plant holders. Generally my plans aren't going too well. So much for my tree change - the only thing that is changing is my waist line thanks to Donna's homemade cakes!

One night I had my first dinner party - I mean one of my first ever dinner parties. I spent all day reading a recipe over and over because it's been ten years since I last cooked a meal. The tragic thing was it was just fish and mash with some greens. Really it was my brain that went to mash when I tried to join in the conversation because I was so worried about how much butter and milk to put in with the spuds.

They were very impressed. Not just because I didn't burn the fish, but because I actually went to the effort. It was an evening of frivolity and laughter, ahh the joys of the country kitchen. I would never have bothered in the city, because I had two-hundred restaurants within walking distance from my house which put me to shame.

There was no silver service, just a bit of copper culinary: I did tell my friends however, they were sitting on a goldmine, after all they were in Blackwood, the good 'ole gold rush town. I thought I'd do some gold digging since I moved to Blackwood, but so far no prospects. I'm not giving up though, I love a dig.

I'm not giving up on cooking either. I have a whole shelf of recipe books that I've received as presents in the last ten years. (What were they thinking?). I'm impressed with myself; I have actually unpacked them. I'm not sure if Marie Claire is really my taste: I mean I don't really know what half the ingredients are. I recently bought a blender hoping that I would cook more, but it's really not cutting it.

I discovered a treasure that is going to put an end to my Ramsay try outs. It involves two four letter words, "Meat Ball," yeah, the meat balls that Donna sells at the general store. If you add a can of tin tomatoes, fresh parsley and parmesan it can make you look like a chef on ready, steady cook. Guess what's going for my next dinner party? Just don't tell my friends my little secret, they think I've changed.....

~ By Genevieve Messenger

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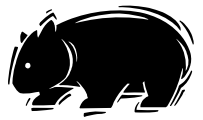
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SILLY OLD DOG



Out walking one recent & very cold winter's morning, Denis & Donna's best new mate sniffed the air & bounded into the bush. Denis called, got sick of calling, then pushed through the undergrowth to the river. There was Tyson alright. Except he wasn't alright.

He was underwater, blowing bubbles with a large, murderous kangaroo sitting on him. Club in hand, Denis plunged into the icy waters. He raised his head to see the roo rearing to a menacing 7 feet of body language that said "You're next mate!". Den scabbled underwater for a collar, yanked the attached dog free & hauled it downstream at the rate of a man half his age.

It was a bruised & chilly walk home; & all uphill. The boys had discovered a new respect for kangaroos. Also, they suspected, on the long limp home, that the hooting which echoed through the hills was the rare sound of laughing kangaroos.

~ Brendan Hehir (aka Jimmy Olsen)

LOCAL TIP hours

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

Ballan: Wed-Mon 1pm-5pm

a blackwood news community service notice



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where are they now?



WILLIAM HOWARD Terrill was born in Blackwood in October '21 to Earnest & Florence (nee Burns). His brothers Roy & Jim are both deceased.

HE SCHOOLED in Blackwood to Merit Certificate.

AFTER WORKING at Trewella Brothers for 4 years he served in the RAAF in the Pacific Islands for just short of 7 years then BCOF in Japan in '46-'47.

AFTER THE war he had a number of jobs but his main claim to fame

was his time as a VFL umpire from '48-'63. He was president of the Umpires Association in '56 & was recently inducted into the AFL Umpires Hall of Fame.

IN '56 he married an Albury girl, Adeline Lester. They have 2 children & 3 grandchildren.

BILL HAS been a member of the Melbourne Cricket Club for 30 years & currently volunteers as a tour guide at the MCG.

HIS SISTER-IN-LAW Elma & nephew Ernie still live in Blackwood.

DO YOU know someone who has had a history in Blackwood and you would like to see featured in 'where are they now?' **POPA** photo & a brief 'then & now' bio into the 'drop box' outside the general store or email to blackwood@centralvic.com.au

TO THE kidnapers of our little fella

I AM positive Norbitt would not want to become a cats supporter as cats are his number 1 enemy in our garden. He is a **MAGPIE** supporter and you shouldn't be brainwashing him. I want you to show him the picture of his new lady friend and I am sure he will want to return to his rightful owner. Grand houses don't cut it with our little fella, he is the outdoor type.



SO LITTLE fella if you get to read this, come home if you can, as it seems you are being held by people with drinking problems. This is Shirley and she would make you very happy.

STAY LOYAL to your magpies little fella.

LOOKING FORWARD to your return.

LOVE WEE Joc

Hello Jill,

I really like the look of Shirley. Is she an internet order bride? Does she speak english? & what is her ETA?

If you can send a photo to Blackwood News when she arrives I will try to escape & come home to you & her. If you get Shirley there quickly I promise escape as soon as possible & support the **MAGGIES** for ever!

I really hate it here now because they have me doing hard labour & chopping wood!

Love Little Fella



October

2008

sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday




thursday

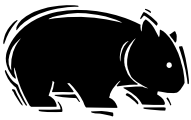
friday

saturday

<p>Daylight savings starts ~ clocks forward 1 hour Trentham Spring Festival Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</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>1 Enid Macumber</p>	<p>2 Janette Darwen</p>	<p>3 new moon</p>	<p>4 Darley Market Ballan Lions Club Market Daylesford Farmers Market Blackwood Cricket Club season starts CERT training</p>
<p>5 Daylight savings starts ~ clocks forward 1 hour Trentham Spring Festival Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p>	<p>6 MEDITATION: Uniting Church Term 4 begins</p>  <p>David Rogers</p>	<p>8 Enid Macumber</p>	<p>9 Janette Darwen</p>	<p>10 new moon</p>	<p>11 Central Geelong Farmers Market</p>
<p>12 Daylesford Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p>	<p>13 David Rogers</p>	<p>15 Enid Macumber</p>	<p>16 Janette Darwen</p>	<p>17 full moon</p>	<p>18 Buninyong Farmers Market</p>
<p>19 Daylesford Market Trentham Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Talbot Farmers Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p>	<p>20 MEDITATION: Uniting Church</p>  <p>Jack Simmonds</p>	<p>22 Enid Macumber</p>	<p>23 Daryl Kilner Frauke Hoffman</p>	<p>24 Barb Henderson Unitta Cox</p>	<p>25 Lancefield Farmers Market Jazz Night @ Lerdies</p>
<p>26 Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Spirituality in the Bush</p>	<p>27 Milo in2Cricket registration</p> <p>new moon</p>	<p>29 Brenda Hunter</p>	<p>30 halloween</p>	<p>31 Luke & Lachlan Whitehouse</p>	<p>Geoff Boucher</p>

november

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Sunday Greg Cassidy Daylesford Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church BDHS Open Day Jam session @ Lerdies	3 Monday MEDITATION: Uniting Church 	4 Tuesday Melbourne Cup Day Cup Day Luncheon @ Blackwood Hotel	5 Wednesday	6 Thursday Ladies Day @ Lerdies	7 Friday FRIDAY BUS SERVICE 9.05am departs B'wood 9.40am arrives BM station 2.15pm departs BM station 2.50pm arrives B'wood	8 Saturday Darley Market Ballan Lions Club Market Daylesford Farmers Market Lauren Lee Williams @ Lerdies
9 Monday Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church	10 Tuesday Jenny Darwen MEDITATION: Uniting Church 	11 Wednesday Remembrance Day	12 Thursday Lorna Brown	13 Friday full moon Blackwood News deadline: advertisers book space regular features & contributors	14 Saturday Valissa Stewart	15 Sunday Buninyong Farmers Market Blackwood News deadline: features & items of interest community groups & clubs
16 Monday Daylesford Market Trentham Market Talbot Farmers Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Trentham Lions Cool Country FUN RUN Ray Kuno	17 Tuesday Jenny Darwen MEDITATION: Uniting Church 	18 Wednesday Super Ride Volunteers Meeting Blackwood News deadline: advert artwork / content	19 Thursday Lorna Brown	20 Friday BLACKWOOD SSOEC SUPER RIDE Blackwood News deadline: News, classifieds	21 Saturday Valissa Stewart	22 Sunday Blackwood News deadline: late Breaking News ONLY
23 Monday Daylesford Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Spirituality in the Bush	24 Tuesday Zac Willmott new moon	25 Wednesday	26 Thursday Robert Bridger	27 Friday new moon Monica Darwen Beattie MacFarlane	28 Saturday	29 Sunday Masquerade Ball (p3)



HELPING VOLUNTEERS PAY THEIR PETROL BILLS

Community organisations can now apply for a share in the Volunteer Grants Program 2008.

Member for Ballarat, Catherine King welcomed the opening of the funding round. The Government will expand items eligible for funding under the program to include petrol for volunteers who use their vehicles for volunteering purposes.

Catherine King said. "We recognise the enormous contribution made by the more than five million volunteers who work tirelessly." "For the first time, organisations will be able to apply for a contribution to reimburse volunteers for fuel costs incurred during their volunteering work.

"This new measure will assist volunteers who use their vehicles to support people in the

community, including delivering food to the homeless, taking disadvantaged children to Saturday sports and visiting the elderly."

The Australian Government has also expanded the eligibility rules for the Volunteer Grants Program to include school Parents and Citizenship Associations for the first time.

Organisations can apply for grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to purchase equipment – including computers, air conditioners, mowers and sporting items used by volunteers.

For more information or to obtain an application form and guidelines visit www.fahcsia.gov.au or call the toll-free hotline on 1800 183 374. Applications close Friday 17 October 2008.

BLACKWOOD LICENCED POST OFFICE

We would like to thank the people of Blackwood for their kind words & support while we have been setting up the new Post Office. We are now fully functioning & appreciate the feedback we have received.

The Post Office hours are temporarily Mon–Fri 9–5 & Sat mornings & will be adjusted after our next consultation with Australia Post.

We stock magazines & some stationary items as well as the usual Australia Post padded bags, boxes, etc. Greeting cards & wrapping paper will be available soon. If you wish us to stock a particular magazine or other items, please let us know & we will endeavour to organise it.

We have installed an EFTPOS terminal & are able to take payment by EFTPOS, cash or cheque for Australia Post Bill Pay

accounts.

We are organising with Australia Post for additional Private Boxes, if you require a box drop in & have your name added to our waiting list. We would also appreciate our current box holders letting everyone know their box number for correspondence purposes, as this will help us to ensure we place your mail in the correct boxes & shorten mail sorting times.

If you have neighbours that visit Blackwood spasmodically, next time you are in the PO could you please let us know their names. We have a number of letters on hand & are unsure if these people are still residents of our town.

Again we thank you for your support & look forward to seeing you all in the new Post Office.

~ Peter, Lynne and Staff.

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www.catherineking.com.au

Authorised by Catherine King MP, 5 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat VIC 3350

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFERS THEIR CONDOLENCES

Peter Brown is fondly remembered as a lively teenager & member of the former Blackwood Boys Club which met during the late 1960's in the old shed next to Blackwood Store. Teenager Robina Evans, now Robina Brown, lived in Blackwood from 1973 to 1976, when her parents Dave & Wilma Evans owned Blackwood Store. Dave Evans was treasurer for the Blackwood District Historical Society in which currently Robina is a valued member. Peter Brown was a former president of Progress, member of Blackwood CFA, Blackwood CERT, (Citizens Emergency Rescue Team) and MC of Blackwood's Easter Saturday Woodchop Carnival. For 9 years, he was the elected President of Myrning's

School Council. Collectively, Peter and Robina established & produced 100 separate editions of the Blackwood Newsletter until its recent metamorphosis into Blackwood News.

Peter's funeral will always be remembered, especially for Nicole's poignant eulogy to her father, the silent demeanour of those tiny children as they stood with their parents outside the church, the fact that when matters really count our Blackwood community stands together & finally, on a critical day in the Victorian Parliament, the Member for Melton, Don Nardella, MP. set aside all priorities to join the people of Blackwood in bidding farewell to Peter.

~ Pat Liffman - BDHS

Country Town Sewerage Program UPDATE

Central Highlands Water has confirmed that the EOI phase for the Country Town Sewerage Program is complete & the tender process is now commencing.

Tony Wright, General Manager of Planning & Strategy says "Central Highlands Water is very pleased with how the project is progressing. We remain committed to working towards delivering the Country Town Sewerage Program by 2010 as

outlined in the 2008-2013 Water Plan."

During the EOI phase of the project 3 bidders were shortlisted to tender for the project – Earth Tech, Uniter Water & United Utilities. These firms have now been formally invited to tender for the project.

It is anticipated that a Community Information Session will be held in each town early '09. So watch this space!

ABOUT TRENTHAM POLICE

10 or 12 years ago, before the Shire amalgamations, Trentham Police were responsible for the area south of Blackwood township, down to Mount Blackwood, but we are now more or less loosely aligned with Shire Boundaries & as such, Blackwood, being in the Moorabool Shire, now comes under the jurisdiction of Ballan Police.

Of course there are no brick walls between Police Response Areas (PRA'S) & when there is an urgent job to attend, the closest police unit will be called to respond. This means Trentham Police will often attend calls in Blackwood as the station is only 13 kilometers away & much closer than Ballan police station. It also means that many residents of Blackwood attend at Trentham rather than Ballan for police attention. We always have been and will continue to be happy to assist those people whenever possible.

~ Sergeant Greg FALKINER, Trentham Police



**SIGN, SIGN,
EVERYWHERE A SIGN!**



'HAPPY 50th IAN STEWART'



**'BLACKWOOD POST OFFICE
ON THE MOVE.**

Blackwood Post Office will be relocating to Blackwood Hotel, 9 Martin Street Blackwood on the 1st Aug 2008. Come in & visit us on the 1st Aug 2008. The Blackwood Post Office is open from 9am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday & 9am to 12 noon Saturday.



'WANTED TO BUY.

Riches beyond the dreams of avarice could be yours if you have the watche/s, clocks & barometer I am seeking. Phone Mike'

CLASSIFIEDS



HOUSE WANTED:

Looking for House to Rent in the Blackwood area, preferably near the forest. I love this beautiful place! I've been camping in the wonderful forest and have decided that, for my own sanity and peace of mind, I need to live here permanently. This is my hearts desire. I have 2 old Samoyed dogs who share my life, and would have to move with me. They are calm and gentle, and more interested in sleep than anything else! Please call Kathie, if you can help, on 03 93698135. Go ahead, make my day (and my life!)

STAFF WANTED

Kitchen hands and waiting staff. Thursday, Friday and Saturday night Lerdies restaurant, Blackwood phone 5368 6612

**BRICKBATS &
BOUQUETS**

Bouquet to Mike. Your friends in Blackwood wish you a speedy recovery & hope to see you back up here soon!

A LINE OR TWO...

Peter Brown: We would like to thank everyone for their phone calls, cards, flowers & words of support during Peter's illness & since he has passed away. We could not have got through the last 13 months without the help & support of so many people Geoff - Ballan District Nurse Pam, Lynne & staff, Palliative Care, Bacchus Marsh Motor Neurone Disease Assoc Dr Anthony Bev - Linkages, Ballarat Michael & Theresa (Charles Crawford & Sons) Family & friends & the Blackwood Community. Please accept this as a personal thankyou.

~ Robina, Kathryn & Nicole



LOCAL ACADEMIC'S FIRST BOOK

In early October Blackwoodian Geoff Bouchers' first book, written with Deakin University colleague Matthew Sharpe, will hit the bookstores.

"THE TIMES WILL SUIT THEM" digs behind the headlines to explain the success of Howard's radical new conservatism. It is compelling reading for anyone seeking to understand the drivers in contemporary Australian politics.

in my opinion ...

WHO CARES?

An argument has been raised by working mothers that they should receive priority for child care spaces over stay at home mums or dads.

Anyone who's spinal cord touches their brain should realize that a full time homemaker and provider of child care is the most important career there is. It just adds insult to injury that these

people aren't paid for a job that doesn't have a knock of time.

Is it not reasonable that they should escape one of their duties for a few hours. I mean, surely they could clean or shop more efficiently without the ankle-biters in tow. And if they really want these career lasses to arc up, they might even seize the opportunity to have a latte.

~ The Beak (name supplied)



**Bacchus Marsh
Community College Inc.**

'The Laurels'

what's on in October/November 2008

Introduction to Aged Care Work
Introduction to Certificate III Aged Care
Hospitality...
Bar Attendant Course
Responsible Service of Alcohol
Follow Workplace Hygiene Procedures
Food Safety Supervisor
First Aid...
Workplace Level 2
Reaccreditation Level 2
CPR (call the office for dates)
(last opportunity for the year to gain Hospitality and First Aid certificates!)

Art & Craft ...
Meditation Painting
Soap Making
Antique Furniture Restoration
Garden Sculpture

Health & Wellbeing
Relaxation Workshop
Quick & Easy Entertaining

Writing
Chapter & Verse

Horticulture
Certificate II in Horticulture (Units)

Computers ...
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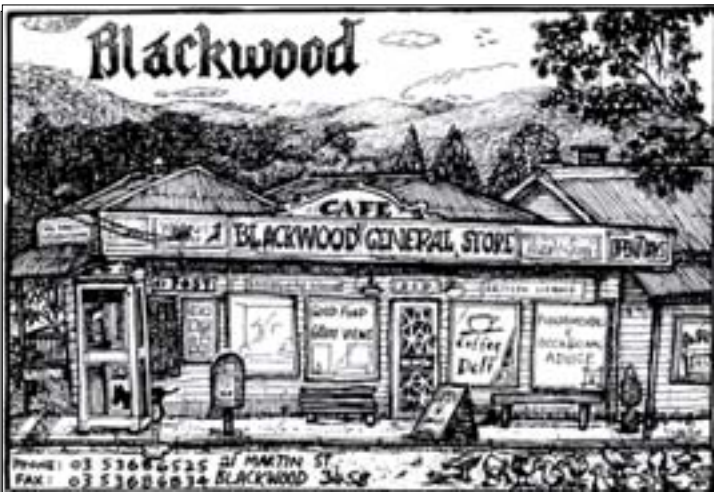
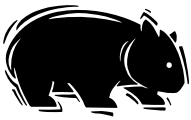
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The Marvelous and Improbable Adventures of the Crumple Horned Snorkack

episode 2

"A Crumple-Horned Snorkack!?" exclaimed Professor Bloom, incredulous. "This can't be. It has been conclusively proven that you don't exist."

The little being in front of him performed a silly dance on the couch and waggled its backside disrespectfully while sniggering to itself.

Incensed, the professor flew to the bookcase and extracted some tomes. "Look!" he demanded. "Not a single authority believes in the Crumple Horned Snorkack. Listen to this:

"The Encyclopedia Britannica says that the so-called Crumple Horned Snorkack is a purely imaginary beast first invented by the ancients to scare children. It is described as a perfectly ridiculous beast. For the Greeks, belief in the Crumple Horned Snorkack was evidence of mental insufficiency. The Romans said that the Snorkack is 'even less plausible, if that is possible, than dragons and the chimera'. And Shakespeare describes it as 'a very fraudulent beast, a most lying and an arrogant patchwork, of vain dreams composéd and most vengeful upon the eye'. The race of Snorkacks is supposed to come from outer space, which makes their existence even more improbable."

"Shakespeare was a doodle," huffed the Snorkack. "If I hadn't written all those things for him, he would still be squeaking out the girls' parts and playing the fool."

"You mean—you knew Shakespeare?" gasped the professor, totally dumbfounded. Shakespeare was his special area.

"Of course," snapped the Snorkack. "But he never could get anything right. There is only one Snorkack, and it is a charming, adventurous and lovely creature. Me."

As the professor turned a deep shade of purple, the Snorkack pressed its advantage. "Where do you think he got all that stuff about 'a dragon and a finless fish, a clip wing'd griffin and a ramping cat' from, if it's not a poor effort at describing yours truly?" the Snorkack demanded.

While the professor was checking up on the Snorkack's literary references, the Snorkack ambled quietly into another room. The next thing that the professor knew was that his deep thoughts on Hamlet were interrupted by a terrible gurgling noise.

"Oh my God!" he thought. "It sounds like a cockatrice with nasal congestion. Perhaps it's brought a friend—and it's drinking from the toilet!"

But when the professor entered the bathroom, the sight that greeted him was even more displeasing than the sudden appearance of a fabulous beast from the toilet bowl might have been.

The bathroom was afloat in a lake of soapy water. Steam wreathed the lights and mirror, choking the fan into silence. A great gout of water reached out across the width of the room and deposited itself with a splash on the floor, spraying the last dry towel with foam flecks. The bath itself, meanwhile, had disappeared beneath a mountain of pink suds that seemed to pulse and waver of its own accord. From somewhere in the midst of this watery disturbance, came the chortling celebration that he had heard before:

"Glub! My favourite bathtime gurgles, my favourite bathtime gurgles..."

Swimming happily in the middle of this cacophony was the little Snorkack. It rolled complacently onto its back and paddled with its tail, while regarding the professor cheerfully.

"You wretched little creature!" shouted the professor from behind a bright red expression of fury. "You go too far, sir, you go too far."

The Snorkack performed a barrel roll with a dexterous flip of its tail and blinked at the professor.

"Did I ever tell you about Shakespeare's lost tragedy, Great Naval Battles of the Spanish Armada?" it inquired.

"It starts off like this," the being continued, oblivious to the protests of the professor.

"The scene is a galleon. The lookout mounts the for'ard mast—so". And the Snorkack clambered agilely up onto the taps, positioning itself

on the end of the nozzle. "Another ship is espied. The lookout sings out:

"'Twas aboard the good ship Venus

"By God you should have seen us

"With a figure head of a..."

Tragically, the next line of this literary masterpiece was lost as the Snorkack gave a great shout of excitement and performed a spectacular belly-flopper into the overladen bath, with a distinct "wheeee!" on the way down.

Three hours later, a highly exhausted and unsatisfied professor sat down to the dinner table with the Snorkack, having finally given way to the Snorkack's complaints about being 'treated like a common animal', and 'not letting a poor creature act like a human' and he had presented him with a lovely selection of roasted lychees which the Snorkack, of course, had turned its nose up at.

A while later, once the Snorkack was slurping disgustingly at the remains of his ice-cream with bits of mashed lychees in it, the professor was deep in thought. Suddenly he got up and walked out of the room, leaving his burping little guest alone with its now empty ice-cream bowl. "Waddaya doing?" asked the Snorkack, talking with difficulty through a mouthful of lychees, and spraying them all over the poor professor's beautiful polished floor.

Quickly, the professor returned to the room, carrying an enormous old book in his arms. "This is Shakespeare's Collected Works," announced the professor proudly. "Oh!" said the Snorkack in some surprise and (though the professor didn't notice) quite a lot of fear. "Here we go," announced the professor with excitement. "Let's see what you really do know about Shakespeare."

"Er, okay," said the Snorkack.

"Now, let's see, hmm ... dumdy dumdy dum, where is it, where is it? Ah! I know, 'For Orpheus' lute was strung with poets' sinews, whose golden touch could soften steel and stones, make tigers tame and huge leviathans forsake unsounded deeps to dance on sands."

"Well?" demanded the professor. The Snorkack didn't answer, but the professor wasn't listening anymore anyway. "See? See?" He was becoming dangerously excited.

"Hah!" he cried, triumphant. "You don't know, do you?"

The Snorkack pretended to be very interested in licking up the last of its ice cream from the bottom of the bowl. "Perhaps it's another one about me," the Snorkack replied, after a pause.

"Nope! Nope!" The professor hadn't felt this good all day. "It's from Henry IV Part One. I know what you are—you're a literary fraud! You're a plagiarized creature!" And still carrying on about falling standards and young people today, the professor rang the police to report the Snorkack.

~ Lily Evans (with the help of Alaska Pollock)

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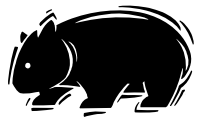
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... cont from p1

he met Robina at Blackwood, where his parents had a holiday house & Robina's parents owned the general store. This was the beginning of their relationship which lasted for 32 years. They held their engagement party at the North Melbourne Club rooms. Peter was a one-eyed North Melbourne supporter. They married on the 18th Nov 1978 at Overnewton Castle in Keilor. This November is their 30th Wedding Anniversary.

Robina remembers the first time Peter took her out. He picked her up in his valiant. The front passenger floor was his toolbox & the back seat his wardrobe.

Robina will never forget when Peter first introduced her to his extended family in Werribee. He rode his cousins motorbike through Aunty Barb's house.

Peter & Robina lived in Avondale Heights for 13 years. Every weekend they had a houseful of visitors from Geelong & Werribee. Peter worked for Keilor Council beginning in the outdoor staff & then working his way to the indoor staff, forming many life long friendships.

In 1988, after 9 years of marriage & to everyones shock their first daughter Kathryn was born.

In 1989 they bought Peter's parents holiday house & moved to Blackwood & in 1990 Nicole was born. When Peter told the family they had another girl & that she had red hair, no-one believed him. They all expected a boy!

Peter was very involved in Kathryn & Nicole's early education at the Blackwood Kindergarten, helping build the playground & fence at the back of the hall. Kathryn & Nicole both went to Myrning Primary School where Peter was on school council for 10 years, 9 of these as president.

I will never forget the first time I met Peter at a school BBQ. He oozed confidence & had real presence. A man to be listened to, a very firm handshake & a person who commanded respect. After the initial introductions, Peter took me aside, looked me straight in the eye & said "You know Allan, I got a lot going for me, I can talk, I can dance, I dress to impress & I'm the best looking bloke in Blackwood". To this day I believe he was serious.

Peter worked hard at Myrning to get the new shelter shed built & the running track formed.

He also went on both girls school camps each year. At the time they were not happy about that but now appreciate the time he spent with them. One of the highlights of my school year was going on school camp with Peter. I soon realised that he wasn't good at everything, he couldn't play cards but loved to bluff.

He was a great story teller. I used to sit in awe - mouth open listening in amazement as Peter told many wonderful stories of his great adventures - no matter how many times he told the same story, it was always exciting, had a few more people, details & amazing facts in it. But don't worry, because Peter had 2 mottoes when on camp. 'What happens on camp, stays on camp so your secrets are safe with me!' & 'Never let the truth get in the way of a good story!'

Peter also looked forward the Myrning Cup night & school trivia night. He enjoyed dressing up in fancy dress. Once he went as 1/2 man & 1/2 woman & another time in pink glittery overalls with pink makeup & pink shoes.

After 5 years travelling to Keilor for work, Peter was made redundant when they closed down his department. Peter then started up a contracting business with Ken Whiffen. When Ken left the business, Peter continued for a number of years & then decided to get a job with Emoleum, based in Melton. This meant travelling again, as his last job had been concreting with Moorabool Shire.

Even before moving to Blackwood permanently, Peter was involved with the Blackwood Fire Brigade. He was able to attend a function earlier this year to unveil a plaque recognising his contribution to the Blackwood CFA (see *Blackwood News*, Vol 1 Issue 1, p1)

For 13-14 years, Peter MC'd at the Blackwood Easter Carnival run by the Blackwood Progress Association & was president or committee member for a number of years. Even though he was very sick by Easter this year, he arrived on his scooter & announced parade events as they came into the sports ground. He loved to organise the Tug-O-

War events & was there to supervise this year.

Peter was also a founding member of the Blackwood CERT team, believing it was a necessity for Blackwood. He encouraged Kathryn to do the training & she became an active member at age 16. 2 years later Nicole also became an active member. He was very proud of the girls' involvement with CERT & encouraged them to become volunteers in their community.

Peter enjoyed a party & loved to dance. When "Nutbush" came on he was up there dancing with all the ladies.

Usually when he got dressed to go out, he had Robina & the girls running around after him! He was always changing his mind about which shirt or jacket he should wear & had 1/2 his clothes pulled out of the wardrobe trying things on. When the girls thought they were ready to go, Peter would change his mind again & have Robina ironing yet another shirt or Kathryn & Nicole looking for his earrings, deciding which one he should wear!

Peter had no understanding of time! If he said he was going to be 1/2 an hour late that meant at least 3 hours. If he said he wouldn't be long, that meant he might be home by midnight & if he said he'd see you later, that meant sometime tomorrow! Once he said he was tired so he would only go & have a few drinks then be back. Two hours later he called to say he was in Echuca because he had decided to go & see Greg! Another night he rang to say he had taken some people to the casino & not to wait up.

Peter had a spa on the back verandah & enjoyed many a summer night sitting in the spa with a whiskey & coke. Lots of times he didn't get out until the sun came up.

Peter got on really well with the girls boyfriends, Ross & Aaron. He'd go & watch Aaron play footy

each week & when he got sick Nicole would take him to the matches. Peter would talk to Ross about cars or how to build or fix this & that - he would go out on the scooter to supervise Ross when he was working in the yard. For Peters birthday this year, Robina, Kathryn & Nicole to Warrnambool for a few days. They were only able to do this with the assistance of Ross & Aaron.

Peter believed his first symptoms of Motor Neurone Disease began about 4 years ago. Without realising it, the manual work he was doing was pushing the disease along & he worked until he physically could work no longer. He was as devastated as family & friends when he was diagnosed in July last year.

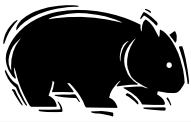
As the disease progressed Peter said he didn't want to continue when he lost the use of his hands & was unable to do anything for himself. Until a week ago through determination & stubbornness, he was still eating, talking & moving, though with difficulty. Peter only went to hospital a few times as one of his fears was going there & not coming home! On a hospital visit to Ballarat he got caught smoking in the toilets. A nurse came & told him off, saying he could have blown everyone up. His response was that 'then he could go home!' With the support of Geoff at Ballan District Health, Lyn & Pam from Bacchus Marsh Palliative Care, MND Association, Bev from Linkages, Dr Anthony & especially the support of family & friends. Peter was able to stay home until the last possible moment. He passed away in Bacchus Marsh Palliative Care ward with his family & friends around him.

When we look at the sky tonight & every night, look for the biggest & brightest star. That's Peter looking down on us with love, making sure we're all okay.

We're going to miss you big fella!

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MCiA Online & on the Road

- The Moorabool Communities in Action webpage has recently been updated and now contains pages featuring Community Action Plans, Stocktake and Review Report and MCiA latest news and events. Various documents and reports can also be downloaded from the website.

Visit www.moorabool.vic.gov.au and follow the links from the 'Community & Health' page to find out what's happening near you.

- In response to the concerns raised across the Shire regarding the need to improve mobile and broadband coverage, the MCiA 'Telecommunication Roadshow' will begin at the Greendale Market on Saturday 25 Oct 08. Representatives from various telecommunication service providers will be available to discuss your coverage concerns and hopefully get you back in touch with the rest of the world!

**For more information on any of the above,
please contact Gaynor on 5366 7100 or email cia@moorabool.vic.gov.au**



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Whether you welcome it or not.. the E-commerce and E-Age is upon us. The way we live, communicate and most importantly do business is through the medium of electronic communication.

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- New website development**
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- Strategies for growth**

This program is substantially subsidised by the State Government and is ideal for small to medium size enterprises, Valued at \$2000, the E-Commerce Training Program costs just \$500.

To register and find out more contact:

Simon Jackson, Moorabool Shire Council, tel: 03 5366 7100 / email: sjackson@moorabool.vic.gov.au

Moorabool fun for tots (and mums!!)

You're invited to join in the World's Greatest Pram Stroll 2008

Moorabool Shire Council is once again promoting family health and wellbeing through coordinating Moorabool's local World's Greatest Pram Stroll event.

What: World's Greatest Pram Stroll

Where: Maddingley Park, Bacchus Marsh

When: Sunday 19 October 2008

Time: 10am registration and warm up; 10.30am walk begins

The World's Greatest Pram Stroll is designed to raise community awareness of the importance of socialisation for all parents. It recognises the many challenges that can arise after childbirth including social isolation for parents, and encourages new parents to enjoy some fresh air and meet other mums from their local area. It also links participants with access to information and community groups, as well as provides a day of fun and exercise in a local park.

This year's event will begin at Maddingley Park and will follow the circuit trail known as Peppertree Walk. The trail is approximately five kilometers long and will take participants through a peaceful bush setting along the Werribee River before returning to Maddingley Park for a picnic, children's activities, showbags and giveaways.

More than 80 people participated in the event last year. Community members are invited to gather their baby, pram, children, family, friends, pets, playgroup and a picnic lunch and take part in this year's World's Greatest Pram Stroll.



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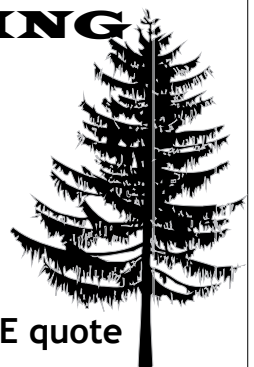
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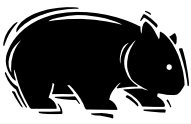
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