



BLACKWOOD NEWS thanks all the CFA volunteers who looked out for our town over the summer months as well as the many crews who came from far & wide to protect Blackwood during the Muskvale/Hogans Road fires.



The first signs of trouble on Monday Feb 23rd. Smoke from the Muskvale/Hogans Road fire taken from the car as I left Blackwood.

photo by Lucy Lysenko



On February 27, roads in & out of Blackwood were closed due to extreme weather conditions & the proximity of the Muskvale/Hogans Rd fire. After a town meeting the night before, evacuees from our town were pleased to have so many vehicles on standby at the CFA station.

Little 'Barney' (front row) was excited to hang out with the big boys - he has decided he wants to be a fire truck when he grows up!

photo by Brendan Hehir

OUR MARTY IS A QUIET ACHIEVER



On completion of his four year apprenticeship with Caterpillar as a diesel mechanic, Marty Matheson won the top award in the section of Automotive (Mechanical - Heavy Vehicle Mobile Equipment).

Marty was presented with his certificate at a Graduation Dinner held on 23rd February at the Powerhouse Reception Centre in Albert Park. His proud father Max and cousin Kendall attended the dinner.

Congratulations Marty!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Ballan Teen Holiday Program p16

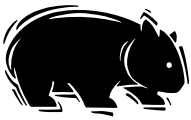
Sun April 5 Daylight savings ends - replace fire alarm battery p6

Sat Apr 11 Blackwood Easter Carnival p2 & 6

Tues Apr 21 MCiA workshop @ the hall p16

Sat Jun 13 Blackwood Winter Ball p7

3rd Mon monthly Girls Night @ the Pub p20



editors thoughts ...

What an amazing & busy couple of months! Certainly the most worrying fire season I have experienced in my short (20 year) time in Blackwood! I can't thank our CFA team & their partners enough for what you do each year! I also wish to extend my gratitude to the proprietors & staff at the Court House Hotel in Bacchus Marsh. On the day the Muskvale fire began several Blackwoodians, children & dogs invaded their courtyard – battery operated radio set on 774 & blaring regular updates. Without hesitation, they quietly supported us & offered what help they could.

This issue on p6 CFAs communication officer, George Stockdale, reminds us of the fire dangers during winter.

After Black Saturday, the organisers of Yarra Glen Fiddler's Convention were concerned about the fires down that way so, with a week's notice, grey-bearded fiddlers & fans landed in Blackwood for a weekend of hard core fiddlin'. Many locals enjoyed the Saturday dance & Sunday concert. Check out the Blackwood Social Album on opposite (p3).

Thankyou to all this month's contributors. Unfortunately I have been unable to include a number of late submissions. Community stories, items & photos are an important part of each issue but in order for the paper to be prepared, proofed, printed & distributed on time the deadlines below must be adhered to.

Finally, thankyou to those who have donated when picking up their copy – your contributions will help improve our circulation.

~ Jinny Coyle, editor

HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

Month & Year	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall Average (mm) 1879-2007	Minimum Temperature deg C	Maximum Temperature deg C
January 2009	0	50.1	2.9	41.3
February 2009	1	54.2	4.0	42.3

Wow! Late January was really hot with three consecutive days hitting 40 and above. The February maximum temperature occurred on the 7th, Black Saturday. The rainfall total for January and February was the lowest ever recorded. At the time of writing, we were starting to get some rain that thankfully reduced the fire danger.

~ Don Owen

EDITORS NOTE: I'm sure Weather Buffs on the internet will be interested to check out Trentham Storm Chasers. They do a very accurate local weather forecast for the Victorian central ranges (centred on Trentham) - usually weekly @ <http://www.stormchasers.au.com/currentcr.htm>. They have also installed 2 weather stations - one located centrally in Trentham & one just out of town at Gunyah Bend...both update conditions every 5 mins http://trentham.bs.ch.au.com/1Trentha/Current_Vantage_Pro.htm & http://trentham.bs.ch.au.com/GunyahBe/Current_Vantage_Pro.htm

Blackwood News info



Blackwood News invites submissions from all members of the community. If you are at a local event please take a photo or two & write a few lines to share in our community newspaper.

DEADLINES for the June/July issue are
Advertisers: book space by **May 13**
Regular Features & Contributors: **May 15**
One-of Features & Items of Interest: **May 15**
Community Groups & Club Updates: **May 15**
Display Ad Artwork/Content: **May 20**
News & Classifieds: **May 20**

Please email submissions, display ads & articles to blackwood@centralvic.com.au, put them in the 'drop box' outside the Blackwood General Store or post c/o Blackwood PO, Blackwood 3458

2009 Advertising rate card & booking form can be downloaded from www.blackwood.centralvic.com.au
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Blackwood News is produced as a community service by Jinny Coyle **9687 3744 / 5368 6444**

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EASTER CARNIVAL
SATURDAY APRIL 11, 2009
10.30AM - 5.30pm **PARADE 11am**

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AMUSEMENTS + Assorted Stalls
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The Moorabool News

Inc. Ballan News & Bacchus Marsh News
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BLACKWOOD SOCIAL ALBUM ... FIDDLERS COME TO TOWN



ARE YOU A BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHER? Can you help Blackwood News by taking photos of events in the area? Please call Jinny on 5368 6444 if you can help.



BLACKWOOD SPECIAL SCHOOL OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

What a Term.

We had a very busy Term organised for the beginning of 2009 only to be interrupted by Fire. Due to the Victorian Bushfires a number of Schools postponed their camps through cautious Management & Directives from the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development (DEECD). All totally understandable assessments & appropriate decision making.

So what impact did that have on Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc.? Minimal. However, it does make for a busy rest of the year as rather than cancelling their camps, the schools postponed them – which is fantastic. This culminated in the Camp running activities for 151 students from 4 Special Schools at Blackwood in 1 week during March. A fantastic experience for all students & staff involved.

Although Beechworth & the surrounding communities have been affected directly by the Bushfires – in late March we based ourselves at Ardern's Caravan Park in the township of Myrtleford for our 8th Annual Alpine Ride. This ride challenges the students & staff to ride 106 kilometres along The Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail.

This year we rode with 17 Victorian Government Special Schools, 105 Students & 48 Staff. The students did a fantastic job & thoroughly enjoyed the challenge. The first days ride was a 46km ride from Beechworth to Myrtleford & the second day a 60km ride from Myrtleford to Bright & return. For many of the students this is a great achievement as they do not have the opportunity to ride with others in a group setting, let alone ride with 150 people over 100 km. Every student & staff member receives a medal for their

participation. The medal ceremony was moving, with many students openly emotional & proud of their accomplishments throughout the week.

BSSOEC Inc. thanks a number of Philanthropic Trusts & individuals for their recent support. Thanks go to Stephen Empey & Johnnie Kesselschmidt for their assistance in building the picket fence separating the new playground from the driveway at the Residence.

The playgrounds have been built for the special needs students & are designed to improve accessibility to activities & also complement other Adventure Programs we run during their visit to Blackwood. Thanks also go to the following organisations for their support in funding the development of the 2 playgrounds:- Paul Newman's Own Foundation; The Danks Trust; The Lioness Club of Ballan; The Lioness Club of Bacchus Marsh; The Lions Club of Trentham; The Rotary Club of Melton; The Rotary Club of Frankston Sunrise.

We have also introduced & improved the activities on offer at the Centre through the following funding.

The Newsboys Foundation: have provided funding for New Mountain Bike, which greatly improve our Mountain Bike Program. They have also funded the implementation of activities in each of our three accommodation sites:- Table Tennis; Giant Chess; Giant Draughts or Checkers; Giant Dominoes; Giant Jenga; Giant Snakes & Ladders; Giant Tic Tac Toe

At the end of 2008 The Ballan Lioness Club raised money through the beautiful decoration & presentation of their Lions Christmas Cakes & BSSOEC Inc.

were honoured as the beneficiary of the profits. Through this generous donation we have purchased 3 Giant Connect 4 sets. We have also received funding from The Shane Warne Foundation with which we have further extended our Mountain Bike Riding Program with modified bicycles to increase access to this program for all students – especially students with physical special needs. So look out for kids on a variety of bikes in town including:- A Christiana Trike; A rickshaw type bicycle where a wheelchair can be safely strapped into the front of the bicycle while the rider sits at the back; Industrial Tricycles; BMX Tricycles; A Tiger moth Bicycle; A Tandem with a difference. This is 2 bikes locked together – side by side – offering students with visual impairments the opportunity to ride, while being closely monitored by a staff member

This Foundation has also funded the purchase of new activity equipment including:- Mammoth Beach Balls; Giant Tennis & Basketballs; A Giant Parachute; A Run Mat; Roll Chambers; Tug-O-War Rope; 4-Way Tug-O-War Rope

Thanks again to Stephen Empey, Johnnie Kesselschmidt, Paul Newman's Own Foundation, The Danks Trust, The Lioness Club of Ballan, The Lioness Club of Bacchus Marsh, The Lions Club of Trentham, The Rotary Club of Melton, The Rotary Club of Frankston Sunrise, Newsboys Foundation and The Shane Warne Foundation for your wonderful support towards BSSOEC Inc. You are all helping to make Blackwood a truly unique experience for Victorian students with special needs.

~ Tony Bellette & Harley Dalgleish, BSSOEC Staff

AUST GOVERNMENT DISASTER RECOVERY:

Victoria Bushfires

Eligible Blackwoodians who were adversely affected by the February bushfires have until Aug 7, 2009 to claim \$1000 per eligible adult (age 16ys & over) & \$400 per child where an eligible adult is the principle carer.

The criteria for 'adversely affected' includes:

- a person is unable to return to their principal place of residence for a period of 24hrs or more & is separated from their immediate family for the same period.

- a person experienced psychological trauma.

Further info & claims can be sought by ringing 180 2211 or go online to <http://www.centrelink.gov.au/>



LIONS CLUB NEWS

Monthly Dance Program

Old Time Dancing is held on a Friday each month in the Trentham Mechanics Hall. Dances start at 7.30pm. Admission is \$8 per person, including supper & door prize. Music is provided by the "Rythmaires". Enq: Elizabeth 5424 1254. Each alternate dance is held in aid of the Trentham Historical Society. Coming dates for 2009 are:

- 13th March • April – no dance (Easter) • 8th May

The Lions Jumble Sale in the March @ the Town Square was a great success – thanks to all donations and patrons. Another Sale in Spring.

Wood Raffles will be beginning at the end of April – 1 mt Red Gum for \$1 ticket - approx. one raf e each month from April to August. It's going to be a cold winter so be prepared!

Trentham Spring Festival Sunday 4th October @ Feldspar, Falls Road. Bigger and better this year. More details to come.

Your budget is tight but for only \$1.25pw ex GST your business could be here!

5368 6444

or 9687 3744

or download a booking form from www.centralvic.com.au

Anzac Day in Trentham

March & Service

11am assembly,

11.30am.

Enq: Tim 5424 8291.

Anzac Day Luncheon @ Neighbourhood Centre.

Enq: Katy 5424 1354

Trentham Film Society

Friday April 3 @ 7.30pm
Trentham Neighbourhood Centre.

New members welcome. Your first screening free & includes cuppa. Showing "The Tree of Wooden Clogs" (G), Italy, Drama.

Enq: James or Brad 5424 1126 or Maria 5424 1237.



Preserving precious letters from the past

I have a collection of poignant World War II letters from my father. How do I protect them?

First, copy them. I recommend scanning them as then you can file them on your computer files and the originals can be safely stored in an airtight container, see step 3

When copying the letters, make certain to keep the envelope and letter together. Individuals have a bad habit of taking letters out of envelopes and placing them in different piles. An accurate re mating is very difficult. The envelope is a vital part of the document, especially for wartime letters.

Second, before making copies, determine how many are needed. Copies should be made for all surviving children. You may want to include grandchildren. Do not forget to copy wartime photographs and other memorabilia associated with the writer. The cancellations and dates tell a separate story.

Consider sending a copy to the Blackwood historical society and library, and any military museum devoted to his unit or command. World War II letters currently are a hot research topic.

Third, once the copies are made, store the letters properly. Old shoe boxes, wooden boxes or plastic envelopes are not a good idea. Go to your local art-supply store or an Internet site such as university products.com that sell archival supplies. Your needs are simple. Do not overspend.

Buy a ream of archival paper, which is paper made from plant rather than wood-pulp fibers, to place between the letters, the pages if a letter contains multiple pages, and letters and envelopes. This prevents ink bleed resulting in ghosting. The second item you need is an acid-free box or boxes to store the letters. Paper size determines box size.

Fourth, unfold the letters. Do not attempt to iron or fold back the creases. Lay the letters on top of each other, and allow time and the weight of the pile of letters to lessen the folds.

Fifth, develop a notation system for indicating parts of a letter, e.g., multiple pages and/or the envelope. Put the notation on the bottom left corner using a soft-lead pencil.

Sixth, when you have copied and preserved the letters, transcribe them. Some handwriting is difficult to read. Copying makes this more difficult. The information is important. Again, send copies of the transcriptions to the appropriate research institutions.

Finally, seventh, Consider using the letters as the beginning of a research project to document the writer's military service. It will make the letters come alive.

Adapted from an email from :Rinker Enterprises (www.harryrinker.com)

~ The Blackwood Antique Merchant



This photo was taken from our place in Whalebone Rd looking West as the 1965 fire in its early stages raced from Barry's Reef to Simmond's Reef. Later on it spread East around the hills pretty well encircling Blackwood and it was impossible to see very much at all with the smoke and huge explosions were occurring all the time. Luckily the fire front didn't hit central Blackwood but there was a lot of spotting. For those who have never seen a fire at Blackwood this will give them an idea. Later that day you couldn't see anything. The conditions that day were bad with a hot North wind and a later South West change but not as bad as Black Saturday.

Some kids playing with matches started it.

photo & comments by Don Owen

CHANTERS LANE SCHOOL

Down the aisle of memory there comes to me again
 A picture from sweet childhoods hour
 In grey old Chanters Lane
 O pleasant is that valley with its shadows deep and cool
 Where nestling mid the old white gums
 There stands a little school
 From out the waving ferns again the pretty blue wren calls
 Upon the woodbine scented air the thrushes sweet note falls
 As in those happy days of old when life was all carefree
 When we romped around that old school ground
 'Neith spreading lightwood tree
 Where are those lads of yesterday who raced with happy maid
 Far from that old grey road we knew
 Their wandering steps have strayed
 One sleeps in Africa's lonely veldt and one by scarred Lone Pine
 And Flanders poppies bloom again o'er old school mates of mine
 Old Father Time his wheel he turns
 And many changes bring back the memory of the old school
 days forever to me clings
 Though the long years have my dim eyes
 And visualize again
 The youths the maids the liting birds
 The shade of Chanters Lane.

~ Dennis Fitzgerald, Fernhill 1877 - 1954

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COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

BLACKWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE INC.

sorry, there is no report this issue

~ Barbara Sweet, (Hon) secretary

BLACKWOOD CROWN LANDS COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

There have been some very busy weeks with the Fiddlers Convention being held in Blackwood due to the fires in Yarra Glen.

We have had continual bookings for the Sports Ground, Hall & Caravan Park which have all been very busy. Thankyou to everyone who has used these venues over the past weeks.

Thankyou also to Lou & the people who have helped him. By now caveman Lou must be looking for a holiday?

The committee would like to say thankyou to the CFA for all their efforts in looking out for the town.

May you all stay safe & take care over the Easter Break.

~ Elizabeth Hall, secretary

BLACKWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

EASTER CARNIVAL: Saturday April 11, 2009

10.30AM - 5.30pm

PARADE 11AM

EVENTS:

WOODCHOPPING + Tug-o-war

ANIMAL FARM + Ferret Racing

AMUSEMENTS + Assorted Stalls

FOOD, DRINK + Children's Races

Thankyou to Fitzgerald Property, Ian Wheeler & Rob Lawrence for thier sponsorship of Easter Sports

~ Elizabeth Hall, secretary

BLACKWOOD CEMETERY TRUST

no report this issue

BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

A reasonably quiet couple of months, but we seem to be getting called a little further afield lately which adds to the interest of the service.

Certificate presentation will be held in April - delayed because of the bushfires.

~Bruce Henry Team Leader

BLACKWOOD RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

The devastating fires were attended by all Victorian Brigades & from interstate. Special thanks to all the crews who did such a wonderful job. Special thanks also to their partners, left behind when the fires were threatening. Let's hope the Royal Commission will provide us with some answers & solutions.

As the fire season is nearing completion, let us not become complacent as there are many house fires during the winter months. Here are some of the causes of winter house fires:

- leaving cooking on unattended stoves
- an open fire place burning without a screen
- overloaded power points
- faulty electrical appliances

- incorrectly installed flues on wood heaters & stoves
- smoking in bed

Please make sure smoke alarms are installed & in good working order. It is recommended that batteries are changed at the start & end of daylight savings (April 5).

Training is held 1st Sunday each month - new members are most welcome.

~ George Stockdale

BLACKWOOD DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month, January excepted. Time: 10.30 am. until 12.30 pm. Venue: Blackwood Police Stables, Martin st. Blackwood where the following publications are on sale: Some History of Simmons Reef @ \$13, The Story of Blackwood @ \$4 and Aspects of Early Blackwood by M. Hitchcock @ \$13.

Visitors are most welcome. Annual membership is \$10.

The next Open Day on Easter Sunday from 10.30 am - 4 pm will provide a great opportunity for visitors to visualise life in the 19th century.

~ J. Chamberlain, correspondence secretary

WATER WATCH

In 1999 and 2004, the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), in conjunction with the Catchment Management Authority (CMA) benchmarked the environmental condition of Victoria's major rivers and tributaries. This monitoring program is called the Index of Stream Condition (ISC). The third ISC assessment will be completed in 2009/2010.

The ISC measures the water quality, hydrology, streamside, physical form and aquatic life of a river to give a detailed, overall picture of river condition.

The ISC program leaders at DSE have recognized the value that Waterwatch data will add to this five yearly state-wide benchmark program. Only a quarter of sites that need to be tested for the ISC are home to a fixed water quality monitoring station, so the extra sites currently monitored by Waterwatch Volunteers will be extremely valuable (Two of our three sites are official ISC sites.) David Rogers, Water Watch convenor, Blackwood/Barry's Reef Landcare Group.

Excerpt from a Melbourne Water document.

~ Pat Liffman

LANDCARE

Rainfall at Barry's Reef, March 1 until March 13: 25 mls. Daylesford/Muskvale Fire.

Barry's Reef, Monday Feb. 23rd, 3 pm. Suddenly we were breathing smoke. Far down Kearney's Road, Newbury, flames & smoke were cascading into the sky. By 11 pm, seventy tankers had surged through Trentham in a strategic effort to contain the 2800 ha. outbreak which had started at Muskvale near Daylesford.

According to one experienced fire fighter, dangerous conditions at the Muskvale fire had actually exceeded the perils of Black Saturday, 7/2/09.

Working 5 day stints & coping with cyclonic winds, miraculously the fire crews managed to maintain those containment lines & by Tuesday evening of March 3, evacuees could safely return home.

A great, strategic achievement by all concerned, especially the men and women of DSE Daylesford, Captain Ian Stewart and his crew from Blackwood together with their CFA colleagues at Trentham.

~ Pat Liffman



BLACKWOOD CLUB UPDATES

BLACKWOOD JUNIOR CRICKET CLUB



Back row (L to R) ~ Bryce Rees, Corey White, Darcy Meade-Sweet, Daniel Bridgman, Jack Simmonds, Nick Whan, Sam Matheson, Mitchell Unstad
Front Row ~ William Whitehouse, Kelly Matheson ~ Miller, Morgan, Cann, Benjamin Whitehouse, Matthew White
Absent ~ Jacob Norman

The 2008/9 season has been a good season for the BJCC. In a 6 game season we won 2 games, lost 3 (by small margins) & 1 declared no result due to heatwave conditions.

Captain Daniel Bridgman led the side batting the entire season undefeated & also taking 3 wickets. Corey White a first year player joining us following Milo Cricket also batted out the season undefeated & took five wickets, his brother Matt also plays in the side & had a good year as well. Other worthwhile mentions are Benny Whitehouse facing 99/100 deliveries & taking 2 wickets for the season & his brother William who faced 81/100 deliveries & 2 wickets. Nick Whan had the most scoring shots & runs made staying in for 95/100 balls. Jacob Norman took 3 wickets for the season & Sam Matheson faced 89/100 balls.

Our players come from all the surrounding areas to join our team – Myrniong, Greendale, Ballan and Dales Creek.

The form of our first year players gives me great confidence for future seasons. Corey White & Jacob Norman opened the bowling in every game in this their first year of U/14 cricket & are both very talented players.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to Daryl Bridgman, my friend & assistant coach for the past 2 seasons. To Scott & Stacey Unstad for running Milo cricket & preparing the younger kids to move up into Juniors. To Samantha & Kath who organise the canteen for the home games, providing a vital source of revenue to the Club. These two have been at the Club for as long as I have & I consider them to be the backbone of the Club.

I would also like to thank the Senior Cricketers for providing some new gear & balls to the Juniors to enable us to always have top quality gear for the kids to use.

Thanks also to Minpave concreting & Western Land Services for again sponsoring the Junior cricketers.

Finally many thanks to all the parents for bringing your kids & sometimes others kids to training & covering the distance to the away games. I hope to see you all next year.

~ Steve Hammond (coach)

BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

Blackwood cricket club snuck into the finals for the fourth successive year with a comprehensive defeat of second placed Smeaton in the last round of the season. Blackwood made 218 with Rob Whan making 78, Darren Woodward 53 & Luke Whitehouse chipped in with 37. Smeaton were dismissed for 126. Rob Whan took 4/40 and Scott Unstad 3/37. Blackwood enforced the follow on in a bid to get an outright win & improve their chances of making the finals. Smeaton batted solidly and finished at 3/283 in their second innings. This meant a first innings win for Blackwood & a nervous wait for the result of the Newlyn/Korweinguboorra game, which Newlyn had to win for Blackwood to make the finals. At 6.30pm that night, news filtered through that Newlyn had beaten Korweinguboorra, giving Blackwood 4th spot on the ladder & another finals campaign.

The semi-final was against Hepburn at Hepburn. Rain delayed the start of play by 45 minutes, which enacted a wet weather rule, which allowed the team batting first to bat for as long as they wanted, rather than a compulsory closure after 70 overs. Hepburn batted first & batted for 102 overs, ending up all out for 260. Blackwood then had 27 overs to reach 261 for an unlikely win. Blackwood ended at 5/143, with Derek Hepburn top scoring with 45 and John Deveraux making 30. This meant the match finished as a draw, with Hepburn progressing to the grand final because they finished on top of the ladder. Their opponent will be Newlyn. A disappointing way to finish the season, but another solid season by the team.

Thanks to all our sponsors, members and supporters and especially players. Keep an eye around town for details about our upcoming presentation night.

Go Eagles!!!!

~ Scott Unstad

BLACKWOOD ARTS SOCIETY Inc

The Blackwood Art Society had its 1st Committee meeting in Feb '09. The new members that attended were Mike Allen, Lindsay Smith, Tony Ryan & wife Kirena. I wish to thank them all of being part of this years Art Show support team.

We will be looking for volunteers to man the front table on the weekend of October 2/3/4 2009, to take entry fees & hand out catalogues. Please contact me on 53 686 656. Thank you.

We have also discussed holding a Music festival some time in the middle of the year to bring some much needed tourism & extra activities into Blackwood - just as the recent Fiddlers Festival did.

We are looking for interested musicians & singers who wish to perform & organise the event. The BAS will be happy to fund the cost of hall hire for this event, if we have enough parties prepared to play on the day or evening.

Again please contact me on 53686656 or e-mail plosbornsmith@bigpond.com

~ Ms Phillipa Osborn Smith President BAS inc

BLACKWOOD NEWS thanks Craig Peart for his kind offer to take photos for our community news. Craig studied Photo Journalism at the Photographic Study College in Southbank.

So if you see Craig at an event, camera in hand - smile 'cos you may end up on these pages.

In case we can't get to an event, please remember to email us your own photos as well.

Parental permission must be sought prior to publishing photos of children so parents may be asked to sign a permission form.

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Below are some possibilities for bushfire survival at Blackwood.

From what has happened lately, I believe that if conditions were the same as "Black Saturday", most places in Blackwood would be indefensible in a fire storm of that intensity. The only way survival would be guaranteed would be to have properly designed underground dugout/bunkers. As far as I know there has never been a fire front through the centre of Blackwood but until Saturday the 7th, Marysville hadn't either. The 1952 and 1965 fires that surrounded Blackwood were very dangerous fires and spotting occurred throughout the township with only a small number of places on the outskirts burnt. I was only very young in the 1952 fire but in the 1965 fire I was prepared to defend our place but the conditions on both these days were bad but nowhere near that of Saturday 7th Feb.

I'm sure our local CFA group has some good ideas for safe havens. Some possibilities are the Rip Van Winkle tunnel for the camping ground people and the Recreation Reserve with its open area could possibly save nearby residents. I wonder how a large bunker would go if it was tunnelled into the hill opposite the pub below the hall? Probably, the best but most expensive survival method would be to have an underground bunker for each property. We need plans of bunker construction methods. Maybe this will eventuate via government action but we shouldn't rely on them.

I think we need to start an ongoing discussion on this most critical subject with all possibilities listed. Lets not procrastinate and forget about this life and death subject with the first rainy day (at least I hope there will be some more rainy days)

regards
Don Owen

in my opinion ...

Timing???

We all have our single friends that attend various functions throughout the year. There are some that quite enjoy the single life and others who, duped by Hallmark into waiting for the perfect person, remain unaware and somewhat bitter that they don't exist.

I often wonder if we tend to

marry the right person whenever we find them or if we marry whomever we're with because it's the right time for the individual to disprove the "fear of commitment issues" raised by friends and colleagues, and just get it over with already and say "I do".

~ The Beak (name supplied)

OUR LAUREN WINS AGAIN

When Blackwood resident Lauren Lee Williams won 'Trentham's Got Talent' last year, part of her prize was an entry into the Talent Search at this year's Whittlesea Country Music Festival, which took place on Black Saturday.

Lauren won Best Female Vocalist before hightailing it out of there, not a minute too soon.

Tree Challenge:

Fire and Mice

On moving to the country I was excited to hunt down some wild animals. I'd met some on the side of the road & thankfully never run them over. But I wanted to see some animals up close & personal.

Well, I found out there were wild animals. For they were letting loose - in my house! They took over while I went to Melbourne to escape fire threat! How inconsiderate, rude & opportune! Little mice having a party while I'm packing my car to leave. Looting my cellar, toaster & kitchen floor. I wanted to call the mice police but they were busy controlling the fires. Was this a cause to sound the alarm in Blackwood? Help, emergency, mice invasion, everyone stand by!

When I got back home, I wanted to ignore them, pretend they weren't there, hope that a neighbour had better crumbs than me. But alas, how can you ignore mice poop? If only they wore nappies or had some toilet training, then I could turn a blind eye. Suddenly I knew the meaning to "Three blind mice" for I knew they were drunk with disco delirium, probably crawling all over my Penfold Port and moon walking to Micheal Jackson. Alas it's the moon's rise that brings them out at night. It wasn't the pitter patter of little feet I wanted to hear - that's for sure.

I tried to listen out for them. I couldn't hear them burp or stumble. The bloody things were quiet as mice. I set up one of those old fashion mouse traps that cuts off your fingers before it kills mice. The trap snapped at me! It wasn't my fault they took off with the Sao bikkie crumbs! I guess they thought it was free finger food.

What a mess, I never wanted to abandon my house again. If I had to evacuate again, I'd think twice. I'd want to stay and defend. I bet no one called into the ABC with that brave idea. "Ah hello Richard Stubbs I just wanted to say people have a right to stay and defend their property. The mice just go nuts when you're away. Any ideas on what to do?"

As if the mice weren't enough, the same evening I heard a crash coming down my chimney and a bit of scratching on the Coonara glass. Oh great, it looked like I was about to open a home zoo, for a baby possum stared at me from the other side. "Hello Possum," I said in my best Dame Edna voice. Funnily enough it didn't respond. Obviously my city life wasn't helping here. I tried again, "So you're wearing your best Possum, are you Possum?"

I opened the Coonara door & the furry thing shot out & started climbing my cupboards in the kitchen. I stared at its claws hanging onto the surface, the nails were so long it made Dame Edna's Manicure look cheap. I had to get it out. My reaction was to grab it by the scruff of the neck like a cat. It worked. I ran for the front door, but just as I got to the handle, the fur came off in my hand. It ran back to my kitchen again. By this time I was climbing the walls. Then we were both climbing the walls. It was not a pretty picture. Finally I grabbed it by the middle & ran outside with it. Poor thing probably had bad indigestion for days.

Now for those blind mice. I was sure there was more than three. This time I was armed with state of the art mouse traps, that I could manage. The secret weapon was peanut butter; I called it a butter mouse snap. Very tasty. This time the snakes came round for free mice snaps but that's another story.....

~ By Genevieve Messenger

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Sustainable Self-Sufficiency

Food Production

Apart from water, the one other thing crucial to the existence of all living organisms is food. The better the quality, the more beneficial. With this & the current financial & environmental crisis in mind, what really is the cost of your food? Not just in dollars & cents, but to your health & the environment?

In Australia since settlement, the act of clearing massive amounts of indigenous flora to the great detriment of our indigenous fauna has been enormous. With a majority of our economy (both nationally & internationally) revolving around farming of different sorts simply to provide for our population & export to other countries worldwide to help provide for their populations. The first industry which impacted significantly on our environment (& still does) is logging for good straight hardwood, which most eucalypts are. As land sizes become smaller & populations in urban areas continue to increase, the need to graze livestock & grow food crops in rural areas becomes larger & more land is then over worked.

Growing up in Melbourne, I remember the days when most backyards had a large veggie patch & kids would run out to the garden to pull a few carrots & pick some beans for the Sunday night roast. How much better food tasted back then! Are we not able to sustain & be responsible for our own food sources without creating massive amounts of Greenhouse Gas emissions simply to transport it around?? Think about it ... How fresh really is your food??

If you buy Australian produce, it has most likely travelled a long distance & been handled numerous times! Lets start at the farm; Do they use herbicides &/or pesticides? Ripe produce - picked - packed - loaded & trucked to factory - split into orders & packed for stores - loaded & trucked to distribution centres - unloaded & sorted, loaded & trucked to stores - unloaded - unpacked - displayed for sale - selected & bagged by you the consumer - checked out - packed - transported home by you - unpacked - stored - prepared - cooked - finally 'Fresh' to table. Your food has already been handled 19 times!!

If you purchase imported it's even worse! Ripe produce - picked - packed - loaded & trucked to market - unloaded - selected - trucked to warehouse - packed for export - loaded & trucked to port - loaded onto ship - long sea journey - customs - quarantine - unloaded to wharf - loaded & trucked to distribution centre - unloaded - split into orders & packed for stores - loaded & trucked to stores - unloaded - unpacked - displayed for sale - selected & bagged by you the consumer - checked out - packed - transported home by you - unpacked - stored - prepared - cooked - finally 'Fresh' to table. Your food has already been handled 30 times!!

If you must buy food & understandably you can't grow everything in one climate (eg; mangoes in Melbourne), so buy from a farm as close to you as possible (ie/ mangoes fresh from Qld instead of tinned from Thailand). If you can actually bypass the corporate stores & buy straight from the farm, this is the best for you, the farmer & the environment!

A small portion of your land could be devoted to a veggie garden. Keep chooks for fresh eggs the way nature intended them to be laid. If you can stomach it, kill them, pluck them & you have your own meat source. You could even do this with a cow on a small rural piece of land.

It's a lot more sustainable to venture into your own backyard for a few tomatoes for the evening salad than the process of going to a supermarket. Save petrol, save Greenhouse gas emissions, save money & no plastic bags.

~ Stay healthy, Naturally - Kelly

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Extreme Gardening –

Not For the Faint of Heart

I never counted myself among those fearless folks who pursue extreme sports.

I swam the Pier to Pub once & was as pleased with myself as a 5 year old who has just learned to tie their shoelace. I wore my Pier to Pub t-shirt every day for a week after the race.

Now though I'm rethinking the whole 'hard core' sports scene & wondering if I shouldn't start some kind of club & print our own t-shirts- 'Extreme Gardeners'.

It could be up there with parkour* & base jumping – The Competitors; gloved & gated. The Conditions: arid with occasional blasting furnace like heat. The Goal: save your veggie patch or flowering border from TOTAL DESTRUCTION.

I've been lucky actually. My system of watering has been to wait until the dahlias are so drooped they're lying down & then drench the beds. To my way of thinking, this is war & in war only the strong survive. OK- so there was some collateral damage – my hellebores are all a little singed but they are still upright. The rhubarb gave up producing leaves & went dormant a few months early. A few lives were lost, but none that I shed tears over. The very surprising & good news, though, is that my vegetable garden thrived. The most unlikely plants not only survived those blasting days of extreme heat, but actually burgeoned. Lettuce! We can't eat enough of the stuff & pak choy, chinese broccoli, even spinach has been producing more than enough to live out of the wok a couple nights a week. But the star vegetables this season that have performed with not a jot of molly coddling have been – bulls blood beetroot, yellow cheery tomatoes, golden bantam corn, & red cos lettuce.

It feels as though the worst of the weather is behind us now & despite my brutal philosophy this summer, I am thinking about my civilian casualties & planning how I can avoid losing any more plants to the extreme heat & drought next summer.

We bought a 5,000 litre tank. A worthwhile investment (from a Ballarat company who deliver to Blackwood for \$20!) & one which we hope will begin to pay off in the vegetable garden at least next summer. Tim & I installed a trial drip system in three of our six raised beds. We haven't perfected the system yet – the pipe seems to be too far apart & leaves dry patches- but it's a start.

We are only a couple months away from planting fruit trees to espalier along one wall of the kitchen garden & I'm putting in the hard work now with the soil. I read a fantastic book: Jonathon Garner's 'Dry Gardening Australia' & he can't seem to stress enough in every chapter that the soil is the key to keeping plants healthy in dry conditions.

So we are digging lots of rotted organic matter through the fruit tree bed & will be mixing in gypsum to break the clay & improve drainage. Plain old pea-straw seems to have been the best mulch for water retention in the veggie beds, so I guess I'll be following suit for the fruit trees. Dense planting also seems to have helped my plants to be less exposed on the hottest days, so I'm considering what to plant in & around the beds to offer shelter.

Autumn is almost here & the relief emanating from the shrubs & trees around the house is almost palpable. We realised this summer that despite our little efforts we were hopelessly un-prepared for the extreme weather conditions that eventuated. On Black Saturday Tim & I were out early raking leaves! It seems almost ludicrous in hindsight.

Now we know – we have been given a reprieve – & between now & next summer we have many months in which to make new preparations, both in the garden & around the house. It's not really war, but the old adage still applies – forewarned is forearmed.

*Parkour or *l'art du déplacement* (English: the art of movement) is an activity with the aim of moving from one point to another as efficiently & quickly as possible, using principally the abilities of the human body. (Wikipedia)

~ Heather Marsh



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Positive Perceptions & Positive 'self-talk'

For any situation that you face in life, there are many different ways to perceive it. You can focus on the negative aspects or you can focus on the positives. That choice is always yours.

The more you put a positive spin on situations you encounter, the more you push the balance towards a positive final outcome. You're also more likely to have a happy memory of the event (or no significant memory) rather than an angry or irritating negative memory.

Be observant of yourself in every day. Recognise when you are choosing a path of 'drama' instead of a harmonious path. Yes, it is a choice! You may start with a negative response, out of habit, but as soon as you notice what you're doing, nip it in the bud. There's no obligation for you to continue on the negative path. Swallow your pride and embrace the power of humility. The outcomes can be wonderful.

Aim to perceive and respond in a more positive way to at least one situation each day. You'll find that, within a month, your life has become more pleasant. And, in a year, you won't know yourself!

Listen, also, to the words that come out of your mouth. Every word carries its own vibration, which influences your energy. Your energy field defines the way your life is expressed. Thus, every word you speak defines your life and reflects your perception of it.

If you say "my life is full of suffering", that is the truth. It's how you see your life. That perception colours every step you take. It has a negative influence over every decision you make. When you speak the negatives, you reinforce the negatives and draw them more strongly into your life.

Likewise, if you say "my life is easy", in spite of any current challenges you may be facing, your life does become easier. By keeping your energy focused more in the positive, it helps to diminish the overall effect of life's disruptions. When you choose to reinforce only the positive, you attract less negative experiences into your life.

Don't Take it Personally... It's not All about You!

Try to avoid jumping to negative conclusions in situations where you don't have all the facts. It's always best to give others the benefit of the doubt. If people around you are having a bad day - if they seem rude or moody - chances are it actually has nothing to do with you, personally.

We humans are ego-driven beings and tend to think the world revolves around us. In most cases, we automatically think other people's rudeness or aloofness is personally directed towards us. We've all been in that place where we assumed someone was upset with us because they ignored us, or answered us in a short way, and later learned they were caught up in some personal drama or internal struggle, and just didn't notice us.

It really is quite arrogant of us to presume that other people have nothing better to focus their energy on but us. In those times when we're tempted to think the worst, because we feel hurt and disappointed, it's important to take the 'me' out of the situation and try to see it with fresh eyes.

Instead of automatically taking those little things personally, go with the odds and presume, first, that it's not about you, unless you are given a real reason to know otherwise. If you accept that it's not about you at all, then you don't need to take it personally. You don't need to react defensively by becoming moody as well.

Instead, you can choose to be compassionate and supportive. Rather than punishing the other person for not being nice to you, why not help to ease their suffering by bringing good spirits into their day? That way you avoid getting yourself into a bad mood, and you may even help to lift the other person's mood!

~ by Kathie Strmota

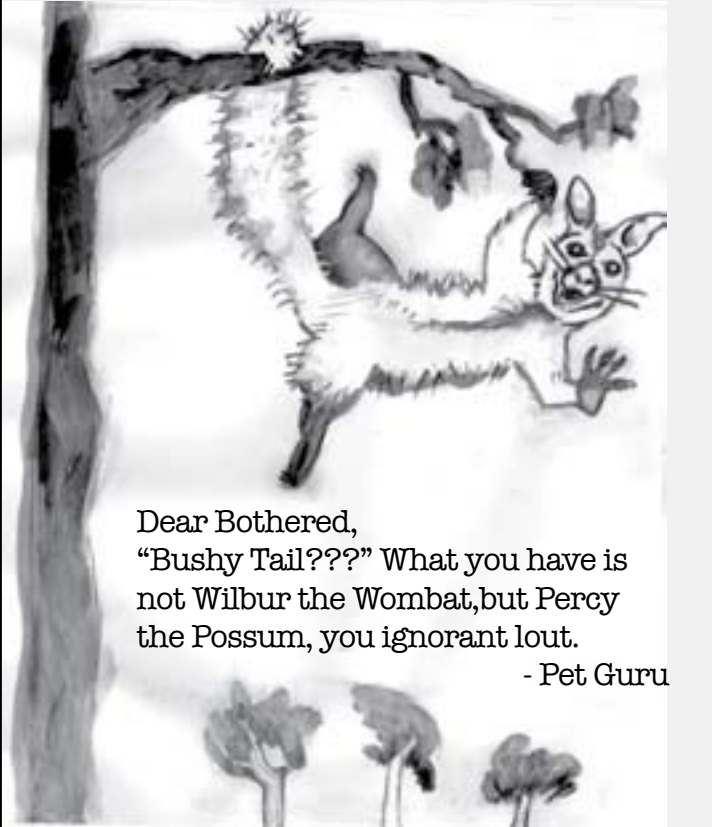
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Dear Pet Guru,

I am worried about Wilbur, my wombat as he keeps on climbing trees, & I fear he may one day fall out & I might find him lying on the ground with his big eyes closed & his bushy tail unmoving.

from Bothered, Blackwood



Dear Bothered, "Bushy Tail???" What you have is not Wilbur the Wombat, but Percy the Possum, you ignorant lout.

- Pet Guru

SILLY OLD SNAKE

There was a black snake that kept slithering in & out under Norma's place. She's almost stepped on one the other day & Max found one underfoot as he was coming down the steps to visit. When she saw that black snake, Norma decided Enough was Enough. Her grandchildren played down there! Hell, soon her great grandson, Billy would too! She ran down to the back yard, ready to dispatch Blackie with a ... well, there didn't seem to be much at hand. Just her & the black snake.

She beat a hasty retreat up to her deck to hatch a plan. As you can see from our reconstruction, her cunning plan was based on an ancient strategy (when we were monkeys & we dropped coconuts from on



high to deter predators). However, this time it was coconuts that were not to hand, so our feisty great grandmother collected the pictured huge rocks from her garden (bigger than bowling balls - I know - I have seen them) &

hurled them from the deck onto the creature. I hope you're feeling sorry for Blackie at this stage - I know I am.

Anyway, the job was done & Norma is on the lookout for more snakes. She still hasn't got a good solid stick. Any donation of sticks or perhaps cave man clubs will be gratefully accepted.

where are they now?



LUCY LYSENKO grew up at the aptly named "Faraway", where Golden Point Road peters out to a walking track. At the age of 16 she moved downtown to attend Princes Hill Secondary College A job in her chosen career, photography, followed & for the last 2 years she has been snapping portraits, weddings & the like. At night she liked to photograph bands such as "Rocket Science" & "Grafton Primary". She is part of the extended family of "Faker", a well

known group, & travelled around with them last year. It was just after this tour, in October, that Lucy was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, a form of cancer.

SHE IS currently half way through her treatment (14 rounds of chemo) & is making a solid recovery from the operation which replaced her left knee & 26cm of femur with metal.

HER ROCK star buddies have made sure she gets backstage passes to festivals - a 19 year olds dream! She now manages Fakers fan page. myspace.com/fakerstreetteam. Have a look.

LUCY IS hoping for the all clear from her next scans, although the chemo will continue until September. She plans to get back to work soon, editing & designing, rather than actual photo shoots. They require too much standing, walking & climbing ladders.

A GREAT source of inspiration for Lucy has come from several families in America, whom she plans to visit next year. She has followed their 'kids with cancer' websites for 2 years - long before her own diagnosis! Their support for her (despite, in some cases, their own losses) has been unwavering.

IF YOU would like to help Lucy pay for her on-going medical bills, look out for her fund-raiser wrist band. It costs \$5, looks cool, &



comes with a message coined by one of her US pals - 'I LOVE LUCY' on one side & 'i hate cancer' on the other. If you have

trouble finding one around town, call Lucy's Mum, Margo 5368 6723 or her friend, Ellen on 5368 6607.

Each of the following links require log-in - signing up is easy & a great way to lend your support

carepages.com/juliansworld or carepages.com/teamlarsen
caringbridge.com/visit/lucylysenko

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

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<p>replace battery in fire alarms</p>	<p>Madelaine Staub</p>	<p>Karate 7.00 @ hall</p>	<p>Ballan Teen Holiday Program</p>	<p>GOOD FRIDAY Trentham Art & Craft show</p>	<p>EASTER SATURDAY Blackwood Easter Carnival C. Geelong Farmers Market Trentham Art & Craft show</p>	<p>Buninyong Farmers Market</p>
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Do you know of an event we should list?
Please email us or pop the details in the DROP BOX at the General Store.



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wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

<p>31</p> <p>Ballroom Dancing Classes 2pm @ the hall All Saints Church Service Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church CFA Training</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Jane Chambelaine</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Karate 7.00 @ hall Mrs Willaton Greg Crumpton</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>FRIDAY BUS SERVICE 9.05am departs B'wood 9.40am arrives BM station 2.15pm departs BM station 2.50pm arrives B'wood</p> <p>MEDITATION: Uniting Church 5.30-6.30</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Trentham Old Time Dancing</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Darley Market Ballan Lions Club Market Daylesford Farmers Market T/itham Community Market</p> <p>Robina Brown</p>
<p>10</p> <p>MOTHERS DAY Ballroom Dancing Classes @ the hall Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Wendy Bridgman</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Karate 7.00 @ hall</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Blackwood News deadline: advertisers book space</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Oskar Haack</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Blackwood News deadline: regular contributors community groups Genevieve Hall Janine O'Keefe</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Buninyong Farmers Market</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Ballroom Dancing Classes @ the hall Daylesford Market Trentham Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Talbot Farmers Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Girls night @ the Pub</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Karate 7.00 @ hall</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Blackwood News deadline: news, classifieds advert artwork / content</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Sandra Francis</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Luke Laux Joc O'Connor</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Ballroom Dancing Classes @ the hall Spirituality in the Bush Daylesford Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Karate 7.00 @ Hall</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Stacey Unstad</p>



The Marvelous and Improbable Adventures of the Crumple Horned Snorkack

Chapter Four: A Strange Interruption

The last thing that the Snorkack expected was that Luna Lovegood was going to drag him along to her university lectures. It was, after all, pretty comfy at Luna's flat, and the Snorkack made himself right at home on the old sofa amongst the empty slurpee cups and overdue library books. There was a lovely meal of lychees and ice-cream, and a cat flap so that the Snorkack could pop happily in and out whenever he felt like prowling around and making comments on the neighbours.

So the Snorkack was somewhat dismayed to find himself up the back of a lecture theatre on a hard old seat. The Snorkack's Least Favorite Person in the World Right Now, Professor Bloom, was droning on about Shakespeare, and the students were going down like flies. One after another would let their heads wobble unsteadily for a moment, before their eyelids slammed shut and their foreheads drove heavily into their fold-out desktops. Only Luna seemed unconcerned. She was chatting loudly to the Snorkack, and whoever else cared to listen, on the subject of magical beasts.

"Oh, yes," she said. "The world is positively full of strange and wonderful creatures." As she said this, she beamed at the Snorkack in a slightly crazy way, and she looked up as if expecting something marvelous to descend from the ceiling right away. "It's just that most people go out of their way not to notice. They're concerned for their digestion, I believe."

The Snorkack shuf ed a bit, as if he was going to protest. But Luna really did have a most angelic voice, and besides, she was in the habit of simply talking over objections. "Take for instance that one over there. I imagine she's the one making all the students go to sleep."

To the Snorkack's astonishment, just three rows away was indeed a most surprising creature, one that he had completely overlooked when they came in to the theatre. It had a body about the size and shape of a freshwater crocodile, but it was covered in short, glossy chestnut hair, like a horse, and it had no less than eight legs, one of which was lazily scratching its flank as it snored.

As Luna and the Snorkack regarded the unusual being, it stirred and turned to look at them. It had a long elegant snout, fitting with its vaguely reptilian outline, and only a few very sharp looking teeth were showing. It had a graceful and flowing dark mane running from between its pointy ears down its back. But its most striking feature were two simply enormous eyes with violet irises, each sporting impossibly long lashes, which the creature proceeded to flutter enthusiastically at the Snorkack. Then it rippled over the desktops towards him with its eight legs before stopping right in front of the Snorkack, eyes flashing enticingly, and offering one of its clawed feet as if to shake hands.

The Snorkack gave an alarmed squeak and jumped down off his seat, to peer out at the danger from behind the partial shelter of Luna's legs.

"I," said the owner of the very large eyes, "am Das Widerschnarkchen."

"The German exchange student," she explained further, when the Snorkack completely failed to respond.

"Das Vee-Dar-Shah-Nark-Shen," repeated the Snorkack awkwardly, blinking fretfully. Languages were not his strong point.

"No," corrected the Widerschnarkchen bossily: "Widerschnarkchen".

Things might have taken a nasty turn, were it not that several odd things began to happen all around them in that moment.

For one thing, once the creature stopped snoring, many of the students began to wake up too. There was a lot of rustling and muttering, and mobile phones began going off around the place. More importantly though, the lecture had been interrupted by the sudden appearance of a mad-eyed and wildly bearded student who had shot out of a side door and planted himself in front of the professor's lectern. The student was gesturing furiously from deep within in an ancient greatcoat while arguing loudly with the professor. "It was

Marlowe, I tell you," he shouted, speaking with such emphasis that it rattled his long and greasy black hair. "I have the ocular proof!"

With this strange statement, the student reached down into one of the greatcoat pockets to produce something, but all that came out in his hand was a sandwich. This, however, did indeed look like it dated from the time of Shakespeare. "I'll show them all," he cried, his face reddening. And with that, he spun on his heel to face the auditorium.

"L. L. L. 4-3-252!" he shouted, triumphantly, throwing his arms wide apart for effect and showering the front row with spittle. The sandwich sailed high through the air into the crowded lecture.

"What?" exclaimed Professor Bloom, genuinely enraged. "Security guards!"

But security was already on its way through the North doors, summoned to help the French exchange student, who had fainted when the mouldy sandwich landed in his cappuccino.

"You'll never take me alive," cried the bearded student, and beat a hasty retreat through the South exit.

"Come on," said Luna energetically to the two creatures, who were still eyeing one another nervously, "follow him!" And the three of them sped through the back exit in pursuit of the bearded loon.

~ Lily Evans (with the help of Alaska Pollock)

Dr Dolittle goes high tech

Blackwood's own Doctor Doolittle, Dr. Michael Bascombe was recently a guest presenter on suprememastertv.com, an internet television channel in many languages, reaching millions of people all over the planet. He was demonstrating animal communication and the messages animals want to share with people.

He is now invited to a book launch for "Birds in My Life" with the author Ching Hai. This is in Seoul, Korea on the 26th April. As guest presenter, he will speak on telepathic communication between humans and animals. His hope is to touch people by sharing their messages and so raise awareness and love for animals.

Let the animals speak



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BRICKBATS & BOUQUETS

BOUQUET & once again many thanks to the people of Blackwood, Lerdies & The General Store. \$334 was raised from the raf e of a side of lamb to go towards the Bushfire Appeal. Well done!

~ Fred Moore

A GIGANTIC bouquet to the management & staff of the Court House Hotel who were so kind & generous to Blackwood escapees, children & dogs on Monday 23 February, the day the Muskvale fire began.

~ the evacuees

BOUQUET TO all the CFA crews. Many thanks for taking care of our little town during the bushfire crisis.

WELL DONE!

~ Blackwood Hotel

THE CRICKET fundraiser raised \$5781 for the bushfire appeal

THANKS TO everyone for your support & thanks to all at Greendale pub for the hard work to put this great day together

~ Jill O'Connor

BOUQUET TO our historical contributor Margot Hitchcock - wishing you a speedy & full recovery.

~ Blackwood News

BOUQUET TO all our Blackwoodian Mums on May 10th.

*happy birthday to you,
happy birthday to you
happy birthday dear??
happy birthday to you*



who's turning
18 in April?

blackwoofs



AFTER LOU accidentally ran over his beloved Royce (age 6), a little Jack Russell/Maltese X called Joyce bravely applied for the position of Caravan Park Dog. Being at heart a true Working Dog, Joyce diligently discharged her duties to such a standard that she attracts fan mail. One postcard (from Florida, USA!) thanks Joyce for guiding 2 lost campers out of the bush. When booking, campers regularly ask, "How's Joyce?". Perhaps they realise that Joyce, now 6 is entering a dangerous year for Caravan Park Dogs.

BUT, BACK to her guiding skills.

Apparently she knows to YAP! at people when they are taking the wrong path. She has accompanied some serious walkers to O'Briens Crossing on a number of occasions YAPPING! appropriately. Joyce will also YAP! when you approach any of her work places. Not just the caravan park, but also the sports ground & the hall. Good work, Joyce! When relaxing, Joyce will not YAP!, but quietly greet you with a wag of her tail. You can often see her at Lerdies & at the pub (listed as a second residence on her microchip).

I WONDER what Lou's microchip says.

BLACKWOOD NEWS with colour photos
can be downloaded free from
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our eList so you are the first to see new issues!

BOHEMIA IN BLACKWOOD

Held on Saturday 14th February 2009, Moorabool Shire Youth Services ran the Blackwood Bohemia community festival at Blackwood Recreation Reserve.

The event was a youth focused, drug and alcohol free, family event aimed at celebrating the talents of young people.

Featured acts included Patrick Shaw, lead singer in 'RENT' the musical in Ballarat, The Mt Egerton Dance Club and the Boo Hoo Hoo's, a pop rock band. All were local residents of Moorabool and talented young artists.

The night also offered a bbq, recreational games and activities run by the Blackwood Special School Outdoor Education Centre as well as free temporary tattooing, coloured hairspraying and jewellery making. All

activities required a gold coin donation with all proceeds going towards the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal.

Approximately 40 young people and their families attended the event which raised \$93.35 for the Red Cross bushfire appeal.

The success of this event is due to a huge part of the assistance of all the young people involved in performing on the night, to the Blackwood Specialist school for their active involvement with the recreational games, to Lou Henderson, Blackwood Recreation Reserve ranger for his support with reserve hire and for the use of your bbq, to Launch Pad for their support on the night and to all the young people and families for attending.

HEY KIDS: do you have a story, poem or picture you would like in BLACKWOOD NEWS?
Pop it in the DROP BOX at the general store or email it to us!

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Blackwood Bus!

The weekly Friday bus service from Blackwood, Greendale and Myrning to Bacchus Marsh is in danger and needs urgent patronage. The trial service has been active for six months, but patronage is low. If you want to see the bus service stay, then now is the time to get on it, or let us know why you don't use it. Make the most of this great bus service!

- The weekly trip to Bacchus Marsh can be used for shopping, appointments and social activities



Departs Fridays: Blackwood General Store at 9:05am; Greendale Hotel at 9:15am; Myrning Hotel at 9:23am

Return trip departs Fridays: Bacchus Marsh Station at 2:15pm and Bacchus Marsh central at 2:21pm



Any comments or feedback can be given to: Transport Connections Coordinators
Simon Evans | Brenton Hancock
email: info@moorabool.vic.gov.au
phone: (03) 5366 7100



Moorabool Communities in Action

Council and the community working & planning in partnership to make things happen in your council

Moorabool Shire Council presents...

TEEN SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

week 1

mon april 6 - Mini Mani & Pedi

10am - 2pm Ballan & District Community House

skate comp @ ballan skate park

2.30pm - 5pm free of charge

wed april 8 adventure park geelong

day trip \$15 - meet 10am

@ the ballan community house

week 2

tues april 14 - Luna Park

\$15 meet at

Ballan & District Community House 10am

wed april 15 - textile & fashion

10am-1pm @ the ballan community house

soccer challenge

2pm-5pm @ ballan rec researve FOC

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL ph: 5366 7100

or logon to myspace.com/moorabool_youth

'Moorabool Communities in Action' extends an open invitation to Blackwood and Barrys Reef communities to participate in a

Community Information and Planning Workshop

Date: Tuesday, 21 April 2009

Time: Supper at 6pm

(workshop commences at 7pm)

At: Blackwood Public Hall,

Byers Road, Blackwood

This gathering is a unique opportunity for all members of the Blackwood and Barrys Reef communities to work together with a representative from the Moorabool Communities in Action project (MCiA) to discuss the community vision for the future and to further develop your Community Action Plan.

We encourage and welcome all members of the community to attend and be part of the development of the future of your community. MCiA extends this invitation to all residents, the youth, community groups, businesses, farmers, commuters.

Your community needs you!

For more details about MCiA please contact:

Cyana Lopez-Matta, Moorabool Communities in Action Engagement Officer at Council on 5366 7100 or 0400 653 423 or email cia@moorabool.vic.gov.au

for further information please feel free to contact Cyana at council on 03 5366 7100



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Your local state MP, Mr Don Nardella MLA wishes all his constituents a safe and prosperous new year. Please do not hesitate to contact me on 9743 9825 or by email don.nardella@parliament.vic.gov.au should you have any matters you wish to discuss.



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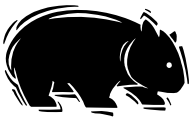
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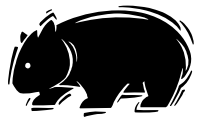
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Red Gum



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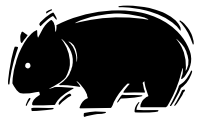
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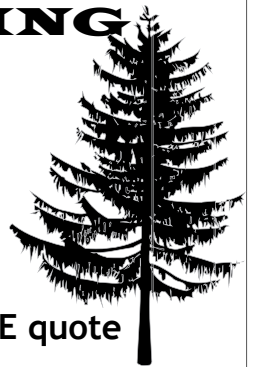
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