

# BLACKWOOD NEWS

Aug / Sept 09  
vol 2 ~ issue 2:6

priceless



In one of their last nights running Lerdies, Jock & Jill put on a fine show auctioning boxes of chocolate, bottles of wine, pizzas & CD's, doing their bit toward the "I Love Lucy" fund-raising in June. Lucy & her mother, Margot have been overwhelmed by the generosity & the support they have been offered since Lucy's battle with cancer was first published - see p2 for their words of appreciation.



**LATE BREAKING NEWS!** This issue of Blackwood News had gone to press when we received news that Lucy's latest test has shown her "chest is cancer free" - great news Lucy! Our marvelous printer held up the print run so we could quickly update this article (thanks Barry).

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Barbara Sweet's Au Revoir @ Lerdies: Aug 13 p15
- Trentham Farmer's Market: Aug 15 & Sept 19 p18
- Garden of St Erth Spring Festival: Sept 19-21 p7



Blackwood locals enjoyed a day of music, food & catching up at the Inaugural Blackwood Sculpture Festival, held at Alice's Garden in June. The weather behaved throughout the day, allowing visitors to explore the plentiful food, wine & clothing stalls while being entertained by a duo imported from Melbourne for the day. The next event at Alice's Garden will be the Antique Road Show where you can have your treasures valued for free on Sun Nov 1st.



Blackbelt Simon keeps up a fast pace on Tuesday nights at Blackwood Karate Dojo



### editors thoughts ...

Every second month, when it comes time to put a new issue of Blackwood News together, it never ceases to amaze me how there is so much happening in Blackwood & surrounds.

Many people have asked how the 'I Love Lucy' events panned out. It gave me great pleasure to realise the value of the Blackwood News as these events unfolded as a result of Lucy's "Where are they now?" article a couple of issue ago.

Sadly we couldn't attend the Winter Ball this year, but by all accounts a good time was had by all!. And going by the photos it does look like a hoot!

The number of willing contributors expands as well - this month I hope you will enjoy our newest 'columns'. Almost Blackwoodian, Vicky, will be interpreting dreams, so I look forward to receiving your dreams by email or drop-box. Tabetha, who is starting her own business, will contribute a make-up tip each issue.

Advertisers support the publication of Blackwood News so please support them in turn. Your donations at pick-up points also really help.

Please remember to include your name & contact details on all submission - requests to withhold names will be considered at editors discretion.

As a result of a server security up-grade centralvic.com.au & email went down for a period in July - I apologise to anyone who was inconvenienced - all is fixed now so remember to download your colour copy from the site.

Enjoy this issue ... 'til next time - keep cosy ...

~ 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 |
|--------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| May '09      | 29.4          | 92.5                            | -0.6                      | 17                        |
| June '09     | 62.6          | 104.8                           | -1.2                      | 13.2                      |

We sure have a rainfall problem with the total rainfall this year up to the end of June being 183.2mm whereas the long-term average up to this time is 431.2mm, less than half! At this rate, we are really going to have difficulty getting through next summer unless it all happens from now on, we can only hope.

~ Don Owen

## CHRISSY'S COUNTRY

clothing & giftware

open Wed-Sat 10am-5pm  
Hair accessories, candles, gifts,  
cards & wrapping

147 Inglis Street, Ballan **9742 5722**  
also Tarneit & Shaws Rd, Werribee

### THANKYOU BLACKWOOD - LUCY LOVES YOU!

**A HUGE** thank-you goes to Jill & Joc, Tony, Carrie, Cath, Phillipa, Jinny & Brendan for creating two wonderful events at Lerdies & the Special School on the June 11 & 14. And an equally huge thanks to the many generous souls who donated time, prizes & food; as well as to the many, many folk from Blackwood & beyond who attended.

**WE ARE** truly privileged & proud to be part of such a wonderful community as Blackwood. From the first article about Lucy ('Where are they now?' April/May '09 issue Blackwood News) came such a magnificent response that we could never have dreamed it. Together with donations from the Trentham Lions Club, The Blackwood Arts Society & so many generous individuals, Lucy now has over \$3000 towards a trip to meet her supporters in America. Her life-changing journey is about to begin.

**LUCY'S UPDATE:** Only 2 rounds of chemo to go! I have been spending most of my time planning my trip. Thanks to Blackwood I'm going to the US, Europe & Singapore next year! I leave in July '10 and will be gone for about 7 months.

**IT'S ALL** very exciting and I'm so grateful to the people of Blackwood for all your support. I wouldn't be going on this trip without your help. Words can't express how much I appreciate it.

**IT IS** really encouraging and heart-warming to have the support of a whole community behind me.

**LOTS OF** love, Lucy

### 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 Oct/Nov '09 issue are

**Advertisers:** book space by **Sept 13**

**Regular Features & Contributors:** **Sept 15**

**One-off Features & Items of Interest:** **Sept 15**

**Community Groups & Club Updates:** **Sept 15**

**Display Ad Artwork/Content:** **Sept 20**

**News & Classifieds:** **Sept 20**

**Sorry, late submissions cannot be accepted.**

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 (quality photos only)

**2009 Advertising rate card & booking form can be downloaded from [www.blackwood.centralvic.com.au](http://www.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.*

Blackwood News is produced as a community service by Jinny Coyle **9687 3744 / 5368 6444**

© 2009 Jinny Coyle

**Pick Up your FREE copy every Wednesday from the Blackwood Store**

Send news, photos and info to - [news@ballannews.com](mailto:news@ballannews.com) or 5368 1966

**Advertisements/Trade/Classifieds - 5368 1966**

## The Moorabool News

Inc. Ballan News & Bacchus Marsh News  
**LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED**



# BLACKWOOD SOCIAL ALBUM ... BLACKWOOD WINTER BALL '09





# Buildings in Blackwood – History of Lerdies Restaurant



'Lerdies on Martin' Restaurant in Martin Street Blackwood was once the National Bank of Australasia during the gold-rush days. The Group Archives records of the National Australia Bank board minutes of October, 1873 state that the Inspector's report was read and the Board decided on establishing a Bank there to give the place a fair trial.

In November, 1873, a sum of fifty pounds sterling was offered for the two allotments belonging to Mrs Buckley at Red Hill, Blackwood. On the 10 August, 1874, the Board resolved on erecting a wooden building on the allotment at Red Hill, according to the plan produced, estimated to cost 384 pounds. The architect was Eugene Godfrey Magnus and the builders were Mr W Williamson and Andrew Buchanan. A report in the Bacchus Marsh Express of the October 3, 1874, states "notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the contractors for erecting the new National Bank have made good progress."

The National Bank officially opened on Monday, 21 December, 1874, with Mr John Robinson as Manager, according to a report in the Bacchus Marsh Express newspaper. The bank was to serve the community well for nearly 20 years, looking after the interests of gold ventures in Blackwood. Names of the past managers of the bank were F.C.K Lewin in 1878, J.W.B. Gardyne in 1882, S.H. Gribbin in 1885, T.R. McKechney in 1888, and W.M. Rooney in 1889.

In July, 1893, it was decided to close the branch of the National Bank at Red Hill, Blackwood.

A report of the 29 July states "It is a shock to find the National Bank Directors have intimated their intention to close the Blackwood branch on Monday, 14 August, 1893 and transfer the business to Trentham. If this intention is carried out, it will most seriously inconvenience the gold sellers and business people. A public meeting was held to protest against the bank closing. One speaker remarked that now they have got most of our money locked up for 5 years, they don't care what happens to us. A resolution was carried that Messrs. Rogers, Hayden, Breckenridge, Buchanan, Barkla (Chairman) and Cann wait on the directors to try and get them to modify their decision. A report of the

5 August, 1893, stated that, as nearly all the Blackwood money is locked up in the National, there is not much hope at present of a rival concern making a start, though there is very little doubt that in a very few years there will be a complete revival of mining in the district, and that there will then again be as strong a competition amongst financial institutions for the custom of the place as there was during the twelve years or so when the Sultan mine was yielding its 1,000 to 2,000 ozs of gold each quarter, and the National, New South Wales and Australasia Banks all had branches here.

On the 4 September, 1893, it was agreed to sell the Blackwood premises and furniture to Mrs Rooney for 150 pounds cash. On 2nd August 1894 it was decided to offer the Blackwood bank building and Decker's land there for sale for 325 pounds, the best price obtainable to be accepted. On 20 March, 1899, an offer of 80 pounds through Messrs Sugden and Gribble Solicitors, Ballarat for the bank's premises at Blackwood was considered, and the Board decided that the price should be fixed at 100 pounds.

The bank has had numerous owners, one the author remembers as Mrs. Foxcroft, and was sold in 1976 and later lived in by the owner, Dick Cater, who ran a Restaurant there until 2005 he called Lerdies.

~ compiled by Margot Hitchcock,

Historian for the Blackwood and District Historical Society.

Information courtesy of Ron Young, Archivist for The Group Archives records of the National Australia Bank, 1995



Martin street Blackwood showing Lerdies Restaurant and the General Store and Blackwood Hotel. C. 1908. Courtesy - Margot Hitchcock.

## Worthpoint Site is the Best!

Well I am in bliss! Utter sheer bliss! To what you may ask has made me so happy? It's the mother site of Goantiques.com. Worthpoint.com !! It's a vintage antique collectible dream come true. If you go to worthpoint.com you will see dealers show calendars, classified ads where you can buy or sell items, an entire worthopedia of antiques and collectibles.

What a positively brilliant site and now you can be part of it. You can join the fray and experience this site for yourself. To tell you a bit about Worthpoint, the founder of the site, Will Seippel is an avid collector of antiques. Through this passion he

envisioned an online global community where he could bring quality information to buyers and collectors alike. WorthPoint has organized the world's information on collectibles into a central library or "worth" database - the Worthopedia. Here you can find data on prices, descriptions, pictures and sale dates, compiled from hundreds of auction houses. What a truly amazing concept and what a truly amazing tool for everyone who has a passion for antiques and collectibles.

Go and have a look www.worthpoint.com

~ Blackwood Antique Merchant

**WANTED**

**ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES**  
cash paid on the spot

**ANTIQUE RESTORATIONS & REPAIRS** a specialty

**contact PAUL 5368 6365**

**find a special treasure at the**

**Blackwood Antique Merchant**

**antiques & bricabrac**  
mon to sat 8am-6pm sun 8.30am -6pm  
21 Martin Street, Blackwood  
5368 6525

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



# SILLY OLD GRINGA

**AT THE** end of June, 'they' flew Blackwood's recently designated Poet Laureate, Lauren Williams, over to a Poetry Festival in Venezuela. 'They' put her (& 30 other international guest poets) up in the biggest hotel in Caracas. 'They' fed her & shuffled her around to various events, where she performed to great acclaim (or laughter, actually, which is okay 'cos she read funny poems, in Spanish, clever old gringa).



**LAUREN'S PLAN** was, after the festival, to catch a flight to Washington USA & there to meet up with some musician acquaintances to do some recording. The glitch came when she discovered her VISA debit card would not work in the ATMs in Venezuela. Nor would they give her any cash in the banks. Nor could she buy anything (a beer, let alone a plane ticket). Even though she'd checked with her issuing financial institution

before leaving Australia ("Yes, you can use this card all over the world") she was stranded in Caracas. Never made it to the USA. The festival people had to do some fancy footwork & re-arrange her ticket home (otherwise she would have had 6 days in Venezuela with no money).

**AFTER ALL** that our Poet Laureate returned home with a nasty dose of the flu!

**THE LESSON** here? Try Googling 'Problems with VISA debit cards in Venezuela'. Wikipedia was very clear. Pity her bank hadn't checked it themselves.

**NATURALLY NATIVE**



Director: KELLY  
 A.B.N 59 845 718 801  
 Office 0353 686 457  
 Mobile 0409 005 447  
 P.O.Box 32, Blackwood VIC 3458  
 E-mail: naturallynative@aussiebroadband.com.au

---

**ASSESSMENTS**  
 Home  
 Garden & Land  
 Water Usage  
 Waste & Recycling

**ADVICE & CONSULTATION**  
 Sustainability  
 Gardening  
 Habitat Gardening  
 Gardening for Kids  
 Gardening as Rehabilitation

**Consultation for**  
 Native Plants  
 Habitat Gardening  
 Natural Landscapes  
 Gardening for the disabled & elderly

**100% NATURALLY NATIVE SUSTAINABLE METHODS & STOCK**

## POP THE FIZZ! POP THE FIZZ!



**MISTY & David Tsardakis** have been living in Blackwood for 6½ yrs & are involved in different aspects of the community, recently had a baby to add to the Blackwood baby boom. On Thurs 18th June, Alexis Eve Tsardakis was born at St John of God Ballarat, weighing 2.66kilo & measured 50cm

**ANNE AND I** will be celebrating forty-four years of marriage on 7th August '09. Four children, eight grand-children, good friends, numerous cats & dogs have made 44 years fly!!!

~ **TREVOR Hill**

## where are they now?

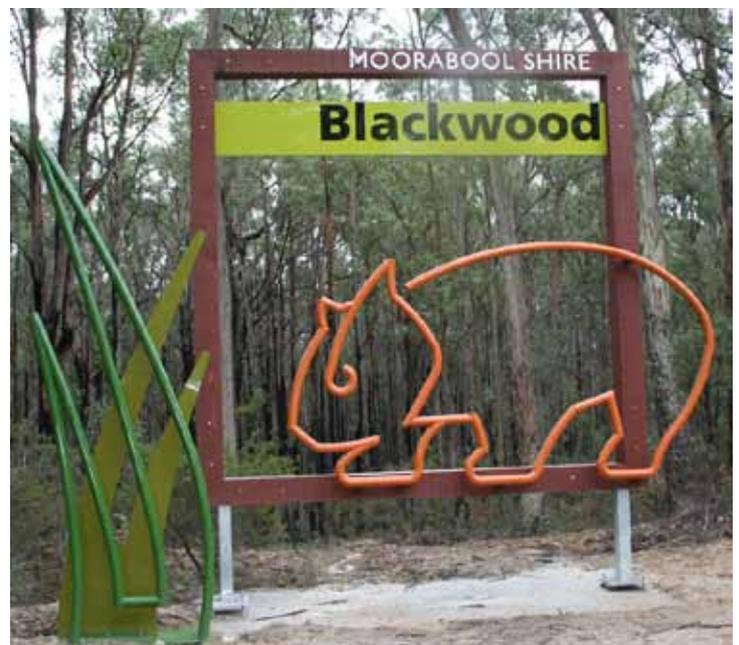


**GRACE HUGGETT** celebrated her 90th Birthday on 12th July '09. An afternoon tea was held at Coburns Gardens Retirement Village Brookfield where she is a resident.

**GRACE WAS** surrounded by four generations of her family and friends. Grace has four children, fifteen grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

**WHEREEVER GRACE** has lived, she has always been involved in the Community and has been President of Oakleigh Youth Club Fund Raising Committee, Blackwood Senior Citizens Club, Blackwood Tennis Club and The Uniting Church Blackwood Fund -Raising Committee.

**GRACE IS** loved by many and is very kind and generous. Her longevity is credited to an active mind and body. Being an avid Scrabble player and playing tennis into her eighties and now does arm chair aerobics and walks daily.



sure ... you'd have to be Blind Freddie to miss Blackwood now!

### WORDS IN WINTER

**FRI 14, SAT 15 & SUN 16 AUGUST**

**Poetry, Writing, Songs and Readings**  
 (Full programme available on request)

**BOOKINGS: 03 5424 1409 / 0407 367 329**

**Seasons ticket for the festival \$8**



# The Dream Interpreter

"Dreams are the insights of the unconscious made visible." Dr Alan McGlashan. And it was Shakespeare who wrote "We are such stuff as dreams are made of & our little life is surrounded with a sleep."



Our dreams belong to us & reflect our inner thoughts. Sceptics may argue dreams are merely minds defragging, but when regularly interpreted, a rhythm forms & you may be surprised by the significance of your dreams.

"But I don't dream!" we hear you say? It has been scientifically proven that you do! The trick is training the right side of the brain to transfer the details to the left for recall & keeping a diary next to your bed to write down the details immediately you wake.

There are many types of dreams: wish fulfillment, problem solving, creative, compensatory, psychological, factual, lucid, recurring (very significant) prophetic & for some, past-life. With dream analysis, emotions, symbolism & language are all important - indicative of what the dream is attempting to tell you.

Jung & Freud both documented the importance of dreams from time immemorial most cultures honoured stories told through sleep. Egyptians BC built dream chambers. Laying upon a catafalque

they would be given an elixir to encourage slumber, waking to inform The Oneirocritica (Dream Interpreter) of their dream, who would advise & counsel.

Robert Louis Stevenson dreamed up his famous story of "Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde" & supposedly Charles Dickens of the character, Mr Pickwick.

We all have a wisdom which lays quietly within us, patiently waiting to be acknowledged &, it is believed by many, this wisdom manifests through our dreams. So send Blackwood News 'an old one', a while ago one' or any new dreams to discover what your subconscious may be trying to tell you.

## July dreamer

"I found myself on top of a ladder, reaching over the roof of my house with a single slice of bread in my hand. I couldn't see the sky but clouds were rolling down the roof & I caught them with the bread to make a cloud sandwich. I was intent on catching the clouds"

**Interpretation:** Climbing to a higher perspective, step by step, spiritual growth & feeling humbled, unsure exactly how you have attained it. You seem focused on obtaining an awareness, eager to learn &, in particular, searching for an answer to a communication issue - perhaps to lighten another's load? You are open to new thoughts but still a little fearful of total trust of the process so protect yourself within the known realm of your everyday life & its familiarities.

It could be thought perhaps that your subconscious is advising you to let go of control, just that little bit more, and you will discover the answer.

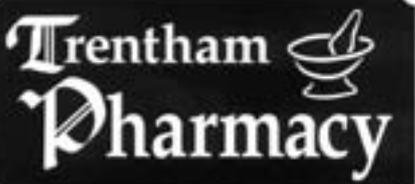
~ Victoria Hill

## Tudor Roses Timeless Threads

*Fabric, Threads, Haberdashery, Kits, Quilting & hand-dyed fabrics*

41 Park Street, Trentham. 3458

Studio open most Fridays' & Saturdays' and anytime by appointment, please call Tamara on 54241 475: Mobile 0429 339600



43a High Street  
Trentham 3458  
5424 1000

- full prescription service & advice
- photo processing \$7.95 for 24 prints
  - Natural Health • Animal Health
- Gifts & Perfume • Natio Cosmetics
- **Natural Instinct Range (petro-chemical free)**

**Stay Warm with Sierra PolarFleece**  
Full range now available at the Pharmacy

*Ellen Kemp, B. Pharm., M.P.S., ND*  
Mon-Fri 9.15am-5pm  
Sat 9.15am-12.15pm

*Dear Pet Gurus,*

*I have lots of millipedes. Can I teach them any tricks? And do you have a recipe for cooking with them?*

*Dopey of Daylesford*

Dear Dopey,  
No you can't teach millipedes tricks. Like you, they are too stupid. But I do have a recipe. Here it is:

You will need the following:  
1 cup millipedes  
a pestle & mortar  
1 slice bread  
1 mine-shaft

**METHOD:**  
Tip the millipedes into the mortar & grind them to a thin paste with the pestle. Then put the slice of bread in a toaster. Then take the pestle & mortar containing the paste out to the mine shaft & throw them in. Now come back inside & eat the slice of toast. Delicious!

Pet Guru





# Winter Wonders



The second winter in Blackwood is very different to the first. For one thing, you know what's coming. There are no gasps of shock or sighs of lament when I get up at O'darkhundred to take Tim to the station and it is minus 2 degrees. We just bundle our baby up in polar fleece, avoid the ice-patch on the bottom stair and get on with it.

In the garden like-wise, I've been getting on with things instead of peering out the window and wishing for better weather. Compared to

summer this is the better weather! Rain? Bring it on! Our trees are just gulping it up. Frost? No problem – everything that wasn't frost hardy died last year when I was none the wiser.

A year of learning to live above 500 metres has really paid off.

Last spring you may remember that I was given a number of beautiful and rare hellebores that I planted strategically outside the kitchen window for winter colour. They are in full bloom now and fill me with wonder and delight every day. I saved them from destruction a few weeks ago – who knew that aphids would love them as much as I do?

Speaking of aphids, I moved all the roses as promised to a bed I've been digging over with horse dung all year. It is near our washing line and I have romantic notions of our sheets coming in with that delicious spicy rose scent. O.K – so it also occurred to me that our sheets might come in torn to shreds, but give me some credit! I planted the roses at

the back of the bed and have decided to put them with a border of the lavender that was straggling along out on the front path. (please don't judge my garden by what is planted out front!) You wouldn't believe how long I agonised over the companion plant for the roses. In the end, good sense won out over trying to be the 'wild woman' of planting combinations. Even if the roses don't make my sheets smell nice, the lavender will.

I got sensible in the kitchen garden as well and put in the most frost-hardy, rain-loving plants I could find. The six beds now have 1) Perennials – artichoke, asparagus (going dormant), and rhubarb (either dormant or dead I won't know which until spring) 2) broad beans, snow peas and broccoli 3) rainbow chard and spinach 4) beetroot and garlic 5) kale (our favourite vegetable), red pak-choy and in the centre alliums called 'drumsticks' which are deep red/purple and should be fabulous if the Currawongs haven't dug them all out 5) turnips (I don't actually like turnips but I was stuck for what else to stick in that bed so if any of you DO like them let me know)

We keep putting off planting the fruit trees. It isn't actually laziness – it's the rain. We want to paint the fence they'll be espaliered on before they go in and we just haven't had a sunny weekend coincide with time to do it. I have high hopes for the weekend after next, when my sister will come and be Auntie for two days, freeing Tim and I up to do jobs.

Sometimes it feels as though things in my garden are progressing at a glacial pace – then I remember that this time last year we didn't have a kitchen garden, there was no rose bed or hellebore bed and I hadn't the faintest idea what to plant in this climate anyway.

What a difference a year has made.

Happy winter gardening,

~ Heather Marsh

## Dr Michael Bascombe

(B.V.M.S.B.Sc.Dip P.H.)

offering **Holistic Veterinary Services** and regular services for all animals



Telephone  
**0438 309 902**  
or **5368 6765**

Email  
**michael@michaelbascombe.com**

## Welcome to our newest advertiser ...



Tabetha Henry is in the process of starting up her own freelance makeup business, doing weddings, debutantes, special occasions, fashion and photography makeup. Her career aspiration to become a makeup artist commenced quite a long time ago, as she has always been a creative person with a passion for makeup. She is currently completing a Diploma of Specialised Makeup at Victoria University in Melbourne. Her long term goals are to be an active makeup

artist in the television and film industry. Part of her course this year includes finding industry experience, which has led her to work on L'Oreal Fashion Week '09, Melbourne Opera Company - La Traviata, VCA Short Film, Deal or No Deal and currently a casual L'Oreal Consultant doing promotional work. Everything she has done up until now has assured her that this is the career that she wants to be in, and she is excited to see where her future in this industry takes her.

*Tabetha Henry*  
MAKEUP ARTIST & HAIR STYLIST  
makeupbytabetha@hotmail.com  
PH: 0400062850  
Special Occasions - Bridal  
Debutante - Photography  
Film - Fashion

## Tabethas Makeup Tip

Never smile when you apply cheek colour (blusher), as this colour should be applied higher up on the cheekbone and closer to the eye than the mouth for a youthful glow.

## THE GARDEN OF ST ERTH



23 Aug **Berry Growing Workshop**  
Bookings Essential

\$20 members \$25 non-members

**SPRING FESTIVAL** Fri 18 - Sun 20 Sept

**open 7 DAYS a WEEK**

Garden & Nursery 9am - 5pm Cafe 10am-4pm Fri, Sat, Sun  
Membership & gift vouchers available

for information call St Erth on (03) 5368 6514  
or visit our website [www.diggers.com.au](http://www.diggers.com.au)



# Sustainable Self-Sufficiency

## WEED MANAGEMENT

We all understand the reasoning behind why we pull weeds out of our ornamental gardens and veggie patches, but little, if any consideration is given to the forest we live within. At the moment, the Wombat State Forest is under threat from a list of different weeds. These plants grow exceptionally well with no maintenance or water at all. They overtake our native vegetation, steal our wildlife's precious food and shelter, drink up a lot of water – which would otherwise be used by our indigenous flora or make its way into the water system and flow into water catchments to be used by us humans!

The scariest fact regarding weed invasion in our (The Wombat) State Forest is that most weeds start off in our gardens - and escape. As a bushland society, we really need to take care when planting anything in our gardens. A few of the most widely planted weeds in residential gardens from Ballan right through the forest to Trentham are: Agapanthus, English./Scotch Broom, Pine, Blue Periwinkle, Oxalis And Blackberry to name but a few. Weeds Australia have a list of 148 which affect our part of Victoria!

As responsible landowners we should arm ourselves with knowledge regarding the plants we wish to plant before doing so. Moorabool Council has an extensive list of noxious & environmental weeds available to all residents, all you need to do is request it!

Weed management in Australia is a \$4.2 million per year cost to our society. We can all (Rural and Urban) play a great part in reducing this

problem, simply by not planting them in the first place and, when noticed, eradicate immediately. One example of garden escapes out of control is within the Blue Mountains, NSW. Agapanthus has completely overtaken the bushland near The Three Sisters, has made extinct the Pygmy Possum, and is a nightmare to remove for the following reasons;

1. It has an amazing rhizomatous (running) root system which extends far beyond the plant.
2. Chemical control has no effect, even administered straight.
3. Manual removal is difficult, almost impossible in some parts simply because of the terrain.
4. When its seeds are ripe, the seed pods explode open, sending seeds flying within a 1-2 metre radius. This builds up 'seed banks' in which there could be up to 20,000 seeds in 1 square metre, emerging when the conditions are right. Eradication therefore needs to be an ongoing event.

After the severe summer we have just been through and the hundreds of thousands of hectares our wildlife has lost, it is imperative that the wildlife within our 300,000 hectare forest is looked after, if not improved! There is a lot of wildlife that survived the fires & is looking for new homes! Remember EXTINCT is FOREVER!!

If you are not sure, ask the nursery staff. If they are not sure (and it is no offense to any of them), ask their training. Anything less than a Horticultural Diploma, then check with Council, Landcare, Weeds Australia or a qualified Horticulturalist.

Go on, Show Mother Some Love! Act Natural

~ think natural - Kelly

**Genevieve Messenger**  
civil marriage celebrant

Perfect, Personal Ceremonies  
- A memory of a lifetime

- Authorised Marriage Celebrant  
- Funeral Celebrant  
- Naming Celebrant for babies

**Mobile: 0407 013 014 Free Consultations**  
**www.genevievemessenger.com.au**

## in my opinion ... year 12

Have you noticed how unskilled some high school graduates are these days?

I knew someone who couldn't add 56 and 72 but had their "ticket" as a graduate.

Employers beware. You cannot assume even basic literacy and numeracy skills from our graduates.

It's not the teacher's fault either because if they say little Johnny's best effort isn't good enough they will be ordered to move them along. If one were to hire anyone with an alleged

qualification that wasn't legitimate, surely they could sue. I mean, I sure hope the qualifications of my surgeon or pilot are legit.

I propose a mandatory course for all high school graduates called Life Skills 101.

All graduates should know how to do their taxes, write a resume, change a tyre, check their oil, administer basic first aid, send an e-mail, boil an egg, drive a car and yes... add 56 and 72!

~ The Beak (name supplied)

## Tree Challenge:

### In search for a Handyman



I could bang on about the fact that I can't hammer a nail into a wall without bruising my fingers, or I could bang on about how I don't know the difference between screw drivers (what do you mean Phillip's head is over there?) or I could bang on about how I don't even own a drill. (I thought a drill was what you had when there was a fire.) To save you the trouble I will just bang my head against a brick wall instead! Ouch!

Recently I had moved house from Blackwood to.....Blackwood. Over a year ago I moved from inner city apartment living to a cottage in Blackwood. I had to learn how to light fires (inside that is), greet chimney sweeps and chop wood. Now the house is mine, so that means I have to fix everything! I can do a lot of things, but this was looking rool bad.

The doors have opened easily in some parts of my life, and yes I am very lucky. But when I opened the door to my new home I didn't expect the handle, to come off in my hand! So as I stood there trying to handle that I had a handle in my hand; I could think of only one thing, I needed a handyman in my life.

Where was I going to find a handyman? Of course! While Lerdies, our local restaurant is being renovated, it's like a handyman convention

centre. So I rocked up to Lerdies where all the workmen were, and asked how much a handyman was for an hour. I found out the minimum age was \$25 an hour. I mean minimum WAGE was \$25 an hour. Sh\*\* I nearly got myself into trouble then! Anyway long story short, those guys are just too expensive for a girl like me.

So back to my original thought – needing a handyman – and I realised that, thinking like that belonged to the early 70's (when footy was on Saturdays, and it actually did rain a lot in winter); and that I had to get with the naughty's; so what about a handyperson? A handy woman? This was Blackwood, where the women chop their own wood and go out to work...hellooooo!

Then a good woman gave me the drill. And a good pal gave me the new door knob. And between the knob and the drill I was sorted. The answer was of course, anyone who made themselves handy was suddenly my best friend.

This was just the drama over the door knob, and I still haven't got much of a handle on it. Then my screen door came off its hinges. It's a bit like me really, for like the door, I need to brace myself. No such luck, the screen is still hanging.

My tank is a bit hilly. Has been saying too many Ave Maria's or something. The Kookaburra's are laughing at me, soooooo humiliating. I don't care what they think, because I'm in love with my new house anyway.

I need to do a tradesperson course, either that or marry a handyman. Watch this space.

~ By Genevieve Messenger



# Start the Day in a Positive Way



There's a lot of relevance in the phrase "getting out on the wrong side of the bed".

The mood and pace with which you get going in the morning certainly does set the tone for the rest of your day.

When you start the day in an uplifted, relaxed and peaceful way, you generate an aura of peace that

can follow you through all day. Jumping out of bed at the sound of the alarm, not yet even properly awake, showering quickly, and throwing a piece of toast into your mouth as you run out the door, will not serve you well in the 'joy of life' stakes.

Try to wake naturally. While still lying in bed, give yourself a few minutes to fully bring your energy into the present. Pay attention to the valuable ideas and inspirations that come to you in that waking time. Consider the coming day. What would you like to achieve? How would you like to relate to the people you encounter? How do you want to feel? Make some clear, positive intentions for the day ahead. This will help frame the energy you put out, and focus it into the areas you've defined.

Having to get up early for work needn't prevent you from doing this. I always set the alarm 'just in case', but when I go to bed, I make an intention to wake ten minutes before the alarm (this works nearly every time!). I wake, and then allow myself to 'wake up'. By the time the alarm actually goes off, I'm grounded and fully ready to start my day.

Once you're out of bed, if you have the time, you may want to sit in meditation for 15 minutes or so. You don't have to make this a grand affair with crossed legs, cushions, candles and new age music. The environment in Blackwood is so delightful and grounding that even just sitting on the porch, looking out over the trees and listening to the morning birds can be enough to bring your energy into stillness.

If you share your home with other people (or maybe just your beloved pets), give them a really warm greeting, rather than just an automatic "good morning". A nice hug does wonders to get the heart energy flowing as well!

Let your morning conversations be light-hearted and hopeful. Anything that elicits a few giggles, or a good hearty laugh, will draw abundant oxygen into your system. This is not only great for your overall health, but also helps to draw more of the 'life force' into your system and clear away any morning heaviness you might be feeling.

Take the time to prepare and eat a nutritious breakfast in a lovely setting. If the weather's warm, you may sit outside soaking up the morning sun, or just clear the kitchen table to give yourself a more pleasant breakfasting experience.

It's best not to watch TV (especially the morning news) or read while you're eating. Just focus on the beautiful food you're taking into your body. Give thanks for it, appreciate the delicious flavours and textures, and chew it well. This gives you a chance to touch base with both your body and your spirit, before you race out into the world to spend your day reacting and interacting with others.

If you're a morning exerciser, then a walk, run, ride or swim is also an opportunity to oxygenate your body, ground your energy and centre yourself.

Whatever your morning routines, the important thing is to have your day take off gently and positively, with at least some 'alone time', and to give yourself a few opportunities for positive appreciation.

This will ensure that you step forward into your day on a positive note, and allow all your experiences to be bathed in clarity, peace and light.

~ by Kathie Strmota, LoveLight Co-Creative HealthCare

## PARTY TIME?

HIRE TRESTLE TABLES & BBQ

Blackwood Progress Association

contact Lou Henderson

5368 6539

Blackwood Caravan Park

a blackwood news community service notice



## PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW ...



Barbara's moving to Ballan & no one's going to miss her. That's because family & community commitments will be bringing her back about every second day. Sweet!

Barbara first came to Blackwood around 1952 when her family rented a house in town. She promptly fell for Wally Sweet & they were married 5 years later. Now she leaves their family home after

50 big years of kids (5), grandkids (10), great grandkids (1) & involvement in nearly every volunteer group in town. Then there's her work! 28 years with Moorabool Shire as a home carer, 29 years at the Melbourne Uni houses as caretaker & cleaner, the Blackwood Special School since 1972, where she was made a life member in 2006. She remains involved with the Special School, as she does with the Crown Reserves Committee & Blackwood Senior Citizens (secretary). Other groups blessed with Barb's input have been the Youth Club, Tennis Club, Badminton Club, Mothers Club, All Saints Ladies Guild, CFA & my favorite, the Christmas Tree (free presents to all Blackwood kids - yay!).

When Barb moved into her house in 1960, it had already been in Wally's family for 30 years, before which it was a Doctors Surgery & Chemist. Barb says the swag of resident ghosts have "gotten used to me over the years". Apparently the spooks agree to specialise in their own brands of mischief making. There's a thumpy one, a pokey one, a shakey, but my favorite is pointy. He's an old miner who tries to alert you to something in the front-room fireplace. Barb likes to imagine his finger points to buried treasure. Mike & Margaret Allen's imminent renovations on the old place may prove interesting. Stay tuned.

Barbara's new place is a 3 bedroom brick house on level ground. She declares proudly that, for the first time, she'll have both an en-suite & a walk-in robe. Her new address is 57 Inglis St, Ballan. All are welcome to visit. Just don't tell the spooks.

Barb says she regrets leaving her beloved old town, but "it's time to be practical". She is thrilled that Mike & Margaret are taking over the house & are planning to tart up the old girl.

Barbara Sweet, Blackwood WILL miss you!

**LoveLight**  
**Co-Creative HealthCare**  
*Herbiv Medicine & Vibrational Healing*

---

herbal medicine & nutritional support  
energy healing & spiritual development  
workshops for self-empowerment & spiritual growth

---

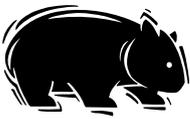
- physical pain, injury & illness
- emotional pain & trauma
- fatigue, low energy & motivation
- self-limiting beliefs & aura imbalances
- learning & developmental problems

✧ develop a more joyous life ✧

**93698135 or 53686560**  
consulting & workshops at Blackwood and Yarraville

**www.aquarianblessings.com**  
kathie@aquarianblessings.com

ATMS accredited member



# COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

## BLACKWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE INC.

Hello once again from the Blackwood Senior Citizens Club. I hope everyone is managing to keep warm - as we have certainly had a lot of cold weather. The good news is the rain we had & it is pleasing to see the river running again - hope there is a lot more on the way!

We welcomed Betty back to the club last week after quite a few weeks absence due to ill health - it was great to see her & Ken back with us again.

The club has been kept busy over the last 2 months - with outings & guest speakers attending.

Nora Stubbs from RACV presented quite an interesting program where she showed videos & gave information about possible problems for the older driver.

Bert Jarvis from Ballan also had lunch with us, giving us quite a humorous dialogue about his time as a police officer in England quite a number of years ago. He brought along a collection of hats that he had worn during that period.

Many of us enjoyed the "Musical Alzheimer's" in Daylesford Town Hall when 3 very talented ladies performed. We had quite a few laughs.

The food & entertainment was excellent when we visited the Cuckoo in Olinda.

The club has purchased a PA system. This will be very useful to us in the future. This week we are having a split-system installed which will serve 2 purposes - to heat & cool. These 2 items will be paid for using our Council Grant.

As you can see, our club is going ahead in leads & bounds. This is due largely to our wonderful members - very generous & helpful in every way. They have made my job as secretary very easy, so I thank them all.

Annual subscriptions are now due - \$6 per member. New members would be made very welcome. We enjoy a hot meal, board games, billiards, bingo, carpet bowls & great friendships.

No more news at the present so until next issue, kindest regards

~ Barbara Sweet, (Hon) secretary

## BLACKWOOD CROWN LANDS COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

We have had a busy few months with Brendan Hehir & Brian Moore attending Moorabool Council to accept a \$5000 grant toward top-dressing the Sports Ground.

Victoria Mineral Springs Committee visited the Mineral Springs - thanks again to Brian Moore who had our wish list prepared.

Thankyou to Steve Empey - our kitchen looks great with all new cupboards.

The caravan park is investigating a new BBQ & fencing around the ranger's storage area.

Please note: Hall bookings will now be managed by Elizabeth Hall 5368 6537

~ Elizabeth Hall, secretary

## BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT

### COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

no report this issue

~Bruce Henry Team Leader

## BLACKWOOD RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Thankyou to all who so generously donated to the Brigade's annual appeal. Special thanks to Exxon.Mobil \$1000 & \$500 from Trentham Lions Club. It is very heartening for the members to have such community spirit!

Brigade training is on the 1st Sunday of every month. New members are required & will be most welcome.

~ George Stockdale

## BLACKWOOD DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Many thanks to Barbara Sweet for the donation of some old ornaments & to Mike Allen for the donation of a glass cabinet to keep these items in. We are grateful to Greg Cassidy & helpers who moved the cabinet.

Our stables look great with new shelving & a new poppet head outside to put out signs on - we followed up with a working bee - thanks to all.

On a bright note we are informed that Margot Hitchcock is making a good recovery & is home - we all wish her well.

A sad note to see our weather has taken a toll on Queen Victorias Tree at Simmons Reef which was planted for her golden Jubilee by school children of the Simmons Reef School

~ Elizabeth Hall

*from the Editor: I also wish to thank Margot. No sooner had she returned home from rehab, than she was writing up this issues historical article.*

### Heritage Study Moorabool - West of Shire.

Council has commissioned a Heritage study for the West of Moorabool Shire. Heritage studies are divided up into 3 parts or stages. The listing of potential historic sites is meant to be as complete as possible so suggestions for inclusion from the people of Moorabool will be very welcome.

The second stage of a heritage study is where the individual sites listed at stage 1 are looked at in detail.

In the third part of the study, those sites that do reach a certain heritage level are placed in the Moorabool Planning Scheme by an amendment to the planning scheme.

Shortly, a consultant will start the study & Council will be putting out some information sheets on what a heritage study is & how it affects a property if it is listed.

Visitors & new members are cordially invited to attend BDHS meetings which are held on the first Saturday morning of each month from 10.30am - 12.30 pm at our Police Stables in Martin Street.

Publications: "Some History of Simmons Reef" \$13, "The Story of Blackwood" \$5 & "Aspects of Blackwood" \$14 by Margot Hitchcock are also on sale at Garden of St. Erth & the Cobb & Co Coffee Shop.

~ J. Chamberlain, correspondence secretary

## Blackwood/Barrys Reef LANDCARE WATER WATCH

**Rainfall Barry's Reef:** May - 35mm, June 78mm; to July 15, 90mm

After the Ammonia readings were reported to the Shire, the Shire took unspecified remedial action. This June's readings were, as normal, clean.

~ David Rogers

**Bushfire management:** In letter to the Premier of Victoria, the Hon. John Brumby via the Member for Melton, Don Nardella MP, Landcare is requesting that fire management in Central Victoria be controlled by DSE. In consultation with the local communities, DSE plans all prescribed burns years ahead throughout the region, is responsible for weed control in the Wombat State Forest throughout the shires of Moorabool, Hepburn & Macedon Ranges & on a bi-monthly basis, DSE convenes with the Great Dividing Trail executive, relevant Parks officers & Moorabool Shire to review existing walking tracks.

Activists opposed to prescribed burns habitually blockade fire crews from entering a fire site then further complicate procedures by darting in & around the flames, therefore prescribed burns should be mandatory.

Blackwood, situated at the junction of the Lerderderg State Park & the Wombat State Forest is recognised as one of the most fire-prone communities in the world. Busy Simmons Reef Road, which provides access to Garden of St. Erth (the region's major tourist attraction), is narrow and winding.

It is hoped that regulations will be introduced to safeguard the Blackwood and Dales Creek communities from tragedies similar to those of February 7, '09.

~ Pat Liffman



**BLACKWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**

*no report this issue*

**BLACKWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

In a meeting on June 30, it was decided by all present that the Chamber should be incorporated.

The statement of purpose is "To provide an operating structure for the promotion of Blackwood & surrounding areas, whilst having respect for the community, its diversity & its history, attracting outside interest & tourism, leading to sustainability of its businesses & infrastructure for the benefit of all".

The Blackwood Chamber of Commerce has appointed published and renowned local, Lauren Williams, as Poet Laureate of Blackwood. The role has a stipend of \$200 per year for a 3 year period.

The requirement is that the Poet Laureate writes a poem a year about Blackwood, appears at community events to read their poems & chairs the artistic direction of the planned Blackwood Poetry Festival. See one of her works on p20.

The next meeting will be 18th August. New members welcome. One-off membership fee \$25, annual subscription \$25.

**BLACKWOOD CLUB UPDATES**

**BLACKWOOD ARTS SOCIETY Inc**

*no report this issue*

**BLACKWOOD JUNIOR CRICKET CLUB**

*no report this issue*

**BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB**

*no report this issue*

**BLACKWOOD MEDITATION GROUP**

Blackwood Uniting Church offers meditation on the first & third Monday of the month 7pm - 8pm. In the chilly months, the group meets in homes. At meditation there is room for questions, for spirituality & for stillness. All are welcome. For more information about meditation, or other services in the Highlands, call the office on 03 5348 2119 or go to [www.highlandsclusteruca.org.au](http://www.highlandsclusteruca.org.au)

~ Rev. Sally Douglas Highlands Cluster Uniting Church



**Bacchus Marsh Community College Inc.**

*'The Laurels'*

**Term 3 2009**

Download a copy of our program at [www.thelaurels.org.au](http://www.thelaurels.org.au)

**Nationally Accredited Courses.....**

**Certificate II in Retail**  
(Pre enrolment interview required)

**Business**  
Maintain a General Ledger  
(manual book keeping course)

**Hospitality**  
Follow Workplace Hygiene Procedures  
Food Safety Supervisor  
Responsible Service of Alcohol  
*Coming up in November.....*

**Integration Aide**  
Provide Literacy & Numeracy  
Classroom Support

**First Aid**  
Apply First Aid (Workplace)  
CPR

**Receptionist Administration**  
'Operate Computing Packages'  
**Computers**

Beginners Computers  
Internet & email  
eBay

Digital Photography  
**Computer Accounting**  
MYOB

MYOB Payroll  
**Building Industry**  
OHS – Construction Induction  
Training

*Check out our range of, art & craft and other general interest programs!*

**Groups & Other Activities...**

Men's Shed, Young Mums, Artist's, Patchworkers, Embroiderers, Woolcraft, Garden Club, Seniors Computers

For further information or to enrol  
Call The Laurels on 5367 1061  
229 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh  
website: [www.thelaurels.org.au](http://www.thelaurels.org.au)  
email: [enrolments@thelaurels.org.au](mailto:enrolments@thelaurels.org.au)



Adult, Community and Further Education

**BLACKWOOD NEWS in colour**

can be downloaded free from

[www.blackwood.centralvic.com.au](http://www.blackwood.centralvic.com.au)

& while you are there be sure to subscribe to our eList so you are the first to see new issues



You're invited to learn more about the best way to set up your community group, association or organisation for success through grant funding.

**Thursday 6 August from 12noon – 3.00pm**  
**at Ballan Mechanics Institute, Inglis Street, Ballan.**  
registration by July 23 info@moorabool.vic.gov.au or call 5365 7100

**Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Super Ride - Thurs 29 Oct, '09**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Annual Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. Super Ride is on again. If you like to support this event and witness over one hundred students with special needs challenge themselves against the hills of the Wombat State Forest then give us a call or send an email to confirm your support.

**DATE:** Thursday Oct 29, '09

**TIME:** 9:30am

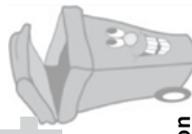
**LOCATION:** Outside the Blackwood General Store

As always lunch will be provided for all Volunteers by the Australian Defence Forces School of Catering. We look forward to your continued support for this wonderful event.

# august

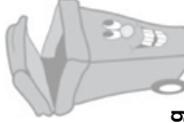
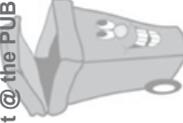
# 2009

monday    tuesday    wednesday    thursday    friday    saturday    sunday

|  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| <p><b>31</b></p> <p>Laurie Byers</p> <p>MEDITATION:<br/>Uniting Church</p>   | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>Karate @ the Hall<br/>Grassroots Grants Ballan</p> <p>Tony Darwen</p> | <p><b>5</b></p>   | <p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>MOBILE LIBRARY</b><br/>tuesdays 1-2.15<br/>opposite<br/>Blackwood House</p>                 | <p><b>7</b></p> <p>FRIDAY<br/><b>BUS SERVICE</b><br/>9.05am departs B'wood<br/>2.10pm departs<br/>BM station<br/>2.15pm departs<br/>BM central</p> | <p><b>8</b></p> <p>Darley Market<br/>Ballan Lions Club Market<br/>Daylesford Farmers Market<br/>Historical Society Meeting</p> <p>Mia Hewitt</p> | <p><b>9</b></p> <p>Daylesford Market<br/>Trentham Uniting Church<br/>Ballan Uniting Church<br/>CERT Training<br/>Cricket Club Training</p>                 |
| <p><b>10</b></p> <p>MEDITATION:<br/>Uniting Church<br/>Girls Nights out @ the PUB</p>  | <p><b>11</b></p> <p>Karate @ the Hall</p>  | <p><b>12</b></p> <p>Heather Marsh</p>                   | <p><b>13</b></p> <p><i>International left-handers day</i><br/>The New Lerdies opens<br/>Barb Sweets Au Revoir</p> | <p><b>14</b></p> <p>Kerryn Whiffen<br/>Sybil O'Keefe</p> <p>Old Time Dancing @ T'tham</p>  | <p><b>15</b></p> <p>T'tham FARMERS MARKET</p>  | <p><b>16</b></p> <p>Daylesford Market<br/>All Saints Church Service<br/>Trentham Uniting Church<br/>Ballan Uniting Church</p> <p>Bronwyn Jowett</p>        |
| <p><b>17</b></p> <p>MEDITATION:<br/>Uniting Church<br/>Girls Nights out @ the PUB</p>  | <p><b>18</b></p> <p>Karate @ the Hall<br/>B'wood Chamber meeting</p> <p>Greg Petch</p>   | <p><b>19</b></p> <p>Janet Dear<br/>Rosie O'Loughlin</p> | <p><b>20</b></p> <p>James Cann</p>  | <p><b>21</b></p> <p>Margot Nelmes<br/>Madeline Matheson</p>  | <p><b>22</b></p> <p>Daylesford Market<br/>Trentham Market<br/>Ballarat Lakeside Market<br/>Trentham Uniting Church<br/>Ballan Uniting Church</p> | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>Sue Currie<br/>Noel Ewer</p>   |
| <p><b>24</b></p> <p>Lou Henderson</p>   | <p><b>25</b></p> <p>Karate @ the Hall</p>  | <p><b>26</b></p> <p>Sam Matheson</p>                    | <p><b>27</b></p>  | <p><b>28</b></p> <p>Lisa Darwen</p>  | <p><b>29</b></p> <p>Brie-anna Simmonds</p>   | <p><b>30</b></p> <p>Daylesford Market<br/>Trentham Uniting Church<br/>Ballan Uniting Church<br/>Spirituality in the Bush</p> <p>Peta &amp; Jessi Coyle</p> |
|  |  |   |   |  |  | <p><b>31</b></p> <p>Aaron Speak</p>  |

# September

monday      *first day of spring*      tuesday      wednesday      thursday      friday      saturday      sunday

|   |   |                                     |                  |   |  |   |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|---|--|---|
| <p><b>FREE BUS TO WENDOUREE</b><br/>3rd MON each month<br/>Community Links Program<br/><b>BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL</b><br/>Judith 5368 6697</p>   | <p><b>1</b><br/><i>first day of spring</i><br/>Karate @ the Hall<br/><br/>Dawn DePolo<br/>Lynne Wright</p>  | <p><b>2</b><br/><br/>Gail Sweet</p> | <p><b>3</b></p>  | <p><b>4</b><br/><br/>Old Time Dancing @ T'tham</p>              | <p><b>5</b><br/>Darley Market<br/>Ballan Lions Club Market<br/>Daylesford Farmers Market<br/>Historical Society Meeting</p>  | <p><b>6</b> <i>father's day</i><br/>Daylesford Market<br/>All Saints Church Service<br/>Trentham Uniting Church<br/>Ballan Uniting Church<br/><br/>Alan Haack<br/>Brian (Bushie) Small</p>  |
| <p><b>7</b><br/>MEDITATION:<br/>Uniting Church<br/></p> <p>Jeremy Hamling</p>  | <p><b>8</b><br/>Karate @ the Hall</p>   | <p><b>9</b></p>                     | <p><b>10</b></p> | <p><b>11</b><br/><br/>Donna Shannon</p>                         | <p><b>12</b><br/><br/>Daylesford Market<br/>Trentham Uniting Church<br/>Ballan Uniting Church<br/><br/>Blackwood News deadline:<br/>Advertisers &amp; Contributors</p> | <p><b>13</b></p>  |
| <p><b>14</b><br/>Kyle Wright<br/>Rebecca King<br/>Tyson Wood<br/>Deann Collier</p>  | <p><b>15</b><br/>Karate @ the Hall<br/><br/>Blackwood News deadline:<br/>regular features<br/>community groups &amp; clubs<br/>advertisers book space</p> | <p><b>16</b></p>                    | <p><b>17</b></p> | <p><b>18</b><br/>St Erth Spring Festival<br/><br/>Wade Rees</p> | <p><b>19</b><br/>T'tham FARMERS MARKET<br/>St Erth Spring Festival</p>   | <p><b>20</b><br/>Daylesford Market<br/>Trentham Market<br/>All Saints Church Service<br/>Trentham Uniting Church<br/>Ballan Uniting Church<br/>St Erth Spring Festival<br/>Blackwood News deadline:<br/>News<br/>Advert Artwork / content<br/>Jeanette Withington</p> |
| <p><b>21</b><br/>MEDITATION:<br/>Uniting Church<br/>Girls Nights out @ the PUB<br/></p> <p>Chris Francis<br/>Linda Byers<br/>Marcia Ewer</p> | <p><b>22</b><br/>Karate @ the Hall</p>  | <p><b>23</b></p>                    | <p><b>24</b></p> | <p><b>25</b></p>  | <p><b>26</b><br/>AFL grand final</p>   | <p><b>27</b><br/>Daylesford Market<br/>Ballarat Lakeside Market<br/>Trentham Uniting Church<br/>Ballan Uniting Church<br/>Spirituality in the Bush</p>  |
| <p><b>28</b><br/><br/>Ken Cann<br/>Tim Marsh</p>  | <p><b>29</b><br/>Karate @ the Hall<br/><br/>Brendan Hehir<br/>Glenda Hillis</p>   | <p><b>30</b></p>                    | <p><b>31</b></p> | <p><b>32</b></p>  | <p><b>33</b></p>   | <p><b>34</b><br/><br/>Have we missed your birthday?<br/>Do you know of an event we should list?<br/>Please email us or pop the details in the<br/>DROP BOX at the General Store.</p>  |



# Marvelous and Improbable Adventures of the Crumple Horned Snorkack

## Chapter Five: The Bearded Loon

Luna, the Snorkack and the Wiedersnarkchen clattered out of the lecture theatre just in time to avoid the security guards.

"Wait!" shouted Luna to the bearded loon, who was already blundering through the exit that led to the South Lawns. Startled, he glanced backwards in mid stride and collided violently with the door frame. Several tram tickets, a red texta, an ancient notebook and some mummified chewing gum erupted from the greatcoat, and he cursed viciously before launching himself once again at the sunlit opening.

"I just want to interview you for the Weekly World News," called Luna soothingly.

To Luna's surprise, he whirled momentarily around and, pulling a greasy strand of hair back from his eyes, regarded her with a look of cunning despair. "Look in the First Folio," he said in a strangled voice. "Check the line."

And with that, he whirled and fled up the grassy slope onto the crowded South Lawn. The Snorkack and the Wiedersnarkchen exchanged an alarmed glance, wondering what on earth was going on, while Luna waded energetically into the throng of bewildered students, in hot pursuit.

By the time that Luna, the Snorkack and the Wiedersnarkchen finally gave up hunting back and forth across the university for the bearded loon, Professor Bloom had called a press conference. Standing in front of the southern doors of the main building, he was being interviewed by the television news, playing down his own heroic role in saving the students from the terrorist. "In conclusion," he said, in his best pompous professor voice, "it is too early to speak about bravery awards and so I call on the media to stop all this speculation."

But when he caught sight of Luna and the Snorkack, his face darkened.

As Luna and the Professor got into a public shouting match about his boring lectures and her late homework, and the difficult to follow relation of all this to the bearded student, the Snorkack started snuffling around the edges of the crowd for something to eat. The news teams, realizing that the main action was all over now, began to drift away and pack up.

As the Professor lectured Luna on her attitude to her studies, the Snorkack chanced upon the bearded loon's packets of petrified chewing gum. He looked around to see whether anyone was watching and scooped them expertly into his gob. It was at that moment that he spied the notebook lying beside the heavy wooden door. The Snorkack tried to tell this to the Wiedersnarkchen, but she was fast asleep and anyway, the Snorkack's jaws were stuck completely together by the ancient chewing gum. However, the chewing gum would have been more use to Luna, as she was now in big trouble with the security guards for attempting to strangle Professor Bloom with the strap of her handbag.

The Snorkack, trying his best to look inconspicuous, sidled up to the now red-faced Luna and began tugging at her in desperation, emitting a noise similar to the gurgling in a pipe. Distracted, Luna paused for a moment in her struggle with Professor Bloom and the security guards, whereupon the professor took his chance, and disappeared at high

speed on his stork-like legs. Security, clearly baffled, eventually let her go with a warning that next time she assaulted a professor she would be banned from lectures altogether. But Luna was no longer listening—her attention had been captured by the bearded student's notebook, which the Wiedersnarkchen, now awake, had wrestled from the distressed Snorkack.

The Wiedersnarkchen had made a discovery—or so she thought. "It's a fantasy novel!" she exclaimed enthusiastically, pouring over the notebook with delight. She was marking passages that she particularly like with the red texta, all over the pages of the bearded loon's book, and at the same time fending off the Snorkack's increasingly frantic efforts to recapture the notebook with three of her eight legs.

Luna quickly decided that they had to get this astonishing find somewhere safe before the Snorkack revealed it to the world, or the

Wiedersnarkchen vandalized it completely. "I'll take care of that," she said, deftly relieving the Snorkack and the Wiedersnarkchen of their prize. And without checking to see whether the two creatures were following, she strode purposefully down the nearby library steps.

The trio entered the library with the Wiedersnarkchen still loudly explaining how her fascinating dreams were the basis for her own fantasy novel, *Harry Potter Combs His Hair*. The Snorkack was trying to protest his indifference to this exciting development by blowing bubbles with a wad of gum thickened with saliva to the consistency of molten rubber.

Luna hurried the noisy beasts to a desk in front of a sleepy looking librarian, in the section that seemed most empty of people. There, she begged the creatures to be quiet and stay right where they were and guard the notebook, while she searched the library for a copy of Shakespeare's collected works. Although she made the Wiedersnarkchen promise not to underline anything more, this still turned out to be a very bad idea, because as soon as Luna was out of sight, the Wiedersnarkchen pulled open the notebook and started reading it at the top of her voice.

"Hear this!" cooed the Wiedersnarkchen, batting her eyelids furiously with admiration. "It's absolutely marvelous". And she read: "The warriors of the Saaur sang their battle chants, preparing for the final struggle. Tattered war banners hung limply from bloodied lances as thick smoke shrouded the sky from horizon to horizon. Jarwa, Grand F'Tang of the Seven Nations, Ruler of the Empire of Grass, could not tear his eyes away from the destruction."

But further introductions to Jarwa and the warriors of the Saaur were interrupted by a blood-curdling scream, which terminated in a fatal-sounding thud, just outside the library window. The Snorkack's bubble exploded into dozens of sticky shreds. Through the window, the creatures could see a small crowd already gathering in front of an ominously still form, half in and half out of an industrial waste hopper full of seldom borrowed books.

Even despite the lengthening afternoon shadows, the Snorkack could clearly see that the body belonged to the bearded student whose notebook they were now reading.

~ Lily Evans (with the help of Alaska Pollock)



business cards | logos | stationary | web design | dvds cds  
invitations | brochures | pricelists | menus | html emails  
signage | branding | stationary | booklets | newsletters | labels



**FLUX New Media Solutions**  
ph 03 9687 3744 or 03 5368 6444  
[www.fluxnewmedia.com.au](http://www.fluxnewmedia.com.au)



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:**

**NOTE: Letters to the editor must include Name, address & phone number or email address. Requests for names to be withheld will be considered.**

After spending the last few years driving to work at dawn & witnessing the dead wildlife on the road, I feel compelled to write.

I understand that driving at the 70kph advisory doesn't guarantee that you won't hit an animal, but I have found it lessens the odds greatly.

Recently, I dragged a few dead wallabies & kangaroos from the middle of the road & I cannot understand why the person who hit them wouldn't stop as (a) the least you should do is shift the animal you killed (probably by going too fast) & give it its last shred of dignity before it gets totally squashed (b) other road users tend to swerve to avoid hitting it again. In wet or frosty conditions this could send the driver sliding off into the trees.

It saddens me that there are a minority in our great, little community who either have no compassion, are too lazy to get out of the car (probably because it's cold) or just plain too stupid to realise the possible consequences.

If you happen to be one of the many who find themselves behind me in the morning, tell someone who cares as I am doing you (& the wildlife) a favour.

~ Ray Castelin

You are doing a marvellous job with the Blackwood News - a really vibrant and informative publication. PS Loved the Blackwoofs!

~ Cheers Elaine Boucher, Melbourne

Congratulations on The Blackwood News' first birthday. It is a great achievement. May you continue to serve the community for many years to come. Best wishes

~ Catherine King, MP

If Trentham storm chasers installed a station at Blackwood they could take over from me as their temperature measurement apparatus is quite sophisticated. We are catered for rainfall by the official BOM site at the store. Have they got plans for extending their operations to Blackwood?

~ Don Owen, Blackwood/Melbourne

*I don't know Don, but I would hate to loose your weather reports! the editor*

Thanks for the latest edition of the Blackwood News. It is very well presented & informative as usual. You are doing a great job in keeping so many people informed about what is happening in & around the Blackwood area.

As you probably know, I have worked at the Trentham Police Station in two stints for a total of nearly 23 years & I love the area as much as anyone. I intend to retire to my property in Newbury in the not-too-distant future.

I am a great advocate for promoting this area & all its great natural gifts, however I feel I should point out a common misconception about the Trentham Falls which appears in some literature about the area. As much as I love these falls, they are by no means the longest single-drop falls in Victoria. I think the sign at the falls says they are the longest single-drop falls in the central or central plateau area of Victoria.

Being a keen horse rider, I have ridden & pack-saddled into many other falls which have a higher single-drop than ours. In fact, there are several falls in the Otway Ranges that drop further than ours & the biggest of them all is the Dandongadale Falls at 255 metres. These falls drop off the side of Mount Cobbler in the Alpine National Park. I have seen these falls & they are certainly worth seeing. If you google the name Dandongadale Falls, you will find some information about them.

It is certainly not my intention to detract from our lovely falls at Trentham but I am sure a lot of other people would know that the information is incorrect & I know that none of us wants to advertise our area by misrepresentation, albeit that it is done unintentionally.

Kind Regards,

~ Greg FALKINER, OIC, Trentham Police Station



**a photographic exhibition by Jinny Coyle opens @ Lerdies Aug 13**

the new

*Lerdies*  
on Martin

w i n e   b a r   &   r e s t a u r a n t

Martin St, Blackwood Telephone 03 5368 6612



come & enjoy the new Lerdies from Thursday August 13  
Tuesday TA night | Thursday Locals night | open Friday, Saturday nights & Sunday lunch  
look for the current event calendar on the Lerdies notice-board

Please let our advertisers know you saw them in the Blackwood News



Dear Resident

**RE: Blackwood to Bacchus Marsh Trial Bus Service**

Moorabool Shire Council in conjunction with the Victorian Government Transport Connections Program has established a Friday trial bus service from Blackwood to Bacchus Marsh. The trial service lasts for 18 months and started on 1 August 2008. After the trial finishes the level of patronage will be used to determine if the service will continue. Unfortunately, at this stage the level of patronage is not high enough for the service to continue as a permanent service. However, there are still six months of the trial left.

In December 2008 the service was adjusted so it could be caught from any of the school bus stops along the route, allowing easier access to the bus. After further consultation, the service has again been improved. To accommodate the needs of more residents the route has been extended in Blackwood, Dales Creek and Pentland Hills.

There are many reasons why you may wish to travel to Bacchus Marsh; it is a fast growing town with many services and shopping opportunities. In Bacchus Marsh you can shop for arts and crafts, books, fashion and accessories, computers, electrical appliances, flowers, gifts and home-ware, jewellery, music, magazines, second-hand goods, sports goods, toys and more. You can also visit a hair and beauty salon, go to a department store, drop into a chemist and use a variety of other services.

Please consider using the bus or encouraging those around you to use it. If enough people use the bus we can keep this valuable service in place.

Should you require further information in relation to this bus service, please phone Council on 5366 7100 and talk to Simon Evans at the Ballan Office or alternatively Brenton Hancock at the Bacchus Marsh Office.

Yours sincerely

**Simon Evans**  
Transport Connections Coordinator

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**FOR SALE:** '89 Mitsubishi Pajero Sunwagon 4x4. Dual batteries, sunroof, roofrack, tow bar, 7 seater, electric windows, cruise control & more. Would take little to

get a RWC. Selling with 12 months  
**REG. \$290000.** Cheap Four Wheel Drive & drives well  
**CONTACT GREG 54 241734** (Trentham)

**LOST:** AT Blackwood Winter Ball - silver 'Panasonic' digital camera in a black 'Minolta' case.

**IF ANYBODY** has come across please hand it in to Donna or Denis at the general store. Velette 5424 1460.

**TRENTHAM**

**LIONS CLUB NEWS**

**Monthly Old Time Dance**  
7.30pm 2nd Friday monthly @ Trentham Mechanics Hall. \$8 pp, incl supper & a door prize draw. Elizabeth 5424 1254.

**Wood Raffle.**  
\$1 Tickets every Saturday am outside the Newsagency. Prize: 1 mt Red Gum Wood delivered.

**Spring Festival**  
Sun Oct 4 @ Feldspar. Stalls, food, wine & beer tastings, children's activities, the Chinese Lion Dancers & music. John 5424 1460.

**Farmer's Market**  
Launching Sat 15 Aug, at Trentham Town Square. Featuring wine, eggs, cheese, fruit & vegetables, dips & preserves, sweet treats, honey, oils, sourdough etc. Tracey 5424 1185 / 0447 836 171.

**Cool Country Fun run.**  
Sun Nov 15: A 10km and 5km run through the tree lined country lanes around Trentham. Colin: 5424 1581.

**Carols in the Park.**  
Fri Dec 4: John 5424 1460.

**Senior Citizens Dinner.**  
Fri Dec 11: FREE. All elderly citizens welcome to Xmas lunch at Trentham Golf Club. Sponsored by Trentham Lions Club.

**Birthday Cakes.**  
A project the Trentham Lions Club has been operating for many years is the presentation of Birthday Cakes to residents 80 years and over. We need YOU the residents to help in this, so if you know of someone 80 or over, who is not receiving one of the Lions Birthday Cakes we would be pleased to hear about them. Velette 5424 1460.

LoveLight Co-Creative HealthCare  
Holistic Medicine • 1 Oneness • Healing

**CHAKRA BALANCE**  
a healing journey through the chakras

Balance each chakra as you explore its energy, release limitations, and discover the strengths & truths you hold there

Beginning with the base chakra and working up to the higher chakras... each session looks at the chakra qualities and their influence in your life... with healing activities to balance it, and a guided healing meditation

Will be held at Blackwood Cottage, Friday evenings over 9 weeks, begins Sept 25th

www.aquarianblessings.com  
kathie@aquarianblessings.com

**93698135 or 53686560**

**bodywise**  
UNDERWEAR  
comfort for women ... everyday

Bodywise bras for real women of all ages and stages ... everyday, maternity and sports bras.

**Wire-free for comfort**  
Register online or phone us for a **free brochure & bonus voucher.**

**Stocking Bodywise & Anita brands**  
Sizes 10-28 and cup sizes A-I, depending on style and brand  
7-day exchange policy.

Shop 17, 130 High St, Woodend Vic 3442  
www.bodywise.com.au  
**1300 66 17 66**



## WHO'S DUMPING RUBBISH IN MY BACKYARD???

### Wombat State Forest Springtime Clean-Up Day

I was walking through the Wombat State Forest a while back, and came across a load of household rubbish, dumped by some selfish, inconsiderate b@\$\*@#d!!! And this morning I came across another one!

Originally, my reaction was astonishment. I was under the naïve impression that people who live in such a beautiful environment actually care about keeping it beautiful. Then came the disappointment of realising that this is not always so. And, after this morning's discovery, it was just anger!

I moved all the way up here from Melbourne because I'm in love with this forest. I consider the whole area to be my backyard. The forest is my sanctuary. I walk in it. I breathe it in. I adore its beauty, wildness, and purity. I'm nourished by its vibrant energy. I feel blessed when I see a native animal cross my path, hear the birds chatter, or discover a tiny wild orchid. I'm sure I'm not the only person up here who feels this way.

I honestly can't grasp how anyone would dare to consider using the forest as a rubbish dump! What level of self-absorption must it take to s\*\*t on such a sacred place? And, by extension, on the people and animals who rely on it for their physical and spiritual nourishment?

If you are someone who has done this horrible thing – then SHAME, SHAME, SHAME on you! How would you feel if you came home one day to find that a trailer load of c\*\*p had been dumped in your yard? Do unto others...

Even if you're a minor litter-bug, who comfortably drops a cigarette butt or chip packet, shame on you too! It all mounts up, and the result is ugliness. Let's keep our natural environments completely free of unnatural items.

It's not just our personal enjoyment that is undermined by this kind of behaviour, either. A lot of tourists drive long distances to visit this beautiful native environment, and there are businesses here who rely on that tourist trade. People are not going to spend good money, time and energy to visit a rubbish dump.

There is also the very real fact that only a small percentage of the earth is still forested. The world is in drought because forests are being destroyed at an alarming rate. Trees are a vital part of the freshwater cycle. Without trees there is no rain. Without rain there is no water in rivers and catchments. Without water there is no life.

It's probably a bit difficult to appreciate the urgency of this, with all the rain we've been having up here, but that is exactly my point. There is no rain in Melbourne, or other areas where the trees are sparse. The rain is here because the forest is here.

The forest is precious, crucial for our survival, and an ecological haven for wild flora & fauna. We have to appreciate that, and keep it healthy,

### That dirty word starting with 'G'

I recently heard a moving interview with Caroline Jones, host of Australian Story on ABC1. In the interview she tenderly spoke of the decline and death of her elderly father and the ensuing grief that engulfed her.

Whilst issues of depression are now making it into the headlines, our contemporary culture still shies away from talk of death and the dirty word 'grief'. Indeed, in the same way that issues of sexuality used to be 'taboo', I think death and grief have become the new 'taboo' topics.

As so many Victorians continue to struggle to make sense of life after the shocking devastation of the bushfires in February, I think this process of grieving has been made all the more difficult because the reality of suffering is so often pushed to the edges in our society.

Grief is different from depression, as Caroline wisely pointed out in her interview. Grief is not something that a prescription can fix, or a 10 point plan can alleviate. There are certainly things that can help the grieving process. Talking about it can help, exercise can be beneficial, weeping is good, journaling can be very important and having a break from the grief by doing distracting enjoyable activities with friends can also be invaluable.

However, ultimately grief yearns to be lived through.

After having recently lived through the terrifying, very early arrival of our twins, and all that this has meant, I have been reacquainted with grief. Grieving takes time and energy. Grief is exhausting.

When we experience difficult times of suffering and loss we can choose how we will react. We can bury our heads in the sand and

pretend that things are ok perhaps by becoming super busy. We can fall for the lie that we should 'get over it', keeping our feelings firmly locked down, feeling guilty that we are not 'better'. Or, like Caroline Jones, we can enter the grief and let it slowly and painfully uncoil and flow out of us.

In the interview Caroline went on to say "I don't think you ever get over grief, you are changed by it forever." I agree with this, and how we will be changed will be deeply influenced by how we choose to respond to the grief in the first place.

When we choose to go the hard way; when we face the inevitable questions, fears, uncertainties and sadness that grief throw up, we have a rare opportunity to reflect deeply on what is at the core of things. When we let ourselves really be confronted with death and suffering we have the possibility of seeing what really is important in life.

By facing the hard reality of suffering and dying, our living can be deeply enriched. God is in this. Not the 'fix it Bob the Builder God' but God who enters right into our living and suffering and dying in Jesus and who will not abandon us in our dark valleys. If we have the courage to sit with our darkest grief and allow the Holy One to sit with us in this hard place, if we can find friends who will just be in this place with us, here from this place profound insight, gentle strength and sacred wisdom can rise.

clean, alive. We can't take it for granted, and we can't allow others to do so either.

Apart from being morally reprehensible, rubbish dumping on any scale is illegal. Don't do it. Don't let others get away with doing it.

Victoria's Environment Protection Act 1970, authorises the EPA (Environment Protection Authority), local government, and police to take action against offenders. This action usually results in a fine, although the matter can end up in court. Penalties can be as high as \$4000 for aggravated littering.

Please report the dumping of rubbish, if you see it in action, or know of someone doing it. Even just rubbish thrown from a car window should be reported. These people may not care about our need to enjoy the forest in its natural state, but they will care when they have to fork out money to pay a fine.

You can report littering at the EPA website [www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au) or call the Litter Info Line 1800 352555. Give as much info as you can (car rego, make, colour, location and type of rubbish). The offender will be fined.

And, of course, if you come across the odd drink bottle or chip packet while walking in the forest, just pick it up and take it out of the forest with you. Put it in a bin somewhere. I usually have a plastic bag with me when I walk and, unfortunately, it rarely comes back to the car empty.

I'd like to organise a FOREST CLEAN-UP DAY sometime in spring, when the weather is more friendly, and I'm asking for willing people to volunteer their help in some way.

The purpose is to get this dumped rubbish out of the forest and take it to the tip.

You can help in different ways, depending on what suits you. You may like to lend a trailer for the day, or donate the tip-fee for a trailer-load of rubbish, or come on the day and help collect rubbish into the trailers, or offer your four-wheel drive (and be a driver) for those hard-to-get-to locations, or you may want to help with co-ordination and communication. Also, if you've discovered a dumped-rubbish spot in the forest, please let me know where it is.

This is still only the seed of an idea, born from this morning's outrage, and as yet has no definite design. I'd like to organise some kind of meeting to explore suggestions and ideas as to how we can make this happen.

Please be involved. A few phone calls here and there, or one day in spring, isn't too much to ask. If a lot of people help out, it will be minimal effort for the individual.

Contact Kathie (53686560 or [kathie@aquarianblessings.com](mailto:kathie@aquarianblessings.com)) if you'd like to help, and I'll keep you informed of plans and progress. Group discussion meeting times will also be posted on the notice board outside the Blackwood General Store.

~ Rev. Sally Douglas Highlands Cluster Uniting Church

Please let our advertisers know you saw them in the Blackwood News



**Your local state MP, Mr Don Nardella MLA**

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.

**FROM THE DESK OF DON NARDELLA MLA**

**PALLIATIVE CARE GETS EXTRA NURSE PRACTITIONERS**

Moorabool residents with a terminal illness will benefit from a \$990,000 Government boost to palliative care services by training 22 palliative care 'super nurses', Mr Don Nardella MLA member for Melton announced today.

The statewide funding boost would support palliative care nurse practitioners to operate from the [hosting agency] health service, and provide extra capacity to help people with complex care needs enhancing care for people in the final stages of their illness.

Nurse practitioners take on an extended clinical role in healthcare, with the authority to perform a range of tasks that will improve access to a range of care options.

"This will assist the people and families who rely on our palliative care services and agencies. Our ever-changing health system presents opportunities for nurses to play a pivotal role in the future of health care."

Ballarat Health Service will lead the work of the nurse practitioner program in our region.

**BIGGER REBATE FOR MORE RAINWATER TANKS**

Mr Don Nardella MLA has welcomed the Brumby Government's extension of the \$1000 rainwater tank rebate to include smaller rainwater tanks.

Mr Nardella said: From July 1, households that install a 4000 litre or greater rainwater tank that is plumbed into the toilet and laundry will receive a rebate - to date this has only applied to tanks 5000 litres and above.

The Water Smart Gardens and Homes Rebate Scheme provides rebates to households across Victoria that install water saving devices.

The rebates available for rainwater tanks are:

- \$1000 rebate for tanks 4000 litres or greater which are plumbed to the toilet and laundry;
- \$900 rebate for tanks 4000 litres or greater which are plumbed to the toilet or laundry;
- \$500 rebate for tanks between 2000-4000 litres which are plumbed to either the toilet or laundry; and
- \$150 rebate for tanks 600 litres or greater - for outdoor and garden use only.

The Water Smart Gardens and Homes Rebate scheme will run until the end of June 2011. For info visit [www.ourwater.vic.gov.au](http://www.ourwater.vic.gov.au)

**ODE TO AN OAK ~ Lauren Williams**

The small town of  
 Blackwood is named for its many  
 blackwood trees, but on the T-shirted chests  
 of locals, the symbol of the town, guardian of its hotel heart,  
 is an oak. Over a hundred blind years growing bigger than the pub,  
 sentinel to a century's arrivals & staggerings away; elephantine limbs  
 of hidden ring and grain; one tree city in a one horse town; a woody  
 Los Angeles of freeways branching a multitude of journeys into leaves  
 frilled with curves; enormous green room for a theatre of birds. *Whosoever  
 cutteth down ye olde oak...* is anciently cursed (the Druids were grovers from  
 way back - 'neath such a canopy any miss'll toe a wilder line). In Blackwood,  
 behind a casual country fence - a planetary thoughtform; a big-bellied,  
 green-haired fountain of time, leaking earthy secrets to air; grand master  
 of the art of turning stillness into greatness; many-voiced tree spirit  
 singing the sacred chord, the slow roar of lift-off  
 to the sun.  
 To Nature  
 's nature true.

Mighty oak, would that we were more like you.



**TRENTHAM FARMERS MARKET**

*Stuff your pantry!*

9am to 1pm

3rd Saturday of every month

starting 15 August 2009

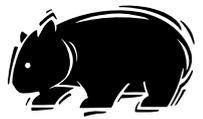
in Trentham's Town Square

eggs cheese wine  
 honey dips & preserves oil  
 sweet treats fruit & veg  
 sourdough

Central Victorian producers welcome - conditions apply

Call Tracey for application form:

5424 1185 or 0447 836 171



# RADIO SPRINGS HOTEL

03 5348-5562 LYONVILLE

Dinner ~ Thur, Fri, Sat, Sun  
Lunch ~ Fri, Sat, Sun  
Lunch & Dinner ~ Public Holiday Mondays

ADVERTISEMENT

**Catherine King**  
Representing Blackwood residents

**Catherine King MP** FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BALLARAT

Catherine.King\_MP@aph.gov.au  
1300 131 743 (toll free) or  
5338 8123

Ballarat Office  
5 Lydiard Street North  
Ballarat VIC 3350

Bacchus Marsh Office  
156 Main Street  
Bacchus Marsh VIC 3350

[www.catherineking.com.au](http://www.catherineking.com.au)

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

## FROM THE DESK OF CATHERINE KING MP

### RAIL LINK WILL IMPROVE BALLARAT RAIL TRAVEL

Ballarat rail services to Melbourne will undergo significant improvement under the proposed \$4.3 billion Regional Rail Link.

It will allow Ballarat trains to run express to Melbourne, without being caught behind suburban trains.

A key benefit for Ballarat is that it will separate regional & metropolitan train services," Ms King said. "(It) will link Ballarat & the region with Melbourne's west."

Get info including maps, reports, & details of public info open days from [www.vic.gov.au/planningmelbourne](http://www.vic.gov.au/planningmelbourne) or by calling 1800 090 789.

### 2010 AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Whom do you value most in our community? Who do you think has contributed substantially to making Australia a better place? Catherine King has called on local residents to nominate candidates for the Australian of the Year Awards 2010. "This is the 50th anniversary & everyone can help find the next recipients in the great history of these awards," Ms King said.

"The National Australia Day Council relies on public nominations to find the Australian of the Year, Senior Australian of the Year, Young Australian of the Year & Australia's Local Hero.

"If you know someone who has contributed in extraordinary ways or whose achievements deserve acknowledgement, I encourage residents in the region to nominate them for this great honour.

Nominating is simple. It can be done online or you can pick up a nomination form from any Commonwealth Bank branch. Call 1300 655 193 for more info.

## blackwoofs

**MEET MISS Molly Moore.** She's a full -pedigree Rottweiler Von Deutchland & the fifth Rottie incarnation of the Fred & Brian Moore family. And she's a spoilt sook. My favourite kind of Rottweiler!

**OUR PRINCESS** has 3 rather grand beds, but chooses instead the couch – as befits a grown-up 4 year old. Or perhaps she's discovered the pea beneath the doggie mattress.

**ON RETIRING** for the evening, Molly will carefully choose one of her soft-toy companions & sniff her minke blanket to make sure Mum hasn't washed out any of the precious odours.

**COME MORNING,** she's the Sporty Lass; often seen playing ball games & waiting patiently at the rose garden for the staff to retrieve any out-of-bounds balls amongst the prickles.

**TV BALL** games, however, hold no interest for Molly. Mum & Dad yell incessantly at some other Doggies in the box to GO! and, for hours on end, pay her scant attention. Best for her to choose a suitable toy & retire, perchance, to dream of her dashing & very appropriate fiancé from the Royal Guard (dogs) the Blue-Heeler, "Captain".



## Trentham Neighbourhood Centre

- Strength Training
- Belly Dancing
- Creative Kids
- Food Safety I & II
- Spanish & Vietnamese
- Community Choir
- Film Society
- Community Market
- Craft Group
- Peace Meditation
- Internet Access
- Venue Hire
- Data Projector
- Photocopy
- Laminate



Monday—Friday 9:30-3:00

Tel. 5424 1354

### FREE TAX HELP THROUGH LOCAL MP'S OFFICE

Do you earn less than \$40,000? You could be eligible for free help with your tax return.

Catherine King has said the Australian Tax Office would again assist residents throughout the electorate with their tax returns.

Ms King said. "Qualified & accredited volunteers will be available to assist people at no cost with the completion of their tax returns."

Ms King said the service would operate out of her Ballarat & Bacchus Marsh electorate offices. Appointments are required & can be made by telephoning 1300 131 743.

### UNIT PRICING HELPS FAMILIES SAVE MONEY

Member for Ballarat Catherine King said households could save almost a \$100 a year under the new pricing rules for supermarkets.

"The new rules will help families compare prices & save on their groceries," Ms King said. "The rules create a more level playing field for shoppers & will help families to budget & shop more effectively."

Unit pricing displays the price of a product by a common unit of measure. ie shoppers will be able to compare different prices of bread by checking the price per 100 grams. "The weekly shop should be simple as possible," Ms King said. "Unit pricing will help families compare brands & packet sizes, & reduce confusion."

Large & online supermarkets will be required to display unit prices for products while smaller supermarkets can participate voluntarily. The Code will become mandatory on 1 Dec '09.

Blackwood News thanks all advertisers for their support.



• look out for the new deck around Easter •

### GIRLS NIGHT

get to know other Blackwood-esses  
3rd Monday each month \$12 meals

### ★ SPECIALS ★

WED PM Parma & Pot  
OR Seafood Special & Pot \$12.00  
THUR PM choice of 3 meals \$12.50

### MEALS

Wed to Mon ~12-2pm & 6-8pm  
Sun lunch ~ 12-2.30pm  
Tues ~ bar open 4-8pm (no meals)  
TAKE AWAY now available (not Sat night)  
CHECK OUT the great specials board  
BOOKINGS essential on weekends

**phone 5368 6501**

**MOTEL ROOMS AVAILABLE**

### WOODSIDERETREAT



**woodsideretreat.com.au**  
**tel: (03) 5368 6753**  
**mobile: 0410 431 410**



**enjoy Blackwood's  
beautiful views on our  
warm & cosy deck  
by the pot belly**

• now with full licence •

**THE BLACKWOOD MERCHANT**  
**phone 5368 6525**

## THE GREENDALE HOTEL AND STORE

*A friendly smile, a voice well versed, come chat a while, and quench your thirst*

### TUES Social Club Night

~ SLAB DRAW \$10 per year  
could win you a slab a week

**WED \$12 dinner** ~ call 5368 1355 to book

**FRI Happy Hour 5-7pm** ~ lucky chance  
wheel spins every 20 mins during happy hour

**ph 5368 1355**

**HOTEL OPEN 7 days 12pm daily**

**GENERAL STORE OPEN**

**Mon-Sat 8am-8pm ~ Sun 9am-8pm**



Kattermingga  
107 Beaches Lane,  
Newbury Vic  
tel: 03 5424 1415  
e: kattermingga@bigpond.com  
w: www.kattermingga.com.au

**Self-catering  
for groups  
available**

A magical country venue with fresh mountain air and superb views in the Macedon/Spa region just over an hour from Melbourne.

Accommodation for 30 people, day conference 50. Excellent food & wine. Stunning NEW conference room with natural light and beautiful outlooks.





# Woodbine Cottage

Luxury accommodation in a beautiful mountain village just one hour from Melbourne

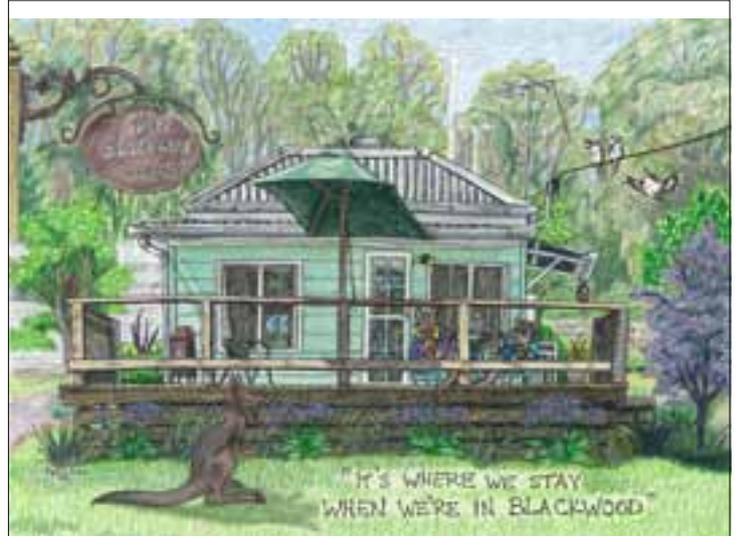
air conditioning, wood fire, telephone & fax, spa bath, stereo, tv & video, double carport, washing & drying machines, towelling robes, peace, privacy & absolute comfort

11 Simmons Reef Road, Blackwood 3458 ph (03) 5368 6770  
for photos & more details visit ... [www.woodbinecottage.com.au](http://www.woodbinecottage.com.au)



why isn't your business here?  
ph **5368 6444**  
or download a rates sheet from [www.centralvic.com.au](http://www.centralvic.com.au)

**HOUSE TO RENT 'WANNAWONG'**  
SC 3br • sleeps 9  
• modern facilities  
• close to township  
• reasonable rates  
• weekly or weekend call Margot  
**03 9455 1421**  
or **0439 878 062**



• two person spa • woodfire  
• chef's kitchen  
**[www.suiteblackwood.com](http://www.suiteblackwood.com)**  
**03 5368 6407**

## View Cottage

fully self contained holiday rental  
3 bedroom house with views

- sleeps 6 • close to town • wood heater
  - BBQ • decking • washing machine & dryer
- ring Judith on **03 9315 0576**  
or **0408 569 367**

## Country Getaways

## Small Group Accommodation

## Corporate Retreats



This beautifully appointed historic private house is ideally located in the heart of Blackwood.

Offering luxury accommodation for small groups sleeping up to 12 people in six ensuite rooms, or the quaint Rose Cottage for a romantic couples escape.

Spectacular views, a heritage garden and lots to do – or not.

[info@letstalkretreats.com.au](mailto:info@letstalkretreats.com.au)  
[www.letstalkretreats.com.au](http://www.letstalkretreats.com.au)  
**03 9646 4951**





### Bryan Rainford Electrical Contractors all domestic & commercial electrical work

new homes safety switches  
extensions smoke detectors  
renovations hot water services  
underground wiring small & large jobs

**phone: 5368 6858 or 0419 310 469**

Registered Electrical Contractor #7310



### Lyn Orr

**property sales - buyers advocate:  
sell your own  
phone: 03 5348 5551  
mobile: 0427 144 890**

Joe McFall Real Estate  
Office: 136a Inglis St, Ballan 3342 ph: 03 5368 1500

### Keemin Electrical INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL

240 Main St  
Bacchus Marsh 3340  
Ph. 5368 2001  
Fax. 5367 0776

119 Inglis St  
Ballan 3342  
Ph. 0418 518 226  
jcutler@keemin.com.au

### Greenhills CARPENTRY

- Renovations • Decks / Pergolas • All types of carpentry and joinery
- Horse round yards • Fully qualified and insured
- 15 years experience • Free quotes

**Ph 0411 818 232**

email: greenhills07@westnet.com.au



**Bill Evans**

### Electrical

DOMESTIC - COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL

Mobile: **0417 795 856**

Phone: (03) 5367 8166

Email: evanselec@optusnet.com.au

ABN: 44 377 671 357 Rec: 15433

### RELIABLE CARPENTRY REGISTERED BUILDING PRACTITIONER AND CONSULTANT

ABN: 59 283 614 101 DB-U 28049

**NO JOB TOO SMALL**

**SHAUN: 0404 084 147**

sabrownbuild@gmail.com

### TV TUNING

*and antenna installations...*

**Is Your TV Reception As Good As It Can Be?**

Call for a **FREE** on-site reception test, no strings attached.

Experienced, local, fully qualified electronics technician.

Rob: 5368 6485 or 0431 704 203

ABN: 55 335 542 987

### CASSIDY HOME MAINTENANCE

- All forms of gardening
- Property Maintenance
- B&B cleaning / preparation
- Handyman / building
- Fire clearing / rubbish removal
- Local • Reliable • Receipts provided.
- Hourly rate or seasonal fee

**0425 794 528**

**Pick Up your FREE copy  
every Wednesday  
from the Blackwood Store**

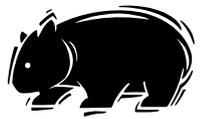
Send news, photos and info to –  
news@ballannews.com or 5368 1966

**Advertisements/Trade/Classifieds - 5368 1966**

### The Moorabool News

Inc. Ballan News & Bacchus Marsh News

**LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED**



**TRENTHAM PETROL & STUFF**  
**1 Market St ph 5424 1611**

Mon-Sat 8am-6pm Sun 9am-6pm  
 after Easter please ring to check new hours

**petrol, oils, firewood permits, hay bales, ice milk, soft drinks, confectionery, local honey old wheels, take-away pies, coffee etc. sunglasses, secondhand books, old wares**

**Elander**  
**Carpet Cleaning Service**

*Maintain Your Carpets Professionally.*



call Graham or Jenny  
 Home office: 5367 2799  
 Mobile: 0425 852 611  
 Bacchus Marsh

**carpets • upholstery • leather • drapes**

**BALLAN**  
**HARDWARE**

**True Value**  
 HARDWARE

*"For all your building supplies"*

119 Inglis St Ballan  
 ph: (03) 53681230  
 fax: (03) 5368 1937



**ORIGIN**  
**ENERGY**

**45kg bottle gas for prompt delivery at very competitive prices**

**call GARY on**

**0409 135 070**

**BRICKLAYER**

**Brian "BUSHIE" Small**

*no job to big or small*  
**chimney specialist**  
**including bricklaying & stonework**



**Blackwood & district ph: 5368 6507**

**TREELOPPING**

**Gerard Styles**

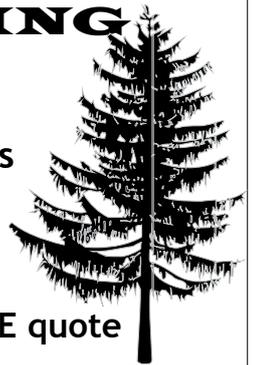
~ experienced climber  
 ~ limited access conditions

ph: 03 5368 6678

mob: 0428 518 999

PO Box 218, Blackwood 3458

superb rates ~ ask for a **FREE** quote



Think Globally Employ Locally

**SOL PLUMBING**

Fully licensed and insured.  
 Residential and commercial  
 Competitive rates. Free quotes.  
 Call Simon on

**0417 335 831**

LIC NO 38657

**BRIAN MOORE** LIC. No 22288

**for all your plumbing requirements**

- all general plumbing
- gas installation
- roof repairs
- hot water installation

46 Martin St, Blackwood 3458

mob: **0407 324 366** ph: **5368 6313**

**BACCHUS MARSH GLASS**  
 COMMERCIAL GLAZING P/L

**ALL GLASS REPLACEMENTS**  
 Insurance recommended repairer

**5368 1599**

**HOTLINE 0418 330 275**

Lot 1 Maddison Lane, Greendale  
[www.commercialglazing.com.au](http://www.commercialglazing.com.au)

**Painter**

RAY FOWLER

Phone/Fax: 5474 3109





# FitzGerald

## PROPERTY

Ph: 5424 1866



### BLACKWOOD

#### 129 Golden Point Rd

Peace and privacy on the banks of the Lerderderg River. Beautifully maintained residence on just under an acre. A great opportunity to get into the Blackwood market and into a great family home that needs no improvements. Comprising a light filled, north facing living/dining and kitchen area, two bedrooms on ground level and a further bedroom and sitting room in the loft area. The Baltic pine kitchen includes a dishwasher and the main living area boasts Castlemaine slate flooring, an air conditioner, a super efficient slow combustion heater and a gas wall furnace. The verandahs on two sides offer protected outdoor entertaining areas, built in BBQ and views out over the gardens and neighbouring bushland. The surrounding gardens have been extensively landscaped with bluestone pitchers and meticulously maintained. The location next to the river gorge provides access to walking tracks and ability to appreciate the native fauna. Plenty of external shedding for garden equipment and firewood storage. The size of the land lends itself to possible future subdivision subject to Council approval.

**\$368,000**

### BLACKWOOD

#### 13 Thompsons Rd

Renovated 16 square three bedroom home in excellent condition. 1760 square meters block. All modern conveniences and large rear deck with bushland views.

**\$270,000**



### BLACKWOOD

#### 1 Camp St

Magnificent building site. High over Blackwood. Approximately one and three quarter acres in spectacular elevated position overlooking the Lerderderg River valley. Seven Crown Allotments over two titles. Massive building pad prepared. Water and Power available.

**\$200,000**

[www.fitzgeraldproperty.com.au](http://www.fitzgeraldproperty.com.au)

54241866

# 45 High St Trentham