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Dec '09 / Jan '10  
vol 2 ~ issue 4:6

priceless



Callum Webb had a great time playing up to the camera at the annual "All Things Goat Festival" at Bullarto Primary School in November. Callum is one of 10 Blackwoodian students who attend this friendly little school.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**  
**Dec 13 Carols by Candlelight @ Lerdies**  
**Dec 19 Uniting Church BBQ & Carols p11**  
**Dec 31 Hardrive @ New Year street party p6**  
**see the NEW gig & event column p16**

*Blackwood News wishes everyone in our special little community a wonderful Christmas & 2010 is a good year for you.*

*Many thanks go to our contributors, advertisers & of course our readers — you are the Blackwood News.*





# BLACKWOOD SOCIAL ALBUM ...





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## A DREAM COMES TRUE

Only 8 Months after being fully qualified & not long after her 21st birthday, Blackwoodian Kathryn Brown has brought a hair dressing business in Bacchus Marsh – “HAIR TEASING”!

Hair Teasing offers men's and ladies' hairdressing, bridal & debutante hair, waxing & make-up. Manicures & acrylic nails are to be introduced early 2010. Kathryn is joined by her sister, Nicole, who is a beauty therapist & by hairdressers Karen & Tania.



The salon opens Mondays 9am–5pm, Wednesday 9am–5pm, Thursday 9am–late, Fridays 9am–5pm & Saturday 8am–12pm. Hair Teasing will be closed from Dec 25 '09 & will re-open Jan 13 '10.

Kathryn grew up in Blackwood & attended Blackwood Kinda, Myrning Primary School & Daylesford Secondary College. She always wanted to be a hairdresser – even before she started school. She dreamed of owning her own hairdressing business by the time she turned 25. Circumstances made this happen a lot soon than she expected. She turned 21 in January '09.

Kathryn has also been involved with CERT. She completed training at the age of 16 & was an active member for 3 years.

*Tabetha Henry*  
**MAKEUP ARTIST & HAIR STYLIST**

makeupbytabetha@hotmail.com  
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## A WORD IN BRUCE ESPLIN'S EAR

In my role as editor of Blackwood News, I attended the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria 2009 conference (cnav.org.au). Held in Toolangi, near Kinglake, the focus of the conference was 'Strengthening Communities in Times of Crisis'.

The conference was opened by Jacinta Allan MP, Minister for Regional & Rural Development, who spoke about the role her department has played in the aftermath of Black Saturday fires & the importance of locally delivered information delivered by credible locals.

Karen Kissane, senior writer for the Age, was the keynote speaker. She spoke about her experiences while covering Kinglake in the days immediately after the fires. She is now covering the Royal Commission.



*Editor of the Blackwood News voices her concerns to Bruce Esplin regarding communication to small towns during a crisis at the CNAV conference.*

*Photo by Bryan Power*

The Emergency Services Commissioner, Bruce Esplin, reinforced the value of community newspapers in aiding the dissemination of emergency information. One of his main points concerned the trust that communities have in information provided by their own members. He spoke of the Emergency Services plans to use community newsletters/papers as one of their means of communication through an email system.

As Blackwood News is a bi-monthly publication, one of the things that particularly concerned me during the February fires in Daylesford was the difficulty in getting out information between issues. Up until now, Blackwood News has not had the means to provide current, accurate & validated information immediately.

Come in TWITTER. Any releases relevant to Blackwood which we receive from Emergency Services will be put straight from releases on our twitter TWITTER site <http://twitter.com/blackwoodvic> which I have set up specifically for this purpose. We will also 'tweet' upcoming happenings in & around Blackwood.

For those who are not familiar with TWITTER it is really very easy to use. Simply click on the link from [blackwoodnews.com.au](http://blackwoodnews.com.au) or type <http://twitter.com/blackwoodvic> into your browser address bar. Most recent messages (no more than 140 characters in length) are listed first..

In order to 'follow' Blackwood News 'tweets' you will need to sign-up for your own twitter page – a quick & easy process & little private information is required. Another idea is to link to RSS "Really Simple Syndication" feeds. RSS feeds bring automatically updated information straight to your desktop. To understand more about RSS see a great video at [http://www.commoncraft.com/rss\\_plain\\_english](http://www.commoncraft.com/rss_plain_english) which explains it. Twitter can also be accessed from most mobile handsets.

So have a look, add yourself as a follower & we'll do our best to circulate reliable information as it comes to us.

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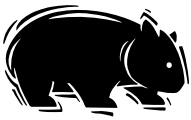
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### editors thoughts ...

What an action-packed couple of months we've had in Blackwood! The Antique Roadshow came to town, the pub opened its deck, mad Melbourne Cup antics & the Annual Special School bike ride. Further afield there was the Trentham Spring Festival & the Cosmopolitan opened its gates ... meanwhile the hills have rumbled with chainsaws & whipper snippers as we all prepare for another fire season. I don't know about you but I'm exhausted already & with Christmas hot on our heels!

Enjoy our second Xmas issue. I thank all our loyal advertisers – without you we would not get to print, to our voluntary contributors – without you there would be nothing to print & of course our readers – without you there would be no point!

Blackwood News is published on a not-for-profit basis. Each issue I gain a few more grey hairs as realise I am missing so many bits & pieces – then the rushed phone calls & emails out to remind people to 'do their stuff'. Lost weekends, late nights & frayed tempers are an unfortunate part of what our household calls "Blackwood News Time"! Don't get me wrong – I love producing our village news but my task would be so much easier if everyone considering submitting an article or advertising would note the deadlines below.

My family is taking a well earned break in January so I'll not be able to do any follow-ups for the February/March issue - what is in my box at "Blackwood News Time" is what will be published.

Last month Blackwood News lost one of our biggest fans, Russell Deeble. Russell was also my harshest critic, teaching me valuable lessons about publishing. This one's for you Russell!

There are a number of events which are calling for a helping hand - Carols, the New Year Street Party & the Easter Carnival. Ooooh... could that be each Blackwoodians' New Year Resolution? To lend a willing hand?

~ *Jinny Coyle, editor*

## HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

by *Don Owen*

Month & Year	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall Average (mm) 1879-2007	Minimum Temperature deg C	Maximum Temperature deg C
Sept '09	113	104	-1	23.7
Oct '09	48.8	94.1	-0.3	30.6

Just when it was looking good with July, August and September having average rainfall we revert to the below average pattern with October well below & November so far very dry.

## The man in red suit

by *Rev. Sally Douglas*

Recently my car died with little warning on the stretch of road between Blackwood & Greendale. It was a beautiful morning &, whilst waiting for road-side assistance, I had space to enjoy the tiny wild flowers, the light in the trees & I had some time to read, pray & ponder. It was also great to be offered help by at least 5 different people who stopped to ask if I was ok.

This unexpected, gracious morning was topped off by good conversation in the tow truck home. (The car really had conked).

The tow truck driver & I talked about all kinds of things; life, travel, work & then he asked me a little more about my work. In particular, how I responded to people's age old question about 'why there is suffering in the world if there is a God...?'

I responded by sharing a recent dawning realisation: Most people's image of God is actually Santa. They have an image of God as some big, old guy in the sky, with a beard, who will reward you if you are good, & punish you if you are bad: 'So you better watch out..' as the song goes!

Therefore when terrible things happen, people often assume that they somehow have deserved it. Or alternatively people rightly reject such notions, but in the process reject the possibility of God at all. This understanding of God – as Santa – is far from the Divine I

experience. This is also light years from the God that Jesus reveals. Jesus says the great Parent God loves all & cares for all regardless of what they have done.

No offence meant against Santa, but as Christmas looms around the corner & the man in the big red suit starts to pop up all over the place, I wonder what your image of God is?

When you think of God – the God you believe in or the God you reject – what is this God like? Is there a hint of the red suit? Or is your image of God informed by other things; nature, other people, your own experiences of the Divine? Maybe your image of God is also influenced by Jesus – the one that Christians believe is 'God come among us'.

This is what the celebration of Christmas was actually all about in the first place: God coming to us in Jesus in extravagant, humble generosity. It is a little ironic that for so many people now, Christmas is about a guy in a red suit who rewards & withholds love depending on our behaviour!

Perhaps over this Christmas season our image of God is something worthy of little further reflection....

I am happy to say the car is now back on the road, thank you again to all those who offered help.

Blessings on each one of you as you journey towards Christmas; may it be a time of joy, generosity, refreshment & new insight

### Blackwood News info



Blackwood News invites submissions from 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.

Jan/Feb issue DEADLINES	Jan 13	Jan 15	Jan 20
Advertisers book space			
Regular Contributions			
Features & Items of Interest:			
Community Groups & Clubs			
Display Ad Artwork/Content			
News, Classifieds, Gig Guide			

#### Late submissions WILL NOT be accepted.

Submissions, display ads & articles can be emailed to **blackwood@centralvic.com.au**, put in the 'drop box' outside the Blackwood General Store or posted c/o Blackwood PO, 3458

Download our Advertising Rate Card & back issues (in colour) from [www.blackwoodnews.com.au](http://www.blackwoodnews.com.au) & while you're there sign-up to our eList (directly under the navigation bar).

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

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# Lonely Little Petunias



*by the Blackwood Antique Merchant*

Last month we spoke about the importance of provenance & the Spring Antique Road show was a fine example of our readers taking our suggestions & bringing their treasures to be assessed. The bulk of approximately 150 valuations conducted at the fair were for items that had been in families for decades & the “family story” was known but not the actual provenance.

Over summer there are many opportunities to tour around the district whilst keeping your eyes peeled for treasures, & while provenance is very important if you are a serious collector don't let that cause you to miss the “lonely little petunias in the onion

patch”. What I mean is the really desirable objects that somehow get mixed up with the op shop clutter & offer the potential for real pleasure when placed amongst your other beautiful things.

We have all heard stories about acquisitions made at garage sales for pennies which have turned out to be worth squillions, that does happen & meteors fall out of the sky too. For me the thrill of finding something of value, bringing it home, making it look good & adding it to my collection is what it's all about.

So, this summer, open yourself up to the possibility that somewhere out there is a treasure with your name on it, just waiting for you to find it. It's worthwhile starting close to home & working your way outwards.



Brenda Hunter waits patiently while Simon Lovett (Christopher Bragg Auctions) values her MarJong box. as the Antique Roadshow in November.



After a busy few days socialising Fred was settled into a comfy chair while she sold CFA raffle tickets at the roadshow.



Tom Pywell & Ian Stewart take a break from CFA training to look after the wine tastings at the Roadshow

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# Life Challenge:



by Genevieve Messenger

While I was visiting my sister overseas recently, she discovered a dirty great big ugly looking mole on my leg. It turns out it wasn't a mole. It was a melanoma. Now a melanoma isn't a vegetable from Mexico, it is the worst type of skin cancer you can have. Undetected it can kill you. A bit like a terrorist roaming the MCG.

They are nasty little buggers, nastier than a school yard bully throwing your head down the dunny.

The next step was to get the melanoma cut out. I wasn't really cut out for that. I mean I had to be awake while the surgeon sliced me open, like she was preparing rump for dinner. The mole wasn't on my rump, thank god; it was on my calf.

The next thing was to get it tested, & I'm not talking about sitting VCE exams. The results determine, the next treatment. I mean can someone please take me to Daylesford,? I want THAT kind of treatment!

Within a week I was under the knife, this time to cut out the surrounding skin. I mean I've never plucked or cut open chicken before, just never been game. And now I was being skinned alive! I felt like I was in very bad tv reality show. ("Mum do we have to watch medical emergency again?")

I tried to keep my mind off the surgery by cracking some really bad jokes like, saying to the doctor, "you're so funny you have me in stitches!" And "You know how many people want a piece of me? You got it!" And "I know you've got me under the local, but what about going upstairs & having a beer?"

Seriously though, if any of you have a mole that has changed shape or color & is bumpy on the top, like a cauliflower going off in the fridge, you must go the doctor now, who will refer you to a skin specialist. And we are not talking about what color spray tan to get here for your best friend's wedding.

My sister has saved my life, so miracles do happen. And to anyone who is unwell out there, & going through cancer or any other illness, I commend your bravery & faith. May a miracle happen for you.

And if any of you think you have that Mexican Vegetable sitting on any part of your body or any other strange sensations, please, please, don't wait another day to go to the doctor, it could save your life.

So by the time this is printed you may have seen a lone figure limping into the general store, & if you think it was for sympathy – you are damn right it is!

Look after your skin this summer & have a great Christmas.

# GROUNDS FOR CELEBRATION

by Cassie Haynes

The sun was shining down on Blackwood on a day abuzz with frenzied activity – the first wedding for the children of local residents – Paul & Joan Haynes! The honours on Fri Oct 30, 2009 belonged to second eldest daughter, Clare who was to marry Lance Clohesy.



Blackwood Reserve was chosen for its raw beauty, space & magical aura which made it the perfect setting for Clare's fairytale. The ethereal royal blue full length bridesmaid gowns offset the champagne medieval princess wedding gown to absolute perfection.

Vintage cars transported the bridal party with Clare arriving in Ballarat city to a horse & carriage which whisked her, Paul & Joan to St Peters Church. The black pin-striped groomsman & a champagne rose lapel for the groom perfectly complemented the bride & bridesmaids. A simple, yet beautiful Orthodox ceremony followed with the happy couple descending on the church steps to cheers and confetti!

Guests then made their way to Blackwood Reserve for a stunningly located cocktail reception. Around 120 guests feasted on fine food, drinks & a five-tiered wedding cupcake ensemble & were riotously entertained by six-piece band, The Chrome Donuts.



All in all a ripsnorter of a day & night!

## New Years Eve Street Party-Help needed

We have got enough signatures to apply for a permit to close the road, we are waiting on a quote for insurance, we have a band, and we have stage

Now all we need are willing hands to make it all happen. Come along to a meeting that will be held to organise things, the time, date & venue for the meeting will be on poster on notice board at the General Store from 30th November.

**CHILD-CARE PROVIDERS NEEDED:**  
**Cobaw Family Day Care** are looking to recruit new care providers for our scheme. Care Providers care for small groups of children (max 4 pre-school aged children and 3 school aged children including their own) in their **own homes** and earn from \$30,000 to \$100,000 per annum. They can **select the days and times they want to work** and are supported by the Family Day Care coordination unit. **Financial assistance** is available via a government start up payment of \$1500. The coordination unit administers payment of child care fees directly into carers bank accounts, provides toys and equipment, resources and ongoing training. Please call Sigi from Cobaw FDC on 5421 1686 for further information.

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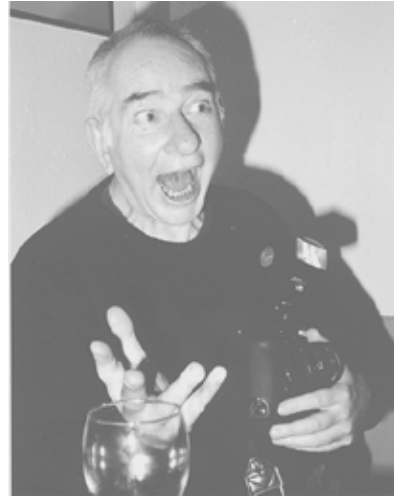
# Dear Pet Guru,

*I saw your ad in the last Blackwood News for a bird house to let. Well, my husband Amos & I are sober and well-behaved so I would like to apply for it.*

*~ Ermatrude Emu*



Dear Ermatrude,  
I regret to say that as the ceiling height is only 10cm, you may find the house a little cramped. So sorry. With best wishes to you and Amos  
Pet Guru



On behalf of myself & Russell, I sincerely want to thank the members of Blackwood CERT team who attended Russell for his last time. It was not the first, but I think he knew it was his last. He was very cheered to see Linda Byres arriving. "Ah here's me old mate Linda", I heard him say from his bedroom. To have the face of someone familiar at a time such as this is a great comfort both to the person & the family, we are very lucky to have members of the community who volunteer for this service & you are all greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately, Russell died that night. I am lucky to live in Blackwood & to have the friends I have. Thank you to all my friends & neighbours who have been & are such a wonderful support, may a thousand blessings follow you.

*~ Susie Deeble*

& on a personal note from Lois Lane "chewy on yer boot, Russell!" "Blackwood is a smaller place without you.

& ... Raconteur & ratbag, he delighted in providing more than was asked for. ~ thanks for it all, Brendan

## blackwoofs

**BUCKLEY, THAT** black & white Staffordshire veteran, met the new recruit, Billie & the scent of love hung heavy in the air. **THE TWO** have now grown "used to each other". & so beckons marriage. Blackwoofs have a particular knack for happiness & we wish them many dog-year's more.

**ALSO, THANKYOU** for being there (always) for your Dad, Russell, in his last months. Doggie love, indeedie!



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# Have a Great Day: Follow your Urges

by Kathie Strmota

We all have tasks we must attend to & places we have to be, whether we're in the mood for them or not.

Our body says 'lets lie down' but our head says 'no, you have to be in the city at ten'. Our heart says, 'lets drive to the beach' but our boss says 'come to work or you'll get the sack'. And so it goes on, day in & day out...

No matter how small the change, it pays to make some space in your life, a small portion of every day, or a full day each week when you can allow yourself to 'go with your flow'. Give yourself the space, on a regular basis, to follow your urges.

You can operate like a robot, day by day, with a mental list of all that needs doing & just doing one thing after another after another. Or you can have a bigger picture of your 'free time' slots over the whole week &, when you do have a portion of flexible time, ask yourself how you feel. Maybe you feel like doing the laundry, or maybe you're in the mood to check your emails, or maybe you really feel an urge to take a walk. The world won't fall apart if you leave the laundry for tomorrow, but you may eventually fall apart if you don't!

When you view your week from a bigger picture, rather than just a buttonhole for the day, it gives you more power to arrange things, so they better suit your inner urges. You can allow yourself to be more 'in your flow'.

When you do that, it has a beautiful impact on the way you feel, on your health, & on the balance & peacefulness of your overall life structure.

Of course, that positive effect also flows on to benefit the other

people in your life. You may think you're being selfish by taking that walk instead of washing your kids' school uniforms. However, your kids will benefit more from having you 're-charged', & able to give them your loving attention, than they will by not having a tomato sauce stain on their school jumper.



If the weekend is your only possible 'flow time', do the same thing. Have an overview of what you'd like to get done & try to do things when they feel right. Obviously, some things must be done at specific times but, for everything that is flexible, let yourself feel what you're in the mood for at different intervals through the day.

Also, allow some space for being in the mood for things which aren't on your list, like sitting in the garden & reading for an hour, or taking the kids out for a bit of fresh air & exercise.

When you take care of a 'chore' at the time when you're in the mood for it, when the timing is right for it, your energy seems to get behind it so easily. It can be an efficient, even pleasurable activity, that you get done in no time, & everything seems to go right. When you let your head decide, ignoring the fact that your heart's not in it, the same activity really can become a chore. Your resistant energy will cause it to take twice as long &, if things can go wrong, they probably will.

As much as possible, go with your inner flow. Act when you want to act & rest when you don't. You can still be just as efficient, & usually more efficient, while having the added benefit of enjoying yourself!

## The Blackwood Gentlemen Adventurers Society

by Rodney Lunschalot BGB, Hon. Sec.

Well, gentle readers, it has been almost two months & our intrepid band of four younger members (average age 68) are still in deepest Africa on a trip which is starting to take on overtones of the quest for King Solomon's mines, Rider Haggard, the author of that ripping yarn, would certainly have been a member if he were alive & living in Blackwood today, but even he would have been hard pushed to come up with what we have received thus far from our band of four.

Our committee's dilemma is how we make what we have received acceptable for publication in a fine community newspaper such as this.

We will address this issue & publish a suitably tidied up version in our next newsletter even tidied up it will be quite a salacious piece.



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## FIDDLERS RETURN!

The Fiddlers Convention is coming back to Blackwood!! On February 19, 20 & 21, '10 the Blackwood Chamber of Commerce have encouraged & supported Hardrive & Ken McMaster to return to Blackwood for an event that will hopefully become a annual celebration of old-time music that will grow into something as long-lasting as the Harrierville & Yarra Junction music events

## OUR UNIQUE & WONDERFUL WILDLIFE

The heart of my passion! Here in Australia, we are very lucky to be gifted with some of the most unique, colourful & calm wildlife in the world. Many species of soft footed, soft to touch & soft natured animals in the world. Apart from Dingoes (not so common in the south anyhow), none of our wildlife kill chickens or attack the family pet, yet so many people living in such a beautiful environment consider some species to be a pest?! In fact, looking at it in terms of sustainability, we Humans are the pests!

Since our settlement on this large land over 220 years ago, with rapid evolvement of population & technology, we have made extinct 54 species of native wildlife. That's an average of one species every 4 years!! GONE.....FOREVER!! Our Koalas, among other species, are facing rapid declines in numbers for various reasons; road kill, pet dog attacks, land clearing for urbanisation & diseases brought on by living under such stressful conditions. Not only this, but our wildlife are trying to survive through what Mother Nature serves up, bushfires, floods, drought. This robs them of food, habitat, water, social structures & even more sadly for thousands – their lives.

We have an amazing array of wildlife through the Wombat State Forest; let's give them a break. We have built roads & homes through their territories, among their homes. From Dusk

to Dawn is when the most movement occurs, as most of our wildlife, bar a lot of bird species are nocturnal. Pretty smart when you consider our weather conditions. As an ex-driving instructor I ask you to remember the speed limit is just that; a limit! The speed limit being reduced from 100 to 80kmph along the Greendale-Trentham road was a good start, but it is still too fast from dusk til dawn. To all those who travel around 60kmph during these times are to be commended!

The first thing we (instructors) teach the young is to drive according to the environment & conditions at the time. An example is slowing down in urban areas where there are lots of children. Why is this any different when driving through the bush? We can't teach the wildlife "Look to the left...look to the right...look to the left again...Then when the road is clear of traffic..."

As a wildlife rescuer, I have seen first hand the massacre of man against machine & remind everyone that the law states that if you are involved in a collision you are required to stop. This includes a collision with an animal! It is only respectful that if you hit any living being you stop to see if it needs any medical attention or if needs to be put down to end it's pain & suffering.

So, with our furry friends in mind, I wish you all a festive & fire free period. Safe journeys if you are making one.



Once again, many thanks to everyone who bought tickets. The general store & Lerdies helped sell tickets as always with the support of Mike Allen & the Roadshow, the CFA fundraising was a great success. Thankyou so much to Cosy Nook Quilters for their kind donation. Well done again, Blackwood & congratulations to Ken Whiffen who won the quilt.

~ Fred

The 'Cosy Nook Quilters' began coming to Blackwood 3 years ago. Their interest in quilting brought them together & their enjoyment of the hospitality & the area endeared them.

It was due to their love of the area that the group decided to make a charity quilt. After discussions with the "Bush Haven" they decided that the CFA is such an integral part of the environment so they should be the recipients.

The quilt is named 'Promise of Renewal'. It is designed in all greens, which the group felt reflects regeneration after a fire. Their gift to our community reflects their respect for the firemen & volunteers who protect the environment.

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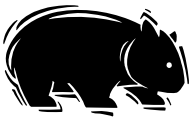
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# COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

## BLACKWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE INC.

Hello everyone from Blackwood Seniors. It is hard to believe that Xmas is upon us again – it has been said that the older you get the faster time goes – I quite agree with that saying now.

Our club has had a very successful year both socially & financially. We have a wonderful club, full of very generous members.

Our final get-together for 2009 will be on Dec 16 at our Xmas lunch at the Burembeet Hotel - we will resume activities again on Jan 13.

We all appreciated our split system cooling unit mid-November when temperatures reached 35°. I should imagine it will have plenty of use before the summer is out.

Genevieve, the new health services district nurse, attended to check out any members who needed medical advice. She had lunch with us & I am sure she will be a valuable asset to the club.

Ken, our president, called for a minutes silence to remember Mick Herd who passed away after a long battle with cancer. Our hearts go out to his wife Bev who is well liked & a very giving member. Not only has Bev lost a husband but also her daughter who passed away 3 months ago. How cruel can life be? Keep your chin up Bev – we all love you.

Lenore Hart-Smith is back with us again – she was not well for several weeks, we hope that she will continue to improve. Also Marg Stockdale had the misfortune to be in hospital after breaking her hip. Our well wishes are with you Marg.

I will close for now - with the club's best wishes to you for a very merry Christmas & a happy New Year.

We'll be back in 2010 & thankyou Jinny & Brendan, keep up the good work.

~ Barbara Sweet, (Hon) secretary

## BLACKWOOD CROWN LANDS COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

We would like to wish our president Ray Meade a speedy recovery, in the meantime thank-you to Peter Oliveri for filling in as president.

Have you seen Lou lately? He is exhausted with the bike ride, weddings, long weekend & park visitors - not to forget cutting grass & cleaning up for summer!

We would like to say thankyou to all our members who have worked hard this year. We wish them & the community a happy Christmas & a safe New Year.

~ Elizabeth Hall, secretary

## BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

No report this issue.

## BLACKWOOD RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Blackwood CFA would like to thank the Department of Sustainability & Environment for the substantial volume of controlled burns that have been conducted in & around Blackwood over the past few months. These controlled burns have been targeted at protecting the Blackwood township from uncontrolled bush fires.

The Captain would also like to thank the CFA volunteers for their time & efforts in conducting controlled burns around Blackwood.

I would also like to urge everyone to clean up their properties now, – thanks those that already have. Your efforts now will help protect Blackwood. A reminder to everyone that official fire restrictions came into force Nov 30.

A big, huge thank-you to Mike & the Antique Roadshow, all support staff & volunteers who made this day a real success not only for visitors attending the event, but so many of the members of the Blackwood community. Additionally, a big thanks to the Moorabool News & the Cosy Nook Quilters for the donations to the raffles.

Finally our best wishes to Margaret Stockdale for a speedy recovery & return home to Blackwood.

New members most welcome. Remember, training is the first Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

~ Tom Pywell

## BLACKWOOD DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our society has been busy. We had a great talk from the Underground Historical Team who showed us DVD's on the inside of mine tunnels they had been down in Blackwood.

Aline Thompson did a great display on health & beauty of yesteryear - the curling tongs look great (pity you hair afterward!) Thankyou Aline.

We were sad to hear Pat Liffman has had a stay in hospital but she is now on the way to recovery & looking forward to coming home. The year has gone so quickly! To think I am already saying Happy Christmas. Have a great 2010 & may you all keep safe..

~ Elizabeth Hall, member

## Blackwood/Barrys Reef LANDCARE WATER WATCH

No report this month

## BLACKWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

The money raised at the '09 Easter Carnival will go towards a large water tank to be used by the hall & CFA.

As we look toward another year & begin planning for the '10 carnival, please consider setting aside time to help out. Set-up is Fri Apr 3, the carnival Sat Apr 3 & clean-up is Sun Apr 4.

Every hour helps! Please contact Elizabeth on 5368 6537 after 6pm.

~ Elizabeth Hall

## BLACKWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The last meeting was held on the Oct 28th & the main topic on the Agenda was facilitating the return of the Fiddlers Convention to Blackwood.

We are still looking for a Treasurer, so, if you are interested in adding value to our inclusive grass roots economic development initiatives please contact our President Mike Allen either via email mike@cfod.com.au or come & say hello at our next meeting which will be held on Wed Dec 9.

We are also keen to get as many people on board as possible so if you are self employed, work for a local business or are thinking of starting a business, please come along.

~ Ian Tebutt, Secretary



# BLACKWOOD CLUB UPDATES

## BLACKWOOD ARTS SOCIETY Inc

To everyone who attended the Blackwood Art Show Gala night, thank-you. It was a great success & the quality of the work was of a high standard. I thank those who help setting up for the event from the bottom of my heart – without your efforts it would not have been the success it was. Thanks to Marie Hamilton, Lindsay Smith, K Atrin & Tony Ryan, Judy & Charles for manning the door. Thanks to Greg Cassidy, 2nd prize winner for Sculpture, for helping pick-up, deliver & set up the art boards & to Chris Moule who also helped with the setting up & placement of artwork.

Chris Moule, who won 1st Prize for Oils, is a well known national & international artist, President of the Bendigo Arts Society. Chris is looking to hold a 2 hour talk & Pen & Ink sketching art class in Blackwood. The location is yet to be decided, but it has been suggested that "Lets Talk" would be an ideal location. Artists &/or beginners interested in part taking in this unique opportunity, please contact me on: 5368 6656. Cost \$25.00 p.p

Boards were donated by Ballan Arts Society & Ballan Rotarty Club. The Moorabool Mayor & his wife attended on the opening night.

3 sales were made & a number of commissions have resulted. The flow of people was consistent but it was obvious that the local population of Blackwood did not attend the Art Show. One has to go miles to see high quality art.

ALL events in Blackwood need community support to make them a financial success. After costs, donations are made to CERT, CFA & individuals in distress. Due to the low numbers & door takings after costs BAS is unable to make donations as we did last year.

We also need the tourist dollar & publicity for local business. Thank you all our sponsors – Moorabool Shire Council Arts Grant; Marnie Tole, Photographer; Kathy Strmota, Love Light Health Care; Erica Bear, Bear Medicin; The Blackwood Hotel; Mike Allen, Lerdies on Martin; Margot & Steve, Old Golden Point Cottage for your vouchers.

BAS is still looking for local Musicians to have a Music Festival in Blackwood.

~ *Phillipa Osborn Smith.*

## BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

The club finally notched its first win in Round 7, with a 140 run win over Trentham. Brett Sullivan top scored with a classy 83, skipper Steve O'Brien made 43no, young Luke Whitehouse 34 and Alan Salmon finished on 27no. Our total score was 4/201 off 35 overs. Trentham got off to a slow start and never really got going, losing wickets regularly to be all out for 61. Marty deJong was the pick off the bowlers, at one stage being on a hat-trick! All bowlers contributed to restrict Trentham's run rate. Blackwood lost to Trentham by 2 runs in Round 1, so it was good to bounce back with such a resounding win. Round 6 saw a very rare event occur at the Blackwood Cricket Ground. Alan Salmon took a double hat-trick (4 wickets in a row off 4 balls) and the team took a triple hat-trick (5 wickets in a row off 5 balls). Unfortunately this rare event took place at the end of Daylesford Colts innings and they already had 164 runs on the scoreboard. This total was too much for Blackwood, which batted horribly and were dismissed for 71. Rob Whan top scored with 18 and Alan Salmon finished with the magical figures of 5/22 off 9.4 overs. Round 5 was a bye. Round 4 was a loss to Hepburn and Round 3 was a narrow loss at home to Korweinguboorra. Round 2 was a walkover against Smeaton, who folded as a team the next week, which leaves our competition now as a 6 team comp.

Upcoming games at home are Saturdays Dec 12 & 19 vs Newlyn, Jan 30 & Feb 6 vs Hepburn, Feb 27 & Mar 6 vs K'boora. There has been a baby boom at the club! Alexander was born to Wade and Emma, Lucy to Dave and Sallee, Lilly to Matt and Verity, Madeleine to Chris and Rhiannon. Congratulations to all the proud parents.

The club passes on its sincere condolences to long time members, Noel and Marcy Ewer on their recent loss. Also get well wishes go out to club stalwarts Darrell and Alice Kilner, hoping for a full recovery from recent ill health.

On a brighter note the U/14 juniors have great numbers with 17 players registered and their season underway. The Trentham/Blackwood U/16 team is also on the go for another season.

Milo cricket has recommenced, with 11 keen U/10 kids chipping away on Tuesday nights. As you can see, there is a fair bit going on at the Blackwood Cricket Club, so support your local sporting team in any way you can. Membership forms are available at Lerdies or the ground at home games. See you at the cricket.

~ *Scott Unstad*

## BLACKWOOD UNITED CHURCH

Blackwood Uniting Church is hosting the annual BBQ & Carol Service on Saturday Dec 19, on the front lawns of the Church, from 5:00pm. All are warmly invited.

Meditation, drawing from ancient Christian practice, is held on the first & third Monday of the month from 7-8pm. Those with experience of meditation & those with no experience of meditation are welcome.

Please see the webpage for more information: [www.highlandsclusteruca.org.au](http://www.highlandsclusteruca.org.au)

~ *Rev. Sally Douglas Highlands Cluster Uniting Church*

## BLACKWOOD SPECIAL SCHOOL

Once again we have had a busy few months. We had our 18th annual Super Ride on 28th to the 30th October. Not long before the ride we were told that the Australian Defence Force School of catering could not cater for the ride. So we where extremely lucky for the volunteers of the local community who got together to help and cater for the ride. So a big thank-you to all that helped throughout the Ride from catering to marshaling and the town for the three days where it is taken over by the 150 plus riders. All riders enjoyed the ride but also the weather we had over the three days.

We have also been lucky enough to receive a Liberty Swing (Wheel chair swing). The Liberty Swing was generously donated to the centre by Variety The Children's Charity and The V. Orloft Family Charitable Trust. The cost for installation of the swing has been supported by the Danks Trust. The official opening was on the 12th of November. From the students that have tried the Swing it looks to be a great success, their smiles are priceless.

As you would notice diving into town, we have had a small burn off. Thankyou to the local CFA for their help in this area.

~ *Tony Bellette & Harley Dalgleish, BSSOEC Staff*

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# december

# 2009

monday

tuesday





wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

sunday

 Blackwood MEDITATION	1 Milly Press	2 Sommer Hamling ○	3 Eva Collis	Carols in the Park: Trentham	Darley Market Ballan Lions Club Market Daylesford Farmers Market T/ham Community Market	Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church
7 Mick Healey	8 8	9 9	10 10	Lions Club Senior Citz Xmas Lunch	C. Geelong Farmers Market	Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church
14 	15 15	16 Blackwood Seniors Xmas break-up Matthew Laux Peter Olivieri ●	17 Ted Walker Joseph Matheson	18 18	Buninyong Farmers Market Trentham Farmers Market BBQ & Carol s @ Uniting Church	Amanda Jowett Nancy Walker Daylesford Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church
21 Blackwood MEDITATION Jack Francis Allan Salmon Dave Evans Antoine Staub	22 22	23 Tabetna Henry	24 Dennis Kied Max Matheson	25 christmas day ●	boxing day 26	Daylesford Market Trentham Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Talbot Farmers Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church
28 	29 29	30 Marty Matheson	31 Sam Whitehouse Jacky Rees	Have we missed your birthday? Do you know of an event we should list? Please email us or pop the details in the DROP BOX at the General Store.	27 27	George Stockdate 

# January

# 2010

monday

tuesday



wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

sunday

<p>Blackwood MEDITATION</p> <p>4</p>	<p>Kathryn Brown</p> <p>5</p>	<p>Mark DePolo</p> <p>6</p>	<p>Trentham Lions Old Time Dancing</p> <p>8</p> <p>Kathryn Jowett Erin Bridson</p> <p>15</p> <p>Blackwood News headline: features, items of interest community groups &amp; clubs</p> <p>22</p>	<p>Darley Market Ballan Lions Club Market Daylesford Farmers Market T/tham Community Market</p> <p>9</p> <p>C. Geelong Farmers Market</p> <p>Buninyong Farmers Market Trentham Farmers Market</p> <p>Mrs Darwen Liam Aharon Gemma Hillis</p> <p>23</p> <p>Nicole Brown Scott Matheson</p> <p>30</p>	<p>Daylesford Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p> <p>10</p> <p>Daylesford Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p> <p>11</p> <p>Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p> <p>17</p> <p>Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p> <p>21</p> <p>Daylesford Market Trentham Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Talbot Farmers Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p> <p>27</p> <p>Daylesford Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p>
<p>Blackwood MEDITATION</p> <p>11</p> 	<p>Darcy Meade-Sweet Jason Van Druen</p> <p>12</p> <p>Blackwood News headline: book advertising space regular contributors Donna Matheson Ross Odgers</p> <p>20</p> <p>Blackwood News headline: News, classifieds advert artwork / content Margaret Stockdale</p> <p>27</p>	<p>Blackwood Seniors resumes for 2010</p> <p>13</p> <p>Blackwood News headline: book advertising space regular contributors Donna Matheson Ross Odgers</p> <p>20</p> <p>Blackwood News headline: News, classifieds advert artwork / content Margaret Stockdale</p> <p>27</p>	<p>Jake Haack</p> <p>14</p> <p>Blackwood News headline: features, items of interest community groups &amp; clubs</p> <p>22</p>	<p>Daylesford Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p> <p>10</p> <p>Daylesford Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p> <p>11</p> <p>Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p> <p>17</p> <p>Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p> <p>21</p> <p>Daylesford Market Trentham Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Talbot Farmers Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p> <p>27</p> <p>Daylesford Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p>	
<p>Blackwood MEDITATION</p> <p>18</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Bryce Rees</p>	<p>30</p>	
<p>australia day</p> <p>25</p> 					



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Hello Blackwood News,  
 I have just received your 'newsy' Blackwood News. I visited Blackwood 12yrs ago, (my, the time has gone) with my good friend Heather & we stayed with her sister-in-law Marcia Ewer. I just loved the place and people, so that was how my place here is called Beachwood, as I live by the beach. Noel sent the paper over with his brother-in-law as Brian sadly had to fly over for Troy's funeral which was sudden & sad. Anyway we have a little paper here called the "Port Report" & we have all sorts of local news. It comes out generally once a month. As we are at the beach a place called Port Waikato we have surf club news, local fire brigade sports club news, resident & rate payer news from their meetings & anything in-between, Marcia has been to see us here. One day

I will be back I hope in the meantime I will subscribe to your informative paper. Cheers to everyone, and to the Ewers if anyone sees them,  
 ~ Marlene Johnson

Dear Editor (Jinny!),

Thanks for the latest copy of Blackwood News - the quality gets better every time - well done!

It is so strange reading it in my house in London thinking of the gumtrees, the spotty toadstools that were out in force on my last visit, the funny little cottages around the thriving metropolis of the 'city centre' (read with irony!) & remembering special times carrying out quality control sessions on the delicacies in the general store (otherwise known as overindulging on coffee & cakes!), I miss the mineral water (not the nasty sulphur stuff) the

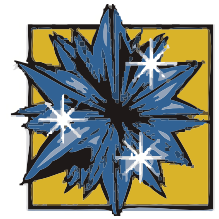
walks around the hills & cosy times snuggled up in bed there listening to the cockatoos, kookaburras & other wildlife.

I was so relieved to hear that Blackwood escaped the ravages of the bushfires but saddened at others' losses. I cannot imagine the stress of that time for you all.

I hope that you all have a very peaceful, lovely summer as we go into another grey British winter.

Keep those newsletters coming - I look forward to them so much.

Alice Coyle (a Blackwood fan!)



## Bouquets & Brickbats

**BRICKBAT TO** the person who emptied the donation box while robbing Lerdies on November 6. The money stolen was contributions made by the community to support the on-going publication of our news.

**SHAME ON** you!

**BLACKWOOD POST OFFICE hours**  
 Mon-Fri 10am-1pm & 3pm-5pm  
 Sat 10am-11am

## RECYCLING BUILDING MATERIALS

- be careful what you take home: part 2

by Shaun Brown



The 70's were a shocking era in domestic housing here in Australia, in a decade where music, film & even fashion was of such a high standard (in my opinion), the aesthetics attached to housing design & the use of many products were dreadful. Almost every house had asbestos sheeting

somewhere in it, a horrible product that has been widely reported that when cut produces a fibre that when breathed in can lead to serious respiratory problems & sometimes death. Needless to say... not worth salvaging! Glass in old windows can also be dangerous & a lot of the time should be replaced. Glass has a tendency to become more & more brittle over time & actually sags at the bottom leaving the top section thin & vulnerable. Colour schemes were strange back then to say the least, mission browns & horrific orange & red colours seemed to dominate, sharp angles & coloured glass where all the go & to be perfectly honest, a lot of the housing estates erected in the suburbs during this period would probably be considered to be slums or at the lower end of the market nowadays. At the time it would have been groovy & modern which makes me wonder about modern homes today being built in the suburbs, rendered boxes with no backyards or authentic quality at all (people don't want backyards anymore so I'm told by the real estate agents....it's called "low maintenance living" or something like that, where are you meant to grow the veggies or play with the dog?... Dunno!). read more at <http://brownsrd.blogspot.com/>

**LOCAL TIP hours**  
**Trentham:** Wed/Sat/Sun 9am-5pm  
**Ballan:** Wed-Mon 1pm-5pm  
 a blackwood news community service notice



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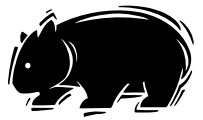
**General Interest Programs**  
 Antique Furniture Restoration  
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 Classroom Support

## Groups & Other Activities...

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**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](mailto:don.nardella@parliament.vic.gov.au) should you have any matters you wish to discuss.

## THE GARDEN OF ST ERTH



**Little Digger's workshop -  
Native Christmas Wreath Dec 13**  
Everybody loves decorating for Christmas. Come along to our last workshop for the year and we'll have heaps of fun and laughs making a native Christmas wreath. HO! HO! HO!

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# *Lerdies on Martin*

wine bar & restaurant

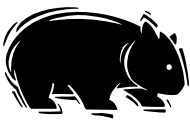
Martin Street Blackwood (03) 5368 6612

## **Festive Season Trading Hours**

We will be open until the 21st December, and then we close so the team can have a break and time with their families.

We open for the Blackwood New Years Eve knees up on the 31st December  
We will then be closed from the 1st January to the 5th January  
when we re- open with a lot of new and exciting events

Thank you for you support and compliments of the Season to you and yours,  
remember if you drink and drive you are a bloody pedestrian.



## Events & Gigs guide

when	what	where
Nov 28	Shaun Brown & Dirty York	Lerdies on Martin
Nov 28	South African Wine Dinner in celebration of Mikes 30 years in Australia	Lerdies on Martin
Dec 4	Lions Club Carols in the Park	Trentham Park
Dec 6	Medicine Bow	Lerdies on Martin
Dec 13	Carols By Candlelight – help needed to stage this community event	Lerdies on Martin
Dec 19	BBQ & Carols	Uniting Church
Dec 20	Cider house Spring band	Lerdies on Martin
Dec 31	Hardrive @ the street party of the year!!! sponsored by Lerdies	Town Centre
Dec 31	Fun, Food & Live Music	Blackwood Hotel
Jan 1	Mick Thomas & the Sure Thing	Greendale Hotel
Jan 26	Music @ the pub	Blackwood Hotel

## GETTING FIRE READY



Approximately 50 locals attended the first of a set of fire-ready meetings conducted by the CFA at the Blackwood Hall. Look up <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/residents/summer/firereadykit> to download your-fire ready kit.

### Protect your property from ember attack

In Blackwood the threat of bushfire is synonymous with our summers. With any fire hazard, prevention should be a first choice. The type & amount of vegetation surrounding a property, together with other combustibles, ie firewood, needs to be considered & firebreaks are one of many options available. But as we saw in February, bushfire can be an unknown quantity & the prevailing weather conditions, high winds & high temperatures, may result in bushfire threat that overrides the prevention measures.

Fire protection takes two broad forms. Active systems comprise the application of water, generally, by either manual or automatic means. Manual application can be by either the fire brigade's or property owner's during the bushfire, but there is a certain degree of risk associated to people untrained in fighting fires. Automatic means can be by water sprinklers or sprayers & although there is a range of systems in use, there are currently no Standards covering these for bushfire application.

The second form is the application of passive systems & this involves design & construction of buildings located in bushfire-prone areas. Australian Standard AS 3959 Construction of buildings in

bushfire-prone areas, has been under development for some 22 years & is intended to prevent the entry of burning embers from entering a building or accumulating in such a way that would promote ignition. The Standard also addresses heat that radiates from the bushfire &, in recent stages of development, now goes further in an attempt to offer fire resistance to building elements (walls, roofs, windows, doors etc) from direct flame contact.

The current Australian Standard AS 3959 is intended to afford the occupants a degree of safety until the bushfire front passes. In so doing, there is also a component of property protection built in to the Standard. However, the Standard carries a warning to the effect that there can be no guarantees that a building will survive a bushfire event on every occasion due to the unpredictable nature & behaviour of fire & the difficulties associated with extreme weather conditions. In preparing for the upcoming fire season ask yourself what will burn? &, more importantly, what won't? For free advice over the phone call 5367 6720 ref: 'New guidelines for building in bushfire-prone areas' by David Michel <http://www.standards.org.au/>

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### Kids Guided Meditation & Creative Drawing

Morning... ages 7-11  
Afternoon... ages 12-16

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*Group activities and games, exploring a variety of themes to build confidence and self-esteem, develop the courage to face challenges, increase kindness & care of others, strengthen trust in higher support*

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

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## Making Victoria FireReady:

# New Fire Danger Ratings. Look for them, act on them.



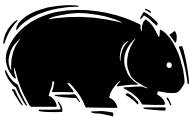
- If you live in a bushfire prone area the safest option is to leave the night before, or early in the morning.
- The safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave. Only stay if your home is well prepared, well constructed and you can actively defend it.
- The safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave. Only stay if your home is well prepared and you can actively defend it.
- If you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave, the safest option is to leave at the beginning of the day.
- Check your Bushfire Survival Plan.
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## TRENTHAM LIONS CLUB NEWS



### Monthly Dance Program

Old Time Dancing 2nd Fri each month.  
\$8pp inc supper & door prize draw. Alternate dances in aid of Trentham Historical Society.  
Next dances: Dec 11 enq Elizabeth 5424 1254  
**Farmer's Market** 3rd Sat monthly in the town square 9am-1pm.

STUFF YOUR PANTRY enq Tracey 5424 1185 or 0447 836 171  
**Carols in the Park** Fri Dec 4. FREE fun for all! John 5424 1460  
**Senior Citizens Dinner** Fri Dec 11 – put it in your diary enq Elizabeth 5424 1254

## 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
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Monday–Friday 9:30-3:00

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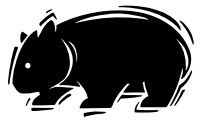
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# BEYOND BLACKWOOD...



## BLUMIN' BEAUTY

The launch of a new venture in Tonia Todman's own garden. L-R: Blumin & Tonia Todman, Roses team Murray Cummins, Sandy Cummins, Tonia Todman, Michael Dowding – Photograph by Marnie

Tonia Todman Roses (yes, that Tonia Todman) & Trentham's Sandy Cummins of Blumin have come together to provide a number of exclusive signature lines which will be launched in the coming months. The first of these speciality releases is "Tonia Todman Roses & Herbs styled by Blumin". These are a selection of the finest local roses & herbs presented in elegant hatboxes, tied with complementary-coloured, satin ribbon handles.

The name "Blumin" is derived from the first three letters of the miner's cottage Sandy & her husband Murray share with their three dogs, "Blue Mount Five" in Trentham & the very special property of their close friends Stephen, Simone & Laura Gilbert in nearby Glenlyon – "Mingary". Together with Helen Lindsay's "Hollyoak Hill" & Tonia Todman's Roses – "Highbank" properties, they serve as a combined base to create a "from the ground to the vase" offering & thus the concept of Blumin - to provide fresh, fragrant flowers & herbs - from "our" garden to you.

## THE COSMO IS BACK, WELL ALMOST!

Closed abruptly by a fire, the old Cosmopolitan Hotel has sat waiting for the day it might be restored to its former glory. A chalkboard outside the dining room advised, "Sorry, restaurant fully booked tonight. Meals available in bar."

An excited crowd gathered on November 1 to share the opening stage of this dream – initially the re-newed garden is open with a portable kitchen & marquee – the inside renovations will open in a number of stages. Watch this space!



## THE COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL

Now open Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays

Join us in the unique Cosmopolitan Gardens for all day drinks and the best of local fare for lunch from 12-3pm or dinner from 6-9pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays with a menu by local chef Chris Wilding.

### Special Events & Private functions

The Cosmopolitan Gardens are the perfect place to celebrate. Please call us on 0410 552 614 to make a booking.

### Live music for all & children's entertainment

We regularly have live music playing and fun activities for the children.

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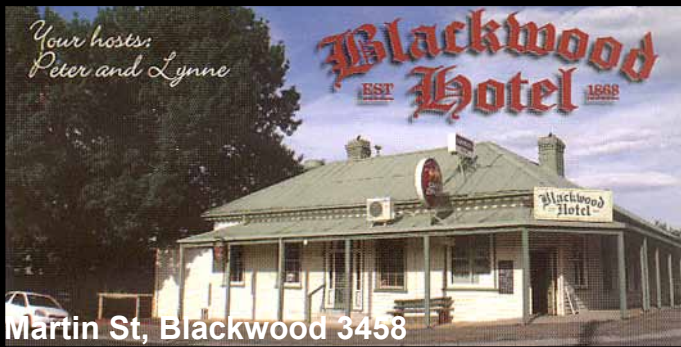
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## COMMUNITY BANK IN TRENTHAM

More than 240 Community Banks® are now operating successfully throughout Australia.

Trentham is part of the Daylesford & District Community Bank® initiative which seeks to establish shopfront banking services in both Daylesford & Trentham.

A small working group in Trentham has been gathering pledges of support for the establishment of the bank & wants to extend ownership of the initiative to Blackwood people. One of the members of the working group recalls the Blackwood agency when she worked in the Trentham branch of the State Savings Bank & would like to see either an agency or ATM in Blackwood included in the business plan for the new bank.

For communities like Blackwood & Trentham, the immediate benefit of a Community Bank® is local access to full banking services. With strong community support these banks, when profitable, will also pay dividends to their shareholders & 'social dividends' to support community projects.

Maldon & District Community Bank®, which has been operating for 10 years, has distributed \$750,000 in grants to community projects over the past 10 years. They have also established a \$250,000 community foundation. Projects supported include advanced driving courses for all local youngsters who get their licence; sponsorship for the football club, contributions to five district fire brigades,

neighbourhood centres, tourism initiatives, expansion of childcare facilities, & lots more – in total 64 projects and groups have received support from the Bank's 'social dividend'. And Maldon shareholders have received 10 cents in the dollar for each of the last seven years.

If you want this sort of support coming into your community and access to increased banking services, you should make a pledge to buy shares in the Daylesford & District Community Bank®. We are also seeking a commitment from people to move their banking business to the Community Bank® where the full range of Bendigo Bank® banking products will be available.

An independent feasibility study will assess the case for the Community Bank. This is a safeguard for the community & Bendigo Bank® &, if we get the 'thumbs up', we should see the bank opening mid-2010.

So do yourself a favour, do our local economy a favour & do your community a big favour. Make a pledge to invest in the Community Bank®. Pledge Forms & a Pledge Collection Box will be located in Blackwood by the time you read this.

Already a couple of Blackwood people have made pledges to support this initiative & members of the Trentham working group are keen to speak with interested individuals & groups in Blackwood to explain how the community bank works.

For any questions or further information please contact Ian MacBean 54241727, Georgie Patterson 54241686 or Ian Williams 54241199.

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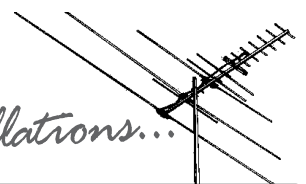
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