



KARATE COMING TO BLACKWOOD

Simon & Dylan Ross are both black belts (Shodan's/1st Dan) with nearly 20 years of experience between them. They have both competed at State and National levels in Full and Non Contact tournaments, winning titles.



They are members of the AKKA (Australian Kyokushin Karate Association).

Hanshi John Taylor is a 9th Dan and is the chairman of the AKKA and their Branch chief.

Simon & Dylan started Ballan Dojo (training hall) about 8 months ago and currently have 44 active members of which 31 have graded last November.

They look forward to training weekly at the Blackwood Hall starting Tuesday February 3 from 7 pm till 8:30 pm.

\$5pp or \$10 a family.

- see article about Karate on page 19

INAUGURAL "FOOD IN THE FOREST"

20 local suppliers have been handpicked to participate in what will become an annual event in Blackwood on Saturday March 21. Not just another farmers market, "Food in the Forest" will be a day filled with food, fun and festivities.

Hosted by Mike Allen and Margaret Devlin in the heritage garden at their "Lets Talk" Retreat, the festival offers a unique environment for visitors to experience local produce in a retail environment where they may purchase sampling plates for consumption on the day while enjoying the gardens, listening to live music and watching their children participate in activities. Additional produce can also be purchased to take home!

"Food in the Forest" introduces the many wonders that Blackwood offers locals and visitors. Guests can view the gardens, experience the wonders of produce from the Macedon Ranges and also wander through one of the unique accommodation options in the area. Local musicians will perform throughout the day and the Blackwood Special School's Outdoor Education Centre will provide supervised children's activities in the grassed area below the formal gardens. Formal cooking classes, using local produce, will also take place throughout the day.

Entrance is by gold coin donation & all funds raised will go to The Blackwood Special School's Outdoor Education Centre.

This fun packed day starts at 10am til 4.30pm.



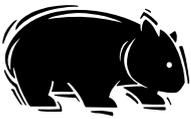
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat Feb 14 Blackwood Bohemia - p19

Mar 6-9 St Erth Autumn Fruit & Flower Show - p8

Sat March 21 Food in the Forest - p1

Sat Apr 11 Blackwood Easter Carnival - p6



editors thoughts ...

I can't believe it's already February! They say the older you get the quicker the years go by – personally, I think the years just get shorter!

Our next big break from work comes at Easter - yes, time for the Blackwood Easter Carnival held by Blackwood Progress Association which, like all committees in Blackwood, is run by volunteers. This is their annual fund-raising activity with all profit going back into the community, but they need lots of help! The carnival is our time to get together with everyone before we hibernate to see the winter through, so let's all pitch in to make this Easter Carnival one to remember. (see Progress Report on page 6).

Each copy of Blackwood News costs around \$1 to print (not to mention the time it takes to put each issue together)!

Currently we print 600 copies each issue – we would love to print more as we know many people miss out & quite a few families like to have a number of copies.

We believe it is crucial that the publication remains free to each Blackwood household but in order to do this, we ask that if you need more than one copy or you are from out of town, pop something into the donation box under the display stand so more people can enjoy our local community newspaper.

~ 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
November 2008	69.4	74	3.9	30.7
December 2008	104.6	62.4	2.6	30.8

Note: Rainfall data is obtained from Bureau of Meteorology data. Temperatures are personal recordings from measuring device accurate to ± 0.5 deg but its location isn't exactly what is required for an officially recognised site.

Although December had above average rainfall, the yearly total of 612.4mm was well below the long-term average of 975mm.

~ Don Owen

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 April/May issue are
Advertisers: book space by **March 13**
Regular features & contributors: **March 13**
One-off Features & Items of Interest: **March 15**
Community Groups & Club Updates: **March 15**
Display Ad Artwork/content: **March 15**
News & Classifieds: **March 20**

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

2009 Advertising rate card & booking form can be downloaded from www.blackwood.centralvic.com.au
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

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Santas Little Helper

photo courtesy Heather Marsh

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



LET'S ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES!

On the first Sunday of March each year, a small band of Blackwoodians meet at the hall to collect gloves, bags & sunscreen before heading off to do their bit toward Clean Up Australia Day.

Brendan Hehir has been co-ordinating the Blackwood clean up for a number of years & told Blackwood News "When I started organising the day we had up to a dozen volunteers - I don't know what has happened but we are lucky to get a handful now!"

His wife & second in command Jinny Coyle said "It is such a feel-good thing to do - it only takes an hour or so to fill a bag & you meet some great people! One of our regulars is 84 years old - she shows up each year, bright eyed & bushy tailed ready to do her bit up Martin St!"

If you would like to get in & do your bit just turn up at the hall at 9.30am on March 1 to register.

Enquiries can be made to 5369 6607.



IF YOU DON'T CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA, WHO WILL?

Put your hand up for Clean Up Australia Day 2009. For more info on how you, your community, business or school can get involved, visit www.cleanup.org.au or call 1800 CLEAN DAY.



every little bit helps!
meet @ the Hall 9.30am
March 1

HUGH ARTHUR Stockdale was born in Malvern on August 31, 1925. He was educated at Spring Rd Central School & Melbourne High.



HIS PARENTS built a weekender in Blackwood where he spent most weekends & school holidays bush walking around the area.

HE MET Merle Guppy who lived with her parents at Greenhills & they were married in Ballan in 1950. He was the adored father of Raymont & Coral - he had 7 grandchildren & 5 great grand children.

HUGH SPENT most of his working life teaching & was head teacher at the Blackwood School No 1074 from '54 to '57.

IN HIS retirement he travelled around Australia in a caravan but was always happy when he returned to his beloved Blackwood where they had an on-site caravan for 30 years.

HUGH PASSED away on December 12, 2008. His ashes are to be scattered in Jacksons Gully.



'08 Blackwood Easter Parade led by Hetty the Hen

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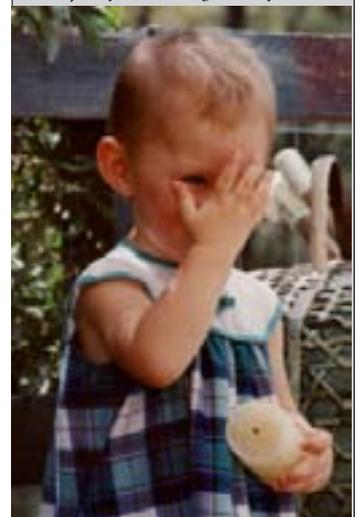
For details
contact Nina
5427 9392



On Xmas Day Eva Armstrong celebrated her 104th birthday at the Trentham Nursing Home. Trentham Lions Club President Colin Ries presented Eva with a special birthday cake made by Margaux Cloughton of Carlsruhe.

The Lions club presents a standard birthday cake to all folk 80 years and over who live in the Trentham district, which includes Blackwood, on their birthdays. So if you know someone who is about to reach this grand age or beyond & is not on their list, contact John or Velette on 5424 1460 who will make sure their special day is remembered.

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



who's turning 16 in
February?



Blackwood Historical Society's Museum

The building which now houses the Blackwood Historical Society's Museum was once the Blackwood Police Stables. The original stables were the front of the building before the additions to the back. The Stables stood on the old Police Reserve in Martin Street, Blackwood. The house on the property was the Police Station, later established as the School Masters residence & now part of the Blackwood Special Schools Education Centre. The stables have a long history of construction, repairs, removal & conversion, which spans a period of over 153 years, since May 1855. The original stables were removed from Golden Point in Blackwood to its present position in 1880.

The stables were constructed in a prefabricated form by "Sharp & Sons" - Timber Merchants of Melbourne, & stored at the Richmond Depot. The stable sections were brought to Blackwood on a police wagon, & assembled in the Police paddock at Golden Point, & housed stalls for six horses, & a fodder room. It is believed they were completed by December of 1855, as it is reported that one mounted sergeant & five constables were operating from the stables by that time.

In 1880 the Police station at Golden Point was closed, & a new station was established within the Blackwood township in Martin Street. Mr. Andrew Buchanan of Blackwood was given the task of removing the stables from Golden Point & reassembling them on the new station area, but limiting their capacity to two horse stalls only.

The stables were constantly in use until 1915 when the station was closed. The School Masters house & land was then rented out & around the 1970's it was then handed over to the Special Schools for the use of children with special needs. An agreement was made with the Special Schools who allowed the Blackwood & District Historical Society to have full use & restoration rights of the Stables for a nominal yearly rental, for their use as a Historical Museum.

Weather, & age had taken its toll & it became the project of the Blackwood & District Historical Society to restore the stables to their 1880 condition, & to house a small museum dedicated in part to the work of the police in the district. This work was commenced in 1976 & carried out by members of the Society together with members of the Police Re-enactment Society. Working bees were held lead by Stuart Duff & work was completed to lock-up stage in 1978.

A re-enactment of the gold-field days by members of the society in costume & assisted by mounted 'troopers' from the 'Historical Pageantry Society' over the Labour Day weekend in March 1977 with the Police Stables open to the public was a great success & added publicity to the Museum. Work was done on the interior of the stables where various donations of historical items were put on display.

In 1996 work was commenced by the President of the Society, Allan Hall, a builder, to extend the back of the Police Stables to incorporate a meeting room with storage space for records, & a computer to store archival material & photos, also a kitchen & a big area to display

historical items & photographs etc. This work was completed approx. 2003 & the Historical Society resumed in December 2004 with some original & new Members, interested in continuing the work of the Police Stables restoration so it could be an added Tourist attraction to Blackwood & show some of Blackwood's fascinating Gold Mining history. To commemorate Blackwood's 155 years of gold mining history Allan Hall has built a Poppet Head which will be placed outside the Museum with an OPEN sign when the Museum is open to the public. Next Open Days will be held on Sunday the 8th March 2009, & a day over Easter to be notified.



(Information, and research provided by Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society with information provided by Stuart Duff. Grateful thanks also to Allan Hall for his time & dedication in the building of the new extension & Museum to the Blackwood Police stables.)

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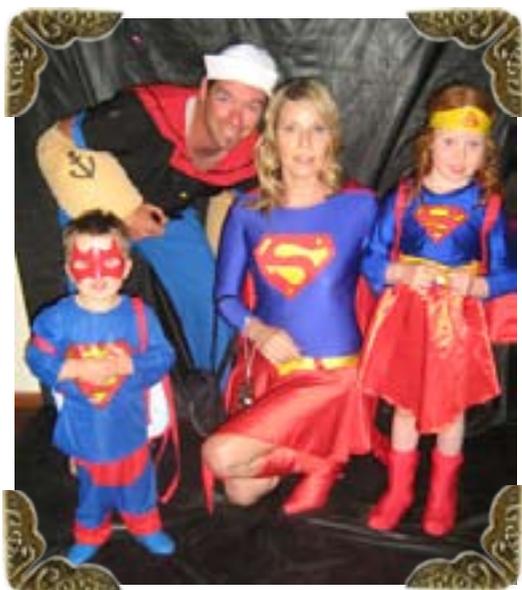
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BLACKWOOD SOCIAL ALBUM ... KATHRYN TURNS 21



KATHRYN BROWN'S 21st birthday party was held in January in the Blackwood Hall.

CLOSE TO 150 people attended... with guest appearances from Joe Dirt, the Pink Panther, Cat in the Hat, Marilyn Monroe, many police & swat officers, super heroes ... the list goes on.

BUT, OF course, the star of the night was the Lady Bird (Kathryn)! It was nice to see so many people put a huge effort into dressing up for her party!

THANK YOU to everyone who helped to set up and clean up. A great night was had by all.

HAPPY 21ST birthday Kathryn, we hope you enjoyed your night!

A BIG congratulations to Barry and Wendy on their engagement which was announced to friends and family on the night.



The editor thanks Nicole who supplied these photos - it looks like a lot of fun! Remember, this is your community news sending us pics is a great way to be a part of it!!



COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

BLACKWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE INC.

The Senior Citizens Club resumed operations on the Jan 14 after a 4 week break - it was great to see all of our members in good health & to catch up on their families & Xmas/New Year get-togethers. I am sure that the club will have a happy & rewarding 2009.

The wind-up Xmas dinner was a great success with approx 50 members attending. The meal prepared by Jenny & Kerryn with their able helpers Lisa, Taryn & Tabitha was excellent. Mary, our entertainment, was great playing sing-a-long music on the piano accordion. As usual Santa Claus insisted on sitting on all the ladies knees (thanks Jim).

To the relief of yours truly we have had a reasonably cool summer (I do not like the heat). We have had no bushfire danger & only 2 total fire bans so far - I hope this will continue.

Our thanks to Fred Moore who has once again offered to organise the hot dog stand at the Easter Sports - all profits will come to BSSC. Much appreciated by our committee - in your debt again Fred!

We are pleased to hear that Dot Williams is home recovering after treatment for a very aggressive illness - we wish her well & hope that she may be back cooking for us before too long.

This is all the news for now, kindest regards to all

~ Barbara Sweet, (Hon) secretary

BLACKWOOD CROWN LANDS COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Thankyou to members for attending our Christmas break-up & thankyou to Peter, Lynne & staff for a lovely evening.

Keeping in mind that it is holiday season, thankyou to the committee members who had made time to put into meetings & quotes.

Lou has been busy keeping the grass down & the caravan park up to date. He was surprised to find that the caravan park has had one of its biggest takings periods before Christmas. Thankyou Lou!

May we wish Barbara all the best for the coming weeks.

Hoping you all had a great Christmas & may 2009 be great for Blackwood.

~ Elizabeth Hall, secretary

BLACKWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

EASTER CARNIVAL: Saturday April 11, 2009

This is the time of the year when our hard working committee begs for help in many ways to run the Easter carnival! It's easy to think "why should I help?" but if we let this traditional festival go Blackwood will be the loser as each year it brings many people into town!

We know times are tough but we have to try to do our bit - no matter what. PLEASE, PROGRESS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT to help keep the Easter Carnival.

We need

- Parade entrants
- Sponsors

& help

- setting up on Friday
- with the Saturday Carnival
- cleaning up on Sunday

Even a short time helps so please consider helping. Call 53686 537 (Sec) or 5368 6566. Thankyou

~ Elizabeth Hall, secretary

BLACKWOOD CEMETERY TRUST

no report this issue

BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

Happy New Year to All.

The holiday period was reasonably quiet & the workload has been eased as the new members have passed their exams & are available to be rostered for service - congratulations to all.

Any new volunteers are welcome as training should begin in March. Current members will be notified of training in February.

Delays were caused over the holiday period by incorrect property numbering so would residents please note the importance of prominently displaying your correct property number.

~Bruce Henry Team Leader

BLACKWOOD RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

We are now well into the fire danger period with several days of total fire ban & high fire danger. On these days crews are on standby to form strike teams if required.

Residents are reminded of the importance of having a fire plan. For advice, the CFA have a Total Fire Ban & Restrictions line on 131599 for the cost of a local phone call or www.cfa.vic.gov.au

You will have received your envelopes for donations - please give this your serious consideration.

Since the last Blackwood News, the brigade has been quiet, giving us more time for equipment maintenance & training.

Next training morning will be on February 1 & again on March 1. New members are welcome.

~ George Stockdale

BLACKWOOD DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

see article on page 4

Except for January, Blackwood District Historical Society meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month from 10.30am until 12.30pm when publications are on sale.

"Some History of Simmons Reef" - \$13

the Story of Blackwood" - \$4 (our first publication)

"Aspects of Early Blackwood" by Margot Hitchcock - \$13

Annual membership fee is \$10, visitors to our meetings are most welcome.

~ Pat. Liffman, secretary

LANDCARE

That Blackwood and Barry's Reef are sited deep within the Wombat State Forest close to the Lerderderg State Park, has been a matter of serious concern to Moorabool Shire Council. Resulting from a State Government directive and scientific research by the Victorian CFA, wildfire overlays which have been put across areas with the likelihood of bushfire, will also include vegetation controls, house siting and access to water.

In recent years, we have become accustomed to successful seasonal burns. May we take this opportunity to extend our thanks and appreciation to Natural Resources Management Officer, Shane Leech, his highly qualified team at Daylesford DSE (Department of Sustainability and Environment) and our Blackwood CFA, for the planning leading up to the controlled burns - their ultimate success being dependent upon coping with changing weather patterns.

~ Pat Liffman



BLACKWOOD CLUB UPDATES

BLACKWOOD JUNIOR CRICKET CLUB

no report this issue see report below for starting dates.-

~ Steve Hammond (coach) 5368 6794/0429 686 794
& Daryl Birdgeman (Asst Coach)

BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

Round 9 of the season saw Blackwood travel to Hepburn for a one-day game. Blackwood batted first & made 7/172 after 35 overs. Steve O'Brien top scored with 64, Darren Woodward was next best with 55. Other contributors were Derek Hepburn with 18 and Luke Whitehouse with 14. A pretty good score on a big ground, however Hepburn were up to the challenge, making 5/184 from their 35 overs, winning the game by 5 wickets. Rob Whan was the pick of the bowlers, taking 2/50 off 8 overs. Alan Salmon and James Cann also took one wicket each. James Cann also took a spectacular catch to top off a great senior debut for the club & Nick Whan got a runout in his first game for the seniors. Both James and Nick worked their way up through the Milo In2Cricket program & the Blackwood U/14s & James is currently playing with the Trentham U/16s.

It is great to see players filtering through the junior ranks & playing with the seniors, with Luke Whitehouse another recent example.

After a couple of weeks off for Christmas, play resumed with round 10 at home against second placed Newlyn. Newlyn batted first, being all out for 172 off 34.4 overs. Alan Salmon bowled magnificently, taking 4/48 off his 10 overs. Brother Dave bowled just as well, taking 3/43 off 9.4 overs. Rob Whan chipped in with 3/25 to complete a good all round bowling performance by the team. Blackwood batted superbly, passing Newlyn's total in the 30th over, finishing at 3/183. The highlight off the innings was skipper Steve O'Brien's swashbuckling 112no, which included several massive sixes off his wonder bat. Derek Hepburn made a gutsy 33 & Darren Woodward chipped in with 17no. A real entertaining win by the club, putting them into 2nd spot on the ladder.

We were knocked out of the Cricket Willow 20/20 Cup on Sunday in the quarter finals. With only 9 players available we bowled out Colts Phelans in the 20th over for 153. Our batting never really got going & we batted out the 20 overs for a score of 5/89, with John Deveraux top scoring with 26no.

Our next games are away to Trentham and Korweinguboora, then a bye, then a home game against Smeaton on Feb 28 and March 7. Be there to support the team in their run to the finals.

Just a reminder that U/14 training started again on Tuesday, 27th January and Milo In2Cricket starts again on Tuesday, 3rd February. Go Eagles!!!

STOP PRESS - Results from Day 1 of current game against Trentham. Blackwood 10/165 (Brett Sullivan 65) vs Trentham 1/60.

~ Scott Unstad

BLACKWOOD ARTS SOCIETY Inc

BAS is seeking high quality Crafts persons to enter a Craft Fair during Easter at the Mechanics Hall.

To express your interest, contact Philipa by phone (03) 5368 6656 or e-mail plosbornsmith@bigpond.com

~ Ms Phillipa Osborn Smith President BAS inc

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can be downloaded free from
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& while you are there be sure to subscribe to
our eList so you are the first to see new issues!**

TRENTHAM POLICE REPORT

From a policing perspective, we had a pretty quiet festive season around Trentham area. Most people seemed to behave themselves and act responsibly & out of the thousand or so Preliminary Breath Tests conducted by Trentham Police during the festive season, we did not get one driver over the prescribed alcohol limit. This is very encouraging to local police and indicates to us that the message is getting through to drivers in regards to the dangers of drinking & driving.

Of course there are those who think that the road rules don't apply to them & as a result a handful will have to dive into the Christmas bonus to pay some pretty hefty fines for speeding on local roads.

The only other matter in regards to traffic is that we are disappointed with the large number of people detected riding unregistered trail bikes/motorcycles & in many cases doing so without a licence. The fines for these offences add up to over \$1,000, so it is much cheaper to go & get a Learner's Permit & or Licence & obtain either full registration or recreational registration for their motorcycles.

Apart from a shed fire accidentally started by children & a small number of minor thefts, it has been pretty quiet in the Trentham Police Response Zone.

~ Greg. FALKINER

BLACKWOOD SPECIAL SCHOOLS EDUCATION CENTRE

Where did those playgrounds come from?

It has been a 3 year process however in September 2008 we received the remainder of the funding to build 2 Adventure Playgrounds at Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre.

- A small Adventure Playground at the Residence, and
- A larger wheelchair-accessible Adventure Playground at the School. (as seen below)



The Playgrounds have been designed to complement the Adventure Activities we run throughout the camp and we look forward to offering the students an opportunity to experience play while also being challenge beyond their comfort zones.

The Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Committee would like to extend their sincere gratitude towards the following Foundations, Trust and Service Club for funding the Adventure Playgrounds:-

- Paul Newman's Own Foundation
- The Danks Trust
- The Lioness Club of Ballan
- The Lioness Club of Bacchus Marsh
- The Lions Club of Trentham
- The Rotary Club of Melton
- The Rotary Club of Frankston Sunrise

~ Tony Bellette & Harley Dalglish



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Upcoming Events St Erth



Twilight Feast

Rarely opened at twilight, join us for our Late Summer Feast at the Garden of St Erth and enjoy the calm of the garden at twilight. Begin with a guided tour of this beautiful, historic garden before dining from a late summer harvest menu created by well-known chef Ian Shankly.

Ian brings his extensive experience, passion for fine food, and creative skills together when

choosing local and our garden produce for this very special night. Enjoy our wine selection with dinner and ask Ian about his cooking secrets.

Saturday, 7th February from 5.30pm to 8.30pm \$80 per head. Bookings essential, www.diggers.com.au or 03 5984 7900

Autumn Fruit & Flower Show

Labour day weekend March 6-9

See a garden designed to thrive in hot, dry conditions.

Buy new-season fruit trees, released exclusively at the St Erth festival.

Join Digger's staff for workshops and garden tours. Learn how to create your own drought-tolerant garden.

Enjoy samples from our producers market showcasing local produce and taste test heirloom apples, pears and cider on Saturday and Sunday.

Little Digger's workshop

Get children excited about growing their own food with supervised garden and craft activities on the 9th March between 11-2pm.

Rare breeds of poultry and rabbits will be on display for young and old. Labour Day only

Sustainable Self-Sufficiency

Water Capture

Australia; our planets' driest continent. Previous Aussie generations began a great thing, with nearly all homes capturing water off their rooves. We haven't advanced much farther than this in the 21st century! Only in 2007 did it become mandatory for all new homes built to have a rainwater tank installed. The cities should be doing a lot more to cater for their water needs instead of simply relying on rainfall over the dam/reservoir. Most of us are lucky enough to live in a home with a roof over our head. Rented or owned, you can install a tank. If renting you could set up a temporary pipe to a transportable tank which you could empty & take with you when you move out. If you are fortunate enough to own your own home, you will most likely have a garage/carport, maybe a gardening shed, a firewood shed, even animal housing with rooves. It would make almost perfect sense to have an appropriate sized tank affixed to each.

This is only 1 & yes the simplest method in which we can capture water. Another, more natural way would be to capture water not only off rooves, but your land also! Dig a pond at the base of your property into which water running across/off your property

can flow. If you are lucky enough to have a dam, channel the water into this; more water for you, wildlife, stock & firefighting if need be.

We put so much effort into capturing our water, using it once & then let it go. Why? We should utilise water in such a manner that we will never be short of it. Capture, use for whatever purpose, treat to class A water, then reuse it. A reasonable priced treatment system would treat All Greywater again & again & again ... Those in areas where water is an expensive, payable commodity would save hundreds of dollars each year instead of paying top dollar for water the government treats, then flushing it all away so the government can retreat it & sell it back to the consumer again. Just think, if you eliminate the middle man, you'd pay for the systems cost in no time just with the money you'd save. The other benefit of this is you could use your water however & whenever you want! Geez, maybe kids of today could have the simple yet really fun experience of being able to play under the sprinkler, like those in their mid 20's & 30's had the pleasure of 'not so long ago.'

~ Kelly Golling
Go Natural Go Native

Director: KELLY
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'Not from 'round these parts':

Exotics, natives and dreams of a weed-free existence.

A month or so back I visited a indigenous garden in Vaughan, near Castlemaine. I had seen the garden featured on an ABC gardening special about dry gardens so with a healthy dose of curiosity and the wonders of Google I managed to track down the gardener, Jenny Morton, and invite myself over.

Vaughan is as dry as it gets – it's typical of all the areas around Castlemaine. The soil is poor, the ground rocky. When watching the program I had been particularly amazed by the many retaining walls, banks and edged paths that Jenny had made on her property – all from rocks that she had to dig out before being able to plant.

The garden didn't disappoint. It was stepped and terraced around the house with thoughtful plantings of Saltbush, Grevileas, Lomandra and even delicate little Dianellas that, on first inspection, look like native ground orchids. What amazed me about the garden was how utterly sympathetic it was to the landscape.

When I drove up to the house I had first thought "Hmm, it looks as though they have left quite a bit of bush – but where is the garden?" Then Jenny showed me the 'before' photos: a moonscape of burned earth and rock- not a shred of anything green. This woman had literally planted every living thing on her property.

I returned from my trip to Vaughan inspired and ready to go native, if not indigenous. I had always intended to use a lot of native plantings at the front and sides of the house to settle the house a little better into its surrounds. Now I intend to plant a large indigenous garden deep into the back of the property as well.

All of this will take time of course.

Autumn is already spoken for: having decided that food is our top priority we will be putting bare-rooted fruit trees into the kitchen garden. Winter is earmarked for installing some kind of tank and irrigation system. If last winter's rainfall was anything to go by we'll be catching plenty off the shed to help the vegie garden and fruit trees next summer.

Then, there is our other top priority- weeds.

Like Tim and I, many of them are not from around these parts.

Spanish broom is multiplying like a math teacher on the east side of the block. The front garden, a holding pen for drought-proof plants, is the garden equivalent of a ghetto. A rough thistle or two moved in, then the dandy-lion dealers set up shop round the fringes and there goes the neighbourhood.

Something with very nasty inch-long thorns has sent its minions into the kitchen garden and is erupting from the newly-levelled earth like triffids.

The very pretty but horribly invasive cottage plant, valerian, seeded before we had time to hang our hats last year and I'll admit my prejudice against agapanthus now – I loathe the stuff, it's everywhere, and digging it out is a dog's mother of a job.

Then there are the natives...

They say a weed is just the right plant in the wrong place. Well, Blackwood trees, one would think, must be in the right place in Blackwood. If only they hadn't moved in right next to our fences, across paths and in the spot where we've marked out the chook shed.

So indigenous Blackwoodians and other natives – I salute you, but you won't be getting title until at least 2010. By then I'll have shoo'd the squatters, corralled the migrants and dug out enough quartz to give Jenny Morton a run for her money.

~ Heather Marsh

ARE YOU A BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHER?

Can you help Blackwood News by taking photos of events in the area?

Please call Jinny on 5368 6444 if you can help.

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

Tree Challenge:

Four-O

My mid-life crisis is official, so much for hiding my age. I'm hopeless. This was my BIG chance – being relatively new in a country town, I could lie about my age. Take a leaf out of my sister's book. Tell people I'm 30 ish, forever more. The only thing is I'm a hopeless liar...well ok I'm a drama queen. So much so that I started freaking out the moment I turned 39. In fact I wiped out 39 completely, I couldn't enjoy it. I started thinking I was forty from 39 so I could get used to the idea.

So much for the dirty thirties. I did get dirty though. Down and dirty in my new garden in Blackwood. Whoopee – I'm a wild child.

I really liked what my friend said at my party about turning 40. He quoted Germaine Greer and said with a very serious look on his face, "Gen, the new forty is ... the new forty!" Wow thanks Germaine, that's very encouraging.

The best thing about it was the excuse to have a party, which I did – at Let's Talk Retreat in the middle of town. I made all my friends perform and entertain me, 40 was a great excuse. I think I've used up my credit points though.

Shortly after the big four – Oh (as in Oh My God!) Christmas fell upon me. Or should I say I fell upon the Christmas ham, after I drank too much of my little sister's home-made lemon cello. Then it was New Year, and I felt anything but new! I felt as old and sticky as the left over plum pudding.

I thought I'd do some research on turning 40 for this article the first thing I read was:

"A new study has revealed that turning 40 is when depression hits, so here are some reasons to be cheerful about turning 40 ... " Well great, I lost it at the word "depression," so researched another article. Before I could read the fine print a huge ad in bold colors read "How to combat wrinkles." I lost it at the word "wrinkles". I mean – as if botox gets handed out in Blackwood. Maybe I should ring the council and ask them if they will lend it out with the mobile library.

Then I opened the paper and read; "Mid-life crisis" hoons are among the biggest culprits when it comes to reckless driving on Victorian roads." It was fifty something men doing burn-outs in luxury cars. I didn't get it. Why do burn-outs when you're already burnt out??

But then the penny dropped.

Mid-life was seen as fifty-something. Not forty-something! Then maybe, just maybe I can stop working myself into a mid-life crisis and wait for next year. Oh there you go, the average age for a woman in Australia is 84. I've got two more years to go and then I'll be chucking my next big hissy fit.

~ By Genevieve Messenger

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MAMA K'S STORY

Early March 2008, K Koala appeared in Dales Creek & is still here on our property. On close inspection, we noticed she had a big blue tag in her left ear with a large black 'F' on it. A quick phone call to Donna at Greendale Wildlife Shelter & we found out the F stood for French Island. Donna explained that, unbeknown to everyone, 221 Koalas from French Island were translocated to the Wombat State Forest approximately 31/2 years ago as they had eaten all of their food supply on the Island. Healthy & content, K has not left our property.



so these All-Aussie native animals are given A Fair Go! If you are priveleged enough to witness something so amazing in nature, enjoy it!

Baby Dale is growing quickly & is a healthy, active koala; a pleasure to sit back, relax & watch. A hobby photographer for years, I've managed to snap some pretty special moments they have shared.

Breeding season has come & gone, during which we had the fun of watching Kev - a beautiful big male koala trying to locate Mama K & her (due to a baby on her back) doing her best to dodge him. Maybe next year Kev, baby Dale will be self-supportive then!

~ Kelly Golling

Go Natural Go Native:

She surprised us with a beautiful baby Joey mid September 2008. We named the baby DALE due to our location & the inability to be able tell its sex. Not only did Mama K (renamed from just K upon the arrival of Dale) survive the translocation - a very stressful thing for a wild animal to endure, but she has also bred in the wild!! This is promising news for our furry friends as their numbers are in serious danger! Imagine 10-15 years time Phascolarctus (pouched bear) cinereus (ash colored) may be extinct!!! Could we really call ourselves Aussies if we allow this to happen?

Please take care when driving, keep all dogs locked up unless under direct human supervision,

Have a great day

... ways to make your life a happier place

When you reach the end of your days, will you be able to say you had a wonderful life? Or will you feel it was full of suffering & missed opportunities?

You're painting that final picture now - in every single moment of your life. The way it turns out is not determined by what the world throws at you, but by how you respond to it.

Wise people say: "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!"

In this regular feature, I'll offer some simple ways you can make your life a much happier place.

Focus on What's Right rather than What's Wrong

Human beings spend a lot of energy dwelling on what's wrong in life. We re-hash daily dramas. We point out our annoyances with people & situations. The TV "News" could be called the "Bad News" considering it only addresses negative things that occur. Our entire society seems to be geared towards focusing on life's dramas, with very little attention given to acknowledging the positives.

Count your blessings regularly & don't take the good things for granted. Identify at least one positive experience every day, whether major or minor & celebrate it. Give thanks & feel grateful for all its benefits. Express your appreciation for it & for how great it made you feel.

When you get into the habit of that, increase the number to 5 positive experiences, then 25, 50 & more. If you find yourself giving thanks continuously through the day, you know your life is going pretty great!

While you do still need to identify problem areas in your life which need improvement, that process should be practical & matter of fact. Identify the problem & see what's needed to improve it. Then make whatever changes you can. Deal with the problem, rather than dwelling on it.

Dwelling on the negatives helps nothing. Moaning about what's 'wrong' only serves to drain your energy & make you feel bad. Remember the guidance of the 'serenity prayer', which is to accept the things you can't change & to change the things you can.

You should also be honest with yourself about the unhappy situations you're actually choosing not to change. When you're afraid of changing a situation, it can feel like you haven't got the choice or power to change when, actually, you do. It only seems like you have no other options.

In reality, you just haven't considered your choices consciously & honestly. Your unconscious fears can cause you to fail before you even begin & you end up feeling like a victim to your situation.

There are many valid, life-affirming reasons why we do choose to stay in challenging situations. Whether you choose to stay in, or leave, an unhappy situation is not the issue. Suffering only comes when you feel that you're a victim to it.

To avoid this, always assess your situation consciously. Be honest with yourself when you're not prepared to take the risks involved with making a change. Acknowledge that the power of choice is always in your hands & that, at this time, you are choosing to stay.

When you're honest with yourself, you don't need to feel like a victim. Rather than hating a situation you've chosen to keep in your life, focus instead on all its wonderful positive aspects. See only the good in it & learn to love it. If you're going to stay, you may as well benefit from it!

~ by Kathie Strmota

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8am ~1st & 3rd Sunday



Dear Pet Guru,

I am very worried about Horace, my pet huntsman, who is losing weight at an alarming rate. I took him to the vet, but the lady behind the counter just said "EEK!"
from Disquieted, Dales Creek



Dear Disquieted,
 Huntsmen eat flies. I can only suggest that the flies are too thin. Leave bits of food around for them & they will put on weight & Horace too will become more corpulent.

- Pet Guru

where are they now?

Most Blackwoodians, in remembering Val Jackson, will be doing so with a smile on their faces – she’s fun. So when, in 2007, she moved to Ballan Hostel, this town lost a bit of twinkle-in -the-eye, a bit of dig-in-the-ribs. Our loss was their gain. She started calling the bingo for them, having had 20 years experience in this town. She loves the food, activities & especially the staff at Ballan & I’m sure they love her back.

In 1954, Val & her husband bought the former police horse paddock (beyond Sebastapool) from Bill Matheson. The family holidayed there; fishing, swimming & digging up Schnapps bottles & clay pipes (common police horse vices). *refer to p4 to read more history*



Val helped organise Christmas & Easter dances. On retiring to Blackwood in the early '70s, Val continued her volunteer work, serving with the CFA during Ash Wednesday & for many years as an executive with the Senior Citizens, contributing the seniors column for Blackwood Newsletter.

She was widowed not long after retiring here & lived alone ever since. She did however, bump into a Jim Kretschmere at the general store & they became best friends & companions for the next 25 years.

Val regularly visits her beloved Blackwood with her daughter, Marlene & son-in-law, Barry. So keep an eye out for her having a cuppa at the store. She’s still quick with a smile & a gentle ribbing.

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

POPA photo & a brief 'then & now' bio into the 'drop box' outside the general store or email to blackwood@centralvic.com.au

Welcome to Blackwood



As a child, Kathie Strmota fell in love with the Blackwood area when she came for family picnics in the forest (many, many years ago!)

Last year she returned to camp in the forest & decided that this is

where she wanted to live.

She was offered a lovely home off Simmons Reef Road after placing an ad in the Blackwood News & moved in over xmas.

Kathie runs a natural-medicine & energy-healing practice as well as holding personal-development workshops. She will run her business from Blackwood.

Since moving here, she has spent most of her time sitting on her front porch, looking out over the trees, enjoying the silence & meeting the cockatoos, kookaburras & koalas.

"I just love it, but I'm not getting much work done!" she laughs

**43a High Street
Trentham 3458
5424 1000**

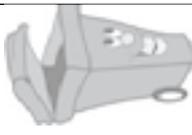
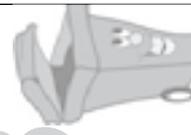
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Ellen Kemp, B. Pharm., M.P.S., ND

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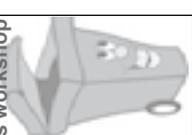
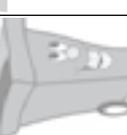
Sat 9.15am-12.15pm

february 2009

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church CFA Training Wally Zanon	TERM 1 starts 2	Karate 7.00 @ Hall Milo In2Cricquet starts Barry Sweet	Darren Sweet 4	Trentham Film Society 7.30 6	Darley Market Ballan Lions Club Market Daylesford Farmers Market T/atham Community Market Twilight Feast @ St Erth
8	All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Chelsea Stubbs Breanna Willmott	Mrs Terrill 9 	Karate 7.00 @ Hall Sophie Darwen Teagan Unstad	Russell Henderson 12	Trentham Old Time Dancing 13	Valentines Day C. Geelong Farmers Market BLACKWOOD BOHEMIA Robin Bradley 
15	Daylesford Market Trentham Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Talbot Farmers Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Renee Aharon Jenny Bridger	Ellen Coyle-Hehir Owen Byers 16	Karate 7.00 @ Hall 18	19	20	Buninyong Farmers Market Mick Hewitt 21
22	Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Spirituality in the Bush Trentham Market Barbara Sweet Walter Currie	23 	25	26	27	Lancefield Farmers Market BALLAN YOUTH CARNIVALE Blackwood CC v Smeaton 28
<p>Have we missed your birthday? Do you know of an event we should list? Please email us or pop the details in the DROP BOX at the General Store.</p> 						
<p>FREE BUS TO WENDOUREE 3rd MON each month Community Link Program BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL Judith 53686697</p>						

March

sunday monday tuesday wednesday thursday friday saturday

<p>1</p> <p>Clean up Australia Day register @ the hall 9.30am CFA training</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Karate 7.00 @ Hall Shayla Kuno</p>	<p>5</p> <p>MEDITATION: Uniting Church 5.30-6.30</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Trentham Film Society 7.30 Tom Pywell</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Darley Market Ballan Lions Club Market Daylesford Farmers Market Trentham Community Market Trentham Lions Jumble Sale St Erth Festival Blackwood CC v Smeaton</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Daylesford Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church BHS Open Day St Erth Festival</p>	<p>9</p> <p><i>Labour Day</i> St Erth Festival + Little Diggers workshop</p> 	<p>Karate 7.00 @ Hall Lisa Kuno Blake Willmott</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Luise Nugent</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Trentham Old Time Dancing Blackwood News deadline: advertisers book space regular features & contributors</p>	<p>14</p> <p>C. Geelong Farmers Market Seafood Night @ Lerdies Robert Darwen Lorraine Kuno</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Christine Stockwell</p> <p>Blackwood News deadline: features & items of interest community groups & clubs</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>Karate 7.00 @ Hall Anthony Pywell</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Hayden Harvey</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Mitchell Unstad Blackwood News deadline: News, classifieds</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Buninyong Farmers Market Myrnyong Music in the Park Foods of the Forest Festival @ Lets Talk</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Daylesford Market Trentham Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Talbot Farmers Market Annual Monster Clearance Sale, Trentham Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p>	<p>23</p> 	<p>Karate 7.00 @ Hall Jason Darwen</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Greendale Outdoor Drive-in</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Daylesford Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Spirituality in the Bush Suste-Ann Deeble</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>Karate 7.00 @ Hall Julie Pywell</p>	<p>FRIDAY BUS SERVICE 9.05am departs B'wood 9.40am arrives BM station 2.15pm departs BM station 2.50pm arrives B'wood</p>	<p>31</p>	



The Marvelous and Improbable Adventures of the Crumple Horned Snorkack

The Snorkack Finds a New Friend

The police who came when Professor Bloom called were very apologetic. They tried to explain to him that being a plagiarized creature wasn't against the law, as far as they knew. But they did say that they thought the little being looked like an escapee from the zoo. And so, with the help of the Professor's fishing net, they finally caught a very cross Snorkack and bundled him into the back of their wagon.

If the Snorkack was angry about being taken to the zoo, he was absolutely furious about being dumped in a cage with the raccoons. "There needs to be a sign," he announced to the surprised attendant in his The-Snorkack-is-Asking-You-Nicely-One-Last-Time voice, "that says just Who is in this cage". "We don't have signs for unclassified beasts," mumbled the young attendant, his eyes goggling. He was thinking that he needed to drink less of those energy drinks.

"Unclassified?!" squealed the Snorkack indignantly. "Beasts!? Right then." And the Snorkack spun around and disappeared in a huff into the depths of the enclosure. The police, still standing around outside the cage, shifted their feet nervously. They could tell trouble when they saw it.

In a moment the Snorkack re-emerged. To the attendant's astonishment, he was prancing on his back legs and twirling a short stick. He was carrying it as if it were a cane. The Snorkack rapped it twice on the concrete floor. That brought the raccoons out of hiding in the upper branches of their tree. He paused importantly. "Raccoons," the Snorkack commanded, "form up into a chorus". And as the attendant gaped open-mouthed, the Snorkack launched into a tap-dance routine, accompanied by his own slightly squeaky voice:

*The simplest thing, there isn't much to it
You don't have to sing, you just doodley-do it
I like the rest, but the one I like the best
Is the doodley-doodley do*

The attendant fled. By the time he got back with the manager in tow, other animals had joined in the chorus with the raccoons. Some of the nearby cheetahs had started into a low-pitched accompaniment of "doop, be-doop, be-doopey-doopey-do". The monkeys were cavorting around to the tune of "doodley-doodley-doodley-doodley, doodley-doodley-do," and one of the elephants had started trumpeting out the bass line. The Snorkack returned enthusiastically to the chorus for the twenty-fifth time:

Come on and waddley-archer, waddley-archer, waddley-woo, waddley-woo

I like the rest but the one I like the best is the waddley-waddley-woo

This was getting out of hand. "Now you settle down in there!" shouted the manager. But the Snorkack just came back around to the first and only verse, happier than ever before—and a bit faster. With each chorus, more animals joined in, hooting, screeching and braying with excitement. They hadn't had this much fun in ages. The lions were turning around and around in circles, thrashing their tails with delight. The hippopotamus was singing out of time underwater, letting out great clouds of bubbles. A macaw, who had originally been owned by a truck driver who used very bad language, began making up verses of its own. And as the manager looked desperately around, he noticed that one of the policemen was tapping his foot quietly, while the other was openly clicking his fingers to the beat.

"Order a general evacuation!" howled the manager, tearing at his hair. But panic had already set in. The rhinoceros, who hated fun, was hunting down the source of the noise with reddened cross-eyes, and crashed into his fence with a thunderous bang. Crowds of visitors were streaming towards the emergency exits from the zoo, as on all sides new animals joined in.

Only one small figure was making her way against the tide of bodies. Luna Lovegood generally swam against the stream. After her father's rather strange newspaper The Quibbler shut down, she had become a reporter for the Weekly World News to help pay for her studies. Luna knew a good story when she heard one. But the scene she came upon was extraordinary, even by her standards. Some giraffes had stepped

over their fence and now bent their heads to the manager's ear, humming "doodley-doodley-doodley-doodley, doodley-doodley-do" down the entire length of their throats. The manager had put a bucket over his head and tried to hide, while the police were singing along into their walky-talkies. Sirens had started up in the distance, and there was a helicopter somewhere overhead. In the middle of it all, the Snorkack was beaming. He was just about to start chorus number one-hundred-and-forty-seven.

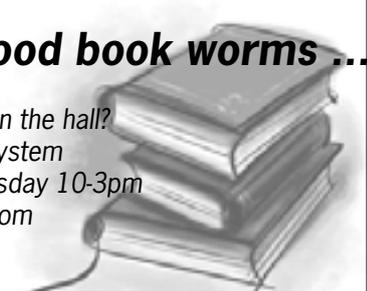
"Come on," said Luna, opening the parcel of fish-and-chips she was carrying. "I think it's time to leave". With startling speed, the Snorkack leapt into the middle of the greasy wrapper, showering chips everywhere. Luna closed the heavy little package, tucked it under her arm, and joined the last of the people dashing for the exit. In the background, most of the zoo was still singing heartily.

It was not long after this, that things took a curious turn.

~ Lily Evans (with the help of Alaska Pollock)

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

attention blackwood book worms ...
did you know we have
a well stocked lending library in the hall?
• borrowing is on an honour system
• the hall is open each Wednesday 10-3pm
or the key can be picked up from
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a blackwood news community service notice



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BRICKBATS & BOUQUETS

CONGRATULATIONS TO Ian & Max who recently moved into Blackwood.

THEY WON a nights stay at Suite Blackwood in the raffle held over the last 2 months of '08.

ALL MONEY raised (over \$200) in ticket sales will be donated to Noelle Shader who lost her home to fire last year.

I WOULD like to commend everyone who worked together or donated goods & services in this fine fund-raising effort & all those locals & tourists who supported the cause.

~ Jinny Coyle

IT HAS been brought to our attention that crude & obscene messages have been written on walls in the adventure trail huts at the special school.

SO SAD to see this type of behavior in our town & not fair on Tony & his great team who work so hard for the special kids.

THE SCHOOL is private property & vandals can be prosecuted.

~ Fred Moore

BOUQUET TO Lynne on your recent loss, we are thinking of you.

~ your Blackwood friends



BLACKWOOD NEWS is sad to report there has been no word from little Norbitt this issue - I do hope he is getting along okay? I heard on the grapevine he was back home - has anyone sighted him?

JILL TELLS me his girlfriend is on holidays. Perhaps we will have news of a wedding in the April/May issue of Blackwood News?

~ the editor

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LIFT NEEDED to Ballarat Do you commute from Blackwood/Dales Creek/Greendale to Ballarat Midweek?

I am seeking a lift to Ballarat SMB Campus from Blackwood commencing March 2nd for 16 weeks Mon- Fri. I need to be at the Campus by 8:00am` Willing to share petrol costs. Please contact Luke Whitehouse (03) 53 686794

in my opinion ...

Time to Move on...

The recent eviction of students from a Melbourne squat highlights the need for these archaic laws to be changed. I think it's unfortunate that they can't afford housing, but why should they be able to steal it from someone else?

Are they going to stiff the taxpayer with their HECS debt as well? Perhaps with all the pressure they're under they should go have a massage & an

nice meal out, then do a runner? If you can't afford something you can't have it!

We all know someone who has had a rental property that went pear-shaped. The government is reliant on private citizens to provide some of the public housing our society requires. I personally got burnt by bad tenants & no longer have a rental property. In fact, everyone I know eventually gets burnt by dud tenants or squatters.

It's time the law-makers make like the squatters & move on!

~ The Beak (name supplied)

CHANNEL SIX CB REPEATER LAUNCHED IN BLACKWOOD

Blackwood in Victoria's Nth West, has received a UHF CB Repeater for use by the local community and surrounding towns.

The Country Fire Authority, State Emergency Service, Ambulance and Police are the big winners, being able to liase with each other and the community on the equipment provided free of charge by Site Access & Emcomm Australia.

Mobile phone coverage is almost non-existent in the region and this new service allows everyone to communicate with each other using low-cost and readily-available UHF CB Equipment.

Local emergency personal have commented on how much easier it will be for the community and passers by to report life-threatening situations via UHF CB when mobile phone coverage is unavailable, as well as making it easier for hikers who come into difficulty in the local forests to raise the alarm for help should the need arise. This equipment will save lives.

A spokesperson speaking on behalf of Site Access and Emcomm (Emergency Communications) Australia, who supplied the equipment, said "The companies were happy to help the local community with this equipment, and hope to help more communities around the state, but with the high setup and ongoing licensing and site costs, we are unable to provide as many repeaters as we would like"

~ ref <http://www.emcomm.com.au/page2.html>

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BALLAN Community House 5368 2934

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a blackwood news community service notice

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from the King Desk

KING REMINDS PARENTS TO KEEP RECEIPTS

Catherine King, Federal Member for Ballarat, reminds parents of school children in Moorabool to retain their receipts for education expenses as they prepare for the new school year.

Ms King said the back-to-school period was often a really expensive one coming off the back of Christmas and the holidays, and that parents in Moorabool should make the most of the benefits available under the Rudd Government's \$4.4 billion Education Tax Refund.

"Every bit counts when you're faced with the prospect of all those expenses associated with getting the kids ready to go for the new school year," Ms King said.

"We understand that, and it's even more the case in the midst of the global financial crisis and the downturn in the world economy.

"The refunds parents can accumulate at this time of year will no doubt come in really handy come the end of the 2008-09 financial year, just six months away.

"But to make the most of it, parents in Moorabool need to keep their receipts and store them in a safe place."

Ms King said the Rudd Government announced the Education Tax Refund in the last election campaign and was honouring its commitment to the Australian people.

"It will provide parents with much-needed help for education expenses, with refunds of up to \$375 per primary school student and \$750 per secondary school student.

"Parents bringing up the next generation of Australians are doing one of the most important jobs in Australia and they deserve a helping hand.

"It's also a central part of the Rudd Government's Education Revolution aimed at giving kids in Moorabool, and all over Australia, the best possible start in life."

For further details contact Keryl Datson on (03) 5338 8123 or 0409 855 946

CLASSIFIEDS



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Just in time for summer, 1 floating week at Kyneton Bush Resort. Owning a timeshare means you can swap your weeks with resorts all over the world & if you are a local you have day access to all the facilities at Kyneton - including the pool. Great safe holidays for families \$1500ono. Also have 3 weeks banked which we can sell to buyer @ \$500pw negotiable.

CHECK OUT the resorts website at www.kynetonbushresort.com.au then call us on 5368 6607 with any questions.

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



who's turning 50 in February?



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Term 1 2009

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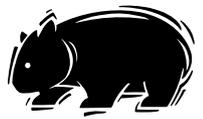
Authorised by Catherine King MP, 5 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat VIC 3350

LOCAL TIP hours

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

Ballan: Wed-Mon 1pm-5pm

a blackwood news community service notice



Don Nardella



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

blackwoofs

MANY LOCALS will be familiar with the sight of Boof & Buddy taking daily walks together around Blackwood.



THEIR'S WAS an odd friendship - Boof, a kelpie x heeler & Buddy, a chihuahua x. **ORIGINALLY FROM** a litter of Mark Walker's puppies, Boof once walked the Lerederg Gorge from Bacchus Marsh to Blackwood. He often disappeared for a day or two,

returning home absolutely exhausted!

AGED 15, Boof passed away in November '08 in the bush at his home. He had a good life & was healthy but for a bit of stiffness from arthritis.

THERE'LL BE no worries about his bloodline running out with the number of puppies he sired including Buster (BN vol1/3).

BOOF WILL surely be remembered as a Blackwood legend!



Moorabool Communities in Action

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

Ballan and Mt Egerton Transfer Stations Now Open

On 6 January 2009 the Ballan landfill was closed to the public. This landfill will now be capped and will no longer be used.

On 7 January 2009 the Ballan Transfer Station was opened to the public with all waste now being transported to Werribee.

On 5 January 2009 the Mt Egerton Landfill was closed to the public. This landfill will be capped over the next few weeks in readiness for landscaping of the site.

On 10 January 2009 the Mt Egerton Transfer Station will open to the public with the waste now being transported to Deer Park.

The use of different landfill sites is due to independent contractor agreements.

These two closures see the end of landfills for this Council and commences a new era in waste management.

Both Transfer Stations will provide for recycling of oil, batteries, tyres, steel, greenwaste as well as the standard recyclable materials. These sites will be able to remove some materials from the waste stream and recycle this to other users thus reducing the waste to landfills.

Imagination Magic is a performing arts program for babies, toddlers, preschool children and their parents or carers.

The program is held each month and is available to residents of Moorabool.

February

The Kazoos

Music, song and dance

Bacchus Marsh

February 10

10am and 11:15am sessions

Pentland Primary School, Wittick St Entrance
Ballan

February 24

10am and 11:15am sessions

Ballan Community Centre Supper Room
Steiglitz St Ballan

Tickets available January 21

March

Colour Me Music

Creative play, colours and music (come dressed up in your fantasy costume if you wish) Bacchus Marsh

Entry is by ticket and gold coin donation.

For tickets or information call Moorabool Shire Council customer service on 5366 7100

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



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GO TAKE A WALK!

THE GREAT Dividing Trail's Lerderberg Walking Track features Blackwood.

THE TRAIL is 80km long & is currently designed for walkers only. Commencing at the Bacchus Marsh Railway station, it meanders through the town and along the ridge on west side of the Lerderberg gorge to Blackwood, then to Lake Daylesford via the Wombat forest passing through attractive and quiet bushland. Walkers are encouraged to stay overnight in Blackwood as the journey takes several days.

THE GREAT Dividing Trail Association has secured some funding to extend the Trail a further 30km from Blackwood via Firth Park to Mt Macedon. Work is expected to commence once a couple of land-ownership & other issues have been resolved.

THE TRACK HAS been popular with walkers since it was opened in 2004 by the then State Governor John Landy. Maps are available for sale at Blackwood Post Office, VIC in Daylesford & Bacchus Marsh newsagent.

FURTHER INFORMATION can be obtained from the GDTA website www.gdt.org.au or by ringing Richard Piesse on 0448 572 867.

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Blackwood Caravan Park



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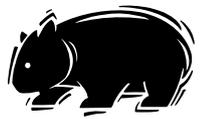
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VALENTINES DAY "BLACKWOOD BOHEMIA"

Calling all young people and families ...

'Blackwood Bohemia' is coming to Blackwood on Saturday February 14 starting at 5.00pm with loads of fun and entertainment for all.

A youth-focused, drug and alcohol-free family event, Blackwood Bohemia is a community festival aimed at celebrating the talents of young people.

Featured acts include Patrick Shaw, lead singer in Ballarat Musical RENT, Charlotte Hamilton, the Mt Egerton Dance Club and punk rock band the "Boo Hoo Hoo's". All are local residents of Moorabool and talented young artists.

Also on offer will be recreational games and activities run by the Blackwood Special School Outdoor Education Centre.

Don't forget to get your temporary tattoo, your hair coloured or hook into some jewellery-making.

There is fun for all the family on the menu, so don't miss out! Entry is free.

For more information please contact Natalie, Moorabool Shire Youth Worker on 5366 7100 or email info@moorabool.vic.gov.au

What is KYOKUSHIN KARATE?

Although it had been developing since the early 1950s, Kyokushin was founded by Masutatsu Oyama in 1964. As a child he trained in Kempo & Shotokan (both forms of martial art). Kyokushin rapidly gained in popularity – currently more than 12 million people worldwide practice it. It is known as "The Strongest Karate" as it requires you to be strong in mind & body.

KYOKUSHIN means "search for the ultimate truth"

Karate for children should not be about self-defence & hard training. The primary benefit is their increased awareness, of both their bodies & their surroundings. Training improves awareness of their physical capabilities, strengths & weaknesses &, in turn, leads to a greater awareness of their surroundings.

Children come to enjoy & revel in the flexibility, strength, stamina, co-ordination & speed that they develop through regular training in Kyokushin karate.

Kyokushin karate encourages an attitude of perseverance & determination. It teaches respect, both for themselves & others, better health, team spirit.

All these benefits apply equally to adults but there are a number of additional benefits to be had & skills to be learnt.

Karate is whole-of-body training. It works on both the body & the mind. It develops both the left & right side of the body - therefore the brain too.

Karate offers the basic aspects of self defence. Basic, because nothing is better than avoiding a fight in the first place, either by talking your way out of it or not being there at all. But for those (hopefully) rare times that these options are not available, there's karate! Regular training helps you recognise your & extend your physical limits & gives you some tools & tricks to use. While not for everyone, some people enjoy fighting full-contact fighting because it provides them with a further challenge beyond the dojo (training hall).

For older people, the appeal may lie more in doing kata, a prearranged pattern of fighting moves that require both power & grace, improving strength & balance.

No matter what your age, you can find a level at which to train. So, what's your 2009 resolution? Fitness, strength, self-discipline, co-ordination, self-defense, confidence, patience or self-respect? You may find it at the Blackwood Hall on Tuesday nights!

ref: <http://www.ifk-australia.com/kyokushin.htm>

Ballan YOUTH Carnivale

Clean and Green

Sat Feb 28th 6pm -11pm

Mill Park next to Ballan Pool

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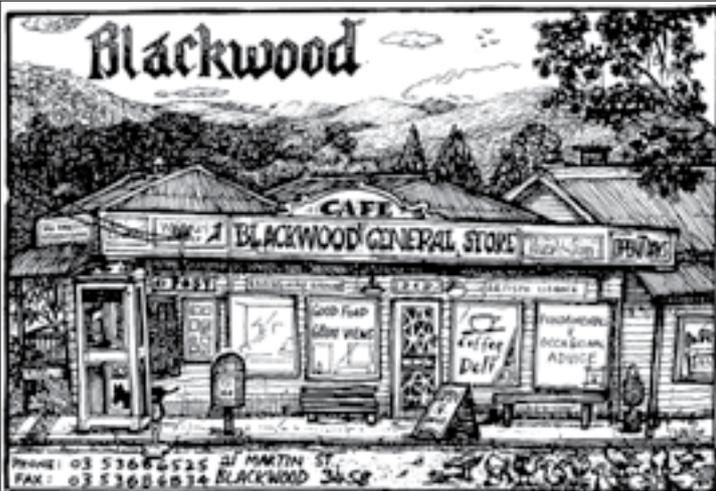
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Fri and Sat nights
- menu changes weekly

Sat March 14: Seafood night: 4 course meal with all types of seafood (price TBC due to seasonal changes in prices of seafood). Bookings essential.

Tues 17th Feb 7pm: Ballan Chamber of Commerce dinner meeting

Sat March 21: open for lunch in support of the inaugural Food in the Forest event.

Watch our blackboard for details about upcoming events

- Girls afternoon with a naturopath
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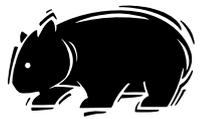
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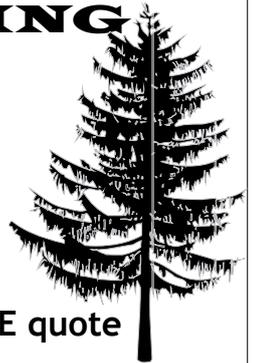
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