



BABY BOOM IN BLACKWOOD!

Over the past several years, we've had a number of issues with our water! Too much, not enough, contaminated... now Blackwoodian women of child-bearing age are beginning to question "what's in the water?" Between April 28 & May 1, three Blackwood-esses gave birth.

Strapping Ned Geoffrey Cassidy arrived at 11.49am weighing in at 10lb 2oz (4590gm) ouch! Born at Bacchus Marsh hospital to Greg & Kerry Cassidy & doting big sister Matilda.

See our new babies p14



ALICE'S GARDEN OPENS

On Easter Sunday the inaugural opening of Alice's Garden Gallery (named for Margarets' mother who helped her daughter re-build the garden) at Let's Talk Retreat was celebrated with the 'Men of Steel' exhibition, featuring prizewinning local artists – Greg Cassidy and Mark Cowie.

The opening soiree was enjoyed by all – the weather of course made a big difference to event and the music created a lovely ambience.

At last report, art collectors had purchased 11 of the 30 pieces on display.



I LOVE LUCY!

Many Blackwoodians' hearts went out to Lucy who was featured in 'Where are they now?' our April May issue.

In October last year Lucy was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, a form of cancer.

She is currently just over half-way through her treatment (14 rounds of chemo) & has had an operation which replaced her left knee & 26cm of femur with metal.

As ever in times of need, Blackwood has united, with two events organised for June to raise funds to help with her medical costs.

On Thursday, June 11, Lerdies will hold a Celtic Music Evening featuring celtic music with a harpist, mandolinist, fiddler and singer.

At 3pm, Sunday June 14 you are invited to an Afternoon Tea for Lucy at the Blackwood Special School Camp. Enjoy great food & music & get lucky with door prizes. For a \$5 donation entry, come along, catch up with friends help our Lucy fight cancer!

Oh, if you have a prize idea please call Phillipa 5368 656.



**Happy Birthday
Blackwood News
ONE YEAR OLD!**

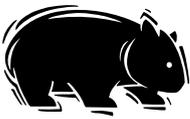
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon June 8 Blackwood Sculpture Festival p11

Thur Jun 11 'I Love Lucy' night @ Lerdies p1

Sat Jun 13 Blackwood Winter Ball p2

Sun Jun 14 Afternoon Tea for Lucy p1



editors thoughts ...

I don't know about you, but I've had a hectic couple of months & when I realised it was time to put the Blackwood News' 1st birthday issue together I froze with a deep sense of panic - how would I manage to get this issue out on time with so much on my plate already? I certainly seem to lurch from crisis to crisis - deadline to deadline, so I want to thank everyone who has contributed to get Blackwood News to its first birthday. Also to all advertisers, who enable its publication & distribution.

It has been a privilege to participate in our community by publishing our 'local rag'. Our tiny community has such spirit! It amazes me every two months that there is so much going on.

Thank-you especially to Robina for trusting me with your 'baby' - I do hope I have done it justice!

So, as we go into our second year, I invite anyone who has something to say, something they would like to see published or an event that needs promoting - let me know through the drop box out the front of the general store (quality photos only please) or email to admin@centralvic.com.au (deadlines for next issue are below).

We are always looking for 'Silly Old', "Where are they now?" & 'Blackwoofs'. Milestone anniversaries, birthdays, bouquets & brickbats - anything & everything of interest to Blackwoodians!

If you know someone who is passionate about Blackwood - put them onto www.blackwood.centralvic.com.au where they can download colour archives & subscribe to the eList for future issues.

~ Jinny Coyle, editor

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 Aug/Sept '09 issue are

Advertisers: book space by **July 13**

Regular Features & Contributors: **July 15**

One-of Features & Items of Interest: **July 15**

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

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

News & Classifieds: **June 20**

Sorry, late submissions cannot be accepted.

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

c/o Blackwood PO, Blackwood 3458 (quality photos only)

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

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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HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

Month & Year	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall Average (mm) 1879-2007	Minimum Temperature deg C	Maximum Temperature deg C
March 2009	41.8	56.4	2.5	30.8
April 2009	48.4	73.2	-2.1	27.7

Once again our rainfall is well below normal and we can only hope that we get good winter rains and not experience an El Nino which is unfortunately still possible.

~ Don Owen

EDITORS NOTE: check out Trentham Storm Chasers. **central vic:** <http://www.stormchasers.au.com/currentcr.htm>.

Trentham:

http://trentham.bsch.au.com/1Trentha/Current_Vantage_Pro.htm

http://trentham.bsch.au.com/GunyahBe/Current_Vantage_Pro.htm

BLACKWOOD WINTER BALL

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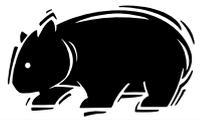
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The Moorabool News

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



BLACKWOOD SOCIAL ALBUM ... BLACKWOOD EASTER PARADE '09





Some Early History of the Rip Van Winkle Mine, Mineral Springs

The Rip Van Winkle mine has a long history going back to Blackwood's early gold-mining days & is first recorded in 1859 as the Early Bird mine & later the Great Extended mine situated halfway between the then townships of Blackwood & Golden Point, & now located & seen as a tunnel at the foot of the hill at the south end of the present Blackwood Caravan Park.

In October 1859 the Early Bird Company crushed 20 tons of stone with a yield of 11 oz of gold. The reef where they obtained the gold in one place was eight foot wide. In December 1859 the Mining Surveyor's reports stated that "the Early Bird Company has been very fortunate in striking some very rich quartz, surpassing in richness any specimens found in this division since the opening of the Crown claim at Simmons Reef". In September 1860 the Early Bird Company was reported as being renamed the Caledonian. In October 1861 the amount of gold obtained was down to 2 dwt per ton & mining stopped.

The mine was idle for 3 or 4 years, then a company known as the Great Extended Tunnel commenced operations in approximately 1865. Messrs. Byres & party worked the two reefs. They had a suitable crushing plant of six heads of stamps, worked by a water-wheel 30 feet in diameter; the stamps weighed 600 to 700 lbs each. With two & a half sluice-heads of water, the stamps could be worked to 60 blows per minute. The reef was worked by an adit which was driven towards workings in the Early Bird shaft from which it was stated good returns were obtained before the records of the Mining Registrars were kept, as this gold was bulked with the Gold Escort returns of 1868. The company worked the mine for about one year, & then it closed down. A co-operative party then prospected the reef for a distance of between 200 ft & 300 ft and proved payable, the reef being between 2ft to 4ft thick.

In about the 1870's when alluvial gold had become scarce, Byres & Party (Mr Alex Byres, Jack Byres, Charlie Gribble & Mr Herb Cann Snr) found this reef, they then commenced to dig a tunnel in an area which is now above the Mineral Springs camping area below the road to Golden Point, which was called the 'Rip Van Winkle' mine. It was dug a distance of approximately a quarter of a mile with several drives off the main tunnel. A huge wheel driven by a water-race, was used to operate a plant to crush the quartz from the tunnel.

In 1896 the Rip Van Winkle Company took up the mine & while prospecting on the surface found a reef with good prospects. It was noted that one large block of quartz projected above the ground, right on the roadway close to a house. Gold could be clearly seen in this stone, yet it had, thousands of times, been struck by the feet of the people of the village. The history of this reef illustrates how a good mine may be missed even in the heart of a mining township.

From mining reports, the 'Rip Van Winkle' showed good returns. Altogether 1,100 ounces were obtained from the surface to a depth of 80 feet, & 1,245 ounces to a depth of 250 ft. During the following 3 years of mining the company crushed 3000 tons for a yield of 1500 oz of gold.

The 'Rip Van Winkle' was operated until the early 1900's. The crushing plant was removed in 1936 to the 'Easter Monday' mine. This crusher can now be seen in the main street of Blackwood near the Hotel. The water wheel unfortunately having been dismantled several years previously. The tunnel itself was last prospected about 1938. ©

Information from Mining Reports & also from a report 'Great Extended & Early Bird Mine Blackwood by H Foster 1932; 'The Blackwood-Trentham Gold-field by W.H. Ferguson 1906', courtesy the Victorian Mines Department, & 'Mining Surveyors Reports' 1859-1861, courtesy State Archives.

~ Margot Hitchcock,

Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society



Photo: Water Wheel and Quartz Battery at Rip Van Winkle Mine. Info and photos courtesy Margot Hitchcock, Historian, Blackwood & District Historical Society. 2009

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Pop Quiz: What Do You Know About Veneer?

Which of the following is true & which is false?

1. The presence of veneer on a piece of furniture indicates recent production?
2. The presence of veneer indicates inferior quality?
3. A piece of furniture with veneer on it cannot be stripped, sanded or refinished?
4. When veneer chips, it's best to remove the old veneer & finish what's under it?

They are all false, of course, or at least mostly false.

1. It is true that a recently made piece may be veneered, but the presence of veneer in & of itself does not mean the piece is new. There is evidence that the ancient Egyptians were familiar with veneering techniques, based on furniture retrieved from their tombs. The Romans also used the process, which has fallen in & out of favor over the centuries. It was the absolute rage in the 18th & early 19th centuries, as evidenced by the magnificent Regency furniture of France in the 1720s, the Georgian mahogany output of England & the colonies in the late 1700s, & the American Federal outburst in the early 1800s. But the technique fell out of general use after that & not revived until the early 20th century, when it was used as a conservation method as an effort was begun to use less of the world's hardwood resources.

Generating a piece of veneer is a technology-driven process, extremely dependent on the quality of the saws used to slice a log. Early hand-operated reciprocal saws wasted about as much wood as they cut, & the veneer slices were necessarily thicker than what we usually think of. Water-powered rotary saws came along about 1825 & enabled the slicing of an entire log into a long, thin, continuous sheet of usable, albeit usually bland, veneer. Advances in technology have changed the thickness of veneer from the 1/8 inch of 1725 to the standard 1/64 inch or even 1/110 used in some modern productions. So it is not the presence of veneer that indicates a particular period of production, but rather the thickness of the veneer & its corresponding underlayment.

2. It is true that a piece of inferior-quality furniture may be veneered, but again, it is not the presence of the veneer itself that determines that inferiority. More important to quality is the overall design & construction of piece, e.g. blocked corners in the case, good dovetail joints in the drawers, etc. But, perhaps more important than any of these items, is the underlayment of the veneer. In the 18th century, thick veneers were applied to solid wood under-layments, & secondary woods using primarily hide glue. Expensive mahogany veneer was applied over less costly woods such as pine & poplar. The veneer was so thick that slight imperfections in the underlayment did not "telegraph" through the veneer. As veneers became thinner, the sub surface became more important. In the early 20th century, the five layer process known as lumber core plywood

For example, a well-made drawer front of 1925 started out as a piece of solid poplar or oak with its grain running the length of the drawer. A sub-layer of inexpensive veneer, gum or poplar of 1/20 inch thickness, was then applied to both sides of the core with its grain at right angles to the grain of the core. Then a face veneer, walnut or mahogany of 1/28 inch was applied to the drawer front with its grain running the same direction as the core. Another inexpensive face was applied to

the inside of the drawer front to finish it off. With the sub-layer of veneer to cushion it, the expensive face veneer can be very thin. Of course, modern production solves that problem another way. It is very common to see veneer laid over a perfectly smooth manmade material, such as particle board, chip board or even highly compressed paper known in the trade as "medium density fiber core," a fancy name for cardboard. What's UNDER the veneer is more important than the veneer itself.

3. A piece of furniture with veneer on it can be stripped, sanded & refinished successfully as long as reasonable care is used. Water is the mortal enemy of veneer & must be avoided since most veneers are laid using water-based or hide glue rather than solvent-based glue, such as contact cement. This is because most factory finishes are solvent based & will loosen solvent-based glue. Solvent-based stripper will not harm sound veneer, but avoid water-based or water-rinsed strippers, which might dissolve the water-based veneer glue.

Most veneer is only 1/28 of an inch thick, but that is plenty thick to allow reasonable sanding if required. Using your hand & a piece of sandpaper, you would have to work awfully hard to sand through a standard piece of veneer. A machine sander will do it quickly, though, so you must be very careful. Other than that, treat veneer as regular wood in your preparation & finishing procedures.

4. When veneer chips or peels, it usually is indicative of structural problems such as drawer runners being worn out, or it indicates a glue problem. None of these problems can be solved by removing the old veneer and finishing the underlayment, which, as we have seen, is usually much less desirable than the original veneer anyway. First, you must determine why the veneer is chipping and peeling and solve that problem first.

It may be as simple as re-gluing a loose length of veneer that just dried out or gotten damp. Or it may be as complicated as rebuilding drawer runners or stabilizing a loose top or case. In any event, this has to be done first or you are wasting your time trying to patch and touch up the veneer. If the veneer is not salvageable and must be removed as a last resort, use household vinegar in a mustard squeeze bottle to get under the veneer. Use a long, dull knife to gradually work the veneer loose as the glue is dissolved by the vinegar.

The point of all of this is to rehabilitate the good name of veneer, which sometimes gets wrongly maligned by the uninformed and perpetrates some of the old "furniture myths" that still circulate.

Acknowledgments to Worthpoint.com

~ The Blackwood Antique Merchant



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COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

BLACKWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE INC.

Hello once again from the Blackwood Seniors. I apologise for no report in the last Blackwood News but I was absent from the club for 6 weeks - it was great to return & meet up with all my friends again. I would also like to thank all those people, for hospital visits, get well messages, cards & flowers during my recovery period. It was nice to know how many friends I have. The operation was well worth while & was very successful & I am walking well & pain free.

The club wishes to thank Kerry & Jenny who fulfilled their position as cook & kitchen assistant in a very competent manner but, owing to other commitments, have had to tender their resignation to the club - we wish them both well. Thankfully Kylie Simmons is our new appointed cook & Bre-anna, her able assistant. We welcome them both to the club.

We have Fred Moore to thank once again. Fred organised the hot-dog stall down at the Easter Sports with all profit going to the Blackwood Seniors. We also thank her group of helpers, namely Harley, Katie, Elise, Isabel, Anne, Karen & Glenn. The donation will certainly be put to good use by our club.

We have had quite a spate of guest speakers over the past few weeks.

Robin Saet - Home Care Co-ordinator had lunch with us & gave quite a humorous talk about her group of workers & their contribution in caring for the aged population in the Moorabool Shire.

Catia Sicarna - Glaucoma Australia told us how to care for our eyes & the tests that should be undertaken so that we can be made aware of any change regarding that most important part of our body - our eyesight.

David Bricha - Managing Director of Bacchus Marsh Retirement brought brochures & information & informed us about the possibilities of the facility should we be interested at a later date.

We hope to welcome Betty Ashton back to Club this week. Betty has been absent for a number of weeks due to quite a serious illness - we have missed you Betty.

No more news this time, until the next issue, regards

~ Barbara Sweet, (Hon) secretary

BLACKWOOD CROWN LANDS COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

see article page 16

~ Elizabeth Hall, secretary

BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

We were finally able to have our presentation for new members. Thank-you to Lerdies restaurant for providing a great meal, enjoyed by all & thank-you to our special guests Mr Don Nardella M.L.A, Mr Dave Stevens, A/Regional Manager (Grampians Region) for giving their time to make the certificate presentation, last but not least Mr Brett Harding for providing the training necessary to achieve the level of skill required to become a member.

The last few months have been reasonably busy with about 2 call-outs each weekend. But location of properties has sometimes difficult as numbers are not visible from the road especially at night.

~Bruce Henry Team Leader

BLACKWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

What a perfect day & we couldn't have asked for better weather. The Blackwood Easter Carnival & Woodchop was a great success. A very big thank-you to the Blackwood General Store, Brian & Fred Moore for

sponsoring this event & also to John Fitzgerald Real Estate & all other sponsors - without you this event would not have happened.

Thank-you to all who took part in the Easter Parade & thank-you to Catherine King MP for judging & presenting the prizes. Special thanks to Merylyn for organising the children's games & to Val, George & James Pyers for bringing ferrets along & entertaining the children free of charge with Easter Egg prizes. The animal farm was also great for all to see from the little ones to the big people. Eric the Red was once again a great success. Thank-you to all the Clubs for organising the food stalls, to the people who did all the setting up on Good Friday, the running & organisation on the Saturday & the clean-up on the Easter Sunday.

The Easter Carnival was a success but at the time of printing we are still awaiting the final figures as all accounts & cheques have not been cleared.

~ Elizabeth Hall, secretary

BLACKWOOD RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

The fire season is finished & restrictions concluded but there still remains a real concern of house fires.

75% of house fires start with something smouldering. Smoke alarms in the house provide an early fire warning. When you hear this you should leave your house quickly, crawl low in smoke - the cleanest air is nearest to the floor. Make sure you keep a key in your locked doors while you are in the home.

In an emergency dial 000, keep a card near your phone with your name, phone number & address with your nearest cross street.

Next Brigade training is on Sunday June 7 @ 9.30am. New members required & will be made very welcome.

~ George Stockdale

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: Great tip about the card next to the phone - I recently had to ring 000 from a friend's home & had no idea what number the house was & the operator would not accept a property name!

BLACKWOOD DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By special request, our Easter Sunday hand craft exhibition featuring needlework skills of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, will be re-featured on Sunday November 1 of Cup Day weekend.

The eye catching Poppet Head behind our new metal fence, meticulously built to scale by President Allan Hall has attracted many compliments and enquiries.

Visitors & new members are cordially invited to attend BDHS meetings which are held on the first Saturday morning of each month from 10.30am - 12.30pm at our historic Police Stables in Martin Street. Publications: "Some History of Simmons Reef" \$13, "The Story of Blackwood" \$5 & "Aspects of Blackwood" \$14 by Margot Hitchcock are also on sale at Garden of St. Erth & the Cobb & Co Coffee Shop.

~ J. Chamberlain, correspondence secretary

Blackwood/Barrys Reef LANDCARE WATER WATCH

High Ammonium levels at Sebastapol were recorded Jan & Feb. The levels are now normal at 0 mg/l detected the last two months. If an abnormal level is detected again, an immediate multiple sampling will be taken from the Mineral Springs to Sebastapol. Let's hope this was just an aberration. All other results are excellent. Have started an investigation of the macro invertebrates at the three sites. The variety & quantity seen was according to Mikala Peters the Melbourne Water Watch Coordinator for our area, one of the healthiest she had seen in a long time. Macro invertebrates have a large variation in tolerance to pollutants and river conditions, so by investigating the "bugs" in the stream one can quickly assess river health



~ David Rogers

BLACKWOOD JUNIOR CRICKET CLUB



Rainfall at Barry's Reef: April - 45 mms. May 1- May 19 - 10.5 mms.
On April 14, I wrote to Michael McCarthy, Manager of Strategic & Social Development, Moorabool Shire as follows: "Blackwood's Water Supply comes from two separate catchments. The area from Kearney's Road, Newbury to Yankee Road in the Wombat State Forest area is with Goulburn Murray Water whilst Southern Rural Water's aegis is from Yankee Road to the Tyrconnel Adit Reef." Because of illegal bores & dams, I have requested that spring flow management below the Great Dividing Range be transferred to & controlled by SRW.

In response to my letter, Andrew Bainbridge, Manager of Assets, Moorabool Shire Council (who attended the Landcare Advisory Committee meeting on May 5, 2009) will investigate this issue whilst the fact that Stock and Domestic Bores which grant the user to 2 mega-litres of water annually are un-metred, will be discussed at a separate meeting.

The water table is so low, even legitimate bores are dry.

~ Pat Liffman

~ Steve Hammond (coach)

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BLACKWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Blackwood Chamber of Commerce was launched at a inaugural meeting held at Let's Talk retreat in Martin Street. The meeting was a brief & focused affair that appointed Mike Allen as the interim Chairman & resolved to enter a float in the Easter Parade.

A membership drive was discussed & commenced in May & agreement was reached on a defining statement of intent - "together we are better".

The BCOC charter will be the economic development of Blackwood & environs which will compliment the activities of other community Groups such as the Progress association & the Senior Citizens.

The meeting resolved to develop a web site as a key part of their communication strategy.

Membership & general enquiries should be addressed to Mike Allen mike@cfod.com.au 0418302706

The Blackwood Chamber of Commerce will hold its next meeting on June 23rd at Let's Talk start at 6.30pm

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BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

This season's Presentation Night was held on Saturday April at the Greendale Hotel.

~ Scott Unstad

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BLACKWOOD KARATE DOJO

On May 12, the Blackwood dojo had a visiting black belt and brown belt from Geelong. They both demonstrated & helped with the teaching & students, giving yet another insight into different aspects of martial arts, Kyokushin in particular. It was good to have a reasonable turn out of students. Since the last school holidays & the onset of cold weather, students have, for one reason or another, not attended.

Blackwood dojo needs everybody's support if it is going to be a continued success. Ongoing costs of rent and insurance needs to be spread amongst the many, not the few.

The Blackwood Easter Festival was a fun day & perhaps next year we can encourage more students to participate.

Our first grading was on May 31 at Buninyong Primary School. I don't know if Blackwood has ever had a karate dojo in its entire history, but if it hasn't, then all those who did this first grading **made local history** - not just reading about it.

~ Osu, Sempai Simon

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BLACKWOOD CLUB UPDATES

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BLACKWOOD ARTS SOCIETY Inc

Craft Expo: We raised \$211.00 after costs from the Craft Expo held on May 2-3. I wish to thank Kitren Ryan for volunteering her time to man the door. To all the Stall holders for having the courage to try this first venture, many will be back next year. Ruth White, Jan White, Ray Doherty, Lindsay Smith, Marie Hamilton, Kathy Stromato and Katy McKenzie whose quality of work and craftsmanship was splendid.

On a sad note, some one or some persons cut down the signage on the roads to Blackwood, not once, but twice. I do take it personally as I put a lot of my time in the organisation of each event. But this does not just effect me--there is the time & energy of all the stall holders & the other business in town that benefit financially by having events that will attract many more tourists to Blackwood.

BAS has received the Moorabool Shire Arts Grant for 2009. The grant will go toward funding a Music Festival (hopefully July/August), the next Art Show, 1st weekend of October & next years Craft Expo.

The Blackwood Art Society is looking for interested persons or parties to form a sub-committee to organize the Music Festival at the Mechanics Hall. **ALL LOCAL TALENTED MUSICIANS NEEDED.** The BAS will put up the Hall rental for a ONE day event & organize the publicity. Please contact Phillipa on 53 686 656

~ Ms Phillipa Osborn Smith President BAS inc

.....
BLACKWOOD MEDITATION GROUP

Helen North is facilitating the Uniting Church Meditation Group while Sally is on maternity leave. Over the cooler months the group will be meeting at a member's home. They will again be held on the 1st & 3rd Monday each month at 7pm.

Enquiries can be made on 5422 2786.

~ Helen North

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

.....
MCiA

The Blackwood Community Gathering scheduled for May 19 was cancelled due to Cyana being ill. Council is looking to re-schedule.

~ Tamsin Luke, Moorabool Shire



in my opinion ... butt out!

I just love the idea of Malcolm's to up the price of ciggies again.

I mean, I know there bad for you and all that, but think of the taxes they generate!!

Plus, we're not likely to grow old and pensioned for too long right?

If the government lost this source of revenue they'd have to introduce a clean air tax in it's place and slug everyone.

Frankly, I'm sick of being a second class addict!! There's blue lights, sharps bins, gamblers help, alcoholics anomynous, impotent immigrant's association etc. etc. when all I get is taxed and emphysema. Brought on no less by being shunned into the cold and the rain. If the

government were serious about ridding the nation of this evil, and I wish they were, then they need to be a bit braver. "Man up ", as it were.

Why not put out a declaration: Cigarettes will go up by \$5 per month on the first of each month for the next 12 months and then be removed from Australian shelves. All smoking cessation aid fully funded.

It's better than weazling it up a bit here and there to keep us coming back. At least then we could see the future before us and jump ship now. Ah... but grasshopper you haven't learned the lesson. Where will we get the taxes?

~ The Beak (name supplied)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

in response to article in Ballarat Courier 21/3/09 "Group works to plug town."

(Blackwood) "is a sweet town that nobody knows about. We have a number of long standing groups such as the Progress Association, Landcare and the Historical Association – but they don't really look at the bigger picture!" Mike Allen.

Months ahead, Blackwood Progress Association starts organising Blackwood's historic Easter Woodchop and Carnival which attracts many interstate visitors. From accumulated profits, a charming children's playground has just been purchased for the Mineral Springs picnic ground. The achievements of Blackwood Historical Society and Blackwood/Barry's Reef Landcare are too numerous to itemise.

Sited at the junction of the Lerderderg State Park and the Wombat State Forest, Blackwood is recognised as one of the world's most fire prone localities. The wind change on Monday February 21, prevented Blackwood's possible destruction from that furious Muskvale's fire. January 31, 1983 – when the Lerderderg Park was ablaze & two Daylesford foresters perished at Dale's Creek. Sewerage for Blackwood will increase population growth.

In the event of sudden bushfire or intense wildfire, the bigger picture for Blackwood, Barry's Reef, Simmons Reef and Dales Creek, is early warning and prompt evacuation.

~ Pat Liffman, Barry's Reef 3458

ARE YOU A BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHER?

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BLACKWOOD POST OFFICE hours

Mon-Fri 10am-1pm & 3pm-5pm

Sat 10am-11am

Tree Challenge:

Blackout

I didn't realise when I moved to Blackwood, that there would be so many Blackouts. I'm not talking about the kind one has at the pub occasionally after a few too many beers, I'm talking about the kind where the electricity goes out, and all the lights go off.

Now I have had many times when all the lights have gone off and no one was home, but that wasn't a blackout. That was just me. So when a black out actually occurs in Blackwood, you can imagine how much trouble I'm in.

The first time was interesting, It was one of those nights with no moon, and I had to find my way down the stairs to my front door. Then I remembered my torch wasn't working, so I was feeling around in the dark..for candles. I could've felt around in the dark for George Clooney but he wasn't around that night. Sigh.

So once I realised I was all alone, I lit a few candles, and sat there, trying to remember the last time I had a candlelit dinner. I went to get a cup of coffee, but of course, the kettle couldn't work, and I went to surf the internet, but the modem was out. Dah! I thought, 'What did they do in the old days, sew and read Pride and Prejudice???' Being in the dark was tougher than I thought.

So again in my life, I was in the dark, not really knowing when it was going to end. Desperately searching for batteries, stumping my toe with every step, because my filing system just happened to be all over the floor. It was a sorry state of affairs.

I should have known that moving to a town like Blackwood, meant that the town would blackout if it could. Seriously though, it's those power companies, not really caring since they were privatised. It's pretty hard when you ring up and say, "Excuse me there's a blackout in Golden Point Road, can you tell me what's caused it? Can you fix it?" And the reply is, "Sorry we can't tell you, it's private, we're privatised remember!"

So again I was in the dark. As I was quietly lamenting the fact that I couldn't watch Master Chef or Two and Half Men, I looked out the window. And there was the Milky Way and Hubble Telescope, in a blanket of shiny dew before me.

This is what I moved to the country for – to watch the stars – not Charlie Sheen- the twinkling type. I moved here to live in the moment, to quieten my thoughts, to listen to my inner voice. This was a lightning moment.

All of a sudden a light came on above my head. No I didn't have any great ideas, it was the fluorescent in the kitchen. The remote was visible before me, in all its glory, and with a press of the button, Two and a Half Men, appeared on the screen. All I needed now was Mr. Clooney, to turn up, and I'd have my other half. I was starting to feel whole again.

I knew I would blackout the blackout, until it happened again, and hopefully I would see the light, next time.

~ By Genevieve Messenger

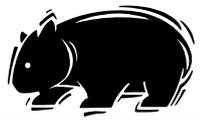
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Sustainable Self-Sufficiency

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Australians are the biggest waste producers on planet earth. On average, each Australian person produces approximately 1 tonne of waste which is taken to landfill. Apart from our earth being damaged by gouging out a large hole, only to fill it with varying types of human waste and burying it once it's full and too smelly for us to deal with. Many items are thrown into these pits we call rubbish tips that **could & should be recycled!** As everything breaks down, large amounts of methane gases are emitted, damaging the ozone layer. Those items unable to break down remain lodged in the soil for the next earth inhabitants archaeologists to dig up.

To combat this nowadays there are many different types of recyclers within society - all we need to do is utilise them. Better yet, reduce household waste to a bare minimum. The most common slogan to help consumers with this message is **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE...**

REDUCE the amount of waste you produce

REUSE everything you can, more than once if possible

RECYCLE everything and anything you can

Just a few ideas... Ripped/torn stockings for use in the garden as soft plant ties, Used (and rinsed) plastic milk containers as plant protectors, Veggie Scraps can be put into a worm farm, Yard rubbish can be composted then the vermicastings and compost can be used on the garden. You could install an insinkerator which finely chops all waste leftovers, off-foods, bones and meat into tiny fragments before it is sent to the same place as your sewerage to be treated instead of festering inside the earth creating toxic runoff & polluting our underground ecosystems. In a 'perfect world', one of total sustainability we would live like the Amish; producing what we need & disposing of waste on our own land. As we all know, the world is not perfect & urbanisation prohibits this, so we do need rubbish collection; however we can all greatly reduce the amount we dispose of.

Fortnightly rubbish collection is a daunting thought for most people. I remember living in my flat in Pascoe Vale, Melbourne. With a weekly rubbish collection, most bins were spewing out rubbish a couple of days before collection. I am proud to say our household (2 adults and 3 indoor pussycats) only put our rubbish out monthly. The recycle bin sometimes goes out fortnightly. The logic behind this; wait until your bins are full to avoid the truck stopping & starting so much, thus reducing the carbon emissions & smelly toxic black smoke around our wildlife.

Rubbish is just that, rubbish. It smells bad & goes straight to landfill. Recycling is reprocessed & made into something else. It is very important that anything going into your rubbish bin is as clean as possible so as not to contaminate an entire load making it unusable. I find the easiest way to achieve this is give your recycling a good rinse in the soapy dishwater once you have finished the dishes. Realistically your recycle bin should smell nice, just from the cardboards included from laundry powders for example. until next time

~ think natural - Kelly

Sense Memory –

Gardening by Experience

Some of you may relate to this, or perhaps this is just me: I am about to do something really stupid and the idea occurs to me – “Hey! This is probably a dumb idea.” – then I proceed to do the thing anyway. The result is inevitably the predictable disastrous outcome. “Why, why, why?” I ask myself afterwards.

I'll give you an example:

In Spring I had sown my carrots too thickly. In my impatience to get them in the ground I had ignored the teachings of guru Peter Cundall and instead of mixing the fine seed with some sand to thin the sowing I'd just strewn them in a ham-fisted fashion and hoped for the best. They came up thick as thieves and I thought – “If I can just get a few of these into the next bed over I'll have a bumper crop”.

Received wisdom says that carrots do not transplant. I know this. Anybody who has ever read the carrot section in a book on veggie gardening will know this, but I had never grown carrots before (see earlier article on the combination of large dogs and small gardens) so I just had to see for myself.

Bloody-mindedness? Curiosity? Plain stupidity? Possibly a combination of the three, because I assure you that in many similar situations I will repeat the lesson.

I moved my carrots. I nimbly scooped them out with lots of soil. I whisked them into their new home to avoid drying out. I watered them immediately with diluted seaweed fertilizer to avoid transplant shock. They all died. AND this is exactly what I knew should happen.

Perhaps I think that the laws of nature will bend for me. I do have a reputation for unfounded optimism. Or, it occurs to me that this may just be the only way I really learn and move forward- by experience.

I love to read glossy gardening books. Katie (another keen Blackwood gardener) and I call them gardening porn. On cold days when it is entirely possible to be out in my wellies freezing my fingers off doing those jobs that winter gardening magazines tell you are ideal, like turning compost or pruning camellias, I prefer to be inside by the fire looking at all the pretty pictures and boning up (no its not that sort of porn) on the best way to raise Brassicas or how to force Rhubarb. My head is full of all sorts of facts on how do this and that, but when the sun comes out and I'm out in the patch ready to put theory into practice it all comes undone. I ignore all the book learning and do things in my own ill-advised way, at least once, until the lesson of dead vegetables has been drummed in.

It is however a very effective way of learning, a deep physical kind of lesson that really sticks, so maybe it's not so dumb after all. I know for instance that if I harvest potatoes and put them on the kitchen bench (because I am so proud of my crop) that they will go green and become inedible. I knew this already of course but now that I've experienced the disappointment of wasted food I'll never do it again.

I know that taking the excess leaves of my tomatoes will expose the fruit to the birds, that early kale needs netting or the cabbage grubs will reduce the plants to skeletal stalks.

I know to be a little less stingy with watering the corn. I know the joy of trial and error compost and I even applied a little theory courtesy of Mr. Cundall (for quick compost turn it daily) and now have at least a cubic meter of black gold to further enrich the fruit tree bed.

If you like a little theory, my 'cool mountain gardening calendar' says that now is the time to plant broad beans, cabbage, radish, snow peas and spinach.

Of course if you would prefer to learn the hard way you could try your luck with Winter carrots – sow them thickly and if transplanting or the frost doesn't kill them, the plants will intertwine and make rude and amusing shapes to entertain your guests on those cold winter days.

~ Heather Marsh

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Dear Pet Guru,

I have a question. If I catch a skink and keep him in a cage with lots of skink food & a saucer of salted water, will he grow into a salt-water crocodile?

Greenhorn from Greendale



Dear Greenhorn, you idiot.
I have an answer. No! - Pet Guru

where are they now?

WE'VE NOT had time to put a 'Where are they now?' together this issue - but perhaps you can help ensure this feature continues!

DO YOU know someone who has had a history in Blackwood and you would like to see featured here?

POPA high quality photo & a brief 'then & now' bio (it can even be in point form & we'll do the story) into the 'drop box' outside the general store or email to blackwood@centralvic.com.au

OH, PLEASE ensure we have the person's permission to publish the information!

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a blackwood news community service notice



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



who's turning 18
in June?

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



who's turning 40
in July?

The Power of a Smile

Smiles light up your face and open your energy. When you look at others with a smile, you light up their lives. When you run into other people while smiling, they smile back automatically because you've given them a little lift. In turn, their smile gives you a little lift and, soon enough, you've got smiles and good feelings all around.

Try smiling, even if you're not feeling so great. Physically, the change in facial muscles releases brain chemicals which can actually lift your mood.

Obviously, we all have the occasional serious challenge or painful situation where you just don't feel like putting on a smile. You want to scream or cry or get angry. That's perfectly okay, and you've got to let these emotions out naturally for your own good health. You should never pretend to feel good on the outside when you truly feel bad on the inside. At this time, go with whatever emotions you feel. Do your best to see the good aspects in amidst the pain, and know that 'this too shall pass'. But these truly difficult situations are far less frequent than our stressed-out faces and bad moods would suggest. Most situations where we fall into the trap of feeling bad are purely habitual.

It's also important to try and see the humour in life's little dramas. Having a sense of humour is one of our greatest coping mechanisms. It increases our sense of control over difficult situations and enables us to experience joy in the face of adversity.

Humour and laughter also have a very real benefit for our physical health by reducing stress hormones and increasing immunity. The regular use of humour also increases mental flexibility and creativity, enabling us to be more lateral and innovative when finding solutions to our daily problems. However, not all types of humour are beneficial in this way. Research has shown that people who use ridicule or 'put-down' humour are found to spend more time in hospital, suggesting that using hurtful humour has a detrimental effect on our health.

It's really just about developing a more light-hearted and playful frame of mind, being able to laugh at yourself and the crazy situations you find yourself in. It also helps to surround yourself with other people who can see the funny side of life and help you avoid taking life too seriously.

I remember one morning, on a packed peak-hour train, we were literally jammed in body-to-body. I had an elbow in my side, a bag poking my thigh, someone's backside against mine (eughhh!), and an armpit in my face. Nobody was very happy about it and, as I began to feel irritated and sensed my good mood taking a down-turn, I suddenly looked at the situation objectively. It was ridiculous! If someone had got that intimate with me in any other situation, I'd have slapped their face. But here we were, all victims of this crazy thing we call life, and all just wearing it. My sense of the ridiculous turned to hilarity and I got the giggles. You know what happens when you try to suppress the giggles – they just push out with a vengeance. Eventually, I lost all control and just let my laughter out. It felt great! My good mood was immediately restored and, by the time we reached the city, half the people on my end of the carriage were in fits. Some people also threw in witty jokes, really bringing to light the funny side of it all, letting their stress go and raising each other's moods. It turned out to be a lovely train ride!

Try it out yourself, the next time everything seems to be getting a bit too heavy. Just try to see the funny side of it.

I'm not suggesting you go the whole 'crazy laughing lady on the train' even though, contrary to popular belief, they can't actually lock you away for that! Simply let some lightness into your perception of the situation and feel the heaviness lift.

Remember that Peter Pan can only fly when thinking happy thoughts. This great truth is also echoed in the title of a Leunig cartoon: 'Vasco Pyjama meets the Fallen Angel who tells him the only reason angels can fly is because they take themselves so lightly.'

There's wisdom in that...

~ by Kathie Strmota

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June

2009

monday tuesday wednesday thursday friday saturday sunday

<p>1</p> <p><i>first day of winter</i></p>  <p>Mathew Osborne</p>	<p>2</p> <p>KARATE 7pm @ the hall</p> <p>Monique Matheson Jamie Coolman</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Joel Staub Kelly Matheson-Miller</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Dave Dandy Jill O'Connor</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Trentham Film Society 7.30</p> <p>John Bridgman</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Daylesford Farmers Market</p>	<p>Ballroom Dancing Classes 2pm @ hall Daylesford Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p>
<p>8</p> <p><i>queen's birthday</i></p> <p>BLACKWOODS Sculpture Festival</p> <p>Julie Waight ○</p>	<p>9</p> <p>KARATE 7pm @ the hall</p> <p>Lily Spurr Elija & Eva Pope</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Kaitlan Sutters</p>	<p>11</p> <p>'I LOVE LUCY' Celtic Music Night @ Lerdies</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Trentham Old Time Dancing</p>	<p>13</p> <p>BLACKWOOD WINTER BALL @ the hall C. Geelong Farmers Market</p> <p>Karlee Sweet</p>	<p>Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Afternoon Tea for Lucy</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Girls night @ the Pub</p>  <p>Melanie Pentti Allan Hall</p>	<p>16</p> <p>KARATE 7pm @ the hall</p> <p>Stephanie Stockwell ●</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Lucy Lysenko Rosie Aaron</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Buninyong Farmers Market</p>	<p>Daylesford Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Talbot Farmers Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Brandon Wood</p>	<p>23</p> <p>KARATE 7pm @ the hall Blackwood Chamber of Commerce 6.30pm</p> <p>Bree Hillis Jesse McKeone ●</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Penny Garnett</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Lancefield Farmers Market</p>	<p>Daylesford Market Trentham Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Barb Dandy Dennis Norgate ●</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>KARATE 7pm @ the hall</p>	<p>MOBILE LIBRARY tuesdays 1-2.15 opposite Blackwood House</p>	<p>FRIDAY BUS SERVICE to BACCHUS MARSH timetable page 20</p>	<p>Jake Matheson-Miller</p>	<p>Max W Matheson</p>	

july

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

sunday

<p>FREE BUS TO WENDOUREE 3rd MON each month Community Link Program BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL Judith 53686697</p>		<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>Daylesford Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Eamon Whitehouse Jake McKeone</p>	<p>KARATE 7pm @ the hall</p> <p>Matilda Cassidy ○</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Trentham Old Time Dancing</p> <p>10</p>	<p>Simon O'Loughlin</p> <p>C. Geelong Farmers Market</p> <p>11</p>	<p>Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Blackwood News deadline: advertisers book space</p> <p>Norma Stewart Cheryle Meade</p>	<p>KARATE 7pm @ the hall</p> <p>Jackson Waight</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Blackwood News deadline: regular contributors community groups</p> <p>Shazza Bridger ○</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Margaret Stork</p>	<p>Buninyong Farmers Market</p> <p>18</p>	<p>Daylesford Market Trentham Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Talbot Farmers Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Girls night @ the Pub</p> <p>Blackwood News deadline: news, classifieds advert artwork / content</p> <p>Oscar Macfarlane</p>	<p>KARATE 7pm @ the hall</p> <p>Robyn Zanon Jack Rayner</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Annalise Zanon Steve Hammond ●</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>Lancefield Farmers Market</p> <p>25</p> <p>Wilma Evans</p>	<p>Daylesford Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Spirituality in the Bush</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>KARATE 7pm @ the hall</p> <p>Nicholas Matheson</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Ray Castellin ○</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Rob Hillis</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Have we missed your birthday? Do you know of an event we should list? Please email us or pop the details in the DROP BOX at the General Store.</p>	



POP THE FIZZ!



NED GEOFFREY CASSIDY

WAS BORN to Kerryn & Greg Cassidy at 11.49am at Bacchus Marsh Hospital on April 28. Weighing in at 10lb 2oz (4590gm) his head measured 36cm & he was 53cm long.



TAMSYN LUKE SWEET

BORN AT Ballarat Hospital on May 1, weighing in at 6lb 40oz, Tamsyn was born 6 weeks early & sent to the Mercy Hospital in Melbourne for 2 weeks when she was well enough to return to Ballarat. She was allowed to come home on May 17 - a long wait for her family!



BAILEY JAMES BROWN

BORN AT Ballarat Base Hospital on May 1, weighing in at 8lb 6oz (3800gm) to new Blackwoodians Nicky Seddon & Ray Brown.

"I FEEL GOOD!"

The Woodend Winter Arts Festival

This unique festival has quickly achieved a reputation for presenting some of Australia's finest musicians in intimate settings, alongside literary events featuring acclaimed writers, children's entertainment, and exhibitions of the fine arts.

This year the program goes international, with expatriate performers Li-Wei Qin, Anne Harvey-Nagl and Christine Stevenson from Singapore, Vienna and London respectively travelling to Woodend to appear exclusively at the festival.

Over the Queens birthday weekend, festival goers will be treated to the exceptional talents of many renowned classical musicians.

The festival opens with a Flamenco Crew, while Japanese drummers Wadaiko Rindo will follow up on Saturday with a workshop and energetic performance for both the young and old.

Well-known writers Arnold Zable, Don Watson and Catherine Deveny will talk candidly about their work, while Botanical Riches will be discussed by Michael McCoy and Richard Aitken.

Leading arts academics Dr David Hansen, Felicity St John-Moore and Caroline Williams Mora will present a special series of fine art lectures, The Cultural Pavlova.

'Art in Clay' by the Macedon Ranges Potters and a talk by Kyneton company Flynn Silver are further attractions.

Children's events include Tubby the Tuba by the Scotch College Orchestra with Playschool's Alex Papps, and free library sessions.

Handel's Coronation Anthems and Royal Fireworks Music will be performed by Melbourne's outstanding chamber choir Ensemble Gombert directed by Woodend resident John O'Donnell, and baroque chamber ensemble Accademia Arcadia, which was formed in 2001 by Jaqueline Ogeil. The Sunday performance will be followed by a fireworks display on the St Ambrose Oval

For bookings and details, visit www.woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au or ring 0447 570 327.

~ Nadine Hartnett

FUND-RAISING SUCCESS

The inaugural Food in the Forest raised \$703 for the Special School, the event was a resounding success. Next year will be a substantially expanded event with all the stall holders re-booking.

BRICKBATS & BOUQUETS

A BIG bouquet to Matt & Sam for our special little gift, Tamsyn.

LOVE PHILLIP, Heather, Karlee & Marcus

MATT & Sam would like to thank family & friends for their congratulations on the arrival of Tamsyn Lee Sweet.

CLASSIFIEDS

BARGAIN RESORT holiday: 1 floating week at Kyneton Bush Resort. Owning a timeshare means you can swap your weeks with resorts all over the world & you have day access to all the facilities at the Kyneton Resort - including the pool. Great safe holidays for families \$1000ono. Go to www.kynetonbushresort.com.au then call us on 5368 6607 with any questions.

FOR SALE: 4 acres of vacant land. Edge of Blackwood township. Water & Power available
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Lily Evans & Alaska Pollock have asked that

readers look out for more *Marvelous and Improbable Adventures of the Crumple Horned Snorkack* next issue.

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!

LOCAL TIP hours

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

Ballan: Wed-Mon 1pm-5pm

a blackwood news community service notice



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GOIN' DOWN THE PUB



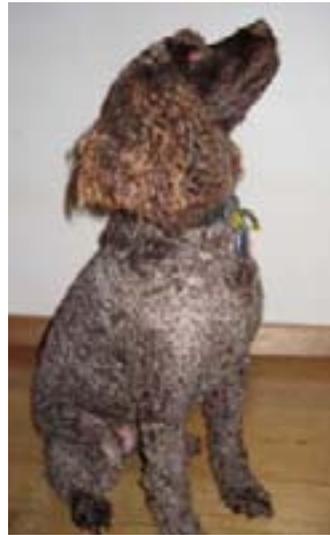
You'd have to be blind Freddie not to have noticed the massive new deck almost complete at side of the hotel!

Lynne tells me it will have heating & loads of comfy tables & chairs. The deck will be enclosed during the cooler months to keep the heat in - she expects it to be open in plenty of time for spring.

While I was checking out the deck, Lynne told me about the new monthly girls night at the pub. She reckons the men have their night(s) out but what about all the Blackwood-esses in town?

So girls - it's your turn, leave your men to fend for themselves & come to a girls night. Lynne wants to know what you would like to do - gather for a 'quiet' drink & meal? invite speakers? do party plans? watch movies? it's your call, but keep in mind that meal bookings are essential on 5368 6501

blackwoofs



'What's not to like about a spoodle?' says Fipsi. Annika's springer/miniature poodle X is a model of doggie manners. He has a sweet, easy nature that becomes sweeter & easier when he's picked up. He turns shamelessly into a limp & curly-haired teddy bear, incapable of movement or bad-doggie thoughts.

He's also happy to sit in the window all day - how much is that doggie in the window you might ask! He hardly barks (unless he comes across an echidna) & he doesn't drop hair as he is covered in non-allergenic wool (which can be woven into warm underwear for your children).

If all this sounds too good to be true & you're saying to yourself "I want one of these spoodles; will they wash my dishes?", arrange a meeting with Fipsi - he'll put you onto a supplier.

Do be careful, though - when it comes to business, he can be a bit of a wolf.

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with colour photos
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& while you are there be sure to subscribe to
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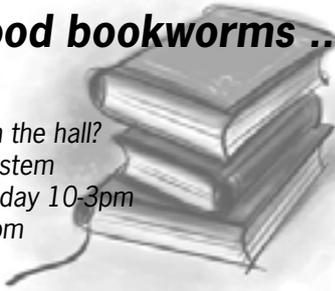
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Barbara Sweet - **5368 6551**



a blackwood news community service notice

TRENTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

COMMUNITY MARKET 1st Sat each month 9.30-1.30pm

COMMUNITY DINNERS share a meal, meet & talk

PUBLIC INTERNET ACCESS
\$4ph Mon-Thur 9.30am-4pm
except if there are computer
courses running

ph 5424 1354

a blackwood news community service notice





The Tavern

The Tavern at Daylesford Cider is the only boutique on farm cider tavern in the Victorian central highlands.

The Tavern is open for cider tasting of our farm produced traditional English style cider from Wednesday to Sunday between 10am & 6pm.

The Tavern also features a magnificent private dining room, reception room and 50 seat restaurant. Lunch is available from Wednesday to Sunday, dinner on Saturday & brunch from 10am on Sunday.

The Tavern is also open on public holidays.

With an emphasis on traditional hearty dishes using fresh produce sourced from the region, **The Tavern** is the ideal venue for any gathering small or large, where good food, good company & good cider go hand in hand. **The Tavern** also boasts an extensive collection of regional wines & English beers for your enjoyment.



SPORTSGROUND UPGRADE

There's a new electric BBQ at the sports ground, available to anyone who wants to hire the ground (ph Lou 53686 539). Thank-you to Brian Moore for getting the project up & completed - it took many hours of raising funds & hands-on work. Thank-you to the Shire for the Moorabool Communities in Action Grant. The facility includes double plates, garden furniture, concrete slabs & a lock-up shelter.

Congratulations again to Brian Moore, with help from Brendan Hehir, in attracting another grant from Moorabool Shire (Community Grant of \$5000) to help in resurfacing the sportsground.

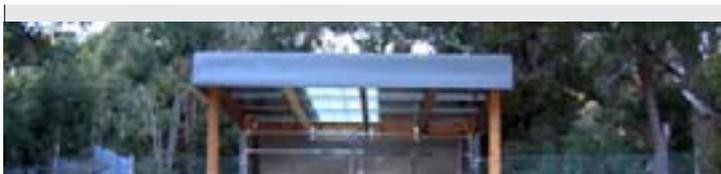
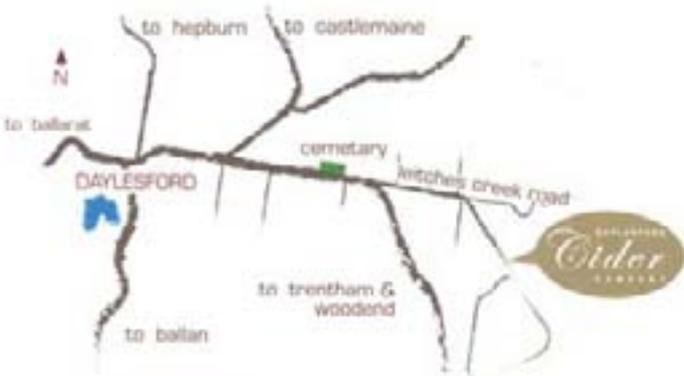
The Crown Reserves Committee sends its condolences to our secretary, Elizabeth Hall on the passing of her mother, Margaret Ward.

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GOODBYE RUBY ...





BLACKWOOD SPECIAL SCHOOL OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

The students visiting from the various Special Schools are thoroughly enjoying the improvements to the Centre.

The Mountain Bikes have created a great deal of interest and the confidence of the riders has also improved with the quality of the bikes. Students are willing to challenge themselves to ride beyond the Blackwood Oval and explore the streets of Blackwood or the Wombat State Forest. One group had an enjoyable ride out the back of the Garden of St Erth – and although the hills proved challenging their motivation and determination to completed the ride was inspiring.

The Adventure Playgrounds are very popular. Not only are the students simply enjoying time to relax and play we are also using them as teaching aids to prepare the students for more adventurous activities on the Imagination Trail.

Many students are also challenging themselves and their staff to a variety of giant games and table tennis throughout the duration of their stay. There are many small and large tales of student success and staff failure each morning when we prepare for the daily activities.

It is wonderful to see the additional excitement, enjoyment and laughter experienced by the students as a result of the developments and improvements at the Centre.

At the beginning of the School Term you may have seen a large group of adults riding around the town. This was a course conducted through the Centre for teachers from a variety of schools. Throughout the two day course they received their Bicycle Education Instructor Training Accreditation – they can now teach Bicycle Education to kids.

What have we done in Warner Street?

We have redeveloped the area around the back of our vehicle shed to make the area a safer site and increase the activities that the students can access and use while staying at the Residence. Our Archaeological Dig Activity Site is now a safer area – and has proved a great success with the activity being accessed each week this term.

We have also developed a campfire / bush cooking site at the Residence. Also an instant hit.

On Friday May 1 we officially opened the redeveloped School Accommodation Site and the two Playgrounds. This opening was very well attended by the Schools that visit Blackwood, local Service Clubs who have donated money and Friends of Blackwood. It was a very positive day and everyone is impressed with the improvements and what we are achieving at Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc.

~ Tony Bellette & Harley Dagleish BSSOEC Staff



LIONS CLUB NEWS

Monthly Dance Program

Old Time Dancing is held on 2nd Friday each month in the Trentham Mechanics Hall. Dances start at 7.30pm.

Admission is \$8 per person, including supper and a door prize draw. Music is provided by the "Rythmaires". Each alternate dance is held in aid of the Trentham Historical Society. Enquiries: Elizabeth 5424 1254.

Dates for the next few 2009 dances are June 12th, July 10th & Aug 14th

Wood Raffle

Tickets available every Saturday morning outside the Newsagency. The 1st Raffle was won by Ralph Watson of Park Street.

Each raffle is sold for 3 weeks before a draw. Tickets are \$1 each, prize is 1 mt Red Gum Wood delivered. 5 more raffles to go!!!

Spring Festival

Sunday October 4 @ Feldspar, Falls Road. Our last Spring Festival was an outstanding success; Lots of interesting stalls, great food, wine and beer tastings, children's activities, the Chinese Lion Dancers and an afternoon of musical entertainment in and around the gardens and natural bushland of Feldspar. Planning is well underway for a bigger and better day. For information of if you have something to contribute, please contact John 5424 1460

Cool Country Fun run

Sun Nov 15
info John 5424 1460

Carols in the Park

Friday December 4

Senior Citizens Dinner

Friday December 11

MYRNIONG PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

The Myrning Primary School has been a hive of activity at the start of term two. We have a lot of fantastic activities organised over the coming weeks.

The Grade Six students have begun a grand buddies program. The students will be travelling every Tuesday to the Ballan Hostel where they will be buddied up with a citizen of the Ballan Hostel to share experiences with them. This program is a great opportunity for the students to meet members of the local community whom they would rarely see. They will find out about what the person has achieved over their life and the program will culminate with the completion of a auto-biography of their grand buddies life. Miss Lewis, the Grade Six teacher is excited about the prospect of the children offering friendship to the hostel buddies along with the opportunities the children have of improving their communication skills.

The Myrning Primary School is seeking enrolments for Preps for the 2010 school year. If you are actively seeking a school for next year please do not hesitate to contact the school on 5368 7232 to discuss enrolment and Mr Peach, the Principal, would be happy to provide a guided tour showing the excellent teaching and learning facilities the

school provides.

This term the Grade Prep, One and Two students are travelling to the Melbourne Museum. We will be looking at the dinosaur exhibition as a conclusion of our studies from term one and the multicultural nature of Australia as part of our Term Two theme. The children are looking forward to seeing the huge dinosaur fossils and also driving through China Town.

Myrning Primary School has been fortunate to have been approved for the Netbooks Project. This is an initiative where students in Grade 5 are issued with small laptop computers for use at home and school for a small fee. This allows the students to have access to a computer at all times. The school has accessed 26 computers for the Grade 5 students and is currently holding information session with the parents.

The Myrning Primary School's 150th birthday celebrations will be held later this year and the school is looking for any interested parties to assist with the preparations. If you know anything that may be useful and know of anybody would could assist, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 5368 7232.

~ Cameron Crilly

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- bar opens at 5pm, meals from 6pm
- Pizzas available to eat in or take away
- Locals night Thur - \$12.50 meals
- blackboard menu Fri and Sat nights • menu changes weekly

Thurs June 11, 8pm onwards

Celtic Music Evening in support of local girl Lucy who is currently undergoing treatment for cancer. We would like to cheer her up with a music night featuring celtic music with a harpist, mandolin, fiddler and singer. Come along and support Lucy.

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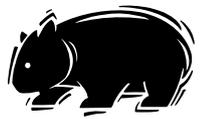
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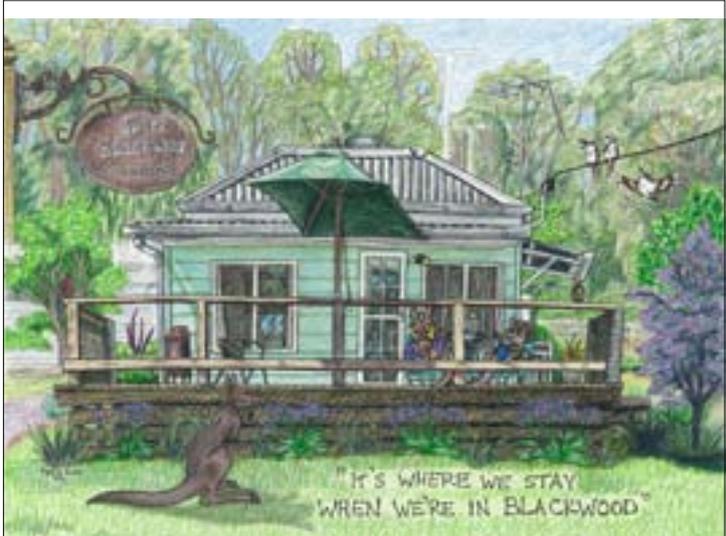
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Blackwood Bus!



The weekly Friday bus service to Bacchus Marsh has changed route.

The trial service has been adjusted to go further into Blackwood and Dales Creek and now picks up from Pentland Hills and still picks up from Greendale and Myrniong. If you want to see the bus service stay, then now is the time to get on it, or let us know why you don't use it. **Make the most of this great bus service!**

Blackwood



Dales Creek



Pentland Hills



Now departing Blackwood General Store at 9:05am; Greendale Hotel at 9:23am; Myrniong Hotel at 9:38am.

Return trip departs Bacchus Marsh station at 2:10pm and

Bacchus Marsh central at 2:15pm

Any comments or feedback can be given to:

Simon Evans | Brenton Hancock

Transport Connections Coordinators

Email: info@moorabool.vic.gov.au

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156 Main Street
Bacchus Marsh VIC 3350

 www.catherineking.com.au

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



Your local state MP, Mr Don Nardella MLA

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 9743 9825 or by email don.nardella@parliament.vic.gov.au should you have any matters you wish to discuss.



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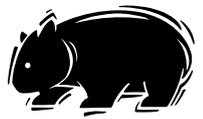
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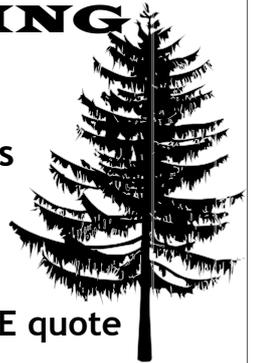
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