



BLUEGRASS OF THE BLACKWOOD HILLS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Oct 2: Blackwood Arts Show GALA Night p11**
- Oct 3/4: Blackwood Art Show p11**
- Oct 4: Lauren Lee Williams @ Lerdies**
- Oct 4: Trentham Spring Festival p17**
- Oct 11: Hardrive @ Lerdies**
- Oct 17: Fire Meeting p10**
- Oct 30: Easter Carnival Meeting p10**
- Nov 1: Spring Antiques Roadshow p8**
- Nov 3: Melbourne Cup Lunch @ the Pub p20**
- Nov 13: Fire Meeting p10**

The boys of Harddrive play all around the country (& the world, for that matter) but hometown gigs are sadly rare. So they received a warm welcome from Blackwood, with locals packing Lerdie's for an afternoon's top-shelf Bluegrass.

Lachlan & Oliver joined their father, Nick Dear, along with Peter Sholtz (banjo) & Chris 'Shave' DeWinter (bass) for a rollicking 5 hours of driving rhythms & tales of pity & woe (must be Collingwood supporters).

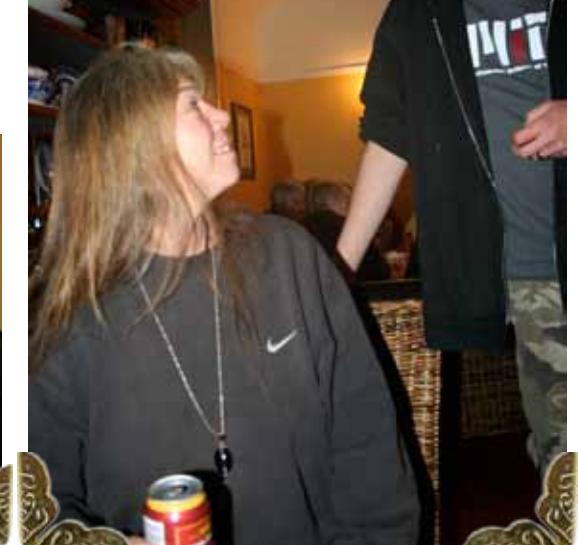
It's been an inspiration to watch the young men of the group develop as they have over the years. The Dear boys were both about 10 years old when they joined dad in the band. Oliver had to kick the old man off mandolin to secure a spot, while Lachlan, if I remember correctly, did the same to his mother, Janet, so that he could play bass for the band. Lachlan moved from bass to guitar while Shave (who hails from Newbury) did the opposite.

Lachlan has just returned from the US where he was "pickin' with the best" & eating crabs from Chesapeake Bay. Two bands invited him to stay on & join them but, happily for us, he declined. Oliver has taken an apprenticeship, making mandolins & is also busy recording, with the other boys, their 5th album.

The exciting news is that the band will be playing Downhome in Blackwood for the next little while, with regular appearances at Lerdie's. The next gig is October 11 – bring your dancing shoes!



BLACKWOOD SOCIAL ALBUM ... THE 'NEW LERDIES' OPENS





PRAYERS IN THE PADDOCK

As people gathered in a circle; standing, sitting on hay bales & on the ground, a little toddler played with some stones & the bowl of water at the centre of the circle.

Around her some 75 people from all walks of life, & every age, gathered to share in stories, sing together, & pray for the earth. There was space to share with one another how the earth's beauty had moved us & celebrate this together. There was time to reflect in the silence on the grief & struggle of ongoing drought & the recent fires. There was also space to gather concerns for the future care of the earth & together offer them in prayer.



photo courtesy Marie-Louise Stafford

so came with minuscule food miles! Many also took the opportunity to light a candle in the quiet of the little wooden church, enjoy the stillness, or make some art as their way of praying.

This was Prayers in the Paddock, held on Sep 12 at Little Hampton Uniting Church, an initiative of the Highlands Cluster Uniting Church. In the Highlands U.C; with churches in Daylesford, Ballan, Blackwood, Trentham, Bullarto & of course Little Hampton, we are committed to seeking to create opportunities for people, wherever their faith journey is at, to have space to explore their spirituality & to express their faith with others.

To find out more, or to see more photos of the day, go to www.highlandsclusteruca.org.au. Thanks to all who made it such a beautiful, life giving day.

~ Rev. Sal Douglas

The Dream Interpreter

Last night I dreamed about a friend I haven't seen for a number of years.

She was lying on a couch (no where in particular) & her son (the age I last saw him - a young teenager?) came downstairs horrified that she was throwing out some of his treasures. He was most distressed about two things in particular (a Marie Antoinette costume - I can't remember what the other was). He asked if, if he hid them in a puddle, could he keep them? His mother left the room with a look of disdain. What does this mean?

~ puddled



Were you & this friend close, used to share thoughts & feelings but a disruption in your friendship caused you to go your separate ways, a judgment perhaps surrounding her teenage son? There is a childish aspect here, the puddle, costume & not knowing how you personally feel about Marie Antoinette, it's difficult to gauge, but perhaps you thought this woman's son was being unnecessarily condemned about a certain behavior, hence the mother walking away in disdain & you observing, intuitively & from your perspective, her disdain seeming unreasonable.

Perhaps you are feeling melancholy about the relationship & would like to contact her again or your subconscious is warning you of potential consequences in a similar event that may be happening now, in your present day life. Silent observation is often the safest.

~ Victoria Hill

Want to understand what your subconscious is telling you? To find out, send your dreams to our interpreter via blackwood@centralvic.com.au or c/o Blackwood PO, 3458.

Tree Challenge:

from the editor: Our tree challenged columnist is taking a well earned break in the hustle bustle of NY.

Green with envy, I for one am looking forward to her return & a quiet evening in front of a toasty fire, glass of wine in hand, giggling like young teenagers at cheesy slideshows of her adventures in the Big Apple.



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LOCAL TIP hours

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

Ballan: Wed-Mon 1pm-5pm

a blackwood news community service notice



Tabetha's Tip: skincare

Feel like your skin has become dry over the winter months & want to bring some moisture back before summer is here?

Invest in some Sweet Almond Oil, available from leading pharmacies.

Place a facewasher in the sink, cover with very hot (not boiling) water then squeeze excess water out & place over face to open up pores. Massage Almond Oil over face then repeat hot facewasher process.

Do this around once or twice a week for very dry skin & your skin will be softer & smoother for the summer!

POP THE FIZZ!



Jean & George Harrison are celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on October 1 '09

Blackwood/ Dales Creek Playgroup

Thursday Mornings
10:00am - 12:00pm

At the moment in private homes until we get enough families to cover our costs to hold playgroup at the Blackwood Hall.

Please contact Phyllis 5368 6306 for details.



editors thoughts ...

'Oh gawd it's that time again', I cry! Time for another issue of Blackwood News & I haven't even had time to look at my inbox! Yep, chasing my tail... yet again.

Once again, I thank all our regular volunteer contributors who show what a diverse community we live in & our advertisers, whose support allows Blackwood News to be printed. On that note, many of our committees who work to make Blackwood what we love are desperately in need of new members - do you have some spare time &/or energy?

Blackwood News is OUR news so I ask everyone to respect deadlines so I can continue to get the issue out on time... 'nough said!

Please make sure you include your name & contact details on all submissions - we will consider requests to withhold names within reason but those without names cannot be considered.

Thankyou to my editing sister 'Jack the Ripper' of wordygurdy.com.au who, when visiting Blackwood on Grand Final weekend, ended up roped-in doing last minute edits for me.

The recent addition of 'Letters to the Editor' has created a forum for residents to have their say - go Blackwood! It wouldn't be the town I know & love were it not for differing opinions, however this is not the place for personal attacks!

Lots of important things to diarise this issue - CFA meetings, Easter Carnival meeting, cleaning up our properties, not to mention socialising at the Blackwood Art Show 1st w/end Oct, Melbourne Cup Day @ the Pub & live music each Sunday @ Lerdies, the new Antiques Roadshow & that's just in Blackwood!

It's time to check the gas in the BBQ, ready for another season. As the weather fines up & Blackwoodians come out to play - see you around...

~ 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 OctNov '09 issue are

Advertisers: book space by **Nov 13**

Regular Features & Contributors: **Nov 15**

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

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

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

News & Classifieds: **Nov 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, 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
Jul '09	110.2	102.8	-2.3	13.6
Aug '09	108.2	110.7	-2.1	15.3

Hooray! July & August were about average rainfall, which contrasts with the previous six months, which were well below. Lets hope that the remaining months this year will be at least average & dampen the forest to reduce the fire risk.

~ Don Owen

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The Importance of Provenance



With the large number of antiques & collectibles appraisal shows on television & the increasing number of

similar sites available online—some worthwhile & informative & some not—you have surely heard the expression “what a wonderful provenance” or “with such an excellent provenance it surely would sell at auction for...” So what exactly is a provenance & how do we get one, especially a “wonderful” one? The word provenance comes from the Middle French word provenant, which is the present participle of provenir which means “to come forth.” That, of course, ultimately comes from a Latin word, but that’s close enough. Basically, it means the source or the origin of a particular item. But with antiques it means a little more. In general antiques related terms, it refers not only to the source of the item but also to where it has been all these years & in whose possession. In other words, the genealogy of the piece.

The ideal provenance, of course, begins with an original receipt, preferably from the cabinetmaker who made the piece, & hopefully containing the name of the original purchaser. This is reinforced by a series of probate documents & wills which contain descriptions of the piece in

question & designate to whom the piece was bequeathed or sold. It is then traced in household inventory listing through the years until the last person in the documented chain bestows the piece on a museum or public collection or sends it to auction where the provenance is pronounced as “impeccable” or “wonderful” by the auction house’s gushing expert. This is the kind of proof required for such things as museum listings but is seldom found in the real world of older & antique furniture.

Even though we can’t always get this kind of documentation, there are some rough guidelines to help. If you think you know who in the family owned the piece but you aren’t sure how old it is, use the old generation method. Add your age plus 25 years for each generation who owned the piece. That’s very rough but it does get you in the ball park. Also, go the library & see what style of furniture was contemporary with your ancestor to see if there is a fit or an incongruity there.

These are just a starting point to get you thinking, come to the Antique Road Show at Forest Edge on the 1st November & bring your treasures, who knows you could get some help with your treasures history & provenance

~ Blackwood Antique Merchant

QUEEN VICTORIA TREE - Simmons Reef



The Queen Victoria Tree was planted in 1887 by the Simmons Reef school children to mark the occasion of 50 years of Queen Victoria’s reign from 1837 – 1887. This celebration year was known as her Golden Jubilee. The first pine tree planted by the school children died & was replanted the same year, & watered by the school children. After the tree was planted & as it grew bigger it could be seen on top of the hill

where all the original trees had been cut down for mining purposes. This hill was then known as One Tree Hill. This big pine tree is up on the hill, a short walk on the Easter Monday Track from the Garden of St. Erth. As seen recently by Allan Hall of the Blackwood & District Historical Society this tree has sadly died recently & can now be seen fallen over. When Margot took this photo of the tree with one of her granddaughters in front in 2007 the tree was then 120 years old. Sadly the tree died when it was 122 years old.



Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society.

Simmons Reef School No. 568 & school children about 1887.

~ compiled by Margot Hitchcock,

IN A MEDICAL EMERGENCY

always ring 000 & ask for an ambulance

BLACKWOOD CERT will be activated automatically.

THE DAY BLACKWOOD LOST TOUCH

A couple of weeks ago my husband & I were trying to organise our day’s schedules by phone but all we got were engaged signals. From memory it was about 8am & it struck me as a bit weird that everyone was engaged at that hour. We then tried to look up the day’s weather forecast on bom.gov.au but the internet was down!

We soon figured the phone-lines were out – particularly when a late rising Blackwoodian friend was also engaged.

Of course we couldn’t ring our telephone provider because the phone wasn’t working & we couldn’t use mobiles because we don’t have mobile reception! Hmm, we felt like we were in the dark!

On the drive to Melbourne that morning I had the brilliant idea to call our service provider once I got into range. Yep, the telephone exchange was down! Expected repairs completed by 7pm that evening.

Great! at least it wasn’t just our line! But how to let Brendan & my Blackwoodian friends know what was happening?

Let me see, no mobile reception, land-lines down, so no internet (no email) - no way to contact home!

Driving into Blackwood later that night I passed the enormous sign telling us to call 000 in an emergency. I hoped no one had needed CERT that day!

Makes me wonder, after the scares we had with fire threats earlier in the year & with summer almost upon us – what would we do in the same situation during an emergency?

Hello, is anyone out there?

~ Lois Lane

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blackwoofs

THIS IS Hudson, science fiction hero. You may think you remember him as leader of the Ewok Tribe from 'Star Wars' or perhaps as Chewbacca's little brother but, looks notwithstanding, you'd be wrong. Hudson was, in fact, named after Bill



Paxton's character of the hapless Private Hudson in the classic movie, 'Aliens' – famous, in the face of cascading monster attacks, for his panicked & carping quips.

CONVINCING EVERYONE of his sci-fi cred, our boy is famous for his 'Matrix', gravity-defying wall-run, limited, in Hudson's case, to the couch area.

SUCH A star, you may be surprised, had ordinary beginnings – five years ago as an American/English Spaniel pup. He has since developed ...

A LOVE for

- energy drinks (drinks them)
- soft-toy puppies (eats them)
- potato chips from the kitchen table on his birthday (eats them)

A HATE for

- black dogs (most)
- taxis (all) and (one particular) ute that drives by most days
- the dinoraptor robot that Dad drags out occasionally

A LOVE for

- body rubs (purrs like a cat)
- diving off the Young Master's bed & belly-wacking the beanbag
- collecting bush ticks
- weeing on the beanbag

ALL UP, not a particularly convincing sci-fi hero. You're not alone there, Hudson.

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Our local (& very well travelled) Blackwoodian pet doc presented to 1700 people at the 'Save the Planet Conference' in Seoul, Korea earlier in the year. He was presented with the 'Shining World Compassion Award' – in recognition of unconditional, pure-hearted care, sensitivity & warmth, blessing our world with messages from the animal kingdom in June.

A cheque for US\$5K was donated to Holistic Vet Care.

He also toured South Dakota & the Black Hills & presented at the Rapid City Humane Society on the benefits of Flower Remedies for dogs & cats.

Then off to White River & the Indian reservation at Rose Bud to participate in 4 days of Sun Dance, a Shamanic journey of commitment to prayer & personal development.

Dr Michael is back home now busy with clients & their animals.

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Dear Pet Guru,

I have a possum problem. Every night when I go to bed a possum comes in and eats my sweet potatoes. What can I do?

~ Perturbed About Potatoes

Dear Perturbed possum problem person,
After exhaustive cogitation,
I have devised a devious
ploy to foil the nocturnal
marauder: at night, before
you retire, close the
window.
respectfully Pet Guru



Transitions



I am writing this gardening column listening to a duet by my son Rufus (mezzo soprano & dinosaur growls) & some waffling opera tenor. The opera would normally incite a station change except that it goes so well with the baby chortles. Every now & then I hear some genuine English among the gobbledegook (I'm referring to both the opera & the baby). It makes me realise how stealthy are the changes in living growing things.

It is as though we were momentarily distracted & then turned around to find our baby had become a little boy. Three months ago the word 'Ball' got a standing ovation. Nowadays we don't applaud for anything less than three-syllables.

I'm having the same sensation in the garden. Of course it is because it's Spring. Everything is turbo-charged for growth. I was away for a week & when I came back my snow peas had scaled the trellis like felons climbing to freedom.

The roses have all sprouted tender red leaves. The mollis azalea is packed with tight, plump buds that will continue to tantalise me for a few more weeks & then explode into bloom. Sadly the weeds are all following suit, but I'm euthanasing them as fast as they can show their heads. It is definitely transition time.

The other sensation I'm having is déjà vu. All of the surprises that burst into being last Spring are popping up again – freesias, tulips, early cheer, ixias, lachanalia. All of the fabulous bulbs that I had promised myself I would mark & didn't are now cheekily showing their heads & I KNOW I only have a few short weeks to lift & pot them, mark

their places or suffer a long year of head-scratching, wondering if that was indeed a hyacinth or a daffodil (which I loathe).

Please don't hold it against me that I hate daffodils. I have bucket loads of them in my front yard & in brazen clumps all about the property. I'm no kill-joy, but to my eye daffodils are just too much cheesy potted sunshine to bear. Last year I had a vicious plan to dig all of them out while they were sunning themselves & give them away in faux generosity to all my friends. Paradoxically, I don't actually mind daffodils in other people's gardens. It's like seeing someone in a really wild outfit that is rather lovely to look at on them but you know would make you look anaemic.

I'll admit it – I'm a bulb snob & the worst kind too – a novice bulb snob.

This is the first year that I have attempted to plant bulbs, having grown up in Queensland where the coldest night of the year requires a cotton cardigan.

I salivated for two weeks over the Hancocks catalogue & got dispensation from Tim to spend a frivolous sum on hyacinths & tulips. The tulips are black of course. I am very predictable. The hyacinths are a deep wine colour & the most delectable peachy-pink. The former are called H.Woodstock; the latter 'Gypsy Queen'.

I absolutely gloated over them for a week until the big winds bent all their stalks & now they are in a glass bowl on the dining table with euphorbia & my black hellebores.

I'm still gloating – they look stunning.

Rufus has gone to sleep now & it is time to quiet the background warbling. They could be singing about having dropped their ice-cream cone at a trip to the zoo for all I can tell.

I'll be happy just to sit in silence & read a book next to my bowl of flowers.

Rhapsody in green, black & purple. That's what I will call this particular moment of joy, until it is gone & replaced with another.

~ Heather Marsh

THE GARDEN OF ST ERTH

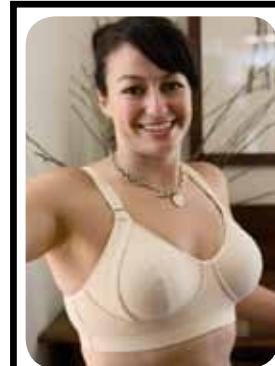


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ORGANIC LIVING

Nowadays when you mention 'organic living' most people immediately assume you are talking about food. Organic Living, much the same as sustainability, is a way of life. To live organically includes the products you use, not only to cook & eat, but those used to clean, wash & deter pests. Usually these items contain offensive, harmful chemicals, not only to us humans, but any living organism that they come into contact with it; wildlife, aquatic life, insects, pets & all of the microscopic life we take for granted... so why do we humans rely so heavily on them when there are more healthy & safer for all life alternatives available?

It's amazing the number of items in your kitchen that can be used as cleaning or medicinal products. Things Grandma used to use, like lemon juice, vinegar, bi-carbonate of soda, vanilla essence, olive oil & cloves. Items from the bathroom or laundry also can be used for natural antiseptics & disinfectants, like Eucalyptus & Lavender oils. There are numerous books available on the topic & they usually include recipes on how to make different items & what to use them for. Organic items are also an alternative for use around the outside of your home & in the garden. There is no excuse nowadays to be using toxic products. With the entire global warming & earth care 'culture' the supermarket shelves have a natural alternative for almost all cleaning products, carpet & furniture treatments as well as your land & garden. A great side

benefit to you is the cost - they are a lot less expensive!

Here's some simple ideas that may help you get started;

In the bathroom: to remove scum from your shower, spray with white vinegar, dust with bi-carb soda, rub with a cloth & rinse off.

In the laundry: A great disinfectant, which also eliminates urine smells, simply add 10-15 drops of Eucalyptus oil directly to the actual items being washed & proceed as normal.

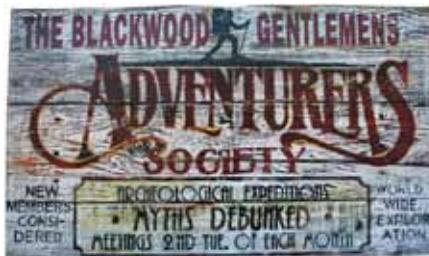
In the garden: use (sorry to all you dinkum Aussie blokes) beer traps to eradicate snails instead of poisonous bait. Use homemade chilli & garlic spray to eradicate thrips, lerps, aphids & most other leaf eating pests.

General tips: To relieve headache, massage straight lavender oil into temples &/or entire scalp. For toothache relief, place a whole clove between the sore tooth & the one above/below it & bite down. For earaches, warm some olive oil, pour one teaspoon into sore ear & plug with a cottonball. To clean the BBQ easily, heat the hotplate well, pour straight lemon juice over it. Wipe off with newspaper or paper towel & add to the compost.

At this beautiful time of year when nature is at its best, please remember this: our Wildlife are only trying to live their lives & spring is peak baby time. Take extra care to help make this a spring one with as little death of wildlife on our roads as possible!

Until next time, live Natural, think of the Natives!

~ Kelly



OUR ESTEEMED founder & life President Archibald Archinshaw was known to say, before he fell off his perch, that this country started going backwards when they put toilets in the house & started cooking outside the house. In our never-

ending quest to rediscover the glory days of a world before TV, when the wireless was sufficient to keep us in touch & children where well-behaved & families ate the evening meal together, four of our younger members (average age 68) have departed on a trip to Africa to see what they could learn & bring back to our community. Their mission is to study the rites of passage in tribal societies & the potential relevance to modern-day Australia, we are sure that you, gentle reader, are as curious as our membership to hear of their exploits in the next Blackwood News.

~ Rodney Lunschelot BGB, Hon. Sec.

in my opinion ... what do you think?

One of the things I love about sharing a house with strangers is all the new things you get exposed to.

New music, new foods, new venues & new ideas.

I sat at home one evening while one of my housemates hosted a dinner party.

He had gone to considerable effort & tried desperately to generate some interesting conversation.

He spoke of life after death, the existence of ghosts, extra-sensory perception etc. One of his guests simply poo-pooed every idea offered up for discussion. He interjected "That's crap" to everything that was said & offered no opinion of his own.

In an attempt to generate dialogue, housematey asked me for my opinion on some of the issues.

Having dealt with eternal skeptics before, I wasn't having a bar of it!

However, I took an immediate dislike towards his guest & so I thought I could at least back up my housemate & provide an

opportunity for growth to his dimwitted guest.

I replied, "sorry I don't participate in conversations with anti-intellectuals".

He huffed & puffed & said what do you mean, while my housemate visibly deflated, conceding his dinner party was a flop.

I replied "He has made every attempt to keep things interesting & you have shat upon every idea proposed. The net result is that everyone will sit here in silence. There shall be no exchange of ideas & that's anti-intellectual".

If you don't have an opinion on a subject then shut up. Listen to those around you, consider their viewpoint & form one!

Being opinionated is good. It shows you have considered topics that haven't affected you directly. It puts your life in perspective. It demonstrates a degree of thoughtfulness. You may even end up all grown up & rather clever too!!

~ The Beak (name supplied)



Bindi (far left) & Gidget (second in from right) from Shepparton enjoyed a peaceful Spring weekend in the back garden of Woodbine Cottage while their humans relaxed inside.



ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH
8am ~1st & 3rd Sunday

Blackwoods' 1st Antique Roadshow

Is that family heirloom a valuable antique or a worthless copy?

It's time to dust off your personal treasures & have an expert valuer examine your treasured items & share fascinating historical tales.

On Nov 1 the Antique Road show comes to the Forest Edge Country House from 10-4.

The valuations are FOC so I'm going through my stuff in preparation - who knows what I'll find at the back of a drawer that might mean early retirement? or not....



Spend some time with Yourself



Try to have some 'alone time' every day. Many people rarely spend a minute alone, except when asleep. You may be one of these, & not even realise it. When we're around others, our attention is drawn outward, & it's difficult to be aware of our inner workings (body's needs, emotions, state of mind, true desires). If we're always

with others, we can completely lose touch with our true inner directions. Rather than being the masters of our lives, we then end up living unconsciously with the push & pull of the world around us. We are literally 'out of control'. Although we may believe that we're making all the decisions for our lives, external influences continue to affect us unconsciously.

To compensate, we vainly try to control other people & situations, to try & regain our balance, but that is futile. The only way to regain the sense of control we lack is to get back in touch with ourselves. No-one can control the world or the actions & choices of others. Our power lies in our own choices & reactions. That's the only path to 'inner peace', that state of beautiful harmonious flow we all seek.

The best way to get back in touch with yourself is to spend time alone – not getting things done or watching TV – just being with 'you', to see 'where you're at', after you've been off, caught up in your busy life. Even a half-hour daily will make a huge difference to your life. Have a bath, take a walk, meditate, or sit in the garden. Just get yourself away from the family & all the 'goings on' for a little time each day.

Once you have your body in this 'alone' space, bring your attention there too. Get your mind off family, work, & the things you need to do later. Be honestly attentive to your own self, right here, right now. Ask yourself: What am I feeling? What's my body feeling? How does my life

feel? What are the blessings in my life? What needs to change? Where is my satisfaction or dissatisfaction? What is my true heart's desire right now?

This time with yourself prevents you from losing touch with your own deeper needs, dreams & desires. It helps you stay in tune with yourself. Like a friend you see regularly, you can know yourself well. You can easily pick up the subtle shifts in your needs & feelings, & quickly see when situations in your life help you grow or hold you back. You can review choices & decisions immediately, & make timely changes. You can identify your motivations clearly, & know if you are being driven by your own true inner needs & directions, or by the influence & manipulation of the world around you. You can make clear choices based on what is truly best for you. You can have a sense of control over your life, & greater joy & peace.

The more regularly you connect with yourself, & 'follow your heart' in life, the less you're influenced or bothered by what goes on in the world around you, or by what other people choose for their own lives.

If you only catch up with yourself once-in-a-blue-moon, out of desperation, when life has hit the rocks & you're forced to look within, you can have none of this. You'll simply continue to be a 'feather on the winds of the world around you', blown this way & that, wondering why your life is so unsatisfactory.

Your inner self is truly the best friend & guide you can ever have in this life, so it's worth making the time now to cultivate that beautiful relationship.

~ by Kathie Strmota, LoveLight Co-Creative HealthCare

where is 'where are they now'?

Do you know some-one who has a history in Blackwood. Please email or send us a recent photo & some interesting stuff about their time in Blackwood & what they are doing now. If you need photos returned, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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& we're celebrating!

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PARTY TIME?

HIRE TRESTLE TABLES & BBQ
Blackwood Progress Association
contact Lou Henderson
5368 6539
Blackwood Caravan Park
a blackwood news community service notice





COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

BLACKWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE INC.

Just a short report this issue.

The club conducted their annual meeting on the 19th August. Robin Salt & Amanda McDonald from the Moorabool Shire officiated. Amanda congratulated the club on a successful & trouble-free year. After the election the main office bearers remained the same: K Ashton (President), B Sweet (Secretary) H Weiss (Treasurer), W Birdgeman (Asst Secretary) B Herd (Asst Treasurer) and a committee of 8 club members.

We are happy to report that Betty Ashton is well on the way to recovery & it is great to have her back with us each week.

We are pleased to report that our split-system has been installed – this will be a big asset with summer just around the corner.

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

~ Barbara Sweet, (Hon) secretary

BLACKWOOD CROWN LANDS COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

We had a new fence placed around the storage area & new water heaters at the shower block.

We have a great committee who all turn up to meetings & everyone shares the load looking after the town assets by keeping the hall, sportsground & caravan park/mineral springs up to standard. The past weeks have had Brendan Hehir doing repairs in the hall kitchen, Brian Moore attending to hall, sports ground & caravan park needs. David Arnold sees to our financial reports & Peter Oliveri keeps us all organised! We say thankyou to all these people who volunteer time to keep our reserves going.

So sorry to hear Ray Meade has been unwell - hoping he is on the mend soon.

Hall hire is now co-ordinated by Elizabeth Hall on 5368 6537.

~ Elizabeth Hall, secretary

BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

The past few months have been reasonably quiet with our assistance required only about once each week-end.

Congratulations to our 2 new members, Pauline & Tanya from Trentham, who have just completed their training & will be operational shortly.

All members are reminded to keep the weekend of March 20-21 free for a CERT Training course.

~ Bruce Henry Team Leader

BLACKWOOD RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

With the fire season approaching, now is the time to prepare your fire plan & clean up your property. Extreme care must be taken to make sure you have taken all necessary precautions before lighting any fires. If in doubt please contact the brigade Captain on 5368 6566.

Properties are now being inspected & the Council will be issuing notices to cleanup where necessary.

The Brigade Strategic Fire Plan is now being revised, this has taken a lot of time & consideration.

Several Community Meetings will be held at the Blackwood Hall (BBQ included).

• Sat Oct 17 @ 1pm • Fri Nov 13 @ 6.30pm • Sat Dec 12 @ 1pm
& at Andersons Corner in Barrys Reef Thur Nov 26 time TBC.

CFA, DSE & the Shire will be represented so a good attendance is essential.

The CFA website is www.cfa.vic.gov.au.

A reminder for brigade members: training is held on the first Sunday of every month @ 9.15am. New Members welcomed.

~ George Stockdale

BLACKWOOD DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It was great to welcome Margot Hitchcock back to our last meeting also Pat Liffman who is recovering after a fall.

We have been busy with getting the stables ready for the open day on Nov 1 from 11am til 4pm – hope to see you there.

Please note meetings are on the 1st Saturday of each month at 10.30.

~ Elizabeth Hall

Blackwood/Barrys Reef LANDCARE WATER WATCH

Rainfall at Barry's Reef: Aug 111 mms. Sept 1/9–13/9/09: 24 mms.

Weeds: October 21, 2007, Joe Helper, Minister for Agriculture announced that the Department of Primary Industries would take control of weed, pest policy & funding in Victoria. To the \$50,000 allocated by DPI towards weed eradication on Council roads, Moorabool's Environmental officer, Jeanette Spittle has obtained an additional grant of \$50,000. There is optimism about a State wide approach against the dreaded Serrated Tussock & DPI's policy of attacking incipient weed infestations. Before Christmas, Aus Eco Solutions will begin working for Vic Roads in the Blackwood area.

The position of our Landcare facilitator for the Upper Werribee Region has been stopped by the Commonwealth Government. Formation of the South Wombat Forest Landcare Group to represent all 30,000 ha. of the Wombat State Forest plus residents living in & around the Forest within Moorabool Shire, will still go ahead.

~ Pat Liffman

Water Watch monitoring of 7 sites around Blackwood 2008 report by Melbourne Water: SCORE = Good.

The abundance of macro-invertebrates was good, interestingly with a relatively high number of stonefly nymphs. The river is home to a large diversity of macro-invertebrates, including sensitive species such as stonefly nymphs & caddis fly larvae.

~ David Rogers

BLACKWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

There will be a meeting on Saturday Oct 31 '09 at the Blackwood Hall for anyone interested in organising the 2010 Easter Carnival.

~ Elizabeth Hall

Editors Note: Anyone who loves Blackwood will appreciate what a mighty task it is to run the historical Easter Carnival (as a member of Blackwood Promotions over a decade ago – I remember what a challenge it was to organise a monthly market - we soon burnt out!). Blackwood Progress is badly in need of new, fresh blood to help keep this yearly event running. Please, please, if you have some spare time – come to the meeting & help ensure Blackwood's major annual event doesn't become just another memory!

BLACKWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The BCOC is meeting regularly, most recently at the newly-renovated Lerdies. The role of the BCOC is to promote Blackwood as a destination & create a supportive atmosphere for local businesses. A key to this process is the promotion of local events & placing Blackwood in the minds of potential visitors. We are also trying to find out what fire plans there are, if any for Blackwood, which is especially relevant for those running accommodation businesses in the town.

Three \$5K grant proposals are being prepared for Moorabool council. The focus of the grants are community & arts events that will help develop Blackwood as a tourist destination & build on the village strategy that the Shire are developing.

We are seeking funding for the following :-

- 1) a street map/notice board showing the features of Blackwood, a horse trough, & other street furniture, benches etc
- 2) a blessing of the animals as a community event, with any money raised going to the animal shelter.
- 3) Funding to support the art/sculpture show, which will enable other money to be used to create a prize pool.



**Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc.
Super Ride Thursday 29th October 2009.**

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Annual Super Ride is on again.

If you like to support this event & witness over 100 students with special needs, challenge themselves against the hills of the Wombat State Forest then give us a call or send an email

**starts thursday Oct 29 '09 at 9:30am
outside the Blackwood General Store**

As always lunch will be provided for all Volunteers by the Australian Defence Forces School of Catering.

We look forward to your support for this wonderful event.

Harley Dalgleish & Tony Bellette 5368-6768
bssoc@yahoo.com.au

The BCOC is a very inclusive body & welcomes attendance at meetings from anyone who is self employed or works for a local business. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 20th October, to be held at Brian Moore's house at 46 Martin Street.

We have a vacancy on the committee for a Treasurer if you think that you could add value in this role please contact mike@cfod.com.au

~ Ian Tebbutt, Secretary

THANKYOU

On behalf of the members of Blackwood Crown Lands Committee of Management, Blackwood Historical Society, Blackwood Progress Association we would like to extend a thankyou to Blackwood News for keeping us informed & up-to-date on town matters – you do a great job.

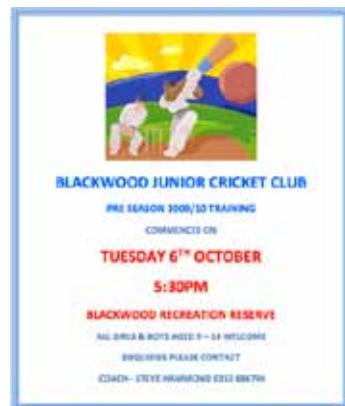
~ Members of the above committees

BLACKWOOD CLUB UPDATES

BLACKWOOD ARTS SOCIETY Inc

2nd Oct, ART SHOW GALA NIGHT 7-9.00pm Mechanic' Hall.
3rd Sat to 4th Sun OCT 10am-4pm

BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB



Welcome all to another cricket season. Pre-season training has been underway for 6 weeks now, with two solid hitouts in practice matches against Ronny's Relics & Deer Park/Ardeer. Some old & new faces performed admirably, most notably Aaron Speak, making 30 runs retired in his first game for the club. The season proper starts on October 3, fixture to be confirmed. The club is always on the lookout for new players, so if you have been thinking about playing, come down to training on Thursday nights! The club is looking

forward to a successful season & is hoping all loyal sponsors & members will get back on board to support us, as well as any new sponsors & members keen to support this town's only sporting club. Membership forms will be available at Lerdies.

Junior news - Boys & girls U/14 training starts Tuesday, 6th October at 5:30pm. The age bracket for this level is 9-14 years old, boys & girls welcome. For more info contact Sam on 53686794.

Milo In2Cricket is a program for boys & girls from 5-10 years old & this will start on Tuesday, 10th November at 5pm. If you register online, your Milo packs will be ready to collect on the first night. Cost is \$45. Go to www.in2cricket.com.au & enter "Blackwood" in the Club or Centre Name box and hit Go. Click on Info/Register & follow the prompts. For more info contact Scott on 53686889.

Both of these levels of cricket are a low-cost option for local children to be involved in organised sport.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at home games, barracking for the mighty Blackwood Eagles!!!!

~ Scott Unstad

BLACKWOOD MEDITATION GROUP

Meditation continues on the 1st & 3rd Monday 7pm-8pm

~ Rev. Sally Douglas Highlands Cluster Uniting Church

BLACKWOOD ART EXHIBITION 2009



**10-4 Sat Oct 3 &
Sun Oct 4 '09
GALA Night \$10pp – food &
drinks
7-9pm Fri Oct 2**

phone Philippa on 5368 6656
sponsored by Moorabool Shire Council

LANCEFIELD/MACEDON RANGES CANCER COUNCIL'S 'RELAY FOR LIFE'

The next regional Relay will be held over the weekend of February 27-28, 2010 at Lancefield Park.

The organising committee is hoping to recruit more participants from across the region, including Blackwood.

Last year's event raised a record amount (for this region) of over \$118,000 for the Cancer Council Victoria to spend on research, education & advocacy & support services.

The family-friendly weekend at Lancefield, now approaching its eighth consecutive year, is known for its moving ceremonies, great entertainment & tremendous show of community spirit.

Last year 37 teams comprising people of all ages from across the Macedon Ranges, Kilmore & Sunbury registered.

Families, friends, workmates, clubs, schools, churches & other groups are encouraged to get involved. Teams raise funds throughout the year, then commit to relay over the weekend including overnight.

For more details check online at: www.relayforlife.org.au & follow the prompts to Lancefield, or contact Melissa McCarthy on 0438831427, email: tmac31@bigpond.net.au

BLACKWOOD NEWS in colour

can be downloaded free from

www.blackwood.centralvic.com.au

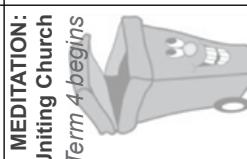
& while you are there be sure to subscribe to our eList so you are the first to see new issues

October wednesday
monday tuesday

**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.**



David Rogers

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MEDITATION:
Uniting Church
Season



MEDITATION:
Uniting Church
Season

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23
Daryl Kilner
Frauke Hoffmann

23
Daryl Kilner
Frauke Hoffmann

aylesford Market
Trentham Market
Lakeside Market
Farmers Market
Uniting Church
Uniting Church
Community in the Bush
Larks @ Lerdies

aylesford Market
Trentham Market
Lakeside Market
Farmers Market
Uniting Church
Uniting Church
Community in the Bush
Larks @ Lerdies

KARATE @ the hall



Easter Carnival MEETING
30

Easter Carnival MEETING
30

halloween
Darley Market
Ballan Lions Club Market
Daylesford Farmers Market

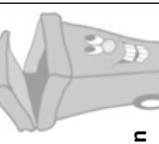
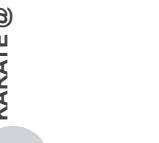
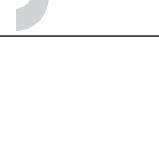
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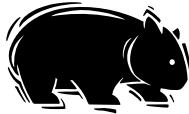
Geoff Boucher

Brenda Hunter

Luke & Lachlan
Whitehouse

november
monday tuesday wednesday thursday

30	Greg Cassidy	MEDITATION: Uniting Church 	All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church All Things Goat Festival Music @ Lerdies	Spring Antiques Roadshow
29	Natalie Whiffen Morgan Cann	MELBOURNE CUP DAY CUP DAY LUNCH @ PUB KARATE @ the hall 	All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Music @ Lerdies	
30	Jenny Darwen	KARATE @ the hall 	All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Music @ Lerdies	
31	Ray Kuno	KARATE @ the hall 	All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Music @ Lerdies	
1	Monica Darwen Beattie MacFarlane	KARATE @ the hall 	All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Music @ Lerdies	Zac Willmott
2	Oliver Dear	KARATE @ the hall 	All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Music @ Lerdies	Robert Bridger
3	●	KARATE @ the hall 	All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Music @ Lerdies	
4	○	KARATE @ the hall 	All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Music @ Lerdies	
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Marvelous & Improbable Adventures of the Crumple Horned Snorkack

episode 6: The School of the Night

When, drawn by the sounds of police sirens and ambulances just outside the library window, Luna returned to look for the Snorkack and the Wiedersnarkchen, they were nowhere to be seen. It took her several minutes of searching before she found the frightened beings, hiding behind a huge multi-coloured atlas that they had somehow wedged sideways into the bottom shelf of a bookstand. The Snorkack, eyes wide with alarm and his snout still covered in sticky yellow streamers of chewing gum, began babbling immediately.

"He must have been pushed off the roof," he squeaked.

"He has been murdered by black helicopters, sent by the world government," chimed the Wiedersnarkchen.

"They want his notebook, which exposes the whole conspiracy," shrieked the Snorkack fretfully, jiggling about with agitation and fear.

"And now we're on a sinister black list," keened the Wiedersnarkchen mournfully. "Our days are numbered."

Evidently, the two creatures had had time in Luna's absence to work up a fairly energetic theory about the mysterious events. Eventually, she persuaded the Wiedersnarkchen to emerge from the furry little ball into which she had rolled herself. She had a bit more trouble convincing the Snorkack that burning the notebook page by page in the photocopy room waste paper bin, and then emigrating to Argentina by posing as a special embassy from interplanetary space, was going to be more difficult than going to the café just up from the library for a cup of tea, but finally the promise of icecream did the job.

By the time they reached said café, a superficial observer might have been forgiven for thinking that the creatures had forgotten all about recent events. The walk had obviously done them some good, because the Wiedersnarkchen was back to flicking through the pages of the notebook and telling the Snorkack about her dreams. Meanwhile, the Snorkack was holding everyone up by insisting on hopping backwards over every crack in the footpath. But once they sat down, the Snorkack quickly rummaged through Luna's handbag for her sunglasses and put them straight on. And Luna caught the Wiedersnarkchen's fearful startle when the door slammed as an overweight professor huffed off to evening classes. There was no question that under the surface casualness, the little beings were on edge.

And rightly so, reflected Luna as the Snorkack demolished his third icecream, for it was rather unlikely that the bearded student had managed to end up dead in an industrial hopper as a result of trying to fly from the library roof to a nearby tree. No, somebody had pushed him, and the only clue Luna had was a rather obscure line reference to the first edition of Shakespeare's collected works.

"L. L. L. 4-3-252," mused Luna. But since she never listened in lectures, and only handed in her homework once the third overdue notice arrived in the mail, this didn't give her much to go on. It was the Snorkack, improbably enough, who came to the rescue.

"That must mean act four, scene three, line two hundred and fifty-two," announced the Snorkack grandly: "and L. L. L. is Love's Labour Lost".

"I don't think so" said Luna. "In those old plays, love is always triumphant." Her face darkened for a moment. "Except when the

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wicked dwarves explode with rage."

"Well, that is what the lecture was about," corrected the Wiedersnarkchen in her bossiest voice. And to Luna's surprise, the Wiedersnarkchen whipped out a pair of reading glasses from nowhere, snatched the collected works from Luna's astonished fingers, and pried it open at the appropriate page.

"It says here, 'Black is the badge of Hell, the hue of dungeons and the school of the night,'" announced the Wiedersnarkchen.

"That doesn't sound like one of the one's where love's triumphant," quavered the Snorkack.

"Oh my goodness," the Wiedersnarkchen exclaimed. "The School of the Night—I've just reached that bit in the bearded student's fantasy novel." And to prove it, she scuffled through the pages of the notebook to where there was a full page drawing.

It was of an angel, whose dress swept down to her feet while her body was arched upward from the waist, wings spread and arms apart, to hold a torch aloft in an outstretched hand. But unexpectedly, the torch was unlit—no fiery illumination blazed forth from its cup to drive back the darkness, and on her face was a mocking smile. Underneath it was scrawled, "The School of the Night," in the bearded loon's untidy handwriting.

All three looked at one another aghast. It was the very same symbol displayed on the brand new doors of the café they were presently seated in.

~ Lily Evans (with the help of Alaska Pollock)



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Thur 12 Nov 7 – 10

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5/11, Spreadsheets 9/10, eBay

14/10, Paint Shop 8/10, Beginners Guide to Windows XP 8/11, MYOB

12/10, MYOB Payroll 30/11

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229 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh

website: www.thelaurels.org.au

email: enrolments@thelaurels.org.au



Adult, Community and Further Education



TOWN MASCOT GOES FERAL

It appears that some feral Cats supporters have taken to our big wombat with triumphant zeal.

Local Geelong followers, Norma included, have denied scaling the giant creature.

We can only assume that Geelong City Council has a hand in this, sending its ninjas out over the countryside

Blackwood Mineral Springs Caravan Park

powered & unpowered sites

overnight caravans

Minerals Springs Picnic Grounds, BBQ's
600 metres from the township

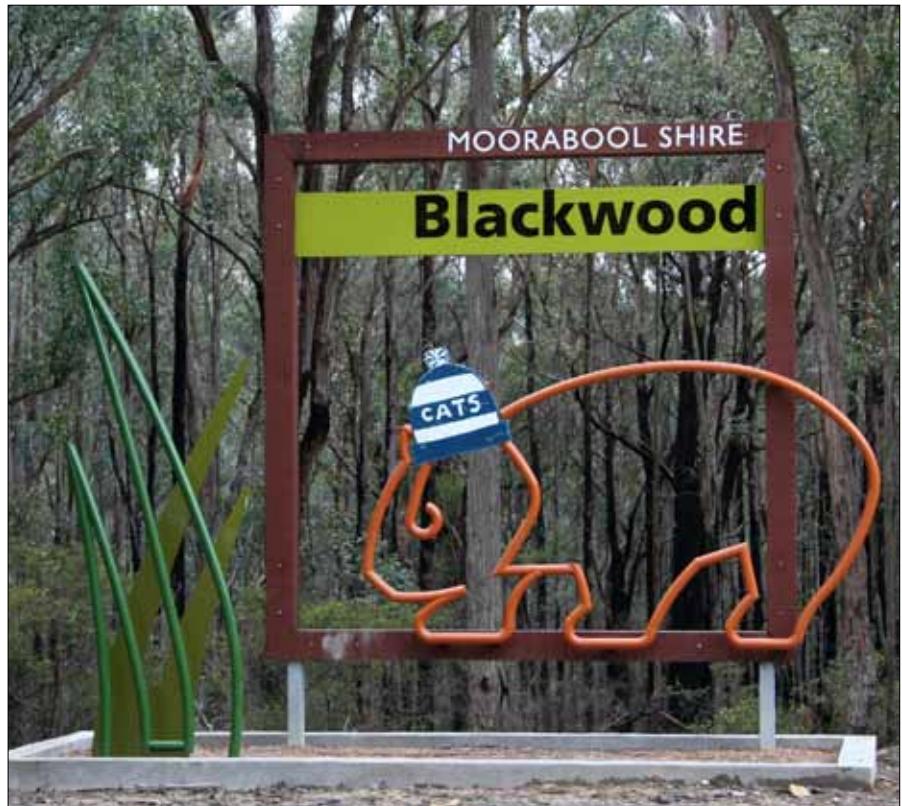
ph **03 5358 6539**

fax **03 5368 6422**

e: bclcm@tpg.com.au

www.blackwoodcrownreserves.websytle.com.au

a blackwood news community service notice



Lerdies on Martin
wine bar & restaurant

Martin Street Blackwood (03) 5368 6612

Thank you

From the team,

Mike, Margaret, Kylie, Michelle, Donna, Margie,
Brie, Sommer, Lachie, Monica, and Tyson

We really value your support. Thanks for all your ideas, advice and feedback.

We are committed to bringing you music fun and frivolity every Sunday
and an enjoyable, friendly place to eat and drink and be merry.

Tuesday: \$10 Meals, Thursday \$12.50 Locals Night

Friday & Saturday a la carte menu

Sunday lunch – Traditional Roast and Live Music

Pizzas are available Thursday – Saturday



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TRENTHAM LIONS CLUB NEWS



Monthly Dance Program

Old Time Dancing 2nd Fri each month.
\$8pp inc supper & door prize draw.
Alternate dances in aid of Trentham
Historical Society.
Next dances: Oct 9, Nov 1, Dec 11 enq
Elizabeth 5424 1254

Spring Festival Sun Oct 4 @ Feldspar, Falls Rd

Adults \$10pp Kids & pensioners FREE
Live music, local wine tastings, regional produce, plants,
massage, fabulous food, local beers & cider, kids rides, face
painting, local artists enq John 5424 1460

Farmer's Market 3rd Sat monthly in the town square 9am-1pm.
STUFF YOUR PANTRY enq Tracey 5424 1185 or 0447 836 171

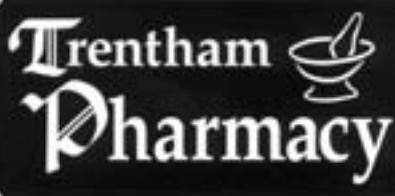
Jumble Sale Sat Nov 7, Town Square enq Elizabeth 5424 1254

Cool Country Fun Run Sun Nov 15

A 10km & 5km run through tree lined country lanes around
Trentham JUST FOR FUN! enq Colin 5424 1581

Carols in the Park Fri Dec 4. FREE fun for all! John 5424 1460

Senior Citizens Dinner Fri Dec 11 – put it in your diary
enq Elizabeth 5424 1254



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5424 1000

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

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Sat 9.15am-12.15pm

Trentham Neighbourhood Centre

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| • Strength Training | • Community Choir | • Internet Access |
| • Belly Dancing | • Film Society | • Venue Hire |
| • Creative Kids | • Community Market | • Data Projector |
| • Food Safety I & II | • Craft Group | • Photocopy |
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Monday—Friday 9:30-3:00

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FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!



As editor of Blackwood News I'm embarrassed to admit that I don't get out much! Working pretty nearly 7 days a week teaching & keeping my business afloat during the GEC (Global Economic Crisis) has me too busy!

But a few weeks ago I lined up with my friend Shazza to go to the September Trentham Farmers' Market. She showed up at my place as arranged & we took separate cars to meet at the market.

Just my luck, the minute we (my daughter from Melbourne & I) got there, the skies opened up! Luckily, I had my special Eiffel Tower brolly in the car so off we went to explore (read as indulge in retail therapy).

Meredith marinated goats cheese, olive oil from Barfold, special handmade soaps, local vegies, flowers, herbs, eggs, live chooks & spuds & wines (too early in the day - even for me!)

My shoes were soaked & we were frozen to the bone but it was obvious what wonders we have in our very backyard! Needless to say, we came home with a car packed with goodies & thinner wallets but we're looking forward to the next monthly farmers' market in Trentham!



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All proceeds to the CFA & Trentham Lions

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DUST OFF THOSE RUNNING SHOES!

10TH ANNUAL TRENTHAM LIONS

COOL COUNTRY CLASSIC FUN RUN

On Sunday November 15 the Trentham Lions are again hosting their 10km country-lane run on the scenic 'Little Hampton' course.

The alternative 5km run/walk will take runners & walkers through Trentham town. Both events start at the Trentham Sports Ground; runners are encouraged to register early to avoid queuing.

This is a wonderful opportunity to spring into summer & participate in a growing community event. Last year the two races attracted a combined entry of over 320 runners – from elite Olympic runners to mums pushing prams & strollers.

Major sponsors are Uracast & Arch Wood Protection; all proceeds go to local charitable causes. Formidable cash prizes are also on offer.

Primary school children run/walk in the 5km event free of charge. Last year Bullarto Primary School won for the second time the \$200 Primary Schools Prize (greatest participation of participants in both runs as a proportion of the total school roll). They will be out to defend their title this year –encouraging all primary schools in the area (especially those with small rolls!) to get involved.

For information, including pre-registration discount, see www.coolcountryclassic.com, email akincaid@vicbar.com.au or ring Andrew on 9225 6827bh.

All Things Goat Festival

Featuring the only Victorian Dairy Buck Show at Bullarto Primary School



**Sunday
November 1
10am – 3pm**

Exhibits include dairy, meat & fleece goats. Discover what goats can produce!

Gold coin donation

Dairy Foods demonstration, pet show (herbivores only!),

- car boot sale • plant stall • goat sausage sizzle
- light refreshments in the Happy Goat Cafe.

Enquiries: Sue Beel / Bruce Rolfe 53485559



JIMINY CRICKET!

All cricket lovers should make the pilgrimage to England for an Ashes tour – you won't be disappointed.

I recently participated in the Australian Cricket Society's Ashes Tour to the UK. We attended two Tests – Cardiff & Lord's – and the Society played two matches against Bath & Meaphan [Kent] Cricket Clubs, as well as sightseeing in England & Wales. I played for the ACS in the Bath match – a great experience on the beautiful old ground, overlooked by St Mary's spire, where the likes of WG Grace have played. (Being the oldest player by 25 years, I let a few go through me in the field.) The ACS team lost both its 'village' matches despite the efforts of our captain, cricket writer & broadcaster Ken Piesse.

Wales' capital Cardiff (population 350,000) has reinvented itself from the coal export & industrial city of the 19th–20th centuries to become a vibrant, welcoming city although full of Rugby 'tragedies'. The Cardiff Test made history as the first Ashes Test in the UK held outside England; in addition, the first series test is normally held at Lord's. Cardiff City paid the England & Wales Cricket Board some £3 million to host the

first test, causing angst among some losing traditional English Test arenas. Rubbing salt into the wounds, the money purportedly came from the British government as a tourism grant to Wales. Also, Cardiff ground – SWALEC (South Wales & London Electricity Commission) Stadium, situated in the lovely Sophia Gardens adjacent to Cardiff Castle – has a capacity of only 16,000. The ground & buildings were refurbished with new grandstands & a media centre. At the Test opening, some marvellous Welsh voices sang the national anthems of Wales, England & Australia. A party atmosphere prevailed with the Barmy Army & the Australian support army going head-to-head with much banter. Instead of throwing an orange ball around they made a

The Bullarto Primary School, the small rural school with the gorgeous goats, has its annual "All Things Goats Festival". This is always exciting with lots of goats, a pet show, Happy Goat Café, cheese-making demonstrations, ice-cream tasting & the opportunity to talk to producers about goats & the different products. Goat breeders love their animals & just love a good natter about their goats. As some of the best bucks in Victoria will be strutting their genetics for all to see, there will be lots to "ooh" & "aah" about. Up in the classrooms will be cheese-making demonstrations & tastings of all sorts of products – kafia, yoghurt, cream & ice-cream. Soaps & skin care creams will also be available.

The Happy Goat Café is always jumping with great home cooked food.

This year, the school community has approached a local puppet maker so there will be an extraordinary & informative performance by the kids. Maybe the kids might get those unicycles organised into a show, too. You can only hope. The "All Things Goat" Festival is on Sunday, 1st November from 10am to 3pm. A gold coin donation gets you through the gate. A car boot sale will operate out of the car park so if you have a yearning to empty your car boot (or fill it, for that matter) contact the school to arrange a spot. Neil Pearson (54239288) or Bruce Rolfe (53485559) can give you information about the goats. Bruce or Sue Beel (53485559) have all the gossip about the car boot sale.

'Happiness isn't happiness unless there's a violin-playing goat.'
~ Julia Roberts

tower of plastic glasses & waved those around, amusing the crowd as officials tried to stop them.

The Melbourne Cricket Club & my old Club, Caulfield, were all there, in a predominantly English & Australian crowd. Test tickets cost £85 per head per day – a once-in-a-lifetime expense for me. Another highlight was the Celebrity Dinner at the historic town hall, compered by former Australian fast bowler Rodney Hogg. Guest speakers were Ricky Ponting, Mike Kaspawicz, Andy Bichel & Geoff Miller (Chairman of England Selectors). A local comedian entertained us & the famous Welch national choir was marvellous.

In the 'nail-biter' Test finish, I believe Ricky Ponting erred in not listening to my shouted advice to put Ben Hilfenhaus on in the game's dying moments. We should never have lost that Test.

For the second Test at Lord's, the atmosphere was genteel – any singing, 'games' or disturbance were strictly forbidden although, surprisingly, alcohol is allowed in the Stands. Lord's is much smaller than the MCG, with a capacity of only 30,000. The seven dissimilar stands all seem to blend together harmoniously. Tickets for the first day cost £95 per head, scaled down to £55 for day five. The Queen visited on the first day & was introduced to the teams after lunch. While she was there her standard was flown from the Members. I was baffled that the national anthem was not sung at the start of the test as is done at the 'G' – I was told it wasn't appropriate.

For the last two days I gained honorary Club membership & good seats down near the fence. Being in the Members was not good timing for me, however, with England winning its first Ashes Test there since 1934.

However, I was able to quietly point out that at Lord's 25 Australians have scored Ashes centuries & 24 have five wicket hauls against 18 & 18 (their last was Flintoff on the day) respectively, if anyone was prepared to listen.

~ Graham Lockwood



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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Hello Jinny,

Thanks for contacting my father (George Stockdale) with regard to my message about the naming of Lerdies (see BN Aug/Sept '09).

Back in 1977 my parents, George & Margaret Stockdale, purchased the Blackwood Hotel, the Hotel, then, did not offer accommodation, so when the McMurray's were selling the old National Bank in 1982 (just a hop, step & jump from the Hotel & ideal for housing Hotel Guests), the family purchased it. We used the Bank's four front rooms for guest accommodation whilst we built the motel rooms at the rear of the Hotel. Once the motel rooms were up & running, my husband Neville & I purchased the National Bank from the family. We lived in the Bank for a short period before deciding to transform the premises into an a la carte Restaurant in 1982. Nev & I used a portion of the Bank for our personal use & the remainder of the building was renovated to accommodate the restaurant. Obviously a name had to be decided so I wrote down several ideas as possible names for the restaurant. The feedback we received convinced us that, of the names I listed, "Lerdies" definitely had the most appeal & also because Blackwood is the gateway to the Lerderderg Gorge/Lerderderg River, it was appropriate "Lerdies" was the name we should adopt. We opened the restaurant for dinner, Friday, Sat & Sunday night's & lunch on Sunday's, with special functions catered for, the restaurant proved to be very popular for both locals & visitors to Blackwood. I also made a special toffee & named it "Blackwood Brittle", we gave small samples it to our restaurant patrons & sold the home-made delight in our "Colonial Candy Store", adjacent to the Hotel.

At the end of 1987, both the Hotel & Lerdies were sold, George & Margaret decided to retire & Nev & I moved to Echuca.

~ Sandi Fletcher

Dear Editor & friends of Blackwood & the Blackwood Historical Society,

This is to thank you all for your kind words & well wishes for my recovery after my stroke in March this year. After 10 weeks in rehab & learning to walk again it is so good to be able to get back into writing historical articles for the Blackwood News. I try to get the information as accurate as I can, but unfortunately the correct information is not always at hand. I hope with your help to get the historical facts as correct as possible & so recorded here for future reference.

I am also trying to finish writing the book I started about 30 years ago on the History of Blackwood. This book has now grown to nearly 500 pages & I hope to have it published soon. If anyone has information they would like included on the history of Blackwood or their ancestors please send it to me C/- P.O. Box 43, Blackwood 3458, or email me at - margo@hitchcock@bigpond.com & I will try to include it. I'm still only typing with one hand so it's a slow process but worth it as this book will be my legacy to Blackwood when finished.

~ thanking you, Margot Hitchcock,
Historian B.D.H.S.

Response to 'Tree Challenge - In search for a Handyman'

Genevieve Messenger has a lot to learn to think that \$25ph minimum is expensive & then publish this in a local newsletter. The people she approached to help her out are highly skilled & experienced in what they do. After all, they are an essential service in that their building skills provide shelter, creates a home & the ability to fix those annoying, fiddly problems from door knobs to hinges. From the money they earn they have to purchase & maintain their tools, possibly pay insurance plus other expenses to keep working. Like Genevieve they too have to eat, pay the mortgage & other bills. If she worked out how

much she charged per hour in her work, surely she would realise their rates are very reasonable. Maybe she could learn how to fix things herself so she becomes independent, resourceful & save money. However there is nothing wrong with seeking help when one cannot or hasn't the time to fix something. But she needs to remember that paying them recognises their professional skills, discipline & years of hard work. It also acknowledges the service they provide which makes life & problem solving a lot easier.

~ Kathie Hollis

Dear Kathie,

Thanks for writing a considered response. I never intended to put down "handymen". Believe me - I appreciate them.

In my column I am self-effacing: it's about how incompetent I am & how frustrating it is having a tree change & being challenged by a lack of skills in so many areas necessary for survival in the country.

It is not an opinion column by any stretch, it is meant to be a comedy column.

~ Genevieve Messenger

& from the editor: Without wanting to add salt to already open wounds, GM wrote her article in good humor, primarily sending herself up as do most comedians. She meant no harm to any person in her column & wished no offence.

Blackwood News values our regular contributors, who volunteer their knowledge, skills & ideas, helping the paper reflect our village's diversity.

These columns make Blackwood News a rich & interesting read, while 'Letters to the Editor' encourages the exchange of ideas, opinions & debate.

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

RECYCLING BUILDING MATERIALS

- be careful what you take home: part 1



The philosophy behind using recycled building materials is highly regarded by anyone blessed with half a conscience. As a builder, I've salvaged many items over the years that are in perfect condition but may be considered in modern opinion to be "dated". This I can understand to a certain degree, I just replace the word "dated" with "classic", another word that I'd affiliate with the aesthetics of recycled goods is "charm", one that I'd rarely use to define any modern application.

Now, just because it's an ethical approach doesn't mean it's an obsessive approach by any stretch of the imagination, just practical. My home has been built of many recycled items that would have been destined for the tip otherwise, these items look great & saved me a quid as well. I am, however, quite fussy as to what's worth salvaging & what not. For example, my fireplace hearth is built out of slate tiles that I personally removed from an old kitchen floor in a house I renovated a couple of years ago, I also scored a beautiful old sash window & a heap of old red bricks. The same house had bright orange lino on the floors of the toilet, bathroom & laundry, plenty to cover the floors of the same rooms at my new place. I inspected this lino &

discovered that it was in perfect condition, I also immediately realized that it was absolutely hideous in appearance & that there was no way I could ever walk on it in my new home without wearing sunglasses or just closing my eyes all together, therefore I had no reason to shed a tear at its demise. It ended up in the bin, where it belonged as far as I was concerned. I could have easily brought it home with all the other stuff only to be told immediately by the missus to "get rid of it!" Then it would have been my problem!

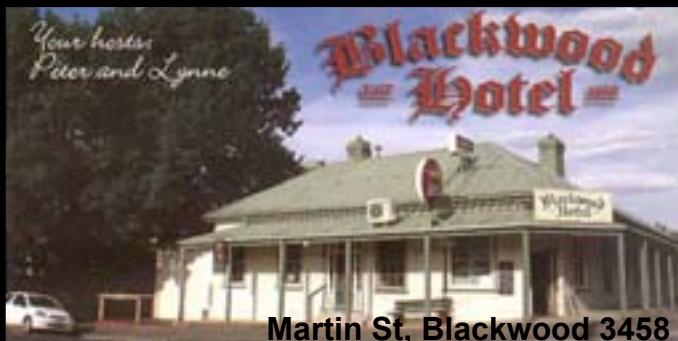
I can understand that some may consider this to be a waste but there is no one on the face of this planet that would have taken that lino away to actually re-use on their floor, some things are just rubbish to me, maybe a more resourceful individual could have lined the floor of the dog kennel with it....or the s**t house out back! Being a player in the renovation game made me in no way guilty of my actions because at the end of the month I knew I'd be modifying another house somewhere & something a hell of a lot better than that lino was bound to show up soon...which it did.

~ Shaun Brown <http://brownsrd.blogspot.com/>

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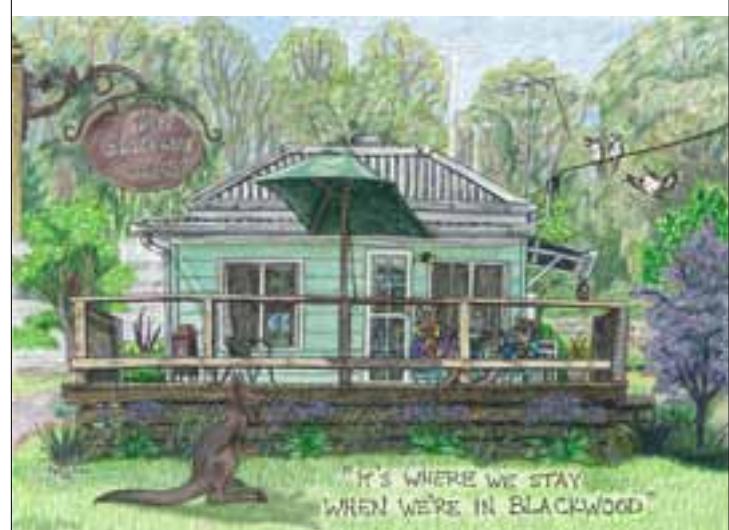
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