

BLACKWOOD NEWS

Apr / May '10
vol 2 ~ issue 6:6
priceless



This stallholder was having a hootin' good time at the 2010 Vintage & Collectables Fair at Forest Edge in March.

Mayor Pat Toohey (also our local councillor) appeared to be having a heap of fun when he opened the 2nd Fiddlers' Convention on the oval in February. He reminisced about his visits to Blackwood as a lad. (I got the impression there may have been a wee bit of youthful mischief involved!)

Enjoying the opening celebrations are (some of) the festival organisers (left to right) Cr Pat Toohey, Nick Dear, Mike Allen, 'Mr Ken' & Brian Moore.

The 2010 event was full of music, dancing & laughter & by all accounts the convention is set to be a regular on our annual event calendar.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Apr 2-5 Trentham Art & Craft Show p17

April 3 Blackwood Easter Carnival p5

April 17 Greendale Drive-In p5

April 18 Food in the Forest Festival p23

May 21-23 The GREAT Trentham Spud Fest p17



editors thoughts ...



I OFTEN get little notes in the Blackwood News drop box, unfortunately many are anonymous so I can't publish them. This month I was amused to find a crumpled, greasy, white paper bag in the drop box which deserves a mention. **IT READ** "Please don't refuse (sic) To blackwood citizens as blackwoodians!! It's pathetic. Also we are not Daylesford." **I HAVE** asked quite a few locals how they feel about being called a

Blackwoodian – most were bemused that there was an issue. One relatively new resident is proud to be named so. **SUFFIXES ARE** often affectionately added to the end of a town name – we have Melbournians, Trenthamites even Bacchus Marshians. Don't we who live in Victoria call ourselves Victorians? **WHAT DO** other residents of Blackwood think? Is this a polling issue? Perhaps we should have a vote at the annual Easter Carnival. Or should I put a poll up on blackwoodnews.com.au? **AFTER ALL** Blackwood is full of diverse opinions - that's one of the reasons I love living here!

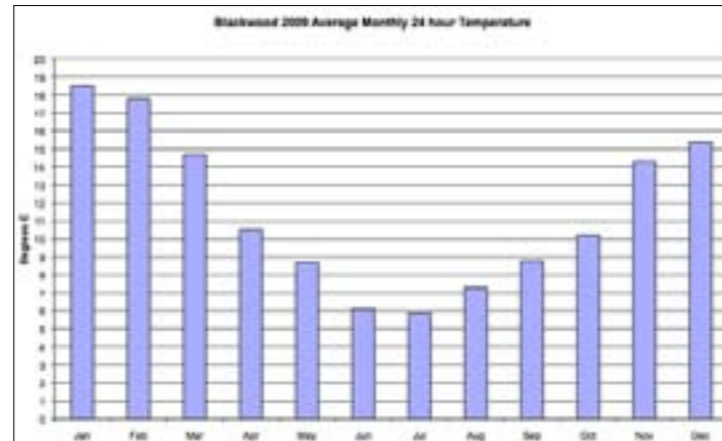
~ Jinny Coyle, editor@blackwoodnews.com.au

HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

by Don Owen

Month & Year	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall Average (mm) 1879-2007	Minimum Temperature deg C	Maximum Temperature deg C
Jan '10	38	50.1	5.5	38.8
Feb '10	93.2	54.2	6.9	32.8

Below is the Blackwood average 24 hour monthly temperatures for 2009 in graph form. It shows how cold Blackwood is in winter & hot in summer. Of course the average temperatures would be higher if only the daylight period was considered.



BIRTH OF A LIMERICK

Our youngest daughter wanted to introduce her first boyfriend to her 2 big sisters (& their boys) at a dinner in Melbourne. We realised, to our surprise, that all 3 lads were bearded bass players. The comic potential was obvious. A limerick was in order & was duly recited at the dinner.

Three charming young sisters from Blackwood
Had three musicians attracted
Each hairy of face
Each playing the bass
Fondly singing farewell to their batch'hood.

~ Brendan Hehir

Our very talented friend was taken by the idea & in 5 minutes knocked this out...

Some charming young sisters from Blackwood
Found bassists were strongly attracted
Though hairy of face
They played with such grace
That they made lesser players seem backward.

~ Robin Bradley

So, with our creative skills on the chopping block, we would like to put out a challenge to our readers. We would like to start a new column publishing the best limericks each issue written to a specific theme. So...with winter just around the corner – cold nights, warm fires – send us a limerick based on **Blackwood & winter** & we'll publish them in our June July issue. All submissions must be suitable for publication & include name & contact details of the author.. Any submission with these details assumes permission to publish.

BLACKWOOD SOCIAL ALBUM ...



the morning after a big night at Fiddlers



fire captain inspects the fund-raising sizzle at Fiddlers



a blackwoof to be?



proud mummy...



birthday girl goes shopping



'Happy Birthday Teagan'

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Blackwood News info



Blackwood News invites submissions from the community. If you are at a local event please take a photo or two & write a few lines to share in our community newspaper.

Jun/Jul 2010 DEADLINES	May 15	May 20
Advertisers book space		
Regular Contributions		
Features & Items of Interest:		
Community Groups & Clubs		
Display Ad Artwork/Content		
News, Classifieds, Gig Guide		

We have reduced the number of deadline dates – late submissions CANNOT be accepted. Submissions, display ads & articles can be emailed to editor@centralvic.com.au, put in the 'drop box' outside the Blackwood General Store or posted c/o Blackwood PO, 3458
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Feast, Famine, Fire, Flood

~ by Heather Marsh

An entry in my garden diary for Saturday March 6 says "RAIN! THUNDER! LIGHTNING! HAIL! So much so that our property became a waterfall. We had just finished raking a few stray leaves off the paths..."

And so ended the story of my kitchen garden open day. Some of you may remember the invitation in the last news to come & check out the vegetable garden that I have been toiling in & raving over for many a month. On the 6th of May it was finally finished but by the 7th of May – the date for the open garden – it was a sad eyesore.

Our packed sawdust paths became eroded river courses. Mounded beds of mushroom compost ended up in someone else's backyard. Bark, leaves, rubbish & gravel had washed into every nook & cranny.

I took it on the chin. Truly, I did. Not a tear was shed. I guess motherhood has finally prepared me for the lack of permanence of anything in life- you put your keys down in the bench, they turn up in the u-bend days later. Nothing stays put & so when the rain & hail came down I just poured a beer & enjoyed the deluge.

Thankfully this kind of crazy tropical weather, which from all accounts is just par for the course of changing climate, has made my corn go gangbusters.

Last year I harvested one paltry cob that tasted like sawdust. This year we are looking at at least twenty juicy, tasty cobs of home-grown. Yeehaw!

Likewise, the un-seasonally warm & wet weather has meant that Tim & I have hauled crop after crop of other home grown veg this summer including: 1.5k Broccoli, 2.75k Niccola Potatoes, 2k of Kipflers Potatoes, 6k King Edward Potatoes, 3k Bintje Potatoes, 3.25k Beans, 5.25k Tomatoes, 8 kg Zucchini

We are also constantly picking Pak Tsoi, beetroot leaves & are just waiting for the right day to dig up the largest bulls blood beets this side of Spain.

There is something in my bones (& Tim's too) that means there is a direct correlation between the level of self-reliance we have achieved & the size of the smug grins on our faces. For Tim I suspect the satisfaction is more linked to the size of his fire-wood pile, but for me – there is nothing on this earth like bringing food straight from the garden to the table.

For those of you who are willing to take another punt on seeing my garden- please feel free to drop by at about 11am on Sat April 18 There won't be a sign out front, there won't be balloons or a fanfare. I'm sure my insurance company would lose hair if I told them I wanted them to include another open day on our house policy.

Let's keep it simple folks- if you are a friend or a friend to be, please pop by & I might make you a cuppa & maybe even hand you a rake. 8 Rayner Court, Blackwood. Avoid our baying hounds by entering from our empty bottom block on Martin Street & walking to the top of the drive to the little garden gate.



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THE HAPPY WANDERER

A Hidden Treasure - There For All To See

It was my first time. As with all first times I approached it with curiosity & trepidation. A mere stroll up the road from my house, & yet I had never done it before. I was encouraged by the enthusiasm of my friends, warm weather, the freedom & opportunity of a Sunday afternoon.

Lilting music greeted us as we walked through the wide open doors of Lerdies. I felt welcome immediately. I lashed out on an alcoholic bevvy & found an A1 position close to the small ensemble. A whistle, a fiddle, a guitar. Charming voices that wove gently around the listeners & the room, undisturbed by the wandering children or quiet conversations that all contributed to the inviting atmosphere.

I had not planned to stay for long, yet the experience was akin to a warm bath – peaceful, gentle, kind to the senses. The room was dotted with various musicians, who were invited up to play or sing with the main performers, further contributing to the inclusive & generous feel. When the skies opened & the rain came down, the musicians joyfully sang about the rain!

I hadn't even thought about the prospect of eating but the afternoon drifted along, delicious aromas intermingled with the music in the room. My friends decided that food was in order & soon we were sitting up to a flashy looking pizza with happy anticipation. Really, who expects to be able to get a 'gourmet' pizza in Blackwood? I fear I am a person with unkindly low expectations when it comes to food quality in country towns (even though this is MY country town) so I was delighted by the tasty smoked salmon pizza topped with rocket lettuce – yum. To be able to eat it whilst being entertained by local musicians was such a treat... all here on my home turf.

So once a month, take a walk up the road to Lerdies & see what is on offer. If you don't feel like cooking – try the pizza.

~ name supplied

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 our eList so you are the first to see new issues**

The Blackwood Gentlemen's Adventurers Society

by Rodney Lunschalot BGB, Hon. Sec.

Well gentle readers, for those of you who have been following the club's exploits & activities, this issue from the edge of the known world deals with a far less salacious series of exploits. One of our older members (average age 88) Sir Aloysius Crumalot BGB, who was a noted historian & dealer in antiquities, was found in the Library in Timbuktu, quite deceased clutching an Arabic manuscript to his breast that referred to an Abyssinian expedition launched in 1322 to explore Terra Nullius. It would seem from the scant information available from one of our members, who is in Timbuktu as you read this, that there was a strong belief amongst the wealthy families in Timbuktu that it was worthwhile risking falling of the edge of the world to mine the gold that had been foreseen by one of the wise men as a result of a trip to Terra Nullius. So strong was this belief that an expedition would bring back riches beyond the dreams of avarice that 27 brave warriors set forth in a flimsy dhow (an Arab boat) in search of gold & guess where they found some????

More next issue. Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the week that is not someone's birthday & doesn't end in a "y"



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Fabulous Fakes

by the Blackwood Antique Merchant



As soon as an antique item becomes collectable, it tends to rise in value to the point where it becomes difficult to find at a price most want to pay. At this point, the economics of fraud are possible. For example, if a circa 1870 Flow Blue basin set was selling at \$450, & a modern "reproduction" could be manufactured for \$20, then it's reasonable to assume someone will attempt to profit by it.

Such is the case of the Ironware wash basin. These began to appear during the late 1870s, causing some head-scratching regarding the mark & their glassy appearance. But since, until that time, no one had ever run across Ironstone basin sets that weren't "right," the questions came down to "I'll look it up later". In my neck of the woods, they were salted into rural auctions by unnamed agents, along with the real examples of English flow blue/transferware that Great Grandma had had sitting on the washstand since 1880 – to test the market I suppose.

What threw people at the time was the marking on it, pretending to be a British "Royal Arms" mark, as used by a great number of mid-19C English Staffordshire companies & on genuine late-19C American Ironstone trying to pass itself off as "as good as Staffordshire". What makes the fake mark different from the original used by British & American companies is that the genuine marks are nearly always accompanied by a company name, or the company initials. After all, what would be the point of a marking that did not advertise the maker.

At first, these pieces were passed off as ironstone by an unknown Staffordshire pottery, then possibly by obscure 19C European potteries.



A fake Ironstone mark, which usually does not include the name of the manufacturer.



A genuine English Royal Arms mark.

Eventually, long-term collectors & dealers began to ask themselves, "if I've been in this business for 30 years, why haven't I seen this mark or this pattern before"? As always, the cat ultimately got out of the bag; – these pieces were being made in China by at least one firm as late as 1996, referred to as "The Staffordshire Figure Company Ltd.", which apparently made quite a range of items, from Jardiaires to chamberpots in the famous Blue Willow & other copies of Victorian transferware.

In the antiques game, two old adages hold true: "There's a sucker born every minute" & "if it's too good to be true, it probably is."

Source: worthpoint.com

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EASTER CARNIVAL

HOW CAN YOU HELP?
We welcome anyone who can help over the Easter weekend.

FRIDAY: we set up the ground
SATURDAY: 1 hour helping a group or manning an event (parking, raffle etc.)
SUNDAY: Cleaning up



a Blackwood News community service notice

Events & Gigs guide

when	what	where
April 1	Table Hill	Radio Springs
April 2	Family Farm	Radio Springs
April 2-5	Trentham Art & Craft Show	Trentham
April 3	EASTER CARNIVAL	Blackwood Oval
April 3	Little Red Blues Bag (arvo) Ciderhouse String Band (pm)	Radio Springs Radio Springs
April 4	Little Red Blues Bag (arvo) Ciderhouse String Band (pm)	Radio Springs Radio Springs
April 5	Little Red Blues Bag (arvo) Anthony White (pm)	Radio Springs Radio Springs
April 8	Little Red Blues Bag	Radio Springs
April 9	Family Farm	Radio Springs
April 10	The Larks (arvo) Ciderhouse String Band (pm)	Radio Springs Radio Springs
April 11	Marie Casanova (arvo) Little Red Blues Bag (pm)	Radio Springs Radio Springs
April 17	Trentham Farmers Market	Trentham Square
April 17	"Sit, Stay, Play Daddy"	Greendale Drive-in
April 18	"Food in the Forest" festival	Forest Edge, Blackwood
May 1	Autumn's Bountiful Harvest	Lavandula
May 2	Autumn Harvest Festival	Lavandula
May 21-23	The Great Trentham Spud Fest	Trentham

Email your events & gigs to editor@blackwoodnews.com.au

*Happy Easter to all our readers,
 advertisers & supporters.*



The Nutty Recipe Corner

Autumn brings wonderful delights to our tables with beautiful seasonal produce to tempt our taste buds. Field mushrooms, wonderful new season apple varieties & of course the much misunderstood chestnut. This issue I have investigated the humble chestnut & provided a few of my favourite recipes to try now our days are becoming shorter & our nights cooler. Chestnuts are 99% fat free, no cholesterol, low salt, low GI & have no gluten in their starch. They are a rich source of vitamins C, B1, B2, protein & fibre, so there's no wonder they have the Heart Foundation Tick. Some of the popular varieties are De Coppi Marone, a terrific roasting nut with a rich sweet flavour, Red Spanish, a very large solid nut best boiled or steamed & Purton's Pride, a small to medium sweet flavoursome nut well suited to all purposes.

Tips to help harvest your chestnuts.

Nuts are only ripe when they have fallen from the tree. Remove outer casing with heavy, duty gloves immediately & float in water to remove empty casings & debris, refrigerate immediately. To ensure the best quality crop it is best to always pick up your nuts daily.

Check that the nuts are cool when buying them. This will determine if the providore is selling fresh produce – if the casing is hard it will have a fresh nut inside. To prepare, place the nut flat on a board & cut a cross on the rounded side, then spread the nuts over a chestnut roaster, oven tray or cake tin & place in a preheated moderate oven. Roast for approx 12-15 mins, stirring regularly to ensure they don't burn. When the nuts come away from the side of the inner layer & are soft, place into a bowl wrapped in a tea towel for approx 5 mins.

Now they will be ready to peel & enjoy. I like them in savoury soups, caramelised in a balsamic reduction over kangaroo or dipped into a Holy Goat Cheese's 'Pandoro Mature'.

Blumin Tips #2

Edible Flowers

~ Sandy Cummins & Simone Gilbert

Autumn is here! It's that time of the year where we harvest tasty crops from the garden that include, most excitingly, edible flowers. Varieties such as Nasturtiums, Johnny Jump Ups, Calendula, Bee Balm (Bergamot), some Lavender, Sunflowers, Chamomile & Marigolds, to name some favourites, can be picked & used in your cooking. There are also some vegetables which are actually flowers. Did you know that the humble cauliflower is a flower? Or that the pink & red flowers of runner beans can taste sweet & nectar-like!

Some flowers are poisonous, so always carefully check what flower you use & ensure that is has, preferably, been grown organically or at least, pesticide-free.

Edible flowers have been used in the culinary arts for centuries. They can be used as a main ingredient, seasoning or garnish. Middle Eastern dishes use rose petals & orange blossoms to flavour meals. Nasturtiums & pansies appear regularly in European & American cuisines. A renaissance is occurring in mainstream cooking, with the appearance of elegant desserts such as rose petal ice-cream & lavender soufflé, to nasturtiums & pansies being used as garnishes for salads or candied atop luxe gateaus!

For your regular supply, Blumin is at the Trentham Farmers Market monthly, with garden fresh (& edible) flower & herb bouquets. Or you are welcome to call at other times to order your flowers (edible or otherwise) & herbs.

For a full list of edible & non-edible flowers & a special edible flower recipe, check out www.blumin.com.au.

POTATO & CHESTNUT GNOCCHI

- 500gm Potatoes (Pontiac or Serbago)
- 1 egg
- 1/3 tspn salt
- ground black pepper
- 80gm chestnut flour
- extra flour for dusting

Steam whole potatoes for 30-45 mins 'til cooked. Cool & peel then mash or push through a potato ricer. Season with salt & pepper then slowly knead in eggs & enough flour to obtain a firm, smooth dough. The amount of flour depends on the potatoes. Rest & roll into snakes about as thick as your finger, cut into 1cm pieces, & gently score on a gnocchi board or press them against the inside of a curved cheese grater. Cook the gnocchi in salted, boiling water & remove after they rise; 1-2 minutes. Drain well & serve with a few leaves of sage, melted, unsalted butter & Parmigiano, meat sauce, pesto or a sauce of your choice.

LEMON CHESTNUT SWISS ROLL

- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup castor sugar
- 3/4 cup flour
- juice of 1 lemon (1 tbspn only)
- 1/2 tspn bicarb soda
- 1 tspn cream of tartar
- 1x 365ml jar of chestnuts in heavy syrup

Beat eggs & castor sugar until stiff, fold in sifted flour & remaining dry ingredients & lemon juice. Spread over greaseproof paper & bake for 7 mins in a preheated mod oven. Turn onto a tea towel & roll. Heat the chestnuts until just lightly boiling & puree & spread warm over sponge & re-roll. Slice & serve.

Chestnuts & chestnut products are available from Mid March at The Nutty Orchard, 703 James Lane Trentham East 3458. ph 03 5424 1185 or from The Trentham Farmers Market monthly.

~ Tracey Roy

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Scrambled Beds



by Genevieve Messenger

I remember not that long ago, in my 38th year of living in the city, having a conversation with my city friends about how easy life would be in the country. How quiet it would be, how neighbours would bring over batches of scones & put your bins out if you weren't home. How there would be absolutely no stress. How towering gums would absorb any worries & the expansive sky would free the mind.

That's because when we used to get out of our city-centric geographical gridlock & manage to drive more than fifty kilometres out of the city, we would book a B&B in Blackwood or Daylesford forget about everything & zone out.

So of course when I shocked my friends by actually making the move to Blackwood two years ago, I didn't think about the fact that I would be the one ending up running the B&B!

Actually, I shouldn't really call it a B&B, because that infers bed & breakfast. Basically, with my culinary flair, if I made breakfast for my



On a sunny morning in February, three past pupils of Blackwood School shared photos & fond memories with Leeanne & Carl, the new proprietors of Cobb & Co tearooms before tucking into Devonshire teas featuring Leeanne's special scone recipe.



guests, they would never return. They would probably poach me & scramble my brain. So best call it a self-contained cottage with the added option of going to the general store for a field day with garlic mushrooms.

I realise now I have to learn how to make beds, which is a bit of a challenge when I grew up in the doona generation. I remember how excited my mother was to be able to throw a doona on the bed; it was the first stage of women's lib.

I still however have to get skilled at a top sheet & a bottom sheet. Oh sheet. The bottom one is fitted, so surely I can get that right. However, I had no idea how to put the seam on the top one so it flipped back on the pillow right way up, or how to fold the corners of the top sheet in hospital-style precision. I am no Martha Gardener. In fact I'm no Gardener either, but like most people in Blackwood I like to have a dig.

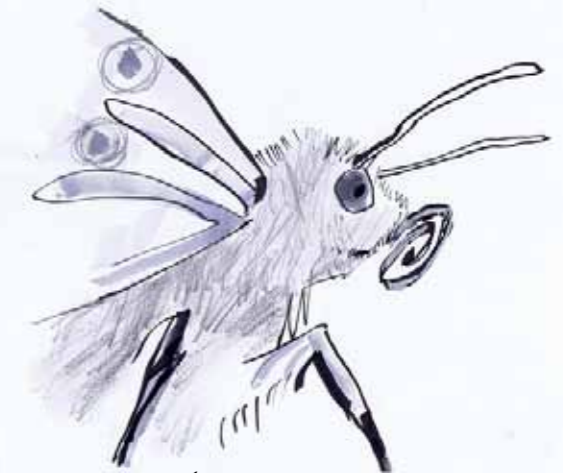
I totally admire people who have got to the wrinkle-free stage of bed sheets. Until I get there, I have to shave off \$10 a night for the price.

I now have officially opened Whalebone Cottage, cut the ribbon, smashed the clearskin, uploaded it on the internet & twiddled my thumbs. Let's hope Whalebone gets a few bites.

I have fended off millipedes & cleaned out cupboards, raked my lawn, vacuumed, wiped, sprayed, sorted & pressed the spin cycle. I am hoping this cleaning spin cycle is as good as the one at the gym.

As I write this, I have my first guests. Uncle Ken & Auntie Barb from Sydney. What dolls!

Dear Pet Guru,



My moth, Sebastian, is putting on lots of weight. If I feed him well, do you think he may become a mammoth?

signed (illegible)



Dear signature illegible
That is a very silly question. You are weird.
Go away.

Pet Guru



Graves in the Blackwood Cemetery

PAULINE BONFOND - DIED BLACKWOOD, July 15, 1867. Pauline Bonfond is known in the history of Blackwood as a most remarkable woman who dug many of the water races in Blackwood with a long handled shovel.

A newspaper article states "Madame Pauline Bonfond, a French woman made an excellent living contracting to cut races for the diggers. She built the water races for sluicing gold around the hills on the opposite side of the gully from Golden Point, Blackwood." The story states that "many a thievish miner carried the marks of her shovel to their grave, when they thought they could get the better of her." She was said to have sold the water in her race for a shilling for sluicing.

Her headstone reads - "Pauline Bonfond, Born in Chart, France, May 1820, died 15 July 1867 age 47yrs". She is buried in the Roman Catholic section M allot. 48, in the Blackwood Cemetery.

Research shows several official records have conflicting names & records.

Shipping records from the Public Records Office shows a Mr & Mrs Bonnefond arrived in Melbourne from France in Jan 1855 on board the 'Admiral Baudin'. Mrs Bonnefond was listed as age 39yrs (making her born 1816) with her was her husband age 43yrs.

The 1869 Mt. Blackwood Directory has Pauline Bonnefond listed as a race owner. This was two years after her death, but sufficient to show that she was listed as a race owner, & her name was then shown as Pauline Bonnefond.

Research into the history of Pauline Bonfond has been difficult because of the variations of the spelling of her surname. In the micro-fiche death records she is listed as PAULINE BOUNEFOND died age 52yrs, (making her born 1815), father listed as Antonio Jumentier, certificate no.7733. This date of birth matches her age on the shipping record.

In the Digger - Pioneer Index. Victoria 1836-1888 her death record in 1867 has her listed as - Pauline BONNEFOND, father - Antonio Jumentier, mother's name Unknown, age: 52. born FRANCE. Died 1867. Reg Number: 7733

On obtaining the death certificate of Pauline Bonfond, the following information was obtained: Her surname was listed as BONNEFOND & her father, Antonio Jumentier was a farmer of Chart, Department of Seine et Aise, France, mother's name unknown. Pauline Bonnefond's husband was named as Pierre Bonfond. She married him at age 25yrs in Paris, France, she had no children. She is recorded on this certificate as having died at Golden Point Blackwood, on the July 27 & buried on the July 29, 1867 age 52yrs (not 47yrs nor the July 15 as stated on

headstone). Cause of death was cancer of the transverse colon of 2yrs duration, doctor was Samuel Smith Surgeon & the informant was J. M. Loiseleur, miner, a friend of the deceased.

The registrar was David Grieve Stobie & the undertaker was Frederick Chenu. Pauline was recorded as being born at Chart, Department of Seine et Aise, France, & being 12 years in the colony of Victoria (making it 1855, which matches the shipping record).

It does not appear that her husband was with her at the time of her death, as he was not listed as the informant, & she was working to make a living for herself as a Race Owner. No other record could be found of Pauline or her husband's death record.

The above shows that not all official records have correct spellings of names nor dates, & as handwriting on certificates is hard to read one can see the possible reason why this is so.

There were said to be between 80 to 100 miles of water races on the Blackwood Goldfield. Figures published by the Mines Department show that Blackwood was very close to having the longest mileage of water races of any mining field in the Colony.

Many of these water races can still be seen around Blackwood. Some of the races have been restored as a bush walking track which provides a pleasing long or short walk through the Blackwood country side, where evidence of gold mining can be seen.



Headstone reads - 'In memory of Pauline Bonfond, born in Chart, France, May 1820, died 15 July 1867 age 47yrs.' Grave & headstone in the Blackwood cemetery of Pauline Bonfond - water-race owner. (Photo courtesy Margot Hitchcock)

~ Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society. March 2010

damaging our earth, polluting our air & making extinct other species, we are killing off a culture of thousands & thousands of years! We could learn a massive amount about living at one with our land & the living nature within it from the Aboriginal people. They believe 'it's my home, it's their home', we have to learn how to share, NOW, before it's too late to repair the damage already done.

Some service providers are also offering rebates or free products. If you have an old shower-head, ring your water supplier & they will send someone out to replace it with a water efficient model free of charge. If you would like a free \$50 Home Water Conservation Audit, your water company covers this too.

Unfortunately there are no rebates for food, but if you were to grow your own, the healthiest, most sustainable method of food production, there are rebates available for various products, from the cheapest & easiest you can do yourself; waterless car cleaning products, mulch, compost bins, soil wetting agents, weeping hose to the more expensive, plumber required items; install flow-control devices on outside taps, rainwater tanks, permanent grey-water systems & dual flush toilets.

Get on board now, before funding runs out & utility bills rise dramatically!

Until next time, enjoy this magnificent earth as much as you can!

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REFLECTING ON ASH

On a small table sat a bowl of ash, a lit candle & an open bible. After a period of silence, each person was invited to share what had come up for them in the stillness. One person motioned to the bowl of ash & said with force, "Well I don't like that!"

This reaction came as we shared in the Highlands Cluster Lenten Study, exploring the wise, life-giving book, 'Practicing our Faith', edited by Dorothy Bass.

Ash can be confronting, especially if we have held the ashes of a loved one. Ash is a powerful reminder that our lives here on earth are not infinite. We often do not wish to face this reality head-on.

However, for those of us who have been confronted with the stark reality of death or great tragedy in our lives, or in the lives a loved one, you may well have experienced how things can become crystal clear in this period. Amidst the grief, anxiety & fear, absolute clarity can emerge about what is important in life & what is just trivia.

It often takes death to show us what real life is about. Sadly, over time however, this clarity can fade as life, with all its demands, intrudes.

During the Christian Season of Lent, that cycles around & leads us to Easter, ash is a powerful symbol that speaks of this season's deep invitation to face again the reality that our lives here will end. And to reflect & pray deeply about what is actually important in our living here & now, for us, for others, & in our relationship with the Divine.

Rather than Lent being about simply giving up some food source, in this sacred space we are invited to wake up & ponder what life is really about. Questions to reflect on in our lives might include: 'What is pulling at your time? What choices are you making? Who is benefiting from your choices & who is losing? What is giving you life & what is sapping you of energy? Are you making choices or are you letting things happen to you? How are you giving & how are you receiving? How are you really travelling within, & what new life might the Divine, who comes to us in Jesus, be calling you to?

The season of Lent ultimately leads us to Easter's door, the touchstone of Christian faith that has two sides: crucifixion & resurrection. Here the realities of life are held together. The grief of violence, suffering & betrayal- as we travel with Jesus to the cross, & the celebration of the mystery that even suffering, death & hatred cannot hold down the life & love of the Divine, as we see in the risen Jesus on Easter Sunday.

This pattern of death & new life is sacred & it can manifest in our own lives as well. Though I write this with some hesitation, not because I don't believe this, but because these things are not easy & words can somehow cheapen deep insights.

This said, in my experience, & in the experience of others I know, it can be that in being open to our suffering & facing our deaths, new life & clarity can emerge. With hard work & by the pouring grace of the Divine & with strong supports around us, from amidst our own suffering, resurrection can come- new life that we did not think possible, greater freedom, more authenticity & a more unrestrained love.

The sacred pattern of cross & resurrection continues to echo great wisdom into our lives.

In your journey to Easter, amidst the chocolate eggs & barbecues, may there be space to encounter the God of death & new life.

~ Rev. Sally Douglas
Highlands Cluster Uniting Church

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Peter has a habit of bringing home puppies. That's how Patch & Bonnie came to be Pub Dogs. Patch was first; a smooth-haired Border Collie pup from Trentham, brought back on a Saturday after the footy. Patch loved the crowded bar & the soft bed outback. Bonnie was the first pup to lick Pete's finger as he was buying Patch's food in Bacchus Marsh. He agonised over buying the palm-sized Chihuahua x Mini-Foxie for a full 5 minutes, decided Lynne wouldn't mind, & dropped the little gift box on the bar half an hour later. Good move, Pete! The two have been best mates ever since. They love playing soccer together (Patch can balance a ball on his nose - apparently he first needs to sink a couple of ice-cubes from the bar - his favourite treat). Adding to his bag of tricks, Patch will herd stray toddlers back to their tables in the bistro lounge. He is also called Houdini as he escapes next door to the legendary 20 yo, Tiny, (BW News Issue #Dec08Jan09) when she comes on heat. WOW, what a girl! According to a visiting medium, he has regular conversations with the resident ghost of unit 3, Frederick Hill. Patch was also the only witness to the Lerdies burglary, barking at the window all through the event. It must be grand being a pub dog!





COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

BLACKWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE INC.

no report this issue

~ Barb Sweet, (Hon) secretary

BLACKWOOD CROWN LANDS COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Lou has had a busy few weeks with the Fiddlers Convention, Queens B'day Weekend & Easter, which have all been very good for Blackwood. Thank-you to the organisers of events at the Sportsground for leaving the ground in great condition.

We received a \$90,000 grant from the Victorian Mineral Water Committee to be used over 6 years to do works on the buildings & ground of the Mineral Springs.

We, the committee, want to thank Jeanette Johnstone, Phil Skinner, Greg Crumpton & helpers for the new bbq at the caravan park. To Brian Moore for doing the grant work with the mineral springs people. To Senior Citz for cleaning the carpet in the hall foyer & Brendan Hehir for doing the film on the windows.

We received an invitation to attend a Moorabool Shire event at St Annes to meet the Victorian Governor. Thank-you to Peter & Lyn for attending on our behalf.

Have a happy & safe Easter.

~ Elizabeth Hall, secretary

BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

no report this issue

~ regards Bruce Henry, Team Leader

BLACKWOOD RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Thankfully the 2009/10 fire season has so far been relatively mild for our region. A reminder however that the following fire restrictions will remain in force until the season is formally declared over:

- During the fire danger period, all fires including incinerators are prohibited in the open air without a permit.
- BBQs & fires for cooking & warmth do not require a permit but must be lit in a constructed fireplace taking into consideration wind & clearance perimeters & the fire must be supervised at all times.

As we state every year, in the interest of general community safety, Blackwood Brigade is adopting a zero tolerance policy & the police will be called to any fire lit without a permit. Please note that penalties for illegally lit fires are severe.

Moorabool Council permits can be obtained by calling 5366 7100 & further information on the fire danger period is available at www.cfa.vic.gov.au.

Blackwood RFB would like to thank the following for their support of CFA at community events in the last few months:

- Mike & Margaret & the team at Lerdies & Forest Edge Retreat, for their ongoing fund raising support of CFA & the general Blackwood community through the Antiques & Collectables fairs at Forest Edge Retreat in March '10 & Nov '09 & the regular collections at Lerdies.
- The organizers & players involved in the popular Fiddlers' Convention held in Blackwood in Feb '10, who also donated to CFA.

Blackwood RFB also recognizes the significant efforts of DSE & Moorabool Council in their ongoing fire prevention activities conducted

around Blackwood in recent months.

As we head into the Easter season, the Brigade would like to thank all the community for its support during the year & we wish you all a happy & safe Easter break. We look forward to seeing you all at the Easter Parade & Fair.

Interested in joining CFA? Please contact Captain Ian Stewart or Secretary James Hadwen at the station any Sunday during the fire danger period & the first Sunday of the month in the off-season.

~ James Hadwen

BLACKWOOD DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Invitation to our OPen Day on Easter Sunday. Martin St, Blackwood. 10.30am-4pm \$2 admission (children under 12 FOC)

Blackwood/Barrys Reef LANDCARE WATER WATCH

no report this issue

BLACKWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Clubs are getting ready for their stalls at the Easter Carnival – BBQ, drinks, hot dogs, devonshire teas. Please support these clubs to raise funds over Easter.

We have an assortment of stalls, craft, plants, showbags, toys, preserves, jams, licorice for you to enjoy.

Thankyou to the people who have sponsored up to when this issue went to print: Fitzgerald Real Estate • Bellahaven Homes • Catherine King • Don Nardella • Wheeler & Lawrence • Brian & Fred Moore • Blackwood General Store • Allan & Elizabeth Hall • Geneveive Hall & Ken Whiffen • Blackwood Link Programme • Ian & Valissa Stewart • Blackwood News • Blackwood Hotel. Without your faith in Blackwood Easter Carnival we could not run this event. Thank-you.

~ Elizabeth Hall

BLACKWOOD ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE

Our major focus has been a review of the success of the Fiddlers ' Convention (see article elsewhere in this issue). At an energetic & enthusiastic meeting held March 3, a strategy was developed which, when achieved, will see the Fiddlers' Convention coming to Blackwood for at least the next 5 years.

Our next event was planned to be the Food in the Forest. With the early onset of winter, a decision was taken to postpone this event 'til Spring as the risk of inclement weather for an outdoor event was causing concern for stall holders

Our next meeting will be held at 6.30pm on the April 16 at 26 Martin Street.

We are keen to have a broad group of opinions represented in the BAOC so meetings are open to anyone who has an interest in the ongoing economic development of our village. We are still looking for a Treasurer.

The next meeting will focus on how we can hook in to the substantial activity that Tourism Victoria & the DMP have underway for the Daylesford Macedon Ranges area as well as planning future activities

~ Ian Tebbutt, Hon. Sec.

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

Blackwood News thanks all advertisers for their support.

BLACKWOOD CLUB UPDATES

BLACKWOOD ARTS SOCIETY Inc

no report this issue

BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

Another season over & unfortunately the mighty Blackwood Eagles missed the finals for the first time in 5ys. A disappointing loss to Trentham in the second last round put paid to any chances Blackwood had of making the finals. A washout in the last round dashed any hope Blackwood had of finishing the season on a winning note. Standout players this season were Luke Whitehouse with both the bat & ball, skipper Steve O'Brien making plenty of runs, including a century & Rob Whan, who took plenty of wickets when it mattered. With up & coming juniors like James Cann & Nick Whan & new players like Matt Sweet, who played in the last game & Aaron Speak, next season looks very positive for the club. The club would like to thank our sponsors & supporters greatly and hope to see them all at the club's Presentation Day.

Blackwood Cricket Club Presentation and Trivia Day 2010

Date: 11/04/2010
Time: 12 noon.

Contact Scott on 53686889 or 0429004547 or scothanstad@bigpond.com before 4th April to book your spot

Organise your team of 10 or come along and be teamed up with a bunch of geniuses to take part in the club's first ever trivia competition. The day kicks off at 12 noon with a 2 course spit roast meal, followed by a fun trivia event, the presentation of this season's trophy winners, then, if time, interest and weather permits, a game of cricket between the Ladies and Gentlemen! Guaranteed good times... Memorabilia Auction to be held on the day also.....

To be held at the world famous Blackwood Cricket Ground
Cost is \$25 per adult, \$15 per child under 15.
The Hall is on standby in case of bad weather.

The day will be great fun with a Trivia Day being run & lots of memorabilia up for auction. Organise your own table of 8 or 10 or be teamed up with guaranteed geniuses for a fun day of trivia & cricket. For tickets, ring Scott on 53686889. Cheers.

~ Scott Unstad

BLACKWOOD UNITED CHURCH

For worship times & events across the Cluster go to: www.highlandsclusteruca.org.au

~ Rev. Sally Douglas Highlands Cluster Uniting Church



BLACKWOOD SPECIAL SCHOOL

no report this issue

~ Tony Bellette & Harley Dalgleish, BSSOEC Staff

PARTY TIME?

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



LOCAL TIP hours

Trentham: Wed/Sat/Sun 9am-5pm
Ballan: Wed-Mon 1pm-5pm

a blackwood news community service notice

BLACKWOOD PLAY GROUP

Are you interested?
Moorabool Shire Council would like to hear from you if you are interested in joining a Blackwood Playgroup. The proposed Playgroup would provide a qualified Early Childhood worker who would offer families the chance to:

- Meet other mums/dad or carers in the community
- Share two hours of fun, educational activities together
- Ask questions & gain information about child development & parenting issues.

Please contact Lisa Trott-Kelly at Moorabool Shire Council on 5366 7100 to express your interest.

ST ANDREW'S UNITING CHURCH Playgroup

This is one of Moorabool's only intentionally Christian Playgroups & helps link up a geographically diverse group of parents carers across the Shire who sometimes feel isolation in more ways than one.
Kids 0-school age • Thursdays 11-12.30
Info: Gabrielle 0427 570 580 or Gretta 0417 168 948

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

Lament for Ruby

CRYING IS all we want to do...we cry in deep, deep sweet sorrow...
OUR SOULS cried out in knowing... you came. you went... deep, deep sorrow...
YOU SANG, a primordial lament.... dark ocean depths, deep in sorrow... that look in your eyes fixed on a distant star no more...deep, deep sorrow...
YOUR MUSIC & your woman words sang in those deep & wondrous tones, echo straight to soul, a knife through soft butter... understand this deep, deep sorrow
WE WAIT in sadness for a cue... to raise you from the ashes... to be here with us in sacred song
LOOK NOW a rainbow serpent flashes

~ Mary Waters



THE CASSIDY KID

TYLER JAMES Cassidy was born on Feb 3, just missing our last edition. Sorry, Little Tj (or TJ, as he prefers). His birth involved the compulsory Swift Trip downtown (hornblowing, fanging it, being waved through road works). Then the wait. Or 12 hours labour, depending on who you ask.

At 10.09pm Tyler set foot on planet earth, a healthy 8lb 7oz (3830gms) & let out his first la la la. That's how he cries- like he's signing the chorus. Brad & Sylvia think that, given his name, & his first 3 months' gestation on Chesapeake Bay, USA, we may be listening to a future country & western star. Unless, of course, he prefers to lay tiles.



Proud parents Brad Cassidy & Sylvia Hollis with baby TJ.



POP THE FIZZ!

CONGRATULATIONS TO Natalie & Owen on your engagement (finally).

WISHING YOU both a long & happy life together.

LOTS OF Love from Mum, Taryn & Sam

CLASSIFIEDS

Sessional rooms available in Blackwood. Would suit spiritual guide / beautician.. See Lee at the Blackwood Cobb and Co Tea Room on Weekends 5368 6608

Hey kids, would you like to be in the Easter parade? call Mez on 53 686 833

WHY ISN'T YOUR BUSINESS HERE? 5368 6607 OR BLACKWOODNEWS.COM.AU

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

CONGRATULATIONS ON an excellent Newsletter, as the producer of the Trentham Community Newsletter I have an understanding of just how much work goes into each edition.

~ Ian Williams

Bouquets & Brickbats

BRICKBAT TO the low life's who stole the bench off the front porch at 24 Martin Street!

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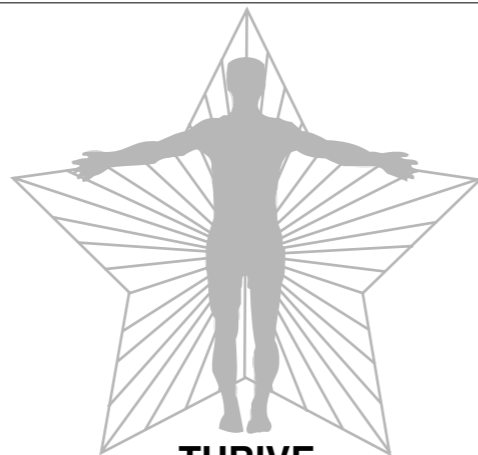
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SHE RECENTLY added Registered Marriage Celebrant to her qualifications & she is very excited to be recognised by The Attorney Generals Office in this capacity.

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GREAT TRENTHAM SPUDFEST May 21-23

Opening night Fri 21 Mechanics Institute Hall, finger food, entertainment & launch of 2nd edition of the Recipe Book.

Sat – activities in High St, spud hut bus tours, spud sales by growers.

Sat night dinner extravaganza at Mechanics Hall.

Sun – more bus tours, market at the Historical Railway Station
Contact: Bob 5424 1058”.

Trentham Farmers Market

The Farmers Market has a selection of dairy & goat's cheeses, fresh honey, eggs & live poultry, preserves, sourdough bread, olive products, plants & fresh flowers, organic & conventional wines & an assortment of natural farm products.

All proceeds go back into the community through our 'Not for Profit' Trentham Lions Club & the various community groups participating in our sausage sizzle roster.

The Trentham Farmers Market is held every third Saturday of the month, 9am – 1pm in the Trentham Town Square.

THE GREAT TRENTHAM SPUDFEST
21-23 May 2010

You'd never guess potatoes could be this much fun!

Come along to the Trentham Spudfest and celebrate the joys of the humble potato. Adults and children will be delighted with the food, fun, information and music prepared for this event.

Some of the festivities include:

- bus tour of spud huts • cooking with spuds competition
- potatoes for sale by local farmers • community dinner
- market at the railway station • fun and games for kids
- music events in local eateries and venues • karaoke
- spud merchandise, displays and information.

For more information phone 03 5424 1058.
Mark your diaries for the Opening night (Fri 21st) & the Sat 22nd dinner – bookings for the dinner essential.
Any groups or individuals wanting to be involved in this year's Spudfest please contact Bob White 5424 1058

a Blackwood News community service notice

TRENTHAM ART & CRAFT SHOW

Easter Weekend, April 2-5, 10am to 4pm daily, at the Mechanics Hall, High St, Trentham.

Opening night: Thur April 1, 7.30pm, \$15 per person (bookings essential) includes delicious finger foods & wine. Presentation of prizes for each of the categories will take place on the opening night.

Contact: David McCallum 5424 1199”

Trentham Art & Craft Easter Show goes from strength to strength reports local artist Louise Otten.

Ms Otten, an Art Show stalwart who has exhibited each year & helped behind the scenes, is looking forward to involvement with the 2010 Show which runs between April 2nd & April 5th from 10am to 4.00pm

In a first for Trentham, three local artists who have exhibited previously at the Trentham Art & Craft Easter Show are entering portraits in the 2010 Archibald competition. East Trentham artists Rose Wilson & David Bryant have each chosen Melbourne Theatre Company composer & local resident, Ian McDonald, as their subject while Louise is entering with a portrait of local martial arts expert Patricia Kent. While such competition may seem daunting to budding local artists, in its time Trentham Show has built a reputation for providing opportunities for artists, young & old, & promoting the local community. This year, to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity, Wombat Forestcare are offering a prize, across all categories, to the work which best reflects the values of the Wombat State Forest.

Anita von Bibra will be the judge for the Art categories & Beverley Downie will be the judge for the Craft categories. Anita, a practicing artist, is the Director of the Woodbine Gallery, Malmesbury. Beverley was formerly Head of Art & Textiles at Genazzano Girls School & a VCE examiner as well as a frequent exhibitor herself.

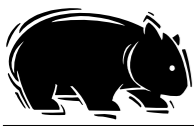
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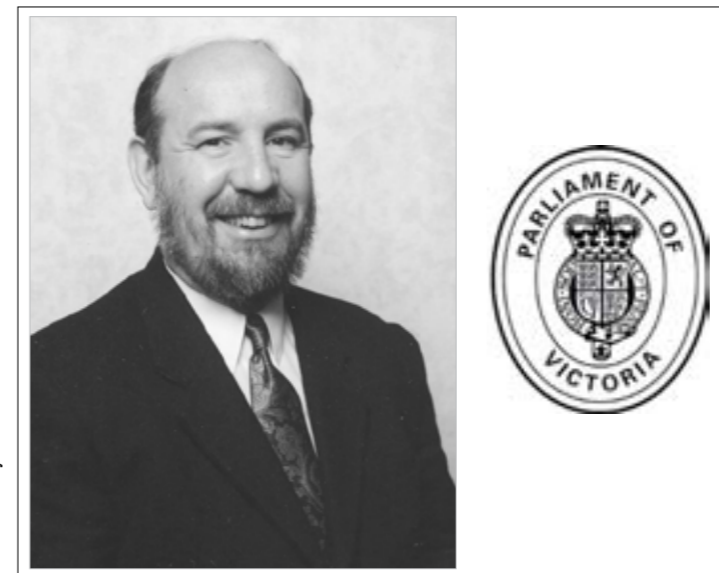
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Your local state MP, Mr Don Nardella MLA
Please do not hesitate to contact me on 9743 9825 or by email don.nardella@parliament.vic.gov.au should you have any matters you wish to discuss.

BLACKWOOD TO BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY BANK?

The Dec / Jan News carried an article about the proposed Daylesford & District Community Bank® initiative (which proposes a branch in Trentham) & how communities can benefit from the social dividend.

As of late Nov, 140 pledges have been made by people from Trentham & surrounding districts to support the establishment of a Community Bank® shopfront in Trentham. These pledges, totalling just over \$365,000, have come from Blackwood, East Trentham, Kyneton, Little Hampton, Newbury, Springhill, Tylden & Trentham people. This is a magnificent commitment to, & belief in, the future of our communities – thanks to everyone who has already made a pledge.

If you want to invest in the future of your community all you need to do is pledge to buy shares in the Community Bank®. What happens next will be a feasibility study to demonstrate the viability of the project

from the desk of DON NARDELLA

The Member for Melton, Mr Don Nardella MLA has supported Premier, John Brumby's, announcement to further strengthen the toughest knife search & seizure laws in Australia, as well as a complete ban on the sale of weapons to minors.

Mr Brumby said the Vic Govt had consulted with Vic Police, hospitals & the community & was taking further action to crack down on knives. "Victoria has the toughest anti-knife regime in Australia," Mr Brumby said. "We have taken numerous steps to address knife attacks over many years & we are determined to keep taking action to make our streets safer."

Mr Nardella said new measures to give Victoria Australia's toughest knife regime included:

- Giving police new powers to issue \$1000 on-the-spot fines for first time offences for those aged 16 or above caught carrying a knife or other controlled weapon without a lawful excuse, which would also be seized
- Stronger laws that allow Vic Police to designate a public area such as a train station or public place for a random weapons search – without notice; &
- The toughest knife prohibitions in Australia, with minors (under the age of 18) being prohibited from legally buying a prohibited or controlled weapon.

which, if positive, will lead to a Prospectus being issued to everyone who has pledged asking them to take out their share-holding in their bank (note that you won't have to pay for your shares until May-June or later). The total D&D Community Bank® initiative is very close to the \$900k pledge 'trigger point' for the feasibility study, so it would be great if Blackwood people could step forward in numbers & claim 'their share of the action'. Maldon Community Bank® has returned \$1m to their communities over the past 10 years – that's a lot of sausage sizzles or raffle tickets!

Pledge forms & a collection box are available at Lerdies. If you want any further information please contact Georgie Patterson (5424 1686), Ian MacBean (5424 1727) or Ian Williams (5424 1199) – any of these people will be pleased to speak to groups if invited.

attention blackwood bookworms ...

- did you know we have
a well stocked lending library in the hall?
- borrowing is on an honour system
 - the hall is open each Wednesday 10-3pm



A NEW HEALTH BUSINESS IN BLACKWOOD

When her husband, Robin, had a massive stroke two and a half years ago, Brenda Hunter was advised to find him a Scenar practitioner urgently. Luckily, she was able to find one in Melbourne and was amazed with the results; so much so that she bought a home device to use in between visits, and Robin improved dramatically.

Brenda then started using her Scenar on other members of the family and friends with encouraging results so decided to buy a professional Scenar device and undergo training to become a Scenar practitioner.

The Scenar device is used on the skin to provide non-invasive drug-free therapy and promotes and enhances the body's own natural recuperative abilities.

After training by Chris Mortenson at Scenar Health in Sydney, Brenda is now launching the Thrive Treatment Centre at Lost Valley in Blackwood. (see her ad on p14). Details on Scenar Therapy may be found on www.scenarhealth.com.au

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food in the forest 2010

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NEWBURY 539 Blackwood Rd

Approximately 22 acres of superb land over four titles. Set in the heart of Newbury, the property includes a three bedroom home, four car garage, large farm shed and numerous smaller sheds. The property boasts a magnificent water supply from three spring fed dams and a bore. The residence sits in around an acre of old gardens waiting on an enthusiast to restore it to its former glory. The dwelling, with polished timber floors throughout, affords great views over the land and is in need of some renovation works to the kitchen and living areas. The land with some bushland at the rear, adjacent to the Wombat forest, will suit all types of agriculture or horticulture.

\$455,000



LYONVILLE 18 Friths Mill Rd

Great opportunity to secure this beautiful elevated parcel of land in the heart of Lyonville. Approximately 7.6 acres of volcanic loam along with spring fed dam situated in a Rural living Zone. The newly issued Planning Permit for a four bedroom home will allow you to build a home that will afford fantastic views over the surrounding countryside. A bore license comes with the property allowing the owner to develop extensive gardens or horticulture pursuits.

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