



Dec '10-Jan '11
vol 3 ~ issue 4:6

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A flood of Christmas cheer



Santa checks out a flooded Blackwood (above), promising to deliver presents come rain, hail or shine. "I might have to ditch the sleigh & pilot the Santa Submersible instead" he said.

NOVEMBER 27

At around 3pm, after 45mm of rain, Simmons Reef Road collapsed just beyond the fork to the Sportsground.
See live video footage at blackwoodnews.com.au.
By the end of the day Blackwood had seen 72mm.



FOR YOUR DIARY...

Dec 2: Trentham Community Bank Prospectus launch

Dec 8: Australia Day/Easter Carnival meeting @ hall 7pm

Dec 19: Santa comes to Blackwood Pub



editors thoughts ...

It's hard to believe another Christmas is upon us. Brendan & I thank all our regular contributors & advertisers, without whom there would be no Blackwood News to produce.

After we have put the content in, each issue of Blackwood News takes about a week to put together. The more contributions & photos we get from the community, the easier it is to put together an interesting issue.

Blackwood News is YOUR community news, so if you are at event, please take photos & get them to us by email or drop them into the box outside the Blackwood Merchant or the Post Office. Likewise, if you have milestone celebration in your family – wedding, anniversary, birth, we'd love to hear from you.

Thanking Nick Dear who took video footage on his iPhone of the recent Simmon's Reef Road collapse. Go to blackwoodnews.com.au to see the footage.

We also need 'Blackwoofs', 'Were are they now?'; 'What's in a name?' & gigs & events. With the silly season upon us we expect there will be lots of good stuff for our 2011 FebMar issue.

Wishing all Blackwood News readers a wonderful Christmas & a fabulous 2011.

~ Jinny Coyle, editor@blackwoodnews.com.au



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 news.

FebMar 2011 DEADLINES	Jan 15	Jan 20
Advertisers book space		
Regular Contributions		
Features & Items of Interest:		
Community Groups & Clubs		
Display Ad Artwork/Content		
News, Classifieds, Gig Guide		

Late submissions CANNOT be accepted. Submissions, display ads & articles can be emailed to editor@blackwoodnews.com.au, put in the 'drop box' outside the Blackwood General Store or posted c/o Blackwood PO, 3458

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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
Sep '10	107.4	104.0	-0.8	18.4
Oct '10	151.2	94.1	-1.1	25.2

ABOVE AVERAGE rainfall for the months of September and October and November looking good so far. Maybe the river will flow throughout the summer, which it hasn't done in recent years.

what's in a name?

LOU HENDERSON felled an old pine in his front yard recently. In doing so, he uncovered a magnificent view of the Rodgers Monument in Blackwood cemetery. With typical humour & a natural talent for stating the bleeding obvious, Lou proudly christened his abode.



WHAT'S THE history of your house's name? Write in let us all know.

"Plaintive Thought"
from Robyn Bradley

There is something very sad about Beauty, perhaps it is its impermanence or perhaps the impermanence of people such as I who worship it.



Scott Unstad celebrates his 40th birthday with siblings (L) Jason (R) Billy & Stacey

BLACKWOOD SOCIAL ALBUM –

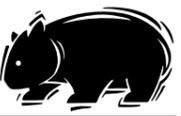
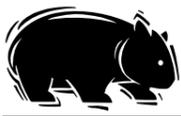


LOCAL GIRL, Monica Darwen, was princess for the night on Nov 4 when she debuted at Daylesford Town Hall. Photo taken at the Convent Gallery waiting for her limousine ride to function.

ALL OTHER photos taken at the traditional Blackwood Oaks Day which was held at Blackwood Hotel this year. With thanks to Liz for taking on the task of recording the day for us.



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HISTORY OF BLACKWOOD 1859: MINER FOUND DROWNED



~ By Margot Hitchcock Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society

Sometimes during research on the history of Blackwood I come across interesting newspaper articles. Found on-line from the N.L.A. (National Library of Australia) web-site, the 'Argus' newspaper of Monday 4 July 1859 had the following article.

MOUNT BLACKWOOD DIGGINGS. From a Correspondent - July 1. **MINER FOUND DROWNED** – Argus - Monday 4 July 1859

'A respectable storekeeper, residing at Yankee Gully here, named Frederick Boys, has met with an untimely end by drowning. On Tuesday last the deceased made it his especial business to wait upon the Warden, at the Camp, with a view to ascertain whether there were any Government means available for the temporary support for a foreigner - a native of Russia - who was sick & unable to do anything for himself. It appears that the foreigner in question has been in ill health for some time, & has been dependent upon the charity of Boys & a few others, who took an interest in him from feelings of sympathy & humanity. Boys, in particular, commiserated the fate of the stranger languishing in a foreign land, & actuated by a laudable feeling of a thorough cosmopolitan character, he left the bosom of his family on a noble mission of love & mercy, alas never to return. He was last seen wending his way homewards at dusk, on the afternoon of Tuesday, near Golden Point.

As the creek happened to be flooded, & the usual crossing place to Yankee Gully - a large fallen tree was submerged, he had to make a short detour further up to another place, at Langhorn's Gully. As he did not reach home that evening, & as no one knew anything about him, his family, naturally became apprehensive that something might have taken place, & an alarm was immediately spread that he must have been drowned while in the act of crossing the creek. On the following morning a diligent search was instituted by numerous diggers, who in the most spontaneous manner tendered their services, not more however, in this instance, from a sense of what is usually felt to be an intuitive obligation incumbent upon the members of a community under such painful circumstances, than from a feeling of respect for the missing individual himself.

The creek was dragged & holes were searched in every direction during Wednesday, but with out leading to any clue, & during this time his family were kept in a state of acute & agonizing suspense. Yesterday

(Thursday) the search was kept up unremittingly, but without any better result, & as not the slightest trace could be found to indicate with any degree of certainty what had become of him, rumors arose that there might have been foul play in the matter. The grief of his family became more intensified, & another night of perplexing doubts & fears passed wearily away.

This morning, however, on the search being renewed, his body was found in a hole, about 14 feet deep, on the opposite side of the creek from where he should have crossed, & quite near to the crossing-place. It would appear, therefore, that he must have crossed the creek safely, & most probably mistaken the path in the darkness, more especially as he was not much accustomed to take that route. It would appear also that he must have diverged slightly to the right, which led him along, the fatal track. The hole, which is nearly five feet square, contains fully 10 feet of water, & from its appearance it would have been perfectly impossible for him to have escaped without help.

It occasioned some surprise that the hole referred to which was so near at hand should not have been examined previous to the discovery, but being somewhat off the line he was supposed he would have taken, & as it was surrounded on every side by thick tangled grass & brushwood so as not to be observable till quite close to it, the omission was not so much to be wondered at. A bag containing two loaves of bread, & which the deceased was known to have had with him, & which was floating on the surface, was the first thing to attract notice, & a digger, named William Cole, having fearlessly dived to the bottom, the body was brought up. The arms were in an extended position, & one of the hands retained some long grass which had evidently been clutched in death throes.

The presumption is, that the unfortunate man must have struggled in a conscious state for a considerable time, till worn out with cold & exhaustion he sank to rise no more ©

Frederick Boys is recorded as being buried in the Blackwood cemetery C of E sec. P. allot. 11. No headstone is recorded. (Blackwood cemetery records)

The Digger inquest records him as Found Drowned - Occupation: Miner, Reference: 674. 1859. The Digger death records him as age 44 yrs & parents names unknown, died Blackwood 1859.



Blackwood's raffle queen, Fred Moore, on duty at the 3rd Blackwood Antique & Collectables Fair.

TRENTHAM & DISTRICTS COMMUNITY BANK

Prospectus: Those who have already pledged may receive their personal copy of the prospectus over the next few days. This will give pledgees time to organise their investment money & consider whether they wish to increase their pledge.

Applications to purchase shares will be accepted prior to the official launch. The next few weeks may be the only opportunity that many people will get to buy shares in our Bank.

People who haven't pledged to date, but who would like to receive a copy of the prospectus, should contact Corina Sabo or David McCallum (03 5424 1483). NB: all application monies will be paid into a trust account until the minimum target capital of \$660,000 is raised.

Prospectus Launch: The official launch will be held at 7.00 pm on 2 December 2010, Mechanics Institute Hall, 66 High Street Trentham. We plan to make the evening a celebration of what our communities can achieve. Speakers will be informative, entertaining & to the point.

A draw from all the names registered on entry will take place at the end of proceedings; the winner will have the opportunity to nominate a local non-profit organisation to receive a \$500 bank account on opening day.

All are welcome & light refreshments will be provided. For catering purposes we would appreciate a RSVP Corina Sabo or David McCallum (03 5424 1483)

To ensure a timely opening....The Board is committed to raising the minimum of \$660,000 in as short a time as possible. While this will be a challenging task, the Board is confident that there is widespread community support for the project, which will make this target achievable.

The sooner we raise our minimum capital, the sooner building & fit-out works can start, & the sooner the Bank will open.

What can you do? If you have pledged, prepare for the capital raising (you might consider whether you can increase your pledge). If you haven't pledged to date, there is still time to ensure you get a Prospectus prior to the launch.

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY... SUPPORT YOUR BANK

Transfer your bank accounts & loans to our Bank (ref no 72102). We have passed \$4 million in deposits & loans, which is an excellent start but we'll need much more to ensure a return to our investors, & to pay a community dividend.

Hot & Spicy

It's incredible how the first flush of love can completely ruin your appetite. My initial intention was to savour each mouthful of the delicious food that Hepburn Jasmine Thai has consistently served over many years. But the restaurant was up against stiff competition - hot food versus a hot date. The service was efficient, friendly and respectful. And once we concentrated enough to order (the waiter discretely returned on several occasions, until we took pity on him and let him know our choices), we had a wonderful selection of authentic Thai dishes to choose from. We started by sharing an entree - prawns encased in a light pastry - very nice. The only problem is we were also sharing a bottle of wine, so I am hard pressed to remember what I ordered for a main. I know that the food was as tasty and dependable as ever, and I did feel a twinge of guilt when we both left a great deal of our meal uneaten. But attention was elsewhere, and it was no fault of the food or the restaurant.

So if you are ready for something hot and spicy, take the half-hour drive over to Hepburn Springs, and give Hepburn Jasmine Thai a try.

~ The Happy Wanderer

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Events & Gigs guide: DECEMBER

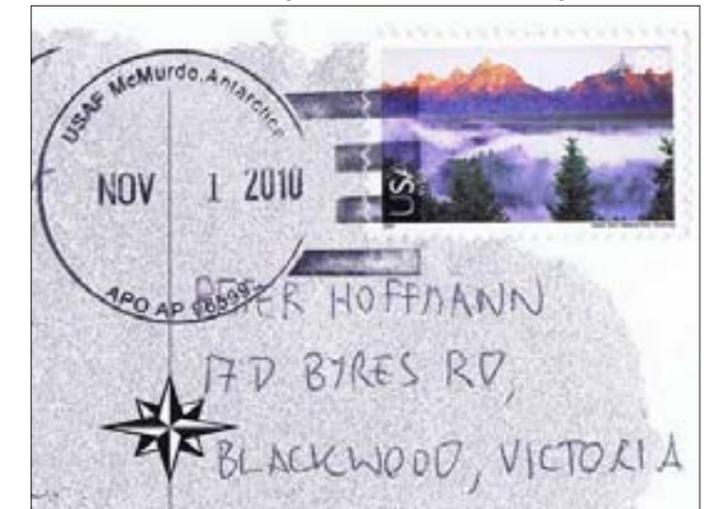
when	what	where
Fri 3, 7-9pm	Biggy RATS	B'wood Hotel
6.30pm	Shades of Blue	Cosmo
Sun 5 6.30pm	Truly Madly Deeply	Cosmo
Fri 10 6.30om	Fiddling session with Family Farm Band	Cosmo
Sun 12 2.30pm	Geoffrey Williams	Cosmo
Fri 17, 7-11	Lauren Lee Williams + open mike	Daylesford Inn
6.30pm	Open Mike Night	Cosmo
Sat 18, 12-5	Lauren Lee Williams	Radio Springs
Sun 19, 2pm	Santa visits Blackwood kids	B'wood Hotel
2.30pm	Brother Johnstone	Cosmo
Sun 26, 2.30	Reservoir Frogs	Cosmo
Fri 31, 2.30pm	Shades of Blue, Truly Madly Deeply, Jack Gromsky	Cosmo
9pm	Jo Erectus Classic Rock	B'wood Hotel

Events & Gigs guide: JANUARY

Sun 2, 2.30pm	Pete Kenton	Cosmo
Fri 7, 6.30pm	Fiddling session with Family Farm Band	Cosmo
Fri 14, 6.30pm	Open Mike Night	Cosmo
Sun 16, 2.30	Dirty York	Cosmo
Sun 23, 2.30	Reservoir Frogs	Cosmo
Thur 20, 7pm	Trivia Night	Cobb & CO
Wed 26	Australia Day celebrations	B'wood Hotel

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

YOUNG BLACKWOODIAN FINDS WORK... IN ANTARCTICA (SEE POSTMARK BELOW)



For those of us who bemoan the daily commute to Melbourne - spare a thought for Janosh Hoffman who has travelled to Antarctica for work!

His job is to set up geo-satellite deep-field stations for measuring glacier flow & ice-melting, camping by them to test & repair the units. He also has his 'own' glacier to measure for his main experiment.



The Recycled Garden

by Heather Marsh

I like the saying 'what's old is new again' – it implies a second life or second chance for any trend or thing, however dubious its taste in the first place.

Take the 80's.....please! (boom, boom). I never considered how much work goes into those new romantic hairstyles until I noticed teen-aged boys sporting them recently. Constant preening, snipping & combing is what must be required to keep them in check - it's a bit like our lawns at the moment.

The recycling revolution in my garden is less about fads & more 'thrifty shop' style. I come from a venerable family of hoarders & opp-shoppers, so naturally when it comes to sourcing plants for new borders & seed for fresh vegetables – I'm looking for bargains.

There is a scrubby looking patch out the front of my place where I am propagating plants for the gravel garden, which is finally looking imminent.

Not a single plant out there is bought – they have all been respectfully taken as pinchings from other people's gardens & struck as cuttings in propagating mix or simply stuck into the ground, or they are plants salvaged from neglected pockets of my own garden or received gratefully as 'cast-offs'.

My entire hellebore bed is a cast off from a nursery of 'mother stock' that was getting a bit long in the tooth. Those hard-working mothers have now all had babies & I have enough hellebore seedlings now to under-plant the camellia & Mollis azalea in our sun-dial garden.



Many of the plants in my summer vegetable garden were saved from last year's crop. I must admit an addiction to seed catalogues though, & the ladies at St. Erth know I am a familiar face.

Our chook house is made from a combination of new & recycled. We used new beams to give the structure integrity & then clad it in corrugate from the tip. A strategic lick of paint helps to keep the look rustic not rusted. At the moment, even the deep litter inside the chook-house is recycled. I happened to be driving along the Trentham-Daylesford road when part of a load of straw came off the back of a ute. I waited a couple days just to make sure said farmer wasn't coming back to reclaim his property & then drove down with the trailer. The chickens were delighted as they usually get sawdust, which has far less potential for grubs & snails.

Speaking of the chickens – they are the greatest recycling revolution in our household since toilet-roll binoculars. Kitchen scraps are taken care of. They LOVE thistles & broad-leaf weeds. The deep litter from their house gets scraped out into the run for a couple weeks to get scratched over, then it gets dug into the compost. That becomes a rich manure for our garden's beds. As well as giving us all this & eggs, they are delightful pets. Rufus knows all their names & loves to take them their greens each day.

I find it funny that recycling has become a new trend. It's fantastic – but really not something new. My Nana had recycling down pat, although she wouldn't have called it that. She just felt that it was wasteful to throw something out if it still had use. She used tin cans to grow seedlings & collected old bits of soap, melted them down & used them in the laundry. Old dresses were cut up to make children's or doll's clothes & in the garden – well she & my grandfather had a passionfruit farm (Queensland) & did all of their own propagating & grafting for fruit trees, nut trees, & plants for the small ornamental part of the garden. In true Nana style, she saved those traits from her mother & passed them on, as they still had good use, to my mother & to me.

Local stall holders, Greg & Kerry, Brad & Sylvia plus Doug & Jeff, were joined by Melbourne dealers who declared the day a success by booking for the next fair in March next year.

The town also benefited, with Martin Street resembling Flinders Street, & the remaining businesses in town being kept busy during the day.

A big thank you to Fred Moore for once again being the Raffle Queen. The event, including the raffle, raised \$460.10 for the BSSOEC.

\$400,000 Project

Blackwood Community projects don't come much bigger than this. A \$400,000 grant has been approved for the building of a new pavilion at the Recreation Reserve. It will feature a bar, showers & toilets as well as table & chair settings.

The project was initiated by the ever-busy Brian Moore on behalf of Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of management. Tony Bellett produced the grant application with help from Mike Allan. Well done, boys!

Much of the money comes from the Victorian State Government via the Moorabool Shire. BCRCM has pledged \$10,000 & \$22,500 of work-in-kind & \$38,000 from the Shire will be available for sportsground re-surfacing.

Work starts early next year. If you would like to help with work-in-kind, call Brian 5368 6313.

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



Find out other URGENT news (fire warnings etc) at <http://twitter.com/blackwoodvic>

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The Blackwood Gentlemen's Adventurers Society

by Rodney Lunschalot BGB VD & Scar

As you may remember from the last edition of this fine publication, a group of our members set off in the Society's aged Landrover which, after a short journey broke down & we were left stranded in a small village called Whitestone.



The members, who are normally a jolly lot despite their age & infirmities, where soon reduced to a state of some despair after talking to some of the "natives" in the village pub. No one was happy, factions had formed, old vs new, living in the past, sad people with nothing to add to the welfare of the community & no idea of how their attitudes where slowly causing the demise of their small & pretty little town of Whitestone eventually driving our members to drink so as just to cope!

Our intrepid explorers tried in vain to offer an alternative & objective point of view, suggesting that the very people that the natives where vilifying actually represented a real opportunity to ensure the invigoration of Whitestone's economy that was so badly needed to keep the town open.

Alas, after two days of talking, serious internal alcoholic marination & some dismay, our members realized that their words were falling on deaf ears at the same time of this realization the required parts for the society's aged Landrover arrived & after the requisite repairs they were on their way to their next stop, which you gentle readers will be regaled with in the next issue of this fine publication.

Sadly Whitestone seems to have disappeared into the mists, as no references to it could be found in our albeit aged atlas of the State of Victoria, one cannot help wondering if the natives of Whitestone had any idea what they were doing.

From the editors in-box...

Dear Mike,

A journo rang me wanting follow up on some stories from the last issue of Blackwood News – she wanted to interview someone from the Blackwood Gentlemen's Adventurers Society.

Jinny

Hello Jinny,

I have spoken to Rodney about an interview and the constitution of the BGAS (Blackwood Gentleman's Adventurers Society) expressly forbids any contact with the media so as to protect the interests of some of our members who have a colourful &, as once was unkindly stated by a member of the media, "Quite Tarnished Past".

Rodney apologises & is quite sure your journalistic colleague would understand &, if not, c'est la vie

Take care

Mike

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Change: a journey in trust and acceptance

Adaptability & Detachment

When you initiate a path of change, you must be prepared to let go of some parts of your life so that the change, the new life, can take shape. If you can be adaptable, change will evolve naturally, along the path of least resistance. If you struggle to hold on to things that now belong in the past, it just increases pain & suffering. Consider wild grasses that bend in strong winds & stand upright again after the wind dies down, while stiff woody branches break with the force. Adaptability is like that. Be flexible enough to bend, let go of old ideas, possessions, routines. When the strong winds of change blow in, it's the attempt to hold onto the past which does the only damage.



~ by Kathie Strmota

Change always involves sacrifice & could also be called 'ex-change'. You exchange money for a new haircut. You exchange your 'bachelor' life to take a wife. There is only one 'now' & only one 'you'. The old & new 'you' cannot exist side by side, in the same 'now'. You can't accept the benefits of a new way of being if you aren't prepared to give up some of your old ways.

In the Buddhist tradition, change is viewed as inevitable & natural, & a physical life without suffering is entirely possible. Suffering arises from the attachment to desirable things or aversion to undesirable things. Detachment, on the other hand, is a state where you live & love life to the full, with all its pleasures & challenges, but are not attached to those pleasures, nor do you fear the difficulties. It recognises that nothing in the physical life adds to, or takes away from, who you truly are, & you can let go of it without pain. Detachment makes allowing change so much easier.

Imagine that you lose your adored car in a serious accident from which you, miraculously, emerge completely un-injured. There will usually be a few seconds of gratitude & relief at your near-escape. Then this gives way to misery & regret, over the loss of the car, which may go on for a day or a year, causing a new stab of pain with every thought. But it doesn't have to go on at all. You could just count your blessings. You are alive. Your kids still have a parent. The car is gone, but what's done is done. You move on.

Successful adaptability requires this sense of detachment, being prepared to let go of everything that is part of the past & doesn't fit into your new future. The more you want those things to stay – whether they be possessions, routines or beliefs about who you are – the more you will resist, & struggle with the change.

Aside from the pain this causes, you'll also miss out on the many wonderful opportunities for joy this change can bring. While you're gripping the things you love tightly with both hands, trying to prevent them from leaving, you have no hands free to receive the new gifts being offered to you.

A match made in Harrierville

Nicolas & Janet Dear are delighted to announce the engagement of their eldest son, Lachlan, to Nicola.

Lachlan requested Nicola's hand in marriage at the 2010 Harrierville Bluegrass Convention in November.

Nicola's parents Brian Strating & Lyndal Chambers are thrilled with the match.





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BLACKWOOD SPECIAL SCHOOL 1990-2000 cont.

In this attempt to document the history of the Camp, I acknowledge that there are people within the township of Blackwood with a more intimate knowledge of the Centre. This history is presented through documents stored within the Camp office & it is acknowledged that some of the information may be disjointed, as documents detailing the exact & full history of the Camp are spread across many Special Schools throughout the State of Victoria.

We welcome the opportunity to develop a more accurate history of the Camp with anyone who would like to share their knowledge of the Camp:-

e: blackwood.specialschools.oec@edumail.vic.gov.au p: 5368-6768 f: 5368-6835

In 1990, the Executive started to look back through the development of the Centre & its 22 year history. The deeper they investigated, the more they began to realise the value of the individuals who had initiated, modified, created, promoted & developed Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre & the passion, enthusiasm, belief, excitement & dedication each of these individuals possessed towards the Centre. It was decided then that the Executive should begin awarding Life Membership to people who satisfied the following:-

Criteria: Nominations from schools to be based on outstanding past involvement & commitment over a period of time.

Approval: Final approval to be judged by the Executive.

Rights: Life Members to be: Informed of Blackwood matters on an ongoing basis; Given the opportunity to utilise the Centre at weekends; & Invited to significant events.

At the 1991 Centres AGM, the first 9 Blackwood Special Schools Life Members were recognised & honoured. While nominations come from the schools, Executive & Blackwood staff, life membership is not limited to personnel from the education sector. The Centre is well aware of the dedication & commitment of local Blackwood residents awarding Life Membership to the following residents over the years:-

1993: Ken Miller, The Stockdale Family, George & Margaret, Sandy & Neville, Ron & Carol

1996: Tom Garnett, Elizabeth & Allan Hall

2006: Barbara Sweet

At 5pm on April 30, 1992 the Friends of Blackwood – known as FoBS – was established by Laurie Haslem. The formation of FoBS came about as a result of the need for a support group to help the Centre & its many programs. Since then FoBS has made, & continues to make, an invaluable contribution to the upkeep, improvement, promotion & development of the Centre.

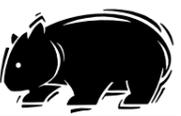
1992 also saw the construction of the Stuart Cordy Chook Shed at the Residence. Once this was established a young local resident by the name of Shannon donated six hens & one rooster to the Centre & helped look after the chooks during the school holidays.

After many years on the Blackwood Executive, Max Woolcock decided to introduce his passion of mountain bike riding to the special schools network in a one off mountain bike riding event through the Wombat State Forest. After many days & km of exploration through the Forest, an appropriate & challenging route was finalised & the promotion of the event began.

It promoted to special schools, the communities of Blackwood & Trentham, the Police, CFA & St John's while Dot Williams contacted the Australian Defence Forces School of Catering.

Then on the 4th – 6th Nov 1992, 90 participants from 11 Victorian special schools simultaneously descended upon Blackwood along with the Australian Defence Forces School of Catering, the Police & St John's, filling up the Centre & utilising the Caravan Park to participate in The Great Blackwood Bike Ride.

Both students & staff challenged themselves to ride through the hills of the Wombat State Forest from Blackwood to Trentham & return. It was a magnificent day & one that was thoroughly enjoyed



by all participants, regardless of the hills involved. The selection of the route was perfect as, apart from being challenging, it was a beautiful introduction to the beauty, depth, variety & colour of the Wombat State Forest, a fact appreciated by participants.

With the full support of the community of Blackwood, The Great Blackwood Bike Ride (known as The Super Ride) was a wonderful success. Chris Clayton stated in her 1992 staff report the following comments in relation to this event:-

"The highlight of the year was, without doubt, the recent tremendously successful Blackwood Super Ride Camp. Apart from the very positive experience for all concerned, a most beneficial side-effect was the informal interaction between staff & students from different member schools – a first for Blackwood on such a large scale. The involvement & support we received from the local community is also to be commended."



Max had achieved his dream of introducing mountain bike riding to special schools. The event was a success & everyone involved was thoroughly impressed with the organisation, implementation & structure of the event. Max was a happy man. In 1993, again through Max Woolcock's persistence, the Centre received funds to purchase 12 mountain bikes to further enhance the activities & programs offered to visiting students. Once again Max was a happy man.

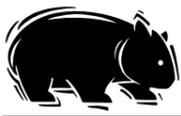
Then in 1993, to everyone's amazement, the residents of Blackwood approached the Centre wanting to know the dates for the bike ride that year. The residents were astonished when they were informed that it was just a one off event.

They asked the question, "Why?"

This enquiry has resulted in the Blackwood Super Ride being implemented for approximately 1,600 students with special needs over the past 18 years – with 2010 planning to be the biggest number of participants in the event's history.

During the 90s, the Executive & Blackwood staff continued to develop, promote & improve the Centre through the support of philanthropic trusts & foundations as well as local businesses & the schools utilising the Centre. In 1995, the Executive took over the administration of the Garfield North Camp to continue the use of this facility for special schools in Gippsland. A year later, Garfield split off to form its own management structure again with an enlarged school membership base. In 1997, the first 'Very Special Ball' was held in Melbourne as a fundraiser for both Blackwood & Garfield Outdoor Education Centres. This was a great success & while it required a lot of dedication & organisation, it helped raise required funds for both centres between 1997 & 2000.

Towards the end of the 90s, the Centre obtained full accreditation from the Australian Camps Association creating a better, safer & more accessible outdoor education centre for all.



COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

BLACKWOOD ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE

At our recent AGM, the members agreed to integrate the Association's activities into the Blackwood Progress Association.

Given the long history of Progress & their substantial contribution to the community over many years, our members were of the opinion that "Unity is Strength".

So this is the final report from the Blackwood Association of Commerce Inc, we would like to thank those who have supported the Association & would hope that Progress will now benefit from your support.

~ Mike Allen

BLACKWOOD CROWN RESERVES COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

We have pulled off a big asset for Blackwood. A new toilet/shower block at the sports ground. Thank-you to Mike, Tony & Brian who worked with the State Govt & Moorabool Shire. The grant is worth approx \$400,000. Congratulations Crown Reserves.

The mineral springs is very busy. Please over the summer take time to visit. Maybe have a BBQ & enjoy our reserve.

The caravan park has been busy with a stream of visitors staying over. Thank-you Lou for keeping up with it all.

The hall has had a lot of bookings – birthday parties, CERT, writing group, Anglican Church lunch, a 60th wedding anniversary, the Special School's Blue Light Disco & pre-school. Even though the numbers have been disappointing, thank-you to the teacher who travels up here every Friday even though at times no-one turns up. We are grateful for the hire of the hall because the maintenance, gas, cleaning & electricity all cost money.

We have received \$5000 towards the painting of the hall – thank-you to Moorabool Shire.

Well it is Christmas & thank-you to all our committee. To Barbara for cleaning, Brendan for hall repairs, Brian for all the plumbing work, David for our treasurer work, to Lou for caring for our caravan park, sportsground & mineral springs. To Mike & Tony for help with grants & knowledge. Have a happy & safe Christmas everyone & may the new year be a good one for Blackwood.

Happy Holidays...

~ Elizabeth Hall, secretary

BLACKWOOD CEMETERY TRUST

We had our cleanup of the cemetery early November & now the cemetery looks great! Not only did the cemetery get its clean up but the volunteers also helped to erect the rotunda (finally after so many problems with the structure).

A big thankyou to all the volunteers who helped on the day with the mowing, whipper snipping, weeding & for staying around to erect the rotunda. Also thank-you to the Blackwood Hotel & Trentham IGA for their generous donation of supplies.

All volunteers shared in a well-deserved BBQ lunch with cold refreshments.

~ Bruce Henry

BLACKWOOD CFA

The fire season is fast approaching & restrictions will soon be in force. Now is the time to update your fire program & to clear your property.

Thanks to the local plumber Brian Moore & to the brigade member

who assisted in erecting & connecting the water tank adjacent to the hall. It is the third such tank to be installed in Blackwood.

Brigade training is held at the Firs Station at 9am on the first Sunday each month. New members are most welcome.

Merry Christmas & a Fire Safe New Year to all.

~ George Stockdale

Blackwood/Barrys Reef LANDCARE

October Rainfall, Barry's Reef - 90 mms

AGM, 16/10/2010: President: Shane Scanlan; V.P: Kellie Maddaford; Secretary: Pat. Liffman; Treasurer: Louis Santin; Environmental Spokesperson: John Davies; Waterwatch Spokesperson: David Rogers; Folderg (Friends of the Lerderderg) rep: Michael Fox.

We have sent a letter to Vic. Roads, requesting removal of all roadside fallen trees before enforcement of summer fire restrictions.

Of interest: The handsome driver of a pale blue Singer le Mans coupe' seen buzzing around town, is our Treasurer, Louis Santin, a vintage car specialist.

15/11/10: Lerderderg River chemical analyses at three separate sites taken (a) Povey's Reserve where the Lerderderg river enters Blackwood, (b) the Mineral Springs Reserve & (c) Sebastapol where the Lerderderg River leaves Blackwood, have revealed that there was no detectable grey water or septic run-off from Blackwood.

Copies of a detailed written report by Blackwood/Barry's Reef Landcare Group Water Watch convener, David Rogers will be displayed at several locations around town. Pat. Liffman, secretary B/BR Landcare Group.

~ Pat. Liffman secretary

The public meeting in Blackwood on Nov 11 on sewerage was a worthwhile exercise, with a range of views & emotions being expressed.

The town is obviously divided over the issue, with some seeing the scheme as the key to unlocking small blocks for building & others seeing the scheme as a gross over-reaction to an unsubstantiated environmental problem.

Thanks to Moorabool Mayor Cr Pat Toohey for chairing the meeting, local member Don Nardella for facing a fairly hostile crowd & to Central Highlands Water (CHW) project director David Clements for his attempt to explain too many things within too little time.

Thanks also to Landcare member Louis Santin for joining me in attempting to articulate Blackwood's response to being seweraged against its will.

From my perspective, I was heartened by Don Nardella's honesty in admitting that he had assured us that Blackwood would be getting a "third pipe" which would reuse all water within the town. The contract that CHW has signed with Water Infrastructure Group is for a primitive aerated lagoon scheme and is far from the innovative solution that we were led to believe was on offer when the State Government first announced the scheme in 2005.

Mr Nardella said the innovative third pipe problem was that it was simply not affordable.

Is Blackwood satisfied with this answer? I certainly am not.

Blackwood has never sought to be seweraged. Sewerage will potentially open the town to development. And, although subsidised, it will burden local people with huge costs to connect & maintain.

If the State Government insists on seweraging Blackwood, the least it can do is to do it properly.

Central Highlands Water should be directed by the Government to go back to its contractor and negotiate a truly innovative scheme which retains and reuses our precious water within the town.

Regards

~ Shane Scanlan, President

BLACKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Open Day on Cup Weekend, featuring a stunning display of dresses & hats worn by fashion-conscious ladies of former generations, was a resounding success. We have decided to gradually invest in purchasing mannikin models in order to maintain a permanent fashion display within the BDHS museum.

Our thanks to archivist, Aline Thompson who had borrowed the mannikins from another organisation, stacked the segments into her car before transporting them to BDHS museum for the Open Day display.

BDHS souvenir tea towels are selling well, especially as Christmas presents.

Welcome home to BDHS President, Allan Hall who has been participating in a pressure-packed study tour of building styles in many countries throughout the world. Allan, who is a direct descendant of Blackwood's mining aristocracy, has a brilliant, instant-recall memory & an earthy sense of humour. Ian Stewart & Craig from Blackwood's CFA arrived at closing time & offered to pack the mannekin models into Aline's car, this became an opportunity for Allan to taunt Ian & Craig as they packed all the female mannikin bits into the car.

AGM elections: President-Allan Hall; VP-Phillip Skinner; Secretary - Michael Boyd; Asst. Sec.-Pat. Liffman; Treasurer- Elizabeth Hall; Asst. Treas.-Cathy Thompson; Historian-Margot Hitchcock; Executive members-Aline Thompson & Frances Dillon.

Meetings are held on the first Sat of each month, excl Jan. Visitors are welcome.

~ Pat. Liffman, assistant secretary

BLACKWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Easter is coming & hopefully some people will put up their hands to help.

EASTER SATURDAY April 23, 2011

MEETING: Dec 8 at the Hall

~ Elizabeth Hall, Secretary

BLACKWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE INC.

Hello from the Blackwood Senior Citizens Club. It seems hard to believe that it is so close to Christmas & this is the final Blackwood News for the year 2010. We thank Jinny & Brendan for their dedication in keeping the community informed of all the matters of interest in Blackwood & surrounding areas.

Our club has had a great year both socially & financially - with a wonderful group of members who are very generous & willing to help with the smooth running of the club. I will not mention names but they will know who I am referring to – ladies in the kitchen (washing up), the lady who washes the teatowels, our fresh bread rolls delivered each Wednesday, the lady who collects the money & is never a cent short, our treasurer who takes great care of our finances, those who make money for our liquid refreshments & those who supply raffle prizes week after week. Of course not forgetting our bingo callers! I thank them all most sincerely.

Sybil O'Keefe, who has been a long term member of our club, has been admitted to the Ballan Hospital on a permanent basis. She will be missed by us all, but I am sure she will be well looked after & have quite a few of the club members as visitors. We have also missed another member attending. Unfortunately Jeff Smith has not been in the best of health. We all wish him well.

On a brighter note, Betty DeWys, a very popular member of the club celebrated her 90th birthday on Oct 24. What a wonderful achievement. Cobi & Maria brought along a scrumptious birthday cake which was enjoyed by us all.

I would also like to thank Dot Williams for not only keeping us well



fed but for her thoughtfulness in decorating the tables on special occasions also her very nice assistant Di-anne, we appreciate the attendance of our hairdresser Antoinette & podiatrist Jeff who are a great asset for us all.

Another note of thanks to Brian & Brendan who did us a big favour & replaced our flag & to Brian for installing our new hairdressers chair.

Our Christmas dinner this year will be held at the Burrumbeet Hotel. We attended this venue last year & a wonderful day was had by us all. On a final note, I would like to wish all a very merry Christmas & a happy & safe new year. Until the year 2011, regards,

~ Barb Sweet, (Hon) secretary

SPECIAL SCHOOLS OUTDOOR ED CENTRE

Blackwood Special Schools' Outdoor Education Centre Inc. would like to thank the local residents of Blackwood & Trentham for all their support for our recent 19th Annual Super Ride – our biggest ever. With 22 Schools, 128 students & 59 staff participating we could not have successfully implemented the ride without your support.



In particular we would like to thank, Lou Henderson, the Blackwood CFA, the Trentham CFA, Fred & Brian Moore, Glen Piercy, David & Jill McCallum, John & Paul McCallum, Kevin & Isabell O'Neil, Tom Pywell, Ian & Lyn Williams, Elizabeth Hall, Judith deGroot, Trentham, Ballan, Bacchus Marsh & Ballarat Police Officers, Jeanette & Geoff Morris, St Johns, Trentham Lions Club Inc., Ballan & district Blue Light Committee and Central Highlands Water for making our ride a wonderful success. Thank you.

~ Tony Bellett

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Well done - another great edition! Margot's historical material is fascinating, and I laughed out loud at The Wombat poem!

Thanks for a good read.

Regards

~ Elaine

Yeah, well done gal, and thanks for printing my little rave on the sewerage issue. I've already had some positive feedback about it.

~ Cheers, Lauren

Blackwood, it appears, has been double-crossed on its sewerage scheme.

It's been 5 years since the State Government delivered Blackwood into the hands of Central Highlands Water (CHW) with promises of innovation & self-determination.

The then water minister said: "These communities can now work with their local water authority & council to identify a

sustainable solution that will reflect local needs & conditions." At a Moorabool Shire-convoked Communities in Action meeting, Blackwood demanded a scheme with a "third pipe" which would return treated water to properties & result in a zero-net loss of water to the town.

Local member Don Nardella took up the case & subsequently assured us that CHW had agreed to this request.

It is now emerging that Central Highlands Water has signed contracts to deliver a primitive aerated lagoon system. And, in an insulting gesture, it is suggesting it will make available treated water in town via a storage tank & stand pipe.

Mr Nardella is refusing to acknowledge his pledge, while CHW is gearing up to let loose its contractor's mechanical diggers to implement a scheme which might have been considered innovative in the 1950s but is clearly out of step with current best practice.



ON THE 10th October, Clare Doubleday & Paul Skeen were married at Blackwood Cottage, Barrys Reef. In perfect weather, 80 guests, family & friends looked on as the couple exchanged wedding vows & rings. Proud parents were Robyn & Greg Doubleday and Kathy & Peter Skeen.

LOCAL GIRLS Tabetha & Kathryn did the girls make-up & hair, flowers by Blumin of Trentham, celebrant was family

friend Deb Wain from Heathcote & the reception was held in the Stables at The Cosmo in Trentham.

BLACKWOOD'S LAUREN LEE WILLIAMS won first place in the Roddy Read Memorial Songwriting Competition at the recent Maldon Folk Festival! It was her third try.

THE SONG was 'Stash Your Dreams', & the prize was a brand new Tanglewood acoustic guitar, which she adores.

In 2007 it was demonstrated that a series of six decentralised clusters using membrane bioreactor technology and which returned class-A irrigation water to Blackwood properties via a third pipe could be easily funded within CHW's available budget.

Central Highlands Water is yet to reveal why it turned its back on technology which would retain Blackwood's water within the soil & help protect against wildfire.

In recent years, CHW has trucked Blackwood's water supply in via tanker during the height of summer.

Is it that it simply doesn't understand water innovation? Or are there other factors at work here?

Blackwood didn't ask for sewerage in the first place. It is a State Government whim based on zero evidence of Lerderberg River contamination & costing more than \$30,000 per household (to be funded by the general rate base).

The least the Government could do is insist that Central Highlands Water does the job properly.

~ Regards *Shane Scanlan, President, Blackwood & Barrys Reef Landcare*

I would like to thank the people of Blackwood and surrounds for the warmth and generosity of their support as Karl and I have started on our new adventure with the Cobb and Co Tearoom and Corner Shop. It has been wonderful to meet so many people who are positive about what we are attempting to do and tolerant with us as we learn.

I would also like to thank the other business people of Blackwood who have generously offered guidance as we grow.

We look forward to becoming part of this community and welcome any suggestions you might have. Thank you

~ Lee and Karl, Cobb and Co Tearoom and Corner Shop

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REVENGE OF THE DASHALIER

BONNIE'S TIME was up. Dad said he'd be home that afternoon & he would take any remaining pups to the vet to be put down. It seemed that nobody was interested in owning a "Dashalier" (apparently a stray Dachshund had romanced the family's King Charles Cavalier). As the hour approached, a teen friend, who could bear no more, stole Bonnie away. Unfortunately, her parents had no interest in Dashaliers either but managed to arrange safe passage to Blackwood.

SEVEN MONTHS later, Bonnie's owner, Isabell, will tell you that Dashaliers turn out to be a fine sort of dog. They display a sweet temperament along with hybrid vigour (as well as having a cool name). So what's not to like? Well, she can sometimes be stubborn & has a couple of disturbing habits, sleeping with Megs the cat, for instance & throwing up in the car. We suggest you lay off the cat food, Bonnie.

AFTER A shaky start, we are happy to say that this girl & her breed have a bright future.

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Pet Guru

from the desk of Don Nardella

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS GET GOVERNMENT BOOST

In October, Emergency Services Minister Bob Cameron announced that Victoria's CFA volunteer firefighters will get a \$44.5 million support package including providing 64 volunteer support officers & 2000 new pagers to assist volunteer firefighters.

"The new volunteer support officers will work directly with Victoria's volunteer firefighters to give them the support they need to perform at their best," he said. "The CFA is primarily a massive volunteer firefighting organisation that is supplemented by career staff. The great work of volunteers underpins the viability of the CFA and allows Victoria's firefighting agencies to focus more on protecting the state from the threat of fire."

"This significant volunteer support boost will help them to help the community. Victoria is blessed to have a volunteer firefighting brigade that is the envy of the world."

Mr Cameron said the volunteer support package would enable CFA to upgrade its regional field-training grounds & provide more accessible training with a mobile training facility.

"We are seeing more volunteers to join the CFA which is great & the volunteer package would also provide health and wellbeing support"

Mr Cameron said the Brumby Labor Government was committed to supporting Victoria's emergency services and thanked the thousands of volunteers who devoted their time to defend Victorians against fire.



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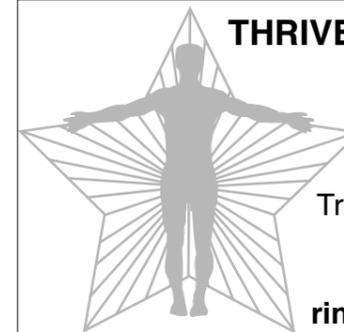
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dances are held in aid of the Trentham Historical Society or Trentham Lions Club. Music by Family Rhythm. Dates for the next few 2010 dances are: Dec 10th & Jan 14th Enquiries: Elizabeth 5424 1254

Farmer's Market: 3rd Saturday of each month @ Trentham Town Square 9 am - 1pm. STUFF YOUR PANTRY with fresh eggs, cheese, fruit and vegetables, dips, preserves, wine, sourdough & yummy sweet treats, raffles, local entertainment, fun & friends.

Enquiries: Tracey 5424 1185 / 0447 836 171

Carols in the Park: Friday 3rd Dec FREE. Join us for a great evening of wonderful entertainment on the lawns of the Quarry Street Reserve. Lions BBQ from 6.30pm - entertainment starts 7.30pm. Bring a rug, relax and sing along with the Xmas spirit. Enq: Betty 5424 1127.

Senior Citizens Dinner: Friday 10th December. FREE - all elderly citizens welcome to Xmas lunch at Trentham Golf Club @ 12 noon. Delicious Xmas Dinner prepared by our local C.W.A. members & friends. A great fun afternoon, Father Xmas will be there to cheer you on.

Bookings Essential contact: Lori 5424 1453.

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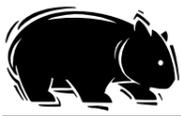
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Country Towns Sewerage Project



BLACKWOOD SEWERAGE PROJECT

Over the past few weeks there has been some discussion in the community about the Blackwood sewerage system. To provide residents with further information, we have developed answers to some of the most common questions about the project.

If you have any other questions, please call Jenni Allen or Kerrie Scott at Central Highlands Water on 1800 888 663. They will be able to answer any specific queries you might have about the project, financial assistance or your property.

Question:
Does Blackwood need to be sewered?

Blackwood was nominated by the Moorabool Shire Council and the Environment Protection Authority for the sewerage program to address public health and environmental issues that cannot be effectively managed through onsite wastewater systems.

Central Highlands Water's role is to provide a sustainable sewerage system which will resolve the public health and environmental issues for the Blackwood community.

Question:
Is financial assistance available?

Yes. Some residents will qualify for several types of financial assistance.

In relation to capital costs, all property owners are able to nominate to pay the capital costs in instalments, rather than up-front. The \$80 per lot per year instalment is paid as \$20 per lot each quarter over 20 years.

In relation to plumbing connection costs, some property owners may be eligible for the Department of Human Services Water and Sewerage Connection – Hardship Relief Grant Scheme (plumbing connections costs).

The Department of Human Services has advised that to establish eligibility for a grant, the following criteria must be met:

- A 'Notice for Connection' letter received.
- Current Pensioner Concession Card, Health Care Card or a Veterans Affairs Gold Card.
- Owner or in the process of buying the property.
- The property is the principal place of residence and is used for residential purposes only.
- Demonstration that the household is unable to afford the additional cost of paying for the sewerage connection due to financial hardship.

Please contact the Department of Human Services on (03) 8682 1038 to obtain further information.

In relation to annual sewerage tariffs, Eligible Pension and Health Care concession card holders can apply to Central Highlands Water for the water and sewerage concession rate. To be eligible for this type of assistance, property owners must meet the following criteria:

- Holder of an eligible current concession card,
- Responsible for the account,
- The property must be used for residential purposes,
- The property must be the principal place of residence, and
- The name and address on the concession card must be the same as the name and address on the account.

Advice on additional financial assistance, or for further information:

Central Highlands Water has a Financial Hardship Policy and Customer Assistance Program that provides a range of payment and assistance options for customers experiencing difficulty in paying an account. Please contact Central Highlands Water on 1800 888 663 for further information. Alternatively you can access more information about this program on the Central Highlands Water website www.chw.net.au.

Question:
Is the sewerage system innovative and will it meet the needs of the community?

Yes, the sewerage system for Blackwood will use some of the latest technology in wastewater solutions.

The system will be pressure-based, providing significant environmental benefits in regions such as Blackwood. The pipes are smaller in diameter and are laid in shallower trenches, which is ideal in areas where there is dense and significant vegetation.

The Blackwood sewerage system is needed to address public health and environmental issues, therefore the costs to property owners have been significantly subsidised to make it more affordable.

Installation of a 'third pipe' reuse system is not an objective of the Country Towns Sewerage Program. If the community wanted to install a system like this it would need to be funded by residents.

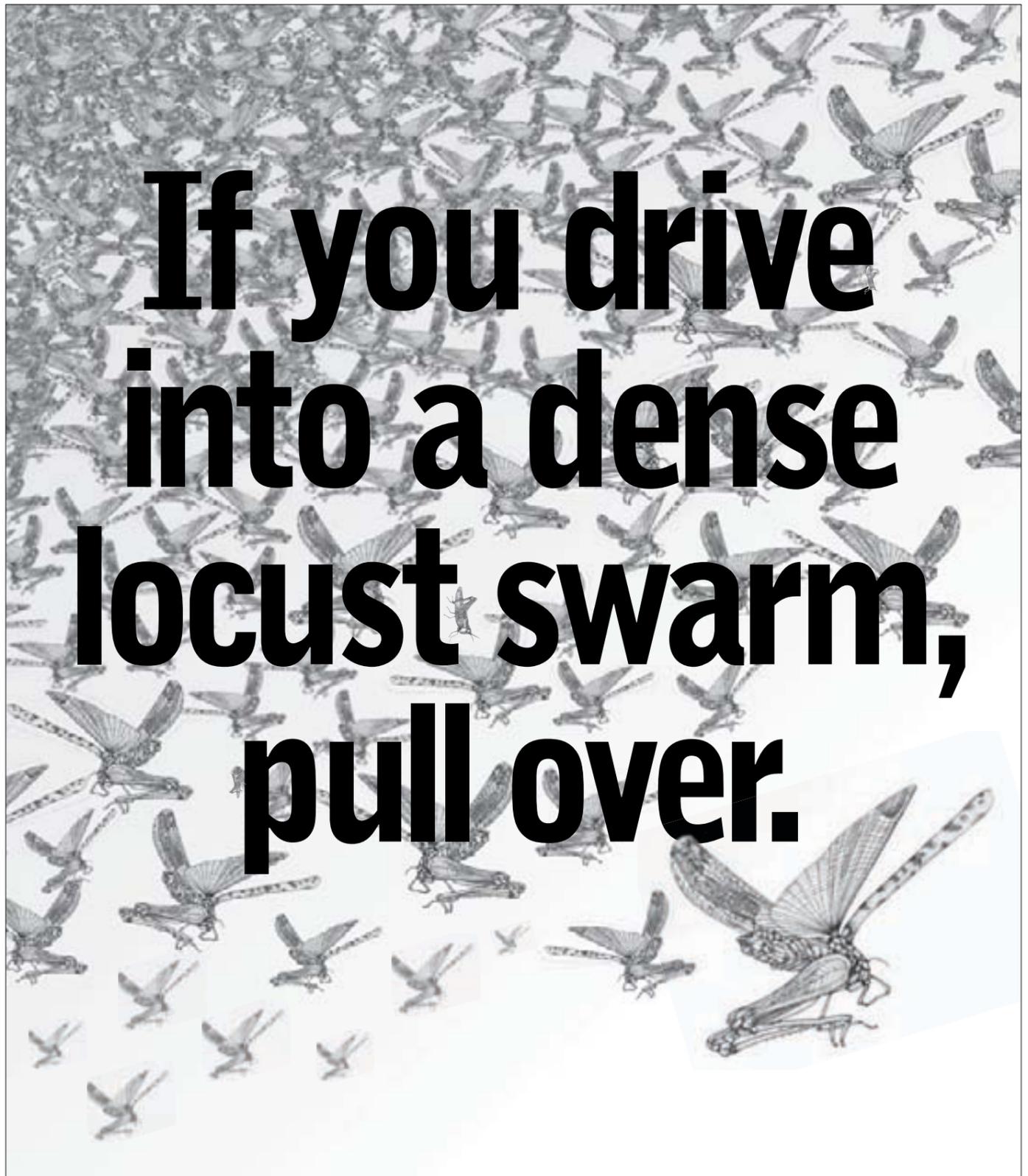
Question:
When will I find out more about the project? Residents will be kept well informed throughout the project.

As we said in our October 2010 newsletter update, the Blackwood Community Information Session will be held in mid 2011, when the detailed designs for the sewerage scheme (including the location of pipelines) are available.

Invitations for the Information Session will be sent to property owners and residents several weeks before the session. The information session will be the opportunity for you to ask questions about your individual property and to find out more about the project.

Central Highlands Water also plans to send a project update to property owners over the next few weeks. If you have any question in the meantime, please call 1800 888 663.

If you drive into a dense locust swarm, pull over.



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BLACKWOOD 11 Victoria St
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BLACKWOOD 13 Golden Point Road
 Quaint miners cottage and one bedroom house, await your inspection. The cottage has three bedrooms, lounge and kitchen with great views. Established gardens plus garage. A little TLC will bring it back to life. The second house, one bedroom plus living could be a studio /accommodation or subdivided (STCA) **\$285,000**

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