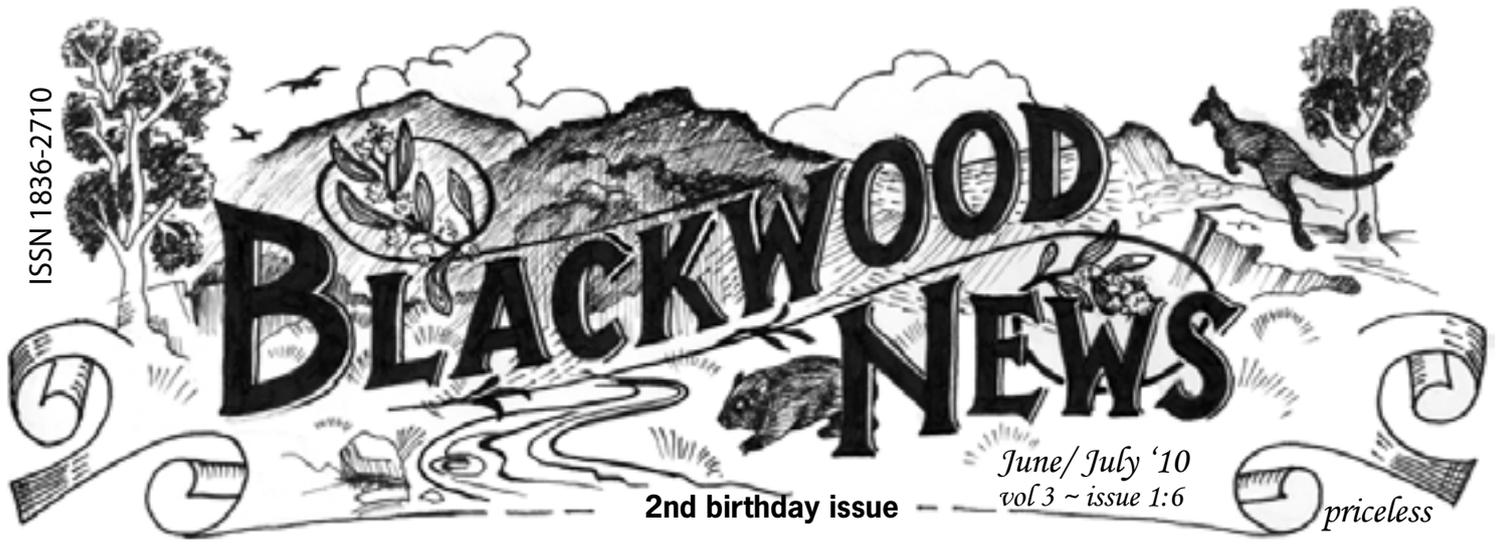


ISSN 1836-2710



BRAFITTI HITS BLACKWOOD
 Bravo, Isabell. Your old man may call it his trophy fence, but we call it art.

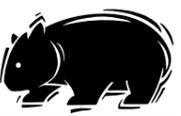
Events & Gigs guide		
when	what	where
June 6	Cyndi Boste Solo	Cosmo Hotel
June 11	Fiddle Sessions with Family Farm	Cosmo Hotel
June 19	Blackwood Winter Ball	Blackwood Hall
June 20	Shotgun Shack	Lerdies
July 4	Family Farm Band	Lerdies
July 17	Dirty York (\$10 cover charge)	Lerdies
July 18	Moodswing Duo	Lerdies

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

WINTER LIMERICK...

I moved into Blackwood one Summer
 Was warned that the Winter's a bummer
 Instead it got better
 With everything wetter
 Living anywhere else would be dummer!

~ Margot Nelmes



editors thoughts ...

WARNING: this issue is as prickly as a barbed wire bra!!

After a 'spate' of burglaries & fires in Blackwood, Detective Lee Tabot from Bacchus Marsh CIB, assures me that a 50yo male has been charged & remanded in relation to a number of burglaries – though the fires are, as yet, unsolved due to insufficient evidence. It is understood receipts for the sale of a number of items from one of the burnt properties have been traced back to a shop in the inner 'burbs of Melbourne so, fingers crossed, the arsonist will be charged in due course! By the time this issue is printed, the suspect will have appeared in Ballarat Court. The emotional roller-coaster of the last couple of months is reflected in several submissions published this issue.

On a happier note, we have had loads of pleasure opening our readers 'winter limericks' which are distributed throughout this issue. What fun everyone, from as far afield as England, has had. It has been difficult to choose the winner of the winter limerick & I congratulate Margot Nelmes, who has captured the essence of Blackwood in her rollicking words which are found on the front page.

This issue Blackwood News turns 2! I have to say that when I took over the Blackwood Newsletter from Robina, I had no idea where it would go, or how long it would last – but here we are, 2 years old & still going & growing!

We rely on community input, so photos & submissions are welcome. This is OUR news, so I invite you to send your photos, stories & events in. Without your input there is no Blackwood News!

Thanks go to our regular contributors who have entertained us with their insights over the past 2 years – if you enjoy an article do let the writer know – praise costs nothing to give yet is priceless to the recipient!

Advertising supports our publication so please support our advertisers & if you would like to do business in Blackwood, then we welcome your advertisement – download our current rate sheet from www.blackwoodnews.com.au.

~ 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
Mar '10	85.2	56.4	5.4	28.6
Apr '10	57.6	73.2	0.9	24.6

POLICE KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE

Police are well aware that many local residents, particularly the elderly & those living alone, have expressed their concerns over the recent spate of burglaries in Blackwood & in particular the arson of a dwelling & a shed in Martin Street.

I would like to reassure residents that both Trentham & Ballan police are increasing their patrols of Blackwood & surrounds &, with the recent arrest & charging of a male offender for some of these burglaries, we believe the threat has diminished. This person is currently on remand & in custody, awaiting his matters to be dealt with by a court, however, it is timely to remind people to be vigilant & report any suspicious vehicles or persons to police as soon as possible by ringing 000.

Police at both Trentham p: 54 241402 & Ballan p: 53 681303 will be happy to speak to local residents in regards to their personal security.

~ Sergeant Greg FALKINER, Trentham Police Station



Limerick Challenge

Last issue we put out a challenge to our readers for a 'Blackwood & Winter' limerick. You came through with a wealth of talent which is scattered through this issue! Thank-you, it has been so much fun reading your limericks!

In August & September, Blackwoodians are just thinking about coming out of hibernation &, love it or hate it, footy is many folks predominant distraction, so the limerick theme for the next issue is "FOOTY". Send us your limerick & we'll publish the best.

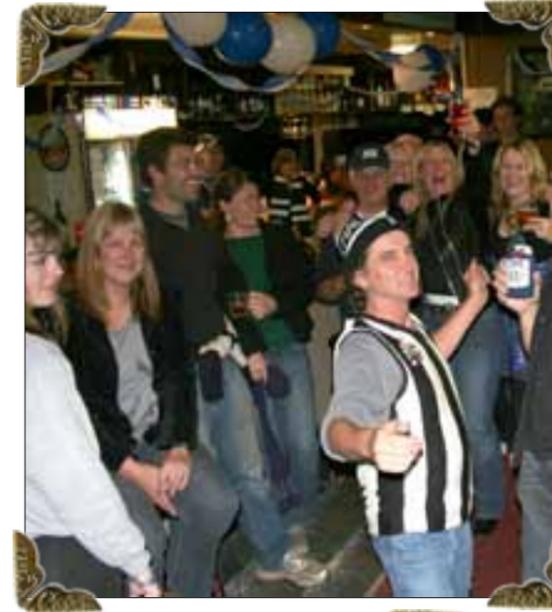
The limerick is well known for its bawdy flair & humour, but beyond that it is a well-structured poem with strict rules of composition which you may feel free to bend:

- limericks are 5 lines long.
- lines 1, 2 & 5 have seven to ten syllables each & rhyme.
- lines 3 & 4 have five to seven syllables each & rhyme.
- limericks have a galloping rhythm due an accent on each third syllable.

All submissions must be suitable for publication & include name & contact details of the author. Submissions including these details assume permission to publish.

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BLACKWOOD SOCIAL ALBUM ...



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.

Aug/Sep 2010 DEADLINES	July 15	July 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@centralvic.com.au, put in the 'drop box' outside the Blackwood General Store or posted c/o Blackwood PO, 3458

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Graves in the Blackwood Cemetery

WILLIAM LAWSON – died Blackwood, 6th December 1855

Researching the history of Blackwood can be an interesting experience. Recently, the Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society received a letter from a Mrs. Harrop who had purchased the historian's book 'Aspects of Early Blackwood'. Mrs. Harrop's family ancestor was William Lawson from Perth in Scotland, who is buried in the Blackwood cemetery, & she sent some information the family had, including an inquest report on the accident William Lawson had while felling a tree at Blackwood, when a branch struck him on the head & killed him.

A working bee at the Blackwood cemetery by Cemetery Trust members uncovered the headstone that was hidden in a flax plant, & was noted in an article in The Blackwood Recorder Vol 8 No. 1 June 1982 of which the Historian was the Editor for the Blackwood District Historical Society.

Part of that article read - The earliest grave found so far in the Blackwood cemetery with a headstone is that of William Lawson, whose headstone bears the inscription -



Grave of William Lawson buried Blackwood cemetery December 1855. (Photo courtesy of Margot Hitchcock taken in 1982 before headstone was accidentally damaged in a cemetery clean-up)

"Erected by Mrs. Mary E. Lawson in memory of her beloved husband WILLIAM LAWSON who was killed at Acre's Hill 6th December 1855 aged 41 years."

Acre's Hill, is near the Albion Reef which is north of Blackwood past Barrys Reef near Yankee Reef. Acre's Reef was an early name for Yankee Reef on the Yankee Road. The Historian researched the death & found the following article -

The Argus - Melbourne Newspaper - Dec 13, 1855. Blackwood - (from our own correspondent) Dec 10, 1855. Acres Reef: Lamentable Accident. WILLIAM LAWSON

"William Lawson, a machinist, who lately settled at this reef with a stamping machine met with an untimely death on Friday last. (6th December) He was intending to remove his machine to the top of the hill, to crush dry, (As water was scarce in the area.)

Lawson was engaged in felling some timber to clear a spot for the machine. A tree in falling caught on another tree which caused some of the top branches to spring back again & fall off. On its descent it struck poor Lawson on the side of the head, dashing his brains out. He never spoke afterwards & shortly expired. He has left a wife & four children & the scene presented, when his wife & family on being informed of the fatal accident rushed up frantically to the spot, one of the most painful description. Lawson was buried on Saturday in the Blackwood cemetery."

Of interest is some letters the family still have written in 1853 by William Lawson from the Mclvor diggings to his wife Mary & his 4 children. Part of these letters read -

Aug 6, 1853 - Saturday. "Dear Wife, I received your letter dated 19th June on the 30th & it cheered me much to learn that you & the little ones were all in good health. I am out of a mate & I sink a hole like a well & I assure you it is not easy to throw up the earth & stuff from the bottom, it makes the sweat run. I am sorry to say it is the worst hole I have sunk. I only got 2/- (20 cents) worth of gold on the bottom. One day I made 20/- (\$4). I am left alone (his brothers having gone to the Goulbourn diggings) yet I cannot say that I am weary except for seeing you & the little ones.

The Mclvor diggings are very poor - yet there are 100 lbs (pounds) of gold in this locality if one could hit on it. Drays last week were charging £80 (\$160) per ton for carriage to Goulburn from here. I shave every week & wash my clothes weekly & do it pretty well.

I am your affectionate husband, William Lawson"

"Mclvor Diggings" Aug 11, 1853. - *Dear Mary, .. I am as you will think very lonely being in a tent by myself, far from neighbours in a wood, yet I don't feel anyway alarmed. If I had you & the dear little ones by me I could be comfortable enough, but I have no one to speak to, but thanks be to God I am in health & can write to you, but I cannot see your dear face & through your eyes read your kind heart. I am longing to see you & to hear your dear voice my dearest friend. If the Goulburn diggings does no good I don't intend taking out another licence, so 20 days will settle the matter as it is useless waiting here & loosing time & money as very few are making expenses on Mclvor. Yours ever, Wm Lawson"*

It is not sure where William Lawson went after his stay at Mclvor diggings in 1853 until his death in Blackwood in December 1855.

After her husband's death, Mary Lawson married her husband's brother, Charles Lawson in 1857 & they had 3 daughters. Mary died age 73 yrs in 1893 & is buried in the New Melbourne Cemetery with her husband Charles, who died in 1903.

Such stories tell of some conditions & hardships on the early goldfields, & we are lucky to have people who are willing to share these family stories of interest with us. A full report will be published in the author's next book 'The History of Blackwood', hopefully when it is published soon.

~ Compiled by Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society

There was a young lady in England
Who thought she'd be clever and send one
The problem was that (as a matter of fact)
She could begin,
But failed to end one...

There was a young lady in England
Your mag she was a great fan of
She received the strong plea
"Copy now if you please"
But limericks? Tell her to can it!

~ Gabrielle Coyle (London, UK)



Alexis, our Blackwood babe, enjoys the last of the leaves before they turn

photo Misty Tsardakis

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THE HAPPY WANDERER

A cut above....

I started to get the message about how special this place was when I tried to make a booking for Mother's Day lunch, thinking that booking a week in advance would be plenty. But not so. Booked out. It was kindly suggested that we come along on Saturday night instead, so we did. When Saturday came, some of my friends wanted to come along too (the more the merrier!) But, sorry - booked out. Not enough chairs. No room at the inn.

Curiouser & curiouser!

Initially it was hard to believe that The Plough Bar & Bistro in Myrningong could sport anything as upmarket as the establishment that greeted us on Saturday night. I remember it when it was a crummy little pub years ago. Actually, I never did eat there, but it looked very ordinary from the outside, & my judgement was made!

Wow, how times have changed...

I was completely unprepared for the sight in front of me (being as plagued by low expectations as I am), & swallowed my cynicism (yet again) after this unexpectedly pleasant experience.

The Plough is now a slick & smart eatery, with décor that is tasteful & modern, staff that are attentive & friendly, service that is prompt & consistent & food that is absolutely splendid. A cut above.

The complementary appetisers were delicious, the entrees wonderful (we shared vegetable spring rolls & calamari - exquisite) & the specials really were special. My mum had the lamb from the specials menu & my brother had the Thai curry. I went for an old faithful from the regular menu - lamb shank. All meals were beautifully presented, very tasty & very satisfying. Apparently the food is sourced locally wherever possible.

It is almost too hard to believe that we have such quality so close to home - just a bit over 15 minutes from Blackwood.

By the time we came to the end of the meal, we had made an important decision - Let's book in for next week!

~ name supplied

DOC DOOLITTLE HAS BEEN BUSY



He featured on Channel 31's "Country Cousins" in March when he was interviewed about his work & his life

Sunny & the Doc are also featured in Dog's Life magazine in an article about homoeopathy for dogs.

Doc also makes a wicked herbal brew for cuts, bites & wounds which is in demand for children as well as pets.

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NEWBIES IN TOWN

Kellie-Anne Maddaford & Louis Santin have finally made the tree change from Melbourne after being weekenders for a while. Louis repairs vintage cars in Melbourne & Kellie is a local school/ art teacher.

"We discovered Blackwood on a lazy Sunday bushwalk & fell in love with the place. We are keen gardeners & have been working hard to set up an orchard & vegie plot at our place. Everyone we have met so far has made us feel welcome -thankyou Blackwoodians!"



Dear Pet Guru,

Here in Tibet, the "Blackwood News" is heartily appreciated, particularly your helpful column. I have a problem for you myself. It is this: My pet yeti, Cyril, gets himself into a tizz when I suggest we go for a walk outside on the grounds that he hears people refer to him as abominable. What shall I do please, as Cyril needs his exercise!

*Signed Sherpa Ninesing
Lhasa*



Dear Sherpa Ninesing, I suggest that you tell Cyril that people are really admiring his musculature, particularly his abdominals.

With best wishes to you both, Pet Guru



The Nutty Recipe Corner

by Tracey Roy



With Autumn coming to a close & Winter knocking on our backdoor, it's time to look at some of the more unusual fruits in our wonderfully abundant region. This month, I have chosen a Medlar recipe & an Elderberry recipe to tempt your taste buds, but first, let's look at these fruit & ask ourselves what are they & why don't most owners of such trees not use the wonderfully abundant crops they produce.

Both trees are native to Europe. The Elderberry tree has lovely white flowers which blossom throughout late spring & are commonly made into Elderflower wine. I have had many a guest at our property tell us long yarns about the delights & memories such a fruit has stirred from their childhood. I have been given some terrific recipes from visitors in the mail, however my passion is for the purple berries (which my husband dreads) produced by the flowers in late Summer early Autumn. They are a time consuming berry to pick as they grow in bunches of tiny ball-bearing size berries we have to cut off the trees. They stain the hands for days...not the best look! Elderberries have been used in European folk medicine since antiquity to aid in the relief of respiratory problems, arthritis, asthma, colds & constipation. Containing nutrients, tannin, amino acids, carotenoids, rutin & Vitamins A, B & C, the berries have more antioxidant capacity than Vitamin E or C. We have discovered our Elderberry Cordial is terrific to consume in winter due to its spicy mulled style. Jellies & syrups are also delicious.

The Medlar is a renaissance banquet delight, a member of the rose family, it proudly takes its place between a Pear & a Hawthorne. Though Shakespeare has written about this very unusual fruit, we have not taken it into our hearts & used the wonderful rotten pulp with gusto. Like many other local produce I cook, Medlars are a slow labour of love as the fruits need to blet down (this is the rotting process) before they are suitable for use. Once this has occurred the bletted pulp is very high in pectin making it a terrific fruit for jelly. A subtle lingering sweet taste with a slight sharpness similar to a sweet wine, the jelly is wonderful served with local duck or hare or simply with scones & cream.

User beware as the seeds of the fruits must not be eaten as they are considered unsafe for consumption due to the concentrated toxin of prussic acid(hydro-cyanic acid) in the seeds. Some other uses for the pulp are in mousses, ice cream, roasted with butter, mace & whole cloves or in our recipe for Medlar & Ginger Tart.

Elderpolitan Cocktail

15ml Elderberry Cordial, 10ml Vodka, 10ml Triple Sec
Serve over crushed ice with soda water & a sprig of mint.

Medlar & Ginger Tart

Pastry Case, a bought one or your own recipe.

Filling

- 2 cups, medlar pulp, skin & seeds removed*
- 1.5 cups evaporated milk
- 1/4 cup castor sugar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 eggs, beaten

Mix all ingredients except eggs & heat & simmer until thickened. Do not boil mix. Push through a fine strainer to remove any rogue seeds. Cool slightly & whisk in eggs. Pour into case & bake for 15 minutes at 200c. Turn down over to 175c for a further 10 minutes. Cool & serve with Ice cream or cream.

Nutty Orchard products are available The Trentham Farmers Market.



PUBLICANS FIRED IN THEIR FIRST WEEK!

During May, Blackwood locals have been busy breaking in the new publicans, Ange & Heinz, who moved up from Geelong to cater to our special needs. Local spokesperson, Donna Matheson, says they're already quite tame & Ange especially manages a very respectable pull of the beer.

Friday night saw their beloved Cats down the Pies in a bar that was filled with balloons, beanies & scarves of club colours. Footy franks & party pies were quaffed in bulk. No kids selling footy records, though. Maybe next time, which will be the next Friday night footy is on TV. Wear your colours!

Ange & Heinz would like to thank everyone for their support & patience & our barman, Rob, for showing them the ropes (then leaving them alone on their first Saturday). He returned to find Ange at war with the EFTPOS & the till whilst Heinz had locked himself in the cool-room. Rob told them they were fired. Go easy Rob, there's still some breaking in to do.

Tabetha Henry
MAKEUP ARTIST & HAIR STYLIST

makeupbytabetha@hotmail.com
PH: 0400062850

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Advice for Blackwood Winters

On a walk if you see a good log,
One that's dry, not immersed in a bog
Then don't ever spurn it, you'll soon need to burn it
To warm your family & dog

~ Robin Bradley (Blackwood)

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Where are they now?



I was born in Charlton in North Central Victoria & then lived in Barrakee (almost 8 miles out of Charlton) where my parents were on farm during the depression years. In 1935 my parents bought the 'Corner Store' (Cobb & Co Tearooms) in Blackwood (from the Gribbles, I think).

We arrived on Nov11 & it was snowing. I started school the following year at the local (Blackwood) school & had all my schooling there.

Approximately 25-28 pupils attended, except for a period during the war when people were evacuated to Blackwood & for 6-9 months there were 65-70 pupils attending. Grade 6 had to sit around the headmasters table (all 11 of us) as there were not enough desks.

Dad went to Melbourne each Monday afternoon to buy goods & had to be at the market at 5am on Tuesday morning, but during the war had to alternate trips to Melbourne & Ballarat due to petrol rationing. He also had a hire car licence. Mr Robson, the mailman, brought the papers daily & bread 3 days a week, meat on Tuesday from Beaties Butchers in Trentham & on Saturday they brought it out themselves. Mum would phone the orders through & it came out all wrapped up except that the sausages were in bulk. My job was to weigh them up when I was old enough - not so good on the cold, frosty mornings. Then Dad & I would deliver the orders to Simmons Reef, Blackwood & Golden Point. I have a lot of memories of Blackwood, especially Christmas & Easter, with the extra people there for the holidays. Dances were held every night between Christmas & New Year. We all went, children too. One night, the local talent put on the minstrel show - it was an excellent performance. It was a busy time in the shop & out every night. I remember Dr Wisewould coming out from Trentham each fortnight, going to Sunday School & church at the Methodist Church, picnics at the Recreation Reserve.

The most frightening time was Friday January 13, 1939. Bushfires, Blackwood being surrounded & holiday shacks burnt, but our school was saved (got to within 30 yards). Firefighting was very difficult in those days (only water tank, creeks, knap sacks & bags).

There have been some changes at the corner store & I am always interested to see the various alterations that have been made (the stove & fireplace is still there).

We moved to Ballan in November 1944 after I sat for my Merit & I spent my single days there, briefly working on the telephone exchange & then in the bakers shop.

In January 1946 I started working at Gates Drapes Shop (The Red House) & stayed there 'til February 1964. In that year I married Jack Thompson from Upwey & had 2 sons. Both are now married & I have 2 grand-daughters. Unfortunately Jack died suddenly in March 1993. I stayed on at Upwey til July 2007 & then moved into Fiddlers Green Retirement Village at Berwick where I am now.

~ Joyce Thompson (Higgins)

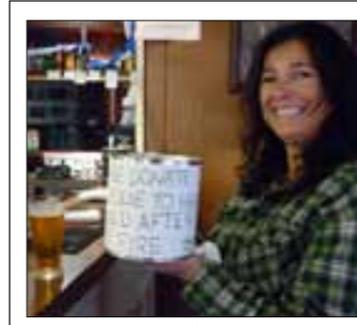
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A TIMELY REMINDER...

On ANZAC day, in the early morning, I was informed that my house was on fire, believe me this is not a phone call or an experience that you want to have...The fire season had just 'officially' finished & I had personally breathed a sigh of relief that we had made it through without incident. The house did not burn to the ground (as you are all probably aware) but the inside is either badly burnt or badly smoke damaged.

From the moment it became known that there had been a house fire & that it was my house, the support & generosity that I received from people in Blackwood, Dales Creek, & Greendale has blown my mind. It has reaffirmed the reasons that I fell in love with the area & decided to move here 6 years ago.



Donna Matheson at Blackwood Hotel with a donation tin for the Emergency Fire Relief. Tins can also be found at the Greendale Hotel & the Blackwood General Store.

I would like to say a huge thank-you to all the residents & friends in these communities, including my family & close friends, that have donated money, clothes, time or support during the last couple of weeks. Everyone has been so generous, but I need to take this opportunity to let Liz, Kate, Lin, & Greg know that their constant support, friendship, & positive outlooks are what has given me the strength to get through this.

I would like to say a huge thank-you to all the residents & friends in these communities, including my family & close friends, that have donated money, clothes, time or support during the last couple of weeks. Everyone has been so generous, but I need to take this opportunity to let Liz, Kate, Lin, & Greg know that their constant support, friendship, & positive outlooks are what has given me the strength to get through this.

Kate, Lin, & Greg know that their constant support, friendship, & positive outlooks are what has given me the strength to get through this.

A BIG thank-you also to all CFA members that attended the fire & to all volunteers (including CERT) who donate their time week in & week out to ensure that our small towns receive services that those in the city take for granted.

The good news is that my insurance company (RACV) has indicated that there will be no need to completely rebuild, I will be able to fix the house, in other words it will be as simple as a huge renovation. Although I will be inconvenienced for a while (most likely 6 months) ,at the end of the day I will still have 'my house'.

If there was one thing that I could share from this whole experience, it would be that as home owners, we are not just at risk from bushfires. It is important that we all review our home & contents' insurance & ensure that we are comprehensively insured for any circumstance that may arise.

Again, a big thanks to everyone for their support & generosity

~Jodie Bantz

Put your dancing shoes on & have a ball!



As the autumn leaves fall & the trees go bare our women are dusting of their gowns & men are digging out their black ties. Menwhile the Winter Ball team prepare to roll out the red carpet for the 4th Annual Winter Ball. The small committee is made up of president Darrel Carr (seen left), treasurer Fred Moore (right) & Linda Henry is secretary. Fred says "The Ball is an opportunity to let our hair down & have some fun & lordie knows we need a bit of extra cheer this year!"

The ball is held at the hall on Saturday June 19. Tickets sell out quickly so call Fred now on 5368 6313 to book your seat.



The Big Commute



by Genevieve Messenger

A couple of years mate, yep you heard it, it's taken me a around 730 days to set up a life around Blackwood, for myself, so I can avoid working in the big smoke. I've been doing a bit of a side shoe shuffle to bypass the Deer Park bypass. In fact some friends of mine do the double bypass everyday to make a buck. Just thinking about it makes me want to ring an ambulance.

As one of my jobs is a Marriage Celebrant. A few couples were ringing their wedding bells, & my mobile, all the way from Melbourne. How could I say no? So the last couple of months have been trips to the city to perform weddings. It's just been one of those phases where there has been quite a few in a row, & before I can clean out my high heels out of the boot, I'm getting the phone call, for the next lot of love birds.

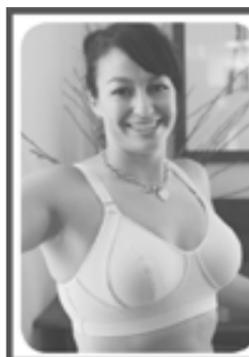
I didn't realise how spoil I was working in Trentham until I clocked up a few more hundred km on the dial & quenched my car's thirst with a few hundred bucks worth of petrol. My car is more expensive to take out than I am! The little machine has ticked over so many times there should be a cuckoo jumping from the boot every 100,000 Kilometres. The ol' girl has clocked 300,000 K's so far & is showing no signs of slowing down. I hope I age as gracefully as my sedan. It shames me, that it can kick into gear on a frosty morning & I can't. If only I could join a RACV that could change a battery on a human.

I love commuting in the country. Except when I dodge wombats, it's all quite charming & peaceful, especially as the leaves turn the same color as my cheeks do after drinking a good glass of red.

So the big commute to Melbourne gets me all worked up; I'm running out the door hoping I've got enough juice to last me to the Marsh, enough coffee in my mug to keep me awake to at least Melton & my ipod with a peace meditation on it to get me through any traffic jams on the Westgate, without road rage. And once I spilled my coffee all over the back seat & had to smell off milk for days, handed over another \$50 note to Caltex & found myself eating an Angus Burger at the new Macca's drive through near Rockbank, I knew I had to bank on something other than me driving. So I took the train. We're talking Ballarat Line here. Thanks to Steve Bracks having relatives there, he relatively created a luxury train line. Bucket seats, dunny & water dispenser. Not to mention, north facing views & new carpet. What more can one want?? Twelve dollars one way & a chance to daydream about being the movie star I'll never be. Highly recommend, the choo choo.

I have to admit at first Southern Cross (formerly Spencer Street) is a tad intimidating with all the designer food stores, but once you work through that & where the 8D train station is, you can just take yourself for a ride, which is kind of comforting because other people take me for a ride, all the time.

Melbourne city comes & goes from my life, a bit like my last boyfriend, but lets face it, just stopping for a few minutes every morning to watch the mist roll into Blackwood & the sun filter through it's shroud, is so worth it; who cares if you get your buck from Timbuktu, if come home to Blackwood, it's worth the road trip.



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COME OUT FROM UNDER YOUR (WRITER'S) ROCK!

Local resident, Genevieve Messenger has received a grant from Moorabool Shire's 'Summer Grants Program' to run three writing series for local residents.

It all started because she was looking for a writer's group but couldn't find one. So, as the saying goes "want something done ask a busy person." She decided to start up a "Writer's Space" & plans to run the first series later in the year in September & October. The idea is to provide an inspiring & safe place where anyone is welcome. Wannabees & pros alike can come from all areas of the Moorabool Shire. Trentham residents are welcome too!

Genevieve says, "These workshops are designed for any writers; film, choreography, poetry, multimedia, prose, novels, etc. It is about staying in touch with our inspiration & generating ideas & material."

Genevieve went to the Victorian College of the Arts & finished a 3 year degree in writing, directing & performing for theatre in '97. In the past 20 years Genevieve has written & performed many original plays.

Genevieve's inspiration comes from her own writing teacher, Jenny Kemp, whose writing workshops she has attended since '92.

"The Writer's Space" will conduct three series. The 1st for local children called "Tall Tales", where their stories will be recorded in a "visitor's book" & displayed in Blackwood, with some being published in Blackwood News.

The next workshop, "Locating the Writer's Itch," will be for beginners or up. It's designed for writers to create material & simply write. They will be guided with scenarios to trigger their writing & take it into new directions. They are encouraged to express themselves without judging what they are writing.

The final workshop will be designed for professionals who are keen to generate material. The participants are fed ideas & images to take their writing to another level or tangent. "I hope writers will find seeds for new ideas in this workshop," says Genevieve.

"It's also about meeting other people with the same interest & talking about what it means to them to write." For more info & expressions of interest call Genevieve on 53686403 or email genevieve.messenger@me.com

BLACKWOOD POST OFFICE hours
Mon-Fri 10am-1pm & 3pm-5pm
Sat 10am-11am

blackwoofs

THIS IS Woodrow (Woody to his friends) with one of his favorite people, Kaitilin. As you can see, he is a typical Staffy. He loves to park his behind in someone's lap. He also enjoys sitting on his mate, Max (the cat) who, of course, does his best to avoid this particular "Woody Hug".



WOODY ALSO loves an adventure & that love has seen him in the wars of late. Look closely at his left ear. It was sewn back on after he thought it was a good idea to visit an attractive girl dog over the road. She & her 2 boyfriends decided to have bits of him. He had to wear a bucket on his head for 2 1/2 months. It looked sort of cool, though. He knocked himself out once when he collided with a tree. Probably chasing a football - he loves football, but can't be sure why he was running. His memory got knocked out of his head at the time.

OH, WOODY also loves shoes & hiding them (another Staffy trait) & sort of loves guinea pigs, but their scrabbling & squeaking freak him out.

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Change: letting go & becoming new

I moved house a year ago. As complicated as that is in itself, the move from city to country initiated changes involving most areas of my life. Some I'd anticipated, but many I simply discovered in the process. I would say, now, that it turned my world upside down & sideways!



~ by Kathy Strmota

As I slowly begin to stand the right way up again, I find myself in a totally different world - inside & out - & realise that this 'new life' is going to take a bit of getting used to. While struggling with the disruptions to my smooth-flowing life, I began to consider what kinds of qualities & attitudes I need to cultivate to allow this change to be a blessing rather than a burden. No matter how much we desire the change, it never comes without sacrifice. We always need to leave something behind in order to make room for the new & this can be a difficult process.

I now have a greater understanding of the phrase, "Be careful what you wish for..." I wished for a 'tree change', to leave city life behind & live in nature. I wanted to hear wind in the trees & birds in the morning, rather than trains every eight minutes & the constant hum of the freeway, so I called on the universe to bring me my 'heart's desire' in a big way. I received my wish & I'm extremely grateful for that.

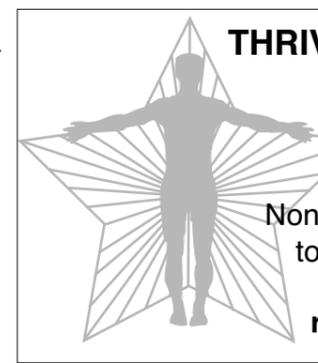
However, I've realised that, when we wish for things, we just expect them to magically slot into our existing lives. We expect the new aspect to adapt to us, rather than us having to adapt to it. It's then a little bit of a shock when we realise the actual 'terms of the agreement' - the fine print - which says you have to give up certain things, or ways of being, to allow the change. Usually, by the time you realise this, there's no turning back.

Every change you make alters the shape of your life, & you have to change yourself to keep integrity. That new shape may finally result in a life even more beautiful than the one you had, but the path from the original shape to the new shape must still be travelled, & that's where the challenges lie.

Even a simple change like getting a new kitchen appliance does this, but it's usually so subtle & requires so little sacrifice, that you easily adapt to it. Nevertheless, the process is the same. The path from the existing 'life shape' to the new 'life shape' must be taken. Sometimes it's such a tiny little step you don't even notice you took it. At other times, it seems never-ending, full of surprises, unexpected bends & grief. The only thing that keeps us from stepping off the path & running back to our original shape (if that's even possible) is the belief that the final destination will bring much greater joy or satisfaction than the one we left.

The change process is a journey of trust & acceptance because change is a doorway into the unknown. We can only step willingly through it if we believe we're safe, that our needs will be met & that we'll reach our desired destination. This is why many people can wish for something their whole life but never move towards it.

In this series of articles, I'll explore the various qualities which can help us weather the wild sea of change & come out standing the right way up!



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BLACKWOOD SPECIAL SCHOOL 1970-1980

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



During the mid 1960s, the Principals' Association of the Schools for the Intellectually Handicapped, became interested in extending their students beyond the traditional Three R's - Reading, Writing & Arithmetic - & into the experiential Three R's within an Outdoor Educational Setting - Relationship, Resilience & Reflection.

Throughout their investigations, a number of sites were considered, explored & evaluated. During this process they agreed that the site of the old Blackwood Primary School (School No. 1074) would be the most appropriate site for a camp for their students. On the Nov 28, 1969 - with the full support of nine special schools, a letter was sent to the Education Department by Mr John Sharp, the Principal of Mitcham Special School, stating:

"Application is made on behalf of the metropolitan day special schools for the reservation of the school site & buildings at S.S 1074 Blackwood as a permanent special schools' camp."

A letter dated Dec 11, 1969 from W.A Crellin, the Education Department Secretary, stated:-

"I am pleased to inform you that your application for the site of State School No. 1074 Blackwood has been approved by the School Camps Committee....." - giving birth to the Blackwood School Camp.

During the next 6 months, a sub-committee of principals - John Sharp, Beryl Ward, Jean Trewhella & Brian Quilligan - as well as interested teachers, parents, students & local Blackwood residents set about converting the Blackwood Primary School into an outdoor education facility. Also during this time along with a donation from the Special Education Branch of the Education Department a network of special schools was levied (\$200 each) to create the availability of funds for the facility to operate.

In 1970, the Camp officially opened, with eleven special schools being associated. Today, seven of those eleven original schools have maintained their association with the Centre throughout its 40 year history.



The first camp to be held was by a group of students & staff from Ballarat Special School arriving in the week beginning Monday 8th June 1970. A comment from the teacher-in-charge states, "All on the camp had a most enjoyable time, it is hoped that all other groups meet with similar success."

During this period & through the early years of the Camp's existence, not only did the visiting staff implement activities & programs for their students, the also contributed to the maintenance & upgrade of the camp by replacing old or broken equipment, completing minor maintenance needs & sending camp reports to the Committee at the end of each individual camp.



COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

BLACKWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTRE INC.

Regards once again from the Blackwood Senoir Citizens Club. Our club is functioning on a high note as usual & we all enjoy our get togethers once a week – a great 3 course lunch , supplied by our good Dot Williams & her very capable helper, Dianne. We have board games prior to lunch, pool for the men & after luch, bingo & carpet bowls.

New members would be most welcome. The annual fee is \$6. The services of Genevieve, the district nurse, hairdresser - Antoinette & a podiatrist are available monthly.

We thank Fred Moore & her helpers once again. They organized the hot dog stand at the Easter Sports. Fred presented the club with a very nice donation which was greatly appreciated by us all. Also, thanks to Brian Moore who installed a fly-zapper in the kitchen. Another thanks to Lynda Byers, who donated 20 drinking mugs for our benefit. Phil & Max Manning organized an impressive display of their scented candles for the club.

Beth Kirby has still not returned to the club after quite a serious illness but we keep hoping that it will not be too long before we welcome her back.

Our gratitude to Ken & Betty Ashton for the candles that decorated the tables at our pre-Mothers Day luncheon – after dispensing with the red cellophane, inside we discovered a flannel & soap. This was a nice surprise for us all (men were excluded, of course!)

There is no more news at the present time so until next issue regards

~ Barb Sweet, (Hon) secretary

BLACKWOOD CROWN LANDS COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

As we come to the close of the committee's 3 year tenure, we look back on what we have achieved.

Caravan Park & Mineral Springs: painting toilet/shower block,bbq area, new hot water systems, washing machine & dryer; redirecting the road to create new camping sites; new storage shed with a fenced off area.

Sportsground: new bbq area; resurfacing oval; toilet block up-grade.

Hall: new cupboard doors; new rangehood.

We have also covered all service bills, contractors wages & general maintenance for all venues. Thanks to the members & community who gave their time to help. Thanks to the Senior Cits who, apart from paying their fee, continue to work & share costs with Crown Reserves on hall issues. We do so appreciate this.

Thankyou to Ray Meade, Peter Oliveri, Barbara Sweet, Lou Henderson, David Arnold, Brendan Hehir & Brian Moore for your work over the past 3 years & for keeping the bills paid.

Annual General Meeting Sunday 4th July, 10am Blackwood Hall – wanted new committee members to help maintain our precious assets.

~ Elizabeth Hall, secretary

BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)

Thanks again to members for their efforts in working with reduced numbers. Residents who are interested in finding out more about our team, ie training responsibility etc. & can be a service to the town, can contact me at home on 5686 6628.

~ regards Bruce Henry, Team Leader

BLACKWOOD DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thankyou to all who helped with our drink stall at the Easter Sports, to those who helped with the Stables' opening & selling of books.

GREAT NEWS: A Heritage Grant from the State Government that was applied for last November, has been approved. The grant is for a Mapping Cabinet to keep old maps flat. Thankyou to Mrs Aline Thompson!

Pat is keeping us all on the straight & narrow with minutes & day to day running. Thankyou.

Our next meeting will be on Sat June 5 at 10.30am at the Police Stables in Martin St. Everybody is welcome!

~ Alan Hall, President

BLACKWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Thankyou to those people who helped us over the Easter weekend. It costs a lot to run the Easter carnival: clown \$450, woodchoppers \$3000, animal farm \$650, St Johns Ambulance \$350, insurances for one day \$2000, liquor & food licences, etc.

Our money comes in from sponsors, stall holders, gate & Bar takings. Many stalls are fundraisers: Hamburgers: Cricket Club, Drinks: Historical Society, Hot Dogs: Senior Cits, Devonshire Teas: Anglican Church. CFA runs a raffle & the sale of the wood was given to the CFA.

All accounted for, our profit was \$6,500! Thankyou all for a very good Easter!

~ Elizabeth Hall

BLACKWOOD CEMETERY TRUST

Regular working bees are held to maintain the grounds of the cemetery. There is also a need to periodically paint the metal fences around many of the old graves & to repair & paint the wooden fences. The members of the cemetery trust are hoping that there are some people in town who would be interested in volunteering to help maintain these historical graves. All materials will be provided & volunteers can choose a time suitable to them.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Robyn Zanon on 5368 6792 or Bruce Henry on 5368 6628.

~ Robyn Zanon

Blackwood/Barrys Reef LANDCARE WATER WATCH

April Rainfall at Barry's: 40 mms.

May 13, 2010: Representatives from Melbourne Water, DSE & Blackwood/Barry's Reef Landcare assembled near the Blackwood Bridge to assess works on ground Weed Control along the Lerderderg River & upper tributaries. This policy of working together to achieve good weed management in the water-ways & the Lerderderg River in the Wombat State Forest is succeeding in restoring our water ways to their original, breathtaking fern-lined beauty before they were smothered by invasive weeds such as gorse & broom. Spontaneously, our local scientist John Davies, began making plans for another of his famous walks.

3pm: I met with Frank Carland & Ben Hurnall of Vic Roads who will be liaising with Melbourne Water re removal of willows near Simmons Reef Road & who will be talking to Council about hawthorns & a blackberry hedge near the Greendale Hotel. Frank was pleased about the weed reduction at Anderson's Corner, Barry's Reef, whilst flowering gorse drew his attention.

In 2002, when executives from the Great Dividing Trail Association convened at Blackwood to announce plans to extend the trail from Daylesford to Bacchus Marsh via Blackwood, they suggested the desirability of ancillary walks around Blackwood. John Davies took up the challenge & designed his famous 6 km Loop Walking Track with

plans for 2 kms to be graded for wheel chair access. In Jan '09, John was told that DSE had been granted \$200,000 to upgrade the walk as a world class facility to be completed by June '10. By including the original Back Creek Walking Track designed by Gabriel Crowley & Stephen Garnett, DSE Coordinator, Robin Holmes has extended the Track an additional 2 kms. We have been promised that lots of maps will be available.

After two long years of negotiations, tourist officer Leann Brown believes that an information logo might soon be available for the Moorabool Shire/DSE showcase opposite the pub.

Waterwatch convenor, David Rogers, has now embarked upon a 4 year Conservation & Environment Degree course at Ballarat Uni. Our Waterwatch Data Report, Jan to Dec '09 for tests of Salinity, Turbidity, pH, temperature, Phosphorous, Nitrogen, Dissolved Oxygen & Macro-invertebrates, has proven that the Lerderderg river at Poveys Reserve, Blackwood Mineral Springs & Sebastapool swimming hole is healthy.

~ Pat. Liffman secretary

a Blackwood News community service notice

Blackwood
WINTER BALL
Sat, June 19



For Tickets Phone.
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2010-11 DSE PLANNED BURNING

Each year, the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) prepares Fire Operations Plans for public land in Victoria. The plans provide a guide for the fire prevention & preparedness works that are carried out within the district. The Fire Operations Plans are developed in consultation with Parks Victoria, CFA, councils, technical specialists within DSE & the community.

During August, DSE will release a draft copy of the Fire Operations Plan for viewing &/ or comment by the public. DSE will be holding community meetings around the district during this time to obtain feedback from community members. Flyers will be posted around towns advertising dates & locations of these meetings once details are finalised.

For more information, please visit www.dse.vic.gov.au/burns



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Help get our young'uns on the road...

Young people need 120 hours of driving experience to move from their L plates to their P plates & in many families this can be very difficult or impossible to provide.

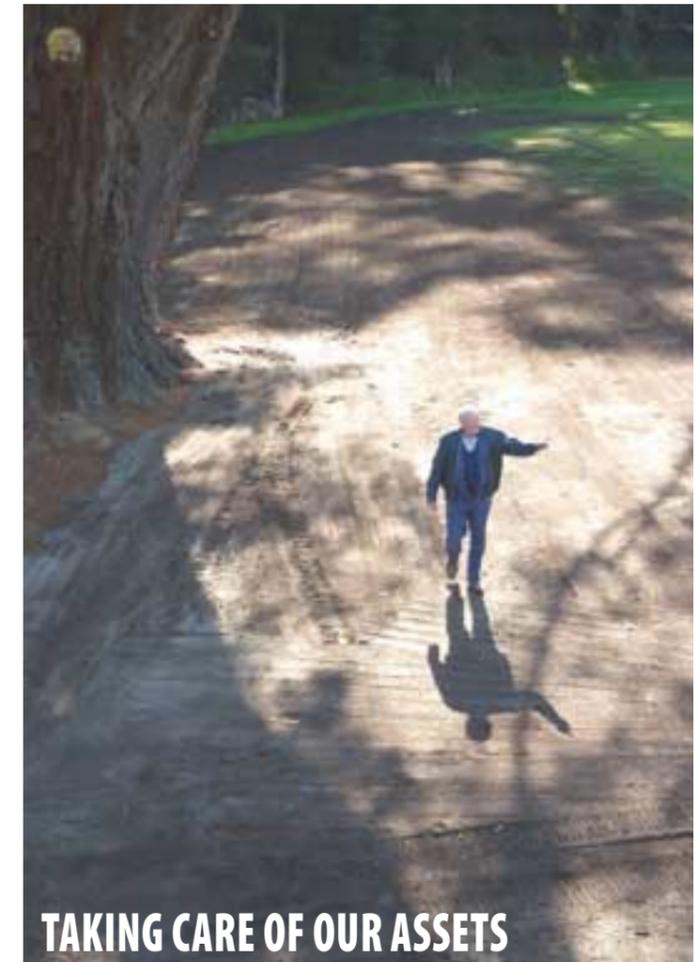
L2P is a program developed to assist young learner drivers to move from L to P plates by matching the young person with a trained volunteer mentor & a L2P car.

Blackwoodian parents of teenagers are well familiar with the 'chauffeur cycle' necessary if our kids work or socialise out of town. L2P is a fantastic program that helps young people to achieve independent mobility & the chance to access employment, education & social opportunities outside of Blackwood. The success of this program hinges on volunteers with a full drivers licence donating their time to sit with the young person while they clock up their 120 hours.

If you enjoy spending time with young people, L2P is an exciting & rewarding program to participate in.

The aim is that if you are a participating volunteer that you are training a young person local to your area. A vehicle is available for use in the program in both Bacchus Marsh & Ballan, so both volunteers & young people participating could be virtually anywhere in the shire.

L2P Coordinator : Kim Leech p: 8746 1000 e: kiml@djerriwarrh.org



TAKING CARE OF OUR ASSETS

The recreation Reserve has been resurfaced with sandy loam, thanks to a \$5,000 Community Grant from Moorabool Shire. The roots from our historic pine were posing hazards & the long-term drought had created an uneven surface to the sportsground. Some problems are best covered up. Project manager, Brian Moore, says re-seeding will take place in Springtime. He thanks Ballan's Terry Hodge for a job well done. BCRCM will also undertake major maintenance at the mineral springs, thanks to a grant of \$46,750 from Department of Sustainability & Environment & The Victorian Mineral Water Committee. Come on board our local committee to help manage projects like this. Elections will be held for the next 3 year tenure on July 4 @ 10am at the hall.

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June 2010

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday	sunday
FREE BUS TO WENDOUREE 3rd MON each month Community Link Program BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL Judith 53686697	KARATE 7pm @ the hall <i>first day of winter</i>  Blackwood News Mathew Osborne	2 Monique Matheson Jamie Coolman	3 Joel Staub Kelly Matheson-Miller	4 Dave Dandy Jill O'Connor	5 Daylesford Farmers Market	Daylesford Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church
7 <i>queen's birthday</i> 	8 KARATE 7pm @ the hall Julie Waight	9 Lily Spurr Elija & Eva Pope	10 Kaitlan Sutters	11 BLACKWOOD WINTER BALL @ the hall C. Geelong Farmers Market	12 John Bridgman	Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church
14	15 KARATE 7pm @ the hall	16 Stephanie Stockwell	17 Kaitlan Sutters	18	19 Buninyong Farmers Market	Daylesford Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Talbot Farmers Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church
21 	22 KARATE 7pm @ the hall Brandon Wood	23 Bree Hillis Jesse McKeone	24	25 Alexis Tsardakis	26 Lancefield Farmers Market	Daylesford Market Trentham Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church
28 Max W Matheson	29 KARATE 7pm @ the hall	30 Barb Dandy Dennis Norgate	There was a young chick on Golden Point Road Who thought she might smile at a really old toad He gave a great lurch And fell out of his birch As he'd just run out of reason and rhyme. ~ Stephen Coyle (Ringwood)		Have we missed your birthday? Please email us on editor@blackwoodnews.com.au or pop the details in the DROP BOX at the General Store. 	

July 2010

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday	sunday
5 My baby was born on the Solstice Not Summer alas but the coldest Every party we had The weather was bad But at least she was never the oldest... ~ Margot Nelmes (Blackwood)	6 KARATE 7pm @ the hall Eamon Whitehouse Jake McKeone	7 Matilda Cassidy	8	9 C. Geelong Farmers Market	10 Daylesford Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church	Daylesford Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church
12	13 KARATE 7pm @ the hall Norma Stewart Cheryle Meade	14 Blackwood News deadline: advertisers book space regular contributors community groups Jackson Waight	15 Shazza Bridger	16 Margaret Stork	17 Buninyong Farmers Market	Daylesford Market Trentham Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Talbot Farmers Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church
19 Mrs Huggett	20 KARATE 7pm @ the hall Blackwood News deadline: news, classifieds advert artwork / content Oscar Macfarlane	21 Robyn Zanon Jack Rayner	22 Annalise Zanon Steve Hammond	23	24 Lancefield Farmers Market	Daylesford Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Spirituality in the Bush
26	27 KARATE 7pm @ the hall	28 Nicholas Matheson	29 Ray Castelin	30 Rob Hillis	31	Wilma Evans MOBILE LIBRARY tuesdays 1-2.15 opposite Blackwood House



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AS A mother of one of the children that's had visits from the police & been called 'feral' etc, I am greatly relieved to see that the person who has been doing the burglaries in town has been caught.

NOW WOULDN'T it be nice if all so-called adults who are quick to point the finger & bad-mouth our kids (who, I might add, are good kids) would apologise to them.

YEAH RIGHT, as if that's going to happen! Especially since none of these so-called adults can even admit to sending the police to our houses – yeah, that's right, the police just picked their names out of a hat!!

FOR THOSE of you that don't understand small town living, reputations stick! So before you bad-mouth the kids in this town get your facts right & if you don't have the facts, I suggest you zip it up!

THE CP** that I have had to listen to in the last two months & the things I've heard my son called has been disgusting.

SO ONE suggestion to you feeble minded morons... keep your opinions to yourselves because we all know people in glass houses shouldn't throw stones!

AND, JUST for the record, the kids in Blackwood aren't dragged up in life, they are brought up by very loving parents.

~ Kylie Simmonds

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Aren't you all clever. What a great thing for Blackwood.

Best wishes,

~ Gael Shannon, Lavandula

BOUQUET: THE week before Easter, we lost our precious little pony, Licorice. She had a great life & a long one in Blackwood – she would have been 31 this year.

THE FAMILY would like to thank Dr Mike for everything he did to make this as comfortable as possible for her & us.

AND A big thankyou to Ken Cann & Lou who, as usual, dropped everything to bury her at home for us.

~ Jill Hewat

BEST WISHES to MA who has been laid up in hospital & unable to write his usual articles. Wishing you a speedy recovery.

~ editor

GUESS...



WHO'S TURNING 21 in June?



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Blumin' Tips #3



~ by Simone Gilbert & Sandy Cummins

It's not just about the "flowers"!

As the last blush of autumn flowers fades away & the frosty winter days roll in, it is the perfect time to take the rich tapestry of colours & textures of nature indoors! Take a quick walk around the Spa Country Region & collect some of the many fruits, berries & leaves to add to your autumn display. Arrangements can be presented in rustic wicker containers or earthenware jars & dressed with earthy shades of ribbon to reflect the season outside. Or why not display a colourful harvest wreath?

As long as they are naturally grown & pesticide free, many of the fruits, berries, hips & flower gatherings can also help ward off the winter ills & chills! Elderberry is an excellent anti viral; Echinacea works by increasing the numbers of those wonderfully named cells called Natural Killer Cells which circulate around the body looking for bacteria & viruses; Thyme is such a versatile herb, which can be taken as a tea or as part of a tincture medicine. It has anti-viral as well as antibacterial properties, so is great for all types of respiratory infections, from the sinuses to the throat to the chest. Not generally known for its medicinal uses, the Medlar has been recommended as a remedy for kidney stones. Medlar leaves, boiled & drunk as tea, aids the process of moving such stones. Simply drink the tea until the stone is ejected! Although the Medlar fruit is edible, it is not considered generally "safe". In addition, like many members of the Rosaceae family, the seeds contain hydro-cyanic acid (prussic acid) & may be toxic if eaten. So prepare it carefully & if all else fails, mix medlars with sugar & vodka for a renaissance tonic!! And finally, who could forget the humble bee & its natural elixir. Nothing soothes a sore raspy throat better than sweet honey & we are certainly spoilt for choice with a number of fabulous honey producers in our region!

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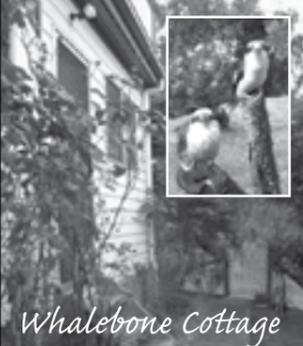
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BEYOND BLACKWOOD...

Fiddling returns to the Cosmo

Sitting proud on the corner of High Street & Cosmo Road, The Cosmopolitan has long held a place in the heart of the Trentham community. Built circa 1866, its sweeping weatherboard verandahs have witnessed countless local stories. It's the pub on the corner where your grandfather might have had his first lemonade, & his first beer, just as his father had done before him.

It was also the home of the legendary Friday Night Fiddle Sessions, a happy mix of musicians from amateurs to professionals, joining together over an ale, a fireplace & a shared love of music.

But in 2005 The Cosmopolitan story took an unexpected turn when fire ravaged the iconic pub. The sense of loss was palpable.

Thankfully, 2009 marked a new beginning for the Cosmo, with new owners taking over with a 3-stage plan to restore the pub to its glory days. Initially operating out of a marquee in the garden, they have recently finished a beautiful restoration job on the Stables, for dining & music in front of the fire during the cooler months.

Friday, June 11 sees Fiddle Sessions return to The Cosmopolitan at 6pm, with regular sessions occurring on the 2nd Friday of every month thereafter.

Local musicians Stacy & Steve from Family Farm Band, will host the night, encouraging people to bring instruments of any flavour, including Fiddles, Mandolins, Guitars, Banjos, Bass, Dobros & voice to join in a good-ole group musical how-down.

Cosmo Fiddle Sessions happen monthly, on the 2nd Friday, from 6pm-late. Entry is free & those who participate in the jam are awarded with special drinks prices. Everyone is welcome (including kids), from beginners to advanced, so mozy along for happy hour from 5-7pm & stay for the music, charm & laid-back rustic ambience of the newly renovated stables.

from Trentham Lions Club

Trentham Playgroup @ Mechanics Hall. Cost \$3 p/family. Bring a piece of fruit to share for morning tea. Tues (except school hols)
Enq: Jill 5424 1591.

Trentham Film Society @ Uniting Church. New members welcome. Your first screening FREE & includes cuppa.
June 4: "Sexy Beast" July 2: "Hidden"
Enq: James/Brad 5424 1354, 5424 1126.

Community Mini Market @ Uniting Church Hall. A small community market with craft & home baking. June 5/July 3
Enq: 5424 1354.

Old Time Dance @ Mechanics Hall. 8 pm. \$8 pp including supper & door prize. Spot prizes. Music by Family rhythm. June 11 /July 9
Enq: Elizabeth 5424 1254

Trentham Farmers Market @ Trentham Town Square. Local produce, entertainment, sausage sizzle, fresh market supplies.
June 19 /July 17
Enq: Tracey 5424 1185, (m) 0419 528 458.

"Trentham Made" Market @ the Cosmo footpath, selling hand crafted items made in & around Trentham. Stalls available.
Enq: Ruth 5424 1470 or Simone 5424 1603.

Trentham TRATA Market @ Historical Railway Grounds, Victoria St., June 27/July 25. Enq: Gwenda 5424 8223.

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a blackwood news community service notice

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Were there millions & millions
Of melanoxylians*
We could hold referenda
And so let it go.
**Melano – greek for Black, xylon – greek for wood*
~ Robin Bradley (Blackwood)

FROM THE DESK OF DON NARDELLA
HELP FOR PARENTS HEADING BACK TO THE WORKFORCE
Skills & Workforce Participation Minister, Bronwyn Pike, recently announced the release of \$4 million of grants to assist parents considering returning to work.

The program is aimed at helping working families. "This year up to 4000 parents across Victoria will have access to grants of \$1000 each through the 'Victoriaworks Program' to help them cover expenses such as course re-training fees, books & child care," Ms Pike said. "Since the program began in 2007, 7126 Victorian parents have had the opportunity to attend a course or undertake training through this supportive program. These new grants are fantastic news for parents who have cared for children & who have now decided to boost their skills & return to the workforce. Employers constrained by skills shortages will also benefit from the grants."

"I encourage parents considering a return to employment after years of caring for children to take advantage of this effective program which will make it easier to get back to work," Ms Pike said.

The current batch of grants opened on 21 May 2010. The grants are released in tranches throughout the year to ensure the assistance is accessible to as many families as possible. Parents can register online for grants at www.parentsreturningtowork.com.au

FROM THE DESK OF CATHERINE KING
NEW RESOURCE FOR ON-LINE SAFETY
Member for Ballarat, Catherine King, encourages parents to utilise a new online safety resource for parents, carers & teachers. ThinkUKnow Australia is a partnership between the Australian Federal Police & Microsoft Australia & aims to raise awareness about how young people are using technology. The program involves face-to-face & online seminars & a website (thinkuknow.org.au) containing fact sheets, an e-newsletter & practical tips for protecting your family online.

"Online safety has quickly become a critical issue for parents," Ms King said. "Technology is changing so quickly. It's a challenge for us to keep pace with both the opportunities it presents, & the threats. This new program was originally developed in the UK & has been adapted to Australian conditions. I urge everyone with children to have a look at the website. From there you can register & book a parent information night & other services. This is a terrific program & I encourage parents to utilise it."

The site also had links through which to report online abuse, cyberbullying & spam, as well as advice on how to recognise & respond to scams.

One visit to the town of Blackwood,
Prompts a keen return, its understood.
Though the winters are chilly
And they'd freeze off your willy,
Still you go back charmed, as you should.
~ Jacinta Hehir (Melbourne)

article begins on page 9
While the camp was established in 1970 & growing in popularity, the Committee of Blackwood School Camp also maintained control of the teacher's residence on Terrill Street. The residence was being leased by Gary Matheson with the Committee extending that lease for a short period of time, while they focused on establishing & financing the Camp on the old school site.

During the first few years, a variety of material, financial & labour donations were made to help establish, maintain, develop & improve the camp & the experience for the visiting students & staff. As well as Blackwood & the surrounding communities supporting the establishment of the Camp, the schools involved also canvassed their local businesses, communities, service clubs & parents for further support & involvement.

While the campsite grew in popularity among the Victorian Special Schools, it was also regarded as a wonderful weekend or school holiday retreat by teachers, parents, youth groups, church organisations, sporting clubs & other interested parties. As a result of this success, the Committee began plans for the improvement & development of the Camp to help create innovative outdoor programs for the students. To help them with these plans, many local Blackwood residents not only offered support & advice but became actively involved in developing & establishing new facilities, programs & experiences offered at the Camp.



It was realised in 1974 that the Camp could not meet the demand for participation by the schools involved & that they should look at developing the Residence site, primarily through voluntary labour to create a second campsite for younger & intellectually handicapped students with higher needs. This started a few years of investigations & planning to ensure a suitable accommodation facility was created. During these investigations, the property was divided to enable the Blackwood District Historical Society to rent at an annual fee of \$10 one of the three remaining police stables in existence in Victoria, while also supporting the expansion of the Blackwood CFA.

In 1976, due to the Camp's growth & the plans to establish a second accommodation site, the Committee made its first application to the Education Department for the appointment of staff at the camp. The response from Jack Phillips, Assistant Director of Special Services, was written on Jan 5, 1977:



"Whist I appreciate the nature of the Special Schools involvement, the importance of the camp as an educational experience & its potential for further development, I regret that the availability of staff precludes the appointment of a teacher aide at this time."

As a result of the persistence, drive, enthusiasm & determination of Peter Tarr – the Secretary of the Committee – funds were secured from the Schools' Commission to upgrade the Residence site into a suitable accommodation site in 1978. Along with funding, on May 29, 1978 Peter received a

letter detailing the support of the Christian Work Camps – a network of volunteer tradespeople, architects & supporters who work intensively together on a large project for a short period of time – was made available to the Committee, an agreement Peter had worked tirelessly to secure.

Between Dec 1979 & Jan 1980, the Christian Work Camps Group redesigned the Residence into a suitable accommodation site for children with an intellectual disability. At the end of the project it was acknowledged by the Committee that "without the assistance of free labour from the Christian Work Camp Group this project would never have been possible."

The Residence campsite was officially opened by Mr Mervyn Kydd, Director of Special Services – Education Department on Saturday Mar 29, 1980.



The Committee & the member schools celebrated the existence of two campsites at their Blackwood Camp.

Ode to a Parasite
The narcissistic self
the troubled little elf
creeping round at night
your life is just a fright
Arson & stealing –
a life of double dealing
you have no heart or feeling
The only pain you feel
is waiting for a deal.
One day you'll know despair
when you see the empty chair
of the ones you thought care
– they just won't be there
You're life is just a cell
in your self inflicted HELL
~ name supplied



HARDLINE Bluegrass Band's very first gig was at Lerdies recently. The next day the boys were off to Newcastle & a packed Karuah River of Music Festival. The Dear Boys need no introduction although Nick has swapped his Hardrive fiddle for a mandolin, Lachlan's still on guitar. New fiddler, Justin Price-Reece, returns to the Australian stage after 12 years of touring with bands in the USA. Jim Golding (banjo) is a bit of a legend in the industry, forming the Melbourne Bluegrass Band 20 years ago. Handsome Matt Ryan (from Tarnagulla) with his even more handsome double bass was an original member of Hardrive. Expect to see them again soon.

I woke up this morning – "Good Lord!"
My pants were as stiff as a board
Hanging glistening white
In the dawn's icy light
"I'll be naked until these are thawed!"
~ Brendan Hehir

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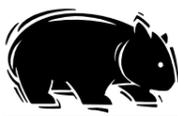
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Interruption to Blackwood Town Water Supply

Monday 21 June - Friday 2 July



Central Highlands Water (CHW) advises that an intensive water mains cleaning program will be undertaken within Blackwood/Barry's Reef between Monday 21 June and Friday 2 July.

This mains cleaning program is undertaken twice annually within the township of Blackwood and Barry's Reef to help ensure the quality of the water is maximised to all residents. The program will require a temporary interruption to the town water supply to enable the effective cleaning of the mains pipeline.

Interruption to Town Water Supply

Interruption to the entire town water supply will occur overnight on Tuesday 22nd June from 10pm, to 6am on Wednesday 23rd June.

Further sections of the water mains will be cleaned between Thursday 24 June and Friday 2nd July. Look for a notice in your letterbox that advised when the water supply to your property will be interrupted. **We strongly advise you check that your stop-tap on your water meter is working.**

If you require further information or if you have any special water needs, please contact CHW on freecall 1800 061 514 so we can assist with alternative water supply arrangements during this period.

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In the backward backwards of Blackwood

I find myself living at last

Where wood keeps me warming

By chopping and burning

'Lectric heating a thing of the past.

~ Margot Nelmes

Want to be included in a free Business Directory?

Designed to link local consumers with local businesses, Buy Local is a new initiative by key stakeholders in the Hepburn Shire including Daylesford District Business Group, Daylesford Macedon Produce, Hepburn Shire, Sustainable Hepburn Association Renewing the Earth, Tourism Hepburn & Trentham Business & Tourism Group.

The aim of the Buy Local Project is to reduce leakage from the local economy & maximise the economic benefit for the Hepburn community by encouraging local businesses & individuals to buy locally. The project is therefore focused upon both businesses & individual community members.

A Buy Local Business Directory will be created as a key information tool & will be available online & in a printed version. The Buy Local project group are inviting all businesses located within the Hepburn Shire to register for a listing in the Buy Local Business Directory. Registration is free of charge & further details can be obtained by contacting your town representative listed below. To register online, visit: www.hepburnshire.com.au & complete the registration form under Information Directories.

contact: David Stagg t:0418 336 191 e:david@daylesfordcider.com.au

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