



*Blackwood News wishes all our readers a wonderful Christmas & thanks all our contributors & advertisers for your support during 2011. We look forward to working with you in 2012 - after all, without you there is no Blackwood News!*  
... Jinny

**FOR THE CALENDAR:**

- SUN 18: Santa visits Blackwood Pub
- SUN 18: Blackwood Revue 'Breaking Up Christmas' Variety Show featuring Frank Fairfield (USA)
- FRI 23: Carols by Twilight @ the Uniting Church

**On Sunday November 27, Bishop Les Tomlinson celebrated the Eucharist at St Malachy's on its 150th anniversary.**

**THE CHURCH UPON THE HILL**

There is not another place I know,  
So restful quiet & still,  
As the charming little Catholic Church  
That stands upon the hill.

A simple wooded structure  
With roof of painted tin,  
'Twas built in Blackwood's golden days  
To halt the march of sin

Yes, built by rugged miners  
And paid for by them too,  
Those men who worked like beavers  
Til it stood there fresh & new.

'Twas very small, its seating few,  
Just fourteen pews in all  
And those who could not get a seat  
Would lean against the wall.

~ from a poem by Grace Rayner





### EDITORS THOUGHTS ...

Here we are at the end of 2011 with another bumper issue. I suspect it won't be far into 2012 before we have to go to 32 pages!

I thank all our contributors for the time they have put into writing articles & sending photos during the year, Blackwood News is a credit to you!

To our advertisers & those who donate when they pick-up their copy of Blackwood News, without you, we would not be able to keep growing – so thank-you, I do hope your 2012 is prosperous (despite the dreadful economic forecasts!)

This issue we has taken the difficult decision to discontinue the center-fold birthday calendar. We brought this in when we first took on Blackwood News just over 3½ years ago & although we still love the idea, Blackwood has grown so much that we don't feel we can keep up with updating the info accurately.

Blackwood News wishes CERT team leader, Bruce Henry, the very best in his recovery & our thoughts go to his family.

I have a particularly soft spot for our CERT team & its members who gave their time to help me just on 18 months ago when I needed them. For various reasons the team has lost several members recently & they are now down to a tiny, committed crew of 4! This is just not enough to service Blackwood on the week-ends let alone during the week (illness & accidents aren't selective in their timing!) Please if you live locally & would like to volunteer your time for a truly worthwhile service, think seriously about CERT. You will be fully trained & meet some great people in your community.

Speaking of emergencies, with summer & fire season upon us once again, pages 14 & 15 invite all rate payers to meetings to discuss survival & evacuation plans. These will be held on December 14 &, acknowledging the diverse population of our community, there will be an afternoon & evening meeting.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Blackwood News & remember, this is your local paper so if you have a story, a photo or something to say please email us - the deadlines for the next issue are below. If you wish have a timely reminder emailed subscribe @ www.blackwoodnews.com.au.

~ *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.

Feb/Mar '12 DEADLINES	Jan 15	Jan 20
Advertisers book space		
Regular Contributions		
Features & Items of Interest:		
Community Groups & Clubs		
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News, Classifieds, Gig Guide		

**NO late submissions will be accepted.** Submissions, display ads & articles can be emailed to [editor@blackwoodnews.com.au](mailto: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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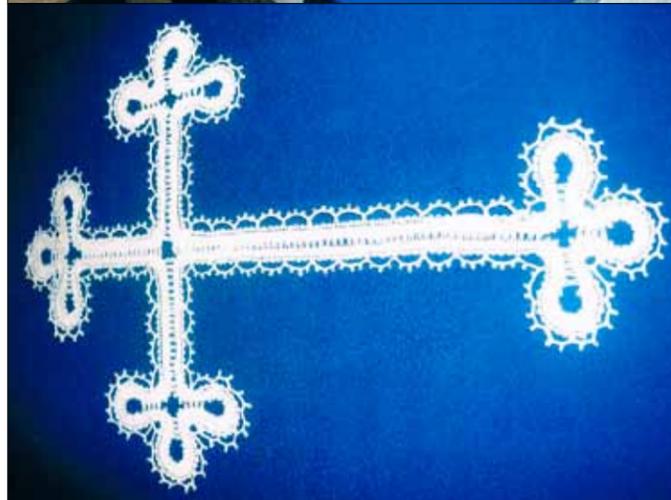


### HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

by Don Owen

Month & Year	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall Average (mm) 1879-2007	Minimum Temperature deg C	Maximum Temperature deg C
Sep'11	53	104	-1	22.1
Oct'11	91.8	94.1	0.5	25.3

**WE ARE** still slightly above the long-term rainfall average for the year up to the end of October due to the high rainfall we received in January & February



TOP: Erin Bridson's bobbin lace project MIDDLE: Her mother, Clare & grandmother, Gill produce bobbin lace for St Malachy's 150th.

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### THE BLACKWOOD GENTLEMEN'S ADVENTURERS SOCIETY

BY RODNEY LUNSCHALOT BGB VD & SCAR



Well, gentle readers of this fine publication, things in downtown Blackwood have been interesting since the last edition & expedition.

Our aged members returned from the fleshpots of St Kilda to a village that appeared to be at daggers-drawn over all sorts of issues which included the drinking of alcohol outside a local hostelry, an unhappy state of affairs at the Caravan Park, falling attendance & support for any of the Blackwood businesses & a general case of post-winter blahs that seemed to have settled on our fair village. There is an old saying that says "when the going gets tough the tough go for coffee", in our case when going gets tough the tough hop into our aged Land Rovers & retreat to a suitable distance, like the Pig & Whistle to ponder the issues with the benefit of the perspective that distance can sometimes provide. Distance plus wine is an almost fail-safe perspective enhancer

After some discussion & increasing volume, our aged members decided that they would away to Kyneton as someone had heard about an auction of WW2 equipment that might be of help in resolving some of the "issues" in Blackwood.

So, sometime soon, do not be alarmed if you hear the unmistakable clanking & clattering of a restored Tiger Tank that was purchased at auction for an alarming amount of money – some of which has still to be provided – clattering up Grace Street, on its way to Martin Street for what purpose we are not entirely sure. As Martin Peabody, the member whose idea this was, has a number of fairly alarming psychiatric problems, we must hope that Blackwood will see the error of its ways & return to the happy tranquil village it once was before Martin & his Tiger Tank arrives. It's quite strange that he should opt for an enemy armored vehicle ... but that's what shell shock does!

### & THE JUDGES SAID... COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA AWARDS 2011: BEST COMMUNITY CONTENT (33 ENTRIES) WINNER: BLACKWOOD NEWS

"All entries were impressive, with such a lot of dedication & community involvement evident. Congratulations to all entrants for the quality of their publications. Many communities have overcome great adversity, particularly after devastating events of nature. A great kindred spirit marked all the publications.

Although the Blackwood News is a black & white publication, there is still plenty of 'colour' in its pages. The local community is brought to life with an inviting, clever mix of news events, human interest & reader involvement. Readers are given a bird's eye view of the local community - & what a great place it seems too - through the pages of the Blackwood News, which canvasses everything from editor Jinny Coyle's thoughts to what's on at venues around town, new born youngsters & glamorous 'olders', even a happy bunch of fiddlers. The win "Mr Wabbit" competition, where kids- but probably lots of grown ups too – are challenged to count the number of bunnies in one issue, is a great idea. In addition, the history & travel tales are wonderful. So too, the reflective pieces from locals about their life experiences. With everything from lost & found to football tips, CFA updates & church rescue missions, the Blackwood News is a great read & a great insight into the local community. & was this deliberate? Almost everyone in the myriad of photographs seems to be smiling."

#### THE JUDGES:

**Anne Sutton:** Executive Assistant to Melbourne City Council's CEO. She has worked in local government for more than 25 years, first at Bendigo & then Melbourne.

**Roger & Mandy Calder** are retired teachers living in coastal Victoria. Roger has always had a keen interest in both history & media while Mandy's interest has been in language & communication. They share a concern for environmental & social justice issues.

**Kathleen Buchanan** is a widely published former Fairfax journalist who has also taught feature writing, news reporting, ethics, & international journalism at Monash University for 7 years. Kathleen has undergraduate degrees majoring in journalism from RMIT & an MA (Communications) from Swinburne Uni. She is embarking now on a PhD in creative writing.

**Sebastian Purcell, Karlie Italia, Eliza Wilkinson, & Jessica Evans** are 1st year journalism students who bring the insights & responses of youth to the judging this year.



### TREE CHALLENGE

The trouble with waste

by Genevieve Messenger



It's been a few issues since I wrote in the Blackwood news, probably because I've had a few issues with my writer's block. A bit like the sewerage at my place really. I think the pipes were laid down in the dark ages,

now they're blocked, which made me blocked & then I couldn't write anymore. You see?

Now there is a bit of stuff around the sewerage in Blackwood, when it is happening, is it happening & will someone be able to describe to me how my waste will be disposed of. I could pump out a few words now, & hope that gravity will catch them, but I would just be pooping you because I don't know the answers. Then you would pooh pooh me, because I can't explain the facts, & then I would be a bit flushed & stumped for words again. & that would stink.

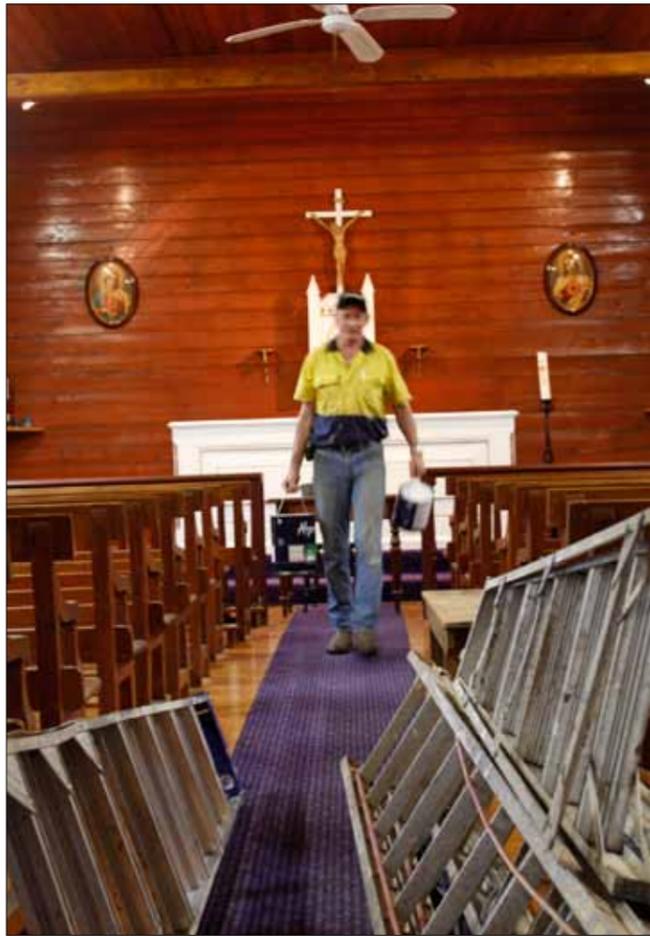
Lets put it this way, the waste at my place is tanked, & it would be great to move in any direction, right now, as long as it's in any direction AWAY from the nose. Nothing like the wafting smells of sewerage on a sunny romantic Blackwood afternoon. At my place it's for free, but up the road I still have to pay 50c for a bag of Horse Poo, so can someone please explain?

I really have said too much & should put a pipe in it now. But for some reason, I feel like writing a country song. Let me give it a go. Imagine I can actually play my guitar, I have plaits in my hair & a cute red chequered dress on: (Sings)

If it's yellow let it mellow or if it's brown flush it down  
Or I'll be tanked, when the sewerage comes to town  
What if the Turd Burglar  
Can no longer steal the logs  
And the good ol natural fertiliser goes to the doooooogs!  
They say get ready for a better, bigger pump  
Oh what's gonna happen  
When my neighbour has a dump!

Have a very fertile spring & summer everyone & try not to get too wasted. Good tidings to you all.





Preparing St Malachy's for its 150th anniversary celebrations 1864 - 2011.



### BLACKWOOD SOCIAL ALBUM: OCTOBER/NOVEMBER '11 LADIES DAY



Our local Real Estate agent, John Fitzgerald was pleasantly surprised when he caught up with an old school mate at the October Blackwood Revue.



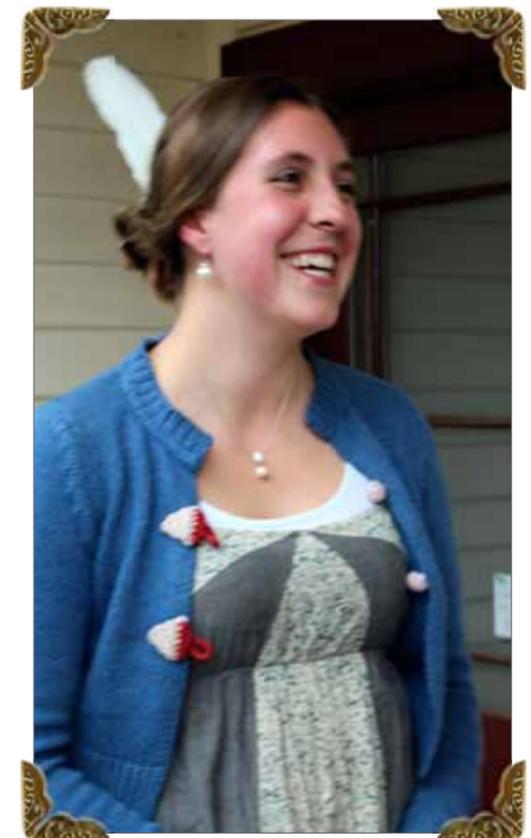
Oli Dear looks on as the girls compete for glory during a music break at the November Blackwood Revue. Photo courtest Geoff LeBlanc



Jodi (L) & Jill (R) compare notes ready for the next race at Ladies' Day.



Ladies' Day barman Brendan Hehir juggles his balls in preparation for another sweep.



Out of her ranger uniform, Nicola realised she didn't have the appropriate Ladies' Day headwear. Not to worry, a cockatoo feather out of the bush will do...

## The Cottage on Martin



In the heart of the tranquil village of Blackwood, a heritage cottage with oodles of charm & character, beautifully appointed with everything you need to escape from the hurly-burly of daily life. Two double bedrooms another

bedroom with two singles.

The Cottage sleeps six if they know each other well or four if only friends!



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**The Big Blackwood Christmas Bake Off**

*Saturday December 17*

Entries by 10am with Judging & Prizes at 11.00 am  
Morning tea and purchases from 11 onwards  
Blackwood Community Hall

♥ prizes for every category ♥ kids competition  
♥ buy your Christmas goodies ♥ contribute toward a community wood-fired baking oven for Blackwood

see the Blackwood News facebook page for more details  
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**ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
8am ~1st & 3rd Sunday  
**BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH**

For worship times & events across the Cluster go to: [www.highlandsclusteruca.org.au](http://www.highlandsclusteruca.org.au)  
Remember MEDITATION is each fortnight

**PARTY TIME?**  
HIRE TRESTLE TABLES & BBQ  
Blackwood Progress Association  
contact Elizabeth Hall  
**5368 6537**

a blackwood news community service notice

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Rock into 2012

**Dirty York**  
9pm

*New Years Eve @Lerdies, Blackwood*

weddings, parties, anything!  
hire the Blackwood Hall  
kitchen, stage, meeting room  
very reasonable rates phone 5368 6537



*Lerdies on Martin*  
wine bar & restaurant

*Trivia 7pm Saturday Dec 3*  
Bring a team of 4 or come on your own & we'll find you a team. Lots of prizes to be won.  
Booking preferred. Call 5368 6612

*New Years Eve @ Lerdies*

**Dirty York**  
\$15 cover charge

a Blackwood News sponsored community notice

**BLACKWOOD ACOUSTIC MUSIC REVUE**

SUNDAY DECEMBER 18

"Breaking up CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW" with special guest **FRANK FAIRFIELD (USA)**

**LERDIES ON MARTIN**  
44 MARTIN ST BLACKWOOD

Wines from McEvoy's. Take the Western Hwy to Blackwood exit and follow the signs through Greendale to Blackwood.

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• **EVENTS & GIG GUIDE** •

**DECEMBER 2011**

when	what	where
Fri 2	Tear n' Tease Ball	The Palais
	Carols in the Park	Trentham Quarry St Reserve
	Karaoke	Greendale Hotel
Sat 3	Trivia	Lerdies on Martin
Sun 4	Pete Rowland	The Cosmopolitan
Fri 9	Remedy Duo	The Palais
Sat 10	Tango Milonga	The Palais
Sun 11	Liz Frencham and Myles White	The Cosmopolitan
Fri 16	Black & Blue	The Palais
	Open Mike Night	The Cosmopolitan
Sat 17	The Prayerbabies	The Palais
	Trentham Farmers Market	Trentham Town Square
	Christmas Carols	Lyonville
	The Big Blackwood Christmas Bake-off	Blackwood
Sun 18	Cyndi Boste and Bianca Berto	The Cosmopolitan
	Santa visits Blackwood	Blackwood Hotel
	Blackwood Revue 'Breaking Up Christmas' Variety Show featuring Frank Fairfield (USA)	Lerdies on Martin
Fri 23	Carols by Twilight	Blackwood Uniting Church
Sat 31	Dirty York	Lerdies on Martin
	Truly Madly Deeply and Louis & The Jump Jivers	The Cosmopolitan
	NYE Dance Extravaganza late licence	The Palais

**JANUARY 2012**

when	what	where
Fri 6	The Neo	The Palais
Sun 8	Jazz & Folk Music Event	Lavandula
Fri 13	Tiny Ruins	The Palais
Sat 14	Trentham Farmers Market	Trentham Town Square
	Joe Black Trio	The Palais
Sun 15	Jazz & Folk Music Event	Lavandula
Sat 21	Hydrosis	The Palais
Sun 22	Passenger	The Palais

**THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN...**

Due to popular demand, Dirty York will be bringing in the New Year once again with their full-throttle rock show at Lerdies on Martin. This special local performance will showcase some brand new material from the lads in a jam-packed two hour (plus) show.

Come and check them out before they head off to Europe in March 2012. For more info please check out [dirtyyork.com](http://dirtyyork.com)

**THE GARDEN OF ST ERTH**



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Membership & gift vouchers available

**Dec 4: Summer Pruning Fruit Trees**  
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for information call St Erth on (03) 5368 6514 or visit our website [www.diggers.com.au](http://www.diggers.com.au)

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### A COLLECTION OF WAR MEMORIES (CONTINUED)

#### JACK RAYNER'S war experiences (CONT)

Following the bombing of Pearl Harbour in December, 1941, the Australians hoped that they would soon return home. The unit boarded the USS "West Point", formerly the largest US liner known in peacetime as the "America", sailed un-escorted to the next port of call, Fremantle, disembarked in Adelaide & moved by train to Brisbane. Finally, a tented camp was set up at Arakuan. Whilst there, Jack & his best friend, Jack Cooper, decided to seek transfers to the Air Force. After 2 weeks leave, Jack & his fiancée, Grace Fraser, were married on December 10, 1942 & on December 31 the 2 Jacks were discharged from the Army. They enlisted in the Air Force that same day. On completion of basic training, Jack opted to train as a navigator & his friend, Jack Cooper, chose a pilot's course. Following completion of a second course at Ballarat in November 1943, Jack graduated with a commission as a Pilot Officer Navigator/Wireless Operator. Sadly, he was to learn of the death several months previously of his great friend, Jack Cooper, during a night flying exercise at Deniliquin.

After a brief pre-embarkation leave, Jack sailed from Sydney on the USS "Mount Vernon" for San Francisco, then entrained for a four day trip across the America passing through Salt Lake City, the Rocky Mountains & Chicago to New York. After a delay caused by the disastrous fire in the New York harbour that destroyed one of the most beautiful passenger liners, the French "Normandie", he embarked for a second time on the "QE" for England. On disembarking, the Australians entrained for the RAAF Aircrew Personnel Depot at Brighton on the English south coast.

During a German air raid several nights later after arrival, a stick of bombs fell just beyond the end of the pier immediately in front of the hotel which shook quite violently. Incredible as it may seem, despite the hundreds of RAAF aircrew accommodated in two large hotels

"Incredible as it may seem, despite the hundreds of RAAF aircrew accommodated in two large hotels located right on the beach front at Brighton, no major air raids were made"

located right on the beach front at Brighton, no major air raids were made by the Luftwaffe in this area from bases just across the English Channel in France.

Whilst at Brighton Jack was posted to Canada for operational training on Mosquito fighter/bombers where he crewed up with Jack Palmer. Both Jacks remained firm friends until Jack Palmer's death in 2002. Everyone was excited at the prospect of flying the "Wooden Wonder", as the De Havilland Mosquito was known. This incomparable aircraft, mainly of wooden construction, was the fastest & most versatile World War II twin engined, propeller driven aircraft which carried only two aircrew. It could enter enemy territory almost undetected under the radar screen, intrude in to Europe by day or night as a fighter or fighter bomber, ranging freely at all times seeking out & attacking Luftwaffe airfields & transport, be it rail, road & water, provide army or bomber support & wreak havoc among enemy fighters & bombers. They destroyed over 650 enemy aircraft & brought down some 500 V1 flying bombs. The fighter/bomber versions were fitted with four 303" machine guns in the nose & four 20mm cannons

immediately below, could carry four 500 lb bombs & flares & cruise at 240 miles per hour (384 km ph) on a 1,000 miles (1,600 km) round trip. It was regarded by the Air Force as an aircraft with unsurpassed qualities that combined the manoeuvrability of a fighter with the payload of an American 4 engine heavy bomber with ten more crew. ... to be continued next issue



#### My Service in the RAAF WWII – Alan Wellsley Griffin 59697 LAC 30-7-42 to 4-3-46 (CONT)

The house we lived in was on the airfield property & about 200 yards from the hanger. Our duties at this stage consisted of maintaining a W/T watch from sunrise to sunset, the traffic mainly consisting of weather reports & reporting the unopposed flight over Broome of a 'Jap' reconnaissance plane daily about midday.

On one occasion I was to start the W/T morning watch, & that night I found a note on my bed from Hugh stating that the transmitter had gone on the blink. I also had the "Safe Hand Mail" to handpass on to the pilot of the mail plane at 6am just before take off.

As was the usual custom, the Mac Robinson Miller Mail Plane – a Lockheed 10A, was parked in front of the hanger overnight while the pilot & co-pilot slept at the hotel. My alarm clock was not working properly & I kept waking & checking my watch. The house had windows which opened out at an angle & from my bed under one of these windows I could see a reflection of the hanger.

In the early hours of the morning I saw the reflection of a flickering light from the direction of the hanger a couple of hundred yards away – yes, to my amazement the rear of the hanger was on fire. I raised the alarm, the pilots of the plane were informed & the plane was shifted to safety just in the nick of time. We had no fire fighting equipment & the fire was controlled with buckets of water. The fire started in a paint storage room at the rear of the hanger & nobody knew how or why as this was not in use at the time. The only loss was a couple of bomb trolleys & a "La Sale" tourer car parked in the hanger. The car had been abandoned in the

"We had no fire fighting equipment & the fire was controlled with buckets of water."



View from the M.V. Koolinda Coastal Transport Vessel through a starboard porthole as it leaves Fremantle WA.

evacuation & we often used it to drive to Cable Beach to swim. Not any more!

In a deserted town there wasn't much to do particularly at night, it was early 1943 & there was an army detachment of thirty men & ten RAAF personnel. The army detachment set up a canteen in the old Joss house along the road to the airstrip, & my memory of the Joss house was a large hall with the canteen at the rear end.

Our wireless operator mechanic Percy Sinclair often called in there to partake of his favourite drink which he called his "Green Goddess (Crème De Menthe). On this occasion he had had more than his share & was more than a little tipsy. The routine was an open tray truck would pick up the RAAF personnel at the Joss house at 2200 hours nightly & drive them back to the airstrip – otherwise you had to walk. This particular night an electrical storm was approaching & the truck arrived ten minutes early with a loud call for all RAAF personnel to hurry out to the truck which was leaving immediately to avoid the coming storm. With great haste, about half a dozen of us piled onto the open tray truck & off we drove to the airstrip where on arrival a head count revealed we were one man short.

The rain had started to pour down & on return to the Joss house we found Percy lying flat on his back in the open ditch drain in front of the Joss house with the water flowing past him – I don't know what Percy remembers about that night, but he fronted up for work the next day as good as gold.

... to be continued next issue

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Blackwood News thanks all advertisers for their support.



On behalf of the community, Linda & Laurie & the Blackwood Fire Brigade thank Lou Henderson very much for the 16 years he has sacrificed his own Christmas day to be one of Santa's major helpers.



### SOME EARLY MEMORIES OF BLACKWOOD

It was during the war when I first started school at Blackwood with all the classes up to grade 6 arranged in rows in the old school house. School in those days involved the walk to & from school (no getting dropped off by 4 wheel drive as is common nowadays) as well as going home for lunch. How I envied the kids who brought their lunches until eventually I was allowed to do the same. One day I was told that there was to be some event that would happen at school the following day that spooked us, so together with Johnny Richards, Teddy Walker & Noel Simmonds we plotted to wag it the following day. We spent a great deal of that day hiding behind a tree not far from the school & watched proceedings there. On that particular day, my father arrived home on leave from the Air Force & of course asked me "how was school today" to which I replied with a little fib being careful not to give my guilty secret away.

My closest friend was a girl down the road from us called Janice Bricker. We were inseparable & played together all the time. When Janice went to the bush nursing hospital at Trentham to have her tonsils out I went along for the ride. Little did I know that I was getting mine out as well -- what a con!! Doctor Wisewould was the most unforgettable doctor you could ever imagine, she dressed like a man had parties for dogs, went to balls & dances with her overalls underneath her evening gown but was well respected for being a most capable surgeon. I remember lying on the operating table asking her before I was anaesthetized with chloroform "Are you a man or a woman?" - Not very tactful when she was about to wield the knife. The recovery period was a few days in the Trentham Bush nursing hospital where I developed a lifelong dislike of jelly (easy on the throat).

"Aunt Jess" Bert Dwan's mother used to sleep at our house in a small sleep out on the verandah as she was nervous about sleeping by herself in her house which was on the other side of the road. Grandma (Lucy Sweet) & she would talk to each other through the wall between the two bedrooms until one went to sleep. Grandma, Aunt Jess & I used to sit around the fire at night & Aunt Jess would often say, "Luce, don't you think he should be in b-e-d. I learnt to read & spell at an early age & I quickly twigged that it spelled bed. In those days in Blackwood there was no electricity or gas & we did not possess a telephone. Perishable food was stored underneath the house in the cellar in Coolgardie safes & this area was the favored place to be in real

hot weather apart from down the river for us kids. We used to get our water from a tank, which stored water collected from the roof of the old house. This supplied all of the cooking & cleaning needs. There were certainly no such things as hot or cold running water for kitchen or bathroom purposes but the water was good & nobody ever got sick from it despite the occasional wriggler (mosquito larva) being present.

"Doctor Wisewould ... went to balls & dances with her overalls underneath her evening gown but was well respected for being a most capable surgeon."



Grandma kept chooks & there were two chook houses together with a separate shed where bran & pollard was stored in separate wooden compartments with large lids -- the smell of which was wonderful. I also had three bantams called "Chickyweet, Chuckaboo & little Lillypilly who seemed to live in an area called the duck house. Nowadays this is a dense thicket near the old house. The chooks were kept mainly for eggs & it was acknowledged that grandma was very good with them even performing operations on their crops & stitching them up when problems arose. Roast chook occurred about once a year - Xmas dinner & was a real luxury (although I never remember grandma killing a chook or getting someone else to do the dirty deed). Xmas dinner was a wonderful experience with threepenny & sixpenny coins hidden inside the Xmas pudding & what a thrill to be lucky enough to get some but I don't recall too many in my early days as money was very tight. Grandma often used to have a meal called "Japs & Germans" which was just lumps of bread floating in milk & sprinkled with sugar -- I used to like it! As it was war years, us kids used to play & yell out "bombs on Berlin" not really understanding that implication. Absolute bliss was when I was sent up with a billy to get scalded cream from Ern & Florrie Tyrell who had a cow -- I have never tasted cream as good.

My biggest fear was Callaghan's bull which lived in Barry's Reef & one day to my horror I saw it in our yard -- in those days cattle wandered around everywhere as there was little traffic. I quickly raced back inside the house & bolted all the doors.

In all, life at Blackwood was a happy period despite not having any modern conveniences or video games & computers that kids nowadays couldn't live without -- it required a fair amount of imagination (not needed much now) to invent games that were satisfying.

~ Don Owen



Blackwood News thanks Lee & Karl for their support & wishes them all the best in their future endeavors.



### THE ROCK WALL AT THE BACK OF THE BLACKWOOD SPORTS GROUND

BY MARGOT HITCHCOCK HISTORIAN FOR THE BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

I've been asked for some information on the holes drilled into the rock wall at the back of the Sports Ground at Blackwood, for a possible plaque to be placed there to remember the history behind the drilled holes.

I found an article relating to this in the The Bacchus Marsh Express Newspaper - January 11th 1902.

#### NEW YEAR'S DAY – SPORTS DAY – BLACKWOOD – 1902

The Blackwood sports committee and public generally was inclined to be pleased with the Clerk of the Weather on New Year's Day. The attendance at the sports was much as per usual, about £17 being taken at the gates. Mr T Vigor, secretary and numerous staff of stewards, managed the whole concern in a creditable way, the events being run through with celerity and to the satisfaction of the public

Following this report was a list of people who competed in various sport activities -

Riflemen's race, 5 entries, 1st A. Cocciardi; 2nd G Strangman; 3rd M. Cocciardi.

Hurdle race, 1st J.Coleman; 2nd P.Healy; 4 entries.

Miners race, 1st M. Cocciardi; 2nd A Cocciardi; 5 entries.

Half-mile race, 1st T.Healy; 2nd J. Daymon; 3 entries.

Figure 8, 5 entries, 1st A. Taylor, 36 sec.

Hop, step and jump, 8 entries, 1st J.Colman; 2nd T.Healy.

Cannon ball, 8 entries, 1st J.Colman, 21ft. 4in.

Throwing cricket ball, 18 entries, 1st, Colman, 95 yds.

Hammer and Drill contest, time 15 minutes, 1st. T.N.Terrill, A.Cocciardi, 19 inches.

Of interest to the Blackwood Sports on New Year's Day 1902 is a phone call the Author had from Kathleen Maxwell regarding a story her mother told her of her Grandfather Antonio Cocciardi who took part in the Blackwood Sports Day at the Blackwood Sports Ground. Her mother remembered a big grassed area with pine trees around and a big stone wall at the back end. On this wall Antonio told her that at the sports he entered a competition to see who was the fastest to drill a hole in the wall like they did in the mines where they would plug the hole with dynamite.

In the sports results above, A. Cocciardi (Antonio) won a prize for the Hammer and Drill contest and for drilling a hole of nineteen inches. The author went with 2 of her grandchildren to inspect the wall at the Sports Ground in January 2008 and found and photographed about 10 holes which would be the ones drilled for the New Year's Day Annual Sports Day. No doubt other holes were drilled on subsequent years if further newspapers were checked. In other sports results above we can see where A. (Antonio) Cocciardi also won the Riflemen's race and his brother M.(Michael) Cocciardi came third. In the Miner's race Michael Cocciardi came 1st and Antonio came second. The Cocciardi name is remembered by some people in Blackwood for the sign which used to say 'Cocciardi's Race' which was named after Vincenzo Cocciardi who lived in Blackwood with his family and built the water race behind the Mineral Spring over the bridge at Blackwood, which wound around the hill to Golden Point.

Researched by Margot Hitchcock from her forthcoming book 'The History and Pioneers of Blackwood', hopefully to be published soon.

For help with information on Blackwood ancestors contact Margot Hitchcock - email - margohitchcock@bigpond.com, or P.O. Box 43, Blackwood Post Office, Blackwood, 3458.



THREE MORE DRILL HOLES BESIDE SIGN ON ROCK WALL  
Photo courtesy of Margot Hitchcock. B.D.H.S.



SIGN ON ROCK WALL  
Photo courtesy of Margot Hitchcock. B.D.H.S.

#### BLACKWOOD NEWS CONTRIBUTOR WINS!

Congratulations to Heather Marsh who won the "Overall Winner: The Words in Winter Very Short Story Competition" for her 50 word story...

"If this were a biblical story the sepia of centuries would render it less savage. In cold, clean news-type it galls. Somalia: a 13 year-old girl, buried up to her neck is stoned to death for being raped. Our century of suffrage! A milestone of sorts- not the last stone."

The \$250 prize money was used to do a Sour Dour Baking Course at the Red Beard Bakery

**BLACKWOOD'S COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) NEEDS YOU...**  
**(YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE WILL NEED THEM)**  
**CALL TREVOR 5368 6742 NOW!**

Wishing everyone a Very Safe and Joyous Christmas  
from the Blackwood Progress Assoc.,Inc.

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powered & unpowered sites  
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Minerals Springs Picnic Grounds, BBQ's  
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### THE RECYCLED GARDEN

The blush of bush & blossoms

by Heather Marsh



After being obsessed with vegetables for about, oh, the small eternity it seems since I planted my pottager, a strange lifting of the veil seems to have happened & suddenly I have noticed... flowers. Maybe I was prejudiced (they can be twee can't they?) & maybe too pragmatic (if I can't eat it, why would I plant it?). Something about this spring &

summer, perhaps the fact that I'm pregnant & have to stop & do things more slowly, is forcing me to stop & smell the roses- literally.

There have been some lovely moments this season. A few of the native trees on my property have flowered for the first time since we moved here. One day everything was tightly furled knots of green promise & then the next it was as though the bush had let out a great sigh & expelled the most exquisite perfume of peppermint & resin sweetness.

A profusion of wattle, banksias, grevillias & bottle brush have made their presence known over the past few weeks in spectacular style, & I'm not the only one to notice. The number of birds in my garden is enough to inspire a Hitchcock film.

I was moping around the other day, feeling like a lumbering pregnant lump & wondering what to do with myself, when the thought occurred to me to go out & cut some flowers for the house. I used to do this all the time as a child: bring in handfuls of well-meaning clumps of my mother's garden for her to put in jam jars on our kitchen sill. On this particular day, my son & I were spoiled for choice & came in with armfuls of irises, azalea, flowering current, comfrey (a lovely fuzzy sort of blue - but get the Bocking 14 variety that doesn't end up popping up in the most inconvenient places), Wigella- a pink flowering shrub, & native peppermint.

A favourite wistful winter-time book that I used to leaf through as only eye-candy, The Cutting Garden, by Sarah Raven, has suddenly reappeared as a practical manual. I'm thinking already of next winter & spring & how I can furnish myself with year-round flowers for the house.

Oddly, the most obvious place for me to sow my new obsession is in the pottager. Vegetables & fruits need bees to pollinate them & bees, if you want them in droves, want nothing less than blossom heaven.

Another sensible place to start is to look at the patch down the back where we intend to plant a native border & start researching plants to attract more of our feathered friends. There is nothing more delightful than a cup of tea on a misty morning, kept company by the cheeky sideways glance of a gang-gang cockatoo or the flitting of superb wrens.

If you want to get on board with the research for your own garden I have found a couple great places to start: the Birds In Backyards website has some great general tips of planting for habitat. <http://birdsinboxyards.net/spaces/choosing-native-plants.cfm>

Also the Australian Native Plant Society <http://anpsa.org.au> is a wealth of great information for the novice (such as myself) on the different plant families, their needs & growth habits. Happy gardening from your own Blossom Dearie!

## The Axemans Rest

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Luxury self contained accommodation set in the beautiful village of Blackwood, right in the heart of the Wombat State Forest.

Quaint and charming, this fully renovated 2 bedroom cottage features queen beds, tastefully equipped modern kitchen and furnishings.

Wood heater set in original stone fire place. Relax on the front deck to watch the sun set over the ranges, then enjoy a BBQ on the old wood combustion stove, eating al-fresco in the outdoor entertaining area.

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e-mail: [info@theaxemansrest.com.au](mailto:info@theaxemansrest.com.au)



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## COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

### Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee Of Management

As the year comes to a close we look back at the things we have put money to this year,

- The Hall has been painted & had new curtains added
- The sports ground has been top dressed & the toilet block is underway
- The Hall bookings have been busy, thank you to all the people & groups who have been using it.

Thank you to Phil, Norm & Allan for grass cutting; to Phill Skinner for cutting grass & cleaning the Camp Hut; To John Davies & Brian Moore for all the work at the Sports Ground, for moving the hoses & all the watering. To Mrs. Moore for curtains in the Hall & arranging the Garage Sale, Thanks to stall holders, workers & visitors to the garage sale.

We say a late thanks to Karl & Lee for coffee provided for the working bee & wish them well. Last we thank Mike for working on the library & setting up a toy library in the New Year.

All these people volunteer their time free of charge along with our committee of Barbara, Brendan, Brian, Tony, Mike & David, they have day jobs but don't complain about going the extra mile when I am sure they would rather be doing something else.

Thank you all. A very HAPPY Xmas & a SAFE NEW YEAR

~ Elizabeth Hall, secretary

### Blackwood CERT

no report this issue

~ Bruce Henry, Team Leader

### Blackwood Cemetery Trust

~ no report this issue

### Blackwood CFA

In the event of power failures, when candles are used, make sure that they are placed in a safe position & clear of any flammable materials. If you retire before the power is restored, extinguish the candles & switch off all electrical appliances such as TV's irons & heaters etc.

By now all residents & ratepayers should have received a Fire Protection Plan prepared by the CFA specifically for Blackwood Township.

Please give this your attention it deserves, it may save your life. Blackwood is surrounded by hundred of hectares of dense scrub & in danger of a catastrophic bush fire.

Merry Christmas & a safe New Year from the Blackwood CFA

~ George Stockdale

### Blackwood/Barry's Reef LANDCARE

Rainfall at Barry's Reef from October 1 – November 15: 79 mms.

Weeds Forum: In celebration of 2011 being the 25th. Year of Landcare, chaired by the Member for Melton, Don Nardella MP, a Weeds Forum was held at the Blackwood Mechanics Hall on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 from 10 am until 2.30 pm. Invitations were extended to representatives from Moorabool Shire, DPI Bacchus Marsh, Lerderberg State Park, Melbourne Water, Vic. Roads, DSE, FOLDERG (Friends of the Lerderberg), Forestry Expert, Loris Duclos, plus representatives from Port Phillip & Western Port CMA & Ballarat CFA. President Shane Scanlan has written, "We are doing this to get a better understanding which agency is responsible for which weed in which particular situation. We'd like the forum to be wide ranging, but to focus specifically on useful outcomes for weed control & eradication in our area."

~ Pat Liffman, secretary

### Blackwood Historical Society

**Discover our heritage:** REMINDER TO ALL ... The Historical Society is always open to the community on our meeting days. These are the 1st Sat of each month, excluding January. The Police Stables are open for your viewing from 10.30 am. All most welcome. Apart from these times, we hold yearly Open Days on Easter & Melbourne Cup weekends.

On Easter Sunday we opened the Blackwood Police Stables to present our 'BACK TO SCHOOL' – theme of the early Twentieth Century. Many people attended & approval was voiced by visitors who had already seen the Sovereign Hill equivalent. Special thanks to Aline & Cathy Thompson for setting up the display.

The Society has had a very busy year, as reported to our most recent Annual General Meeting. Our Chairperson, Alan Hall detailed some of the activity for the year in his Annual Report. This is a summary of the key points of interest :

- Upgraded our meeting room
- Two Successful open Days
- We continue to develop our display of local photos
- Many on line requests for local history
- The production of our Tea towel featuring a local map for sale.
- Heating & Cooling of the Stables.
- Commencement of a fully secure storage shed
- We Championed the issue of improved Forest signage
- Our society became a share holder of the Trentham & Districts Community Bank of Bendigo
- Helped to save the Bunya Bunya tree in Barry's Reef – DSE attended to the problem

Thanks to all of our members & office bearers. Our next meeting is Dec 3, 2011 & the first meeting in 2012 will be held on Sat Feb 4 @10.30 am. New members are keenly sort.

We wish all our Blackwood community a safe & happy Festive season.

We hope that our summer visitors will come & take a look at what our Police Stables reveal about the History of our great town. One of our society members will give you a personal tour or point you in the right direction for information you might require about a family wedding, someone's funeral, research the inquest into deaths in Blackwood since the gold rush era.

~ Michael Boyd (secretary)

#### Looking after Blackwood, looking after the Lerdy

The Friends of the Lerderberg launched their book "The Lerderberg: Yesterday & Today; a Field Guide & local history" earlier in the year.

Members of the Blackwood Historical Society were present as well as contributors to the book & fellow bushwalkers. In the last six months 300 copies of the book have been sold; a 2nd edition is a possibility.

In the meanwhile we hope Blackwoodians will write up their favourite short walks around Blackwood & send them to Alan Hall of the Blackwood Historical society or to Pat Liffman of Barry's Reef.

It would be good to have an illustrated guide with maps & photos ready for publication by Easter 2013.

For further enquiries contact Michael Fox (03) 8390 2698

### Blackwood Playgroup

~ no report this issue

### Blackwood Progress Association

Wishing everyone a Very Safe & Joyous Christmas

~ Judith de Groot, Secretary.

### Blackwood Senior Citizen's Centre Inc.

Well here we are almost at the end of another year, with Xmas just around the corner, doesn't time fly-true is the saying that the older you are, the faster time goes by.

We have had a very good year at our club, both socially & financially-with some new members & sadly the loss of some.

We thank Antwenette for the diligence & care of the hairdressing

service; there are so many members to thank for their input & generosity in every aspect which has made our club so special to me & to our committee. De-anne & Wendy, our helpers in the kitchen, have been wonderful, we still miss our Dot who did such caring & thoughtful catering in the club, we wish her a return of good health & our best wishes for the future.

We have several outings planned before the Xmas break, firstly the Shell Club in Geelong- a great 2 course lunch & entertainment by the "Cronies", secondly our Xmas lunch up at Burembeet Hotel which we always enjoy.

Our club will resume on the 12th of January. Any new members will be made most welcome. We meet every Wednesday in the Blackwood Mechanics Institute 10:30 AM- 3PM. Membership fee \$8.00 All inquiries 53681561

We wish all the readers of Blackwood News a merry Xmas & a safe & happy New Year.

Until next issue

Kindest Regards

~ Barb Sweet, (Hon) secretary

### Blackwood Cricket Club:

#### A STORY FROM AN ON-LOOKER

Travelling down to St Anthony's ground in Melton for our first game in the GDCA , the boys were a little nervy (who wants to make the 1st Duck?) Losing the toss for New Captain Alan Salmon wasn't how we wanted to start, but with Young-Gun James Cann opening the batting with the ever reliable Travis Smithard, a good start was assured.

In no time the score was 48 with Travis then being adjudged LBW. James continued on his merry way with a 50 quickly approaching, he tried a one handed flick, only to be caught for 46. The team then lost both Rob Whan & Steve O'Brien with the score on 91.

A steady loss of wickets saw the side reach a total of 136 when the last wicket fell. One positive was there were NO ducks ...

Defending this score was always going to be tough on the small oval, no-one told the Sammo brothers though & Dave had 2 of their batsman out before the rain hit. With just 20 minutes lost, Dave collected another scalp, Russell chipped in with 2 before Al grabbed his 3 wickets. Throwing the bat had St Anthony's at 8 / 94, so anyone's game. The opposition's captain kept his nerve to guide them within 10 runs of victory until VP Wade, running backwards, reached out to take & hold onto a one handed screamer. With the game in the balance, a run here & a snick there saw the game slipping away. Courageous Captain Al diving full stretch for a match-winning catch just failed to grasp the last chance, thus losing by just the 1 wicket.

In summary, a good game, played in the right spirit of the game.

**EDITORS NOTE:** Is it just me or is this written in a different language?



### BLACKWOOD PROGRESSIVE GARAGE SALE

SUNDAY MARCH 11, 2012

For further information please contact:-

President: Mr. Lou Henderson 53686703

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Judith de Groot 5368 6697

Treasurer: Mrs. Elizabeth Hall 5368 6537

Blackwood Progress Association Inc.

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### Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc.

**IT IS** difficult to comprehend that in 1992 Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. hosted a one-off Mt Biking Riding event through the Wombat State Forest. The event was known as the Super Ride. Due to the success of the Super Ride in 1992 it was the local township of Blackwood that approached the Centre to enquire for the dates of the event in 1993. Now as a direct result of everyone's enthusiasm, support, interest & involvement in the event, the Super Ride celebrated its 20th year at the beginning of November 2011 – & has challenged over 1,800 students throughout its 20 year history.

**ONCE AGAIN** the Super Ride was a wonderful success & thoroughly enjoyed by 107 students & 48 staff from 18 Victorian Special Schools

**THE SUPER** Ride is now a permanent fixture within the Annual Calendar of Victorian Special Schools & attracts School from right across the State.

**BLACKWOOD SPECIAL** Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. would like to thank everyone for once again supporting our Super Ride & making sure it was once again a wonderful success. Thank you:- Blackwood Crown Reserves, Blackwood & Trentham CFA, Ballan Lioness Club, Trentham Lions Club, Victoria Police, St John's, Geoff & Jeannette Morris, Moorabool & Hepburn Shires, VicRoads, DSE, Fred & Brian Moore, David & Jill McCallum, Glen Piercy, Ian Williams, John McCallum, Lee from Cobb & Co., Michael Boyd & Allan. We look forward to challenging more students in the future.

## BLACKWOOD EASTER CARNIVAL

Saturday 7th April, 2012

Volunteers to help Friday April 6, Saturday April 7 & Sunday April 8, '12  
We would appreciate your help even if it is for only one or two hours.

For further information please contact:

President: Mr. Lou Henderson 53686703

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Judith de Groot 5368 6697

Treasurer: Mrs. Elizabeth Hall 5368 6537

Blackwood Progress Association Inc.

Next Meeting will be on the December 14, 2011  
at Blackwood Mechanics Hall, 7.30pm,

**New Members Welcome**



Blackwood Uniting Church

Christmas Carols By Twilight 5pm

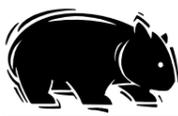
Friday December 23

a Blackwood News sponsored community notice

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# BLACKWOOD COMMUNITY EVACUATION INFORMATION

## VICTORIA POLICE INVITES BLACKWOOD RESIDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT EVACUATION PLANNING

**The threat of bushfire for the Blackwood community is very real. With no suitable Neighbourhood Safer Place, Victoria Police and other emergency service organisations are developing the Blackwood Evacuation Plan.**

To assist in developing an informed evacuation plan we want to hear from residents about their own bushfire survival plans.

- What do you intend to do on high bushfire risk days?
- Do you have any local information that may assist Victoria Police with planning for an evacuation? This could include identification of people who live in isolated areas or local knowledge about potential evacuation points.

Key topics to be discussed include:

- What can the community expect in the event of an emergency and evacuation
- What to do when advised to evacuate
- What threats may trigger an evacuation

The Evacuation Plan will cover the townships of:

- Barrys Reef
- Blackwood
- Dales Creek
- Golden Point
- Simmons Reef

In the event of a bushfire, an evacuation plan will assist emergency services to relocate people from a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation to a safer area. However, any evacuation will be a last resort and leaving early is the safest option.

We hope you are able to join us for this important discussion. If you are unable to attend and would like further information please contact:

Victoria Police:  
Sergeant Ken Tingate, Ballan Police Station 5368 1303  
Moorabool Shire Council:  
Cherie Graham, Municipal Emergency Manager  
53667100 or info@moorabool.vic.gov.au

Location	Date	Time	
Blackwood Community Hall	Wednesday 14 Dec 2011	3.30pm to 5.30pm	Afternoon tea provided
Blackwood Hotel	Wednesday 14 Dec 2011	7.00pm to 8.30pm	Supper provided



VICTORIA POLICE



**LEAVING EARLY IS THE SAFEST OPTION. ANY EVACUATION WILL BE A LAST RESORT.**

## INVITATION - BLACKWOOD COMMUNITY EVACUATION PLANNING

Victoria Police & the CFA invite residents of Blackwood, Barrys Reef, Dales Creek, Golden Point & Simmons Reef to an information session about evacuation planning.

For the first time, Blackwood will have an evacuation plan in place, ready for the bushfire season.

"There is little doubt the threat of a bushfire for Blackwood is very real. With no Neighbourhood Safer Place, the only option is evacuation.

"Community members & visitors to the area need to have a plan, know their trigger point for action & stay informed. In all situations leaving early is the safest option", said Inspector Mick Myers of Victoria Police.

"We are inviting the community to learn more about how an evacuation might unfold & what they can expect if the town is under imminent threat".

"To assist in developing the evacuation plan, we want to better understand what the community intend to do on extreme & code red fire days & if there is any local knowledge that could inform our planning.

"We expect that everyone working & living around the Blackwood area will have their own well practiced bushfire survival plan.

"It's important the community understand that in fast moving emergencies, such as a bushfire, no one should rely on receiving a call or warning to evacuate or expect that the emergency services will come to their property.

"Everyone is responsible for their own actions & safety & knowing what to do & where to go. I can't stress enough that leaving early is the safest option, any evacuation will be a last resort.

"Evacuation planning is an important conversation & we look forward to discussing the plan with the community," said Inspector Myers.

Wednesday 14 Dec 2011: Blackwood Community Hall 3.30pm to 5.30pm, Afternoon tea provided or 7.00pm to 8.30pm Blackwood Hotel, Supper provided

If you are unable to attend & would like further information please contact: Victoria Police: Sergeant Ken Tingate, Ballan Police Station 5368 1303 or Moorabool Shire Council: Cherie Graham, Municipal Emergency Manager 53667100 or info@moorabool.vic.gov.au.

If you require further information please contact Rachael Murnane, Red Strategic Communications on 0410 455 027.

**New Blackwood Water Storage Basin**



As part of works to increase the water storage capacity for Blackwood and Barrys Reef, Central Highlands Water (CHW) will be constructing an additional water storage basin adjacent to the existing basin in Cummings Lane, Barrys Reef.

Works are schedule to commence in November 2011 and are expected to be completed by June 2012.

As a result of these works, there will be increased heavy vehicle movements on Thurgoods Lane North and Cummings Lane, Barrys Reef, between the hours of 7.30am and 5.30pm on weekdays, with the possibility of some weekend work, for the duration of the project.

It is expected that traffic disruption will be kept to a minimum during the construction period. Please ensure you obey all signage and be aware of construction traffic at all times.

This project is being delivered as part of CHW's 2008-2013 Water Plan for the Blackwood community.

For further information please call CHW on 5320 3100 or 139 2837.



Joe Thrift (fiddle) & Tom Riccio for the Red Hots played the night away at the Radio Springs Hotel with our own Nick Dear. The Red Hots were brought to Australia to play the Harrierville Bluegrass Festival which Janet Dear has organised for nigh on 20 years. Watch out for her next big import from USA, Frank Fairfield, who will be special guest at the Blackwood Revue "Breaking Up Christmas" Variety show @Lerdies on Dec 18.

## MOORABOOL SHIRE COUNCIL COMMENCES DISCUSSIONS AROUND PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY FIRE REFUGE PILOT PROJECT.

Moorabool Shire Council has commenced discussions with the Fire Services Commissioner Craig Lapsley regarding participation in the Community Fire Refuge pilot project, specifically for the township of Blackwood.

The Victorian state government announced their Fire Refuges policy in October in line with the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission recommendations to identify, establish, manage & maintain Community Fire Refuges in Victoria.

Community Fire Refuges are defined as designated, purpose-built or modified buildings that are open to the public to provide short-term shelter from the immediate life-threatening effects of a bushfire event.

Craig Lapsley has written to Council identifying Blackwood as being in the highest risk category & requesting Council's assistance in the pilot project.

At the Ordinary meeting of Council on 16 November, Council carried a resolution to consider a report on 7 December 2011 in relation to the potential Community Fire Refuge in Blackwood & that the recommendation will contain support in principle for a Community Fire Refuge subject to further details being considered. Council have also invited the Commissioner to meet with Councillors to discuss the matter in further detail.

Moorabool Shire Mayor Cr Pat Griffin is quick to remind residents that while this project should offer some short-term shelter should a fire event occur; it should not take priority over the option to leave early. "Leaving a high risk area early is still the safest option. These refuges are designed to be another contingency, not a reason for residents to be complacent on Code Red or high-risk days. Leaving early is still the most important advice we can give."

"The CFA has issued repeated warnings about the high risk this summer for fast-burning grass fire, which can travel at a frightening speed. This alone is a great example; when fire is travelling at such a speed & with such ferocity, there may be no time to wait - it might be too late. We can't say it often or loud enough: leave early."

The Refuges will incorporate the new building regulations for fire risk areas, designed to cope with radiant heat, ember attack, convective heat, flame, wind & smoke.

Council will consider the report further at their 7 December meeting.

~ Shane Marr, Acting Chief Executive Officer Moorabool Shire

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### BLACKWOOD COBB & Co. TEA ROOMS

& LITTLE LOLLY SHOP

YOUR HOSTS: LEE & KARL

To the Customers of the Blackwood Cobb and Co Tearooms, It is with great regret that we have had to close the tearoom on a permanent basis. We have appreciated the wonderful people we have met and the support we have been given over the two years we

have run the cafe. We have learned a lot and hope we were able to provide you a nice place to visit. We will continue to live in the Blackwood area and hope to see you all around the town. with thanks, Lee and Karl.



### FOR THE KIDS... BY BEV COOPER

#### FIND A FACT about Tassie Devils...

What colour are Tassie Devils? What are their babies called? How many babies do they have? How many babies can survive? What is happening to a lot of our Devils & why do you think this is happening?

#### TRUE OR FALSE...

Tassie Devils eat People! There are odd instances of people lost in the Tasmanian bush & many months later items such as watches, pocket knives etc, engraved with the name or number or ID found amongst evidence of devil activity. They don't go much for plastic or tin ... although they like to chew on mugs & plates, not too keen on metal, & wood is not real choice either.

ANSWER: Devils do NOT attack humans, they are actually quite shy.



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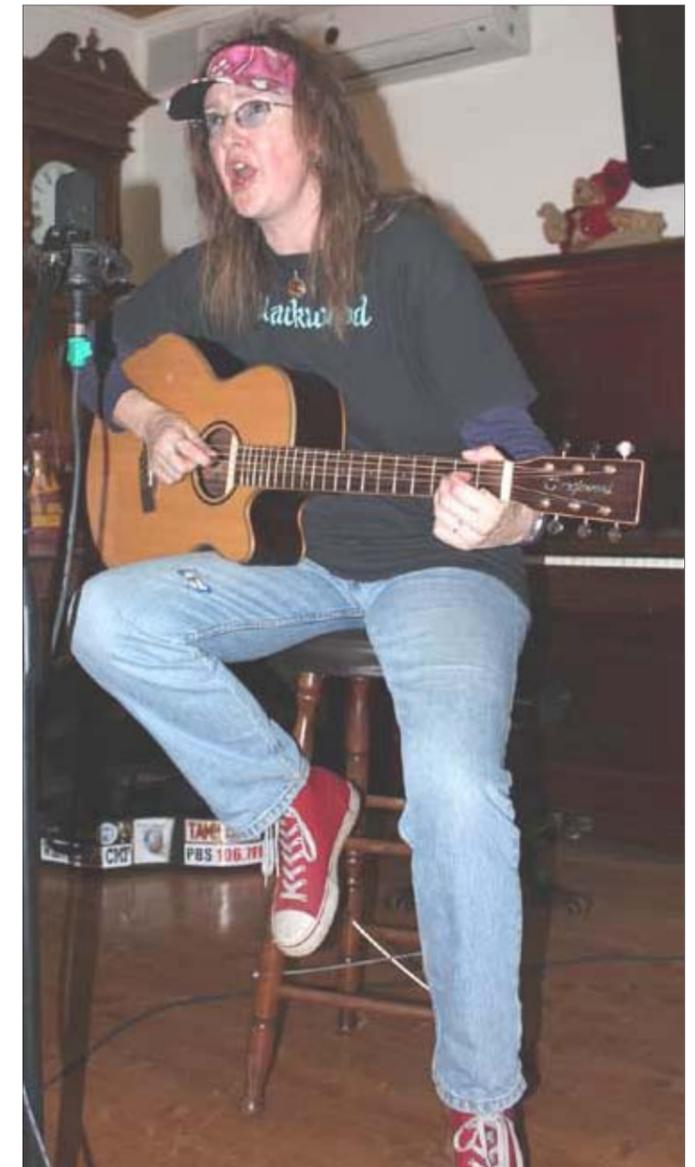
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Lauren Lee Williams, who won a place in the Folk Song Competition at Galax VA, belts it out for Blackwoodians at the November Revue. In early December she leaves for Lynchburg VA. All the best Lauren ... we'll miss you girl!

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



Find out other URGENT news  
http://twitter.com/blackwoodvic



### Your local state MP, Mr Don Nardella MLA

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

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7 Days from 22nd Dec - 10th Jan

## Merry Christmas



**Trading hours**  
Thursday 9am-6pm  
Friday 11am-11pm  
Saturday 10am-11pm  
Sunday 9am-5pm  
Monday 9am-5pm

## BLACKWOOFs:



**ALTHOUGH THEY** both come from lost dog's homes (& were saved from the ultimate put-down) & they look like brother & sister, Holly & Charlie are very different dogs. Holly (almost 4) is a Doberman/Labrador, while Charlie (18 months) is the product of a Kelpie/Huskie lovefest, probably the 2009 Australian Goodwill Tour of the Arctic Regions. The swim back from Siberia or Alaska would not have fazed Charlie, a fan of water, yet Holly won't go near the stuff as she has undersized Doberman paws & lacks the webbing between her toes needed for efficient dog paddling. Not her fault.

**DO YOU** remember how Walt Disney introduced eye brows to his cartoon animals? He did it to help them express emotions on screen. No trouble for Holly & Charlie, who were born with "eye-brows" – a term coined by the Bridsons for their dogs' tan accouterments.

**THE WHITES** of dogs' eyes have also evolved (or been bred) to communicate emotions to humans. Eyes & brows must be hard at work when the family chase the poor beasts around the house with the remote-controlled car. These dogs are fast outside but are no match on polished floor boards for a monster on rubber wheels.

**HOLLY & Charlie**, guys, it's just a peice of plastic. Eat it.

~ Jimmy Olsen

## Dear Pet Guru,

I am a small girl living next door to the broken down horse in the Blackwood paddock, the one with whom you frequently correspond. Do you think if I get some sticks & tie them to his head do you think that Santa may mistake him for a reindeer & give him a job at Christmas?

~ signed Small Girl



Dear Small Girl,  
I don't know but it's worth a try. While you are tying the sticks on, please give him a kiss from me.

Pet Guru

Love Pet Guru? The whole series is now available as individual postcards look for them @ The Blackwood Merchant & Blackwood PO

## WHAT'S UP DOC?

Doc makes a herbal skin lotion for cuts, bites & stings that has become very popular for both animals & humans & is safe on children. You only need a small amount, so it lasts. People always re-order a jar when it runs out & their friends buy a pot once they have given it a try.

He is also in demand for his homeopathic weak lamb drops. Recently twin kid goats were born at the Bullarto primary school & one of them, a male, was too weak to suckle. A few drops in the mouth & with some directions he was on the teat.

Doc witnesses miracles almost every day & loves being there for the animals. He has been really busy this year & now has completed the draft for a book which is due to go to the publishers soon. It contains whisperings from the horses living in our community & is made up of short quotations & messages for humans with wonderfully visual intuitive drawings by Valezka McDonald. If that is not enough, Doc is writing a manuscript on his veterinary journey for a television documentary.

Some time ago Doc found "Tiny", dead on Whalebone Road & sends his belated condolences to Norma & family.

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### BLACKWOOD ON SHOW FOR THE WEDDING OF THE YEAR

The weather was absolutely stunning & 26 Martin Street looked quite remarkable! The wedding guests at Mike Allen's youngest daughter's wedding were blown away by Blackwood on Show.

Blackwood's own Genevieve Messenger was the celebrant, making sure that it was a wonderful ceremony.

The service team that came together were all from Blackwood. Issie lead the catering, Jonno, Carina & Connor helped Monica while Sophie served. The whole thing worked! Although Margaret & Mike have agreed that wedding planning is not going on their CV's.



Mike with his daughter Karen & her newly wed husband, Lou. At the time of this photo Margaret was of grabbing some well-earned bubbles.

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### HEALTH BASICS: TAME THOSE WILD WINDS



by Kathie Strmota

In this issue we look at flatulence. It's a smelly subject & not usually a serious health issue, but excessive flatulence can be painful as well as socially embarrassing. It results from increased amounts of intestinal gas, produced during digestion & released under pressure as 'wind'.

Metaphysically, flatulence indicates a habit of taking in things (information, ideas, experiences) which you 'don't want to swallow' or which don't agree with you. You try to absorb it all & solve all problems, including those of others. At the same time, you don't easily express your own needs but, instead, anxiously cover up your difficulties. You end up full of undigested experience which bloats up inside. If you suffer flatulence, try to be more discriminating. Take life in smaller portions, & choose only what is good for you & what you can easily 'digest'. Don't take in more than you can handle & release feelings of responsibility for others' problems. Accept your limits & learn to say 'no'. Create structures in your life that allow you to unburden, & allow your thoughts & feelings to be freely expressed. You will then be able to relax inwardly again, & life will flow through you more easily.

Physically, excess gas can be caused by eating too fast & not chewing food properly, or by an unhealthy intestinal tract which struggles to deal with certain food components, like proteins (meats, legumes, nuts) & complex carbohydrates. Sulphur-rich foods (onions, cabbage family, prunes) & fibre foods (bran, fruits&vege) can also increase flatulence as they encourage 'cleaning out', but this is a good thing - better out than in, as they say!

Food sensitivities (an inability to digest certain foods) can cause flatulence, & it may help to note whether some foods always make you more 'windy' to identify whether you may have a food sensitivity. Pay particular attention to dairy (lactose intolerance) & wheat (gluten intolerance or wheat allergy).

If flatulence is not caused by a specific health issue or sensitivity, the most likely cause is an imbalance of intestinal flora (too many 'bad bacteria', not enough 'good bacteria') leading to inefficient digestion. A probiotic supplement (eg. acidophilus & bifidus), taken continuously over three months, can help restore balance. Support this by gradually increasing fibre-rich foods, or a fibre supplement, to

help clean out the bowel.

To relieve discomfort & pain, carminative herbs relax the smooth muscle of the small intestine, which tends to contract around swelling pockets of gas & cause pain. A strong herbal tea made from equal parts of German Chamomile, Peppermint & Fennel can ease this. The homeopathic tissue salt MagPhos, available from most health shops & some chemists, can help to ease cramps (take as directed). Massage the diluted essential oils of Basil, Peppermint, Orange or Marjoram into the stomach area, or add them to a bath, to relieve discomfort.

The following simple Yoga posture can help 'locked-in' gas pockets find their way out of the body. Lie on your back. Bring your knees up to the chest, folding the legs. Wrap your arms around your legs, place one hand on the other & take hold of the wrist. Slowly lift your head off the ground, bringing your nose between the knees. Hold this position for five deep, slow breaths. Then breathe in & lower your head slowly to the floor as you exhale. Repeat three times.

Affirmations to reduce flatulence: I relax, keep it simple, & allow life to flow through me with ease. I accept my limitations, release all burdens, & surrender all worry for others.

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TOP 10 downloads	October 2011	to 28 Nov 2011
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Dec '09 Jan '10		55
AprMay '10	709	728
JunJul '10	328	291
OctNov '10	412	108
Dec '10 Jan'11		687
FebMar '11	313	
AprMay '11	428	
JunJul '11	1173	108
AugSept '11	565	85
OctNov '11	8355	2270
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,283</b>	<b>4860</b>

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~ Fair Trading Act advertising requirement June 2004

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### Running for their lives

Since the first Relay For Life at Lancefield Park in 2003, the event has raised almost \$870,000 for the Cancer Council Victoria. Registration is \$20 for individuals & can be made online up until late February.

Relay For Life is an opportunity to remember those whose lives have been lost as a result of cancer, to support those having treatment, & to celebrate survivors & carers. Money raised is spent on cancer research, education, advocacy & support services.

The 2012 Relay is on the weekend of March 3 & 4. Teams are invited to camp overnight, while their challenge is to keep their batons on the track for the duration of the event (19 hours).

For details about entering a team, joining the committee or volunteering before or during the Relay, contact Melissa on 0438 831 427 or Nadine 0439 399 838.

Donations can be made online at [www.relayforlife.org.au](http://www.relayforlife.org.au). Just follow the prompts to the Lancefield/Macedon Ranges event.

For those who love **Christmas Carols**, the Lyonville Hall Committee will be holding Carols by Candlelight on Saturday the 17th of December in conjunction with the Kyneton Car Club.

Carols start at 7.00. For further information please phone Shirley on 5348 5990 or 0427 542 811 or email [marvin@skymesh.com.au](mailto:marvin@skymesh.com.au)



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# BEYOND BLACKWOOD...

## WE WON.

Lyonville Community Planning Group submitted an application to the Victorian 2011 Australian Safer Communities Award which was presented on Thursday 20th October.

Tony Corneille and Jules Berzin attended the presentation feeling that there was not really much chance of winning but the experience would be worth the trip - fortunately this was not the case our name was called out as being the winners of The Volunteer/Community Group Category.

This award reinforces our resolve to continue with our fight to get a Fire Shed and Appliance for Lyonville in addition to the other initiatives that we have started to make our town safe and welcoming.

## LYONVILLE - A little town with a big story

1. What triggered the project? The Lyonville community began working to develop a Community Action Plan in July 2009 to connect residents & explore opportunities for action & positive change to enhance the well-being of the community. Lyonville, a small town in the Wombat Forest between Daylesford & Trentham has only around 100 residents.

The goal was for the Lyonville Community Action Plan to be used as a key document to assist the community to achieve identified goals. It was hoped the process would bring people together.

The Hepburn Shire Council supports communities in the Hepburn Shire who wish to develop their own Community Plan & has been involved throughout the process. Initially the Council facilitated a community meeting. 35 residents attended & broke into groups for a workshop to develop a list of priorities for the town.

The top priorities involved concern about bushfire, these were:

- Improved mobile phone coverage & wireless internet
- Need for town emergency plan & fire preparedness - community effort
- More control burn-offs
- Need for CFA light tanker

A group of residents formed to work on the Community Action Plan & developed a 12 month work plan, broken down into six areas:

**Civic plan:** Lyonville hall (upgrades/improvements/events/activities), Town newsletter

**Fire plan:** Town emergency plan & fire preparedness, CFA Tanker

**Environmental plan:** Control burn-offs, Roadside tree planting, Control of noxious weeds

**Services plan:** Improved roads, Town signage - entrances, historical, walking trails etc, Infrastructure, such as post boxes

**Communications plan:** Mobile phone & wireless internet coverage

**Tourism plan:** Re-establishment of tourist railway, Bike trails/walking trails/paths

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## FROM TRENTHAM LIONS

### Carols in the Park - Fri Dec 2

FREE. Join us for a great evening of wonderful entertainment on the lawns of the Quarry Street Reserve in Trentham. Lions BBQ from 6.30pm - Live entertainment starts 7.30pm. Bring a rug, relax & sing along with the Xmas Spirit. Father Xmas will make a visit to see the children. Enquiries - Betty 5424 1127 or John 5424 1460.

### Elderley Citizens Xmas Dinner - Fri Dec 9

FREE - all our 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 with entertainment & Father Xmas will be there to cheer you on. BOOKINGS A MUST : Lyn 5348 5568.

### Monthly Dance Program

Old Time Dancing is held on 2nd Friday each month in the Trentham Mechanics Hall. Dances start at 8pm. Admission is \$8 per person, including supper & a door prize draw. Alternate dances are held in aid of the Trentham Historical Society & Trentham Lions Club. Music is by Family Rhythm. Enquiries: Elizabeth 5424 1254.

Dates for the next few dances are:

Friday 9th December - theme 'Nursery Rhymes'  
Friday 8th January 2012

### Farmer's Market Sat Dec 17 & Jan 14

The 3rd Saturday monthly @ Trentham Town Square. 9 am - 1pm. STUFF YOUR PANTRY with fresh eggs, cheese, fruit & vegetables, dips, preserves, wine, sourdough & yummy sweet treats along with raffles, & local entertainment. Family fun for all - Father Xmas will be there for the children in December. Enquiries: Tracey 5424 1185 / 0447 836 171.



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George Stockdale's mates, Buddy & Tammy inspect the progress at the re-surfaced Sports Ground. They reckon the grass will be ready for them pretty soon!



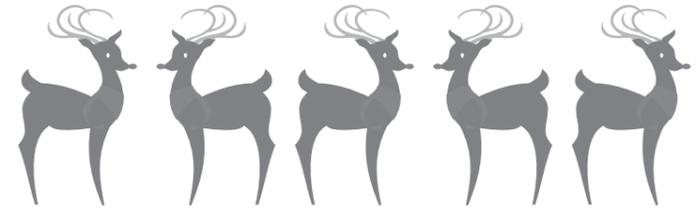
Lachlan Bellette leaves the massive market at Blackwood Hall with a basket full of goodies.

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Geoff LeBlanc spotted this family of Kookaburras on a power pole between Lerdies & The Blackwood Merchant during the November Blackwood Revue. What do you think they are chatting about?

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