



OUR LITTLE VILLAGE GETS ITS FAIR SHARE

Tanya was minutes away from jumping in the car & heading to work when a massive pine tree fell across the road & crushed her poor Commodore (known around town as UH MY GOD! because of its number plate).

With floods, landslides, fallen trees, demolished bridges & poor UH MY GOD!, Blackwood received its share of the calamitous weather-related events which spanned the nation this new year.

Blackwood News has pictorial & video coverage of the January chaos on-line.

photos: facebook.com/blackwoodnews

video footage: youtube.com/blackwoodnews

emergency updates: twitter.com/blackwoodvic

FOR YOUR DIARY...

Feb 5 Lyonville Woodchop p16

Feb 18-20 Fiddlers Convention p17

Mar 13 Bullarto Tractor Pull

Mar 19 Firemans Ball p11

Mar 26 Bullarto Bushdance p21

GIG & EVENTS GUIDE p5



EDITORS THOUGHTS ...

Wow, what a big couple of months we've had in Blackwood, & what a start to 2011.

One of the dilemmas I've had since I took on the publication of Blackwood News is how to get bits & bobs published between issues.

During the January floods I decided to use facebook as a more immediate vehicle for photos, information & events. You don't have to have a facebook page to view us @ facebook.com/blackwoodnews but if you do have your own facebook page, you can 'like' the Blackwood News page so, as I put up new photos or events, they will show on your wall. We also have video footage of the floods on youtube.com/blackwoodnews - turn your volume up cos the sound is really powerful!

Thank-you to those folk who sent or dropped in their own pictures - particularly since my camera was water damaged when I went out taking photos. I haven't had time to label all the facebook pics with locations & comments - if you know where a photo was taken - feel free to add comments. Thanks Margot for your help with this!

If you take photos you think Blackwoodians would enjoy please email them (editor@blackwoodnews.com.au) or burn them to CD & pop them into the Blackwood PO or the drop box outside the Blackwood Merchant. Please include your name so I can credit the photos to you.

Blackwood News is your community news & relies on your input so please submit articles, poems, stories etc by the deadlines below.

On a final note, please be sure to support our local businesses who all lost a lot of food during our 20 hour power outage.

~ 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
Nov '10	183.2	74	1.8	29.4
Dec '10	62.4	62.2	2.9	36.1

NOVEMBER HAD the highest rainfall since 1971 when it was 188.8mm. The record for the most rain in November was 241.2mm in 1887. The total rainfall for 2010 was 1184.6mm which is considerably more than the average of 975mm. This is the highest rainfall year since 1993 when 1247.6mm was recorded.

OUR MS LAUREN LEE WILLIAMS REALLY DID IT THIS TIME!



Blackwoodian Ms Lauren Lee Williams has won the Tamworth Songwriters' Association prize this year. She won the Tamworth Songwriters "New Songwriter" award with her song "Happy Birthday To Me"; a wonderfully sad but equally funny ballad.

These days far too much rock & pop music is now being described as Country Music, therefore it's great that Lauren's creativity has been recognised & rewarded nationally. Lauren writes the kinds of sad & funny real Country Music songs, reminiscent of Hank Williams, Buzz Bussby, Willy Nelson & Tammy Wynette.

Ms Lauren Lee is a singer, songwriter & nationally known poet who recently won the Maldon Song writing award. What few people know about her is that she was probably Australia's first woman "rapper" who appeared with her band on the Denton Show on TV. Lauren has also been a performance poet in Colombia & Venezuela. She is well known as a "performance poet" appearing in many venues around Australia as well as in many schools.

Also Blackwoodians, the Dear family are world class Bluegrass musicians. They supported Ms Lauren Lee on her most recent CD "Union of Romantic Fools" (on sale at the Blackwood Merchant & Cobb & Co Tearooms). Her prize-winning song "Happy Birthday To Me" can be heard on the CD.

You will be able to hear the Dear Family, as well as Ms Lauren Lee Williams, at the Blackwood Fiddler's Convention 18-20th of February. If she's been rostered on, you may have to see her play in her Blackwood C.E.R.T uniform.

Heartfelt congratulations Lozza!

~ Johnny Kesselschmidt

BLACKWOOD SOCIAL ALBUM - NEW YEAR & THE UNSOCIABLE WEATHER



Blackwoodians & visitors danced the New Year in at Blackwood Hotel



Tree down in Golden Point Road



Landslide on the way to Barry's Reef, road closed for 5 days. Photo courtesy of John Banagan



I got selected to play on the MCG for milo cricket. It was a girls only day (or as they call it, a 'boy free zone'). We high 5'd the crowd as we were running off the field. It was a lot of fun playing cricket on the MCG with all the girls. I hit 3 sixes. (Teghan is in the middle of the top row)

~ Teghan Unstad



Rosie hangs out with Santa at the Hotel

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HISTORY OF BLACKWOOD: NEWSPAPER REPORTS -1909

COMPILED BY MARGOT HITCHCOCK, HISTORIAN FOR THE BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY. 2011

As recently seen by some, flooding & storm damage in January at Blackwood makes one wonder if this has happened in the past, here is evidence that it has -

Extracts from the 'Bacchus Marsh Express' - 28th August 1909 SIMMONS REEF RESERVOIR EMBANKMENT BURSTS – FIVE BRIDGES WASHED AWAY.

The Simmons Reef Reservoir embankment burst on Thur 19th August about 1.30pm. All the morning there had been a tremendous thunderstorm & the rain came down without the slightest intermission. Roads & gutters were all in flood. The bywash could not take away all the water, which overflowed the earth bank & the torrent soon tore a hole & rushed down the Lerderderg River. The river was running a banker before the reservoir burst, consequently the sudden rush of water was disastrous. An immense lot of damage was done; no fewer than 5 big bridges being swept away, viz., Simmons Reef to Barrys Reef; Gribble's; (Sports Ground) Kyneton; (old road to Kyneton, on road to Shaw's Lake), Mineral Springs; & Stobie's, Golden Point (used to be in front of Old Royal Mail Hotel). The only one that stood the flood was the new one at Red Hill - (erected by Mr. J.J. Nelson-Muntz, late Engineer to the Ballan Shire council, on the main road to Barry's Reef & Trentham). The old bridge, which was never removed, was taken clean away. The new bridge being a truss bridge, at a good height, of course has a big waterway, or the immense logs floated down the stream would doubtless have destroyed it.

Mr W. Gribble's orchard, suffered severely, taking the brunt of the burst (orchard on the left before the Sports Ground). It was covered by fully 7 feet of water, & the fences were washed away in all directions. Fortunately the dwelling house is on an eminence. The water reached the verandah steps. The black current bushes are covered with silt. Panels of fencing & big logs are dropped all over the place. Mr Gribble estimated the damage of £200. A lot of fencing & fruit trees have been washed away. His case, & others, should receive special compensation from the Government.

The Recreation Reserve near Gribble's acted as a safety valve to greater damage down the river. The cricket pavilion, containing 3 rooms, the dressing room erected last Christmas at the bottom end of the ground, & all other buildings, disappeared at one blow right down the river. There was fully 6 feet of water on the reserve, & big logs, 3 feet through were deposited thereon. 10 goats, owned by Mrs. Speary, had taken shelter in the pavilion, & they were all drowned but 1. When the water & logs battered the place to pieces, some of the goats were floating on the seats. But the swiftly moving water made it impossible for them to retain their foothold. There were a lot of articles in the middle room & some of them have been recovered. The cricket matting was recovered after the water had subsided, one piece twisted around a stump near the Kyneton Bridge. The box in which the cricket club kept their tools has not been seen. The Sports committee are also losers to some extent - coils of wire, rubberoid for refreshment room, copper & stand & miscellaneous articles, being stored there.

More than half the fence around the reserve was carried away & the playing ground is covered with sand & debris. It is indeed a scene of desolation & it will take years before the reserve is such a bright little natural sports ground among the ranges as theretofore.

Mr W. Broads' orchard is greatly damaged; the lower portion of the fence & a considerable number of trees, being washed away.

Mr J. Terrill is also a considerable looser; all the fence of his paddock along the river has disappeared.

Portion of a vegetable garden owned by Mr. Williams was washed away, with fence, & a big tree left among the cabbages.

Hayden's battery was covered but fortunately nothing floated away. The wheel (which is on the outside) was lifted off its sockets, but not broken.

Mr. H.H. Cann's cyanide vats about 200 yards from the reservoir embankment were all swept away & the sand he had been treating.

Mr. Cocciardi of Golden Point, is a very heavy looser; his big fluming & other portions of his race, besides a bridge below Golden Point having gone. He estimates it will take £100 to repair damages.

Messrs. J. & A. Skinner & E. Hansford went out daringly before the reservoir broke to view the bywash. They saw the water rise 5 feet in a few minutes & became alarmed & it is fortunate for them they did, as it was they had to wade through water up to their knees & just reached the other side when the embankment burst. Mr J Skinner's dog attempted to follow them across the bank but was swept over; the animal, however, managed to regain dry ground. The small jetty at the outlet valve turned a complete somersault & disappeared in a flash. The huge iron valves & several of the pipes, were carried a long distance.

Great excitement prevailed amongst all the residents when it was known the embankment would probably give way. Valuables, clothes, etc., were removed to higher ground.

In the evening, men had great difficulty in getting home from work. Some of them having to walk miles to get to the Red Hill Bridge before they could cross the river, owing to so many usual crossing places having disappeared. Some families were completely isolated. Fortunately the disaster happened in daylight, after fair warning.

The bridge across Back Creek, at Simmons Reef, suffered damage, & is at present unfit for traffic. The heavy rain burst the dams at the Easter Monday mine, carrying away all the sand. The flood, in coming to the bridge, washed away the bank on the north side, with the result that two out of three legs were swinging in the air. It also wrecked Mr. A. Byres' fluming across the Whipstick creek.

The shire Engineer, (Mr. Riddle) & Cr. Walters (President, who lives at Red Hill) visited the scene at once, on Friday, & have been very active ever since. They decided to replace the Mineral Spring Bridge at once. The erection of the others will depend on what assistance the Government will feel disposed to give. In some cases the awkwardness of the situation is inconceivable. However temporary structures are being erected; trees being felled across the river at convenient spots; & everyone is making the best of a bad job. 5 inches of rain fell on Thursday & Friday. ©

Taken from some of the research the author has included in her soon to be published book, 'The History & Pioneers of Blackwood'



The Old & New Bridge, Blackwood

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FEBRUARY 2011

when	what	where
Thur 3	Cider House String Band (dinner)	Radio Springs
Fri 4	Shades of Blue	Cosmo
	The Cartwheels (dinner)	Radio Springs
Sat 5	Annual Lyonville Woodchop	see p16
	Geoffrey Williams (lunch) • The Dear Family (dinner)	Radio Springs
Sun 6	Zeptepi (lunch) Travelling Concessions (dinner)	Radio Springs
	Truly Madly Deeply	Cosmo
Thur 10	Family Farm Band (dinner)	Radio Springs
Fri 11	Demi Louise	Cosmo
	Adam Fiorello (dinner)	Radio Springs
Sat 12	Table Hill (lunch) Cabbage Tree (dinner)	Radio Springs
Sun 13	Liz Frencham & Pete Fidler (lunch) • Cat and Clint (dinner)	Radio Springs
	Shotgun Shack	Cosmo
Thur 17	Cider House String Band (dinner)	Radio Springs
18-20	3rd Annual Blackwood Fiddlers Convention	see p17
Fri 18	Open Mic night	Cosmo
	Zeptepi (dinner)	Radio Springs
Sat 19	Geoffrey Williams (Lunch) Shades of Blue (dinner)	Radio Springs
Sun 20	Dirty York	Cosmo
	Family Farm Band (lunch) Liz Frencham & Pete Fidler (dinner)	Radio Springs
Thur 24	Table Hill (dinner)	Radio Springs
Fri 25	Liz Frencham & Myles White	Cosmo
	The Cartwheels (dinner)	Radio Springs
Sat 26	Ducks in the Mud (lunch) Grumpy Neighbour (dinner)	Radio Springs
Sun 27	Reservoir Frogs	Cosmo
	Geoffrey Williams (lunch) Red Juliet (dinner)	Radio Springs

• denotes Blackwoodian local/s

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MARCH 2011

when	what	where
Thur 3	Cider House String Band (dinner)	Radio Springs
Fri 4	The Cartwheels (dinner)	Radio Springs
	Shades of Blue	Cosmo
5/6	Lancefield-Macedon Ranges Relay For Life	see p11
Sat 5	Travelling Concessions (lunch) • The Dear Family (dinner)	Radio Springs
Sun 6	Janette Geri (lunch) Table Hill (dinner)	Radio Springs
	Truly Madly Deeply	Cosmo
Thur 10	Cabbage Tree (dinner)	Radio Springs
11-13	First Goodtime Music Harvest	see p17
Fri 11	Truly Madly Deeply (dinner)	Radio Springs
	Aimee Miller	Cosmo
Sat 12	Zeptepi (lunch) Sitting Ducks (dinner)	Radio Springs
Sun 13	Grumpy Neighbour (lunch) Travelling Concessions (dinner)	Radio Springs
	Shotgun Shack	Cosmo
Mon 14	Little Red Blues Bag (lunch)	
Thur 17	Little Red Blues Bag (dinner)	Radio Springs
Fri 18	Open Mike night	Cosmo
	Zeptepi (dinner)	Radio Springs
Sat 19	Cat & Clint (lunch) Shades of Blue (dinner)	Radio Springs
	Annual Lyonville Firemans Ball	see p11
Sun 20	Cabbage Tree (lunch) David & Martin (dinner)	Radio Springs
	Dirty York	Cosmo
Thur 24	Cider House String Band (dinner)	Radio Springs
Fri 25	The Cartwheels (dinner)	Radio Springs
	Travelling Concessions	Cosmo
Sat 26	• Lauren Lee Williams (lunch) Janette Geri (dinner)	Radio Springs
	Bullarto Bushdance	see p21
Sun 27	Adam Fiorello (lunch) Liz Frencham & Peter Fidler (dinner)	Radio Springs
	Reservoir Frogs	Cosmo

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CHANGE: A JOURNEY IN TRUST AND ACCEPTANCE

GROUNDING
BY KATHIE STRMOTA



All the qualities needed to move easily through major change are enhanced by being grounded (keeping your feet on the ground). Maintaining a sense of groundedness, through disruptive times, helps you to deal effectively with any challenges, to see your situation clearly and take timely action so you can make the best of where you are.

From the energetic perspective, grounding draws your energy into the base chakra, your channel for physical expression, and into the earth. This helps anchor your attention into the here and now, the only place and time where you have the power to take action in the physical life and manifest the things you desire. When we are un-grounded, we drift around in fantasy, imagination, future and past. This is great when you want to be creative and inspired, or when you want to discover innovative solutions to challenging problems, but it is only the realm of ideas. To put those creative solutions into action, so they can be of practical benefit, you must bring your energy into the physical world and draw your attention into the present moment.

There are many ways to temporarily 'ground yourself' when you're feeling a bit 'flighty', such as paying attention to sensations on your physical body, eating food, having physical contact with the earth, intentionally drawing your energy into the body, and stomping your feet, to name a few. However, overall groundedness in life is developed through the continual practice of being present. That is, through constantly bringing your attention back to the present moment, to your body, to where you are right now, in this world. The human mind tends to spend a lot of time 'out there', escaping or wandering, and needs to be 'practiced' into the habit of 'being right here, now'.

Your ability to maintain groundedness, through the process of change, can also be greatly enhanced by having stable personal routines. If some of your basic routines are part of the change, let them go and adapt new ones as soon as possible. These will keep a simple basic structure in your life as you adapt to the changes.

I realised, in my move to Blackwood, that one of the biggest factors which had enabled me to easily and comfortably manage the wildly busy life I had back in the city, was the stability of my daily routines. It

was little things like the ritual of breakfast for me and my animals, our 'wind down' routine before bed, my daily walk, and a routine weekly 'housework day'. Simple things, but very powerful in their grounding effect.

When we moved, everything was all-over-the-place. I felt so disorganised and overwhelmed by all the things that needed to be done. The rest of my life wasn't 'put on hold' just because I moved house, so I had to continue to meet all those other demands at the same time. It really brought home to me the value of the simple routines I had taken for granted. While everything in my 'world' had changed, my basic personal routines did not. They were slightly adapted to fit the 'new world' and helped to keep me anchored to my life while I waited for the swirling storm of dust around me to settle.

Being grounded allows you to maintain your stability, through the disruptions of change, and helps you deal with each challenge efficiently. And because your attention is there, in the moment, you get to see the blessings as well.

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a blackwood news community service notice

DIG

I had a close encounter with floods last week & got to know the tiny town of Newstead a bit more intimately as a result. I have had reason to drive through this quaint little town quite often of late & have been intrigued by 'dig', a cute little café & wine bar in the main street.

Newstead is approx 20 minutes north of Daylesford (don't quote me on the 'north' bit - I have a shocking sense of direction), so about a 50 minute drive from Blackwood. I had to abandon my car there last week, as the Loddon river broke its banks at Newstead. The area was 'inundated' as they say.

Some generous people in a 4wd drove me through the floods, but alas I had to leave my car behind. There were many anxious hours afterwards as the water rose & I imagined my poor car rapidly floating in the floodwaters towards Timbuktu. Newstead was soon busy with onlookers, aghast at the massive amount of water thundering past their town & preventing any through access. When I was finally able to return to Newstead to see if my car had survived its ordeal, I was ecstatic to see it was calmly waiting where I had left it - untouched & smug. A celebration was in order! A meal at 'dig' was our first choice.

Sunday nights at 'dig' offer a limited dinner menu, however they have plenty of great gourmet pizzas to choose from. And they are DELICIOUS. With an extremely thin base & very tasty toppings (although I would have liked a bit more in the topping department), they really have the balance right. Local & organic produce is used, & all meals are cooked on the premises. The wines are also local & delightful - the waitress knew her stuff & we ended up being very pleased when we went with her recommendation. The service was terrific - the prices were very reasonable & the ambience was lovely.

So, go on a drive through our lovely countryside, stop for lunch or dinner, & 'dig in'!!

~ The Happy Wanderer (name supplied)

SORRY TO HAVE TO TELL YOU

... but without your C.E.R.T team neighbours, you could well be dead!

The one thing that all of the religions of the world have in common. That one single thing is that the saving of a human life takes the highest priority of all human actions. & no sane atheist or agnostic would disagree.

We are extremely lucky in Blackwood to have a Community Emergency Response Team.

If God (or whomever) forbid, you are struck down with a heart attack & are dying, the C.E.R.T team can be there & defibrillate you in minutes. An ambulance has to come from Bacchus, or Melton or Ballan, or Daylesford! That is, if their overstretched resources aren't already on the road with other jobs.

The trouble is that there's a terrible rumour (from a highly reliable source) that, because Blackwood CERT has so few members & can only be on the road on weekends, we might lose our CERT ambulance. The Vic Ambulance Service may well be looking for an area full of "housewives & farmers" that could be trained into a seven day a week 24/7 volunteer service.

God (or whomever) forbid that we lose our ambulance & the volunteer lifesaving work we do! One in two of us will have a heart problem over the age of 40. We need people around us who know what to do. We need our defibrillator, not to mention all the other life saving goodies that our ambulance carries. We need you to be trained now! To be trained to save a life is possibly the most important decision you will ever make.

Join us! Don't think about it. Do it now! Ring Bruce on 53 686 628. Hurry up!

~ Johnny Kesselschmidt

ARE YOU READY FOR DIGITAL TV?

We've all seen the advertisements on the TV & in papers. You've probably also received information in the mail, you may have thrown it out - yet another bit of junk mail. But did you read the last 2 pages which discussed a subsidy scheme which Blackwoodians may be eligible for. The following has been taken from http://www.digitalready.gov.au/subsidy/regional_victoria.aspx

"From 5 May 2011, the analog self-help towers serving (Blackwood), areas will cease transmitting a TV signal. When these self-help towers are switched off, some households will need to install satellite receiving equipment to watch TV.

Households in these locations may be eligible to receive the new Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) service, which features 17 digital channels, including: ABC News24, SBS HD, 7mate (Seven HD), GEM (NineHD), One HD & Regional News, ABC1, ABC2, ABC3, SBS ONE, SBS TWO, Southern Cross 7, Imparja 9, Ten, 7TWO, GO!, Eleven.

The Satellite Subsidy Scheme will provide eligible households in these towns with a \$400 subsidy for the installation of VAST satellite TV. Households will be required to make a \$200 co-payment on the day of installation. The Government has engaged Skybridge (Australia) as the lead service provider for the Satellite Subsidy Scheme in regional Victoria.

Households will receive a letter that will provide more information about the satellite subsidy after 9 November 2010. You can check your eligibility any time by calling the Digital Information Line on 1800 20 10 13, or using the eligibility checker at <http://www.digitalready.gov.au/subsidy/Default.aspx>

To receive a subsidy, households in regional Victoria must apply before 5 March 2011."

So get in now so you are ready when the time comes...

The Cottage on Martin



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BLACKWOOD SPECIAL SCHOOL OUTDOOR ED CENTRE INC 2000-2010

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:-

Since 1989 there have been a number of staff members at Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc. each beginning their own unique ideas, concepts, plans, dreams & skills to the Centre. Through this exceptional mix of Staff the Centre has been developed into a wonderful location for Victorian Special Schools.

Although the first staff were appointed to Blackwood in 1989 for over a decade the Blackwood Executive continued to campaign for the staff at Blackwood to be a permanent allocation within the Department of Education. Up until 2002 the staff positions were always one year contracts – resulting in the staff continuously having to reapply for their own jobs. Then in 2002, through the persistence & persuasion of Peter Tarr within the Department of Education – an agreement was made that the staff positions at Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc., while still remaining attached to a Special School in Melbourne would become permanent education positions.

There would always be staff at Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc.

With the continued & growing success of the Blackwood Super Ride – Max Woolcock, still a vital member of the Blackwood Executive decided to seek an alternative Mountain Bike Riding Challenge for the students that visited Blackwood. However, this time he challenged himself to go beyond the Wombat State Forest & introduce the students & schools to the Alpine Region.

After enjoying a bike ride along the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail in Northern Victoria Max dared to dream. He could see another Special Schools Bike Riding Event – co-ordinated through Blackwood Special Schools – along the Rail Trail. Only this time he questioned: Would it be possible to challenge everyone to ride 100km?

So Max continued to dream, explore, plan, promote & ultimately implement possibilities.

On Monday 18th March 2002 Max's new dream became a reality.

The original plan & proposal for the week-long event was as follows:-

- Monday 18th March: Ride Everton to Beechworth 16km
- Tuesday 19th March: Ride Beechworth to Myrtleford 46km
- Wednesday 20th March: Day Walk Exploration of Mount Buffalo
- Thursday 21st March Ride: Myrtleford to Bright 30km
- Friday 22nd March: Pack up & travel home

However, before schools departed Melbourne on the morning of Monday 18th March 2002 – plans were already changed due to the extreme heat & Total Fire Ban Day across the Northern Region. Schools were to simply drive to Beechworth & be in camp by 5pm. That decision was not only the right decision it also changed the future of the ride. That evening, the schools all agreed that they required the full day to get up to Beechworth & as a result of that discussion there has never been any bike riding implemented on the Monday of the Alpine Ride.

Therefore, on Tuesday 19th March – after 10 years of success Blackwood Super Rides – 48 students & 18 staff from 8 Special Schools made Blackwood Special School History by riding in the first Blackwood Alpine 100 Bike Ride. The event was very well received & thoroughly enjoyed by all participating students & staff. The weather was perfect, the Trail was superb & the atmosphere & experience was positive. Once again, Max had dared to dream & through his enthusiasm, persistence, dedication & leadership a second Blackwood Bike Riding Event assimilating Special Schools from across the State had been born.

Today the Alpine 100 Ride has introduced the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail to over 700 students with special needs, gained the full support of the communities of Beechworth, Myrtleford & Bright & while we now base camp in Myrtleford for the week – fully challenges each participant to ride over 100km:-

- Monday: Drive to Myrtleford
- Tuesday: Ride Beechworth to Myrtleford 46km
- Wednesday: Day Walk Exploration of Mount Buffalo
- Thursday: Ride Myrtleford to Bright & back 60km
- Friday: Pack up & travel home

To highlight the achievement & dedication required to successfully complete both the Blackwood Alpine & Super Rides each participant is presented with a medal at the completion of each event. The pride, excitement, smiles & exhilaration expressed by the students during & after the medal presentation truly completes' each Ride. Many of the students celebrate their achievement by wearing their medals throughout the final evening including sleeping with them around their necks – only to wake up & continue gloating about their achievements of the past few days.

In 2008, in front of 104 students from 19 Special Schools, Max Woolcock unveiled two unique honour boards in his name. Two Giant Mountain Bikes have been mounted on the wall in the School Accommodation Site – both bikes have wooden front wheels with a medal from every Blackwood Alpine & Super Ride conducted over the past 19 years.

Thank you Max Woolcock.

On Thursday 4th September 2003 an extra staff member arrived at the Centre. A staff member who has become popular with the students while constantly inspiring imagination, encouraging participation, promoting determination, welcoming relaxation & implementing innovation. That staff member was Wacky the Wombat. Wacky is well received by the students & frequently sort after for advice, assistance, support & guidance through many activities & Adventure Programs on a weekly basis.

to be continued next issue

~ Tony Bellette

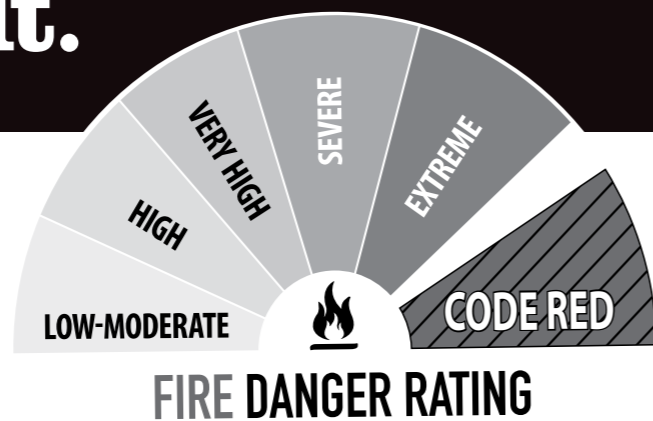
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COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee Of Management

Thank-you to Heinz & Ange & the staff of the Blackwood Hotel for an enjoyable evening of our break-up. Barbara & Elizabeth thank the members of Crown Reserves for our gifts & flowers.

Grass cutting has been an on-going issue also the cleaning up with the storm & high water, thanks to Lou & helpers.

Playgroup will be starting back on Feb 11 @ 10am – if we are to keep this going we need people to attend & give it their support.

~ Elizabeth Hall, secretary

Blackwood CERT

Well after nearly 9 years on CERT I have finally had to use them myself. On Sunday 19th December, I was feeling unwell and as the day progressed, Lynda got very worried and called 000. Trevor and Johnny arrived and checked me over and then we waited for the ambulance to arrive.

Once the ambulance arrived, the first thing they did was take my temperature and it was 40. They put me on a drip and took me straight to Ballarat Base. A big thank you to our own hometown paramedic- Patrick- he is so excellent at his job.

I was put straight into Emergency and then underwent a gauntlet of tests. I had some type of infection in my body which in turn caused double pneumonia, unsteadiness, headaches and blurred vision. After 9 days in hospital (yes over Christmas), I was allowed to come home on 28th December.

A big thank you to our CERT members Trevor and Johnny, they undertake such an important role and also to the paramedics- Patrick and Megan. Also thank you to all the people who rang and sent messages.

Having said all of the above, we are struggling for new members. If we can get at least 5 new members, we can train them in Blackwood. If any persons from Dales Creek, Blackwood or Trentham have any interest at all, please ring me on 53686628 and discuss it with me. The Blackwood CERT plays such a big role in our community.

~ Bruce Henry, Team Leader

Blackwood CFA

The fire danger period has been declared & fire restrictions are now in force. Zero tolerance will apply in any disregard for these restrictions, please contact the CFA or your local brigade.

Brigade training is held the first Sunday of every month. New members are welcomed.

~ George Stockdale

Blackwood/Barry's Reef LANDCARE

Rainfall: December – 36 mms. January 1-14: 220 mms.

After 10 years of drought, the first month of summer has seen weeks of steady rain. In this unusual year, the native flora of Blackwood has excelled in both quantity & quality. At the tail end of spring, many species are still flowering. At present, species such as Ti Tree and Dogwood, (Cassinea aculeata), plus the Victorian Christmas Bush are still flowering. All these species are white flowered. Dogwood has small flower heads not unlike small cauliflowers. You will see this species as you cross the sports ground foot bridge. Nearby at the river's edge, is the woolly Ti Tree. It never establishes far from a reliable water source. The early settlers used this species as an indicator of water. I am sure that aboriginal people would have used it too.

Another species of Ti Tree now flowering, is Leptospermum continentinale. It thrives in dry land situations and is readily identified

by its prickly foliage. Its flowers are white. Thysanotus tuberosus is perhaps the most coloured species still flowering. It is a largish flower, mauve in colour with fringed petals. This beautiful, delicate species, known as the Fringed Lily, is highly sensitive to temperature. (John Davies, environmental officer). Excessive rainfall has been attributed to the El Nina influence.

~ Pat. Liffman secretary

Blackwood Historical Society

Blackwood District Historical Society meets at the Blackwood Police Stables, Martin Street on the 1st Saturday of the month at 10:30 am. Visitors are welcome.

Due to public demand, our display of Wedding Finery of the Twentieth Century is now a permanent fixture.

~ Michael Boyd, Secretary.

Blackwood Playgroup

Children, mothers, fathers, grandparents and others who care for young children are invited to come along to a new playgroup to be held each week at the Blackwood Hall.

The playgroup operates on Fridays between 10am & midday. The playgroup (which began on Aug 20) aims to provide a safe, fun place for parents & children to meet and make friends with other families in the community.

Families can participate in a range of activities aimed at helping children extend their development and practise new skills, including music, painting, climbing & puzzles.

There is a small weekly cost involved (approximately \$3 a week) to help cover hall hire as well as an annual cost for Playgroup Victoria membership. For a short time, Moorabool Shire Council will be supporting the Blackwood playgroup through the Supported Playgroup Initiative.

A facilitator will attend the playgroup to help support members in establishing the group and to offer community info & resources.

To join the playgroup, please contact Lisa Trott-Kelly, Supported Playgroup and Parent Group Coordinator on 5366 7100

Blackwood Progress Association

Easter is coming. The Easter carnival can do with as many helping hands as possible. An hour or a day - how can you help? call Elizabeth 5368 6537

~ Elizabeth Hall, Secretary

Blackwood Senior Citizen's Centre Inc.

Hello once again from the Blackwood Senior Citizens at the start of another New Year _ we hope that it will be a happy & healthy one for all of our members & for all readers of Blackwood News out there.

We hope that our weather pattern continues, quite a lot of rain (the Lerederg looks great) & no fire danger up to date – although all of our sympathy goes out to those people on Qld with their flood crisis.

Our Xmas end-of-year luncheon was held at the Burumbeet Hotel – a very pleasant day was enjoyed by all of our 32 members who attended, we thank Bev Herd for all her hard work at organising our raffle, which was quite a chore as we had so many Xmas gifts.

On a sadder note, we mourn the passing of one of our long-time members, Sybil O'Keefe, she will be sadly missed by us all; may she rest in peace.

Our club would be most welcoming to any new members who would like to join, every Wed from 11am-3pm. Contact 5368 1561. Until next issue, kindest regards

~ Barb Sweet, (Hon) secretary

Blackwood Caravan Park

... is a great place to come to relax & unwind from city life. My daughter's family bought a caravan there & when I visited them, I loved the park so much, I bought one too.

I can hear water running in the creek below. I go there to sit & read my book or I write. I love watching my grandchildren floating on a rubber dingy laughing & enjoying themselves. And to see different plants, trees & birds, we walk up, the whole family & our dogs, up hill, through the forest to the lake, or on the track along & above the creek watch the water running & hear birds chirping. It is the best sound & exercise for our body & soul.

In the caravan park, we stop & register with Lou, the ranger, who wants to know how many nights we are staying. He is friendly & helpful, fills up our gas bottles or has firewood ready in bundles.

I watch him working hard around the park. He makes sure the showers & toilets are always clean, mowes the lawn around caravans, & collects rubbish from bins outside couple times a day. He checks on visitors & stops for chats. This way he gets to know every person by name.

I hear Lou early in the mornings on bike or Ute driving or emptying bins. Last thing at night I hear him again driving up & down late at night just checking, if all is well. I feel safe. Thanks Lou!

~ Emie Truden

It's true the super event of the year is on again

THE ANNUAL LYONVILLE FIREMANS BALL

March 19th 6.30 start
Hero or Villain Theme


- light supper served throughout the night •
- loads of prizes •
- Bus Pick up & return available •

Tickets \$35- available at Trentham Transfer Station (see Tony), Trentham Fish & Chips (see Sandy or Roy), Radio Springs Hotel Lyonville, Sat am's outside Trentham newsagent

Further updates available on facebook.com/blackwoodnews & Hepburn Shire Community Planning Groups

Further enquires contact Tony 5348 5690 or email marvin@aussiebroadband.com.au

A Blackwood News community service notice



Disability Advocate Karen McAloon provides a free, confidential & independent advocacy service across the western region of Moorabool Shire including Blackwood. Karen can assist people with any kind of disability & their family, friends or carers.

Help provided might include such assistance as help with a letter or telephone call to get information or resolve a concern, support to attend a meeting, providing info on on disability issues & services available & assisting individuals to advocate for themselves. The service operates on Mon, Tues & Fri ph 5348 3350.

A Blackwood News community service notice



Relay continues to help cancer crusade

The Lancefield-Macedon Ranges Relay For Life will be held on the weekend of March 5-6, 2011. Since the regional event at Lancefield Park began in 2003 it has raised \$794,314 for the Cancer Council Victoria.

The Relay is an opportunity to celebrate the lives of cancer survivors, to remember those who have lost their lives to cancer, & to fight back by raising funds to support research & other activities of the Cancer Council Victoria.

It features ceremonies of celebration & remembrance, a full program of musical entertainment, games for children and a host of other activities. Teams are challenged to keep their baton moving around the track for 19 hours. Many camp overnight & a festive atmosphere is created.

Survivors & carers play a major role in the event and are warmly encouraged to participate in the opening lap tribute & attend a dedicated afternoon tea as well as be involved as much as they wish.

A Team Info Session is on Tues, Feb 15, 7.30pm at the Laurie Green Pavilion, Lancefield Park. Attendance is very important as invaluable information will be presented to assist in the smooth running of the event to ensure the Relay is as successful as possible.

Registration for the Relay For Life is \$15 pp. For more details about this event contact Melissa McCarthy on 0438 831 427 or tmac31@bigpond.net.au

To register online or make a donation go to www.relayforlife.org.au



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



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

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february 2010

monday tuesday wednesday thursday friday saturday sunday

	1 Wally Zanon	2	3 Barry Sweet ●	4 Blackwood Playgroup TERM 1 starts	5 Darley Market Ballan Lions Club Market T/riham Community Market	6 Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church CFA Training
7	8 Chelsea Stubbs	9	10 Sophie Darwen Teagan Unstad	11 Blackwood Playgroup	12 C. Geelong Farmers Market	13 Daylesford Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church
14 Valentines Day 	15 Renee Aharon Jenny Bridger	16 Mrs Terrill	17	18 Blackwood Playgroup	19 T/riham Farmers Market	20 Daylesford Market Trentham Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Talbot Farmers Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church
21 Robin Bradley 	22 Barbara Sweet Walter Currie	23	24	25 Blackwood Playgroup	26 Lancefield Farmers Market	27 Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Trentham Market

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Mick Hewitt

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march

monday tuesday wednesday thursday friday saturday sunday

	1	2	3 Shayla Kuno	4 Blackwood Playgroup	5 Darley Market Ballan Lions Club Market T/riham Community Market	6 Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church CFA Training
7	8	9	10 Lisa Kuno Blake Willmott	11 Blackwood Playgroup Annika Hoffman	12 C. Geelong Farmers Market Blackwood News deadline: advertisers book space regular features & contributors Luise Nugent	13 Daylesford Market All Saints Church Service Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church
14 Labour Day Robert Darwen Lorraine Kuno	15 Christine Stockwell Blackwood News deadline: features & items of interest community groups & clubs	16	17	18 Blackwood Playgroup Anthony Pywell	19 T/riham Farmers Market Hayden Harvey	20 Daylesford Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church Blackwood News deadline: News, classifieds, advert artwork Mitchell Unstad
21 	22	23	24	25 Blackwood Playgroup Jason Darwen	26 Lancefield Farmers Market	27 Daylesford Market Trentham Market Ballarat Lakeside Market Talbot Farmers Market Trentham Uniting Church Ballan Uniting Church

28
Susie-Ann Deeble

BLACKWOOD IN SUMMER
Plagert dawns
and silken days
honey dusks
and velvet nights
with lots and lots
of mozzie bites

~ Robin Bradley



BLACKWOOFs



DOGS CAN'T help it. Spend enough time together & they just fall in love. Ali & Puddin' have lived together for about 7 years & yes, they love each other to bits.

MICK & Jill inherited them at about the same time, but under very different circumstances. The footsore & shaggy young stray Jack-Russell was so skinny that they called him Puddin'. Mick couldn't catch him but Jill opened a can of dog food & Puddin' immediately recognised them as his new family.

AT THE same time, Ali was living on cans of spaghetti when she was offered with the not-uncommon remark "You know, Mum, I think she'd be happier living with you". Son, Heath, had wanted a strapping American Staffy but fell in love with the runt of the litter. A present to Alicia, his partner, named after her & Mohammad Ali. Romantic!

ALI STILL has the taste for Italian food, her favorite dish being pizza. One night recently she went missing & was mistaken for a wombat crossing the road. The car stopped, a door opened for closer inspection & she jumped in. She also jumped into bed with the occupant for the night.

AH, BLACKWOOFs, they just can't help sharing the love.

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Authorised by Catherine King MP, 5 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat VIC 3350

Dear Pet Guru,

You remember last month when I wrote to you about my pet Piranha Percy who was lonely & we discussed giving him a goldfish for company? Well it was a huge success & they became fast friends. Even now Percy & the goldfish skeleton are inseparable. What do I do now?

Dear Pet Percy Person,
I have given much thought to your ichthyological dilemma & suggest you give him a yabbie or a tortoise & if he eats them try him with a barnacle.

Pet Guru



CALLING ALL ARTISTS:

are you looking for opportunities to promote your work in Blackwood? contact Lee at the Cobb & Co.



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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BRICKBATS & BOUQUETS

BRICKBATS TO the organizers of the fiddler's convention, who for the 2nd time, are willing to bring numbers of people to Blackwood at the height of the fire season. We can all see the folly of this, given the current blocking of the Trentham road. Safety must take priority over commercial considerations. No-one is accepting responsibility. Direct complaints to police, council & the crown reserve committee.

~ Norman Sterling

A BOUQUET TO Greg Falkiner who retired from the Victorian Police Force at the end of January after 42 years in the force.

THANKYOU FOR looking after us Blackwoodians all these years & wishing you all the best in the future.

~ Blackwood News

BOUQUET TO GLEN. On the morning of the power blackout & with the rain pouring down, our drive was once again blocked by a large tree. Facing a long wait for the SES, I donned boots & walked across the mud to pick up breakfast courtesy of Cobb & Co. When I returned I was delighted to hear the sound of a chainsaw & see a very kind man clearing the drive. We hadn't met before but he said he was Glen from Golden Point.

THANK YOU so much Glen & thanks to Heinz & Trevor for organising delivery of linen for Woodbine. We are so lucky to live in this wonderful town.

~Brenda Hunter

POP THE FIZZ!!! POP THE FIZZ! POP THE FIZZ!



ON AUSTRALIA Day Brendan Hehir & Jinny Coyle celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. **ON JANUARY 26, 1991** they were married at their home in Golden Point Road.

THEY THEN celebrated with family & friends from around the world at a family carnival at the Sports Ground.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Hello Jinny,

Well done on the Face Book coverage of the floods, I was away so it was great to get a sense of things from the photos you and Brendan posted.

The Facebook page (facebook.com/blackwoodnews) is a great addition

~ Mike Allen

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animal love ... animal healing (domestic & wild) ... March 19 (also June 12), \$125

contact me or visit website for full 2011 dates & details **53686560**
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ANNUAL LYONVILLE WOODCHOP
Saturday Feb 5
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Featuring the 450mm D/H Sawing Championship.

Program includes events for novices, juniors and even open cross-cut sawing

- Novelties for the day
- A ladies nail drive
- Food and refreshments served all day
- Children's races
- Spinning wheel
- Booth
- Produce stall

A fun day for all the family

A Blackwood News community service notice

THE BLACKWOOD GENTLEMEN ADVENTURERS SOCIETY
 BY RODNEY LUNSCHALOT BGB VD & SCAR

Well gentle readers much has happened since last I sat down at my trusty Underwood to prepare our report for this esteemed publication, floods, plagues, fires & other assorted apocalyptic occurrences of biblical proportions & we soldier on.


One of our founding members sadly passed away early in January & the resultant get together of members & friends was an intriguing amble down memory lane & an opportunity to exchange tall tales & true ones. Given the sort of chaps that are members of our small (& growing smaller band) of co-conspirators are, one should not be surprised by the fact that our departed member chose to be buried at sea, something that can still only be done off the coast of Bermagui.

Standing as witness to a dear friends passing is a stark reminder of the fact that we are here for a good time not a long time so if you have been procrastinating on the purchase of a exotic vehicle or in fact on the purchase of anything go off & do it, enjoy it while you can, spend your children's inheritance, go down to the pub & make peace with whoever you need to, you are dead for a long time & the one thing to remember about this caper called life is that none of us are going to get out alive!

Well enough of this frivolity, after our members left Whitestone they proceeded in a North Easterly direction to Clunes to explore a rumour that an old miner had recounted to one of our members when they were both sitting in the public bar at Ballarat Station waiting for the weekly train to Parapadoo which they had missed the week before.

Legend has it that just past the large mine on the left coming into Clunes & 216 paces from the road there is a vertical shaft that goes down into the bowels of the earth & opens up into a huge underground cavern supposedly full of gold & silver that had been stashed there by a succession of bushrangers, one of our thinner & younger members was last seen trudging off into the paddock with his eyes peeled for a shaft when he suddenly disappeared from view!

I will bring you an update on the case of the disappearing young thin member in the next issue of this esteemed publication.



The 3rd BLACKWOOD FIDDLERS' CONVENTION
 • String Band • Bluegrass • Old-Timey • Acoustic • Traditional Country • Roots music •
 • Concerts • Workshops & Dances •
February 18th – 20th, 2011

This year we are delighted to have as our guest renowned young Kentucky fiddler and banjoist **JESSE WELLS** - an inspirational performer & teacher of Appalachian String Band Music, featuring fiddle & 5-string banjo. The Convention is held at the Blackwood Historic Cricket Ground, Unpowered Camping, food and licensed bar on site - Tickets at the Gate WEEKEND TICKET: \$35 adult, \$30 BTCMS & conc. UNDER 18 FREE

This style of music first came to the Goldfields of Central Victoria in the 1850's and was played at local music halls and square dances throughout the Gold Rush Era!



Blackwood CFA's fundraising breakfast at the 2010 convention

contact:
Ken McMaster ph.0419 580 642
kennithmcmaster@hotmail.com

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Jesse Wells comes from generations of fine fiddle and banjo players, at age 8yr he began performing with his father's band at fiddlers' conventions in the USA. He has taught at the Cowan Creek Mountain Music School and the Swannanoa Gathering and is now a Professor at Morehead State University, Kentucky Centre for Traditional Music where he has been the Centre's archivist and instructor of traditional music for the past 9 years. He has performed with Riley Baugus and Dirk Powell, played bluegrass fiddle with Don Rigsby and is fiddler with The Clack Mountain String Band and Kentucky Wild Horse!

go to www.blackwoodfiddlersconvention.com for program updates

JESSE WELLS - 2hr MASTER CLASSES
 in Fiddle, Mandolin & Old-Timey Banjo
 (at Blackwood prior to the convention)
THURS 17th: Mandolin 10.30am-12.30, Old-Timey Banjo 2.30 - 4.30pm
FRI 18th: Bluegrass fiddle 10.30am-12.30, Old-timey fiddle 2.30 - 4.30pm
BOOKINGS: Ken McMaster 0419 580 642 *only \$20 per class*

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BEYOND BLACKWOOD...



from Trentham Lions Club

Monthly Dance Program: Old Time Dancing is held on 2nd Friday monthly in the Trentham Mechanics Hall starting at 8pm. Admission is \$8pp, including supper & a door prize draw. Alternate dances are held in

aid of the Trentham Historical Society or Trentham Lions Club. Music by Family Rhythm. *Enquiries: Elizabeth 5424 1254.* Next dances are: Feb 11th & Mar 11th.

Farmer's Market 19th Feb and March: 3rd Saturday of each month @ Trentham Town Square - 9am - 1pm. STUFF YOUR PANTRY with fresh eggs, cheese, fruit and vegetables, dips, preserves, wine, sourdough & yummy sweet treats, raffles, local entertainment, fun & friends. BBQ Roster for Feb will be for Flood Relief by LIONS. *Enquiries: Tracey 5424 1185 / 0447 836 171.*

TNC 2011 Summer Program Highlights

Archery for Beginners: An age old sport that is becoming increasingly popular, archery builds upper body strength and develops hand-eye coordination. John Blake from Archery Victoria will run this beginners course in 4 sessions. The course will focus on the basic techniques required to use a bow and arrow safely. **Tutor:** John Blake **When:** Sat 2-4pm from March 5 for 4 wks **Where:** TBA **Cost:** \$140

Life Drawing: Chris Dobson, a qualified art teacher, will guide you through a 5 wk Life Drawing course with a live model. Using helpful warm up techniques, flow into drawing with confidence following the form of the body. BYO easel if you have one. **Tutor:** Chris Dobson **When:** Monday 10.30-12.30pm Starts 7th Feb for 5 wks **Cost:** \$100 + \$10 materials (paper, charcoal, pencils)

Introduction to Tai Chi: Participants will be guided through short and easy forms that include breathing techniques, stretching and slow controlled movements. Designed to promote good health, well being and pain relief whilst bringing balance to your inner and outer energies. **Tutor:** Patricia Kent (trained with Chinese Masters) **When:** Friday 9.30-10.30am 11 wks beginning 4th Feb **Cost:** \$10 per session

Trentham District Football/Netball Club

We have formed a strong & progressive committee with the main focus on providing a supportive family based club, providing our local youth the opportunity to continue to play sport in our community.

2011 is going to provide a greater opportunity with the introduction of Under 13's Netball & an Under 15's Football team. We play in the Maryborough Castlemaine League & we play every fortnight at our home base at the Trentham Sportsground. We have 6 grades of Netball. U13's, U15's U17's C, B & A Grade. We are thrilled that Mia Kelly is staying on as our U15's coach. Taking on a coaching role whilst studying at the latter end of high school is an amazing commitment for Mia.

We need coaches for all other grades of netball & would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in any coaching role, call club President Troy Adams on 0425389315. We would also like to invite any new players along to training. Everyone most welcome.

Trentham football will field 4 teams beginning with U15's, U17's, Reserves & seniors. Dale Cowell has been appointed as our senior coach. Dale brings some fresh new ideas & family values to the club. Owen Sundblom has taken on the roll of U17's coach & Barry Maher has taken on the U15's. Both Owen & Barry have a great knowledge of the game & all players will be given an equal opportunity. We encourage anyone who would like to play to contact Owen on 0427241419 or Barry on 54241594. We are getting great numbers to training, training Tues & Thur evening from 6pm.

Trentham DF/NC invite any new members, volunteers & Sponsors to come along or call for more info.



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