



Dear Readers,

Blackwood now has a library service at the hall; it includes book-ordering & is available every second Wednesday, 1.30-2.30pm.

Unfortunately, the library bus we loved is deemed unsuitable for this town as it now requires an internet connection, via mobile phone; another reason for us to demand coverage in this area.

Yet even our limited library service is under threat unless more of us use it. As is usually the case in our town, services are hard won, easily lost.

Please try out our library, or lose it. Services: Dec 5, 19 & Jan 2, 16, 30.

Children's story-time trial is Dec 19. Santa may even pay a visit.

Photo: Brenda reads to Angus, Nakomis, Neal & Lucy.



GARBAGE COLLECTIONS
December
Monday 10, 24
January
Monday 7, 21



*happy silly season
blackwoodians*

INSIDE:

- STORYTIME AT THE HALL (P1)**
- AUSTALIA DAY WODCHOP (P8)**
- GIG & EVENTS GUIDE (P9)**
- TRIVIA FUNDRAISER (P11)**
- MARKET GUIDE (P21)**
- EVACUATION EXERCISE (5&7)**



EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

Happy Silly Season to all Blackwoodians,

As another year comes to a close, I thank all our advertisers, regular & not-so-regular contributors, you make Blackwood News. I also thank each of you who drop coins into our donation boxes as you take a copy of the paper – in doing so you contribute to our continuation.

As the editor of Blackwood News, my role is not as a photographer or journalist! My job is simply to compile the community's activities, opinions, thoughts into a jam-packed bi-monthly package.

With the silly season on our doorstep, please remember Blackwood News as you are attending public gigs or functions. Take some photos or write an article or poem.

Do you know someone who has milestone coming up – a wedding, engagement, major birthday. Remind them to send their photos in to us for publication.

On a personal note, I want to thank my Blackwoodian friends (I won't name names – you know who you are) who have supported me through a really tough year, in particular this last month.

Would you like to see all our wonderful photos in colour? Each issue of Blackwood News can be downloaded from blackwoodnews.com.au - send a link to Blackwoodians who have moved on, they may wish to write up articles too! While you are on the site, sign up to receive deadline reminders & notification of when new issues are available.

Another way to keep in touch is through our Facebook page @ https://www.facebook.com/blackwoodnews. Remember to like us, so updates are fed back to your wall.

Wishing all our readers a great Christmas with your families & good health & happy times in the coming year.

~til next issue *Jinny Coyle*, editor@blackwoodnews.com.au

download colour BLACKWOOD NEWS FREE from www.blackwoodnews.com.au – to be the first to see new issues subscribe to our eList

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.

February/March '13 DEADLINES	Jan 15	Jan 20
Advertisers book space		
Regular Contributions		
Features & Items of Interest:		
Community Groups & Clubs		
Display Ad Artwork/Content		
News, Classifieds, Gig Guide		

NO late submissions will be accepted. Submissions, display ads & articles can be emailed to editor@blackwoodnews.com.au, put in the 'drop box' outside the Blackwood Merchant or posted c/o Blackwood PO, 3458

Download our Advertising Rate Card & back issues (in colour) from www.blackwoodnews.com.au & while you're there sign-up to our eList (directly under the navigation bar).

Blackwood News reserves the right to edit or refuse any article or advertising. The opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the editor.

Blackwood News is produced as a community service by Jinny Coyle 9687 3744 / 5368 6444 & sponsored by FluxDesignStudio.com.au

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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
Sept '12	90.0	104.0	-0.8	22.1
Oct '12	38.4	94.1	0.4	27.9

THE OCTOBER rainfall was much lower than the average – let's hope that we are not reverting to the low rainfall pattern of a few years ago.

BLACKWOOD NEWS: A FINALIST



This year I was unable to represent Blackwood News at the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria (cnav.org.au) conference held in Nagambie. By all accounts it was a wonderful weekend, full of info & debate.

The keynote speaker was the Director for Advanced Journalism at Melbourne Uni, Dr Margaret Simons. She spoke about the importance of community journalism in changing times. She emphasised that, although mainstream traditional print journalism was in gradual decline, the hunger for local news had not changed, which ensures the future of community journalism & community newspapers.

She mentioned the special niche market community newspapers occupy, saying that community readers obtain their main news from mainstream sources but looked toward community newspapers for local content.

At the Saturday evening dinner, awards were granted & Blackwood News (June July '12 issue) was announced a finalist in the 'Design & Layout' Category. This is wonderful cudos for our community paper. Please continue to support us over the next 12 months by advertising your business or sending us articles: celebrations, obituaries – anything our community needs to hear about!

Please let our advertisers know you saw them in the Blackwood News Blackwood News thanks all advertisers for their support.

RAYMOND ERIC MEADE 27/5/1950 - 14/11/2012

Ray was the youngest of 4 children; residing in Coonans Rd, Pascoe Vale. He attended the local school at which his mother was a cleaner & later attended Coburg Technical School & went on to complete his trade as a cabinet maker.

He met Cheryl when he was 16yrs old & they went on to marry in 1970. Some say it was a shotgun wedding but Cheryl said the wedding was planned; it just had to be brought forward a little.

Due to limited finances at the time, Ray, Cheryl & Sandy moved into Coonans Rd. to live with his parents until they were able to afford their own home. Brett came along in 1973 & it was time to move.

They built in Carrick Dr., Tullamarine, being one of the first houses in the area & still surrounded by cow paddocks. Ray would often be found trying to usher stray cows back into their paddocks at any time of the day or night.

In 1976 the final member of the Meade family was born - Dean.

Ray was working for PFC Shopfitting P/L in Reservoir, next to the Reservoir Hotel, which Ray would frequent many a Thursday night after work, often coming home laden with meat trays, sausages & black pudding that no one else would dare to eat. On more than one occasion he lost his license due to drink driving. With this, Cheryl became his taxi to & from work.

Ray excelled in his chosen field & was asked to set up a business in Sydney with another colleague to cope with the extensive work available.

This saw Ray away from the family for extended periods over the next 12mths until it was decided that the whole family would move. This saw Ray's love of the water take hold. He bought a boat & taught his kids to water ski on the Hawkesbury River.

The family stayed in Sydney for 18mths until Cheryl & the kids could no longer stand to be so far away from family & friends. Ray agreed it was time to come home. They returned to the family home in Tullamarine.

With this new love of the water, many an Easter was spent in Torrumbury, camped on the Murray River, water skiing. This annual family event spread to family & friends attending & the camp becoming like a commune. Facilities became more extravagant each year with Ray engineering a "pig" for hot water – for showers & washing.

During this time, the family was introduced to Blackwood by friends staying in a holiday house. This saw the focus of Easter holidays being spent in the Blackwood Caravan Park & skiing at Pykes Reservoir.

Friends Kate & Peter Penn invested in a block of land in Wall Street. It wasn't long before Ray & Cheryl did the same, securing a block that

looked down over the Wombat State Forest. This was also the beginning of another love, motor bike riding with his boys & frequenting the Blackwood Hotel.

Ray, Cheryl & kids spent much time clearing the block for the house, which, once complete to "lock up", was finished with the aid of many of Ray's friends from work – electricians, plumbers & plasterers who often went to the hotel once tools were downed for the day.

Due to the frequency of Ray & his family being present in Blackwood, they became familiar with many of the locals & new friendships were formed.

Ray always commented to his mate that if the Blackwood General Store came up for sale they would buy it – Cheryl didn't take much notice as it was always discussed over one too many ales.

But the Blackwood Hotel lease became available & Ray was keen. After much discussion with Cheryl, they became the new hotel publicans in 1995.

He became extensively involved in the community being part of the many clubs & committees.

He & Cheryl eventually left the hotel in 2001. Unfortunately Ray & Cheryl divorced, but Ray continued to live in Blackwood. He began a handy man/gardening service & even built Sandy's house extension. He also renovated the Greendale Hotel bar & part of the residence.

He was always helping those in Blackwood. Ray would give his last dollar to help someone out &, if unable to do that, would offer his car or home to those that needed it.

Eventually Ray moved on to Maryborough & took over the Highlander Haven Motel with Georgine Barnes – the ex-publican of Greendale Hotel. He still frequented Blackwood to attend meetings & cricket games until his health deteriorated.

Ray lost his battle with cancer on November 14, 2012. He was always a stubborn & very determined man & fought the disease the best he could, trying anything that would provide him with more time with family & friends.

~ Sandra Meade

EDITORS NOTE: Ray was president of the Blackwood Cricket Club & Social Club, Chairman of the Crown Reserves Committee of Management. He also served on the Cemetery Trust & Blackwood Progress Association. A true community minded Blackwoodian.

RAY IS survived by 3 children & 10 grandchildren



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1/2 page long	w95mm X h270mm	\$108
full page	w195mm X h270mm	\$216

Download booking forms & specs from BlackwoodNews.com.au



BLACKWOOD ALBUM: OCTOBER NOVEMBER 2012



The November Academy & Revue was one of the best so far, with around 50 attendees.

The Academy began with the biggest-ever turn-out for Shapenote Singing, followed by a fascinating & interactive workshop on Cajun songs by our special guests Sammy Lind & Nadine Landry. (photo above)

Those who attended the Revue were lucky to be entertained by 3 talented performers who have travelled to Victoria from the USA. Old-time fiddler, Stephanie Coleman, was joined by locals Nick & Lachlan Dear & by Ian Alexander for the first set, followed by a fantastic set of old-time fiddle tunes & country songs by Sammy & Nadine, which grew into a full Cajun band that had the Church Hall jumping.

The event was filmed by professional filmmakers, who will create a mini-documentary to be broadcast online.

The next Academy & Revue is the Breaking-Up Christmas Special Variety Show on Sunday December 16.



Blackwood lad, Heath Scotland, who plays for Carlton, was the 2012 winner of the John Nicholls Medal.



Radio Springs has a new courtesy bus for groups of 12 people.



I had to giggle as I was driving down Simmons Reef Road & saw this scene. Security Blackwood style!



Being a total cheese glutton I couldn't believe it when I went to Red Beard & discovered their Croque Monsieur

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS DIGITAL ENTERPRISE

Workshops in diverse topics such as Social Media, eMarketing, Radio Device Identification of Stock, MYOB, Telework & TeleHealth have been undertaken over recent weeks.

The workshops, events & mentoring are made possible by major funding through the Australian Government's Digital Enterprise program, & by contributions from Local & State Government partners. University of Ballarat's Centre for eCommerce & Communications is managing the two year project.

Throughout 2013 the partners in the Central Highlands Digital Enterprise project will offer additional learning opportunities across the region.

It is all about preparing businesses & community organisations to take advantage of the National Broadband Network.

We will be launching a new website over coming weeks & look forward to connecting with you & keeping you up-to-date with Broadband-related information through our social media channels.

Until the launch, you can find out information on workshops & mentoring on www.cecc.com.au/digitaleenterprise

Faster, more reliable internet provision can only bring benefits if you adapt & adopt new technology & new learning into your business practices.

Let us know how you are applying the learning from your Digital Enterprise workshops. We are looking to promote local business & community organisations as Digital Enterprise Champions & would be interested in knowing how you are embracing new technology.

If you want to find out more about when Broadband will be connected to your community & your premises, follow the link below & search by your postcode:

www.nbnco.com.au/rollout/rollout-map.html

~ Gerrie Carr-MacFie, Digital Enterprise Manager at Centre for eCommerce & Communications, University of Ballarat.



Spending up big at Lerdies auction while the farmers quietly gathered at the church.



BLACKWOOD COMMUNITY & EMERGENCY PERSONNEL – TO TEST EVACUATION PLAN

Victoria Police, together with Moorabool Shire, CFA & other emergency personnel are preparing to undertake a test evacuation exercise in Blackwood, Dales Creek, Simmons Reef, Golden Point, Barrys Reef & Greenhills on Sunday December 9, 2012 from 11am to 2pm.

Moorabool Local Area Commander Inspector, Mick Myers, said the exercise would enable emergency services personnel & the community to test their response to a bushfire threat.

"Participation for the local community is voluntary, however we encourage their involvement as it presents a unique opportunity to test their personal bushfire plan," he said.

"By working together we can assess how the area responds to a bushfire threat & use the valuable lessons learned to improve the Blackwood & District Evacuation Plan.

"During the exercise emergency services personnel will test & assess the effectiveness of a range of options for notifying the community of a fire threat & evacuation, including:

- sounding of community alert siren;
- issuing of emergency alert by mobile & landline;
- updating CFA website & Victoria Bushfire Information Line; and
- conducting doorknock in select locations & utilising police vehicles to alert residents via loud speaker.

"No roads will be closed during the exercise & the community can expect the area to be 'business as usual', however there will be increased activity by emergency services."

Moorabool Shire Council CEO, Rob Croxford, welcomed the exercise & said it provided a high bushfire-risk community with an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of what they should prepare for in the event of a real emergency.

"Moorabool Shire Council is working closely with Victoria Police to undertake an extensive community information program," he said.

"Local residents & business owners will receive an evacuation exercise information kit outlining what to expect & how they can participate in the exercise.

"We also invite the community to join us for a Community BBQ & Emergency Services Expo at Egans Reserve, Greendale from 11am to 3pm on the day of the exercise."

Evacuation exercise community information sessions are planned for:

- Sat Dec 1, 9.00am-11.00am @ **Blackwood Post Office**
- Sat Dec 1, 11.30am-12.30pm @ **Dales Creek - Council Reserve (cnr Acacia & Dales Creek Rd)**
- Sat Dec 8, 11.00am @ **Blackwood Fire Station – Bushfire Planning Workshop**

According to Inspector Myers, this initiative is extremely important for Blackwood & surrounding communities.

"With no Neighbourhood Safer Place, the only safe option for the community in a fire threat is to leave early or evacuate if safe to do so," he said.

"Of course, the safest option on bad fire days is to leave early. Any evacuation will be a last resort.

"Victoria Police will have additional patrols in the area during the exercise, however in a real emergency this support may not be available & it's important the community understands that in fast moving emergencies, such as bushfires, they may not receive a warning or advice to evacuate."

~ Leonie Johnson, Media Officer

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ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH
visit www.woodendanglican.org.au

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

COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

All Saints' Anglican Church, Blackwood

We have had to cease regular worship at All Saints', so the church is "in recess". Visit www.woodendanglican.org.au

~ Malcolm Thomas

Blackwood/Barry's Reef Landcare Group

Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group has been approached by a local resident concerned about the recent power line-clearing which recently took place in Blackwood.

In particular, the resident believes that, in a number of instances, ornamental deciduous trees were arbitrarily & inappropriately removed rather than pruned.

Before taking this matter further with the appropriate authorities, Landcare has written to Vemco, which is Powercor's appointed contractor, asking for details of its operational procedures when line clearing.

Subsequently, Landcare has had a telephone conversation with Powercor's vegetation removal manager, Martin Campbell, who believes that Vemco has operated within established guidelines.

The appropriate guidelines are mandated within the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2010, which can be accessed online.

The regulations set minimum requirements but the decision on the ground is made in advance of the Vemco clearing operators by a nominated officer.

Mr Campbell points out that lines are cleared every three years & that Blackwood has not been done in the past under the new, more severe regulations which were enacted in response to the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires.

He also points out that assessments are made in relation to potential three-year growth of affected trees.

Landcare will be assessing what has happened in Blackwood against the regulations & will be taking the matter further if, in our view, the regulations have not been followed.

We invite townspeople to contact us with evidence of potentially inappropriate recent line-clearing.

Residents are invited to send their experiences with supporting photographic or other evidence to Landcare president Shane Scanlan via email shane@mediacomms.com.au

~ Shane Scanlan

Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee Of Management

Blackwood Crown Reserves now have contracts for Hire of Hall, Sports Ground or Mineral Springs. This is due to events of the year like high power & water costs, cleaning & garbage with maintenance all these things now have to be taken into account with each event. So to enable paper work to be organized please do bookings as soon as possible.

We have been busy with fixing up the low lying area at the Sports ground thanks to Brian & David we face grass cutting time again.

Thank-you to Lou for helping at the Caravan Park & for the assistance you have given to David & Sally, to Ray for helping out.

Our time has been busy with Cup Weekend then the Special School Bike ride, great to see Tony & family back. The hall has been venue to meetings Council, Water board, & town groups. Senior Citz & parties, great to see all these places being used.

All the members past & president were sad to hear of the passing

of Ray Meade. Ray was with Crown Reserves from 1998 & president from 2004 to 2010. This man did a lot of work in our town repairs to Hall Mineral Springs & renovated the Kitchen at the Sports Ground & even painted the Anglican Church, all we can say is Thanks Ray for the Memories.

Happy & Safe Christmas & New Year from all of us at Crown Reserves.

~ Elizabeth Hall, Secretary

Blackwood Progress Association

As we end 2012 we look forward to 30 March 2013 for our Easter Carnival. Would you like to lend a hand we would love it if you could help us to keep this event going.

Thanks to Micheal Boyd & Bendigo Bank for giving our town a Defibrillator to be in the Hotel as from 22 November 2012.

We were sad to hear of the passing of Ray Meade who every Easter worked with setting up cleaning up & even on Easter Saturday. He was never asked just came along to help, thank you Ray, you will be missed.

~ Lou Henderson: President

Blackwood Historical Society

We had a very busy open day on the Cup Weekend with visitors & local people passing through.

We would like the businesses of St Erth, Blackwood Hotel & Caravan Park for selling our books & tea towels this does really help us meeting our expenses.

We thank the members of the Society who have worked hard in restoring, maintenance, & up keep for without these people Blackwood would not have a record of History.

Merry Christmas a Happy New Year

~ Allan Hall, President

Blackwood Senior Citizens' Centre Inc.

It seems unbelievable that here we are almost at the end of another year & this will be my last report for 2012.

We have had quite a busy year socially- with many outings – our Mystery tour organized by Greg & Bev was a great day, we went on the Begmia Princess (Ferry) on Lake Wendoree - followed by a very nice luncheon at the Market Hoel Ballarat.

We recently had a guest speaker from the C.F.A., with information & advice re the fire season which is looming up quite fast.

Our thoughts & best wishes are with 2 of our members, Marg

BLACKWOOD & SURROUNDS

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Stockdale & Jack Rainer, who are now residents of the Trentham Hostel.

We also welcome 2 new members to our club. Bark Wheater & Donie Ross.

The club mourns the passing of one of our popular members - Bill Wilson – he always came up with a joke to keep us amused at our weekly get togethers – rest in peace Bill – with your beloved Leigh.

We are already organizing outings for 2013 – so it should be an interesting & busy new year!

Anyone who is interested in joining our club would be made most welcome. Inquiries 5368 1561 or 5368 2526.

In closing I would like to wish Jinny & Brendan & all readers of the Blackwood News, a safe & Happy Xmas & New Year – Till next year.

Regards

~ Barb Sweet (Hon Secretary)

Blackwood Association of Commerce, Blackwood Caravan Park & Mineral Springs Kiosk, Blackwood Cemetery Trust, Blackwood CERT, Blackwood CFA Blackwood Cricket Club, Blackwood Junior Cricket Club, Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc.

~ no reports submitted

Bake and Shake!

Community Kitchens

A Community Kitchen is a fun and exciting way for individuals from the community to come together and prepare fresh and nutritious food on a budget. Members will generally prepare and cook 2 delicious nutritious meals all at a low cost, between \$2-\$4 a session. Community Kitchens are owned and driven by participants as much as possible, which allows the group to make their own decisions. In addition you can gain knowledge, skills and insight into preparation, shopping and cooking. This program will be held, Tuesday from 11am at the Blackwood Hall.



Heart Foundation Walking Group

Do you enjoy walking? Would you feel more motivated walking with a group of people? Come along and join an accredited Heart Foundation Walking Group in Blackwood, or better still, become a walk organiser and receive FREE training from the Heart Foundation Area Coordinator. Walk Organisers consists filing attendance logs, establishing meeting times, days and locations in accordance with the groups needs as well as being primary contact for the walking group.

For enquiries or more information, please contact Jacinta Masters on 5366 7981.



This initiative was Funded by the Australian Government

Blackwood Community Evacuation Exercise

Victoria Police together with Moorabool Shire, CFA and other emergency personnel are preparing to undertake a test evacuation exercise in Blackwood, Dales Creek, Simmons Reef, Golden Point, Barrys Reef and Greenhills on Sunday 9th December 2012 from 11.00am to 2.00pm.

Participation for the local community is voluntary, however we encourage involvement as it presents a unique opportunity to test your Personal Bushfire Plans. Evacuation Information Kits have been mailed to local residents and businesses.

What community can expect

- No roads will be closed and community can expect 'business as usual'.
- The exercise will be testing how emergency services respond and community are alerted to evacuate, this will include:
 - sounding of Blackwood and Greendale CFA community alert sirens;
 - issuing of emergency alert by text to mobile and recorded message to landline phones;
 - updating CFA website and the Victoria Bushfire Information Line; and
 - door knocking some areas and using loud speaker and siren from an emergency vehicle.

Community feedback will be very important in better understanding what alerting mechanisms were effective.

Community BBQ and Expo

You are invited to attend a free Community BBQ and Emergency Services Expo at Egans Reserve, Greendale from 11.00am to 3.00pm on Sunday 9th December. There will be live music and many activities for children.

Community Information Sessions

The local community is invited to attend a series of information sessions about the test evacuation exercise:

Location	Date	Time Drop in anytime
Blackwood Post Office	Friday 30 Nov	8.00am to 10.00am
	Saturday 1 Dec	9.00am to 11.00am
Dales Creek - Council Reserve (cnr Acacia & Dales Creek Rd)	Saturday 1 Dec	11.30am to 12.30pm

For more information

If you are unable to attend an information session or have not received your Evacuation Information Kit please contact:

Moorabool Shire Council: Cherie Graham 5366 7100 or www.moorabool.vic.gov.au

Victoria Police: Ballan, Sergeant Ken Tingate 5368 1303



VICTORIA POLICE



Greendale Country Pub
phone: 03 5368 1355

AUSTRALIA DAY



Saturday Jan 26, 2013
woodchop starts 11am
live music from 1pm
into the night

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
woodchop, activities, raffles,
face painting, stalls, jumping
castles, spit roast, CFA & lots
more

*Bring along a chair or sit on the grass and listen to music
or watch the woodchop competition*

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BLACKWOOD ACADEMY
OF BLUEGRASS AND OLD TIME MUSIC

1pm Shapenote singing session
2-4pm Oldtime and bluegrass workshops and sessions

4pm Acoustic performances by local and overseas artists

AND ACOUSTIC MUSIC REVUE

Sun December 15
(Breaking Up Christmas variety show)

BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH HALL
Martin St, Blackwood, Victoria

For monthly program information visit
www.blackwoodacademy.org
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VICHEALTH'S \$1M FUNDING FOR ACTIVE CLUBS NOW OPEN

Sports clubs in Melton & Moorabool are encouraged to apply for VicHealth grants of up to \$2,500 each for new equipment, portable shade & volunteer training.

Applications for the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) 2012/2013 Active Club Grants funding can be submitted now until December 6, 2012. A total of \$1 million is available to local sporting clubs, regional sporting leagues & associations & local active recreation clubs across Victoria.

Local MP, Mr Don Nardella said: "The grants aim to make it easier for clubs to fund items or activities that help them to improve safety & to reach out to new participants."

Each year, the grants support more Victorians to become active & this is increasingly important as we see the impact of a lack of physical activity in the growing numbers of people with chronic diseases & other health problems."

More than 9000 sporting codes & clubs across Victoria have received Active Club Grants over the 22 years VicHealth has provided this support.

As a result, more than 1 million club members have been able to access safer & better equipped clubs with more trained volunteers.

VicHealth CEO, Jerril Rechter, said physical inactivity contributes to obesity & heart disease, costing the Australian health system up to \$400 million every year.

We're keen to encourage the involvement of people who are currently inactive, or who face barriers to taking part in sport," Ms Rechter said.

"This may include Indigenous communities, people from culturally diverse communities, people with disabilities & those who live in rural or low socio-economic communities. Regular physical activity not only protects against many illnesses, it also makes us mentally healthy, alert & resilient against the stresses of modern life."

This year's grants also focus on people aged over 60, who traditionally have low rates of sports participation & young people aged five to 17-years-old & sports that are vulnerable to on-field emergencies.

Eligible sport & recreation organisations are invited to apply for this grant online at www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/activeclub or to post completed applications to VicHealth, PO Box 154, Carlton, VIC 3053.

The funding round closes 4pm Thursday 6 December, 2012. Successful recipients will be notified March 2013.

EVENTS & GIGS • EVENTS & GIGS •

DECEMBER 2012

when	what	where
Sat 1, noon	Birdland	Radio Springs
Sat 1, pm	Gillian Eastoe & Terry Murray	Radio Springs
Sat 1, pm	The Dorothy-Jane Gosper Band	Palais
Sun 2, noon	Zeptepi	Radio Springs
Sun 2, 1pm	Hugh Mc Ginlay	Cosmo
Sun 2, pm	Table Hill	Radio Springs
Fri 7, pm	Andrew Wishart	Palais
Sun 9, 1pm	Gussy & the Barn Cats	Cosmo
Fri 14, 7pm	Open Mic night	Cosmo
Fri 14, pm	Sun Rising	Palais
Sat 15, pm	Dolly Diamond & Luke Gallagher	Palais
Sun 16, 1pm	Blackwood Academy/Revue *	Blackwood
Sat 22, pm	Pugsley Buzzard	Palais
Mon 31, 7.30	NYE - Bakehouse dinner & show	Cosmo
Mon 31, pm	Jo Erectus 4 piece Melbourne classic rock cover band	Blackwood Pub

JANUARY 2013

when	what	where
Tues 1, arvo	Mick Thomas	Greendale Hotel
Fri 11, 7pm	Open Mic night	Cosmo
Sun 13	Sam Azzopardi	Greendale Hotel
Sat 26, 11am	Wood Chop & Activities (see p...)	Greendale Hotel
Sat 26, 1pm	Woodchop. live music & party til late	Greendale Hotel
Sun 27, 1pm	Alison Ferrier	Cosmo

* denotes Blackwoodian musos



THE BALT CAMP & ABLE'S MINE, BULLARTO, NEAR BLACKWOOD.



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

I have been asked by the Blackwood Historical Society to do some research on the Balt Camp & Able's Mine in Bullarto, where recent publicity has shown that permission has been given to Fortitude Mining to start mining in the area.

The Balt camp is on one side of the road & Able's Mine on the other side in Bullarto.

On researching through Google on the internet, I came across some of the following references:

Simmons Reef Walk - Balt Camp Walk - Blackwood 18.5km
This walk takes you from the Balt Camp - on Camp Road - down into the catchment & headwaters of the Lerderderg River. There are some good views, some ferny gullies & some older trees on parts this walk. There is also some unusual, stunted high-altitude vegetation - including stands of Hakea on rocky ridges, exposed to seasonal extremes of temperature & moisture. Access to the Balt Camp is from the east via the Spargo - Blakeville & Camp Roads, or via camp Road from Bullarto South.

The 'Balt Camp' - on Camp Road - was a refugee work camp for 'displaced persons' - including from the Baltic States - after World War 2. All that remains today are a stone chimney & concrete foundations of the huts.

<http://gdt.org.au/lerderderg-track/balt-camp-walk/>



Found on Trove in the West Australian paper - Monday 27 October 1947

BALT REFUGEES AS MIGRANTS - Arrival at Fremantle in December. The first party of 860 displaced persons would arrive in Australia early in December, the Minister for Immigration (Mr. Calwell) announced today. They were all of Baltic origin & had been instructed in the English language & the Australian way of life at a camp near Berlin. This instruction would be continued on the voyage & in Bonegilla camp, Victoria, where they would stay for a month before being allotted to employment in the various States.

Balt Camp Blackwood - Wombat State Forest Shire of Moorabool. (information on sign)

The Balt Camp - grid ref - AMG 55 BU 535501 Bullarto

Site History: The Balt Camp was built by the Forestry Commission to give employment for young displaced persons from Northern Europe in 1946. The male workers were given the weekend off & either walked to Bullarto to catch the train or just walked through the forest to Daylesford.

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Description & interpretation of features: This building was the cookhouse. The men's sleeping quarters were on the other side of the road. Two of them have been removed to Korweinguboora where the bright green painted sheds can be seen on the west side of the Ballan-Daylesford road.

Further Information: Daylesford Historical Museum. The Assistant cook & two of the original foresters live in the Daylesford area.

ABLE'S MINE

On researching the Able mine on the Internet I found it was called Able's Mine. Records show it was an active mine 105 years ago in Bullarto, north of Blackwood.

The Argus - Monday 23 December 1907

Abel's Reef Bullarto, 21st - extended north drive 21 ft from old end. Total from cross-cut 56 ft., North end improving. Making a bit more stone in leaders; coarse colours occasionally.

The Argus - Monday 27 January 1908

The managers report - Abel's Reef, Bullarto - 25th -Started battery, difficulty with water suspended to erect storage tank 4,000 gallons. Started crushing again. Should be able to crush one shift regularly. Stopes looking well. Putting through 50 tons.

The Argus - Monday 24 February 1908

The managers report - Abel's Reef Bullarto, 22nd - Extended stone north from rise 16 ft payable stone 18in; started another stope under this one, 10ft., payable stone 10in., Bottom of stope 30ft from top of bottom north level. Rise when starting to break stone, was 45 ft high making 15ft of stone stoped out when these two stopes get through the shoot north height of shoot, here 25ft to 30ft; about 70ft or 80ft long. Stone going strongly underfoot on level, prospects payable.

The Argus - Friday 13 March 1908

The Abel's Reef Gold mining Bullarto, March 10th - The 2nd half-yearly general meeting of shareholders was held at the registered office, in Queen street. Over half the shares were represented Mr L Rees presided. The report & balance sheet were adopted. The retiring directors (L Rees & J Bentley) were re-elected. The mine manager throughly recommended driving a tunnel, as it would enable the lease to be throughly & more economically worked. He estimated the cost to be about £255, & the saving over 2dwt per ton. A long discussion took place, & it was thought that two calls would be enough to meet the costs. the recommendation was therefore adopted.

The Argus - Friday 20 February 1914

A fire between Blakeville & Bullarto wrought much damage at the Abel's Reef mine. It destroyed the poppet legs & a tool house, also Mr. Stephens's house adjoining. The engine-room was scorched, but saved. The principal interest in the claim is held by Mr. Stephens & three sons, whose loss, after a struggle in advancing the mine so far, is considerable.



Researched by Margot Hitchcock from her forthcoming book 'The History & 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.



Balt Camp Ruins

FORTITUDE MINING FACT SHEET ON MINING IN BULLARTO.

JULY 16, 2012. - Fortitude Mining chief, Lyle Palmer has forwarded to the ABC a fact sheet on the proposed mining process at the site in the Wombat Forest.

REGARDING ABEL'S REEF BULK SAMPLING OPERATION on MINING LICENSE MIN5349

THE LICENSE, of 5ha is located in the Wombat State Forest approximately 3 kilometres south of the village of Bullarto, near Daylesford Victoria. It is between Camp Road, Lerderderg track & Maxwell Track.

THE MINERAL resource, known as Abel's Reef was mined around the end of the 19th century & early 1900s. The site also has a recorded history of disturbance due to numerous logging campaigns for the harvesting of timber. There are as many as twenty open shafts of various depths on the license & it is quite hazardous for persons to move through or around the area unescorted.

AN APPLICATION for a mining license was made on July 16, 2001 & five years ago on July 18, a mining licence (MIN 5349) was issued over an area of 5ha, to Mr. Neil F Stuart & Mr. Barry G Friend.

THE APPLICATION for this license was preceded by over ten years of exploration, conducted under an exploration license. An estimate of the expenditure from that period & up to the present would be that well in excess of \$500,000.00 has been spent on work including mapping, sampling, drilling, assaying & administration expenses.

AN "INDICATED " resource of 120,000 tonnes of ore at a grade of 3.4 grams of gold per tonne of ore has been estimated to exist to shallow depth at Abel's Reef. These grades are quite "skinny" & there is considerable doubt as to the presence of much the remnant reef. It is thought that the "old timers" may have taken out much more of the reef than some assumptions allow for. For these reasons we think that it would not be at all prudent to commit to mining a large portion of the estimated resource.

WITH THIS in mind, a work plan was prepared which proposed excavating a selected bulk sample of 5000 tonnes, along the reef, within 20 metres of the surface. The intention is to have this ore toll treated off-site.

FOLLOWING A rigorous assessment of the impact such an operation would have on the area, approval of the work plan was recently granted by the Dept. of Primary Industries.

A FLORA & fauna assessment was used to guide the Department of Sustainability & Environment in determining the offset ratio, which stipulates a proportional area of land (containing a similar habitat) that we must "lock up" in perpetuity to achieve a net gain. In this case we need to secure by covenant an area which is 150% of that which we clear for the excavation of the bulk sample. We also need to fully rehabilitate the cleared portion of the license area. An area of vegetation along the line of reef will be cleared, the topsoil stockpiled & the

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overburden removed, followed by the excavation of 5000 tonnes of ore for treatment off-site.

THIS TREATMENT is intended to take place at Maldon, the route distance being some 70kms. Depending on the size of trucks & configuration (re trailers) there would be up to about 200 truck movements to shift the bulk sample. The route has been driven over & places requiring special consideration (such as Bullarto School) noted. The Chief Executive Officers of the various shires & any other connected organisations are scheduled to be contacted in person for consultation over the coming weeks. Though the operation of taking the bulk sample is expected to start in spring (September 1) it would be at least several weeks after that before any trucks carrying ore were on the roads. The processed ore will become mine tailings & will not be brought back to the site.

PRIOR TO the earthworks taking place, the vegetation will need to be cleared & any millable logs transported to a local sawmill. The clearing will also result in a reasonable quantity of firewood becoming available. The water table is some 20 metres below the surface & the excavation of the slot for the taking of the bulk sample will not reach that level. The design for the surrounds of the slot, (where the topsoil will be stockpiled) incorporates sediment traps & retention ponds to prevent any run-off of water from heavy rainfall.

THE WORKS will be carried out exclusively by local contractors. The number of contractor workers on site for most of the time is estimated to be three, with other contractors & consultants being engaged from time to time. Off-site personnel would include those involved in maintenance, trucking, & the treatment process.

WE WELCOME enquiries & constructive engagement with the community & a web site is expected to be set up soon, in the meantime any correspondence can be addressed to - Fortitude Mining Pty Ltd PO Box 283 Trentham Vic.3458

WOMBAT FOREST care member, David Stephens, said "Given the proximity of the proposed mine to Crowley Creek & the Lerderderg River, the operation raises issues about erosion, sedimentation & heavy-metal contamination of these waterways - for 150 years this community has valued water more than gold."

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**THE COBBLER'S
CHILDREN GO
BAREFOOT**

by Heather Marsh

...and the garden writer's front yard is a mess. Yes – it is humiliating to say it, but the bit of my garden that everybody gets to see is mostly a mish-mash shambles of

left over plantings from the mists of time & weeds.

I can immediately think of lots of justifications for why this is so:

1. I prioritized the vegetable garden (which looks stunning – if only it were in front of the house!)
2. I wanted to experiment with a dry perennial border & the front bit didn't have enough room
3. We want to re-clad the house & create a proper front entry. Wont builders just tramp all over whatever I put in?
4. It's an annoying, tiny dug-out square with nothing to inspire me & ...who needs a front garden anyway! (There –now I've said it!)

To be honest, I haven't the faintest idea what to do with my front garden & I suspect other gardeners may feel the same. After all - what is a front garden for? One doesn't sit in it, or look out at it (much).

Front gardens are usually about the size of a pocket handkerchief so they don't allow for expansive design. Paradoxically, 'front' gardens also end up with two 'backs' as they try to cater to the two audiences – view from the street & view from the house.

So...what to do with a 10x10 meter square of earth? Ideas? Seriously, this may become a Blackwood News competition – design my front garden & win my undying gratitude. I pledge, at the very least, to have resolved the eyesore that is my front yard by Spring next year.

In the meantime there are joys to be had in the burgeoning growth of the rest of the garden. I can tend to my high achievers & leave the problem child until Autumn.



Right now this is what I am doing in my garden:

- Sprucing the berry bed. I have pulled all the weeds, given the flowering currant a prune so it doesn't block light from my blueberries. I have removed the runners from my strawberries, fed the blueberries with screened chook compost (thanks ladies!), tied back the raspberries, which are starting to set fruit, & done the compulsory netting of the lot to protect it from the parrots.
- Pulling garlic. This is the first year I have grown a proper garlic crop & I'm hoping that the 32 bulbs I'm about to pull will store well & see us through most of the year. I put in early purple, mammoth & one I call Bev's giant – passed on from a local.
- Going tomato crazy. Last year I grew so many tomatoes, that a lot of the fruit fell & ended up going into the compost. This year I am finding random tomato seedlings everywhere. I have decided to let them get on where they are, wait & see which ones are the strongest & then move the best & brightest to a super nutrient rich netted patch to bring on the harvest.
- Finishing the perennial garden. This long-term project is two-thirds done. I have planted out two of the three borders in silvers, grey-greens, bruised purples & flame orange. Included in the plantings are sedums, euphorbia, catmint, ajuga, thymes, society garlic, crocosmia, salvias & aloes.

If you are able to jump onto blackwoodnews.com.au for this article you can see a couple of colour photos from the potager & perennial gardens – just to remind you to not judge a gardening writer's book by her cover! If the front garden has become visitor parking by next spring you can judge me then.

~ Happy Gardening, Heather



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HEALTH BASICS: THYMUS GLAND & THE WILL TO LIVE

by Kathie Strmota

The thymus gland is a 'nursery' for immune cells. They are 'born' elsewhere but nurtured in the thymus, where they develop into specific cell types with their own specific functions. This gland is large & active in children, & appears to atrophy with age, so science believes that its importance diminishes over time, & adults don't really need it. However, we know that when someone faces a new type of infection or illness with immune involvement, the thymus increases activity & grows in size again. This suggests that it's only larger in childhood because little bodies face lots of new microbes & chemicals, & are working hard to create immune cells & antibodies to deal with those. Once antibodies for a particular molecule are created, they usually don't need to be created again, so this demand diminishes over time. It may not be highly active in the aged, but the thymus never stops performing its immune functions.

Metaphysically, the Thymus Centre processes the more refined aspects of energies associated with the heart (eg. love, compassion, gratitude). In the heart, these attitudes are relatively personal, such as love of specific people or gratitude for particular experiences or gifts. In thymus energy, they become more unconditional, expressing love & appreciation of life itself, & love for all life & all things. Further developing these more unconditional aspects within yourself will strengthen thymus health & improve immunity.

The thymus is associated with the will to live & the will to survive. Its energies bypass the desire for individual experiences or possessions, & tap into the very core of the desire to just 'be alive' ... to love life & revel in the joy of living. I believe that, in many people who 'miraculously' recover from cancers, this aspect is a crucial driver for the immune system's ability to overcome. It's like the person has a wake-up call. They're suddenly faced with the very real possibility of death & , in coming to terms with that, a lot of the superficial layers of desire are stripped away. They come to a deeper realisation that it doesn't matter what they do or have or see. What really matters is simply that they're alive & want to keep living.

I'm not suggesting it's just a simple change of mind & I'm sure that many who've died from cancer felt they didn't want to die. I acknowledge that there are many factors involved. But I do believe that, in survivors, it's the deep-level understanding that 'to just be alive is what it's all about', which strengthens their ability to overcome.

Of course, prevention is better than cure, so work on shifting your

priorities & perceptions now, to connect with this deeper truth. Love yourself, your neighbour, your world. Love your life. Appreciate all things, from the plainest stone to the grandest building. Let go of the little things ... what you have or don't, how you want to be seen, who upset you this morning, wanting a perfect relationship & so on. It's all just the stuff you do while you're alive, but it's not your reason for living. Release worry about the unknown future. Let go of past resentments & failures. Be accepting of whatever life gives you, pleasure or pain, & be grateful simply for the gift of being able to experience it.

Affirmations for the Thymus ... I will live. I will survive. I love my life. I revel in the joy of being alive. I respect the right to exist, in myself & in all others.

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Tell Central Highlands Water to pee or get off the pot!

The following letter was sent to the Weekly Times for their new "It's Broke – Fix It!" column

Hi Weekly Times Editors,
I live in the historic gold mining town of Blackwood.

There are families living here who can trace their lineage back to the gold rush.

Many of those families are unable to get a planning permit to build on their land in the township because Blackwood was promised sewerage & the water authority is refusing permits until that is connected.

Seven years later (and after a grant to Central Highlands Water from DSE of \$750,000!) the proposed sewerage plan that Central Highlands Water put forward has been rejected by the EPA. Not a single trench has been dug, we have nothing to show for it, but Central Highlands can't tell us how much, if any of the grant is left.

No permits are being granted &, as far as anyone knows, the sewerage system is now on the back-burner.

A land-holder was informed recently by council that his property,

which he had sold (subject to permit – the sale couldn't go through) for \$160,000, was now valued at \$17,000.

We have written to Central Highlands Water asking why there wasn't more collaboration with the EPA in the first place. Successful sewerage systems have been installed in similar bush towns such as Kinglake.

Our homes & properties will become worthless if we don't push for the big water companies & the State Government to either keep their promise & sewer the town ASAP or approve & pay for us to upgrade our ancient septic systems to cleaner more efficient ones (no new septic systems are getting approval).

Please help us to make a noise about this. It would be terribly sad if our little historic town became a ghost town because of this issue.

I have attached a humorous photo we included in our local news to draw attention to the issue. It's caption was: 'Blackwoodians queue undeterred'.

The photo was taken by Brendan Hehir. A large file version of that is available. Many thanks for a great initiative! Heather Marsh



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Annie (Nancy) Walker (née Terrill)

continued from Oct/Nov '12 issue

Mum was active & independent until she was in her early nineties.

Some other funny stories about Mum include her falling off Robyn's scooter & banging into the fence. Her first worry was if any one had seen her & she scurried inside before checking her injuries. Years later, when she went to a Chiropractor, he asked her if she had ever been in an accident, & she confessed to her high-speed scooter mishap.

Mum had a habit of falling in inappropriate places. We had lots of fun teasing her when she fell over in the gutter in front of the hotel on her way home from church. She hadn't had communion wine that day either.

When she was in her early 90's, Mum had another fall going down a step in a cafe in Woodend. To be on the safe side, we had the ambulance come & they took her to the Kyneton hospital. She wasn't at all in favour of going out on the stretcher, but the ambulance officers insisted. As they wheeled her past the other patrons, she sat up & said "It's got nothing to do with the food here, I had a lovely lunch." When we got to the hospital & the doctor was checking her out, he asked her to say the days of the week backwards. She looked at him for a minute & said "I'm not going to do that, what a silly idea, the days don't go that way."

Mum could sometimes be disarmingly honest with her opinions. She told me once that she really liked my new hairstyle with my hair parted on the side as having it parted in the middle made me look a bit simple.

Mum's thoughts were always for other people, never herself. On her 99th birthday we took her out for lunch & happened to see Father Christmas waiting for people to have their photo taken with him. We kidded Mum into sitting beside him for a photo. She made a record that day, as he said Mum was the oldest customer he had ever had. Later on when we were home, she said "Well I hope Father Christmas got a cup of tea for sitting there holding my hand today."

One Christmas Mum was given a parka to wear out in the cold, I tried it on just to see if the size was right. When it was a good fit I said "Okay that was good" but when I tried to take it off again Mum said "Oh no, I just put the flipping thing on so I was allowed to keep it on."

Mum could not walk very far during the last few years, so we always took her in her wheelchair. She was still able to walk up & down a few stairs. We would get some funny looks when we would take Mum out of the wheelchair to walk up the steps.

We were so blessed that Mum only needed to go into the Nursing Home for the last three & a half weeks of her life. We went in one day & she was having her lunch. We told Mum we would go & have our lunch at home so she said "All right nick off". A nurse who overheard & didn't know Mum said "That's not very nice". We knew she was meaning, yes you go because I'm all right.

As Judy has mentioned, Mum was always involved in local community groups & events. She was widely known for her cooking skills & her hospitality. As soon as anyone came through the door, they were offered a cup of tea. She was a champion scone maker & nothing ever tasted quite like Mum's buns. Up until the last 10 years of her life, Mum always wore an apron & it had to have a pocket for her hanky. Another essential item.

Mum loved sewing & had a room set aside for the job. She made clothes for herself & Dad, for us & her grandchildren & friends. She sewed aprons, soft toys, sports uniforms, you name it Mum could sew it. She started on the treadle sewing machine working up to an electric one with all the bells & whistles. She made Bev's Deb dress, Robyn's wedding dress, countless bridesmaid's dresses & even things like kangaroo outfits, when she made the costumes for the annual Blackwood Concert.

However, Mum thought Robyn's hobby of patchwork was a waste of time. What was the sense of cutting up perfectly good pieces of material &

sewing them back together again. Mum was very pleased with herself one day as she had found some of Robyn's patchwork fabric in a bag & made two cushion covers to sell to raise money for the church. She sold them for \$10 each. It was a shame that Robyn had paid over \$35 for the fabric. Those cushion covers were certainly a bargain.

Housework was something Mum did, but did not enjoy. Grandma told her once that Mum could sew anything & play the piano well but she would never get Mum to clean her house. Mum just had better things to do. She had the right idea about ironing. Mum folded things up & sat on them while she did the crossword. She made a birthday cake one day & went to Ted's bedroom to find a piece of board to cover with silver paper to sit the cake on. There was a magazine that took her interest on the bed so she sat down for a while & had a read. When she got back to the kitchen the cat had chewed one of the corners off the cake. No problem, Mum just trimmed the rest of the corners & made it round. On another occasion, a birthday cake was taken out of the oven too soon & sank in the middle. Again, no problem, a bit of jelly & a chocolate frog & it was turned into a pond.

Mum was always raising money for the Church. Every year there was a church fair with produce stalls, home cooking, lucky dips & a craft stall. This later became the Annual Garden party held at home.

Everyone was expected to help & of course we all did whether it was striking cuttings for the plant stall or making or baking.

Mum took responsibility for the Church for many, many years. She taught Sunday School, played the organ, did the flowers, taught religious education at the school & managed to talk Ted into painting the Church or cutting the grass as it was needed,

Mum's faith in God was very important to her. It was the compass for Mum's journey through life. Her faith was absolute & unshakable as was her moral code. She was honest, faithful, reliable & thought of others before herself.

What a wonderful role-model she was for her children & grandchildren. Mum taught us so much.

She taught us how to love. Her love for her family was unconditional. She supported us wholeheartedly, encouraging us, always being there for us with practical help or advice. She made us feel that we could do anything we set out

to do. She had faith in us. She made us feel special.

Mum taught us how to live a life with grace, to be happy & to be thankful. Even in the last years of her life when her faculties were wearing out & she found it hard to hear, hard to remember & hard to move about freely she never, ever complained. She was content with her life, she accepted challenges & faced them with courage. She never wanted to be a burden to anyone & she never was.

Mum taught us how to live a life with meaning, to use the talents & gifts that God gives us to enrich our lives & the lives of others.

We are so privileged to have had her as our mother. Thank you, Mum for your love, your guidance & your grace & the wonderful memories that will stay with us forever.

~ Robyn Zanon

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HELLO BLACKWOOD,

WELL I think winter is almost over. It's been a long one, a bit like the last person at a party who just won't leave! There is still a small pocket of snow on Black Bluff & , until this weekend, an occasional fall over Cradle Mount.

THE KIDS keep a constant watch on the Bluff; as soon as the last skerrick of snow has gone, it's OK to get wet. This means that on the first sunny day they will maybe fall into the creek (accidentally) or one kid will push the other & they'll both fall in the waterhole, & they were wet anyway because no.3 was throwing rocks in...so they all come home wet & muddy & starving hungry. Ah, summertime at last!



OUR HALLOWEEN party was a great success. Everyone dressed up, Mums & Dads too! We had a scavenger hunt through the garden, & , as one little girl said, "That bonfire is as big as the world". The best surprise was the next day. I expected a bit of a cleanup, but not even an icy pole stick or lolly wrapper was to be found.

NOW WE have Christmas to look forward to. In January I'm going on a cruise to New Zealand with my sister. We have not had a holiday together since we were girls, just us two little girls in blue, or pink, or yellow - whatever material Mum had. She always made two of everything until I was 14, when I went to work, then I had store-bought clothes. I even, to my Mums horror, bought myself some jeans & have worn them ever since. Mum used to say to me "What about a nice frock?" Some of us are just not pretty frock girls! I also got big gold hoop earrings & a black shirt that was worn tied in a the waist. My Mum thought I was becoming a Wiggle!

I'M LOOKING forward to our holiday & wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Keep well & a safe & happy New Year to all ...

~ Bev Cooper, Wilmot Tasmania

HEY KIDS...

- WHO WERE** Bodgies & Widgies?
- WHAT DID** they wear?
- DID ROCK &** Roll make us do bad things?
- WHAT ARE** Pegged Pants?
- WHAT WERE** Beetlecrushers?
- WHAT DOES** it mean to be 'Done up like a sore toe'?

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Blackwoodian makes state final in the Australian Poetry Slam

THE VICTORIAN State Final was held at the State Library in front of a crowd of about 200. Competitors came from as far away as Swan Hill. Blackwoodian Heather Marsh was among 12 finalists & had some very hot competition.

POETRY SLAMMING is different to just reading poems aloud. It is much more performative, sometimes fast-paced & funny, sometimes political & angry. There are no ivory towers in poetry slamming. It is by the people for the people so the judges are chosen from the audience by throwing Minties.

EACH COMPETITOR has 2 minutes to make their mark - you lose points for going over time by even a second. The judges each give a score out of 10 & the tally, minus lost points, decides the winner.

HEATHER DIDN'T make it through to the Nationals but, by a friend's iPhone calculation, she came third!

THE STATE Final was heaps of fun & Heather is aiming to make it to the National Final next year. You go girl!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

ONCE AGAIN you have produced a great mag.

YOU ARE rightly indignant over the poor government handling of such an important service as sewerage.

THE WAY you posed the picture with some toddlers highlights one of the core issues of decentralisation, which politicians seem to delight in propagating, but when some real issues arise seem powerless to effect improvements. Families are the key to sustainable small communities.

LIKED THE historical items also.

SEEMS YOU have captured the spirit of your local community in contrast to reduced efforts of the media networks.

WELL DONE!

~ Stephen, Ringwood

HI,

CAN YOU advise me where you got the information on the Wightman/Wolter family history? (Apr-May '11) I was adopted out in 1975 as Simon Moore, though my biological name would be perceived as 'Simon Friedrich

BANKS GIVE A HEART START FOR COMMUNITY

Blackwood, 23 November 2012: Trentham & Districts Community Bank® branch can now provide its local area with access to 3 automated defibrillator units thanks to the support of the Melbourne-based Altona, Laverton/Altona Meadows & Point Cook Community Bank® branches.

To help the people of Trentham, Blackwood & Daylesford to have healthy outcomes, the combined branches have funded 3 automatic defibrillators as part of Bendigo Bank's support of the Defib Your Club for Life program said branches director, Michael Boyd. He added "This is an extension of our own local program supporting Defib Your Club for Life where we have provided 88 units to our local communities."

Bendigo Bank is supporting Defib Your Club for Life, an initiative formed in memory of 19yo Stephen Buckman, a young Rupertswood footballer who collapsed & died during training in May 2010. Founding director MICA paramedic Andrew White was off duty & at the club but was unable to save

Wolter '(I'm Glenn Wolter's son) - though we've never met he is aware of me now - we made contact last year - did the info come from Glenn or another source? I'm simply doing some genealogy research ... can you pls call me or email.

I WOULDN'T mind getting some copies of the records if you have them for my own personnel knowledge

MANY THANKS

~ Simon Moore

EDITORS NOTE: Hi Simon, great to get your email, our local historian Margot Hitchcock put this article together. Her details are on p8 of this issue. If anyone else has info for Simon please email me for his details.

HI BRENDAN,

SUBJECT: BLACKWOOD News: Puntastic!

I JUST received the copy of the Oct-Nov edition you sent in. I have to say I am in awe!! Keep up the good work.

CHEERS,

~ Michael (Rowland), ABC News Breakfast

HI JINNY,

REGARDING THE photo on p3 of the Oct/Nov '12 issue of the Blackwood News, showing publican Ray Meade with a horse standing at the bar of the Blackwood Hotel in 1996:

I AM the other person in that photo & it is my horse Ali, a purebred Egyptian Arabian Gelding in training for the 1996 'Tom Quilty Gold Cup' - the yearly National Championship for Australian endurance riding.

RIDERS & horses come from around the world to attempt this ride, which is held in a different state every year. In 1996, it was held in Myrtleford, Victoria & Ali & I successfully completed the ride & received the coveted 'Quilty Buckle', a solid silver & gold hand crafted work of art.

WE USED to ride Bullarto to Blackwood return along the Lerderderg River, often riding late into the night & the early wee hours as the 'Quilty' is a 100 mile ride & you have only 24 hours in which to complete the ride. The ride starts at midnight & you have until the following midnight to complete the ride. Your horse has to pass all veterinary checks along

the way & be fit to continue at the end of the ride to receive a successful completion & a Quilty Buckle.



BLACKWOOD & Bullarto townships are located in the middle of the Wombat State Forest which is some of the best horse riding country in the world & great preparation for the challenging Quilty ride. I thought your readers may be interested.

~ Regards Gary McIntosh



SIG ACTIVITIES & CONTACTS

ARTPLAY: 1st Tues @ 10am. 5425 3182, 0421 823 622

BIRDWALKERS: 2nd Tues @ 9am. 5427 2423

COFFEE @ KADDY'S Wed @10.30am: Come & enjoy!

GAMES: 2nd Tues @ 2pm. 5422 7094

COMPUTING: 1st & 3rd Wed @ 2.30pm. 5422 7094

DRAMA GROUP: 3rd Tues @ 1.30pm. 5422 3828

ISSUES OF INTEREST (IOI): 4th Fri @ 2pm. 5422 3828

LIFEBALL: Each Wed 12.45pm-2pm. 5422 7348

LUNCH CLUB: 4th Tues @ midday. 5422 7094

MUSIC FOR LISTENING: 1st Thur @2pm. 5422 1598

TAICHI: Tues @ 3.45pm. Heather 5422 2195 or Jan 5422 3828

U3A ONLINE COURSE: Mon @ 2pm. 5427 1052

CONTACT U3A

Web: www.u3akyneton.org.au

Email: u3akyneton@gmail.com
Mail: P O Box 1321 Kyneton Vic 3444

This community information is sponsored by FLUX Design Studio



November 23, 2012: L-R Trevor Hill CERT Team Leader, Lou Henderson Progress Representative, Heinz Mueller Publican Blackwood Hotel, Michael Boyd, David Lawrence Manager Trentham Branch, Bendigo Bank.

ALAN WELLSLEY GRIFFIN
59697 LAC 30-7-42 TO 4-3-46
(CONTINUED)

THE CYCLONE, OLD FAITHFUL & LEAVE

Early in 1944, we were camped in tents at the town end of the airstrip. The MET people concluded that a cyclone was approaching Broome & would strike us about midnight. We were given the option of being evacuated (looking back I wonder where that would have been to) or staying with our gear. As far as I know, everyone stayed & the tents were pulled down & staked flat on the ground over our personal gear. We then just had to stand & wait. We encountered a very heavy blow just before midnight, but the cyclone turned south, followed the coast down & came inland at Exmouth Gulf where the resultant tidal wave washed full 44 gallon drums five miles inland & the RAAF personnel there were left with only the clothes they wore.



The Catalina's resting spot after the accident on take off. Its precious cargo of beer was spared!

At the rear of the tent we added an annex of camouflage cover, as did some of the other tents. We acquired a shed door from one of the town houses, added 4 legs to make a sturdy table for the annex &, to top off this comfort area, we borrowed some deck chairs (on a permanent basis!) from the Sun Theatre. Even though the front of the theatre was locked up I knew how to get in via the back fence. Local knowledge was very handy!

I was on watch one day when we had an emergency with a Mosquito ("Old Faithful") returning from a reconnaissance mission over enemy held territory. They had engine problems & one engine failed. The last radio contact we had from the plane was "low on gas, repeat low on gas". Fortunately the Mosquito made the distance on one engine but had to crash land on the strip at Broome.

It is worthy to note that, from the photograph of "Old Faithful", the number of missions can be calculated & this mission would have been its 39th.

In March of 1945, Hugh Whitford & I were posted to 5 PD, Perth WA to go on leave & then a further posting to God-knows-where & I don't

think God had much idea either! The transport to 1 PD Melbourne was by troop train & the procedure each day was (after morning parade) to form a queue & file past a table where you were issued with travel warrants etc.

By the time the queue was nearly completed, there would be a loud announcement, "train full, no more until tomorrow". If you missed out, you simply had to do it all over again the next day.

Hugh had met a girl in Perth that he was keen on & he was in no hurry to get back to Melbourne. In order to prolong his stay in Perth, when his place in the queue was getting close to the table, he would slip out & go back to the end of the line. Hugh & I had travelled together on leave & postings since April 1943 &, because of his desire to stay longer in Perth, we unfortunately split up. I eventually went on to Morotai & Hugh onto Tarakan. We did not meet up again until after the war.

I was keen to get home on leave & it took about 4 days in the queue to secure a position on the troop train from Perth to Melbourne. After the third day, they wanted four volunteers; the usual story.... "you, you, you, & you" to clean windows of WA HQ in Hay Street. We were dropped off at WA HQ, given our buckets & cleaning materials & left to do the job of cleaning the windows. The HQ was a multi-storey building. We checked the job out & didn't like it & didn't do it! We found it was much more pleasurable talking to the female WT in the signal department!

The next day we finally caught the troop train & I believe there was a great commotion looking for the four men who were supposed to have cleaned the windows of WA HQ.

On leaving 5 PD by troop train, my paperwork gave me 30 days leave, plus travelling time, after which I was to report to 1 PD Melbourne. This I did & handed in my paperwork at 1 PD. I was given a leave pass for 36 days & food coupons etc., with instructions to report back to 1 PD on completion of the leave.

One day passed & on the morning of the second day the phone rang (I still don't know where they got my parent's phone number from). The chap from orderly room at 1 PD was in great panic & said I had to report back right away & hand in all the food coupons etc. My reply was "that's fair enough", but from 5 PD they were only giving me 30 days leave, whilst from 1 PD Melbourne it was 36 days, so how about I take the extra 6 days & then report in. His reply was yes & I feel he was so pleased to clear up his mistake, he didn't mind the concession.

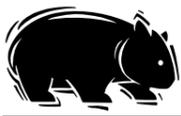
... to be continued next issue

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- ✓ Pack a relocation kit with important documents and essential items.
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Don't wait and hope for the best. Visit the CFA website to find out how you can be FireReady.

Plan to leave early
visit cfa.vic.gov.au
call 1800 240 667



HUMANS & ME

I THOUGHT I was different growing up, 'cause I spent most of my time in the bush climbing trees, swimming in dams & rivers, crawling through caves & playing with wild animals by myself, while other young people were hanging around the town smoking, drinking in groups, ever trying to fit in or be popular.

EVEN SO, when I made a friend that would join me in playing with nature, I would relish in showing/teaching him/her what I knew & would become close to that human. Then they would move out of town with their parents, usually cause there wasn't a lot of work in my town & I would feel empty for a long time, even if I found someone else to play with.

I WOULD try to stay in contact with my old friend as long as I could, but as became the norm in my life, they would find something/somewhere/someone better than me. So it was no surprise to me looking back that I joined the army at 19 to find like-minded beings that I could relate to.

AS A youngster I thought that, 'cause I was strong, fit & able to fight to protect mates, family & nature that the army was also the same. In a general sense my early views of military life was right, but after the second year in Infantry when I was posted from 49RQR to 5/7RAR, I soon realised my values are not the same about mateship & our environment/nature.

YES IN a fight/battle, fellow soldiers would die for each other like a mother lioness protecting her cubs from hyenas or a male lion, but that didn't transfer to peace time, either on civvie street or in the battalion. Fellow soldiers would be quick to stab each other in the back if it was to their advantage, although this was not every soldier I knew, it was very common but I never joined this popular trend.

WHEN I discharged eleven years later, I tried to put what troubled me about people behind me & bought 16.5 acres in Victoria's High Country, which was mostly cleared farm land, 1km from natural bush. In the 2 years living there, I spent most of my time surrounded by nature & tried to rehabilitate the old farmland back to something both humans & animals could share.

IN THAT time I was diagnosed with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) from the army, which would explain why I liked the quietness & solitude that nature offers me, but not why many people both civvie & military, mates & acquaintances are poles apart from me & my values which I have always had.

DURING MY 2 years on the old farm I had many dramas with some of the local people & their lack of values, although a couple I'm glad to call mates. I ended up selling the farmlot 'cause of financial & health problems & moved back to Blackwood where I grew up from age 6. I chose to move back to Blackwood 'cause many of the people I knew as a child

still lived there & I hoped would make me feel better about my values, because they know/knew me & I thought loved the bush like me.

FOR A while, I felt no different, from those I met from the town & surrounding areas. Then a year & a bit later my second partner & I separated for many reasons & then I was free to indulge in a lot more alcohol & personal bad habits.

DURING MY binge drinking years as a civvie in Blackwood, I never got in serious trouble & was seldom told I was out of line with my actions or behaviour. I drank very heavy cause of the way it was indoctrinated into military life to numb soldiers feelings/bad memories & as a bonding mechanism.

I LOST a lot of my old ways of interacting with nature on a regular basis, but was still loyal to my mates, although I was very unreliable. From the years from around 2005 to 2009 I was hospitalised about 13 times for PTSD issues but felt safe & somewhat understood with other military & emergency service patients in hospital. I had fairly good relationships with my mates & family during this time. Then, in 2011, I became extremely sick physically with Haemochromatosis & a very damaged liver. I gave up drinking & all medication for PTSD, which saw me lose 20kg over 12 months & regain my old nature-loving original self again.

I CAN think so much clearer & make more educated rational decisions, than for most of my adult life. My values about mates, family & nature I realise have not left me, but it is clear now I am not drunk all the time & not medicated, that the majority of the human race has very materialistic & selfish values.

~ Clint Stretton

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1st SATURDAY	1st SUNDAY	2nd SATURDAY	2nd SUNDAY	3rd SATURDAY	3rd SUNDAY	4th SATURDAY	4th SUNDAY
BALLAN MARKET 8am-1pm Inglis St	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station	KYNETON FARMERS 8am-1pm St Pauls Park	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station	CRESWICK COMMUNITY 9am-1pm Victoria St	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station	BREAKFAST BAZAAR from 9am Hepburn Springs	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station
DAYLESFORD FARMERS 9am-1pm D'ford PS	CASTLEMAINE ARTIST MARKET 10am-4pm (not Jan) Theater Royal	BALLAN FARMERS 9am-1pm Mill Cottage	MALMSBURY VILLAGE MARKET 9am-3pm (Sept-May) Gardens	RIDDELLS CREEK FARMERS 9am-3pm (not Dec) PS	TALBOT FARMERS 9am-2pm Scandinavian Cres	LANCEFIELD & DIST FARMERS MARKET 9am-1pm High St	LANCEFIELD/ROMSEY LIONS 8am-2.30pm (not Jan, Jun, Jul) Main St
DAYLESFORD MAKERS 10am-3pm Town Hall	CASTLEMAINE FARMERS 9am-1pm Mostlyn St			DARLEY MARKET 8am - 1pm Gisborne/Grey St Darley	WOODEND 9am-3pm High St		TRENTHAM SUNDAY MARKET 9am-2pm Main St
TRENTHAM INDOOR 9.30am-1.30 TNH Centre	GISBORNE OLDE TIME MARKET 9am-2pm Hamilton & Aitken			TRENTHAM FARMERS 9am-1pm Town Square			
DARLEY MARKET 8am - 1pm Gisborne/Grey St Darley	GISBORNE ALL SEASONS 9am-3pm Brantome St			TRENTHAM MAKERS 9am-1.30pm Cosmo			

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OctNov10	740	297
Dec10Jan11		333
JunJul11		361
AugSept11	328	
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JunJul12	535	162
AugSept12	814	550
OctNov12	17234	4462
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MOBILE LIBRARY IS BACK!

The new Library service runs fortnightly on Wed's 1.30 - 2.30pm at the Blackwood Hall. There is a small high quality collection to browse & 2 Librarians to help borrowers order any additional items for loan. Any queries please ring 0419 519 650 Tues to Thurs, or ring Bacchus Marsh library on 5367 2533.

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BLACKWOOFs



AGE: MURRAY is only three years old.

BREED: MURRAY is supposed to be a pure Jack Russell, but we think he might be a Corgie cross, due to his very small but cute legs.

WEIGHT: WE don't know Murray's correct weight but he may be slightly obese.

ENTERTAINMENT: MURRAY has many things that entertain him for example chasing a ball, riding in Dad's ute & he loves going camping & just being outside.

FUNNY LITTLE quirks about Murray : Murray does not like having a bath not one little bit but he loves to go for swim.

~ Keeley Meade-Sweet

Editors Note: Would you like your blackwoof to make an appearance in Blackwood News? Email us a photo & your blackwoof story & look out in future Blackwood News issues!

Love Pet Guru? The whole series (24 cards) is now available as individuals postcards look for them @ The Blackwood Merchant, Blackwood PO & Garden of St Erth cafe @ \$2.30 ea or \$13.80 for a set of 6. Series 1 were published in Blackwood News in 2008/09, series 2: 2009/2010, series 3: 2010-2011

LABOR TO ABOLISH UTILITY EXIT FEES FOR VICTORIAN FAMILIES

The Member for Melton, Don Narella MLA, said Victorian Labor will abolish exit fees from gas & electricity contracts to make it easier for Victorian families to change retailers & receive the best price on their household bills.

According to Labor spokesperson for Energy & Cost of Living, Lily D'Ambrosio, under a Labor Government all fixed term market contracts would be abolished except those that offer genuine fixed prices & conditions for the duration of the contract period. "Labor will abolish exit fees for all energy contracts, except for genuine fixed term market contracts where an exit fee is justifiable", Ms D'Ambrosio said. "Labor's policy will remove barriers for consumers wanting to get better prices & deals in the energy retail market & make it easier for consumers to compare products. Not all market contracts are fixed term. However, almost all fixed term contracts contain variable pricing. These fixed term market contracts can be confusing for consumers who may enter a contract reasonably believing the contract also locks in a fixed price.

Dear Pet Guru,

You may remember me, I am the small child who used to live next door to the broken-down horse in the Blackwood paddock, but now he has gone away & I am sad because I miss him. Do you know any animals in Blackwood who could be my friend?

~ signed Small Child



Dear Small Child,
Indeed I do. In the driveway next to the Blackwood Merchant there is a very nice dog called Tyson who likes children, & a few doors down Golden Point Road there is a small, hairy dog called Max who would love to be your friend.

As would I. A Merry Christmas to you.

Pet Guru

Mr Nardella said that, according to the Essential Services Commission, in the last year alone electricity prices in Victoria have increased by up to 12% & gas by 7%.

"With the cost of living rising, Victorian households are looking to the Baillieu Government to ease these pressures, but have been given nothing in the way of support.

Ms D'Ambrosio said, "Exit fees can cost a family up to \$45 & this is the first of many policies that Labor will commit to help Victorian families manage the household budget.

"The Consumer Action Law Centre has welcomed Labor's policy because they know that exit fees are a barrier for families in switching retailers for a better deal; & that abolishing fixed terms contracts that are not genuine will improve competition & pricing.

"If Ted Baillieu was serious about reducing the cost of living for Victorian families he would support Labor's policy", Ms D'Ambrosio said.



BEYOND BLACKWOOD...



FROM TRENTHAM LIONS

The November Farmer's Market attracted sixteen vendors & the monthly BBQ was run by the Trentham Arts & Craft committee. Music was provided by local identity, & Lions member, Tim Walsh. The number of visitors was again down a little on what we would normally expect.

The Annual Carols in the Park are to be held in the Quarry Street Reserve. The date to put in your diary is Friday, December 7. Proceedings commence at 6.30pm, when food will be available whilst being entertained by the Kyneton Brass Band. The carols & concert start at 7.30pm & the evening will conclude around 9.15pm. Come along with friends & the kids & enjoy what should be a most enjoyable evening.

On Sunday, November 11 the Mount Macedon Bike Challenge was held, in which five hundred riders started in Gisborne & rode either an 83km or 130km course. During the ride, competitors rode through Woodend, Tylden, Glenlyon & Trentham. During the Trentham leg of the ride, several Lions Club members assisted at drink stations & with traffic control.

Please note that the Lions Christmas cakes are now available for purchase from the Trentham Newsagency.

Have you ever considered joining Lions, but were unsure of what we are all about? It only takes a phone call & anyone who is interested is invited to attend one of our dinner meetings, which are held on the first Wednesday of every month at various locations in the district.

For further info please contact Shirley Corneille on 5348 5690.



TRENTHAM FARMERS MARKET

Stuff your pantry! 9am to 1pm
3rd Saturday of every month in Trentham's Town Square

• Dec 15 • Jan 19 •

eggs cheese wine
honey dips & preserves fruit & veg
sweet treats sourdough oil

Central Victorian producers welcome - conditions apply
call Shirley Corneille for an application
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Spring, Spring, wherefore art thou Spring ?

ONE DAY sun – one day rain, but it is definitely on the improve. Come along to the fun & sun of the Trentham Farmers' Market & herald in the good weather. We have Florian returning this month with his seedlings & organic plants, so while the ground is still nice & wet, why not come along & buy all your requirements for your great summer salads.

THE TRENTHAM Farmers' Market is held the 3rd Sat monthly, 9am – 1pm in the Trentham Town Square. The Farmers Market has a selection of fresh fruit & vegies, dairy & goat's cheeses, sourdough, eggs & live poultry, preserves, olive products, plants & fresh flowers, wines, locally brewed beer, & an assortment of natural farm products.

ALL PROCEEDS go back into the community through our 'Not-for-Profit' Trentham Lions Club Inc. & the various community groups participating in our sausage sizzle roster. Live music at the June market will be by "Just Us". The June BBQ will be run by the Quarry St. Reserve committee, who take care of Trentham's beautiful reserve (& a place for the witches to meet!?!?)

SO COME along & 'STUFF YOUR PANTRY'!

Trentham Easter Art & Craft Show 2013

THE TRENTHAM Easter Art & Craft Show will be held from March 29 to April 1, so start thinking about your works for entry as it will come quickly once the rush & excitement of Christmas is over.

ENTRY FORMS will be sent out to all artists on our mailing list at the end of January.

ENTRY ENQUIRIES to Lyn on 54241199 or email: lynw50@internode.on.net



(Standing L-R) Steve Dutton, Phyllis Hodges, Nancy Walsh, Ethel Patton, (squatting) Glenys Laurie & Eli Brown.

AFTER WORK, WE PLAY...

Board & staff of Trentham & Districts Community Bank® Branch had a great time on the evening of Friday Nov 2.

Branch staff & board members had been invited to join the fortnightly BBQ at the Trentham Bowling Club in appreciation of the club's successful community investment application. The funds were put towards replacing the final section of dilapidated fencing near the entrance to the grounds.

Club President, Max Bruton, his committee & club members were among scores of local people present. Max patiently explained the finer points of curving a bowl in the right direction to branch staff & board members. Consisting of mostly first-time bowlers, there was plenty of laughter & bowls going astray.

Trentham Bowling Club was presented with a Trentham & Districts Community Bank® Branch sign, to adorn the newly-replaced fence in recognition of the contribution by the branch.

While presenting the sign, Rick Nolan, who chairs the board, reminded the crowd that investing in community projects such as this was only made possible by the local community making Trentham & Districts Community Bank® Branch their bank of choice. "The more support the branch has, the greater the community investments will be," he said.

Drop into the branch at 37 High Street, Trentham to discuss your banking or financial requirements or phone 5424 1608.

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Mayor congratulates Infrastructure department for bridge & culvert program.

Moorabool Shire Mayor, Cr Pat Toohey, publicly congratulated the Council's Infrastructure Department citing one of the benefits to the region as a local garden in Bolwarrah, to be exhibited in the Australian Open Garden Scheme.



"The flood damage of the past few years has placed tremendous pressure on the Infrastructure Department & they have responded magnificently. 79 bridge rectification projects are underway or have been completed by Council; including, since June 2011;

- North Blackwood Road ; completed at a cost of \$280,000
 - Martin Street Blackwood; completed, \$320,000
 - Simmons Reef Road major culvert replacement; in progress, \$490,000
 - Long Gully Road major culvert replacement; complete, \$79,000
 - Golden Point Road culvert replacement; awarded, \$260,000
- General Manager Infrastructure, Phil Jeffrey, said "The existing South Conroy Lane bridge is a single lane bridge with steel beams, steel rail cross beams with asphalt infill. This bridge was a major maintenance

issue for Council & was severely damaged in the floods which occurred in February 2010.

"The replacement bridge will be prestressed concrete, 4.5 metres wide by 6 metres long, with reconstructed road approaches. The bridge replacement is being funded by the Federal Government Natural Disaster Financial Assistance Program."

Mayor Toohey added "The bridge will be finished in plenty of time for a big event in Bolwarrah; the magnificent property of Ron & Marg Senner will be part of the Australian Open Garden Scheme, which attracts many people from outside the shire. The bridge replacement will be a tremendous advantage to the many visitors expected to the property when they are part of the Open Gardens program on March 16 & 17."

The new bridge will be completed by the end of February, 2013. During the construction period, South Conroy Lane will be closed to through traffic & Council apologises for the inconvenience to local road users; alternative access routes are available to the local residents.

~ Rob Croxford, Chief Executive Officer

WHAT'S YOUR VISION FOR TOURISM IN MOORABOOL?

If you're bursting with passion & full of ideas for realising Moorabool Shire's tourism potential, now is the time to voice them!

Moorabool Shire Council & Tourism Moorabool are preparing a new Tourism & Events strategy & seek broad community & tourism industry input into its development.

Mayor Cr Pat Toohey said it's important when developing strategy to collect ideas from a wide variety of local stakeholders. "I'm sure many local people have a view on tourism's future in the Shire & some have ideas on new opportunities to tap into. This is the community's opportunity to put ideas forward & for us to collect them - you just never know where the next great tourism idea will come from."

For the general public, a community meeting has been scheduled for collecting community ideas & views to inform the strategy on Dec 4.

For stakeholders more directly or indirectly involved in tourism within the region, there are two additional meetings, one in Bacchus Marsh on Dec 4 & another in Ballan on Dec 5.

Cr Toohey said that purpose of the two industry stakeholder workshops were to "review the Destination Development Action Plan & results collected from the online survey, generate ideas to increase tourism yield & growth & identify issues that constrain growth, visitor satisfaction & competitive advantage."

Tourism Moorabool Chair, Barry Wilkins OAM, said he's excited to start

the consultation process because "as a relative newcomer to the Shire I'm keen to hear people's views on all things tourism."

Mr Wilkins said "Tourism contributes to the health & wealth of the Shire in many ways & many people rely on tourism for employment & income, either directly or indirectly. I'd go as far as saying that I'm yet to meet someone in business who's not involved in tourism in some form or another".

Ballan & District Chamber of Commerce Chair & Moorabool Shire Australia Day Citizen of the Year Robert Eskdale said he'd participate. "I've already saved the date of the Ballan Meeting in my diary & urge others in the district to do the same because it'll be another five years before this opportunity is likely to come around again."

1. Tourism Industry Stakeholder Workshops

a) Tuesday December 4, 2012 3.00pm to 5.00pm
James Young Room Lerderderg Library, 215 Main St, Bacchus Marsh

b) Wednesday December 5, 2012 7.30pm to 9.30pm
Ballan Mechanics Institute, 15 Stead St, Ballan

2. Community Meeting

Tuesday December 4, 2012 6.30pm to 8.00pm
James Young Room Lerderderg Library, 215 Main St, Bacchus Marsh

~ Rob Croxford, Chief Executive Officer

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS

Ballarat's Business Enterprise Centre (BEC) has secured \$182,000 for 2 yrs from the Gillard Government under the Small Business Advisory Services program to provide advice & assistance to the region's small businesses.

Federal Member for Ballarat, Catherine King, said the business advisory services are vital to help small businesses grow & succeed. "This funding will enable the BEC to help small businesses meet day-to-day challenges & also maximise their sustainability, productivity & ability to grow," Ms King said. "The BEC will be able to provide advice in areas like business & financial planning, business management & networking for the next two years under this program."

"I really understand how important our growing small business sector in Ballarat & around the region is to our local communities. I see it every day as I travel around the region," Ms King said.

"That's why I am delighted the Government continues these initiatives to support small business development."

~ Peter Dwyer (Ms King's office) 0409.866.054

How can ART transform our town?

Regional Arts Victoria presents Small Town Transformations on behalf of the Victorian Government.

They're funding transformative artistic projects that are connected to community & place, for & by small Victorian towns with fewer than 1,500 people.

Proposals will be able to request up to \$350,000 for their project, which must be presented in collaboration between at least two partners, with the lead applicant being a legally constituted organisation. Up to five projects will be funded.

Applications will open in January & there'll be a two-stage application process: an expressions of interest stage, from which we'll create a shortlist, & then final proposals for selection. Projects should be ready to start in May 2013 & be complete by September 2014.

In the meantime jump onto <http://smalltowns.rav.net.au/> Join the discussion, share your inspirations. Think big. Email editor@blackwoodnews.com.au & tell us how you think ART could transform BLACKWOOD!



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Understanding the impact of cancer on our communities

Cancer is a leading cause of disease burden in Victoria, with 78 new diagnoses & 29 deaths from cancer every day. A total of 28,363 Victorians were diagnosed & 10,673 died from cancer in 2010.

An estimate of the effect of a disease on the community is the "years of potential life lost" (YPLL). This measures the loss of life due to a disease up to an arbitrary life expectancy of 75 years.

In 2010, persons dying of cancer in Victoria lost an estimated 62,000 years of potential life. This is more than four times the YPLL from other major causes of death, such as ischaemic heart disease, stroke & chronic respiratory disease.

Though cancer incidence rates continue to increase (annual % increases of 0.9% for men & 0.6% for women), death rates have declined steadily since 1982 with average falls of 1.4% per year for males & 1.1% for females. This reflects earlier detection through screening, falling tobacco-related cancer rates for males & improvements in treatment & outcome.

It is estimated that by 2013 the annual incidence of cancer will reach almost 32,000, an increase of 16% from 2010. During the same period, deaths from cancer will increase to around 11,000 per year. Though actual numbers of new cases & deaths are increasing rapidly, this is largely due to the growth & ageing of the Victorian population.

The latest report on cancer from the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare shows the five-year survival rate from all cancers increased from 47 per cent to 66 per cent from 1987 to 2010.

However the improvement was mixed for individual cancers. The cancers that had the largest survival gains over time were prostate cancer, kidney cancer & non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Over this period there was no appreciable improvement in five-year survival rates for those with mesothelioma, pancreatic cancer & lung cancer.

Women recorded higher survival rates after a cancer diagnosis than men at 67%, compared to 65%.

The Cancer Council

The Cancer Council of Victoria has been leading the fight against cancer for over 70 years. It provides a range of support services for cancer sufferers & their families, funds & conducts research into cancer & has an active public advocacy program directed at reducing the risk & incidence of cancer. For more detailed information about the activities of the Cancer Council go to www.cancervic.org.au

Relay For Life

Here in the Macedon Ranges, the Relay For Life held each year at Lancefield Park works to raise funds to support the work of the Cancer Council. During the last 10 years this Relay has raised over \$960,000. As an event the Relay acknowledges & celebrates the lives of those who are living with cancer, remembers those we have lost to cancer & commits to fighting back against cancer by raising funds to be used by the Cancer Council in combating cancer.

The next Lancefield Macedon Ranges Relay For Life is on March 2 & 3, 2013. To find out more about Relay For Life & to register a team, go to www.relayforlife.org.au

~ Ken Wiltshire, ChairManager Lancefield Macedon Ranges Relay For Life (ph 54296420 after hours)



Blackwoodians came out of hibernation in force at the Lerdies clearing sale... ready to empty their wallets & had plenty of fun doing it...

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