



**4th birthday issue
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
BLACKWOOD NEWS!**



COLLECTIONS

- Monday June 11
- Monday June 25
- Monday July 9
- Monday July 25

**BLACKWOOD BABE, JUNIPER, RECOMMENDS THAT
WE RUG UP & SMILE, WINTER'S HERE AGAIN!**



EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

Hello Blackwoodians, For all the years I have lived in Blackwood, I'm ashamed to say I had never been to the Trentham Spudfest until this year. What a day it turned out to be! The weather was seasonably unpredictable but there was lots to occupy us for most of the day! I started at the Farmers' Market to stock up on my fresh produce before exploring the Spudfest (p25-25). It wasn't 'til I left to wander through the shops on Market St that I realised the Railway Market was on – to my great delight my favorite soap man was there. I took the opportunity to stock up on his gorgeous olive oil soaps.

We finished the day with a drink at the Cosmopolitan & Radio Springs Hotels with my sister & her visitor from New Zealand before coming home to cook up some of the spuds I had bought at the Fest.

I hope you're all keeping warm in this chilly weather. I recently read an article in a Melbourne paper in which the author discusses when winter officially starts. For her it's when she suddenly goes into a frenzy, cooking up big batches of warming soups & slow-cooking comfort food. Today, as I was chopping pumpkin, sweet potatoes & carrot for an enormous pot of pumpkin soup, while keeping a close eye on my osso bucco, I realised how right she is. A trip to buy a leek at the Blackwood Provodore confirmed that Donna feels the same way!

On p15 we have the final episode of Jack Rayner's war memories. I do hope you have enjoyed reading about his memories. Do you have stories you would like to share? We welcome your stories & we love filling Blackwood News with photos, so please send them to us (make sure all images are of high quality for print, inkjet prints are unsuitable for reproduction). Don't forget to provide your name & contact details for all submissions.

In April, the popular Blackwood Academy & Revue resumed, relocated to the Blackwood Uniting Church. This is a lovely little church with great acoustics, the Shape Singers sound wonderful in there.

Finally, a big happy 4th birthday to us! When I took over the Newsletter from Robina 5 years ago, I had no idea how it would grow. I thank all our contributors, advertisers & readers for your support over the years – without you there would be no Blackwood News.

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

Blackwood News info



Blackwood News invites submissions from the community. If you are at a local event please take a photo or two & write a few lines to share in our community news.

August September '12 DEADLINES	July 15	July 20
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News, Classifieds, Gig Guide		

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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
Mar 12	85.6	56.4	4.6	25.3
Apr 12	42.8	73.2	0.6	24.2

LATE APRIL weather gave us a taste of winter with the 24th reaching a very cold maximum of just 7.3 deg.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Regular "weekender" to Blackwood, Alan Griffin, recently participated in the ANZAC Day March at Trentham in front of a good-sized crowd & proud family.

A new addition to the family for this year's March was 20 day old Tyler Griffin. Tyler was born at the Royal Women's Hospital on April 5 to proud parents Tracey & Paul (Alan's 3rd son).

Regular readers will recognise that 87 yo Alan has been sharing his WWII memories in the last few editions of the Blackwood News (see p17).

Nowadays, Alan lives with his wife of 64 years, Phyllis, in a retirement village in Williamstown. With his father he owned & ran the iconic jewellery store "Norman Griffin & Son" in Hopkins Street, Footscray, through to the early 80's.

In his early teens, Alan & a few close mates would regularly ride their push-bikes to Blackwood to go hunting for rabbits - sleeping in haystacks along the way. Now Alan travels by car & we will leave the haystacks to Tyler!

~ Paul Griffin



Alan & new Grandson Tyler share a moment of mutual admiration. photo courtesy Paul Griffin

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH
8am ~ 1st & 3rd Sunday

BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH
For worship times & events across the Cluster go to: www.highlandsclusteruca.org.au
Remember MEDITATION is each fortnight

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

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at the Blackwood Uniting Church

Sun JUNE 17

find out more ...

BLOG: blackwoodacademy.org/
WEB: blackwoodrevue.com/
FACE: facebook.com/pages/Blackwood-Academy-and-Revue/121582631252295?sk=wall

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Several weeks ago, my family presented me with a wonderful 90th Birthday present – a nostalgic weekend at Blackwood, staying at "Woodbine Cottage", where I even slept in the same bedroom I used when a child.

"Woodbine Cottage", as it is now called, is filled with so many memories of times spent there with my relatives, the Matthews family. Thomas Matthews was my great-uncle – brother of my grandmother, Catherine (Matthews) Seymour. From early years (about 1924) my sister Nancy, brother Teddy & I spent many holidays in that cottage. If only the walls could talk!



My mother went to school at Golden Point. I remember many of the neighbours & local residents – the Canns, Tyrells, Gribbles, Sweets, Shaws, Broads, Miss Denman, Websters, Morgans (Joan used to play with me), Amerys, Chas ('Chicky') Hill, Nancy Walker.

Our trips to Blackwood were fairly regular, & one particular 'duty' when there was to visit the cemetery with our parents to place flowers on the graves of our loved-ones. One grave in the cemetery which always fascinated my brother & me was the one with four angels, one on each corner of the grave, & we used to bring biscuits to feed the angels in case they were hungry.

I remember one holiday when my young brother & I were given a small amount of pocket money to spend. We decided we wanted to buy sweets but, being a Sunday, the local store was closed. However, this did not deter us from knocking on the door which was answered by the shopkeeper. He kindly sold us some sweets, but our Blackwood relatives were aghast that we had disturbed the shopkeeper on a Sunday & we were severely reprimanded.

New Year's Day was usually celebrated at the cricket ground with a cricket match & picnic with many of the residents of the district. Uncle Tom played his accordion at the dances in the Mechanics Hall. Many hot nights we would gather at the Mineral Springs to fill up all the water bottles.

In 1937 Uncle Tom Matthews, with his son-in-law Bill Waters, discovered a gold nugget (the 'Blackwood Eagle') at Simmons Reef (see photo) which caused much excitement in the family & was featured in the local & Melbourne press. The photo of Uncle Tom holding the 'Blackwood Eagle' was on the front page of the Herald newspaper, while the photo of Uncle Tom with Bill Waters & the 'Blackwood Eagle' on the table in the background was taken on the front verandah of Uncle Tom's cottage.

In later years on my visits to Blackwood, I would stay with my mother's cousin, Molly Waters, & after my marriage we enjoyed day trips to Blackwood with our two girls. Sadly, my regular visits to Blackwood ceased when my husband's work took us to live interstate.

My weekend in Blackwood was a most interesting & nostalgic return to the happy times of my childhood.

~ Kathy Blair (nee Neate, Granddaughter of Catherine Seymour (nee Matthews), Great-Niece of Thomas Matthews

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SCOUTING BLACKWOOD

My grandparents have a caravan at the Blackwood Mineral Springs Caravan Park. I have been to Blackwood lots of times in the holidays.

Grandma & I always go exploring along bush tracks together. So when I had to do a bush walk for my cub badge (the highest cub badge – the Grey Wolf). I wanted to plan it for Blackwood for a walk that Grandma & I had not done yet.

5 kids from my cub pack & my leaders came with me in March. We started the walk at the Garden of St Erth on the Whipstick Loop Walk. It took about 2 hours for us to finish. On the way, there were some obstacles such as fallen-over trees, long grass & bushes but these added to the fun on the walk.

When I was planning the walk, we came & did a practice walk. The day was very wet & rainy. We had to walk through puddles at the end of the walk. I got a leech on my leg. When I took it off, there was blood everywhere. I made sure I took salt when we went for the real walk as this is how you get leeches off without so much blood.

After the walk, we met my grandparents at the Caravan park where they had cooked sausages for everyone before we left to go home.

We all had a really good time doing the walk. Blackwood is one of my favourite places & I was really happy to be able to share the walk with my friends.

~ Alex Walsh (10)



BLACKWOOD ARTIST WINS AWARD AT TRENTHAM ART & CRAFT SHOW

Blackwood resident, Judy Piedrahita, won the "Best Watercolour" award for her painting of "Sunset by the Sea" at this year's successful Trentham Art & Craft Show. The judge for the Art category was internationally, renowned realistic bird & wildlife artist, Paul Margo, so well done Judy!

About 2,500 people visited the Mechanics Institute to view & purchase the fabulous works on display. This year saw an increased interest in the craft pieces on offer, with 30% of the craft entries being sold. In all, 301 pieces were entered by 128 artists in the Art, Craft & Junior sections & a total of 58 pieces were sold.

The Trentham Easter Art & Craft Show sponsored an Artist in Residence (Anne Spudvilas) for a week at the Trentham Primary School during March, & the books the students created were on display in the foyer, with a lot of interest being created by the large photo of a student's sketch of a cat's face. Many commented that it was worthy of entering the Show!

Funds from this year's show will go towards an Art & Craft section of books for the new Trentham Library.

photo courtesy Richard Ryan – "Sunset by the Sea" by Judy Piedrahita.

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I CAME, I SAW, I CONCRETED...



Dave, Matt & Martin get down & dirty, concreting at the cricket practice nets ~ photos Jimmy Olsen



The cheerful lads from "Marine & Bridge" complete the pour on the Golden Point Rd bridge. ~ photos Jimmy Olsen



BLACKWOOD SOCIAL ALBUM: APRIL MAY 2012



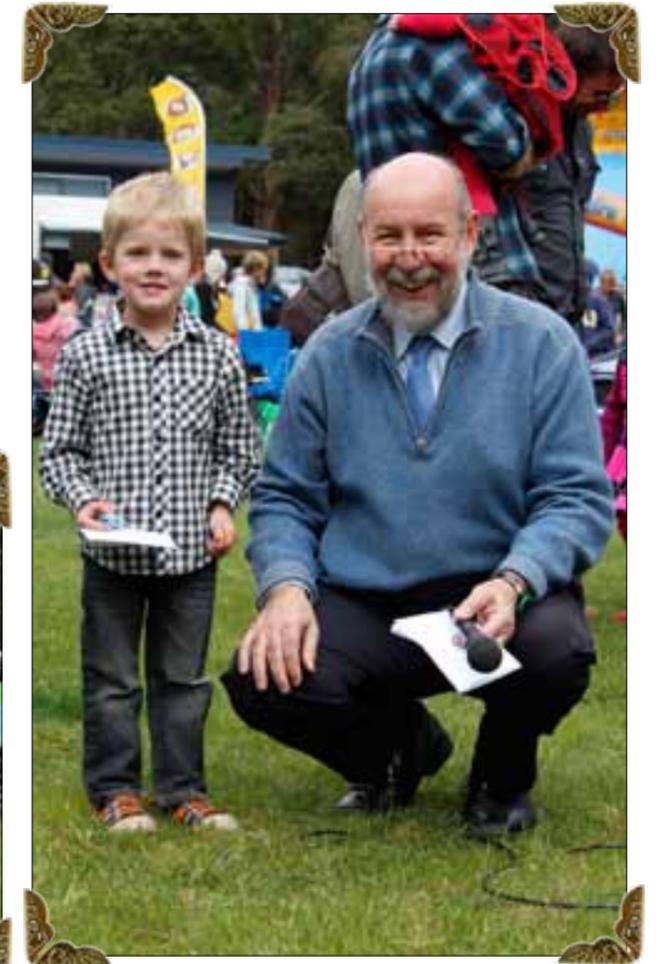
Blackwoodian, Nick Dear, joins Blackwood Academy guests from the USA, Riley Baugus & Kirk Sutpin, in the final number at the April Blackwood Revue ~ photo Lois Lane



Corinn Strating teamed up for a rollicking Irish set with Kit Joyce (accordion), Ben McAtamney (bodhran) & Gerry Daly (guitar) at the May Blackwood Revue in the Uniting Church ~ photo courtesy Megan Caramone



EASTER PARADE WINNERS



Our State MP, Don Nardella, awarded the parade winners before officially opening the 2012 Blackwood Easter Carnival & Wood Chop ~ photos by Lois Lane

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LAST BIG GOLD NUGGET FOUND IN BLACKWOOD

**BY MARGOT HITCHCOCK,
HISTORIAN FOR THE BLACKWOOD &
DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

I've been doing some research for someone & they asked about the last big gold nugget found in Blackwood. Their mother knew Tom Matthews who found the nugget & was related. They asked about the replica that was made of the nugget & where was it. I was able to tell her that the replica of the nugget, called the 'Blackwood Eagle', is on display in the Blackwood Historical Society's Museum. It was the last big nugget found in Blackwood, in 1931, by Tom Matthews & his son-in-law William Walters.

The Blackwood Historical Society has a gold-painted plaster cast of this nugget on show in their museum, which was given to them by the family who found it. Allan Hall states that the replica of the gold nugget named the 'Blackwood Eagle' was donated to the Historical Society by Arthur & Nancy South, who were related somehow to Tom Matthews. Also donated was a set of gold scales & a framed newspaper article of what appeared in the Weekly Times, showing a photo of Tom Matthews & William Waters in Schicer Gully, where they found the nugget, & a photo of Tom Matthews outside his house in Simmons Reef Road, Blackwood.

I googled 'Blackwood Eagle' in Trove – the NLA newspapers on-line, & found a few reports about it. Here is what one article said –

The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW) – Tuesday 17 February, 1931

62 OUNCE NUGGET - FOUND IN VICTORIA. Melbourne. Monday. A nugget of gold weighing 62oz was found at Blackwood last week by Messrs Thomas Mathews & William Walters. It is believed to be worth £311.

The men had been working in the district for some months with only moderate success, & the ground which the nugget was found had been little-worked before the present prospectors started on it. There are about 60 men working in the district, but some have had no luck. The nugget has been named the 'Blackwood Eagle' because of its shape.

From my book I'm writing on the history of Blackwood, I had researched the following – "The very rich alluvial gold of the early days was chiefly found in the Lerdederger River & its tributaries, & the Nuggety, Long, Yankee, Jackson's Dead Horse, Whipstick, Back & Kangaroo Creeks. The sinking was very shallow, averaging about 20 feet. The old mining registers hold records of many large nuggets discovered. In Long Gully, a nugget weighing 60 ounces was found. The workings in Schicer Gully yielded several nuggets weighing 42 ounces & 46 ounces. A nugget of 62 1/2 ounces was found in 1931 by Thomas Mathews & his son-in-law William Walters & known as the 'Blackwood Eagle'. This nugget created some publicity in the Melbourne papers, which was in the grip of the depression, & resulted in a minor 'rush' to the area, when 30 claims were pegged out in one day.

Research shows that Thomas Mathews was born in 1856 at Blackwood to William Matthew & Catherine Brennan, Digger records (spelling as found in record) show records of other siblings as also born in Blackwood.

Children born to a William Matthews/Mathews & Catherine Brennan/Brannan were, John Henry Matthews born 1858, Catherine Mathews born 1859 & a twin - Ann Jane Mathews also born 1859, & Elizabeth Mathews born 1862 & another twin, Mary Mathews born 1862. (Records shows variations in the spelling of Mathews & Brennan.)

Thomas Mathews lived at Blackwood for a number of years in the house, as later did his son Bill Mathews, now called 'Whipstick Cottage', which is now a rental property in Simmons Reef Road, Blackwood.

A marriage record was found of Thomas Adams Mathews, born Blackwood, married to Bridget Beasley in 1887, & the marriage record for Bridget Beasley also says her birth place was Blackwood. On checking the Digger birth records, Bridget's birth was recorded as – born 1865 at Blackwood to Thomas Beasley & Mary Considine/ Considine. As above Thomas Mathews was born in Blackwood in 1856.

Children born to Tom & Bridget Mathews/Mathews were - a son named William (Bill) Mathews was recorded as being born to Thomas Adam Mathews & Bridget Beasley in 1888 at Nhill, & Mary Catherine Mathews born at Nhill in 1890, & Ellen Considine Mathews in 1894 at Nhill. Also the stillborn death of a son, James Mathews in 1902 at Blackwood.

Wondering which daughter of Tom Matthews the son-in-law, William Waters married, a search was made & found that Robert William Waters married Mary Catherine Mathews (Mathews) in 1928. This seems to be

the most likely person, but not sure about the Christian name being Robert but with the middle name of William perhaps he chose to be called William & not Robert. Mary Waters was called Molly by her friends & family. Her sister Ellen Considine Mathews married Tom (Thomas Joseph) Eccleston/Ecelston in 1938.

A search for the birth of a William Waters found 1 born in Barry's Reef in 1876 with parents William Henry Waters & Elizabeth Wells, but if this is the right William Waters & born 1876, then there is a 14 year age difference if his wife, Mary Catherine Mathews, who was born in 1890 as shown in records.

Thomas Mathews died at Blackwood in 1935 age 79 years, with parents listed as William Mathews & Catherine Brennan. The Argus newspaper of Thursday 2 May 1935 reported – News from Cities & Towns – OTHER DISTRICTS - BLACKWOOD – Mr. Thomas Mathews has died aged 79 years. Most of his life was spent in mining work in the district. Five years ago he found the Golden Eagle nugget of 60oz at Blackwood.

Blackwood cemetery records Thomas Mathews died 30 July 1935 buried in R.C. N 37 with his wife Bridget Mathews. Bridget Mathews died in 1951 at Trentham age 86 yrs, with her parents listed as Thomas Beasley & Mary Considine. Also in the Blackwood cemetery are buried W.Mathews (William (Bill) Mathews) died 4.2.1960 R.C. section N. 40 & in same grave a Mathews child stillborn, July 1902. This would be James Mathews born to Tom & Bridget Mathews in 1902.

(William (Bill) Mathews) is recorded as having died at Trentham in 1960 age 71 yrs with parents listed as Thomas Adams Mathews & Bridget Beasley.

A Catherine Mathews was recorded as having died in Blackwood in 1902 age 73 years with parents names unknown, which would make her born 1829 which doesn't match her Digger birth record of Catherine Brennan born 1859 which would make her 43 yrs old not 73 yrs. Perhaps the age was misread in the records but a check of the death certificate would tell the correct age.

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.



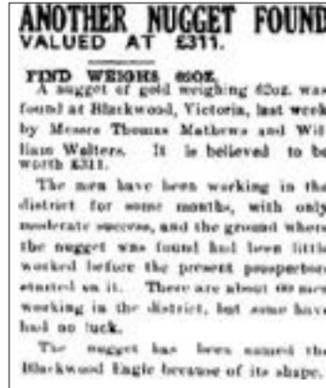
Photo of Tom Matthews & William Walters in Schicer Gully where they found the nugget, & one of Tom Matthews' cottages in Blackwood.

As seen on the wall in the Blackwood Hotel, & in the Historical Society's Museum.

(Courtesy of the Blackwood & District Historical Society)

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HEALTH BASICS: MANAGING FEVER

by Kathie Strmota

Fever is a natural body process, not a disease. The body elevates its own temperature to 'kill off' invading organisms (like bacteria & viruses) or to 'burn out' toxic rubbish that it can't easily eliminate.

Fever is triggered when immune cells release 'pyrogens' in response to an immune stressor (microbe, toxin, etc).

In the first stage of fever, you may feel a chill or begin to shiver, as the body re-sets its 'thermostat' to a higher point in order raise core temperature, & sets into motion the mechanisms which increase metabolism & produce heat. The temperature rises in steps, so you may notice the shivering come & go, or you may feel hot & then cold. The body will continue to raise temperature until the stressor is removed & the signalling pyrogens stop being released. In most cases, this occurs quickly, within hours or a day. Then the body re-sets its thermostat back to normal core temperature & stimulates cooling mechanisms, like sweating & increased skin circulation.

Essentially, fever is an act of defence, & a very effective immune response, so it should be allowed to progress naturally in most cases. However, the body has a very limited safe temperature range. If you or your child have a fever, monitor body temperature regularly to ensure it is staying within those safe limits. Extreme or sustained fever can lead to dehydration, damage body proteins, or result in permanent brain damage & eventually death. Normal core temperature is around 37oC (98.6oF). The safe upper limit for fever is around 39.5oC (104oF). Death can result if temperature rises above 44oC (112oF). If body temperature goes beyond 39oC (103oF), or if a fever continues for more than 2 days, seek medical attention.

If you start to feel the chill & shivers which indicate the beginning of the fever process, it's a good idea to encourage the fever to rise & break more quickly, so that high body temperatures don't go on too long. Wrap the body warmly to keep in the heat. Drink hot tea, or have hot soups. Help the immune system to clear infection quickly with the appropriate foods, herbs or nutrients (covered in the previous issue).

In all cases of fever, it's important to keep the body well hydrated by drinking lots of water & eating light, fluid meals (if you're able to eat) such as soups & vegetable juices. Avoid heavy meals, like meat dishes, because this is hard work for the body at a time when it needs to focus energy into defence processes.

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If fever drags on too long, or looks like it may get too high, help the body to cool by increasing heat loss through the skin. Uncover the body to increase skin surface area. Moisten skin with water, especially in thin-skinned areas where blood vessels are closest to the surface (forehead, temples, upper chest, back of neck, inner arms). As the water evaporates from the skin, it draws heat away with it, cooling the blood.

Diaphoretic herbs encourage sweating, which also draws heat away as it evaporates from skin. Drink teas of fenugreek seed, lemon balm leaf, borage leaf, catmint leaf, & yarrow leaf to help bring down a fever.

Once the fever 'breaks', the body's cooling process kicks in quite quickly. It's important not to let things go too far the other way by allowing the body to get too cold, as this reduces immune function. As soon as fever is reduced, remove damp clothing & bedding, & cover the body to maintain a normal comfortable temperature.

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Blackwoodian teens get in on the Easter Parade this year with a Monopoly float.
~ photo Lois Lane



COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

Blackwood Association of Commerce

~ no report this issue

Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee Of Management

~ no report this issue

Blackwood Caravan Park & Mineral Springs Kiosk update.

The hours have changed for the kiosk, we have decided to use the more family-friendly hours, & hope this suits all our local customers.

Monday: 8am-12noon & 4pm-6pm

Tuesday: 8am-12noon

Wednesday: 8am-12noon

Thursday: 8am-12noon & 4pm-6pm

Friday: 8am-12noon & 4pm- 6pm

Weekends & Public Holidays: 8am-6pm

We'd love to thank all our regular customers & remind everyone to ensure a paper – especially at the weekends. Please order with Dave or Sallee.

We've been trying to extend the range of products we stock. To save those last minute trips to the supermarket, we have the usual Trentham Bread, Jonesy's Milk, soft drinks, cheese, coffee & tea bags.

We are trialling some grocery items, so if you're stuck for sandwich filler, or a kid's lunchbox treat, we'll have something! We are happy to take suggestions!

Don't forget, we have chocolate bars & ice-creams for those sugar hits!

~ David & Sal, Rangers

Blackwood CERT

~ no report this issue

Blackwood Cemetery Trust

~ no report this issue

Blackwood CFA

~ no report this issue

Blackwood/Barry's Reef LANDCARE

WEEDS FORUM IS ON AGAIN IN JULY

Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare is again this year bringing together the various responsible authorities in the battle against invasive weeds.

Following the success of last year's inaugural Weeds Forum, the event is again being held at the Blackwood Hall on Tuesday, July 17.

Blackwood & its surrounding forest is subject to myriad jurisdictions by numerous authorities. For example, there is Moorabool Shire, VicRoads, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Department of Primary Industries, Department of Sustainability & Environment & Port Phillip /Western Port Catchment Management Authority. But weeds don't respect lines on maps.

Participants at last year's Weeds Forum expressed gratitude to Blackwood Landcare for bringing them all together to discuss how they might co-operate in the future.

Blackwood Landcare has identified 9 significant weeds threatening our forest. They are: Blackberry, Gorse, Holly, Broom (English & Cape Broom), Blue Periwinkle, Himalayan Honeysuckle, Pinus Radiata, Galenia & Spanish Heath.

One of our ambitions it to create a local education kit about these weeds, so we can inform the Blackwood community about how to identify & eradicate these threats.

It is saddening to see some of these weeds growing as ornamental plants in gardens around Blackwood. Despite all the money being spent in the battle, until we can remove the sources of infestation, the

forest will never be weed-free.

Our forest survives the threat posed by invasive, introduced weeds only because some local people have committed themselves to vigilance & action against them.

Have you noticed the hillside at the Underbank Estate on your left as you drive up the Western Freeway to Blackwood? Where once was pasture, there is now Galenia – an introduced weed which has the potential to choke the Lerderderg State Park & Wombat State Forest.

Unfortunately, Moorabool Shire is yet to introduce adequate soil contamination policies & procedures, which has resulted in Galenia already infesting the Blackwood Sports Ground.

Take heart, though, because local agricultural scientist, John Davies, noticed the threat & has been regularly patrolling the area – personally digging out & disposing of the noxious weed.

Anyone with an interest in joining a small band of Blackwoodians in the battle against the weeds is invited to speak to president Shane Scanlan on 0419 542 625.

~ Shane Scanlan

Blackwood Historical Society

~ no report this issue

Blackwood Playgroup

I have recently got back involved with Blackwood Playgroup & would like to put a little note in that section stating that Blackwood Playgroup get together Friday mornings from 10am - 12pm normally in the Blackwood Hall.

The cost is \$3.00 per family & everybody is welcome. It is advisable to contact Phyllis on 5368 6306 if you are thinking of coming along, as we don't always use the hall.

~ Phyllis Harbright

Blackwood Progress Association

~ no report this issue

Blackwood Senior Citizen's Centre Inc.

Here we are again with an update from the Blackwood Senior Citizens Club – with a generous lot of members, our club has a most enjoyable day every Wednesday, with board games, billiards, bingo & carpet bowls – we also thank our committed ladies who take turns providing afternoon tea each week.

We recently had a visit from Caroline, a rep from District Care. She supplied us with a lot of information about services available for the aged & disabled.

We welcomed May Burling back after her knee surgery – also great to have Bev Gwin back with us again – another nice surprise was having Bruce Henry with us for lunch last week – we wished him all the best with his rehabilitation program.

All of our members had a pleasurable outing recently to Castlemaine, our first stop was morning tea, supplied by Maree Orr, then Greg Orr, our very obliging bus driver, took us for a conducted tour of the town, pointing out places of interest. Lunch at the Cumberland Hotel was followed by either pokies or shopping time. The day was topped off with a stop at a very fattening chocolate outlet near Daylesford.

We hope to be obtaining a podiatry service for the club in the near future – interested people will be notified when this is finalised.

The Blackwood Seniors meet in the Blackwood Hall every Wednesday at 10.30am. Any new members would be made most welcome.

Membership fee \$8.00. All enquiries 53681561

Until next issue,

Kindest Regards,

~ Barb Sweet, (Hon) secretary

Blackwood Cricket Club:

~ no report this issue

Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc.

~ no report this issue

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NARDELLA CALLS FOR SENIORS NOMINATIONS

The Member for Melton, Don Nardella MLA, is calling on inspirational SENIORS in Melton, Rockbank, Diggers Rest, Toolern Vale, Bacchus Marsh, Blackwood, Greendale, Balliang East & other parts of the Melton Electorate to be nominated for the 2012 Victorian Senior of the Year Awards.

Mr Nardella said: Seniors who make a real difference to their local communities should be nominated for these Awards.

Established more than 20 years ago, the Awards promote the achievements of senior Victorians & show that ageing can be positive.

The awards recognise & celebrate the many women & men, aged 60 & over, who make extraordinary contributions through active involvement in their communities & by supporting & inspiring others.

There are five awards categories;

- Premier's Award for Victorian Senior of the Year for an outstanding contribution to their local community & Victoria;
- Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria Senior Achiever Awards for significant contributions to their local communities & Victoria;
- Promotion of Multiculturalism Award for a significant contribution to promoting cultural diversity;
- Healthy & Active Living Award for helping create active & healthy communities; and,
- Veteran Community Award for an exceptional contribution to the veteran community.

Seniors are recognised for their dedicated volunteer work, talents & achievements, as well as encouraging active lifestyles & promoting cultural diversity.

The 2012 awards will be presented at a reception at Government House on October 5.

The awards will be part of Victoria's celebrations for the United Nations International Day of Older Persons on October 1 & the 30th Victorian Seniors Festival from 7-14 October 2012.

To nominate someone for an Award visit Seniors Online at www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au or call Seniors Information Victoria on 1300 135 090 to request a nomination form. Nominees must be residents of Victoria aged 60 years or over.

Nominations close 20 July 2012. Inquiries 9743 9825



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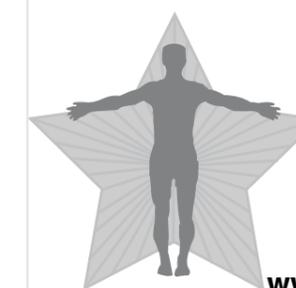
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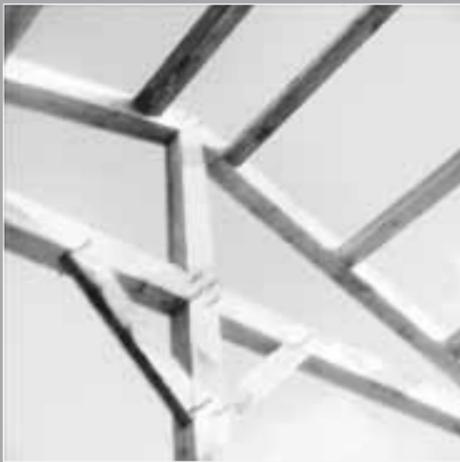


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GIVING UP PERFECTION

(otherwise know as the 15 minute gardener)

by Heather Marsh



I'm a gal of lofty aspirations. No sitting around drinking cups of tea for me - I always have a handy list of goals & tasks awaiting. So, it came to no surprise to anyone, least of all me when I continued to expect exactly the same results in life, after having my second baby, as before. "Pshaw!" (I said to the notion that I may need the occasional nap).

"Phooey!" (I said to the idea of enjoying this 'time to slow down & smell the roses'). Smell the roses? I want to prune them, spray them for aphids, fertilise them & have them looking tip-top by Spring, I said. Clever reader, you may have detected a flaw in my plan. Yes, life is not the same after baby number two. For one thing, I am carrying a continental shelf that causes so much upper back pain, I am wondering about the sanity of anyone who voluntarily gets enlargements. Juniper, our new addition, adores being in the garden, but only for the period of time between needing to be fed, burped or have her nappy changed, which is ALL THE TIME. There also seems to be the laundry equivalent of the eternal flame in our bathroom- no matter how many times I try to extinguish the flagrant mound of stinky clothes, they just keep reappearing. So by the time I actually get into the garden, I find myself needing to go indoors again.

Heinz & Ange welcome you to the

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I don't know if any of you read my first gardening article for this column - it was about my unrealistic expectations for a number of garden 'rooms' around our house. Some of you may have thought I was joking (about the scented walk, the berry cage, the pottager, the herb-knot garden, for instance). I assure you I was not. Some of those projects are now complete & I have visions of finishing the entire lot before too long. It may just have to get done in fifteen-minute increments.

Something I have discovered, while trying to accommodate gardening at the same time as raising a family, is that no job will get completed to perfection. Nothing will ever be really finished. And isn't that just a perfect metaphor for all of life?

We run around with our grand ideas & a vision of the destination in our minds eye. I have found, though, that the more goals I achieve, the more I seem to set myself. There really isn't anywhere to get to & if anything is going to teach you that, it is gardening. Those weeds you pulled last week will be back in a month like a smarmy ashram guru saying, "See - there is no destination, only the journey. Seize the moment." (right before you seize them & throw them in the chook house).

So - in deference to other 15-minute gardeners who haven't time to realize all their grand visions at once - here are some tasks which can be done to satisfaction before a baby can say "wah!"

- 1) grab a pot, throw in some potting mix & plant some bulbs (yes, right now! The timing for a profusion of Spring colour is perfect)
- 2) Pick a two meter square bit of garden & savagely pull every weed in the boundary
- 3) Take one large seedling tray, fill it with small seed boxes & speed pot up two boxes each of six types of Winter veg.
- 4) Prune one small bush to perfection.
- 5) Sit for 15 minutes in a rare patch of sunshine, with a cup of tea & dandle your two-month-old daughter on your knee (for those of you without babies, feel free to come & borrow mine!)

Happy Gardening,
Heather



Wendy Bridgeman with the new CERT vehicle.

IS YOUR BUSINESS REALLY CUSTOMER-FOCUSSED?

Many businesses claim that they are customer-focussed without there being much evidence to support the rhetoric.

Here is a definitive test to determine whether your business is, in fact, customer-centred. Ask yourself these two questions:

1. What do people in your business tend to get really excited about?
2. What sort of events cause your people to become deeply upset & angry?

If the answer to the first question tends to have something about finding better ways to give customers what they want & if the answer to the second question tends to have something to do with "not doing the right thing" by the customer, then your business is likely to be customer-centred.

It's time to be a little bit honest here. If you own a business, make a point of listening to the way your employees talk about customers. If they are seen as no more than "a necessary evil", then you really do have a customer-service problem.

~ Bill Radcliffe



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a blackwood news community service notice



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

HI JINNY,

I HOPE you all had a great Easter I hear there is a beaut new amenities block at the sports ground & that it's excellent.

OUR EASTER'S were almost always spent with our Nana in Blackwood, down at the bottom of the hill beside the big old pine trees. The trees are gone but her little house is still happily lived in.

ONE EASTER, our Easter Eggs rattled!!! What could it be? When we opened them up, for us girls, there, nestled inside, was a dear little gilt chain bracelet with lots of pretty, brightly-coloured charms dangling from it. We loved them & kept them for many years. I really don't know what happened to mine. Unfortunately I seem to lose stuff, no matter how careful I try to be. My sister & I were so very lucky to have our holidays up there in Blackwood, surrounded by a large, extended family. Almost everybody was in some way a cousin, auntie or uncle.

THE SCENT of hot cross buns in the little black oven, a juicy red apple from the box of "johnnies" in the back porch & then we would be off, scrunching through the frosty grass & smashing the ice in the puddles. Cherish your years up there, there may come a time when you cannot get back.

I WOULD like to tell you that the trees in my garden have been spectacular this year, maybe because it has gotten cold so

quickly, they are now almost bare & going to sleep for winter. Soon the frost & snow will keep us inside beside the fire.

MY GRAND-KIDS have had a good time collecting leaves & we laminated some. We will use them as place mats. They also cut some out & hung them in the windows. I guess one day pretty soon I will come out to my kitchen to cook breakfast & snow will be sparkling on Mt Roland, a rather large mountain I can see from my kitchen window.



WINTER WILL be here. Enjoy it
~ Bev Cooper

THANKS TO everyone who came along to the April Academy/Revue & helped us christen the new venue.

HUGE THANKS to our American guests, Riley & Kirk for a great workshop on Round Peak style, & an evening performance at the Revue. Thank you also to the Sacred Harp Singers & Hardrive Bluegrass Band.

~ MEGAN

AS YOU know I always give you credit & positive feedback for a good edition, but in this case I am disappointed to see the inclusion of a poem by Robin Bradley.

IT IS pointed, uninformed & rude. I would have thought you would have applied editorial discretion in the interests of balance, & support for the best efforts all the businesses in the town make under very difficult economic & social circumstances.

~ Margaret

HELLO MARGARET,
BLACKWOOD NEWS has always attempted to reflect the views of the community. Having spent his youth holidaying in Blackwood, Robins' limerick was published as his reminiscence of times gone-by.

~ the blackwood news editor

DEAR EDITOR,
I WRITE to dispel any misapprehension caused by the last two lines of my "Nostalgia" limerick. I was bewailing the loss of the General Store, not in any way impugning

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the wonderful food provided so cheerfully by Donna & making dining on the verandah at the Blackwood Merchant such a delightful experience.

~ Robin Bradley

HI JINNY,
Thanks for sending Blackwood News to me. You do a great job & Dad has been rapt!

~ Paul

JINNY,
ONCE AGAIN you have excelled. LIKED READING about Herb & the other characters; especially the gold discovery story.

~Ste

BOUQUETS & BRICKBATS

Blackwood News sends a great big bouquet to Barb Sweet. We wish you well in your recovery.

MARKET CALENDAR • MARKET CALENDAR • MARKET CALENDAR •

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

Time was short & the sun had just about set when I headed back to the shore. Part of the way back I remembered I had left my thongs behind, but with the tide incoming & the darkness approaching, there was no turning back.

By the time I was half way back to shore, darkness enveloped the complete coastline & I could not see where I had come through the mangroves. I headed to the left a little knowing I would come to the shoreline near the old pier, which was quite a distance from the continental hotel where we were staying - a trek which I had to negotiate in bare feet on a rough surface road.

Phyl had been worried when darkness fell (and to tell the truth, so was I) & she had gone down to the beach to look for me to no avail. When I turned up you could see the relief on her face. It was 41 years since I had retrieved the case from the wreck & I was amazed that there was still structure there after the ravages of time, tide & souvenir hunters.



During my stay at "Wuthering Heights" I amassed a collection of Pin-Up girls.

On the 6th day of the 6th month of 1944, the D-Day landings were initiated in Europe. They were deemed a complete success & we opened this bottle of Sparkling Burgundy to toast the outcome of the operation. The bottle was still hanging on display in my room when I left Broome.

THE SITUATION & THE POKER GAME

Hugh Whitford & I (both RAAF WT operators) arrived in Broome aboard the M.V Koolinda from Fremantle WA, 12 May 1943.

After the first air raid on Broome March 3, 1942, when 16 flying boats sitting in the bay & seven other aircraft on the air strip, were destroyed by the 'Japs', & a subsequent two air raids in March & August, the town was evacuated – it was a real ghost town.

As I have previously mentioned, what we arrived at was a RAAF unit of 10 men & an army detachment of thirty. Our duties consisted of forwarding weather reports & reporting the daily appearance overhead of a 'Jap' reconnaissance plane (unopposed) to Perth HQ. After a couple of months the CO of communications for Western Area arrived in Broome & sent Hugh & me to a house in the town where an army unit of 7 men were operating a "Hush Hush" operation. These men could receive & record 'Jap Karna' code & with their equipment & plot the movement of 'Jap' aircraft in the area of Koepang & Java. They were unable to send Morse code, so Hugh & I were to provide communications for them back to their HQ in Darwin.

As mentioned earlier, the unit was commanded by Staff Sgt Joe Ellis who must have had the power to see the future. On the Aug 1 he said we should dig a slit trench in the back yard – which we did. His decision was based on the following facts:

1) There was an increase in Japanese aircraft activity in the Koepang Java area as observed by the messages he was forwarding through Hugh & me back to his HQ in Darwin. (Transmissions were in code).

2) The weather was perfect & it was a full moon on August 16 & there had been 'Jap' reconnaissance planes overhead for several days previously.

We were lounging around the house &, sure enough, mid evening, when the moon was high & bright as day, the drone of a 'Jap' plane was heard. There was panic as we all moved like lightning, cutting the house. As the story goes, there was a big poker game in progress at the Roebuck Bay Hotel & every player thought he had the winning hand.

The betting was big when the drone of the 'Jap' plane was heard & all the lights in the hotel were turned off – everyone dived for cover as the bombs began to fall, starting close to the hotel. When the raid had finished all the betting money on the table had disappeared & nobody to this day knows who took it. I can only say for sure that it wasn't me because I have an alibi – I was crouched in a slit trench several hundred yards away with seven other army guys & Hugh Whitford. I could swear

that the whistle of every bomb that was dropped sounded like it was coming straight for me!

BEAGLE BAY MISSION

On returning to Broome after leave, we moved into a house in the township which was named "Wuthering Heights" & I covered the wall behind my bed with pin-up girls cut from magazines.

One particular day there was a truck-load of equipment to go to Cape Leveque Radar Station. The truck -way mark, meet another truck from 'Cape Leveque' & transfer the load. wo volunteers were called for to go & help with the loading & unloading & Jack Schurmer & I volunteered, & off we went.

We had heard of 'Beagle Bay Mission' & its famous Mother-Of-Pearl-Shell altar & when we arrived there, we weren't disappointed. The workmanship & design of the pearl shell used in the altar was something to behold & we were able to take good photos of this outstanding piece of work.

I was able to retrace our steps in 1986 when Phyl (my wife) & I went back to Broome. We left Broome by 4WD & travelled to 'Beagle Bay Mission', meeting Father Francis again & on showing him some of the photos I took in 1943, he said "there I am as a young man". He insisted we stay for lunch & talk of old times.

The Beagle Bay Mission was self-supporting in the 1940's, but when the area was handed onto the Aboriginal people, the church buildings were physically roped off from the rest of the land & cultivated areas such as the orange groves were left to go to rack & ruin.

... to be continued next issue

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Rufus the mighty dragon inspects his tail at the Easter Carnival ~ photo Lois Lane



Rosie & Cherry have a hug after a job well done in the Easter Parade on the Rock & Roll float- photo Lois Lane

JACK RAYNER'S WAR EXPERIENCES (FINAL EPISODE)

For the next few months after the armistice the squadron took part in escorting by air to Oslo the Norwegian Crown Prince Olaf, who was a passenger on the British cruiser "Hampshire" &, at the end of July, the 2 Jacks were honoured to be part of the air escort of the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill & the Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden, on their way to the Potsdam Conference in Berlin that was attended by the American President, Harry Truman, & Stalin. While there they were able to visit the ruined Chancellery in the Russian zone. The city had suffered horrific destruction by bombing at the hands of the Russians. The scene within & outside the Chancellery was almost indescribable & the stench brought about by the Russians defecating all over the place was simply awful. They also visited Copenhagen in Denmark & visited the Shell Haus, the former Gestapo Headquarters, which was bombed earlier in March by 464 Squadron Mosquitoes. Finally, they flew to Ferfield in East Anglia where their Squadron was disbanded. In November, 1945, the two Jacks returned home in the British liner Aquitania.

Looking back on their wartime service, especially in the RAAF, they considered themselves very fortunate to have survived quite dangerous situations, both in training & operations. They took part in a 5½ aerial military campaign that without question was the longest, most relentless & sustained in modern history. The casualty rate was so high that only a handful survived long term action. Some historians expressed the view that nations equipped with adequate air fleets enabled them to avoid the dreadful wastage of life such as that experienced in trench warfare on the Western Front in World War One. The terrible reality was that war in the air was even deadlier for those who flew on air operations between 1939 & 1945. In fact, the survival prospects for air crew was less than one in three. Putting it in another way, over the last seven months of operations by 464 Squadron, which had on strength

38 or 80% lost their lives.

All R.A.A.F. aircrew were volunteers & could always unashamedly pride themselves that they were the cream of Australia's youth. Many were barely 18 years of age on enlistment, little older than schoolboys, & were granted commissions during their late teens. There were instances of some of the more brilliant ones reaching high rank in their mid twenties. Jack will never forget those special friends, especially the ones who perished, & often recalls the happy days & comradeship that he was privileged to enjoy with them.

~ Jack Rayner



Jack beside a wrecked German Focke Wulf 190 fighter on the allied (former German) air base. Rosieres En Santerre, France.



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BLACKWOOFs



RUSS & Barb were ready for another dog. They also wanted to save one who was down & out, so they went looking at the Melton Pound. It was love at a first sight for Russ & all the way home little Holly lay her head on his lap.

THAT WAS 7 years ago & this Shih Tzu has gone from Pound Puppy to Princess with, if you don't mind, her very own 4-poster bed. Barb says she's a treasure & displays no bad habits from her poorhouse beginnings.

WHEN MUM & Dad are to go on holidays, Holly politely reminds all involved that she is no longer a Pound Puppy & that, if she is to stay at Ballan Kennels, it will be *inside* the house with her "people". The owners always oblige. I wonder if she gets to take her 4 poster?

~ Jimmy Olsen



LOST & FOUND

Eva, on holidays from Germany, was clambering over the rocks that the fall down the Springs swimming hole, when her "old-school" Holga camera left her pocket & rolled into the water, breaking up as it went. Everything disappeared from sight. A week later Dave 'the Fish' Salmon braved the deep & icy waters to miraculously retrieve all the parts.

After cleaning, drying & assembling, the camera was found to be in perfect working order. Try that with your latest digital toy!
PS. Eva, you can have it back next time you're in the country.

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Dear Pet Guru,

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~ signed bemused from Beremboke



Dear Bemused, Your cat obviously has the currently fashionable ailment, Irritable Vowel Syndrome. I suggest you stuff cotton wool into your ears & put the cat out.
signed Pet Guru

Love Pet Guru? The whole series (24 cards) is now available as individual 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

LEAF-BLOWER PORTRAITS

Last year 'roo-ing' was Blackwood's photographic response to the world-wide craze of 'planking'. Please join us this year by email-ing us your own leaf-blower portrait or contact us for a community leaf-blower portraiture session.

Next year's chainsaw portraiture project has been cancelled due to a organisational mishap.





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Table with 3 columns: TOP 10 downloads over April May period, April 2012, to 31 May 2012. Rows include OctNov09, AprMay10, JunJul10, AugSept10, Dec11 Jan, FebMar11, AprMay11, JunJul 11, AugSep 11, OctNov 11, FebMar 12, Aprmay 12, and TOTAL DOWNLOADS.

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~ Fair Trading Act advertising requirement June 2004

It is the advertiser's responsibility to ensure correct information is supplied for their ad. SEARCH TERMS MAY 2012: blackwood news, om vegetarian blackwood, blackwood merchant, blackwood newsletter, om restaurant blackwood, cfa, the blackwood merchant, vegetarian restaurant in blackwood victoria, wiggles, blackwood hotel, blackwood newspaper, blackwood sewerage, can i get a dring at the lyonville hall, completion date for sewage blackwood, lyonville hall, newspaper, om vegetarian cafe blackwood, om vegetarian blackwood

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EVENTS & GIG GUIDE

JUNE 2012

Table with 3 columns: when, what, where. Lists events from Fri 1 pm to Fri 29, including The Dear Family All Stars, Anam Cara, Family Farm, Liz Frenchman & Myles, Gillian Eastoe & Terry Murray, The Ciderhouse String Band, John Flanagan & the Begin Agains, Open Mike, Seven Hearts, Demi Louise, Jon Madin & His Homemade Instruments, Blackwood Academy & Accoustic Revue, The Audrey's, The Cartwheels, The Popes, Phil Emmanuel, Harry Manx, Shotgun Shack, Kevin Borich.

JULY 2012

Table with 3 columns: when, what, where. Lists event on Sat 14: Jarek album launch at Palais. Note: * denotes Blackwoodian musos

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BEYOND BLACKWOOD...

SPUDFEST 2012

Today my family & I went to Spudfest. When we were there Dad & I went to get tickets for the things to do. First I went to get my face painted as a witch. Then I had a turn of smashing potatoes. For my last go, I hit it a little bit hard. Then I went to a lady that had over ten buckets full with bark in all of them because in some of them there were potatoes & a golden potato in one of the buckets & I got a potato to take home. I went in the farmyard to feed the baby ducks, baby rabbits & the baby goats. Then I went on the climbing wall, it was hard but, on my fourth go on the brown wall, I got to the top of the wall, but the best part was going down. Next onto potato decorating. My potato was covered in blue. The puppet show started. It was fantastic. Then Dad & I went to get two hot chocolates for me & Mum, but before that, I went to look for gloves, I found a pair of gloves. Dad & I couldn't find the man who owned the shop. Then the man came, he told that the gloves were \$10. I couldn't believe it, so my dad gave the man \$10. When it was dark my family & I went to Radio Springs Hotel for dinner. I had chicken nuggets for dinner. Dad had a rare steak with garlic sauce on top, as a side was a salad, Mum had chilli mussels with sauce & a couple of pieces of bread, Grandma had goat ragu, while my sister had beetroot & carrot gnocchi. Then we started to play hangman, it was fun. Our desserts came after dinner. We all shared but Grandma didn't want any dessert. Mum, Dad, my sister Dana & I had rich chocolate pudding with blueberries & ice-cream, where there was melted chocolate all down the bottom of the dish. What a great day I had.

~ Alyssa - Aged 7, 20/05/2012



Still wearing her Spudfest painted face, Alyssa shares the spotlight with the band at Radio Springs Hotel.

FROM CATHERINE KING'S DESK VOLUNTEER GROUPS URGED TO SEEK FUNDING

The Federal Member for Ballarat, Catherine King, is encouraging local not for profit organisations to apply for funding under this year's Volunteer Grants initiative. The Gillard Government is again providing volunteer organisations across Australia with \$16 million in grants funding to help them continue their great work in the community. "Volunteer Grants are just one way the Gillard Government is saying thanks to our local volunteers for their selfless work and commitment to making our communities stronger," Ms King said. "This week in Parliament I took the opportunity to praise the outstanding work of our local volunteers and it is great to be able to offer funding with the potential to support their efforts. "Organisations will be able to apply for grants between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to purchase much-needed equipment, contribute to fuel costs, transport costs for volunteers with disability who are unable to drive, provide training courses and background checks for volunteers. "Last year, 1488 organisations in Victoria received \$5.1 million in Volunteer Grants, which helped purchase computers and laptops, buy fuel and conduct training courses." Ms King said the Gillard Government recognises and values the important work of volunteers, who play a crucial role in our communities, from supporting cultural and sporting events to preserving our environment and heritage. "They are out in our communities every day, helping the vulnerable, disadvantaged and those who have hit hard times," she said. Applications close at 5pm (AEST) on 25 July 2012. To apply, or for more information, visit www.fahcsia.gov.au or call 1800 183 374.

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MUSK ARTISTS OPEN 2012 ANNUAL EXHIBITION AT THE PANTECHNICON

In April, the Musk Artists Daylesford, of which our very own Brendan Hehir is a member, opened their 2012 exhibition at the Pantecnicon Gallery in Daylesford.

I have to say many exhibition opening speeches are (cough) stuffy & boring but this exhibition was opened by Daylesford's own Petrus Pronk, who made such a beautiful & considered speech that I asked if I could publish it in Blackwood News ...



The Musk Artists with teacher, Carol Oliver opening the exhibition

"I would like to start by congratulating the artists who are brave enough to expose their work to the scrutiny of an audience they do & do not know. It is a courageous act.

This is an important exhibition.

The making of art is important.

Why? Let me explain it in a story.

I recently had a Melbourne conversation with a businessman. When I explained that I was creating art in the forest, he told me, & I quote, "Mate. You obviously have too much time on your hands".

Here are my thoughts on that.

Imagine this. Life without art & poetry.

I mean the art & poetry of everything. The art of cooking, the art of architecture, the art of painting, the art of dance, & on... without 'the art' all of these activities would be dead. Meaning they would not inspire, they would not excite, they would not enrich...

Art is important because it inspires both exploration & greatness in all fields of human endeavor.

The artists, for whom I speak, play & through his/her play with ideas & materials, occasionally comes up with a revelation, a beautiful idea, an exquisite object, a great building, an intriguing story, a moving poem. Or, as in your case, a wonderful painting.

The artist explores & shares the possibilities of magic. He/she shows, in one way or another, that there is always another way.

The artist is important in our community because he teaches us to play. The artist reminds us of something as simple, but relevant, as our childhood, when there was much magic, when there was much play. The magic which is found in experiencing things for the first time. Things new.

The artist awakens in us a sense of wonder, which is the driver of a creative life. She/he takes us on a journey, in a world where we are perishing for want of wonder, not for want of wonders.

The brings me to this special exhibition. Where the painters represented, obviously share a common denominator. The common denominator being their love for paint & colour. The have created a special relationship with these materials, because of the inherent beauty, the magic qualities & endless possibilities paint & colour provide.

Paint, the carrier of colour, records with great precision all the movements we make in relation to it. It leaves an extremely clear print of the maker & in that truly amazing way, reveals the skill level of that maker with great accuracy. A painting therefore is not unlike a book for those who are able to read & understand the language of painting.

Paint, without any reservations, also teaches you its boundaries, push it too far & it says 'no thank-you' & messes up, or it says 'wrong again' when it loses its clarity. 'Paint as teacher' is a wonderful notion. Note however, when something goes wrong. It's never the paint that is at fault, it is always the painter. Such learning.

You, the exhibitors, are all travellers. You are on a journey & record this journey in paint. And all that is needed, to go on this journey, is some paint & a surface, plus your hands. Hands preferably directed by your heart. All else is extra.

What is special also, is that paint does not judge, it follows your direction exactly, & as we can see around us, can be engaged at on many levels.

It is astonishing to realize that each of these paintings tells us so much about the artist...

Each work we make represents a discovery, a step along the way. Each work should also represent a brief pause, a moment of reflection. Be still with it, & it will tell you where you are on your journey & with luck will suggest directions in which way to travel on. Follow these directions step by step. Continually simplifying. Simplifying not meaning less & less, but searching for the essence of your work.

Then there is that part of the making process which fills the work with inner life. Which fills the creation with art, with heart. When the art is missing, meaning the work doesn't speak, doesn't excite, doesn't inspire, it is for all intents & purposes dead &, consequently, useless. Such work lacks soul.

But... when it is there, when the painting's got art or heart, when the inner spirit matches the outer manifestation, there is a sense of wonder, there is magic, the work sings, & with that song, offers viewers a beautiful gift.

How then do we attain that soul in our art? How can we make our work sing? "We work at it". We work at it with attention, with love in our heart & with passion. No less. All this involves careful listening. Being active & creative. It does not involve being busy. Business in the main hasn't got time for subtlety. Business is for people with too much time on their hands.

I'm going to end with this thought: "if your painting isn't an expression of your passion, you are on the wrong path".

Now, may I suggest a round of applause for the exhibiting artists, & in this way we will altogether open the exhibition & wish it a great success.

~ speech kindly courtesy Petrus Pronk ~

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Please do not hesitate to contact me on 9743
9825 or by email don.nardella@parliament.vic.gov.au should you have any matters you wish to
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July 2012

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• A DAY FOR ALL THE FAMILY IN TRENTHAM •



John Dunn & family with their award winning-spud. The Dunns hail from the District of North Blackwood whose history will feature in our next edition photo Jimmy Olsen



Potato Varieties & how to cook 'em up

- ATLANTIC: chip, fry
- BISMARCK: boil, chip
- BISON: boil
- COLIBAN: all rounder including potato cakes
- DESIREE: roast, bake, mash
- DUTCH CREAM: mash, boil, roast
- EXTON: all rounder - not fry
- GOLDEN DELIGHT: all rounder - mash, fry, roast
- KENNEBEC: fry, dry bake, boil, mash
- KING EDWARD: all rounder - boil, chip, bake
- KIPFLER: boil, salad, microwave
- NICOLA: mash, bake, steam, boil, saute
- NOOKSAC: dry bake, fry
- OTWAY RED: roast, mash, fry
- PIKE: chip, mash
- PINK FIR APPLE: waxy salads, microwave, boil, mash
- PONTIAC: roast, mash
- PURPLE CONGO: bake, roast
- RED RASCAL: boil, bake, mash, fry
- RUBY LOU: all rounder
- RUSSET BURBANK: chip, bake in jacket, fritters, rosti
- SPUNTA: chipping, sliced dish, bake
- TRENT: chip

Editors Note: wow, I love potatoes &, now I have this list, my spuds will always be delicious!



The 2012 spuds to die for ~ photos Lois Lane



The authentic Mr Potato Head. ~ photo Jimmy Olsen

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TRENTHAM STATION SPUDFEST MARKET



& THE WINNER IS...



Holly Armstrong, from Wheatsheaf, was the big winner in the Trentham & Districts Community Bank Branch competition run at Spudfest recently. Everyone tried their hand at guessing how much the giant spud weighed in \$1 coins.

Holly's guess of \$115 was the closest out of 109 entries. Weighing in at \$112 worth of \$1 coins, guesses ranged from \$20 up to \$220.

Thanks to her lucky guess, Holly received a voucher to start her own bank account with Trentham & Districts Community Bank Branch valued at \$112. The Branch would like to thank everyone who participated in the competition.

Thanks also go to Bernie White, who grew the giant spud, & the Wooden Duck, which kindly lent the Branch the beautiful old scales used to display the giant spud.



The cheerful stallholders at the Trentham Railway Station Market rug up to spruik their handmade goods on the 4th Sunday of each month. This extra market was put on to coincide with the Great Trentham Spudfest.



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SPRINGHILL 1375 Kyneton Rd

Classic country church circa 1890. Formerly St Marks Church of England. On land of approx 3.85 acres along with a partially completed dwelling. The Church has undergone a major refurbishment and is ready for conversion to a residence/studio.

\$356,000



TRENTHAM

67 Falls Rd

Spacious light filled, four bedroom home opposite the golf course. Set on around 1.5 acres, includes separate dining area, living room, sun room, and two bathrooms. large shed. Workshop. Short walk to main street shops and restaurants

\$595,000



MALMSBURY

22 Orr St

Three bedroom cottage on around half acre. two street frontages. Land suitable for subdivision. Dwelling in good condition. Good rental or first home buyer opportunity.



TRENTHAM 20A High St

Three/four bedroom home overlooking Quarry St Reserve. Uninterrupted views from light filled living areas and large entertaining deck at rear. Fully insulated with modern kitchen and bathroom and polished flooring.

\$495,000



TRENTHAM FALLS RISE

30% SOLD

Seven magnificent allotments approx 1 acre each, fully serviced. Opposite the golf course and easy walk into the township.

FROM \$200,000



BLACKWOOD

9 Victoria St

Red cedar home on around half an acre. Light filled open plan living opening on to large entertainment deck. Three bedrooms, cellar and large garage workshop. Only a short walk to the Lerderderg River and the many paths thru the Forest

\$335,000



TRENTHAM 23 Camp St

Renovated cottage on one acre. Original miners cottage with later addition. Four bedrooms, kitchen/dining, separate lounge, study, two bathrooms, spa and large laundry/utility room. Separate studio and large shed workshop.

\$450,000



BLACKWOOD 24 Martin St

The best of Blackwood. Restored classic home in excellent condition. In garden setting with views over Lerderderg Gorge. Three/ four bedrooms, return verandah, and separate cottage. Great Value.

\$440,000



TRENTHAM 9 Bowen St

Classic A Frame. Massive internal living space with two bedrooms. Authentic 1977 handcrafted home, constructed of Oregon and hardwood. At around 1,800 square metres with two street frontages offers subdivision opportunity.

\$370,000

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