



After a decade of building woes, Blackwood may be destined to become another Golden Beach (The Age 16-3-13) where “hundreds of Victorian families could receive just \$1,500 for spectacular seaside blocks many have owned for more than half a century but have never been allowed to build on”. Among their council’s concerns, when urging the State Government to re-zone the town to Rural Conservation, were the existing septic systems & bush-fire risk.

Blackwood was again fortunate to make it through a very hot summer (a half a dozen fires we attended in our immediate area). With colder weather the risk of house fires increases with the use of wood fires. If your house burnt down, could you re-build? If Blackwood burnt, could it re-build? Under the current regime, probably not. How much, then, are our blocks of land worth – \$1,500 a piece? Will your insurance cover the cost of buying another block in another town to build on? Probably not. And if, as we trust, your house doesn’t burn down, can you get permission to extend, or even improve? Unlikely.

Recently a lot of money has been spent improving our roads, enlarging our reservoir capacity & upgrading our sportsground facilities (now with its own effluent holding tank right on the river). Yet try to improve your humble miner’s cottage or fibro holiday home & see how far you get with the (many) relevant authorities. Blackwood News thanks those who have contributed to this article with their stories (p3,4 & 5) of dogged persistence & courage in the face of a decade of bureaucratic stone-walling.

Our town (historically regarded as a bit cranky & political) has been patient & polite for long

*The house burnt to the ground, taking pretty much everything, including her mother’s Steinway. It spared her beloved dog, Indie & her favorite tea-cup. Cheers!*



**CAN'T BUILD?  
CAN'T IMPROVE?  
YOU'RE NOT ALONE**

enough. We urge you to read the following stories, consider your own position & join us at a town meeting at the Blackwood Hotel on **Thursday 2nd of May** (meals

will be available) to regain a voice in this matter.

Oh, & by the way, the State Planning Ministers name is Matthew Guy & he

would love to hear from you. He also happens to have a holiday house in another threatened town called Golden Beach.

**STORIES ON PAGES 1, 2, 4 & 5**



### EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

Hi Readers,  
Usually when I'm putting a new issue of Blackwood News together I give it secret code name. This issue I've named 'the issue of broken dreams'. Over the past month Brendan has spent many hours talking to locals & putting together stories of the frustrations many Blackwoodians have had trying to build on their land. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed their personal story, & hope to see a great turn-out at the hotel on May 2 to discuss how we can ensure the future of our beautiful village. It's been a really busy couple of months in Blackwood with the Labour Day weekend & Easter - hence this issue is jammed packed with photos & stories. Check out the brilliant wedding photos on p6 & a handful of the carnival photos on p7 & the gold panning championships on p29. As always, we welcome all your submissions. Be sure you check out the limerick competition on p17 - We have a double pass to a show at Speigletent in Docklands!

**GARBAGE COLLECTIONS**  
April  
Monday 1, 15, 29  
May  
Monday 13, 27

I've run out of space so...  
~til next issue **Jinny Coyle**,  
editor@blackwoodnews.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
Jan '13	10.6	50.1	3.6	37.7
Feb '13	96.2	54.2	6.4	34.3

**THIS SUMMER** has been particularly hot, with February having the highest average temperature, followed by January and then December. We have been fortunate to have had quite a good amount of rain in February, which has lessened the fire risk. March so far is continuing on with the pattern of very hot weather.

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**Hi Jason,**  
**Thanks so much for your help and advice today. Just to confirm our conversation:** I have a property in Blackwood that is approximately 1660 square meters. I asked you if there was a system to deal with black and grey water that might be considered adequate by Western Water if we put that in a planning application to council. My husband and I are willing to put the best possible plan forward to council and are willing to consider any EPA approved system regardless of cost. You advised me that for any block in Blackwood under 4000 square meters a septic, worm or composting system regardless of quality would not be considered adequate, and that a permit for such would not be approved by Western Water. I really appreciate your candor - it will save our family some thousands of dollars in meeting permit requirements to know in advance that any attempt would be unsuccessful. If you could please respond to say that I have understood our conversation correctly, I'd be very grateful.

Many thanks, Heather Marsh

**Heathers ongoing conversation with Western Water.**

**Hi Heather,**  
**As I mentioned to you so many factors come into play when determining the capability of a parcel of land to satisfactorily treat and retain all waste water within its own boundaries.**

The type of effluent disposal system proposed is taken into consideration however no system is perfect and they are all prone to failure either mechanical or through human error and they all require land to be made available that is solely dedicated for effluent disposal only.

I also mentioned that 4000 square meters is generally considered an acceptable lot size for effluent disposal but also mentioned that anything under 10,000 square meters needs to be considered very carefully. A set lot size for effluent disposal does not exist.

It really depends on the size of dwelling proposed and number of bedrooms it will contain but I can confirm that building an average type 3 bedroom dwelling on your 1660 square meter lot in Blackwood is unlikely to be supported by Western Water.

If you have any further queries I am happy to discuss further.  
Kind regards  
Jason Michie, Development Planner, Western Water  
Ph: 9218 5433

### CAN'T BUILD? CAN'T IMPROVE? YOU'RE NOT ALONE ...

FROM FRONT PAGE

**I have lived in Blackwood for the past 17 years & am most likely known as the lady who lost her home & contents in a house fire in 2008, 3 months before Black Saturday.** My life changed on that day &, although I received support from my friends, the community, my workplace & especially Linda & Lorry Byers, who took me in, the System ultimately let me down. For the next 3 years my battle to rebuild became an on-going & frustrating series of days, weeks, & months dealing with the Moorabool Shire, the CFA & 4 water boards. Everytime I thought I was making headway with the belief that I would be able to rebuild my home, the goal posts moved & another unknown obstacle was placed in front of me, often without a reason or any logic. As I was not a victim of the horrors of Black Saturday, I fell between the cracks, & felt the full brunt of the strictest building regulations. This left me with no voice, no answers, no ability to move forward. The last straw was being told I would need to have a Fire Engineer assess my property at a personal cost of between \$3/5,000, with a 99% rate of failure in being able to obtain a planning permit. If I was able to build, the walls in my home facing the forest could not have doors or windows & my property would need a 6 foot steel fence surrounding it to protect my neighbours! 3 years on, I felt I had no option than to relinquish my dream of rebuilding on my beloved block by the forest, & was therefore inadvertently forced to buy another house in Blackwood. I am still paying the full rates for my block, including waste disposal of which I clearly do not use! And as all landholders do, I continue to maintain the property.

Like most of us, I believed the new sewerage project would in the long run, improve our community & add value to our land. This would enable us to be placed in a better situation to apply for building permits. Obviously the recent events of the failed sewerage project & the impact on Blackwood's ability to manage its sewerage has been seriously impacted.

**Lachlan & Nicola wanted to buy a 2 acre property in Golden Point to build on.** They paid \$1000 for a soil report & BAL (Bushfire Attack Level) assessment, drew up house plans & paid \$750 for a planning permit. They found Western District CFA to be obstructionist, "No matter what I did, there was no way they would pass a house on that block. We were told that people were stupid for living in such a dangerous place". The block was largely cleared, but bordered by DSE land, thick with undergrowth. This is a common problem in Blackwood, leading to higher BAL ratings on our properties. Central Highlands Water was firm too that no treatment system would be allowed on the 2 acre property. These days, it seems that any property under 100 acres can not be guaranteed permission for a septic.

Despite requests from Lachlan & Nicola, no authorities (CFA, Shire, water authorities, etc.) would attend the property. They were told that all relevant information could be accessed through Google Maps. And don't bother waiting for a written response to your letters either. These authorities shy away from such records. They much prefer the unrecorded &, ultimately irrelevant, phone call. Their strategy is to string you along until you run out of money, time or spirit & are forced to meekly give up & walk away.

~ **Brendan Hehir**

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When I was approached to write an article for the Blackwood News, I decided to speak out, 5 years after my fire, & recount some of the details of my personal loss, these included \$15,000 spent on retaining walls to enable the approval of a permit, 4 versions of house plans drawn up to try to satisfy all of the fire requirements, endless wasted hours being shoved from one bureaucratic system to another, & being made to feel like an ignorant & irrational person. 3 years of insult added to injury.

Now 5 years on I am not one of the few dealing with this unique & unjust situation. Now we are all dealing with the reality of a town slowly being shut down. This is our story. With the extreme difficulty in even getting a planning permit, much less a building permit, a failed sewerage project that has added another layer to the difficulty in rebuilding, compounded with extremely strict building codes, our land is becoming worthless, unable to be built on, difficult to sell. In the event of a major bush-fire, Blackwood would disappear. And don't expect to be able to rebuild if you have something as simple as an electrical fire, as I did, even though I was living in my home & paying rates for 12 years.

As one person I had no voice, but as a community we need to work together as a team & reclaim our right to live here. Do not believe that the system is there to help you keep your home & land take it from me, I wouldn't wish what I had to deal with on my worst enemy.

By sharing my story, I hope it has helped your understanding of the importance in dealing with this situation now. Isn't it time to become proactive, organise a working party & start raising awareness concerning all of these issues. Only then will we be prepared to deal with these major organisations before it is too late. Thank-you for giving me the time to voice my 5 years of frustration.

~ **Noelle Shader**

**My name is Robert Cocciardi. I'm 4th generation of the Cocciardi's.** My great grandfather purchased land in Golden Point Rd, Blackwood in 1872. My great grandparents raised nine children in Blackwood. He was a goldminer & dug a water race through the hills to be used in gold mining. Both grandparents are buried in Blackwood Cemetery. The land has huge sentimental value to me & the family. I've paid rates for many years & always intended to build a house on the land for my retirement in Blackwood.

My hopes & dreams have been shattered, due to council & CFA regulations. I've obtained professional services to get a building permit (Council, CFA, water board & sewerage). I was intending to build a BAL-FZ (fire zone) dwelling. The house was relocated approximately five times on the block, due to access to water tanks for the CFA. I've had two meetings with CFA & at no time was I told that I would not succeed in obtaining a permit, also was told by the CFA to put a covenant on my title so in future no 2 storey house was to be built. In the end, only to be told that the CFA would not permit me to build & the council followed suit. I was then advised to take it to VCAT, so I sought legal advice at a cost & was informed that the estimated cost would be about \$20,000 & there would only be a 35% chance of winning.

As I'm still paying rates on the land that I can't do anything with, I feel with the regulations in place at this time make it nearly impossible to build. What future has Blackwood got?

~ **Regards, Robert Cocciardi**

MORE STORIES PAGES 1, 2, 4 & 5

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**"no matter what I did, there was no way they would pass a house on that block."**

**"the walls in my home facing the forest could not have doors or windows, & my property would need a 6 foot steel fence surrounding it, to protect my neighbours!"**

**"My great grandfather purchased the land ... in 1872."**



**Our story started in 2001, when we purchased 1644m2 of land in Terrill St., Blackwood, the first step into real estate for both of us.**

At the time there were quite a few blocks in town & the surrounding area being developed with a number of them smaller than ours.

In 2002 we decided we wanted to build a house but, being a young couple & struggling with finances, we thought we could save some money by going owner-builder. We then decided we would build a shed first so we had somewhere secure to store materials & tools while we built.

To do this we applied to Moorabool Council for a planning permit with the permit showing details of the shed & clearly showing "future house site". We didn't include the house details in the permit as we hadn't finalised plans. The permit was returned to us stating that council didn't like giving approval for sheds before houses & that the only way to proceed was to sign a statutory declaration saying that we would not live in the shed & that we were going to build a house. We were quite happy with this as we had every intention of building a house. We were granted a permit, & as time went on, the shed was built, plans were finalised & a company was found that could supply us a kit house for us to build.

In 2004 we applied for a building permit & at the same time signed up for the kit house thinking that there wouldn't be any issues (council made us sign a stat-dec to make us build a house!) & that the framework would be ready as soon as we had approval. After quite a few weeks, council denied us a permit on the basis that the land would not cope with effluent disposal. We then worked with a number of different consultants over the next 18 months, trying to find a solution, but with no success. As one last desperate attempt we told our final consultant

"at that point we realised that we could not win"

**CENTRAL HIGHLANDS** Water continues to work on options for Blackwood sewerage through the establishment of a working group with key stakeholders. This working group will investigate the specific underlying environmental and public health issues in Blackwood and surrounding areas. The working group is expected to commence in April 2013, after which CHW will provide more information on the working group and its plans.

**THE INVESTIGATIONS** through the working group are expected to assist with identifying a new sustainable solution.

I have attached the Fact Sheet we provided to residents in September 2012 which has additional information.

~ Nicky McMaster CHW

to design the best system he could, no matter what the expense. The system he came back with was state of the art with zones & sensors & was approximately \$30,000 worth (quite a bit at that time). The response we received from council was "it's too complicated".

It was at that point we realised that we could not win & that we were stuck with a house that we couldn't build.

Then suddenly in 2006 it was announced that Blackwood was going to be seweraged. At the time we thought this was the answer to our problem. 7 years on & we are still waiting!

Through those 7 years we have learnt that the council wasn't all to blame & that in fact the council is forced to refer every application, to up to 3 water authorities, all of which have the right to deny, leaving the council without a leg to stand on.

Over the last 7 years we have vigorously campaigned to try & get a result, but to no avail. Now the proposed sewerage system has been refused approval by the EPA, so where does that leave owners of vacant land or even people who want to extend or need to rebuild?

Now we also have to comply with BAL requirements, which seem almost unachievable.

Inadvertently, through the introduction of new rules & regulations, it has been made impossible to build in Blackwood. I'm not against change & I realise that we need to move with the times, but you shouldn't be able to take a property one day & be allowed to do what you like & then the following day be told you can't do a thing with it. That is just wrong & someone needs to be held accountable!!

~ Natalie & Owen Byers, Lot 21 Terrill St, Blackwood

**I AM** not across the building permit situation, but I do imagine that the bushfire risk will prove to be an even bigger barrier than sewerage for those wishing to build in Blackwood in the future.

**IN TERMS** of the sewerage issue, I can offer the following comments as president of Blackwood and Barry's Reef Landcare Group:

"**LANDCARE WAS** disappointed that the EPA rejected Water Infrastructure Group's proposal to discharge treated waste water which effectively torpedoed Blackwood's innovative centralised membrane bioreactor scheme.

**THE PROPOSAL** made a lot of sense and would have future-proofed Blackwood as even better technology comes on stream in the decades to come.

**I UNDERSTAND** that a working group is being formed to go back to first principles and look at the issue all over again in Blackwood.

**I THINK** a hybrid solution is a likely outcome, which could involve cluster treatment plants, shared between small groups of residents, along with inspections and compliance measures from the Shire of Moorabool."

~ Shane Scanlan, Landcare

18 March, 2013

To Matthew Guy, Minister for Planning

Dear Minister,

**Re: Planning & Insurance Matters – Blackwood.**

I right on behalf of my constituent, Mr Nick Dear, regarding the above matters.

Mr Dear has expressed concern over planning & insurance matters affecting land owners & residents of the Blackwood area.

I have enclosed a copy of his self-explanatory letter FYI.

Could you please examine the concerns raised & respond directly to Mr Dear.

Yours Sincerely,

**Don Nardella MLA, Member for Melton**

CC: CEO Moorabool Shire Council

MORE STORIES PAGES 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

**The occupation certificate was issued for 26 Tim Lane, Blackwood in June 2012. It felt like the gold medal at the end of a marathon. & now we wonder if this the story of the last house ever to be built in Blackwood? We hope not!**

We first came to Blackwood in the mid 80s enjoying many bushwalks. A friend of a friend had a house here that he wanted to sell – the house known to many in Blackwood as the "100 Steps". While we were keen to buy, at that stage we couldn't afford it, but the owner approached us again in 1997 & luckily at that point we were in a better position to buy a weekend here. We love Blackwood & all that it has to offer – particularly the bushwalking, the personalities, the wildlife & having a place where our friends can come to stay. Over many happy years here, we decided that this is where we would like to retire & as the old house crumbled around us, we made plans to build a new house never suspecting just how difficult that was going to be!

**JUNE 2007:** We sat down with Ken, our friend & architect, & talked about what we wanted for our home in Blackwood. Not too grand, lots of windows to enjoy the views of the bush, three bedrooms instead of the two in the current house, & an extra bathroom.

It soon became clear that the old house would have to go. It was on its last legs anyway, & it would certainly be cheaper to pull it down & start again rather than renovate. & so we embarked on a journey into the unknown. We thought it would be easy but little did we know!

A few weeks later we saw the drawings. Ken had 'got' exactly what we wanted & also came up with a design that made the most of a difficult & sloping block. After a few modifications we signed off on the drawings, appointed a quantity surveyor to work out the price & started the planning permission process.

All we needed were a few approvals from the various authorities. That can't be too hard can it?

**JUNE 2008:** One year on and, finally, Moorabool Shire Council issued a Planning Permit. But securing this had been a nightmare. Not because of the council, who were fine to deal with, but because of the water authorities.

Now we understand why waterboarding is a torture.

It seems that the water authorities, one in particular, have made it their corporate priority to prevent anyone from building anything in Blackwood, even if that means that old & leaking septic tanks are allowed to pollute the Lerederg River.

It came down to this. According to the water authorities you can only replace like with like. We couldn't have an extra bedroom (because that might mean more people generating effluent) & the idea of a second bathroom or even toilet is way beyond the pale. Did they think that we would go to the toilet more often just because we had two to choose from?

We toyed with the idea of waiting until the long awaited sewerage came through, but (thank heaven) rejected this option. Instead, we arranged an onsite meeting to thrash this out.

We were there, along with Ken, a very helpful representative from the Council, a geophysicist & a representative from one of the water authorities. Luckily, the representative from the "difficult" water authority couldn't make it, & passed on his "vote" to the other water authority. This piece of luck probably saved our house!

At the meeting we pointed out that there was a bunkhouse on the property (an old converted garage) that we used when the two bedrooms were already full with friends staying. & there was the old long drop toilet next door. So, in our view, we already had three bedrooms & two toilets. The water authorities approved the plans. All we needed was to prepare a legal document to be signed by the Council, the Board of Southern Rural Water, the Managing Director & General Manager Sustainability of Western Water & us!

So, in April 2009, 10 months after the Council Planning Permit we received the water authority approval.

**MARCH 2009:** Whilst waiting for the water authorities to do their thing, we went about appointing a builder. Three quotes came in, & we were delighted that our mate Peter came in as the cheapest. We were set to go. But we still had another major hurdle to get over: the Building Permit.



A building surveyor was appointed to oversee the approval process & all seemed to be going well. But on 7th February 2009, Victoria's nightmares were realised. On Black Saturday, the worst bushfires in the Nation's history claimed 163 lives, injured 5,000 people, destroyed 2,029 homes, killed countless animals & burnt through over 4,500 square kilometres of land.

Not surprisingly, the Government acted quickly to review building regulations in bushfire prone land. & we were caught right in the middle of the changes.

We needed to appoint an 'approved fire assessor' to evaluate our land and, not surprisingly it was classified as the highest possible fire risk level – BAL-FZ.

This meant that the new building regulations would have a major impact on the design of the house. Because the approval process was already in train, the building inspector could have issued a certificate under the old regs; but he didn't want the responsibility of ignoring the new regulations in the light of such a catastrophe as Black Saturday. & we don't really blame him for that.

So, it was back to the drawing board for Ken. Building materials had to be re-specified, wood cladding was out & wall & roofing materials had to meet stringent new fire attack capabilities. The windows had to be redesigned & the deckings changed to a 'sacrificial structures', which would fall away from the rest of the house in the event of fire.

Electric powered shutters, with manual back up, were required on every one of the 25 windows in the house. The framework for the decking had to be steel rather than wood. & all of this had to be married with the already complex home building & energy efficiency regulations, which any home-builder has to face.

Once again we lost plenty of time struggling to meet these new requirements, not to mention being faced with a 20% increase in the building costs!

And this is the scary thing. If people lose their homes in a bushfire will they be able to cover the cost of replacement? Are insurance policies adequate to cover the types of buildings now required? & even if they can overcome these hurdles, will the water authorities come to the party? Blackwood, as a community is under serious threat!

**SEPTEMBER 2009:** We had a call from, Peter, the builder, to say he was ready to start, & a couple of weeks later the boys turned up to start the demolition job.

There was still a long haul ahead of us. Things went wrong & challenges emerged & had to be overcome. Sinking the concrete stumps was far more difficult than expected due to the need to drill through solid rock, some of the new fire regulations specified building materials that simply didn't exist, the windows were delivered, & had to be sent back because the wood wasn't properly seasoned, the internal staircase arrived, & was one step too short, & just getting the materials to the block was a nightmare.

But, at the same time it was really exciting to come to Blackwood & see our home slowly taking shape. & we never had a cross word with Peter or with Pete & Ian who actually did all the work.

**MARCH 2012:** The build was finally finished & ready for inspection. A few issues had to be overcome – fire collars on the external pipes, safety decals on the windows to prevent us from walking through the glass, non slip treads on the stairs, & a need to build up the ground under the decking so that if you fell off you would only fall 4 meters instead of 4.1 (apparently, the extra 10cm makes all the difference!).

So all of this was fixed, the inspectors came back, & noticed a couple of other things they hadn't seen before.

Finally, in June 2012, almost five years to the day when we sat down with the Ken, the final Occupancy Permit arrived.

We know someone who keeps an ABC file in his desk, which stands for 'architects, builders & other crooks'. But we never had problems with any of them. The problems we did have were with the water authorities who seem to see it as their primary responsibility to put as many obstacles in your way as they possibly can.

We are very happy that we now have a home that we love in a town where we want to live & spend our retirement. We really hope that this isn't the last home to be built in this fantastic little town.

~ David & Shayne Barmer, Tim Lane, Blackwood

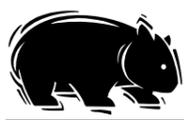
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# TYING THE KNOT – BLACKWOOD STYLE...



CW from top left corner: The bride plays on (Nicola Dear on Irish Fiddle); Nicola & Lachlan's wedding parade, New Orleans style; these boys eat marriage for breakfast, Caroline & Leon with their bridal party, also come on baby, light my fire; Blackwood diva, Donna Matheson weds long-time love Neville White



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## BLACKWOOD ALBUM: EASTER 2013





### HEALTH BASICS: BONE HEALTH

by Kathie Strmota

Bones provide structure for the body & serve as a reservoir for minerals. For example, when blood calcium levels rise, excess is deposited into bones (or excreted in urine if there's no demand). When blood calcium levels drop, calcium is drawn out of bones. This process of mineral deposition & resorption continues through life, allowing bones to grow & change shape. It's interesting to think that this apparently solid structure is actually a mass of continually shifting sands.

The most common adult bone problems are osteoporosis (low bone density) & fractures. Porous bones break much more easily – a friend broke both bones in her lower leg by simply stepping off her bike. So, whether you're 25 or 55, think about prevention now to avoid a similar painful situation yourself.

Like muscles, bones are 'strengthened on demand' by regular weight-bearing or resistance exercise. Nutrition alone is not enough. Any activity which places pressure on bones by pushing, pulling, or lifting, encourages bone mineralisation. Even walking applies because the body itself is a weight.

Bone depletion increases in acid tissue states, while an alkalising diet helps reduce mineral loss. Search the web for alkalising / acid-forming foods. In general, junk foods, soft drinks, caffeine, sugar, fatty foods, alcohol, cigarettes, pharmaceuticals are acid-forming, so avoid these. Protein foods are also acid-forming, but nutritionally important, so keep them in. Fruit & vegetables are alkalising. Most dairy, grains, nuts, seeds are neutral. Basically, just reduce packet foods & increase plant foods.

Bone formation requires calcium, magnesium, boron, silica, zinc, & vitamins A, B, C, D. Some are building blocks & others kick the builders into action. Generally, you should get enough benefit from an alkalising diet plus exercise but, as you get older, you may need to supplement. Always take calcium together with its friends in a bone matrix combo.

Osteoporosis is more common in post-menopausal women (40%) than elderly men (15%) because of the added complication of hormone deficiency. Low estrogen leads to increased breakdown of bone tissue, while low progesterone means reduced bone-forming activity.

For bone fractures, supplement bone nutrients for the whole healing period. Apply comfrey cream around the injury regularly, but ensure the fracture is well-aligned first, with an X-ray to confirm bone

position. A plaster cast precludes this option but you may use it on a smaller bone.

Metaphysically, the skeleton is the framework of your life & defines the standards by which you live. It gives your life stability, support & meaning. When bones are strong, you are living in integrity with your framework, you know where you stand, stand your ground, & are flexible enough to allow your framework to re-form in support of your evolving journey. When bones are weak & porous, you are out of integrity with your framework. Maybe your structure is too narrow & rigid, & doesn't allow for your evolving self, so you feel unsupported. You don't know where you stand & can't stand up for yourself.

Fractures occur when you feel restricted & just want to break out. You are stifled by your own limiting framework. Inwardly, you feel a weakness but, outwardly, you try to prove yourself, push yourself. Allow your current course to be interrupted. Accept your inner truth & allow its strength to re-form your framework. Determine your life from within & stand in integrity with yourself.

**AFFIRMATIONS:** In my world, I am my own authority. I always have the power to choose according to my own mind. I stand up for myself & life supports me in unexpected, loving ways.

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### OUR CRICKET CHAMPS

**THE FIRST** 2 days of the 3-day Grand Final have been played & Blackwood will enter next Saturday with the upperhand. After winning the toss & batting last Saturday we quickly found ourselves in trouble at 3 / 15 . With the top 3 batsmen all going cheaply , the long road to recovery started with Harro & Andy taking the score to 78 before rain stopped play. On the resumption, they took the score to 118 just on tea when Andy was dismissed for a fine 50. After tea & another wicket, Crazy joined Harro & took the score to 172 before Harro was dismissed for a fantastic 85. Another quick loss of 2 more wickets reduced Blackwood to 8/178, with another half hour before stumps. Benny joined Stevo & they continued on where the others left off, pushing the score to 8/212 overnight. On we marched to get the score to 235 before being dismissed &, with the ball in Al's hand, we started the job of defending the runs we had on the board. A great start was made with a wicket in the first over. With Al charging in & Lukey keeping the pressure on from the other end, wickets kept tumbling all day to dismiss Gisborne for 136, with Al following up his 5 wickets in the semi with 5 /25 off 19 overs. Lukey chimed in with 3 wickets & they were very well supported by all the other bowlers & fielders, including the one-hander running catch in the outfield by Harro that thrilled the home crowd ,wildly supporting the boys. Facing the last 6 overs of the day left us at 1 /23 with a overall lead of 122 runs with 1 day to go. Come down & cheer on & join in with the anticipation of victory & celebrating an historic win.



**THE 3RD** day started with the score at 1/23, with Luke Whitehouse & James Cann at the crease. Early wickets for Gisborne would bring them back into the game; a good partnership from our top order batsmen would take the game away from Gisborne. 2nd ball of the day, a skied catch from Lukey was dropped &, with just the 1 run in the first 4 overs of the day, the pressure was on. Slowly but surely the boys grew in confidence (with the help of a couple of dropped chances) the score grew to 1 /154 with James on 77 & Luke on 75 giving Blackwood a lead of 253, 9 wickets in hand & only about 40 overs, to go when Gisborne conceded that they could not win the match. So victory was Blackwood's ( records indicate 1932/33 was the last premiership ).

**A FINE** season for the Boys. Presentation Night has been booked on April 20 at the Blackwood Hotel. Come along & join us. All welcome. Talk to Dave on 53686451 or Steve on 53689633 for details.

~ Steve



CW: The team & supporters after the Grand Final win (photo Steve Hammond); The team before the game; Luke Whitehouse, Alan Salmon & James Cann celebrate the historic win; James Cann, a bouncer broke his nose but he's feeling no pain..

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### COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

#### The Anglican Parish Of Woodend & Trentham

As usual, since 1857, we're happy to assist you with your spiritual needs. St George's, Trentham – Sundays at 9am

~ Malcolm Thomas

#### Blackwood Cemetery Trust



The trustees of the Blackwood Cemetery are pleased to report that the niche wall for the interment of cremated remains & the memorial wall have been completed – the 2013 costs are as outlined:

##### NICHE WALL:

The cost for sealing cremated remains in a niche wall is \$485 + \$65 general admin fee.

Plaque is to be organised by the person applying for the remains to be interred. Plaque is to be made of bronze & must be 23cm x 23cm. The plaque & the cremate remains are to be given to the trustee of the Blackwood Cemetery, who will organise for the ashes to be sealed in the wall & the plaque affixed to the wall.

##### MEMORIAL WALL:

The cost for space on the memorial wall is \$185 + \$65 admn fee. The plaque is to be made of bronze & must be no bigger than 7.5cm x 23cm. The plaque must be given to the trustee of the Blackwood Cemetery who will organise for the plaque affixed to the wall.

If you are interested in pre-purchasing a niche or an allotment in the cemetery, you should contact Robyn Zanon on 5368 6792.

The town's cemetery is looking very well-maintained these days, mainly due to the attention of Lou Henderson, who keeps the grass & weeds down. A big thank-you to Lou who takes such pride, not only in the cemetery but also in keeping many other public areas in town mown & tidy. Thank-you Lou.

~ Wally Zanon, Chairperson

#### Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee Of Management

Welcome to the new ranger, Brad Panos & his wife Jenni.

We have had a busy couple of months with the campers in the caravan park & the sportsground being hired continuously. This is great because it helps with promotional & maintenance up-keep for the future.

Thank-you to Brad, Jenni, Lou, David & Sallee, who have worked to keep the standard up & a special thank-you to Greg for all your help.

~ Elizabeth Hall, Secretary

#### Blackwood CERT



##### WENDY BRIDGMAN: 11 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE!

April 2013 – the end of an era? With the expiration of her current Authority to Practice, Wendy is retiring from active CERT duty.

Wendy graduated from the initial CERT course held in Blackwood under the auspices of Monash University centre for Ambulance & Paramedic studies. The course involved 80 hours of midweek & weekend training & finished November, 2002.

Since that time Wendy has given up her own & family time to provide emergency medical response to the community members of Dale's Creek, Blackwood & Trentham & for this she should be commended.

From a team perspective, we will all miss Wendy's calm approach to an emergency situation & the feeling of wellbeing she instilled in her patients. The team members wish Wendy all the best in the future & know there is always a cup of tea & a chat waiting at her place. Wendy intends to remain active in the CERT Committee of Management.

A true "Blackwoodian" - thank you.!

~ Trevor Hill, CERT



**A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE ED:** My special thanks to Wendy, this wonderful woman who 3 years ago, even with her arm in plaster, came to help me with Trevor when I broke my hip. I'll never forget that, Wendy!

#### Blackwood Historical Society

Thank-you to all who worked at our drink stall at the Easter Carnival & who came to our open day on Easter Sunday.

Meetings are held on the 1st Sat monthly at 10.30am - enquiries welcome 5368 6537.

~ Allan Hall, President

#### Blackwood Progress Association

The Progressive Garage Sale was a great success, there were 10 in all & everyone seemed to have a good day. Thank you to Elizabeth, Vallissa, Genevieve, Janette, Brenda & Robina, Janine, Karl & Lee, Daryl, Ziggy, Helen, Mike, Judy & Charlie, for participating in this venture. Thanks to Lou for selling maps & to Heinz & Ange for supplying lunch. It was great.

Thanking all sponsors for the Blackwood Easter Carnival & Woodchop as of the 20th March:- John Fitzgerald Real Estate, Trentham Garage, Trentham Pharmacy, Don Nardella, U.F.S. Dispensary Ballan, Myrning Sprint Cars, Blackwood Hotel, Fred & Brian Moore, Pat Liffman, Telstra, K.F.C., McDonalds, Leanne, Blackwood News, Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management.

Also we wish to thank the Cricket Club for the B.B.Q, Historical Society for Drinks, Fred Moore/Seniors Citizens, Hot Dogs, Blackwood Progress & members of the community for their outstanding help setting up the ground on Good Friday, the running of the carnival on Saturday & cleaning up of ground on Sunday. Without your help this event would not go ahead.

Thank you to all who participated in the Family Bingo.

All proceeds from these two events will go towards the Walking Track at the Recreation Ground.

The Blackwood Progress Association hopes everyone had a great Easter.

~ Judith DeGroot, Secretary

#### Blackwood Senior Citizens' Centre Inc.

Here we are with 2013 well underway & we have a very social year planned for the Blackwood Senior Citizens with an excursion once a month planned & organised by Bev Herd.

Already we have gone on 2 enjoyable outings – the first to Williamstown, where we had several hours to meander around this most interesting historic town, to take lunch (plenty of choices), do some shopping & enjoy the salt air. Some of us took a tour of an old warship, the Castlemaine, & then Greg (our very nice bus driver) drove us around the areas & along the waterfront.

The next trip was a visit to several wineries around the Daylesford region & lunch at the Royal Hotel.

Two of our very senior members, Linda Cameron & Betty DeWeiss, have been hospitalised recently, but we are happy to report that they are well & back with us again.

Deanne, our lovely kitchen lady, is back with us after a well earned break for a couple of weeks.

Any new member would be made most welcome. We meet every Wednesday in the Blackwood Hall between 10am & 3pm. So come & join our club.

Til next issue

~ Barb Sweet (Hon Secretary)

#### Blackwood Association of Commerce, Blackwood Junior Cricket Club, Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Inc.,

~ no reports submitted

# come one come all... Trivia Night

**BLACKWOOD HOTEL**  
Wednesday April 24 & May 29

Pot & Parma meal  
Game \$25pp (incl meal)  
meal starts @ 6pm  
game starts @ 7pm  
all profits go to the  
**Greendale Wildlife Shelter**



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#### Thankyou Blackwood

As you may already know, after 14 months of being Blackwood Crown Reserves ranger, I have decided to resign from the position. For myself & my family, we have had a great year & enjoyed it very much. Unfortunately, it hasn't worked out financially for us.

I would like to thank a few people for their help – Lou Henderson for always being on call for any questions I had concerning the park & for his help with loads of jobs around the place. A huge thanks to Matt McLaren, Greg Fagen & Phil Skinner who at any chance they had a spare bit of time would jump on a mower or help me out with any jobs, thank you so much. The Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee who gave me the chance to take on the job & for all their support.

Unfortunately the Mineral Springs Kiosk is now shut, but to all our regular customers, thank-you very much for your support – local businesses cannot survive without local support.

On behalf of myself, Sallee, Neal & Lucy, we wish Brad, Jenni & kids all the best in the position. We are staying in Blackwood & I look forward to seeing you all around town on weekends...

After I have slept in.

~ Cheers Dave Salmon

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS LIBRARIES  
READING ROMANCE NOVEL PUBLICATION  
PUBLISHERS REFERENCE

**BLACKWOOD HALL**  
**Rural Library Service visits 2013:**  
3rd, 17th Apr  
1st, 15th, 29th May  
12th, 26th Jun

**Wednesday**  
**1.30 - 2.30pm**

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MOORABOOL SHIRE COUNCIL



• EVENTS & GIGS • EVENTS & GIGS •

APRIL 2013

when	what	where
Sun 7	Myrniong Historic Car Sprint	Myrniong
Sun 21, 1pm on	Blackwood Academy & Revue	Uniting Church
Wed 24	Trivia Night	Blackwood Pub

Library operating hours extended

Since reopening a permanent library service in Ballan in September last year after a forty year absence, library attendance in Ballan has grown significantly, to the point where the operating hours in 2013 have been extended in response to the increasing patronage.

Moorabool Shire Council Mayor, Pat Toohey, said it was exciting to see the Ballan Library services gradually being restored & well-patronised.

"Some locals may recall the Ballan Mechanics Institute previously housed a small public library for almost a century before it closed in the early 1970's. It's wonderful to see the Ballan Mechanics Institute restored to its original use as a library & the library services within it increasing into something the community can access & enjoy more often," Cr Toohey said.

"To see the new library sign created with the help of the local Wombat Art Society, it shows what pride the local community has in both the town & the library service."

A library pick-up & drop-off service is also available at Ballan & Wallace Maternal Child Health centres, a convenient service for parents who are accessing Maternal & Child Health, childcare or kindergarten services provided nearby. The returns boxes are emptied weekly & order forms available for borrowers who don't have access to online facilities.

A Rural Library Van services the community to the north & west of Ballan & follows a rotating timetable that includes Blackwood fortnightly (1.30pm - 2.30pm). The Rural Library Officer delivers books that have been placed on hold by library members to these destinations. Placing a hold on a book, DVD or CD is easy & the Rural Library Officer will happily teach new borrowers the process at your local stop.

Alternatively, borrowers can place items on hold from the comfort of their homes by accessing the Central Highlands Libraries website catalogue on www.centralhighlandslibraries.org.au.

MAY 2013

when	what	where
Sat 18	Trentham Spud Fest	Trentham
Sun 19, 1pm on	Blackwood Academy & Revue	Uniting Church
24-26	CWA Beanie Affair	Castlemaine
Sat 25	Ballan Hospital Ball	
Wed 29	Trivia Night	Blackwood Pub

\* denotes Blackwoodian musos

Graffiti Removal Costs Soar for Moorabool

Moorabool Shire Council is once again ramping up its efforts to rid the Shire of its graffiti problem, after figures showed a major increase in the amount spent on cleaning up graffiti in Ballan & Bacchus Marsh. In the financial year to date, \$17,055 has been spent on removing graffiti, which is more than was spent in the entire 2011/12 year on graffiti removal (\$15,823).

Late last year the council, through the media, led a concerted effort to stop vandals destroying public property.

Mayor Pat Toohey said the problem noticeably eased straight after the council highlighted it in December, but in the past month or so, has become worse.

"There are particular areas of the shire that are targets of graffiti vandals, including both the Ballan & Bacchus Marsh pools, McLean Reserve public toilets in Ballan & at Maddingley Park public toilets," Cr Toohey said.

"Increased surveillance by police & the council will be undertaken in these hotpot areas to try to catch these vandals."

Under Victorian law, the offence of marking graffiti attracts maximum fines of more than \$29,000 & up to two years imprisonment.

"There are better things the shire could be spending this money on than having to clean up after these vandals, & I call on the community to assist council & the police by reporting any incidents of graffiti they see happening," Cr Toohey said.

Moorabool Shire has written to local police to alert them to the problem & received a response stating the police looked forward to working together with the council to resolve the issue.

From July 1, 2012 to the end of January this year, there were 26 separate cases of graffiti in which the council engaged the services of a removal company to remove the graffiti - the majority of it not explicit in nature but in places such as public toilets & children's playgrounds where it may be offensive to people.

Anyone who sees graffiti in a public place is urged to contact local police.

COMMUNITY ALERT SIREN TESTING RESCHEDULED

On Wednesday, April 17 between 10.00am & 3.00pm, the CFA will be testing a temporary community alert siren at a range of locations throughout Dales Creek, Barrys Reef, Simmons Reef & Golden Point to assess site suitability for a permanent alerting siren.

This testing was originally scheduled for March 27, but had to be postponed due to the day being declared a day of Total Fire Ban.

Michael Boatman, CFA Manager Community Safety is encouraging the local community to participate & provide feedback about their location upon hearing the siren on April 17.

"While the CFA will be conducting analysis of siren location suitability, we are encouraging the community to provide valuable feedback about the sirens' effectiveness & reach," Mr Boatman said.

"Please remember that if you don't hear any sirens during the allocated time period, this information is just as important.

"A feedback form & background information is being mailed to all local residents & businesses.

"Following the testing & community feedback, two new sirens will be installed in Dales Creek & Barrys Reef over the coming months, with the potential for an additional two sirens," he said.

A Community Working Group, established in early 2012, featuring members of the local CFA Brigade & community members, has been advising the CFA & Moorabool Shire Council regarding the installation of community alert sirens in the area.

The Blackwood & Greendale CFA Stations received siren upgrades in January 2013 as part of state-wide pilot program involving 46 sirens in 39 locations.

The purpose of the pilot is to test & refine how the sirens work in practice before further community alerting sirens are implemented across the state.

MORE TASSIE TALES

Hi everyone,

Well, I missed the Easter Edition, as I got a bit sidetracked! My sister & I have been on a cruise to New Zealand, we had a great time, lots to do & see. We saw many interesting places on both islands, then back to the ship in time for dinner, our cabin cleaned, our bed turned down & a chocky on our pillows. No cooking, no cleaning & room-service too, mmmm, some holiday!

The scenery in New Zealand is very similar to Tassie but on a much larger & more rugged scale. We came home feeling very relaxed & rested & both of us with very loaded cameras, over 200 on mine. My garden survived nicely thanks to the watering efforts of my other half. Tassie has had some very bad fires although not up here near us, & the country is very dry. We have been having a few cooler days & nights so hopefully the fire threat is not as urgent. Some of our Firemen were called down to the East Coast to help at a fire there. 20,000hect. of National park burned out as well as a D9 dozer lost, not to mention the birds & animals & homes! I guess many of you will have heard of the Dunally School too. These fires were not lightning strikes or some type of natural combustion that sometimes happens in the bush, they were lit by the mindless people that do this time & time again; we never hear what happens to them, if they ever get caught!

On a lighter note, having had this run of warmer weather 5 of our grandsons aged 10 down to 5 decided to clean out the fishpond. The fish were rounded up & caught with much splashing & excitement into buckets & the cleanup began - fish poo, water, mud, slime & weed all over! Needless to say everyone, including fish, had a great time & the bathroom, well the bathroom survived. I should have hosed them down outside...yeah ,that would have been ace too. Boys 'Just Like To Have Fun', well girls too, Chelsea who is 6 was actually the boss of the day.

So as time rolls on Mothers Day is next on our calendar. Does anyone remember the little card with a white chrysanthemum tied to it that we used to get to take home to our Mum? The perfume of these fluffy flowers always make me smile. It's a time to think fondly of all the mothers we have had in our lives, our Mums, Grandmothers, Greatgrannies if we were lucky enough to have one, & our lovely Aunties, who loved us, scolded us & from whom we learned great life

Moorabool Shire Council Mayor Pat Toohey said the council applied for the Community Alert Siren grants as part of the Fire Ready Communities Program & it is rewarding to see their installation progressing.

"We know from experience during the recent Blackwood Evacuation Exercise that alerting options such as mobile messaging is unreliable in this area, so any additional alerting options in our toolbox is very welcomed," Cr Toohey said.

"However, it is important that the community do not rely on sirens as their only alerting option & take responsibility for monitoring their environment & seeking information.

"While these sirens will add to the suite of options being worked on in these areas, emergency agencies have reinforced their most important message, which is to leave early on days of code red & extreme fire danger," said Cr Toohey.

The community alert sirens will sound the same as the regular CFA station sirens, however they have two distinct purposes:

- **Sounding for 90 seconds or less** - alerting fire brigade members to attend emergency callout
- **Sounding for 5 minutes or more** - alerting communities to seek information about a potential threat.

The sounding of the siren is not a trigger to evacuate, but to seek further information from the Bushfire Information Line, cfa.vic.gov.au, radio broadcast or through local phone tree network.

If community members have not received their testing feedback forms by Friday March 22 please contact Cherie Graham, Council's Emergency Manager on 5366 7100 or complete the form online at www.haveyoursaymoorabool.com.au.

skills, those of the practical kind, & the important one of caring - for family , friends & neighbours. For me, several of these aunties were Blackwood ladies too! These women in our lives are the Angels on our shoulders & we loved them ...so for now after a rather long-winded effort cheers to all & Happy Mothers Day...and to all the blokes who have to be Mr Mum, to you guys too.

~ Bev Cooper

Hey kids...

Who started the idea of Mothers Day?

How many different languages can you say MOTHER in?

& don't forget to hug mum extra tight on her special day, & ... a bunch of flowers, no irons or cooking pots unless she really needs one!

• 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-3pm (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-1pm Scandanavian 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	BALLARAT LAKESIDE 9-1pm	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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Blackwood News doesn't generally promote gigs in Melbourne but this is Dave Salmons band, the O.D Tommy Dogs . They've been together for 11 years now and this is their first show in 2 years.

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# THE BLACKWOOD POLICE STABLES MUSEUM

BY MARGOT HITCHCOCK HISTORIAN FOR THE BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



which spans a period of over 150 years, since 1855.

Temporary stables of logs & canvas were established at Golden Point in May of 1855, but were replaced by stables sent up from Melbourne. The stable sections were brought to Blackwood on a police wagon, & assembled on a slight rise in the Police paddock at Golden Point & housed stalls for 6 mounts & a fodder room. It is believed they were completed by December of 1855, as it is reported that one mounted sergeant & five constables were operating from the stables by that time. The temporary log structures built by Thomas Disher were abandoned, & have since disappeared.

The stables & Police quarters were repaired in July 1866 by John Walker of Blackwood, & again in 1868 by F. Shenn of Blackwood.

In 1880 the Police station at Golden Point was closed, & a new station was established within the Blackwood township in Martin Street. Mr. Andrew Buchanan of Blackwood was given the task of removing the stables from Golden Point & reassembling them on the new station area, but limiting their capacity to two horse stalls only. Mr. Buchanan had to convert the six stall stable to its present two-stall status. A close inspection of the frame & exterior reveal the conversion work. Mr. Buchanan charged £38-9-6d for the work.

The stables were constantly in use until 1915, when the station was closed. The School Masters house & land was then rented out & around the 1970's it was then handed over to the Special Schools for the use of children with special needs. An agreement was made with the Special Schools who allowed the Blackwood & District Historical Society to have full use & restoration rights of the Stables for a nominal "peppercorn" yearly rental.

Weather, age & vandalism had taken its toll & it became the project of the Blackwood & District Historical Society to restore the stables to their 1880 condition & to house a small museum dedicated to the work of the police in the district. This work was commenced in 1976 & carried out by members of the Society together with members of the Police Re-enactment Society who joined the Historical society. Working bees were held lead by Stuart Duff & work was completed to lock-up stage in 1978.

A re-enactment of the goldfield days by members of the society in costume & assisted by mounted "troopers" from the "Historical Pageantry Society" over the Labour Day weekend in March 1977 with the Police Stables open to the public was a great success & added

publicity to the Stables. The stables were also open over the Easter celebrations in Blackwood in 1978 & members took part in the Easter parade. At the Easter Events in 1979, members of the Society & the Police Re-enactment Society put on a shoot-out between "bushrangers" & the society members dressed in period costume & Police uniforms with the Stables open to the public showing a Police Historical & Goldfields display in the stables.

Similar displays were held other years & work was done on the interior of the stables where various donations of historical items were put on display.

In 1998, work was commenced by the President of the Society, Allan Hall, a builder, to extend the back of the Police Stables to incorporate a meeting room with record storage space & a computer, also a kitchen & a big area to display historical items & photographs etc. This work was completed approx. 2003 during which time the Historical Society, had been dormant for several years.

The Historical Society resumed in December 2004 with some original & new Members, interested in continuing the work of the Police Stables restoration so it could be an added Tourist attraction to Blackwood & show some of Blackwood's fascinating Gold Mining era.

Grateful thanks to Allan Hall for his time & dedication in the building of the new extension & Museum to the Blackwood Police stables.)

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: Some of the gold relics inside the Museum - Martin Street, Blackwood - photo courtesy Margot Hitchcock



## Weeds march through Blackwood



Townfolk were surprised to see nine phantom weeds walking in the Blackwood Easter Carnival Parade.

The physical demonstration was designed to draw public attention nine problem weeds of Blackwood - blackberry, blue periwinkle, broom, galenia, gorse, Himalayan honeysuckle, holly, radiata pine and Spanish heath.

The theme continued at the sportsground, where Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group conducted a children's activity called Pobblebonk and a display of the nine weeds.

The group's new booklet, detailing weed identification & eradication techniques, was distributed to interested locals with many people expressing interest in helping out at our upcoming working-bee on April 13. The assembly point for the working-bee is 2pm at the tennis courts in the sports ground carpark.

A number of locals also expressed interest in joining Landcare. All are welcome. Speak with president Shane Scanlan on 5368 6587

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## NEVILLE FRANCIS ROGERS

Neville Francis Rogers was born on November 7, 1927 in Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, in the UK to parents George & Florrie & he had one sister, Mab. Neville won a scholarship to the local grammar school, where he excelled in all his studies, however Neville liked working with his hands & therefore started his working life as a fitter & turner alongside his father.

The war was drawing to an end when Neville was old enough to enlist. He had tried 6 times to enlist in the Navy however, as he was not yet 17, he was turned down. Eventually he was accepted & chose to work with aircraft engines. He stayed in the Navy long enough to complete his certificate & left the service in 1947, just before he turned 20.

After a while the sense of adventure crept into Neville's psyche & he wanted more out of his life, so he took off to London, where he joined the London Metropolitan Police Force as a Bobby.

After a few years as a Bobby, Neville discussed with a friend the possibility of leaving a depressing England for somewhere new & exciting. They tossed up the ideas of Canada & Australia, however Australia won! Neville was only 21 when he left the UK, leaving behind family & friends, to start a new life in a new country. Neville joined the police force in Australia, & was originally stationed in South Melbourne. He was later transferred to Williamstown, where he met his future wife, Betty. Betty's family ran the local newsagency & Betty's mother very kindly invited Neville in to dinner. This invitation started a union which lasted 58 years.

When Neville left the Victorian Police Force he worked at many jobs over the years. His first job after leaving the force was as an aircraft maintenance engineer at Ansett Airlines. He also undertook part-time work on the weekends, restoring Rolls Royce aircraft engines at the Melbourne Museum.

Teaching was the natural progression for Neville & he commenced a position as lecturer at RMIT in Aeronautical Engineering.

After ten years at lecturing, he joined the Education Department as a Secondary School Teacher & taught maths & science at Altona North Technical School. Apparently he was such a good teacher (so the story goes) other teachers sent their own students to him as he was more able to help them understand a complex maths problem.

Neville, a self taught man, loved commencing projects & he & Betty had a great talent for restoring homes. In between restoring houses they also travelled extensively throughout Europe & Asia.

Neville was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at age 52. However Neville would not let this illness beat him &, he set about obtaining as much information as he could - a much harder task before the days of the internet. He put himself on a special diet & refused to give in. He did not allow this diagnosis to stop himself & Betty from continuing their overseas travel.



Neville & Betty moved permanently to Blackwood fifteen years ago to live in the "white house" in Martin Street. This house had been in the family for well over forty years prior to this move. Neville continued to have many projects &, after restoring the house in Martin Street, he set about planting a vineyard with the idea of making wine. Unfortunately this did not come to fruition.

Neville enjoyed reading, especially the classics, art & history. He especially loved listening to classical music & reading poetry which he enjoyed sharing with his granddaughter, Corrie.

To the end of his life, Neville retained his enquiring mind & was especially drawn to the writings of Stephen Hawking &, in his last weeks, Corrie would read to him from Hawking's writings & New Scientist magazines.

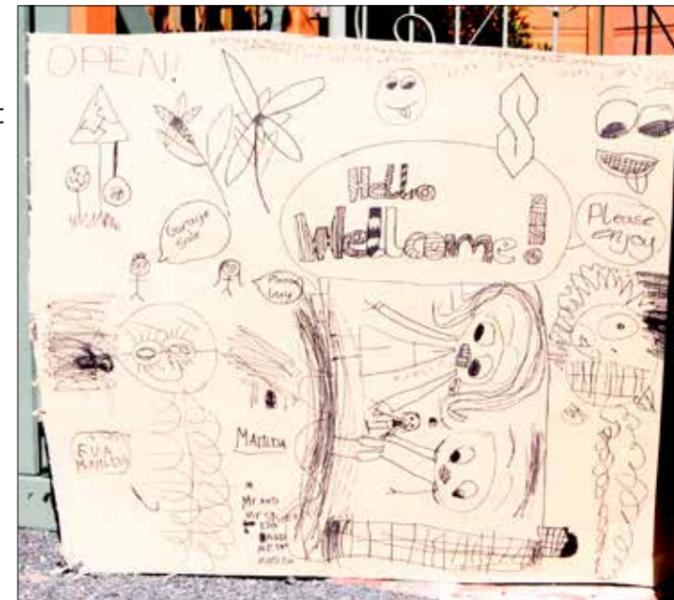
Neville's illness finally came to a head in March when he was taken to Ballarat Base hospital in the middle of the night. He was later transferred to the Ballan Hospital

where he died peacefully on the March 15, 2013 surrounded by his family.

~ Prepared by his daughter Jennifer Burchill, March 21, 2013



Blackwoodians love nothing better than a garage sale. The 2013 Progress fund raiser was a winner with loads of great bargains. As they say, one mans junk is the next mans treasure!



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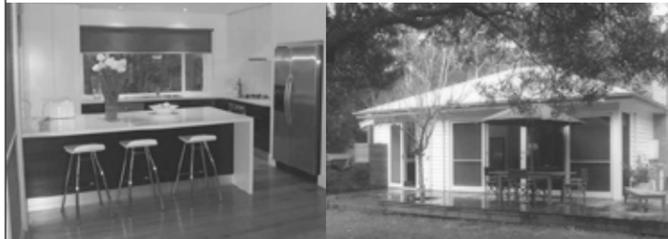
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**RAE THOMAS PLEWS**

Dear Editor,

Please find attached an obituary (based on the Eulogy I delivered at his funeral) for my father, Rae Thomas Plews, born in Blackwood in 1926. Dad passed away on February 5. He was a cousin of the late Herb Cann – another of Blackwood's characters.

Dad enjoyed reading the Blackwood News – I would print it off & send it to him. He was particularly interested in seeing his old family home, 24 Martin St, in the Real Estate section. 24 Martin St originally belonged to his grandparents, Dr Plews & his wife, & Dr Plews ran his surgery out of the residence. Dr Plews & his wife, Mary, are both buried in Blackwood cemetery, as is Dad's other grandparents, John & Lora Rae, & his brother, George Plews.

Rae Thomas Plews was born on August 22, 1926 to Thomas & Mira Plews of 24 Martin Street, Blackwood, joining 2 year old brother, George. Extended family in Blackwood included his cousins, Lucy & Herb Cann, & the Rae family in Barry's Reef. Dad's name was spelt R-A-E, which was his mother's maiden name, but also happens to be the female spelling of the name, something Dad had to contend with for his entire life.

Two years later the family became complete with the arrival of a little girl, Lora, who was born with severe Cerebral Palsy. The family embraced the challenges that Lora's condition presented & invented equipment such as a bed configured like a wheel barrow so that Lora could join the boys outside & watch them at play. So began Dad's empathy & compassion for those less fortunate.

Dad's father operated the Cobb & Co coach run between Bachus Marsh & Blackwood. Dad explained it was the introduction of the motor vehicle that spelt the end for Cobb & Co, causing his parents to sell up & move to Trentham. Dad said his father was very proud to have sold the family home for 90 pounds & then bought a house in Trentham for only 50 pounds, thereby making a profit of 40 pounds – quite an achievement in 1931 with the Depression Years.

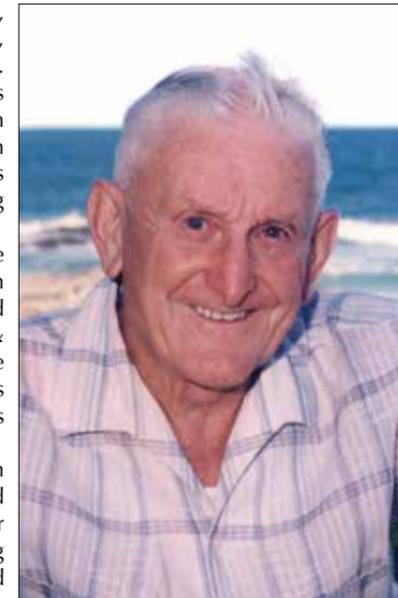
Dad commenced his education at school in Trentham. He readily admitted to not enjoying classroom life. However, he enjoyed some aspects of school & it was only last October as I went looking for the old button tin that Dad informed me the decoupage on the tin was his very first attempt at art & craft at school at the age of 6. Til the very end Dad remained very proud of his artistic efforts in decorating this tin & which has for the past 80 years held buttons in the Plews household.

At the age of 10 Dad's family moved into Castlemaine, where his education was impacted by scarlett fever, resulting in significant absences from school. He achieved success in Grade 6 when he entered an 'Illustration of Grafting' into the Castlemaine & District Agricultural Show in 1938. Dad was awarded Second Prize & this beautiful red certificate; he was so proud that he had tried his best – which is all he ever expected of us 6 children.

Dad enrolled at the Castlemaine Technical School to study towards a trade. Dad's Tech School reports in no way reflect the success he was to achieve in later life – "Rae is a capable student...one or two subjects need more attention...English, Social Studies & Solid Geometry weak...a trier...progress fair...well-behaved." Dad passed his Merit Certificate for 2nd Form. & so, at the end of 1941, with World War 2 in full swing Dad left school.

What a surprise recently to discover that Dad had been a member of Castlemaine Tech School alumni & had been sending an annual donation. Apparently Dad had been doing this for years & the donation goes toward a scholarship to assist students in need. It seems that Dad wanted others to have the opportunity to succeed in their education by reducing some of their financial burden, doing so without any fuss or fanfare.

About two years ago I read a newspaper article about the upcoming Senior's Week where postcards had been provided to seniors to write a message to their 18 year old selves. Dad laughed & then went silent.



Several moments later Dad said he remembered when he was 18 & he & his good mate, Kenny Williams, decided to attend the Saturday night dance at Fryerstown Hall about 12 km from Castlemaine. They caught the bus but, upon arrival, decided there wasn't much action happening, so he & Kenny headed back to Castlemaine on foot, finally reaching Castlemaine Town Hall, where another dance was being held, just as the town clock struck midnight & the dance was over. Consequently these two would-be Romeos missed out on any dance opportunity that night. "Perhaps" Dad said "my 18 year old self should have remained at Fryerstown dance & taken a chance on some action eventuating!"

Dad was keen to enlist to do his bit for the War & had his heart set on joining the Navy. Unfortunately Dad was medically rejected due to having 2 'spots' on his lungs...it seems ironic that it took 68 years for those 2 spots to bring us to this very day.

Dad found employment in various industries over the next few years, including as a textile worker, Rawleigh's Agent & a taxi-driver. Dad then began his own business in Castlemaine as a fuel merchant & wood contractor.

Dad met our mother, Jean, on a Sunday evening on the main street of Castlemaine. Following their courtship they were married on April 14, 1952. Last year Mum & Dad celebrated 60 years of marriage – it certainly wasn't always plain sailing, but it is a testament to their loyalty & devotion to one another to have achieved such a milestone.

Dad was very aware of social responsibility & on April 1, 1952, only 2 weeks before his wedding, was inducted into Apex. He held board positions & district positions every year up until compulsory retirement at age 40, in 1966. He served two terms as Club President, was District Governor & was awarded Life Membership of Castlemaine Apex Club on 30 July 1967. The family have many fond memories of Dad's Apex

days especially the miniature train the club owned, as Dad had the only suitable transport to take the train to venues, which meant it was often stored in our backyard & we could play on it, but our all-time favourite Apex activity was at Christmas when the club members would deliver 2,500 icy poles & bags of lollies to ALL the children in Castlemaine on Christmas morning. This was after delivering on Christmas Eve (and I quote the 1963/64 club report) 'hundreds of toys to needy families.' It took 4 'Santas' to achieve this amazing delivery & Dad was always one of them.

*to be continued next issue  
~ Sharon Housden, Tamworth*



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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR EDITOR,

SADLY, ONCE again Blackwood is without a daily newspaper delivery.

HEARTFELT THANKS go to David and Sallee for providing this and other essential services at the Mineral Springs Kiosk. We shall miss their cheery welcome each morning and wish them much happiness and success in their future endeavours.

ANYONE WILLING to join our roster to pick up papers from Trentham, and those wishing to order a paper, please contact me on 5368 6770.

DEAR EDITOR!

The www.blackwoodvictoria.com site is no longer sponsored & paid for by the Moorabool Shire Council. They contacted me when I rang them to complain as I felt it was a good service to Blackwood & they sent me some of the info that I had put on the website on a CD which I will use when I have time to add to my new Blackwood website to replace their site.

I am now paying for a new Blackwood website which I am managing myself & adding info to as my time allows. The site - www.blackwoodpublishing.com with info on my books on the history of Blackwood for sale, & info on the history of Blackwood & the Blackwood Historical Society plus all the articles I had on the other website. I will also have historical photos of Blackwood & places of interest to see in Blackwood.

All of this is taking me a long time to do myself as I don't have any help with it, & I have recently sold my Heidelberg house & moved to a Retirement Village in Croydon the week before Easter, so I will be busy for some months, but in the meantime the Blackwood site is up & running & has had over 3,000 hits already.

~ Margot Hitchcock  
Historian for the Blackwood and District Historical Society

EDITORS NOTE: Good on you, Margot - as I often say "if you want something done, do it

yourself!". All the best in your new home.

MY NAME is Steve Jager and I am the grandson of an old town resident named Jeanne Fontana. I have fond memories of playing "bushrangers" in Blackwood as I've always been fascinated by the Kelly Gang. Researching the Kelly Gang has also led me to learn about the many other bushrangers who also roamed this country and recently my research has shown that the infamous bushranger, Harry Power, met sympathizers in Blackwood.

Australia's most famous bushranger, Harry Power, is mentioned as having sympathizers at Blackwood in John Sadlier's "Recollections of a Victorian Police Officer", p155. What is interesting about Harry Power is that in Ned Kelly's teenage years he was Harry's apprentice for a while, with Ned even being acquitted of the charge.

Captain Melville was also a regular to the Blackwood area as

his favorite haunts to bail up gold diggers was in the "Black Forest" up towards Woodend, but having a hideout at Mt Arapiles in the Western District, he would have certainly been familiar with Blackwood.

I WAS hoping somebody might be able to help me learn more about Harry Power's visit/s to Blackwood or any other bushrangers who may have visited the area... any information, big or small, will be of great help!

~ from Steve Jager

### BOUQUETS & BRICKBATS

A VERY Big Thank You to Elizabeth and all the committee for their tireless work for the Easter Carnival.

~ Judith A. de Groot

## BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT PROBLEM WEEDS

### Blackberry (RUBUS FRUTICOSUS)

Weed 1/9

STATUS:	Regionally Controlled Weed
STEMS:	Erect, arched or trailing up to 7m long; green to reddish purple; with numerous curved or straight thorns 3-12mm long. It has the unusual characteristic of developing roots and daughter plants at the stem tips.
LEAVES:	Dark green on the upper-side and lighter underneath with fine hairs. Alternate. Leaves are usually shed in winter.
FLOWERS:	White or pink with five petals. Formed in clusters at the end of short branches.
FRUIT:	A berry changing colour from green to red, to black as it ripens 1-3cm diameter; consisting of an aggregate of fleshy segments each containing one seed.
SEED:	Light to dark brown 2-3mm long, deeply and irregularly pitted.
INVADES:	Fertile soils, roadsides, streambanks, neglected areas, farmland, orchards, forest plantations and bushland.
DISPERSAL:	Birds (internal), animals (external), animals other than birds (internal) and vegetatively.
CONTROL:	Cut and paint, chemical spraying, mechanical, hand pulling and revegetation.



This weed is best tackled in the following months:

Jan Feb March April May June July August Sept Oct Nov Dec



Blackwood and Barry's Reef Landcare Group has identified nine priority weeds that threaten the Wombat State Forest and Lerderberg State Park. The weeds are gorse, broom, blackberry, holly, blue periwinkle, Himalayan honeysuckle, radiata pine, galenia and Spanish heath. The group is committed to protecting the forest and needs assistance from all Blackwoodians. Your involvement and support is most welcome. Talk to president Shane Scanlan on (phone) 0419 542 625. The Group gratefully acknowledges the generosity of Blackwood News in providing this space.





Welcome to our new rangers at the Caravan Park, Brad & Jenni Panos with their children Ella-Jae & Casey.



### NEW BUSINESS OPENS ITS DOORS

On the March long weekend, Mike Allen re-opened the old Lerdies as an Antique & Book Shop.

Mike hopes the shop will bring dealers & antique lovers to Blackwood on their way to the Daylesford region.

When you're done shopping you can pop out the back for a bit of healing, counselling or a reading.



## COMMUNITY INFORMATION WORKSHOP

Blackwood is part of the Victorian Government Community Fire Refuge pilot program. People living in the vicinity of the proposed Blackwood Community Fire Refuge are invited to a Community Information Workshop to learn more about the project.

The emergency services, led by the Fire Services Commissioner, are seeking the involvement of local community members to assist in managing and operating the community fire refuge planned for the Blackwood Fire Station.

**Date: Thursday, 18 April**  
**Time: 7pm - 9pm**  
**Venue: Blackwood Hotel, Martin St Blackwood**  
**A light supper will be provided**

A community fire refuge is a place of last resort when your own bushfire survival plan has failed. If you would like to attend the workshop please RSVP for catering purposes to

✉ info@moorabool.vic.gov.au

☎ 53 667100



firecommissioner.vic.gov.au

## SOME REASONS WHY I FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT LIFE

I am going to try & explain why I feel strongly about life on this planet or what I can remember from the incidents that changed the direction of my life to make me so motivated.

When I was very young, I can remember crawling around the house looking for bugs that might have stingers or teeth so I could kill them before they hurt one of my family. But more often something innocent was dispatched with mistaken identity like butterflies with red tongues or a caterpillar mistaken for a fly maggot.

I did all the normal things children do to insects, until I watched a TV program with my mum at 8 years of age. The TV program was a documentary on a man employed to harvest baby fur seals for clothing as fur coats. This man did this regularly & thought his wife would like to come on one trip to see the ice & animals. The man was using a tool that looked like a crowbar that was placed with force to the back of the baby seals skull & killed. Although this to me was cruel, it did not impact me to the extent of this next scene. The man & his wife would usually harvest the baby seals while the mother seals were out hunting, but at the end of the documentary, the man's employer was in a hurry to get back to civilisation. The last baby fur seal had its mother beside it, but the man killed the baby seal while the mother seal just barked at him & watched her baby killed without any aggression from her. The man was annoyed at her vocal objections to her baby being killed so he struck the mother seal on the head with his tool, which didn't kill her straight away. The man then started to walk back to his ship with the mother seal quietly watching her baby being dragged away through her own blood-drenched eyes. The man's wife was upset at the unnecessary attack on the mother seal that would ultimately slowly die through loss of blood. He then put the mother seal out of its misery.

At the point when the mother seal was trying to protect her child/baby & the man hit the mother seal, without thinking I ran towards the TV to try & bash the crap out of this man but Mum held me back.

That was the point in my life that I grew up on the inside in regards to animals. That memory set me on a path to protect anyone or anything that I saw as unfairly treated.

I even remember as a 10 year old killing a blow fly on Christmas Eve & feeling upset that the fly would not be able to spend time with its family for christmas. This definitely is not my current view these days at the age of 39, by the way.

At the age of 16 I went by coach to Perth from Ballarat to stay with an uncle. On the way, the coach stopped in a small isolated town where we waited a long time for some passengers who were having trouble with their luggage. I looked out the window to see a man trying to walk his female red heeler on a rope. The dog was submissive & not used to a lead, but the man was dragging the dog anyway. The man looked at the bus/coach & seemed to get embarrassed with a double decker bus full of heads watching him. He then started kicking the dog very hard many times. Without thinking I got off the coach & punched the crap out of him. I calmly got back on the coach where the coach driver & passengers said, "good on you" to me.

At another time at age 16, I was camping by myself on a hill in the bush at night when a female fox walked out of the darkness without looking at me. She then laid down next to my camp fire & slept next to me. Normally I would have killed an animal that is feral & in plague proportions, but this one trusted me & it was a nice change to have some company while camping. That is until she started chewing on my Drizabone & I told her to piss off.

I was often getting in fights at high school for trying to stop people jumping on Bogong moths that would arrive in large numbers a couple of times a year.

At the School of Infantry at Singleton, aged 19 while training, I found an injured bird & put it in my locker to get better. This was not allowed as everything had to be in order in our lockers/rooms for inspection every day. One of the soldiers objected to me helping this bird, so we ended up fighting.

On a military non-tactical night navigation exercise in Queensland, we had a fire which is not usual in the military. I was talking with my SGT & CPL when I heard someone calmly mention the word snake. On investigation there was a hollow log in the fire that two soldiers were kicking. A snake was inside the log trying to get out but one

end of the log was burning & when it tried to get out the other end of the log the soldiers kicked the snake back in. I pushed the two soldiers to the ground grabbed the burning log out of the fire & picked up the snake. At this time my Lieutenant started yelling, "snake, run away". I gave my Lieutenant a very close inspection of the snake, but he insisted I take it somewhere else.

On guard duty at Holsworthy NSW, my LCPL found an injured possum & gave it to me to inspect then to call WIRES, an animal rescue service. One of my so-called mates decided to try & hit the possum with a hammer because he said it's only a stinking possum. That day ended badly for that particular soldier.

In a part of Europe on a joint military exercise, my unit & I were lying in mud after attacking some enemy positions, I noticed a mouse that was soaking wet & freezing like the rest of the poorly-insulated Aussie soldiers. I put the mouse in my webbing with my ammunition & let it go in some bushes hours later when the mouse was dry.

I have also witnessed animals helping each other like we as humans would. I was driving north with 5/7RAR in an army vehicle. We stopped to help a couple who had crashed into a water buffalo with their ford sedan. The car was a mess & the buffalo was lying on the road with two broken legs. Another water buffalo walked in from the bush & picked its injured mate up with its head & carried it off the road. I felt like crap when we had to put the injured buffalo down in front of its loyal mate, but it had to be done.

I also had an orphaned wallaby in my room on another military barracks with me in my room for 2 days until WIRES came to collect it.

Four-legged animals are not the only lifeform I have protected but these days I spend more time with the four legged ones than two legged ones.

Although I respect life I am not opposed to killing, as it is a natural part of all our lives, but unnecessary loss of life of any form should not be tolerated by any living organism.

~ Clint Stretton.

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Virtuous volunteers at the Garden of St Erth festival, our 3 wise fires Carl, Craig & Jack consider the alternative principle of speak much evil, see much evil & hear much evil.

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**LUCAS IS** 3 years old. His garden in an inner-suburban area is tiny. He frequently visits his grandparents who have a big garden in New Gisborne. Lucas' grandparents visited The Garden of St. Erth last October and saw the advertisement for the Diggers Club competition to grow the largest pumpkin. Thinking that Lucas would enjoy planting pumpkin seeds and watching them grow, his grandparents bought a packet of Dill's Atlantic Giant pumpkin seeds.

**LUCAS' GRANDPA** dug two prospective pumpkin patches and added gypsum, compost, and dynamic lifter to the clay soil.

**LUCAS PLANTED** several pumpkin seeds and helped his mother to water them while his grandparents were on holiday.

**HE CHECKED** on the pumpkins and watered them on other visits.

**THE PUMPKINS** were mulched with pea straw. They were fed at intervals with 3 applications of liquid seaweed fertilizer

**AND WITH** a top dressing of sheep manure. One of the pumpkins grew more vigorously than the rest. After a while the strong plant had one very large pumpkin fruit growing and three small fruits. The small fruits became unhealthy and were removed. The big pumpkin just kept getting bigger until it was harvested on 8th of March and was later displayed at the Diggers Club autumn festival at the Garden of St. Erth in Blackwood.

~ Sandra Crockett



Clockwise from TOP: Isaac with crazy zucchinis; Keeley with her home-grown monster; Louis, Isaac & Thomas love their pumpkins



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

**2ND / 5TH A.G.H. MOROTAI**

I knew I had an uncle, Bert Sharp (my Mother's Brother), in the X-ray department of 2nd / 5th A.G.H. on Morotai, so I decided that, having the day free, I would look him up.

After enquiries & several thumbed rides, I arrived at the 2nd / 5th A.G.H. (thumbed rides were a common mode of transport – willingly provided & thankfully received). Bert was both pleased & amazed to see me & I was introduced to Laurie, who was later to become his wife. Laurie was in charge of the hospital stores & on hearing that I was sleeping on the ground in a clearing in the jungle, gave me a folding stretcher to take back with me.

I remember I had a little difficulty thumbing a ride back to camp. A truck eventually came along, pulled up & I threw the stretcher on & I was about to jump on myself when the truck started to move off. There were several chaps on the truck & one of them close

“There were several chaps on the truck and one of them close to the back of the cabin hit the cab roof with his hand to let the driver know I still hadn't boarded.”

to the back of the cabin hit the cab roof with his hand to let the driver know I still hadn't boarded. He pulled up, I jumped on board & we were away.

Whilst living in the clearing in the jungle for a few days I knocked around with a chap (unfortunately I can't recall his name) & we did a little bit of exploring on the island. The island of Morotai was in the Dutch East Indies part of the Halmahera group about 2° north of the equator. The island was about 40 miles long by about 25 miles wide,

very mountainous & the only flat area was a small peninsula on the southern tip, about 10 miles long.

We only held the peninsula, the rest of the island was under 'Jap' control & separating us was a barbed wire perimeter fence. The area we held contained two airstrips, Wama & Pitoe, one for fighter & the other for bomber aircraft. There was a radar station on a small island (Kokoja Island) about four miles off the coast & each day a water tanker would go across to the island on a barge to replenish their water supply. There was no trouble to get a lift across on the barge & apart from the radar station, there was only a native village with plenty of "Beetle Nut" chewing natives to be seen. The

nut acts as central nervous system stimulant & prolonged use stains mouth, teeth & gums deep red. To look at them, you would think they had just had their teeth knocked out

... to be continued next issue



Local natives greet the water tanker on Kokoja Island shortly after driving off the barge from Morotai. This water run was a daily event and served the radar station, RAAF personnel and natives living on the Island



Banana plantation and 110 MFCU camp at Morotai



Lee takes in some sun while selling her goodies.

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**Sat 18 May**

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- spud diggers' hut tours
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[www.trenthamspudfest.org.au](http://www.trenthamspudfest.org.au)



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TOP downloads	Feb '13	Mar '13	TOTAL
JunJul '09	1,378	1,349	2727
JunJul '10	918		918
DecJan '10	360		360
FebMar '11	438	512	950
AprMay '11		735	735
JunJul '11		650	650
AugSept '11		461	461
OctNov '11	461	456	917
AprMay '12	559		559
JunJul '12	1,162	355	1517
OctNov '12	2,427	1,465	3892
Dec12Jan '13	2,123	2,329	4452
FebMar '13	12,828	7,044	19872
	22,654	15,356	38,010

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SMALL PRINT: In commercial advertisements in newspapers, traders must include two pieces of information:

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~ Fair Trading Act advertising requirement June 2004

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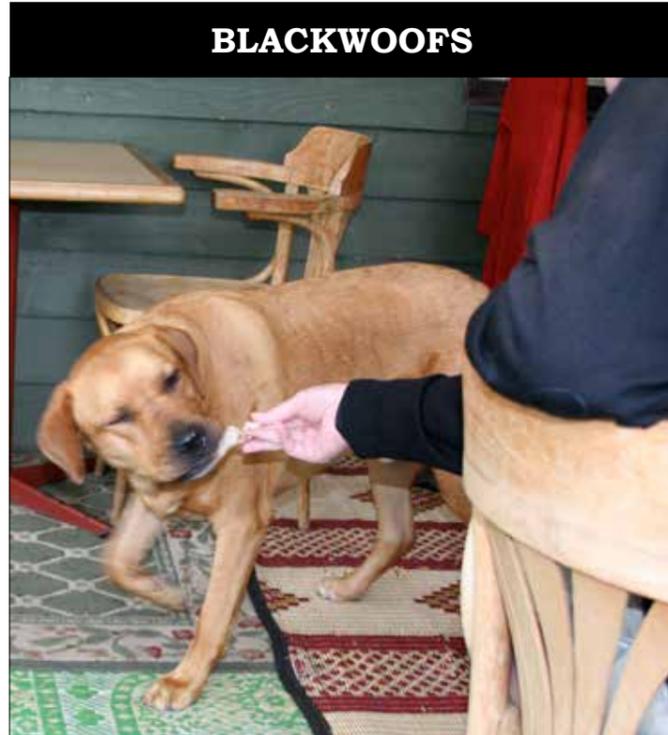
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Tyson & the Pet Guru share a bite at the Blackwood Merchant

AS THE Pet Guru I obviously meet a lot of dogs, but not many have I befriended like I have Tyson.

ALOOF & dignified though he is, we found a common bond through being founding members of the Donna's Food Appreciation Society.

~ Pet Guru



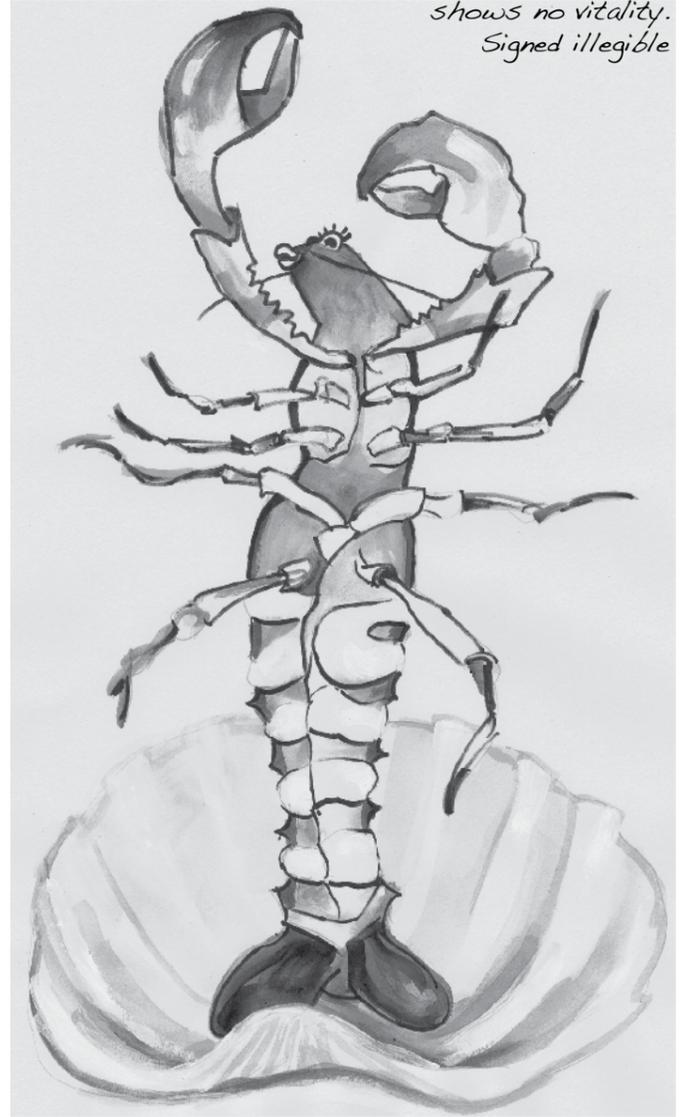
Committed ball girl (FebMar '13 Blackwoof) Suzie has taken on a new recruit, his name is Wilbur & she thinks he shows great promise.

**RADIO SPRINGS HOTEL**  
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*Dear Pet Guru,*

*I am concerned about my pet yabbie Claude. He just sits on the floor of his fish tank & shows no vitality. Signed illegible*



Dear Illegible,  
I suppose he is lonely. You must take him out of the tank & put him in the nearest dam. There he can meet his friends & relations & perhaps some attractive lady yabbies, possibly even a Claudette.

- Pet Guru

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

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**MOORABOOL TRAINS LATE AGAIN**

Newly released V/Line statistics show Melton & Moorabool trains again failed to run on time last month.

Member for Melton, Don Nardella MLA said, "Trains had not met the required standard for punctuality since September last year. It has been five months since trains on the Ballarat line were meeting the required standard for punctuality."

Figures available on the V/Line website show that in February 2013, more than 12% of trains failed to arrive at short-distance destinations within the required 5 minutes, 59 seconds of the scheduled time.

Disruptions and constant delays to travellers harms those using the service, especially students and workers trying to arrive at work on time.

Train commuters regularly contact my office complaining of rail services being late and increasingly crowded; with travellers regularly required to stand for at least part of the journey.

Regular commuters who have a monthly, 6 monthly or yearly ticket are eligible for compensation as a result of V/Line's February performance.

The V/Line website states that as the service failed to meet its targets, it will provide compensation to affected V/Line passengers who hold commuter tickets of 4 weeks or more.

For more information on compensation from V/Line or to download a compensation form, visit [www.vline.com.au/about/performance/compensation.html/](http://www.vline.com.au/about/performance/compensation.html/)



Judith, Lou & Heinz share a joke while selling maps for the massive garage sale in March.

**2013 AUSTRALIAN GOLD PANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS**



Winning at panning is a serious business. A set number of stones are hidden in each 10L bucket. Contestants do not know how many pieces are in their bucket & must pan 'til they believe they have got the lot. Miss a piece & you're penalised 3 minutes on you time!

*CW from top left: Ready, Set, Pan; Girl Cub Naomi from Ballarat shows off her panning wins to Dave Salmon; Pee Wee Dempster checks out Rosie's finds. Pee Wee can be found in Talbot Caravan Park - he'll happily show people how to pan & some of his favorite panning spots; Matt Kelava is a world panner - having traveled to contests in Japan, Czechoslovakia, Sth Africa & Poland. He was the 2011/2012 Australian panning champ; Ebony Dempster from Sunbury has panned for only 3 years & took out the 2013 Women's Champ!*

Blackwood News congratulates Catherine King for her appointment as Minister for Regional Services, Local Communities & Territories as well as Minister for Road Safety.



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

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

**Catherine King**  
Representing Blackwood residents

**Catherine King MP** FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BALLARAT

Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au  
1300 131 743 (toll free) or  
5338 8123

Ballarat Office  
5 Lydiard Street North  
Ballarat VIC 3350

Bacchus Marsh Office  
156 Main Street  
Bacchus Marsh VIC 3350



[www.catherineking.com.au](http://www.catherineking.com.au)

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

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# BEYOND BLACKWOOD...



## Lions Club of Trentham News

The February Farmer's Market was one of the best attended by stallholders for many a day, there were twenty six in all with several visiting for the first time. There was a new arrangement of stalls that gave the market a more intimate & friendly atmosphere. The weather was absolutely

fantastic, the music was great with an impromptu performance by Peter Fernon, well known local story teller, singer & teacher.

Crowds were not up to the numbers we would have liked, but we put this down to the fact that there was an antique & collectables fair held in Maldon over the same weekend. Future markets should have even more stall holders so put it in your diary to come down to the Trentham Town Square on the third Saturday of the month & help support not only the vendors who come from far & wide, but also the Lions Club who put in the work so that Trentham & surrounding districts can have a Farmer's Market they can be proud of.

The Lions Club of Trentham is involved in many local community ventures which include:-

- Delivery of a birthday cake to each of our local citizens who have reached the age of 80years+
- Participation in the annual Australia Day celebrations.
- Co-ordination of the 11am Anzac Day service for the RSL.
- In conjunction with the CWA the annual Christmas Lunch for the senior citizens.
- Carols in the Park which is held every Christmas.
- Assisting the Ride For The Disabled organization every year when they visit Trentham for a week & hold various riding activities to raise money for the disabled.
- Various working bees that help both individual citizens or community projects that help the town.

Our winter raffle for firewood is always very popular, especially with people who have wood heaters, & who hasn't in Trentham?

These are but a few of the things Lions are involved in, & although the club is very active & has a lot on it's plate, this is not to say that we cannot accommodate further projects if we feel that they are worthwhile.

**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 information please contact Shirley Corneille on 5348 5690.

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**The Greendale Pub Social & Sporting Club**

HI ALL,  
 A NEW committee has now been formed as of March 4,2013.  
 WE HOPE this will be an exciting year with lots of functions and events for everyone to enjoy.

**THE MEMBERSHIP** forms are located at the Greendale Pub, so please take a moment to pop in and fill out the form, place it in the envelope with the money and put it in the box located inside the pub. Please make sure all areas of the form are filled in, so we can keep you up-to-date with upcoming functions & events.

**THE FEE** is now \$20-00 per adult & children still remain free.

**ALSO, IF** there are new neighbours in your area, please tell them about the Social Club & how they can join.

A NEW tag and membership number will be issued to all members.

WE LOOK forward to seeing you at our functions throughout the year.

~ thank-you from the committee

Greendale Country Pub ran a successful fundraiser for Greendale CFA & Recreation Reserve Committee \$1145 & \$1492 respectively raised. Thanks to the community for supporting the event & to the bands who played: FUNKSHUN, Sam Azzopardi & Lamb Boulevard.

Thanks to The Midlands Axemans Club for arranging the Woodchop, it was a blast – especially the big chainsaws.

Thanks to Gary "Fats" Matheson for the Truck Trailer on the front lawn.

Looking forward to it being an annual event and incorporating a fundraiser for the local groups.

Raffle of Wheelbarrow – Winners: 1st Janelle Winter, Ballan, 2nd John Hudson, Ballan and 3rd, "Fish" Long Dales Creek.

We hope the kids and parents enjoyed the free kids entertainment jumping castle, fairy floss, also to the market holders thank you for attending and giving the community a taste of your produce.

~ Karen popple

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**\$365,000**



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**TRENTHAM 16 Drummond St**  
Spectacular modern home of around 50 squares under roof. With all modern conveniences. On around 2.8 acres, overlooking lake and rural land. Suit large family or exclusive accommodation operation.  
**\$795,000**



**TRENTHAM 43 Victoria St**  
Historic home of around 24 squares on in excess of half acre. Three/four bedrooms, open plan living/dining, separate lounge. In wonderful garden setting with lots of shedding/workshops etc.. Possible subdivision opportunity.  
**\$660,000**



**TRENTHAM 191 Coliban Rd**  
Historic two bedroom cottage surrounding by rolling hills and farmland. On around 5.85 acres with spectacular views of Mt Macedon. Two open fire places, renovated kitchen and bathroom, spring-water bore, three paddocks and stockyards.  
**\$460,000**



**TRENTHAM 23 Groves St**  
Beautiful Presented Home. Three bedrooms, study, formal lounge, formal dining room, kitchen/living, two bathrooms. Tasmanian Oak floors and good heating. Land approx 1/4 acre. New garage/workshop and fantastic garden.  
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**TRENTHAM 10-12 High St**  
Around 33 square on 1.25 acres in the centre of town. North facing living/dining/kitchen, 4 bedrooms, formal dining, formal lounge. Around one acre of manicured lawns and well established plantings. Good shedding ( six car garage or workshop).  
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**TRENTHAM 14 Park St**  
Two bedroom cottage with additional self-contained accommodation. Opposite the Bowling Club. The property is in excellent condition, boasting a spacious country kitchen and north facing living area. Great opportunity to get into the Trentham market.  
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