

December '13 - January '14 vol 6 ~ issue 6:4



MORGANA'S FIRST CHRISTMAS

Morgana Skyla Thiele-Wittig, born August 24, 2013 at 3:46am at Bacchus Marsh Hospital. 6lbs, 12oz or 3070grams.

INSIDE:

- p4: Blackwood Action Group submits a plan to Commissioner**
- p4: Help from Landcare on weeds**
- p4: BCC off to a grand start**
- p7: Alan Griffin's War is over**
- p7: More news on DEPI**
- p10: Important news on Lerderberg Track**
- p14: Water Boards & CFA retain powers**
- p21 & 23: Special Schools Ride**
- p25: Learning the Refuge Ropes**



MISTLETOE'S FIRST CHRISTMAS

Mistletoe was taken to the Greendale Wildlife Shelter on the June 7 this year. She was found in Lyonsville by Rosemary & was just 7 1/2 months old. At that time she weighed just 2.5 kg & has since thrived, now weighing a hefty 9kg. Mistletoe has been weaned & has moved into her own outdoor pen. The volunteer team at the Greendale Wildlife Shelter will work with Mistletoe for the next 6 months to make sure she knows how to survive in the wild when she is released.

The Greendale Wildlife Shelter receives no government funding for the great work it does, so it you are able to help out contact Donna on 5368 1501.



GARBAGE DAYS
DECEMBER
Monday 9, 23
JANUARY
Monday 6, 20



EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

On the occasion of the last issue for 2013 I hope all our readers have a fabulous Christmas, full of fun, love & laughs.

This bumper issue is full of news on an action front. Petitions signed by concerned residents & Blackwood lovers against the overturning of the Crown Reserves election were presented to DEPI in November. The on-line petition (<https://www.change.org/en-AU/petitions/department-of-environment-and-primary-industries-install-the-community-elected-nominees-to-blackwood-clcm#>) had 143 supporters & the paper copy had 110 signatures. Some signatures, as you may remember, went missing under suspicious circumstances. We await DEPI's response.

The Blackwood Times is published bi-monthly, & with so much happening in our village, keep up with the latest news at theblackwoodtimes.com.au (check it out there's heaps!).

As the year comes to a close I want to especially thank our regular contributors: especially Don, Kathie, Margot & Robin who happily put pen to paper each issue. Also Brendan who runs around like a mad man each deadline, taking photos & gathering stories, you are The Blackwood TIMES rock! This year Jane has been helping organise advertising for me, Vera has been my spare set of typing fingers & Sue has compiled gigs & events for me - thank you all. Truly, we would not go to print without you! An enormous thanks also to the community groups who keep us updates with their activities.

I am really sad to publish the very last part of Alan Griffith's war memories (p7). His book has entertained us since the OctNov 2011 issue. Thankyou Alan for allowing us to publish it.

Penny Garnett has written a wonderful letter summarising her & Tom's building of, & time at, Garden of St Erth. The first part of this is on p15.

With many thanks & here's to a great 2014 ...

~ & 'til next year, *Jinny Coyle*

download colour the BLACKWOOD TIMES FREE from www.theblackwoodtimes.com.au

- & to be the first to see new issues subscribe to our eList

the BLACKWOOD TIMES info



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

Feb-Mar '14 DEADLINES	Jan 15	Jan 20
Advertisers book space		
Regular Contributions		
Features & Items of Interest:		
Community Groups & Clubs		
Display Ad Artwork/Content		
News, Classifieds, Gig Guide		

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

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

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

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

theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au ©2013 Jinny Coyle follow us on [facebook.com/blackwoodnews](https://www.facebook.com/blackwoodnews)

HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

~ by *Don Owen*

Month & Year	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall Average (mm) 1879-2007	Minimum Temperature deg C	Maximum Temperature deg C
Sept '13	118.9	104.0	-1.6	22.2
Oct '13	82.3	94.1	-0.6	27.8

SEPTEMBER HAD an average temperature rise of 3.7 deg above that of winter, which was very welcome, but October's average was only about 0.3 deg above that of September, with a lot of overcast days. Still, it's better than having an early bushfire season, as experienced in NSW.

CNAV AWARDS THE BLACKWOOD TIMES Best photograph 2013



LOCALS QUEUE UNDETERRED

In September The Blackwood TIMES attended the Community Newspapers Association of Victoria's 2013 Conference & Award night. We were thrilled to accept the Best Photograph award with the cover photo of the OctNov '12 issue titled "Sewerage Scheme Wiped."

The judges comments were ... "This image is successful as it demonstrates many elements that create a great press photograph. The image itself depicts a clear story that does not just re-iterate but builds on the title of the photo. A press photograph should add to the story in a way the words cannot. This image also has a touch of humor & is a creative way of depicting a story; it is well thought out & executed.

The light & tonal range is good & the composition is very well considered with a hierarchy of height amongst the people, which leads our eye to the toilet, an important aspect of the story. Although constructed, there is also an element of a moment captured."

The Blackwood Times editor Jinny Coyle accepts the award from Dr. Mary Jo Fortuna (President)



THE BLACKWOOD TIMES SOCIAL ALBUM OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2013 ...



Locals Night at the Blackwood Merchant: Top L: Jen & Denis; R: Janette & Darrelio; Below: Peter & Darrelio



This lonely little teddy got lost at the United Church. Would his mother please email editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au to arrange for him to go home.



Heinz's Fillies: Oaks Day Winners at the Blackwood Hotel



The Dear Family & crew re-stump the church ready for dancing at the Blackwood Academy

Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.



COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

Blackwood Action Group

After many months of research the group sent this submission to DEPI & the Fire Services Commissioner, prompting the Commissioner to call a meeting with the group.

Dear Mr Lapsley

The Blackwood Action Group was established by the community to address the fire & sewerage issues which are threatening to limit the town's viability & survival. The community is concerned the town is doomed to extinction as a result of restrictions on building or rebuilding in bushfire prone areas. Many residents have indicated they will stay & defend their properties due to fear they may not be able to rebuild if they lose their house in the event of bushfire. Overcoming these issues is critical for the survival & protection of our community.

The Blackwood Action Group urges you to initiate a special case study to address the fire hazards around the township of Blackwood (including Golden Point, Simmons Reef & Barrys Reef). Although Blackwood has been identified as one of 52 Victorian towns throughout Victoria at high fire risk, the need to identify & mitigate much of the risks still needs to be addressed.

The Blackwood community appreciates the efforts already undertaken by your office (FSCV) to create a community fire refuge & install a community alert siren. The key to continued success in resolving the fire hazard issues in Blackwood will depend on the collaboration of land management agencies as well as emergency services working with the community. The 'Future Ready Communities' pilot program in the Colac Otways Shire that encourages the community to consider new & innovative ways to working together with emergency services appears to be a suitable program that could be adopted in Blackwood. The Action Group believes such a program needs to be initiated by the FSCV to effectively engage the relevant government agencies to work collaboratively with the Blackwood community to improve fire protection in & around the town.

Blackwood is unique in that it is totally surrounded by public land, which currently presents a fuel hazard where it borders the town. Wombat State Forest adjoins much of the north-western & south-western boundaries of the town & Lerderderg State Park mainly adjoins the north-eastern & south-eastern boundaries of the town. Numerous blocks of Crown Land are also interspersed throughout the town, some of which no longer provide the community purpose for which they were originally reserved or intended. At least half of the freehold properties in the town border public land & many blocks are enclosed by public land. The community is particularly concerned at the lack of vegetation management & fire prevention on neighbouring public land, which is close to houses.

The Blackwood community enjoys living in the bush setting of Blackwood, but clearly the public land interface with the town needs to be better managed for fire prevention to protect life & property. Moorabool Shire Council is pro-active in issuing fire hazard clearance notices to ensure residents undertake fire hazard removal to minimise this risk. Council officers regularly inspect properties for compliance within the stipulated timeframe. This is in considerable contrast to the management of the adjoining public land, where no apparent effort is made to reduce the risk on any ongoing regular annual basis. The community appreciates the large extent of planned burning that has been undertaken by DEPI over recent years, but the fire risk gradually returns as fuels build up over subsequent years. Surface & near surface fine fuels such as grasses & weeds on public land close to houses need to be managed on an annual basis through additional methods such as mowing or mulching to obtain a more sustained reduction in fire risk.

The Action Group recommends the creation of fuelbreaks on public land around the town, particularly in strategic locations where it is needed to protect properties & houses on northern & western aspects. The Action Group has considered the Dandenong Ranges Bushfire Landscape pilot project initiated by the FSCV. In many aspects the Dandenong Ranges appears similar to Blackwood, with houses on the conventional quarter acre block in a sloping treed landscape adjoining large tracts of public land. The creation of new fuelbreaks & widening existing fuelbreaks on public land in the Dandenong

Ranges appears to be an important strategy in managing the hazard & risk to protect life & property. Established fuelbreaks will help control bushfires, provide control lines for planned burning & provide a buffer between hazardous vegetation on public land & nearby houses. Similar fuelbreak works have been undertaken in the Great Otway National Park to protect high risk coastal communities. Based on these examples, it would seem reasonable that fuelbreaks along the public land interface with freehold land could be similarly provided in strategic areas around Blackwood.

The native vegetation on public land close to houses in many areas around Blackwood has been severely degraded from past mining or prospecting activities & invasive weeds have recolonised many of these disturbed sites. Given these weeds are currently spreading, becoming denser & presenting a serious fire hazard, the managing authorities must be compelled to control them to reduce fire risk. Maintaining fuelbreaks by removing or controlling weeds through mowing & mulching on an annual basis is more likely to contribute to control measures & will generally enhance conservation values rather than degrade them further. Weeds such as Gorse & Blackberry are known to be a high fire risk, so controlling these weeds even through mowing, mulching or slashing along fuelbreaks close to houses will reduce the fire risk. The weed issue on public land around Blackwood needs further addressing from a fire hazard & fire management aspect.

The Blackwood Township Protection Plan needs updating to include the community fire refuge & community alerting siren. As part of this process, the Township Protection Plan could also be revised to include measures to mitigate fire hazard or risk in the landscape to protect the town. Strategic fuelbreaks throughout the town will also help supplement & strengthen the safety of escape routes & roads that lead to the community fire refuge.

Resilience in the community following a bushfire will largely depend on whether lives & property can be adequately protected & whether Blackwood residents will be permitted to rebuild if they lose their home. There needs to be a focus on protecting life & property through all aspects of planning & fire prevention & management. We urge the FSCV to engage the relevant government agencies to work together with the Blackwood community to achieve this common goal. It would appear that reducing & managing the hazards & risks along the public land interface with freehold land will play a crucial role in this outcome. The community needs to have the confidence & assurance that building or rebuilding is possible, to ensure the town's survival. This will minimise the risk of people putting their lives in danger trying to protect their house in a bushfire.

The Blackwood Action Group looks forward to your response, assistance & guidance in helping the Group to address the issues raised above.

Yours sincerely

~ Blackwood Action Group

Blackwood/Barry's Reef Landcare Group

Ahh springtime, the time when the weeds come out to play. Before getting involved in Landcare, I used to think the prolifically-flowering broom on our town roadsides was pretty.

Now that I know how it threatens our forests, the same sight now haunts me.

Spanish heath seems to be the big mover since last spring. It is all over Blackwood and, unless you know what you are looking at, you would think it was a beautiful native shrub.

Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group (BBRLG) works towards keeping weeds out of our beautiful forests. The towns are the sources of infection. We implore all Blackwoodians to help us.

For example, the forest will never be free of holly while people continue to grow it ornamentally within the township. The berries are consumed by birds & "planted" in our moist creeks & gullies where it continues to spread out of control, choking native species.

Some landowners have agreed to remove their holly. We thank them for this. Others have agreed to allow us to net their trees, but we are awaiting agreement from others before commissioning a contractor to undertake the netting work as a single job.

The group is this year matching the annual financial contribution of

Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES

The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.



the Shire of Moorabool to controlling weeds on township roadsides. The council is responsible for weeds on all roadsides within the 60 kmh speed limit zone (VicRoads is responsible for the 80 kmh zones).

BBRLG does not necessarily want to excuse the council of its statutory responsibilities, but the task is so vast, we believe we have to do everything we can to help. Hopefully, townspeople will be inspired to clean up their private properties too.

Our contribution to the council's task is not totally altruistic though. We intend to ask two things in return:

- * We want a rate rebate scheme in Blackwood to encourage & reward locals who keep their properties weed-free; and
- * We want local laws which penalise people who allow weeds to thrive on their land.

BBRLG would love the opportunity to visit your place to help you identify weeds & advise on way to control & eradicate them.

We are a small, but dedicated group & we welcome new members to help us in our work.

If you are interested, speak with president Shane Scanlan on 5368 6587 or 0419 542 625. www.facebook.com/BlackwoodLandcare

~ Shane Scanlan

Blackwood CFA

By now local residents should have their Fire Plan finalised for the coming bushfire season. Hopefully you had a chance to attend a Bushfire Safety Session that were held locally in Blackwood, Barrys Reef, Greendale, Dales Creek & surrounding areas. Information regarding local risk, fire danger ratings, warnings, personal safety & bushfire survival was discussed. If you missed these meetings or require further information, refer to the CFA website, www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call 1800 240 667 Victorian Bushfire Information Line.

If you intend to burn off on your property prior to restrictions please:

- Check & follow local regulations or laws set down by the CFA or local council (Moorabool Shire)
- Notify neighbours at least two hours before starting the burn
- Notify Emergency Services Telecommunication Authority (ESTA) 1800 668 511
- Check the weather forecast for the day of the burn & the days following
- Check the fuel moisture conditions
- Establish a fire break of no less than three meters cleared of all flammable material
- Make sure there are enough people to monitor, contain & extinguish the burn safely end effectively.

Construction of Blackwood's new CFA Station & Community Fire Refuge is well underway. We are hoping for completion of the Station mid December, with the refuge to follow after being formally endorsed by the Fire Services Commissioner.

A number of District 15 Appliances & Fire Crew attended the recent NSW bushfires. A special thanks goes to the Blackwood Captain Ian Stewart, for volunteering his time & assistance to the fire fighting effort.

If you see that the Station is attended, you are welcome to drop in & say hello & ask any questions that you may have.

Report any fires by calling 000.

~ Leon Rolls

Blackwood Cricket Club

Cricket season is upon us again, so let me fill you in on what has been happening. The season has been going for 6 rounds & although we have gone up a grade we are holding our own.

In rounds 1 vs Riddell. We were a little rusty & although we started well at 1/73, we had a major collapse & were all out for 93. Riddell chased the runs down easily.

Round 2 vs Sunbury. Again we struggled with the bat & were all out for 185, Brett Sulivan the best with 35. We had a good game with the ball but Sunbury managed to make the runs with 2 overs to spare.

Round 3 vs St Anthonys. We batted first again & made a very good score of 4/272. Luke Whitehouse & Andy Thomas had a 136 run partnership, ending when Andy was out for 56. Luke went on to make

110, a great effort. In reply St Anthonys were all out for 127. Travis Smithard was the best bowler taking 5/8.

Round 4 vs Ashfield. After losing the toss & being sent in to bat we made 6/172. Brett Sullivan 42, Darren Woodward 37 & Travis Smithard 33 were the best of the batsmen. Ashfield ran out of overs with their score on 9/147, Steve Thomas & Travis taking 3 wickets each.

Round 5 vs Bacchus Marsh. Once again batting first, we made another large score of 3/250 from our 40 overs. Andy Thomas was dismissed for 99, unlucky but still a fantastic effort. Brett Sullivan also batted well but ran out of time, finishing on 95. Bacchus Marsh were bowled out for 141. Steve Thomas taking another 3 wickets, Al Salmon & Luke Whitehouse taking 2 each.

Round 6 vs East Sunbury. This was the first two day game of the season & against the undefeated East. We struggled with the bat against the best bowling attack we have seen since changing leagues 3 years ago. Eventually all out for 134, Andy Thomas making 68. East Sunbury were 1/29 at the end of the first day. We did well on the second day & nearly stole it, having them 8 wickets down when they passed our score. Darren Woodward was the best with the ball with 5/52.

Our fixture to Christmas is Tylden at home November 23 & 30, Bacchus Marsh away December 7 & 14 & East Sunbury at home December 21. We hope to see as many people there as possible.

~ Alan Salmon

LETTER TO FIRE SERVICES

from Max & Gary Matheson

We commend DEPI on its recent burn-offs at Simmon's Reef and trust that the program will continue in the lead-up to this coming fire season.

However, having been involved in bushfire management for decades (see attached article, Blackwood Times June-July '13) we believe we are qualified to point out the alarming build-up of fuel in and around the Blackwood area.

We have compiled an audit of the town's fire hazards. We ask you to consider them in light of the new, risk-based approach to bushfire management planning, currently espoused by DEPI and the Fire Services Commissioner of Victoria and evidenced in the Dandenong and Otway Ranges.

As you know, this new planning approach places the primacy of human life above all other obligations in bushfire management. It also encourages a shared responsibility with those communities directly affected by bushfire management.

We look forward to hearing your plan for the town of Blackwood.

This letter was sent to all fire authorities with an attached map which can be viewed at theBlackwoodTIMES.com.au/blackwood-news/between-issues

In memory of Josephine Veronica Small (Nee O'Hanlon) 1929-2013 May the grace of god be with you.



Two years after arriving in Australia in 1958, Mum was not sure she wanted to stay. Before making that decision, the family had a holiday in Blackwood for four weeks in a log cabin. The Catholic church we went to in Blackwood shared the same name of the church that mum was christened in back home in Ballygolly, Ireland. Mum & Dad thought it was an omen & so we stayed in Australia & bought the log cabin in Blackwood. Fifty-four years later, Mum lies in Blackwood, the little town that reminded her of Ireland.

Much adored Wife, Mother, Grandmother & Great Grandmother.

~ Brian Small



HEALTH BASICS: HEADACHE & MIGRAINE ... SEE YOUR PERFECTION



by Kathie Strmota

Headaches have many triggers & are always an indicator that something you're doing or have done (eg. staring at a computer for 8 hours or too much alcohol last night) has pushed your body too far. Instead of just popping a painkiller & pretending the headache never existed, try to see the reason for it so you can avoid stressing your system that way in future. Headaches suggest over-ambitiousness, striving for perfection, a need to meet strong external demands. This is coupled with perpetual worrying – placing too much weight on rational thought without the balance of internal emotional guidance (living more in your head than in your heart). You don't trust yourself enough, often wonder if you're 'doing it right', & suppress your gifts & talents through self-doubt. Practice trusting your inner instincts & intuition, & allow these to guide you. If it feels good, comfortable, easy & pleasurable, then you are 'doing it right'. If it feels bad, uncomfortable, tense & fearful, then it is all wrong for you, regardless of whether it appears to be right from a rational perspective. Give yourself the freedom to be who you are, naturally & easily. You don't need to try & be perfect on the outside. You are already perfect on the inside.

Migraines are more traumatic than simple headaches, often associated with nausea & visual disturbances. They can be triggered by tension in neck & shoulders, food allergies, toxins, or anxiety. Migraines follow the same patterns as headaches, but in a more extreme way. You really need to find a way to stop trying to please others, trying to be who you are 'supposed to be', trying to live according to the silent expectations of the outer world. As with headaches, you need to give yourself the freedom to be who you are, naturally & easily, & have faith in your own inner perfection & greatness.

Regularly recurring headaches or migraines should be medically investigated. They could indicate a more serious issue within the brain itself. If you (or another) experience a sudden headache, feeling like a punch, seek immediate medical attention as this may be the only external symptom of a mild stroke.

The homeopathic tissue salt FerrPhos (iron phosphate) can be helpful first-aid for all types of headache & migraine. Heat / dehydration headaches can be improved by drinking water to re-hydrate & increase blood supply to the brain. Adding a bit of sugar, or having some sweet fruit at the same time, can speed the effect. Get out of the sun, lie down & place a wet cloth on the back of the neck to cool blood to the brain.

If you have a tendency to suffer from migraines, the herb feverfew can help prevent their occurrence. Use the leaves in tea or eat them fresh in sandwiches & salads. Migraines brought on by tension can benefit from valerian tea (muscle relaxant) or lavender oil massaged into back of neck & shoulders at the first signs. Massage rosemary oil into forehead & temples to help ease tension / concentration headaches.

The homeopathic tissue salt NatSulph (sodium sulphate) can help ease the nausea that accompanies headaches & migraines.

Affirmations: I completely release all reliance on external standards & expectations. I honour the perfection within me. I see myself through the eyes of love. I approve of myself. I am safe & free to express my inner truth. I relax into the natural flow of life & follow the guidance of my heart in all things.

~This info is repeated from Herbal First Aid newsletter articles

LoveLight
Co-Creative HealthCare
Holistic Medicine & Vibrational Healing

herbal medicine & nutritional support
energy healing & spiritual development
workshops for self-empowerment & spiritual growth

- physical pain, injury & illness
- emotional pain & trauma
- fatigue, low energy & motivation
- self-limiting beliefs & aura imbalances
- learning & developmental problems

53686560 *create a more joyous life*
Blackwood & Yarraville

workshops & meditation ... co-creative & intuitive skills, energy healing, animal healing, chakra balance, kids creative grp

healing products and good quality nutritional supplements ... Feel free to contact me for advice about supplements. I'm happy to clarify this confusing area for you.

www.aquarianblessings.com
kathie@aquarianblessings.com

ATMS accredited member

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



Allan at the Trentham Anzac Parade, 2011

LUCK'S A FORTUNE

Luck's a fortune, for Lady Luck was certainly on my side on this occasion. Three DC3's were heading, south evacuating troops & leaving at 0630, 0645 & 0700. I was to leave on the 0630 flight. The truck picked up several troops from our unit, some leaving on each plane – the driver must have been a dumbbell - thank goodness – because he made his delivery of personnel in the wrong order, 0700 first, then 0645 & by the time we were ferried to the airstrip the 0630 DC3 had already taken off & unfortunately was never heard of again. The only trace was an oil slick in the ocean along the route south.

After missing that plane, I left the next day with a midday stop at Ambon & then onto Charleville for a night stop, there were two DC3's travelling together & after the overnight stop one was to go to Brisbane, the other to Townsville. My paperwork stated that I was to go to Townsville & then by train to Melbourne. On the plane going to Brisbane was a chap whose paperwork stated he was to go to Brisbane & catch a train going north to Townsville, so we swapped ID's & planes. He flew direct to Townsville his hometown & I flew to Brisbane & then by train to Melbourne. It all worked perfectly, shortening both our travel by one leg!

HOME AT LAST

After reaching Melbourne, I reported to 1 PD awaiting discharge – as you can well imagine every one & his dog wanted to be discharged as soon as possible, & as you reported in, your name was placed on a waiting list. My good luck again – I knew the WAAF handling the paperwork & after I gave her my best smile, she juggled my paper work closer to the top of the list & in due course I was discharged from the RAAF on March 4, 1946.

So ended an adventurous chapter in my life. Looking back I can say it was a good time in my life, filled with many great memories & friends.

I joined the RAAF in 1942 as a young boy & was discharged in 1946, a self-reliant young man.

~ Alan Wellsley Griffin

OPEN & TRANSPARENT?

When DEPI overturned the town's choice of Crown Reserves Committee of Management, it also informed the chosen nominees that a new selection process was already underway. Fait accompli. Done & dusted. No community consultation necessary. The nominees rightly disputed the overturning of the valid election & this subsequent insult-to-injury. They informed DEPI of their decision to boycott the new selection regime as they would continue to fight, on behalf of the community, this overturning of their long-exercised democratic vote. Moorabool Shire, who oversaw the original election, have also refused anything to do with this new hand-selection process.

DEPI insists that the new process has been "open & transparent" & conducted with a view "to meet the broader community's interests", complete with a "community representative" on the selection board. But the community's interests were trashed when the election was upended, with no explanation & no public consultation since.

Meanwhile our community representative, appointed without community consultation

1. Denies he represents the community
2. Hails from the old committee (which is managing still in caretaker mode)
3. Has long-standing business interests with DEPI

Sorry DEPI, this is not open, not transparent. In the interests of transparency Blackwood Times is publishing online all known correspondence on the issue at <http://theblackwoodtimes.com.au/blackwood-news/between-issues>.

This matter is currently being investigated by the Victorian Ombudsman. Please watch online for updates.

~ Brendan Hehir (one of the 9 elected nominees)

PS: While this farce has been going on, our neighbours in Ballan & Myrning have been voting for their Committees of Management as usual. (Ballan's Caledonia Caravan Park & Myrning Hall) Advertised in Moorabool News

• POP THE FIZZ • POP THE FIZZ •



Mia Lesley was born to Michelle and Lachlan on the July 16, 2013 ... first Grandchild for Karyn and Keith Osborne & it's her first Christmas too!

GRANDDESIGN WINDOWS



factory 5368 1212

<http://granddesignwindows.com.au/>

Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES. The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.

Prior to writing the article to the right, The Blackwood Times emailed DEPI, the Council & Mike Allen (on behalf of BCLCM) informing them that we were preparing an article & asking for comment. The only response received was from Margaret Hawke, Program Manager Communications & Relationships, DEPI.

The Department of Environment & Primary Industries (DEPI) has undertaken an Expression of Interest & interview process to appoint a new Committee of Management for the Blackwood Crown Reserves.

Widespread community interest in membership of the new committee prompted DEPI to review the process of selecting committee members & undertake a process to appoint a skilled based committee. Skilled based committees are formed by DEPI where there are significant reserves which require particular skills to manage the reserves & where there is a high level of community interest. This process allows DEPI to confirm the necessary skills, experience & knowledge of the nominated applicants. It also allows DEPI to ensure that applicants meet governance requirements.

An Expression of Interest process asking for people to nominate as committee members was advertised in local newspapers. All previously nominated members received a written invitation from DEPI encouraging them to apply. People were asked to complete an application form detailing their interests & skills that would benefit the future management of the reserves. Interested stakeholders were briefed on this process by DEPI staff.

An independent process to select applicants with the relevant interests & skills to manage the reserves has been carried out with DEPI commissioning an independent Human Resources agency to run the process. Interviews were held on Friday 15 November. The Human Resources agency & a community representative, a former committee member, were on the interview panel, along with two DEPI representatives.

The current committee has agreed to remain the managing authority until the new committee is appointed & announced.



View Cottage

fully self contained holiday rental
3 bedroom house with views

- sleeps 5 • close to town • wood heater
 - BBQ • decking • washing machine & dryer
- ring Judith on 03 9315 0576
or 0408 569 367



Woodside Retreat is perfect for couples or groups seeking a private escape in a tranquil parkland setting. This spacious, self-contained 4 bedroom house retains its original 1930s charm enhanced by a stylish renovation. Luxury features like a plasma TV, double spa bath a contemporary stainless kitchen compliment the open fire & polished hardwood floors.

Nestled in the Wombat State Forest, frequently visited by friendly kookaburras, kangaroos & wombats, & located just an hour away from Melbourne in historic Blackwood. It is the perfect place to unwind, relax & reconnect with family & friends.



woodsideretreat.com.au
0410 431 410

THRIVE Treatment Centre

IN PAIN? STRESSED?

Try Scenar Therapy for
Chronic Conditions
Pain Relief
Sports Injuries
Women's Health

call Brenda 5368 6770

www.thrivetreatment.com.au

Ace Art Depot

Professional Art Products



Suzanne Rivera
(BOA Art)

Will post anywhere in Victoria

Located at ACE USA Imports
1/1 Len Thomas Place
Narre Warren 3805

BH: (03) 8790 1000
Mob: 0402 331 634
Email: riveras@bigpond.com

Heinz & Ange welcome you to the

The Blackwood Hotel

**NEW YEARS EVE
"Heart Beat"
starts 9pm
all welcome**

Closed: Christmas eve,
Christmas day, Boxing
day, New Years Day

**Heinz & Ange
wish you all a
Merry Christmas
& a Happy New
Year**

**OPEN: noon til late (closed Tuesdays)
Meals: noon til 2 & 6-8 snacks other times
SUNDAY EVENING MEAL: 5.30-7.30pm**

Al Fresco dining on the deck - Bar Menu available take-away

WEDNESDAY: \$14 parma or basket & pot

THURSDAY: \$14 meals

FRIDAY: \$3 pots 5.30-7.30pm

SPECIALS BOARD CHANGES WEEKLY



**Post Office:
Mon-Fri
10am-1pm
& 3-5pm
Sat 10-11**

please pick up your
mail regularly as it is
sent back after 30

FRIENDLY FAMILY ATMOSPHERE

• Auto & Bike clubs welcome •

phone: 5368 6501

AMBLESIDE COUNTRY HOUSE

Perfect retreat for couples or families (sleeps 7) on 2 acres of garden & lawns in a bushland setting.

The fully renovated 1863 house combines the integrity of its historic origins with contemporary décor & amenities, offering 3 dble bedrooms all with views of the garden & surrounding bushland, sitting room with fireplace, adjacent reading room with grand piano. Verandahs wrap around 3 sides of the house, providing private areas for relaxing & entertaining, featuring an outside terrace with dining table overlooking the beautiful garden.

The farmhouse kitchen is fully equipped with dining table for 8. With BBQ, TV DVD & Wifi, everyone is catered for.

This property accommodates families with safe swings & a play house for young children. Visits by local kookaburras, native birds & wildlife enhance the experience. Well behaved pets are welcome.

Enquiries: Fitzgeralds 54241866

THE HISTORY OF BLACKWOOD - ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH



**BY MARGOT HITCHCOCK HISTORIAN
FOR THE BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY. 2013**

On Sunday 8th December All Saints Church in Blackwood is celebrating 150 years with a special service. To commemorate this occasion I have been asked for some history on the church.

The Lands Department files show that one acre of land was surveyed by Mr. E.G. Magnus, Mining Surveyor, by June 18 1864. On the 11th August 1864 the Bishop of Melbourne, applied to reserve the area, & in September of that year the area was gazetted. By May 1865, the following were appointed as Trustees; - Rev. George Oakley Vance, Matthew Henry Ashe, Charles Appleton, Henry Walker & Charles Gray (Information acknowledged to Mick Livy)

This historic Church, dedicated on 29 October in 1865, is one of the few remaining Churches dedicated by Bishop Charles Perry, the first Bishop of Melbourne. The Church Gazette, the Church of England Newspaper of the time spoke of an "exceedingly neat, well-constructed building" which "stands on a hill commanding an extensive prospect. The scattered character of the population & its isolated position render it very difficult to maintain there the ministry of the Church & due pastoral visitation of its people."

Early services were held in the newly opened Anglican school in Golden Point in 1855. Initially the officiating clergy came from Kyneton. At the height of gold-mining activity in the area around 1855 the local population was estimated to be about 30,000. By 1864 services were being held in schoolhouses at Golden Point & Simmons Reef. The Revd Matthew Henry Ashe became the first Rector of Blackwood in 1866 & remained there until 1873.

Since 1857 there had been a Chinese congregation at Golden Point. In 1874 there was still a congregation of some 35 Chinese people, & the Chinese Catechist, Peter Back Soo, was known to preach sermons that went on for a couple of hours.

Sometimes services at Blackwood were taken by the priest & lay-reader at Bacchus Marsh, which was the neighbouring parish. In the 1860's there was a lay-reader in Bacchus Marsh, George Andrew Scott, the son of an Anglican priest, who was later jailed for holding up the Bank at Egerton. He became known as "Captain Moonlight" & on his release from jail in 1879 was involved in a siege in NSW in which he shot & killed a policeman. He was hanged in 1880. It has been suggested that he may have taken a service at All Saints.

The third Rector, Archibald Turnbull, appointed in 1877 was kept busy with three Churches (Blackwood, Simmons Reef, & Barry's Reef), four Sunday Schools, baptisms, marriage services, burials, confirmation classes & the Chinese mission & was away from home a great deal. In his absence, a local Bank Clerk, Frederick Horne, was a frequent visitor to the Rectory & began an affair with the Rector's wife. Eventually Frederick Horne & Archibald's wife Harriet, went off together. Archibald was granted a divorce in 1878. This would have been a scandalous event in those days.

*NOTE: There were a number of errors in the historical article on p6 in the Oct/Nov '13 issue.
The 1st paragraph should read: North of Blackwood on the right hand side before Garlick's Lead and Trentham is the Blue Mount Cemetery near the property of 'Kattaminga', but only accessible via Tower Track, Newbury.
Also the bottom photo should be captioned - Grave of William Miller (died 1905) and Eliza Miller (died 1890) and May Gibson Miller (died 1880, age 10 years). Courtesy Margot Hitchcock 1976.*

The Church gained further notoriety when a lay reader, Harold Robinson, was shot & killed in 1908 while "walking on his verandah reading a theological book", by a mentally disturbed man who lived opposite. The bullet passed through the book. Many years later this book "On Faith & the Creed" by C.A. Heurtley complete with bullet hole, was found at a Church fete, & presented to All Saints Blackwood where it may now be seen on request. (Margot Hitchcock has written a book on this incident but as yet unpublished.)

The Revd Robert Buchanan was the last priest to live in the Rectory, leaving in 1898. In 1889 Blackwood became part of Trentham parish. Lay readers lived in the Rectory until 1915, when it was renovated & leased, & then finally sold in the 1950s.

Although Blackwood is within the boundaries of the Diocese of Melbourne, when the Diocese of Bendigo was formed in 1902, Trentham became part of that Diocese, so Blackwood has been looked after by clergy from the Diocese of Bendigo since that time. In 1942 Trentham, & with it, Blackwood, became part of the Parish of Woodend. Over the years there has always been at least two services a month at All Saints, which was the current pattern.



Rev. Matthew Ashe

The blue of the windows & the cross pattern on the frosted glass, were added in 1993 when the Church was used for both a wedding & a funeral in the TV series, "The Man from Snowy River." During the film the Church was "burnt down".

All Saints Church was first recorded in the Register of the National Trust on 9 July 1959. In 1997 the Trust reviewed its status & upgraded it to Classified. A further review by the Trust in 1977 resulted in the following citation:

"A charming naïve timber Church in primitive Gothic style with classicising details, dated from 1865. The windows have Gothic glazing bars & the roof is capped by a square bell cote. In 1990 the Church was included in the National Trust's Register."

It is one of the oldest remaining buildings in Blackwood, & the only Church in the town to

have remained in continuous use.

With grateful acknowledgement to the notes of Penny Garnett, May 1978, & A History of the Diocese of Bendigo, 1902 - 1976 by Dr Keith Cole, "Aspects of early Blackwood" by Alan Buckingham & Margot Hitchcock, & Archdeacon N.D.Herring's Manuscript History, the major sources for this brief history. Courtesy: <http://www.bacchusmarshanglican.org.au/christ-church-myrmiong/all-saints-blackwood>

IN A MEDICAL EMERGENCY ring 000 & ask for an ambulance BLACKWOOD CERT will be activated. Find out other URGENT news <http://twitter.com/blackwoodvic>

Celebrating 150th
All Saints' Anglican Church, Blackwood
on 8th December 2013 at 2.00pm
Bp Philip Huggins Will Celebrate Mass
Followed by afternoon tea at The Hall
All Welcome
For further details please contact Judith de Groot 5368 6697
or the Rev'd Darrell Couch 5367 5632
If anyone has photo's or items of interest of the Church over the past 150 years please bring along, if possible let Judith de Groot have them beforehand. These items will be returned asap after celebrations Please have your name clearly attached.

Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES
The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.



• MARKET CALENDAR • MARKET CALENDAR • MARKET CALENDAR •

Table with 8 columns: 1st SATURDAY, 1st SUNDAY, 2nd SATURDAY, 2nd SUNDAY, 3rd SATURDAY, 3rd SUNDAY, 4th SATURDAY, 4th SUNDAY. Rows list various markets like BALLAN MARKET, DAYLESFORD MARKET, etc.

LERDERDERG TRACK UPDATE:

An opportunity for those that care about the Track to get involved & fix it ...

Most Blackwood, Bacchus Marsh & district residents are at least aware of the Lerderderg Track, the 80km section of the Great Dividing Trail (GDT) walking track that connects Bacchus Marsh to Daylesford.

For those who are not aware, the Lerderderg Track, marked with distinctive 'Great Dividing Trail' posts & logos, starts at the Bacchus Marsh railway station & ends at Lake Daylesford.

A lot of residents may not be aware that the GDT is a 21 year-old, community owned & managed organization, with members & an elected Committee. They are responsible for the posts & the maps.

Meantime the Lerderderg Track has not had the same 'TLC' for essential maintenance & upgrade, & is at some risk of becoming something of an 'ugly duckling', in the words of its current President, Barry Golding.

Parts of the Lerderderg Track have been out of action for extended periods after damage by bushfires & floods in recent years. Some have still not been reopened, & other sections through Darley & along Swan's Road are not clearly marked or properly maintained.

The Great Dividing Trail Association Committee, which has a formal duty of care to those who use & still enjoy parts of the track, has expressed a strong desire that the community along the track get more actively involved in the track during 2014.

Barry Golding, President of GDTA said this week that "In a worst-case scenario, if there is not sufficient local, community or state government ownership, interest & support in maintaining the track during 2014, it could be that the Lerderderg Track will languish to a point that a decision might be made by GDTA to decommission it."

Meantime, GDTA recently decided to help fund a 'track audit' of what would need doing (and what it might cost) to get the Lerderderg Track back in good order.

If you want to help in some way or have advice on how to improve the Lerderderg Track, or want your organization to help out, feel free to contact Barry Golding as GDTA President via barry@cbl.com.au

From the Ed: The Lerderderg Track has been a boon to Blackwood. Let's not lose it.

Building Design Permit Drawings. Bob Ebdon 5368 6720. THE DRAFTSMAN DESIGN & DRAWING SERVICES. Registered Building Practitioner No. DPAD 1744

HOUSE TO RENT 'WANNAWONG' SC 3br • sleeps 9 • modern facilities • close to township • reasonable rates • weekly or weekend call Margot 03 9723 3223 or 0439 878 062

Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES

WOMBAT BOOK CLUB

OCTOBER: "The Light Between Oceans"

Publisher: Random House Author: M L Stedman ISBN: 1451681739

Tom Sherborn returns from the war & takes up a post as lighthouse keeper on the isolated Western Australian coast. Isabel, the spirited young woman at the closest port half a day away, catches his eye.

On shore is a woman grieving her missing, presumed dead, husband & baby.

Eventually the island dwellers must return to the rest of the world... and then what will happen to the truth?

Sue: This is beautifully written, however, I felt it was a bit slow in the middle. If you've ever been caught in a situation where you feel you have to act, but equally, that you can not live with the result of your acting, then you will understand Tom's dilemma.



Brenda: Such an emotional story, beautifully drawn by M.L.Stedman. What would we do with this enormous decision to make? Couldn't put it down.



Jinny: A book so beautifully written that I felt I knew the lighthouse, its island & characters intimately. But such emotional conflict - where do we draw the line between right & wrong?



Margaret: Ah, my favourite imaginary place - an isolated lighthouse on the WA coast. But once the book left the island, the rate of intrigues for who should rightfully bring up the child came a little thick & fast. A delightful read.



NOVEMBER: & the Mountains Echoed

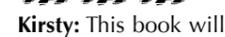
Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing PLC Author: Khaled Hosseini ISBN: 1408842432

On an arduous trek to Kabul, a father tells his young children of the mythical 'Div' who threatens to take all children in a family unless a father gives up just one. The father tells that the Div provides food & clothing, education & happiness at the price the family members forgetting each other.

Sue: Although the links between the different stories & characters are somewhat hard to follow (a family tree would have been useful), I found both the individual stories & the overall story absorbing.



Jinny: If you're looking for happy endings, this isn't the book for you.



Kirsty: This book will test the reader & demand attention to detail. It will evoke strong emotions in the reader, but expect you to have an understanding of Afghan culture, or at least a respect for it.



Robyn: I really enjoyed the author's writing style, he certainly drew you in to feel part of the story. The downside for me was the concentration required to remember all of the characters & where they fitted in. It was a good read, but not a relaxing read.



Nicola: This novel is both heartbreaking & uplifting. Khaled Hosseini poetically conveys how war & poverty can have devastating & long-lasting effects on all levels of society.

I did feel that the many different aspects & components of the story weren't brought together particularly successfully at the end, which left the book feeling slightly unresolved. However, it was an interesting insight into Afghan life & culture & generally an enjoyable read.



Brenda: I was pulled into this wonderful book & felt the pain, anguish, guilt & courage of Hosseini's marvellous characters, living in & fleeing Afghanistan. Whew, now for something much lighter.



Margaret: The book seems to talk in couples - not in position to but as relationships: Brother & sister, father & daughter, adoring master & loyal manservant, struggling step & adoptive mothers, & their pragmatic daughters.



The Wombat Book Club is a casual group of book lovers. We meet once a month to discuss our last book & pick up the next. Books are borrowed from the library, so a \$30 deposit is required on books.

If you love reading, come along & join us.

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE!

The Library service runs fortnightly on Wed's 1.30 - 2.30pm at the Blackwood Hall. There is a small high quality collection to browse & 2 Librarians to help borrowers order any additional items for loan.

PENCIL TO PAPER:

Creative Writing in Blackwood

Thanks to the talented (and brave) creative writers who've attended the first of the creative writing group classes this year. Lots of short writing exercises, a bit of theory, and some workshopping - a lively way to spend a Saturday afternoon.



We've enjoyed our venue - the Uniting Church on Martin Street, thanks to the Uniting Church and the co-operation of the Blackwood Review folk. We are lucky to enjoy such strong arts in town.

Thanks again to the creative five who've made this one happen!



LAMB BOULEVARD & THE UMBRELLA

DEADSET DREAM

JAKE SUTCLIFFE

NEW YEARS GREENDALE PUB

LIVE MUSIC

DRIFTING IN GREEN

CAM KETTLE

Music starting from 7pm
 pizzas and basic menu
 running from 5-8:30pm
 contact for further info: 5368 1355

MY KITCHEN WINDOW

Kookaburras - a civilized community

I'm a little concerned about the kookaburras though. Not one have I seen on my handrail for two months & they were regular visitors for years. I could go out & talk to them, touch them. They would hop around on the handrail & on the deck, oblivious to me walking amongst them. I would see them or hear them outside in the morning making their conversational sounds (a guttural back of the throat, softly drawn out "gaaaark"). I would cut up some meat (dog food) & walk out on the deck to greet them. All eyes on the food in my hand & sometimes one would jump onto the plate & I would have to push him off onto the handrail. "Now come on, be fair, there's enough for everybody". They seem so smart, so organised, so civilised, so unafraid, I was amazed, but when they all started their kookaburra laugh in front of me... I just laughed too. I was privileged that they did this in my presence. But where have they gone, I wonder?

One notable contact was about 4 years ago (1999). It was a nice day & I was having a coffee on the deck when I saw two of them sitting in a tree about 10 metres away. They were looking at me, so I tried to make a kookaburra sound (not too well either). One of them immediately flew directly toward me & landed on the handrail in front of me. "Hello kookie howyagoin'?" What's wrong with your mate, bit scared?" I was very impressed at this friendly, civilised meeting, & those big brown eyes.

The other one flew up on the roof & squawked. My knowledge of kookaburra is quite limited, but it seemed to be telling the other one off. "What do you mean flying up to him like that? He's a human, they're dangerous. Have you forgotten what dad told us? We don't play with other birds & we certainly don't play with humans." The first one, (I'll call him Mister) went over & perched on the log in the yard so Missus flies down next to him & continues to tell him off.

She took a peck at him to get his attention, so he flies off & sits on the garden gate where she does it all again. He then flies back & sits

on the handrail within arms reach of me, so she left him alone but still obviously annoyed & squawking from across the yard.

We two blokes just ignored her & chatted for a while. I said "I'm not really prepared for visitors but it is customary to offer a drink or a snack. What do you eat then? I don't have any grubs, would you like some dog food?" I continued chatting in as birdlike a manner I could when suddenly, he dives to the grass below the deck, picks up a tuft of grass, shakes his head madly & out falls a big black grub. "Wow", I said, "how did you know that was there? You've got good eyes. Well I s'pose you're not really hungry, you just came up to visit didn't you?"

That was Mr Fluffy as I came to call him. Over the next few months he brought more of his mates to visit & he looked so cute after ruffling his feathers & sitting there all fluffy. I found that they would take meat from my fingers & though a couple were dubious at first, I eventually had up to nine of them sitting there on & off, happily taking my handouts. They weren't always that hungry. Sometimes I would sit in the chair out there with them & chat looking away now & then & having a scratch just to show them I was at home with them. When they all started to "laugh" together, I laughed too.

~ Bob Ebdon ... to be continued

For ALL your cleaning requirements Leave your dust to us

Two Girls & a Bucket

Call us now to get your free quote

0404108966
0417420806

Greendale Country Pub



Ph: 03 5368 1355

Australia Day

Wood Chop, Live Music, Spit Roast, Jumping Castle and more

Fun for ALL the family

Saturday 26th January 2013

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

Proudly sponsored by:



Blackwood Hotel, Blackwood Wholesale Distributors of Quality Fine Foods Premier Fencing – Mick Mullane

Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES
 The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.



WATERBOARDS & CFA RETAIN POWERS

Locals were hopeful that the recent release of the Victorian Planning Amendment Act would see a loosening of their grip on this town. No such luck.

The State Government has allowed the bureaucrats free rein to indulge in a little social engineering. Authorities callously disregard the landowner's & even the homeowner's right to live on their property once they deem an area "difficult" or "dangerous". They can just deny planning approval for the building, replacing or even renovating of homes, & the population inexorably declines. Here in Blackwood, unfortunately, we are seen as both "difficult" & "dangerous". That'd be right.

So it was heartening to hear from the Fire Services Commissioner, Craig Lapsley, the other night (p25). He said he was impressed by the submission from the Blackwood Working Group (p4) & was keen to have a meeting with them in December. His position of Fire Services Commissioner was created in response to the Bushfires Royal Commission recommendations; his job, "to lead an ongoing program of improvement, reform & change with the Victorian Fire Services" (CFA, DEPI & MFB). Craig himself is a "strong believer in the integration of the community into all levels of Emergency Management in an ALL HAZARDS, all agencies response.

The Working Group believe that the Commissioner has an interest in easing the burden of the "dangerous" tag on this community.

On the "difficult" issue, the Moorabool Shire CEO, Rob Croxford, says, on the recent audit of Blackwood's septics, "The data collected on septics recently is being fed into the Domestic Waste Water Management Plan for the Shire & only provides high-level information on the location & initial assessment of condition. We are continuing to press Central Highlands Water to provide a way forward for Blackwood to Water Minister, Peter Walsh." On planning issues in general, he says "We have to take the advice of Referral Authorities if a planning application is made. If Western Water & the CFA refuse the application on waste or BAL grounds then the Council is unable to approve further dwellings."

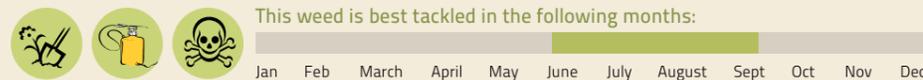
Some way to go on that one, then.

LEFT: As reported recently on theBlackwoodTIMES.com.au one of the feeder creeks to our water supply suffered environmental vandalism. Melbourne Water investigated. Daylesford DEPI was at fault & will rehabilitate the area.

BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT PROBLEM WEEDS

Himalayan Honeysuckle (LEYCESTERIA FORMOSA) Weed 6/9

- STATUS:** Environmental Weed
- STEMS:** Rounded and green.
- LEAVES:** The leaves are ovate to 5cm, green and opposite.
- FLOWERS:** Flowers are yellow to cream and perfumed, crimson on the outside.
- SEED:** Round black shiny seeds 0.5 to 1 cm
- INVADES:** Is particularly troublesome in sheltered areas in the higher rainfall areas of Victoria, where it is invasive in damp and wet sclerophyll forests, riparian vegetation and along moist gullies.
- DISPERSAL:** This species reproduces by seed, which are most commonly spread by birds and other animals that eat the fruit. Seeds are also dispersed by water, machinery, vehicles, in contaminated soil, and in dumped garden waste.
- CONTROL:** Chemical spraying or removal by digging.



Blackwood and Barry's Reef Landcare Group has identified nine priority weeds that threaten the Wombat State Forest and Lerderderg 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.



THE GARNETTS & ST ERTH

Following is the first part of an expanded version of the talk Penny Garnett gave at the opening of the Garnett House at the Garden of St Erth (see p15 OctNov '13 issue The Blackwood TIMES).

First, thank you for inviting me & my family here for the opening of this splendid room, & for doing us the honour of naming it after our family [and you all know how to say GARNETT & not GarNETT, there are hundreds of them in Lancashire. I blame the Premier of W.A., who calls himself Colin BarNETT]

I would like to say a bit more than 'just a few words', & tell you something of our 23 years of living here.

I have just been asked 'How did you find this place?' Well, there was a teacher at Geelong Grammar called Rolf Baldwin. He & three siblings bought four miners rights in the 1920's & built a hut at the top of the hill, Baldy's hut, which is still there [I hope]. He brought groups of boys up to camp at weekends on this property & Tommy came to visit them. The owner, Reg Bradley, was a retired violinist from the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, & when he had to leave here due to ill health, we were able to buy it directly from him - no agents involved - at valuation. Electricity had come to Blackwood only a few years earlier.

What we bought was a four-room stone house, some fibro outbuildings, an old orchard of apples & pears, a stable up the hill, a goose house, chook house, & two acres of daffodils. Reg had planted them to sell as cut flowers, but unfortunately he chose Emperor daffodils, a very late variety, & by the end of September many other flowers were available. We did pick hundreds to sell in Ballarat, even picking through the snow one year, but that was the origin of Daffodil day on the last Saturday in September, & pick-your-own daffodils at 1 cent each - always coinciding with the Cup Final.

The house was enclosed by an overgrown privet hedge, with a glass cupboard door partly sheltering the verandah, & ELOURAH engraved over the front door. However we heard from Nell Matheson that as a child she had played with Betsy Rogers, the daughter of Mathew, the stonemason who built the house, 'But we always called it St Erth,' she said. As the Rogers had come from St Erth in Cornwall, we went back to the old name.

So in mid 1967 we took possession, but only used it as a holiday house until the end of 1973, when Tommy retired, early, because of increasing deafness, & as he said, 'to have enough energy to do something else'. He very quickly became Tom instead of Tommy & he liked to say the first thing he was asked to join was the Cemetery Committee.

We had built the wooden house partly because the stone house was extremely cold & damp in the winter, & we wanted more room for visitors, who mainly came in the Summer. It just fitted in between two large oak

trees, a good fire protection, even if they did drop their leaves into the spouting, meaning many hours up ladders to clear it.

We immediately got Alan Hall to build a bathroom up steps behind the old house, & after our student children had excavated & levelled the lawn outside this building, & Tom had built the retaining wall, Alan put on another bedroom. & we started the big job of enclosing the garden in wire netting as the area was overrun with rabbits. Dick Burt had lived in the outbuildings as caretaker, although I think his friends had to help him back most nights from the hotel.

After 1973 the work really started. Tom had no fixed plan, but the garden just evolved. I think the herb garden changed places three times, & so did the vegetable garden; nothing was ever drawn on paper. He would say "We might put a sand bed beside the new dam, & a collection of viburnums below. We'll have a bank of dwarf conifers above the thyme lawn in Wombat Bottom, & how about a collection of pelargoniums below the greenhouse near the "rock garden". I would say his great interests were the rock garden, the tender plants he grew in the greenhouse & native plants of all kinds.

We opened the garden to the public about 1999, at a charge of 50c a head. There was an Honesty Box at the gate & a large gong, with a notice 'Please Beat for Attention'. One man remarked, 'Our son would be banging that all the time'. An increasing number of groups came in buses. The great thing about bus groups is that you know when they are coming, you give them a short talk on the bus, they wander round, buy plants - & then they all leave at once!

~ to be continued next issue

Genevieve Messenger
civil marriage celebrant

over 350 Weddings officiated
Trainer of Celebrants since 2003
www.genevievemessenger.com
♥ inspiration ♥ creativity ♥ quality ♥

Call Genevieve 0407 013 014
Email: gencelebrant@gmail.com

Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES

The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.

BLACKWOOD RIDGE NURSERY & GARDEN

812 Greenhills Rd Blackwood

www.blackwoodridge.com.au

Come and visit Blackwood's most loved Nursery & Garden - "Blackwood Ridge" with over 2500 varieties of trees, shrubs, perennials & grasses we have something for everyone.

Wishing all our customers a Happy Christmas & great New Year. Happy gardening, cheers James, Danny & Lola.

Christmas Trading - Closing 4pm 22nd December Reopening Sat 4th Jan 2014



THE PERFECT HANGOVER CURE

~ Robin Bradley

Sitting miserably in a crowded Italian restaurant in South Melbourne one lunch time about two months ago, I must have been a grisly sight. The previous night's roistering had cast a dark shadow over my mind & body, & a ghastly pallor had grown over my visage until the only relieving touch of colour was the red in my eyeballs. Not even the indulgent sympathy of my three (!) lady companions could elicit any animation from me as I plucked morosely at the table decorations & refused the menu with a shudder. I was unwell.



The waiter, a bustling, energetic, friendly Calabrian, was shocked. Not to eat anything in his restaurant? Unthinkable. He had just the thing for me – I must promise to drink it, & in less than half an hour I would be so grateful to him, I would want to kiss him. The unlikelihood of this notwithstanding, I lacked the energy to argue, so he disappeared into the kitchen to re-emerge bearing proudly a small wine glass filled with a nameless substance of chocolate hue & cesspit bouquet. Drink it up, he ordered. I will in just a minute, I lied weakly, staring with horror at the lethal potion.

One of the fair ladies, who happens to be a pharmacist, took pity. "Your blood sugar is bugged, mate" she said sweetly as she tipped the foul brown muck into a passing potplant, "Eat some sugar". I swallowed a teaspoon of sugar to stop further discussion, wondering helplessly how I could change the subject.

Well, within a few minutes I felt better, & within twenty minutes I felt terrific. The next time the waiter drew near, I beckoned him to the table & kissed him. Unfortunately, I can never return to the restaurant as all the staff there now think I'm queer. And they can't understand why the potplant died.

But there are almost as many would-be hangover cures as there are hangovers. The best known is, of course, the hair of the dog that bit you. And if the hair doesn't suffice, try the haunch. This method tends more to lay the foundation for the next hangover than cure the existing one, although it has the advantage of increasing per capita wine consumption. Besides which, the last dog to is usually vintage port or Armagnac, neither of which is ideal at breakfast time when the hangover announces itself. So no joy there.

I have always been suspicious of the idiosyncratic would-be "cures" which involve things like half a dozen oysters ground up in the vitamizer together with some tomato juice, a raw egg yolk & three aspirins. There is enough unpleasantness in the world without that sort of thing. Then, of course, there are always the patent preparations (Underberg & Fernet Branca are two that come to mind,) but I rather think that one is supposed to drink such before retiring, & I don't think much of a system whereby the greater your need, the more likely your condition will preclude your remembering to drink the stuff.

Foaming Vitamin B Tablets are useless for any self-respecting hangover as the deafening noise generated by the fizz means that you can't approach the glass without earmuffs.

Enough of this – what shall we do about it? I propose that the Wine & Food Society should initiate an International Hangover Cure Judging, with a panel of world wine experts as judges. Under controlled conditions, each judge would be fed a metered half gallon of Muscat & be led off to bed. The following morning tests would be run individually to determine the severity of the hangover before administering the various cures. Scorecards would be kept by impartial scrutineers, and, in the fullness of time, gold, silver & bronze medals awarded, together with the coveted Australian Medical Association Trophy for "Best Cure in Show".

THE GARDEN OF ST ERTH

open 7 DAYS a WEEK
Garden & Nursery 9am - 5pm
Cafe 10am-4pm Thur – Sun
Membership & gift vouchers available



Dec 8: Building Healthy Soil
Mar 15/16, 2014: Feast in the Forest

for information call St Erth on (03) 5368 6514
or visit our website www.diggers.com.au

Pet Guru House Call

To the correspondent who claimed in the last edition of the BLACKWOOD TIMES to have a cat with multiple personalities & short-term memory loss, I offer the following: Cats are commonly supposed to have 9 lives. Perhaps your cat has allocated a persona for each life, so the short-term memory loss must make it difficult to remember what his current persona is supposed to be. If I were you I should take all your 9 cats to the vet for psychoanalysis.



Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES
The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.

• EVENTS & GIGS • EVENTS & GIGS • EVENTS & GIGS • EVENTS & GIGS •

DECEMBER 2013

when	what	where
Sun 1: lunch	Grumpy Neighbour's Lazy Dawg	Radio Springs
Sun 1: arvo	Gussy and the Barn Cats	Cosmo
Sun 1: 2pm	Moorabool Light Orchestra "Sounds of Christmas"	BM Grammar
Sun 2: pm	The Travelling Concessions	Radio Springs
Thu 5: pm	Pennyweight	Radio Springs
Fri 6: pm	Marty P	Radio Springs
Fri 6: 6pm	Lions Carols By Candlelight	Trentham
Sat 7: lunch	Lily P	Radio Springs
Sat 7: 8pm	Mona Jake opens the beer garden	Greendale
Sat 7: pm	Geoffrey Williams	Radio Springs
Sun 8: 11am	Building health soil	St Erth
Sun 8: lunch	VIDA JAZZ	Radio Springs
Sun 8: arvo	The Flames	Cosmo
Sun 8: pm	Birdland	Radio Springs
Thu 5: pm	Jali Buba Kuyeteh	Radio Springs
Fri 13: pm	The ChrisPaul Jazztet	Radio Springs
Sat 14: lunch	Scott Cameron	Radio Springs
Sat 14: pm	The Duckdown Pickers	Radio Springs
Sun 15: lunch	Family Farm	Radio Springs
Sun 15: 1pm	Christmas Break up Variety Show: Blackwood Academy	Uniting Church
Sun 15: arvo	Merryl Leppard	Cosmo
Thur 19: pm	Liz Frencham & Friends	Radio Springs
Fri 20: pm	Table Hill	Radio Springs
Sat 21: lunch	Sweet Nothings	Radio Springs
Sat 21: pm	Liz Frencham and The People We Know	Radio Springs
Sun 22: arvo	Little Miss Red	Cosmo
Sun 22: 2-5	Blakey & Mates in the beer graden	Greendale
Sun 29: arvo	Annie & Bern	Cosmo
Sun 29: 5pm	Blackwood Carols by Candlelight	Uniting Church
Tues 31: pm	NYE 5 live bands	Greendale
Tues 31: 9pm	Heart Beat	Blackwood Pub

JANUARY 2014

when	what	where
Wed 1	New Years Races	Hanging Rock
Wed 1: arvo	Mick Thomas Recovery \$25	Greendale
Sun 12: arvo	Crosswind	Cosm
Sun 19: 2-5	Slap Boom Bang	Greendale
Sun 26	Australia Day Wood Chop & Family Fun Day	Greendale
Sun 26	AUSTRALIA DAY EXTRAVAGANZA w FAMILY FARM	Cosmo

*** denotes Blackwoodians

Season's greetings!

The Home Haircutter will be available over summer. Haircuts in your own home in Blackwood. Trims - Women from \$35, men \$25, teens/kids \$15. (Travel fee if outside Blackwood.) Tuesdays mostly.

Phone Margaret for an appointment 5368 6858



BLACKWOOF'S SPECIAL REPORT

HELLO BLACKWOOF'S & Blackcats, I'm Max. I hope you have been enjoying my articles over the years. In this edition, however, I will not be doing the usual interview with one of our friends because I have some very important news for you & your owners.

WHEN WE read in the last Blackwood Times (OctNov13 p) that pets were to be banned from the new Fire Refuge, we worried about our owners; we knew they would fret if they couldn't take us with them. Many of those who died on Black Saturday stayed or left late because of their pets.

SO I was very happy to hear at the Fire Refuge meeting (Nov 21) that, although the pet rule remains, on the day of an emergency it will be up to the community to enforce it or not.

WHEW!



TO RENT BLACKWOOD 2 BEDROOM HOUSE IN GOLDEN POINT ROAD RING 03 9489 0258 ASK FOR JOAN OR JEFF AVAILABLE MID DECEMBER. LONG TERM LEASE



COMPETITION

It's an oldie but a goodie. And it ends with a question. So what was the horses response? Send your punch lines to editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au by Jan 15, with your name & your age (if you're under 18yo). The winners will receive a white Wisenheimer beard (as modelled by the horses rider). But that's another joke!

CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS



Central Highlands Water would like to wish Blackwood Times readers, a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Trading hours over the Christmas and New Year holiday period:
Christmas Day - Wednesday 25 December - Closed
Boxing Day - Thursday 26 December - Closed
New Year's Day - Wednesday 1 January - Closed
Normal trading hours apply for all other weekdays.



24 hour faults and emergengies line 1800 061 514

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

DEAR EDITOR,

I MOVED to town early this year. To inform & educate myself, I attended several town meetings. Blackwood has a gift which makes this town so inviting & enjoyable to live in & visit - the community is alive, intelligent, vibrant & solid. With the great people I've met & listened to, people from all walks, new & old to town, I figured the issues surrounding the town's long term viability would be in safe hands. I would certainly lend my support.

THEN I attended, & voted in, the Crown Reserves Committee AGM. Had things gone as expected, that might have been the end of it & I would never have needed to write. But it's hard to ignore that the newly-elected members never made it to the committee because the rules were changed shortly after announcement of the new members. The processes behind the relevant government department which manages every significant piece of public land in Blackwood seem hidden & subject to whim.

AS SOMEONE who's grown up in a democracy which values openness, fairness & community consultation, I've had to sit up & pay attention. Since then I've seen nothing which explains the lack of information & transparency in the process which followed - it seems to get mysterious-er. Can someone please explain to me why the Crowns Reserves Committee needed an election, then another selection process over the top of it? When citizens vote, isn't the outcome supposed to be upheld?

~ Margaret McCarthy
Blackwood

DEAR EDITOR,

Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee Of Management
WHAT A travesty it has been the way the election was held, overturned & new selection put into process. I was one of the successful nominees for the first election (which has been held by ballot for over 30 years), & then advised by DEPI that 'due to the interest in the Committee of Management, they were going to throw out the first election & go through a skills based process.

Does that sound democratic to you, if you don't like the result, change the format. This is exactly what DEPI has done & still to date, they have not provided the answer as to why, after the successful nominees (from the first election) had sent off 3 letters.

I NOMINATED for the Committee of Management as I personally have seen some things happen over the last few years which I believed were not in the best interests of the Blackwood community. I have lived here for nearly 30 years & a couple of the other successful nominees also have lived here for over 20 years. We are more than aware that it is a lot of work & time on the CoM, but some of us already knew that as we had been on the CoM previously over the years.

FURTHER TO the above, some of the rumours & inuendos going around are untrue & laughable, I treat you to some below:

- **IF** the successful nominees (from first election) got on, they were going to get rid of the ranger & put someone else in. As far as I know, the ranger is doing a great job so why would you do this!! Where is the basis for it?
- **SOMEONE** was asked to apply for the skills-based selection & when they said they did not want to work with certain people, they were told to apply, get on & then resign. This is a person you want on the CoM - honest & above board!
- **WHY** didn't the successful nominees of the first election apply for the skills-based selection? The reason being we are still in the process of fighting for the first election, even though DEPI are continuing on with another selection. The first election was fair & democratic & there was absolutely no basis for overturning it. It is now in the hands of the Ombudsman.

I LOVE Blackwood & that is why my family lives here. It is a very close-knit community & yet a small minority are determined to do everything they can to cause fractures & make life difficult. Do we want these people looking after our community?

~ Lynda Henry

DEAR ED,

LOVED YOUR October edition.

THE COVER featuring the Music Academy was a brilliant study of concentration. Is that your double at the back on the violin?

NICE TO know that some progress has been made on the Reserve COM issue.

YOU SEEM to have a great variety of articles from the practical to personal, to historical, to official. You have created a real community mirror.

WOMBAT HUGS

UROO TO Molly too!

~ Stephen C

DEAR JINNY,

JUST A bit of feedback for you.

MY BROTHER & his partner, who live in coastal NSW, were down for a visit with me last week & enjoyed a slow read of the last issue of the BW times. They loved it & all the varied & interesting input it contained, & were surprised that it came out of our sleepy little town.

THEY USED to live in Kinglake & had a similar rag there, so it brought back some nice memories of 'quirky community input' for them, but they were also impressed by your professional approach to it.

THE WHOLE discussion kind of made me look at Blackwood in a new way, through the eyes of someone looking in from outside. As you know, I'm about as 'hermity' as hermits get, & love the quiet inner space the Blackwood environment offers us. I know lots of other people here also enjoy that quietness to different degrees. But it made me think how, while it looks all koala-bear slow & sleepy from the outside (just the way we like it), there's actually a whole lot of industriousness,

BOUQUETS & BRICKBATS

BOUQUET TO all who attended the trivia night and purchased raffle tickets. The raffle that was in the hotel was won by Ray Sheppard. The trivia night raised approximately \$800 each for the three boys.

~ Darcy Meade-Sweet, Jack Simmonds & Sam Matheson

BOUQUET TO Lou Henderson for keeping our cemetery beautiful.

~ Blackwood Cemetery Trust

lovely social interaction, inspiration, inventiveness, & creativity, flowing out from under that still surface.

I'M WAXING lyrical now! But it was just one of those lovely little opportunities to access a new level of appreciation for my home town, & have a little puff for personal pride for our groovy paper. You go girl!

~ Kathie Strmota

DEAR JINNY

CONGRATULATIONS ON your paper. It makes very interesting reading & it is good to hear of interest in such things as a book club, & bushwalking & agitation for sewerage, & many other activities still continuing.

FEEL FREE to edit out as much as you like of the enclosed. It is an extended version of what I said & probably much too long. (see p15)

~ Cheers Penny

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: "REAL" FREE RANGE EGGS. Down Whalebone Road... look for the chook box.

POSITIONS VACANT: Greendale Country Pub Busy & Growing Country Pub is looking for staff for part time and casual positions: Kitchen Hand/Waitress/Waiter Cook Bar Staff (RSA) Dish washers if interested email: gcpopple@bigpond.com

WORK WANTED: House Cleaner avail. Cheap rates. Police check. Please call 0412 500 884 for details.

Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES
The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.



ADVERTISING WITH US MAKES SENSE

downloads from theblackwoodtimes.com.au.

Around 30,000 issues of the Blackwood Times are downloaded bi-monthly + the 600 hard copies distributed in the area – no-one can deny this is value for your hard earned dollars.

Everyone knows you've got to be in it to win it, you can support Blackwood News by advertising for the tiny cost of \$2.50 per column cm ex GST & an extra 50c per colCm for your ad to be colour in the online issue.

Go to theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au to download booking forms & specs

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

- 1. their own name or their company name or their registered business name. &
2. either: The street address of their business or a business name registration number or a business licence number such as their licence number to be an estate agent or plumber (note: an ACN or ABN is not sufficient)

- Fair Trading Act advertising requirement June 2004

It is the advertiser's responsibility to ensure correct information is supplied for their ad.

ADVERTISING RATES @ \$2.50per Col CM

Table with 4 columns: CODE, SIZE, PRINT & WEB B&W, PRINT B&W WEB COLOUR. Rows include A (TRADE), B (BUS CARD), C, D (1/2 PAGE), E, F, G, H, FULL PAGE.

The Blackwood Times is printed bi-monthly (6 x per year). Prices are exGST & subject to change without notice.

DOWNLOAD OUR BOOKING FORM & VISUAL SPECS FROM THEBLACKWOODTIMES.COM.AU



Open Hours
Thursday to Monday
9.00am-5.00pm
Saturday Evenings

OVERLOOK THE LERDEBERG GORGE FROM OUR NEWLY RENOVATED VENUE WHILE ENJOYING A RELAXED BREAKFAST or LUNCH made from SEASONAL LOCAL PRODUCE or MAYBE a QUIET COFFEE and an AFTERNOON GLASS OF WINE AS YOU TAKE IN THE COUNTRY ATMOSPHERE of THE PROVIDORE.

CLOSED FROM Tues Dec 3 RE-OPENING Sat Dec 28
Apologies for any inconvenience, we are closing due to a prior family committment.
Enjoy a safe & happy festive season cheers Pete & Jen
our contact details during this time are p.moore@mcg.net.au

21 Martin St, Blackwood
5368 6525
mountain air, quirky & inviting



RESTORED & REOPENED

COSY OPEN FIRES

LOCAL'S NIGHT FRIDAYS
Two courses with a free drink \$30

LIVE MUSIC EVERY SUNDAY
From 1.30pm

OPEN
Fri, Sat, Sun Middy – late

Stables available for weddings & functions

www.thecosmopolitanhotel.com.au
Cnr High St & Cosmo Rd, Trentham | 03 5424 1516

Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES
The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.



SUPER RIDE - SUPER EFFORT - SUPER SMILES

19 Government Special Schools, 103 Special Needs Students, 49 Staff Fully supported by Victoria Police, Blackwood & Trentham CFA, St Johns, Ballan Lioness Club, Trentham Lions Club & the local communities of Blackwood & Trentham, our 23rd Annual Blackwood Special Schools Super Ride was once again a tremendous success.

With the Schools ready to ride, perfect weather conditions & support vehicles in place, we departed from in front of the Blackwood Hotel at 10am. Smiles on their faces & the wind blowing through their hair, the students cheered as they headed off & down the hill. Moments later the smiles had disappeared, the sweat had started & everyone dug deep to find the determination & persistence to continue to climb into the hills of the Wombat State Forest.

For many of the students this was their first Super Ride – but they were all prepared. After months of training, preparation & planning the students knew the hills were coming & they all continued, climbed & conquered in their individual ways overcoming many emotional, physical & mental barriers to awaken their potential & succeed.

While each individual overcame their own barriers, the atmosphere through the hills of the Wombat State Forest that day was that of encouragement, laughter, cheering, clapping & messages of congratulations – a truly positive, uplifting & inspiring experience.

After conquering the 40km mountain bike challenge, everyone received & accepted their medals with pride & didn't take them off for the remainder of the Super Ride experience.

After rest, relaxation & rejuvenation, everyone descended on the Blackwood Hall where they thoroughly enjoyed the experience of a Blue Light Disco before a well-deserved & peaceful sleep.

The Blackwood Super Ride is an experience that students from across Victorian Special Schools look forward to & one day aspire to be challenged beyond their comfort zones. It is an experience that can define their school years & help build resilience, confidence, character & determination within each individual.

Thank you to all our supporters for helping our students realise their full potential.

OPEN DAY
Blackwood Community Fire Refuge

The Blackwood Community Fire Refuge Working Group would like to invite you to join us to learn more about the new CFA Station and Community Fire Refuge.

Sunday 22nd December 2013
10am to 2pm
At the new Blackwood CFA Station
(Corner of Terrill Street and Greendale-Trentham Road)

- Guided tours and demonstrations will commence on the hour and each half hour (duration approximately one hour)
• Everything you need to know about the refuge and how it will operate.
• Discuss how the refuge may fit in with your personal survival plan.
• Information on bushfire planning.
• Join us for a drink and some food.

A fire refuge is only a short-term last resort shelter option if your own plan has failed.

Thank you from Blackwood's Community Fire Refuge Working Group



Leaving early is the safest option



Warmest wishes of the season

From all of us at Trentham & Districts Community Bank® Branch, best wishes for the holiday season and thank you for your loyalty and support.

Drop into your branch at 37 High Street, Trentham or phone 5424 1608.

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited. ABN 11 068 049 178. AFSL 237879. S45237-7 (200718_v1) (19/11/2013)

Trentham & Districts Community Bank® Branch



BEYOND BLACKWOOD...



BIKE INVASION!

On Thursday November 7, 110 cyclists from the Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Centre (BSSOC) cycled 40 gruelling kms. In the Blackwood Super Ride from Blackwood to Trentham & back again.

The BSSOC delivers quality adventure-based education exclusively to students with special needs, challenging the students to enhance their life skills by taking them out of their comfort zone to achieve beyond their abilities in a safe & supportive environment.

The ride was fully supported by Victoria Police, local CFA, local SES, Lions Club of Trentham Inc, & the communities of Blackwood & Trentham.

Members of the Lions Club of Trentham prepared hamburgers & a sausage sizzle for the hungry cyclists & support staff & were assisted by several members of the Police, CFA & local residents Jill & David McCallum.

It was a fantastic day.

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 is held on the first Wednesday of the month at various eating establishments in the district.

For further information please contact John Marion on 5424 1460.



BEAUTY ABOUNDS FOR FILM SOCIETY

At the October meeting of the Macedon Ranges Film Society, the film American Beauty dealt with the dramatic and simple beauty of things. Director Sam Mendes makes his mark as a serious film director in this drama starring Kevin Spacey (as Lester Burnham) and Annette Bening (as Carolyn Burnham). Disillusioned by the tedium of his life, Lester finds the inspiration for enjoyment comes from a very surprising source. One critic described the film as "showing up the hollow existence of living in the American suburbs".

More than forty years earlier, a film of a very different genre was being made. On November 13, members are sure to be amused by The Court Jester (1956) with Danny Kaye in the role of a hapless carnival performer who gets involved in more trickery than he bargains for, once he falls in love with Captain Jean played by Glynis Johns. The cast includes a host of well-known actors such as Basil Rathbone and Angela Lansbury.

The screening of The Court Jester on November 13 will be the last offering of the Macedon Ranges Film Society for 2013. Next year, a variety of film styles will once again be shown. The film society meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Woodend Community Centre. Film notes are provided and for those who wish, there is supper, kindly supplied by members, following the screening. Enquiries about membership can be made by visiting our website - mrfilmsociety@gmail.com - or by phoning Lorraine on 5427 0921 or Christine on 5429 5452.

~ Christine Caley, Macedon Ranges Film Society

Lavandula

~ lunch under the trees ~ explore the gardens ~ walk up to the olive grove ~ find the farm animals ~ relax on a rug, listen to the birdsong ~ visit the 1860's Swiss Italian farmhouse ~ shop in the Barn, talk with the gardeners ~ come to our festivals ~ discover Swiss Italian history ~



open 10.30am-5.30pm except Wed & Thur garden entry \$3.50 350 Hepburn-Newstead Rd, Shepherds Flat 03 5476 4393

www.lavandula.com.au

YOUR MONEY WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY

Cool Country Community Enterprises Limited, the operating company of Trentham & Districts Community Bank®, held its Annual General Meeting on 25 November 2013. Contributions made to the community for 2013 were acknowledged. Since opening in August 2011, Trentham & Districts Community Bank® Branch has returned more than \$35,000 to community groups in Trentham & the surrounding districts.

The non-profit organisations that have received funding under the Community Investment Program for the year of 2013 are -

- Trentham Neighbourhood Centre
- Trentham District Primary School
- Trentham Fire Brigade
- Tylden Primary School Fair & Vintage Tractor Pull
- The Great Trentham Spudfest
- Trentham Kindergarten
- Greenlight Youth Driver Education Program (8 local youth participated)

- Trentham Easter Art & Craft Show
- Trentham District Cricket Club
- Trentham District Football Netball Club
- Trentham Sustainability Group

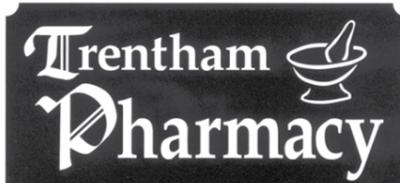
A number of non-profit organisations have also made use of the CommunityPOS facility available through the branch. This facility enables card transactions to be processed for fundraising events,

registration days & similar functions. The first \$100 of fees associated with the CommunityPOS are waived resulting in most non-profit organisations utilising the facility for free. The following groups have made use of the CommunityPOS in 2013 -

- Nepali Village Initiatives Association
- Music in the Central Highlands
- Trentham Easter Art & Craft Show
- The Great Trentham Spudfest
- The Hairy Arch Art Competition
- Trentham District Primary School Trivia Night
- Trentham Fire Brigade's Lyonville Fireman's Ball
- Wishing you all the happiness of the season & peace & prosperity in the new year.

From all the staff at Trentham & Districts Community Bank® & Directors of Cool Country Community Enterprises Limited

for around \$3pw ex GST your businesses advertisement will support the continued publication of The Blackwood Times. Call 5368 6444 or 9687 3744 or download a rate sheet from theblackwoodtimes.com.au



43a High Street, Trentham 3458

5424 1000

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Sat 9am-12.30pm

Closed Public Holidays

trentham.pharmacy@frednet.com.au

Istan Czehmester, B Med Sci, B. Pharm, MPS

WANTED: Greendale Country Pub

busy & growing country pub is looking for staff for part time and casual positions: kitchen hand/waitress/waiter cook bar staff (rsa) dish washers

if interested: email : gcpopple@bigpond.com

gold street studios

Home of the handmade photograph

Exhibition:

15 August to 6th October 2013

Tim Rudman - Walk on the White Side

photographic workshops chemicals & chemical kits, exhibitions

03 5424 1835

www.goldstreetstudios.com.au

TRENTHAM STATION SUNDAY MARKET

8.30am - 2.30pm

at Historic Trentham Station, Victoria Street, Trentham

4th SUNDAY EACH MONTH

Dec 29 • Jan 26

A great selection of stalls in a unique setting

Enquiries / Bookings Kaye or Leigh 54241466

TRENTHAM



FARMERS MARKET

Stuff your pantry! 9am to 1pm

3rd Saturday of every month in Trentham's Town Square

December 21 • January 18

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



Central Victorian producers welcome - conditions apply

call Shirley Corneille for an application 5348 5690 or 0427542811

Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES. The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.



Burglar Liquid Waste

The TURD BURGLAR

Darryl: 0418 363 030

Clement F Mooney
Email: c.mooney@bigpond.net.au

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

A.B.N. 37 961 487 978

Certified Practising Accountant
Registered Tax Agent
B.Com, C.P.A., M.B.A.

CPA

T: 03 5424 1441
F: 03 5424 1149
M: 0412 584 555

19 Albert Street, Trentham VIC 3458
PO Box 118, Trentham VIC 3458

ADVANCED TREE SALES

HALF PRICE SALE Nov 30/Dec 1
Xmas plant/tree Sale Dec 21/22

Open: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-2
Or by appointment
Delivery & EFTPOS available.

Nick & Carrie: 0422 736 165

Trees grown in air pruning pots, 2-3m high 100 + species available. See website for list & directions.

609 Spring Hill-Tylden Road, Spring Hill Melways
Ref: X909 E9. (Between Woodend & Daylesford)

www.ancientnatives.com.au

RADIO SPRINGS HOTEL
03 5348-5562 LYONVILLE

closed Mon Dec 23 – Thur Jan 9

Dinner ~ Thur, Fri, Sat, Sun
Lunch ~ Fri, Sat, Sun
Lunch & Dinner ~ Public Holiday Mondays

Computer running slow?
Strange things happening when you browse the Net or send emails?

Most Computer Repairs \$70 plus parts.

Hardware, software, networking and Internet related problems fixed.

call Karl 5368 6 767

Your local state MP, Mr Don Nardella MLA

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

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

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

THINKING OF SELLING IN BLACKWOOD?

Local agents with many years experience are awaiting your call. Strong sales in the past 6 months have increased demand for properties in your area.

Mark Dudley – 0409 954 396
Rod Grant – 0416 231 782
Suite 4, 132 Inglis Street, Ballan
Ph: 5368 1057

RAYNER
REAL ESTATE

Event Signage Frames Available

Frames for temporary tourism event signage have been built at the entrances to three Moorabool towns, with tourism event organisers encouraged to book the frames to hang promotional banners to advertise their events.

Frames have been built at either entrances to the towns of Ballan, Blackwood & Greendale, with further frames to be built at Gordon, Bacchus Marsh & Myrning in the next few months.

Council successfully applied for a Country Victoria Event Program grant from Tourism Victoria to install event signage frames, following requests for temporary event signage from tourism event organisers & groups including Ballan & District Chamber of Commerce.

Chair of the chamber, Robert Eskdale, said the chamber also allocated funds towards the construction & installation of the frames.

“We identified event signage frames as a priority initiative for Ballan & Gordon as there was previously inadequate signage & unauthorised signage, so we were pleased to contribute to making the frames a reality,” Mr Eskdale said.

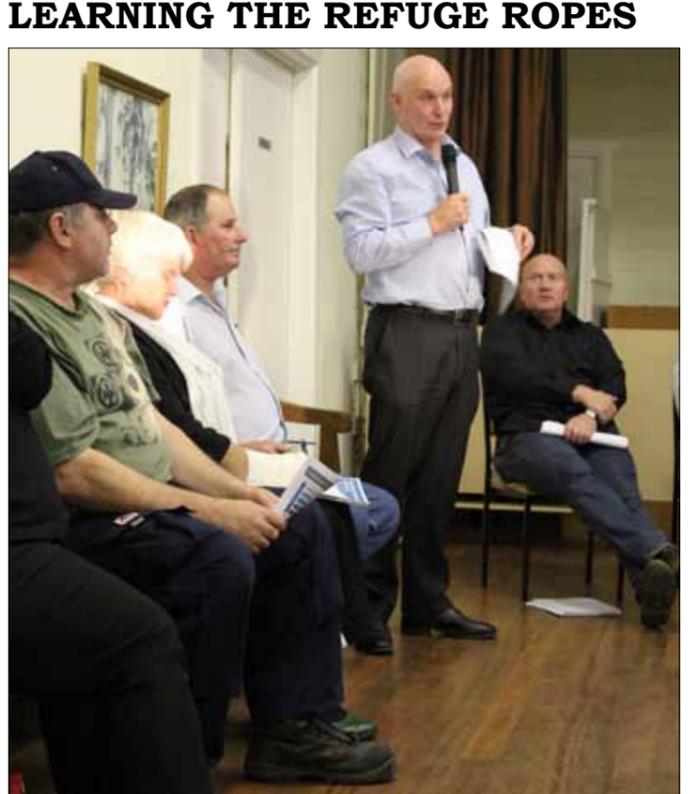
Moorabool Shire Council Mayor Cr Pat Toohey encouraged tourism operators & event organisers to make use of the frames & advertise their tourism events in a prominent, safe & legal way.

“The signs in these frames will be very visible from the road & are a great marketing tool that tourism event organisers can use to their advantage,” Cr Toohey said.

“The frames align with gateway signs to provide the second level, coordinated source of information on event/tourism promotions approved by Council.”

Anyone wanting to use the frames to put up a banner should note the maximum size of the banner needs to be 2 metres wide & 1 metre high & be constructed from banner production material.

A centralised booking system has been put in place through Council. To book a sign, phone 5366 7100. Bookings are tentative until approved by the Council’s Tourism Officer.



Craig Lapsley addresses a large meeting at Blackwood Hall

Good numbers attended the Fire Refuge information session on November 21. The Fire Services Commissioner, Craig Lapsley, spoke as did Mayor Paul Tatchell, John Mealia (Manager, Program Implementation and Operation, Fire Services Commissioner), Chris Stevens (Operational Project Manager, Fire Services Commissioner) and John Shaw (Building Control Commission) as well as CFA representatives.

We heard that the Refuge is designed to be operated by the community; the facility will open in the event of a serious fire threat, and that is just the time when our emergency services are likely to be away from the station. By pressing a button at the entrance door and following voice instructions, any community member can gain access to the Refuge. It is then the first arrival’s task to start support units such as the air-conditioner, power generator and radio, by following straight-forward instructions. A number of locals volunteered for a test run of these procedures.

It sounds all very safe once you’ve reached the Fire Refuge but, as Craig Lapsley points out, the dangerous part is the getting there. Most of the town’s access routes run through (highest-rated) Flame Zone areas. When you add to that the risk of blinding smoke and road blockages, you get his point.

Why don’t you see the Refuge for yourself at the Open Day on December 22 (see ad on p21). Also check out Max the Dog’s views on p17.

MERRY CHRISTMAS BLACKWOOD & AN AWESOME 2014 TO YOU

Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES

FLUX design studio

identity | print | web | motion

sponsors of blackwood news

blackwood
rmb 100
trentham 3458
p 5368 6444

melbourne
4 bunbury street
footscray 3011
p 03 9687 3744
f 03 9687 4944

fluxdesignstudio.com.au



Greenhills
CARPENTRY

- Renovations • Decks / Pergolas • All types of carpentry and joinery
- Horse round yards • Fully qualified and insured
- 15 years experience • Free quotes

Ph 0411 818 232
email: greenhills07@westnet.com.au

TRENTHAM PETROL & STUFF
1 Market St ph 5424 1611
Mon-Sat 8am-6pm Sun 9am-6pm

**petrol, oils, swap & go gas, firewood permits,
farm produce/produce store
ice, milk, soft drinks, take-away pies, coffee
confectionery, local honey etc
rusty junk, secondhand books, old wares**

Greenstar Electrical
REC 15077

Corey Shiell
Electrician
0415 382 625
email: greenstarelec@inet.net.au

ALL ELECTRICAL WORK - Inc RURAL
A/C SPLIT DESIGN & INSTALL
SOLAR POWER
ENERGY EFFICIENCY AUDIT ACCREDITED
web: greenstarelec.net.au

TV TUNING
and antenna installations...

Is Your TV Reception As Good As It Can Be?

Call for a FREE on-site reception test, no strings attached.
Experienced, local, fully qualified electronics technician.

Rob: 5368 6485 or 0431 704 203
ABN: 55 335 542 987

Moreton
Tree Services

On time, always!

- 15 year experienced climber
- all types of trees removed
- Dangerous Limbs Removed • Wood cut up and split
- Stump removal

No job too big or too small
Full garden and handyman service.
Reliable, friendly and experienced. Free Quotes

0423001329 / 53686487

Think Globally Employ Locally
SOL PLUMBING
Fully licensed and insured.
Residential and commercial

- Competitive rates • Free quotes •

Call Simon on **0417 335 831**
(leave a message if no answer)
LIC NO 38657

Get Sparked
ELECTRICAL

Corey Warnecke 0402 102 295
get.sparked@hotmail.com

Golden Point
Garden Maintenance

Ross: 0423 259 038

TREELOPPING
Gerard Styles

- experienced climber
- limited access conditions

ph: 03 5368 6678
mob: 0428 518 999
PO Box 218, Blackwood 3458

superb rates ~ ask for a FREE quote

Origin ORIGIN ENERGY
Authorised Dealer

**45kg bottle gas for prompt delivery
at very competitive prices
call GARY on
0409 135 070**

Keemin REC 5096
Electrical
INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL
RESIDENTIAL

240 Main St Bacchus Marsh 3340
Ph. 5368 2001
Fax. 5367 0776

119 Inglis St Ballan 3342
Ph. 0418 518 226
jcutler@keemin.com.au

*Specializing in driveways and
site cleaning / leveling and Mowing*

General mini digger with attachments
-EG Trencher, Post hole digger
-Stump Grinding
-Small tree removal / Pruning

Wood chips available

Nils Thiele-Wittig
Qualified Landscape Gardener / Horticulturist

Mobile: 0405 414 354 or (03) 5368 6658 all areas
www.nilslandscaping.com.au

- paving (concrete and natural stone)
- retaining walls
- lawn and lawn care
- planting
- rock work
- garden design
- maintenance

Painter
RAY FOWLER

Phone/Fax: 5474 3109

Bill Evans
Electrical
DOMESTIC - COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL

Mobile: **0417 795 856**
Phone: (03) 5367 8166
Email: evanselec@optusnet.com.au
ABN: 44 377 671 357 Rec: 15433

RELIABLE CARPENTRY
REGISTERED BUILDING PRACTITIONER
AND CONSULTANT
ABN: 59 283 614 101 DB-U 28049

NO JOB TOO SMALL
SHAUN: 0404 084 147
sabrownbuild@gmail.com

Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES. The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.

BALLAN True Value HARDWARE
HARDWARE

"For all your building supplies"

119 Inglis St Ballan ph: (03) 53681230
fax: (03) 5368 1937



FitzGerald

PROPERTY

Ph: 5424 1866



BLACKWOOD 28 Goldenpoint Rd KANANGRA

Classic 1920s period home, in pristine condition, over two levels. 7 rooms, mature garden setting, excellent views and privacy.

\$475,000

BLACKWOOD 14 View Crs

This delightful cottage is a fine example of the historic offerings in the area. Comprising an open plan living/kitchen/dining area, three bedrooms and enclosed room under the front verandah. On around one acre of terraced gardens.

\$335,000

BLACKWOOD 89 Simmons Reef Rd

One of Blackwood's renown holiday cottages overlooking the Lerderderg Gorge. Comprising 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large north facing living area. The property sits on around 2.55 acres over five titles.

\$385,000



BLACKWOOD 4 Wall St

Gold Strike. Land with a Planning Permit. Approximately three quarters of an acre with new permit for period style cottage with two bedrooms and a study. Elevated position with views. No trees to remove.

\$185,000

BLACKWOOD Myrtleford House

On the market for the first time in 47 years. House lot plus adjoining small vineyard. The early 1900's weatherboard home is a prominent and very desirable home in Blackwood. In excellent condition throughout and well sited on land of 1,756 sqm approximately.

\$470,000

BLACKWOOD 29 Golden Point Rd

Cedar cottage over three levels on around quarter acre. Ground floor with main living area and two bedrooms. Loft space with lots of light would suit studio. Lower floor with bedroom/living and bathroom etc.

\$360,000



BARRYS REEF 1421 Trentham Rd

Around 25 squares of sensational rammed earth energy efficient home on 17.5 acres in private elevated position. Passive solar design, double glazing, good shedding, springs and very private.

\$698,000

BLACKWOOD 18 Skinners Rd

Cottage on the edge of the forest. Spacious two bedroom dwelling on around a third of an acre. Includes studio and woodshed. Only house on that side of street.

\$285,000

BLACKWOOD

14 Albert St

Spacious three bedroom home over two levels on quarter acre block. Near new timber home with outdoor spa, terraced gardens, garage and large workshop. To be sold fully furnished.

\$410,000

www.fitzgeraldproperty.com.au

54241866

45 High St Trentham