

*Aprik May '14 vol 6 ~ issue 6:6*



**HURRY. BRING IN THE WOOD, IT'S GETTING COLD OUTSIDE!**

*photo of Leon, courtesy of Caroline Parker-Rolls*



**SEE YOU AT THE EASTER CARNIVAL**

**PARADE STARTS AT 11AM CNR WHALEBONE ROAD, & MARTIN STREET**  
**FACE PAINTING, PONY RIDES, ANIMAL FARM, JUMPING CASTLE, HISTORIC DISPLAY OF YESTER YEAR. ASSORTED FOOD & STALLS. WOODCHOP, CHILDREN'S RACES, TUG-O-WAR.**



### EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

Hello,  
We've a few little surprises this issue. Our ever-loyal contributor, Don Owen, has put together our weather charts since we first started publishing. This issue he has designed a new chart which gives more information & comparisons. See the new format on page 9. Thanks Don, love your work!

Have you thought about putting a float into the Easter parade? Or what about taking a stall to get rid of some of those unwanted goodies lying around the place?

In our household, we have a big Easter with our kids & all their friends coming to the family home to enjoy the carnival. Perhaps I'll leave a few copies around the place of Kathie Strmota's article where she advises us on how to look after our livers.

6 months after the Wombat Book Club was formed, it is growing well, with new members monthly. But the big question is "do you blokes out there read?" We'd love to have some of you come along! Our meet-ups are very informal & a great time to catch up & discuss our latest reads.

Enjoy the 2nd of Margaret's clever "Humans of Blackwood" feature (a bit of a take off from Humans of New York!), if you want to get in on this one, email her margaretmccarthy9@bigpond.com to sort out a time to catch up.

This issue is jam-packed with photos showing Blackwoodians have had quite a time partying over the past 2 months. But they do say "all work no play makes Jack a dull boy!"

We welcome your photos, letters, stories & articles... remember these are *your* Blackwood Times, without your input there will be no paper, so please, keep them coming!"

See deadlines & submission dates below, or, if you want a reminder, jump on to theblackwoodtimes.com.au & subscribe to our eLetters.

~ Jinny Coyle

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### • WHERE ARE THEY NOW? •



No, it's not some glamourpuss from Hollywood! It's Blackwoodian Ellen Coyle-Hehir who turned 21 in February. Ellen celebrated her special day with family & friends at the Provincial Hotel function room in Brunswick St, Fitzroy.

After completing Year 12 at Daylesford High, Ellen moved to Melbourne to complete a Diploma in Makeup, specialising in special effects. She has since worked on many advertisements & films including the soon-to-be-released feature film "Crime & Punishment" on which she was head of make-up & hair.

This year Ellen has gone back to college to study hairdressing, a sought-after combination of qualifications. Her business, Cleopatra Make-up Artistry, focuses on corporate make-up as well as make-up for weddings. She loves making her brides feel special.

### • POP THE FIZZ •



In mid-March, Blackwoodian Peta Coyle wed Woodend lad, Paul Smith. The celebration took place in a glade of trees by the Bullarto train station. Just as the bridal party pulled up, the skies opened & Peta & Paul made their vows to thunder & lightening. The guests, who had travelled from far & wide to share the day, partied the night away in the nearby hall, decked out in white flowers & candles.

The next morning Peta wasted no time in changing her name on facebook to Mrs Peta Smith.

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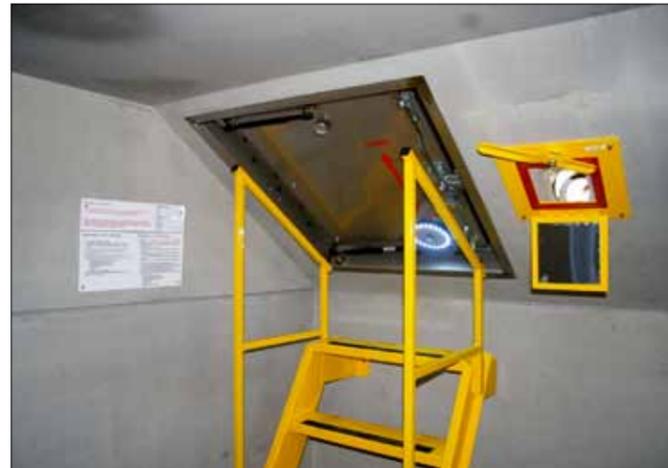


The first photo shows the 6 person bunker installed, with ventilation shafts, door hatch and viewing port.

### BUNKING DOWN

The Blackwood Action Group has been looking into the types of private bushfire shelters available. In February 2013, the ABC program 'The 7.30 Report' ran this story <http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2013/s3683031.htm> which is worth watching as it highlighted safety concerns with home-made & manufactured fire bunkers that have not been accredited. Wildfire Safety Bunkers is the only company that has produced a bunker that has been rigorously fire-tested & certified by the Building Commission Victoria as a 'private bushfire shelter' for use in bushfire areas rated to BAL-FZ. The company produces several types of bunkers, including a bunker for up to 6 persons, a bunker for up to 12 persons & two different types of storage vaults. The 6 person bunker is the bunker shown in the photographs & is 2.0 m wide by 2.6 m long & 2.1 m high. It is delivered to site as a factory-finished unit, where it is craned into position, or it can be delivered in two halves & joined on-site. The 12 person bunker external dimensions are 2.4 m wide by 4.2 m long & 2.4 m high & are delivered to site as three separate components & are joined on-site by qualified installers.

The bunkers are constructed from a custom-made concrete blend which is 100mm thick at 65mPa strength & is bitumen coated for added water resistance. The door hatch is made from stainless steel & is fitted with an outside temperature gauge. The door handle mechanism is designed to release from inside the bunker even if it has been padlocked from the outside. There is a stainless steel & double-glazed viewing port for observing the situation outside, with a flap that can be closed to reduce radiant heat during a bushfire. There are 2 ventilation shafts (one with a whirly bird to circulate air) & both have flaps that can be shut during a fire emergency. There is enough air in the bunker to last for a maximum period of one hour when the bunker is fully occupied & once the door & ventilation is closed. Obviously, one or



The second photo shows the inside of the bunker with temperature gauge and LED light on the door hatch, instruction panel on the wall and viewing port with flap that can be closed.

two occupants in a 6 person bunker will utilise less of the air supply & extend the time period. A clock is provided on the wall to help calculate the time spent in the bunker when the ventilation is closed. Two LED lights are provided to illuminate the inside of the bunker, one located inside the door hatch & the other in the centre of the ceiling. There is a panel with operating procedures & checklist on the wall. The bunker comes with a comprehensive operations manual & the installer provides on-site instructions once the bunker is installed.

Installing the bunker is generally exempt from requiring a planning permit but it is best to check with the council, as there are still planning permit requirements under specific planning overlays. A building permit is required for the bunker to be used as a bushfire shelter & the company has an 'owner builder' information package which provides a step by step approach to help steer you through this process. It is understood that a building permit is not required if the bunker or storage vault is to be used for storage purposes only, although a planning permit may still be required under certain planning overlays.

Site selection is important as the door hatch is required to be located a minimum of 10 metres & a maximum of 40 metres from a residential dwelling. Ten metres is considered a safe separation distance should the dwelling ignite during a bushfire. Up to forty metres is considered a safe distance to allow enough time to get to the bunker in an emergency. The door hatch must be oriented towards the house & an access path is required to be established with a tactile surface to provide a direct link from the house to the bunker. The bunker needs to be located a minimum distance of 10 metres from other buildings & fuel loads (eg wood piles) or alternatively the fuel hazard has to be removed. The door hatch must be located a minimum of 6 metres from a side property boundary. This setback offers protection against the possible placement of firewood or other fuel loads by neighbours near or along the property boundary.

For further info & pricing, visit [www.wildfiresafetybunkers.com.au](http://www.wildfiresafetybunkers.com.au) or contact Wildfire Safety Bunkers by telephone on 1800 559 859.

~ Des Peters, Blackwood Action Group



### Community greenwaste bonfire on vacant land next to cemetery.

#### Off limits for good?

read story on p8

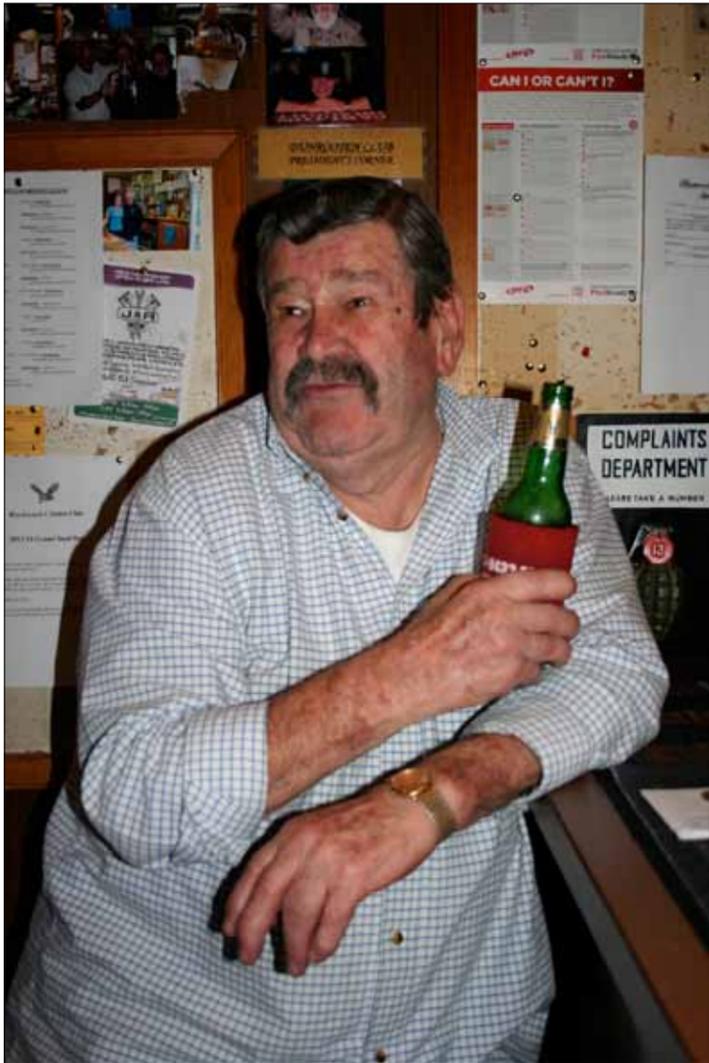
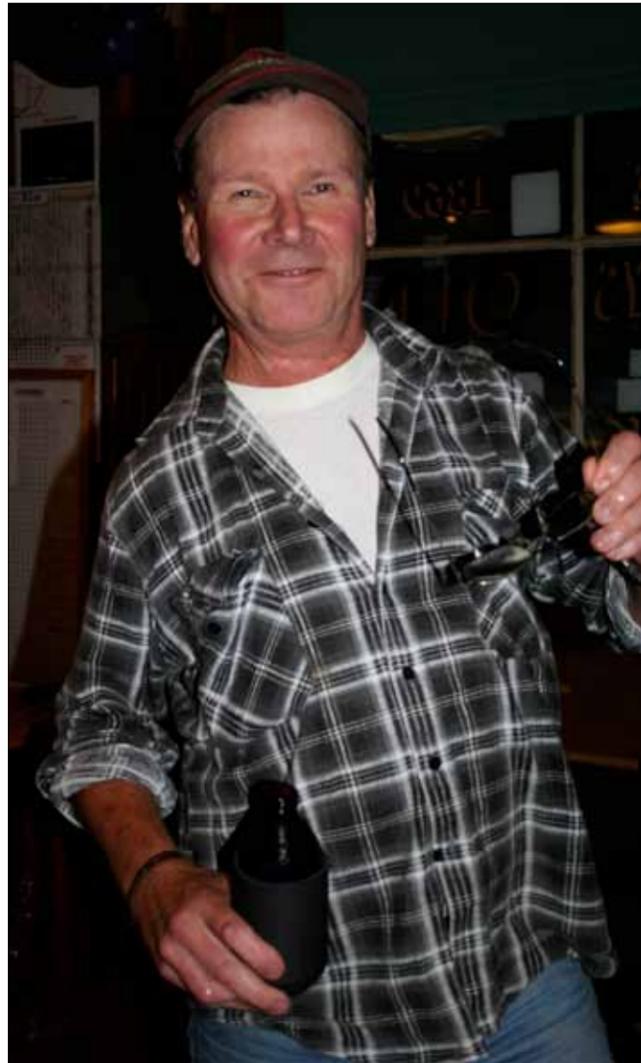
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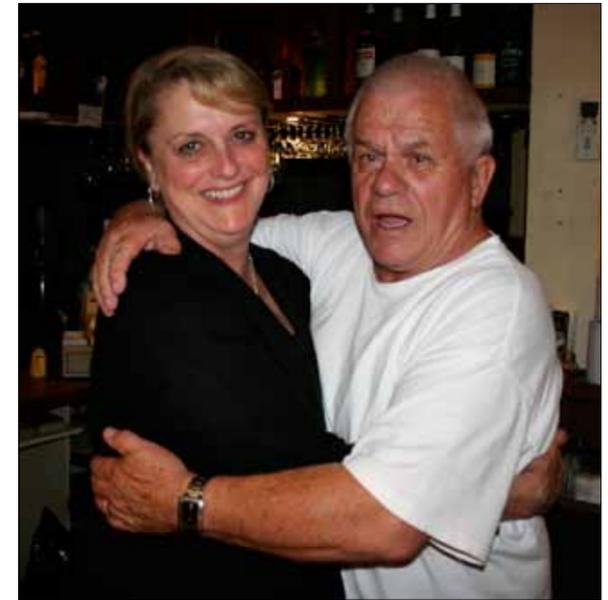
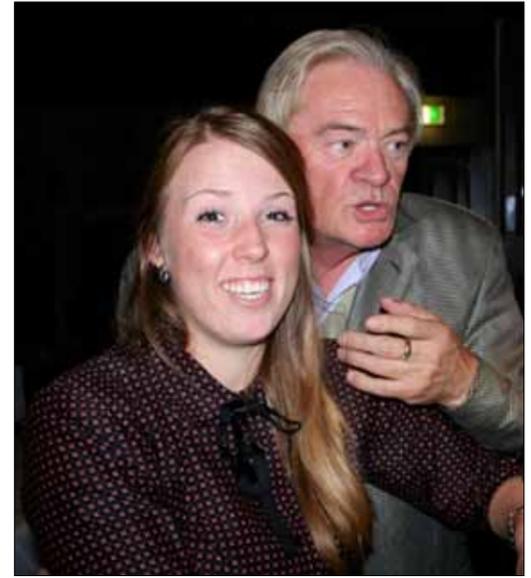
• SPOTTED AT THE LOCAL WATER HOLE (TAKE 1) •



Friday night happy hour at Blackwood Hotel,. (top left) Jack Brown (ex Blackwood identity) pops in for a visit; (opposite) Colin celebrates his 72nd with a birthday stein; otherwise, as you see it's business as usual!



• SPOTTED AT THE LOCAL WATER HOLE (TAKE 2) •



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### SCHEMING WASTE

The BMO and failed sewerage scheme is sure to make you irrate! If you own vacant land in Blackwood and are not able to build a dwelling due to the onerous requirements of the Bushfire Management Overlay and new waste water management guidelines, thanks to the failed sewerage scheme, you should check your property site valuation on your rate notice. A recent independent evaluation of a block of vacant land in the the town has revealed that these impediments to building have reduced the property site value by almost half, compared to the site value as shown on the rate notice. Not able to build, and the Council have been overcharging by about \$300 a year on rates, when based on this revised site value. This situation is not fair or just, to say the least, and also begs the question of the site value of blocks with a dwelling where these impediments will prevent *rebuilding*. If you believe you have similar grounds for objecting to the valuation of your property as shown on your rate notice, consider lodging an objection with Council. There is a prescribed form for this purpose and it must be lodged within two months of the issue of your Valuation and Rate Notice. Instructions on the objection processes appear on the back of your rate notice. If you choose to lodge an objection, the re-evaluation process may take a while, in which case you are still required to pay your rates as specified on the notice within the prescribed time frame. Please consult the Council or the back of your rate notice for further information.

This situation clearly demonstrates financial loss as a result of the building impediments. Legal advice on this matter indicates that if there are at least another 8 or more similar cases throughout the town, this then has the potential to provide enough grounds for a class action against the State Government.

The Blackwood Action Group is interested to know if there are any other known cases where an independent re-evaluation shows that the site value is substantially lower than the site value on the rate notice. The Action Group will be raising these concerns with the Council, the Mayor and local members of parliament and will be advocating the urgent need to resolve the building issues in Blackwood. The Action Group can be contacted by email: [actiongroup@centralvic.com.au](mailto:actiongroup@centralvic.com.au) or by snail mail: C/o Blackwood PO, 3458.

~ Des Peters, Blackwood Action Group

### SNAPPED! right in our own backyards...



The first two photos are taken of the kookaburra family on the deck at Jo Jo's house in Bates Rd. She lives here permanently with her partner Jon. (taken with Samsung S3 phone) the photo on the right is King Parrots hanging out on Helen Rygiel's deck.

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### THE BLACKWOOD TIMES SOCIAL ALBUM - OUT & ABOUT

### HUMANS OF BLACKWOOD

by Margaret McCarthy  
 What are your first memories of Blackwood? How do you feel when you are away from Blackwood? Margaret hits the streets of Blackwood asking our residents old & new thier thoughts.



#### STEF First memories Blackwood?

I came here six years ago on father's day. I was with a friend. We went to the pub. We admired the natural beauty of the place. The birds, the wildlife. I never thought I'd come here to live – may as well have thought of living in New York as much as moving to Blackwood.



**And now, when you're away?**  
 When I'm away I miss the wide open spaces. When I go back [to the city] it all looks a bit shabby.

**Anything else?**  
 Also, mention the friendliness of the people. The friendliness here is great.

#### HELEN

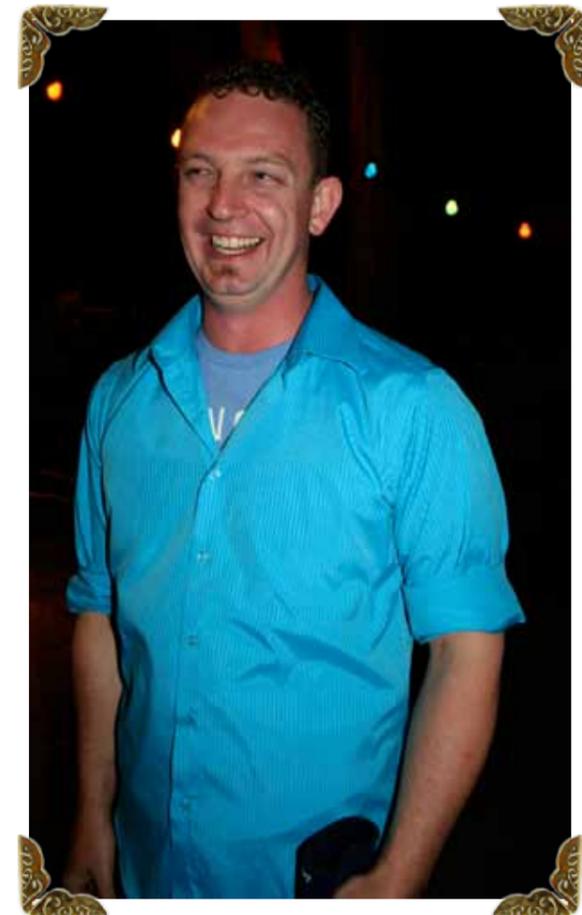


**First memories Blackwood?**  
 It was the view of the trees. It had a magic about it. There is no comparison.

**And now, when you're away?**  
 When I'm away I miss the birds. The king parrots are so friendly. They'll see me and come and peck on the window and call me outside..



above, top right & bottom right: Anthony Pywell's 30th



above & below: Trent's 9th birthday, a stretch Hummer to the icehouse for skating



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## COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

### Blackwood Action Group

see pages 3 & 6.

~ Blackwood Action Group

### Blackwood Cemetery Trust

Unfortunately, the Cemetery Trust has had a couple of complaints regarding the greenwaste being placed on the Cemetery land to be burnt off during burning-off periods. This was done under the supervision of a couple of CFA members, a couple of times per year.

The Cemetery Trust had a meeting and decided to cease this practice and are in the process of having signs made up for the front and back of the land advising residents that they can no longer dispose of their greenwaste on the site.

After we had our meeting, there was an official complaint from a resident directly to the Department of Human Services regarding the dumping of greenwaste and also the state of the Cemetery. Robyn Zannon, Secretary, sent them photos of the greenwaste site and photos of our Cemetery. They were happy that the greenwaste dumping would cease and they could not understand the complaint regarding the actual Cemetery as it is in very good condition.

Residents can take their greenwaste to either the Ballan Transfer Station or Mt. Egerton Transfer Station and pay the appropriate fees.

With regard to the condition of the Blackwood Cemetery and land adjacent, the Cemetery Trust cannot thank Lou Henderson enough for his continued dedication to keeping this looking so good. He works tirelessly and takes great pride in his work. We thank you. Also, a big thank you to Phil and Ray for the work they undertake without being asked.

~ Linda Henry, Member

### Blackwood CERT

Do you know what CERT stands for and what we can do for you?

I recently heard someone ask, "but what can you actually do?" referring to the Blackwood CERT team. Although there was a hint of uncertainty, I have a feeling that this person believes that we are able to put a splint on a broken finger or maybe patch up a cut. Yes, that's true, but did you know that we are highly-trained first responders? That's first response, not just first aid. Our training is mainly from experienced Ambulance Victoria paramedics. All Community Emergency Response Team members have completed a comprehensive course which covers anything from major trauma, burns, anaphylaxis, CPR, and breathing difficulties to assisting with the delivery of a baby! We've had calls to overdoses, motor vehicle accidents, animal bites and dislocations amongst other mishaps. We keep sharp by training monthly and volunteer a fair bit of our time to make sure that the service is available to residents of Blackwood and surrounds as much as possible. Our team consists of locals who want to add something to this community and A/V staff who spend the time to help keep us operational. So, in short, thanks to Ambulance Victoria and the dedicated team members, we are very lucky to have this valuable service in our area.

If you feel that you may be interested in becoming part of our team, please call me with any questions. 0425 723 335

~ Ivan Johnston

### Blackwood Crown Reserved Committee of Management

Vic Parks have visited the Caravan Park & Mineral springs giving guidance on new park rules to be addressed, also RACV have given us back a rating after it was lost in 2009. Both of these groups were impressed with the present condition of park thanks to Brad & Jenny.

We have had all storage vans fitted with fire blankets, fire alarms, leads tagged & some new power boxes. We've added new hot water units to the shower block at a cost of \$5800 as the old ones needed replacing. We have bought another on-site van to hire out, & we now have two with microwaves & TV's in each. Signs are being made up & steps are to be taken to stop dumping rubbish & furniture on the heap at the mineral springs. This may not be a dumpers problem but it

becomes a fire problem for Crown Reserves.

The purchase of a new lawn mower for \$5000 has helped in keeping mowing under control at the springs & sports ground.

Thanks to the Dept of Environment & Industry for clearing trees & removal as well as blackberries at the sports ground.

The \$18,000 the sports ground walking track has had top dressing & hours of watering. Thanks to Brian Moore for putting many hours in to achieve all of these things being done, between hirage. We've had cricket games, weddings, gold mining championships & social events each wanting the ground perfect.

Thanks to all the people who have worked around all the groups being in the hall during the re-build of the CFA. We've had CFA, CERT, Progress, Senior Citizens, library, cooking group, meeting groups & social events. We appreciate the understanding & help from everyone. Thanks to CFA & CERT for cleaning the storage room.

Insurances have been paid on all reserves at a cost of \$3900 for 6 months together with costs of SEC, gas & garbage fees for hall, mineral springs, caravan park & sports ground. This all has to be done without finding for our expenses. We find the money from the hirage of all venues & people putting their time & money into helping us keep these venues open as they are town assets & Blackwood has to make sure they stay in Blackwood. These reserves are government owned not council owned.

~ Elizabeth Hall, Secretary

### Blackwood Historical Society

We commenced another year with a very busy Open Day on March 9, with visitors from Queensland, Melton & surrounding districts. We rely on these days for which we have an entry of only \$2 & any books we sell to pay for the upkeep of the building & the safe keeping of history & photos, as well as old items from the past.

Our next open day will be Sunday April 20 from 10.30am til 4pm. All are welcome.

Next meeting is Saturday May 3 at 10.30am. Meetings are held on the 1st Saturday monthly. Enquiries are always welcome from 11.30am on that meeting day.

~ Alan Hall, President

### Blackwood Progress Association.

Thanking Garage Sale Participants. A great Day, \$300 was raised from selling of maps. Thanks to all that helped.

Raffle Winners: 1st Prize Dorothy from Trentham, 2nd Prize to Lyn from Bacchus Marsh

**Sponsors for the Easter Carnival** (as of the March 15, 2014)

Myrniong Sprint Cars, Moorabool Shire Council, IGA Trentham, UFS Dispensary Ballan, Don Nardella,

**Helpers:** Needed for setting up of the Recreation Ground Good Friday April 18,

Also, if you can spare one or two hours on Easter Saturday we would be very grateful for your assistance.

**PARADE** starts at 11am CNR WHALEBONE Road, & MARTIN STREET

**CARNIVAL:** Face Painting, Pony Rides, Animal Farm, Jumping Castle, Historic Display of Yester year mines and todays. Assorted Stalls, Large variety of FOOD stalls. Woodchop, Children's Races, Tug-O-War, enter your pet in the PET COMPETITION \$3.00 entry.

FUNDS FROM THE EASTER CARNIVAL WILL GO TOWARDS HELPING THE BLACKWOOD C.F.A. WITH EXTRA NEEDS FOR THE REFUGE.

COME AND ENJOY A GREAT DAY FUN

For further info contact Judith 5368 6697, Elizabeth 5368 6537 or Lou 5368 6703

~ Lou Henderson, President

### Blackwood Senior Citizens Centre Inc.

No report submitted this issue but I would like to thank the Senior Cits for lending me the toilet chair to use at my daughters wedding for the aged folk. It really was an enormous help.

Also to Brad for returning it to the hall. ~ Editor

~ Blackwood Times editor

## HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

~ by Don Owen

MONTH & YEAR	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall historical average (mm)	Temp monthly min (deg C)	Temp monthly max (deg C)	Temp average daily min (deg C)	Temp average daily min (deg C)	Temp average for month (deg C)
Jan '14	14.2	49.8	3.7	40	27.7	11.8	18.8
Feb '14	15.2	54.4	8.3	39.3	27.6	11.5	18.6

**THE JANUARY** and February rainfalls were much lower than the average which was a worry in the fire season but we were fortunate in that Blackwood and surrounds were virtually fire free. As shown above, both

months were quite warm, with January a whisker warmer overall although there was one particularly low overnight temperature in January.

**NO REPORT** has been submitted by Blackwood CFA or NO REPORT SUBMITTED BY Blackwood/Barry's Reef Landcare

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## HAPPY EASTER FELLA'S

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

Any queries please ring 0419 519 650 Tues to Thurs, or ring Bacchus Marsh library on 5367 2533.

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8 month old Mia is having her first driving lesson. They start young these days! Mia is granddaughter of Karyn and Keith Osborne.

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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

Heinz & Ange welcome you to the

# The Blackwood Hotel

**OPEN: noon til late** (closed Tuesdays)  
**Meals: noon til 2 & 6-8 snacks other times**  
**SUNDAY WINTER DINNER: 5.30-7.30pm**  
Al Fresco dining on the deck - Bar Menu available take-away

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## HEALTH BASICS: LIVER ... EVALUATE & INTEGRATE TRUTHFULLY

by Kathie Strmota



The liver keeps you alive & maintains quality of life, with its many crucial functions, the most wide-spread being chemical management. In a two-phase detoxification process, it transforms everything absorbed by digestion (nutritional & toxic) plus other chemicals, metals & metabolic wastes, into molecules which can be safely used or removed from the body. Under moderate circumstances, the liver does this exquisitely, but when overwhelmed by a continual influx of toxins (chemical food additives, industrial substances, drugs) it can struggle to manage the excess, particularly when its resources are deficient.

A clean, chemical-free diet & lifestyle is best for liver health, reducing toxic load. Set aside medicines only for those times when truly necessary, & apply great moderation with alcohol & other substances. To supply the wide range of nutrients necessary for detox reactions, eat lots of fresh fruit & veg, unprocessed meats, 'good' fats, nuts & whole seeds.

A daily cup of Dandelion tea is an excellent tonic, supporting detox processes & liver, kidney & skin health, for good clean-up all round. Add Fenugreek seed (in tea or curries) to reduce liver sensitivity & improve lymphatic flow. This combo is particularly helpful if you suffer allergies & chemical sensitivities, especially those with stress-related triggers or which worsen when you're run-down. Spirulina, as a dietary supplement, can support liver & immunity, reducing over-sensitive responses.

Liver activity is associated with analysis & transformation, both physically & metaphysically. Just as physical molecules are evaluated & converted for safety & usefulness, so are our life experiences. All we see, hear, & feel must be processed. Is this (experience, information, emotion, attitude) useful & nourishing, or harmful & limiting for me? Am I taking in more or less than I need?

Liver dysfunction suggests that this self-evaluation is not happening in a measured & balanced way. You may engage in experiences & interactions which don't nourish, or are toxic. You may accept information or attitudes which are not true for you & undermine your integrity. Even simply absorbing too much info or having too many new experiences can create overwhelm in your system.

Phrases like 'quality not quantity', 'less is more', & 'all things in

moderation', truly apply here, both for a healthy liver & a high quality life.

Liver transformation of raw product into useful forms provides tools & building blocks for growth, action, & evolution on all levels. Whether pleasant, challenging or traumatic experiences; lessons, insights & emotions; new information & memories ... no input is truly useful unless it is recognised, analysed, converted, & integrated into heart-mind-body, so you can access its nourishment & release associated toxic aspects. When this doesn't occur properly, you can develop unbalanced beliefs & perceptions, energetic blocks, & mental-emotional overload, irritation & sensitivity.

Liver processing revolves around truth - being honest with yourself ... about your strengths, weaknesses, attitudes, beliefs, ideals, morals, motivations, reasons, & failings ... about how you present yourself to the world, & especially about how you see yourself & who you believe you are. Do you accept who you are, as you are? Do you understand your true motivations? Are your expectations unrealistic, leading to disappointment, judgment, criticism & complaining? The more you are able to relate truthfully to yourself & your life, the better will be your physical liver function & quality of life.

Affirmations to support Liver: I look for love & see it everywhere. I courageously seek the truth of myself & my life. I live in exquisite simplicity. I choose only what nourishes my growth & leave aside all else.

**FREE Yoga/Meditation**  
basic introduction

**YOGAZEN BLACKWOOD**  
5 Huggett Lane  
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(next to the caravan park)

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for more info contact Leticia  
m: 0413 585 157 or 5368 6879  
e: yogazenblackwood@gmail.com

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### A FEW WORDS

~ Johann de Jong

I've disappeared of recent times & seldom poke my head above the parapet. However I ran into an old mate the other day (Brendan) & he asked me the sort of question that old mates often ask each other. "What are you doing with yourself these days?", asked Brendan, in the ordinary course of things, & I was hard pressed to offer him an answer. I gave it my best shot, but a question without notice can be an awkward thing & this one left me musing. What the hell am I doing these days? Those who know me will know that I'm always doing something & this something is unlikely to be what I was doing the last time they spoke to me. This is what I'm doing now, & have been for many years, when I stop & properly think about it. I've vanished into my hermit space to do what I've always been doing & what I've always believed I should be doing, which is writing on philosophy, my lifelong passion. "Write something for the Blackwoodians", suggested Brendan, & I sombrely shook my head. What am I to say to these people that I love? (I think Jinny just needed a filler for her wonderful paper, & hats off to Robina for ever getting this thing off the ground, but then I thought Why the hell not?)

Philosophers are our world's great toppers, with all their facile meanings of our deepest inner truths. They speak of love & lust & lies & living & come to big conclusions. There are ethics & morals & logic & wisdom tied into the words of our greatest ancients but these are not the truths of which I write. I write instead on the nature of physical reality & I explore what is real & what is not. There's heavy physics & abstruse mathematics in such a bizarre quest & such an exploration inevitably leads one into dark & lonely places where the hermit is compelled to discover whether he be man or mouse. This discovery can be troublesome because only the bloody obvious lies at the end of such a personal voyage & who amongst us has the balls to confront the elephant in the room? My philosophy is on the nature of space & time & I mess around a lot with metaphysics & ontologies, not the bread & butter of our daily lives, but this is what toppers do & I could certainly be defined as a tosser in a category of his own. However ultimately your only half-decent philosopher is your man of common sense who can anchor himself down in the world of his own experience. This is what I seek to do when I explore the secrets of our universe to uncover what the bloody thing IS.

And where does the ordinary bloke finish up at the end of such a voyage of discovery? He finishes up back where he started & finds all his truths hidden in plain sight. The millions of words uttered by the greatest minds were summarised so succinctly by the truest truth-teller of our times, the immortal John Lennon, whom no assassin could ever slay. Love is all there is. So I haven't got much to say to my fellow Blackwoodians, because the great man beat me to it, but this I know of the truth of time. It passes. Never mind what the physicists are telling us about the past, present & future being on an equal metaphysical footing because this is pure bollocks. Time is real & time passes & our vanishing hair & missing teeth are all the evidence we need. Our personal existence resides only in the moment Now & our moments Now are a finite quantity & therefore we must use them wisely. As a godless heathen I have no eternal reward to safeguard my immortality so I've gotta make do with what I've got, & what I've got is plenty. I love & I am loved & the wisdom of Geoff Fenech is good enough for me. When he said "I love you's all" he spoke for all humanity & he spoke most particularly to the community of friends we share.

It mightn't seem like much of a result for a wordsmith to pass off as a lifetime's effort but I'm sorta kinda pleased with it. It means I have a home.

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### HISTORIC MYRNIONG CAR SPRINT

The Myrniong Sprint is an annual Myrniong community event with proceeds on the day from the gate & catering going toward Myrniong Hall restoration. Now in it's 12th year, Myrniong Historic Car Sprint continues to grow in popularity. A relaxed atmosphere, quality cars and ample spectator viewing promise an enjoyable day for competitors & enthusiasts alike.

The 850 metre sprint, rising 60 metres, has a level start, rising to a slight crest, rising to a steep uphill right curve, followed by a crest turning left, down a dip and rising to the finish line. This annual event for vintage & historic cars is staged on a 850 metre closed section of Korobeit Road, Myrniong.

The race entry of some 100 cars will include racing, sports & touring cars made between 1920 & 1975. This year the event will be held on Sunday April 13. Racing starts at 9.15am & finishes at 4.00pm. This is a community fundraising event, with gate proceeds going to support the Myrniong Hall restoration. Catering by the Myrniong Hall committee & friends will be available. Spectator entry is \$10 (adult), children free.

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## MURDER IN BLACKWOOD – THE SHOOTING OF THE LOCAL MINISTER: MURDER, MADNESS AND MANIA



**BY MARGOT HITCHCOCK HISTORIAN FOR THE BLACKWOOD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

I've been working for some years on another book soon to go to the printers, after I've finish doing the index. The book is about a tragedy that happened in Blackwood of 'Murder, Madness & Mania.'

If all goes to plan then The Blackwood & District Historical Society hope to have the book launch on Easter Sunday morning at the Blackwood Historical Society Museum which will be open to the public.

The story is one of the biggest tragedies that ever happened in Blackwood, which took place on June 19 1908. Events leading to this incident involved a man, his wife, the local preacher, the local policeman, the bible, some guns, an axe & a deranged woman & some of the people of Blackwood.

The information in the book is taken from a scrap book & newspaper reports, official records including inquest & asylum records.

In June 1908 the Stipendiary Lay Reader was Harold Gamil Robinson, born in Lancashire in 1865. He was studying for his final exams before being ordained. He & his wife lived in the Vicarage at Blackwood, next to All Saints Church.

William Torrington Pincombe (Billy) was born in Devon, England in 1861, & his sister Gertrude Mary Pincombe was born in Blackwood, in 1863. Their father John was a miner in Blackwood.

Billy Pincombe was married in Jan 1906 to Annie Morrish & they had a son in late 1906. They lived in a house opposite the Parsonage. Billy was a miner & an active member of the Blackwood Rifle Club.

Billy's wife, Annie Pincombe, developed some kind of religious mania; she took the sentence in the Bible 'If thy right hand offend thee, cut it off', quite literally, & in November 1906 she got an axe & chopped off her right hand. She was taken to the Kyneton Hospital & later admitted to the Sunbury Mental Institution. Her husband, somehow felt the Church's representative in Blackwood was responsible. He evidently took it into his head that he had to take the life of the minister. On Friday 19th June 1908, Mr. Robinson was walking on his veranda studying a theological book. Billy Pincombe had a clear view from his window; he took his 303 rifle and, lying on a wire mattress he shot Harold Robinson, the shot passing through the book, & went directly into his heart & he died shortly after. Mrs Robinson was in her kitchen; she heard the shot, rushed out & found her husband moaning & bleeding. She quickly sought help from her neighbours. Constable



Grave of Harold G. Robinson in Blackwood Cemetery with tombstone erected by his wife Harriet R Robinson.

reads - 'In Memory of my loved husband, Harold Gamil Robinson, Stipendiary Reader, Suddenly shot at Blackwood Parsonage, 19th June 1908, age 44 yrs.' Photo courtesy of Margot Hitchcock, 2008.

Saunders was called & they all went to the Parsonage, where they found Robinson had died of his wounds & carried his body into the house.

Mounted Constable Charles T. Saunders had been a member of the Victoria Police Force for 18 years & had been stationed in Blackwood for 4 years. He took his revolver with him that day 'as a precaution', & went over to Pincombe's house, closely followed by his son Charlie, aged 20. Pincombe unlocked the door when Saunders knocked & the policeman spoke to Billy. Charlie heard two shots in quick succession, rushed in & found Pincombe slumped in the doorway, wounded in the head, his father standing with a smoking revolver in his hand. Pincombe's bullet from his rifle left a powder mark on Saunderson's shoulder which had passed through his overcoat. William Pincombe was shot in the face by the revolver the policeman was armed with & was taken to the Blackwood Police Station & placed on a bed in a jail cell. He never recovered consciousness & died there six days later.

The book the minister was reading with the bullet hole through it, has since been discovered & now in the safe keeping of All Saints church. According to his wife, Robinson had been reading the meaning of the "quick & the dead - He doth judge both, giving each their due reward."

Read more of this 175 page book, with some interesting photos & information. It will be available over Easter in Blackwood or through my web page - [www.blackwoodpublishing.com](http://www.blackwoodpublishing.com).

**A NEW PUBLICATION BY MARGOT HITCHCOCK**  
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information would be greatly appreciated by a PhD student from Latrobe University who is currently researching the Royal Mail as part of a thesis. All information received will be fully referenced to the provider & only used with the informants written permission, & not disclosed to other parties.

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### THE GARNETTS & ST EARTH

Following is part 3 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).

For ten years we were the official recorders of rain for Blackwood, & ten years was also the time it took for Tom to research & write his major book, 'Man of Roses', the life of Alister Clark, a famous breeder of roses & daffodils. Earlier a collection of articles from The Age had been published, called 'Stumbling on Melons', with the first published illustrations of now well-known botanical artist, Jenny Philips.

There were other books, one on Climate zones for gardeners, one an autobiography, 'The Evolution of a Gardener, so titled in homage to Russell Page's 'The Education of a Gardener' which he considered the greatest book on gardening he ever read.

Of course we did not make this garden on our own; many people helped over the years; I can think of Ian, Mark, Jill, Philip Sweet, Johan, who was a wizard with machinery [Tom was not mechanically minded!] Ken, Oliver, Chris, who sat in the gatehouse on Sundays, & others, who came & went, but above all Helen, who came & stayed, Helen became an expert at identifying plants, who engraved hundreds of labels when it rained, Helen got married & had a baby, but a week later it was Daffodil Day, & Helen was there, bringing Mum to look after young Rob.

Tommy had a number of maxims. One was, 'No garden can be run by a committee'. Another was, 'Wherever you go, take a book'.

(Mine was, 'People don't pay to look at weeds', or sometimes, 'While there is light there is work'). So I was in charge of the Herb garden, the fruit & vegetables, spraying the lawns for broad-leaved weeds & slashing bracken in the Bush Garden, I slashed a lot of bracken.....Helen was in charge of the nursery & the labels, & Tom of the planning & taking cuttings, & the business side of things - & of course we all did other jobs, lots & lots of weeding & shredding for the compost heaps.

I also did a part-time Diploma of Community Welfare & worked at the Citizens Advice Bureau in Ballarat. I joined a weekly walking group, & that was my day off, I organised an annual house-to-house collection for

Red Cross & was first treasurer, then secretary of the Progress Association. That was a time of great activity when Jack Rayner was President; we got a house built for the caretaker at the Mineral Springs & hot showers at the caravan park, & the new tennis courts. There were a lot of working bees in those days.

Some of the family came to live here. First Malcolm & his wife Jan, lived in the old house, & had two children, & worked in Ballarat; then we bought some old cottages just up the hill from Bertie Oliver & Stephen & Gay built a house & had two children. He edited a science journal & worked a lot in the garden & also took charge when we went overseas. Then Tom's sister, Dinah, retired from nursing in England, came to join us & built Kookaburra Cottage, so for a while there were 11 of us here. The boys helped start the Playgroup & build the playground & organised a Montisori school at the Hall. There was a cottage on one of the school blocks, which they called St Ives 'because it was near St Erth' which Malcolm & Jan ran as a Bed & Breakfast, & later there were some very unsatisfactory tenants.

There were many visits from children & grandchildren; they may remember games of cricket or sardines, what they may remember most is shelling huge quantities of peas & picking & eating raspberries. We picked every day from Dec 18 for weeks, from a large cage below the herb garden.

It was Tom who suggested making walkin walking tracks along the old water races, & personally constructed one which went down into the opencut mine, along the bottom, through a short tunnel & down & along Back Creek, finally up a steep track to Baldy's Hut. While doing this he found the brick supports of a water wheel & the foundation of a bridge which had led across to the Gribble property. He also found a cleared patch with four marijuana plants! On most Saturdays he could be found in the potting shed next the greenhouse, checking the cuttings & listening to the races, although he never placed a bet.

Don Burke did a program on the garden, & in his interview I remember Tom saying, 'People say "What a lot of work, what a lot of work" ... but it isn't work if you enjoy it'.

~ to be continued next issue



### • SLAINTE ... SCALLYWAGS ON ST PATS DAY •



top: Deidre & sister start the day with a Guinness; top right: An awesome St Pats day at the Pig & Whistle with pints, trad music and craic; right: the girls at Blackwood Hotel:



"the great day and the druidful day come San Patrisky and the grand day, the excellent fine splendorous long agreeable toastworthy cylindrical day that's told in the Bok of Alam to columhkill all the prefacies of Erin gone brugk." (Finnegans Wake, by James Joyce.)



### • WHO'S TATTS THAT? •

#### A BLACKWOOD QUIZ

Why don't you email your tattoo to editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au



A: Clint Stretton



A: Monica Darven

# BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT PROBLEM WEEDS

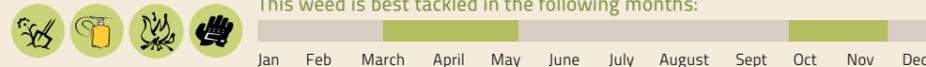
## Radiata Pine (PINUS RADIATA)

Weed 8/9

- STATUS:** Undeclared Weed.
- STEMS:** Grows to 40m, with dark grey deeply ridged bark. It has a strong pine fragrance, and the whole tree is resinous and sticky.
- LEAVES:** Leaves are soft dark green twisted needles, growing in groups of three. New shoots grow vertically at first ('candles').
- FLOWERS:** Inconspicuous small flowering cones which may take two to three years to mature.
- FRUIT / SEED:** Winged paper thin seeds are contained in oval pine cones, 8-14cm long.
- INVADES:** Native forests flanking softwood plantations, heathland, woodland, forests and riparian vegetation.
- DISPERSAL:** Vegetatively and wind.
- CONTROL:** Hand pulling, chemical spraying, cut and paint or burning.



This weed is best tackled in the following months:



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



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### WOMBAT BOOK CLUB

Blackwood Book Club meets at 3pm at either the Blackwood Hotel or the Blackwood Merchant on the first Sunday of every month. New members are welcome and it costs no money to join. To take part you can borrow a book from the group via the Central Highlands Library (for a refundable deposit of \$30) - some members have their own books or download on their kindle. We read a range of books as you can see below. Here's the when, where and what we're discussing for 2014. Need more info? call Margaret 5368 6858.

Date	Venue	Book to discuss
Apr 6	Pub	The Paris Wife by Paula McLain
May 4	Merchant	100 Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
June 1	Pub	Breakfast at Tiffany's by Truman Capote
July 6	Merchant	Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History by Art Spiegelman
Aug 3	Pub	Minimum of Two by Tim Winton
Sept 7	Merchant	Runaway by Alice Munro
Oct 5	Pub	Life & Times of a She Devil by Fay Weldon
Nov 2	Merchant	Tears of the Moon by Di Morrissey
Dec 7	Pub	The Girl With a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier
Summer Read		Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden

### REVIEWS

**March: To Kill a Mockingbird**  
**Author: Lee, Harper**  
**Published by: Vintage classics 2004**  
**(first published 1960)**  
**ISBN: 9780099466734**



**Margaret:** I first read To Kill a Mockingbird at high school - it's still on the school curriculum - it was a real delight to enter this world again. Harper Lee's writing is vivid and I found it really easy to hear the southern lilt as well as understand the character's motives. This time I looked for the many smaller stories within the main story - stories such as Jem reading under duress to the grumpy widow without knowing that he was helping her withdrawing from morphine, the sweet reverse of justice of Calpurnia taking the white children to her all black church, the tenderness of the scary Boo Radley. The ongoing dislike of school for strong-headed Scout. The ending with its twists and turns still surprises me. I very much enjoyed reading this.

4.5 wombies

**Brenda:** I enjoyed re-reading this classic story of simmering racism in a small town in Alabama. Told through the eyes of a young girl, it shows how hatred can be overcome by the enlightened reasoning of a loving father who allows her to reach her own conclusions. Schools could do well to re-introduce this book to the curriculum as the lessons are still relevant.

4.5 wombies

**Nicola:** To Kill a Mockingbird is so deservedly a classic. It is an unusual but beautifully-written novel that tackles the issue of race and prejudice in post-civil war Alabama cleverly and with grace. I remember reading it when I was about 9 (the age of Scout, the main character). I loved it then and really related to Scout and many of the other characters. Reading it at 30 didn't change that. I think this is a fantastic book that everyone should read at least once in their life - especially living in a place like Blackwood, it discusses some small-town issues that I'm sure we've all encountered in one form or another!

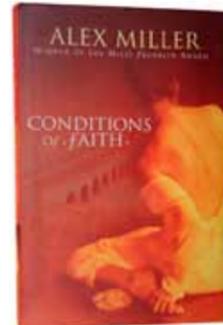
5 wombies!

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



The book wombies chat after the meeting...

**February: Conditions of Faith**  
**Author: Alex Miller**  
**Published by Scribner Book Company, 2000**  
**ISBN: 9780684869353**



**Anne:** Alex Miller can certainly describe a place with a real feel. You could just about taste the hot sand in your mouth in Tunisia, the air of excitement in Paris, the cold, dark, dank air of the underground passages of the Cathedral where Emily became lost and the silent, somber mood of Georges childhood family home inhabited for so long by his elderly mother and aunt. The character of Emily annoyed me intensely but then maybe that was the point or was that the outcome of a male writing a female's story? I couldn't connect realistically with any decisions she made.



3.5 wombies

**Brenda:** It was hard to believe this book was written by a man, with such emotional insights into a woman's feelings. I became bored by the engineering story of the rather colourless husband and found the life-changing meeting with a priest badly explained. Nevertheless this was an intriguing slice of life in the 1920's in Australia, Paris and Tunisia.

3 ¼ wombies

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### Dear Pet Guru,

*My blue goldfish is growing at an alarming rate. What do you suggest?*



As there is no such thing as a blue goldfish & in view of the alarming growth I can only imagine that what you have in your bowl is a young blue whale. When fully grown, this is the largest creature on the planet so I suggest you empty him into the sea before he outgrows your bowl, your room, your house & very possibly your suburb. respectfully P.G.

### EVENTS & GIGS • EVENTS & GIGS

#### APRIL 2014

when	what	where
Sun 6	Jarrod Shaw	Cosmo
Sun 13	Historic Myrning Car Sprint	Myrning
Sun 13	Sarah Wilkinson	Cosmo
Fri 18	Bunny Night	Blackwood Merchant
Sat 19	Blackwood Woodchop & Carnival	Blackwood
Thur 17	Trentham Art Show Opening night	Trentham
Fri 18 - Mon 21	Trentham Art Show	Trentham
Sun 20	Blackwood Historical Society Open Day	Blackwood
Sun 20	Family Farm	Cosmo
Fri 25-Sun 4	Harvest Week Festival	regional
Sun 27	King Maxwell	Cosmo

#### MAY 2014

when	what	where
Sat 3	The Great Trentham Spud Fest	Trentham

### BLACKWOOLS



**MICHAELA THE** Maltese Terrier/ King Charles Spaniel is 1 ½ years old. Her best mate, Henry, is 90 years her senior. A bit of a gulf really, even in Dog Years. Does it pose a problem to the two? Hardly. They understand each other perfectly and are utterly devoted.

**MICHAELA KEEPS** a constant and protective eye on her

old mate and, at night, Henry arranges her bed at the end of his. When they're out together in the ute, she sits on the back ledge and yells to the other dogs to clear off, especially you big ones.

**MICHAELA LOVES** yelling at big dogs if Henry is there to back her up. She'll steal other dogs' bones to give to Henry and he often finds them tucked safely under his pillow.

**WHEN HENRY** is playing with his noisy building tools, Michaela is happy to hang around and keep an eye out. She's decided, though, that the flashy welder should be run from and the vacuum cleaner must always be attacked.



Phil's got firewood for sale from bags to metres



### TASSIE TALES

Hello everyone,  
Well, I am looking forward to Easter & catching up with our cousins! My grandkids reckon it's not fair that I go away for Easter, because they don't get to do all the fun stuff as I'm not there being Silly Bunny! Well they still do the bouncing egg run, & the eggs "falling from the sky" & the hunt for little eggs, except it's a week before, but this year I won't be here then either! They are asking when can they come with me to the magic place in the hills? But it wouldn't be secret then! You can imagine the tall stories I've told them about my time spent up there, (very tall !!) ...the Kookaburras that ate out of our hands; the deep dark hole in the hill where milk was kept; & the old log bridge over the river that I fell through & was dangling until my Uncle Charlie rescued me; the big holes that went ... all the way back to China, we kept right away from there; the freezing cold washes each morning that really woke us up quick smart; & not to forget the dunny down the back, where giant spiders lived! All very strange to today's kids! Most of their scary things are found by pressing buttons, & the toilet is inside the house, with a light. Ahh, the good old days!

It has been very hot & dry here & we have had a snake invasion, lots of tracks across the yard! Mum, Dad, kids & scary Grandad too. A very wide track, a bit close for comfort! We just let them have right of way, they'll soon be going back to sleep, till next year. We are, after all, living in their back yard. I tell the kids just leave them alone & they will not bother you, I hope! I am in my 70's & have had quite a few close encounters over the years, but never really threatened, yet, lately I look very carefully when I go to hang out the washing. My line seems to be the crossing point for them, I guess it's exactly what they like, a nice warm open flat area in the sun. I remember walking back to Nana's place with Uncle Charlie one moonlight night, with the hurricane lamp. He kicked a long wide bit of bark from across the track. Yikes! not bark! Somehow I've never been afraid of snakes. Now

### WHO DAT HOUSE?



Our house is called "Tigh na COILTE" which means house in the trees in Irish.

spiders, that's another (tall story) but basically true, ..and cows! They used to pop out in front of me all over the place, I don't know why but I was terrified of them! I would just freeze, & stand & cry until it moved away. In later years, when we went bush I had to learn to milk a cow. Strangely I found it a most pleasant experience, lots easier than splitting wood or digging spuds by hand (with a fork, that is).

Even so I am not doing those things any more. It's enough of a days work keeping the garden under control. This is where I need to be. The last few days I've been out of action, why is it that a job that once would have been a couple of hours work suddenly turned into a whole morning's work? And a crook back, with pulled muscles & then do nothing for a week or more, no sympathy, either, just "will you never learn?" It's just that I like to finish a job!

Well that's it from Tassie for now, we've had a couple of days cool & a spot of rain & wind. I just looked out & the trees are turning. The ground will soon be covered with scarlet & gold & the silver-backed leaves of the elms. Autumn is a stunningly beautiful time here ..although every season has its own beauty. So, until next time, when it will be winter, cheers from TASSIE.

~ Bev Cooper



Major Tatchell in Blackwood

### Black spot BLACKWOOD

Central Highlands Councils has provided a submission into the Federal Government's \$100 million Mobile Black spot Programme to improve mobile phone coverage in regional & remote areas.

Central Highlands Mayors & CEO's Forum Chair, Cr Paul Hooper, said the Forum has identified Regional Telecommunications Services as one of its four key priorities for the region.

"We understand how important adequate mobile phone service is to our businesses, our tourism industry & more importantly the safety of our people & communities," Cr Hooper said.

"The communities in which we work, live & operate, have expressed their frustration with the many pockets of mobile phone black spots scattered throughout our region.

"Over the past 12 months we have worked tirelessly in lobbying the Federal Government & Opposition in improving the telecommunications services in regional areas."

Central Highlands Mayors & CEO Forum includes representatives from Ararat Rural City Council, Central Goldfields Shire Council, City of Ballarat, Golden Plains Shire Council, Hepburn Shire Council, Moorabool Shire Council, Northern Grampians Shire Council & Pyrenees Shire Council. The Forum's primary responsibility is to provide strategic oversight & identify emerging issues & priorities for the region.

Cr Hooper said a portion of this funding will be allocated to locations that are prone to experiencing natural disasters.

"Unfortunately our region has experienced a number of natural disasters in the last few years including fires in Dereel, Halls Gap & Muskvale & flooding in the Pyrenees region.

"Funding will also be provided to improving mobile phone coverage along major transport routes. We will continue to lobby so that funding will be allocated to the Western Highway the main thoroughfare between Melbourne & Adelaide."

Cr Hooper said the Forum will continue to work with all parties & develop partnerships to ensure adequate mobile phone services are secured.

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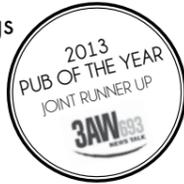
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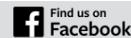
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### • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

DEAR EDITOR,

**IF PEOPLE** have issues about something in the town, by all means do what you want to do but don't say you are representing the people as you are not.

**I HAVE** my own voice to speak with & don't need people trying to speak for me.

~ Barb Henderson

**IT HAS** been brought to Heinz & my attention that people in town are not happy with the way the Post Office is being run. I am very disappointed as we are running the post office for the people who live in Blackwood & would like this to continue so that the town does not lose another useful asset.

~ Ange & Heinz

DEAR EDITOR,

**I FEEL** compelled to write in about a complaint from a resident to Australia Post regarding the way the Blackwood Post Office is run. Apparently this resident claims to be speaking "on behalf, or for" residents in Blackwood. Complaining about the practices and how, when you go in, nobody is around.

**I CAN** certainly say that this person does not speak on behalf of Bruce and Lynda Henry (or lots of other residents in Blackwood).

**IT WAS** not that long ago that we nearly did not have a Post Office in Blackwood at all. That would have meant we would have had to drive to Trentham to collect the mail. We are very grateful to Heinz and Ange for setting up the Post Office in the hotel and we certainly have had no trouble getting our mail.

~ Lynda Henry

DEAR EDITOR.

**MY NAME** is Judy Piedrahita (née Lay). I was Miss Electricity back in 1961. I do still have the Sash & Crown.

**I HAVE** been living in Blackwood for the last 11 years full time full & have been associated with the town since 1956. My Uncle Graham Cox was responsible for bringing electricity to this town.

~ Judy Piedrahita

Hi Judy, thanks so much for contacting us, I'd love to have a story with photos about your memories of that time. ~ed

Wine is curious stuff. Unlike beer, baked beans, B.H.P. shares, old porcelain or anything else that people drink, manufacture, invest in or collect, wine has a birth, a childhood, a maturity, a senility & a death. It can be pretty or ugly, subtle or coarse, complex or obvious, brash or backward. It changes every year you keep it, every vintage, every few hundred yards or vineyard, with every different grape variety from which it is made, every time a new wine maker is employed (or every time an old wine maker tries new tricks), & every time a different food accompaniment emphasises a specific component of its taste. It beguiles, intoxicates, soothes, excites & relaxes. It can inflame the young lover & provide solace for his grandfather; it can render conversation unnecessary, & yet seduce a wine writer into a kind of intemperate verbal excesses such as this paragraph. It is an essential ingredient of life, as complex as life, & as varying as humanity.

~ from the introduction of the 25th edition (2008) Australian Wine Vintages by Robin Bradley.

DEAR JINNY,

**CONGRATS ON** another charming and informative BT. I was reading through the bits and pieces, and saw the small article from the new CERT leader, Ivan. Anyway, in the article he thanks the old CERT crew, and some of the new crew, but he left a name off that list... Johnny Kesselschmidt! Johnny's been doing his bit for CERT for years now, and would probably be a bit hurt that he was left out. I certainly was! Can Ivan, or you, make sure Johnny gets some kind of thanks in the next issue?

**THANKS DARLIN'.** It was great to see you and Brendan yesterday at the Bluegrass Academy.

~ Lauren Williams

GOODAY JINNY,

**RECENTLY WHILST** on a visit to St Erth with our Probus Club some of us took your Blackwood Times, I realized we should have paid for them, hence the enclosed cheque. A wonderful community magazine, I enjoyed reading it.

**CHEERS & Best Wishes**

~ J Frances

DEAR EDITOR,

**TELSTRA: FIX** your customer service and fix your processes. Each hurdle I encountered resulted in me joining the back of another queue and moving further away from moving to Telstra providing what I was promised. - Sign the Petition!

**PLEASE JOIN** this campaign: <http://chn.ge/1hB4qGy>

Scott Unstad

## BLACKWOOD TIMES GOES TO ... NEW ZEALAND!



Enjoying a break with Blackwood Times on the Routeburn Track, South Island, NZ. L-R: Peter (UK), Matty (NZ), Sue (Blackwood), Jim (NSW), Lynsey (Scotland), Stephen (NSW), Gill (Canada) & Jerry (USA).

From the Blackwood Times: I would have loved to have a close-up but the view was just too good!

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F	w195 X h160mm	\$160.00	\$192.00
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Daylesford Macedon Produce Festival is a celebration of harvest - a practice dating back to a time when the success of local crops dictated the lives of people & whole communities. Celebrate with us.

Taste your way around the region with regional tasting plates & their matched local tipples. Visit farm gates & cellar doors for Harvest 'specials' or shop with the locals at farmer's markets. Join us at forums on sustainable communities, special winemaker and chef's dinners & classes in everything from composting, preserving to bread making.

As you travel across this beautiful region, keep a look out for our Daylesford Macedon Produce farm gate sign. There you'll meet the passionate locals who care about issues of sustainability & are committed to growing, producing & serving excellent local food & wine.

At varying venues throughout the Daylesford Macedon Ranges Region for more info: <http://dmproduce.com.au/harvest-week-festival-2.html>



**TRENTHAM GOES KUKI**

The Bridger family have returned to retail with the opening of their new Trentham shop, Kuki. Blackwood sisters, Sharon & Debbie, with more than a little help from parents, Rob & Jenny, are showcasing the work of many Blackwood & Trentham locals, including: Greg Cassidy (outdoor sculpture), Rebecca & Naten (Belgique furniture). Lisa Perry (ceramics), Francis Jones (woodwork/furniture) & Michael Woodbury (industrial furniture).

The shop is open 7 days-a-week & stocks a large & evolving range of gifts, jewellery & clothing with an eye to the local customer.

A health clinic also operates from the premises & offers the services of 3 Blackwood & Trentham therapists:

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**AN HISTORICAL FILM**

At the March meeting of the Macedon Ranges Film Society, the audience was entertained by the clever writing in the film *The History Boys*. Based on a play by Alan Bennett, the film stars Richard Griffiths as the redoubtable character Hector, the General Studies teacher at a fictional Grammar school. The film centres around the education of eight young male students, all vying for acceptance at Oxbridge. The boys need a little polish before entering such august institutions & Hector, with a good blend of wit & gravitas, goes all out to achieve the best he can for his boys. The resultant film is fast-paced & witty with some deep insights.

On Wednesday, April 9, a 2007 Israeli film will be screened. The Band's Visit, directed by Eran Kolirin, won eight Israeli Ophir prizes awarded by the Israeli Film Academy. The plot involves the arrival from Egypt of the Alexandria Ceremonial Police Orchestra, consisting of eight men. They have been booked by an Arab cultural centre but through a miscommunication, the band takes a bus to a town in the desert. Here, they must face the challenges as they arise.

The Macedon Ranges Film Society meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Woodend Community Centre. Film notes are provided & for those who wish, there is supper, kindly supplied by members, following the screening. Enquiries about membership must first be made by visiting the website - mrfilmsociety@gmail.com - or by phoning Christine on 5429 5452 or Lorraine on 5427 0921.

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Early entries from artists are offering some new & interesting ideas (someone is entering a sugar sculpture!....goes well with coffee!?)..... come & see this year's offerings!

We are pleased to announce that a grant from Trentham & Districts Community Bank®, added to last year's funds, has enabled the production of new display stands for all the amazing works that are entered.

There will be a raffle this year with the major prize being a work from David Bryant (a well-known local artist).....he's often "scene but not herd?" yep he was all about cows in the past, it's still a surprise this year!

The Annual Show will be held over Easter from, Fri April 18 to Sun April 21, 10am to 4pm, & on Mon 21 from 10am to 3pm. The venue is once again the Trentham Mechanics Institute Hall, High St, Trentham. Opening night will be Thurs April 17, when the awards will be announced & presented. Works will be available for sale from 7.30pm, along with wine & a delicious supper (\$15 per person) All welcome!

Entry enq: Dorothy Hancock 5424 1813 tawnyfrogmouth@hotmail.com  
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DAYLESFORD FARMERS 9am-1pm D'ford PS	CASTLEMAINE ARTIST MARKET 10am-3pm (not Jan) Theater Royal	BALLAN FARMERS 9am-1pm Mill Cottage	MALMSBURY VILLAGE MARKET 9am-3pm (Sept-May) Gardens	RIDDELLS CREEK FARMERS 9am-3pm (not Dec) PS	TALBOT FARMERS 9am-1pm Scandanavian Cres	LANCEFIELD & DIST FARMERS MARKET 9am-1pm High St	LANCEFIELD/ROMSEY LIONS 8am-2.30pm (not Jan, Jun, Jul) Main St
DAYLESFORD MAKERS 10am-3pm Town Hall	CASTLEMAINE FARMERS 9am-1pm Mostlyn St			DARLEY MARKET 8am-1pm Gisborne/Grey St Darley	WOODEND 9am-3pm High St	BALLARAT LAKESIDE 9-1pm	TRENTHAM SUNDAY MARKET 9am-2pm Victoria St
TRENTHAM INDOOR 9.30am-1.30 TNH Centre	GISBORNE OLDE TIME MARKET 9am-2pm Hamilton & Aitken			TRENTHAM FARMERS 9am-1pm Town Square			
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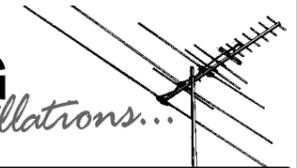
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**\$475,000**



**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 2,327sqm of terraced gardens.

**\$305,000**



**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**      **34 Martin St**

In the heart of Blackwood. Around a quarter acre on the main Street. 20's style cottage comprising two bedrooms. On elevated block.

**\$260,000**



**BLACKWOOD**      **35 Bates Rd**

Beautifully kept one bedroom cottage. Fully renovated and set in manicured garden. Great corner site with valley views. Light filled living spaces and good storage.

**\$235,000**



**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**



**BLACKWOOD**  
**12 Recreation Reserve**

Shed, 6m X 12m, with permit on 1,806 sm. With slow combustion heater and generator. Land contains good tanking, fruit trees and access to river. Suit weekenders with bikes or 4wd's. Build home STCA.

**\$148,000**



**NEWBURY**      **564 Trentham Rd**

Old Newbury Post office. On around half an acre. Backing on to Blue Creek. 1920's style home with three bedrooms, separate lounge, large family kitchen, entrance hall, utility room, lots of old sheds and classic plantings from the original garden.

**\$325,000**



**BLACKWOOD**      **8 Recreation Reserve**

Cute cottage on around 824 square metres. Two bedrooms, kitchen/dining, separate lounge, garage. Short walk to main street shops. Great first home opportunity.

**\$230,000**

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