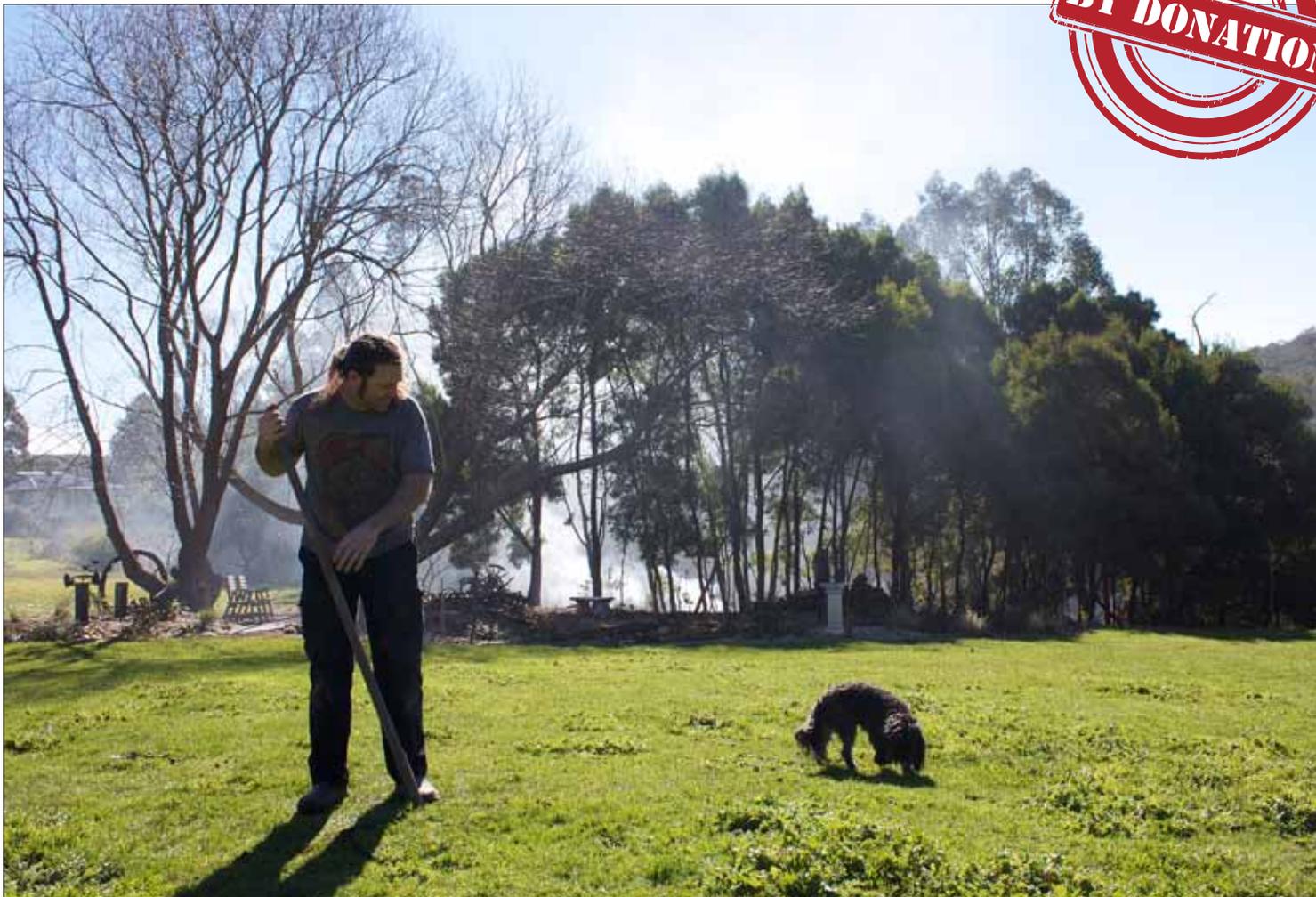


**THE BLACKWOOD TIMES**

*August September '14 vol 6 ~ issue 7:1*



*TOP: Greg says "Spring is on its way". He's taking advantage of decent weather to burn-off & put in a tree or two, while Max is eating roo poo!*

*LEFT: ENGAGED The debate was willing at the public meeting on June 26 at Blackwood Hotel. Owen Byers talks to representatives from Central Highlands Water about problems he has had with building on his land in Blackwood.*

*RIGHT: Bollywood pizza? night at the Blackwood Merchant.*





### EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

Well hello!

As I write this, there is a healthy wind blowing outside while the sun shines on the bush, reminding me that there is an end to winter. Although I adore to sit by the open fire in the evening, I find by this time of the year I am tired of the cold & wet. Bring on spring!

With few services available in our town, Blackwood has to be pretty self-sufficient. In the 25 years we have lived here, if we wanted something, we would start it up – the School Holiday Program, Blackwood Promotions, a monthly market, kindergarten & playgroups. All these groups have been served by local volunteers & it's these groups which keep our vibrant, little town running. We have a number of local girls undergoing their CERT training, but there is always room for new members, so on p6 CERT invites expressions of interest for an information night. Landcare discusses a generational change with a meeting scheduled for August 23 to elect a new committee.

Last month I asked if anyone knew of a chimney sweep who would like to advertise &, guess what??? We now have one - see DDIY (Don't Do It Yourself - love it!) on p23. I'd still like to hear from a cleaner, mechanic, masseur & health professionals who might like to let Blackwoodians know about their services.

Our next issue will take in the racing season which Blackwoodians love celebrating. As a venue, do you have any race season events planned? We'd love to hear about gigs or events you have planned. Please send me info about any October or November gigs or events so we can add them to the gig guide.

I love the way people are starting to send me their histories, photos, memories & stories. When you cook up Jen's recipes, upload a photo to our facebook page ... [www.facebook.com/theblackwoodtimes](http://www.facebook.com/theblackwoodtimes).

Your articles really make this a community paper. Please keep 'em coming & have a great couple of months!

~ Jinny Coyle

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Blackwood's profile was raised considerably with the public meeting of June 26, convened by the Blackwood Action Group. Attending were our 3 candidates from the upcoming state election who spoke on the town's building issues (p2), as well as about 8 representatives from the Moorabool Shire, who spoke on their new Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (<http://haveyoursaymoorabool.com.au/draft-domestic-wastewater-management-plan>), speakers from 2 water boards & the Fire Services Commissioner's office. Helen Tatchell, from Moorabool News, covered the meeting in an excellent article (<http://www.theblackwoodtimes.com.au/action-group>).

Speaking also was Kate Cotter, the inspirational founder of BMO Victims, & its successful campaign to return the Bushfire Management Overlay to some fairness, reason & commonsense. The campaign grew from her advocating for her parents, who were told they couldn't build, to representing a further 7,000 land-owners. Changes (in line with her campaign's recommendation) are due to be introduced by the State Government as we go to press (p13)

At the end of the night, no-one was left in any doubt of Blackwood's resolve to fight for individual property rights and, indeed, its own survival.

Blackwood Action Group continues to develop relationships with all relevant agencies & is taking advantage of this election year to lobby both government & opposition & raise our media profile. A quick solution to our building problems is unlikely & so the Action Group urges you to stick with us on this campaign; we will get there (see The Blackwood Action Group website <http://theblackwoodtimes.com.au/action-group>)

Since the public meeting, we have met Western Water representatives, who have assured us that they never have & never will deny replacement of a dwelling in Blackwood. If your home burns down then you'll need some good news, & that's it.

The bad news hasn't changed: Western Water will not consider on-site wastewater management of any sort for new dwellings in Blackwood, while the Water Minister, Peter Walsh, wrote to the Action Group recently, declaring sewerage for the town a definite no-go. Oh dear, now there's a problem.

Still, "one problem down, one to go", we say.

~BH



TOP: r-l Mayor Paul Tatchell, Cr Pat Toohey, Labor Candidate Mary-Anne Thomas, Central Highlands Water's Dave Clement & Blackwood Action Group Brendan Hehir listen to Blackwood Action Group's presentation on Wastewater Management solutions.

ABOVE: State Liberal candidate, Donna Petrovich (right)with locals at the public meeting

Mary-Anne Thomas, Labor candidate for Macedon

### A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR BLACKWOOD



Over the course of this year, it has been my pleasure to attend the opening of the Blackwood Fire Refuge, the Blackwood Easter Carnival & the Blackwood Action Group Public Forum and, at each of these events, I have been struck by the strength of community & commitment by the residents of Blackwood to a strong & prosperous future for the town.

With an official population of just under 300 today, it's a far cry from the 13,000 prospectors living in Blackwood back in 1855 however, if a town's future is to be measured by community commitment, then the future for Blackwood is very bright.

I grew up in a small farming community, Sandy Creek, which is near Tallangatta, so I understand the challenges faced by small towns like Blackwood but I also know their strengths & it would be my privilege to be your elected representative in the Victorian Parliament.

#### Can we build yet?

In June, I attended the public forum conducted by the Blackwood Action Group to discuss the key issues of concern to Blackwood residents.

These issues are the highly restrictive building codes implemented by the Napthine Liberal Government & the ongoing challenge of sewerage the town.

Labor first delivered the commitment to sewer Blackwood & provided the funding for Central Highlands Water (CHW) to deliver on the project. CHW has completed the other towns it was directed to sewer & only has Blackwood to go. I completely understand the frustration felt by residents – you have waited long enough!

Both CHW & the EPA report through to DEPI Ministers Peter Walsh, Minister for Water & Ryan Smith, Minister for the Environment. The current Liberal Government has allowed this issue to slide for too long & strong leadership is now needed to deliver a sewage solution for Blackwood.

With regards to being granted permission to build in the town, I find it distressing to hear your stories of land rendered worthless & dreams left unfulfilled because of the Government's botched handling of the new building codes introduced following the Black Saturday Royal Commission. The Government's own Red Tape Commissioner reported to Government in October 2013 on the crisis to come &, despite having had the report now for 9 months, the Planning Minister is yet to deliver a solution - no changes have yet been enacted. I will continue to watch this issue carefully, work with you & hold the Government of the day to account.

#### Education Breakthrough

It was my pleasure to meet a young student from Blackwood when I visited Daylesford Secondary College with Labor Leader Daniel Andrews in July, to announce that if the Labor Party has the privilege to

### Excerpts from introductory speech

#### Blackwood Action Group public meeting

Welcome to Blackwood, 160years old and still going strong, well, maybe. For 150 years, we built industries here, homes and businesses, but for the last 10 we've been told "that's all over".

If you think that sounds a bit alarmist and this planning issue is just about a few people unable to build on their vacant land, consider this; you wont be able to rebuild should your house be destroyed, the land under your home today is in fact worthless.

Paradoxically, there's been a lot of building in Blackwood over the past couple of years: a \$1.7M Fire Refuge, a \$1.4M domestic water reservoir, a \$400K+ upgrade to our sportsground. A great vote of confidence in Blackwood. Meanwhile actual residency is discouraged "there'll be no houses, no people, thank you very much". Should this strange situation continue, we may end up the state's most well-serviced ghost town.

Something's out of kilter here. Some agencies are encouraging us to live here while others just want us gone. It's our job as a town to try to wrangle these groups into a commonsense and a fair agreement. ~BH

win the November election we will provide \$10 million to the Stage 2 rebuild of Daylesford Secondary College.

This is great news for our young people. Delivering first class education facilities & opportunities is Labor's number one priority & I am passionate about the need to ensure that all students in country Victoria have strong, quality government schools to choose from.

#### A bit about me.

My grandparents were farmers & shopkeepers in north east Victoria while my parents worked in administration & sales & later ran a general store in Tangambalanga.

After finishing school at Wodonga High I headed to Melbourne to complete a teaching degree. It was hard making the transition from a country high school to university campus & as a consequence I am a strong supporter of providing higher education & TAFE in regional Victoria

I have worked as a teacher; a union organiser during the Kennett years & as an education policy adviser. Later in my career I held senior roles in corporate communications in government & the private sector. Most recently I worked with Plan International, a children's development agency focused on tackling poverty & increasing education opportunities for children in the developing world.

My partner Graham & I have four children between us & after working in the city for over 20 years, we have returned to country Victoria to live in Kyneton.

Unfortunately some things haven't changed! We still have Liberal governments focused on the city while country people are missing out – the latest State budget is a fine example. Only 4% of the infrastructure spend is allocated to rural & regional Victoria despite the fact that 25% of the population live here.

I am running for the State Parliament because I want to be your representative in Spring Street & I want you to be represented by a strong voice with a genuine concern for the real needs of country people including more funding for transport & roads, education & health facilities.

You are welcome to contact me on 0487 237 600 or email at [mary-anne.thomas@vic.alp.org.au](mailto:mary-anne.thomas@vic.alp.org.au) anytime & I look forward to talking with with you in the lead up to November!

The Blackwood Times invited the 3 State Candidates to submit an article for our readers, to date Mary-Anne has responded, we look forward to hearing from the other candidates.



We've been betting on that tree for decades. The ancient Blackwood finally came down on Lerdies in July.

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# WASTEWATER REPORT FROM BAG MEMBER

## Notes for presentation at Blackwood Action Group public meeting 26.6.14

I purchased a block in Blackwood in 2010 on the assurance by CHW that the sewerage was going to be connected to my block, which is slightly bigger than the average ¼acre block. I have all the written documentation from Central Highlands Water stating the block was within the scheme & the sewerage would be connected to it by the end of 2013, although they said this now looked more like the beginning of 2014.

Our Grandmother had a strong association with Blackwood that goes back over 50 years & we were hoping to share her love of Blackwood with our grandchildren. Then along came the BMO. Following that, to our disbelief, the Government dishonoured its commitment to the sewerage project. This seemed to us to be the final knock-out blow to building. Let's be honest, if you cannot build a home on the average quarter acre block with houses all around, & which is located within a township, there is something very wrong with the planning system.

The Country Towns Sewerage Project was announced in 2005. The Scheme was based on environmental & public health issues & risks identified by the Shire of Moorabool & EPA.

After much investigation & planning, the community was informed by CHW in 2012 that the Sewerage system was not approved by the EPA due to discharge water reaching the pristine Lerderderg River.

Central Highlands Water stated "As a centralised sewerage system is now unlikely to proceed, you will need to discuss this with the Shire of Moorabool".

However, the website on the Country Towns Sewerage Project still shows the Blackwood & Barry's Reef project as "In Progress" (that is to be resolved in 3 to 4 years). Doesn't this seem like misguiding the public & political point scoring? Most other Town & Country projects are complete. The other projects that are listed as being In Progress seem to be actually going ahead.

The current Municipal Strategic Statement within the Moorabool Shire Council's planning scheme still states: Blackwood is planned to be seweraged because of ongoing water quality issues with the Lerderderg River".

This is very confusing, is Blackwood going to be seweraged or not.

We seek clarity & direction from the government as significant financial loss will be incurred if we install private wastewater management systems & then later are required to connect to the sewerage system.

If Blackwood & Barry's Reef are to be seweraged at some point in the future, we don't want to be the victims of a new scheme where every landowner has to pay an exorbitant connection fee. The Government needs to honour its commitment to the current Country Towns Sewerage Scheme. Walk away from it now & you waste all of the taxpayer's money that has been spent. Surely some of what has already been spent & achieved can be used to support the establishment of an alternative system.

Since being informed by CHW that the sewerage system wasn't going to be approved in its current form, I contacted CHW a couple of times just to make sure that they were aware of some of the latest alternative technological solutions that I had heard about.

- Microfiltration using ceramic membrane filter combined with ozone to prevent the membrane from clogging;
- Report on 'Drinking Water Through Recycling' using combination of micro-filtration, reverse osmosis, advanced oxidation & UV disinfection. Dr Stuart Khan - School of Civil & Environmental Engineering at the University of New South Wales & lead author.

Nothing seems to have progressed as a result of this new information.

CHW is undertaking Water quality testing in Lerderderg River. We are keen to learn if these results confirm genuine public health issues and/or environmental risks.

Moorabool Shire Council has undertaken an Audit of Septic Tanks in the town. We are keen to learn how these results advise solutions to the sewerage issues that will allow us to build. It is this plan that

may now become the key to our future as a town. The draft can be downloaded from <http://haveyoursaymoorabool.com.au/draft-domestic-wastewater-management-plan>. Anyone wishing to have their say regarding the Draft Domestic Wastewater Management Plan can do so by making a submission.

We have identified three basic sewerage treatment options that can be considered (and I am sure that there will be other options too):

- The first one aims at improving the original proposed system using advances in wastewater microfiltration & nutrient removal technology; This was basically looking at improving the option chosen for Blackwood & Barry's Reef. This advanced technology is currently in use in Perth & has also been trialled in Brisbane. It may become the system of the future, but the yuk factor seems to be limiting its acceptance elsewhere.

- The 2nd system involves evaporation through irrigating a tree plantation or pasture (examples: being at Mallacoota & Aireys Inlet). If more land was available around Blackwood, it may have been a way to go & a way of rehabilitating some of the surrounding degraded old mining sites.

- Alternatively a pressurised system pumped through to an existing sewerage system, such as piping it to Trentham (10km away) or Ballan (20km away). This system is being installed at Loch Sport & involves 2500 connections & will pump sewerage 30km away to an existing treatment facility at Dutson Downs. Loch Sport is surrounded by forested Crown land & State Park similar to Blackwood. (Info sheet). This system still has merit here in my opinion.

An unsewered option is dependent on the DWMP being prepared by Moorabool shire Council.

Onsite waste water management system ideas that may help:

Wick Trench & Bed System in Appendix E of the Code of Practice for Wastewater Management. However, the website links in the code don't work. This system is suitable for small blocks. The land has to be level or terraced level. For the average 3 bedroom 5 person house, a 40m length of trench with a 1.2 metre wide wick bed is required. Installed in 3 X 14m trenches. The equivalent length of trench without the wick system is 100m.

The alternative 'Evapocycle' is an above ground "evaporative" wastewater treatment & disposal solution. For a 4 bedroom house producing 1000L/day, the footprint of the system is 10mX4m. It can be terraced along the contour or stepped down the slope & is rain proof.

Evapocycle is not an approved system by the EPA in Victoria.

However, we would like the Shire to work with the BAG & discuss the potential of evaporative systems further. The designer is an Onsite Wastewater Management Consultant & has worked as an Environmental Health Officer in environmentally sensitive areas in Tasmania & Blue Mountains near Sydney. He can tailor make systems to suit each individual site to achieve the best environmental outcomes. BAG believes an evaporative design may offer an ideal option for difficult sites in Blackwood.

Failing that there are incinerator toilets (which are approved by the EPA) & wastewater evaporators (which are used in marine environments). We would be interested in Shire's thoughts on these.

To ensure Blackwood's survival, its sewerage issues must be resolved. With huge government investment in facilities like the community fire refuge & sports pavilion, it is in everyone's interest to work together to ensure the town's survival.

The Draft Central Highlands Regional Growth Plan released by the DPCD in 2013 had Blackwood listed as an example of a small town & Blackwood was also shown on a map in the plan. The Plan also advocates sewerage connection for small towns. It is interesting to note that in the final plan, Blackwood has been removed as an example of a small town & is no longer shown on the map. I will let you reach your conclusion on this, but to me it shows that Blackwood will have to fight to survive, be it with sewer or without sewer.

The full notes can be viewed at The Blackwood Action Group website <http://theblackwoodtimes.com.au/action-group>

# 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 max (deg C)	Temp average daily min (deg C)	Temp average for month (deg C)
May '14	46.7	90	-0.9	18	14.1	5.5	9.5
Jun '14	120.6	105.4	-0.1	13	10.6	5	7.6

THE LAST few years has seen a lower than average rainfall in May but higher than average in June.

## 'BACKWOODS'

### Blackwood Festival of Music & Culture



Blackwood Festival of Music & Culture, to be held over the weekend of November 8th & 9th, 2014 is a pilot festival event that will celebrate high-quality music & aspects of music culture. Different styles of dance, food & craft connected with the traditional forms of music will be showcased at the festival.

The festival offers concerts, master classes & workshops in a beautiful mountain forest setting at Blackwood, Victoria, 1 hour's drive from Melbourne, 45 minutes from Ballarat & 30 minutes from Daylesford & Kyneton.

The festival will feature a diverse music lineup including old time, Irish, bluegrass, country & rockabilly genres as well as workshops & demonstrations in cajun & old-time dance styles.

Acts include old-time masters, Eddie Bond & Kirk Sutphin, from Virginia, USA & The Chris Henry Bluegrass Band (USA). The festival will present musicians from Melbourne & regional Victoria such as Chere Cajun, Pete Daffy & the Forcasters, Ciderhouse String Band, Swamplands, Hardrive Bluegrass Band & many more.

Food attractions will include traditional food stalls, & cooking demonstrations in southern & traditional 'soul-food' home styles. All food vendors will have relevant food service licences & certification.

The festival is aimed at music lovers, musicians & anyone interested in old-time & traditional crafts & entertainment. The event will be inclusive & family friendly.

For more information visit [www.blackwoodacademy.org](http://www.blackwoodacademy.org) or like the festival on Facebook.

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## EVENTS & GIGS • EVENTS & GIGS

### AUGUST 2014

when	what	where
Sun 3	Gussy & the Barn Cats	Cosmo
Sun 10	Jarrold Shaw & Sarah Wilkinson	Cosmo
Sun 17 from 1.30	Ado Barker and Dougal Adams	Blackwood Academy
Sun 17	The Flames	Cosmo
Sun 24	Pugsley Buzzard	Cosmo
Sun 31	Hooked on Bossa	Cosmo

**BLACKWOOD ACADEMY**  
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**SUNDAY AUGUST 17**

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• BOUQUETS •

WHOEVER IS responsible for the wonderful new work on the Great Dividing Track behind the Blackwood town centre – from Whalebone Road to the Springs Reserve. Clearer, safer and much more enjoyable – I'll feel better about taking visitors along this fascinating scenic track. Thanks! Margaret

Home Haircutter says goodbye and thanks  
Sad to say, it's time to take in the shingle as it's time to focus more on my teaching life. Thanks so much to Blackwood who supported the Home Haircutter so readily. It's been lovely being able to work a little in town. But I'll still be around – so feel free to say hi!  
Margaret  
The Home Haircutter

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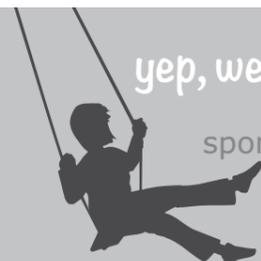


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COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

Blackwood Action Group

see articles throughout issue

The town meeting, concerning building issues, held by Blackwood Action Group on Thursday June 26 was well-received by members of the community who attended. Unfortunately the 'turnout' of the town was down on previous meetings. We need strength in numbers to support our actions & enable changes to occur.

Members of the BAG (Blackwood Action Group) are asking for feedback & support from the locals to help us to make meetings accessible & productive for all. Drop us a line & let us know your thoughts.

Thank-you for your on-going support as we move forward.

~ Noelle Shader & Danny Holder, members  
Blackwood Action Group

Blackwood CERT

Hello,

Blackwood CERT had to cancel the CPR information night scheduled in July. This is simply due to the fact that I had to duck over to Tassie for a little while.

We received no emails from anyone interested so please let me know if you are & we'll set up another night soon. My email address is ivan.johnston@ambulance.vic.gov.au

Thanks

~ Ivan Johnston

Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group

Generational change at Landcare

Want to make a positive contribution to Blackwood?

Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group is going through generational change & is looking for a new team to take the group forward.

The group is well-regarded within the town & enjoys positive & co-operative relationships with external departments & agencies.

John Davies & Pat Liffman have been the driving forces behind the group but both have called it a day.

The group is grateful for their dedication & efforts to keep things rolling along over many years. And, while they will be sorely missed, the opportunity now exists for others to step up.

An interest meeting & AGM will be held at 3pm on Saturday, August 23, at the Blackwood Pub. All welcome & don't be afraid to put yourself forward for an executive position. All positions will be vacated & a new committee elected.

In other news, many would have noticed that Wilbur the Weed has taken up residence in Martin St., next to the Blackwood Merchant.

Thanks to John Fitzgerald for allowing Wilbur to camp on his block. Wilbur is sure to get tongues wagging as he is striking figure & looks great against the forest valley backdrop.

An interpretative sign will soon be added, but it's going to be fun to hear the various theories about what the heck he is all about.

Wilbur's purpose is to remind us all about our obligations to keep the townships free of weeds. If we can manage to do that, the surrounding forests will remain safe.

The latest problem weed to assert itself is Spanish heath. Most of us probably think this shrub-like plant is native because it looks a lot like our native white heath.

But, boy, it is spreading. It can be seen along most of our roads now and, if not knocked out soon, will take over very quickly. Hit it with Brush Off (or equivalent) which attacks woody plants but is harmless to grasses. More information on our website: <http://blackwoodlandcare.org.au/our-problem-weeds/spanish-heath/>

~ Shane Scanlan, President

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



Blackwood Senior Citizens Centre Inc.

Hello once again from the Blackwood Senior Citizens – it is hard to believe that we are halfway through the year already. We have had quite a fulfilling time over the last couple of months.

Our visit to Parliament House was enjoyed by all – we were quite surprised by how ornate it is inside – the security was spot-on & our conducted tour was very interesting.

We also had an enjoyable Xmas-in-July up at Midlands Golf Club in Ballarat. Approx. 35 of our members attended & appreciated the entertainment & very good meal.

It is with much sadness that we mourn the passing of Sheila Tori – she will be sadly missed by all.

We welcome our new cook, Lindy Munday &, with our Deanne, we have a good team in the kitchen.

Several of our members have enjoyed 3 weeks' holiday cruising on the Rhine – Fred & Brian Moore & Helga Weiss had a great time. Unfortunately Helga ended up in hospital on her arrival back – with pneumonia – we hope she has a speedy recovery & will soon be back at home again.

The clubs AGM will be held sometime in September. This will be advertised in the local paper prior to that date.

Joan Rowe has just celebrated her 80th birthday & Joan & Harry as well have just achieved a milestone of being married for 60 years – our congratulations to them both.

Our club meets in Blackwood Hall every Wednesday 10.30am – 3pm. All new members will be made most welcome.

Until next issue...

~ Barb Sweet, Hon Sec

NO REPORTS have been submitted by Blackwood CFA, Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management, Blackwood Cemetery Trust, Blackwood Historical Society or Blackwood Progress Association



Wilbur strides across the Blackwood landscape, casting his feral seed in all directions.

Read more about Wilbur (left).



### THE BLACKWOOD TIMES GOES TO... LADY ELLIOT ISLAND



Kathy B

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### “How to Train Your Dragon 2”

~ review by Ellen Jane

How to Train Your Dragon 2 showcased the best animation that Dreamworks has to offer. Every detail was precise - from the light in the characters' eyes to the sheen of their sweat. The characters moved so smoothly that you could almost not believe that it was computer-generated.

The soundtrack is beautiful & perfectly in sync with the animation. The music was crafted to each scene so closely that, as a character moves, the music changes. The soundtrack also interestingly includes a modern techno song that compliments Hiccup's sense of freedom in flying.

Dreamworks have outdone themselves in their music & animation, but the skeleton of the movie - the story - is underdeveloped & repetitive. The movie didn't flow as easily as the first one, especially as the characters were all over the place. It felt like they just kept island-hopping to reach plot points. And of course the grand finale? Another huge dragon.

Even the new jokes weren't as good as the original.

The strong female characters were reduced to fit a more feminine stereotype & abandon their previously powerful & feisty demeanours. Astrid especially was changed to a soft, adoring girlfriend who failed to develop at all through the course of the movie. Hiccup's mother, who was awesome in the beginning, was relegated to household duties & became weak as soon as her husband showed up. Goodbye strong dragon rider, hello damsel in distress.

Compared to the original, How to Train Your Dragon 2 was disappointing. The movie needed more than just great animation to make it amazing & it fell short.

The movie is aimed at children but anyone could be drawn into the land of Berk. If you're looking for an interesting family movie that everyone can enjoy, I would recommend the first one.

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### TASSIE TALES

Hello Blackwood,  
Not much from the Island, except to say hi!  
Cold, wet, windy, etc. It's been mostly inside jobs, mainly sorting through years' worth of boxes full of photos, this is a time-passing job I've been going to do for maybe 4 or 5 winters; well this is the one! It's a kind of odd thing, happy but sad too, when we come to our loved-ones no longer here, then there are the ones that we are tempted to throw in the fire, did we really act so silly? Obviously I did ... do the photos lie? Oh well, older and wiser, (some times), the aim is to get these photos into 4 separate boxes, I think it may take 2 or 3 winters more.

Not much happening outside at present, and even though it's early, the bulbs are all coming through and the trees are budding up, so if we listen to mother nature, I think she's telling us that spring is not too far away.

My other winter project is to get the grandkids' afghan blankets finished. Crotchet is good for keeping the hands moving as the old touch of ARTHRITIS grabs us at times.

I hope everyone is getting through the winter ok with not too many colds & flu.

When I was 8, I lived with my Nana in Blackwood one winter ... good for my health the doc said. WHAT? Well maybe they were right ... I'm still here, but boy I remember, it was cold. A little ray of sunshine is peeping through, so that's it from Tassie. Good health good luck & cheerio

~ Bev Cooper (Skinner)

### THE GARNETTS & ST ERTH

The final 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 Oct/Nov '13 issue The Blackwood TIMES).

Dinah & I gave a surprise party of friends for his 75th birthday, & in 1995 we had a big Family Gathering for his 80th (Garnetts are always having Family Gatherings). By that time arthritis had attacked his ankles & he was getting around on a four-wheeled Gopher. The families had moved away & Dinah was in the hostel in Ballan. GST was just about to come in & it was time to think about moving. The only interest we got was from someone who wanted to pull the place down & make a centre for horse riding. That was when Tom wrote to Clive & asked if he was interested in buying St Erth, & luckily he was. Again no agent was involved. What he got was four houses, an established garden, a ute & other equipment &, I think, a lot of goodwill.

We moved to Castlemaine, a challenging environment but full of keen gardeners. Tom said 'At last I have time to read' & I think he read 5 books a week. I dug out those newspaper articles & self-published them, under the title 'Bits & Pieces', so if you want to know more about St Erth you can get them from a library. There are 8 volumes, one is called 'Musings from St Erth'.

Tom became increasingly lame over 10 years, but only took to a wheel chair in his final year. It is very nearly seven years now since the evening when the family assembled, nearly all the fourteen grandchildren were there, & his ashes were buried near the memorial tree at the top of the hill.

The garden was Tom's great creation, his magnum opus & a place he wanted to share with others. He wanted to encourage & to educate, after all he was a teacher & I wonder how many visitors over the years were given a lesson in how to take cuttings

He wanted to enthuse people about gardening & to enjoy it. Another of his maxims was 'No garden is ever static', The Burra Charter cannot apply to gardens as it does to old houses. He knew it would change, & he never came back - but I think he would be pleased if he did. I think Clive shares the same ideas of education, innovation & enjoyment 'Who wants to have an ordinary garden' he once wrote. I have just heard of the trust he has created & I like to think this garden has a great future

I have not mentioned Albi... Albi Kied, who did so much building here over 23 years. He built the gatehouse & the woodshed & the gazebo; he built on an extra bedroom to each of these two houses; he built the large tin shed up the hill, & the big new chook shed, which is now the workshop, but above all he was the builder of Kookaburra Cottage, & as far as I remember he charged \$17,000. He built it single-handed, being a master of all trades; the only thing he was not allowed to do was the electrical work. Once he was painting the roof of the stone house, & went home early, not feeling well, & that night he had his appendix removed - but it wasn't long before he was up on the roof again to finish the job!

~ Penny Garnett

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### THE GARDEN

~ by Jackie Airey

Sometimes, when I look about my garden, I receive little flashes, images of "gardens I have known", all part of my journey to this arcadia. I grew up in North Carlton before it was fashionable & all Mum could manage in front was a tiny plot of pansies. Out the back, the dirt provided me with plenty of mud baths & mud pies, next to a struggling daisy bush & a red geranium obscuring the outside dunny. When my best friend's Mum over the road put in a 15x15' patch of lawn we lay on it telling stories, staring at the clouds. Luxury!

My grandfather was a gardener at the Melbourne General Cemetery & either he or my Dad & I would go for walks there some Sundays - really, they went to booze on with some mates in the gardeners' sheds, so I was able to roam, fascinated by the plots, gravestones & statues, drawn by the patina of age; by how time & sleepiness had allowed for the untamed opportunism of seedlings, layerings, suckers, mosses, lichen & HUGE trees. Life abounded, with so many different birds, rabbits, lizards, skinks, field mice & insects - to me it was Eden.

During my 20's, Mum lived next door to the dry cleaners in Rathdowne St. This provided her with humidity to create a verdant little tropicana jungle in the tiny terrace yard, up the sideway & into the kitchen. Later, her move to the suburbs allowed her indulgence in roses, roses & more roses (& pansies).

So when it can to "design" for this garden, there wasn't any. I just knew I had to have a lawn to lay on & plenty of blue sky, play space, roses, pansies, geraniums & daisies, a degree of wildness & zillions of plants. I needed to feel engulfed by the cool freshness of leaves & the perfume of blooms, to be able to meander & wonder what was around the next corner ...

**DID YOU KNOW?** August, this year, will have 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays and 5 Sundays. This happens only once every 823 years. The Chinese call it 'Silver pockets full. " Spread the word and your pockets may be full with silver.

### BALLAN GP CLINIC TAKES SHAPE

Federal Member for Ballarat, Catherine King joined new Ballan District Health and Care CEO, Wayne Weaire to inspect the progress of Labor's \$3.3 million investment to expand facilities and services at the Ballan GP Super Clinic.

"The Ballan GP Super Clinic was the first to open in Australia back in 2009, delivering a new model for integrated primary health care in our community," Ms King said.

"For almost 50 years this health service has been a local icon - a true community asset.

"Along with Labor's initial funding of \$1.4 million, there was an extraordinary local fundraising effort by the Ballan community to raise an additional \$900,000.

"More than 130 staff and over 50 volunteers currently support a range of vital general and specialist medical services, allied health and dental services.

"The current \$3.3 million expansion will offer further services, including; consulting and treatment rooms, gymnasium rehabilitation facilities, hydrotherapy pool, pathology, educational facilities and space for additional staff.

"This investment from the former Federal Labor Government will ensure that the Ballan community can access the important health services they need closer to home.

"Labor has left a proud record in Government of improving access to essential health services for people in regional and rural Australia - reducing the gap in service availability and patient outcomes between the cities and the regions."

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## HEALTH BASICS: HEALTHY HAIR ... BALANCE INNER & OUTER DRIVES



by Kathie Strmota

Historically, long hair was a sign of civic freedom, while short hair showed a person's freedom & dignity had been 'cut back'. Many myths cut off the hero's hair to show his powerlessness, or use the long-golden-haired female to symbolise coveted power to be overcome.

The hair is rooted in skin but grows out of the body, representing the anchoring of spiritual consciousness in physical matter. Hair health symbolises inner freedom, strength & power, & the balanced exchange between your intuitive emotional unconscious self & your rational active conscious self.

Natural hair loss occurs continuously through life & re-growth diminishes with age according to genetic timing. Natural balding does not, in itself, indicate a metaphysical imbalance, nor does choosing baldness by shaving your head. Where skin circulation remains healthy, so does balanced spiritual exchange.

Unhealthy hair, premature greying, split ends & excessive hair loss are generally associated with poor scalp circulation, malnutrition & low oxygen supply. Eat more fresh veges & less junk foods & soft drinks which deplete important minerals from the body. Improve oxygenation with iron from red meat & dark green/red veges. Improve naturally low blood pressure by taking extra salt to increase blood volume (use whole mineral sea salt or himalayan salt rather than table salt) & Nettle leaf tea. Give strength & resilience to hair & scalp with Silica. Eat your skins, stalks, seeds, & husks, or take liquid silica, homeopathic silica salt, or Horsetail & Oatstraw teas. Stimulate scalp circulation with regular head massage & hair brushing. Externally, rinse & condition hair with Rosemary & Marjoram teas.

If you have hair problems, ask which part of your being drives your directions & choices in life. Are you driven by your creative, intuitive urges? Or by logical thought, & social structures & expectations? A balanced life is driven from within, choosing personal directions from the truth of your inner being (via emotional / intuitive channels), & then expressing these urges in practical, useful ways in your physical world using the structured pathways of your logical mind. Unhealthy hair suggests that your free, intuitive, spiritual being is being limited or over-ridden by the rational, controlling mind.

Find ways to throw off the stress of a busy mind & life, & learn to experience your inner nature in a free, honest way, separate from

external rules, expectations & commitments. Have faith in your intuitive, spontaneous, creative self. Release the constraints that drive you to control life, achieve & be successful. Ambition & achievement are positive drives only when they express your inner creative possibilities without creating needless burden & stress. Step out of your limiting external frameworks & surrender yourself to a deeper, richer, more spontaneous & happy emotional life. Stop 'working yourself to death'. Live the way you truly want to, by relaxing into your heart & listening to your feelings.

Affirmations for Healthy Hair: My inner being guides my outer life into fulfilling directions. I am in harmony with myself ... Premature Hair Loss ... I release all striving, & allow my life to flow freely on the gentle waves of inner truth. I trust in the wisdom of my heart ... Greying Hair ... I release external constraints of time & structure, & relax into the spontaneity of life. I allow my inner strength & deep wisdom to guide & transform me ... Split Ends ... I step fearlessly into my life. I open my heart to the joy & pleasure of being alive.

## PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS



Hi all. I am very excited to share my amazing knowledge of MANGE in this edition. & can I just make it clear right now "I AIN'T NO MANGHEY DOG" just a crazy Irish Setter.

**MANGE** is a parasitic skin disease caused by microscopic mites. Two different mange mites cause this skin disease in dogs. One (the demodectic mite) resides in the hair follicles while the second mite (sarcoptic) lives just under the skin. Although both mites have similar characteristics they have very different causes & treatments.

**DEMODECTIC MANGE:** These mites, shaped like a tiny alligator, live naturally in the skin & as long as the body's immune system is functioning, these mites cause no harm. However, when the immune system is compromised, as with immaturity (puppies less than 12-18months), a defective adult immune system (long term treatment of immunosuppressant drugs) or a genetic defect, these mites multiply very rapidly causing hair loss. The hair loss usually begins on the face, especially around the eyes. When there are only a few patches of hair loss, it is termed localised demodectic mange. If the disease spreads to many areas of skin, it becomes generalised demodectic mange. Surprisingly a dog with demodectic mange does not itch severely.

**TREATMENT OF DEMODECTIC MANGE:** Localised form is usually treated with topical medication. The generalised form require specialised cleansing shampoo which help flush out the follicles. This can then be also be treated with topical insecticides & sometimes with medication orally or injectable.

Treatment of the localised form is generally successful. Treatment of the generalised form is also usually successful. However if the abnormality in the immune system is severe, the dog may require ongoing treatment. This again may happen in immature, elderly or compromised immunity.

**SARCOPTIC MANGE:** Sarcoptic mange is caused by a mite that burrows just beneath the surface of the skin, feeding on materials in & on the skin. The presence of sarcoptic mange causes severe itching. The dog will chew & scratch his skin constantly. This leads to large amounts of hair loss especially on the legs & belly. Eventually, the skin will become thickened & will darken due to pigmentation.

Diagnosis is made by skin scraping, however a small number of mites on the dog may be negative under a microscope. Presumptive diagnosis is then made & treatment is commenced.

Sarcoptic mange is highly contagious to other dogs, especially those with compromised immunity. The Fox is perhaps one of the most common carrier's of this skin disease. In extreme conditions the sarcoptic mange can be transferred to humans & is known as scabies. However they cannot complete their life cycle on the human body so they cause severe itching before they die.

**TREATMENT OF SARCOPTIC MANGE:** Dogs' bedding should be discarded or washed in hot water with bleach or specific anti-mite shampoo. Bathing weekly of the affected dog with specific shampoo. Topical & injectable treatments are also available. Re-examination of skin to determine treatment is advisable.

Well hope you enjoyed this itchy topic!! ~ **Woof for now Seamus**

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# from Jens' Cookbook

## 'Sher' Wagyu Meatballs in Napoli with Fresh Parmesan

- 185 ml extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 finely chopped red onion
- 100 g pinenuts (browned slightly in oven)
- 3 crushed cloves garlic
- 40 g roughly-chopped Italian parsley
- 10 g roughly-chopped basil
- 2 tsp ground fennel seeds
- 2/3 cup fresh sourdough breadcrumbs (Red Beard is good)
- 250 g ricotta cheese
- 1/4 cup grana padano grated parmesan
- Grated zest of 1 lemon
- 1 egg
- 500 g 'Sher' Wagyu minced beef



**Meatballs:** Soften onion in half the oil. Add the garlic & cook a few minutes more, then cool. Put herbs, ricotta, parmesan, pinenuts, zest, egg & breadcrumbs in a bowl & add beef. Add cooled onion & garlic, salt & pepper & mix until combined. Leave mixture in fridge at least 1 hour or overnight. Roll mixture into balls (walnut size) & fry in rest of oil until golden brown.

**Napoli:** Soften 2 onions, a handful of basil leaves & 3 chopped cloves garlic in extra-virgin olive oil. Add 1/2 cup white wine, 2 tins tomatoes, 2 tbsp tomato paste, salt & pepper & 1 tsp sugar & cook, simmering, for 1/2 hour. Take off heat & add 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar.

To serve: Add meatballs to Napoli & gently heat in pan. Great over pasta or served with crusty bread.

Pass the grated parmesan, maybe a little salad, & a glass of red wine is a must. Try a Glenwillow Nebbiolo or a Peter Lehmann Shiraz.

## Rhubarb and Yoghurt Muffins with Lemon Sugar

- 2 cups plain flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 cup caster sugar
- 1 cup Meredith Dairy natural sheep yoghurt
- 2 free range eggs
- 2 tbsp grated lemon rind (or mix of orange and lemon)
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 2 cups chopped "locally grown" rhubarb (macerated in 1/2 cup white sugar overnight)
- 1/4 cup white sugar



Put flour, baking powder and caster sugar in bowl and stir to combine. Make a well in the centre; add yoghurt, eggs, 1 tbsp lemon rind, vanilla and oil. Stir 'til just combined. Fold through rhubarb and spoon into 8 lined muffin tins (size about 3/4 cups each)

Rub white sugar and rest of lemon rind with your finger tips to combine. Sprinkle over the muffins.

Bake for 45 minutes at 180 deg C. for 45 mins or until cooked when tested with a skewer – Makes 8.

Note: can substitute with blueberries when in season. Delicious warm for breakfast or a nourishing snack on the run.

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### Investigation into Historic Places: Submissions Invited

In March 2014, the State Government requested VEAC to undertake an Investigation into Historic Places on public land across Victoria. The Terms of Reference for the investigation are available here.

The Notice of Investigation was published on Thursday 26 June 2014 and written submissions are now invited. Community consultation is a key part of VEAC's investigations and your information, suggestions and views on issues relating to historic places on public land are sought.

Written submissions can cover any relevant topic. Some questions and information that may help you in making a submissions are provide here. For more information about the submissions process, please see About Submissions button in the navigation panel to the left.

Submissions close Monday 8 September 2014.

<http://www.veac.vic.gov.au/investigation/investigation-into-historic-places>

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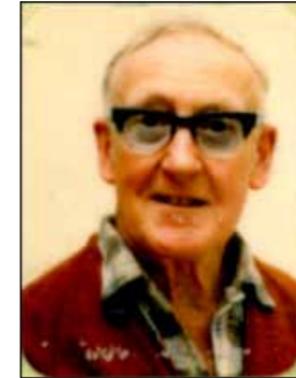
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## Albert (Bert) Verdun Dwan 16.05.1916 – 27.02.2000



Many Blackwood residents will remember Bert Dwan of Whalebone Road. Most will remember him as a kind, intelligent, sensitive & generous man with a touch of eccentricity. Conversations with Bert would cover many topics from science to botany to history to music & to gossip. We could write screeds on Bert's interests, research & projects.

I wonder how many would be aware of his great generosity & support of the Burns Unit & the Tissue Culture Laboratory at the Alfred Hospital?

As a young child at school Bert had a friend with very severe burns scars. Of course back then, it resulted in a lot of teasing, bullying & ostracism of the young child. This memory stayed with Bert, & when he heard of the wonderful work being done at the Tissue Culture Laboratory which would minimise scarring, he was "hooked".

He was fascinated & excited by the science & research being done by the Tissue Culture Laboratory, & decided to help as much as he could to ensure this continued. He gave regularly to it & to the Burns Unit during his life, & that legacy continues to this day through his Estate.

You can read further about the wonderful work being done by the Tissue Culture Laboratory & the Burns Unit at: [www.med.monash.edu.au/surgery/alfred/research/skin-tissue-lab](http://www.med.monash.edu.au/surgery/alfred/research/skin-tissue-lab)

When the ICU at the Alfred was redeveloped, Bert's Estate contributed to the fit out of the "Albert Verdun Dwan" Family room. These family rooms provide a private facility for relatives to consult with staff about their loved-one's condition & are particularly important to family members who normally reside in rural areas.

The plaque reads "In honour of Bert, a great supporter of the Burns Tissue Culture Laboratory".

You can read more about the ICU at: [www.alfredicu.org.au](http://www.alfredicu.org.au).

So, when next you walk through the cemetery at Blackwood, please take a minute to stop by Bert's Grave, where he rests with his dearly-loved mother, Jessie, & grandfather, Tim. Have a chat with him, bring him up to date with the latest 'goss' & say "Thank-you Bert, we are proud of you". Given that Blackwood has such a high bushfire risk, Bert's continuing support of the Burns Unit is most appropriate.

~ Ian Rogers & Trischa Owen  
(Trustees, Estate Late Albert Verdun Dwan)

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## BMO BREAKTHROUGH

The Minister's office have advised the changes will be gazetted and come into effect state-wide this Thursday 31st July. We will obviously have the detail then. The CFA will have their veto powers removed, there will be no 'mandatory' standards, BAL assessment and building compliance will be according to AS 3959, building will be permitted in Flame Zone, where recommended defensible space cannot be achieved applicants can build to a higher BAL rating or use other mechanisms to address risk. It looks like a more common sense approach that should provide solutions for all of our existing subdivisions. There is a grant for rapid training for councils and CFA to allow fast-tracking of applications. This is the information we have been provided, we will of course look forward to seeing the detail this week. If you want updates send me an email to join the lobby group list: [kate@cotterfamily.co](mailto:kate@cotterfamily.co) ``

~ Kate Cotter

### • MARKET CALENDAR • MARKET CALENDAR • MARKET CALENDAR •

1st SATURDAY	1st SUNDAY	2nd SATURDAY	2nd SUNDAY	3rd SATURDAY	3rd SUNDAY	4th SATURDAY	4th SUNDAY
BALLAN MARKET 8am-1pm Inglis St	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station	KYNETON FARMERS 8am-1pm St Pauls Park	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station	CRESWICK COMMUNITY 9am-1pm Victoria St	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station	BREAKFAST BAZAAR from 9am Hepburn Springs	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station
DAYLESFORD FARMERS 9am-1pm D'ford PS	CASTLEMAINE ARTIST MARKET 10am-3pm Theatre 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			
DARLEY MARKET 8am-1pm Gisborne/Grey St Darley	GISBORNE ALL SEASONS 9am-3pm Brantome St			TRENTHAM MAKERS 9am-1.30pm Cosmo			



### WOMBAT BOOK CLUB

Come & join the discussion at the Blackwood Pub on Sunday, August 3 at 3pm. Very exciting to have the chance in our July meeting to discuss the graphic novel 'Maus: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History' by Art Spiegelman. It's free to join our fun social club, & a small refundable deposit if you borrow the books through the library via the group.

Need more info? Call Margaret 5368 6687.

### REVIEWS

#### Breakfast at Tiffany's

Author: Truman Capote  
First Published: 1958

**Ann:** This short novel was written by Truman Capote in the roaring 60's. The central character is a 19 year old girl who, back then, would have led a scandalous life -- smoking/drinking/attending wild parties etc. She is an enigma to the lonely bachelor in the same apartment block who is intrigued & captivated by her antics. Because of the changing morals of the world we live in now, this story seems a waste of time -- a quick & mostly irrelevant read -- a look back into the life of a girl who is desperate to climb the social ladder, with a few red herrings along the way. I'd love to know how long it took TC to write it!!



**Brenda:** Breakfast at Tiffany's. This seemed like a writing exercise about an unbelievable character. Didn't like Holly at all & expected more from the author of "In Cold Blood". Loved the film though.



**Kirsty:** Loved it! Entertaining in parts, with surprises scattered throughout. What really stood out for me was the depth of character & topics that were discussed. You could relate to each character & really envisage the events occurring.



**Margaret:** I have always thought Holly Golightly whimsical & fay -- qualities which usually delight me. This time, I found her flippant, immature & irresponsible. Nothing like getting someone else to do all the work for you, eh, Holly? It's not about much at all. Also, my mum read it before me & looked very dubious on being asked to review. "It's a pretty odd sort of story." And that it is.



**Jinny:** I was looking forward to reading this one but found it a tedious read. I found Holly to be unkind & self indulgent. Not to forget all those men falling over themselves to gain her attention!

#### Maus – A true story

ISBN 9780141014081  
Art Spiegelman  
Publisher: Penguin Date 2003

**Kirsty:** "Challenge your mind & read this! I found it to be written very honestly about two different situations, yet the author was able to intertwine the two varying times in history together with fluidity & grace. Stories about the Holocaust are not for everyone, but this is an easy read that doesn't drag the reader down too far into the dark deep morbidity that was the Holocaust."



**Deirdre:** The Complete Maus was a very interesting first read for me as a new Wombat Book Club member. I felt a little apprehensive initially about not only reading a graphic novel but something as dark as the Holocaust.

Art's recordings of his father's Vladek memories leading up to the Second World War are powerful & at times complicated by their intense relationship. Vladek & Anja survived the atrocities of the Holocaust, losing everything of value in their lives. But unfortunately anger & depression destroys their new life in the United States. Guilt was a common theme in this novel & it was an absorbing read. Let's hope that history never repeats itself.



**Brenda:** It took several attempts to get into this unusual portrayal of the Holocaust through cartoon characters but well worth the effort as the chilling tale unfolded. The sub-story of the author's relationship with his father, who lived the story, was compelling. A grim reminder of racial killings in the world today & lack of compassion closer to home.



**Anne:** This is a fantastic graphic novel written & drawn by Art Spiegelman who is the son of elderly Jewish survivor of the Holocaust, Vladek Speigelman. Art persists over a period of time to draw this tale from his father whilst dealing with his father's day-to-day battle with the realities of his life (money & his partner's need to spend it, health issues, food etc. In fact Vladek is still in survivor mode).

Art is mortified to find that his father has destroyed his own mother's diaries - she had committed suicide after surviving the horrors of the war & resettling in America. His new partner is also a wartime survivor.

What is it that will keep one person fighting for survival in the most dreadful of circumstances & not another? It seemed that whilst the heart was beating in Vladek's starving body, his mind was continually looking for a way out. Art has portrayed the Jews as mice, the Poles as pigs & the Germans as cats. You would think that this would take away some of the strength of the story but it seems to enhance it on one level.

There was so much detail in this novel that though it was a relatively quick read, it must be carefully reconsidered again to appreciate the many graphic representations that are so telling.



**Margaret:** this story is larger than most of us can imagine -- certainly not an easy one to write. But compelling. Speigelman not only takes us through his father's story, from his father's point of view, but also invites us into his personal challenges while writing & illustrating the story -- what right does he have to tell this story, will his father think he's making light of it through cartoons, is this the best way to deal with being a child of a Holocaust survivor -- & is it the war that made his father cantankerous, or was he like that anyway? Not anticipating that I would enjoy this story, & thinking I might find the graphics, well, too graphic, I opened the book hesitantly. However, once begun, I found it too hard to put down, & read long into the night to complete it.



**Jinny:** As a graphic designer I have always adored graphic novels & Maus was a gift when it was first published in Australia. I was curious to see how the group would find it this different way of reading. How does one read a graphic novel? The images first & then the text? or text then images or bubble or as a whole?

The book serves as a history lesson, dealing with hard truths. It shamelessly draws on the ugliest side of humanity -- war, hatred & lack of tolerance.

A harsh reminder of an ugly, not so distant past.



### LIBRARY VISITS TO BLACKWOOD IN 2014

The library van service from the City of Ballarat is now a weekly visit by the Moorabool Rural Library Officer to the Blackwood Memorial Hall, 1.30 – 2.30pm each Wednesday.

A small collection of books, magazines, DVDs & CDs will be available to browse & Kerith is on hand to order any items you would like to borrow that you can't find there. There is also the website [centralhighlandslibraries.org.au](http://centralhighlandslibraries.org.au) available for online browsing & ordering. Select 'Blackwood' as your pick-up location, & your holds will be available for pick-up from the hall.

Any items borrowed from other Central Highlands Libraries branches may be returned to the Library Officer, & plans are underway for a drop-off box to be installed in the town.

Whether you are already a member of the library, or think you might be interested in joining, drop in one Wednesday! Please contact the Regional Library Officer on 0419519650 for any further queries.

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### BLACKWOOF'S



**THIS IS** a picture of me & my dog Nala. She is one year old & she is a Golden Retriever X Bull Arab. We got her from Uncle Dale. Nala likes to steal the chair next to the fire. If you get up from it, she will jump onto it straight away like it's hers.

**SHE ATE** cheese from the table once & got into trouble. Now she just eats shoes. Maybe they smell like cheese.

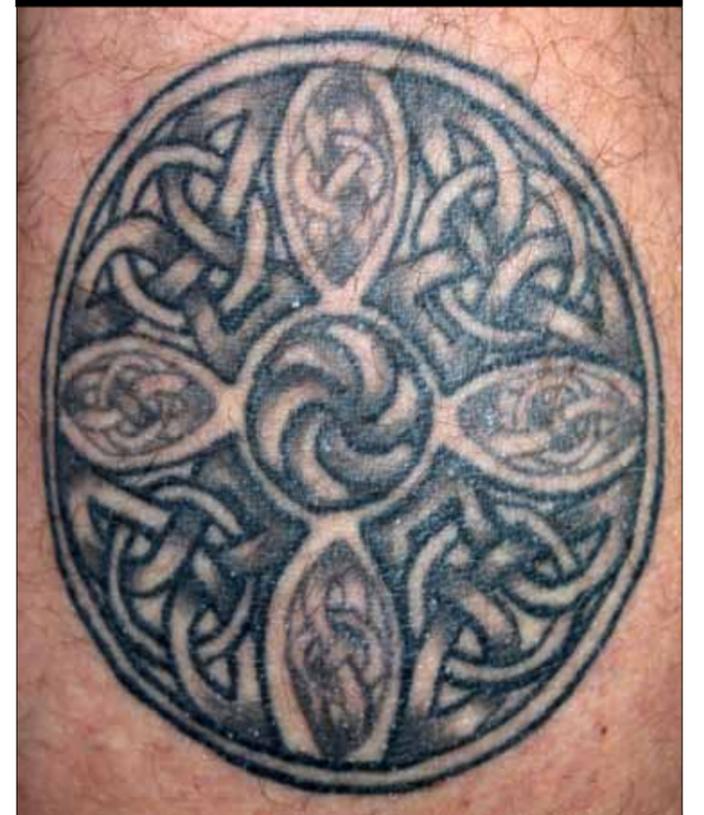
**WHEN I** walked for Make a Wish (they help sick kids have fun) it was a very long way. Dad says 8 Km, so Nala came with me to help. She loves walking & she kept me happy. My toes hurt because I was walking a bit wonky in my ski boots. It was cold. Nala & I made \$140. When we got back, we had lunch at the

pub & I drank a whole can of Orange Fizzy.

**I TRAINED** Nala with bickies & now she can sit, roll over & shake hands. She doesn't like to swim but I do. I can swim 21 metres. Nala can flip in the air 1 or 2 times & sing pirate songs. **Ella-Jae Panos**

~BH

### • WHO'S TATTS THAT? •



It was entirely sealed in Gladwrap. Even its cushions, each individually. Very strange. Van der Smissen motioned for him to lie face down on this newly sterile couch. Complying, he took a swig of vodka on the way, and waited for the pain to start. It started.

Three hours later, limping out of Van der Smissen's apartment into the streets of Itegem, he grinned with the thought that this gnarley celtic design was his forever. He grinned also because he was a bit pissed and his friend had stopped putting needles in him. **~BH**

Natien Van Gossium



Dear Sir,  
I shouldn't boast about that if I were you. P.G.



My name is Mayumi and I'm from Japan. I live in Hyogo, which is near Osaka. I am staying for 3 weeks in Australia, in Blackwood. I'm going to high school in Ballarat. I think Blackwood is very country and there are so many trees. I went to see a football game between the Swans and the Hawks. I celebrated my 16th birthday in Ballarat and Blackwood the day I arrived from Japan. I was very happy. Everyone has been very kind. So I want to do my best and improve my English. I want to have fun. If you meet me, please say 'Hello!' Mayumi

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Extract from “ Collection of true tales”

~ by Liam Rane

Writers note: Currently, there is a spotlight in the media on domestic violence. The following story is one of the few times where the perpetrator, in this case the husband, came off the worst.

It's night shift, & we have just finished “signing on” at the police station. There's 15 cops sitting around the table & the sergeant is giving out any work that needs attended to. I was handed a couple of witness summons to be delivered to the bar staff at one of the local pubs. Some weeks before, there was a brawl in the bar & those responsible were going to court, have pled not guilty to some assault charges & breach of the peace.

The pubs close at 11pm, but, as in most pubs around the world, they have regulars, friends, & staff who stay behind closed doors for an hour or two, although the pub is closed for business to outsiders.

I arrived at the pub around 11.45pm.

There were around a dozen people in the bar & John, the publican introduced me & my colleague to them. I knew John quite well & occasionally drank in his place. Most “cops” prefer to go to pubs away from their working area where there is less chance of a confrontation with some drunk you locked up a few weeks before. It saves the possibility of unnecessary drama, especially if you are with your wife or girlfriend.

One of the patrons I was introduced to was with a blond woman & they seemed to be getting on very well. Although I only spoke to him briefly, I realised that I really didn't like him much. He seemed to be a bit of a “ladies man”.

Having served the necessary documents to the bar staff, we said our good-byes & left.

The rest of the night was uneventful, until around 3am, when we received a call to attend at an address where, we were informed, was a “domestic dispute”. (I have to admit that, until I had been in the police for some months, I had no conception of what a “domestic dispute” really was about & indeed the volume of these calls, having been brought up in a household where violence against woman was totally unacceptable.)

I once asked my mother if my father had ever lifted his hands to her in their married life? She was surprised by this question & laughed.

“Whats so funny” I asked.

“No he never has” she replied. “He wouldn't dare”

“Why not?” I pressed her.

“Well” mother replied. “He would have to sleep sometime!” she laughed.

I caught the drift & let it go, fully understanding her meaning.

But I digress.

We arrived at the address. Which turned out to be a tower block of apartments. We drove to the main entrance & saw a woman standing waiting for us. She was in her early 30's & was in her dressing gown. As soon as I got out the car, I could see she was distressed & that she was the one who made the call.

“What's the problem?” I asked.

“My husband came home about an hour ago & we had a big argument” she said.

“He slapped me & I told him I was leaving. We have a 6yo daughter & I want to leave with her, but he says he won't let her come with me. I'm not leaving without her!” she said.

“OK” I said. “let's go up, have a chat & see if we can sort things out”

“Do you have a place to go to?” I asked.

“Yes, I want to go to my mother's house. She lives not that far from here” she said.

We escorted the woman up in the lift to the floor they lived on. I knocked on the apartment door.

To my surprise, the “husband” who answered the door was the same guy I had met in the pub a few hours before with the blond. He obviously recognised me & was a bit taken aback.

“ We've come to have a chat about what's been happening here Geoff.” I said.

Reluctantly he let us in & we went into the lounge. He sat down on the sofa. I remained standing.

It was clear he'd had too much to drink, but was still coherent.

“There's no problem here “ he said. “My wife wants to leave & I've told her she can go. But our daughter stays here. She can go anytime she wants. I've no problem with that” he said.

The wife, probably feeling safe now that we were there immediately jumped in & told him, in no uncertain terms, that she was taking their daughter, no matter what he said.

“Go into the bedroom & pack

a few things for yourself & your daughter” I said.

My colleague went with her & I stayed with the husband.

“I told you she's not going anywhere!” he said.

“Well” I said. “Geoff, we have a problem with that. I suppose you have a couple of choices.”

“Either you allow your wife & your daughter to come with us or, we take you with us to the station.” I said. “It's up to you. But I will arrest you for assaulting your wife, make no mistake about that & I will lock you up!” I told him. I tried the softly softly approach after I'd given him the ultimatum.

“Why don't you let them come with us & you go to your bed. Then you two can sort things out in the morning when you're sober & the dusts settled? Is that not the sensible approach?” I asked.

I believe he realised he was on a hiding to nothing if he didn't agree with my suggestion, but for some reason, he still wanted to have the daughter with him. I found out later why.

“Ok” he said. “She can take our daughter”.

I told him to stay where he was & we took his wife & daughter down to the police car without any further trouble. We decided that we would drive her over to her mothers' house, which was not that far away & still in our area of patrol.

As we were heading there, I asked her. “How long has this been going on for?”

“It's only been in the last year or so” she said. “He's been staying out late a lot & when he comes home, all hell breaks loose. But tonight was the last straw” she said.

“Does your family know that he's been hitting you?” I asked.

“Oh no!” she replied.

“I have seven brothers. They're big guys. If they found out ... well ... I'm scared they would kill him!” she said.

“I guess they're going to find out now. Eh” I said.



The young & old of Blackwood Shapenote singing

“ I'll have a talk to them” she said. “Hopefully they'll let us sort it out ourselves”.

We drove to her mother's house & I escorted the two of them up to the front door. I rang the doorbell & eventually the lights came on & her father came to the door. He was shocked to see a police officer standing there. I introduced myself & told him briefly what had happened & then I left. On my way out, she thanked us for helping her & her daughter.

I spent 5 years in the police, & lost count of the number of domestic violence incidents I attended.

In nearly every case I asked the question.

“Why do you put up with this?”

In some cases, the violence had been going on for years (in one case for example the wife had been subjected to emotional, verbal & physical violence for 16 years). The answers I received were varied, from “He doesn't mean it” to “it's my fault that I upset him” & “I know he really loves me”

All denials.

Back to my story;

A few weeks later, I was in the police station & was reading the incident book. This catalogued everything that had happened in the following 24 hours from my last shift. I noticed a report of a “suspected attempted murder”. It seemed that a guy was leaving the local British Legion club around 11.30pm & was walking to the taxi rank when two men grabbed him & cut his throat! They didn't kill him, but he was hospitalised & would have a major scar on his neck from ear to ear.

When I read further, I was not surprised to find that this was the husband of the woman with the 6 year old daughter we had attended to weeks before.

No-one was charged with the assault, as the husband would only give a statement to the effect that, “I tripped on the kerb!”. He would also not identify the two men.

All's well that ends well!



BLACKWOOD CEMETERY HISTORY – MATTHEW AND MARY ROGERS

COMPILED BY MARGOT HITCHCOCK, HISTORIAN FOR THE BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY. 2014

This article was found in TROVE - Newspapers on-line, & worth including for all readers.

The Bacchus Marsh Express Saturday 17 February, 1906 MATTHEW ROGERS VAULT, BLACKWOOD CEMETERY. [Photo. by Mrs. J. H. Terrill.]

The cemetery, curiously enough, is unlike most other places of the kind in that it shows brightness of present comely order with creditable treatment by the pioneers in substantial fencing & symmetrical tree planting. The pinus insignis trees here are the best to be seen for miles. “Persons having ground in this cemetery are requested to employ the Sexton to keep such ground in order.” That is the printed placard in the window of the little office which has been placed in this cemetery, & it accounts for its good appearance to a large extent, & a good sexton & trustees for the rest. We have not noticed any similar command in any other cemetery, but they should all exhibit it, & enforce it. The comeliness on every hand makes this resting place of the dead quite a pleasant place to visit, & it has a curious effect in mutually honouring all who lie there, for none are wholly neglected, & the equality which 6 x 9 necessitates all over the world is presented here in an agreeable form. There are some good monuments, to old & to young, as in all cemeteries. Without attempting too much detail, we may mention - James Muir, aged 57. “By his works shall ye judge him.” Michael Shanahan, 80. Martin Devney, 88. Mary, wife of Denis Ryan, 73. Margaret Pattinson, 70. Thomas. D'Arcy, 61. “Ever faithful, kind, & true.” Emma Webster, 20 years. “Ye that are young, prepare to die, For I was young, yet here I lie. Remember Death, for it is good; A rose may wither in the bud.” John Henry Potter, 66. Thomas Hamilton, 77. Peter Grant, 63. “He prayeth best who loveth best.” John Frederick Hansen, 64. James Barkla, 67. Andrew Buchanan, 75. James Ferguson, J.P., 65. “Death is the gate of life.” Mr. Ferguson was a good friend, who wrote much for the Express, & walked many miles to get columns of information which is very readable now.

There are others, & there is one grave fence wholly filled with the stumps of two cut-down trees. The cemetery at Blackwood is not nearly so well kept. It's somewhat precipitous & elevated site, with consequent heavy rainfall, scours the pathways & creates considerable undergrowth. Want of funds completes the story.

Yet here is one of the handsomest & most artistic monuments & vault to be seen in any cemetery, & we present a picture of it. It cost £1,200, & does great credit to the artistic taste of its “owner,” for that he really was in life, as it was built for his wife, before she died in 1896, & he followed her in 1902. A central polished granite column, with plinth, cornice, &c., in perfect symmetry & harmony, carries aloft a white marble winged figure of an angel, with uplifted arm. At the four corners of the plinth are marble figures of children. These balance the structure, & have a very happy effect. These statues are Italian work, & are worth much more than they cost. One inscription reads:- **Mary, the beloved wife of Matthew Rogers**, born at Hayle, Cornwall, died August 28, 1896, aged 68 years. “Farewell, dear, but not for ever; There will be a glorious dawn; We but part to meet forever, On the Resurrection morn. Though thy darling form lies sleeping, In the cold & silent tomb, Thou shalt have a glorious waking, When the blessed Lord doth come.” The other inscription is :-In loving memory of **Matthew Rogers**, born at St. Erth, Cornwall, England, who departed this life on Jan. 6, 1902, aged 77 years. “Call not back the dear departed, Anchored safe where storms are oe'r. On the Borderland they left him, Soon to meet & part no more. Far beyond this World of changes, Far beyond this world of care, We shall find our missing loved one, In our Father's mansion fair.” In the Express of Sept. 5, 1896, we find it recorded that “the funeral of **Mrs.Rogers** was the most elaborate ever seen in Blackwood, & was carried out by Mr. Ross, of Kyneton.

The coffin was triple made, the inner one being of lead, then kauri, &

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the outer one of oak, with costly silver mountings. There was a, plumed hearse, & two special mourning coaches, whilst the attendance was the largest at any funeral here for many years. The coffin was deposited in the expensive family vault recently constructed in the Blackwood cemetery.”

The Express of Jan. 18, 1902, reported the death of **Mr. Matthew Rogers**, & stated that he came to Victoria in 1854.

He followed his trade as a mason for a short time, but went to Clunes, & from there to Blackwood, arriving in 1856, when a miner named Simmons had just discovered the rich reef which bears his name to this day.

Mr. Rogers's ventures in this locality, including a store kept by his wife, yielded a competency. He erected the Salvation army barracks at Red Hill, at a cost of over £300. A commanding presence, with a genial manner, secured him many friends, & he gave substantial help when needed.

The vault & monument were erected in 1895. Height, 30 feet, including angel 5ft. high. Stonework of Aberdeen granite. Builders, Chambers & Clutton. The second railing & stone edging were put round to divert storm water. Mr. Rogers left £4 a year to the Cemetery Trust to keep the statues clean, & effect repairs. Other graves noted were :- Charles Gribble, 66. “Weep not for me, my wife & children dear, My course is run, why should I fear ? For Jesus waits on the shining shore, To help me across Death's dismal door.”

There is one wooden one, outside the cemetery, against the trunk of a tree, near the roadside, which reads: “Isaac Povey, July 10, 1855.” The letters have been well incised in a slab of hardwood, & are still in a good state of preservation. (This is Povey's grave in Simmons Reef - watch for article in a future issue) There are other hillside graves of this kind, we are told. Severe storms have fractured & blown down some of the headstones.

The **St. Erth** house of the late Mr. Rogers, situated at Simmons' Reef, is now tenanted by his daughter & her husband, Mr. J. H. Terrill, & it testifies again to the good taste & thoroughness of its builder. It is of stone, for the most part, & quite a mansion in size, finish, & furnishing. It is allowable also to say that its inmates are an ideal household, including a son & a daughter. Mrs. Terrill is a talented lady, being a landscape painter, a photographer (all branches of it), a pianist, & an organist. Many albums of photo views taken & completed by her testify to her skill & industry. The house is beautifully situated on rising ground, & the atmospheric play over the immense scope of view over wooded ranges takes away all monotony or loneliness.” (Mrs. J.H. Terrill was Elizabeth Rogers, daughter of Matthew & Mary Rogers).

An interesting find is this article is that Mrs. J.H. Terrill (Elizabeth Rogers, daughter of Matthew & Mary Rogers who lived at what is now the Garden of St.Erth) was a talented lady, being a landscape painter, a photographer, a pianist, & organist, & had many albums of photo views taken of Blackwood. I wonder where these photos & landscape paintings are today? ©

Researched by Margot Hitchcock from her forthcoming book 'The History & Pioneers of Blackwood', hopefully to be published soon. For help with information on Blackwood ancestors contact Margot Hitchcock – email – margohitchcock@bigpond.com

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# BEYOND BLACKWOOD...

## SHE'S A BRAINIAC

Local psychologist acknowledges International Brain Awareness Week when she launches her new book to help people dealing with stress.

It is Brain Awareness Week from Monday the 10th of March & local psychologist Rita McInnes is celebrating in a big way, with the launch of her book, i-brainmap, freeing your brain for happiness.

A 10-year project, i-brainmap is based on 25 years of working with & treating people for post-traumatic stress, anxiety & chronic stress.

Dr Craig Hassad, a GP & senior lecturer for the Department of General Practice at Monash University, will launched in March 2014.

"I am so pleased that Craig can launch the book, the more health professionals who know about the book, the more likely it is that people who have experienced stress will get hold of it," says Rita.

In fact it was Rita's own experience of trauma when her 20yo brother was killed in a motor vehicle accident just before her 18th birthday that placed her on the path to helping people finding ways to deal with trauma.

"i-brainmap began as a treatment model for people experiencing post traumatic stress. I kept my focus on experience rather than theory gathering greater insight into the process of integrating past traumatic experiences. This eventually evolved into a map & was combined with mindfulness based techniques, & relevant brain science.

"It became clear that the brain could get stuck at anytime. It can be overwhelmed even when those events are forgotten or not recognized as traumatic.

"Stuck brain" can make you feel lost or trapped. I know from my experience, & that of my clients, that using i-brainmap assists you to find ways to access the brains plasticity to experience more freedom, happiness, wellbeing & creativity.

Rita has donated 2 copies of i-brainmap to Daylesford branch of the Central Highlands Library



## Starting Kinder in 2015?

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## AN ANIMATED FILM SOCIETY

Melbournian, Adam Elliott, made his mark in the world of claymation pictures in 2004 with his short film, Harvie Krumpet, winning the Oscar for Best Short Animated Film. He & his producer Melanie Coombs then decided on a full-length feature, Mary & Max. The film was 5 years in the making & this touching tale of 2 lonely people who become penpals - 8yo Mary living in Melbourne & 44yo Max living in New York - showcases yet again the talent of this very creative director/producer team.

What really happened to Harry Lime? That's the question asked by Holly Martins in the 1949 film The Third Man. In Allied-occupied Vienna, he looks for Harry only to find that he has been killed by a speeding car days before Holly's arrival in the city. When it is suggested to Holly that he leave town, his suspicions are aroused. Splendid performances by Joseph Cotten, Alida Valli, Orson Welles & Trevor Howard add to tense atmosphere of this film.

Some 15 years after the Third Man was made, a French musical film called The Umbrellas of Cherbourg lit up the screen. Directed by Jacques Demy & starring Catherine Deneuve, the story revolves around Madame Emery & her beautiful 16-year-old daughter who sell umbrellas from their tiny boutique in the coastal town of Cherbourg in Normandy. Of course, there is a hero & he is young & dashing & handsome, but the path to happiness for our lovers is not always smooth. The film's music was written by Michel Legrand & all the film dialogue is sung.

The Macedon Ranges Film Society meets on the 2nd Wed each month at 7pm in the Woodend Community Centre. Film notes are provided & there is supper following the screening. Enquiries about membership must first be made by emailing mrfilmsociety@gmail.com or by phoning Lorraine on 5427 0921 or Christine on 5429 5452.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HI JINNY.

AS ALWAYS, I found this edition full of interest. I look forward to hearing more about the public meeting with relevant authorities - hopefully there could be some positive results.

I WAS so caught up in the police constable's story, and I am really curious to know the outcome - what was the cause of this tragic death??

KEEP UP the good work!

REGARDS,

Elaine

DEAR JINNY,

CONGRATULATIONS ON another great edition of BLACKWOOD TIMES. Thank you also for including the picture of my Dad (Freddie Parsons's) family for the record re All Saint's Church.

KIND REGARDS,

Johanna Parsons Nicholls.

HI JINNY

THANKS FOR a great June/July Blackwood Times edition.

I WAS thrilled to see the photo of the old All Saints vicarage submitted by Johanna Nicholls.

MY FATHER Harry Ogle and his siblings rented the vicarage for many, many years before buying it from the Church in the early sixties. My daughters are the fourth generation to stay in the house.

I AM trying to put together some photos and history of the Vicarage, for my own personal use. I already have Margot Hitchcock's book and photos.

I WAS wondering if you could put me in contact with Johanna Nicholls or vice versa to see if she has any other photos or information. Also mentioned that Johanna may be in Blackwood in September and I could met her up there and she could see inside the house if that interested her.

I GUESS on that matter if any other of the Blackwood times readers have information or photos apart from the "murder" I would be greatly interested.

MANY THANKS Best wishes

Jan Purchase (Ogle)

### FROM CATHERINE'S DESK

The "My First Speech Competition" nationwide competition is now open to all Australian secondary students enrolled in years 10 to 12. Students entering the competition will go in the running to win cash prizes & a trip to Parliament House in Canberra.

"The competition provides young people in our community with an opportunity to present their principles & vision for our country to a judging panel, who will select 3 winners to present their speech, live in the parliament," Ms King said. "Preparing & making a speech to parliament is a challenge for even the most experienced orators, but it also an extremely rewarding experience to represent the interests of your community in the House. This competition asks high school students to write & video a 3min speech as if it was their first speech to the House of Representatives.

"Members' maiden speeches give you a clear insight into shaping of their ideology, what brought them to represent their community in the parliament & their vision for their country & community.

"I expect these speeches from young people around the country will be no different & this competition provides a platform to express those views to our current elected representatives."

House of Representatives Education Committee Chair Ewen Jones & Deputy Chair Alannah MacTieman will be judging the entries along with Seven News political editor Mark Riley. Visit www.aph.gov.au/myfirstspeech for more info.



The waterrace track from the Springs to Whalebone Road is currently being up-graded.

Happy walking & keep an eye out online for exciting news in the next few weeks about the Great Dividing Trail ...

## Catherine King

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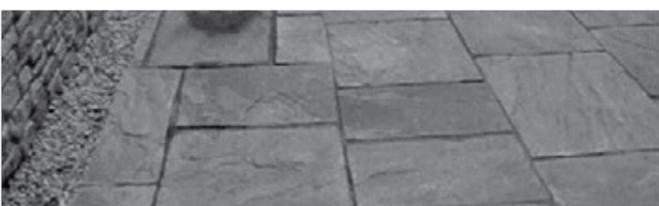
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