



*April - May '15 vol 6 ~ issue 7:6*

**FUN @ EASTER: THE  
BLACKWOOD EASTER  
CARNIVAL, ART & CRAFT  
IN TRENTHAM & THEN IN  
MAY... THE SPUD FEST!**

check out the gig guide p7  
& calendar of events p9



*photo courtesy Big Dog Bites (Allen Moore)*



### EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

Hi Blackwoodians,  
Ah, it's my favourite time of year in Blackwood; family visits, friends gathering before the winter hibernation, good cheer &, best of all, Hetty the hen makes an appearance, heading up the Easter Parade on Easter Saturday! Check out the old photo of her from a 1948 Argus & with her owner in 1980 on p3.

I've been absolutely delighted with the support the Blackwood Times has been given by the the community since my callout for help with publication of our local paper into the future. I'm really happy to say that we will be continuing into our 8th year after all!

I'm currently negotiating to have the website re-built using the wordpress platform. Eight years ago, when I first built it in Joomla, I never imagined how many downloads we would get (average of 40k per issue). The site is now antiquated &, given the Times is bi-monthly, I see an opportunity to make it more functional... the place people can get news in-between issues.

In the meantime, I'm using Facebook to fulfil this role. If you haven't liked our page yet, please do. Keep in mind though that Facebook has recently changed its algorithm, so if you want our posts to show up on your wall you do need to engage with the posts, that simply means liking, commenting &/or sharing.

I've just spent the last hour chewing the Blackwood fat with our Mayor. If you haven't already, make sure you 'have your say' about Blackwood, looking to 2041 here ... <http://haveyoursaymoorabool.com.au/have-your-say-moorabool>. Submissions are open til April 10.

Once again this is a bumper issue... we hope you enjoy it. Our helpers are listed below so if you see them around please thank them for us.

~ Jinny Coyle

Thank you our **HANDS-UP** helpers - you are the reason we are able to keep publishing... (not to forget our regular contributors of course!)

Gigs co-ordinator	Cat Moser
Calendar of Events co-ordinator	Rachel Palmer
Advertising co-ordinator	Doreen Dalrymple
Social Media Manager	Diana Smith
Co-ordinate contributors	Your name here?
Photographers	Peter Donnelly & you?
Event columnists	Do you love to write?
Community Co-ordinator	Sandy Schmidt
Childrens Co-ordinator	Simone Barry
Seniors Co-ordinator	Lindy Mundy
Media Co-ordinator	Perhaps this is up your alley?
Distribution Co-ordinator	Diana Smith
Web Manager	Jane Howat
Typist	Di Hewes
Editor	Di Hewes, Faye Cameron

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CAPTION: Colin says, "If you have a leg like a lamppost, be very suspicious of a dog's intentions."

**the BLACKWOOD TIMES info**



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

Advertisers book space	May 15	
Regular Contributors, Features & Items of Interest, Community Groups & Clubs	May 15	
Display Ad Artwork		May 20
Late breaking News		May 20

**NO late submissions will be accepted.** Please email submissions, display ads & articles to [editor@theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au](mailto:editor@theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au), put in the 'drop box' outside the Blackwood Merchant or post to The Blackwood Times c/o Blackwood PO, 3458.

Download our Advertising Rate Card & back issues (in colour) from [www.theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au](http://www.theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au) &, while you're there, sign-up to join our eList & follow us on .

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

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Bring the Children in to see  
**"HETTY THE HEN"**

Hetty is an old favourite of the Children! She appears around this time of year regularly at Myer's, and what a thrill it is for the youngsters! The nimble threepence causes Hetty to cackle, and deposit in the straw—not an egg, but a beautifully moulded SOAP CHOOK! Hetty is on the Ground Floor of the Bourke St. Store.

*Novelties for the Kiddies!!*

"HETTY THE HEN" and 2 Soap Eggs, in Nest Box . . . . . 1 3  
 SOAP HEN AND SOAP EGGS, in cellophane bundle . . . . . 10jd.  
 TUMBLER of polished plain glass, with Soap Hen & Egg . . . 1  
 SOAP Novelty! Frog, Humpty, & Bonzo nestled together, 10jd.  
 EGG CUP of polished Glass, with Soap Egg, for . . . . . 6d.  
 COUPE DISH of glass, with Soap Hen and 4 Soap Eggs . . . 1 9

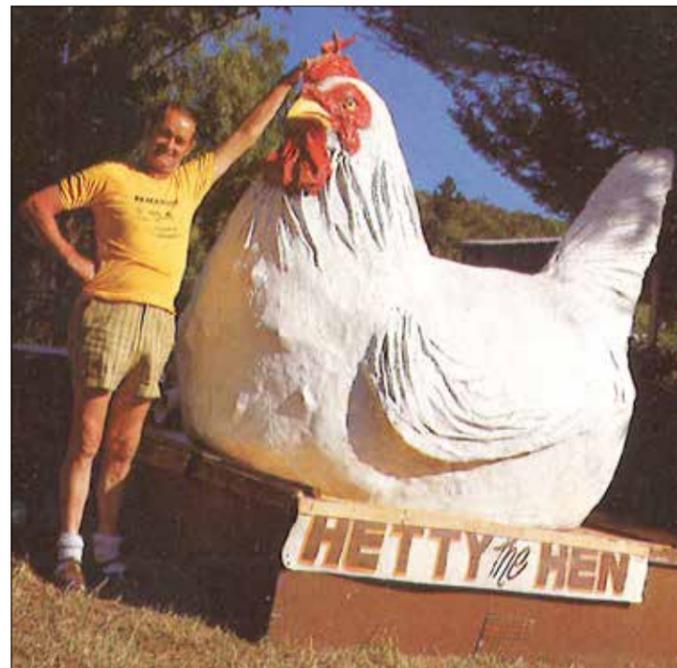
Ground Floor — Bourke St.

TWO-TONE FELT BUNNY, with Soap Egg . . . . . 6 7  
 BIRD KIDDICLOCK, with 2 Soap Eggs . . . . . 5/-  
 WOODEN HAY CART, with 6 Soap Eggs . . . . . 7 6  
 PAINTED TIN MONEY BOX, with one Egg . . . . . 9jd.  
 ANIMAL WOOD MONEY BOXES, with 2 Eggs . . . . . 2 10  
 TINY TOTS' CLOCK FACE, with 2 Eggs . . . . . 2 3

Toy Dept.—Ground Floor—Lonsdale St.

ABOVE: Hetty the Hen ad - Melbourne Argus - March 14 1948

BELOW: Hetty the Hen with Don Matheson circa 1980



**I NEED A HOME TO RENT IN BLACKWOOD!**

I've been living in Blackwood for 7 years. Now my landlord is selling the house. So I desperately need to find another home (preferably longer term). I've made a life here, and crave the forest (for my sanity & health). I really, really don't want to leave this beautiful town. I work from home (naturopath & healer) & volunteer with BW CERT (which I'd have to give up if I move out of the area). My situation is urgent. If anyone can help me out, please contact Kathie on 53686560.

**theBLACKWOOD ACTION GROUP**

Blackwoodians & anyone interested in the future of our village are invited to the BAG ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

**THURSDAY, May 14 @ 7pm**  
**BLACKWOOD HOTEL**

- meet the officials who we have been working with
- hear about our progress
- catch-up with other locals

kitchen opens at 6pm for meals

### Are We About to Resume Building?

There have been encouraging signs recently of movement on both the fire & water issues which have been blocking building in this town for over 12 years. We expect to be delivering some good news at the 3rd annual public meeting, to be held at Blackwood Hotel on May 14 at 7pm. Why not come early for a meal?

BAG met with Emergency Management Victoria & Moorabool Shire recently to discuss the development of the town's own Community Emergency Management Plan. We will be seeking input from the whole community, including, of course, emergency services CFA, CERT, SES & police. This new scheme seeks to draw on local knowledge & skills to create both a safer town & one with a greater capacity to respond to & recover from emergencies.

Some country towns these days, considered by authorities too dangerous, difficult or not worth the effort, are being forced to justify their very existence. Blackwood may be one of them. BAG believe that the CEMP will add to our argument that we in Blackwood know how to manage the place & that we're here to stay.

Although there's been some good news on the Bushfire Management Overlay restrictions, with some 60+ planning approvals since the change of State Government, compared to virtually none going back to Black Saturday, it seems the battle is not over. The new Emergency Services Minister responded recently to Flowerdale's plea to rebuild as a viable town with this: "We cannot allow houses to be built where there is a high risk to life & property" (Herald-Sun March 22). Feel free at this point to substitute "Flowerdale" with "Blackwood".

BAG responded to the minister in the next day's paper: "Clearly, then, neither post-cyclone Darwin nor post-earthquake Newcastle should have been rebuilt. Few places on earth are free from natural or man-made dangers. People live all over this planet, managing the local risks. I live in a bush town full of timber cottages from the 1800's. The town is still here because we've managed the risks. Our survival is threatened, however, by government regulations that, for the past 15 years, have stopped us building, re-building or even improving our homes & businesses. Does Victoria really want to legislate away our country towns?"

There is, however, good news on the wastewater management issue. Our new State Member, Mary-Anne Thomas has been busy over the summer, taking the Blackwood sewerage issue to Parliament & instigating a working group which comprises EPA, Western Water, Central Highlands Water, Moorabool Shire & the State Government. Mary-Anne assures us that the group will not be disbanded until a solution for Blackwood is agreed upon. An announcement from CHW is due within the month. (see also BAG article p15)



• BLACKWOOD SOCIAL ALBUM •



Workout at the cemetery working bee ...photos courtesy: Lesley Pearce



Pink Stumps Day ... Above right: our champion team & above: their champion supporters

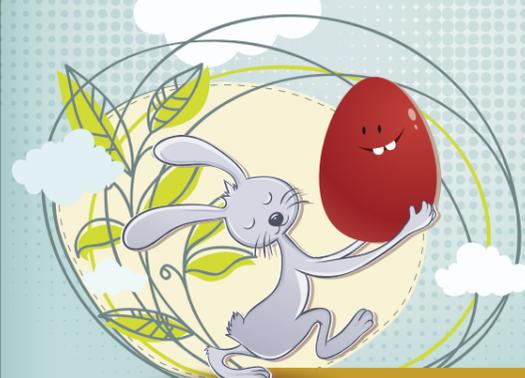
The Annual Blackwood Easter Carnival & Woodchop is on April 4th. Commencing with the Street Parade starting at the corners of Whalebone Road & Martin Street, at 11am, making their way to the Blackwood Recreation Ground.

**Street Parade:** entries for the Easter Bonnet, Most Humorous, Equestrian, Pedestrian, Decorated Bike, prizes to be won.

The Midland Axemen will have 12 Events. These axemen come from all over Victoria and Interstate. Program featuring: Division Underhand 1st and 2nd, 4 Man Butchers Block, Under 18 Chop, The Blackwood Championship, Cross Cut Sawing Teams Race, Tree Climbing Event TO add to the fun there will be 40 stalls, Tug'o'War, mechanical bull, children's races, As well as a pet show judged by Helen Ritchie from Dancing with the Stars - \$3 entry per pet with proceeds to Wildlife Shelter. Food, Drinks and heaps more.

**Admission**  
Adults \$5.00 Children \$1.00 under 5 free.

**A GREAT FAMILY DAY**



Enquiries to Judith de Groot 5368 6697 or Elizabeth Hall 5368 6537

BLACKWOOD EASTER CARNIVAL AND WOODCHOP

NEW POST OFFICE/GENERAL STORE OPEN FOR BUSINESS



TOP: Jamie awaits your custom! BOTTOM: picking up the mail & a newspaper! WOOHOO!

FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH



The Two Simons have just taken on the Blackwood Merchant, as the previous owners, Pete Moore & Jen Matthews, have decided that it's time to up & tend to their long-neglected Mansfield farm. Good luck with that, Pete & Jen. Blackwood will miss you.

Over the road at the Blackwood Hotel, the Two Darrens, to avoid confusion, are referred to as Big Darren & Little Darren, even though there's really no great size difference. Now that we have the Two Simons at the Merchant, you'll be pleased to know that one of them is happy to be called "Si".

Simon "Si" Daniel grew up in a catering family. He was first trotted out, plates in hand, at the tender age of 6 and, apart from a little career divergence into education, maintained his hand in the family line of work; always with a view to opening his own establishment.

Londoner, Simon Gracie, has a long history working in environmental controls for business development, overseeing many former industrial sites in England's north and, later, Victoria. Now, in his spare time, he will be overseeing the counter at the Merchant. Look out for him on Friday nights & Saturday mornings.

The lads have been in for only 1 week, but you'll already notice changes in the local produce, & now giftware & even a little classy homeware are available. They have also turned up the brightness dial a notch or 2 with a lick of white paint.

Long-term changes include: insulating & building-in the deck area, holiday accommodation in the residence, mid-week curry nights & Saturday night feasts (with a separate menu, changing monthly). What's not changing is the Merchant's focus on fresh, local & house-made food.



Si (left) & Simon (right) already hard at work.

The merchant will open Wednesday to Sunday 9am-4pm. Wednesdays is prep day, cooking & baking for the week so breakfast & light lunches will be available.

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



### 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)
Jan '15	78.4	50	2.2	37.4	24.4	9.6	16.5
Feb '15	42.1	54	7.9	36.2	27.8	11.4	18.1

FEBRUARY AVERAGE temperatures were warmer than those of January, which was relatively cool.

### CALL 000 FOR EXPERTS



When you need to call 000 in our area, Blackwood CERT team often arrive ahead of the Ambulance. The Blackwood Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) are highly trained volunteers who provide advanced first aid for all types of health emergencies. The team respond in pairs, so catching five of them in one spot is pretty good. Pictured are Margaret McCarthy, Ivan Johnston, Tim Marsh with daughter Juniter, Caroline Parker, Deirdre Cronin. Also in CERT are Kathy Berrill, Leonie Brasier, Johnny Kesselschmidt, Sandy Schmidt, Kathie Strmota, Anne Vergona.



Blackwood CFA assisting in the DEPI planned burn around town in March.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR EDITOR, IT WAS with serious alarm on Wed March 11, I saw smoke arising very close to where I live in Decker Street, Blackwood. On closer investigation it was the Dept of Primary Industries doing a burn off along Simmons Reef Road. As I looked down from my vantage point in Decker Street A TREE was bursting into flames, so I elected to pack up & leave with my pet there & then.

IT RAISES serious concerns about the lack of information & notification when the DEPI elects to burn off in Blackwood. With no mobile tower we have no effective communication system which could have enabled us to be notified by mobile phone.

ADDED TO our angst was the discovery that the DEPI had managed to burn the telephone cable which Telstra had left lying on the nature strip for several years. This particular telephone line, because of its position & unsuitable exposure to the elements, has been walked on, tripped over, flood affected & struck by lightning during this past year alone. Yet again, we had no landline, no internet access & the Fire Ready App is rendered useless.

NO ONE would argue that the DEPI shouldn't burn off & take all necessary steps to ensure the fire doesn't escalate. We also respect the fact that the DEPI cannot predict exactly which days are going to be the most suitable. However, with one fire engine, a few small trucks & a few good men at the ready, those safety precautions cannot prevent flying embers being carried on a windy day, which it was on that Wednesday. Nor can we always stop the force of a raging fire getting out of control. As has happened before.

BLACKWOOD HAS been designated a high fire risk area which resulted in the Community Fire Refuge being built, for which we are all very grateful. However, the serious concern is with limited entry & exit roads & many no through roads as in Decker Street we have limited time & limited escape routes no matter how good our fire plan. Electricity & telephone lines will burn. As a community we want to be able to support ourselves, our families & our neighbours to make a swift exit. Without an effective & efficient communication system such as a mobile phone tower, our fireplans will literally go up in smoke & so will we if we can't get out in time.

Doreen Dalrymple

DEAR JINNY, PLEASE FIND enclosed ... cheque with my thanks for the always highest quality publication of the 'Blackwood Times' - a great balance between historical, contemporary & future concerns.

I HAD hoped to re-visit Blackwood but months of hospitalisation put paid to that ... for now.

BEST WISHES to Heinze & Ange in their new era - & to the new hosts of the Blackwood Hotel

KIND REGARDS

Johanna (Parsons) Nicholls

DEAR EDITOR, NOT BEING able to communicate by mobile phone has a real impact on CERT members when responding to health emergencies in our community. We are trained volunteers who either have to stay together, or at home, on the weekend to be ready to attend a call. While we're out, we are unable to communicate with our team leader, or our families at home. I don't know how as a community we're going to achieve this - maybe all of us making a noise to the Federal Government will help - but one thing is for sure, to make things better for our volunteers & our patients, our community really needs a mobile service in & around Blackwood.

Margaret McCarthy (CERT Member)

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

#### APRIL 2015

when	what	where
Fri 3	Grumpy Neighbor's Lazy Dawg	Radio Springs
Fri 3	Moodswing	Perfect Drop
Sat 4: lunch	Birdland	Radio Springs
Sat 4: eve	The Flames	Radio Springs
Sat 4	Accousticats	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 4	Luvland Duo	Perfect Drop
Sun 5: lunch	Gathering Tide	Radio Springs
Sun 5: 12-4	Harry J Nanos	Blackwood Hotel
Sun 5: eve	The Burke Brothers	Radio Springs
Mon 6: lunch	Gillian Eastoe & Terry Murray	Radio Springs
Thurs 9: eve	McMurray & McLean	Radio Springs
Fri 10	Cat & Clint*	Radio Springs
Fri 10	High & Lonesome	Perfect Drop
Sat 11: arvo	Cat & Clint*	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 11: lunch	Marty P	Radio Springs
Sat 11: arvo	Cat & Clint*	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 11: eve	Family Farm	Radio Springs
Sat 11	Zeebz vs. Miss Vitula	Perfect Drop
Sun 12: lunch	Liz Frencham & The People We Know	Radio Springs
Sun 12: eve	Little Blues Bag	Radio Springs
Thurs 16	Adrian Deakin	Radio Springs
Fri 17	Pennyweight	Radio Springs
Fri 17	Grumpy Neighbour	Perfect Drop
Sat 18: lunch	Jude Parsons	Radio Springs
Sat 18: arvo	Harry J Nanos	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 18: eve	The Duck Downpickers	Radio Springs
Sat 18	Jenny Brown & Bruce Miller	Perfect Drop
Sun 19	Blackwood Academy	Blackwood
Sun 19: lunch	Gillian Eastoe & Terry Murray	Radio Springs
Sun 19: eve	Liz Frecham & The People We Know	Radio Springs
Thurs 23	Adrian Deakin	Radio Springs
Fri 24	Marni, Mark & Dave	Perfect Drop
Fri 24	Jude Parsons	Radio Springs
Sat 25	Bosky Nova	Perfect Drop
Sat 25: lunch	McMurray & McLean	Radio Springs
Sat 25: arvo	Accousticats	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 25: eve	Prayerbabies	Radio Springs
Sun 26: lunch	Prayerbabies	Radio Springs
Sun 26: eve	Goyim	Radio Springs
Thurs 30	Table Hill	Radio Springs

\* Blackwoodian locals

#### MAY 2015

when	what	where
Fri 1	Arkie T Williams & The Mudlarks	Perfect Drop
Fri 1	Jude Parsons	Radio Springs
Sat 2	Memphis Joe Crum	Perfect Drop
Sat 2: lunch	Travelling Concessions	Radio Springs
Sat 2: arvo	Harry J Nonos	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 2: eve	Prayerbabies	Radio Springs
Sun 3	Cat & Clint*	The Cosmo
Sun 3: eve	The Burke Brothers	Radio Springs
Fri 8	Buck Jr. (Nico)	Perfect Drop
Fri 8	Lily P	Radio Springs
Sat 9	Zeebz vs. Miss Vitula	Perfect Drop
Sat 9: lunch	McMurray & McLean	Radio Springs
Sat 9: arvo	Paige	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 9: eve	Geoffrey Williams	Radio Springs
Sun 10: lunch	Gillian Eastoe & Terry Murray	Radio Springs
Sun 10: eve	Adrian Deakin	Radio Springs
Fri 15	Tania Petrini & Vida Jazz	Perfect Drop
Sat 16	Jenny Brown & Bruce Miller	Perfect Drop
Sat 16: arvo	Harry J Nanos	Blackwood Hotel
Sun 17: arvo	Blackwood Academy	Blackwood
Fri 22	Cat & Clint*	Perfect Drop
Sat 23	Hardrive	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 30: arvo	Harry J Nanos	Blackwood Hotel

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### BLACKWOOD ACADEMY of Bluegrass & Old-Time Music SUNDAY APRIL 19

2PM OLD TIME SESSION with Craig Woodward

4 PM WOODWARD & ROUGH

5PM JONNY CAN'T DANCE



\$15 entry, (\$10 conc/BTCMSA members) under 18 free BLACKWOOD UNITING CHURCH HALL entry via Byers Rd, Blackwood, Victoria (1 hr drive from Melbourne) information ph: 0421 593 998 www.blackwoodacademy.org www.bluegrassoldtimeaustralia.org



### COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

Due to the Ministry being a little stretched, All Saint's Church is temporarily closed. There is no information at this time when this will reopen.

The nearest church is at Handy St, Myrning. However, the Priest, Darrell Couch, is available for ongoing Ministry for pastoral care & funerals in the area if you wish to contact him.

His number is - home: 53675362 or mobile - 0417522779.

### Blackwood Action Group

see p3& 15 for updates

~ Blackwood Action Group

### Blackwood CFA

We are still officially in the fire restriction season.

A new season, new people! To celebrate the change of command from Ian to Ross, there was a dinner held at the Blackwood pub. The night was a great success with awards being presented to Ian & other members.

The staff & publicans did an excellent job looking after the brigade, with a good selection of tasty meals. We wish to thank the staff for their work & service.

DEPI have conducted some burns & the brigade has been assisting.

During the fire season we are at the station every Sunday & you are welcome to drop in, say hello & ask any questions you may have or to join our team.

We wish to welcome three new prospective members, Carlson, Russell & Claire.

If you require further information, refer to the CFA website, www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call 1800 240 667 Victorian Bushfire Information Line.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS ARE STILL IN FORCE

NO BURNING WITHOUT A PERMIT

Report any fires by calling 000.

~ Karl Church

### Blackwood CERT

This month we have had some calls for assistance in our community.

The CERT Team has just undertaken their annual CPR update with Ambulance Victoria. Congratulations to the team, we all passed.

Keep safe, from the CERT Team.

~ Sandy Schmidt, CERT recruit

If you need to call 000 in our area, Blackwood CERT team often arrive ahead of the Ambulance. The Blackwood Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) are highly trained volunteers who provide advanced first aid for all types of health emergencies.

Blackwood CERT has been looking for a home for our emergency vehicle for a while now. We've investigated a range of locations around Blackwood - thanks to everyone who has made offers. Unfortunately, due to a combination of logistics & budgets limitations none so far have been right. Please keep us in mind if you know of a location that might be suitable. Ideally this would be central to town, secure, & with easy access. We'll keep searching to make sure we soon have a home. Thanks all for the great community support, from us at CERT!

### Blackwood CLCM

We are working hard to obtain the funding for the Blackwood Hall floor after many meetings & talks we are getting some funding through.

Thanks to Brian Moore for all his effort in putting in submissions etc., & also thanks to Moorabool News, Cr. Pat Toohey & our Mayor Cr. Paul Tatchell & the Moorabool Shire Staff & the many other people who have given time to helping with this urgent upgrade.

Thanks to Brad & Jenny, who have worked very hard over the months keeping the Caravan Park & Mineral Springs up running over what has been a very busy period.

PLEASE NO DUMPING OF RUBBISH AT THE SPRINGS

~ Judith A. de Groot

### Blackwood Historical Society

Thanks to all those who attended our open day Sunday March 8. We added to our entrance some seats.

On Sunday April 5, we will again be open 10.30am to 4pm. We will also have a display of the Mining Era at the Progress Shed at the Easter Carnival. Please feel welcome to visit us.

### Blackwood Public Cemetery Trust

Thank you to all the community-minded people who came to help out at our working bee. Lou keeps the grounds in wonderful condition, thanks Lou, but on the day we were able to remove trees & branches, remove broken glass & fill in some hollows. Many hands do make light work.

Thank you too to those people who help with maintenance & jobs around the cemetery throughout the year. When people from out of town attend funerals they often comment on what a peaceful & well-maintained cemetery we have, it is a public area to be proud of & enables our community to pay tribute to those who have gone before us.

~ Walter Zanon

### Blackwood Progress Association

We are coming up to Easter again & as last year we gave \$4500.00 to the C.F.A., & this year we are supporting Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management, with funds towards the replacement of the Hall Floor.

**Good Friday:** Setting up of the Recreation Ground at 11am, any help will be gratefully appreciated.

**Easter Saturday Workers:** will be of a great help even if you can give ONE OR TWO HOURS.

Don't forget to put your ENTRY in for the Parade Money prizes for Sections: - Easter Bonnet, Equestrian, Pedestrian, Most Humorous, & Decorated Bike. Children's Races, Children's Treasure Hunt, Pet Show \$3 entry per pet. Wood Choppers, why not try the Mechanical Bull or the Tug of War & Gumboot Throwing. Visit the 40 stalls - Fudge, Knitwear, clothing, plants, work wear, Jewellery, Rawleigh's Products, Jams, & much more. Devonshire Teas, hot dogs, soft drinks, B.B.Q., & the liquor bar.

Visit the Display in the Progress Shed of Mining era, from the Mining Tour Group. Also present will be the C.F.A. & C.E.R.T

**Easter Sunday Night:** Family Bingo, 7.30 Blackwood Hall play for prizes \$3 per hand & supper afterwards.

May we wish all who read this a Safe & Happy Easter & to the school age people Happy Holidays.

From all the Members of the Blackwood Progress Association Inc.

P.S. Special thank you to all who had a Garage Sale & to the people who supported them.

Thank you to all who attended our Family Bingo.

Funds for the Weekend were \$791.00. A very big thank you.

~ Judith A. de Groot, Secretary

### Blackwood Senior Citizens

Here we are again with an update from the Blackwood Senior Citizens. We have had a busy start to the new year - the outing to Harbour Town & Melbourne Star was enjoyed by us all, a wonderful view of the city, & would even be better at night which we are thinking of doing later in the year. Then for our racing fanatics we visited Living Legends which was very interesting & quite nostalgic. Our next outing is a cruise on the Tramboat, cost is \$65 inclusive. If you are interested please contact Bev Herd on 5368 2526.

We have been lucky enough to acquire another podiatry chair so Louise the podiatrist & Debbie the nurse will be attending our Blackwood club on April 29. Anyone wanting to make an appointment, please ring the Ballan Community Health Centre on 5366 7999. We are also pleased to announce that we now have a membership of 61 which is quite rewarding.

We wish everyone a safe & enjoyable Easter. Til next issue,

~ Barb Sweet. (Hon Secretary)



Happy Birthday to 'Little Betty' of the Blackwood Senior Citizens Club. A regular attendee, she is famous for her jelly slice & chocolate spiders.

### Blackwood Uniting Church

It is great that our church building is being used by members of the wider community through the Blackwood Music Academy. Our congregation meets at Blackwood House on the first & third Monday of each month at 7 pm for a Christian meditation service. All are welcome.

We are proud & excited that our Minister, Jenny Hayes, is to be ordained in the very near future. Congratulations Reverend Jenny. Jenny serves the Bolong Cluster, which includes the churches of Ballan, Daylesford, Trentham & Blackwood. Her office is in Daylesford but she makes regular trips to all other places. if you wish to contact Rev Jen, her number is 5348 2119 at Daylesford, her mobile is 0428 215 291.

~ Walter Zanon

### BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

Blackwood Cricket Club held a Pink Stumps day at the Blackwood Recreation Reserve on Saturday February 14 & everyone had the breast (sorry) best day. The event was held to raise money for the McGrath Foundation.

The foundation, started by Jane & Glenn McGrath after Jane's much-publicised experience with breast cancer led to the formation of what has become one of Australia's most respected & recognised charities. Until there is a cure for breast cancer, the McGrath Foundation is committed to providing as much support as it can for families facing a breast cancer experience through the funding of McGrath Breast Care Nurses nationally, no matter where they live or their financial situation, as well as increasing breast awareness in young Australians.

The event was a huge success & Blackwood Cricket Club would like to express their appreciation & thanks to all those involved before & on the day, & for all of the support the local community provided by attending & buying raffle tickets. Due to the success they are looking at making it an annual event.

A total of \$2682.00 was raised through a donation by the Blackwood Cricket Club & donations of raffle prizes from sponsors on the day; Greendale Pub, Blackwood Pub, Blackwood Merchant, Commercial Hotel Ballan, D & M Traders Ballan, Steve O'Brien, Greendale Florist & James Cann.

Wombat Country Catering, a mobile catering company run by Samantha Whitehouse & Kym Kelly, were on hand to provide everyone with fresh & tasty food, which included roast beef/lamb rolls & baked potatoes, & Keith Osborne was at the bar serving refreshing beverages as always!!

Check out our fundraising total on facebook : <http://pinkstumpsday2015.gofundraise.com.au/page/blackwoodcricketclub>. Anyone wishing to still donate may do so by visiting this site.

In other news, we are well on the way to win their third grand final in a row scoring an impressive 295 runs in their innings midway through day two of the final, Romsey then went into bat &, after an awesome bowling attack from the Blackwood boys, had Romsey at the start of the innings at 3 wickets for 2 runs. Romsey at the end the day are at a loss of 8 wickets for 96 runs. Next Saturday should see Blackwood clean up the tail of the Romsey batsmen to secure the win. Check facebook page for our progress [www.facebook.com/BlackwoodCricketClub](http://www.facebook.com/BlackwoodCricketClub).

~ Jodie Bantz

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### AROUND & ABOUT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### APRIL:

Fri 3-5	10am- 4pm	Trentham Easter Art & Craft Show	Trentham
Mon 6	10am - 3pm	Trentham Easter Art & Craft Show	Trentham
Fri 3-6		Stawell Gift	Stawell
Sat 4	11 am	Blackwood Easter Parade	Martin St
Sat 4	11 am-5pm	Blackwood Easter Carnival	Blackwood
Sat 4	1-7pm	Kyneton Twilight Market	Kyneton
Sun 5	9am	Church Service (all denominations welcome)	All Saint's Anglican
Sun 5	9am	Mass	St Malachy's
Sun 5	10.30-4	Blackwood Historical Society	Blackwood
Sun 5	7.30	Family Bingo	Hall
Tue 7	6:50pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Sat 11	noon- 6	Woodend Twilight Market	Woodend
Sat 11	7:30pm	Film Screening "All Is Lost" Trentham Film Society	TNH
Sat 11/ Sun12	9am-5pm	Autumn Festival @ St Erth	St Erth
Sun 12	9:15am	Myrning Historic Car Sprint	Myrning
Sun 12	3-5pm	Wombat Book Club	venue TBC
Tue 14	6:50pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Sat 18	9am-2pm	St Andrews Fete and Rose Show	Uniting Church, BM
Sun 19	1pm	Changing Gears - Author Talk	TNH
Sun 19	2-6pm	Blackwood Academy Revue	Uniting Church

#### MAY:

Sat 2	10.30am	Blackwood Historial Society meet	Blackwood
Sun 3	9am	Church Service (all denominations welcome)	All Saint's Anglican
Sun 3	3-5pm	Wombat Book Club	Hotel
Mon 4	7pm	Christian Meditation - all welcome	Blackwood House
Tue 5	5pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Tue 11	5pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Sun 17	2-6pm	Blackwood Acedemy Revue, including Shapenote singing with Shawn and Natalie	Blackwood Uniting
Mon 18	7pm	Christian Meditation - all welcome	Blackwood House
Tue 19	5pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Tue 16	5pm	Meditation	Yogazen

To the best of our knowledge all information correct at time of publication, it is advisable to check times, dates & venues with the event organisers.

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Authorised by Ms Thomas, Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne



## THE GARDEN NO 21:

~ by Jackie Airey

More than any other season, Summer, it seems, is a time of places. My memories of summers past always take me to locations invariably out-of-doors & often public. Long stays at Rosebud, the beach there, & the Hindhope Caravan & Camping Park loom large for me, as do the Carlton Baths, where I spent many a weekend & after-school hours. The city's parks & green spaces gave us all a bit of breath on those hot days & again, the sounds of those experiences are what return to me.

My uncle Art was a keen golfer & he would regularly take my dog, Tammy & me to Royal Park on golf-ball-hunting expeditions. We would scour the rough ground full of long, tussocky grasses behind the Zoo, close to the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories & the Psychiatric Hospital. At the time, the city hum was less discernible, so I always felt like we were exploring the wilderness, searching for lost treasure, with monkeys hooting, lions roaring & various other exotic cries filling the air. The only thing louder was the deafening trilling of cicadas on & near the hundreds of gum trees.

On many a late Saturday or Sunday arvo I would walk with Tammy, searching for the perfect spot near, but not too near the various cricket matches being played outside the oval at Princes Park. We would lay on the grass, staring up at the clouds & birds & listening to the chock of cricket ball on bat & the distant cries of players. The vast space seemed to absorb sounds, so everything was muted, gentle & calming & for me, these are still the defining sounds of Summer. I would make Tammy a daisy chain & enjoy the smell of these: grass, clover & dandelions mingled with Tammy's fragrance as she would lay with her head across my chest, & both of us would be lulled into a little sleep. There is nothing quite so serene as having a kip with one's puppy.

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One Summer sound we hear much less these days, is the 'phfft, phfft, phfft' of garden sprinklers. I remember it was one of the highlights of the season, on walking home from school, to find the sprinklers going on the lawns. In North Carlton, these were public sprinklers in the parks & on the nature strips in Drummond & Canning Streets. Books & bags would be dropped out of range, shoes & socks ripped off and, regardless of what we were wearing, we'd throw ourselves laughing & yelping, into the serious fun of cooling down after a long, hot day on the asphalt of the playgrounds.

Luckily enough, the sprinklers were far enough away from the old Date Palms for our bare feet not to be hurt by the razor sharp, dried leaves & branches that would drop, along with the hard, unripened dates littering the grass. Sometimes, we would run around the base of the trees - at a distance - pretending to be Little Black Sambos, taking back the ground. We weren't being chased by a tiger and, if we kept nipping through the sprinklers' haze, we wouldn't be turned into butter.

I imagine that most of us share our own personal versions of the sprinkler story, however, as a society, we've learned that we can't really afford such extravagance with water any more, whether it be for public or for private gardens. It's been years since I heard that homely, cooling sound - I do miss it.

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BALLAN MARKET 8am-1pm Inglis St	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station	KYNETON FARMERS 8am-1pm St Pauls Park	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station	CRESWICK COMMUNITY 9am-1pm Victoria St	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station	BREAKFAST BAZAAR from 9am Hepburn Springs	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station
DAYLESFORD FARMERS 9am-1pm D'ford PS	CASTLEMAINE ARTIST MARKET 10am-3pm (not Jan) 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			

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### MINISTERS REQUEST REVIEW OF BUSHFIRE FUEL MANAGEMENT APPROACH

As part of the Andrews Labor Government's commitment to keeping the state safe, the Inspector-General for Emergency Management Victoria has been asked to conduct a review of performance targets for the future bushfire fuel management program on public land.

The review meets the call for action from Neil Comrie, the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, Dr Gillian Sparkes & others. It will consider the views of experts, current research & the work undertaken by the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) since the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission.

Planned burning is an important part of a broader approach to community safety. Land management agencies & emergency services work together with communities, to prepare for, respond to, & recover from, natural disasters & other emergencies.

The review will examine a risk-based approach to bushfire fuel management against the existing hectare-based performance target program. The Inspector-General for Emergency Management has been asked to deliver his report by the end of March 2015.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Environment, Climate Change & Water, Lisa Neville

"The DELWP, together with Parks Victoria & the CFA, will continue to actively manage bushfire fuels on public land."

"The review will not affect the Department's planned burning program for 2014-2015. It will begin a process to develop an

evidence-based approach to reducing the risk of fire & protecting lives, communities & the environment."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Emergency Services, Jane Garrett "The review is about ensuring we have the best evidence-based approach to reducing the risk of fire & making Victoria a safe place for our communities."

"There has been clear & independent advice from the Bushfires Royal Commission Implementation Monitor that it is important to review the performance targets for bushfire fuel management."

Key points

- The scope of the IGE's review is to provide independent advice, free of influence from external sources.

- It will also consider the findings of the Bushfires Royal Commission Implementation Monitor & the reports of the Expert Reference Group-Bushfire Management Reform Program.

- The IGE may provide recommendations on complementary performance measures for fuel management on public land, but will not provide advice on a recommended target.



Dee & Kath relax & chat in the pub's new chatting corner at Sunday sippers.



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### STEPS TO A NEW YOU:

#### Purposeful Change: Identify the problem

by Kathie Strmota



This first step in creating purposeful change requires simply acknowledging a feeling of dissatisfaction, & recognising a desire for things to be different. We can feel unsatisfied for a long time, but avoid acknowledging this because to do so can be confronting. But the longer you ignore your inner signals, entanglements become

deeper, habits more entrenched, & change becomes even more challenging. The sooner you acknowledge what is unsatisfactory in your life, the more easily you're likely to change it.

If you don't currently feel dissatisfied in any area of life, count your blessings & give thanks! It means you're exactly where you need to be right now, inside & out. However, if there is an unsatisfying aspect, don't be afraid to bring that truth to light, even if you can't change it right now. This conscious acknowledgment alone will begin to set the energies for change in motion.

Remember that feeling unsatisfied doesn't mean your life is wrong, or that you made mistakes or unwise choices. It simply means that some life situation, dynamic, belief, or behaviour, is no longer nourishing for you. It served you then but the 'evolving you' now needs a different kind of experience. Your inner & outer life is a continual journey of new experiences, growth & transformation. You never reach a point where you've finally 'arrived' & never need to change again. Feelings

of dissatisfaction simply tell you when it's time for another evolutionary movement.

Once you acknowledge dissatisfaction, step 2 is to identify exactly what needs to change. This may sound obvious but, often, what appears to be the cause of your dissatisfaction is only the symptom of an underlying issue. There is almost always more to any story than first assumed. Unless you address the true source of your dissatisfaction, any changes you make will not be very satisfying in the long-term.

For example, you may hate going to work each day & think you need a change of career. If you break it down & reflect more deeply, you may actually find the problem is not the work itself (which you actually find quite satisfying) but the effort of driving there every day, which drains your enthusiasm. Now you have more accurate information on which to base your plans for change.

Or perhaps your relationship feels unsatisfactory, mundane, boring, & you want to end it & start something new. Maybe you blame your partner, or simply life. But look inside yourself before making any rash decisions. If you reflect honestly, you may recognise that perhaps you've both been too cocooned in each others lives & possibly you each need to go out & 'get a life', so you can bring that new vitality & inspiration back into the relationship. Instead of separating, you may simply need some separate friends & activities.

Be willing to keep honestly peeling back the layers of any unsatisfying situation, to identify as many contributing factors as you can & find the true cause. The most accurate solution will also end up being the most satisfying, & can require a very different direction of change than you initially assumed.

Making the right change is often a lot easier than you'd expect, & the bonus is that, if you can get to the heart of things & change that, many other peripheral problems will naturally resolve in the process.

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### Shanandoa - My father, Calvin Shader

~ from a speech by Noelle (continued from p7 JanFeb '15 issue)

After the war he returned to America, lived in California, building sets for the famous MGM studios in Hollywood. He saw & spoke to many stars, & mentioned John Wayne as being a gentleman. Here he lived his fantasy - beautiful starlets, the American west - the Rocky Mountains, rode horses & become fascinated with the plight of the American Indians & the wolves. His family beckoned him to come home to the East coast, & being one of the few to own a car, he decided to drive home across America in his Desoto. One his travels he stopped in Las Vegas, & at that time only one casino & one petrol station existed. The manager of the petrol stations said to him: "See the mountain ranges over there - & if you follow around to the next mountain ranges back to the station, well, I own all this land, & I'll trade it for your car. Not realising the value of this land in the future he said, "thank you, but no!" & returned to his travels. Had he accepted that offer he would have been a millionaire.

Calvin did return to New York for a short while, but his spirit of adventure kept him craving new experiences - how he ended up going to South America, I'm not sure, but he & a friend lived & worked in the jungles of Venezuela to speak Spanish, & carved a new life for himself in Caracas.

One day at the pool, where he was a lifeguard, he was introduced to a beautiful young Belgian woman, a pianist who was continuing her studies with her mentor. She spoke no English, no Spanish, only French. They fell in love & although poor, married in 1959.

They lived on beans & rice, & eventually had two children, my brother & myself. It was from her that his love of classical music blossomed - My parents remained in Caracas from 'til 1963. Calvin, although unschooled, become an English teacher at a prestigious military Academy, where he taught grammar, diction & writing. My mother performed as a concert pianist, & carved a career for herself in her own right. They were happy.

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## FROM THE SHIRES DESK...

### Meet the Mayor Face-to-Face – No appointment necessary!

Moorabool Shire residents now have more direct access to their Mayor. Moorabool Mayor, Cr. Paul Tatchell announced an initiative to make himself available for walk-up one-on-one consultations at the Lerderberg Library @ 6pm on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, without an appointment.

Moorabool Mayor, Cr. Paul Tatchell said he was already available by phone, email & on social media, but some residents said they wanted to express their concerns about issues & opportunities in their community personally, informally & in private. "Experience has shown that sometimes meeting one-on-one is the preferred way for people to express what they're feeling"

Cr. Tatchell said "It's a great opportunity to listen & understand where the community is coming from, as well as an opportunity for me to personally explain council's position, guide them on council process or simply provide a response to what's on their mind."

Cr. Tatchell hoped that by making a public commitment to be available at a set time & place, & making the process as simple & informal as possible that more people in the community will participate in local government issues.

"You'll find I'm an approachable person; as are the other Councillors for that matter. I encourage people to simply walk up & chat to me at these specially arranged one-on-one sessions about council matters. There's no need to make an appointment, just call in. If I don't have an answer for you on the spot, I'll bring back an answer to you the next time round."

Cr. Tatchell reminded residents that expressing their point of view was already encouraged via existing community consultation methods such as its online community consultation process [www.haveyoursaymoorabool.com.au](http://www.haveyoursaymoorabool.com.au)

"If this initiative doesn't suit you, just remember Council's have your say Moorabool website is online 24/7, & when you register, you will automatically receive an email about everything else that Council is currently seeking the communities opinion on."

Cr Tatchell said there were more initiatives coming to enhance council's community consultation.

"Watch this space! as we progress our digital strategy, more dialogue via social media will be possible. In the meantime, come & see me at the library in Main St Bacchus Marsh at 6pm on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays – I'll leave a light on out the front!"



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## BAG WANTS ANSWERS!

Last year prior to the State election, Blackwood Action Group met with the former Water Minister, Peter Walsh & was informed that the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) which had just been approved by the EPA would allow building to continue in Blackwood. His comments "Blackwood doesn't need to be sewerred"! He stated most blocks (about 460 lots) were of moderate risk & only 6 lots of high risk. BAG came from this meeting believing this a positive outcome for the town. However, with the passage of time this has been revealed to be too good to be true!

Moorabool Shire Council (MSC) has added a further layer of restrictions in addition to the DWMP, which is the reason BAG believes most people would experience difficulty obtaining a planning permit to build on the average sized township block. MSC requires a 'reserve area' which is a duplicate area of equal size to the land required for the drip irrigation associated with a modern wastewater treatment system or treatment plant. In effect, this doubles the area required & leaves no room to build on the average sized quarter acre block! The irrigation system & reserve area together would take up at least one quarter of an acre just to meet the requirements to build a small 2 bedroom house.

Section 3.10.2 Irrigation systems in the 'Code of Practice Onsite Wastewater Management' (here after referred to as the Code) states "A reserve area is not required for a surface or sub-surface pressure-compensating drip irrigation system ....., unless Council considers the site to be high risk. The low application rates are designed to create irrigation systems that are sustainable over the life of the system. If a fault occurs with a pressure-compensating irrigation system it is an equipment fault that needs maintenance, it is not a soil degradation problem. Pumps, & disc/mesh filters will fail before the soil is overloaded". Maintenance issues with the irrigation system should be addressed through Council's compliance of the Code, rather than placing onerous requirements for a reserve area on the landowner, which makes it practically impossible to build a small house on the average quarter acre block. BAG would like to know from MSC how many, if any, of these reserve areas have actually been used to replace the original drip irrigation area. Is MSC going to compel landowners to utilise the reserve area at some point in the future?

Furthermore, MSC dismisses a design proposing water reduction devices, which will reduce both the amount of wastewater generated & size of the drip irrigation area. MSC considers water reduction devices can easily be exchanged once a dwelling is occupied, yet there are many people in the city choosing water reduction features on showers & taps to save water. Once again, this is a compliance issue for the Council. Landowners should not be disadvantaged when this option exists in the Code & this would help landowners to build.

The DWMP shows most properties in the town to be of moderate constraint or risk, but these additional requirements by MSC imposes a further burden of bureaucracy which is inconsistent & limits building. BAG questions whether the reserve area imposed by the Council will ever be needed or enforced, particularly if according to authorities private systems are not currently causing water quality issues for the river. BAG would also like to see water saving devices kept as an option.

BAG recently met with our local MP Mary-Anne Thomas, who is trying to progress a solution outcome to the sewerage & building issues in Blackwood. BAG has informed Marry-Anne of these additional burdens to building in Blackwood & we will keep readers posted of the outcome.

What would be the outcome to Blackwood if homes were ever destroyed by bushfire? Would you be permitted to replace a 3 bedroom house with 3 bedrooms on the average size quarter acre lot? Would you only be permitted to rebuild a 2 bedroom house in these cases? Would you be required to purchase an adjoining lot to get the wastewater management area in order to build 3 bedrooms? If you thought the sewerage proposal was complicated, the future without sewerage may become more complicated or worse.

Blackwood is a town within the township zone according to the planning scheme. The purpose of Township zone according to the Moorabool Planning Scheme is "to provide for residential development & a range of commercial, industrial & other uses in small towns". Is the definition of Township zone in the case of Blackwood being watered down & flushed away?

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## The Road to Paradise

~ by Ewan Cameron



It's strange how for many years one can ignore, or simply not see, something very small that later becomes pivotal in one's life.

Year after year, from about the age of 6, I had first enjoyed visiting Daylesford then living there for about four years & visiting again after spending my teen years in Melbourne. By that stage I had gained a driver's licence & had beaten a regular path up & down the Ballan-Daylesford Rd. For many years on the return trip home from Daylesford I would notice on my left, pointing eastward into the Wombat State Forest, a humble signpost that simply said, "Blackwood". On frequent occasions I would think that I should turn onto the rough, narrow forestry track to explore the possibilities of finding new, secluded trout water. I could maybe find an isolated stream where I could fish in peace & solitude.

Nearly 25 years ago a dear friend had been visiting from Hervey Bay. On the day she was to leave us, we drove her to her daughter's home in Werribee. But instead of returning straight home ourselves, we decided to go for a Sunday drive. Perhaps a Devonshire Tea at Bacchus Marsh would fill in the afternoon for us. However, we found the place packed with tourists of similar intent. Cars were scrambling everywhere & a strong wind was creating clouds of dust. We didn't fancy having a cup of tea whilst being coated with dust from an unsealed car park. Hardly an idyllic Sunday afternoon experience! Deciding to drive on, we then had no idea of where we'd end up & so pressed on, vaguely thinking about Daylesford. After a while on the Western Highway we were drifting towards the large sign that said "Greendale/Blackwood". I remarked to Faye, "In all the years of going to Daylesford & seeing a signpost indicating Blackwood, I've never actually been there." She surprised me by saying she had done so herself with a group of fellow university students years before. So, on the spur of the moment, we took the exit ramp & headed off to Blackwood. It proved to be a decision that would change our lives.

Winding through the forest & wondering if we'd find anything at all past the quaint Greendale Hotel, we came upon the beautiful, old wooden sign that warmly declared, "Welcome to Blackwood". Even today we look for it & hope it forever remains, because we still remember clearly the first time we saw it.

The Cobb & Co Tea Rooms provided an excellent Devonshire Tea. While we were there, Faye noticed some small cards that suggested one could visit a beautiful garden close by called "The Garden of St. Erth". Pulling up in the car right at the front gate of the gardens, we were at once enchanted by what we saw.

On that very first visit, a lady told us the entry fee was \$3.50 per adult & children were free. Opening my wallet with some trepidation I discovered that it contained \$7 exactly. After three hours of peaceful rejuvenation in a charming environment, we had to depart. Would you believe it wasn't until 20 more years had passed that we would meet another person manning the gate!

Today, we have our own place quite close to St. Erth. When driving out of Blackwood we still do so reluctantly, counting the hours until our return. Every so often we remember fondly the "road to paradise", first travelled on a whim, all those years ago.

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**• WITH THANKS •**  
 On Behalf of Our Family, I would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to everyone who helped in the search for Matthew Williams. Thanks also to Tony Belette and the Special School for accommodating the family, BCRCM for use of the hall for the funeral and wake and Elizabeth Hall for the catering. Very, very big thank yous to all the emergency services volunteers.  
 ~ Sara Okerstrom



### • WHO'S TATT'S THAT? •

22 YEARS ago in Geelong, and the tattoo parlours were full of drunken sailors. Or so they say. A young bloke waits on a bench seat, eager to get a start on his epic vision; a full-back rendering of a giant and menacing genie which would emerge from a lamp somewhere on his arse. Next to him, his mate is flicking disinterestedly through a tattoo mag.

"YOU KNOW, I owe you some coin", says the Genie Boy. "Get that tatt. I'll pay for it."

HIS MATE looked at the image of Ned Kelly and shrugged "Well, Such is Life".

NED NEVER did get properly finished; the shading, that famous quote. Maybe a free tatt isn't worth the recurring effort and pain of a giant genie. Or maybe over time it became a fitting symbol of Ned's own incomplete life. Who knows? You'll have to ask...



Richard Mundy

### BLACKWOOF'S

MEET MAGGIE, the Australian Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog. Her breed comes from the early 19thC. crossing of the English Smithfield Cattle Dog with the Dingo.

YOU MAY notice that she's wearing one of those scary-looking obedience collars which give a little electric shock if the dog barks too much. Don't worry, Maggie's dad has disabled the shock and he uses the collar to send a vibrating message to get her attention. Maggie is deaf, not naughty.

IN FACT she loves to do the right thing by her dad. When he hits that vibrate button, she will come straight to him. When he raises his finger, she will stop whatever she's doing and sit. If the finger wags, then, well, she's in trouble for some reason. She's very good at interpreting facial expressions and knows the exact meaning of a nice pat.

BEING A cattle dog, Maggie likes to nip at moving objects; usually rubber balls or rubber tyres. She truly is sorry for that time when she chewed Dad's Harley tyre. But the stereo speakers? Why chew them? Because they were vibrating, of course.



### PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS



Woof: Easter is fast approaching and those wonderful chocolate eggs and bunnies. YUM!!

So what a perfect topic to cover in this month's edition. Chocolate is one of the most common causes of poisoning in dogs. Poisoning occurs less commonly in cats as they don't seem to have the same sweet tooth as dogs but chocolate is no less toxic to cats.

Chocolate contains cocoa which is made up in part of a compound called Theobromine. Theobromine is toxic to dogs and cats. Cocoa powder, baking chocolate and dark chocolate contain the highest levels of cocoa and therefore pose the greatest risk of toxicity if ingested. Theobromine toxicity is dose-dependant which means that the overall effect depends on the size of the animal, the amount of chocolate eaten and the type of chocolate.

Common symptoms of chocolate poisoning include:

- Restlessness
- Increased thirst
- Pacing
- Tremours
- Trembling
- Diarrhoea
- Excitement
- Panting
- Hyperactivity
- Vomiting
- Nervousness
- Increased urination
- Elevated heart rate
- Seizures
- In severe cases, death

No amount of chocolate is safe to be eaten by dogs and cats. Don't wait for warning signs, as they can take 6-12 hours to develop &, in severe cases, can last for up to 72 hours. Early intervention and treatment means a faster recovery for your pet and will significantly lower the cost to you. If your pet has ingested any chocolate (even a small amount) contact your local vet clinic

Vets will usually treat any chocolate ingestion by making the pet vomit and giving medication to stop the pet's body from absorbing the theobromine from the gastrointestinal tract. More severe cases may need to be hospitalised for a few days and additional treatments given to help treat any gastrointestinal symptoms or seizures.

Therefore it is important to ensure you never give your pets any chocolate and make sure they cannot gain access to any chocolate by accident, particularly over the Easter period.

Woof for now, Seamus



Aidan and Seamus in their St Patrick's day hat's...

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### Aussie soldiers suffering in silence on Australian soil

After a recent stay at the Austin Repatriation Hospital Ward 17 Heidelberg, I was uplifted by the support given to each other by my mates who were patients in the ward (Military & Emergency serviceman). But I was also disheartened by the struggle these men face after finishing their service to this country. Ward 17 Heidelberg in Victoria, is the only large specific hospital for servicemen & women & emergency service people in Australia, that treats them for the destructive effects on their health being a result from their service contribution to this country. Some of these effects are events/incidents that come about from doing their duty at work & not being able to control or prevent injury or death to their mates, patients, civilians & a lot more that I can't describe. The emotional trauma that these people go through needs specialised professional treatment, in an environment that is structured around understanding the discipline & training that these type of high-threat-of-injury & death careers that military & emergency service people do every day.

That's where the experience of the staff at Ward 17 & the specialised facilities at the Repat help servicemen & women with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder & their related symptoms. They help them to try & accept & manage everyday life after their military service. Some of the treatments provided are groups/classes run by the nurses & others, ranging from yoga & gym work including. Hydro pool sessions for soldiers' physically damaged bodies, to relaxation exercises, meditation, counselling, anger management, alcohol awareness, family counselling, healthy eating & cooking classes, art therapy, medication information & administration, walking, outings/excursions, group therapy, stress management, & the list goes on. Many of these groups are only available because of the volunteer work done by the RSL's Women's Auxiliary & others. Another volunteer has put in 49 years of his own time to help improve the facilities at the hospital & who's sweat would be worth bottling in my opinion for his dedication.

PTSD after military service is widely misunderstood by the general public. With only 20 beds in this facility for the many thousands of retired servicemen & women that need a hospital with a specific understanding of the stresses & after effects of PTSD on military & the emergency services. Many go untreated & suicide or end up in civilian public hospitals that don't understand their specific needs. There are many more still serving as I write this that are in need of this type of hospital & some of them use it already. Only 20, military emotional traumas specialised hospital beds, is not adequate to cater for our whole country's injured soldiers with PTSD.

You might be forgiven to think, since our soldiers fought in the Boer War & 18 years later ANZAC's landed on the shores of Gallipoli one hundred years ago, that by now, in modern times, there would be plenty of specific hospitals that debrief & guide soldiers with PTSD

### FROM MARY-ANNE'S DESK... FUNDS NEW FLOOR FOR OUR HALL

Labor Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas has announced the Blackwood Crown Reserve Committee of Management will receive \$15,000 funding to assist with replacing the Blackwood Hall floor.

The grant will be provided through the government's Public Safety on Public Land program, which assists Committees of Management's make public facilities the best they can be for the use and enjoyment of local communities.

"I'm glad that Government has been able to move quickly to fix this problem, and that I have been able to respond to the community's concerns".

"With the Easter Carnival fast approaching we wanted to ensure the hall is ready to go." Ms Thomas said

The Andrews Labor Government's public safety grants program enables the Victorian Government, to help committees tackle issues of risk on Crown land reserves.

"I'd like to recognise the work of the Blackwood Crown Reserve Committee of Management who acted quickly to bring this matter to the Government's attention to ensure the hall's floor is fixed," Ms Thomas said.

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after their military service. But you would be wrong because there is just one. This doesn't seem morally right after the values that were trained into us during our military careers.

Here are some things you may not know about soldiers' lives at work on Australian soil. Soldiers don't work tax free. Soldiers don't automatically get a pension when they retire. Soldiers don't automatically get free or subsidised medical benefits when they retire. Soldiers don't ever finish work until they have been officially discharged from their years of service & have given six months notice prior. Most soldiers don't have a house like civilians until they are officially recognised & proven by the military as having a long term relationship with a partner. Soldiers often don't get leave to attend the birth of their children. Soldiers often don't get leave for deaths of family or other loved ones. Soldiers get disciplinary action & loss of pay for being late for work, no matter what the legitimate reason might be. Soldiers can't just call home or loved ones whenever they want to. Soldiers don't get time off work for being sick or having a headache like civilians do.

Although the military is becoming more flexible with soldiers' needs since I was discharged 11 years ago, a soldiers work & Corp motto is Duty First before anything else.

I hope one day that there will be a PTSD-specific hospital in every state in Australia like the one in Victoria. At least one more in Queensland & NSW where the majority of the military are based, would be a big help to Services people & their families. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is a life sentence for those affected, which comes from having a conscience & empathy, not weakness or incompetence.

Apparently change is a good thing, so let's hope it happens here.

~ Cheers Clint



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MUSIC  
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The festival organisers wish to acknowledge the generous support of Moorabool Council and to thank the local community for helping us make the inaugural festival in 2014 a wonderful success. See you in 2015!



### WOMBAT BOOK CLUB 2015

We're a friendly, social group which gets together each month to discuss books. Due to the Easter weekend our April meeting will be moved to Sunday April 12. Venue to be confirmed, since the Merchant has changed hands. All welcome.

#### ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST:

**Brenda:** Brilliant book, both frightening and hilariously funny. You cheer with every inch gained and cry with frustration with every inch lost. Wonderful characters, including steely Nurse Ratched with eyes in the back of her head, larger-than-life McMurphy who takes every advantage, and schizophrenic Chief Bromden who misses nothing.

5 wombies

#### THE GRASS CASTLE:

**Brenda:** After the intensity of the last book I enjoyed following the kangaroos with beautiful descriptions of the animals and terrain. The stories of Abby and Daphne were touching and sensitively told, but the present romantic saga was unconvincing.

3 1/4 wombies

**Rachel:** The Grass Castle is an easy read but not an overly stimulating one. There are some pieces of information throughout the story relating to Australian history and kangaroo ecology that are somewhat interesting, but not enough to ameliorate the one-dimensional characters and predictable story line."

1 wombat.

**Margaret:** I read this one in a day - that's was an achievement for me as I'm usually a slow reader. But then, I think that the speed of reading was a reflection on the lightness of the story. I felt that the real drama and politics of the kangaroo management was kept to side stage, and the loose comparison of the loss of farm land (white) pioneer farmers to the dispossession of indigenous Australians shallow and, I have to say it, pretty trite. But overall The Grass Castle has some touching moments and the story of hidden grief and trauma was a good one to explore.

2.5 wombies

**Kirsty:** A light, enjoyable read that teeters on the edge of environmentalist issues, but never wanders far from the personal relationships and lives (present and past) of the characters. The characters are likeable and the descriptions of the Australian bush are accurate.

3 wombies

**Sandy:** The Grass Castle is an easy-to-read novel. A story about a biologist, Abby, studying kangaroos, and a journalist, Cameron, covering a story about her and her studies, form an unlikely romance between the 2. They interweave backgrounds of opposite polarity. A good read for those who want to curl up with an enjoyable, not-too challenging story.

**Jinny:** The only reason I finished this book was because I was sick as a dog & bored out of my brain! It was a shallow read, I was so glad to find out it was actually the GLASS Castle we were supposed to be reading!

1/2 wombie



Members of BAG meet with Mary-Anne Thomas (see p3 & 15). Look out for Mary-Anne at the Blackwood Easter Carnival.



### Dear Pet Guru,

My pet hen refuses to lay any eggs. She seems quite healthy and crows every morning when the sun comes up. Signed Perplexed.



Dear Perplexed, Crows every morning does she? I suspect that your hen is in fact a rooster and no eggs will be forthcoming. ~ Pet Guru



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### THE HISTORY OF BLACKWOOD - PIONEERS OF BLACKWOOD



#### MATTHEW SWEET & FAMILY

by Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society.

continued from p23: JanFeb'15 issue

Further records show another glimpse of the family, while searching Trove on-line. When searching your family history, further research can add stories to fill in gaps in the family history to give you an idea how they lived & died.

John Sweet born in Blackwood in 1855 suffered a nasty accident at a mine in Blackwood - a newspaper report found on TROVE has it as - **ACCIDENT TO JOHN SWEET** - *Bacchus Marsh Express Saturday, September 8, 1883* -

A sad accident happened to a man named **John Sweet** at the New North Britain claim on Tuesday morning. It appears a shot missed fire in the mine, & after a considerable time he went to see the cause, when it exploded in his face. He was conveyed to the Kyneton Hospital the following day. It is not yet ascertained if his eyesight is injured. He is badly cut about the head & face. No injury has been done to his limbs or body. A further report said he is likely to lose his sight, as unfavourable symptoms have set in.

A further report 4 years later found in TROVE - *Bacchus Marsh Express - Saturday 31 December 1887* - BLACKWOOD. (from our own correspondent.) The concert & ball on Boxing night for the benefit of Mr. **John Sweet**, who had lost his eye sight through a mishap at the North Britain mine three years ago, was a great success, as the Mechanics' large hall was crowded from the stage to the door. The whole of the performers had a splendid reception. Mr. Croker acted as chairman, & before the performance began he exhibited a nicely finished basket, with a hinged raised lid, the work of Mr. John Sweet while he was in the blind asylum. We learn that the young man, **John Sweet**, who was admitted to the Kyneton hospital a short time since suffering from severe injuries to his face, the result of the premature discharge of a blast in the Ferguson's Reef Co.'s mine at Blackwood.

**Matthew Sweet** Snr. died May 7, 1886 at Blackwood age 77yrs, & was buried in the Blackwood cemetery C of E, section 33. Thomas Sweet 1st son of Matthew Sweet died in Blackwood 6th April 1890 & was buried with his father at Blackwood.

Mary Sweet (nee Kelly) died 29th May 1905 & was buried in the Blackwood cemetery, R C section M 41.

Found on TROVE - *Bacchus Marsh Express - Saturday 3 June 1905* - By the death of **Mrs. Sweet**, relict of the late Mr. **Matthew Sweet**, Blackwood has lost an old & respected resident. Deceased arrived in Blackwood with her husband & family over 50 years ago, & was the first woman on the gold field. She was 87 years of age, & up to Friday last attended to her household duties. On Friday last she was seized with a paralytic stroke, from which she succumbed on Monday night.

Found on TROVE - *Bacchus Marsh Express - Saturday December 8, 1894* - An accident occurred with another mining accident, the sufferer in this case being a young miner named Thomas Sweet, who, while engaged in timbering some broken ground in his party's claim, near Simmons' Reef, got his collar bone broken by a fall of earth from the side of the drive. He was at once taken to Trentham, where Dr. Sleeman gave the necessary surgical assistance, & the patient is doing as well as could be expected. The accident was climax to a long run of bad luck.

And finally - Found on TROVE - *Bacchus Marsh Express - Saturday 25 November 1911* - One by one the old pioneers of Blackwood are passing away, like landmarks removed from stations they have occupied so long. We miss many of them, & by reflecting how many of them have joined the great majority, & that a new race has indeed sprung up in Australia since the discovery of gold brought its tens of thousands to these shores. Mr.

The library van service from the City of Ballarat now visits weekly at the Blackwood Memorial Hall, 1.30-2.30pm Wednesdays. Browse & order on-line at [centralhighlandlibraries.org.au](http://centralhighlandlibraries.org.au). 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. Please contact the Regional Library Officer on 0419 519 650 for any further queries.

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**George Sweet**, whose death we are just called on to deplore, was well known amongst us as a capable mining engine driver, being connected with the principal mines of this district for a great number of years., The deceased was born at Portland in the year 1846, & was consequently at the time of his death, which occurred about 4 o'clock on Friday morning, November 17, at his residence, Golden Point, in his 65th year.

His condition becoming more serious, Dr. Corry, of Egerton, was called in to attend him, but had no hope from the first. The deceased arrived on Blackwood in his boyhood, with his late father, Mr. **Matthew Sweet**, in 1855. The father of the deceased was an old employee of the Henty Bros., as a carpenter, in the early history of the Portland settlement, & was the second party to arrive on the Blackwood field. The deceased discovered in 1867, one of the richest terraces on the lower Lerderderg. He & his party worked this terrace with marked success for many years. He was acquainted with the history of most of the mines on Blackwood. He leaves two daughters to mourn his loss, & was highly respected by all who knew him. The remains of the deceased were interred in the family grave in the Blackwood cemetery on Sunday, 19th, & were followed by a large circle of friends from the surrounding districts.

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 - [margothitchcock@bigpond.com](mailto:margothitchcock@bigpond.com)

Buried in the Blackwood cemetery with headstones courtesy - <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ausvsac/Blackwood.htm>



READS: **Mary Sweet**, born 1819 Tipperary, Ireland. Died 29-5-1905 Blackwood. Daughter of Thomas & Catherine Ruby Kelly. Mother of Elizabeth, Thomas, Eliza, George, Catherine, Stephen, William, Matthew, John & Albert.

Headstone on grave of Mary Sweet, Blackwood cemetery. (Courtesy Margot Hitchcock. 2008)

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**FROM CATHERINE'S DESK ... BACCHUS MARSH OFFICE OPEN FOR 2015**

Catherine King's Bacchus Marsh office opened for 2015 in February, Located at the Lerderderg Library, 215 Main Street Bacchus Marsh, the office will be open every Friday. Residents should feel free to drop in for a chat or if they need of assistance with any issue.

The office will be open 10am to 4pm and can be contacted on 0409855946. If residents have any issues outside the Bacchus Marsh hours they should contact the Ballarat office:  
 5 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat  
 Ph: (03) 5338 8123  
 Fax: (03) 5333 7710  
 Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au

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# BEYOND BLACKWOOD...

## TRENTHAM ART & CRAFT SHOW

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 General Enquiries to: Jill McCallum Ph: 54241483  
 or Email: jillmccallum@live.com  
 Entry Enquiries to:  
 Dorothy Hancock Ph: 54241813  
 or Email: trenthameas2015@hotmail.com  
 Info at www.trentham.org.au

### The Trentham Hub/Mechanics

As many Blackwood people use Trentham as their town, I would like to tell you about the proposed Trentham Hub.

The Story So Far -

A petition signed by 600 residents was sent to the Hepburn Shire Council asking for "a better deal for Trentham". Currently Council maintains no community facilities in Trentham, so residents wonder what they are getting for their rates.

Hepburn Council instigated a Facilities Review. This showed that all Community groups were under pressure maintaining old & noncompliant buildings, which are generally too small for the users in the fastest growing town in the Shire. The number of volunteers required for the different groups is a challenge.

After a Community/Council discussion, Council offered to build a Community Hub. The preferred site is the Mechanics Institute site, due to it being on the main road & entrance point to the town. It also has three road frontages. It was also realised that if a different site was chosen, the Mechanic's Institute Hall would be redundant & fall, even more, into disrepair. It is currently too small for most of the user groups, particularly for Primary School uses. The proposed Hub will have a large function room, a much larger Library, the Visitor Information Centre, the Neighbourhood House, a Senior Citizens Lounge, & research room for the Historical Society, as well as meeting rooms.

A Community Reference Group (CRG) was formed of representatives of the major groups who would use the new facility. The CRG has been meeting over the last 18 months working on approving the design, & on governance & management matters. The CRG has worked very hard to obtain what it believes to be the best outcome for the Community. The facility would be open 5 1/2 days a week with a full time Council employee. Volunteers would also be needed. The design has been on public display, & you can see the proposal on the website, [www.trenthamhub.com.au](http://www.trenthamhub.com.au).

In order to raise money from different levels of Government, the Community needs to be seen as supportive. This has to be in the form of a Community Contribution. It is thought that, we need to raise \$200,000. We look forward to Blackwood residents support, knowing that you will benefit from the facility.

~ Susie Spence, Chairperson CRG



Spud Fest animal farm 2015

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### BENGAL MOON - TRENTHAM'S NEW SECRET

Bengal Moon opened in Trentham just before Christmas. It sells imported wooden & iron furniture, homewares, antiques & collectibles.

The owner, Jacinta Burke, was formerly director of a marketing research agency in Melbourne. She & her husband made the tree change to Trentham a few years ago. After a marvellous holiday to Rajasthan & numerous previous trips to Asia, she decided to set up Bengal Moon.

Jacinta says that the locals & visitors have reacted very positively to the product array. The Indian antique doors & windows & the claw-footed brass bath have drawn lots of comments, as have the recently arrived wrought-iron garden gates & wicker chairs from Java.

Jacinta has been fascinated by customers' creative use of Bengal Moon products. One bought an antique teak cow feeder box to use as a planter. Another purchased several water pot covers to give away as cheese platters. Shoe lasts are now being used as door stoppers all around Trentham.

She added: "That got me thinking... Why not do something different at my own home? It's one of the perks of being the boss." So, for his recent birthday, her husband received a Javanese 'Bonang' (gamelan instrument) which has become their new front door bell. It sits on a Rajasthan console which houses the family's muddy boots.

### But we knew that anyway, didn't we just?

Nationally recognised & highly acclaimed healing practitioner & psychic, Margaret Doley, will be visiting Trentham April 15-19, 2015.

Margaret will be available on the evening of Wednesday 15 to provide an information session for those interested in finding out more about the workshop. She will also be doing individual Reiki sessions and/or personal readings (limited afternoon bookings available) on Thursday 16 & Fri 17. Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 - The Cell & Organ Regeneration Workshop will run over the weekend of 18 & 19.

Attendance at this workshop is intended for those individuals already on a spiritual and/or healing path (limited places available).

Enquiries: phone Wendy on 0407 390 341

### LOVE THEM SPUDS!

THE GREAT TRENTHAM SPUDFEST is about to shine the 'SPUDLIGHT' on Trentham again.

Food, fun, live music, frivolity and spuds galore is what in store for this year's 8th annual Great Trentham Spudfest to be held on Saturday 2 May 2015 at the 'Spud Hub' Quarry St Reserve, Trentham.

We have spuds behaving, spuds misbehaving, mischievous spuds, spuds playing hide and seek in our special 'spud paddock', curly whirly spuds, our own 'Spud Spruiker' otherwise known as 'Spudman', artistic spuds, spud characters hanging around town, spud displays with over 20 varieties on show, spudicious delights at a variety of food stalls, spud sack creations and spuds for sale direct from a local spud farmer to you.

Access to 'Spud Hub' is free, so gather up your friends, family and colleagues and get along to have a mashing good time at this year's Trentham Spudfest.

The 'Spud Hub' will be alive with hot potatoes, hot art, hot music and fantastic entertainment for all the family to enjoy.

Spudtastic children's activities and games include; spud dig, spud art, animals to pat and wagon rides to enjoy, face painting and rock climbing. There will also be spud sack races for children and those adults who are still children at heart.

Be entertained throughout the day by roving performers such as stilt walkers and circus side shows. The main stage will be pumping with performances from bands such as The Cartwheels, All Day Fritz, Odd Sock Circus, Suitcase Full of Blues and Crosswind intertwined with local young performers.

You'd never guess potatoes could be this much fun!

DATE: Saturday May 2, 10.00am - 4.00pm

LOCATION: 'Spud Hub' located at Quarry Street Reserve  
cnr High & Quarry Streets, Trentham

COST: FREE entry to the Spud Hub

WEB: [www.trenthamspudfest.org.au](http://www.trenthamspudfest.org.au)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/trenthamspudfest](http://www.facebook.com/trenthamspudfest)

CONTACT: [info@trenthamspudfest.org.au](mailto:info@trenthamspudfest.org.au) or 0419 897 660



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 children's games and activities, entertainment,  
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[www.trenthamspudfest.org.au](http://www.trenthamspudfest.org.au)

### A QUESTION OF LOYALTY

At the March meeting of the Macedon Ranges Film Society, beauty was invited into the room. Director Cuong Ngo's film 'Pearls of the Far East' showcases the sumptuous natural splendour of Vietnam. A film in 7 short chapters, featuring different generations of women & the exploration of their inner lives & forbidden loves make up this engaging experience. The collective vision of womanhood is handled with intelligence & sympathy.

On April 8, members can look forward to the 2008 Melbourne-based film 'Crushed'. A young school teacher, Nathalia, has her loyalties questioned as love comes up against duty & she is forced to make a choice. Who will triumph? Will it be the teacher who arouses affectionate feelings in her or the vulnerable student? Director Ian Dixon has worked as writer, director & actor & claims that "values" associated with "love" are what he likes most to explore in film-making.

The Macedon Ranges Film Society meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Woodend Community Centre. Film notes are supplied & the film is followed by an informal supper. MRFS is a membership-based club so initial enquiries must be made by to [mrfsociety@gmail.com](mailto:mrfsociety@gmail.com) or Christine C. on 5429 5452 or Christine W. on 5427 1011.

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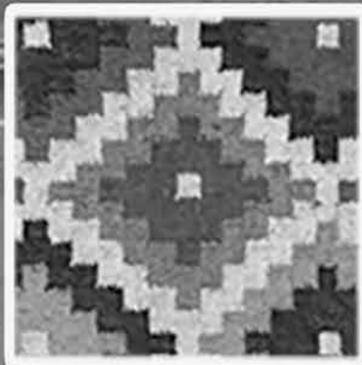
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Twins are twice as nice, says Nicola

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### STILL TIME TO GET YOUR LETTERS IN

Mobile telecommunications network operators & network infrastructure providers have until April 16, 2015 to apply for \$100 Million in funding from the federal Government's Mobile Coverage Program.

Blackwood is one of thousands of locations nominated as places in need for improved mobile coverage. Only a small percentage will be successful in obtaining the funds. If you haven't yet, there is still time to send a message to the big 3 telecommunications providers Telstra, Optus & Vodafone Hutchison to remind them to include Blackwood in their expressions of interest. Sign the petition at the Blackwood Post Office or download a copy of a pre-written letter from <http://theblackwoodtimes.com.au/blackwood-ne.../between-issues>. Of course this is only a suggestion, feel free to add you own thoughts...

TO: Mr Bill Mundy  
Area General Manager South West Victoria  
Telstra Country Wide  
Level 2 Central Square, 18 Armstrong St South  
Ballarat Vic 3350

Dear Mr Mundy

#### Re: Mobile Coverage- Blackwood Victoria

As a resident of the Blackwood district, I'd like to register my concern about the lack of mobile telecommunications in & around the township & surrounding district of Blackwood.

Blackwood has a high demand for mobile telecommunications from locals & visitors alike. This lack of mobile telecommunications, hampers not only communication, but impacts local business, events, & compromises peoples safety particularly during periods of high fire risk.

Blackwood is surrounded by forest & has very limited access in cases of emergencies. To give you some context of just how vulnerable our community is to fire consider the compelling reasons below. A reliable mobile telecommunications service is essential for our survival.

#### 1. Extreme Fire Danger

- The 2009 Victoria Bushfires Royal Commission Final Report declared the Blackwood/Dales Creek area among the 52 high risk fire areas in Victoria.

- The Grampians Regional Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee ranked Blackwood as the highest (1st) & Greendale/Dales Creek (2nd) as the high fire risk areas in the Grampians Region in urgent need of mobile coverage.

- The Victorian Country Fire Authority Community's rigorous scientific evidence & extensive community consultation was used to identify the most bushfire vulnerable areas. An assessment of mobile coverage in Moorabool Shire was undertaken which identified Blackwood as having Poor to non-existent coverage (CFA Community Information Guides - Bushfire).

#### 2. Blackwood - Mobile Coverage Black Spot

- The Moorabool Community & Telecommunications Strategy (2010), commissioned by Moorabool Shire Council identified Blackwood, Dales Creek, & Greendale as experiencing non-existent/ patchy coverage & the need to advocate for improved mobile infrastructure to address mobile black spots.

Over 2 million additional people visit our region each year, & Blackwood is popular year-round as a tourism destination.

Telstra has had a long standing partnership with the Blackwood community regarding telecommunications, & the Blackwood community, in turn, have been loyal customers of Telstra. However, Without a mobile service, this partnership is incomplete.

I implore your organisation to grasp this one-off opportunity to provide mobile telecommunications infrastructure in Blackwood for a reduced cost to Telstra. Simply include Blackwood a priority location in your expression of interest application to the Federal Government's \$100 million Mobile Communications Program.

I wish you every success with your expression of interest application to the Federal Government. Regardless of the outcome, my Community & I look forward to Telstra improving mobile coverage in Blackwood very soon.

Yours sincerely,  
<your signature>

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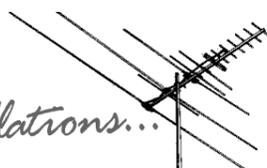
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