

THE BLACKWOOD TIMES

August - September '15 vol 7 ~ issue 8:2



Blackwood in winter. Way cool dude! 60's night at the pub. p5

STOP PRESS:

Can we use our hall?

Promised DELWP clarification on the status of the Blackwood Hall failed to meet print deadline.

Watch online





EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

Warmest regards to you all!
I couldn't resist opening with that greeting because I've been putting this issue together between bitter winds & flurries of snow. I always forget how icy Blackwood can get until it hits us once again! To blow away winter aches & pains, our cottage herbalist, Caroline Parker, has given us her brilliant homemade vaporub recipe on p14. Fortunately our local businesses have brought us out of our winter hibernation on a number of occasions, it seems Blackwoodians love to get up to a bit of mischief. Check out our social album on pages 4&5.

Once again we've come up with a bumper issue, largely due to our wonderful contributors & helpers, as well as a few first-time visitors to Blackwood. Dave Palmer visited from NZ & was inspired to write a poem (p9).

Did you know one of Blackwoods own, 17yo Annika Hoffmann, is rowing in the Women's Coxed Eight in Rio. Annika's family moved to Geelong for her high school years. Good move as I can't think of any good rowing spots in Blackwood!

We've become a popular destination for Melbournians to visit for a bit of bluegrass, you'll find photos of our latest gigs scattered through out this issue. A Sydney couple happened to hear about the last Blackwood Academy & made their way up to the central highlands – they've put together an article on p11 with a very icy photo.

Many readers enjoyed the WWII memories of Jack Rayner which spanned 5 issues over 2011/12 period. Jack passed away 6 days before his 95th birthday - his eulogy by daughter Tess is on p18/19.

Have a great couple of months, we'll talk again in the warmer months. In the meantime remember to note our next deadlines in your calendar for your photos, events & thoughts!

~ 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!)

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2015 Blackwood Vinduro • August 30



Course planners take a rest beside their SWM, an OSSA & a Bultaco, and the reservoir near Blakeville.

It's on again! The event that brings out the real 'old dirt bike enthusiasts' ... the Blackwood Vinduro.

The organising club, VERi (Vintage Enduro Riders Inc.) & based in Ballan, ran the first event last year & it was well received by the riders who were blown away by the variety of the terrain & the scenery as well as the hospitality of the town. The Crown Reserves Committee & the Blackwood School Camp were very accommodating & I'm sure the Hotel did well on that Saturday night. Many locals turned up to see the Cold Start Test at 9am on the Sunday as riders struggled to 'light the fire' in their pre 1985 motorcycles.

Last year the course of 60ks went right up to Trentham & back & with the large variety of terrain we will be setting a route taking in the trails south to Grendale passing by Dale's Creek. The Blackwood bush is blessed with a myriad of tracks through it & with DELWP approval we set out a challenging yet realistic course for the older motorcycles. Last year we were blessed with great weather as it absolutely poured on the following Monday & would have made some of the course really challenging. So, lets hope the hard work of the committee & Clint Stretton is smiled on by the weather gods again.

Feel free to contact VERi Secretary Peter Drakeford on 0422299003 for more details.

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	Sept 15
Regular Contributors, Features & Items of Interest, Community Groups & Clubs	Sept 15
Display Ad Artwork	Sept 20
Late breaking News	Sept 20

NO late submissions will be accepted. Please email submissions, display ads & articles to editor@theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au or post to The Blackwood Times c/o Blackwood PO, 3458.

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BLACKWOOD PROGRESSES

- **WATER MINISTER PLEDGES BLACKWOOD WASTEWATER SOLUTION** •
- **BLACKWOOD SECURES FUNDING FOR MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION** •

It's been an encouraging time in Blackwood, with a vote of confidence in the town from both the State & Federal Governments.

State Water Minister, Lisa Neville, convened a meeting in Blackwood, attended by Mary-Anne Thomas MP, representatives of CHW, Moorabool Shire, BAG, DELWP, EPA & the Working Group charged with finding a wastewater management solution for Blackwood.

Ms. Neville opened the meeting with an apology to the town for the decade-long delay. The original scheme was announced in 2005 under the Bracks Government's \$42m Country Towns Water Supply & Sewerage Program. She then invited Blackwood Action Group to present the needs of the town.

BAG suggested that, given 13 years of no-building in Blackwood & the further tightening of restraints (especially over lot size) in recent years, the town's future was in jeopardy without a wastewater solution; one that would take into account Blackwood's predominantly small town-lot sizes. Any wastewater project had to provide a solution not just for the regulators, but, more importantly, for the town. To be a viable community, Blackwood must be allowed to (1) build on its land (2) improve & grow its businesses & homes (3) rebuild in the event of fire.

Some solutions favoured by the Working Group were discussed at the meeting. They include (1) upgrade of non-compliant systems, where suitable (2) separate treatment of Blackwood CBD (3) small blocks treated as clusters.

Follow-up meetings have taken place over July to (1) to consider local servicing options & upgrades for residential septic (2) to study potential high-risk sites, such as the Caravan Park for localised solutions & ongoing water sampling (3) resolve ongoing planning requirements (there's one to watch). A meeting scheduled for late July (as we go to print) will prepare a communiqué for residents. Look out for that online at www.theBlackwoodTimes.com.au.



Bill Mundy, Area General Manager for Telstra Country Wide, was in town last week testing the latest upgrade to the Blackwood system. It's a "small cell" that provides "in-town" coverage for towns without base station coverage. Blackwood has just been funded for a base station, so this unit is an interim measure only. But you should see it go! At source you can download a stonking 35Mbps (the NBN provides only 25Mbps). The unit covers up to 1km but, with Blackwood's hills, you'll probably have to choose your location carefully. The Pub, Post Office & Merchant get decent coverage, thankfully. Access is through Telstra 4G & is currently data only. Voice will be available over the next year, but you may need to upgrade your handset. Call Telstra Country Wide about that one.

Back to the Mobile Blackspot funding; our thanks must go to Moorabool Shire, who championed our cause for so long, especially former Mayor Pat Toohey & current Mayor Paul Tatchell, Economic Development Manager, Peter Forbes & Mary-Anne Thomas MP. Bill Mundy says he looks forward to community support as Telstra works through the process of building the base station. Asked if the siting of the station was necessarily within the Blackwood township or if Blue Mount would be an option, Mr. Mundy said that the preferred site would be the one which provided the best Blackwood coverage & the best possible integration within the existing network (surrounding base stations).

Blackwood Action Group continues its work on the bushfire issues which are equal to the water issues as a threat to the town's future. We have met with DELWP, Moorabool Shire, CFA, Police Victoria, SES, CERT under Emergency Management Victoria's Community Emergency Management Plan (there's a mouthful). The picture above of early Blackwood may say it more simply. The forest (love it as we do) is encroaching as are the post-Black Saturday building regulations (don't particularly love them). Blackwood must work with all the above stakeholders to manage this old weatherboard town in the "middle of a stonking great forest" if it is to survive.

Note: Thankyou to Merydth Whitehead (Midlands District Fire Manager, DELWP) for the above quote & her word "stonking" which I stole for an earlier paragraph.

~ BLACKWOOD ACTION GROUP



Blackwood Hotel's inaugural Irish music session



• BLACKWOOD SOCIAL ALBUM •

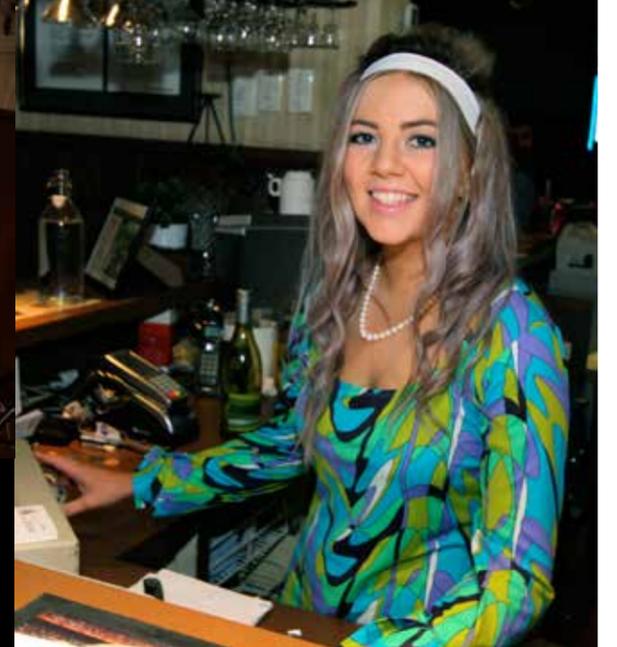


*This page: Kings & Queens night & the Blackwood Academy at the merchant.
Right page: 60's Night & Drag Bingo at the pub.
photos by Brendan Hehir & Peter Donnelly*

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• BLACKWOOD SOCIAL ALBUM •





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 '15	55	89.8	-2.8	19.5	12.8	4	8.1
Jun '15	45.7	105.1	-3.2	14.8	10.2	2.3	5.9

THE RAINFALL for May & June has been well below the long term average. The corrected figures for March & April rainfall are 41.4mm & 51.8mm respectively.

NO TV? NO TECH? THEN TRY THIS!

~ by Ewan Cameron



As a child of the 50's & 60's, having lived first on a dairy farm & later in a goldfields town surrounded by bush, I was used to making my own fun. There were the traditional pursuits like fishing, bushwalking & bike riding, gathering chestnuts or mushrooms, but with some imagination much more enjoyment could be achieved. Many kids today may be glum at spending a holiday in a bush town without the prospects of internet, TV or electronic games.

So it was at first with the boys in our family because when we came to stay in Blackwood near the Garden of St. Erth we had no technology except a radio. That's right! Not even a TV. It didn't take long for them to work out some ways of great fun that could still apply to today. Not only that, they had hours & hours of enjoyment at virtually no cost, even though Blackwood has no bowling alleys, no fun parks, no skating rinks nor (shudder) a McDonalds.

All children love to learn! Making a fire, learning how to build it, habitually meeting safety requirements & then being able to cook a basic recipe over it can give children a lot of joy. Best of all, sitting round the fire by night, yarnning or singing, provides enduring precious memories.

My son and his cousin, Chris, when they were little, spent days building a hut in the bush at Blackwood. Early in the mornings, on would go the gumboots & both boys would head off. They'd return at lunchtime and again at the end of the day tired, grubby & starving . . . but also really happy. When asked to do the final building inspection, how surprised we adults were to discover a genuine wattle & daub hut. No wonder they came home at teatime covered in mud. An extension of this was when the boys, Al and his other cousin Josh, spent hours crushing different rocks to make "powder". I believe their aim was to make a suitable concrete in order to build a more sophisticated hut. So my point is, this exercise had the boys' undivided attention all day long for several days. A real project with loads of fun at no cost whatsoever.

Although it may take a little time, I believe that children can become much more observant by spending time in the bush simply because they are immersed in the living environment rather than passively staring at a TV screen. I remember the excitement & delight in the children's eyes when they saw kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas & various insects up close. What then happens is their natural curiosity kicks in & they learn a lot. On a personal note, a great outcome is that a single moment can make your day & become a treasured memory.

One day, when my son was about nine, he asked me to make a bow & arrow. I quickly fashioned a suitable bow from a whippy sapling but I had no string for it. In desperation, I grabbed the fly-fishing rod from the car & snipped off enough of the reasonably expensive fly-line that was just the right thickness. It provided a couple of hours of fun for him. As we walked home along the track in the fading light he suddenly threw his arms around me, without warning, almost knocking me off my feet. "I love you, Dad," he said happily. Such memories are priceless & such is the power of the bush.



l-r: Jacqui Hart, Annika Hoffmann, Kirsty Green. Photo courtesy Philip Betts

LOCAL GIRL ROWS OFF TO RIO!

Born & raised in Blackwood for her first 10 or so years, 17yo Annika Hoffmann was invited to join the Junior Australian Rowing Team in May this year.

In April Annika's crew rowed for Victoria, as the Victorian Women's Junior Coxed Eight, in the Pathway VIII interstate selection race in Penrith (NSW). There they defeated crews representing other States including Queensland, NSW & Tasmania, to win by about 5 lengths, in a time of 6 min 35 sec. In mid April the Victorian crew participated in a time trial at the National Selection Trials & were selected on the basis of their performance in this event.

The crew is all-Victorian & are rated as having a very good chance of a medal in an event Australia has never won before. The crew will be rowing in the 2015 World Rowing Junior Championships in Rio in August on the Olympic course & so far they are faster than any other Australian women's eight & 10 seconds faster than the Romanian Crew which won the European Championships on the weekend (keeping in mind courses & conditions are hard to compare).

The Australian Junior Women's Coxed Eight is: Alexis Hancock (Coxswain) – Methodist Ladies College, VIC; Annika Hoffmann – Kardinia International College/Barwon Rowing Club, VIC; Chloe Betts – Melbourne University Boat Club/Melbourne Girls College Rowing Club, VIC; Maddison Brown – Geelong Grammar School, VIC; Sasha Culley – Geelong Grammar School, VIC; Bridgette Hardy – Geelong Grammar School, VIC; Jacqueline Hart – Loreto Toorak Rowing, VIC; Kirstie Green – Geelong Grammar School, VIC; Sarah Harte – Geelong Grammar School, VIC; Coach: Annabelle Eaton; Development Coach: John Saunders.

QUICK FACTS:

CREW: Australian Junior Women's Coxed Eight

EVENT: WORLD Rowing Junior Championships, 5-9 August 2015, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

SCHOOL: KARDINIA International College

ROWING CLUB: Barwon Rowing Club

Keep up to date at <http://www.rowingaustralia.com.au/update-to-junior-australian-rowing-team/> & <http://www.worldrowing.com/events/2015-world-rowing-junior-championships/event-information>

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• GIGS & EVENTS •

AUGUST 2015

when	what	where
Sat 1	Shaw and Wilkinson	Blackwood Hotel
Sun 2	Jarrold Shaw & Sarah Wilkinson	Cosmo
Fri 7	Cat and Clint *	Perfect Drop
Sat 15	Harry J Nanos	Blackwood Hotel
Sun 16	Liam Wratten	Blackwood Hotel
Sun 16	Phil & Trudy Edgeley	Cosmo
Sun 23	Family Farm	Cosmo
Sat 29	Swamplands & Fingerbone	Blackwood Hotel

SEPTEMBER 2015

when	what	where
Sun 6	Jarrold Shaw & Sarah Wilkinson	Cosmo
Fri 4	Cat and Clint *	Perfect Drop
Sun 13	Phil & Trudy Edgeley	Cosmo
Sun 20	Slim Dime	Cosmo

* Blackwoodian locals

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AROUND & ABOUT EVENT CALENDAR

AUGUST:

Sat 1	10.30am	Blackwood Historical Society meeting	Blackwood Museum
Sun 2	3-5pm	Wombat Book Club	Blackwood Hotel
Mon 3	7:00pm	Christian Meditation (all welcome)	Blackwood House
Tue 4	6:50pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Sat 8	11:00am	WORKSHOP: Growing Summer Veges in a Cold Climate	Garden of St Erth
Sun 9	11:00am	WORKSHOP: Grafting Workshop	Garden of St Erth
Tue 11	6:50am	Meditation	Yogazen
Sun 16	11:00am	WORKSHOP: All you need to know about Wicking Beds	Garden of St Erth
Sun 16	2-6pm	Blackwood Academy Revue: Old Tlme w Liam Wratten	Blackwood Hotel
Mon 17	7:00am	Christian Meditation (all welcome)	Blackwood House
Tue 18	6:50pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Sun 23	11:00am	WORKSHOP: Learn the Essentials of Garden Design	Garden of St Erth
Tue 25	6:50pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Sun 30	9am	Blackwood Vinduro	see p2

SEPTEMBER:

Tue 1	6:50pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Sat 5	10.30am	Blackwood Historical Society meeting	Blackwood Museum
Sun 6	3-5pm	Wombat Book Club	Blackwood Merchant
Mon 7	7:00pm	Christian Meditation (all welcome)	Blackwood House
Tue 8	6:50pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Sun 13	11:00pm	WORKSHOP: Wildflowers for fun, beauty and benefit	Garden of St Erth
Tue 15	6:50pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Sun 20	11:00pm	WORKSHOP: All you need to know about Wicking Beds	Garden of St Erth
Mon 21	7:00pm	Christian Meditation (all welcome)	Blackwood House
Tue 22	6:50pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Sat 26	11:00am	WORKSHOP: Food for Free: Learn about edible weeds	Garden of St Erth
Sun 27	11:00am	WORKSHOP: Companion planting and crop rotation	Garden of St Erth
Tue 29	6:50pm	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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COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

Blackwood All Saint's Anglican Church

The church is currently in recess. At this time you are most welcome to join nearby parishes of Christ Church Myrning or Holy Trinity Bacchus Marsh. Rev'd Darrell Couch is still able to assist with pastoral issues & conduct Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals at Blackwood. For details of services at Myrning & Bacchus Marsh including, Cafe Church, Messy Church, Senior Citizen's Services & Sunday & Wednesday services please see www.bacchusmarshanglican.org.au or contact 5367 5362.

~ Nina Harbison

Blackwood Action Group

see report on p3

~ Blackwood Action Group

Blackwood CERT

Hello from the CERT Team.

This month we have had some calls for assistance in our community although a little quieter than usual.

We had some mandatory training days the last month, which not only keeps us up-to-date with care management, but is also assists with team building.

The weather is still cool at the moment so need to ensure we keep warm. Until next time, take care, from the CERT Team.

~ Sandy Schmidt

Blackwood Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is looking forward to the end of winter – we've had to use our thermal space blankets on a few calls recently.

If you have a health emergency – anything from a fall to chest pains or even a car crash - call 000 in an emergency.

Our members travel from Dales Creek to Newbury & we cover from Dales Creek to Trentham. Sometimes, we get called further afield, & even head into the small tracks through the forest. Always, we are backed by the wonderful paramedics at Ambulance Victoria.

Blackwood CERT have been looking for a shed site for some time. We have particular needs for our site – mostly we need to access the highway pronto.

The CERT team spends a lot of time in training for health emergencies. Last month we studied the drugs we're able to give (for pain, asthma, cardiac pain, diabetes & so on), as well as the management of chest pain. Coming up is burns & poisoning – we would prefer that no one needs our knowledge, but we prepare just in case!

The Blackwood CERT also meet on the 1st Monday of each month to catch up & debrief. There are currently 11 members, & we are about to welcome our 12th with our 13th joining at the end of the year.

You don't need to be in the medical profession to join CERT. Just be ready to commit to learning first responder skills & have a bit of time to give the community. Anyone interested in finding out more can contact Ivan Johnston on 0425 723 335 or email maplegum@gmail.com

Stay safe & come & say "hi" if you see us around town.

~ Margaret McCarthy, CERT

Blackwood Historical Society

Next meeting is Saturday August 1 – Committee meeting at 10.30am & visitors invited to see the Museum. Publicity is as follows - The Blackwood & District Historical Society meets on the 1st Saturday of the month at 10.30am to 12.30pm. New members Welcome. The Historical Museum is open to the public on the 1st Saturday of the month from 12 noon – 2pm. Visitors are welcome to view their items of interest & historical records. The July Committee meeting was well attended with several visitors coming to view the Museum.

~ Margot Hitchcock

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BLACKWOOD COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

The Annual General Meeting of Blackwood CERT Committee of Management Inc. will be held on Wednesday 14th October 2015 at the Blackwood Hotel, Martin St, Blackwood at 7:30pm.

All interested community members are welcome to attend. Please contact Margaret McCarthy on 53686687 with any queries.

Blackwood Senior Citizens

Here we are once again from the Blackwood Seniors Club. Hope that our elders are managing to keep warm during this extremely cold weather.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Jack Rayner; Jack had been a member of our club for many years, as had his wife Grace. Our sympathy is extended to his family.

Our club has been busy with arranged bus trips each month, our last outing was to the Shell Club in Geelong. All those who attended had an enjoyable day. The next venture will be to the Midlands Golf Club in Ballarat on August 11. This will be our Christmas in July outing. (Better late than never). Cost is \$55 all inclusive. For enquiries call Bev Herd on 5368 2526.

We welcome Isa Hayler back to the club after absence due to ill health, also Barb Darwin after her holiday away.

Don't forget that Debbie the district nurse attends the club every 6 weeks. She is much appreciated by our members, as is Antoinette our very nice hairdresser who attends the club the 1st Wednesday monthly.

Blackwood Senior Citizens Club operate every Wednesday from 10am to 3pm. New members would be made most welcome. Annual club fees \$12, 3 course meal \$10. We occupy ourselves with board games, billiards & general chatter & laughter before lunch, after lunch there is bingo & carpet bowls. All our news for now.

~ Barb Sweet. (Hon Secretary)

This issue we have no reports from Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management (responsible for our Mineral Springs, Caravan Park, Public Hall & Recreation Reserve) CFA or Blackwood Progress Association. If you would like to let your community know about your organisation, what your focus in the community is & how you would like support please email Sandy at – galaxyss@hotmail.com. We'd love to hear from you.



Don't forget to visit our mobile library. Up at the hall each Wednesday.

From l to r: Jim ready to borrow some books & Kerith & Ann (Moorabool Shire Rural Library) photo courtesy Sue Donnelly

• BLACKWOOD FAMILY TREASURES •



Peter (L) and Tom at the Blackwood Mineral Springs

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Marj Atkinson, the granddaughter of Thomas Dodds. Many of you will have seen his photos around Blackwood. Marj told me of his tragic death in the Ballan Border Flour Mill in 1881. Following are local newspaper articles noting his death. ~ Ed

The Bacchus Marsh Express, Saturday, March 5, 1881

Our Bacchus Marsh readers have heard during the week with great regret of the death at Ballan of Mr Thomas Dodds, who for many years occupied the Border flour mill as a member of the firms of Dodds & White & Dodds & Richardson. He was a most industrious man, respected in all the relations of life, & was about to establish himself & sons at the flour mill at Ballan which has been in the hands of relatives of his for a number of years. The particulars of the accident will be found related by our Ballan correspondent, & while sympathy will be tendered on all sides to the bereaved family the reflection will also arise that an explosion of so serious a character might have caused the death or serious injury of other occupants of the mill, & that it did not do so is a matter for great thankfulness. As a mark of respect to the memory of Mr Dodds, the Ballan Presbyterian tea meeting has been postponed from the 9th to the 16th March. Mr Dodds was 64 years of age, & his family consisted of four sons & three daughters, who with his widow now survive him.

BALLAN (FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

A SAD accident occurred here on Tuesday, by which Mr. Thomas Dodds lost his life, from the bursting of the Werribee flour mill boiler. The deceased, who is an old resident of this & the Bacchus Marsh districts, was highly respected, & had only just taken possession of the mill, where he was getting everything in order for grinding, & that morning had lighted a fire in the furnace for the purpose of getting up steam, when, from some unexplained cause, the explosion took place, the deceased being at the time oiling part of the machinery at the extreme part of the boiler. As will be seen from the evidence at

the magisterial enquiry held by Mr. Akehurst, P.M., no cause can be assigned for the occurrence.

Andrew Young Dodds deposed: Am the son of the deceased, & was working in the mill with him & my brother, Thomas A. Dodds. I lit the fire on Tuesday, & was about the mill up to 12.30., when Father & I went home to dinner, leaving my brother in charge. Father returned a few minutes before me, & went direct to the engine room & relieved my brother. I followed soon after, & went round the engine-house; saw the steam was up to 40 lbs., & then went into the mill to oil the machinery upstairs. My father was then oiling the engine at the extreme end of the boiler. After remaining upstairs for a short time, I came down again, & had just landed on the bottom floor when I heard a report, & felt the mill shake. I ran on to the verandah, & saw stones & bricks in the air. Then knew an explosion had taken place. Ran round, & found the engine-house a complete wreck, & the boiler shifted completely off its bed; & deposited some distance off. My father was thrown down close to the mill wall, & covered with stones & rubbish. I called out to some men who were working near at a road contract, & they came to my assistance, & we removed the stones & carried him up to the house. He was moaning at the time, & only his face was visible. He did not speak, neither did he open his eyes. He died at 6.15 that same day. We were just preparing to grind, & I had no cause whatever to suspect the boiler was not sound. Father thoroughly understood the working of machinery.

Michael Cane deposed: Am a contractor, & was working near the mill on Tuesday last. Had just finished dinner, & was under the mill bridge, when I heard an explosion, & saw the engine-house blown into the air, & heard the last witness call out. Went to his assistance, & removed the stones from his father; some of them would weigh half a hundredweight. Did not notice if he was scalded, but saw his forehead was cut. Helped carry him up to the house.

Thomas Alexander Dodds: I left the engine-room on my father's return from dinner; the gauge then showed 40 lbs. pressure. Was sitting at my dinner when I heard a loud report, but thought nothing of it, as there was a heavy thunderstorm on at the time, & thought it was a clap of thunder. A few minutes after heard some person outside remark, "There is something wrong at the mill." I thought perhaps the mill had been struck, & ran down & found the engine-house in ruins, & a crowd gathered assisting my father. I had no suspicion whatever of the boiler being unsound. An engineer from Blackwood named James Benford had been down & overhauled the whole of it & put it in thorough working order. He stated to me that he would work her up to 80, & would not mind sleeping on her working at 65. This was the first time we had lit the fire, as we only took possession at the beginning of the year. The engineer told me that Burnside told him the boiler would blow up the first time it was used, as he had patched it several times.

W. E. White: Am a miller, residing at Stawell, & am the lessee of the Werribee flour mills, which I sublet to the deceased, who took possession in January last. Last year I worked the mill on my own account, but did not use the engine, but had some of the bricks taken out, as I saw she was drawing the damp too much. Did not know or suspect the boiler to be defective. Cannot account for the accident, only from the general wearing out & bad plates. Possibly it might have occurred from the boiler being idle so long, about two years. Gases & compressed air then accumulate, which not agreeing or mixing with the steam, causes a greater pressure than would be indicated by the gauge. Would have had no hesitation in working her up to 50 lbs., but after seeing the plates of the boiler would not do so.

Verdict: Accidental. The remains of the above deceased gentleman were followed to their last resting place, the new cemetery, on Thursday.

Thanks go to Di Hewes who typed up these articles. In following issue we will print the coroners report.

If you have family treasures – letters, diaries or photos, we would love to have the opportunity to print them in The Blackwood Times. Simply email them to editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au or snail mail them to The Blackwood Times c/o Blackwood PO. 3458

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THE GARDEN NO 24:



~ by Jackie Airey

For many years of my life, I spent much of my time immersed in literature, so it hasn't only been reality that has helped to create my sense of all things plant. Whilst poetry is well known for its evocation of the natural world, prose can be just as powerful & has taken my breath away on many an occasion with striking descriptions that have influenced my relationship with gardens & their inhabitants.

A piece of writing that I have never forgotten is one by D.H. Lawrence from 'Sons & Lovers': "The tall white lilies were reeling in the moonlight, & the air was charged with perfume, as with a presence. Mrs. Morel gasped slightly in fear. She touched the big, pallid flowers on their petals, then shivered. They seemed to be stretching in the moonlight. She put her hand into one white bin: the gold scarcely showed on her fingers by moonlight. She bent down to look at the binful of yellow pollen; but it only appeared dusky. Then she drank a deep draught of the scent. It almost made her dizzy."

In this passage, Mrs Morel has just been locked out in the garden at night by her abusive husband. What strikes me is that she is so distracted by the powerfully sensual presence of the lilies in the moonlight, that for a brief few minutes, she transcends the wretchedness & belittlement her husband intends to impose upon her. It doesn't matter that she spends the night in the woodshed, she has passed beyond his cruelty.

Lawrence seemed to be fascinated by white flowers, as he demonstrates in two other passages: "She looked at her roses. They were white, some incurved & holy, others expanded in an ecstasy. The tree was dark as a shadow. She lifted her hand impulsively to the flowers ..." & "It was very still. The tree was tall & straggling. It had thrown its briars over a hawthorn bush, & its long streamers trailed

thick, right down to the grass, splashing the darkness everywhere with great spilt stars, pure white. In bosses of ivory & in large splashed stars the roses gleamed in the darkness of foliage & stems & grass.'

It is never sweetness or fragility that Lawrence attributes to the natural world of his novels. Rather, he notes qualities of strength, mystery, powerfulness & otherness, that seem to dwarf his human characters. I think the influence of this kind of writing may be why I cannot get past a sense of growing & flourishing life, way beyond my own ken.

Then we come to E.M. Forster, & his wonderful novel, 'Howard's End'. Leonard, one of the characters, feels the need to walk out of London & along the way, he experiences this: "Ankle deep, he waded through the bluebells. His spirit rose & exalted ... as he breathed in the sun-drenched air. The glorious day was in its last decline. Long shadows lay on the sward ... & from above the leaves dripped their shimmering drops of gold-green light. Moths & butterflies swarmed in merry hosts ... flittering here, glimmering there." Is there any more to say about blissfulness?

What about trees? You may well ask. What about this: "... the wych-elm that she saw from the window was an English tree. No report had prepared her for its peculiar glory. It was neither warrior, nor lover, nor god; ... It was a comrade, bending over the house, strength & adventure in its roots, but in its utmost fingers tenderness, & the girth, that a dozen men could not have spanned, became in the end evanescent, till pale bud clusters seemed to float in the air." Again, 'Howard's End'.

So, yes, it's all very English. Well that's what I was reading, & it was all part of my slow seduction into the life of a gardener – & see where it's got me!!



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



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BLACKWOOD TIMES GOES TO ...



Pirlangimpi in the Tiwi Islands.

Carlson was helping Michelle Freeman with her field work for her doctorate in Savannah Forest Ecology, working with the Tiwi Land Council & the CSIRO.
Ed: SO sorry for Carlson...tough life he leads!

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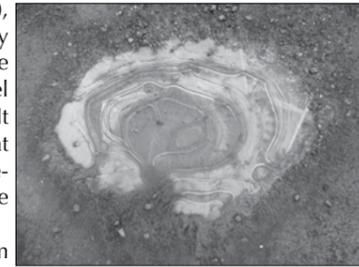
Frosty Morning • Musical Evening

Wow - thank you musicians, & friends of musicians, in Blackwood. Our visit to the Blackwood Academy monthly musical get-together last weekend was definitely worth the long trip down from Sydney. The warm welcome we received from the residents of this rustic, sub-zero historic gold-mining village set amongst the mineral springs, soaring old trees & meandering Lerderderg River, will long be remembered.

Our Saturday drive up along the winding Greendale-Trentham Road through the Wombat State Forest took us to the home of Nick & Janet Dear, who'd kindly been introduced to us by Jacinta, another member of Australia's national Bluegrass & Old-time network. This remarkably musical family, & their friends in Blackwood, made our short stay in Blackwood very special indeed.

As a diversion, Nick's recommendation to take a drive up the dark meandering country road to the Radio Springs Hotel in Lyonville for dinner & a concert on Saturday night, before the Sunday afternoon session, introduced a quirky homely dimension to an already delightful trip. There the atmosphere was great, the food excellent & the live 'Klismo' music intriguing.

We were so lucky. Blackwood Academy's July 19 Sunday afternoon session fell on Nick & Janet's 29th wedding anniversary so the whole family turned out to play & sing, followed by dinner. In contrast to the extremely heavy frost on Sunday morning (see photo below taken at 10am & approx -5 degrees), the session in the friendly Blackwood Merchant opposite the historic Blackwood Hotel (built 1868) was very cosy. It included good company, great food & drink, an amazing line-up of local young talent, & more than one Ray Black mandolin!



Thanks everyone for the warm welcome. We enjoyed our visit immensely. There's a music video link on the Sydney Bluegrass & Old-Timey Get-together Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sydneybluegrass/>). We'll definitely be back, & also be recommending people attend the second Blackwood Music Festival this year from Friday 6 to Sunday 8 November, cause as Nick would say, "Blackwood really is the centre of the universe!" (and it also has some very old trees).

~ Anne-Marie Van de Ven & Kenji Tanaka

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Joining in the fiddling at the Irish session in June.

BLACKWOOD (Victoria-Australia)

If you're ever up in Blackwood, where the gum trees reach the sky, There's a pub there on the corner, it's a mistake to pass it by. In Jackson's Gully by the Lerderderg, the first discovery of gold, Would change this place forever, where stories still are told.

There were fortunes made and misery, there were fun times and despair. Where gold turned friends to enemies, you should spend some time up there.

So perch yourself upon a stool, and be prepared to stay awhile The locals in the Blackwood pub, will help you walk this country mile.

The Merchant Café owners, Simon one and Simon two. Have bought urban to the country, make sure they meet with you. The staff are always friendly, young Morgan broke the mould, A dead pan face, a twinkling eye, you can take it as been told.

It's the home of Aussie Bluegrass, 'Hard Drive' will play all night, In the back bar at the Blackwood, you can dance 'til morning light. You can walk the many bush tracks, where diggers earned their sweat, You can marvel at the birdlife, and see things you've not seen yet.

There's a neatly kept sports oval, in the valley down the hill, A visit to the cemetery will turn back time and stand it still. Down the hill at Golden Point lies the local swimming hole, A place to cool in summer time, a place to sooth your soul.

Why pay a million dollars to live in Melbourne, ask yourself, Most haven't got that money, that idea's back on the shelf. Three hundred thousand dollars will get all that you will need, Don't let the banking 'fatcats' grow fatter with their greed.

Opportunities are limited in this piece of paradise, If you want to leave the 'ratrace' let me give you some advice. Be prepared to help your neighbour, and treat everyone the same, Then all of this comes back to you, time and time again.

I've been to Blackwood recently, and witnessed all these things, Ask anyone who lives here, they've got the best that life can bring.

So get out of town you city folk, crank up that SUV In about an hour you'll be there, a better side of life you'll see.

~ Dave Palmer 11/06/2015 (NZ)

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BLACKWOOD FESTIVAL OF MUSIC & CULTURE

NOV 6th, 7th, 8th, 2015

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blackwoodacademy.org/festival.php



photo by Peter Donnelly

PEACE & SOLITUDE IN NEWBURY

Many locals have fond memories of Kattemingga. The location of the Man From Snowy River film, Ponderosa series & numerous advertisements over the years.

You may remember going horse-riding or to school holiday activities, the Carnivals at the film set, Blackwood Promotions "Christmas in July" fundraiser. Or you may have attended a conference there.

In September last year Kattemingga was sold to the Buddhist Society of Victoria (BSV) & renamed the Newbury Buddhist Monastery.

Set on 150 acres of rolling countryside, the magnificent landscape & tranquil surroundings offer an inspiring backdrop for seclusion & meditation.

The Newbury Buddhist Monastery is based on the early teachings found in the Suttas (the Buddha's teachings) & Vinaya (monastic rules) that are shared by all Buddhist traditions. Hence, they welcome monastics from all traditions & countries.

Worldwide there are very few forest monasteries that support Bhikkhu (male) & Bhikkhuni (female) ordination & practice as well as a lack of monastic educational facilities where women can ordain as Bhikkhunis & receive training according to the early teachings of the Buddha. This is where BSV saw an opportunity to fill a need. With its establishment, more aspirants, both local & international, can seek out full ordination.

Almost 12 months after moving in, critical/basic utilities & structures are breaking down & need urgent fixing & even replacement. In September the balance of the property purchase is to be settled.



Photo: the official opening in May this year

The Monastery welcomes financial support by donation (<http://nbm.org.au/donate/money/>) or interest free loans.

The monastery is open from 10am to 1pm daily with lunch being offered at 11am. If planning to visit, be sure to check the website to read up on proper attire.

ref: <http://nbm.org.au>

STEPS TO A NEW YOU:

Purposeful Change: Plan your Change: pt1

by Kathie Strmota



The previous discussion on creating purposeful change looked at the need to clearly define your desire for change. In setting a destination (how you want your life to look once the change is complete) you create a clear direction for moving forward. Now, in step 4, you do the practical planning to help you get from where you are now to where you want to be.

Failure to take this step causes many good intentions to stray off-course. There is a tendency to think that, once you've made a clear decision for change, things will just naturally fall into place & it will all work out. Sometimes this happens but, more often than not, a truly satisfactory outcome relies on good planning & preparation.

If you've recognised where you are (call this state 'A') & defined where you want to end up (call this state 'Z'), you now have direction – an intention to change. You could simply keep your mind in the general direction of (Z), hoping to arrive there at some point. However, every new obstacle or challenge to your resolve is likely to send you off-course (often without you realising you're now moving away from your goal).

Whether your change is practical (eg. renovating the kitchen) or personal (eg. improving dietary habits), you're more likely to stay on-track if you create a 'road-map' defining the smoothest, most direct route for your journey of change. In this process, you can anticipate possible obstacles & plan your route to avoid these, or seek out resources in advance to help you deal with potential challenges.

Planning also allows you to break the journey down into smaller steps (short-term goals), moving from (A) to (B), then to (C), then (D), & so on. Sometimes, the idea of broaching the vast distance between (A) & (Z) can be so overwhelming, you freeze up & never start the journey. But if you plan a small step in the right direction, asking yourself only to get from (A) to (B) it can seem so much more easy. You could even set a date to begin your journey, allowing time to prepare yourself.

In any change, some planning always occurs automatically, & is fairly unconscious with simple changes. For example, you may have defined a desire (in step 3) to re-arrange the lounge-room furniture. Your planning may simply be to think on who will help you, & on what day. You'd make these decisions without even realising that you are planning, & wouldn't



more from Blackwood Hotel's inaugural Irish music session

need a notebook & 'to do' list. But what if you wanted to re-arrange the furniture for better energy flow (feng shui style)? Now you've added a bit of complexity to the goal & you may well need your notebook. You'd still need to find a helper & pick a day, but you may also need to do some research, & possibly change other rooms too. Even with this slightly more complex change, the need for preparation is evident, but with larger, or more complicated goals, it can be the deciding factor.

Whatever the shape of your change, any additional preparation you do will increase your chances of success. Depending on your situation, panning may involve creative activities like reflection, counseling, research, problem-solving, goal-setting, etc, or practical activities like saving money, booking time off work, buying equipment, enlisting helpers, etc. Preparation could incorporate any kind of activity appropriate to the needs of your particular change process.

In the next issue, I'll explore this process in more detail by working through a practical example.

SALE OF CROWN LAND IN FEE-SIMPLE BY AUCTION
(No. 11984)
WILL BE HELD AT
THE PUBLIC HALL
BLACKWOOD
on Saturday, the 22nd day of March, 1969
AT TWO O'CLOCK P.M.
To be conducted by N. J. FITZGERALD, Land Officer, Ballarat

The land will be offered for sale in fee-simple, and subject to the provisions of the Land Act and Regulations thereunder.
The upset price is the sum at which bidding will start, and no bid below that sum can be accepted. The highest bidder at or above that sum shall be the purchaser, subject to signature of contract and any necessary payment.
A deposit of at least 12 1/2% of the purchase price must be paid at the sale, either in cash or by cheque.
The residue is payable in half-yearly instalments, in accordance with the following scale, or may be paid off at any earlier time:
Over \$40, and not exceeding \$100, 8 instalments.
Over \$100, and not exceeding \$200, 10 instalments.
Over \$200, and not exceeding \$400, 12 instalments.
Over \$400, and not exceeding \$600, 14 instalments.
Over \$600, and not exceeding \$800, 16 instalments.
Over \$800, and not exceeding \$1,000, 18 instalments.
Over \$1,000, 20 instalments.
Interest at the rate of 5% per annum is payable with all payments of instalments, and is computed for each instalment from the date of sale to the date of such payment. Additional interest is charged if any instalment is not paid on or before the due date.
If paid off within 30 days of sale, no interest is payable.

Also payable at the sale, in addition to the deposit, are the survey fee and, if applicable, the valuation of improvements (if purchaser be not the owner thereof).
Payable with balance of purchase money—
Crown Grant fee—
30 acres and under \$2
Over 30 acres \$4
Purchase money \$10 or under \$2
Over \$10 \$4
Assurance Fund contribution—One cent in every five dollars or part thereof of purchase price. (This is a fund established to guarantee the validity of freehold titles.)
Transfer of interest prior to completion of payment may be allowed on payment of \$2 fee and subject to stamp duty.
If unable to attend personally, a prospective purchaser may arrange for another person to bid as his agent.
Attention is drawn to section 95, Land Act 1958, which provides that the purchaser shall be deemed to be the owner for the purpose of other Acts, also to an amendment to the Local Government Act providing for Government roads, in certain circumstances, to be declared "private streets", thus making the purchaser liable to contribute to the cost of street construction.
W. J. F. McDONALD,
Minister of Lands.
Office of Crown Lands and Survey,
Melbourne, 12th February, 1969.

PARRISH OF BLACKWOOD, COUNTY OF BOURKE.
Fronting the north side of Bates-street, about 130 yards east of Byers-road.
Lot 1. Upset price \$200 the lot. Survey fee \$13.
Area 1r. 20p, allotment 81 of section A.
Lot 2. Upset price \$200 the lot. Survey fee \$13.
Area 1r. 20p, allotment 82 of section A.
Lot 3. Upset price \$200 the lot. Survey fee \$13.
Area 1r. 20p, allotment 83 of section A.
Lot 4. Upset price \$200 the lot. Survey fee \$13.
Area 1r. 20p, allotment 84 of section A.—(J30423.)
Fronting the south side of Bates-street, about 230 yards east of Byers-road.
Lot 5. Upset price \$200 the lot. Survey fee \$13.
Area 1r. 20p, allotment 68 of section A.—(J32180.)
Fronting the west side of Skimmers-road, about 130 yards south of Simmons Reef-road.
Lot 6. Upset price \$200 the lot. Survey fee \$13.
Area 1r. 8p, allotment 47 of section B. Subject to S.E.C. easement.—(J31865.)
Fronting the west side of Nuggetty-road.
Lot 7. Upset price \$100 the lot. Survey fee \$12.
Area 22 perches, allotment 2 of section D. One month allowed for removal of improvements (fencing).
Lot 8. Upset price \$200 the lot. Survey fee \$13.
Area 1r. 35p, allotment 78 of section B. Subject to S.E.C. easement 23 links wide. One month allowed for removal of improvements (fencing).—(J31632.)
TOWNSHIP OF BAYUP, PARRISH OF BLACKWOOD, COUNTY OF BOURKE.
At Barry's Reef, fronting the south side of the main Blackwood-Trentham road.
Lot 9. Upset price \$200 the lot. Survey fee \$13.
Area 1r. 5p, allotment 23 of section 11A.
Lot 10. Upset price \$200 the lot. Survey fee \$13.
Area 1r. 3p, allotment 24 of section 11A.—(J31801.)
At Barry's Reef, fronting the north side of an unnamed Government road.
Lot 11. Upset price \$150 the lot. Survey fee \$13.
Area 1r. 31p, allotment 5 of section 4. Subject to drainage easement 8 links wide.
Lot 12. Upset price \$150 the lot. Survey fee \$13.
Area 1r. 30p, allotment 6 of section 4. Subject to drainage easement 9.1 links wide.
Lot 13. Upset price \$150 the lot. Survey fee \$13.
Area 1r. 50p, allotment 7 of section 4.—(J31771.)
At Barry's Reef, fronting the west side of the main Blackwood-Trentham road.
Lot 14. Upset price \$200 the lot. Survey fee \$12.
Area 1 road, allotment 19 of section 11A.
Lot 15. Upset price \$250 the lot. Survey fee \$12.
Area 32 perches, allotment 13 of section 11A.
Lot 16. Upset price \$300 the lot. Survey fee \$12.
Area 35 perches, allotment 16 of section 11A.—(J32180.)
Lot 17. Upset price \$200 the lot. Survey fee \$12.
Area 32 perches, allotment 17 of section 11A.
Lot 18. Upset price \$200 the lot. Survey fee \$12.
Area 32 perches, allotment 19 of section 11A.
Lot 19. Upset price \$200 the lot. Survey fee \$12.
Area 30 perches, allotment 21 of section 11A.—(J32180.)
PARRISH OF BLACKWOOD, COUNTY OF BOURKE.
Fronting the east side of Decker-street about 55 yards south of Simmons Reef-road.
Lot 20. Upset price \$400 the lot. Survey fee \$12.
Area 28 perches, allotment 306 of section B. \$400
Lot 21. Upset price \$400 the lot. Survey fee \$12.
Area 28 perches, allotment 306 of section B. \$760
Lot 22. Upset price \$400 the lot. Survey fee \$12.
Area 28 perches, allotment 306 of section B. \$640
Decker-street has been proclaimed a private street within the meaning of section 372 (3) (4) of the Local Government Act 1958 and purchasers will be liable for the costs of street construction.—(J30423.)
Fronting the east side of Thompsons-road about 14 chains north of Byers-road.
Lot 23. Upset price \$200 the lot. Survey fee \$13. \$400
Area 1r. 5p, allotment 496 of section A.
Lot 24. Upset price \$200 the lot. Survey fee \$13.
Area 1r. 3p, allotment 496 of section A.—(J32469.) \$460

1151/69. By Authority: A. C. BROWN, Government Printer, Melbourne.

• MARKET CALENDAR • MARKET CALENDAR • MARKET CALENDAR •

1st SATURDAY	1st SUNDAY	2nd SATURDAY	2nd SUNDAY	3rd SATURDAY	3rd SUNDAY	4th SATURDAY	4th SUNDAY
BALLAN MARKET 8am-1pm Inglis St	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station	KYNETON FARMERS 8am-1pm St Pauls Park	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station	CRESWICK COMMUNITY 9am-1pm Victoria St	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station	BREAKFAST BAZAAR from 9am Hepburn Springs	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station
DAYLESFORD FARMERS 9am-1pm D'ford PS	CASTLEMAINE ARTIST MARKET 10am-3pm (not Jan) 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 Scandinavian 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			

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

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Homemade Vaporub

~ by Caroline Parker

How are you all surviving the Polar Vortex, commonly known as 'Winter'? I'm surviving by almost sitting IN the wood fire, drinking endless cups of tea & buying every op-shop in the area out of woollen jumpers.

So far I've managed to avoid the sniffles this season, but not so lucky Mr. Cottage Herbalist has come down with a cold. His favourite remedy for blocked noses & congested chests has always been good old Vaporub. It's a cure-all in his mind & slathers it everywhere: chest, temples, tissues & pillows, inevitably getting in everyone else's eyes. He went to make a steam inhalation & realised that we were fresh out of Vapour Rub. Luckily I had some basic ingredients on hand & had a go at making our own.

Homemade Vaporub is easy to make & you may even have most of the ingredients on hand in your medicine cupboard & pantry.

INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup organic oil of your choice: olive oil, coconut oil, almond oil
- 2 Tbsp Beeswax - you can get from health food stores or try your local honey supplier
- Essential Oils with antimicrobial, antibacterial, decongestant properties:
 - 20 drops Eucalyptus
 - 20 drops Peppermint
 - 10 drops Lavender (also relaxing & sedative)
 - 10 drops Tea Tree
- Optional
 - 5 drops Lemon
 - 5 drops Clove or Cinnamon (also warming & stimulating)
 - 5 drops Rosemary

METHOD

Melt beeswax with oil of choice in a double boiler or saucepan with pyrex bowl/jug, until just melted

Add the essential oils (use half the amount for a baby version or dilute with coconut oil before using)

Stir until well mixed & pour into jar to store.

Use as needed to help soothe coughing & congestion.

Just remember that many essential oils are not suitable for use on babies, young children or by pregnant women.

This weekend I'm also making up a new batch of fire cider as I've been bartering away my last batch for yummy cakes, jams & chutney. Has anyone made up a batch? I'd love to hear how you went, what you thought or see any photos of your brew, send me an email at thecottageherbalist@gmail.com

* This information is not intended as a substitute for health advice from your GP or other health care professional.



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• WHO'S TATT'S THAT? •

When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished by how much he had learned in 7 years. [Mark Twain]

WE HIT our 20's & the arrogance of youth is dampened by the creeping realisation that we know nothing about this business of surviving in the adult world. We're clueless & more than a bit scared.

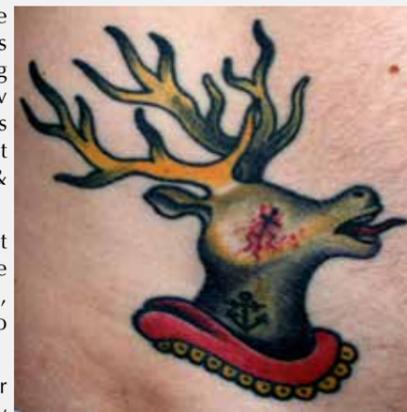
JUST THE right time to get a tattoo, of course. One that says to the world, "Yes, I admit it. I have No Idea."

AS YOU can see, this deer has no eye. Quite funny really. In a Dad Joke sort of way.

BUT THE 23 year old who committed to this visual pun needn't have doubted himself; anyone at that age with a love of Dad Jokes is clearly tracking to a bright & happy future.

ONE DAY, children of his own & their friends will be astonished, time & again as he lifts his shirt, by the brilliance of the old man's humour.

A: Carlson



The Bacchus Marsh Express, Saturday, March 5, 1881 BLACKWOOD (FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

The election on Saturday for member of Mining board caused a deal of excitement, each one working his best. The following was the result: - J Cann, Blackwood, 75; Barry's Reef, 46; total, 121. J.B.Garland, Blackwood, 23; Barry's Reef, 36; total 62. M.J. Croker, Blackwood, 41; Barry's Reef, 18; total 60. W.R. Knox, Blackwood 1; Barry's Reef, 26; total, 27. C. Wichello, Blackwood, 3; Barry's Reef, 1; total 4. There were 147 votes polled at the Blackwood booth, Golden Point, being an excess of 14 more than was polled at both this & the Barry's Reef booth at the previous Mining Board election, when the entire number was only 133.

On Thursday evening, 24th February, Mr James Barkla, one of the partners of Fernhill sawmill met with a very serious accident. He was removing some sawdust, which had accumulated below the bench on the rails, with his left hand, when it came in contact with the circular saw, which was in motion at the time, taking the tops of three fingers & thumb. He was taken to the Kyneton Hospital, where the three fingers were amputated at the second joint, & the thumb at first joint. He is progressing favourably I hear.

On Friday, 25th, a man names James Foy was brought before Mr D.G.Stobie, J.P., charged with drunkenness. He was dismissed with a caution.

On Monday two men – R. Bell & C. Watson – were brought before Mr R. Cameron, J.P., charged by Constable McNamara with being drunk. First defendant fined 2s. 6d, the other 2s. 6d & 5s costs, or twenty-four hours. He preferred the rest & peace of the police domicile to paying the fine, & "did" the twenty-four hours.

The contractor has finished the bridge at foot of Red Hill. Mr Young was in to pass the work for the Shire on Tuesday. It is now open for traffic.

Mining news dull; no water for crushing purposes.

A thunderstorm passed over on Wednesday afternoon & evening. There was a fair fall of rain while it lasted.

Mr J. Cann, the successful candidate for this division of the Mining Board, returns thanks to his friends & supporters in advertising columns.

Mr J.F. Hansen reports rainfall for week ending Wednesday, 2nd March, at 8 a.m., 0.16 in. Rainfall for month of February, 0.39in.

Three parties of tributors in the New Sultan cleaned up during the week, the following yields being obtained:- From 31 tons, 14oz. 2dwt; from 42 tons, 10oz. 7dwt; from 11tons 3oz. 5kwt. A party of men have started a drive towards the North Sultan.

A young lad in the employ of Mr T. McCarty was thrown from a horse & received a nasty gash on the head.

PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS



Woof: Hypothyroid disease is one of the most common hormonal diseases in dogs & can easily be diagnosed with routine blood testing. The disease is more common in senior dogs but can occur at even a young age in certain breeds more prone to this condition. It is important to pay close attention to your pet's physical & behavioural changes as they age in order to recognise the early signs of this disease.

The normal thyroid gland is small & located on each side of the trachea in the neck. This gland produces hormones called tetraiodothyronine(T4) & triiodothyronine(T1). These hormones regulate oxygen consumption, metabolism of body fat & production of protein & red blood cells. These hormones are controlled by the pituitary gland located at the base of the brain.

Hypothyroid disease occurs when there is an inadequate levels of thyroid produced. This may be due to either an immune system disorder or destruction of the gland due to an unknown cause.

Signs of Hypothyroid Disease: Weight gain • Lethargy • Hair loss (both sides of the body) • Poor hair growth • Dry dull coat • Increased thirst & urination • Skin infections • Increased skin pigmentation • Un-coordination or dragging of the feet • Painful lameness

Diagnosis & Treatment: A T4 blood test with full bloods will help to diagnose this disease. Daily medication will be prescribed for the duration of your pet's life. This medication should return your pet's hormone levels to normal level & prevent the symptoms from returning. Initial weekly blood testing is required to determine the proper dose of this medication. The T4 levels need to be monitored on a regular basis because the medication requirements over time can change. Your pet may lose weight, or its metabolic requirements may change causing adjustments in the dosage of the medication.

I hope you enjoyed this interesting topic. Keep warm!!

Woof for now, Seamus

BLACKWOOLS

JESS'S MUM had popped out 10 healthy puppies, then 2 dead little ones. Number 13, and very lucky last, was Jess.

THE PUPPIES grew and, one by one, left home for their new families, all except Jess. Last again, and lucky again, as it turned out. One day a man appeared and the normally timid pup jumped into his arms and promptly fell asleep. The owner said, "she's yours".

THE RIDGEBACK/BULL Arab, who celebrated her 4th birthday recently, has travelled all over the country, from the Outback to the High Country and everywhere between. At home she helps with collecting firewood and tucking in the kids (Memphis and Hendrix) every night before bedding down with Mum and Dad. She knows everyone's moods and how to ease them with a hug. Here's a girl, I think, who makes her own luck.

NOW IF only her old mate, Mr. Wussy the cat, would come back home, life would be perfect.



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• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Dear Editor,
Would you please pass this onto your Pet Guru
with thanks (name supplied)

Dear Pet Guru,
My pet crocodile, 'Sweetie', was very sweet when he was little, but now he has developed an attitude. Does he need behavioural classes? Please don't ever retire or move away - we need you!

Signed: Beleaguered

Thank you for all the work you do to get the Blackwood Times together. It's always an enjoyable read.
Could you please check the garbage Monday dates as the ones listed in the last two issues seem to be wrong.

~ Thanks Katrin Ryan

Oh dear, I'm sorry Katrin, we do try to be accurate but sometimes things go wrong ... I have ensured this issues dates are correct, but in future if you are ever in doubt you can look up the dates on Moorabool's site [http://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/CA257489001FD37D/Lookup/Calendar/\\$file/Recycling%20Calendar%202015.pdf](http://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/CA257489001FD37D/Lookup/Calendar/$file/Recycling%20Calendar%202015.pdf)

~ ED

I am writing this email to let you know my association with Blackwood House. My late father, Clifford Fricke, was a painter & he painted Blackwood House Guest House. From then on he & my late mother, Maisie Fricke, became firm friends with Mick & Nancy Walker & I was friends with Ted & Bev & Robyn Walker. That is a long time ago now. (see photo to right)

My name is Alvyn Mary Fetherston. I was a Fricke, youngest of 3 children. My sister, Lorraine has passed away & so has my brother Frank.

I receive the Blackwood Times from my neighbour's daughter as she & her husband have a place at Blackwood & I love reading it. I have just learned how to email, so I hope this gets to you. I have photos & an old postcard that has fold out photos. It cost 2 pennies & one halfpenny so that is how old it is, all the lovely places at Blackwood - Mineral Springs, Shaws Lake etc. I also have a book about Doctor Gwen Wisewould who was at Trentham. Hoping you receive this.

~ Yours sincerely, Alvyn Fetherston

How delightful to read your story Alvyn. If you ever feel like writing a story of your memories with some photos we would love to publish it.

~ ED

Thanks Margo Hitchcock for the ripper of a story about Captain Moonlight. A fascinating story, indeed. Much more intriguing than the Kelly Gang, & in our own back yard. It's never boring getting to know this place - we've got so many walks about town with intriguing names.

~ Margaret McCarthy

Hi Jinny,
Had a recent visit to Blackwood to catch up with our daughter Rachel & her partner Carlson. Impressed by the community spirit & the feel of the place which is a bit like my old home town here in New Zealand which was founded on gold.

Consequently have written a poem which I do on occasions & sometimes for occasions. Not a fan of modern poetry but am a big fan of Banjo Patterson & his bush ballads.

~ Cheers Dave Palmer

Brilliant Dave, how wonderful you were so inspired by our little village! We'll certainly look forward to seeing you in Blackwood again, in the meantime your poem is on p11.

~ ED

 <https://www.facebook.com/theblackwoodtimes>

• BOUQUET •

Thanks to Jinny & Brendan & contributors on yet another great read! I've grown very fond of our local pet presence: Seamus's column, the Pet Guru & the interview with a local canine personality. But most of all, I really enjoyed the wonderful photography of Peter Donnelly. The woodchop pics in particular are really something special!

~ Margaret McCarthy

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GARBAGE MONDAY
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Sept 14th, 28th



Blackwood House: I am the baby with the dummy sitting on my mother's knee. *courtesy: Alvyn Fetherston (Fricke)*



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BLACKWOODIANS OF OLD

Some old, unforgettable characters who lived alone in shacks in Blackwood in the 40's.

In those days there were many old men living alone in shacks in Blackwood. Some of the ones that I remember as a child are:

Comrade: I think his real name was Bert Neilson & he lived in a shack across the river down the bottom of Whalebone Rd. When he came home from the pub under the weather he would stand under a tree not far from our place & talk to the world & in particular how wonderful Russia was. He would exclaim "Russia win the world". Maybe he would have had a different opinion if he had lived in Stalin's "workers' paradise". He was found to have drowned whilst crossing the river.

Scotty: He lived in a shack down from the Blackwood – Trentham road alongside Long gully. He would come to town for supplies which he used to put in a hessian bag. One evening I gave him cheek & he chased me & said that he was going to put me in the hessian bag. I think I broke the world speed record & escaped but that cured me & from then on I was highly respectful of him.

Jim Shaw: He lived in a log cabin shack which still exists down from us in Whalebone road. He, together with other Shaw family members, created "Shaw's lake" which is on a hill above the mineral springs. When the very big bushfire of 1952 threatened Blackwood, we kids noticed the smoke when we were swimming down at the mineral pool & we all rushed home. It spotted in next door's yard but they managed to extinguish it. However Jim was out near his hut collecting firewood for his fire & he said "put it out with my foot"

Wally: I think I have got the name right - now he lived in a shack near the Rip Van Winkle mine just above the camping ground. He had a reputation for being one of the great unwashed & it was reputed that after he died they found his schoolbag underneath his coat.

Stan Worthington: He lived in a shack just below the general store & his hands & arms had a bad shake & people used to say it was caused by shell shock as he was a returned soldier from the first world war.

I have not included some, but those above are ones that made the most impression.

~ Don Owen

• BLACKWOOD STORK •

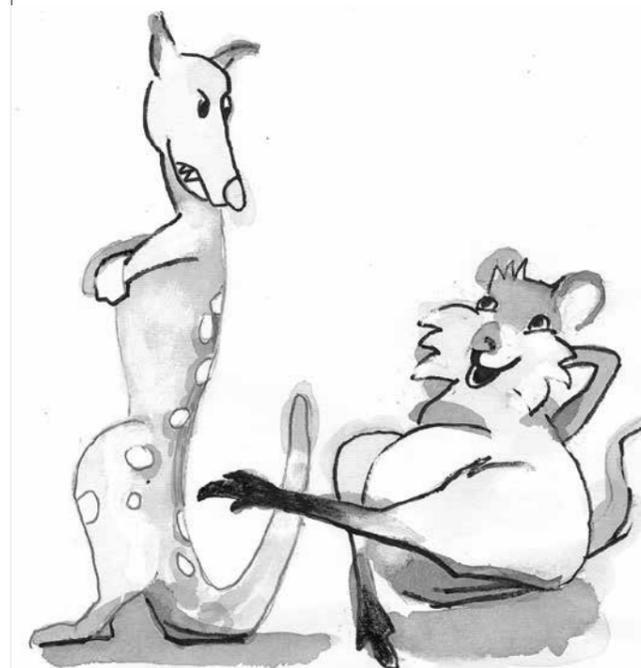


Kirsty & Trevor Vella welcomed Sian Rae Vella into the world at the Ballarat Base Hospital on Thursday July 16 at 8.43am. Weight: 2.53kg (5 lbs, 9 oz). 44.5cm long. Sian will be little sister to Rhys & Zac.

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Dear Pet Guru,

My pet Quoll and Quokka don't get on. I am afraid they might fight. What should I do?



You must keep them apart. Don't keep them in alphabetical order- they would be much too close.

Pet Guru



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RIP JACK RAYNER

July 21, 1920 ~ 15 July 15, 2015

Eulogy for John Francis, "Jack" Rayner, Wed July 22, 2015, St. Malachys Church, Blackwood.

Good afternoon. For those who don't know me, I'm Tess Egan, 2nd daughter of Jack & Grace Rayner.

Dad was born at home in Sunbury, on July 21, 1920. Yesterday would have been his 95th birthday, so he missed that milestone by just 6 days.

He was the eldest of 6 children of Edgar Charles & Eileen Mary Mahon/Rayner. Leo, Therese & Marie are no longer with us, but it's wonderful to see his youngest brother Michael & his wife Pat & baby sister Nonie & her husband Henk van de Berg here today.

The family lived a fairly simple life in Sunbury. Following Dad's father's discharge from the AIF (he fought in the Somme) his father set up a blacksmith & wheelwright business in Sunbury. Apparently this was one of Dad's earliest memories. The emergence of the motor vehicle was a major contributor to the demise of the business.

The family enjoyed almost unheard of luxury in those days – a wood fired hot water service & they proudly owned one of the first radios with speakers in Sunbury. They enjoyed broadcasts of test cricket matches being played in England when Don Bradman's great feats as a batsman made him a national hero.

Dad's father then ventured into the carrying business. Unfortunately, unknown to the family, one of the drivers was unlicensed & was involved in a serious accident. Their insurance was invalidated & the business had to meet the heavy costs of the injuries & damages sustained by the other party. This incident & the serious economic depression of the 1930's brought about the failure of this 2nd business venture.

The family was in a serious financial plight, but Dad's father was fortunate to secure a position as a fireman at the Sunbury Mental Hospital with a weekly wage of 3 pounds, 6 dollars. At least this meant a regular income to keep the wolf from the door for the family of 8.

Dad started school at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Sunbury & continued there until year 8. It was there where he first encountered a Josephite nun, Sr. Sabasian, nicknamed 'Basher'. The students (more than likely those wicked boys), quickly learned that if they withdrew their hand several centimetres or so, this ensured

contact with the cane was made as close as possible to their fingertips. Then they would put their hands in their armpits to ease the pain. At times they wondered whether or not some of the nuns, by the way they wielded the cane, were a little sadistic through frustration or for various other reasons. It was apparent to the kids that the experienced teachers aimed the cane for their wrists which was very painful to say the least.

The depression years were the golden ones of their childhood. They went rabbiting with ferrets but this was sometimes fraught with danger as burrows were often frequented by various species of snakes.

They loved making kites out of crossed lightweight sticks covered in brown paper & played cricket on a pitch they constructed on the vacant block next door. They imagined they were emulating the deeds of the Australian cricket team. Their two hardy fox terriers were named Bradman & Woodfull.

On one occasion the boys decided to try smoking "roll your own." However their astute mother knew what they had done as she found pieces of tobacco in their shirt pockets. Another time they stole an opened packet of their fathers Capstan full strength cigarettes which he seldom smoked & it was obvious to him who the culprits were. They suffered the consequences – corporal punishment!

It was a happy childhood for the 6 siblings & they learned to swim in Jacksons Creek unsupervised, quite a dangerous exploit.

They didn't own bicycles, but used to take turns after school to borrow one owned by their father's truck driver, & went for rides

towards Bulla. They had to gamble that the owner hadn't arrived back before his bike was returned to where he had left it. Dad was nearly caught out once & had to walk the bike back 5 miles due to a strong headwind but made it in time.

Dad was one of 40 students for the whole of the Melbourne Archdiocese, to be awarded a scholarship to attend St. Colmans CBC Fitzroy for sub intermediate. As a 13yo he was once punished with 6 lashes of the strap for failing to do his homework. He was tired from travelling from Sunbury to Melbourne by train as he rose at dawn in winter & arrived home in the dark.

He then attended Mt. Carmel CBC Middle Park for his intermediate & leaving school years, where he achieved the 2nd top mark. Leaving honours at St. Kevins Toorak completed 4 years of secondary schooling, all funded by scholarships.

A university education was out of the question due to the family's precarious financial position. Dad passed the entrance exam for the state public service & awaited a call for a position there. He wasn't aware at the time that his attendance at Catholic schools prevented him from being employed at various firms due to religious discrimination.

In mid 1937 he started as a messenger boy at the Herald newspaper office with a salary of 16 shillings - \$1.60 pw. At this time, he met our mother, Grace Fraser, who worked as a switchboard operator at the Truth newspaper.

Dad then joined the railways as a comptometer operator at thirty-five shillings - \$3.50 pw & was subsequently called up to the public service in March 1938.

At the motor registration branch, he sorted registration cards, one of the most boring jobs ever imagined & was terrorized by the OIC, a former schoolteacher. In December that year he was surprised to find Mum had also commenced work there.

Dad joined the Catholic Young Men's Society & then later the St. Vincent De Paul Society, where they undertook charitable work.

With the many poor & desperate families with little food or furniture in their houses through no fault of their own.

At the outbreak of WWII, Dad intended to enlist in the airforce but his father refused permission, as he was under 21 years of age. As a compromise Dad put his birthdate back 6 months which enabled him to join the 2nd AIF.

He was allocated to the 2/1 artillery survey unit as a gunner & was subsequently appointed a group one surveyor. In April 1941 his unit boarded the British liner Queen Elizabeth & sailed to the middle east. The ship had been converted to a troop carrier.

They disembarked in Port Tewfit, Egypt & travelled by train to Palestine. Operations were commenced by the allied forces against the German supporting Vichy French in Syria & the Lebanon. The Vichy French were subsequently defeated & surrendered.

With the bombing of Pearl Harbour, the unit returned to Australia & travelled from Freemantle to Brisbane by train. Dad & his

best friend, Jack Cooper, then transferred to the RAAF.

Mum & Dad became engaged by letter & married at St. Brendans, Flemington on December 10, 1942 while Dad was on leave prior to commencing duty with the RAAF. They had a short honeymoon here in Blackwood.

Upon completion of basic training & being an absolute maths whiz, Dad opted to train as a navigator. He graduated with a commission as a pilot officer navigator/wireless operator.

Dad sailed for the US in November 1943 &, after crossing from San Francisco to New York by train, travelled on to England. He was then posted to Canada for operation training on Mosquito fighter bombers, where he crewed up with the wonderful Jack Palmer from Ballarat. They remained firm friends until Jack Palmers death in 2002. The 2 Jacks were posted to 464 RAAF squadron at Thorney Island, near Portsmouth. They were allocated their own Mosquito, no. Sb-j, nicknamed by them J for Johnny.



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Dad commented it never occurred to them that they were flying in a wooden box with all the associated frailties of plywood.

Herman Goering, the German Luftwafe Commander, was reported to have said "I turn green & yellow with envy when I see a Mosquito. The British knock together a beautiful wooden aircraft that every piano factory over there is building."

The squadron took part in Operation Overlord, which was the code name for the invasion of Europe by allied forces through Normandy, France & then moved to Rosieres en Santerre in the Somme area.

Next came Operation Clarion. At its conclusion, a mere 7 planes from the squadron were serviceable.

At the end of the war, Dad felt he was fortunate to survive the 47 missions he'd completed. The Germans regarded Mosquito crews as terror flyers, some of whom were lynched or murdered after parachuting out of a crippled aircraft.

Survival prospects were less than 1 in 3. At the conclusion of the war, 80% of the squadron members had lost their lives. The 2 Jacks were mentioned in despatches for distinguished service in operations against the enemy over occupied Europe.

Dad returned home to Australia & was reunited with Mum & met, for the first time, his daughter Christine, born in January, 1944

He returned to work at the MRB. The same OIC showed not the slightest recognition of his maturity or operational service as a decorated officer. He was given the menial, dull & repetitive task of operating a cash register & then the job of sorting out duplicates of drivers licences.

Late one Friday afternoon he was informed by the same OIC he was to report to the Lands Department the following Monday morning. He had known of Dad's transfer for several weeks previously & chose to delay notifying him until the last minute.

Dad was then promoted to the tuberculosis division of the Health Department & later appointed the personal Asst to the Chairman of the Mental Health Authority.

Following the arrival of Brendan, myself & Peter-John, Mum & Dad purchased a block of land in North Balwyn & moved there in 1951. Brian, Pauline, Christopher & Marita completed the family.

Sadly Christine became of a victim of Wilsons Disease, a congenital condition which causes cirrhosis of the liver brought about by a build-up of copper. Christine died in November 1956, aged 12½ yrs. Ten years later, in December 1966, first Pauline aged 10yrs, succumbed to this same disease, as did Peter-John aged 16½ yrs, just 12 days later.

Dad's final administrative position was as Deputy Secretary of what was then known as the Public Health Commission of the Victorian Health Department, a position which he held with distinction for a number of years.

He first came to Blackwood in 1940. Mum had purchased the log cabin in Golden Point for 15pounds (\$30) 4 years earlier. He joined the Progress Assoc & was then invited to be a member of the inaugural Golden Point Swimming Pool Reserve Committee of Management – being the first non-resident member asked to join a local committee.

Dad later negotiated the formation of the Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management which assumed the responsibility for the management of the 4 local reserves.

He was elected a councillor of the Shire of Ballan in 1975 & served 2 periods over 18 years with that council. He succeeded in obtaining various grants to extend the hall, capital grants to modernise the Mineral Springs & Caravan Park; an extension of the hall to provide clubrooms for the Senior Citizens Centre; various improvements etc; & extension & sealing of roads around Blackwood.

Dad approached the Shire of Ballan in the 1980's to initiate the provision of a public water supply for Blackwood & Barrys Reef. The scheme was completed at a cost of just on \$1M.

He was twice elected President of the Shire of Ballan, now known as Moorabool Council & was a long term President/Chairman of the Crown Reserves Committee of Management & the Progress Assoc.

Mum & Dad took an active part in the ecumenical campaign to raise funds in 1980 for the restoration of the local Catholic church & also the Anglican Church further up the hill.

Family, Collingwood, politics, council, committees & computers were Dads life. As he grew older, woe betide anyone who dared to challenge his political views or take a derogatory comment about a certain Collingwood

player who has trouble kicking goals from set shots.

Dad barracked for Collingwood since childhood. I accompanied him to so many of the semi final & final losses of the 1960's & 1970. One day at Victoria Park I must have become a little too vocal for him, as he told me to stand somewhere else as I was embarrassing him.

Cameron Dy emailed me the following Collingwood story. "In 1992, Collingwood played St. Kilda at Waverley in an elimination final. I had been to many games that year, but always had a soft spot for the Saints due to outside influences from Stu (Cameron's Dad) who supported them.

After a pretty even first quarter, it was starting to heat up &, with the Saints starting to get the upper hand, I took my jacket off, to the horror of Jack, revealing a St. Kilda jumper I had on underneath.

I think I was lucky to make it alive out of the ground that day, let alone allowed in the car & back home. For the record, St. Kilda won by 8 points so I was barracking for the right team that day.

Since then I've always been one-eyed about Collingwood, just like Jack. I spent many a game cramped on the bench seats at Victoria Park & even made the trip down to the 1990 grand final, where victory that day brought a tear to Jack's eye.

I was speaking to Jeremy Johnson recently, the former Shire secretary of Ballan & now CEO of Sovereign Hill, Ballarat. Jeremy regularly travelled down to Melbourne for Collingwood games with Dad & was also at the 1990 grand final when they beat Essendon by 48 points after a drought of 32 years since their last premiership. Jeremy mentioned he saw Dad shed a few tears that day too.

Finally, in the latter part of last year, Dad began to look unwell & lost a considerable amount of weight. In January he was diagnosed with oesophageal cancer, which had spread to other parts of his body. He was given 3 – 6 months to live, endured 10 bouts of radiotherapy & removal of a brain lesion. However, he still remained stoic & positive almost to the end.

He continued to read books & the paper daily, as well as completing crosswords & watched parliament when it was televised, as well as Collingwood games of course.

Just 2 weeks ago while watching the news, we both noted that some Australian WWII veterans were awarded Frances highest honour, the Legion of Honour (the equivalent of the VC), for their distinguished service in fighting for the liberation of France.

Dad was certainly more than eligible for this honour, having been previously awarded a diploma of Honour & medal by the French Government in the year 2000. Unfortunately the Lgion of Honour is not awarded posthumously so Dad has missed out on this most prestigious of honours.

And so we come to the last chapter of Dad's amazing & long life. We lost Mum also to cancer in October '06. Dad continued to live in their log cabin at Golden Point, & still maintained his independence, interests in politics, local government, his beloved Magpies & computers. He had the latest Apple iPad & iPhone which he used daily, much to the surprise & amusement of the nursing staff at St. John of God hospital. He even helped solve some of their phone problems.

He was admitted to St John of God hospital on June 9 as his condition deteriorated, with a life expectancy of 1 to 3 weeks. He soldiered on for another 5 weeks, finally succumbing to this wretched disease a week ago today, the July 15 joining our mother Grace & siblings Christine, Peter-John & Pauline in heaven.

NOTE: Read Jack's story of his WWII experiences in The Blackwood Times issues: OctNov '11 p8; Dec11Jan12 p8; FebMar12 p17; AprMay12 p16; JunJul12 p15.

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. 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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WOMBAT BOOK CLUB 2015

Our bookclub usually meets the 1st Sunday monthly. During our get-together, we have a lively discussion about the most recent book we read. As reading & interpretation is subjective, this is what makes bookclub interesting.

Not only does it give exposure to books one might not otherwise read, it is a good excuse to cosy up next to the fire with a good book.

Following are our reviews for our most recent books:

THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL written by Deborah Moggach

Sandy: This is an 'easy reading' novel.

Set in Bangalore, the novel is about the least likely group of people retiring in India. The reader is entertained with humour & describes how each of the retirees arrive at this place, each overcoming prejudices & lifestyle change.

It is a warm & human story which each of us can identify with.

4 wombies

Sue: I loved the movie, but the book was a very different story. There was some humour, but the story was disjointed & far from uplifting. Some of the characters were barely introduced & they met their maker, whilst others were unrecognisable like Norman; likeable rogue in the movie, unlikable old lecher in the book. Recommend see the movie & give the book a miss.

2.5 wombies

Brenda: So much better than the movie & gave background to the disparate group of "oldies" ending up at a retirement hotel in India. Both poignant & funny, a good read.

3.5 wombies

Jinny: I found the movie to be lighthearted with the quirky characters, the vibrant colour & the energy. Pretty quickly I realised the book bore little resemblance to the movie. Dissappointing!

1 wombie

BURIAL RITES written by Hannah Kent

Sandy: Set in Iceland, this novel is based on the true story one of the people last executed in Iceland.

The protagonist, Agnes Magnúsdóttir, is accused of murder. She is placed in custody with a family whilst awaiting her execution. As her story unfolds, she finds compassion with the family & with the local Priest.

A moving story & one which questions the right of capital punishment & the many mistakes which are made, & often, all is not what it seems.

4.5 wombies

Rachel: Burial Rites is an engrossing story, steeped in the well-researched historical context of Iceland in the 19th century. The story of Agnes is

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H	w195 X h105mm	\$100.00	\$120.00
FULL PAGE	w195 X h270mm	\$270.00	\$324.00

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quite sad, but the relationships built throughout the story are hopeful. This meant that despite the protagonist being sentenced to death the story wasn't too punishing! This author has an enjoyably unique voice.

4 wombies

Sue: Found this book intriguing, even on a second read. Kent brings the icelandic history & scenery alive; the beauty & isolation, the brutal winters & the fragility of life eked out in a harsh land. For Agnes, firstly as an abandoned child & later as a woman, there are few choices & no protections.

4.5 wombies

Brenda: Wonderful book which still haunts me. Beautiful, descriptive writing which makes you feel the cold & terror of Agnes. I must have this book in my library, to share.

5 wombies

Jinny: One of the things I enjoy about our book club is the way we're swung from pillar to post in the genre of books we read. This was the most tragic yet heart warming journey of families, deep prejudices, superstition & small mindedness. A very disturbing tale particularly because it was based on real events!

4 wombies



Electronic Post Office

Jaime shows off the device (in her hand, not the one on her head) which allows the Blackwood Post Office to offer 7-days-a-week banking. You can also use it for bills and money orders. But wait, there's more. You can charge your mobile and also pick up an electronic gift voucher (see the range behind Jaime).

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FROM CATHERINE'S DESK

AGED PENSIONS CUT

The Liberal Party, the National Party and the Greens Party have all voted to cut the pension.

Because of the Liberal/Greens deal 7,200 part-pensioners in Ballarat are now at risk of losing all or part of their pension.

Over the next ten years, around half of all new retirees will be affected – those in their 50s and 60s today who are working hard so they don't retire poor.

Some singles will lose \$8,000. Some couples will lose \$14,000.

Many of these pensioners are on super incomes of as low as \$15,000.

First Tony Abbott tried to cut pension indexation for everyone – cuts he has spent the last year defending as 'fair and reasonable'.

This would have left pensioners as much as \$80 a week worse off within a decade.

Now the Greens have joined Tony Abbott's betrayal.

As the local member for Ballarat I will continue to stand up for local pensioners.

Because it is clear that Tony Abbott still has more in store - he still wants to raise the pension age to 70.

It is now absolutely clear that there is only one party that will stand up for pensioners: the Labor Party.

Only Labor will protect the pension and Only Labor will fight for pensioners.

THE HISTORY OF BLACKWOOD – INTERESTING ARTICLE IN THE BACCHUS MARSH EXPRESS NEWSPAPER – 1896.

Courtesy of TROVE – N.L.A. Accident to Thomas Tenni and Benefit Concert for his family

Bacchus Marsh Express - Saturday June 6, 1896

Blackwood. (from our own correspondent.) A Concert was held in the Barry's Reef Mechanics' Institute on Wednesday, 27, in aid of the widow & family of the late **Thomas Tenni**, who came by his death a few weeks ago in a rather simple manner. He was driving a horse team when he got a slight graze on one of his legs by being jammed against a log. Little notice was taken of it, & he went on working without much inconvenience for a day or two, when symptoms of blood poisoning began to show, & although he was then taken to the Kyneton Hospital the disease increased & death took place in a few days.

The (benefit) concert was well attended, & a varied & excellent programme was rendered, as follows :- Overture, piano, violin, & melodeon, by Messrs. Beale, Skinner & Walters; song, "Ever of thee," Mrs. D'Alton; song, "The little Irish queen," Mr. Warburton; song, "I am thinking," Miss Broad; song, "Their heads nestled close together," Mr. Rose; clog dance, Mr. J. Best; song, "The two orphans," Miss Skinner; song, "Love's story," Miss Goodge; song, "The fatal wedding," Mr. G. Armstrong; song, "When you & I were young," Mr. E. Franzke; farce, "Runaway musketeers, or the underfed brigade," given with good effect by the local comical comedy company. Part 2. Overture, piano, Mrs. Gribble; song & dance, "Pat O'Hara," by special request, Messrs. Rose & Simmons; song, "Why must I say good-bye," Mrs. Gribble; recitation, "The one-legged goose," Mr. Jas. Terrill; duet, "O'er the hill, o'er the dale," Misses Trehwella; song, "The Tipperary christening," Mr. A. Rose. Song, "Killarney," Mrs. Nelson; statue clog dance, by Messrs. Best, Simmons & Lightly. This was well done, but required the limelight to bring out the fill statuesque effects. Song, "As I strolled by the sea," Mr. M. Giles; song, "Maggie's secret," Miss Goodge; clog dance, Mr. W. Ward; song, "Sentenced to death," Mr. G. Goodge.

The chairman, Mr. W. Byres, having proposed the usual vote of thanks to all those who had assisted to make the entertainment such a success, a well rendered farce entitled "Thumbs up," by the Comical Comedy Company, concluded the programme. The ball held afterwards was well attended & the dancing kept up till a late hour. The bachelors' return Church of England social was held in the Blackwood Mechanics' Institute on Friday, the 29th ult., & well attended, fully 70 of the young folks taking part in the round of parlour games usual on such occasions.



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



The North Staffordshire Company have had to discontinue work in their 70ft shaft, as the water has become too heavy. The last work done was to break out 1 ton of quartz from the bottom level, which yielded 2oz. of gold. They are now starting a tunnel in the hillside, which will have to be driven 450ft, & will give them something over 50 feet of backs below the bottom of their present shaft. The rainfall at Blackwood for the month of May was 4.37in, making a total of 16.26infor the first 5 months of the year.

Mr. George Gallop, one of Blackwood's oldest resident miners, died on Wednesday. His age was nearly 72 yrs, & he died rather suddenly, having been at work getting ready for another crushing of cement up to the end of last week. He has always been a hard worker, & had the reputation of having washed the richest tub of dirt ever got in the Ballarat district in the early days. But, in the ups & downs of a miner's life, he had very little surplus of this world's goods at the last, though I heard him say, no later than last week, that, as the result of his last cement crushing (noted last week) he was able to pay every shilling he owed, & have a pound or two in his pocket to spare.

Books published by Margot Hitchcock – "Aspects of Early Blackwood", *Some History of Simmons Reef, Blackwood* & "The Billy Pincombe Tragedy". See – www.blackwoodpublishing.com

For help with information on Blackwood ancestors contact Margot Hitchcock – email – margothitchcock@bigpond.com

BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

Open 1st Saturday monthly 10am-1pm
Historical Society Meeting 10.30am-12.30pm
ALL WELCOME
Martin St, Blackwood ph 5368 6537
www.blackwoodvictoria.com

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Imitations that work too well

Feeling my way through the bush near the Lerderberg River at the age of 17, I noticed a Swamp Wallaby eating Blackberry leaves. As usual I watched the animal do what animals do in their natural environments. I decided to act the same as the wallaby to try & not scare him away so I could watch him for longer. I started to pretend to eat the same Blackberry leaves & crouching down & mimicking what movements the Wallaby was doing. When the wallaby would look up I would do the same & then look in the direction he was looking towards as if I was listening out for the same dangers he was. All the while I was pretending to be interested in blackberry leaves & slowly moving closer to the wallaby.

Before long I was right next to the wallaby. I was feeling happy to be close to another animal in the wild that trusted me & I would have liked that moment to last a lot longer that day. But what happened next was a bit more than I intended. I felt a thud on my back & instinctively I elbowed towards my rear & then I stood up & turned around.

The wallaby was lying on its side looking at me with his long red old fella erected. The wallaby stood back up with a look of bewilderment. My disguise had worked way too well & the wallaby must have thought I was a hot-looking female wallaby checking out his pad. Wallabies are usually solitary animals for most of their lives except breeding times.

I felt sorry for the wallaby getting an elbow in the guts so I left him to his solitary life again & I wandered further into the bush to discover more of nature.

Being a hairy bloke that loves the bush can have its draw backs. Especially when the bush wants to love you back.

~ Clint Stretton



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Pizza – Wed and Thurs
Tues – Locals Slab Draw in Bar & Parma and Pasta
Friday – Happy Hour 5–7, \$3 POTS, Bar Nibbles & Meat Raffle
Sunday – Scooner Sundays b/w 3-5pm @\$5

General Store stocks all, pies, drinks, icecreams, grocery items, toasted sand, take away bottleshop, newspapers daily, bread, ice, and anything else you may just need. Shop now opens at 10am every day and is open late with Pub.

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BEYOND BLACKWOOD...

TRENTHAM COTTAGE GARDEN FLOWER SHOW

St Georges Church in Trentham
 Saturday, October 31st 2015
Start pampering your flowers and shrubs!
 Further details in next issue of the Times



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NO BETTER TIME TO VISIT THE TRENTHAM FALLS

Trentham Falls is one of the longest single-drop waterfalls in Victoria, plunging some 32 metres over basalt columns. The Trentham Falls were formed some 5M years ago from molten lava rapidly cooling as it flowed along the old Coliban River valley. At the base of the Falls, quartz gravel & the former river bed can be seen. The Falls reserve protects one of the best remnants of original vegetation in the area, with stands of manna gum, messmate, stringybark & narrow-leaved peppermint. The reserve is ideal for picnics or barbecues, with picnic tables, fireplaces & toilets provided for visitors. The Trentham Cascades are a short walk further north from the Falls Reserve car park. To get there, take Falls Road (the continuation of High Street) from the town centre past the football ground & Golf Club. Turn right at the T-intersection at the Daylesford road, & then left at the sign some 100 metres up the road.

ref: <http://www.trentham.org.au/attractions>

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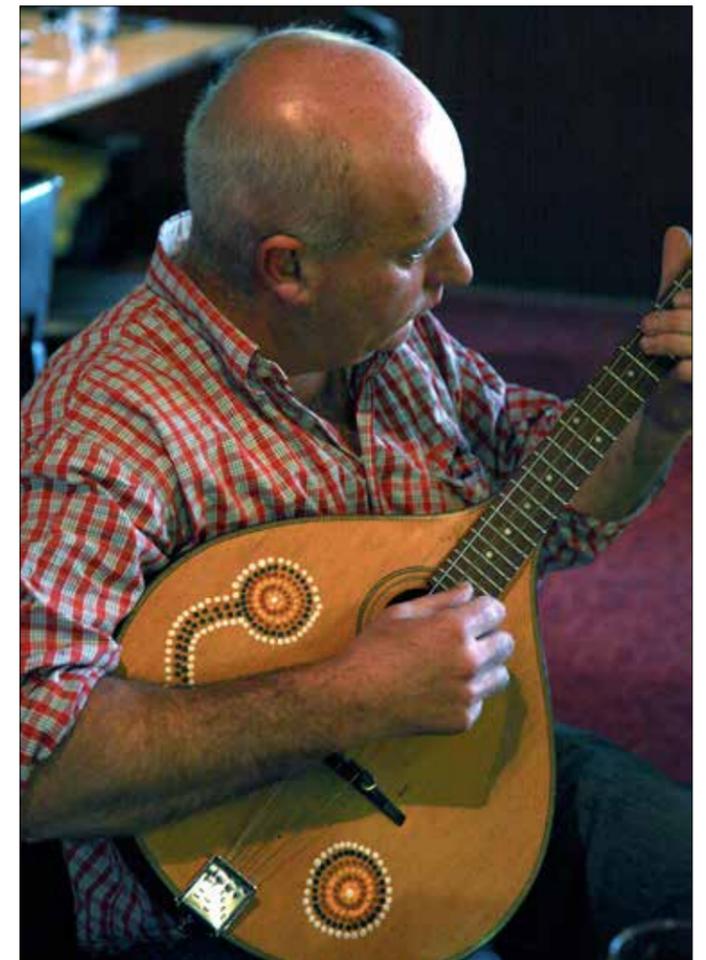
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Dennis Walsh (Trentham) at the Blackwood Irish session.

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august 15 | september 19

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WHITE RABBIT
 WINTER EXHIBITION • AUGUST 2015
 FRIDAYS TO SUNDAYS 11AM TO 4PM (OR BY APPOINTMENT)

Little Gallery's Collective
 (Ettore Dipilla, Frances Harkin, Dianne Longley and Rose Wilson)
 presents a mid-year group exhibition by local artists

Daniel Butterworth
 Helen Cottle
 Ron Davis
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 Larissa Gray
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Find us on Facebook
 facebook.com/pages/Little-Gallery

32 High Street, TRENTHAM VIC 3458
 ENQUIRIES: 5424 1307 OR 0439 984 314

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Little Gallery is having a mid year Exhibition, showcasing renowned and emerging artist of our region.

It's definitely an impressive line-up of artists, so if you're a local or holidaying for the weekend please make sure you visit us during August. If you are from outer town, what a great excuse to come to Trentham to see the show!

the Little Gallery Collective - Rose Wilson, Dianne Longley, Ettore Dipilla & Frances Harkin look forward to seeing you there.

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 Representing Blackwood residents

Catherine King MP FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BALLARAT

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