

THE BLACKWOOD TIMES

June July '15 vol 7 ~ issue 8:1



Preparation for the Blackwood Easter Woodchop competition ... photo by Peter Donnelly



Hi Blackwoodians,
How are you coping with this unpredictable weather? As the days get shorter & many of us find ourselves driving in & out of town in the mist or fog, it's nice to see someone has taken our gatekeeper Wombie under their wing, replacing his summer hat with a wooly red winter scarf :)

Happy Birthday to us! As we move into our 8th year of publishing our community paper, I wholeheartedly thank everyone who has supported us to date... far too many to name, but you know who you are; you are our regular contributors of articles (some of you have contributed to every issue, what commitment!) Our advertisers – you allow us to keep going to print; our local groups who help me to keep the community informed; those of you who send us your stories, letters, photos; everyone who pops a donation in the boxes (& those who encourage others to); the local businesses who act as our distribution points & then there are all our HANDS-UP helpers who have happily volunteered to help with all the bits & pieces that go into putting each issue together. And for our 8th birthday the best present is that it is the easiest issue we have ever put together thanks to all you good folk sending us your contributions. It takes me back to the reason I originally took on this job ... to put forward your views!

~ *Jinny Coyle*

BADGAR
EMERGENCY WILDLIFE RESCUE
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WILDLIFE RESCUE 24 HOURS
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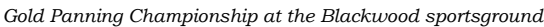
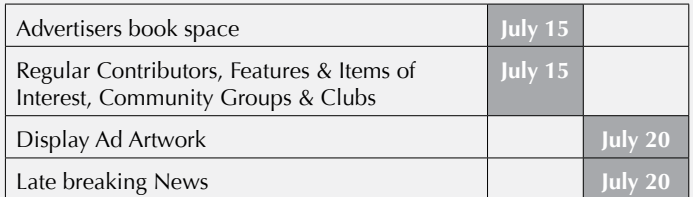


Photo by Brendan Hehir

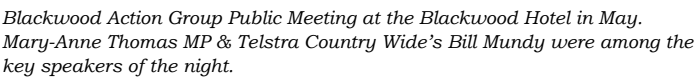
The BLACKWOODTIMES invites submissions from the community. If you're at a local event please take a photo or two & write a few lines to share in our community news. Deadlines are as follows



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~ BLACKWOOD ACTION GROUP



Photos: Margaret McCarthy



• BLACKWOOD EASTER CARNIVAL 2015 •



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• BLACKWOOD EASTER CARNIVAL 2015 •



All the fun of the fair at the 2015 Blackwood Easter Carnival
NOTE: above Gerard Styles, the Carnivals MC (refer to p16)



DON'T LET THEM STEAL OUR TOWN!

Whilst most regional areas suffered through the GFC, the recovery of Blackwood was further retarded by failure of the proposed sewerage scheme to proceed & the issues related to bushfire overlays along with the BAL assessments being introduced. While the latter BAL issues are probably not totally unreasonable, they do take from the landowner the ability to carry out their own risk assessment with regards to building in bushfire prone areas. You only have to look at the rate of development & recovery in Marysville to see what's possible in a small town surrounded bush.

From our angle, the major issue relates to the water catchment authorities' failure to issue permits for septic tanks and/or treatment plants, composting toilets, dry toilets, worm toilets & any other alternative proven waste treatment plant. The failure of State Government to encourage development & to find spurious excuses to let Water Catchment Authorities dictate to existing land owners has caused considerable losses to these landowners, whilst at the same time taken away confidence in building a community & dammed a once vibrant township to an uncertain future.

At present in Blackwood there are at least 14 blocks of land for sale with a value of approximately \$1.5M. We believe that there is probably twice that number that could be put on the market if the owners thought that there was any chance of selling them. A total of perhaps \$4.5 M in lost value to residents of the community. In many cases these lots were purchased or held as part of a retirement plan, for gifting to family or purchased to build a dreamed of home in a lovely mountain environment. What have they got for studious saving & planning?. The levels of consideration are in fact no better than you see in third World Dictatorship like Burma, where a person with assumed power can just walk in take your land. Same in Balckwood. Landholders have effectively had their wealth/investments stolen from them.

Small Blackwood maybe; however in an age of poor quality development on city fringes, there are lots of mature communities like Blackwood that offer a true lifestyle change, already have a planned township ready for infill, have a willing community wanting to build on the historic character & offer a great alternative from the madding crown. These gems of villages are an important part of Victoria's history & should be treasured, not consigned to a drawn-out demise brought about by bureaucratic neglect. Because that what it is. Other than put-upon residents, no one wants to show initiative. In fact you can compare the government inactivity to a septic tank. All the big lumps float to the top, sit there & fester.

There is no logical reason for government neglect. The water authorities should be instructed by State Government to resolve these issues. The authorities are full of trained & skilled hydraulic & civil engineers, well-read no doubt, with the great Australian ability to be creative & innovative. Give them a brief to solve problems, not create them. With growing cities & a renewed decentralisation mantra, State Government should have the will to resolve these issues & encourage controlled development in Regional areas to take the pressure off bigger city centres.

~ John Fitzgerald



ABOVE: Clint strums a tune at the Blackwood Academy
RIGHT: Hmm, it's looking a wee bit blunt for the next event

Photos by Peter Donelly



There's a lonely lady in Blackwood.

Every Wednesday at 1.30pm the van from the Ballan library arrives at the Blackwood Memorial Hall. Books are unpacked & put on display for borrowing, & being a library this service is free, unless of course you keep your books too long. As the old saying goes, use it or lose it, this service is currently under-utilised & the library lady is getting lonely. If you are after a particular title, it can be sourced for you through connections to 13 other libraries in the Central Highlands Libraries network, & even brought to Blackwood for you to pick up once it becomes available. Everyone knows that books are expensive &, with what is shaping up to be an extra cold Winter, it may be time you paid a visit to the library lady. The library outreach service operates Wednesdays from 1.30 to 2.30pm at the Blackwood Memorial Hall.

~ Lindy Mundy

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 centralhighlandslibraries.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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HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

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)
Mar '15	*17.4	55.9	1.8	30.3	22.1	7.1	13.7
Apr '15	*34.7	72	1.8	25.4	16.5	5.9	10.4

* I am using the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) March and April Rainfall figures which I believe are too low, particularly that of April. My measurement indicates that it should be about 20mm higher for April – they have been wrong before! I use my own temperature figures as the nearest BOM measurement site is near Ballarat.

The Five Senses of Blackwood

~ by Ewan Cameron

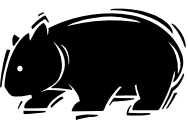
For me, to live in Blackwood is to be truly alive. In our busy, often stressful lives from day to day we are simply unable to experience the beauty that is all around us. We either have too much to do or our minds are overly pre-occupied in dealing with problems & ambitions that need urgent attention. However, there is a lot to be said for "taking the time to smell the roses". But our world is getting faster & because of our ever-increasing mobility we see nothing as we speed past.

An example of this was made plain to me some years ago at Halls Gap, a place that has long enjoyed a wonderful reputation for its exquisite wildflowers. I overheard a tourist ask a shopkeeper where they could see the wild flowers. This person was very disappointed as they had seen not a flower during their visit of over 3 hours. In reply, the shopkeeper asked where they had walked in their search, to which the tourist testily replied, "It's too chilly so we've just driven around hoping to see some." The look on the shopkeeper's face suggested he didn't know whether to laugh or cry. That just illustrates the point for me.

I believe that our life-style can affect us so much that we can become unwittingly de-sensitized. There is so much for us to enjoy in our beautiful environment that, particularly as we become older & busier, we become immune to beauty. That is why a place like Blackwood can be so good for our souls, if we allow it. As sensitive, high-functioning human beings we all have five senses that we can use to enhance our lives. Children are acutely aware of these & we often marvel at their powers of observation. We all know that our five senses are sight, hearing, smell, touch & taste. Let me tell you why I love Blackwood & about some of the simplest experiences I have had here in using my senses to enjoy it.

As the chill of Autumn intensifies, have you ever observed the beautiful colours of deciduous trees' leaves gradually easing from vibrant green to pale gold, then blazing red & finally rusty brown? At the Garden of St. Erth I marvel at the numerous shapes of the plants, their leaves & the profiles of the trees themselves. This is especially so at dusk when their silhouettes are sharply defined. Take the time to marvel at the beauty of the blue wren & his jennies picking the insects from the log you've just split. These bold, tiny birds dart beneath your feet & the very axe-blade, escaping in the nick of time. Is it a matter of trust or judgement? Probably both. It's wonderful to get so close to the gentle wallabies & kangaroos feeding on the lawn. Their ears swivel like radar discs, constantly checking for danger. I enjoy watching the king parrots & crimson rosellas hanging by one foot from a branch of the old apple tree while they hold an apple in the other, munching their way around it until they are satisfied.

The sounds of the bush, especially at dawn or dusk, are equally enjoyable & somewhat soothing. Birdlife stirring gradually from first light, rustling & twittering, followed by the carolling of magpies makes one want to enjoy the early part of the day, which is often the best time either to work or rest. In my city life my various homes over the years had silent tiled roofs. Now I love nothing better than either lying in bed or sitting by the fire listening to the rain drumming on the iron roof. It's a timeless sound that takes me back to my childhood on the farm safe, warm & in the arms of my family. Another sound entrenched in my memory is the trickling of water over the creek pebbles, swelling the stream as the Autumn rains begin reviving it after months of hot, dry weather. One night recently I sat beside the creek near the Blackwood sports ground, listening to the faint gurgling of the water as it sought to find its way across the parched pebbles caked with



~ by Don Owen

dry silt. I fear for the stream's future & the haunting words of Tennyson's wonderful poem, "The Brook", revisit me from my schooldays of over fifty years' passing:

"Men may come & men may go, but I go on forever".

Will this stream go on forever?

Above my head one morning came the heavy rush of wings as a wedge-tailed eagle descended quickly then turned away in alarm at my presence. What an uplifting experience!

As a school kid I was privileged to wander the bush almost totally unrestricted & I was constantly covered in scratches, bruises & often welts from insect bites. I learned very quickly what I could touch & what I should leave well alone. But I loved the smooth, rounded pebbles of the Jim Crow Creek & wondered how old they could be to achieve that state of perfection. I closed my eyes & stroked the trunk of the different trees, learning that sometimes, as I did so, their fragrance would remain on my fingertips. The tips of the Australian mint bush releasing its perfume as they brush against my cheek are still a joy to me.

Blackwood also has unique tastes that are evocative. At the Garden of St. Erth take a ripe quince in your hands & inhale deeply the luscious, clean fragrance that can make you quite dizzy. Taste the mild wood smoke from someone's campfire that carries to you the sweetness of lamb or the richness of chorizo sausages. Enjoy the bitter sting of winter sleet or the pure taste of fresh snow flung at you by a stiff Winter's breeze. Perhaps my favourite of all occurs on a balmy evening in the middle of Summer as a storm threatens. The smell of eucalyptus pervades everything as the gums release their essence in anticipation of welcome rain.

All of these wonderful sensuous experiences are there to be enjoyed in our town. All you have to do is to slow down, take time & reap the rewards they bring.



Pizza Night Happy Hour, every Friday 6 - 7pm
\$4 House Red, VB, Carlton & Sparkling
Bookings & Takeaway orders: 5368 6525

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

DEAR EDITOR,

PLEASE PASS on my deepest gratitude to everyone who offered me accommodation or simply 'wished' for my prayer to be answered ... I've been blessed with a lovely home in Blackwood and settling in nicely! Decker Street, Blackwood.

~ Kathie Strmota

THANKS,

I DO enjoy catching up on Blackwood news, and certainly hope that under a new state government the town can get some solution to the building problems that have been dragging on for so long now.

KIND REGARDS,

~ Elaine (Boucher)



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

JUNE 2015

when	what	where
Fri 5	Grumpy Neighbour's Lazy Dawg	Radio Springs
Sat 6: lunch	Victoria Parade	Radio Springs
Sat 6: dinner	Prayerbabies	Radio Springs
Sat 6	Paige	Blackwood Hotel
Sun 7: dinner	McMurray & McClean	Radio Springs
Sun 7	Family Farm	Cosmopolitan
Mon 8: lunch	Marty P	Radio Springs
Thu 11	Adrian Deakin	Radio Springs
Fri 12	Lily P	Radio Springs
Sat 13: lunch	Marty P	Radio Springs
Sat 13: dinner	Duck Downpickers	Radio Springs
Sun 14	Cat and Clint *	Cosmopolitan
Sun 14: lunch	Geoffrey Williams	Radio Springs
Thu 18	Pennyweight	Radio Springs
Fri 19	Little Blues Bag	Radio Springs
Sat 20: lunch	Money for Jam	Radio Springs
Sat 20: dinner	Family Farm Band	Radio Springs
Sat 20	Harry J Nanos	Blackwood Hotel
Sun 21	Honeyfields / Foliada *	Blackwood Hotel
Sun 21: lunch	Liz Frencham & the People We Know	Radio Springs
Sun 21: dinner	The Russack Sisters	Radio Springs
Thu 25	Adrian Deakin	Radio Springs
Fri 26	Cam Kettle	Greendale
Fri 26	Jude Parsons	Radio Springs
Sat 27: lunch	Victoria Parade	Radio Springs
Sun 28: lunch	Geoffrey Williams	Radio Springs
Sun 28: dinner	Liz Frencham & the People We Know	Radio Springs
Sun 28	Zeebs vs Miss Vitula	Cosmopolitan

* Blackwoodian locals



flowers for any occasion
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JULY 2015

when	what	where
Sat 4: lunch	Shaw and Wilkinson	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 4: lunch	Money for Jam	Radio Springs
Sun 5: lunch	McMurray and McClean	Radio Springs
Sun 5: Dinner	Liz Frencham and the People we Know	Radio Springs
Sun 5	Family Farm	Cosmopolitan
Fri 10	Grumpy Neighbour's Lazy Dawg	Radio Springs
Sat 11: lunch	McMurray and McClean	Radio Springs
Sat 11: dinner	Family Farm Band	Radio Springs
Sun 12: lunch	Pete Fidler	Radio Springs
Sun 12: dinner	Bourke Bros Duo	Radio Springs
Sun 12	Jarrold Shaw and Sarah Wilkinson	Cosmopolitan
Fri 17	Trudy and Phil Edgely	Radio Springs
Sat 18: dinner	Prayerbabies	Radio Springs
Sat 18: dinner	Harry J Nanos and Dave Prior	Blackwood Hotel
Sun 19	Phil and Trudy Edgely	Cosmopolitan
Thu 23	Family Farm Band	Radio Springs
Fri 24	Pennyweight	Radio Springs
Sat 25: dinner	Duck Downpickers	Radio Springs
Sun 26	Cat and Clint *	Cosmopolitan
Sun 26: dinner	Liz Frencham and the People we Know	Radio Springs
Thu 30	Pete Fidler	Radio Springs

Blackwood Academy & Revue Inc. presents

Sunday June 21 2pm

IRISH SESSION

with Foliada & Honeyfields

all players welcome to join in.....

ENTRY: FREE

BLACKWOOD HOTEL

Blackwood, Victoria (1 hr drive from Melbourne)
information: www.blackwoodacademy.org
Inc. number: A0052282S

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COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

Blackwood All Saint’s Church

A reminder to the Community, All Saint’s Church is closed. The nearest Parish is at Handy Street, Myrniong.
The Priest, Darrell Couch, is still available for pastoral care, & funerals.
His number is - home: 53675362 mobile: 0417522779.

Blackwood Action Group

see p3, 6, 13 & 19 for the latest updates

~ Blackwood Action Group

Blackwood CFA

Captain Ross has returned safely from Gallipoli & will inform us more of his trip to the ANZAC ceremony at a later time.
It has been reasonably quiet with only a few call outs which have been minor.
After a recent event the brigade attended please remember that we are an emergency service, & calls to 000 are treated as urgent.
If a call is made that turns out to be a non emergency it poses a significant risk to everyone concerned.
Take it safely over the winter & make sure that electric blankets, heating devices & candles are all used appropriately.

~ Karl Church

Blackwood CERT

This month we have had some calls for assistance in our community. The CERT team not only is especially trained in First Aid, but has on-going training to address issues which may arise & be called to assist with.
If you need an Ambulance & call 000, the team on call that day will get to you as soon as possible.
A few issues ago, I wrote about four new CERT recruits. I’m happy to say, we confidently go on calls & feel very much a part of this valuable team. It is very rewarding.
For anyone who is interested in taking up the challenge & becoming part of our team, out Team Leader, Ivan Johnson, would love to hear from you. His number is - 0425 723 335. It is a great avenue for connecting with our community.

~ Take care, from the CERT Team.

Blackwood Senior Citizens

A recent update from Seniors – our club is keeping busy with organised bus trips each month. Those who went to Science Works in April & the Museum of Australia in May, enjoyed these outings very much. Our next venture is to the Shrine of Remembrance on June 4 – any person interested in this trip, contact Bev Herd 03 5368 2526.
Three of our life members - Betty & Ken Ashtob & Isa Hazler - have been absent from the club for some time due to illness, we wish them well & hope they will be back with us before too long.
Debbie (nurse) & Louise (podiatrist) attended the club recently, their services were much appreciated.
Blackwood Seniors Club operates every Wednesday from 10am to 3pm. New members would be most welcome. Annual subscription is \$12-& a 3 course meal is \$10pw. To keep us occupied we conduct board games, billiards for the men & after lunch we play bingo & carpet bowls.
No more 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), Blackwood Historical Society (Museum), 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.

BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

Presentation night for The Blackwood Cricket Club 2014/15 Season was held in May at the Greendale Country Pub, a major sponsor for this season & seasons past.
The players of the Club successfully achieved a HAT TRICK of premierships by easily winning the Gisborne District Cricket Association GRAND FINAL again this year. A BIG congratulations to all the players who participated in this 2014/15 season!! Particularly Alan Salmon, captain of the team for all 3 seasons.

It is, however, with great sadness that Alan announced he would retire his captaincy & pass the mantle on to a yet unnamed captain, although he will continue to play, mentoring our new captain & being one of our best fast bowlers.

The night was a great success with many players winning awards, & our sponsors for the season being recognised for their generous support.
Those sponsors include; The Greendale Country Pub, Western Land Service, Melbourne Drum Recycling, Werribee Soil Testing, Travis Smithard Electrical, Geotechnical Laboratories, Greendale Florist, Westmain Aust, A2B Earthworks, Fenwick Tree Services, Brown Cow Consulting.



The Captain & his son Jack

- The Major awards for the night;
- WALLY SWEET MEMORIAL TROPHY: Luke Whitehouse (Club Champion best & fairest)
 - BCC BOWLING AVERAGE: A Salmon (38 wickets @ 12.3)
 - BCC BATTING AVERAGE: Wayne Robinson (473 runs @ 59.1)
 - BCC DUCK AWARD: Josh Murphy
 - BCC NACA AWARD: Ben Whitehouse
 - JACK STRINGER TROPHY: Steve Condon (Best Bowling bowling 8/25)
 - RAY MEADE MEMORIAL TROPHY: Samantha Whitehouse (President’s award)
 - BERT SUTERS TROPHY: Jodie Bantz (Club person)
 - DICK CATER AWARD: Matt Taylor (Encouragement award)
 - RON SALMON TROPHY: Wayne Robinson (Highest Score 127 runs not out)
 - GEORGE THWAITES U’21 AWARD: Josh Murphy
- Notable mentions throughout the season are;
- BOWLING AWARDS: Josh Murphy 7/17 (including a hat-trick) & Alan Salmon 7/49
 - CENTURY AWARDS: James Cann 111, Luke Whitehouse 110 not out, Luke Whitehouse 104 not out

Thankyou to everyone who attended on the night, & everyone who supported us for the season, here’s looking to the 2015/16 season.

~ Jodie Bantz

If you have a group of interest in our community, & you would like us to know about you, please email me - galaxyss@hotmail.com we would love to hear from you.



Photo by Brendan Hehir

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Blowin' at the Blackwood Academy

photo by Peter Donnelly

In the middle of all of these tones & shades we so readily identify as 'autumnal', the brilliant blue of the Monkshood blares at us in defiance. In English gardens, this plant has a reputation for being dark & mysterious, but here, its blueness seems to pick up whatever light is going, giving it a decidedly Aussie accent, so that we just hear its demand that we "Look at moi, look at moi!" Definitely no romance or mystery there!



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Email: c.mooney@bigpond.net.au

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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 ...

GALLIPOLI

(top) Lone Pine memorial (large white monument) BELOW: the crowd looks out to sea at the dawn service. (see Ross' story on p17)

AVIGNON, France

Sur le Pont d'Avignon
L'on y danse, l'on y danse.....

Don didn't dance under the bridge but posed for a photo. (see Don's weather report p7)



THE BLACKWOOD ACADEMY & REVUE INC PRESENTS

BLACKWOOD FESTIVAL OF MUSIC & CULTURE

NOV 6th, 7th, 8th, 2015

Proudly sponsored by Moorabool Shire

blackwoodacademy.org/festival.php



photo by Peter Donnelly



BAG attends the launch of Kate Cotters latest project, the BBCA

BUSHFIRE BUILDING COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

A national, not-for-profit organisation, formed by independent experts to provide government, industry & communities with advice on sensible bushfire policies, building techniques & life safety information

We want to see solutions for every site in Australia. There are no 'zero risk' ways of living with bushfire, but we should be able to live where we choose, just as we allow people to live in flood & cyclone areas. Innovation is always how we best solve problems, rather than regulating people off their property.

We want to stimulate innovation so that people have more product choice at lower prices without sacrificing safety. This will encourage the take-up of bushfire protection measures for people with existing dwellings, which is where the greatest risk is.

We are advocating for shared responsibility, where property owners are responsible for reducing bushfire risk by building to appropriate construction standards, managing vegetation & ember proofing existing homes. We are advocating for government to manage their own responsibilities such as; vegetation management on public land, town protection plans, improving communication systems, protecting water & power assets during a crisis & effectively suppressing bushfires.

The BBCA is funded though industry membership, individual property owners can join for free.

(from Kate Cotters statement for May's public meeting)

• 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 8am-4pm 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 Scandavian 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	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.		
DARLEY MARKET 8am-1pm Gisborne/Grey St Darley	GISBORNE ALL SEASONS 9am-3pm Brantome St			TRENTHAM MAKERS 9am-1.30pm Cosmo			

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STEPS TO A NEW YOU:

Purposeful Change: Define your desire

by Kathie Strmota



We've looked at step 1, recognising dissatisfaction, step 2, accurately identifying the cause, & now we ask: "if I don't want that, what do I actually want?" In step 3, you explore what changes might provide the 'cure' you're seeking. Objective reflection will help define a clear direction for satisfactory change.

For example, you're retired and, although keeping busy, feel increasingly unsatisfied. Acknowledging this feeling, you reflect on its possible cause. You may recognise that, when at work, you contributed to a communal purpose, & this aspect of being a 'worker' gave you a sense of purpose, camaraderie, & worth. These personal needs still exist but now, in your retirement, they aren't being satisfied. Next, you reflect on what change might satisfy this need & gradually come to see that you want to 'keep it simple' – you don't want a whole new career. When you consider peripheral involvement in a local group project, this idea feels best, so explore that in more detail.

When considering possible ways to satisfy your needs, it's really important to pay attention to your feeling-responses. These intuitive signals from your heart-compass are the truest indicators of what direction will be most satisfying. One idea might generate enthusiasm or pleasure, while another might feel indifferent or even mildly distasteful. Always trust the validity of your feelings as you move through your reflections, even if your 'head' disagrees. Logical

analysis is not useful at this stage. The rational mind is informed by past experiences & cannot easily open to new 'irrational' possibilities. It limits what we believe we can have or do in the future & likes to point out how impossible options are to achieve, which prevents you from properly considering them. It also has many conflicting motivations, often related to 'survival', & personal fulfilment is generally a low priority.

So, for now, leave out analysis & let your feelings be your guide. Step 3 is simply about seeing the truth about what direction may best provide satisfaction, not about how to make it happen. Later, when you begin planning (step 4), you can involve your logical mind to help you find the best practical path for getting where you want to go.

Let's return to our example. As you think about local projects, perhaps no ideas 'feel just right', so you let it simmer over time. Then you hear about a plan to renovate the local playground & feel a strong flutter of excitement at the idea. Listen to that feeling & contemplate the possibility. Always test the idea against your unsatisfied needs. You may simply be excited because it's a great idea, but it may not actually be what you need. Imagine yourself being involved in different ways & note your feeling-responses (1) to see whether it's right for you, & (2) to define the most satisfying way to be involved. Finally, you may define your desire: "To share in a meaningful group purpose through helping landscape the local playground".

The clearer & more well-defined your intention for change, the more likely you'll feel satisfied with where you find yourself when that change is complete. This applies equally whether your changes are practical (eg. career or lifestyle) or personal (eg. self-esteem, beliefs, emotional situations). It also enables you to be more efficient, reducing the resources (eg. time, money, effort) you expend in finding your way to where you want to be.



CFA members finish off the landscaping

photos by Brendan Hehir

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FIRE CIDER

~ by Caroline Parker



We all have many rituals within our homes that spell the oncoming winter: collecting & stacking wood, changing crisp cotton sheets to warm flannel ones, airing out winter coats & woollen jumpers, packing away sun dresses & short-sleeved shirts & preserving the last of the summer fruits, vegetables & green tomatoes.

But what preparation do you do to get your body ready for winter; to face the cold days where it's hard to get going in the morning & when it seems inevitable that you'll succumb to the nasty colds & flu's that have wreaked havoc amongst your family & friends? I've got a secret weapon in the pantry that's sure to knock the socks off any bugs that come your way. Fire Cider, a traditional American folk remedy, uses seasonal ingredients & kitchen herbs with strong antimicrobial, decongestant, digestive & circulatory-stimulating properties. It will give your immune system a winter warming boost, helping to prevent & reduce cold & flu symptoms.

Once you've made a batch or two, it's easy to add to the base ingredients. Pop in some eldeberries or rosehips for added vitamin C. Echinacea root for an extra immune boost. Use oranges instead of lemons. Try some fresh parsley or basil from the garden. Cloves & cinnamon add a nice flavour as well as an antimicrobial kick. If you don't like horseradish like me, just add extra ginger, onion & garlic. The options are endless.

Here's the base recipe to get you going:

INGREDIENTS

½ cup fresh grated organic ginger root

½ cup fresh grated organic horseradish root

1 medium organic onion

10 cloves of organic garlic

2 organic jalapeno peppers or chili of your liking

Zest & juice from 1 organic lemon

Several sprigs of fresh organic rosemary, thyme or sage (you can use dried)

1 tbsp organic turmeric powder

¼ tsp organic cayenne powder

Organic raw apple cider vinegar

Raw local honey to taste

METHOD

Place all ingredients (minus spices & vinegar) into a food processor & whiz until coarsely chopped. Place in a 1L glass jar & add the spices & vinegar. Pop on the lid, using a piece of baking paper between the jar & lid to keep the vinegar from touching the metal, or use a plastic lid if you have one. Shake well! Store in a dark, cool place for at least one month (write the date on the jar) & remember to shake daily.

After at least one month, use a muslin cloth, french press or paper coffee filter to strain out the pulp, pouring the vinegar into a clean jar. Be sure to squeeze as much of the liquid goodness as you can from the pulp while straining. You can use the leftover pulp to spice up a curry, stir fry or as a marinade. Next, comes the honey! Add 1/4 cup of honey & stir until thoroughly mixed. Taste your cider & add more until you reach the desired sweetness.

Fire Cider can be taken neat by a shot or tablespoonful, add a shot to freshly squeezed orange juice or combine with cold-pressed olive oil for a zesty salad dressing. I take one tablespoon per day & amp it up to three when I feel the sniffles heading my way.

Cheers & Good Health to you!

* 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? •

FREMANTLE 1987. Hordes of Americans had just departed, tails between their legs & the made-over thoroughfares & tourist routes still sparkled, quieter now. The side streets, however, were as seedy as ever. Down one, a Harley throbbed to a stop outside Barbarella's adult shop. A muscular bloke with a handlebar moustache & a BLF swagger lurched past the shop & into the legendary Bob Thornton's (legendary because, back in 1960, when Perth had one solitary tattooist, Bob was it).

"WADDAYAWANT?"

SAID Bob, staring up from some sailor's arm. The Bloke stared back & replied, "A couple of peacocks in a swirl of flowers, please."

BOB THORNTON smiled quietly. "Take a seat... Ladies' Man, huh?" The Bloke, who already sported swallows & love hearts on his chest, smiled back & said, "Yeah. I guess."

SOME TATTOOS defy our expectations, reveal hidden qualities of the wearer. "I just like to surprise the lasses." says The Bloke.

VERY SOON after the ink had dried, the new lass working at Barbarella's was, by all accounts, happily surprised.

A: SEE page 5 for The Bloke with the handlebar moustache.



BLACKWOOFs



MEET JAFFA, the Toy Pomeranian. He's 5 years old & he's a clown. He thinks Dog Obedience Class is a grand opportunity to goof about & show off to the other dogs. He comes home happy, having learnt not a jot about obedience & such. Although he has many dog mates, he is most decidedly a one-human boy. If you're not his Mum, well then, you hardly exist.

JAFFA LOVES being in the car with Mum. When they drive to Sydney, he stays in the car until the 3rd break (it must always be the 3rd) when he's finally ready to get out & stretch his little legs. Especially that back one.

BEING A little fellow, Jaffa really should be a bit careful when playing in his Barrys Reef yard. Wedge Tailed Eagles regularly circle overhead. Only last year, a little guy called Chocco the Chihuahua went to God on the wings of a Wedgie. Jaffa thinks they may leave him be if he just continues to clown about. Even eagles know that clowns taste funny.

PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS



Woof: Dog breath is no joke ... even for cats!

Sick of dodging smelly dog kisses or avoiding your cat's smooches because of bad breath?

That bad smell is actually trying to tell you something.

DENTAL DISEASE

Halitosis (bad breath) is often the first sign of dental disease that owners notice.

The smell is generated by bacteria found in your pet's mouth. This bacteria creates periodontal disease.

Periodontal disease is painful, as it causes inflamed gums & unstable teeth. Pets won't show this pain as they suffer in silence. However, you may notice that they favour one side for chewing, paw at their mouth or have excessive drooling.

This bacteria is also being constantly swallowed & finds its way into the blood-stream. It can then infect other body organs, such as the heart & kidneys.

Treatment requires professional cleaning under general anaesthetic & may even need some extractions by your local vet. An option of pre-anaesthetic bloods is recommended to check liver & kidney function, especially in older pets.

Unfortunately in some pets tartar build-up may be an ongoing issue. Uneven jaw formation & avoidance of chewing can be a major contributing factor.

Prevention includes specific dental dry food, dental chews, greenies, raw chicken necks for small pets & uncooked bones for the larger breeds. In pets with a history of periodontal disease brushing the teeth is recommended & a range of toothpastes, finger brushes & tooth brushes are available at the vet clinic.

Dental disease is as common in animals as in humans & just as painful & distressing for your best friend.

Woof for now, Seamus

Dear Pet Guru,

Hopalong, my pet wallaby, desperately wants to be a kangaroo and he's simply not tall enough. What can I do?



Dear Sir,
You could get Hopalong a box to stand on,
or perhaps one of those distorting mirrors
to make him look taller.
Good luck to you both,

Pet Guru

ANZAC DAY AT GALLIPOLI, 2015

It was a little like winning the lottery, albeit in the 2nd round of offers. There was limited space for only 10,000 people at the Anzac Centenary Dawn Service at Gallipoli. 8,000 tickets were allocated to Australia, & 2,000 to New Zealand. In the months before departure we were warned about the rain, the cold, the biting wind off the Aegean Sea in an exposed beach location. We were given a list of items not permitted, such as umbrellas, chairs, & alcohol & to prepare ourselves for long waits in queues at security checkpoints.

And it was all of the above, except for the rain. But this only heightened the experience. Any hardship that we endured paled with what happened exactly one hundred years ago at this very location. Our bus dropped us at the first checkpoint at about 1:30am. Our passes were scanned & Turkish security frisked us after passing through metal detectors. The scanning & frisking would occur another four times before we reached the ceremonial site. After the final checkpoint jovial Australians greeted us with our Veterans Affairs showbags which included a poncho, beanie & program for the ceremony. The 10,000 strong crowd needed to fit into an area about 100 metres by 100 metres. The time was now 3am & all the seated section had been taken. We moved onto a grassed area packed with people sleeping & sitting in sleeping bags. A lot of people had arrived the previous day. As more & more people poured in, they began asking everyone to stand to make room. Large video screens were showing Gallipoli documentaries & a choir was providing appropriate music.

After 5am the videos stopped, the bright lights were turned off & we were left in pitch darkness with only the lights of the ships offshore visible. The amplified sound of the waves lapping the shore moved across the audience. Simple, but so very moving. You could sense the boats being rowed silently, closer to the shore, all those years ago. Occasionally a spotlight would illuminate the terrain of the rugged landscape behind us. Reflection time - there was absolute silence. As the faint glow of the coming dawn played on the flat sea, the service began. First light revealed numerous ships moored out to sea. The temperature had fallen to its lowest, & it was cold, but there were no complaints. The dawn service was much the same as all dawn services, except that each hymn, each reading, the ode, was infinitely more poignant. Eleven navy ships from Turkey, Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain & France passed offshore - line astern.

And then it was over. Announcements were made aimed at getting 10,000 people safely out of a tiny arena & up a narrow road to Lone Pine for the Australian Memorial at 11am - a distance of some 1.5 km. After walking along the main sealed road, we turned left into Artillery Road, a rough, unmade track up to Lone Pine. This was the main support road for supplies on the beach to Lone Pine at the time of the landing. For our entire walk, armed & alert Turkish military manned the road every 100 metres or so watching over us. They were somewhat bemused by their task, but easy



Beach Cemetery on the southern side of ANZAC cove looking over the Aegean sea.

to smile. More importantly, Red Crescent ambulance people were also stationed regularly along the route. The walk up Artillery Road was steep, with many stopping on the roadside to catch their breath.

Reaching the entrance to the Lone Pine cemetery, we were again scanned, metal-detected & frisked. While there are 1,167 allied soldiers buried at Lone Pine (651 Australians), there are 4,932 names on the memorial. So many have no known grave. Rows of seating had been set up around the cemetery & it was a little more comfortable than the standing at the dawn service. The temperature was about 10 degrees - it felt very Blackwood. At one stage, a request was made for any sons or daughters of Gallipoli veterans to stand. We expected maybe a couple, but dozens stood up. Before the commencement of the official ceremony, Princes Charles & Harry plus the Prime Minister made a meet & greet pass through the crowd. As is normally the case, Prince Harry was the star of the show.

The Australian commemoration was a little lighter than the dawn service. Among the speeches, the Princes read out letters from soldiers at the Gallipoli front. The crowd gave standing ovations to military honour guards & especially to the Turkish soldiers as they left the ceremony after laying their wreath. After the ceremony over 200 private wreaths were laid from various organisations - all called out over the PA system. And then it was time to wait for the buses to arrive. Apparently about 400 buses were waiting to come & collect us all - 5 buses at a time. Our bus departed about 4pm, but some waited much longer. We arrived at our hotel in Istanbul 6 hours later.

A very long day, but all in all, a very memorable experience.

~ Ross Hall



Carnival costumes



photos by Peter Donnelly

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Shanandoa - My father, Calvin Shader

~ by Noelle Shader (3/3 cont from p13 June/July '15 issue)

In 1963, with political turbulence in South America, my parents returned to the States to start a new life. Re-adapting to the American lifestyle was difficult. Calvin once again, worked many jobs to support his young family – a restaurant manager, into the newspaper business, construction & working in the textile trade. My father also re-built an old weatherboard beach home overlooking Long Island Sound, where I grew up. As I found my own career path in dance, my father always supported me, of which I am grateful. With my brother, they learned to scuba dive, ride horses, & discussed science & medicine. My brother is now a lawyer. Calvin also continued to support my mother in her career as a concert pianist as her success grew.

We owned many different types of animals – dogs, cats, birds & reptiles. Here Calvin kept his fascination of the natural world by housing snakes in the cellar of our home. The largest being a Boa Constrictor – he fed it rats – my mother was not impressed!

By 1981, I had moved to Australia, & after visiting me in Perth, my parents were reminded of the happier years they had shared in South America. So in 1984 they emigrated to Australia, & moved countries one more time.

The passing of my mother, in 1985, brought a new chapter to Calvin's life. He spent his time in Perth, becoming a dog breeder or Malamutes, Huskies & Aikido's – all of which reminded him of the wolf. His prize dog & companion was a large Malamute, which he named 'Wolf', who sired around 70 puppies.

Calvin became an avid collector of books on many subjects – science, religion, fantasy; books on the natural world, animals & natures; subjects of beauty & oddity, medicine, literature; the history of the West, Indians & his beloved wolves. He also collected hundreds of DVDs & CDs – topics & musical genres spanning across a 60 year period.

He owned over 2000 books & hundreds of wolf plates & statues. Calvin left Australia in 1997, to return once again to his home



country, & lived in New England, near my brother. During that time he become involved with leagues & associations that supported the Native American Indian, visited, sponsored & supported wolf associations & The Humane Society. He was honoured for his services by receiving a commendation. He continued writing short stories & even wrote an entire movie script. He was an active member of The Museum of Natural History in New York. He enjoyed visiting art galleries, & going to concerts.

At the age of 88, my father returned to Australia for the final time, & for the next 9½ years lived with, or near, me in the country, made new friends, until he was unable to care for himself. He spent his final years (in the Ballan Hostel) being loved & cared for, wearing his wolf t-shirts, playing music at all times of the day or night, reading books & watching his library of DVDs, sharing his life stories & maintaining his unusual eating habits.

He loved people – people were fascinated by him. He loved life, what made things tick, & was known for his unique character. He told me: "I wanted to live forever, because I don't want to miss all the new advances & inventions being discovered in science & medicine." He could be difficult & stubborn, loving & generous and, at times, very annoying, but he was his own man. His brain was always running five feet ahead of himself – his thirst for knowledge was

unquenchable & I'm sure he will return in another lifetime to pick up his journey where he left off.

I am very much his daughter – I too love animals & nature, read books, enjoy writing & am involved in the arts. I can be both stubborn & generous & have, myself, lived in three continents. I have inherited his vast library of books, DVDs & CDs. That will always remind me of his romantic adventurous spirit.

This tribute has been a celebration of his life & to all who cared for him, & were a special part of his final chapter. To close, I cannot in clear conscience, not play an excerpt of his final recordings of his beloved wolves howling & talking through a rainstorm. He would have been honoured to share them with you.

The choice to save our local birds

A brilliant flash of red, a flurry of boldly contrasted black & white, or a glimpse of a small white crown atop a sooty black head. A pretty, lilting 'wee-cheedalee-dalee', a quiet 'tick', or scolding chatters. If you're one of the lucky ones, you'll be familiar with these telltale signs of the charismatic Scarlet Robin. Perhaps you've been privy to encounters with this endearing bird, as it flits from Golden Wattle to Yacca in the dewy interior of a Stringybark Forest? Or perhaps you have seen a male with his less colourful female perched quietly on a vineyard fence, scouring the ground intently for unsuspecting insects, poised & ready to pounce?

Like many small woodland birds Scarlet Robins must look for food across all the daylight hours – particularly during the shorter, colder days of winter - & a pair will search a large area in a day to find the food they need for themselves & their chicks.

But where have they gone? The once widespread & common Scarlet Robin is no longer found in many of the region's nature reserves, although they were there 20-30 years ago. The birds are telling us that all is not right with our landscapes. Hills residents may remember these birds visiting their gardens & some may still see them. Unfortunately their declines across the region mirror those of many other woodland birds.

David Paton, an ecologist from the University of Adelaide says these declines are expected given the extent of past native vegetation clearance in the region. With only about a tenth of the original native vegetation remaining, around 50 of the woodland bird species that we see today are likely to disappear. Dr Paton says that it is not too late to reverse the declines & save species like the Scarlet Robin. What is urgently needed is re-establishing native habitats on some of the farmland that was cleared years ago. But he says to do this at the scales needed requires broad community support.



As more people move to cities & have less contact with nature, fewer people notice the loss of the small birds in our environments. Therefore the question is "Does the community want to save the Scarlet Robin – the canary in the coalmine."

If you have seen a Scarlet Robin or you don't see them anymore, or have an opinion on how we can address the more general problem of declining woodland birds, please visit a discussion on Facebook.com/bioraustralia. You can also help immediately by visiting the BioR website & pledging \$1 per day to offset your ecological footprint – your contribution will

build habitat for birds like the Scarlet Robin.

PHOTO: MALE SCARLET ROBIN Lydia Rudkin

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100 REASONS TO LOVE BLACKWOOD

The purpose of the Assets Map is to explore & define what the word "assets" means to Blackwoodians & to rediscover how these assets have shaped the character of Blackwood & its people.

Although the reasons for living here vary from person to person, we have most likely been drawn by the natural beauty of the surrounds & the spirit of the town & its people. Nevertheless, it is easy to become complacent & assume that these resources are apparent to all.

To continue to defend our lifestyle, we need to rediscover our heritage; how we fit in, from our past through the present & into the future.

By assessing our assets, we validate our existence, individually & as a community.

Viewing the larger picture, we can see our strengths & weaknesses & learn to move forward together to form a resilient & bonded community; one that is clearly defined to ourselves & to the agencies that we need to continue to function with, in order to survive.

The word "accountability" is often part of our "negative language". We tend to believe the word refers to our inability to move forward due to external sources, but it refers also to our individual responsibility; we are accountable not only to ourselves but also to our community.

This map represents the many reasons why I enjoy living here & why I am proud to call it home. Many of you will find other examples of assets not listed & I hope you will feel free to continue adding to this map that defines who we are.

This map has been divided into 8 main categories, detailed by examples of those groupings. Starting from the central "Blackwood" title, we have:

GEOGRAPHICALLY located as part of the Central Goldfields. Accessible to Melbourne (1hr), to main regional towns of Ballarat, Bendigo & Geelong



& a large part of regional Victoria. A tourism haven.

OUR HISTORY speaks for itself. Historical buildings, dating from the town's birth. Modern archeological intact historical sites. Documented history, living history, family lineages, multicultural lineages. All representing the history of our people, sites & artifacts. The contribution to Victoria from the \$350M (today's value) yield from the Blackwood goldfields.

NATURAL RESOURCES/RECREATIONAL SITES Too many to list. Defines the reason we live here, in a relatively untouched wilderness of flora & fauna. Offering the opportunity to experience this exceptional resource.

BUSINESSES Proving the capability to succeed & contribute to the economy of the town & the state by providing amenities & services, covering a wide spectrum of activities.

ASSOCIATIONS/CLUBS & VOLUNTEER GROUPS are the backbone of Blackwood, representing the community spirit. Driven by volunteers, whose time continues to support, strengthen & motivate our community, to maintain our self-sufficiency.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES The creativity & heritage of Blackwood. Illustrating our special skills & the ability to gather them to produce unique & specific events.

VENUES Meeting places provided to share, discuss, think-tank & solve problems pertinent to Blackwoodians.

SOCIAL & OTHER ASSETS The importance of sharing with the wider community what our town offers, through visiting clubs, our "Blackwood Times", Special School, Fire Refuge & including the land of the Wurundjeri people.

This document is tangible proof of our identity; for ourselves & to authenticate our existence with all agencies.

It should serve as a reminder of who we are, to point out the importance of why we deserve to continue to flourish in this unique part of Victoria. Our rich history & contribution to the settlement of this state should serve to empower us as a community.

It is the reason why we live here & should clearly legitimise our existence. With this knowledge we can continue to progress & strengthen our purpose. In creating this map, my main objective has been to open dialogue within our community, with the aim of all of us working together as a whole.

I would like to thank Margaret McCarthy; without her this map would not be here.

~ from a speech at May's public meeting Noelle Shader (BAG)

ED NOTE: The map is at the Blackwood PO & can be downloaded from <http://www.theblackwoodtimes.com.au/action-group>





WOMBAT BOOK CLUB 2015

THE GUERNSEY LITERARY & POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY

by Mary Ann Shaffer.

During our April meeting there was much discussion about how on earth to make a potato peel pie (given there are around 40 varieties of spud grown in the area). The Trentham Spud Fest was on our calendars so I decided to look into it. This is what I came up with...

POTATO PEEL PIE RECIPE

Here's a recipe for a potato peel pie, but I warn you, it tastes like paste. The more authentic it is, the nastier. These ingredients will make a very small pie (expand at will):

- 1 potato
- 1 beet
- 1 Tablespoon milk

Peel the potato & put the peelings in a pie pan. Don't cook the peels, because you're in the middle of an Occupation & you don't have any fuel. Boil the potato & the beet together in salty water, but not for very long, due to the fuel problem. Just until you can stick a fork in the potato. Take them out & mash them up with the milk. Pour the glop in the pie pan. Bake at 375 for as short a time as is consonant with digestion (fuel again), say, 15 minutes.

The finished product will look quite attractive & pink. If you squint, you can almost imagine raspberries. Don't be fooled. It looks a lot better than it is. However, if you forgot that you were in the middle of WWII & added a bunch of butter & milk & salt, it could be quite tasty.

http://www.randomhouse.com/rhpg/guernsey/potato-peel-pie-recipe/

And then there's a YouTube showing you how to make a modern Guernsey Potato Peel Pie. Guernsey chef, Tony Leck, demonstrates a modern version of the recipe made by Channel Island families during the German occupation of World War II. Watch it at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olrxT5YFoLg

SANDY: This was written through letters which were written from one person to the next. You not only connected with the people, what they were thinking & doing, but also what happened during the German occupation in Guernsey. I was engaged from start to finish, & it kept me wanting to know the outcome of a romance between the protagonist & a possible suitor. A very good read, & a little different from the normal narrative in a novel.



JINNY: I really loved this book, a delightful read through a series of letters. My life is very busy & it was lovely to be able take a beautifully descriptive journey into this community's world. The author builds her characters as carefully as we would train a child, & it was particularly interesting to read & imagine life after the war (as opposed to during).



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HELEN: I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I had no idea what to expect when I started reading it but didn't want it to end.



DEIRDRE: The Guernsey Literacy & Potato Peel Society was a funny, moving & quite unlikely read. I was entrapped within the first few pages & loved the interaction of letters which had me longing to visit Guernsey & it's eccentric book club!!!



SUE: This is a lovely, gently humorous story which nevertheless deals with war & loss. I can understand why it has been translated into more than 40 languages.



NIGHTFALL

by Isaac Asimov & Robert Silverberg.

SANDY: One of Isaac's better productions about a planet plunged into darkness which normally has continuous light due to 4 suns. Once in a thousand years, the one sun which does not set until another one rises, eclipses, nightfall occurs & the stars appear.

This brings fear on the people, who do not understand the events which are happening, & eventuates in destructive behaviour.

This novel brings out the age-old war of words & explanations of events, between science & religion.

A complex & interesting read.



HELEN: I didn't particularly enjoy this book but will say I am not a fan of this author. However, there were some aspect I did find interesting & will give it a rating of 2 wombats.



SUE: I really enjoyed 'Nightfall One'. I like Sci Fi & Murder mysteries, & these short stories reminded me of both genres. Found them interesting & at times thought-provoking. Also enjoyed Asimov's introduction to, & placement of, each story in time & context.



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THE HISTORY OF BLACKWOOD - CAPTAIN MOONLIGHT. (1842 – 1880)



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

This article is in response to a letter to the Editor from Margaret McCarthy in the Feb-March issue, asking do I know of the connection between Captain Moonlight & Moonlight Gully Track & Blackwood.

Local legend by some old-timers of Blackwood told the folk-lore story of how Captain Moonlight was a Lay Preacher in the Blackwood to Bacchus

Marsh circuit & preached at All Saints Church of England in Blackwood & that he was said to have robbed the rich to help pay for the building of the half-church in Greendale, but no proof of this story was found in research. Moonlight Gully on a walk near shows Lake Blackwood was said to be named after Captain Moonlight.

'Captain Moonlight – George Andrew Scott never preached at Greendale as he had left the parish & had robbed the Egerton bank in 1869 before tenders were called for in 1874 & by the time the church opened in 1877 Moonlight was in H.M. Prison Pentridge serving a sentence on a charge of stealing gold from the bank in Egerton.'

A lady told the author her late husband had been a minister at the Anglican church in Bacchus Marsh & that Andrew George Scott had signed a book there as a Lay Preacher.

(Found on the Internet from Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopaedia) - Andrew George Scott (1842 – 1880), known as Captain Moonlight or Captain Moonlite, was an Australian bushranger. Scott was born in Ireland, son of an Anglican clergyman. His father's intention was that he join the priesthood, but Scott instead trained to be an Engineer, completing his studies in London.

The family moved to New Zealand in 1861, with Scott intending to try his luck in the Otago goldfields. However, the Maori Wars intervened & Scott signed up again, this time as an officer, & fought at the battle of Oraku where he was wounded in both legs. After a long convalescence, Scott was accused of malingering & court-martialed. Scott gave his disquiet at the slaughter of women & children during the siege as the source of his objection to returning to service.

Scott then travelled to California, once more with the intention of trying his luck in the goldfields, but was again diverted from this plan when he decided to join the Union Army & fight in the already raging American Civil War. Fighting under General Sherman Scott served until the end of hostilities in 1865. Returning to civilian life he worked as a consultant civil engineer in San Francisco before moving to Australia in early 1868.

In Melbourne in 1868, Scott met Bishop Charles Perry & became a lay reader at Bacchus Marsh, Victoria with the intention of entering the Anglican priesthood on the completion of his service. He was then sent to the gold mining town of Egerton.

On May 8, 1869 Scott was accused of disguising himself & forcing bank agent, Ludwig Julius Wilhelm Bruun, a young man whom he had befriended, to open the safe. Bruun described being robbed by a fantastic masked figure who signed a note absolving him of any role in the crime. The note was signed 'Moonlite'.

Bruun claimed the man sounded like Scott but no gold was found in Scott's possession. Scott in turn accused Bruun & local school teacher James Simpson of the crime who then became the principal suspects in the minds of police. Scott left for Sydney soon afterwards.

It was alleged that for several months, Scott lived off the money stolen from the bank. Near the end of 1870, he began to pass worthless cheques & was arrested while trying to leave for Fiji aboard a fraudulently-obtained yacht. He was sentenced to 12 months in Maitland jail. In 1872 he was charged with stealing the gold at Egerton; he escaped whilst on remand for a short time before his recapture. He appeared before judge Sir Redmond Barry on July 24, 1872 & received a sentence of eleven years jail. Despite some evidence against him Scott claimed innocence in this matter until his dying day.

Scott was released from HM Prison Pentridge in March 1879. On regaining freedom, Scott met up with James Nesbitt, a young man whom he had met in prison - considered by many to be Scott's lover, & trading on his tabloid celebrity as "Captain Moonlight" began a career as a public speaker on prison reform.



However this reputation came back to bite him & throughout this period Scott was harried by the authorities & by the tabloid press who attempted to link him to numerous crimes in the colony & printed fantastic rumours about supposed plots he had underway.

At some time during this period, Scott seems to have decided to live up to this legend & assembled a gang of young men, with Nesbitt as his second in command & the others being Thomas Rogan (21), Thomas Williams (19), Gus Wreneckie (19) & Graham Bennet (18). Scott met these young men through his lecture tours or through brothels.

Scott & his gang left Melbourne in the later part of 1879, & travelling north, crossed into New South Wales. While travelling through the Kelly's area of operation, the gang were frequently mistaken for the Kelly's & took advantage of this to receive food & to seize guns & ammunition from homesteads.

Scott's gang bailed up the Wantabadgery Station near Wagga in November of 1879 after being refused work, terrorising staff & the family of Claude McDonald, a wealthy squatter. Scott also robbed the Australian Arms Hotel of a large quantity of alcohol & took prisoner the residents of some other neighbouring properties, bringing the number of prisoners to 36 in total. One man, Ruskin, escaped in an attempt to warn others, but was caught & subjected to a mock trial-by-jury of his fellow prisoners, finding him 'Not Guilty'. Another station-hand attempted to rush Scott but was overpowered.

A small party of four troopers eventually arrived, but Scott's well-armed gang held them down with gunfire for several hours until they retreated to gather reinforcements, at which point the gang slipped out.

The gang then holed up in the farmhouse of Edmund McGlede until surrounded by a much more substantial police force. During the following shootout, Senior Constable Webb-Bowen was shot & killed, as was Wreneckie. Nesbitt also died, attempting to lead police away from the house so that Scott could escape. When Scott saw Nesbitt shot down & was distracted, McGlede took the opportunity to disarm the gang leader & with the other members wounded or captured on attempting to flee, the fight came to a close.

During the trial, Scott allowed his young confederates to put all the blame on him, with them claiming to have been deceived as to the nature of their expedition, but both Scott & Rogan were given death sentences.

Scott was hanged in Sydney on January 20, 1880. Scott went to the gallows wearing a ring woven from a lock of Nesbitt's hair on his finger & his final request was to be buried in the same grave as his constant companion, "My dying wish is to be buried beside my beloved James Nesbitt, the man with whom I was united by every tie which could bind human friendship, we were one in hopes, in heart & soul & this unity lasted until

he died in my arms." His request was not granted by the authorities of the time, but his remains were exhumed from Rookwood Cemetery & reinterred at Gundagai next to Nesbitt's grave in January 1995.

References – other information found at - Gundagai. Walkabout: Australian Travel Guide. Fairfax Digital. Scott, Andrew George (Captain Moonlite) (1842 - 1880). Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 6 pp 94 –95. Australian National University and Melbourne University Press (1976). Andrew George Scott (alias "Captain Moonlite"). Australian Bushrangers. Ned Kelly's World (1999).

*Researched by Margot Hitchcock from her forthcoming book 'The History & Pioneers of Blackwood', hopefully to be published soon. Other books published by Margot Hitchcock – "Aspects of Early Blackwood", Some History of Simmons Reef, Blackwood" and "The Billy Pincombe Tragedy". See – www.blackwoodpublishing.com
For help with information on Blackwood ancestors contact Margot Hitchcock – email – margothitchcock@bigpond.com*

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LOTS OF LAUGHS FOR FILM SOCIETY

At the May meeting of the Macedon Ranges Film Society, laughter was the order of the evening as events unfolded in the hilarious 1996 film, *The Birdcage*. Robin Williams & Nathan Lane play the outrageous duo, Armand & Albert. Their son, Val, brings home his bride-to-be, Barbara, who comes from a very conservative family. The antics which follow as one family meets & tries to come to terms with the other, are cause for much mirth. This film was screened as a tribute to the much-loved comedian & actor, Robin Williams, who died in August last year. Keeping with the tradition of MRFS in seeking out films of broad interest, June's film strikes a different note altogether. The critically acclaimed documentary, *Finding Vivian Maier*, tells the story of a nanny who secretly took over 100,000 photographs that were discovered decades later in 2007 when her work turned up at an auction in Chicago. The film has been described as "an exciting electric current of discovery" which is a "haunting, powerful & fascinating tale".

The Macedon Ranges Film Society meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month so this film will be shown on Wednesday, June 10 at 7.15 p.m. in the Woodend Community Centre. Film notes are supplied & the film is followed by an informal supper. MRFS is a membership-based club so initial enquiries must be made by emailing mrfsociety@gmail.com or by phoning Christine on 5429 5452 or Lorraine on 5427 0921.

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\$150 raised for the shelter

Recently Deidre Cronin took great pleasure in presenting the money raised at the Pet Show in April to Badgers Wildlife. Thanks to Bacchus Marsh Vet Clinic, Blackwood Hotel, Blackwood Merchant and Greendale Pub, as well as the biggest supporters, the Blackwood Progress Association.

Deidre and Rachel chill at shelter while presenting the \$150 raised at 2015 Pet Show.



NO MORE FEES FOR BASIC CAMPING

Don Nardella MP, has confirmed that unfair basic camping fees enforced by the previous Coalition Government at numerous Victorian camping sites will be scrapped. He said:

"The fees imposed under the Coalition made camping expensive for families, affected school camps and buried Parks Victoria in red tape. From now on, over 500 basic camping sites over 70 campgrounds in 19 parks throughout regional Victoria will have no fees."

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A basic site is defined as unserviced, with minimal ranger patrols and pit or no-pit toilets. From July 1, 2015, these sites will no longer require booking and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

"You can't put a price on the beauty of our national parks. They make our state liveable. Go out and visit one this Easter break."

For more information on walks, activities and what's open to visitors during school holidays please visit www.parks.vic.gov.au or call 13 1963.

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In 2008, Marcie published her biography "Runs in the Blood". A love of storytelling led to the creation of the George & Charlie stories. Launched in April, George & Charlie is an illustrated story book for children aged 4 to 10 years. It is the story of two dogs, George & Charlie, & Emily who cares for them.

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