

October ~ November '15 vol 7 ~ issue 8:3



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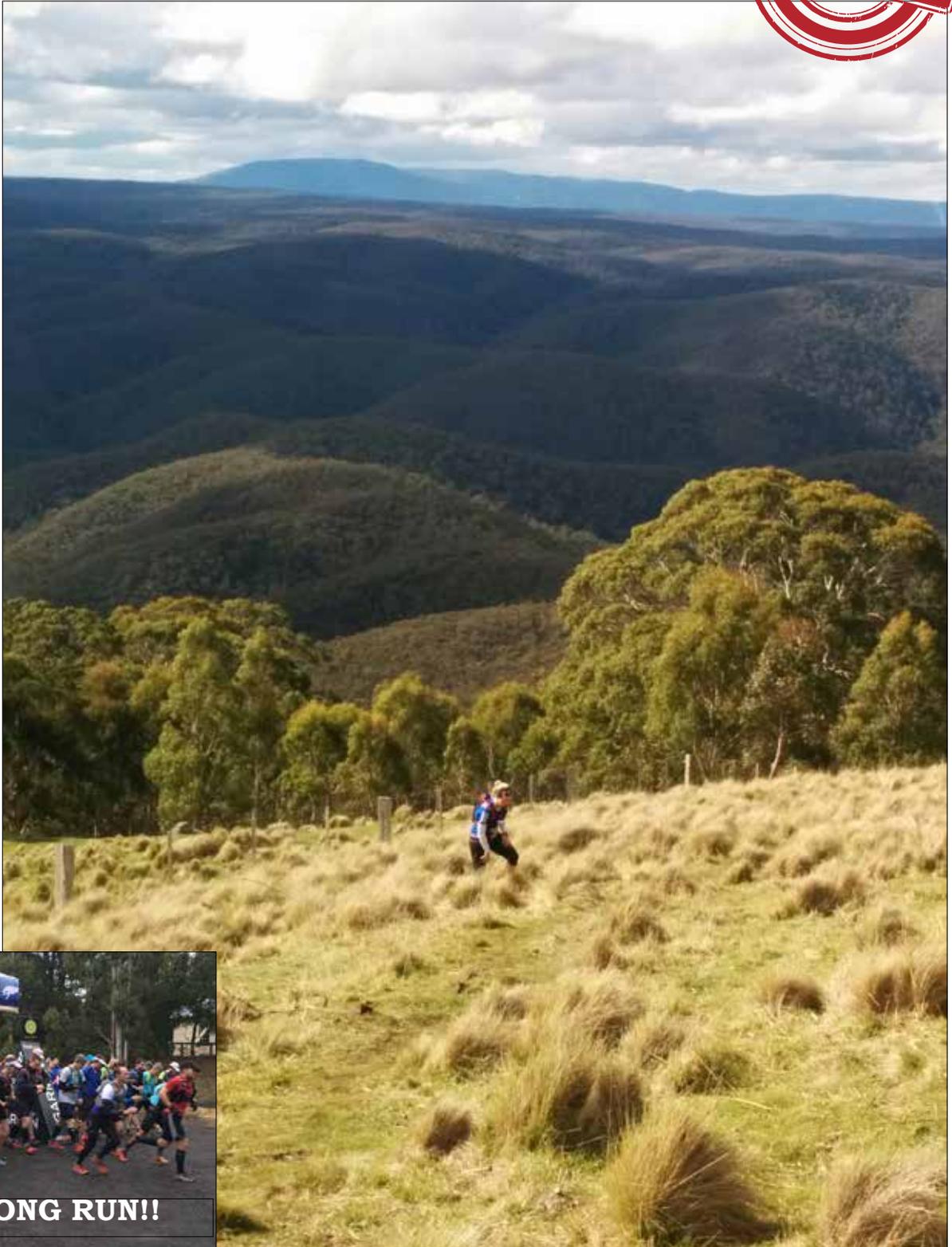
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**WINTER'S LONG RUN!!**



### EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

How lovely to see signs that Spring is on its way to Blackwood. Everywhere I look there are gorgeous displays of daffodils, forget-me-nots & camellias. Sheer joy after such a harsh winter!

With spring comes the Progress Association's difficult decision to cancel the 2016 Easter Carnival. Over our quarter decade living in Blackwood, Brendan & I have been on many committees. We know how difficult it is to maintain membership & prevent burn-out in a handful of volunteers, so I can certainly understand the decision. That's not to say we, as a community, should roll over. The Easter Parade & Carnival is a Blackwood institution - fun for all & a time to catch-up with friends & town folk! For many of our clubs this is an important fund-raising event each year. Oh, & not to forget the opportunity to watch tough men in their white singles proving their axe skills at the annual Victorian Championship woodchop. If you want to see the carnival continue, get along to the next meeting at the hall... October 14 at 7.30pm & raise your hand to help.

As a community paper I love to get all articles, especially from local businesses letting us know what they are up to, but we don't accept advertorials. They're just plain boring! On the other hand, if you have a great human-interest story that relates to your business, write it up & send it to us with a photo!

My to-do list is endless! One of the things that keeps dropping off it is re-building theblackwoodtimes.com.au. This month I finally got around to it! The redesign has a number of benefits for readers; it showcases previous issues more effectively, it gives people who download issues the opportunity to donate, which enables us to continue publishing into the future, but most importantly the redesign allows us to post news & events between issues. So, jump on your computer & have a look. Your comments are most welcome. In the meantime, enjoy this issue & we'll see you around.

~ 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!)

Jimmy Olsen played by...	Brendan Hehir
Gigs co-ordinator	Cat Moser
Calendar of Events co-ordinator	Rachel Palmer
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Co-ordinate contributors	Your name here?
Photographers	Peter Donnelly
Event columnists	Do you love to write?
Community Co-ordinator	Sandy Schmidt
Senior Citizens Co-ordinator	Lindy Mundy
Media Co-ordinator	Perhaps this is up your alley?
Distribution Co-ordinator	this will suit someone who gets around a fair bit.
Typist	Di Hewes
Editing	Di Hewes, Faye Cameron

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Faye Skinner Demar outside the Miners' Institute with her Blackwood T-shirt (a gift from the Blackwood Pub in Victoria) & the June/July issue of The Blackwood Times

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

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

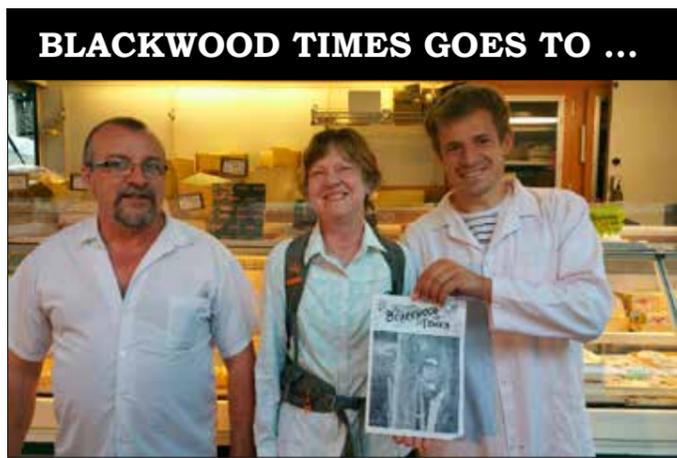
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The BLACKWOOD TIMES is produced as a community service by Jinny Coyle 9687 3744 / 5368 6444 & sponsored by FluxDesignStudio.com.au

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### SLAYED IN THE LOCAL PUB



Ben Steel as Paul & Annie Last as Anne

BUSH SLAYER is an outlandish Australian black comedy/thriller in the vein of Wake in Fright meets Wild Things. The short film was written & directed by Meaghan Palmer who is currently completing the first year of her Masters of Film & Television (Directing) at the Victorian College of the Arts. Friend & recent graduate, David Morris, came on board as producer (taking care of the logistics) while the very talented production designer, Luke Warm, weaved his talents, contributing to the strong aesthetic of the film. Fellow classmate, Lucy Knox, brought a keen eye to her role as cinematographer.

BUSH SLAYER follows the story of Anne, a seemingly innocent young woman caught in the middle of an outback crime syndicate. In her efforts to unwind, she drives in search of the Hot Bush Yoga Retreat but, losing her way, she stumbles across the charming young bloke, Bob, trying to hitch a ride by his broken-down ute. Despite being warned that there is a "Bush Slayer" on the loose, Anne picks up this seemingly innocent man, but as day turns into night it becomes obvious that something wicked is at play. Will Anne make it to sunrise?

Starring the incredible Annie Last as Anne, Ben Steel as Paul, Pete Paltos as Bob & Ella Harvey as JoJo, the film was shot in the Tylden/Trentham/Blackwood area, partly due to a love of the region & partly because Meaghan's grandmother has a property in Tylden, where a large portion of the film was shot.

"We were lucky enough for Darren & Michael of the Blackwood Hotel to allow us to film in their wonderful establishment. We felt that the Blackwood had a classic pub feel, that really suited the country Australian style we were after. They also put on one of the best lunches anyone's ever had on a film set!

We'd also like to thank the locals for not getting too disgruntled by us having to push back the bar's open time until after 1pm on a Saturday. It sure was hard to keep some people out of the bar while we were filming!"

~ David Morris

### OUR WASTE WATER IS SEPTIC!

On September 10 the Blackwood Action Group met with the Blackwood Sewerage Project Working Group.

The purpose of the meeting was to present a proposed wastewater solution that has been developed by the working group. The proposal involves dealing with those septic tanks in the town which have been found to be faulty or not working as well as providing assistance to those property owners who are looking to develop or build on their land.

There was a good discussion & broad support for the proposal with the working group taking on the points that were raised by the Action Group. The working group will now finalise the proposal. Following this the working group will seek the endorsement of the proposal by its participating organisations with an announcement expected in early November.

~ on behalf of Mary-Anne Thomas MP

The Blackwood Action group will respond to the proposal.



### 2015 AUSTRALIAN ROWING TEAM JUNIOR WOMEN'S EIGHT

Coxswain: Lea Henrick. Stroke: Sarah Harte. Seven: Bridgette Handy. Six: Sasha Galley. Five: Chloe Betts. Four: Maddi Brown. Three: Kirstie Green. Two: Annika Hoffmann. Bow: Jacqui Hart. Coaches: Annabelle Eaton & John Saunders.



Proud Mum, Frauke, with her daughter Annika.

## ROWING IN RIO

Our regular readers will have read about our very own Annika Hoffman (August September 2015 download from <http://theblackwoodtimes.com.au/home/2015/08/01/august-september-2015/>)

~ following are comments adapted from emails sent by Frauke Hoffman

August 8: "It is absolutely amazing seeing Annika & the rest of the Australian Rowing Team rowing against the rest of the world. Yesterday our girls in the 8 rowed in a heat (race) in the morning which was a real heart stopper as they came last & didn't really perform so well. In the afternoon, they came 3rd & looked so much better leading all the way to the 1300 metre mark but Romania & Italy just were a little faster. Annika is really well, looking great & full of energy. However, we don't see her that much as she is under lockdown & in a lot of training sessions.

August 11: Annika's mother reports that the race was amazing ...

"... the most compelling event of the day. Germany was way in front & therefore received the gold medal. Then we had Australia, Italy & the USA battling it out for the silver & bronze medals. They all came within 1.4 of a second, our girls missing out & achieving the 4th place. They gave it their all, going right to the limit, absolutely making us spectators proud of them. Obviously the girls & coaches were very disappointed, but took it all in their stride.

After the race our girls came out of the boat shed to disappear into the mingling crowd where they swapped their Australian gear for some hotly contested equipment. Annika is now the proud owner of an Italian & a French zooty, German shorts & singlet & a really cool Italian jacket & cap. The Australian gear was one of the favourites amongst the Europeans so she had a lot of bargaining power.

Then to the shock & horror of every Australian it was announced to us that our 8 was relegated to the 6th position as the boat weight 300 grams less than allowed.

Can you believe it! We can't. Well, what can I say? But nothing can take away from the pride I feel for this team."

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## PROPOSED TELSTRA MOBILE TOWER BEHIND BLACKWOOD CEMETERY

summarised from the Telstra newsletter to the community September 2015

### WHAT IS THE PROPOSAL FOR BLACKWOOD?

As part of the Mobile Black Spot Programme a new 3G /4G base station is proposed at Blackwood Cemetery, 35 Byres Road, Blackwood (Proposed Facility)

The Proposed Facility will comprise the following:

- a 35 metre high monopole;
- four (4) Omni antennas and two (2) tower mounted amplifiers mounted on a headframe attached to the top of the monopole;
- an equipment shelter located at the base of the structure;
- ancillary works including cabling and a security fence;
- Painting of the monopole, headframe and antennas Pale Eucalypt.
- The existing on site vegetation will provide partial screening of the Proposed Facility when viewed from the surrounding street network and reduce the potential visual impact

### WHY DOES TELSTRA NEED A NEW FACILITY AT BLACKWOOD?

The Moorabool Shire highlighted Blackwood as a priority location for the provision of

telecommunications services based on:

- The 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission Final Report (VBRC) ranked Blackwood as amongst one of the 52 high risk fire areas in Victoria;
- The Grampians Regional Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee (GRSTMPC) ranked Blackwood as the most urgent community in need of mobile phone coverage;
- The Moorabool Council's 2010 Community and Broadband Strategy (MCBTS) identified Blackwood as experiencing patchy or non-existent mobile phone coverage; and
- The Moorabool Council identified, in its submission for inclusion into the Mobile Black Spot's Programme, that:

**"Blackwood has been commonly identified in the VBRC, MCBTS, and GRSTMPC and the CFA as an area of poor mobile coverage and extreme fire danger. Therefore Moorabool Shire Council believes Blackwood is a mandatory inclusion and a national priority for the \$80 million Mobile Network Expansion Project and the \$20 million Mobile Black Spots Project"**

Telstra, and the State and Federal Governments are committed to installing the Proposed Facility in time for the 2016 fire season.

### BASE STATIONS AND HEALTH

Telstra understands that some people have genuine concerns about the levels of Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) that the Proposed Facility will emit and is committed to addressing those concerns responsibly. EMF is sometimes known as electromagnetic radiation (EMR) or electromagnetic energy (EME). Electromagnetic fields are present everywhere in our environment – the earth, sun and ionosphere are all natural sources of EMF.

We rely on the expert advice of international and national health authorities including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) for overall assessments of health and safety impacts.

The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) has issued guidelines on levels of allowable public exposure to Radio Frequency (RF) fields, including guidelines on RF from mobile phones and base stations that Telstra adheres to. These guidelines have a large safety margin built into them.

In addition, further information is available at: [www.telstra.com.au/eme](http://www.telstra.com.au/eme) and EMF Explained Series [www.emfexplained.info](http://www.emfexplained.info)

It is Telstra's responsibility to comply with the mandated standard (RPS3) for EMF set by ARPANSA, which is based on the safety guidelines recommended by the WHO. The safety standard works by limiting the network signal to a level low enough to protect all people, in all environments, 24 hours a day.

The safety limit itself has a significant safety margin built into it. To demonstrate compliance with the safety standard, an Environmental EME Report is available via the RFNSA website: [www.rfnsa.com.au/3458007](http://www.rfnsa.com.au/3458007)

This report predicts that the maximum signal strength from the Proposed Facility at 1.5m above ground level, is well within the allowable limit that it is permitted to transmit over a 24 hour period. This is typical of Telstra's responsible approach to network performance and environmental compliance.

**"Health authorities, including ARPANSA and the WHO have examined the scientific evidence regarding possible health effects from base stations. Current research indicates that there are no established health effects from the low exposure to the RF EME exposure from mobile phone base station antennas."**

ARPANSA Fact sheet "Mobile Base Stations and Health" March 2015

### FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT EMF

Commonwealth Department of Health (ARPANSA) [www.arpansa.gov.au](http://www.arpansa.gov.au)  
Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au)  
World Health Organisation (WHO) [www.who.int/en/](http://www.who.int/en/)

### CONSULTATION

Telstra has lodged a Planning Permit Application with Moorabool Shire Council for the Proposed Facility. The welcome your feedback and questions on the proposal via the contact details listed below (although you may also have the opportunity to provide feedback directly to the Council as part of the approval process).

### CONTACTS

Any questions/feedback in relation to the Proposed Facility should be directed in writing to Emily Wardlaw via email to [consultation@acquirecomm.com.au](mailto:consultation@acquirecomm.com.au) or by snail mail Excomm Integrated Services, 2/25 Kilpa Road, Moorabbin VIC 3189

## Blackwood Hosts Ultra Marathons

On a wintery August day, 39 brave souls ran mountainous trails of 40km and 70km in support of Berry Street foster care camps, while 20 generous souls provided support for the event. Check out some of the gobsmacking stats below from race director, Joe Lewis. If you'd like to know more, go to [www.berrylongrun.com](http://www.berrylongrun.com)

### THE FACTS:

- 40km and 70km courses through the Lerderberg State Park, including Byers Back Track, Kangaroo Track, O'Briens Rd, Mt Blackwood Rd, Square Bottle Track, Whiskey Track, Blackwood Range Track.
- 70k course involves over 2,000 metres of vertical climb
- 7.30am start time for both courses, 70km cut off time of 12 hours (7.30pm)
- 39 runners participated
- All but 4 finished
- Last finisher – local (Bacchus Marsh) Michael McMennemin finished within cutoff, with 5 minutes to spare. This was his first ultramarathon.
- 70km race winner was Victorian Stephen Rennick, finishing in 6:16:10. Second place was Queenslander, Martin Hack. Lucy Carter was first female, in 7:51:35, followed closely by Chloe Lane.
- 40km race winner was David Overend, in 3:24:39 – he is representing Australia in the world 100km Championships in Winschoten, Netherlands in September. Female winner was Kellie Emerson, who also came second place overall – beating the rest of the male field. She represented Australia in the World Trail Running Championships (Annecy, France) in May.
- 20 volunteers provided support
- Nearly \$12k raised so far for Berry Street (<http://berrystreet.org.au>). Funds raised go towards Berry Street's foster care camps, where foster kids get a chance to bond with their foster families and siblings, as well as network with other foster families.



### 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)
July '15	110.1*	102.6	-4.6	12.1	8.8	1.5	5
Aug '15	57.7*	110.5	-3.4	15.8	9.9	1.9	5.8

### SYDNEY OR BUSH?

~ by Ewan Cameron



Last week, Faye & I made the long trek up the Hume Highway to Sydney. I really love being in Sydney for a lot of reasons, not the least being the fact that my wife's family is a great bunch. The lady whom we were visiting last week was Faye's Auntie Lola who is fast approaching her 92nd birthday.

Lola is fiercely independent & very capable. She enjoys going out, loves her seafood & is a passionate supporter of her rugby team, the South Sydney Rabbitohs. I love talking history with her, especially about her life in the 1930s & also about wartime Sydney. She has seen enormous change there!

Although I need a bucket of Panadol & a good lie down before driving in Sydney traffic, I believe the national parks & the coastline with its wonderful bays, inlets & imposing coastal cliffs has a unique beauty. So we decided to drive to Kurnell, the southernmost peninsular adjacent to Botany Bay. The natural beauty of the Kamay Botany Bay National Park is simply breathtaking. As Faye & Lola walked to a table to enjoy their coffee & the view, I followed a winding path down to the water's edge to take everything in. Wide, green lawns were spread out before us while majestic pines sighed in the breeze above our heads. Black-backed magpies & rainbow lorikeets foraged on the grass & a single kookaburra eyed us hopefully from a low branch.

Sitting in such a picturesque spot, looking out over the blue waters of Botany Bay & beyond, it occurred to me how magnificent it all was prior to the appearance of Captain James Cook's "Endeavour" in April, 1770. It must have appeared a virtual Garden of Eden. The indigenous people's access to & utilization of the natural resources was limitless. Their shellfish middens of mussels & oysters show the Gweagal people made the area their home for thousands of years. As I thought about all this I imagined being in the same place & how it would have appeared back then, without dense urbanization & massive industrialization with their different forms of pollution. Then it occurred to me that the time expired since 1770 amounts to less than three times the lifespan of Lola; a drop in the oceans of time. This bush land paradise was doomed from the moment the "Endeavour" appeared!

By the foreshore walk I noted several information tablets & as I read further about the idyllic lifestyle of the Gweagal I felt sadness for them as I invariably do when thinking about the fate of indigenous people. Precious little remains of the environment they knew. I stood next to a large rock from where two Gweagal men are recorded as trying to warn Cook & his crew away from landing until one warrior was shot in the leg. How courageous they were! I pictured two future Sydneysiders defying a Martian landing party of superior technology.

Coming to Blackwood in the midst of beauty, I'm thankful that I don't live in Sydney where "progress" has consumed so much of the original flora & fauna. I also remember seeing a 19th century photo of Blackwood in which hardly a single original tree graced the landscape. My point is, development to enhance & support the lives of the members of a community is both necessary & desirable. But beware of allowing over-development from eradicating the flora & fauna that makes Blackwood a special environment. While driving home from Sydney last week, I heard a radio report that we have lost about 1/3rd of our magpie population over a large area & a significant number of kookaburras as well. I have also read a previous article in "The Blackwood Times" that warned of the gradual loss of the scarlet robin in our local environment. Sydney or the Bush? I'll take Blackwood!

**THIS WINTER** has been colder than last year, particularly June and July, so it will be nice to thaw out a bit in the coming Spring.

**OUR BLACKWOOD** Rainfall Observer has decided to not read the rain gauge for the Bureau of Meteorology any longer, so the figures above for July and August are the Trentham ones which are typically a bit higher than those for Blackwood. Temperatures are those of Blackwood which I have automated with a recording taken every hour.

**THE BUREAU** of Meteorology (BoM) is keen to find someone in Blackwood who is prepared to read the rain gauge. Do you know of anybody in the Blackwood township area who would be prepared to read the rain gauge for BoM? They need to have exposure on their land of about 4:1 (Objects that are 5m high have to be 20m away). They should be prepared to read the gauge at least Monday to Friday, between 7 and 9am, year round.

**THE BOM** will organise installation of a rain gauge. Phil will provide details as to what is involved.

Phil Jefferson | a/Regional Observations Manager | Victoria Region | Regional Observations Section | Bureau of Meteorology  
P.Jefferson@bom.gov.au Tel: +61 3 9669 4950

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#### OCTOBER 2015

when	what	where
Thu 1, 7pm	Open Mic Hosted by Cam Kettle	Hudsons, Ballan
Thu 1, dinner	Pete Fidler and Friends	Radio Springs
Fri 2, dinner	Public Domaine	Radio Springs
Sat 3, 8.30pm	Blues Union *	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 3, lunch	Lily P	Radio Springs
Sat 3, dinner	The Flames	Radio Springs
Sun 4, arvo	Cat and Clint *	Cosmo, Trentham
Sun 4, 2pm	Trivia Hosted by Cam Kettle	Hudsons, Ballan
Sun 4, lunch	Gillian Eastoe and Terry Murray	Radio Springs
Sun 4, dinner	Liz Frencham and Robbie Melville	Radio Springs
Fri 9, 7.30pm	Pete Daffy Trio *	Hudsons, Ballan
Fri 9, dinner	Grumpy Neighbour's Lazy Dawg	Radio Springs
Sat 10, lunch	Birdland	Radio Springs
Sat 10, 8.30pm	Jemma and the Clifton Hillbillies	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 10, dinner	Family Farm	Radio Springs
Sat 10, 8pm	The Flipside	Hudsons, Ballan
Sun 11, arvo	Phil & Trudy Edgeley	Cosmo, Trentham
Sun 11, 2.30	Luav Cowboys	Hudsons, Ballan
Sun 11, dinner	Phil and Trudy Edgely	Radio Springs
Thu 15, dinner	Pete Fidler and Friends	Radio Springs
Fri 16, 8pm	Drag Bingo with Slash Darling	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 17, 8.30pm	Mick Dogs Boneyard	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 17, dinner	The Duck Down Pickers	Radio Springs
Sun 18, lunch	Gillian Eastoe and Terry Murray	Radio Springs
Sun 18, dinner	The Jude Parsons Set	Radio Springs
Sun 18, 3pm	CD Launch: The 5 O'Clock Charlies	Hudsons, Ballan
Fri 23, 8.30pm	Jake and Cam	GreendaleHotel
Fri 23, 7.30pm	Pete Daffy Trio *	Hudsons, Ballan
Sat 24, 8.30pm	Pete Daffy and the Forecasters *	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 24, dinner	Family Farm	Radio Springs
Sun 25, lunch	Phil and Trudy Edgely	Radio Springs
Sun 25, 2pm	Trivia Hosted by Cam Kettle	Hudsons, Ballan
Thu 29, dinner	Liz Frencham and Robbie Melville	Radio Springs
Sat 31, dinner	Gillian Eastoe and Terry Murray	Radio Springs
Sat 31, 8.30pm	Blues Union *	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 31, 7.30pm	Mooney Valley Drifters	Hudsons, Ballan

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

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#### NOVEMBER 2015

when	what	where
Sun 1, dinner	Pete Fidler and Friends	Radio Springs
Fri 6, 7.30pm	Pete Daffy Trio *	Hudsons, Ballan
Fri 6, dinner	The Andrew Collins Band	Radio Springs
Fri 6, Sat 7, Sun 8	Blackwood Festival of Music & Culture	Blackwood Oval
Sat 7, lunch	Travelling Concessions	Radio Springs
Sun 8, lunch	Pete Fidler and Friends	Radio Springs
Sun 9, lunch	The Andrew Collins Band	Radio Springs
Sat 14, lunch	Public Domaine	Radio Springs
Sat 14, dinner	PrayerBabies	Radio Springs
Sat 14, 8.30pm	Mightiest of Guns	Blackwood Hotel
Sun 15, lunch	Public Domaine	Radio Springs
Sun 15, arvo	Phil & Trudy Edgeley	Cosmo, Trentham
Sun 15, dinner	Phil and Trudy Edgely	Radio Springs
Fri 20, 7.30pm	Pete Daffy Trio *	Hudsons, Ballan
Fri 20, 8pm	Drag Bingo with Slash Darling	Blackwood Hotel
Fri 20, dinner	Grumpy Neighbour's Lazy Dawg	Radio Springs
Fri 20, 8.30pm	Jake and Cam	Greendale Hotel
Sat 21, lunch	Lily P	Radio Springs
Sat 21, dinner	Gillian Eastoe and Terry Murray	Radio Springs
Sat 28, 8.30pm	Homesick Ray and the Mild Bunch	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 28, lunch	The Duck Down Pickers	Radio Springs
Sun 29, lunch	Pete Fidler and Friends	Radio Springs

\* Blackwoodian locals

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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 Myrmiong or Holy Trinity Bacchus Marsh. Rev'd Darrell Couch is still able to assist with pastoral issues and conduct Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals at Blackwood. For details of services at Myrmiong and Bacchus Marsh including, Cafe Church, Messy Church,

Senior Citizen's Services, Sunday and Wednesday services please see [www.bacchusmarshanglican.org.au](http://www.bacchusmarshanglican.org.au) or contact 5367 5362.

~ Nina Harbison

### Blackwood Action Group

see reports on p3 & 19

~ Blackwood Action Group

### Blackwood CERT

This month we have had some calls for assistance in our community although a little quieter than usual. No doubt this will change now the weather is warming, and more visitors will be in Blackwood in the coming months.

We would like to give a warm welcome to Marie-Clair Blin, our newest member of the team. With more members in CERT, hopefully we can respond to more calls. As we all know, illness and accidents do not occur at the most convenient times. If you do require medical assistance, ring 000 first, and hopefully there is a team of us on call to get to you ASAP.

Until next time, take care, from the CERT Team.

~ Sandy Schmidt, CERT

### Blackwood CFA

Finally Spring is here.

Time to prepare for Summer by ensuring gutters are clean, yards are mowed and check out trees on your property.

Are the trees in need of trimming? Do they block access to vehicles such as fire trucks and other emergency services?

If you have not got a old style wall phone, try and pick one up because, in the event of a power failure, most wireless phones will not work.

As we have had below average rainfall over winter, bear in mind that this will impact on us during summer, so please be alert and aware.

We will soon be gaining a new Ultra Light Tanker

Take it safely over the Spring months.

### Blackwood Cemetery Trust

There is nothing to report on the Cemetery Trust.

### Blackwood and Barry's Reef Landcare

It's at this time of year that you can see all the new weeds sprouting. The gorse and broom start flowering so the rates of infestation can be clearly seen.

My biggest concern is the amount of Spanish Heath that is coming up along the Greendale Rd. There are some mature bushes that can be seen because of their prolific (and pretty) white flowers. But the number of small new shrubs emerging on the roadsides is a real concern.

Spanish Heath seems particularly hard to kill and it's a prolific breeder. The way these weeds spread reminds me of how computer viruses work – they can lie dormant until the right conditions present themselves and then they strike – reproducing themselves, infecting new sites and ultimately causing a lot of damage.

Spanish Heath seems to thrive in Blackwood's unique micro-climate. And it's hard to spot. If you didn't know better, you would think it was a native.

The fact that it is spreading along the roadsides makes me think that infected gravel was brought into our area as part of maintaining the roads.

## 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.

I have raised this prospect with VicRoads and have suggested that, if this is true, then VicRoads has a specific responsibility to get on top of the problem while it is still a relatively small infestation.

Before weeds flower, the best treatment is to simply pull them out of the ground (taking care to remove the roots). If there are no flowers, then they can be left to die (but don't leave holly cuttings on the ground, as they will grow again). If there are flowers (and therefore seeds) then the weeds either need to go to landfill or be burned.

If this is not done, the seeds will remain in the ground and will sprout at some later time.

Many of our worst weeds(broom for example) sprout after an area has been burned. It can take decades of treating a specific patch of ground – each year pulling out the new seedlings. This is, again, the perfect time to tackle weeds this way, before the ground gets too hard.

~ Shane Scanlan

### Blackwood Historical Society

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 and historical records. The July committee meeting was well- attended with several visitors coming to view the Museum.

~ Margot Hitchcock

### Blackwood Progress Association

The Blackwood Progress Association is the proud host of the Annual Easter Woodchop Carnival each year. Over the last few years support and helpers for the Carnival have decreased. The current Committee & helpers has been working on the Easter Carnival for many years and are no longer willing to work on the Carnival without support.

Without new support and people willing to work on the preparation for the Carnival it can not go ahead. Preparation for the Carnival takes many months and needs to start now. The Carnival does not just come together overnight.

Due to this lack of support and new blood into the committee, at the recent meeting it has been decided with regret that the Blackwood Easter Woodchop Carnival for 2016 will be cancelled.

I would like to thank those people that have worked with myself and the Committee for the last 15 years to bring the Carnival alive each year. Quite often it has been the same people each year that have worked along side each other for the Carnival and the Progress Association appreciate the time you have donated.

If any one wishes to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me at [kgwhiffin@hotmail.com](mailto:kgwhiffin@hotmail.com)

Meetings for the committee are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at the Blackwood Hall. (next meeting Oct 14)

~ Genevieve Hall

### Blackwood Uniting Church

No changes with the Uniting Church, services as usual.

### Blackwood Senior Citizens

Just an update from Blackwood Senior Citizens Club. Our Annual Seniors Meeting was conducted on October 26, officiated by Jean Robson. Office bearers and committee were duly elected, namely Jim Usher (President), May Burling (Vice President), Barbara Sweet (Secretary), Bev Herd (Assistant Secretary), Helga Weiss (Treasurer) and Dianne Volfe (Assistant Treasurer). Committee - Cathy Lynch, Reana Stoney, Cobi Stovacker, Max Manning, Phyl Manning, Barbara Darwin, Hank Kaindl and Ilona Usher. The Club had an enjoyable outing last month down to Ripponlea to see an exhibition of clothes from the TV series Miss Fisher's Mysteries, mansion and gardens. Our next rip will be "The Melbourne Star by Night". This trip will be during Seniors Week, enquiries to Bev Herd - 5368 2526. Club members had lunch at the Commercial Hotel in August to celebrate the 92nd birthday of long time member Linda Cameron. That's all the news for now, until next issue. Barb Sweet (Hon Secretary).

~ 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). 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](mailto:galaxyss@hotmail.com). We'd love to hear from you.

## BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

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### Blackwood Cricket Club

Cricket season is upon us again, and our team 'The Eagles' are attempting their 4th premiership in a row.

We have gone up a grade and are now playing at 'C' level in the Gisborne District Cricket Association.

An AGM was held in August and the BCC committee is now as follows;

President: Marty de Jong

Vice President: Jodie Bantz

Secretary: Steve O'Brien

Treasurer: Keith Osborne

Committee Members: Karyn Osborne, Alan Salmon, Brett Sullivan, Samantha Whitehouse, Nick Whan, Kate Barnes

Alan Salmon resigned as our captain after taking the team to their 3rd premiership last season, and James Cann has stepped up to take his place, we all wish him the best of luck in his new position, the team and committee will give him all the support and encouragement he needs.

See p20 for our detailed 2015/16 fixture and a copy of our sponsorship form, if anyone feels like sponsoring a 3 time reigning premiership team this year. There are also single \$50/Family \$80 memberships available, come down to the ground to sign up.

Our first home game is on Saturday October 10 @ 1pm. Hope to see you all there :-)

~ Thanks Jodie

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### What's going on with our Crown Lands?

Over the past 2 months The Blackwood Times made several request for information from DWELP regarding the management of our crown reserves.

Following is the department's response regarding use of the hall:

"The Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management manages the Blackwood Public Hall Reserve on behalf of the Department of Environment, Land Water & Planning (DELWP).

In 2014, the committee advised DELWP that the flooring of the hall was unstable & posed a public risk. DELWP assessed the hall, confirming the risk to the public & the need for necessary repairs.

The Victorian Government has contributed \$15,000 through the Public Safety on Public Land grants program towards the project. The committee is currently seeking additional funding from council & other sources to complete the required safety works.

The committee believed it had identified an additional source of funds but this has since fallen through. The allocation of \$15,000 from the Government is still available.

DELWP is aware that the committee has recently advised that all current hall bookings must be cancelled due to the condition of the floor.

In the interests of public safety, DELWP endorses the committee's decision to cancel all events until repairs are completed, & encourages the community to support the committee in its fundraising efforts to repair the Blackwood Public Hall floor.

DELWP acknowledges the inconvenience to hall users & will work with the committee in their efforts to repair & maintain the hall."

Response to letter signed by members of the community

"Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) Committees of Management are expected to hold high standards of behaviour & discharge their responsibilities in keeping with relevant guidelines & codes of conduct.

While DELWP does not require its committees to ensure public participation in meetings or make a financial reports to the community, it encourages all committees to do so to reflect their role as community organisations.

As part of its commitment to engage with the community, the Blackwood committee has recently decided to offer community members the opportunity to attend future meetings, & will schedule time on the agenda for open meeting discussions.

The committee will also conduct an Annual General Meeting, & present an annual report & financial statement.

All meeting times will be advertised around Blackwood on notice boards & at the post office, & the committee is also exploring ways to share information about its activities & upcoming events on social media.

The current committee of five members has asked DELWP to supplement the membership by three to four people. DELWP will commence the process to recruit the new members & will call for expressions of interest from the community shortly.

As Committees of Management have responsibility for important community assets, it is important that they work with their communities to resolve any concerns & arrive at mutually agreeable outcomes."

The Blackwood Times response... I would like to comment on the recommended form of communication "All meeting times will be advertised around Blackwood on notice boards & at the post office, & the committee is also exploring ways to share information about its activities & upcoming events on social media." Many members of our community are weekenders, many more are commuters who don't frequent the town centre regularly. Many of our older residents do not have access to computers, let alone use social media. It is for this reason that I, again, request that the committee use the Blackwood Times to communicate.

DWELP response ... Committees of Management are free to choose how they communicate with their communities. DELWP will continue to encourage the Blackwood Committee of Management to communicate as broadly as possible on committee matters.

~ Responses attributed to DELWP Regional Manager Land Planning & Approvals, Grampians, Grant Hull

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# EASTER CARNIVAL TO GET THE CHOP? NOOOOOOOOO!!!



## GLAMPING BY THE LERDERBERG

Jarek & Eva have brought their Daylesford-based 'Cosy Tents' to Blackwood. They are sited on a quiet stretch of river, just downstream from the Mineral Springs. Luxury camping, or glamping, begins with a large, European-designed canvas tent, heated by a wood fire. Add to that a queen-size bed with 1200 thread count linen, duck-down winter-grade quilt & choice of pillows & you start to get the idea. The tents are well-furnished & equipped with Bluetooth speakers.

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## • AROUND & ABOUT EVENT CALENDAR •

### OCTOBER:

Sat 3	10.30am	Historical Society meeting	Blackwood Museum
Sat 3	12-8pm	3 Baroque Horse Festival	Kryal Castle
Sun 4	3-5pm	Wombat Book Club	Blackwood Hotel
Sun 4	11am	Food For The Soul	St Erth
Mon 5	7pm	Christian Meditation (all welcome)	Blackwood House
Sat 10	9-5	Spring Festival @ St Erth	St Erth
Sun 11	9-5	Spring Festival @ St Erth	St Erth
Sun 11	11am	Totally Goat Masterclass	St Erth
Wed 14	7pm	Blackwood Progress meeting	B/wood Hall
Sat 17	11am	Edible Flowers Workshop	St Erth
Sun 18	7am	Show 'n' Shine & Swap Meet	Bacchus Marsh
Sun 18	11am	Keeping Chickens Workshop	St Erth
Mon 19	7pm	Christian Meditation (all welcome)	Blackwood House
Thu 22	9-1pm	Footscray @ The Marsh Poultry Club	Rec Res, Bacchus Marsh
Sat 24	12-8pm	Oktoberfest at Kryal Castle: 18+	Kryal Castle
Sat 24	1-4pm	Bacchus Marsh Horticulture Show	Bacchus Marsh Hall
Sat 24	9am-5pm	Oktoberfest at Kryal Castle Family day	Kryal Castle
Sun 25	1-4pm	Bacchus Marsh Horticulture Show	Bacchus Marsh Hall
Sat 31	11am	Cottage Garden Flower Show	Trentham NHood Centre
Sat 31		Halloween Monster Mash	Bacchus Marsh

### NOVEMBER:

Sun 1	9:30am - 4pm	Blackwood Spring Antiques Roadshow	Blackwood
Sun 1	9am	Mass celebrating All Saint's	St Malachy's
Sun 1	3-5pm	Wombat Book Club	Blackwood Merchant
Sun 1 - Tue 3	9:30am - 4pm	Blackwood Sculpture Exhibition	Blackwood
Mon 2	7pm	Christian Meditation (all welcome)	Blackwood House
Wed 4	TBC	Moorabool Shire Council Meeting	Blackwood Hall
Thu 5	12md	Oaks Day Luncheon @ The Plough	Myrinong
Sat 7	10.30am	Blackwood Historical Society meeting	Blackwood Museum
Sat 7	9am-3pm	Muderella	St Annes
Sun 8	11am	Compost Making Workshop	St Erth
Wed 11	7pm	Blackwood Progress meeting	B/wood Hall
Sun 15	11am	Beekeeping For Beginners	St Erth
Mon 16	7pm	Christian Meditation (all welcome)	Blackwood House
Sat 21	10am	Youth Fest	Bacchus Marsh
Sat 21 - Sun 22		Bacchus Marsh Strawberries and Cherries Weekend	Bacchus Marsh
Sun 22	11am	Natural Skin Care Workshop	St Erth
Sun 22	2pm	Natural Skin Care Plus Workshop	St Erth
Sun 29	11am	Planning Your Vegie Garden	St Erth

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

## • 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 Scandanavian Cres	LANCEFIELD & DIST FARMERS MARKET 9am-1pm High St	LANCEFIELD/ROMSEY LIONS 8am-2.30pm (not Jan, Jun, Jul) Main St
DAYLESFORD MAKERS 10am-3pm Town Hall	CASTLEMAINE FARMERS 9am-1pm Mostlyn St			DARLEY MARKET 8am-1pm Gisborne/Grey St Darley	WOODEND 9am-3pm High St	BALLARAT LAKESIDE 9-1pm	TRENTHAM SUNDAY MARKET 9am-2pm Victoria St
TRENTHAM INDOOR 9.30am-1.30 TNH Centre	GISBORNE OLDE TIME MARKET 9am-2pm Hamilton & Aitken			TRENTHAM FARMERS 9am-1pm Town Square			
DARLEY MARKET 8am-1pm Gisborne/Grey St Darley	GISBORNE ALL SEASONS 9am-3pm Brantome St			TRENTHAM MAKERS 9am-1.30pm Cosmo			

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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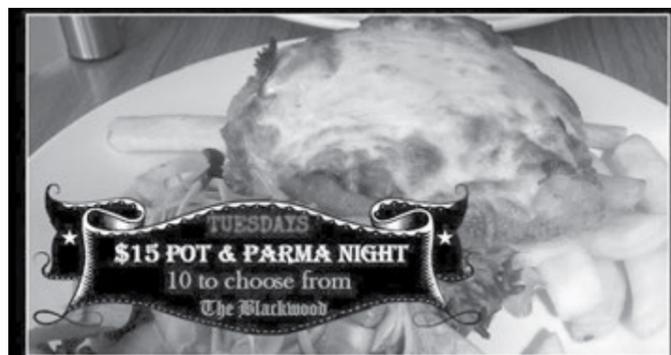
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## STEPS TO A NEW YOU. PURPOSEFUL CHANGE. PLAN YOUR CHANGE: PT2

by Kathie Strmota



In the last issue, I discussed the importance of planning for a successful change (step 4). Now, I'll illustrate the process with an example. Say you've experienced weight gain in recent years with a less-active lifestyle & don't want this to continue. This is where you are (destination A). You then defined your desired outcome (destination Z) as 'a more active lifestyle & healthy body weight'.

There are many ways to get from (A) to (Z), eg. join a gym, bush-walk, count calories, become a vegan, etc. What suits one won't always suit another. Planning helps you define the best way for YOU. Begin with research to explore ideas – read books, surf the web, talk to friends or professionals. You'll find some options more attractive than others.

Make a short-list & explore this in detail. Consider each approach with your feeling-response, & assess how it aligns with your budget, routines, relationships, etc. Be practical & realistic. You might love the idea of a personal trainer, but if it means long drives or overdue bills, then you're unlikely to sustain it, & will be disappointed by failure. Instead, set yourself up for success. Consider what is truly do-able & how your resources (physical or emotional) can be applied for greatest gain. You might invest a small amount on nutrients & a book on healthy eating, & drag your old bike out of the garage instead.

Once you've chosen activities, consider the challenges each might present. Reflect on what difficulties may arise to cause you to 'revert to the old ways'. You may enlist a friend to go bike-riding with you, knowing that such a commitment will help you keep the routine. You may decide not to keep any sweets in the pantry, knowing your weakness for bored-snacking.

In choosing appropriate activities, you define the road you'll take from

(A) to (Z). Next, break the longer journey down by setting smaller goals to get from (A) to (B), (B) to (C), etc. As each small goal is achieved, you can take a breather, prepare to tackle the next one, & appreciate how far you've come.

Acknowledging your success, no matter how small, helps energise your purpose & determination to continue.

With a situation like this one, where you focus change on several areas simultaneously, goal-setting allows you to introduce each activity in comfortable staggered time-frames, incorporating a small change more fully into your routine before adding another. With careful planning, you can arrange it so each change, once established, provides support for the next. In phase 1, you may introduce emotional healing to address issues that keep you stuck in unhealthy lifestyle habits, & also give your bike a service. In the next phase, begin a supplement program & experiment with healthy snacks. Next, introduce a twice-weekly bike-ride. Next, remove sweets from the pantry (the healthy snack ideas you've developed since phase 2 will make this goal easier). Next, increase bike-riding to 4 times weekly, & so on.

If you introduced a few small changes each month, you'd feel benefit in 3 months, with more energy & enthusiasm for further changes, & by 6 months, your life would look quite different.

The first steps are always most difficult in any change. Often, everything feels urgent & you don't know where to begin. It's hard to see how one small activity will make any difference, but trying to do too much at once causes overwhelm & usually leads to failure. Good preparation allows you to create organised structure out of confusion. With a clear plan, you have more peace, knowing each aspect will be addressed in good order.

### • POP THE FIZZ •



The Mariana Hall at Our Lady's, Sunshine, hosted many a dance in the 60's, with Bacchus Marsh band, Red Drop, providing the Rock'n'Roll beat. On other nights the crowd would be entertained by TV celebrities, singers and comedians such as Delo & Daly, Jackie Clancy, Phil Brady and Elaine McKenna.

Noel and Marcie met at a dance there in 1962 and married at Our Lady's 3 years later, driving the FJ Holden up to Mildura for their honeymoon. Happy 50th Anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Ewer. They have 4 children, 12 grandchildren and, we hear, still know how to Rock'n'Roll.

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### WATCH THIS SPACE



True, wherever you are in Blackwood & whichever way you turn, you're treated to a delightful view; but then there are iconic Blackwood views, like the river crossing at the mineral springs, the top-of-town vistas from the cemetery hill & this one, in the very heart of town, that are so breathtakingly beautiful, it's a bit hard to imagine Blackwood without them.

Just the reason why Karen Bruno recently bought the block between Lerdies & the Merchant. The open land there provides sweeping views up the valley to the west; long admired by kids & parents waiting for the morning school bus & then, later in the day, by hotel patrons basking in the low sun. The view, she says, was too important to lose.

Karen won't be making use of the building plans that came with the block, but will instead turn the space into a decorative kitchen garden, open to the public. A lifelong gardener, she has plans for hanging pumpkins, espaliered fruit, plenty of climbers like peas & beans, & some chooks. She'll move the front fence line down a few metres & install bench seats so that all of us can continue to enjoy that great outlook.

Karen's lived in Blackwood for less than a year, buying Lerdies & developing it into a B&B (opening soon). She says she still can't believe her luck in stumbling upon a community like Blackwood & reckons, in recognition of her good fortune, she'll call her latest project the "Gratitude Garden". Good on you, Karen. As a lover of that view, I'm already grateful.

P.S. Karen hopes to return the Lerdies' facade to its original look (as a bank). If you have a photo, please contact her. Also, a question to our historian, Margo Hitchcock: what is the story of the 2 women, Foxcroft & Hudson, who once owned the building?

The library van service from the City of Ballarat now visits weekly at the Blackwood Memorial Hall, 1.30-2.30pm Wednesdays. Browse & order on-line at [centralhighlandlibraries.org.au](http://centralhighlandlibraries.org.au). Select 'Blackwood' as your pick-up location, & your holds will be available for pick-up from the hall. Any items borrowed from other Central Highlands Libraries branches may be returned to the Library Officer. Please contact the Regional Library Officer on 0419 519 650 for any further queries.

## Dear Pet Guru,

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



Dear Beleaguered,  
Sweetie has to learn to be gentle. Perhaps you should enrol him in ballet school.  
Pet Guru

### Hardwaste & greenwaste – Have Your Say

Moorabool Shire Council is investigating options for greenwaste & hardwaste collection services & wants the community's input!

Looking into these services is a recommendation from Council's Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy, therefore Council has put together a survey for residents to gauge the level of support for a user pays collection, in order to make an informed decision on these services.

Moorabool Mayor Cr Paul Tatchell said Council currently provided a range of waste services to the community, including roadside garbage & recycling service, but did not currently provide roadside greenwaste or hardwaste.

"We have put together several options on how a user pays system could work & we are asking residents to choose one of these options or to let us know if they would not use any of the services listed," Cr Tatchell said.

"We are hoping to have a good response rate to this survey because a decision will be made on these services based on what the community tells us."

Following the conclusion of the survey, data collected will be used to inform a report to Council determining future greenwaste & hardwaste services.

The survey was sent out with the spring edition of Moorabool Matters & is also accessible at [www.haveyoursaymoorabool.com.au](http://www.haveyoursaymoorabool.com.au) Surveys need to be returned to Council by October 9, 2015.

"We encourage residents to tell us their thoughts on greenwaste & hardwaste as we are relying on this data to enable us to provide the services wanted by the majority of the community," Cr Tatchell said.

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## BLACKWOOLS



"THEY ARE affectionate, lazy, low maintenance & extremely loyal" says Ricky Ponting; & no, he's not talking about the Australian Cricket Team. Greyhounds have always been a part of his life, & he swears they make great pets.

**RECENTLY ADOPTED** Scarlett (aka "Lady Spinifex") has done her best to lend weight to Mr. Ponting's claim. In fact, her new family at Barrys Reef have dubbed her "the 60mph couch potato" as she wants for nothing other than kisses, cuddles & snoozes.

**GREYHOUND RACING** Victoria's initiative, the Greyhound Adoption Program, is dedicated to finding homes for dogs that are no longer suitable for racing. Through foster carers, the dogs receive training to transition from track to family home. They are temperament tested, desexed, wormed, microchipped & vaccinated & are NOT required to be muzzled in public.

**LADY SPINIFEX'S** racing days may be over but her lovin' days have just begun. If you think there may be love in your home for a Scarlett or Santa's Little Helper, have a look at [www.gap.grv.org.au](http://www.gap.grv.org.au). Greyhound Adoption Day is on October 18.



### HEAD HERE FOR FRESH FARE

James & Danny at the Blackwood Ridge Nursery have just opened their café & larder. Expect to see a menu based on home-grown produce (from the nursery's own kitchen garden) & home-made foods, including breads, pastries & ice-cream.

Nanette runs the kitchen. She's been a long-time customer of the nursery & shares a passion with the boys for great food & gardens. Her menus cover breakfast, lunch & afternoon tea (salted caramel macarons- mmm). Try the poached eggs on corned beef hash with hollandaise & barberry or the arancini with lemon roasted root vegies & labne. An unusual desert comes in the form of parsnip pudding with crème anglaise & cinnamon sugar ice-cream.

The nursery (on Greenhills Rd.) is open Mon-Fri 10-4 & its fully-licensed café Fri-Sun 10-4.

## PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS



**Woof:** This month I want to cover a very important topic which commonly affects us furry critters. DIABETES MELLITUS is a disorder in both people & pets, especially older pets. It is caused by a lack of insulin in the body or a lack of response to insulin. Insulin is produced in the pancreas & allows the body's cells to utilise glucose from the blood for energy. When an animal does not have enough insulin, glucose levels in the blood increase & glucose

may be found in the urine. Meanwhile without insulin, the body is forced to use energy sources other than glucose. Unfortunately, this is not optimal & leads to the build up of toxins in the blood.

### HOW IS DIABETES DIAGNOSED?

Diagnosis of diabetes is usually straightforward. A simple blood test to show the increase levels of glucose is all that is required to detect the disease. However, urine tests & further blood can determine the severity of the effects of diabetes in the body. Diabetic pets can be further divided on the basis of tests into those suffering "simple" diabetes mellitus, or those with a more serious condition called "ketoacidotic diabetes mellitus".

Clinical signs of diabetes will vary with the severity of the disease will vary with the severity of the disease but can include the following:

- Increased thirst & urination
- Increased appetite with variable weight change (often increases in early stages)
- Depression & lethargy
- Vomiting
- Sweet "acetone" breath
- Dehydration
- Developing eye cataracts

### HOW IS DIABETES TREATED?

Treatment of diabetes depends on the severity of the disease. Most pets with diabetes will require insulin injections once or twice daily. Once diagnosed, more testing will determine how this disease is affecting the body.

"Simple" diabetics who are eating well will often start insulin injections straight away & spend only a short time in hospital for monitoring. The pet can then go home for their owner to give regular injections. Often dietary changes are necessary & diabetics need to be fed at times suitable for their insulin levels. Diabetic pets will also need to revisit the clinic for regular blood glucose monitoring (Glucose curve). This is important as insulin requirements can change over time & with changes in lifestyle.

Woof for now, Seamus

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### WOMBAT BOOK CLUB 2015

Bookclub meets the first Sunday in each month. It was a little quiet during our August meeting, a very cosy three of us sitting around the fire at the Blackwood Pub, discussing our first book, which was the **CAMOMILE LAWN** by Mary Wesley. Thoughts & ratings on this novel are as follows:

**SANDY:** This was an easy novel to read, about a family of cousins lazing in the sun on the Camomile lawn at their Aunt's house in Cornwall, during their young, carefree days before WW2. The novel goes back & forward in time, bringing the reader forward to a family reunion for a funeral some 50 years later. Mary Wesley was 70 when she published her book, giving hope for us aspiring writers. A good one to read whilst curled up on the comfy couch close to the fire during those winter days which seemingly have passed.

4.5 wombies

**RACH:** Overall a bit dusty for me. It was an interesting look at life on the "home front" in England during WW2, focusing on some key relationships & the feeling of the time, but it had a little too many cliché "Famous Five" undertones for me.

2 Wombats.

**Anne:** A reasonably easy to read yarn about a group of English cousins just prior to & through WW2 –how their lives changed during this period of time. Nothing new here.

1 wombie

A typical sunny spring day...one of the few thus far, brought more of us around the table to discuss Tim Winton's **CLOUDSTREET**. The views varied, & being a thicker book, not all of us had time to read it through.

**SANDY:** I must admit, I find Tim Winton hard work, even a little disjointed. However, that is my limitation, not of the people who gave "Cloudstreet" good reviews. Cloudstreet was made into a mini-series for television. Having said that, it did pull together to make it an interesting story. Set in Perth, two families sharing a big house at One Cloud Street, not only contrast each other, but each with their own identity & stories, but manage to meld together in everyday life. The story incorporates historical events during the Robert Menzies years as Prime Minister.

3 wombies

**RACH:** The tale of two working class families & their lives becoming entwined in Perth over the span of 20 years (1940s - 1960s). A great feel for WA in that era & Australian language & culture at the time. The house on Cloudstreet is a character in itself, & takes on a role that symbolises the emotions of each individual family members personal journey. A slow burner that takes some getting into but is well worth the effort.

4 wombats.

**BRENDA:** This is the first Tim Winton book I read. Loved it then & still do. His love of the West Australian landscape is evident & the characters in these two very different families having to share a rambling house are so alive with all their hopes & fears. What an imagination!

4 ½ wombies.

**ANNE:** I found this story to be boring & obtuse. It took a few 'pick -ups' to try & work out who was who & by then someones mother was living in a tent. & I still don't know whether a person by the name of 'Fish' [Pickles or Lamb],drowned at the end.

2 wombies

**Melbourne Cup  
Tuesday  
November 3, 2015**



### DELWP: PLANNED BURN AND STRATEGIC ACCESS TRACK WORK

Recently the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) & Parks Victoria developed the Fire Operations Plan (FOP) for 2015/2016/2017/2018. We have had discussions with the Blackwood Action Group and, as a result, a number of areas have been added for the 2nd & 3rd year of the FOP. The FOP was recently endorsed by the Regional Director for the Grampians Region.

The following burns are planned around Blackwood between now & the end of autumn 2016.

SPRING 2015		
BURN NAME	AREA	INDICATIVE SCHEDULE
Blackwood-Albion Tk	358 ha	Mid to late Oct '15
Blackwood - Morning Star	108 ha	Late Oct - early Nov '15
Trentham - Coopers	203 ha	Late Oct - early Nov '15
Greendale - King Tk	289 ha	Late Oct - early Nov '15
Blackwood - Nth Blackwood Rd	50 ha	Mid to late Nov '15
Blackwood - Simmons Reef	16 ha	Mid to late Dec '15
AUTUMN 2016		
Trentham - Old Blackwood Rd	254 ha	Mid to late March 2016

#### LOCAL EVENTS

The Department has noted two key events around Blackwood being the Blackwood Festival 6 - 8 November 2015 & the Annual Easter Activities in 2016. The Department will take every precaution when undertaking planned burning to avoid impacts from smoke on these events. If there are other important events scheduled please feel free to contact the department so we can maintain communications with the event organiser should there be a need for any burns to proceed during listed events.

#### SMOKE FROM PLANNED BURNS

DELWP & Parks Victoria liaise closely with the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) to determine where the smoke from planned burns will travel & how quickly it will move through the atmosphere. At all times we look for conditions that minimise the impact of this smoke on local communities & to ensure we manage conditions where smoke may reduce visibility on main roads. Often traffic management will be engaged to ensure the public travelling on roads affected by smoke are warned and/or slowed down to lessen this risk.



DELWP's Sarah, Adrian & Robin visit Blackwood surveying the upgrade of a fire access track.

#### NOTIFICATION SIGNS AROUND PLANNED BURNS

Recently DELWP & Parks Victoria Staff erected notification signs around the burns we hope to complete before the on-set of summer. Anyone seeing these signs will note the end date as the 31 December 2015. In most instances our burning program ceases before Christmas Day, however should the conditions allow we may still have conditions conducive to planned burning. Again we work closely with the BoM before a decision is made to ignite a planned burn.

#### BURN PREPARATION WORKS

Before a planned burn is ignited the Department & Parks Victoria will prepare the burn boundaries & any internal tracks required for Ignition. Works include dozer works to drain & widen tracks to allow good vehicle access around the burn. Staff will also conduct a tree assessment to identify hazardous trees. These trees will be marked with an X or a Dot. X Trees are felled & or pushed over to remove the imminent risk while Dot trees are left standing. We remove the fine fuel from around the base of these trees to help protect these trees from catching on fire. If these trees were to catch on fire they could become a hazard & may be felled at a later date if deemed unsafe or a hazard.

#### CAN YOU COLLECT FIREWOOD AFTER PLANNED BURN PREPARATION WORKS ARE COMPLETE?

Firewood collection from some planned burns is allowed. These areas are only on State Forest areas. Firewood collection is prohibited in National, State & Regional Parks. If firewood collection is allowed the areas will be designated by signs out on site. Domestic firewood collection areas are also displayed on DELWP's external website. To view the maps & for directions to a designated domestic firewood collection area visit [www.delwp.vic.gov.au/firewood](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/firewood)

#### NATIONAL BUSHFIRE MITIGATION PROGRAM

DELWP has been working with the Blackwood community over the past months to nominate the area for the National Bushfire Mitigation Program. This program looks to enhance fire protection around the township by improving access roads & tracks on public land around the township boundary. An area around Martin St has also been identified for some gorse control. In the coming weeks we will be working with the local Blackwood Action Group, CFA & Moorabool Shire Staff to confirm priorities & a works program for these funds. Works will take place this spring & summer.

#### NOTIFICATION OF PLANNED BURNS NEAR YOU

Anyone in the community that would like to be notified by text message or email before a planned burn commences can do so by registering an interest at the following website address [www.delwp.vic.gov.au/pbns](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/pbns). You can create a customised account for receiving automated notifications about upcoming planned burns on public land.

For issues relating to the scheduling of planned burns please contact Lee Gleeson on 5321 6888 or [lee.gleeson@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:lee.gleeson@delwp.vic.gov.au)

### • BOUQUET •

A big bouquet and thank you to the person who is quietly fixing the public benches around town. You are an absolute treasure! They look fantastic.

~ Sue D

6TH - 8TH NOVEMBER 2015

BLACKWOOD MUSIC  
FESTIVAL & CULTURE

[blackwoodfestival.org](http://blackwoodfestival.org)



Blackwood as seen from Blue Mount, with the You Yangs in the background.

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### FINGER PLUCKIN' GOOD!

Well it's certainly an exciting time and our town is warming up for the 2nd Annual Blackwood Festival of Music & Culture on November 6-8, 2015!

"What is this event and why should I NOT miss it?" ... you may ask! Well, it's our very own 'Bespoke Community Arts Festival' held at the magnificent Recreation Reserve, featuring 'Vintage' live music including Bluegrass, Blues, Rockabilly, Celtic, Folk & 'Lost Trades' artisan stalls.

With over 25 live performances programmed over the whole weekend! Discounted Locals Weekend/Day/Evening Tickets are available online (& at The Gate - thanks to local SES volunteers).

If you'd also like to get involved, volunteer, sponsor or billet performers...we'd love to hear from you at email: info@blackwoodfestival.org

Oh, and tell all your friends and family to share in this quality event! NEW - Festival/ Town regular shuttle bus service (thanks Kath!)

Also Telstra 4G (data only) coverage now available ... and mobile reception coming soon ... maybe even by November!

Many thanks to our local sponsors and Moorabool Shire for their continuing support.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

~ Blackwood Academy & Revue Inc. Committee  
www.blackwoodfestival.org



Orpheus Supertones (USA): Each member of the Orpheus Supertones is a spectacular musician and tradition-bearer.



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### THE HISTORY OF BLACKWOOD - PETER AND TOM DUNCAN & THOMAS DODDS.

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



This article is in response to an article in last issue of the Blackwood Times magazine - August/September 2015, regarding Mr Thomas Dodds & his accident in Ballan at the Werribee Flour Mill boiler & the photo with the article of Peter & Tom, courtesy of Marj Atkinson. In 1986 Marj Atkinson had also contacted me in my role as historian for the Blackwood Historical Society with information on her Duncan & Dodds family. I acquired a copy of the inquest into the death of Thomas Dodds & sent a copy to her.

I would like to correct last months information as to the 2 people in the photo that Marj Atkinson also gave me, who were not Tom Dodds but Peter Duncan left & his son Tom Duncan.

The information she gave me was that -

Marj Atkinson of Euroa, is the daughter of Tom Duncan & granddaughter of Peter Duncan & Alice Coulter Dodds, & great granddaughter of Thomas Dodds.

Peter Duncan was born in Kennoway, Fifeshire in Scotland on 17.12.1845 & died 12.10.1910. His wife was Alice Coulter Dodds born in Northumberland, England on 2.8.1848 & died 8.12.1935. Alice Dodds was the daughter Thomas Dodds who worked in the Flour Mill in Ballan. It was her father, Thomas Dodds who died in the explosion of the Flour Mill in Ballan.

The photo (courtesy of Marjorie Atkinson 1983) shows Peter & his son Tom Duncan, sluicing for gold on the Lerderg River at the Mineral Springs, Blackwood.

At the Blackwood Mineral Springs Reserve is an information sign with some history of the Tipperary Flat Diggings. This area was favourable for its rich source of alluvial gold, which was extracted by the sluicing method. With the information is the photo of Peter & his son Tom Duncan sluicing for gold. (Information & photo provided for the sign by Margot Hitchcock.)

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

FROM THE EDITOR: Thank you for the clarification Margot. When Marge sent me the photo I simply copied the caption which she had hand-written on the photo.

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### Times change but history doesn't!

On p13 in the last edition of the Blackwood Times, there was a copy of a public notice titled "Sale of Crown Land in Fee-simple by Auction" which was held at the Blackwood Public Hall on Sat March 22, 1969. A total of 24 lots scattered through Blackwood & Barrys Reef were offered for sale & sold for an average of \$800 each, which was five times the Auction starting price in some instances! At that time, the average wage in Australia was \$59.10 per week according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Blackwood Action Group has plotted the locations of these properties on a map of the town. Although half the lots sold have since been built on, about half still remain as vacant land. The smallest lots were 600 square metres in size & now have homes built on each. Two other small size lots of 800 square metres have homes.

Today's requirements for lot size to have enough space for both on-site wastewater disposal & defensible space against bushfire would appear to be at odds with the Government's purpose & intent of selling this land in 1969.

Just 8 months after the auction on the November 25, 1969, the Government recommended a water supply catchment be proclaimed over the town to implement the Lake Merrimu Water Supply Scheme. The second stage of this scheme involved constructing a weir across the Lerderg River downstream to divert water through to Lake Merrimu Reservoir. The purpose of which was to supply pristine drinking water to Bacchus Marsh, Melton & Melbourne.

Millions of dollars were spent constructing the diversion weir & excavating two tunnels covering a distance totalling nearly 6 km long to reach the reservoir. The tunnels are both sufficiently large enough to drive a small car through. The second stage of the Scheme was completed in 1978.

It would seem Government is prepared to go to enormous expense to provide drinking water for Melbourne, but we would now like to see a reciprocal outlay to protect & ensure the survival of our town!

~ Blackwood Action Group

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### BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB SEASON 2015/16 FIXTURE

**Round 1 AWAY**  
ROMSEY v **BLACKWOOD**  
Sat 10 Oct (1:00 pm)  
Bendigo Bank Oval

**Round 6 AWAY**  
BACCHUS MARSH v **BLACKWOOD**  
Sat 5 Dec, 12 Dec (1:30pm)  
Masons Lane Oval No.1

**Round 11 AWAY**  
SUNBURY UNITED v **BLACKWOOD**  
Sat 6 Feb, 13 Feb (1:30pm)  
Langama Park No.1

**Round 2 HOME**  
**BLACKWOOD** v SUNBURY UNITED  
Sat 17 Oct (1:00pm)  
Blackwood Recreation Reserve

**Round 7 AWAY**  
WOODEND v **BLACKWOOD**  
Sat 19 Dec (1:00pm)  
Gilbert Gordon Oval

**Round 12 HOME**  
BLACKWOOD v **SUNBURY**  
Sat 20 Feb, 27 Feb (1:30pm)  
Blackwood Recreation Reserve

**Round 3 HOME**  
BLACKWOOD v WOODEND  
Sat 24 Oct, 31 Oct (1:30pm)  
Blackwood Recreation Reserve

**Round 8 AWAY**  
SUNBURY v **BLACKWOOD**  
Sat 9 Jan (1:00pm)  
Clarke Oval, Sunbury

**SEMI FINALS**  
Sat 5 Mar, Sun 6 Mar(1:00pm) TBD v TBD  
Sat 5 Mar, Sun 6 Mar(1:00pm) TBD v TBD

**Round 4 AWAY**  
RIDDELL v **BLACKWOOD**  
Sat 7 Nov, 14 Nov (1:30pm)  
Riddell Recreation Reserve

**Round 9 HOME**  
**BLACKWOOD** v RIDDELL  
Sat 16 Jan (1:00pm)  
Blackwood Recreation Reserve

**FINAL**  
Sat 12 Mar, Sun 13 Mar  
Sat 19 Mar, Sun 20 Mar (1:00pm)  
TBD v TBD

**Round 5 AWAY\*\*\*\***  
**BLACKWOOD** v GISBORNE  
Sat 21 Nov, 28 Nov (1:30pm)  
Sankey Reserve

**Round 10 HOME**  
**BLACKWOOD** v ROMSEY  
Sat 23 Jan, 30 Jan (1:30pm)  
Blackwood Recreation Reserve

Fixture Last updated:  
8 Sep 15 9:19pm (local time)



### BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB INC. SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL

The Blackwood cricket club is seeking club sponsors for the 2015/16 cricket season and beyond.

**For a sponsorship of \$300.00, please consider the following package:**

- 600mmx450mm sign, to your design and displayed at the ground though out the season
- Gold family membership valued at \$80.00 (see membership application)
- Blackwood cricket club Sponsors Cap or Stubby holder (to be presented on Sponsors day)
- Invitation for two to our sponsors day with food and drinks included.
- 2 tickets to our presentation night valued at \$70-
- Appreciation plaque presented on the night.

With the great support of our sponsors over the last few years, below are some of the things we have achieved for both our club and the Blackwood community.

- A new full size cricket pitch, a cost of \$7000.00.
- A new commercial drinks fridge in the new pavilion.
- Installation of a stove and oven in the new kitchen.
- A new fridge/freezer in the new kitchen.
- Safety fencing for children's play area.

All these facilities can be used by the community when hiring the ground for special events.

Our aim is to provide our sponsors with value for money, keeping in mind the money we receive through your sponsorship is keeping the Blackwood Cricket Club going and improving into the future.

SPONSORSHIP BLACKWOOD CC 2015/16

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Names for membership cards: \_\_\_\_\_

Minimum cost is \$300.00, or if you are willing to sponsor more please feel free to do so. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

\*\*\* Please make cheques payable to Blackwood Cricket Club & return with this form to BCC, PO Box 250, Ballan 3342

### • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Dear Editor,  
Such a pity that in this beautiful, nurturing little town of ours, someone opened the gate, walked up to the covered porch & stole a blue & white jardiniere containing a gardenia. Even sadder because it was one of two special pots left to me by my mother. If anyone knows where it is I would be grateful to have it returned.

~ Brenda Hunter

G'day Jinny & others.  
I love getting your emails.  
On this one, I kept looking for a link to take me to the Times but none!  
~ Bob Ebdon

**Great Point Bob, I have added the web address to the template. Funny how easy it is to miss tiny things like that! ED**

Hi there,  
Just letting you know that "The Great Blackwood Reunion of 2016" will be occurring on Saturday March 12, 2016 (the long weekend) from 1pm until late at the Blackwood Hotel (venue to be confirmed).  
There has been a Facebook group created of the same name, that in just over 1 week already has almost 150 members. Everyone is welcome to join & share their photos of Blackwood to the group (already 130+ photos have been shared). The Group is also the best way of keeping informed about the event.

The event is essentially a gathering of anyone who has ever had anything to do with Blackwood, be it live, holiday, visit, have friends or even just fond memories of Blackwood.

There are quite a few people associated with Blackwood today and in the 60's, 70's & 80's who have joined the group & are looking forward to the catch up.

A call out to residents & visitors alike in the Blackwood Times would inform locals of the event & might inspire more people to track down those who would be interested in coming.

~ Cheers Sindy

Dear Jinny,  
Thank you so much for sending me the Blackwood Times I really love reading all the articles. I was surprised to see one from Alvyn Fetherston (Nee Fricke). I have photos of her & also have one of her sister Lorraine's wedding.

I was wondering if it would be possible to get her email from you, if not could you send her an email & let her know I would love to get in touch with her again after all these years. The photo she put in has my Mum & Dad & Uncle Len & Uncle Horace in it, I was so excited to see it.

Hope you can do this for me, thanks again from

~ Bev Walker

Hi Bev, I've forwarded your email to Alvyn for you. I hope you catch up! ED

Hi Jinny, Phillip Skinner & all Blackwoodians,  
I am travelling all around the UK visiting places my ancestors came from, the Gribbles, Skinners, Hills, & the Jurys. They came from Redruth, Camborne, Petrostock, and Barnstaple. I have been seeing churches & towns & places where they lived years ago.

At the moment I am in BLACKWOOD, Wales which was a coal-mining town where-as Redruth & Camborne was tin-mining.

I will be here a month driving around mostly getting lost but eventually getting there. My trip finishes in Scotland where the Skinners originally came from. When the Clan McGregor were made outlaws & their homes destroyed, they split up & took the names of what they did in the clan Hunters, Cooks, Skinners.

I come home in September & before I know it, it will be Christmas, once that is over we will be looking forward to the Easter Carnival.

Well it's time to start travelling on so,

~ Cheers everyone from Faye Skinner Demar.



PHOTO: Gary Howard in his RA40 Celica by Andrew Gell

### MEANDERING BY MOONLIGHT

For the first time in nearly 10 years, the Melton Motor Sports Club is excited to be holding the Moonlight Meander Introductory Rally in the Wombat & Lerderderg forests. The rally dates back over 30 years & this year the original event director will be a competitor in this years rally that captures the spirit of the original event. The rally begins in the evening of Saturday October 3 & finishes in the early hours of Sunday October 4.

The rally has been put together on a selection of roads within the forests that are suitable for novice drivers & navigators to travel through in unmodified road cars & learn how to rally. An Introductory event like this is great for newcomers to the sport, having less of the pressures than bigger state level rallies.

Navigators will need to use local maps & charts to find the correct route & drivers will need to follow instructions carefully with good car control to make sure they make it through the course in a target time not to incur penalties. The Novice Crew (driver & navigator) with the least penalties will be determined the winner at the end of the night.

Around 15-35 crews are expected to be entering the event in a variety of vehicles. While most are expected to be novice competitors in standard cars there will be a few veteran drivers coming out to test their vehicles & get some practice before this year's ultimate event, the Alpine Rally.

For the past 9 months the Melton Motor Sports Club have been spending time in the area surveying roads, selecting venues & mapping the competitive course, which covers 90km of local gravel roads. The club has been working with the forest authority, DELWP, to prevent undue road damage, & operational mandates from motorsport administrators, CAMS, will ensure the event is run safely with adequate access controls to competition section.

The general public are encouraged to pop by the event HQ at Bullarto Hall to get a spectator guide on the day. Entries closed at the end of September but those more familiar with rallies are welcome to come & assist with access controls & road closures. Contact event director Simon Pilepich (mob:0433 653 753) or check out the clubs, Facebook page for more information.



Let's fight for our carnival: see editorial comment p2 & Blackwood Progress update p8.

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**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...

St Georges Church in Trentham  
**TRENTHAM COTTAGE GARDEN FLOWER SHOW**  
Saturday, October 31st 2015



**TRENTHAM COTTAGE GARDEN FLOWER SHOW**

Entry forms will be accepted between 8th and the 22nd of October at the Neighbourhood Centre in Trentham. Entry into all categories is free and entry forms are available in businesses all around town, in the Neighbourhood Centre, the Blackwood Post Office and Tylden Store.

Lovely prizes to be won in all Junior and Adult sections with a special prize being given for the Best Exhibit in the Show.

Admission to the Show on the days: Family \$10 [2 adults & chn] Teens – a donation Single adult- \$10. Devonshire tea included. All proceeds to Trentham St Georges Church restoration.

Enquiries : Anne Walker – 5424 1309 or Fay Speer - 54241 044

**GRANTS FOR SPORTS CLUBS**

Local MP, Mary-Anne Thomas, is encouraging community sports clubs across Macedon to apply for funding to improve their facilities. Grants for the Community Sport & Infrastructure Fund are now open & are an opportunity for clubs to update rundown facilities & infrastructure.

"Community sport is at the heart of our regional communities & Labor is investing in the facilities of grass roots clubs so local sport can continue to grow & thrive. Importantly, the fund includes \$10 million to develop female friendly facilities so that clubs can build or upgrade women's change rooms. Women are joining community sports clubs in record numbers however women's change rooms are often rundown or non-existent," Ms Thomas said.

"Appropriate facilities & change rooms are critical to support women's participation in local sport & these grants represent a great opportunity to enhance women's facilities". AFL Goldfields Netball Manager, Kim Bailey said.

The Community Sport & Infrastructure Fund also provides grants for up to \$100,000 for cricket facilities, up to \$3 million for local pools, up to \$650,000 for major facilities & \$100,000 for minor facilities upgrades. Local councils will need to apply for the grants but sporting clubs & community organisations can seek support for their project through council by submitting an Expression of Interest.

Ms Thomas added, "Local sports clubs deserve modern, safe facilities. The Labor Government promised them, & is getting on with delivering them."

For information & forms visit [www.sport.vic.gov.au](http://www.sport.vic.gov.au)

## A few extra ingredients in our winning formula: Ballan Autumn Festival 2016

20 March 2016: the date is set! Throw in some new committee members, an exciting new digital marketing strategy & what do you get? The makings of next year's Ballan Autumn Festival.

The planning for the hugely successful Ballan Autumn Festival is well underway, guided by Committee's new President Kevin Harper. Kevin, who was Secretary for BAF 2015, was elected unopposed to the post of President during the committees recent AGM.

Kevin stated "I'm excited to take up the position of President & hope to provide guidance to this new & energetic committee: an amalgam typical of Ballan where young bloods work closely with old-hands."

The Ballan Autumn Festival remains the single event in the shire that is able to attract a large number of locals & visitors to Ballan. In 2015 attendance was over 8,000 with plans to boost this number by increasing the attractiveness of the festival to Melbourne Visitors.

Marketing Manager, & Committee Secretary, Matthew Grindrod said the key to the success of the festival is attracting new visitors from both inside & outside the shire.

"We want to put Ballan on the map. Our fellow community organisations, such as the Ballan Farmers Market, have made great progress & we too want Ballan to be famous for its Autumn Festival."

"Our new digital marketing strategy & website will play a key role in reaching new audiences & indeed additional funding sources that is needed to grow & enhance the appeal of the festival."

And while the committee wouldn't reveal any details about this year's theme just yet, they encourage you to sign up for email updates to be the first to get festival updates & advanced notification of stall openings.

"Many residents have commented about how good last year's festival & parade was. We're going to continue this momentum, aided by our rejuvenated committee all focused on bringing you an Autumn Festival to be proud of." Kevin Harper added.

Details of the new website for both the festival & association will be available soon. If you would like to contact the committee, please email [association@ballan.org.au](mailto:association@ballan.org.au) or visit our Facebook page - [facebook.com/BallanAutumnFestival](https://facebook.com/BallanAutumnFestival).

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### Renewable Energy: Is it Still Economically Viable ?



Energy costs are rising ... & people are feeling the pain.

Many people who have considered Renewable Energy, such as Solar Power, for their home or business are aware that Government Incentives, such as Rebates & Feed-in Tariffs, have been cut back significantly & are likely to be cut back further, possible very soon.

People want to make sustainable choices but rightly have to ask themselves "Is renewable energy still economically viable & can it protect me from the rising cost of energy?"

In one word "Yes". But the design of solar power, wind power & solar hot water systems needs to more carefully match the generation to the users demand for energy at the time that it occurs at different times of the day, days of the weeks & weeks of the year. And it needs to be combined with an overall assessment of energy use on-site & energy-efficiency measures to reduce energy demand such as insulation, double-glazing, LED Lighting & reverse-cycle airconditioners. It also needs to consider how storing energy from intermittent sources (sun, wind) can be done economically now & how to prepare for the coming widespread uptake of energy storage as battery costs come down over the next 5 years.

In this series of articles, I want to explore ways that renewable energy can stack up economically for homes & businesses, looking at specific technologies in turn. But first I want to take a step back & place renewable energy generation "behind the meter" on-site at homes & businesses in the context of the wider energy market & I want to start with a statement that might surprise some people. Unless ways are found by the fossil fuel industry to reduce the cost of producing their polluting product, renewables will be seen as the economic choice for homes & most small to medium businesses within a decade. People will be asking "Are fossil fuels & centralized generation still economically viable?" & this will disrupt the current business model of centralized generators & distributors to such a degree that utility companies may seek to abandon whole sections of the mains electricity grid, forcing energy consumers to consider standalone off-grid renewable energy.

Not convinced? Consider these facts:

- The price of a Solar Panel fell about 80% of the 5 years from 2008 & 2013 before stabilizing somewhat in 2014
- Tesla Motors in the USA recently opened the long-anticipated "Giga-Factory" to make batteries for Electric Cars - could that be the start of battery prices undergoing the same dramatic 80% fall ?
- Throughout Australia, the price of mains gas is predicted to double (or even triple) as export contracts come into effect & see locally-mined gas exported to countries where the price of gas is 2 to 3 times our price.
- The International Energy Agency says solar will produce 27 per cent of all electricity globally by 2050.
- By 2050, the Fraunhofer Institute in Germany predicts solar will cost as little as 2c per kWh
- Back home in South Australia, on one day in December 2014, Solar Power met 1/3 of the demand for electricity between 11.30am & 3.30pm.

Still not convinced? I look forward to next time when I can have another go at convincing you that centralized generation is in trouble & that you need to consider renewable energy ...

Cheers Simon

Questions? email them [simon@breaze.org.au](mailto:simon@breaze.org.au)



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Enquiries 5424 1127

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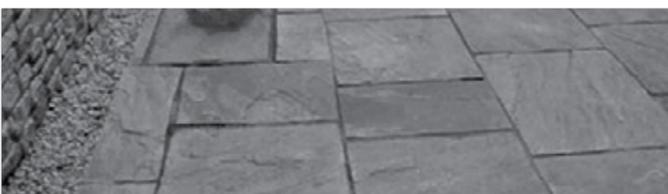
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