

December '15 ~ January '16 vol 7 ~ issue 8:4



LOCALS FIND LOVE IN ANNUAL SANTA HUNT

Clint Stretton proposed to Hollie Barlow after they took a copy of the Blackwood Times on a chopper flight to the top of Mount Tutoko, a New Zealand Mountain Glacier (2723mtrs) in Milford Sound Fiordland World Heritage National Park.

She said yes, then proceeded to bombard her newly betrothed with snowballs.

Meanwhile Santa took the opportunity to quietly slip away ...

Merry Christmas

BLACKWOOD

ANNOUNCEMENT ON WATER PLAN FOR BLACKWOOD DUE ANY DAY NOW ...

keep up-dated at www.theblackwoodtimes.com.au



EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...



At the Community Newspapers Association of Victoria 2015 conference, The Blackwood Times was announced a finalist in the category of "Best Community Content". This category recognises the breadth and depth of community news publishing. The judges look for a publication which understands and reflects its community. For me as editor, this is the award most coveted, as it is the essence of a community paper.

The judges comments were...
"A low-budget newsletter with strong sense of community reflected in the editorial and consistently in every article. Editorial and articles written in very accessible, familiar style. Articles in this 8th anniversary full of community interest and information. Great article on "100 reasons to love Blackwood".

This is a very special award as we had considered discontinuing publication late in 2014. It is due to the support of the Blackwood community, our ever-faithful volunteers, advertisers & wonderful contributors that we are still in print.

So thank-you Blackwood, this recognition is for you!

~ 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
Advertising co-ordinator	Could this be you?
Social Media Manager	or perhaps this?
Co-ordinate contributors	Your name here?
Photographers	Peter Donnelly, Arlene Sachon, Jimmy Olsen
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	do you get around a fair bit?
Typist	Di Hewes
Editing	Di Hewes, Faye Cameron

WILMA (ROBINA) EVANS



Robina Brown's mother passed this week just as we were going to print. We made sure to cover the story as both women have been important to this town. Robina, it is well known, created the Blackwood Newsletter, precursor to this paper.

Her mother, Wilma, along with her husband David & children Robina, Bev, Wendy & Bill, owned & ran the Blackwood General Store in the mid 70's.

Wilma made a point of supplying what was needed: camping supplies, mower blades & other hardware, she pushed for early & regular deliveries of bread, milk & newspapers to the town & pumped petrol out-of-hours for people caught short. She re-opened the Post Office doors if people got back to town a bit late in the day. Nothing was too much trouble for Wilma. Her life was one of devoted service & positivity.

She made a lot of the costumes for the re-enactment events that were held in the main street of Blackwood. David was usually the bushranger, running through the clouds of black powder smoke which hung in the town centre, robbing his own store one more time. For the story of the re-enactments, see Margot Hitchcock's article in the next Blackwood Times. Wilma & David celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary just 2 weeks ago.

Wilma was a conscientious writer, keeping in touch with fellow Blackwoodians over the years: Penny Garnett, Barb Sweet, Grace Hugget. She wrote to her sister & aunt every single day & she wrote to the end.

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	Jan 16	
Regular Contributors, Features & Items of Interest, Community Groups & Clubs	Jan 16	
Display Ad Artwork, Gig & Events Guide		Jan 20
Late breaking News		Jan 20

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

Download our Advertising Rate Card & back issues (in colour) from www.theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au &, while you're there, sign-up to join our eList & follow us <https://www.facebook.com/theblackwoodtimes>

The BLACKWOOD TIMES reserves the right to edit or refuse any article or advertising. The opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the editor.

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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BLACKWOOD TIMES GOES TO ...



Greg Henderson catching up on the local news at the campground at the top of the mountain at the 2015 Bathurst 1000.



Blackwood Times also went back to London to see the "On their own – Britain's Child Migrants" exhibition at the Museum of Childhood in London. You may recall the book "The Forgotten Children: Fairbridge Farm School and Its Betrayal of Britain's Child Migrants to Australia." written by David Hill, former chairman of the ABC. This exhibition is about that migration program. Extremely sad, but also with some uplifting moments.

~ Trischa

A vibrant & lively town, it's everyone's business.

'About 94% of Australian consumers acknowledge that small business plays an important role in the community but many admit to not helping them thrive by failing to spend any money at their local stores' (Ellsworth, S 2013)

There are so many reasons to support all of our local businesses and; there are lots of them. What might support look like? Well, it goes beyond visiting & spending in the businesses that are in our town. Obviously visiting & spending in each is an important part, but engaging, to understand what is on offer and, talking positively about each business offering is just as vital. Sometimes we believe we know a business because someone else has told us about it. Finding out for ourselves may prove far more enriching.

What's in it for you? Well, engaging with business brings benefits for all. Be it increased local employment opportunity, attracting additional government funding for community projects, tourism investment via a demand for services. This leads to strengthened interest in our local community & its property market (which is already happening in Blackwood). According to REIV data \$2.4M worth of property changed hands in Blackwood since early 2015. The opportunity is increased wealth for all. Keen interest & demand from tourism are key drivers for change, potentially expediting infrastructure solutions. Engaging with business is a social experience & good for our wellbeing.

All businesses in our town are vital & complementary of one another. They're not competing, rather, offering a range of unique products & services. Demand for all things, be it property, more tourist attractions, products & services, & natural parks / bushland create positive social chatter about our community. We all have a role to play in stimulating this, creating a positive platform for change. Negativity never made anyone feel better about anything & has never proven to be a successful plan of action for change.

Commercial & community partnerships build a deeper sense of wellbeing for those residing in small towns. You may not be aware that for much of 2015 business owners in Blackwood have been working together (albeit fairly casually) on marketing strategy. The overarching focus has been promoting the community as a destination. This has led to some positive business partnerships, with regard to advertising, marketing artefacts & guest retailing. The commercial goal is to increase tourism on a more general platform, specifically outside of current peak times.

Blackwood's small enterprises thrive because of tourism & tourism specifically, thereby providing choice of products & services for local residents to enjoy. Business facilitates a town's sense of identity but also provides convenience for local consumers. Don't be afraid of connecting with new businesses & browsing their offering. You might just find a place, space, atmosphere or service you rather like & wish to share with others. When we consider that 'almost 3/5 of small business owners nationally, admit to feeling forgotten by their local communities' (Ellsworth, S 2013); we have an opportunity in Blackwood to stand out from the crowd, to revisit our local offering & spend more time, energy & dollars on our very own doorstep. We are lucky to have so much commercial talent in our community, considering our tiny town status. When we consider the Regional Institute's research, which declares 'success depends on passion & creativity otherwise small towns decline'. It provides a space to imagine Blackwood with no businesses, no tourism & no positive image...

~ Simon Daniel, The Blackwood Merchant



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



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• BLACKWOOD SOCIAL ALBUM OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2015 •



When it came to Oaks Day in Blackwood, the girls just wanna have fun, fun! Helen, Deidre & Julie ABOVE: before TOP RIGHT: after



locals party on at the Blackwood Music & Culture Festival



3 triple Wombat DJ Rachael se p15



Bruce & Bruce at Dougie's Melbourne Cup Bash & TOP LEFT next page: Lou at his own Melbourne Cup bash at the Blackwood Pub

• BLACKWOOD SOCIAL ALBUM OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2015 •



TOP RIGHT: Karen is a winner at Drag Bingo;

BOTTOM LEFT: Whisper is Enchanted by an ex-Les Girl .

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Merry Christmas



WOOHOO, THE SHOW GOES ON!

The 2016 Blackwood Woodchop & Easter Carnival is going ahead! Many of the volunteers from the Progress Association felt that it was time for them to take a well-deserved break next year & there had been talk that the event was not going to happen, but luckily this is not the case. A new wave of volunteers have put up their hands to provide some energy, planning & creative ideas as part of the new Progress Association "sub-committee" that is dedicated to the event.

The Woodchop & Easter Carnival has had a long history in Blackwood, over 120 years, & is much-loved by the community. The sub-committee is interested in reinvigorating the traditions of the carnival & is looking to promote a "country fair" atmosphere. The carnival will provide something enjoyable for all members of the community, young & old. Visitors to the event will also get to experience the relaxed & welcoming attitude of our township for the day. This event also affords the chance for various community groups to do some fundraising on the day, benefitting many.

The Woodchop competition is the focal point of the day & the standard of these athletes will be as impressive as years gone by. The Parade will start from Whalebone Road & make its way through Martin Street & down to the Recreation Reserve with its usual frivolity & fanfare. Have you started to plan your costume & float?

The bar will be open throughout the day & there will be a variety of food available. Those looking to pick up some handmade items, local crafts or trash & treasure will be able to browse the market stalls.

SEEKING EASTER ROYALS



Nominations are invited for the prestigious title of 2016 Easter Carnival Queen & King. All that's required is a past or current connection to Blackwood & a sense of humour. Nominate yourself or someone else (but please check with the person first). Entries can be lodged in boxes provided at the Post Office & the pub. We need the name of the person being nominated & a contact telephone number/email address for them.

Names will go into a hat (one only per person nominated) & winners will be drawn early March, with a crowning ceremony to be held at a date TBA.

Duties include taking a prominent position in the Easter parade, judging the Pet show, & probably one or two other minor things yet to be thought of.

And the benefits?

1. FAME!!! Lord it over friends, neighbours & the common people of Blackwood,

2. The following prizes, for each Royal personage:

- \$50 dining voucher (thanks to the Blackwood pub)
- \$25 Gardening voucher (thanks to Blackwood Ridge Nursery & cafe)
- 1 Scenar Wellbeing/Relaxation Treatment (thanks to Brenda Hunter)
- 4 bottle cider variety pack (thanks to Daylesford Cider Co)
- A double movie pass (thanks to Daylesford Cinema)
- 1 copy of "The Australian Fruit & Vegetable Garden book" (thanks to The Garden of St Erth)
- 6 bottle craft beer variety pack (thanks to Holgate Brewhouse, Woodend)
- \$50 dining voucher (thanks to The Plough, Trentham)
- Yummy chocolate (thanks to Sweet Decadence, Daylesford)

So come on Blackwoodians get your nominations in & help make this a Carnival to remember. We want lots of entries, otherwise Naten & Carlson will have to start twisting arms.

Thank you to all the sponsors for their generosity & immediate enthusiasm for supporting this event.

~ enquiries: sue@red.com.au

Children will be spoilt for choice with face painting, a jumping castle, Manny the Clown & many kids' games & races. There will also be the Bucking Bull & inflatable Sumo Wrestling for the big kids too, as well as a gold mining display by the Blackwood Historical Society.

Our local animal residents will get the opportunity to strut their stuff in the Pet Show. All creatures big & small are welcome. Next year will also introduce a prestigious royal title to the event, a King & Queen for the day. More info on how one can be crowned will soon be available.

Our sponsorship drive is about to start & we're excited to involve our local businesses in the event. There are some great benefits for businesses that contribute & any sponsorship that is received, big or small, is hugely appreciated. If you would like to know more about sponsorship options, please contact Carlson on carlson3011@gmail.com.

Are you interested in helping at the event as a volunteer? Volunteer shifts for as little as 1 - 2 hours are available & are crucial to the event success. If you would like to help out & have some fun, the sub-committee would love to hear from you. There will be a "Suggestions & Donations" box placed at the Post Office soon for you to share your ideas (& spare change)! If anyone would like information on the event, feel free to contact Dianne 5368 6795 or Judith 5368 6697.

MOBILE & NBN IS ON ITS WAY TO BLACKWOOD



Giant auger breaks the ground behind the Blackwood Cemetery for the first tower under the National Blackspot Project, in time for the coming fire season.



Our town mascot, Wombie, shows his true colours after the 2015 Grand Final

PAGE 7: Blackwood CFA burn-off around the hall & town centre in preparation for a challenging fire season.



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• BLACKWOOD MUSIC FESTIVAL 2015 •



THE NEXT PAGES: 8, 9, 10 & 11

Fun & games at the 2015 Blackwood Festival of Music & Culture ... with thanks to our fabulous photographers: Arlene Sachon, Peter Donnelly, Brendan Hehir & Jimmy Coyle

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• BLACKWOOD MUSIC FESTIVAL 2015 •





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)
Sep '15	*54	102.4	-4.6	23.9	14.4	2.9	8.3
Oct '15	*9.8	93.4	-2.2	31.4	24.1	5.2	13.9

***NOTE: RAINFALL** recorded at Trentham which is normally slightly higher than Blackwood.

THE TOTAL rainfall is 64% of the long term average for Trentham up to the end of October as recorded by the bureau of meteorology and my recording for Blackwood is 70% - in effect, a very dry year so far. October's rainfall was very low.

THE OCTOBER temperatures were very warm, being well above those experienced in previous years.

THE BUREAU of Meteorology (BoM) is still 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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FUN AT NO COST! NOT EXACTLY!

~ by Ewan Cameron

Sitting on my front porch here at Blackwood, I was enjoying the many birdcalls echoing around the garden & the nearby forest. I knew them all because as a child I had lived in Daylesford where I spent many hours wandering the bush along the creeks. I enjoyed hours & hours of uninterrupted freedom with few limitations or cost. That set me wondering about how much fun today's kids would have in the bush because they tend to have restrictions & more passive interests than we did over fifty years ago.



Concerns for our welfare remained mostly in our mothers' minds. I was allowed to go just about anywhere but was simply told repeatedly, "Do not go near the mine shafts!" Health & safety regulations barely existed. Games of school footy were played under commando conditions & were simple affairs. They were played on a hard level surface known as the "Grade Six Flat" spread with screenings that could be said to resemble razor wire. Spills & collisions were commonplace, often resulting in bruises & horrendous scrapes. In the centre of this "field" was an uncovered concrete cricket pitch that always had a thin layer of screenings on top. Kids knocked over on this pitch would usually bellow like a scrub bull at first, but then they'd jam a handkerchief over the bloodied abrasion, tie it on with a granny knot & just get on with it. As neither the school nor most kids could afford a "real" footy jumper, it was just a matter of sleeves up for one team & sleeves down for the other mob to distinguish between the two sides. This resulted in what today's highly educated fans would call "poor decision making" such as flattening a team-mate whose sleeves had unrolled because his arms were too skinny. Kids who celebrated superb long-range goals were often deflated when their six-pointer was downgraded to one point added to the opposition score because they had kicked the wrong way. Occasionally one little traitor might sneakily swap sides & play with the opposition if his original mob were getting a flogging. Anyway, it was already a fairly casual affair because we didn't even have goal posts. Instead, spare coats & jumpers were spaced on the ground with the odd rubbish bin making up the shortfall. We were prepared to risk all for the

simple joy of getting a kick.

In the summertime, cricket was the go and, like football, we were starved for suitable equipment that would safeguard our welfare. Six stumps (no bales) & a worn-out cricket ball, with or without its leather casing, was provided. Batsmen going out to face the demon bowler mostly wore only the one pad instead of two. This was because it took too long for a new batsman to put on pads that often had straps or buckles missing. Protective thigh pads & helmets were non-existent. As for batting gloves, well, they were an absolute luxury. Cricketers would understand that a batsman puts his front foot down the wicket as the bowler lets fly. Therefore that leg had the shin or knee most likely to be struck a bruising blow & this one needed to wear the pad. The bare back leg was less likely to be struck. One good whack on the unprotected back leg was sufficient for a batsman to surrender his wicket shortly afterwards. Of course, fast bowlers were especially efficient at homing in on the back leg. Therefore, the batsman didn't mind being given out L.B.W. as he was more than happy to escape further nasty lumps dished out by the faster bowlers. Bruised boys would still front up for the next game as they couldn't bear to miss out on a turn to hold a real bat.

On the subject of receiving belts & bruises, the school strap reigned supreme & we all at some time or another received our due share. Once, after a riotous pine cone fight in which a couple of boys sustained minor head injuries, all sixty of us stood in a long queue that stretched from the Principal's office around the corner, out the door & into the playground. To see that justice was administered fairly to all, every boy received what was termed "the cuts", otherwise known as "six of the best". I was third last in line & when it came to my turn the poor principal could hardly raise his right arm. Just think of it! That means he managed 360 forceful rolls of the arm in about an hour. I was lucky as I could see that by the time he got to me, his heart wasn't in it. Imagine Mitchell Johnson sending down that many deliveries, minus "no-balls" & "run-ups", at the same rate!

Well, sometimes you do have to pay for your fun. The principal sure did. I bet he slept soundly that night!

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

DECEMBER 2015

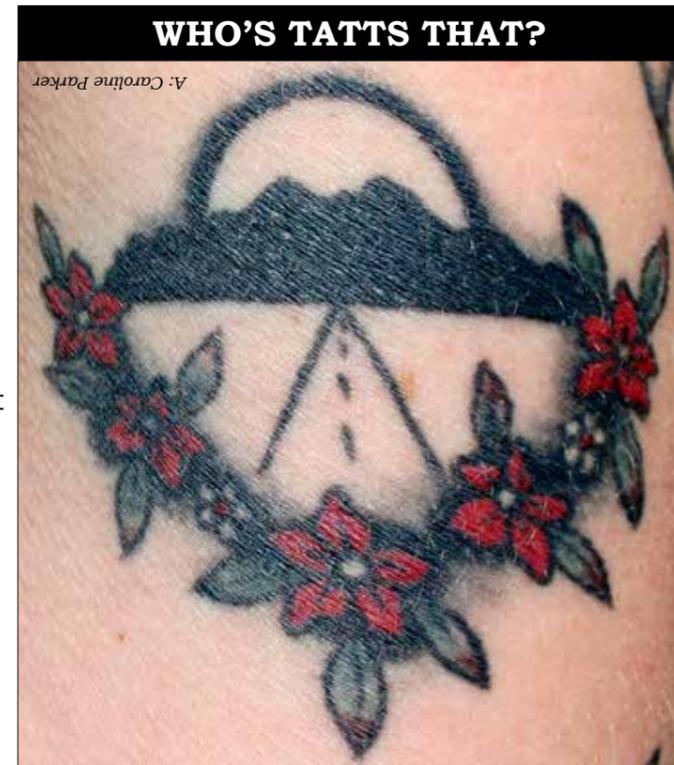
when	what	where
Fri 4	Memphis Joe	Perfect Drop
Sat 5	Cartwheels	Perfect Drop
Sat 5	Eaten By Dogs	Blackwood Hotel
Sun 6	Cam Burnside	Cosmo
Sun 6: 1-4pm	B/wood Community Bush Radio *	Prayer Hill
Fri 11	Paige Duggan	Perfect Drop
Sat 12	DJ Carlson	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 12	Jazzdeuce	Perfect Drop
Sun 13	Phil and Trudy Edgely	Cosmo
Fri 18	Richard McKFunk	Perfect Drop
Sat 19	Shaw and Wilkinson	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 19	Jennie Brown	Perfect Drop
Sun 20	Liz Frencham	Cosmo
Sat 26	Michael Sunjack	Perfect Drop
Sun 27: lunch	Paige Spears	Blackwood Hotel
Sun 27	Andy Vogel & Tony English	Cosmo

JANUARY 2016

when	what	where
Fri 1	Bianca Berto	Perfect Drop
Sat 2	Cartwheels	Perfect Drop
Fri 8	Family Farm Band	Perfect Drop
Sat 9	Tanya Petrini & Vida Jazz	Perfect Drop
Sun 10: lunch	Paige Spears	Blackwood Hotel
Sun 10	Phil & Trudy Edgely	Cosmo
Fri 15	Cat & Clint *	Perfect Drop
Sun 10: 1-4pm	B/wood Community Bush Radio *	Prayer Hill
Sat 16	Jennie Brown & Bruce Millar	Perfect Drop
Sun 17: lunch	Harry J Nanos	Blackwood Hotel
Sun 17	Cat & Clint *	Cosmo
Fri 22	Michael Sunjack	Perfect Drop
Sat 23	Bosky Nova	Perfect Drop
Sun 24: lunch	Paige Spears	Blackwood Hotel
Fri 29	Buck Jr AKA Nico Ellerbie	Perfect Drop
Sat 30	Chris Harold & Loveland	Perfect Drop
Sun 31: lunch	Shaw & Wilkinson	Blackwood Hotel

* Blackwoodian locals

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



Flat, straight & forever, the Nullabor drew them West. From the back seat the girl's eyes drilled into her father's skull. "I hate you! And as soon as I'm old enough, I'm moving back to Victoria."

The Triffids sang 'Wide Open Road' as she eventually made that journey back. The radio was cranking but the aircon had died in the 46° heat. She took the scenic route, hugging the coast wherever she could; Albany, Esperance, Eucla, Port Augusta, Robe then into Victoria. She was nabbed in Ceduna for speeding (everyone is) but the cop, not wanting to spoil the story, let her go, wished her well for her future.



OUR CERT TEAM TRAINS ON



TOP: Our CERT team, training in Oct at Ambulance Victoria, Ballan: L - R Ivan Johnson, Caroline Parker, Deirdre Cronin, Murray Middleton(trainer), Sandra Schmidt, Kathie Strmota, Johnny Kesselschmidt, Kathy Berrill. Front: Margaret McCarthy & **NEW Team member** Marie-Clair Blin.

Absent: Tim Marsh & Leonie Brasier. LEFT: our trainer Murray Middleton with Kathy Berrill giving the new Defib Machine a workout. (yes, a NEW DEFIB!)



COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

Blackwood All Saint's Anglican Church

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

~ Nina Harbison

Blackwood CEMP (Community Emergency Management Plan)

CEMP are regularly meeting & currently working on a draft for a published plan as well as a visitors' brochure.

~ Brendan Hehir

Blackwood CERT

This month we have had some calls for assistance in our community, including a recent nasty vehicle accident, which could have been avoided. This included an airlift to a Melbourne Hospital.



photo Margaret McCarthy

With the school holidays, & Christmas season approaching, we all need to take extra care around the streets, & driving on the roads. Especially with more children & animals on the streets.

If you do require medical assistance, ring 000 first, & hopefully there is a team of us on call to get to you ASAP.

On behalf of the CERT Team, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas & a happy & safe New Year.

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

~ Sandy Schmidt, CERT

Blackwood CFA

October was the Garden of St Erth festival where we supplied assistance with the car parking during this popular event, which was also during the Lancefield fires & we were called upon to supply crews overnight for that same weekend.

Crews have been busy with a number calls to smoke sightings in the Lerderderg Forest as a result of lightning strikes & a car accident in Dales Creek.

As we have had below-average rainfall over winter & spring. The forest areas are very dry & we ask that people take extra care out in the bush, so please be alert & aware.

Please note that the brigade is obliged to inform Police about any illegal burn-offs.

We will be starting a program called Adopt a Fire Hydrant, we ask all residents to check for fire plugs in their immediate area & keep them mowed so we can easily locate them, if you need further assistance feel free to come up to the station as we are there each Sunday from 9:30 am to around 12.

We have a Bushfire Preparation workshop coming up on December the 17th & will be posting details on notice boards & the website which is currently being reworked at http://www.blackwoodcfa.com. We are also looking at a Facebook page for the brigade. Take it safely over the summer months.

Blackwood Cemetery Trust

There is nothing to report on the Cemetery Trust.

Blackwood CRCM

Caravan Park: Brad or Jenny 5368 6539
Blackwood Hall: Elizabeth Hall 5368 6537

Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare

no report this issue

~ Shane Scanlan

Blackwood Historical Society

The Blackwood & District Historical Society's last committee meeting for the year will be held in the upper rotunda at the Mineral Springs at 10.30am followed by a BBQ. New members welcome. The Historical Museum was open on the Sunday of the November Cup weekend with a disappointing attendance despite notices around the town. The next Committee meeting will be held in February 2016 with no meeting in January. For further details contact the Secretary - Elizabeth Hall on 53686 537.

For anyone interested in further reading, the website is www.blackwoodpublishing.com where there are many interesting historical facts & characters of Blackwood to read about.

~ Margot Hitchcock

Blackwood Progress Association

for news about the 2016 Easter Carnival see page 6

~ Genevieve Hall

Macedon Ranges Uniting Church P/ship

Kyneton Uniting Church

Sun Dec 20 @ 9am Eucharist Service (Rev. Judy Rigby)
Thur Dec 24 @ 7pm Christmas Eve Service (Rev. Wendy Elson)
Sun Dec 27 @ 9am Service (Rev. Robert Renton)

Tylden Uniting Church

Sun Dec 20 @ 9am Service (Mrs. Janet Cole)
Thur Dec 24 @ 7:30pm Carols & Play Christmas Eve Service
Friday Dec 25 @ 9am Service (Dr. Alison Killoh)
Sun December 27 @ 9am Service (Mrs. Bronwyn Hewitt)

Blackwood Senior Citizens

Here we are again, almost Christmas! We have had a busy couple of months. Blackwood Senior Citizens enjoyed a trip down to Melbourne Star to see the city lights by night, & on November 7 went to the Melbourne Zoo - lucky we all got out! Celebrated Betty De Wyss' 95th birthday, & another of our members Jackie Wetzer is having a back operation - good luck Jackie. We will be breaking up for a short while from Wednesday December 16th & resuming the Club on January 13, 2016. On behalf of Blackwood Senior Citizens, wishing you all a happy & safe holiday season.

~ 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. We'd love to hear from you.

• FREE TO A GOOD HOME •

New with Tags. Black and Pink Silk MARK JACOBS evening Frew frew dress Size Large. Email jane.howat@gmail.com for a photo

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Blackwood CRICKET CLUB

The Blackwood Cricket Club would like to start by wishing all of its supporters & the Blackwood community & its players & committee a very Merry Christmas & hope you all have a safe start to the New Year.

Our season is going extremely well, we are currently UNDEFEATED!! with wins against Romsey, Sunbury United, Woodend & Riddell's Creek.

Our first win of the season was against Romsey and we won by 57 runs. Top scorers included Wayne Robinson (55) & Andy Thomas (32) with the best bowling figures coming from the Whitehouse family, Luke 2/13 & Ben 2/27.

In our first game at home against Sunbury we won by 5 wickets, with Wayne Robinson top scoring again with 41 runs. And talk about sharing the wickets around with the bowling; Luke Whitehouse 3/20, Alan Salmon 3/23 & Nick Whan 3/25.

The 1st of the two days was also played at home with a win against Woodend by 21 runs. Andy Thomas (50) top scored with the bat, & again all of our bowlers contributed: Steve Condon 3/19, Ben Whitehouse 3/41 & Alan Salmon 2/27

Another 2 day game away at Riddell's saw us win by 18 runs thanks to some great batting by Wayne Robinson (84) & Andy Thomas (61).

Looks like Wayne & Andy are both chasing the batting trophy this year! Also with a brilliant contribution to the bowling attack was Nick Whan with a 5 wicket haul 5/55 & Luke Whitehouse 3/50

Our upcoming events to add to the calendar in 2016: Sponsors Day @ home on Saturday Jan 16 | Pink Stumps Day @ home on Sat Feb 20. More info to follow in the New Year.

Find the fixture & sponsorship form on p24.

~ Jodie Bantz

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Historical Society Meeting 10.30am-12.30pm
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TRUE CRIME IN BLACKWOOD

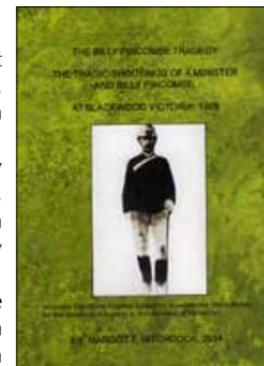
Historian for the Blackwood and District Historical Society, Margot Hitchcock, launched her 3rd self-published book on the history of Blackwood in 2014.

The book 'The Tragedy of Billy Pincombe' is a true story of Murder, Mania and Madness that happened with the tragic shootings of a minister and Billy Pincombe at Blackwood, Victoria.

Family names researched are Pincombe, Morrish & Saunders. (William Torrington Pincombe, Annie May Morrish daughter of William John Morrish & Rachael Gamble, Constable Charles Henry Saunders.

The events that lead to the institutionalization of one person for Religious Mania after she chopped off her right hand, and the 1908 shooting of two people in Blackwood, over 100 years ago. The A5 book has 178 pages with index and 55 photos, and sells for \$16 plus \$2 postage in Australia.

If you are interested in any of her books please contact Margot through www.blackwoodpublishing.com



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RADIO 3 TRIPLE WOMBAT

Blackwood is known for many things; it's gold mining history, good beer at the pub, kangaroo poo on our lawns & killer coffee at the Merchant, but nothing is more quintessentially Blackwood than our long, slow, quiet days in the bush ... quiet, that is, except for one afternoon per month when the bush is rocking with the sounds of Three Triple Wombat, our first ever Blackwood Community Bush Radio!

What is this Bush Radio & why are there so many wombats involved? Blackwood Community Bush Radio is a community project dreamed up over that good beer previously mentioned at our local watering hole.

This town has a happy tradition of local musicians & music-loving residents & Bush Radio is about people getting to gather, have a laugh & enjoy each other's company whilst listening to a diverse range of music.

Once per month we will meet on Prayer Hill next to the Uniting Church from 1-4pm & three DJs will perform their 1 hour set. We have met twice already & have been treated to "DJ Euro-Rasta" (a.k.a Naten) playing reggae & dub, "DJ Screaming Banshee" (a.k.a Simone) playing 60s garage rock 'n' roll & "The Catherine Moser Hour" (a.k.a Cat) playing an hour of diverse female artists; old-time, country, rock & roll & folk. Most DJs have played a selection of LP & 7" records but it is possible to play CDs or directly from a laptop.

Both broadcasts have included special musical guests who performed live on Prayer Hill. This included Clint from Blues Union playing banjo & singing & Brett Marshall from The Mightiest Of Guns playing guitar & singing.

The beauty of Three Triple Wombat is that everyone can get involved, whether you would like to DJ or you'd just like to come along, listen to some great music, have a boogie & enjoy a picnic in the sunshine. It's a free event & great for families, we have been lucky to have lots of kids running around at the last two broadcasts.

How do we broadcast? Through speakers on the day, so you need to be there to enjoy it, & through a recording posted online to our Soundcloud page that you can stream after the event. Find it at www.soundcloud.com/blackwood-bush-radio

The next event is Sunday December 6 & future dates will be posted in the Blackwood Calendar of Events & on local notice boards.

Follow the Christmas Star

You are invited to meet outside St Paul's Anglican Church in Main Road, Romsey, to walk with Mary, Joseph and their donkey as they search for a place to stop for the night.

Where will they go? Who will they meet on the way?
What will we discover at the end of the road?

We will be looking for a stable with live animals where we can sing Christmas Carols, see a real new baby, and share some refreshments together.

Parents and children please join us.



Time: Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd December at 7:30pm (come to either night)

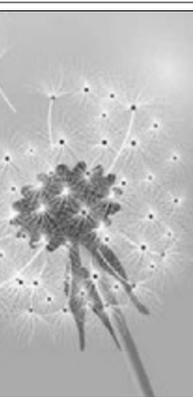
Dress Up: Dress up as wise men, or angels, or shepherds or a person from Bethlehem if you wish. There will be costumes available to borrow (adult as well as child sizes).

A free event in association with the churches of Romsey and Lancefield
Music by the Kyneton Municipal Band
All Welcome

Questions? Contact: Wendy Elson 0400 042 076 or Jay Brooks 5429 6163



Let's start a GARDEN CLUB... Those interested in sharing their knowledge, let's meet Saturday January 16 at 11:00am at the Blackwood Merchant. Prior to then, please call Jane on 5368 6772 to register your interest



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Gisborne Road
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Christmas 2015 Service Times

Messy Church - Sunday 20th December
5.00pm Children's Service, Bacchus Marsh
Christmas Eve - Thursday 24th December
5.00pm Family Service, Bacchus Marsh
8.00pm Myrmiong
8.00pm Balliang
11.30pm Midnight Service, Bacchus Marsh
Christmas Day - Friday 25th December
9.00am Bacchus Marsh
Sunday 27th December
8.30am Bacchus Marsh
10.00am Bacchus Marsh

www.bacchusmarshanglican.org.au
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• AROUND & ABOUT EVENT CALENDAR •

DECEMBER:

Sat 5	8am-2pm	Trentham Whole Town Garage Sale	Trentham
Sat 5	10:30am	Blackwood Historical Society meeting	Blackwood Museum
Sun 6	10am	Cafe Church (Anglican)	BM Grammer
Sun 6	9am	Church Service (all denominations welcome)	All Saint's Anglican
Mon 7	7pm	Christian Meditation	Blackwood House
Sun 13	5:30-8:30	Community Carols	BM Grammer
Sun 13	11am	Wombat Book Club Xmas Brunch	Blackwood Ridge Cafe
20- 21	9am- 5pm	Yaloak Club Polo	Ballan
Thu 24	9pm	Carols	St Malachy's
Thu 24	9pm	Mass	St Malachy's
Fri 25	9am	Church Service (all denominations welcome)	All Saint's Anglican

JANUARY:

Sat 2	10:30am	Blackwood Historical Society meeting	Blackwood Museum
Sun 3	10am	Cafe Church (Anglican)	Bacchus Marsh Grammer
Tue 5	6:50pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Tue 12	6:50pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Sun 17	3-5pm	Wombat Book Club	Blackwood Merchant
Tue 19	6:50pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Tue 26	6:50pm	Meditation	Yogazen

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

HALLOWEEN BLACKWOOD STYLE



TOP: Naten & Bec await their spooky guests (BELOW)

Photos by Dave Palmer (NZ)



• MARKET CALENDAR • MARKET CALENDAR • MARKET CALENDAR •

1st SATURDAY	1st SUNDAY	2nd SATURDAY	2nd SUNDAY	3rd SATURDAY	3rd SUNDAY	4th SATURDAY	4th SUNDAY
BALLAN MARKET 8am-1pm Inglis St	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station	KYNETON FARMERS 8am-1pm St Pauls Park	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station	CRESWICK COMMUNITY 9am-1pm Victoria St	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station	BREAKFAST BAZAAR from 9am Hepburn Springs	DAYLESFORD MARKET 8am-4pm Railway Station
DAYLESFORD FARMERS 9am-1pm D'ford PS	CASTLEMAINE ARTIST MARKET 10am-3pm (not Jan) Theatre Royal	BALLAN FARMERS 9am-1pm Mill Cottage	MALMSBURY VILLAGE MARKET 9am-3pm (Sept-May) Gardens	RIDDELLS CREEK FARMERS 9am-3pm (not Dec) PS	TALBOT FARMERS 9am-1pm Scandinavian Cres	LANCEFIELD & DIST FARMERS MARKET 9am-1pm High St	LANCEFIELD/ROMSEY LIONS 8am-2.30pm (not Jan, Jun, Jul) Main St
DAYLESFORD MAKERS 10am-3pm Town Hall	CASTLEMAINE FARMERS 9am-1pm Mostlyn St			DARLEY MARKET 8am-1pm Gisborne/Grey St Darley	WOODEND 9am-3pm High St	BALLARAT LAKESIDE 9-1pm	TRENTHAM SUNDAY MARKET 9am-2pm Victoria St
TRENTHAM INDOOR 9.30am-1.30 TNH Centre	GISBORNE OLDE TIME MARKET 9am-2pm Hamilton & Aitken			TRENTHAM FARMERS 9am-1pm Town Square			
DARLEY MARKET 8am-1pm Gisborne/Grey St Darley	GISBORNE ALL SEASONS 9am-3pm Brantome St			TRENTHAM MAKERS 9am-1.30pm Cosmo			

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

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the BLACKWOOD merchant

What people said about us in 2015

"Gee, you'd pay a fortune to eat at a place like this in the city..."

(Fred, 2015)

"Where's the Pub?" (Tourist, 2015)

"This is just what Blackwood Needed" (Sarah, 2015)

"What a great space for gathering" (Nick, 2015)

"Can I have a half strength double shot Latte"

(Embarrassed Tourist, 2015)

"The place looks great, really open and uncluttered"

(Jimmy, 2015)

"We love you guys" (Linda, 2015)

"Best Coffee and Wine list Blackwood has ever had"

(Caroline, 2015)

"Got any normal sausage rolls? (One time tourism visitor, 2015)

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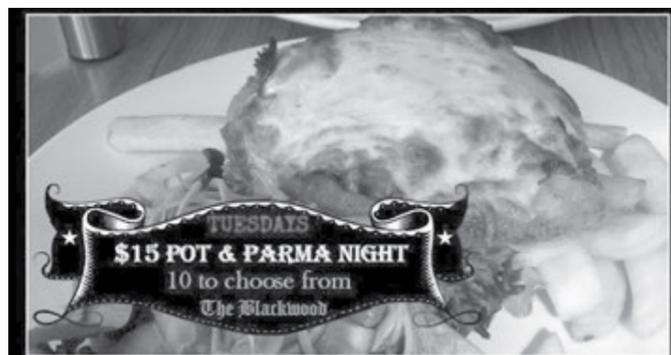
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6 STEPS TO A NEW YOU:



Purposeful Change – Release the Past & Move Forward

by Kathie Strmota

In creating purposeful change, step 3 defines the desired change & step 4 plans how to make that happen. Now it's time to leave the past behind you (step 5) & begin moving forward (step 6), following the route of goals you planned.

These last two steps usually occur side-by-side. As you move towards your intended outcome, you also need to leave behind you any qualities or factors which contradict that future outcome (or keep you stuck in the old situation). All change involves the release of one state so that a new state can take its place, whether you're replacing a broken fridge with a new one, or releasing the belief that you 'can't do something' with the belief that you 'can do it'. Regardless of the change you wish to make, there will always be something you need to let go of before you can accept the new situation into your life.

To become a more generous person, you may need to release fears about not having enough. To be happily married, you'll need to let go of your single-person identity. To create a veggie patch, you may need to give up a section of lawn. To improve your self-esteem, you'll need to identify & release self-diminishing attitudes. To start a business, you may need to let go of the holiday you've been saving for, so you can happily invest that money in a new cause.

• POP THE FIZZ •



Karlee Sweet & Marcus Litchfield married at Branell Homestead in Laidley, Queensland in October. Tamsyn Sweet was their flower girl. It was a small wedding, with just family attending, followed by a reception at home. A beautiful day was had by all who attended.

Karlee is the daughter of Phillip & Heather Sweet (nee Stewart) who both grew up in Blackwood (granddaughter of Barb & Wally Sweet).

Marcus is the son of Helen & Ian Litchfield. Phillip & Heather both went to Ballan PS, then went their separate ways during high school. They met back up when they moved back to Blackwood & they never looked back.

When you change, you move from one place to another. Many aspects of your current life will align with the 'new you' & will stay with you through the change. But some aspects will contradict the 'new you' & cannot come along. If you don't let them go, they'll keep pulling you back into the old place & prevent you from successfully making the change you desire.

If you've put your intentions & plans into action, & somehow find yourself back where you started, the first question to ask is 'what is anchoring me here?' Try to understand what inner or outer dynamics are keeping you tied to the situation you're trying to change. If you can find these anchors, do what you can to release them so you can move forward easily towards your destination.

As you reflect on potential obstacles (in step 4), you may identify some of these factors & make certain 'completion & letting go' activities a part of your goal plan. Often, however, it's only as you begin to take action that these holding patterns or attachments can reveal themselves. Regularly reflecting on your situation, & your thoughts & feelings in relation to the change, is usually the only way to identify & move through these blocks without succumbing to their influence.

If these patterns involve emotional-mental states, such as deep resentment over a betrayal which inhibits your goal of 'being kinder to your partner', then you may find it easier to make your changes with the help of a therapist. Quite often, though, if you can actually identify a block or attachment, you can move through it yourself by making a clear & willing choice. Usually, it is the 'not being aware' of what's moving you beneath the surface, that makes you powerless to overcome it. Often, once you see it & understand its impact, you can deal with it. In other words, once you know the 'anchor' exists & you see where it's holding you back, you can cut it free or change its position so that it no longer limits your forward movement.

(for previous steps refer to theblackwoodtimes.com.au)

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Elderflower

~ by Caroline Parker

Spring is well & truly in the air, & you may have noticed that the local hedgerows are absolutely bursting with bushy green growth. Some people may find them a breeding ground of bothersome weeds, but not me, I find them a great place to forage for many beneficial plants that I use in clinic & the kitchen. A few to be found around these parts are Blackberry, Hawthorn, Cleavers, Elder & Thistle.

Elder, Sambucus Nigra, has to be one of my all time favourites. In Spring you'll recognise Elder by its creamy white & yellow whorls of flowers with their heady summery scent. The flowers are harvested in spring & early summer & the berries collected late summer, coming into autumn. Collect flowers when they are just coming into bloom & in the early morning before the sun hits the flowers. When harvesting, leave some flowers so you'll have berries to collect at a later date. *If you are in any doubt of the identification of wild plants, check with a reputable source before picking. Also check the area hasn't been sprayed with herbicide.

Elder is a veritable medicine cabinet, with the leaves, bark, flowers & berries all having medicinal properties or culinary uses. Elderflower infusion & Elderberries have traditionally been used in the treatment of fever, colds, flu & other respiratory conditions. The flowers were also soaked in water & used for skin lotions & tonics. Back in our grandparents' day, Elderflower water was used to clear the complexion of freckles & sunburn. Berries were used by the Romans for hair & fabric dye. An infusion of the fresh, bruised leaves was also used as an insect repellent.

As well as its medicinal qualities, Elderflower can be used at home to make a wide array of culinary delights: Elderflower champagne, cordial, jams, syrups, curds, jellies & even fritters. Here's the recipe I use (adapted from River Cottage) to make a sweet & pungent cordial.

INGREDIENTS:

25 Elderflower heads; finely grated zest of 3 lemons & 1 orange, plus their juice; 1kg Panela sugar; 1 vanilla bean, cut in half

METHOD:

1. Check over the flower heads, removing any insects & the longer green stems.
2. Bring 1.5L of filtered water to the boil pour over the combined flowers & citrus zest. Cover & leave overnight to infuse.
3. Strain the liquid from the flowers through a fine sieve or muslin cloth & pour the liquid into a saucepan.
4. Scrape the seeds from vanilla pod & add them to saucepan along with sugar & citrus juice.
5. Heat gently until all sugar has dissolved
6. Use a funnel to pour into freshly-sterilised bottles - remembering that hot liquid goes into hot bottles. Seal the bottles with sterilised lids, swing tops or cork.
7. Label the bottles with the ingredients & bottling date.

Elderflower cordial can be served with fizzy mineral water for a fresh summer drink: added to your favourite gin & soda for an evening tippie (my favourite!), splashed onto a fresh fruit salad, dilute with water & add fresh herbs such as mint & lemonbalm to make into icy poles to enjoy on super hot days. This cordial makes a great Christmas gift & you'll have friends & family wishing an early Christmas to get their hands on another bottle!

~ Enjoy! Caroline xx

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Hi, Re Karen Bruno and her plans to restore Lerdies - can you please pass on this link to her, which I am pretty sure is Lerdie's before it was altered. It's from State Library. Also tell her it's great what she is doing with the block next door and I wish her well with her venture, as long time Blackwood devotee. Here's the link <http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/pictoria/gid/slv-pic-aab44804>

~ Rgds Ray

Dear Jinny, thanks for the lovely article and passing on the response from one of the readers. I look forward to seeing the photograph.

My reno is coming along nicely and I am up to the fun stage now of picking colours, painting and furniture arranging. Still a bit to do, but at least I can see it happening.

~ Cheers from 'Karen from Lerdies' (my new alias in these parts)

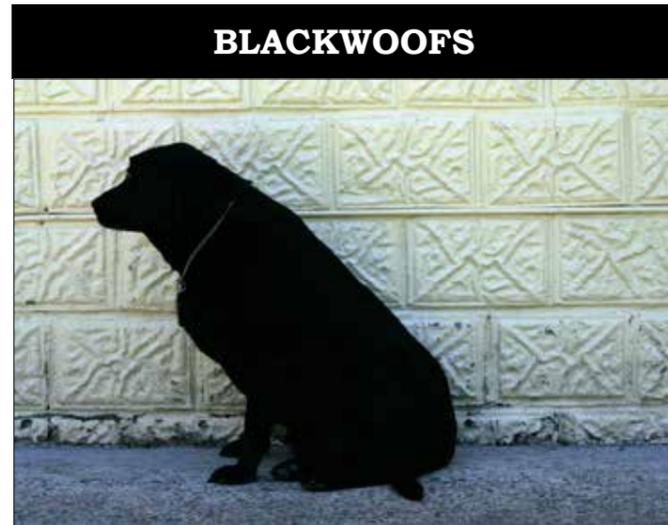
I only erratically read the Blackwood Times, but I think you do a bloody terrific job ... Keep it going, we (largely silent) readers DO appreciate it. Sincerely,

~ Kevin Healey (Son of Mick)



How many locals want to thank Kath for playing courtesy bus driver over the Blackwood Festival of Music & Culture week-end? I would bet many of us!

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BLACKWOOFs

AFTER THE cat was run over, everything was very sad for a very long time, almost for a whole week. Then Mum came home one day with a little puppy in her hands.

"IS IT a boy?" he asked, very excited. 'Why?' "Because he's going to be called Winston."

WELL, AS it turned out, Winnie was a girl, the blackest of black dogs, as Labradors can often be. Winnie was so black that at night she'd completely disappear & had to be given a special collar with a little flashing red light to save people tripping over her.

WE KNOW that Winston Churchill himself was a Poodle man (Rufus & Rufus II) but his most famous pooch by far was the "Black Dog" he often spoke about; the one that would wander into his mind unannounced, uninvited & unwanted & trip him up with dark thoughts for a very long time. I've always imagined it looked something like this girl but I just can't imagine Winnie bringing anything but happiness.

EXCEPT THAT time when she ate the couch.

NOTHING HAPPY about that. A blanket, then blankets, were used to cover the multiplying holes, until one day Winnie decided to kill the couch completely. Then Dad had to turf it.

The Couch 0. The Black Dog 1.

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PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS



Woof: In this month's edition, I would like to confess to a very embarrassing family secret TICKS.

Thankfully I am not the red faced member here but I do tend to have that awesome complexion. My little bro, Alfred the Maltese, who on a recent grooming appointment, was discovered to have countless numbers of these little suckers attached under his long locks! A panic phone call was made to my mum, who has a very keen interest in caring for animals. She advised the understandably upset groomer that we do have ticks in Blackwood & maybe Alfred needs to realise that he is not a bush dog!!

TICKS THE FACTS & THE FALACIES!!

Ticks are small parasites that inhabit mainly scrubby areas in warmer humid months of the year. They feed off the blood supply of any warm-blooded creature, including possums, bandicoots, birds, humans cats & dogs. Ticks require a 'lift', as they can't travel on their own, & can sense when a host is approaching & literally jump onboard. They detach & fall off once they've had a blood feed, which is how they spread from place to place.

There are over 75 different species here in Australia but the 3 most common types are brown tick, bush tick & paralysis tick. The first two can prove carriers for a range of infectious agents, but rarely cause fatalities. But not so with the deadly paralysis tick. Up to 25,000 dogs are affected in Australia each year by the poison of the adult female.

Paralysis ticks inject a toxin as they feed. The toxin is absorbed into the blood & then gradually diffuses into the nervous system, causing progressive paralysis of all muscles, including the chest, larynx or throat muscles & the heart (which is a very important muscle). This causes fluid to accumulate in the lungs.

Signs of Paralysis Tick. Early signs often suggest that your pet may have something stuck in their throat, or legs seem a little wobbly. Other common changes are vomiting, heavy breathing with a grunt & alteration to your pet's vocal sounds. While signs vary from patient to patient, the usual course is a progressive paralysis with loss of balance. Animals start showing signs of anxiety as the respiratory system is struggling to cope with muscle paralysis & fluid retention.

Treatment is by hospitalisation & multiple therapies including tick antitoxin, sedatives & in some cases, intravenous fluids, antibiotics & oxygen. It can take up to 24hrs to see any improvement & several days to reverse the signs of paralysis. The success rate is higher if tick toxicity is treated at the very first symptoms. Good news is that early successful treatment is now at a respectable 95%, but unfortunately remains costly.

FINDING A TICK!!!

In Victoria bush ticks & brown ticks are common & harmless. These ticks do tend to be brown or red in colour & come in lots of different sizes. However we do have a tick in the Blackwood & Daylesford area that does look very similar in colour to the paralysis tick. A paralysis tick tends to look greyish or light blue in colour. However, once removed, the shape of the mouth & where the legs are located are the key features & this will often need to be identified by a vet. Paralysis ticks are most commonly found along the east coast from Nth Vic to Nth Qld.

Bush & brown ticks can be removed using tweezers close to the skin or tick remover. If in doubt of a paralysis tick after a recent family holiday, always contact a veterinarian. After removing a tick & even if your pet is not showing any signs it can still take 48-72 hours to show signs of toxicity.

Prevention of Ticks: As with most diseases, prevention is better than treatment. Checking your animal on a daily basis, keeping dogs groomed & long hair maintained. Ticks can often be found around the head, neck, chest & armpits but they can attach anywhere on the body. Preventative care includes oral treatment, tick collars or spot-on treatments to prevent tick attachment.

I still haven't managed to keep Alfred house-bound but at least he is now tick-free & going bush!!

Woof for now, Seamus

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Dear Pet Guru,

My pet Tasmanian Devil has the sweetest temperament and loves a cuddle. Do you think I could have the species' name changed to 'Tasmanian Angel'?

Signed,
Animal lover



Dear Animal Lover, I think that is an excellent idea. Good luck to you.

Pet Guru



MATES TO THE VERY END!



Each evening they were there, 2 great butts holding up that corner of the bar. Jack with his genial "Good Evening" & Allan, usually mid-argument, "... but the Point Is!"

So much has been said about these mates: how they gave to this town, how they had each other's backs, how they squabbled & made up, how they saw each other out of this world, sharing a hospital room for their very last days.

This page covers just a few of the conversations; if you'd like to add your own memories of these 2 fine gents, join the conversation at <https://www.facebook.com/theblackwoodtimes>

Jack & Allan, stalwarts of the pub's Social Club, were on a club car rally. Noel remembers that they were in Cliffy's ute, Jack navigating. They were driving up & down a road, looking for a 'house adorned with 5 arches, for sale' to check off their list. After half an hour, Allan lost it & grabbed the checklist to see for himself. "5 acres, you idiot, 5 acres!" [Noel]

Another time, Jack was part of a Blackwood convoy hunting for firewood out past Blakeville. At the end of the day, Ross needed to get back in time to manage the bar. Unfortunately he was following Jack, who turned left rather than right, & into the wilds of the Wombat Forest's west. They found their way back much later. Ross was ropable & Jack was officially inducted into the Fukawi Tribe. [Noel]

Allan wired up the whole of the fire station, including climbing the stanchion to connect the siren, back in the 80's. He was one of the crew who saved a house in Hastings Rd., Greendale in (Ash Wednesday season) '83. [George]

The Social Club were on their way to a wine-tasting tour of Rutherglen, with the bus stopping at most towns along the way. Allan & Jack made a beeline to each pub. By the time they got to Rutherglen, they were probably beyond the niceties of wine appreciation, but Jack was a bit excited & called to Allan an effusive appraisal of each & every tasting. [Noel]

Allan joined us at the SEC in about 1960, maybe a bit earlier, as an apprentice electrical fitter working on metropolitan substations. He became a high-voltage electrical operator. We were rostered on 24/7, out on the road together; we were a close crew. It could be hard work but we skived off occasionally for a drink. It was a quiet day when Al was the main guy on call for the whole of the north of Melbourne & he took the opportunity to go to the footy. He found out later that the bloke looking after the south had done the same. [George]

Allan was short-tempered; he was on call when a storm was causing all sorts of mayhem. The radio air was completely blocked & he lost it & threw the radio out the window. [George]

Jack was famous for his brews: One afternoon I visited Jack & he showed me pages of Xcel sheets, full of his reports on recipes for hundreds of beers, spirits & liqueurs he'd perfected. He got me sampling some (including, at some point, the 98 proof). The next thing I know I'm stripped to the waist, dancing around the evening diners at the pub. I used to jump my back fence into Jack's to go & learn about brewing beer or to sample his latest liqueur. I tore 2 pairs of pants & 1 pair of shorts on that fence, always on the way back. [Carlson]

Who's going to make my Sambucca now? [Darren]

Or my Black Galliano ? [Marcie]

Jack's Blackwood Dew was indistinguishable from Tullamore. [Colin]

Loved his beers. [Noel]

No more Drambuie or Irish Whiskey [Peter]

Blackwood Gold, with the 44 ingredients. Or maybe the Apple Pie Moonshine. [Carlson]

Allan's Wostershire Sauce was famous, but it looks like he's taken the recipe to his grave. It's a big pity. [Colin]

Allan's background was Irish, Viking & Scottish. He was a stubborn man. But when he & Jack had that argument over the old-age pension & the extent of its entitlements, & they refused to talk to each other for a full year, it was Allan who finally went to see Jack & bury the hatchet. He was the older of the friends & did the responsible thing. Since he was older, he was also correct in his understanding of the old-age pension. [Colin]

One night at the Blackwood Pub about 25 years ago, the clever minds of Jack Borg & Clem Budge (then owner of the Royal Mail) came up with idea that Golden Point should secede from Australia, & form its own sovereign state – the Golden Point Province. Jack was immediately elected Governor, & other titles were handed around the bar - Keeper of the Keys, Keeper of the Privy Purse among others. Jack took it further, & had T-shirts printed – they would be collector's items now! Don't think the idea ever went any further than that, but whenever I saw Jack I would address him as Governor, & he would always reply "Good Evening" [Di]

Allan once bought a brand new Zephyr, pulled it to bits & put it back together. [Kenny]

Allan was a Ford man to the backbone. Known in the pub as 6 o'clock Al, he was a Past Players Member of the Richmond Football Club. In the old days, he & Sybil loved to jive. [George]

Allan always had a smile for me. [Jaimie]

Heinz bought a pair of industrial earmuffs for the use of anyone sitting next to Allan & his arguments. [Colin]

The last thing Jack said to me was "Such is Life". I didn't hear Ned's final words, but I heard Jack. [Noel]

Allan's friends smuggled a bottle of the best Bushmills Single Malt whiskey into his hospital room. A little tittle generally helps. [Colin]

BORG, JOHN (JACK) Oct 27, 2015

Died peacefully at Ballarat Base Hospital in the presence of his family, aged 67 years. Loved & loving soulmate of Joy for 45 years, much loved dad of Phillip, loving grandad of James & Jethro, loved stepdad of Kim, Wendy, Wayne, Christopher & their families, loved son of Joseph & Helen Borg of Hadfield, loved brother of Mary, Doris, Magdalene, Lucy, Christopher, Martin & Victor & their families.

John (Jack) Borg was born in Malta on July 29, 1947, & came to Australia at age 14 with his parents & siblings. Jack worked in the fabric industry, then as a traffic controller until he retired. Jack & Joy were married for 30 years, & were a part of each other's lives for 45 years. Although they lived apart for the last 10 years, they were always together as one, & were each other's soulmates.

Their son Phillip was born in 1983, & it was then that Joy & Jack built the house at Blackwood. They were married at the house in 1985.

Jack loved Blackwood. He loved being alone, but also loved being around family & friends. Jack also loved the Blackwood community & his many friends at the Blackwood Hotel, his second home.

Jack passed away at the Ballarat Base Hospital on October 27, 2015. Joy & Phillip would like to thank everyone for their support during this sad time, & also to thank those who donated money for cancer research at Jack's funeral. \$300 was raised in Jack's name.

Allan Walter O'Keefe 12.04.1942 – 03.11.2015

Words are few, thoughts are deep. Memories of you are ours to keep. He was always unselfish, helpful & kind, What beautiful memories he has left behind. Your memory we will always treasure, In our hearts you will stay forever.

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THE HISTORY OF BLACKWOOD: THE SULTAN MINE BARRYS REEF

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



The Sultan Mine is very much a part of the early deep reef mining in Blackwood's history. Barrys Reef became a thriving township in the 1870's with the opening up of mechanised digging to obtain the gold deposited in the quartz reefs found running north & south through Barrys Reef. The first reef was worked by two men called Barry & Bawden. Their claim had a battery on it & the mine was worked by a whip. Several other parties of men were also working in the area such as Candage, Hood, Crook & others.

The chief reefs were Barrys Reef, & Trehella's Reef opened about 2 miles N.W. of Blackwood in 1858. The prospectors of Trehella's Reef were brothers, Benjamin, John, Matthew & Christopher Trehella & Tobias Uren. The success of the Trehella Brothers brought other prospectors to work, & in 1868, Messrs. Harris & Fitzgerald, on the Trehella line further north discovered this reef line which was called 'Eureka' Reef. They worked the claim as a private party & had several crushings yielding 3 ounces to the ton. Messrs. Harris & Fitzgerald sold their claim to the public company called the Sultan Mining Company which consisted of 2,500 shares at £5 each.

The Sultan Mining Company commenced operations in 1869 & they had their first crushing in July. They worked from two shafts, the deepest being about 240ft & for almost 12mths the returns were excellent. They obtained over 3,000oz of gold with ore yielding well over an oz to the ton. The company paid a dividend of £2,500. After these rewarding returns the yields steadily declined to less than half an ounce to the ton. By 1872 the company was letting parts of the mine out to parties of tributers. Things were looking grim with not much gold being found. About this time the company had a change of management & appointed a new mining manger, a Mr. Andrew Robertson. He immediately ordered cross drives to be put in east & west in direct line with the shoot of gold previously worked. In this way six more gold-bearing lodes were discovered with the result that the mine by 1873 had again become a dividend paying good money. In 1874, Mr Robertson ordered a 60 horsepower steam engine with a 20 stamp-head battery attached to be erected at a cost of £4,748. In all over £15,000 was spent on the plant & machinery to make it one of the best equipped in the Colony.

In just 3 months in 1874, Barrys Reef had 80 new buildings erected with close to 4,000 inhabitants. The town was now a thriving community &, up until 1876, the mine employed over 300 men on 3 shifts, which represented two-thirds if all the quartz miners in the Barrys Reef district.

The large mining village at Barrys Reef was later surveyed as Bayup, but later renamed Barrys Reef. The people who did not work in the mines also did a good trade with numerous businesses & stores. There were also three slaughter houses supplying the butcher shops, a brewery supplying 10 hotels, a bakery, stores of all description, banks, a post office, shoemaker, hairdresser, Mechanics Hall, where regular social functions were held, & a well stocked library & a school in 1877, which had 316 pupils.

For many years the town did well until a few months before the company collapsed late in 1880. Before then the mine continually paid good dividends. In all the Sultan Mine yielded 65,801 ounces of gold valued at £264,000 (\$528,000) & paid £58,562 in dividends. This gave a good return of over £22 per share & made the Sultan one of the most profitable mines from the shareholders point of view in Victoria's history.

Most of the gold came from the upper levels of the mine &, although the main shaft was sunk to a level of 914 feet, it was not much worked below 750 feet. The gold at the 700 foot level was so rich that it was called 'the

jeweller's shop'. One crushing of 1,969 tons yielded 1 oz 13 pennyweights & 4 grains of gold per ton.

The boom years were 1876-1876 & after that the yields declined although from 1877 – 1880 they were still profitable with fewer men employed. In 1877, 220 men were employed at the mine & in 1878 the numbers had reduced to 96 men. By the time the company collapsed in 1880, it only employed 70 men.

The Sultan Mine began in 1869 & closed in 1881. In 1874 the town had close to 4,000 inhabitants. With the success of the Sultan Company, two other public companies were floated at Barrys Reef close to the Sultan Company. They were the North Sultan Co. & the Sultana Co. These two companies were supported by local people, but they failed not long after without making big profits. By 1880 the population of Barrys Reef township was less than 2,000 people. The Sultan company was wound up in December 1880 with a storm of protest from the residents of Barrys Reef. By its closure about 100 men were out of work. The gold in the mine was traced to a depth of 750 feet but at this level the country was greatly disturbed. No gold was found when the shaft was sunk to a depth of 914 feet.

Reference – information on the Sultan mine from 'Quarterly Mining Registrar's reports, 'A Short History of the Blackwood Goldfield' by James Ferguson J.P.; 'Ballarat Star' newspaper report December 18 1880 – Balance Sheet of the Sultan Co., 'Aspects of Early Blackwood by A.J. Buckingham & M.F.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 info on Blackwood ancestors contact Margot Hitchcock – margohitchcock@bigpond.com



Photo of Barrys Reef showing the mullock heap top middle from the Sultan Mine & Mounter's Mine & poppet head in front, & mullock heap from the New Sultan mine in foreground. C.1885 (From & old glass negative courtesy B.D.H.S)

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BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB SEASON 2015/16 FIXTURE

Round 6 AWAY
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Sat 5 Dec, 12 Dec (1:30pm)
Masons Lane Oval No.1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fixture Last updated: 081115 (local time)



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 - Invitation for two to our sponsors day with food and drinks included.
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- Installation of a stove and oven in the new kitchen.
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- Safety fencing for children's play area.

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

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WOMBAT BOOK CLUB 2015

Bookclub meets the 3rd Sunday monthly (except in December). Our Christmas breakup will be held at the <http://blackwoodridgecafe.com.au/> at 11:00am on the Sunday December 13. All bookclub members are welcome to come along for a bit of Christmas cheer. Please RSVP Robyn @ rlukey@hockingstuart.com.au by Dec 6 we we can confirm numbers.

The 1st book we read this issue was **'Outpost' by Gweneth Wiseworld**. Born in 1884, the daughter of a solicitor, Gweneth became a highly-trained, respected Doctor. Unconventional, artistic & mildly bohemian in outlook she turned her back on the socialite lifestyle &, in 1938, set up practice in the Blackwood & Trentham area. Many longtime locals have fond memories of her unconventional style.

Sandy: A well-written & engaging story about an elite Doctor who turned her back on senior positions in Melbourne, to practice in a country area. Although she was rather unconventional in her treatments & lifestyle, she became a much-loved figure around Blackwood & Trentham. An interesting story which gave insight is why someone of her calibre choose to live how she did.

4 Wombies

Sue: Loved reading this. Dr. Gweneth Wiseworld was intrepid, fearless & devoted to the people of Blackwood (Red Hill in the book), Trentham & surrounds. She describes in vivid detail, & with a wry sense of humour, a way of life that is largely gone. The tales are so beautifully told you feel you almost know the people, while the historical detail is fascinating.

5 wombies

Kirsty: It's about us! The descriptions of a bygone era are wonderful. Can be quite full of fact & events, so the characters aren't explored / defined at great lengths, but an enjoyable, history-filled book. I am on the look-out for the landmarks that the book describes, because those sections are done well (just no real location names are given - a shame really).

3 wombies

Jinny: What a woman. Top vote for national treasure! Anyone with an interest in Blackwood must read this book!

4.5 wombies

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What's happening at the Caravan Park?

The Camp Kitchen has been decked out with a large-screen TV (in time for the Grand Final weekend) & vending machines for chips, lollies & hot & cold drinks.

Fundraising is underway for a major upgrade to the playground. One of the available on-site vans has just received an enclosed & covered deck.



Photo: Jenny Panos (BH)

The 2nd book we read, **'The Alchemist' by Paulo Coelho**, was one which many of us may not have read if it weren't for Bookclub. An unusual tale, a cross between a fairytale & earnestly seeking one's fortune. Set in Spain, Santiago, a shepherd, through a spiritualist, was told he would find his treasure near the Pyramids in Egypt. He sold his sheep & began his journey towards Egypt. He found his treasure, but back in Spain where his journey started. It was not what he expected.

Sandy: A cross between a folklore tale & a parable. In searching for one's treasure. Sometimes perhaps it's right where one is not looking. However, it was an adventure with challenges, & a lighthearted read.

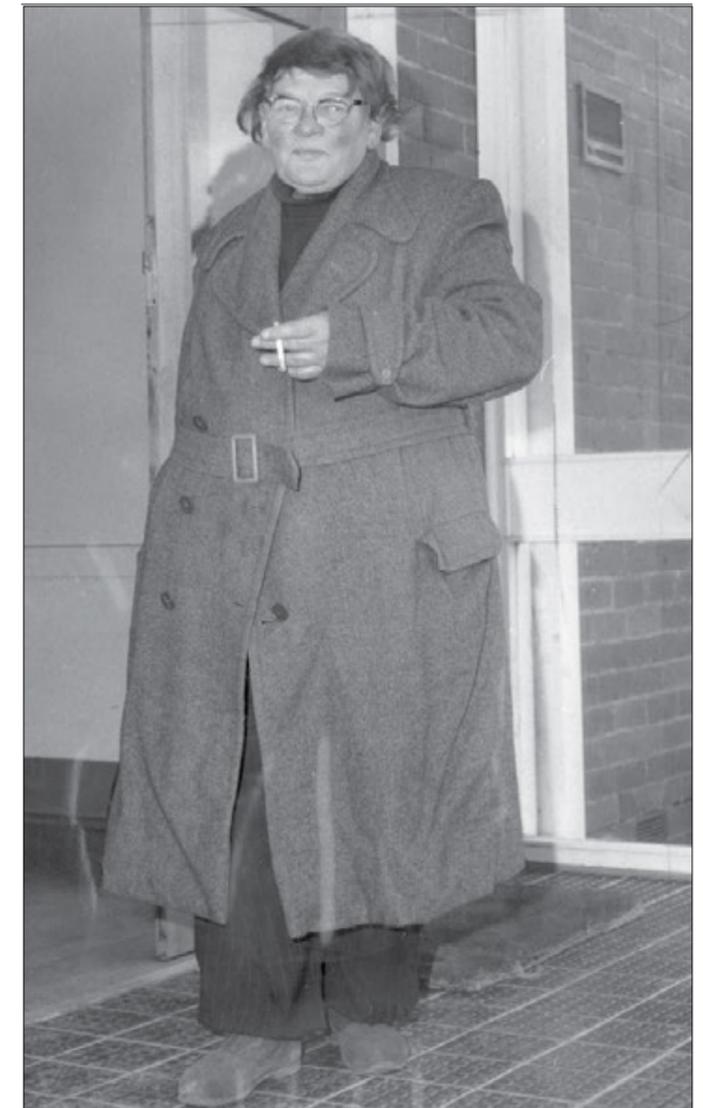
3 wombies

Kirsty: A delightful little read. Well told & full of spiritual imagery. I'd love to read it again, it makes you feel good & shows you beauty. You can take it very soul deep, or read it as a light fictitious tale, either way it can be enjoyed by anyone.

4.5 wombies.

Sue: I liked many of the messages in the book, i.e. follow your dreams, live in the moment, connect with nature etc., but I was somewhat surprised when belatedly & unexpectedly the notion of religion was introduced to explain all of the aforementioned. It seemed unconnected with the rest of the book.

3 wombies



GWENYTH WISEWOULD: She explained the singularity of her masculine apparel: 'you cannot do this work looking pretty'. Sturdily built and wrapped in an ancient greatcoat, she worked long hours and travelled tirelessly.

quoted from <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/wiseworld-gweneth-12058>
photo: <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/223690>

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KEEN GARDENERS ON SHOW



Spring sprang into action in October at the Neighborhood Centre, when keen gardeners arrived with their beautiful blooms to display at the 'Cottage Garden' Inaugural Flower Show. The rain bucketed down, the power went off as a large tree in High Street lost a limb & the ladies whipping cream for the Devonshire teas were reduced to doing the job the 'old fashioned' way – yes, there are still beaters out there!

Nevertheless the show must go on & people waited anxiously for the judging to finish. The merits of each entry were discussed & mulled over afterwards & tips given for future attempts. We all agreed that a few weeks later in the year would have allowed the roses a more prominent place.

Many sponsors & helpers thanked: Garden of St Erth for their generous vouchers, which were given as prizes. We all had a most enjoyable day – there's nothing like a group of passionate gardeners getting together to create an enthusiastic conversation & the congregation at St Georges Anglican Church would like to say thank you all for supporting our church restoration.

Photos: top: L to R Norma Proctor, Kit Manning and Pam Bosanquet looking after the Devonshire teas inset: Rosie O'Loughlin with her posy

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DOG LOVERS UNITE AT FILM SOCIETY

Who in the MRFS audience in November recognised their own behaviour up there on screen at the showing of Best in Show, a 2001 film from Director Christopher Guest? From the discreet chuckles to the outright guffaws, it would seem that some recognition was going on. This delightful mockumentary shows a group of disparate & eccentric characters travelling to Philadelphia for the coveted trophy in the Mayflower Kennel Club Dog Show. In the end, we were all asking ourselves the same question - whose behaviour was worse? The dogs' or the humans'? There was a great deal to discuss over the delicious Christmas supper supplied by members.

The Macedon Ranges Film Society has enjoyed another successful year & the audience is now looking forward to the playlist for 2016. The club meets on the second Wednesday evening of every month in Woodend & the audience receives film notes, has access to a significant DVD library &, after each film, enjoys supper & discussion of the film, or a discussion of whatever takes their fancy.

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could also be electricity. A heat pump hot water system is all electric (but 3 times as efficient as an old style tank with an electric element). No need for gas.

- Many people prefer gas cooktops because they respond quickly when the heat is turned up or down, but now electric induction cooktops (as opposed to typical electric resistance models) have a response time as fast as gas ... & use only 70% as much power as resistance models.

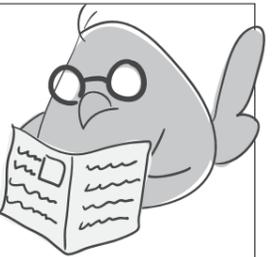
So mains gas is no longer something to celebrate: it is a polluting fossil fuel, it is not cheaper, it does nothing electricity cannot do, & requires that you pay a daily service to property charge (or a bottle rental) for a second unnecessary energy utility. Why would you want to pay twice?

And finally: electric appliances can be run using wind or solar power that you generate on site giving you (not the power company) control of the price. Not convinced? Visit the websites of Australian non-profit organizations Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE) (www.bze.org.au) & the Alternative Technology Association (ATA) (www.ata.org.au) to read about their independent research into the economics of gas.



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The library van service from the City of Ballarat now visits weekly at the Blackwood Memorial Hall, 1.30-2.30pm Wednesdays. Browse & order on-line at centralhighlandlibraries.org.au. Select 'Blackwood' as your pick-up location, & your holds will be available for pick-up from the hall.



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~ Fair Trading Act advertising requirement June 2004

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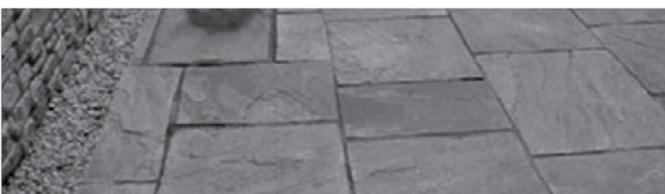


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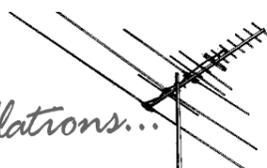
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