



June – July '16 vol 8 ~ issue 9:1



CYCLONE PAT RUNS OUT OF PUFF

The district’s politicians, councillors & government officials can rest easy following the passing on May 3 of Pat Liffman.

The 93-year-old had terrorised them for decades in the name of the local environment & other causes.

She wore a self-proclaimed title of Blackwood’s “most hated woman” as a badge of honour. Life wasn’t about being popular for Pat. It was about making positive change.

Her impact was first felt around here in the early 1970s when she successfully prevented large tracts of the Wombat State Forest being converted into pine plantations.

Speaking at Pat’s funeral on May 12, friend & fellow forest campaigner, Doris Luclos, explained Pat’s ability to get to the heart of an issue by intimately knowing the workings of government & pushing the right buttons.

There was no need for Pat to chain herself to a bulldozer. She would fix the problem at a policy level before it happened.

Pat was the district’s most active citizen. Apart from founding the Landcare group she was variously involved in the Crown Reserves, Progress Association, the Historical Society & conducted a “watching brief” over just about every other aspect of Blackwood society.

In 2010, the Shire of Moorabool honoured her contribution by naming her Citizen of the Year. (see FebMar’10 issue p1 & 19)

Her prodigious intellect enabled her to easily analyse & filter complex situations & data. So it was somewhat surprising that Pat then applied a black or white response. There were no grey areas for this community campaigner. In her view, you were either a hero or you were corrupt (and, therefore, a “cock-head”).

And while she was politically active, she was certainly not politically correct. Her brawling, take-no-prisoners approach meant that she put a lot of noses out of joint & made enemies who, as her son Karl said in his eulogy, sometimes “experienced career changes as a result of her activities”.

Karl said: “Pat was single-minded, direct, determined and, at times, tactless or even bluntly rude.”

She had long got herself banned from Melbourne’s various talk-back radio programs for her over-enthusiastic approach.

Pat was a practical environmentalist. Scornful of those emotionally opposed to prescribed burning & wanting to “lock up” the forest, Pat always championed the science of the situation.



EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

Happy 9th Birthday to us! What a ride it's been! On July 1, 2008 we published our first issue (check it out at <http://theblackwoodtimes.com.au/home/2008/06/01/june-july-2008/>) when Robina Brown had to give up the Blackwood Newsletter having published 100 issues! Wow what a feat that was! She began hand-typing each issue on a manual typewriter & I remember a few years later helping her to set up a template in MS Publisher on her brand new computer. Those were the days, I don't even think she had the internet at the time!

Our first 5 years we published under the banner of Blackwood News but in 2013 we decided to change the name to "The Blackwood Times" because it was clear that, only running bi-monthly, we were not able to publish a lot of current news, rather we were an historical document.

Nine years later, I still get a buzz watching people grab the latest issue as soon as we drop it in to local businesses. It also makes me warm & fuzzy inside when I visit peoples homes & see a copy on their coffee table, a handy reference for our advertisers phone numbers, even weeks after it was published. To everyone who supports us with contributions, donations, good will & advertising, thank you. My special thanks must go to Brendan (Blackwood's own Jimmy Olsen), who spends many hours each issue interviewing, writing, taking photos & proofing for the Blackwood Times. Moving on, 2 more Golden Oldies have left us over the past couple of months, find their stories & photos on p3 & 5.

Optus has been sniffing around our mobile tower ... does this mean they will be offering mobile service to Blackwoodians in the near future? We've had no response from Optus despite a number of enquiries so if you're an Optus user it might be worth getting in touch with them & asking.

~ I hope you enjoy this issue, cheers Jinny Coyle

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	July 15
Regular Contributors, Features & Items of Interest, Community Groups & Clubs	July 15
Display Ad Artwork, Gig & Events Guide	July 20
Late breaking News	July 20

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

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Rachel takes the Times to New Zealand

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PATRICIA MARGARET LIFFMAN (née Kewish) 7 Feb. 1923 - 3 May 2016

Patricia Margaret Kewish, known to most as 'Pat', was born at Elsternwick Victoria on the 7th of February 1923. She was brought up in Drake Street Elwood. Her parents were Percival Douglas Kewish & Mary Margaret Watson. Percy graduated in Science from The University of Melbourne & spent his working life as a Commonwealth Government Analyst. His duties included dealing with water quality issues for steam engines operating on the transcontinental railway. Later he became the Commissioner for Excise. Mary was one of the first women to be granted a scholarship to attend University at Melbourne, where she completed study in Arts, later entering the teaching profession.

Pat's elder brother, Orme Kaye Kewish, studied medicine & became a General Practitioner at Balranald in the Riverina. In 1954 he was Mayor of the local Council.

Pat was educated at Elwood Central School & later attended St Michael's College in St Kilda. Her earlier experiences at St Michael's caused her to shun religious teachings to some extent.

She undertook training in photography. Her early employment included that in hospital pathology laboratories, where she was largely involved in photography of biological samples.

In early 1942, Pat had two tickets to attend a concert by a noted visiting American tenor at Melbourne Town Hall, just down the street from where she worked. The friend with whom she was going to the concert was called on duty, so she handed the spare ticket back at a special counter in The Age office, set up to assist Service people wanting tickets. During the Interval, she said to the soldier who had taken the seat, that she was glad someone could use the ticket.

And that was how she met V377495 Private Erich Liffmann.

Erich was a 'Dunera boy', a Jewish refugee of Nazi oppression from Germany, who was interned at Hay & then Tatura. He served with the Labour Corps, 8th Employment Company under the command of a highly

continued from front page ...

She understood well that the forest needs active management. It needs to be thinned to promote healthy growth & it needs to be protected from invasive weeds.

Pat ended her days at the Trentham Nursing Home but stayed as long as she could in her original miners cottage at Barry's Reef.

Her home was a living museum & Pat was the prize exhibit. Surrounded by her active files, minutes & documents, her kitchen table was the nerve-centre of any number of local campaigns & activities.

And when the hard years were catching up with her & the body & brain were refusing to co-operate, no recuperative medicine could match the tonic of another political challenge.

Strategies emerged, lists were prepared & tasks allocated. Her eyes brightened & her back straightened. Pat Liffman simply loved a blue.

If she's gone to heaven, you can be sure that St Peter is under the same harsh scrutiny that applied to all those in a position of authority around this part of the world.

Don't rest in peace Pat. Keep punching!

~ Shane Scanlan



Pat, taken at her brother's wedding, dated Jan 13, 1942.

respected Maori, Captain Broughton, mainly at Camp Pell, Parkville. A disciplined man with high moral virtues, he was also an accomplished tenor. Erich Liffmann had just become a sensation at the lunchtime Community Concerts run by 3KZ at the Melbourne Town Hall as part of the War effort. Pat & Erich found they had much in common & became good friends.

Pat & Erich shifted out of the Elwood home, eventually living at Barrys Reef in Tommy Johnson's old cottage. Here Pat immersed herself in many local issues of an historical or environmental nature. These included Landcare, Waterwatch, Prescribed Burning, & Water Conservation.

As an environmental advocate, Pat was single-minded, direct, determined and, at times, tactless or even bluntly rude. To some extent she was considered an eccentric local identity. Whilst she won many admirers, she also had some enemies, a few of whom experienced career changes as a result of her activities.

In 2010, she was awarded the Shire of Moorabool 'Australian of the Year' Award. It could be argued this is ironic, since at times she was in dispute with this Shire Council & its predecessor, the former Shire of Ballan.

Towards the end of her life Pat found it difficult to cope at Barrys Reef. She was admitted to hospitals at Ballarat & Daylesford. Finally, she passed away in Aged Care at Trentham, on the morning of 3rd May 2016.

It may be claimed, that whilst brought up in a respectable, conservative, Christian, comfortable, suburban, traditional Middle Class environment, she, to a large extent, chose not to conform to this 'mould'.

Not one for 'social graces' generally, she was affectionately referred to as 'Grandma Pat', by Karl's daughters Shirley & Rose & Kurt's sons Dain & Bryce. Recently she also became a Great Grandmother to Shirley's daughter Margie.

~ Karl Liffman 12 May 2016

THE HEART & SOUL

A big part of the heart & soul of our town are all the anonymous people who generously give up their valuable time to help out others in their community.

I have had two experiences in recent months that highlighted to me how many thoughtful & caring people we are blessed to have living with us in Blackwood.

No just one but many ... it is really a strong community asset.

In the past 12 months we have had many new residents move permanently into our town, all recognising the strong & genuine community spirit that exists. All feeling welcomed & looking forward to building their lives in our beautiful hamlet.

We lost a good friend in Ernie recently. A sad time for all of us. He had many friends & supporters. Two young women in town spent many caring hours supporting Ernie almost on a daily basis. Both would not want me to mention their names, so I won't. Yet I am confident if they read this note they know who I am referring to. Many people have expressed their admiration for your quiet unassuming efforts.

You both deserve a big thank you & you are an example of the spirit I talk about.

Let's enjoy winter!!!

~ MB

BOUQUETS & BRICKBATS

Kenny Cann adds to the above story There has always been a lot of unrecognised work, mostly by the ladies of this town (who won't want to be named) in helping out the older members of our community. Well done, you guardian angels.



The Victorian Historical Minechasers team (see AprMay '16 issue)

L - R : Dean Rainford, Kurt Horrigan, Steve Hollis, Aidan Laphorne, Ray Shaw, Andrew Giles, (Andrew Norman, Absent) ~ photo courtesy Margaret McCarthy



The St Erth crew take time to do a spot of team building over lunch overlooking the gorgeous view from the Merchants window



Arkie T Williams belts it out at one of the Merchants Friday pizza night. She's booked as the resident Friday act for the month of the June.



Tim Marsh's dedication & commitment will be greatly missed at Blackwood CERT. We hope to see Tim (below) around town more now, but in his civvies. Tim's son, Rufus, 8, created the artwork (below for CERT fundraising efforts. Nice work Rufus!

Big thanks also to Lynda Henry (pictured right with Bruce Henry), who kept CERT on track with the roster for so many years. Thanks, Lynda!



My dad is in Cert he helps people and makes them feel better

WHO'S TATTS THAT?

HOLY MEATBALLS! This one may need some explaining.

AS FAR as we can tell, it's a sci-fi/surrealist image featuring skewered balls which appear to be made of reconstituted facial parts. Different. And awesome.

WHEN YOU'RE a 19 year old with a couple of hours to kill between shifts & you start leafing through a mag at the local parlour; this is what can happen.

"YEAH, IT was a bit spur-of-the-moment," he admits 19 years later. "I still like it, though. It needs finishing; maybe another 10-12 hours of shading."

AND WHY didn't he get it finished at the time? It seems the tattooist on the day was "more than a bit spaced" & his behaviour was becoming increasingly erratic. The young man beat a quick retreat before this guy wiggled out completely. Disaster averted. And there's the proof on his leg.



Brad (Meatballs) Cassidy



Ernie with his beloved Mum - photo courtesy Robina Brown

VALE ERNIE TERRILL

Ernie's grandparents, Ernest & Florence, bought their own home in Blackwood around 1914. She hailed from the Byers family, which ran the Royal Mail Hotel at Golden Point, a "lively place" at the time, with plenty of remaining mining work & a school.

As the Terrill boys grew up & reached working age they would generally opt for life in Trentham & the Trehwella Foundry, which employed about 150 people. Young Roy, Ernie's father, moved onto a dairy farm in Yinnah, Gippsland with his wife, Alma. Ernie went to school at Morwell & then Caulfield Tech, when the family moved to Glen Iris.

He joined the Public Service, working for Defence in St.Kilda Road, and, in the early 70's, went to live in Darwin. Come Christmas '74, with Cyclone Tracy bearing down, the authorities suggested that anyone in the position to evacuate should do so. Ernie's 4WD left under battering winds & driving rain (some say, without its windscreen) & it never came back.

Ernie kept driving the torturous roads all the way to Melbourne and, in an attempt to unload the old clunker before it died, pulled into the dealership where Uncle Bill worked. The assessor there took one look at the car & exclaimed, " This thing looks like it's been through a cyclone!"

Ernie moved back into the family home in Simmons Reef Road & began working for the Department of Employment at Ballarat. "Nobody was more dedicated to finding people jobs," says his Uncle Bill. He ran a regular "employment show" on radio 3BA & played a large part in jobs creation in Daylesford. Even with his failing eyesight he remained a valuable worker & the Department kept him on, supplying him with special computers.

His daily commute to Ballarat was hijacked by many a local in need of a lift and, years later, with his eyesight almost completely gone, locals repaid his kindness on the same route as he hitched to buy supplies or get one of his favourite pies from Ballarat. Bill says that Ernie's "hitchhiking success" was also due to his observation of people's routines. He knew when & where to find the generous drivers.

Around Blackwood, Ernie Terrill will be remembered for his harvesting of kindling along the roadsides, dressed in floppy sun hat & volley sandshoes; always ready for a chat, always a long chat. His honking geese were famous; also his booming radio, set on ABC 774, keeping the neighbourhood up-to-date on the latest news, day in, day out.

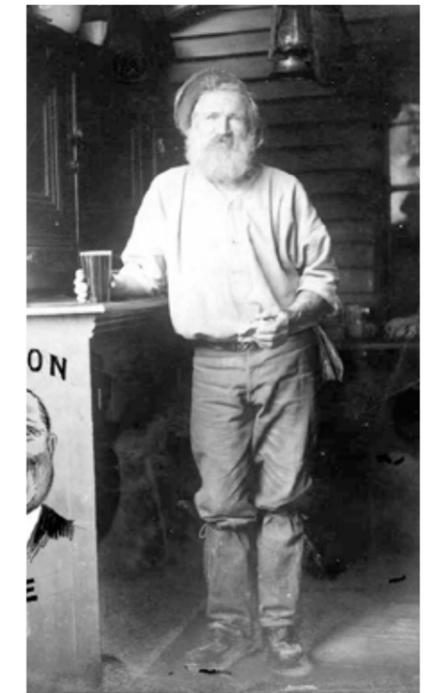
Thankyou to Uncle Bill Terrill & Aunty Del (a 'great mate' of Ernie's, she enjoyed their regular, & lengthy, chats)



Would you like to help organise a 2016 Blackwood Ball?

Come along to an informal meeting at the Blackwood Pub @ 6:30pm on June 17 & let's see if we can get it happening!

I ALLUS HAS ONE IN BLACKWOOD



Sam was a rouseabout & gardener at McVeigh's Hotel in Walsh's Creek. Every week, he & McVeigh would exchange the same pound note; Sam's wages for the publican's beer.

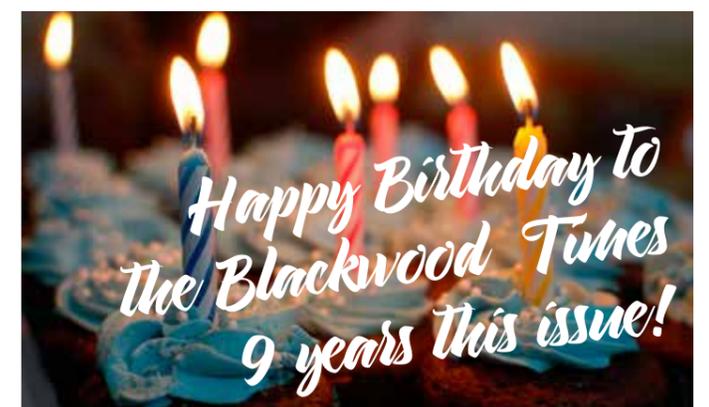
Late one morning in 1906, a visitor carrying a camera asked Sam why he was drinking before lunch. Sam's reply & the visitor's image became immortal. Not so McVeigh's; it sits now in the depths of the Upper Yarra Reservoir.

Sam Knott, as he is most well known, was probably born Sam Griffin in Devonshire, England in 1841. He came to Victoria in about 1888 as a prospector.

Local sleuth, Bruce Butler, drew our attention to the photo below from

the Red, White & Blue Mine. Could it be that the famous drinker once called Blackwood home?

Please contact us if you have any real or imagined information on this most important issue.



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HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

MONTH & YEAR	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall historical average (mm)	Temp monthly min (deg C)	Temp monthly max (deg C)	Temp average daily max (deg C)	Temp average daily min (deg C)	Temp average for month (deg C)
Mar '16	*46.9	56.1	2.6	37.4	25.5	10.1	16.5
Apr '16	*26.3	71.9	1.3	25.9	19.8	6.6	12.6

A LAMENT FOR BLACKWOOD

~ by Ewan Cameron



"Climate change is crap, it's totally phoney", So said that Murdoch sycophant called Tony With this comment I guess the planet is finished Sold for hard cash - our future's diminished. But we're open for business, that's what matters Though our reputation and barrier reef lie in tatters Environment Minister Hunt who loves coal Will ensure our nation becomes a black hole.

We know by whom and why he was appointed Disingenuous, smooth- by Big Oil anointed While ecosystems collapse and are rent asunder By corporations, enjoying their right to plunder They know they can do so without retribution As laws are set to limit wealth's distribution To only remain in the hands of those who Escape to Panama to avoid paying dues

But why should this matter to me in Blackwood? I'm old, just a bushy, besides, profit is good Let's continue to cut and deregulate Like Seven-Eleven, open slather mate! Who cares for a dumb parrot or wombat or wren? Well, I do, because I remember times when The creeks of the highlands were mostly in flow And the high country had regular dustings of snow

In my youth I saw broilgas and skylarks and quail Red robins and bronze-wing and the noble wedge tail So I fear that the nation and nature I know Will not long outlast me when it's my time to go And for what? Well I'll tell you- for graft and for dough For the bonus and greed of a damned CEO! Who, while others get peanuts, he gets eight-digit sums So, we must fight privatisation, not sit on our bums

So think of a time when your children's children run free And all the bush treasures are still there to see Be informed, take action, there's no time to wait Should you dither and dally, then alas- it's too late.

PS: I wrote this under a glorious blue sky. For the whole time Meggsie, the beautiful homeless cat, snuggled on my knee and refused to budge. Then he stretched, proof-read my work and gave his approval. He's still waiting for a loving home (see p8 AprMay16 issue). Phone: 0413 030 788

*VALUE FROM Trentham BOM – Blackwood rainfall I suspect would be a little less than Trentham for this period.

I WONDER when the river will flow again? A very warm March & April.

~ by Don Owen

BLACKWOODIANS MUSINGS



BLACKWOOD TIMES GOES TO ...



Don & Trisha Owen take the Times to Madrid in Spain.

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Some History of the Blackwood Tennis Courts

Compiled by Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society. May 2016

This article is in response to a request from Jinny Coyle on some history of the Blackwood tennis courts in relation to an article p1 in the AprMay16 issue of the Blackwood Times where it was said George Stockdale has announced that approx. \$26,000 from the defunct Blackwood Bowling Club will be going towards the renovation of the tennis courts.

From records researched there were 3 tennis courts in Blackwood – one at the Sports Ground & one at the Church of England grounds. The 3rd Tennis Court was built on land in front of the Sports Ground after the one was closed down at the Sports Ground. This is the one that will be renovated with the money.

As early as 1892, a record was found on Trove, in the Bacchus Marsh Express newspaper. "The preparation of a tennis court by Mr. A. Buchanan & others was also a centre of attraction. The tennis players here have had some difficulty in fixing on a site for their operations, & have at length gravitated to the Blackwood cricket ground, where a suitable corner has been chosen which has so many natural advantages that we may soon expect the game to be a leading recreative feature of the reserve, more particularly as it is recognised as one of the few healthful out-door games in which ladies can actively participate."

Then in 1894, another record was found on Trove, in the Bacchus Marsh Express newspaper. Sat Nov 1894 – "The tennis court on the Blackwood recreation reserve is likely to be in pretty constant use this season, as the Blackwood tennis club has been completely reorganised, with a list of between 20 & 30 members."

A further report on Saturday 11 Jan 1896 stated - "The Blackwood Sports on New Year's day - The ground looked well, whilst the extra seating accommodation provided under the shady lightwood trees was also much appreciated. The swings & tennis court were in constant use all day, & the shooting gallery was also well patronised till the ammunition ran out. The local brass band, too, is worthy of a word or two of praise, & helped to agreeably fill up the intervals between the various events."

Then a report was found on 11th Feb 1911 about another tennis court - "A few months ago the Church of England reader, Mr. Nichols, inaugurated a Tennis Club, & a court was prepared in the Church grounds, where many years ago the game of tennis flourished. The present club has met with marked success. Co-operative work has resulted in the court being greatly improved. Almost all the present members had to learn the game but are becoming skilfull. A tournament was held on Saturday afternoon, & resulted in some keenly contested sets."

An Article was found in an old Blackwood Newsletter dated April – May 2003 written by Robina Brown in which she stated – "In 1946 the Tennis Courts were at the Blackwood Oval where there were two courts both of which had an asphalt surface & were well fenced with chicken wire & timber, being in the approximate position of the present

Blackwood Tennis Court Sports Ground c. 1940. Courtesy of the late Wally Sweet



Blackwood Tennis Court Sports Ground c. 1940. Courtesy of the late Wally Sweet

cricket practise nets. Les Armstrong took a close interest in coaching young players & was himself a competent tennis player."

I myself remember playing tennis at the Tennis courts at the Sports Ground with my father in the 1950's & my cat-gut strung tennis racquet is now in the Historical Society's Museum. Don Owen played tennis at Blackwood too I remember, on the last tennis court with other local members of the Blackwood Tennis Club.

Researched by Margot Hitchcock from her forthcoming book 'The History & Pioneers of Blackwood', hopefully to be published soon. Other books published by Margot Hitchcock – "Aspects of Early Blackwood", "Some History of Simmons Reef, Blackwood" & "The Billy Pincombe Tragedy" See – www.blackwoodpublishing.com

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



Lady Tennis players, Tennis Courts, Blackwood Sports Ground c. 1930. Courtesy the late Renee Budge

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Dear Jinny, Don didn't quite tell the whole story about the printing of the Blackwood Times in London. (ref: Blackwood goes to ...) We had neglected to pack a copy of the previous issue, (despite having written a note for myself) - but lo & behold! the current issue notification arrived by email while we were in London.

Don downloaded & forwarded the copy to me, I emailed it downstairs to the hotel Reception & they kindly printed off two copies for us (free of charge, I might add).

So we can say, "Printed in London", not quite Fleet Street, but walking distance thereto. However I think "Printed in Bloomsbury" carries just as much caché (Home of the Bloomsbury Group, & such people as Dickens, Woolfe, Yeats, Keynes, Darwin etc. etc.)

Who needs the Griffin involved anyway?? ~ regards Trischa (Owen)

ED: What a gorgeous tale Trisha I'm very impressed at your problem-solving skills. I do love to hear where our little paper has travelled!

Dear Editor, Please thank everybody who worked for Dad (ED: George Stockdale as featured on the front cover of the AprMay '16 issue), he is so happy about how clean & tidy everything is.

I, also, extend my many thanks for the wonderful gesture. ~ warmest regards, Sandi

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COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

Holy Trinity Anglican Church

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

~ *Nina Harbison*

Blackwood Action Group

Applications for the Waste Water Management Project Officer have now closed, we hope that, by next issue, we will be in a position to report further information.

~ *Brendan Hehir*

Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare

Well ... we've got a Landcare group again. Yay! Thanks to everyone for coming along on Sunday, May 1 & thanks, in particular, to Peter Donnelly for putting his hand up for the secretarial role. In other AGM news, I'm still president & Louis Santin is still treasurer. But the important thing is the upswing in interest from all the newcomers. Of the nine people in attendance, I was the only one from a past era.

There are plenty of people in the town with an interest in conservation & a love of our forest. Not everyone has the time or interest in being an officer-bearer but it's very reassuring to know that there are so many people want to pitch in & help.

There are a couple of residual projects, but Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group is essentially a blank canvas ready to be painted in the image of the new & enthusiastic participants.

It was good to see first-timers Peter & Sue Donnelly as well as David Grant. Welcome. It was also great to see John Davies' daughter Emily (and family) who has promised to handover valuable records & resources from John. What a great opportunity to launch into the future from such a solid base. We hope this handover happens at our first regular meeting which has been pencilled in for 6.30 on Sunday, June 5 at the Blackwood pub. All welcome.

~ *best regards Shane Scanlan*

CEMP

see article p10 'Community Emergency Management Planning'

~ *CEMP*

Blackwood CERT

The CERT team have been busy attending to some calls in the community, but also still working with various people to build the garage to house our vehicle.

We would also like to thank 2 members who are leaving the team, Tim Marsh has been with the team for a few years, & has resigned from CERT due to family commitments. We would like to say thank you Tim. Also Lynda Henry who have taken care of the rostering for the CERT team for the last 15 years, because of ongoing upgrades with technology, rostering has moved to a different phase. So thank you both for your valuable contribution to the team & the community. (see photos p4)

Just a reminder if you do need an Ambulance call 000 & hopefully a CERT team on call can get to you ASAP.

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

~ *Sandy Schmidt*

When there are calls to 000 requesting an ambulance from someone in our community, we generally receive most of these calls. Once in a while, the question is asked, "why didn't CERT attend the call?". CERT is governed by protocols set by Ambulance Victoria & one which is very important & inflexible is that we respond in teams

of at least 2 members. Sometimes you'll see us with 3 members but 2 is the minimum for safety reasons. Since many of us work 9 - 5 or similar, calls within this time will often go unanswered by our team. If 1 person is available only, although frustrating, we cannot respond to the call. AV are very strict about this.

Sometimes a call has been made & we don't receive the pager message. ESTA are the dispatch team who decide whether or not to send the call out to us. If they believe that there's a safety concern or other complicated issue, we may not receive the message & therefore, won't respond.

Also, all calls must go through to 000 before we are allowed to respond. If one of our members receives a call to their personal mobile asking for medical assistance from CERT, they will need to call 000 to activate the ambulance first before attending the scene.

A quick update on our new station: we're awaiting a signed lease agreement from Telstra. The lease has been approved &, once signed, we can begin with the cable location, building permit & arrangements with the electrical supply. This is moving along, although a little slowly. Hopefully next edition will bring lots of great news!

~ *take care Ivan Johnston*

Blackwood CFA

Now that the fire season has finished & we have had a few drops of rain, it's time to remind all residents to check your chimneys & flues for any signs of soot build-up, obstructions & general maintenance. These are a common source of problems as the weather becomes colder & people start to use a stove or fireplace that hasn't been used for a few months, as a precaution, always keep a spray bottle filled with water close to the appliance so if you have a problem, a few squirts into the fireplace will help, but remember to call the brigade to attend if you have a problem. Never hesitate to call the brigade in any emergency.

The brigade turned out very early Sunday, May 8 to a house fire in Newbury. After failing to find the fire initially, the Trentham crew came across the fire at the old Katteminga films sets. A number of the film sets were destroyed in the fire. Six tankers from surrounding brigades attended, including both tankers from Blackwood, with Jack Simmonds being the incident controller.

Check your smoke detectors & change the batteries in them every time we change the clocks, even hardwired detectors have a battery.

Garry has done a great job of assessing & locating most of the hydrants in town for correct markings & operation & as part of our Adopt a Fire Hydrant program, all residents are asked to check for fire hydrants & 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 1st Sunday monthly from 9:30 am to around noon.

Take care. Keep a lookout for your neighbours & keep an eye on any camp fires. Remember, in the event of any emergency, call 000.

On a personal note, I wish to thank the Progress Association for their efforts & running of the Easter Carnival, without people like Judith, Elizabeth, Sue & Deidre, we wouldn't have such a fantastic event. I would also like to thank the sponsors who put together the prizes for the King & Queen & all those who turned up & assisted with the Easter Carnival.

It was a great honour & pleasure to be elected King of the Blackwood Easter Carnival & I just wish to reiterate that I love Blackwood & the people who make the town.

~ *Karl Church, CFA member*

Blackwood Committee of Management

We would like to say a big thankyou to these people for giving up a Saturday to take up the hall floor, Tom Pywell, Ken Whiffin, Phillip Skinner, Richard Mundy, K. de Bruno, Allan Hall, Jeremy Pearce, Genevieve Hall, Daniel Carlson, Pat Larizza & committee members Brian Moore & Elizabeth Hall.

Thank you to Fred Moore & the Ballan Lionesses for the improvements to the ladies toilets, Corey for the electrical, Bill for the cupboards & the benches.

The floor has been polished & the finishing has to take place, painting, curtains hung, disabled toilet & kitchen to be finished, also a tank to be installed.

Council has taken over a room in the hall to operate as a library, so it needs

to be painted & electrical work to be organised by the council.

Condolences to the Liffman family in the passing of Pat who was a member 1974 to 1977 & 1995 to 1998.

Hall bookings can commence from the end of June.

New tables & BBQ'S have been installed at the Mineral Springs this is part of a Mineral Springs Grants.

~ *Elizabeth Hall, Secretary*

Blackwood Cricket Club

The presentation night for The Blackwood Cricket Club 2015/16 Season was held on Friday April 15 at the Blackwood Hotel

For their generous support this season we would like to recognise the following sponsors: The Greendale Country Pub, Western Land Services, Melbourne Drum Recycling, The Blackwood Hotel, Werribee Soil Testing, Westmain Australia, CEC Electrical, Geotechnical Laboratories

One notable award on the evening was the induction of Alan Salmon as a LIFE MEMBER, Alan is the 8th person to achieve this honour & joins a great list of people who have contributed to the club, including both his parents, Ron & Jan.

His lists of achievements include playing 17 complete seasons with the senior side, 8 of those seasons as Captain. To date Al has played 203 senior games, taken 398 wickets at a very respectable average of 18.9 in 2331 overs, taken 5 wickets in an innings on 21 occasions with his best bowling figures of 7/27 & probably one of the very few people who could claim a double hat-trick.

The Major awards for the night;

WALLY SWEET MEMORIAL TROPHY: Wayne Robinson
BCC BOWLING AVERAGE: Nick Whan 32 wickets @ 13.3avg
BCC BATTING AVERAGE: Wayne Robinson 796 runs @ 61.2avg
BCC DUCK AWARD: James Cann
BCC NACA AWARD: Brett (Crazy) Sullivan
JACK STRINGER TROPHY: Nick Whan (Bowling 8/28 v Sunbury)
RAY MEADE MEMORIAL TROPHY: Jodie Bantz (President's award)
BERT SUTERS TROPHY: Kate Barnes (Club person)
DICK CATER AWARD: Nash Robinson (Encouragement award)
RON SALMON TROPHY: Wayne Robinson (Highest Score 175runs v Bacchus Marsh)
JOHN DAVIES U'21 AWARD: Nick Whan

2015/16 had its up & downs & we lost a few notable players due to work commitments towards the end of the season. Congratulations go to James Cann in his first year as captain taking us into the finals series again, narrowly losing to Sunbury United in a home semi-final.

Thankyou to everyone who attended on the night, & everyone who supported us for the season, here's looking to the 2016/17 season. Hope to see you all down at the ground.

We are looking for players for the new season if anyone is interested please contact Steve O'Brien 0488 978 684.

~ *Jodie Bantz*

Blackwood Historical Society

A busy summer period has kept us on our toes, with open days Easter Carnival at which we ran the drink stall, a trip to Steigletz to see the mines, a great day.

Thanks to Blackwood Hotel for supporting the Historical Society's Mr Hall giving talks, & a bus tour to promote our Local History.

We were sad with the passing of Pat Liffman, she put a lot into the Society obtaining us a water grant, & a grant for the printing of Simmons Reef History, before her passing she had published her own book called "SONGS THE PEOPLE LOVE" with her son Kurt, she was always helping us with advice & sponsorship as a spirited woman she worked tirelessly for the cause. THANK YOU PAT.

~ *Elizabeth Hall, Secretary*

Blackwood Progress Association

Yet another Easter passes with great weather, thanks to the many sponsors & the people in town during the organisation setting up, on the day, & cleaning up.

Next meeting Wednesday June 8 @ 7.30pm at the Blackwood



Mechanics Hall & the AGM will be held on the Wednesday July 13 at 7.30pm at the Blackwood Mechanics Hall.

Progress wishes to say how sad they are with the passing of Pat Liffman. Our sincere condolences to Karl & Kurt. Pat was a sponsor of the Blackwood Easter Carnival for the past 25 years up to 2015. She was also part of helping with the setting up, & working on the day up to 2014.

There will be a working bee at the Blackwood Recreation Ground on the 4th June 2016 at 10am to spread top soil & grass seed. This is necessary for the repair work to be carried out due to damage to the ground at the Blackwood Easter Carnival & Woodchop.

Thanking you in anticipation

Please note: Family bingo will not be held on Saturday June 11 as announced at the last family bingo. We apologise for any inconvenience.

~ *Judith A. de Groot, Secretary*

Blackwood Senior Citizens

An update once again from the BSCC which has an enjoyable get-together each week from 10am to 3pm at the Blackwood Hall. We have a great cook & our 3 course midday meal is always excellent. We are pleased that the hall floor is finished & it looks great, also both toilets have been updated plus hot water which is a plus - thanks to Brian.

We are saddened at the recent passing of two of our life members Ken Ashton & Linda Cameron, we will miss them, may they rest in peace. We are also missing Barb Darwen who has moved to greener pastures.

We are patiently looking forward to the return of Joan & Harry Rowe who have been absent for several weeks as Harry has been undergoing medical surgery. The Club's Christmas in July will be held at the Commercial Hotel Ballan on July 14 - a 3 course meal at \$25 a head, if interested contacted Bev Herd on 5368 2526.

The last outing that we all enjoyed was to the Fire Services Museum & Captain Cook's Cottage - very interesting places.

Until next issue,

~ *regards Barb Sweet (Hon Sec)*

Blackwood Uniting Church

Meditation at Blackwood House at 7pm, on the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month. All welcome.

~ *Robyn Zanon*

This issue there has been no report from Blackwood Cemetery Trust.

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.



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COMMUNITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Recent articles have appeared in the Herald Sun, The Age & Weekly Times newspapers outlining DELWPs proposal to use a risk-reduction target in preference to a hectare planned-burning target on public land in reducing the risk of bushfire.

'Safer Together' is the Victorian Government's new direction & will focus on working closer with communities in high bushfire-risk areas. As the program unfolds, it is expected to involve local communities in decision making about bushfire management & share hazard data & risk-modelling tools for communities to assess their own bushfire risk to develop strategies for action. DELWP claim the best decisions are shaped by the people they affect. The new approach will mean communities will get more of a say on how DELWP reduces the risk of bushfire, including where & when planned burning should occur - protecting communities & the things that matter most to them.

Further information can be obtained from the DELWP website or the following link: <http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/safer-together>

DELWP have also recently released their 'Community Charter' which aims to work with communities to deliver services that support liveable, inclusive & sustainable communities & thriving natural environments. As examples, DELWP sets out to:

- respect the way they want to work with you & adapt their approach to local needs;
- make sure they give you real opportunities to make a difference; &
- talk to the community as early as they can, responding quickly to issues & feedback.

Further information can be obtained from their website & there is

also a 'have your say' feedback form that can be submitted in response to your experiences in dealing with DELWP:

<http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/about-us/community-charter>

This all comes at a good time as a draft document of the Blackwood Community Emergency Management Plan is almost ready to be submitted to DELWP for comment. A big thank you to Cherie Graham from Moorabool Shire Council for her contribution in preparing this document & the knowledge she has shared with the Blackwood CEMP Group on the Scotsburn fire & associated aftermath & recovery. Thank you also to Kate Cotter from the Bushfire Building Council of Australia (BBCA), who visited the group & shared the lessons learned from the Wye River bushfire.

Emergency Management Victoria has recently released a Report prepared by CSIRO into the house losses caused by the Wye River/ Separation Creek fires. The report identifies several contributing factors such as:

- no distinct border between the forest & urban areas of the township;
- widespread established tree cover across residential properties;
- extensive surface litter providing a near continuous flammable fuel bed
- ignition of outdoor furniture, plastic water tanks & building materials close to houses
- house-to-house fire spread despite the generally large distances between buildings of up to 12m
- timber retaining walls providing a direct threat to buildings; and
- location & storage of LPG gas cylinders

Further information & the full report can be downloaded from the EMV website: <https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/latest-news/csiro-report-released-into-house-loss-at-wye-river-separation-creek/>

~ Blackwood CEMP



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ENVIRONMENTAL VANDALS PUT ON NOTICE

Moorabool Shire Council Mayor, Cr Alan Comrie, is warning people to stop dumping waste in public places - an offensive activity not only detrimental to our local flora and fauna, but illegal.

Council has been concerned with the increased incidents of waste-dumping within the shire over recent years with Cr Comrie noting. "It's disgusting that some people consider dumping as an appropriate way to dispose of their mess, what's more it's criminal"

Incidents reported to Council are documented, investigated and where possible, fines and court proceeding are entered into. So, aside from the damage to the community and the environment, it will cost the dumpers dearly when caught."

On top of this, Council estimates the cost of dealing with this problem has now escalated to over \$100,000 per year. "At the end of the day it's the community that suffers" Cr Comrie said. The community gets hit twice, firstly the environment they live in is degraded and then an ever increasing amount of their rates have to be diverted to clean up the mess!"

Cr Comrie reminded the local community they can assist Council in catching those responsible.

"If you see waste dumped where it doesn't belong, don't disturb it or remove documents or items that might help us identify the perpetrators, as disturbed litter may render it inadmissible as evidence in court. Instead, note where it is and report it to Council as soon as possible."

If members of the public catch someone in the act of dumping waste in a public place, they are encouraged to make note of the time, person and vehicle details and contact council during business hours on 5366 7100.

Council officers will endeavour to investigate waste dumping as soon as possible and, where appropriate, have it removed by the perpetrators or Council staff.



Council's investigation into the illegal dumping incident revealed several possible perpetrators, of which two were taken to Court & both received • a conviction • \$1000 fine • \$405 court costs.

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GIGS & EVENTS • GIGS & EVENTS

JUNE

when	what	where
Fri 3: eve	Arkie T Williams	The Merchant
Sun 5	Gussy and the Barncats	Cosmo
Fri 10: eve	Arkie T Williams	The Merchant
Fri 17: eve	Arkie T Williams	The Merchant
Sun 12: eve	Troy and Bec	Greendale Pub
Sun 12	Jarrod Shaw and Sarah Wilkinson	Cosmo
Sun 19	Cat and Clint*	Cosmo
Fri 24: eve	Arkie T Williams	The Merchant
Sun 26	King Maxwell	Cosmo
Sun 26: arvo	Brian Sadler	Greendale Pub

JULY

when	what	where
Sun 3: arvo	Troy and Bec	Greendale Pub
Sun 10	Jarrod Shaw and Sarah Wilkinson	Cosmo
Fri 15: eve	Troy and Bec	Greendale Pub
Sat 16	Buddy England and the VIQUEENZ	Blackwood Hotel
Sat 30	Blues Union*	Blackwood Hotel

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

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NATURAL RHYTHM

Are you an Early Bird or a Night Owl?

by Kathie Strmota



We set morning alarms to suit work/school start times. If your body ran on natural time, would it choose these hours?

The average body clock runs for 24 hours, & resets daily with environmental triggers. Some people may run a cycle as short as 23½ hours (Early Birds), while others' clocks may run up to 24½ hours (Night Owls). Chronotype (clock-length) is genetically determined, although, with work or lifestyle routines, people may not live out their natural tendency. For example, you may habitually sleep late because you worked an evening shift for 10 years, but your body may prefer to be up at 6am.

While genetic variation in clock-length is tiny, it creates large differences in sleep/wake requirements. Whatever the reasons for lifestyle choices, there's no way to avoid the consequences of deviating from our natural rhythm. These may be inflammatory disease, mood problems or simply bad decision-making, but something will give. Observe your own natural tendencies, & adjust your lifestyle for optimum health.

About 10% of the population are genetic early-birds. Their clocks have the most rigid circadian parameters, & they feel the greatest impact of living out of synch. About 50% are genetic night owls, with the most flexible clocks. The rest fall somewhere in the middle. Early birds, with their strict circadian structure, tend to be more practical, rational & reliable, while night owls are usually more creative & flexible (in both routines & morals!) To avoid disruption, early birds are more likely to live according to their chronotype. The other 90% of us could stray further before subtle problems become evident.

Early birds power up earlier in the morning, but also flag earlier. Night owls are slow to get going, but can go for longer. Night owls can push past their usual bedtime, but early birds need to get to bed on time or fall asleep where they sit! During sleep deprivation experiments, early birds had more drowsiness & worse concentration than night owls and, when next asleep, spent more time in deep sleep to recover (less dreamtime). Regardless of flexibility, we have our most nourishing sleep during the optimum period defined by our chronotype.

Early birds have a good appetite for breakfast, while night owls might just manage brunch. Staying up later, night owls are more inclined to late-night snacks. The body can't use these calories & converts them to fat, so night owls tend to gain weight more than early birds. Night owls can have erratic

sleep patterns & poor morning light exposure. Such factors contribute to mood disorders, & depression is more common in night owls. A regular sleep-wake routine improves mood.

With complex brain activities like problem-solving, early birds are functional first thing in the morning, while night owls take longer to plug in their brain. But they retain this function into the evening, while early birds lose it earlier. Academic statistics show early birds getting better results than night owls, because early school start times leave night owl teens at a disadvantage. When, schools experimented with later start times, they had improved grades & better attendance.

To find your natural sleep-wake rhythm, take a sleep holiday. Give yourself 1-2 weeks with no major commitments. First, sleep as much as needed. Go to bed early, sleep late & even take naps. Expose your eyes to morning light each day. Your system will soon start to find its rhythm & you will naturally sleep less. You'll start to see a pattern emerging, & feel more energetic. You might be surprised to find that you're not who you thought you were!

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GARBAGE MONDAY
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GARDENING CLUB

We've had a great Autumn with beautiful colours & sadly it's coming to an end. The beautiful rain has been lapped up by our gardens & the forest around us, just sooooo needed...it's been such a thirsty summer & no amount of watering is as nourishing as a good drop of rain...let's hope we get good rains over the next months like the good old days.

We visited a couple of our group's gardens for Autumn colour... unfortunately they were both a little lack lustre from the parched summer, but it's always good to see how others deal with the challenges.

Our meetings are one the 3rd Saturday montly. Hope to see you there.

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• 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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• OUT & ABOUT • OUT & ABOUT •

JUNE:

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Sat 4	noon-2pm	Historical Society Meeting	Martin Street
Tue 7	6:30pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Tue 14	6:30pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Sat 18	10am	Blackwood Gardening Club	St Erth
Sun 19	3pm	Wombat Book Club	Blackwood Pub
Tue 21	6:30pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Tue 27	6:30pm	Meditation	Yogazen

JULY:

Sat 2	noon-2pm	Historical Society Meeting	Martin Street
Tue 5	6:30pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Tue 12	6:30pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Wed 13	7.30pm	Progress Association AGM	B/wood Hall
Sat 16	10am	Blackwood Gardening Club	The Merchant
Sun 17	3pm	Wombat Bookclub	The Merchant
Tue 19	6.30pm	Meditation	Yogazen
Tue 26	6.30pm	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.



THE MYSTERY FLIGHT

~ by Paul Tatchell



Have you ever headed off on a journey, not knowing the destination? When I woke up Friday morning as the National Party candidate, I looked across at my wife & she said “really”; I knew my traditional black coffee at 5am needed to be a little stronger than normal.

I couldn't count how many words I have written over the years on the “Canberra Big Top” and, more directly, on the clowns that perform in the centre ring; so as I reached out for my red nose & costume to hit the

campaign trail, I came to the realisation that what can be written about others can be written about one's self; now there's a daunting prospect.

It reminds me of a truck-driver many years ago who came into my office and, in jest, said “thanks for the job, last week I couldn't spell Kenworth, & now I drive one”; now there is a subtle reminder that it's easy to be critical from the cheap seats.

To put things in some form of “perspective”, if I was writing about my-self in the third person, I would probably write, “We have a candidate running in the Ballarat electorate that has never been a member of a political Party, running a first time campaign for a Party that hasn't run in the Federal electorate for close on 30 years; if he was a Melbourne Cup runner & you drew him out of a sweep, you would buy another ticket.”

It's not like we travel through life & not do new things, but, when I was shaving the well worn face of the bloke I barely recognise anymore, I came to yet another realisation; if not now, I am running out of whens!

As I did the rounds of the media on Friday, the most common question was “why the Nationals?” It turned out to be the easiest question to answer; branding yourself to a Party takes a commitment, it's more about values than policies, you can influence policy from within the Party, but you can't change the values if they don't align.

When the major parties were playing the blame game over the \$33M of funding for roadworks in Bacchus Marsh, which magically disappeared off the Vicroads budget after the State election. A chance meeting with Senator Bridget McKenzie, from Northern Victoria, led to a one on one with Warren Truss, then the deputy Prime Minister, & \$12.3M was allocated to the Hallett's Way by-pass, along with a further \$2.2M for bridgeworks at the Southern end.

Now it would be fair to suggest that that's their job; I make the point that there were no votes in this for Bridget McKenzie, or Warren Truss, as he was retiring. On the day of the announcement, whilst everyone was jumping over each other to take the credit & get the photo shoot, neither of the real players in solving the dispute were there, & that speaks volumes.

There is still \$25 million missing from the project & the State Government are still to commit, evidenced in the recent State Budget; it's a sad indictment of local representation & evidence of non-marginal seat neglect. The National Party didn't want nor take credit; it was needs based, not political.

All of the balloons, coloured t-shirts & slogans may be trappings of an election, but when the big-top comes down, it's about representation; they don't call it the House of Representatives for nothing! Although based on form.....

This election over all elections is an opportunity to reset the political agenda; regardless of who gets the nod in seven weeks, Red, Blue or Green, Government or Opposition, the bare essence of representation needs to be reflected on the ground, not in the photo opportunity.

It's about dealing with the tough local issues that are not always politically popular, the black & white photos of reality over the glossy prints of political perfection. Real life & idealism will never meet, when the future is based on three year cycles of mindless debate.

Stability, purpose & a dash of common sense may not be politically palatable, but realism is about build the future, not imagining one. Country people have always managed to do more with less, but it's unsustainable; electorates like ours can't keep begging for their supper, whilst the marginal seats polish the silverware.

It can't remain an all care & no responsibility genre, just because it comes under the label Federal; the invisible fences that offer an excuse of convenience in the blame game when it's not delivered on the ground need to be torn down.

The States have been using Federal funding to either prop up dodgy budgets, or enhance their own election prospects, rather than delivering on a needs basis; there is no more evident place than this electorate. Representation is about fighting for your region, not blaming someone else when it doesn't happen.

Over the next 7 weeks I will be unapologetic in putting local issues on the National agenda, using the “putting locals first” mantra of the National Party as catalyst for change & holding it to account.

I'm not a factory production model politician, I won't be getting the Henna red out & getting my teeth capped, what you see is what you get; this election won't be about me, it will be about us.

The Country tax dollar has the same value as the city dollar & with a third of Australians living in the bush, it's time we got a fair go; it's not about the sales pitch, it's about the scoreboard & we are ten goals down kicking into the wind.

As a non-career politician, I will only be out of my depth when I can't touch the bottom.

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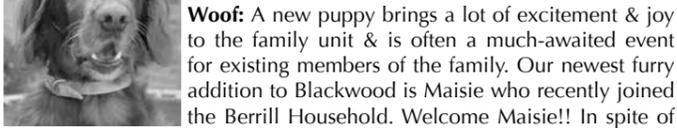
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PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS

A NEW ADDITION TO YOUR FURRY FAMILY



Woof: A new puppy brings a lot of excitement & joy to the family unit & is often a much-awaited event for existing members of the family. Our newest furry addition to Blackwood is Maisie who recently joined the Berrill Household. Welcome Maisie!! In spite of the temptation to show your new family member to everybody, the very best advice is that it should have nothing but peace & quiet in the first 24 hours. Try to encourage all family members to handle the new arrival quietly & gently, & particularly if your new friend is quite young, allow adequate periods of rest by itself. Always supervise other dogs when introducing the new puppy.

How do you housetrain your puppy?
Developing a routine will assist you in housetraining your puppy. There are times when you should take your puppy outside to prevent accidents. Such as, first thing in the morning, after every sleep, after being left alone for a long period of time, every meal & just before you put your puppy to bed. Also watch out for some simple signs that will alert you that your puppy needs to go outside including walking around in circles, sitting or whining at the door & sniffing at the ground.

Of course accidents will happen, but if you catch your puppy in the act, take them outside immediately. Never spank your puppy, rub their nose in it, or reprimand them after an accident has occurred. A puppy will not connect this with what they have done wrong. Just remember to praise whenever they do the right thing with tasty treats & a happy voice.

Puppy Pre- School
Acquiring a new puppy is very exciting, but can also be a little challenging as your puppy needs your time, care & lots of attention. New puppy owners need a source of support & information while caring for their new family member & joining a local puppy pre-school group will help with parenting issues & basic training. Socialising is very important at this early stage & having fun at puppy pre-school is an excellent starting point.

Vaccinations
The diseases that vaccinations protect against are serious & often fatal (sometimes despite treatment), so vaccinations are VERY important. Complete protection can only be achieved if all vaccines are given & your dog is kept away from public areas such as parks & shops until after the 14 week vaccine.

- 6-7 weeks Distemper, Hepatitis & Parvovirus
 - 10 weeks Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza & Bordatella
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- ADULTS Annual boosters are required to maintain immunity.

Parasite Prevention
Worming
Puppies should be wormed every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age (2, 4, 6, 8, 10 & 12 weeks), then every month until 6 months of age (4, 5 & 6 months), then every 3 months routinely. Worming should be performed regardless of whether worms are seen in droppings or not, as many worms are too small to be seen with the naked eye. A thorough all-wormer should be used, these are available in both tablet & chewable forms.

Heartworm prevention
This can be started at 3-6 months of age, increasing the dose as your dog gets heavier. Heartworm prevention is available in several forms. Once yearly injections or monthly tablets are easiest. Dogs over 6 months of age must have a blood test for heartworm before commencing prevention medications. If your dog misses its medication for any period of time, contact your local vet clinic for advice.

ONCE-YEARLY HEARTWORM INJECTIONS give you the security & “peace of mind” of knowing it's done. This can be started at 6 months of age.

Flea control
All pets will be exposed to fleas at some stage so rather than letting an infestation develop, it is better to use a regular prevention treatment. Newer products that are very safe & easy to use are the SPOT-ON drops applied to the skin once monthly & can be used on your pups at any age. There are several options available. Please discuss with your veterinarian which option is best for your pet.

All pets in the household must be treated.

Tick control
Paralysis ticks are found in or near bush, scrubland & riverbanks in warmer climates.. The main tick season is August to January, however ticks can be prevalent at any time of the year. If your pet is in a tick area, you should search him/her daily for ticks. Prevention can be difficult, so ask your veterinarian for more information as treatment may vary depending on your pet's level of exposure. No method of tick prevention is 100% effective, so you still need to manually search your pet. We tend to have just bush ticks in Victoria, which are relatively harmless.

Desexing
All pets should be desexed between 4 & 6 months of age. Desexed pets are healthier, & less likely to roam, fight or cause nuisance to neighbours. Many behavioural problems can be prevented with desexing. Medical conditions such as pyometra, mammary & testicular can be avoided. There is no advantage in allowing females to have a heat or litter first.

Diet
Correct nutrition is important, particularly during rapid growth time of the first 12 months A good quality dry food is recommended & needs to make up at least 80 percent of their diet. A balanced diet is essential for a long & healthy life.

Well Maisie hope to see you & Maggie soon!

Woof for now, Seamus



MEET BAXTER, the foxie pup who looks a lot like a domino tile, “a 3 suit, to be precise” he says. Yes, it seems Baxter knows his dominoes.

HE WAS born this year on February 2 at Scone, NSW and recently rode a horse all the way down to his new home in Blackwood. What? Now wait a minute Baxter, is that entirely true? Oh, you rode in a horse *truck*, along with about a dozen horses. Well that makes more sense; are you sure it wasn't a baker's dozen, since you were all from Scone? (apologies, Ed.)

BAXTER, BASIC black and white that he is, likes to accessorise in bright colours. His current favourite is industrial orange. It looks good on his collar, on his jacket and especially on his pouffe by the fire, where he plays his beloved dominoes. I wonder what the Spring palette will be.

HIS MUM says, “He's very social with other Blackwoofs and he's a people magnet, so most of you have probably met him. He's a bit of a daredevil, frightening or surprising a wombat from under the house. Baxter loves his forest walks, especially the smells, I think. He loves his elephant, his bed buddy, and I think he loves Blackwood. And I love having him in my life. I just haven't figured out what to do with the dozen horses.”

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WOMBAT BOOK CLUB 2016

Our cooler nights are great for retiring a little earlier with a good read, or still enjoying the last of the warm autumn & sunny afternoons, a good book is an all-occasion leisure time.

Our first book is 'The Private Patient' by P.D.James. For those Dalgliesh fans out there, this is one for you. Of course this was a part of James' Dalgliesh series, but a well written 'whodunnit' story even if you don't follow her series. Set in Dorset, an investigative journalist books into an exclusive manor house for a routine scar removal, she is murdered. The Dalgliesh team are called in to investigate, they find it is a complicated case with a family history tied to events.

Sandy: The story is well written & easy to read. I had not read any of P.D. James before this novel, & thoroughly enjoyed the story & all the twists which lead to solving the mystery.

4 wombies

Dee: This was my first crime novel & I quite enjoyed the complexity of the story. This Dalgliesh mystery invites you to speculate about who killed Rhoda Gradwyn while having treatment for a disfiguring facial scar. A second horrific murder opens up dark secrets & crimes of the past. Looking forward to reading more of PD James.

3 wombies

Sue: I feel not one of PD James best; very slow in the middle. More gentle, leisurely read than gripping whodunnit.

3½ wombies

Jinny: I found James' language a bit flowery & often wondered why she included back story which seemed out of place. I didn't realise Dalgliesh was a character through a series of book. I would have enjoyed it more has this been alluded to at the start.

3 wombies

The 2nd book we read was 'Kings In Grass Castles' by Mary Durack. This is an historical account of Durack's pioneering family, as well of many other Irish settlers establishing farmland in the Australian outback during the 19th century. She describes not only the hardships & normal family issues, but developing respect toward the aboriginal communities. They were influential with many changes to legislation to improve life & fairness in Australia.

Dee: This epic novel tells the story of an immigrant Irish family that arrive in Australia to escape the famine & starvation in Ireland. The novel is written by Mary Durack who is the granddaughter of Patsy Durack, who founded a pioneering dynasty & built a cattle empire across the great stretches of Australia. I found this novel very factual, often reminding me of reading a history book. The television mini-series is much more enjoyable!

2 wombies

Sandy: A valuable insight into the early Irish settlers, & how they made Australia their home. A good read, not only into history of early white Australia settlement but also acknowledging the first peoples of Australia & the many challenges it brought.

3 wombies

Jinny: Since I've been in the book club, I started to find book introductions can give valuable insights into the content. The opening line in Kings in Grass Castles reads "For many years now I have lived in 3 generations, following vague & winding tracks in search of missing clues & facts long buried in the drifts of time." This enchanted me I was excited to get into reading the story. Alas, I got no further than ½ way through the first chapter. I found the story to be dry & far too factual without the balance of a well-rounded story. Disappointing!

½ wombie (only for that first line!)

LOCALS PUT THEIR HANDS IN THEIR POCKETS

In March 2016, a family man with a heart of gold Matthew Osbourne (known around these parts as Ozzie), was diagnosed with stage 4 Glioblastomas, an aggressive form of cancer.

In April, Matthew started his treatment at the Cancer Centre in Ballarat - radiation every day Monday to Friday, & chemo in the form of a tablet every day for 6 weeks.

Ozzie & his wife Sarah have been a part of the Ballan, Greendale and Blackwood community for years, volunteering in local football & cricket clubs as well as the CFA. They share thier lives with one year old, Molly.

In April, Ozzie began a cycle of radiation and chemo for the 6 weeks followed by solid chemo for 6 months.

Ozzie's fight to beat cancer is expensive and he has asked for the community's help.

Karen Popple from the Greendale Hotel has organised a gofundme campaign at <https://www.gofundme.com/h8x7q8sk> to help Ozzie create a future for himself and his small family. No amount is too small and all is appreciated. So far over \$22k has been raised.

A fundraising night was also held at Greendale hotel in May with music, competitions & raffles. (see photo to right)



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No doubt about it! Those Trentham Spud Festivals just keep getting better!
Photo courtesy Melissa Cachia



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A WALKERS QUESTION ...

Do you or anyone else know the story behind the memorial near St Erth (pictured)? Also I have been clamboring over, under and around trees along the river near the end of Whalebone, trying to locate 'China wall'. If someone can point me in the right direction it would be great.

~ Sue Donnelly x562

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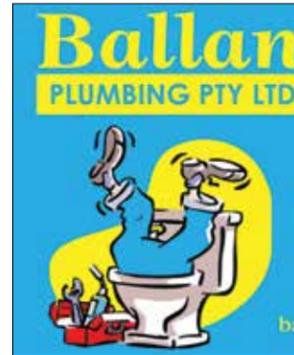

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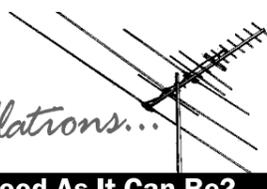
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