

**THE BLACKWOOD TIMES**

*August – September '16 vol 8 ~ issue 9:2*



ABOVE: & BELOW: July's dump – best snow in years  
LEFT: Hanging Rock Llama Treks comes to Blackwood





### EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

Hello, hello,  
The snow has come, I hope you're keeping warm! I don't know about everyone else but we've had an incredibly full-on month.

Thank you to everyone who sent messages, flowers & cards after the sudden death of my Mum, I can't tell you how much I appreciated your thoughts! When we cleared her room, we found years worth of back issue of The Blackwood Times. Mum loved Blackwood & visited often with Dad, they even celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Bromwich House.

Not long after the funeral Jess (who grew up in Blackwood) married her long-term partner, Ellen left for the adventure of a life time travelling to 15 countries over 3 months! Meanwhile Peta is busy growing our first grand baby in Kazakhstan!

We have another bumper issue for your enjoyment. On p3 there is an update on the next Festival of Music & Culture ... remember to put it in your calendar. The August Blackwood Bushdance is going to be a beauty ... if you've booked a ticket be sure to pay for them at the post office so the committee can confirm numbers.

The Blackwood Times has been getting around – lovely to see peoples photos & stories about their travels (p4).

On p13 Seamus writes about ear infections, which is great timing for us as our Max is prone to them!

Our advertisers are crucial to future publications, so please support them whenever you can – be sure to tell them you found them in The Blackwood Times. Oh, & if you love one of our regular contributors' articles let them know next time you bump into them!

~ I hope you enjoy this issue, cheers Jinny Coyle

### DRAFT SMALL TOWNS & SETTLEMENTS STRATEGY – COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Council has completed a Draft Small Towns & Settlements Strategy, which is available for comment until August 23, 2016.

The Draft Strategy contains recommendations for Blackwood & other small towns in the shire. Ballan & Gordon have already been considered in adopted Structure Plans.

Council is keen to gain feedback on the Draft Strategy & associated background info. The Draft Strategy & background info is available in the Talking 2041 section on Council's website [www.moorabool.vic.gov.au](http://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au) and can be viewed during office hours, free of charge at Moorabool Shire Council, Ballan Office & Darley Civic & Community Hub, 182 Halletts Way, Darley & Lerderberg Library, 215 Main Street

**Who can make a submission?** Any person may make a submission on the Draft Strategy prior to it being formally considered by Council. Submissions must be made in writing, giving the submitter's name & postal address.

Name & contact details of submitters are required, to enable Council to consider submissions & to notify submitters of the opportunity to attend Council meetings.

Written submissions on the Draft Small Towns & Settlements Strategy are invited until 5pm on Tuesday August 23 & can be made via [haveyoursaymoorabool.com.au](http://haveyoursaymoorabool.com.au) emailed to [info@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@moorabool.vic.gov.au) or addressed to: Strategic & Sustainable Development, Moorabool Shire Council, PO Box 18, BALLAN VIC 3342

Council will consider all submissions prior to adopting the Small Towns & Settlements Strategy. Once adopted, the Strategy will support a future planning scheme amendment to implement its key land use recommendations.

If you have any queries regarding the Draft Strategy, or wish to provide any further info, you are invited to make an appt with Council Officers to discuss any issues. Should you have any enquiries or wish to arrange an appointment, please contact Damien Drew on telephone 5366 7100 or via email [info@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@moorabool.vic.gov.au)

*The section of the report relevant to Blackwood can be downloaded from [theblackwoodtimes.com.au](http://theblackwoodtimes.com.au)*

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Thank you our **HANDS-UP** helpers – you are the reason we're able to keep publishing... (along with our regular contributors of course!)

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### FESTIVAL RETURNS ON CUP WEEKEND

The Blackwood Festival of Music & Culture is happening again for the third year running. This year it will be held over the Melbourne Cup weekend, October 28-30. The festival celebrates aspects of music & culture in the beautiful mountain forest setting of the Blackwood Recreation Reserve. It is a family-friendly festival featuring diverse music performances including Irish, Bluegrass, Country, Blues, Folk, Rockabilly & more. Inclusive music & culture workshops, dances & demonstrations will also be featured as well as a food & craft market.

Featured performers include international guest stars, Haywood Billy Goats from North Carolina in the U.S.A. An Old Time string band out of Chatham County, NC, the Haywood Billy Goats have become one of the most respected string bands in the North Carolina old time music scene.

Their tight, hard-driving sound & repertoire of traditional dance music has earned the band top finishes in a number of reputable string band contests throughout the region as well as numerous ribbons for twin fiddling.

Members of the group have won blue ribbons at prestigious contests such as the Mt. Airy, Union Grove, & Fiddler's Grove Festivals as well as a first place finish at the 2015 Australian National Bluegrass Mandolin Championship. In addition to being in demand as a square-dance band across North Carolina, the Haywood Billy Goats have played for dance contests at various festivals throughout the region & have performed with legendary NC dance ensemble, the Green Grass Cloggers.

Holding great appreciation for older-generation musicians in the traditional music community, the Billy Goats have spent considerable time playing with & learning from many respected Old Time musicians from the Round Peak & Piedmont regions of North Carolina. Members of the Billy Goats have also performed with Sierra Hull, Ricky Skaggs, Jim Lauderdale, Chris Henry & the Hardcore Grass, & Mandolin Orange.

A full programme of performers & events will be available as the festival approaches & online tickets will be available to purchase in August/September. For regular updates check out the festival website [www.blackwoodfestival.org](http://www.blackwoodfestival.org) & follow us on Facebook & Instagram.

The Festival is organised by a volunteer committee operating as Blackwood Academy & Revue Incorporated (Inc number: A0052282). Members of the committee have been involved in playing at & organising Old Time & Bluegrass events in Australia for over 25 years. The Blackwood Festival encourages all musicians & music lovers to attend & take the opportunity to join in jam sessions, open mics, workshops & dances.

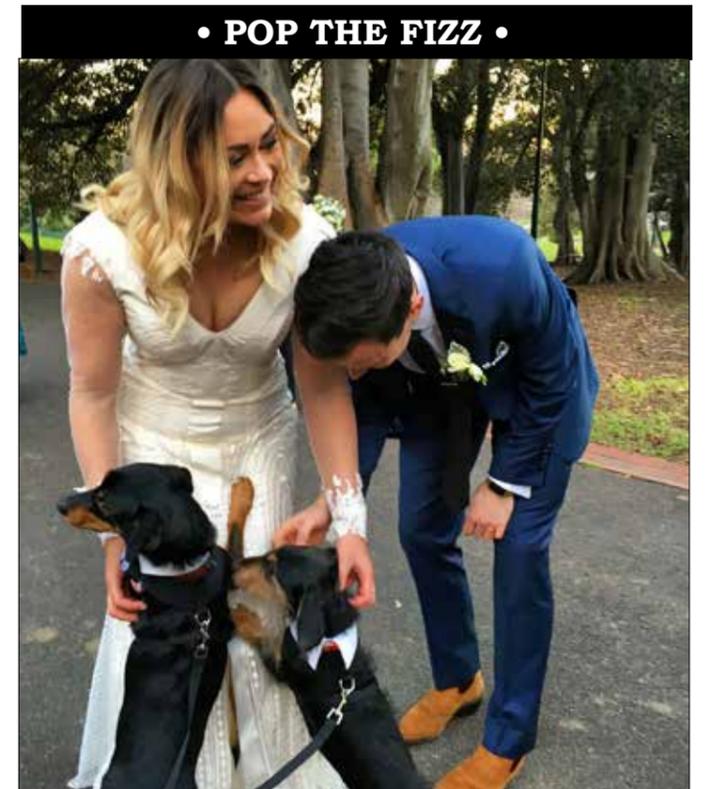


Nicole Brown & Hugh Jarvis welcomed baby girl Rylee Lavita Jarvis into the world on Wednesday the 29th of June at the Sunshine Hospital. Nicole and Hugh are currently back in Blackwood from Cairns to be closer to 1st time Nan Robina Brown & family.



Ray was born 26 June 2016 to Deb Stewart & Evan Juredini (residents since January). He likes food & sleep & dislikes nappy changes.

Our apologies in advance if you hear his voice through the trees...  
If you see us around town & haven't met us yet, please feel free to say hi. We look forward to meeting you.



Jess Coyle wed her beloved Ant Graham on July 16 in Melbourne. The wedding was attended by immediate family & besties followed by the party to beat all parties at the Longhorn Saloon in Carlton. Their fur-babies Scout & Krumm were the couples' ring bearers.

**the BLACKWOOD TIMES info**

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

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

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

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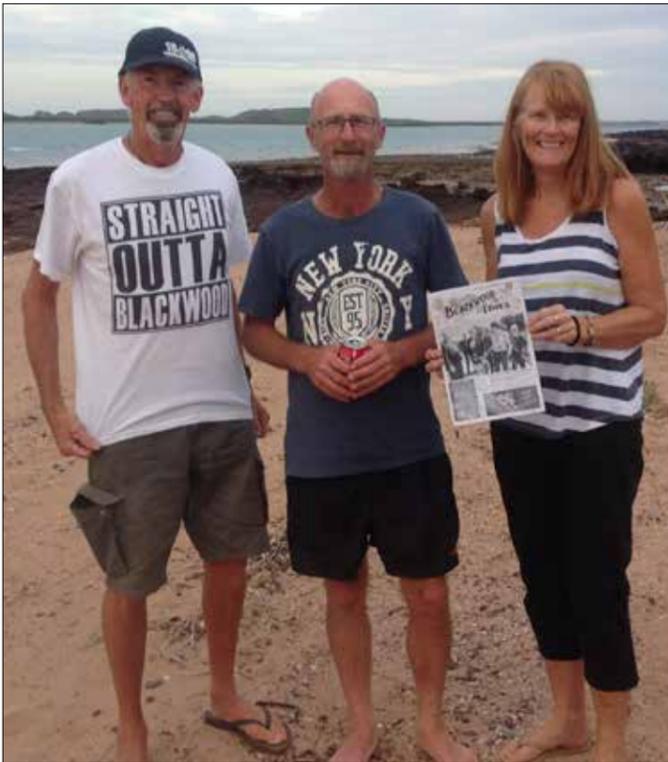
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Bruce & Bev up north with Paul (centre) We ran into an ex Trentham/Blackwoodian. His name is Paul Simmonds ESQ, he goes by that title because he owns a plot of land in the Blackwood Cemetery. He has family buried at Blackwood. Paul is a descendant of the Shaws (Shaws Lake), Stewart's, Walls, & Whalebones. He is the grandson of Margaret Simmonds of Old Golden Point Road.

Every Sunday he use to ride his bike from Trentham for a Sunday lunch. Great days in the bush between Trentham & Blackwood, Paul says it was his backyard where miners & bushmen were still operating. Wives stayed home. Nana along with 2 brothers & great grandma were the last to leave the Yankee mining area & her ashes are scattered at the old house site. The Martins family from Trentham were the second last family to leave. Pauls' Nan's great uncle was the constable shot at the Eureka Stockade, his regalia hung on the wall inside the house at Wall Street until it was stolen mid last century.



Woodside Retreat is perfect for couples or groups seeking a private escape in a tranquil parkland setting. This spacious, self-contained 4 bedroom house retains its original 1930s charm enhanced by a stylish renovation. Luxury features like a plasma TV, double spa bath a contemporary stainless kitchen compliment the open fire & polished hardwood floors.

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



woodsideretreat.com.au  
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BLACKWOOD TIMES GOES TO ...



Adam & Susie were recently the Blackwood Times to Japan to get this shot at Shibuya station, Tokyo.

The 10 lane, five way crossing is the busiest in the world, with approx. 2,500 pedestrians crossing during each signal change.



Blackwood Times visited the recent Chelsea Flower Show last week with Trischa.

The "5,000 Poppies" installation sponsored by the Victorian Government & Qantas & others was absolutely incredible. What a commemoration for all the ANZACS, including the Nurses (white centres) & the animals (purple centres)

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HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

Table with 8 columns: 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). Rows for May '16 and Jun '16.

MUSINGS AS THE SNOW FALLS

~ by Ewan Cameron

Beautiful places often make us reflect more deeply on life. This week I sat in the very early morning light before a wonderful wood fire & admired my Blackwood garden, which lay under a blanket of snow. I felt comfortably privileged to be in such an enchanted setting. Before I knew it, my mind wandered to deeper matters such as privilege & good fortune, or the lack of them. My lovely mum's wise saying echoed in my thoughts. Although not religious, upon seeing someone in a sad situation she would say, "There, but for the grace of God, go I."



As I recalled these words, I remembered her once talking about her nephew who was actually 12 years older than her. So Mum remembered him as a fine young man when she would have been a little girl of about 9. His name was Frank Guest & he enlisted in 1915 to go to the Great War. Mum would say of him, with some bitterness, "Oh, he was killed the first day!"

Before I knew it, I was researching Frank online & in no time at all had found a trove of information which included both genealogical & military records. Frank & I shared the same grandfather yet our births were more than fifty years apart. He was born at just the wrong time in that he was 'in the slot' to lose his life by chance in the "War to end all wars". Well, that is what the League of Nations, forerunner to the United Nations, called it. I was able to glean a surprising amount of knowledge about Frank through viewing the actual handwritten & typed documents of his time. I have formed the view that Frank Guest was a most independent, feisty, mildly

\* TRENTHAM BOM rainfall figures – Blackwood may be a little different. At last we are getting some good rainfall and the river is running again. Now we can look forward to the chilliest part of the year.

~ by Don Owen

rebellious & very brave man.

A strong soul who knew his own mind & went with it.

But it was reading about his death that brought home to me all the elements of tragedy involved; fate, chance, wastefulness & the utter futility of it all. Unexpectedly, I was able to read eyewitness accounts of the circumstances of Frank's death.

Frank was killed in action near Strazeele in northern France in April, 1918. His unit was attacking a farmhouse &, after some difficulty in achieving their objective, frustration got the better of them. They decided on a frontal attack over open ground. A small party of men, including Frank, left shelter & began the charge. One eyewitness later described how he saw Frank hit in the left wrist, turn, & then be cut down by further bullets. Sadly, when the Australians were driven back, Frank's body was left in the field & was not able to be recovered. I was horrified to then read a later account.

Another eyewitness recalled that in about August of that year, as the lost ground was recovered by the AIF, he saw bodies from that attack in April still lying out in the open. They were only identifiable by their unit colour patch. This saddened me greatly to think of this young man. Like me, he was my grandfather's grandson & there he was lying all that time in the open throughout the heat of summer. A later document I viewed states that he was 'presumed to have been buried.' However, on his official service record he is said to have no known grave. I then discovered that his name is recorded on the Australian War Memorial at Fromelles, France.

So, Frank Guest was not "killed on the first day" as my mother had said. But the bitter manner in which she said it over 50 years after the event was her way of amplifying to her children the magnitude of the needless suffering & pointless loss of life caused by World War 1. What strikes me now is that Frank Guest's life was lost among the many thousands of others in an imperial war in which the heads of states of the two main adversaries were cousins.

About 50 years after Frank's death, I was among that group of young men ineligible to vote yet could have been sent to a war that was not even declared. Unlike many unfortunates, I was among those spared.

Now, another fifty years later, I have the privilege of sitting looking out on snow-covered Blackwood.

"There but for the grace of God". You'd better believe it.



Robyn, Jane, Leticia, Em taste test Richards honey after the Blackwood Garden clubs be keeping talk given by Richard at Garden of St Erth.

Advertisement for Blackwood Community Bush Dance. Includes date (Saturday 13th August 2016), time (6pm-11:30pm), location (Blackwood Town Hall), cost, and a 'BOOK NOW!' call to action. Features a starburst graphic with a wombat logo.



## 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](http://www.bacchusmarshanglican.org.au) or contact 5367 5362.

~ Nina Harbison

### Blackwood Action Group

James Maw has been appointed as project manager for the Blackwood Localised Septic Program & will start in the job in mid-August. The position is funded by Central Highlands Water & Council in order to address the septic issue in Blackwood with the discontinuation of the Blackwood Sewerage Project.

James has previously worked as an environmental health officer with other councils & more recently managed his own consulting business.

As soon as James starts, the shire will be working with Central Highlands Water & the local community to put in place processes & contractors to address the communities' needs.

~ Brendan Hehir

### Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare

Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group is to prepare a plaque commemorating the memory of late members John Davies & Pat Liffman. John & Pat both passed away recently after many decades' contribution to the group & its efforts to protect our surrounding forests.

It is intended that the plaque is placed at the starting & finishing point of the Whipstick Walking Loop near Jack Cann Reserve at Simmons Reef. John Davies, in particular, was instrumental in the development & maintenance of this track.

But both John & Pat made huge contributions to the health of the forest in general.

It was originally thought that the track could be renamed to commemorate John's contribution. It turned out that this was going to require a good deal of political agitation and, on the advice of John's family, it was considered that John would not agree that such a fuss be made.

Instead, the group intends to proceed to a draft design & consult widely within the town before submitting it to the Department of Water, Environment, Land & Planning.

In other news, the group has started digitising selected documents from John Davies' archive. Once completed, the group intends to hand all of the material to the Blackwood Historical Society for its assessment & potential preservation.

The group has also recently issued weed identification & eradication advisory booklets to local real estate agents for the benefit of new buyers & renters to our area.

The group has welcome two new members – Diana Dawson & Anne Newton.

At our last meeting, the following subjects were "brainstormed" for possible action in the current year: weeds, signage, plantings. European wasps, education, plant advisory & community engagement.

If you have an interest in getting involved, follow our activities at [blackwoodlandcare.org.au](http://blackwoodlandcare.org.au) or email [admin@blackwoodlandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@blackwoodlandcare.org.au).

~ Shane Scanlan, president

### Blackwood CEMP

The draft Community Emergency Management Plan is completed & will be available for community consultation soon. Look out for details on [theblackwoodtimes.com.au](http://theblackwoodtimes.com.au) & <https://www.facebook.com/theblackwoodtimes/>

~ Brendan Hehir

### BLACKWOOD CERT

The Cert team have very busy updating their training this month & of course attending calls. Training at Ambulance Victoria Ballan with Aleisha was very interesting covering topics such as diabetes, allergic reactions, stroke & delivering babies. So are ready for any situation!! Kathy & Deirdre finalised their accreditation & are ready to attend all emergencies.

Emergency call outs have varied & our attendance rate is certainly on the up. Wild winds & wet/snowy weather is certainly a factor to be aware of this time of year. We would hope everyone is taking extra precaution in these hazardous conditions.

We are still working hard on building our shed, still waiting on the go ahead from Telstra & other governing factors.

On a sad note we have lost a valuable member of our cert team Sandie Schmidt. Due to work & family commitments she has resigned. Sandie also wrote for our Blackwood times article so big shoes to fill for me.

Thank you Sandie for your commitment to Cert.

Just a reminder, if you need an Ambulance call 000 & our First Responder team will attend as soon as possible.

Take care & keep warm.

~ Deirdre Cronin (first responder)

Everyone must be wondering what's happening with our new station. Progress had been moving at a snail's pace while we awaited the licence agreement from Telstra & without the signed agreement, works cannot proceed. Well, I'm happy to announce that as of last week, we now have a draft copy in our possession! This is the news that we've been working so hard towards & waiting to hear. So begins the necessary negotiations & amendments to ensure that both parties are happy & although we hope that this process won't take too long, I'll be careful before promising anything. Watch this space...things are starting to fire up!

~ take care Ivan Johnston

### Blackwood CFA

How is this cold lately? As we all know with cold weather & rains it often leads to blackouts & we resort to candles & our fireplaces for light & warmth. Always remember to check the placement of candles & that, when you have finished using them to extinguish them thoroughly, especially with children in the house.

As a precaution, always keep a spray bottle filled with water close to the fireplace or in the room, so if you have a problem, a few squirts into the fireplace or on the candle will help, but remember that if you have a problem call the brigade to attend.

Never hesitate to call the brigade in any emergency.

Check your smoke detectors about once a month by pressing the TEST button to ensure it works & change the batteries in them every time we change the clocks, even hard-wired detectors have a battery.

If you have a portable phone you may find it does not work during a blackout so keep an old plug-in phone as a backup if you need to make a phone call for any reason.

Take care & remember in the event of any emergency call 000 & look out for your neighbours.

On a sad note we wish to convey our deepest condolences to brigade member Jim Robertson's family.

~ Karl Church, CFA member

### BCRCM

The Community Hall is now ready for hire. For further details please contact Elizabeth Hall on 53686537 or Sue Donnelly on 53686562.

Jenny & Brad are away at the moment. However, if you want to book the Caravan Park, please call Arlene on 53686539. Due to the recent rain, the river is flowing more then it has been in recent years.

~ Elizabeth Hall, Secretary

### Blackwood Progress Association

New office bearers are David White (President), Lou Henderson (Vice-president), Sue Donnelly (Secretary), Di Volpe (Treasurer).

Next meeting Aug 9 @ 7.30pm at the hall.

We are looking forward to broader community participation & very much welcome new members at our next meeting.

~ Sue Donnelly 5368 6562

### Blackwood Senior Citizens

In June we attended Morning Melodies in Caroline Springs where we had a good meal & great entertainment. Then in July 39 members gathered at The Commercial Hotel in Ballan to celebrate Christmas in July. With many members waking on the previous morning to a blanket of snow we missed a true white Christmas by just 1 day. This provoked conversation of the last time we had more than just a sprinkle of snow, & everyone agreed it was a long time ago. An enjoyable day was had by all. Jock & Jill were great hosts & the meal was excellent.



Barb & Helga "We are counting the money!"



Christmas cuddles for Wendy & Max.

We welcome Joan & Harry Rowe & Bev Bennett back after quite a long absence.

Just a further update from the BSCC. We are all surviving this very cold & wet weather, & enjoying our time at the Club each Wednesday. We are still looking for new members so please come & join us on Wednesdays from 10am to 3pm. Annual joining fee is \$12.

The Club's next outing is to Halls Gap on August 11 at \$55 a head. If interested ring Bev Herd on 5368 2526.

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, Blackwood Historical Society.

If you would like to let your community know about your organisation, what your focus in the community is & how you would like support, please email Sandy at – [galaxyss@hotmail.com](mailto:galaxyss@hotmail.com). We'd love to hear from you.

### AN OBSERVATORY IN TOWN!

What is that new shed at the Residence Accommodation site on Terrill Street?

With funds raised from our 2015 Annual Golf Charity Day & our day shaking tins at Etihad Stadium (courtesy of the Western Bulldogs), donations from St Ignatius College, the Rotary Club of Frankston, Sunrise, the Ballan Lioness Club & funds allocated in this year's budget the Blackwood Outdoor Specialist School is one step away from helping students make One Giant Leap into infinity & beyond.

With most of the construction work now completed we have set up the telescope in the observatory & look forward to including this as part of camp programs in the coming weeks & beyond.

Yes, it is an observatory! We believe it is a unique educational opportunity for our students. In all the camps we have researched & visited nationally & internationally we are yet to come across a telescope / astronomy program

We look forward to introducing our students to our universe & beyond as well as further promoting the programs & opportunities we offer & deliver at Blackwood to everyone we meet.

So with the grateful support of all the above mentioned groups we look forward to continue to innovate & Blackwood & open new universes for our students.



**Blackwood** 

**Cricket Club wants**

**You**

**Come play for the**

**mighty Eagles**

**Gisborne & District Cricket Association Premiers**

**2012/13, 2013/14 & 2014/15**

**& semi-finalists 2015/16**

**Contact : Steve O'Brien 0488 978 684**



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### Alexander Drummond – Yankee Reef, Blackwood

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

In the area north of Blackwood towards Trentham is the area called Yankee Reef. On a road that is off to the right, is Yankee Road which is where the remains of the Trojan Mine now lie. Just past the Trojan Mine on the left amongst the trees & the surrounding bush is a headstone - a memorial to the Drummond family which reads "Erected 1946 - to the memory of our loving parents, Alex & Eliza A.E.L. Drummond. This was the site of their home in 1876 & our birthplace." The monument marks the place where the Drummond family once lived, & the remains of a brick chimney is all that is left to mark the spot.



Alexander Drummond, was born in 1841, son of Duncan Drummond & Ann McIntyre, & came from Balnacuil, Perthshire in Scotland. Alex Drummond arrived in Melbourne in 1853 aged 12 years, with his father Duncan Drummond & his brother Peter Drummond. Within months the two boys were orphaned. Duncan Drummond died 1854. His parents were Alexander Drummond & Catherine, he was age 44 yrs when he died. Reg Number: 2898.

Ben Trewhella Sen. had pegged out the 'Lucky Hit' mine in 1862 on the Yankee Reef & a seam of gold was found just below the surface.

Alexandra Drummond was in Blackwood in 1869 when, 28 years old, he became a friend & partner with Robert Williams in prospecting the district. The partners struck the main seam of gold at Yankee Reef & the mine was about 600 metres from the Drummond's home. It appears from records searched that their mine was called the Trojan mine & later the Victorian Co.

The Yankee Reef was mined in the 1870s & 1880s from two main localities; by the Victoria Company from the southern end of the line (former Trojan mine), & the Countess, from the northern end (possible Blackwood & Clunes mine site). The battery relics that now survives at the Trojan mine also shows that the reef was worked in the 1930s.

The 1906 mines Department report lists the Victorian Co., Yankee Reef & Williams & Drummond as obtaining 4,942 oz. to a depth of 320 feet.

In 1876 Alexander Drummond married Elizabeth Ann Elevena Lang Williams, sister of his partner Robert Williams. They were married at Golden Point & went to live at Yankee Reef where 12 children were born, 3 of whom died in infancy. John, their eldest child, born in 1877 died, age 3 years by drowning & was buried on the 21.3.1879 in the Blackwood cemetery. The youngest children of Alex & Elizabeth were twins, Emma & Maggie who were born on 28.7.1894. The twins both died the following year in March 1895, Emma on the 10th & Maggie on the 17th March. They are all buried in the Blackwood cemetery. Methodist section J, 8 & 9.

(Some info from – Truda Drummond, & Graham Mounsey – Drummond descendants)

A report was found concerning the death of Alexander Drummond in 1894.

Bacchus Marsh Express - Saturday 8 December 1894 - BLACKWOOD.

QUITE a shock was experienced by the residents in this locality when it became known that Mr. Alexander Drummond one of our best known & most respected miners, had been killed by a fall of earth in his alluvial claim at Yankee Reef on Saturday last. The deceased, with his father-in-law & one of his sons, was working ground about eight feet in depth, & at the time of the accident they were engaged in removing the six feet of surface soil by a process of dry-stripping, & the deceased had just about finished the under-cutting preparatory to falling the ground with the crowbar when a large block of the hard earth suddenly came away, & partially buried him. He was at once extracted by his mates, & found to be seriously injured, but was quite conscious, & tried to make light of his hurts, saying that as soon as the numbness went off he would be all right. He, however, died a few minutes later, whilst being carried to his house, some 300 or 400 yards away, & the doctor's examination afterwards showed that, besides fractures of the leg & hip bones, he had been injured internally.

The deceased leaves a wife & 11 children, the youngest being twin daughters, only 4 months old, but the fact that he had his life insured for a moderate amount will help somewhat to alleviate the sadness of the circumstances.

The funeral took place on Tuesday after noon, & was largely attended. Mr. P. Duncan was the undertaker, & the religious service was conducted by the Rev. J. Illingworth, Wesleyan. It may be added that the deceased has been mining on Blackwood for about 25 years, & was one of the principal working shareholders in the Victoria quartz mine, at Yankee Reef, during nearly the whole time it was at work, & it is only since the stoppage of that mine, some two years ago, that he had taken to regular alluvial mining. He was a brother of Mr. Peter Drummond, in the State school service, & I understand that, if it had not been for the assistance of the deceased in their early struggling years he would scarcely have been able to acquire the education necessary for the position.

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 – margothitchcock@bigpond.com

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### THE LIFE OF JIM ROBERTSON

28-04-1939 - 9-7-2016

Today, sprinkled among the memories of Jim will be the names of those others who have been a part of his life journey. Places & events will also be remembered as having made up his life experience.

Jim was born on 28th April 1939 in Camberwell. It was on a Friday in Autumn that Ann & Alan Robertson welcomed their 5th child into their family & they named him James Alexander Hackett Robertson – Hackett being his mother's maiden name. In previous years June, Bruce (since deceased), Trish & Marg had arrived & so Jim was more than welcome as their baby brother.

The year of Jim's birth was also the year that WWII began & so times were difficult for all. His earliest years were ones in which the family moved often. Subsequently Jim attended such schools as Hutchins School in Hobart, Wandsworth Grammar School in London & Caulfield Grammar in Melbourne.

Jim was not academically inclined, preferring the practical applications of his knowledge so he began an apprenticeship as an engineering pattern-maker in South Melbourne.

Jim became very involved with Youth Hostels Australia in his younger years, acting as a mentor to many & taking on the responsibilities of a Committee Member. Jim was among those who helped to build the YHA chalet at Mount Baw Baw which has offered shelter & accommodation to countless people over the years.

He enjoyed the outdoors & took advantage of the opportunity to spend time canoeing on the Thompson River with his friends. It was while working with YHA that he first met Norma who was to become his wife. During their marriage they became the proud parents of Jarrod.

Jim was a man with many skills & had built 2 houses in Mt. Eliza on the Mornington Peninsula for his family where they lived until 1987.

Jim had started his own furniture business & again excelled in his work... however, it has been said by some that, Jim had salt-water in his veins – & the call of the sea was a strong one. In 1996 an operation on his spine meant he was forced to take time to consider the future. Once he had regained his strength he started to take courses in sailing & spent every weekend at Murray Jacob's Yacht Master Sailing School at Westernport where he would attend training courses. His passion for the ocean was real & his dedication to these new skills was obvious.

Because of his diligent training & willingness to mentor others he was invited to become a crew member on the Jubilation by its skipper, 'Diesel Dave', in the now infamous Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race who had undertaken this race on 3 previous occasions.

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The crew notes for the voyage introduced Jim as 'Fossil' his nickname in the sailing fraternity. The notes go on to say "Jim has been a cabinet maker, sales engineer in pattern-making & has now retired into the life of the 'cruising yachtsman'. Since Sept 1996 he has sailed extensively with Murray Jacob on delivery trips & has now clocked up over 6,000 nautical miles & assisted both Murray & more recently Peter on Yachtmaster courses. He has recently purchased a steel Van de Stadt 34' yacht which he has named 'Fossil Won' & this promises to keep Jim & his cabinet making skills creatively occupied down below."

Because their skipper knew the east coast of Australia like the back of his hand, when the terrifying storms hit he guided the yacht directly towards the coast-line (to the consternation of the crew) - & Jubilation slipped between the gaps in the cliffs to a safe haven protected from the wild seas.

The 1998 fleet comprised 115 starters. Of these, only 44 yachts completed the race, including Jubilation. Ultimately the storms caused the sinking of 5 boats & the deaths of 6 sailors – a record 66 yachts retired from the race & 55 sailors had to be airlifted from their yachts by a rescue helicopter. Overall, we are told, the rescue efforts involved 35 military & civilian aircraft & 27 Royal Australian Navy vessels, & proved to be Australia's largest ever peacetime rescue operation.

It could be understood if 'Fossil' had chosen never to go to sea again, however his determination to continue sailing over-rode any fear that could have arisen from the experience.

From 1996 until 2000 Jim sailed over 25,000 nautical miles – two big trips being Osaka to Melbourne over 2 months via a number of islands throughout the Pacific; the other long one was from the Marquesas Islands to Florida via the Galapagos Islands through the Panama Canal, Jamaica & Cuba. & of course there were many trips between Australia & NZ.

Jim worked with other colleagues on outfitting expensive yachts – among them the well-known Skandia Wild Thing which took line honours in the Sydney to Hobart Race in 2003. It was a triumph for the locals in Mornington because the maxi was designed, built & skippered by locals & about half the crew are members of the Mornington Yacht Club.

Jim's plans & dreams for more voyages were cut short when he was injured badly in a car accident in 2011. The past 5 years have been difficult ones for him & for those who have cared for him. Jarrod in particular has offered Jim a home & reassurance that he was cared for in the midst of Jim's frustration at not being able to pursue his dreams. Gradually frailty took over & Jim quietly slipped away on 9th July.

### JOHANN DE JONG

1/2/1955 – 14/6/2016

Johann was born in The Netherlands. Moved to New Zealand with his family when he was three. Had a difficult time when he first started school as he could not speak english so, as he later told me, he refused to speak at all until he mastered the English language.

He had the usual childhood. Went to a boarding school, which he remembered the food being overcooked & revolting. Went to University studying Medicine but left after a short time' when he discovered it wasn't what he wanted to do.

In 1978 he decided to come to Australia as the first stop on a travelling adventure. Started work at ICI Deer Park. We met & married in 1981, & in 1985 moved to Blackwood.

Became involved in community activities i.e. Progress Association & Crown Reserves. Started working for Tom & Penny Garnett at the Garden of St Erth, & had a deep abiding respect & admiration for both of them.

Started up his own business "Motel Minders". ( Sending relief managers to motels whilst the owners went on holidays). Also became involved with philosophy forums online , indulging his life long interest in philosophy & science.

Please extend my thanks & appreciation to the Blackwood Community for the support & comfort they showed us during Johann's illness & death.

~ Sue de Jong





## Jemma Rowlands and Sean McMahon

### The Blackwood

Sat. September 10  
8pm, 2 sets

1 Goldenpoint Road, Blackwood

From Clifton Hillbillies, we welcome Sean McMahon (Downhills Home, Sean McMahon & The Moon Men, Western Union, Suzannah Espie) and Jemma Rowlands, to perform Clifton Hillbillies duets, Sean McMahon songs, Jemma songs, and some other peoples' songs. Sean will kick things off in one set by performing his acclaimed album 'Welcome to Gippsland', then Jemma will join him in duo mode.

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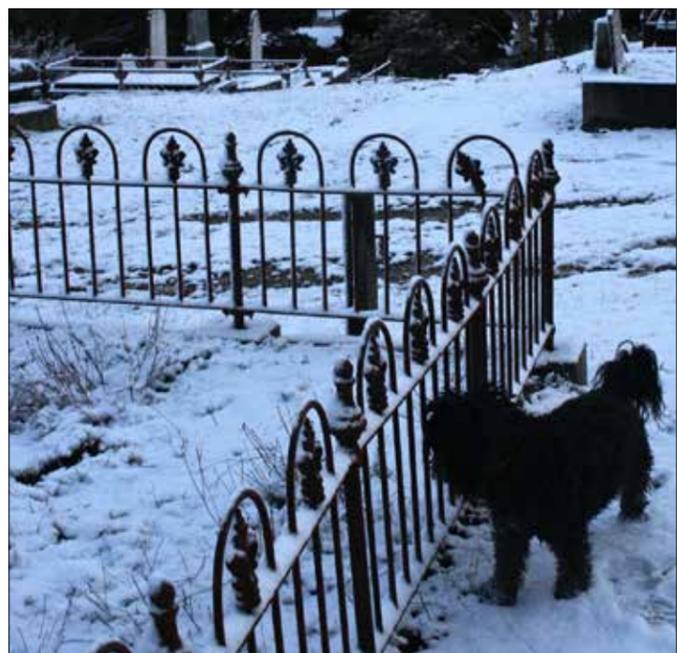
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Local Blackwood CERT volunteer first responders, Ivan Johnston, Margaret McCarthy, Kathy Berrill & Deirdre Cronin toured the Ambulance Victoria chopper at the CERT conference - a weekend of the intensive and informative conference at Ballarat in July. They didn't get to joy ride, but it didn't stop their big smiles on this chilly morning. (And they'd prefer never to have to use their knowledge to load local patients aboard!)



Max enjoys Blackwood snow day

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## WHO'S TATTS THAT?



FOR TENS of thousands of years all over the world people have been tattooing & scarifying their bodies, for a variety of reasons, though mostly for identification & commemoration... I Am, I Remember.

THE QUEEN & the convict could be known by their markings, as could the tribesperson, the gang member, the hipster. Identifier tattoos come to us as statements of belonging & status, expressions of cultural & spiritual beliefs or just simply self-expression. Oh, & they look good, too.

COMMEMORATIVE TATTOOS have been used to mark in memory an accomplishment, a victory, or to honour a place, a fallen comrade or, of course, family & ancestors. Poor King Harold, lying dead on a battlefield in 1066, was identified by the tattoo over his heart, which read "Edith".

SOMETIMES MEMORIAL tatts can be mere notes: in the film "Memento", Guy Pearce replaces his blasted & besieged memory with tattooed messages to himself, while in real life, people are replacing medical alert bracelets with prominently-positioned tattoos such as "Do Not Resuscitate".

THE CLUTCH of beautiful memorial tatts pictured here have kept loved-ones close to the wearer for 26 years. This year her father will join them.

THERE'S A new practice in memorial tatts that preserves on your body, not just the memory, but also a physical trace of the loved-one. Yes, you can now get gramps' ashes mixed with the ink & carry him with you for the rest of your life. A bit weird, but it does take us back to the beginning, tens of thousands of years ago, when the first permanent colour appeared as scarified skin was rubbed with powdered charcoal.

IF YOU'RE interested in seeing more, Professor Deborah Davidson from York University, Toronto, is in the process of compiling "a digital archive of memorial ink". You can take a peek at <http://bit.ly/13sr4f4>.

A. Janine O'Keefe

## GIGS & EVENTS • GIGS & EVENTS

### AUGUST

when	what	where
Wed 3	Accoustic Open Mike Night	7pm @ Pig & Whistle
Fri 5	The Old Married Couple	7pm @ Blackwood Merchant
	Traditional Irish Music Session	2.30pm @ Pig & Whistle
Fri 12	Arkie T Williams & The Mudlarks	7pm @ Blackwood Merchant
Sat 13	Blackwood Bushdance	6pm @ Blackwood Hall
	Cam Kettle	8.30pm @ Greendale Pub
Sun 14	King Maxwell	1pm @ Cosmo
Sun 21	Bryan Sadler	3.30pm @ Greendale Pub
Fri 26	Cat and Clint*	7pm @ Blackwood Merchant
	Cam Kettle	8.30pm @ Greendale Pub
Sat 27	Honeyfields*	8pm: Blackwood Hotel
Sun 28	Honeyfields* Cat and Clint*	arvo @ St Annes Winery

### SEPTEMBER

when	what	where
Fri 2	The Old Married Couple	7pm @ Blackwood Merchant
Sat 3	Traditional Irish Session*	arvo @ Blackwood Hotel
Sun 4	Honeyfields*	lunch @ Radio Springs Hotel
	Traditional Irish Music Session	2.30pm @ Pig & Whistle
	Bryan Sadler	3.30pm @ Greendale Pub
Fri 9	The Old Married Couple	7pm @ Blackwood Merchant
Sat 10	Jemma and Sean	Blackwood Hotel
Sun 11	King Maxwell	1pm @ Cosmo
Fri 16	The Old Married Couple	7pm @ Blackwood Merchant
Fri 23	The Old Married Couple	7pm @ Blackwood Merchant
Sun 25	Phil and Trudey Edgeley	1pm @ Cosmo
	Cam Kettle	3.30pm @ Greendale Pub
Fri 30	The Old Married Couple	7pm @ Blackwood Merchant

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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*Dear Pet Guru,*

*Every morning when I get up I find that my pet Cassowary has strewn the contents of my wheelie bin all over the yard. What should I do?*

*Signed,  
Baffled, Bundaberg.*

Dear Baffled,  
I suggest that before you go to bed, you make sure you close the lid of your wheelie bin.

Pet Guru

### PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS



#### Ear Infections (Otitis Externa)

**Woof:** In this edition I would like to talk about a painful subject. The dreaded ear infection!!

Infections of the external ear canal (outer ear) by bacteria or yeast, is one of the most common types of infections seen in dogs & cats. It is called otitis externa. Some breeds, particularly those with large ear flaps or hairy ears such as Cocker Spaniels, Irish

Setters Miniature Poodles or Golden Retrievers, seem more prone to ear infections, but they can occur in any breed.

Dog's & cat's ear canals are long "L" shaped, funnel-like tubes that are great for hearing but this shape is predisposed to the collection of debris & moisture.

**What are the symptoms of an ear infection?** A pet with an ear infection is uncomfortable & their ear canals will be sensitive. A pet may shake its head or scratch at its ears, which leads to the ears becoming red & inflamed. They will often develop an odour & visually, a black or yellowish discharge can be seen. These are all common signs that your pet could be living with an ear problem.

**What can cause an ear infection?** Ear mites can be a cause of an ear infection, but this occurs most commonly in younger pets. There are several types of infectious bacteria, yeast & fungus which might cause an ear infection. Without knowing the kind of infection present, it is difficult to treat effectively. In some cases, a foreign body or growth in the ear canal may cause the ear to become irritated. Treatment with medication alone will not resolve these problems. It is essential to have your pet's ear drums examined to ensure they are intact. This is necessary because certain medications can result in loss of hearing if the eardrum is ruptured. The diagnosis is made by your veterinarian.

**Diagnosis:** Having your pet's ear examined will allow your veterinarian to determine whether the eardrum is intact & if there are any foreign materials in the canal. When a pet is in extreme pain & refuses to allow the examination, it may be necessary to sedate or anaesthetise the pet for a thorough examination.

**How are ear infections treated?** If there is foreign matter or excess discharge in the ear canal, the pet may need to be sedated or anaesthetised so that it can be removed. This discharge will prevent any eardrops penetrating the full length of the canal & thus stopping the healing process. Cytological study of debris from the ear canal dictates which treatment method or medication to use. Sometimes it reveals the presence of more than one type of infection & this may require the use of multiple medications.

The treatment of ear infections must be continued for as long as your veterinarian has advised, to minimise the chance of an ear infection reoccurring.

#### Aftercare at home:

- Follow the medication directions that have been advised by your veterinarian.
- Avoid the ears getting wet – no swimming & only wash the head with a damp cloth.

**How to prevent ear infections:** Cleaning your pets ears periodically with pet ear wipes will give you a chance to examine your pet's ears for signs of any problems.

Remember to watch for signs like tenderness, discharge, redness or odour from your pet's ears. If these signs develop, contact your local Vet clinic as soon as possible..

*Woof for now, Seamus*

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**THIS IS Jack.** He and his brother Archie have moved in with pub dog, Marley, the 8 year old Jack Russel X. The Blue Heeler pups are already helping her out with 'round-the-clock pub dog chores: meeting and greeting patrons, hoovering the chips from the bar floor of a morning, checking on overnight guests in the wee hours, setting the fires first thing (somehow this requires them to run madly about with lumps of charcoal in their mouths).

**WHEN THEY can,** which is often, Jack and Archie escape their chores to visit their new doggie mates about town. "Bloody Houdinis" says Darren.

**THEY LOVE making new friends.** You could be next. Just ask, as many do when they front the bar, "Where's the pups?"



### BLACKWOOD GARDENING CLUB

Well we wanted rain & we're certainly getting it ... it's almost like the old days. Our gardens are lapping it up, as is the forest.

Our bee keeping workshop given by Richard Robinson was fabulous up in the Garnett room at St Erth. Richard has a wealth of knowledge on the subject & talked of everything one needs to know about bee keeping ... our best friends in the garden.

We meet on the 3rd Saturday monthly at 10am ... hope to see you there. Everyone is welcome. We are about sharing ideas, seeds, cuttings & green thumb knowledge.

~ Jane Howat

• 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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• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Blackwood power outages over period Dec 5 '15 to Jul 13'16				
Fault starting date	Fault starting time (h:m:s)	Fault finishing date	Fault finishing time (h:m:s)	Outage time (h:m:s)
Sat, Dec 5, 15	02:53:26 PM	Sat, Dec 5, 15	02:53:37 PM	00:00:11
Sat, Dec 5, 15	02:53:37 PM	Sat, Dec 5, 15	04:53:12 PM	01:59:35
Sat, Dec 19, 15	10:24:24 AM	Sat, Dec 19, 15	11:30:08 AM	01:05:44
Mon, Dec 28, 15	10:04:55 AM	Mon, Dec 28, 15	10:21:43 AM	00:16:48
Thu, Dec 31, 15	08:32:51 AM	Thu, Dec 31, 15	08:32:55 AM	00:00:04
Sat, Jan 2, 16	12:37:54 AM	Sat, Jan 2, 16	12:37:58 AM	00:00:04
Sat, Jan 2, 16	03:37:29 AM	Sat, Jan 2, 16	03:37:33 AM	00:00:04
Wed, Jan 20, 16	11:39:39 PM	Wed, Jan 20, 16	11:39:43 PM	00:00:04
Fri, Feb 5, 16	07:29:33 AM	Fri, Feb 5, 16	07:29:37 AM	00:00:04
Sun, Feb 21, 16	03:45:56 AM	Sun, Feb 21, 16	03:46:00 AM	00:00:04
Sun, Mar 6, 16	05:37:55 AM	Sun, Mar 6, 16	05:37:58 AM	00:00:03
Thu, Mar 17, 16	04:26:33 AM	Thu, Mar 17, 16	04:26:37 AM	00:00:04
Wed, Mar 23, 16	10:31:11 PM	Wed, Mar 23, 16	10:31:16 PM	00:00:05
Fri, Apr 8, 16	01:10:26 AM	Fri, Apr 8, 16	01:10:31 AM	00:00:05
Thu, Jun 9, 16	01:48:44 PM	Thu, Jun 9, 16	02:10:14 PM	00:21:30
Fri, Jun 10, 16	08:43:50 AM	Fri, Jun 10, 16	08:48:57 AM	00:05:07
Tue, Jul 5, 16	11:09:49 PM	Tue, Jul 5, 16	11:09:53 PM	00:00:04
Tue, Jul 5, 16	11:09:54 PM	Tue, Jul 5, 16	11:09:58 PM	00:00:04
Tue, Jul 5, 16	11:10:00 PM	Wed, Jul 6, 16	05:07:59 PM	17:57:59
Tue, Jul 12, 16	01:11:22 PM	Tue, Jul 12, 16	01:11:26 PM	00:00:04
Tue, Jul 12, 16	01:11:28 PM	Tue, Jul 12, 16	01:11:34 PM	00:00:06
Tue, Jul 12, 16	01:11:35 PM	Tue, Jul 12, 16	02:56:21 PM	01:44:46
Wed, Jul 13, 16	03:47:33 AM	Wed, Jul 13, 16	03:47:42 AM	00:00:09
Wed, Jul 13, 16	03:47:44 AM	Wed, Jul 13, 16	12:26:54 PM	08:39:10

Dear Jinny,

The Blackwood Times is a wonderful link with my past & future. I am the third generation of my family to have had a lifelong love affair with Blackwood.

So I wanted to share with you & your readers my exciting news - the publication by Simon & Schuster (Aust.) of my 4th Australian historical novel, Golden Hope.

Golden Hope is set in 1901-2, the birth of the Federation era, against the background of the 2nd Boer War. The heart of the story is Hoffnung, an imaginary gold-mining township in Victoria's Gold Triangle. All the characters are fictional, but the story is played out against the background of historical events & legendary names including Lola Montez & Captain Moonlite. Some are drawn from stories told me by my father, comedy writer & author Fred Parsons & his brother Gordon, who spent their childhood in Blackwood, the sons of Rev. Frederick Parsons & his wife Rosie. Grandma Rosie was a long-term resident of Blackwood, & after many years of widowhood married Jack Nelson in Blackwood's Anglican Church (I was her teenage bridesmaid). I later brought my baby son from Sydney to be christened in the same church.

Although the story & characters in Golden Hope are fiction, beautiful images of the bush, my childhood memories of Blackwood & other towns in the Gold Triangle, no doubt filter through the book.

Again my thanks to all who contribute to your excellent magazine, which captures the heart, soul & history of a very special place. I look forward to reading historian Margot Hitchcock's true history of Blackwood when it is published.

With kind regards to all Blackwoodians,

~ Johanna Parsons Nicholls

Dear Jinny,

We found this photo in one of Don's mother's photo boxes.

Apropos Margot's article I thought it may be of interest to other readers.



The only people we can identify are Don's mother, Linda (5th from left) who was quite a good tennis player, and possibly Les Armstrong (2nd from right). Readers may know some of the other players.

Regards,

~ Trischa Owen

Hi Jinny,

I notice that we have been getting quite significant power outages in Whalebone road & I presume in the rest of Blackwood.

I record power failures at our place in Whalebone Rd - see the attached PDF file.

The most outage times were nearly 18 hours over the July 5th to 6th period & over 8 hours on July 13th.

I only show failures in excess of 1 sec so there may be some that are not shown that can upset computers etc.

My purpose in highlighting these failures is not to attach blame to Powercor as in a forested area such as Blackwood most would be unavoidable but are just shown for interest.

I didn't receive a reminder email from you regarding the entries for the August September issue. It doesn't matter as I emailed my weather data early this month to you.

~ cheers Don

Hi Don, Thanks for this. We recently received a letter from Powercor about the powerlines going underground in areas surrounding Blackwood. Hopefully once this work is complete there will be fewer outages caused by trees falling on the lines.

I have scanned it & added it to theblackwoodtimes.com.au

Hello Jinny,

If Sue Donnelly would like to get in touch we can show her where the Chinese Walls are. They are along Yankee, & now would be a good time to see them with the creek bed dry. Don & I went for a long walk up there last time we were at Blackwood.

Also, that memorial + poppy is a mystery. We don't think it is Herbert Sweet ... Let's hope someone knows!

~ Regards, Trischa Owen

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SEARCH FOR AMBLESIDE COUNTRY HOUSE DAYLESFORD/TRENTHAM/BLACKWOOD ON AIRBNB

WOMBAT BOOK CLUB 2016

Hello from the Wombat Bookclub. We are a group of avid readers (in theory), who love to read, and love to talk. We have lively discussions about the book we have just read, what we liked or didn't like. We meet the third Sunday in each month, alternating between the Blackwood Pub and the Merchant, sometimes subject to change. For more information please contact Jinny on editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au.

This issue we read 'For love of a Rose' by Antonia Rudge.

Set in France, the story of Papa Meiland growing up with a burning desire to grow roses. A story of how 2 families came together to share their passion of growing roses which eventually would make a fortune, it was the love of roses which kept them going in times of hardship.

Sandy: Just the book one would want to curl up cosy on the couch and read. Easy to read, this warm story is just the thing in these cooler days. I loved it, you were immediately drawn into the characters and their journey to achieve their passion.

5 wombies

Anne: This is a lovely and true account of the lives and loves of two French families whose descendants continued on experimenting with roses and eventually became famous in rose growing circles for producing the rose that became known as "Peace" after the end of the Second World War. The inter-marrying between the families took a bit of keeping up with but their passion for the roses shone throughout.

3.5 wombies

GOLDEN HOPE

A HAUNTING SAGA OF LOVE AND BETRAYAL SET IN VICTORIA'S GOLD TRIANGLE



New Year's Day 1901 sees the birth of Australia as a nation, eager to claim her place on the world stage.

Clytie Hart, a daring equestrienne, is travelling with her mother in a wagon train along the back roads of Victoria's Gold Triangle. Once world-famous, Wildebrand Circus is now struggling to survive. But a chance meeting with Rom Delaney, a wild young adventurer, changes everything. His invitation to play Hoffnung, an isolated gold-mining town, promises to restore the circus's fortunes.

To Clytie, the roving life is all she has ever known. Much as she loves her circus family, she longs to put down roots in a real house in a friendly bush town, and to free her mother from her violent step-father, Vlad the Knife-Thrower.

Blinded by her passionate love for Rom, Clytie is desperate to prevent him volunteering for the Empire in the distant South African war. And in the face of unexpected tragedy, with the help of unlikely friendships, Clytie uncovers some stark truths. Hoffnung's respectable veneer conceals the dark secrets of a town haunted by a mystery that threatens to blight Clytie's life – and all those she has learned to love.

Golden Hope is a saga as wide and sweeping as the landscape itself, told by a master storyteller at the peak of her powers.

EDITORS REVIEW: I was looking forward to getting stuck into my review copy of Golden Hope. I've always liked well-written historical novels but never read one so close to home. (see the authors letter on p14). I was not disappointed!

Johanna writes with a great understanding of the quirks of a small gold mining town & its characters, bush justice, gossip & loyalties.

I particularly liked the descriptions which charmed my imagination without being too flowery - my favourite referred to the sky as being as blue as the sky in a Christmas card. Can't you just see the colour?

I have a few copies which I'm happy to lend out after the book club has read them, but if you simply can't wait to read it, look for a copy at Jindarup Post Office.

BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

Open 1st Saturday monthly 10am-1pm  
Historical Society Meeting 10.30am-12.30pm

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• CALENDAR OF EVENTS • CALENDAR OF EVENTS •

AUGUST:

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Tue 2	8am-7:30pm	Yoga, meditation & more (pay as you feel classes)	Yogazen Blackwood
Sat 6	10:30am	Blackwood Historical Society	Blackwood Museum
Tue 9	8am-7:30pm	Yoga, meditation & more (pay as you feel classes)	Yogazen Blackwood
Sat 13	6-11:30pm	Blackwood Bush Dance	Blackwood Hall
Sun 14	11:00am	All About Wicking Beds	St Erth
Tue 16	8am-7:30pm	Yoga, meditation & more (pay as you feel classes)	Yogazen Blackwood
Sat 20	10:00am	Blackwood Gardening Club	The Merchant
Sat 20	10:30am	Bach Flower Essences Workshop	St Erth
Sun 21	3:00pm	Wombat Book Club	
Tue 23	8am-7:30pm	Yoga, meditation & more (pay as you feel classes)	Yogazen Blackwood
Sat 27	11:00am	Plants for Free Workshop	St Erth
Sun 28	11:00am	Growing Chemical Free Berries Workshop	St Erth
Tue 30	8am-7:30pm	Yoga, meditation & more (pay as you feel classes)	Yogazen Blackwood

SEPTEMBER:

Sat 3	10:30am	Blackwood Historical Society	Blackwood Museum
Tue 6	8am-7:30pm	Yoga, meditation & more (pay as you feel classes)	Yogazen Blackwood
Sun 11	11:00am	Growing Vegetables All Year Round Workshop	St Erth
Tue 13	8am-7:30pm	Yoga, meditation & more (pay as you feel classes)	Yogazen Blackwood
Sat 17	10:00am	Blackwood Gardening Club	The Merchant
Sun 18	3:00pm	Wombat Book Club	
Tue 20	8am-7:30pm	Yoga, meditation & more (pay as you feel classes)	Yogazen Blackwood
Sun 25	11:00am	Beekeeping For Beginners 1	St Erth
Sun 25	2:00pm	Beekeeping For Beginners 2	St Erth
Tue 27	8am-7:30pm	Yoga, meditation & more (pay as you feel classes)	Yogazen Blackwood

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

“Pay As You Feel” comes to Blackwood

If we imagine a world based on giving rather than taking a whole lifetime of different possibilities emerges. It is a point of view that allows us to become excited by all the possibilities rather than fear any limitations.

An abundance mindset is based on the belief that there is more than enough of everything to go around – for everyone. This may seem contrary at first because we have been taught this is not so, but Yogazen Studio's Leticia Oliveira Dornelles is confident in this view.

Yogazen Studio has been operating in Blackwood for over 2 years & has offered yoga, fitness & meditation classes. Historically the studio has had set prices but has recently unveiled a new philosophy.

Leticia has announced a “Pay As You Feel” philosophy for all classes, as well as an increase in both the number & style of classes on offer. Leticia wanted everyone to have the opportunity to join a class without being deterred by the financial investment & to reduce any barriers that people may perceive to try something new. Students will be able to make a private financial contribution at the end of each class, as they wish to do so.

The exciting new program has 6 group sessions available each Tuesday starting from 8am until 7:30pm. Classes range from Lian Gong (a gentle therapeutic exercise to reduce pain), Dynamic Meditation through to a Yoga & a Meditation Study Group. A Healing Session is also available for students every Tuesday.

A similar “Pay As You Feel” philosophy has been working successfully at restaurant Lentil As Anything for over 13 years now, with three long-standing restaurants in Abbotsford Convent, St Kilda & Footscray, & now also in Preston & Sydney. This model has been so successful that they also have a growing involvement in both education & ongoing community projects.

This unique financial model is centered on the values of trust, generosity & respect. It gives people the opportunity to focus on their health & wellbeing regardless of their financial situation.

Leticia believes that the original seed for this idea came from her students, who suggested a donation could be made each week for the meditation class. Leticia grew this idea, evolving it into a contribution rather than a simple act of charity or donation. A “contribution” differs in that it indicates the part that the person plays to build something positive.

The “Pay As You Feel” philosophy is designed to highlight the abundance of life & demonstrate how money should help bring people together, not divide us. We are already starting to see the ripple effect of this idea as Karen from Sivani House is also offering “Pay As You Feel” accommodation on Monday & Tuesday nights for students visiting Blackwood to attend a class at Yogazen Studio. Leticia welcomes everyone to join the growing Blackwood Yogazen community. The program can be found at theblackwoodtimes.com.au



Local gals get together to make bunting for the Blackwood Bushdance p11

IT'S ONLY MONEY!

~ by Paul Tatchell



Imagine if every month when your mortgage came due, you made the payment on your credit card; you don't have to be Einstein's second cousin to realise that increasing one debt to pay for another has a couple of technical problems in terms of sustainability.

Once you owe more than you own, you are in more trouble than a Beirut bricklayer during a cement shortage; for every brick you don't lay, two get blown off the wall. Politicians treat the National debt like an inconvenience, not a crumbling brick wall relying on the taxpayer to replace the mortar.

Whilst the election provided a convenient distraction away from the realities of poor fiscal management; the National debt continued to rise, breaking all previous records, & pushing the Nations monthly credit card payment to over a billion dollars per month.

When you put a billion dollars a month into any sort of “Perspective” that's about 40 new schools, 20 new hospitals, or create thousands of infrastructural projects to keep people employed, maybe even raise the pension so that people that have worked & contributed all their working lives could live above the poverty line.

In consideration that Government debt is still going to be gathering interest well after I cancel my subscription to Tobin Brothers monthly; let's put the “spin” to one side & try & get a handle on what Government debt is, & why it should or shouldn't exist.

If a state or federal government needs to raise money either to pay for specific projects or to cover any shortfall between the government's annual revenue & expenditure; known as the deficit; it will issue bonds or notes.

These operate like a loan, where the government agrees to pay the person who buys the bond or note the full purchase price at the time the loan matures, usually 2, 5, 10 or 15 years from the date of issue.

The government pays interest on the loan at fixed intervals, usually twice a year. The initial purchaser of the bond or note can sell it on the open market at the prevailing price, which is based on traders' views of the likely direction of the economy; hence the importance of maintaining a AAA credit rating, to avoid a blowout on the interest rate.

To put that into some form of “Perspective” according to the 2014-15 Budget, Australia's interest-bearing liabilities in the year to June 2014 were expected to reach \$358B. About 97% of these liabilities are Commonwealth Government Securities. These are treasury bonds, treasury indexed bonds & treasury notes.

The Budget papers also reveal hidden in the small print, around \$13.2B were paid to service the Commonwealth Government Securities debt during the 2014-15 Budget cycle; \$13.5B to June this year, & by June '18 a whopping \$16.4B.

All this hinges on the current Government cutting up the Nations credit card & living within their own Budget, & in consideration of the current political house of horrors, that's about as likely as my pet poodle getting a pilot's licence!

The reason why it is imperative that Governments keep their Budget in check is simple; if they create a surplus they can pay their Commonwealth Government Securities, if they create a deficit they need to borrow money to pay the Interest, & the debt compounds; & there has been no clearer example than the last decade.

Let's do a bit more “Perspective” & talk about Government debt versus Gross Domestic Product (GDP) when John Howard was removed from office in 2006, the total of Commonwealth Government Securities debt was \$59B & 5.4% of the Country's GDP.

Today we are over \$400B & hovering around 30% of GDP, as the GDP percentage rises, the Government's ability to stay within budget decreases, without one of 2 things, spend less, or get more in, & sensibly both; not that Government & common sense belong in the same sentence.

The days of Governments promising you the world & handing you an atlas need to come to an end; whilst telling the truth, regardless of how unpopular it is, may not conducive with re-election or election prospects; someone has to pay the bill, & since Governments spend it & the tax-payer pays it; let's not get too complicated on how it's going to get paid, & who's going to be doing the paying!

Whilst the Howard era enjoyed the peak off the mining boon, & the benefits of the GST to cover the States overspending; successive Governments have been living in denial. The abuse of the CGS is defiant of its purpose, & there has been no attempt to reset the fiscal agenda as the economy levels out.

Economic windfalls should have created opportunity for future growth to expand our potential; spread the revenue load to maintain services & drive infrastructural investment; instead it was squandered on populist politics & unrealistic spending programmes.

In consideration that both of the major Party's share the incompetence of irresponsible fiscal management, combined with the opportunism of an irrational Senate; there needs to be a co-operative approach in returning the budget to surplus; regardless of the political ambition.

Government debt needs to be re-capped with bi-partisan support from the Government & the Opposition; a joint approach to the problem will force the Senate to fall into line.

Reliance on growth when its barely above 3% when spending commitments are above 6.5%, simply doesn't equate, add to that compounding debt & the inevitable has already happened. It's been 10 years since any Government has produced a budget surplus, & there is none predicted into the near future.

It's time that politicians faced up to the responsibilities of taking office; Governments don't make money; they have the privilege of directing an economy into future growth, & providing services to the broader community.

Paying over a billion dollars a month to service the sins of the past does neither.

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Let's celebrate our volunteers ...

Victorians are invited to nominate outstanding volunteers in their community in the categories of leadership, change maker, impact, service & teamwork.

The awards celebrate the important role volunteers play in creating more connected, happier & healthier communities in Victoria.

The Premier's Volunteer of the Year, Dame Elizabeth Murdoch Award, will be chosen from recipients across all 5 categories & announced at the ceremony.

For the 1st time, members of the inaugural Ministerial Council for Volunteers will judge the award nominations.

This year, the Andrews Labor Government is boosting funding for Volunteering Victoria by 20%, to more than \$193,000.

The peak body has more than 300 members, including representatives from volunteering support organisations, local councils, volunteer-involving organisations, corporate bodies & individual volunteers.

Nominations close on 9 August 2016. To nominate, visit www.volunteer.vic.gov.au/awards

Minister for Families & Children Jenny Mikakos said “I encourage Victorians to nominate the champion volunteers in their communities, & help us celebrate the big difference they make in our lives.”

Parliamentary Secretary for Carers & Volunteers Gabrielle Williams said: “The Awards are a great opportunity to support & celebrate the local champions who work tirelessly & selflessly for our communities, people & environment.”

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### NATURAL RHYTHM BEAUTY SLEEP

by Kathie Strmota



The search for the 'fountain of youth' has brought forth beauty creams, wonder bras, & other 'perfect solutions', but we all know that real beauty comes from within. I suggest we stop the search & just go to bed. A good night's sleep is a great prescription for weight loss, glowing skin, & a lovely demeanor.

Consider this phrase: 'good night's sleep'. The sleep experience must satisfy the body's functional requirements – being asleep (not just lying in bed) for eight hours, in darkness (night-time), with the right balance of deep-sleep & dreaming.

Daily activity causes wear & tear & each night the body does repairs, strengthening muscles & replenishing skin with collagen to keep it smooth & firm. When we don't meet the body's sleep needs, its metabolic cycles become disturbed. Hormones with positive effects in their correct cycle, begin exerting negative influences. High night-time levels of the daytime hormone, cortisol, inhibit collagen skin repair, leaving more wrinkles & blemishes.

When awake & active, the body's main energy source is carbs, while fats are stored. During night-sleep, it naturally switches to fat-burning & releases growth hormones for muscle building. Beauty sleep encourages healthy weight & a strong, muscular body. Deficient sleep has the opposite effect, causing muscle wastage & further fat storage. This means chicken wing arms & a muffin-top, with no six-pack in sight. A healthy diet won't be enough to save you if you force your body out of natural rhythm. Do yourself a favour. If it's now past 11pm, stop reading & go straight to bed!

If you're not concerned about muffin tops or blotchy skin, maybe the desire to be a kind, tolerant, friendly person, with sunshine in your eyes, will be enough to get you off to bed. Many studies show that sleep-cycle disruption leads to mood swings, confusion, & depression, which may not prevent someone being nice, but will reduce their experience of beauty in life. Other research shows lack of sleep reduces willpower & self-control, which can lead to being a not-so-lovely person. These qualities help people control behaviour & animal-impulses, & consider wider consequences of actions. This process requires frontal-brain energy, replenished in deep-sleep, & the mental-emotional clarity created by dreaming. Insufficient sleep leaves us foggy-headed & emotionally sensitive, tending to react impulsively & intolerant of small upsets. A normally considerate person may lash out; engage in gossip; or simply be unsupportive to a friend. Without beauty sleep, it's harder to be someone we admire, & too easy to

be someone we don't.

Try this process as you lie down to sleep. Think of occasions where you were someone you can admire. Perhaps you made a friend laugh, shared some wisdom, or co-operated well – the action is irrelevant. Just think of the kind of person you were in that moment. These glimpses reveal who you truly are, & who you can be every day. Identify the admirable qualities revealed by these memories, & acknowledge each with the statement: "I know that I am ... ". Then say: "I know I am all these things & more. In my golden core are all the qualities I admire in others." Next, invite this admirable inner you, who is all that you'd like to be in life, to enter your dreams tonight, to teach you how to think, behave & live in your ideal way, every day. With this conscious intention, your brain will begin laying down maps while doing its dream-time organizing, which can help strengthen these undeveloped qualities.

Each time you do this, you'll discover more about how beautiful you really are!

### SEARCH FOR CHILDREN WHO FOLLOW IN FRED HOLLOW'S FOOTSTEPS

Professor Fred Hollows dedicated his life to helping others, saving the sight of disadvantaged people around the world.

The Fred Hollows Foundation is keeping Fred's vision alive through an award which recognises Year 6 students who follow in Fred's footsteps by showing care and compassion for others.

"There is no act of kindness too small. Whether it is volunteering, fundraising for a good cause or helping others, children in Melton & Moorabool are making a positive difference in our community. This award is a great opportunity for their work to be recognised.

The Fred Hollows Humanity Award launches in Victoria after successfully running in the Australian Capital Territory since 2012, and launching in New South Wales last year

The Foundation's Founding Director Gabi Hollows said: "Fred used to say that the basic attribute of mankind was our ability to look after each other. The Fred Hollows Humanity Award will recognise students in Victoria who have reflected this value in their own lives."

All nominees will be recognised at a presentation ceremony where the 2016 Victoria Junior Ambassador will be announced. This Ambassador will be able to extend their humanity by allocating \$5000 donated by Specsavers to one of The Fred Hollows Foundation's programs to end avoidable blindness.

To learn more about the award, or to nominate a young person visit [www.hollows.org/humanityaward](http://www.hollows.org/humanityaward) before August 21, 2016

# BEYOND BLACKWOOD...

## 2ND ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

The parishioners of Trentham St Georges Church are working industriously towards holding their 2nd Annual Flower Show at the Neighbourhood Centre on Saturday November 26.

The 2015 inaugural show was a roaring success in spite of an electrical storm causing loss of power to the whole town. Fortunately, with bottles gas available, we were still able to provide tea & coffee to everyone.

We urge residents to keep the show in mind when planning your spring garden planting. Everyone, young & old are encouraged to participate & show our visitors what this area can grow.

~ Anne Walker

## The CFA Problem

The Victorian Government recently agreed to demands by the United Firefighters Union which obliged the CFAs Chief Executive Officer to obtain union agreement before making all significant policy decisions for the whole CFA.

Despite dissent from the Minister for Emergency Services, all six widely respected members of the CFA Board, the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief [Fire] Officer, as well as the Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria group, the Government has agreed to a new Enterprise Bargain with the Union, established under Commonwealth legislation.

Volunteers see several clauses in the new agreement as segregating paid firefighters from volunteers in ways that can negatively affect action on a fire ground.

They are generally reluctant to get involved in politics but many volunteers are angry that the State Government has refused to take their concerns seriously.

~ John McLaren (Secretary, Trentham Fire Brigade)

## FROM THE DESK OF MARY-ANNE THOMAS COMPARE & SAVE ON ENERGY BILLS

Labor Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas, has encouraged people to use the Victorian Government's independent website, Victorian Energy Compare, to save money on their energy bills this winter.

"It's a staggering fact that 9 out of 10 Victorians actually pay more than they need to for their electricity," Ms Thomas said.

"The average Victorian household spends about \$2,800 on energy bills every year, which is about 2.3% of average household income & up to about 7% of income for lower income households".

"Despite the fact that regularly reviewing energy plans is one of the most effective ways to save on energy bills, one in three (32%) Victorians have never switched electricity or gas retailers".

"Energy retailers have hundreds of different pricing plans for customers to choose from. Comparing them is complex & time consuming resulting in many Victorians paying more than they need to – which is especially bad for people on a fixed income," Ms Thomas said.

To empower consumers, the Andrews Government has established an independent website, Victorian Energy Compare, which provides an easy-to-use, online comparison tool.

The website makes it easier for Victorians to review their electricity, gas & solar plans & save money on their bills.

All you need is a recent electricity or gas bill & a few minutes of time to switch & start saving money," Ms Thomas said.

More than 70,000 Victorians have used the Victoria Energy Compare site since it was launched three months ago, with data showing 70% of users can save at least \$220 on annual electricity bills & at least \$150 on annual gas bills.

"Winter is a good time to make sure you're getting the best deal from your energy retailer because this is when our energy consumption goes up".

To get the best deal visit [www.vic.gov.au/victorianenergycompare](http://www.vic.gov.au/victorianenergycompare), answer a few questions about your energy usage from your most recent bill, look at all the alternative options & then switch & save.



Snow beats firewood this morning but tonight will be a different story ...

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STATE MEMBER FOR MACEDON

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Warm regards,  
Mary-Anne Thomas



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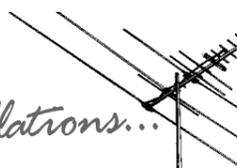
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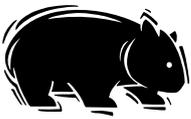
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**\$88,000**



**BLACKWOOD 75 Simmons Reef Rd**  
Great opportunity to build in the Simmons Reef area subject to new Sewerage Scheme and Council Approval. Around half an acre, north facing in elevated location. Town water, power and phone available.

**\$110,000**



**BLACKWOOD 11 Cann St**  
Planning Permit just awarded. Golden opportunity. At around 3,000 sqm in private location. Power in area. Vendor negotiable.

**\$130,000 NEG**



**BLACKWOOD 5 Vigor St**  
Well maintained home of around 16 squares on elevated block. 1,056 sm plus 1,244 of leased land. 2/3 bedrooms, open plan living and double garage under roof. Delightful garden setting.

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**BLACKWOOD 36 View Crs**  
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**\$470,000 Neg**



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**BARRYS REEF 29 Thurgoods Ln**  
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**\$130,000**



**BLACKWOOD 89 Simmons Reef Rd**  
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**\$340,000 Neg**

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