



February – March 2017 vol 8 ~ issue 9:5



Above: Crazy Pete, Master Amusionist at the Blackwood Hotel (see p8)

Left: James Maw discusses the BLSP with locals Marilyn & Allan. (see p2 & p6 BAG report)

Below: Come join the exercise (see p6 CEMP report)

**VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS NEEDED FOR THE 2017 EASTER CARNIVAL**  
 see Progress Report + King & Queen article p7& flier p19

**BLACKWOOD COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING EXERCISE**

**Sunday 26 March 2017**  
 Blackwood Hall  
 10am – 1pm BBQ to follow

Hosted by Steve Cameron  
 Emergency Management Victoria

Come and make  
 Blackwood a safer place



### EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

Hello Blackwoodians,

#### CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS ...

Over the past month or so I've been thinking long & hard about our town & what makes it tick, what is it that keeps Blackwood alive?

I've decided it's our volunteers ... there are obvious ones like our emergency services CFA & CERT then there are the committees who quietly fundraise ... Blackwood Crown Reserves, who maintain our public facilities, Blackwood Progress organising events to raise funds to improve our facilities & lifestyle, the Historical Society who archive Blackwood's history for future generations, our Cricket Club who work with our youngsters, not to forget the relatively new & casual groups of residents who organise social events like the Blackwood Bush Dance, Blackwood Re-union, Blackwood Motorcycle Club & our local musicians. And then there are the special interest groups like the Gardening Club who worked tidying our town gardens last month (p16). I truly believe that a town of our size needs volunteers to maintain resilience.

Years ago, when our children were young, Brendan & I were privileged to be part of initiating the Blackwood Kindergarten, School Holiday Program & Blackwood monthly markets. Yes, we had lots of fun but, more importantly, these activities added value to the town which simply can't be equated in dollar terms. After a few years we burned out & I decided, with teenagers to care for, I no longer had the time to go to meeting after meeting. I took a 5 year break from the community input. But I craved to be a part of the Blackwood community again. The opportunity arose for me to take on the Blackwood community paper which was a perfect fit, given my skillset as a professional graphic/web designer. It's almost 12 years since I took over the Times & I couldn't have done it for so long without our volunteers who help collate information or write articles & send us tidbits, our advertisers who subsidise printing & donations help to keep us in publication.

So this issue I dedicate to our volunteers ... on almost every page you will see something which is organised by a volunteer group.

On our community pages (p6-7) Crown Reserves is seeking applicants for their next term & the new Easter Carnival committee (sub committee of Progress Association) needs volunteers & sponsors to make our 2017 carnival the best ever.

Our volunteers make our town tick! Yes, you do it because it makes you feel good but it also helps our town to prosper. If you value the lifestyle you have bought into or been raised into, I encourage you to look at what is happening around town, think about your skills, & volunteer where you can.

~ that's my take for the month ... *Jinny Coyle (editor)*

### UPDATE ON THE BLACKWOOD LOCALISED SEPTIC PROGRAM

The Blackwood Localised Septic Program (BLSP) Governance Committee is excited to announce the appointment of Septic Systems Australia who will be installing 8 new septic tank systems within Blackwood and Barry's Reef throughout February 2017. The first septic tank installation is scheduled to begin on February 6, 2017.

The Project Manager has commenced discussions with approximately 30 homeowners within the program area who will be included within stage 2 of the program. It is estimated that upgrade works will occur for stage 2 from March 2017 prior to the wet winter months. Stage 3 of the septic tank upgrade works are scheduled to commence on another 30 additional properties after winter 2017.

Two Town Planning Consulting firms have been engaged to assist interested landowners in conducting an initial planning feasibility investigation into the development of their vacant land. To date, there has been a good uptake of these services with approximately 10 individual landowners currently participating. There is scope within the program to support many more developments on vacant parcels of land.

Further, Part 2 of the program also includes the appointment of a domestic wastewater management specialist whose role is to determine the feasibility of sustainably managing domestic wastewater on each vacant parcel.

The town planning consultant and domestic wastewater specialist are currently busy reviewing all relevant town planning and domestic wastewater issues specific to individual landowner's properties, including consultation with the relevant water authorities and the Moorabool Shire Council with the aim of formulating strategies to assist them in building within the town. This service is provided at no cost to eligible landowners.

We will provide regular updates on the progress of the program throughout its duration, but if you wish to discuss your specific circumstances, please contact me on 5366 7100.

~ James Maw

Project Manager, Blackwood Localised Septic Program

see BAG report p6

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a blackwood news community service notice

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Media Co-ordinator	Perhaps this is up your alley?
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Typist	Di Hewes

### • STORK NOTICES • STORK NOTICES • STORK NOTICES •



Grown in Kazakhstan, hatched at Sunshine Hospital, Alexei James Smith was born to Paul & Peta (nee Coyle) Smith on Jan 20.

Granny Coyle & Pop Hehir welcome their 1st grandchild into the world.



Homebirth-specialist midwife, Bec, gave birth in true professional style at her own home in Blackwood.

Ana Van Gossum, 3.5 kilo, was born on January 18.

Naten has the look of a satisfied customer!



Welcome to Cooper Pywell, born January 6 at the healthy weight of 8lb. Congratulations to Anthony and Amanda. A little brother for Jayden, a grandchild for Tom & Julie.



### WHAT A GREAT-GREAT GRANDMA

Wendy Bridgeman's 5 generations on display recently. (anti-clockwise: Wendy, Dianne, Jade, Klowee, and Great-Great Grandson, Ryder)



Morgyn Ballinger was born Dec 16 to newbie locals Jess & Wayne. Congratulations!

### 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	Mar 15
Regular Contributors, Features & Items of Interest, Community Groups & Clubs	Mar 15
Display Ad Artwork, Gig & Events Guide	Mar 20
Late breaking News	Mar 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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Grace Hugget (97 years young) casually walked down Golden Point Road to meet Blackwood's newest babe, Alexei.

Look out for Grace's recollections of old Blackwood in the next issue.

### BLACKWOOD TIMES GOES TO ...



THE BLACKWOOD Times was dragged from London to Germany, back to London & then to Amsterdam. It had to endure -20 degrees, snow & rain, however, I never took a picture. Most of the time, I forgot that it was in my backpack. At other times, it was simply not convenient.

THEN ON the way back home, my flight was cancelled from Amsterdam to Melbourne & I had to spend the day walking through Amsterdam, which by the way was truly enjoyable & there on my way back to the airport I remembered the Blackwood Times.

~ Frauke

#### COMMUNITY FUND-RAISING NOTICES & RELEASES as well as local gigs & events ARE PUBLISHED IN THE BLACKWOOD TIMES FREE OF CHARGE.

To be included in our next publication please email us information, posters & articles by the nominated deadlines on page 2.

### TOO MUCH IRISH IS NEVER ENOUGH!

St. Patrick introduced Christianity to Ireland in the 5th century, seizing upon the 3-leaved shamrock to help explain the doctrine of the Holy Trinity to the locals. He went on to become patron saint of the country & all things green & is now celebrated around the world on the anniversary of his death, March 17.

In keeping with his teachings, we locals have organized a trinity, 3 full days, of celebrations. Being Irish for one day a year just wont do.

**MARCH 17:** Irish meals, music & dancing from 5pm at the Pig & Whistle, Trentham East.

**MARCH 18:** At Blackwood Pub, storyteller & musician, Peter Fernon, kicks off the day, followed by an afternoon Irish session & evening craic with Knot o'the Gate.

**MARCH 19:** Recovery Breakfast at the Blackwood Merchant.

11am **procession** from the Sacred Heart church to the Pig & Whistle, led by a piper & Tylden CFA, followed by an Irish lunch, acclaimed Irish musicians & more dancing.

At the end of your celebrations, a shamrock should be "drowned" in the parting glass to toast St. Patrick, Ireland & all assembled & you might try saying something like "If you can't go to heaven, may you at least die in Ireland".



In January our Garden Club (formed in 2016) collectively took up their tools to tidy a number of unloved public land patches around town. Thanks people!

### 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)
Nov '16	*62.6	75.1	2.1	31.8	20.8	6.7	12.6
Dec '16	*73.1	61.8	0.7	34.4	25.3	8.4	16.3

### GROUCHO, STEPHEN, ELON & ME. NOW I'M WORRIED!



~ by Ewan Cameron

Groucho Marx, Stephen Hawking, Elon Musk & yours truly ... now there's an unlikely quartet! Guess who's the odd man out? Well, the first 3 men remain geniuses in their fields. The late Groucho Marx, a comic genius of unparalleled wit, needs no introduction whatsoever. Stephen Hawking, the physicist with the robotic voice box & whose IQ is vast, is of world renown. But do you know of Elon Musk?

He is the inventor of the Tesla car, an electric vehicle which can accelerate from 0-100 kph in 4.2 seconds. As well, Musk has invented the "Dragon", a re-useable capsule which has delivered men & materials to the International Space Station. He has formed several productive companies & in doing so became a billionaire at a young age.

And me?

I'm your garden variety retiree with a very, very average IQ. Most would say that's a boast on my part. In fact, I could play Chico Marx to Groucho. I have Chico's philosophy. When Groucho told Chico, "I've got something here you'll love! You'll be crazy about it!" Chico responds, "Whatever it is, I don't like it!"

So then, why am I worried?

Basically, because both Elon Musk & Professor Stephen Hawking are worried about the future of the human race & the planet which, according to both men, could have a bizarre, sci-fi ending. You do remember the gripping Arnold Schwarzenegger thriller called "The Terminator", in which a robot from the future has a single focus to assassinate a particular person. It cannot be stopped nor its program objective terminated until it is totally, physically annihilated. This is where Stephen Hawking & Elon Musk come in. Both these men whose scientific minds are trained to be analytical, expansive & to apply logic in every case, believe the scenario of artificially intelligent

- **\*TRENTHAM BOM** figure normally slightly more than Blackwood.
- **NOTE** that my measured rainfall for 2016 in Blackwood was 1136.4mm which is above the long term average of 976.3mm and was in effect a fairly wet year.
- **DECEMBER** was fairly warm which was welcome after a relatively cool and wet spring.

~ by Don Owen

cyborgs becoming hostile to the human race is well within the realms of possibility. Therefore, we may have cause to consider our approach to intelligent robotics.

Professor Hawking recently stated that, on our current trajectory, he felt humanity may achieve its end game somewhere between 1000-10,000 years in the future. We have immediate issues to deal with such as extreme global warming & massive resource depletion, both of which are threats to the future of the planet. These must be resolved sooner than later. However, Hawking is really concerned about the rapid development of machines becoming so intelligent that they can autonomously develop programs to suit their own purposes & then ... replicate as they wish. It's not that these robots would be evil. They would just see the human species as irrelevant to their purposes. As Hawking fears humans could become redundant, he strongly suggests that interplanetary space travel needs to be an option. Therefore he feels space exploration & the ability to explore other worlds to be a valid necessity. These ideas coincide with the ideas & the aims of Elon Musk.

The London Review of Books states that "(Musk is) ... a visionary: the man most likely to solve our addiction to carbon, save the planet from global warming & set us on a course for our interplanetary destiny." Quite a rap! His company, SpaceX, is already well advanced in the planning phase for developing vehicles which will enable people to be transported to Mars in order to establish a colony. To actually see what worries him about artificial intelligence, go to YouTube & watch a video presented by a company called Boston Dynamics. There you will see a huge, humanoid robot tramping through the forest. Such companies are being funded by the U.S. Military to produce robots that have both autonomy & self-awareness in order to reduce the need for soldiers to risk their lives.

In 2014, Professor Hawking wrote that "... A.I. (artificial intelligence) would be the biggest step in human history." He also added, "Unfortunately, it might also be the last unless we learn to avoid the risks." Musk, Hawking & Steve Wosniak (the co-founder of Apple Inc), have also warned that "...artificial intelligence can potentially be more dangerous than nuclear weapons."

So, when you next watch the Sci-fi thrillers like "The Terminator" & "Westworld" or the creepy TV series called "Humans", think about how the human race might be too smart for its own good.

As for little old "Chico" me, I don't like it! Having huge humanoids trampling the bush underfoot & scaring the hell out of the wildlife is of no appeal to me.

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## COMMUNITY GROUP UPDATES

### Anglican Church: Bacchus Marsh Parish

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 (BAG)

Blackwood is covered by a Water Catchment Overlay. Our Lerderderg River feeds the Merrimu Reservoir, which supplies drinking water to Melton & Bacchus Marsh. With our small town blocks, steep slopes & poor soil, conventional wastewater treatment systems have long been deemed insufficient to guarantee riverwater quality & so, for 15 years, the town has been restricted from building. A new-technology system, just approved for Blackwood, should allow us to resume building. It's called the Rhizopod System. Have a look at <http://www.arris.com.au/water/products/rhizopod-system-technology/>.

Also read James Maw's update on the Blackwood Localised Septic Program (p.2 ) & let us know how well you fare with your building project at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BlackwoodActionGroup/>

Blackwood Action Group owes a debt of gratitude to Des Peters, our very own Brains Trust, who is moving on. This town would not be in the position to build again were it not for your expertise & long, dedicated hours. Thanks, Des.

~ Brendan Hehir (chair)

### Blackwood CFA

Happy new year to everyone. We wish you all a very safe & prosperous New Year.

Brigade had a busy day Christmas day. Near the completion of the traditional Santa run on Christmas morning, Santa & helpers came across a large fallen tree branch blocking Wall street.

A very sweaty Santa by the time the road was cleared again.

At 9:30 Christmas night the brigade was called out to a BBQ fire under a verandah in Blackwood. The fire was out by the time the brigade was on scene, but it is a timely warning to double check your BBQ gas connections & always have an extinguisher or water handy if your BBQ is close to anything flammable.

Lots of green grass still around the town, but with the hot days in the next few weeks this will dry out. Be especially careful with mowers this time of the year - low humidity can cause a spark from a mower striking a rock to easily ignite dry fuel & we have no shortage of rocks around the town.

Remember that the fire danger rating is a indication of how difficult it is to suppress a fire. Once the danger rating gets to HIGH & above, fires become more & more difficult to control. Blackwood is relatively isolated - it takes at least 15 or 20 minutes for another brigade to reach us, so the quicker we can jump on a fire the better. If you are doing anything this time of year which may create a spark, have a bucket of water or a hose handy. Of course on a Total Fire Ban day, you cannot operate any machinery outside which may cause a spark.

On Jan 12, a workshop was held at the station for members of the community to develop bushfire plans as well as fire behaviour awareness. A bbq was held prior to the start of the session & many Blackwood residents attended. Michael gave a good presentation & people left with a good understanding of how to develop & implement a bushfire plan for their families

Work is still being done on the website for the brigade & if you have any suggestions or inclusions let me know.

The brigade has a Facebook page which is Blackwood CFA.

Over the coming months we will be implementing a few activities so keep an eye out on this space as well as the Facebook page & the web site <http://www.blackwoodcfa.com/>

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

~ Karl Church

### Blackwood Crown Reserves

The project at the mineral springs including new barbecues has been completed to the satisfaction of Mineral Springs board. The Regional Development Grant for the hall has been completed as well as a new tank & dishwasher installed with a plaque to recognise all groups who make the grant possible: Moorabool Shire, RDV (State Govt), Crown Reserves & DELWP.

Cozy tents are currently working with DELWP, council & our committee for a new area for the tent sites. As we come to the end of our term, the committee wants to thank all the trades people & others who have enables us to do our projects. Thank you to all.

Crown Reserves is chosen by a panel from DELWP to manage the hall, recreation ground, mineral springs & caravan park as well as small reserves. All the members are volunteers & have to adhere to the rules of council, health & Safety, CFA, Water Boards & DELWP (State Govt). Keeping up is not always easy so please keep these things in mind when questioning issue related to our town assets.

People are invited to apply for a 3 year position on Crown Reserves by applying to DELWP Ballarat.

~ Elizabeth Hall, Secretary

Jenny & Brad are back from their much deserved holiday. With Easter coming up & spaces filling fast, if you want to book the Caravan Park, or for information please call on 53686539.

### Blackwood Community Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)

How will we perform in an emergency? Find out by doing it. Join us in the Blackwood Emergency Exercise (see p.1). It'll be engaging & very educational. And it just may save your life..

~ Blackwood CEMP Planning Group

### BLACKWOOD CERT

Welcome to 2017 from the Blackwood CERT! Thanks to Ivan for his valuable contribution as team leader – I've stepped into his (very big) shoes & am excited about the year ahead for CERT.

Who are CERT? We're highly trained volunteers from Blackwood, Newbury & Dales Creek who offer advanced first aid & lifesaving medications until the ambulance arrives. We're are trained by, & operate under protocols of, Ambulance Victoria, & our assets governed by our not-for-profit association run by a local committee.

#### How do you activate CERT?

1. Call 000
2. CERT is dispatched by 000 operators
3. Ambulance Victoria always follows

Are you thinking of becoming a CERT member? Call Team Leader Margaret McCarthy on 0427 344 055 to have a chat about the requirements. The next course begins in March & we're keen to get someone started. You don't need to have a health or first aid background, just a keen interest in volunteering in the community & a bit of free time. We'd love to welcome a new member or two over this year!

~ Margaret McCarthy, Team Leader

### Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare

**Feedback sought on commemorative plaque:** Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group has compiled a draft bronze plaque to commemorate the contribution to the Wombat State Forest of John Davies & Pat Liffman.

Both were very active in Landcare & fully committed to the preservation of the forest. Sadly, both passed away last year.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) is receptive to the idea of a commemorative plaque being placed at the start of the Whipstick Walking Loop at Jack Cann Reserve at Simmons Reef. Landcare will fund the production of the plaque.

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## IN COMMEMORATION

of the contribution of John Davies and Pat Liffman



*This forest is more vulnerable since their passing in 2016*



Blackwood and Barry's Reef Landcare Group recognises their contribution to the preservation of the Wombat State Forest and, specifically, the construction of the Whipstick Loop Walk.

Their knowledge, passion and inspiration is missed.

Feedback is sought from the community about the appropriateness of the words & images. Please email your thoughts to [admin@blackwoodlandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@blackwoodlandcare.org.au).

~ Shane Scanlan

### Blackwood Historical Society

Happy new year to all & may it be a safe one. We finished our year with a great Christmas barbecue at mineral springs. We would like to thank the many members who have travelled a great distance to attend.

As we start back to 2017 we will have open days on Sunday, March 12 & Easter Sunday, April 16. Both days will run from 10:30am to 4pm. Our meetings are held on the 1st Sat monthly.

Next meeting Feb 4 at 10:30am. Welcome to new members & to our new local residents who would like to know town history.

~ Allan Hall, President

### Blackwood Progress Association

With Easter fast approaching the Association is flat out finalising what will be an action-packed Easter Saturday for the annual Easter Carnival. However events such as this do not happen without substantial community support & we are looking for volunteers both for the set up on Friday & the big day on Saturday. If you can spare a few hours on either day it would be most appreciated. Phone Sue Donnelly on 0419 527 990 to confirm your availability.

Speaking of community, the Association has been looking at the financial assistance it has been providing over the years. Since 1999 the Association has put a staggering total of \$58,842 into various projects for the Blackwood community. This is in addition to what the various community groups have raised by having stalls at the carnival. These groups include the Cricket Club, Senior Citizens, Historical Society & CERT. Some of the groups/facilities that have benefited from that total of \$58,842 include the cricket & recreation ground, the hall, playground at Mineral Springs, Cricket Club, CFA etc. etc. This is a remarkable achievement for a small but very hard-working community & every Blackwood citizen should feel very proud of these achievements.

However the great work must continue & it will do just that this Easter & I hope to see you at the Carnival..

Also don't forget one of our Easter highlights - the Parade. This year promises to be a bumper show with prizes in the following categories - Most Humorous, Best Decorated Trailer, Best Decorated Bicycle, Best Dressed Child, Most Imaginative Entry & Best Blackwood Theme. See you at Easter

~ David White, President

Download a stall booking form at <http://theblackwoodtimes.com.au/home/2017/01/26/2017-easter-carnival-stalls/>

### Blackwood Senior Citizens

Welcome back everyone, we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with family & friends. Congratulations to George Stockdale



on his 5 awards for 60 years service in the fire brigade, & also to Wendy Bridgman on becoming a Great-Great Grandmother. Bev has organised some great trips for this year including the Tram Boat, Melbourne Aquarium & the Ballarat Wildlife Park. We meet every Wednesday, so come & join us for lunch at the Blackwood Hall, newcomers welcome.

~ Dianne Volpe (Secretary)

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

## 2017 EASTER CARNIVAL QUEEN & KING

It's nearly that time again! Get your votes in now for the 2017 Easter Carnival Queen & King. Nominate yourself or your mates. All that's required is a past or current connection to Blackwood & a good sense of humour. Entry forms & boxes will be available at the Blackwood Post Office & pub.

Names will go into a hat & winners will be drawn the second week of April, with the crowning ceremony to be held at the hotel on Good Friday night.

Royal duties are minimal...benefits are many:

1. FAME!! Lord it over friends & neighbours & the common people,
2. Frequently filled tankards at the Crowning ceremony (thanks in advance to the pub)
3. Prizes for each Royal personage:

- \$50 Dining voucher (Blackwood Hotel)
- \$25 Garden Products voucher (Blackwood Ridge Nursery & cafe)
- 1 Scenar Wellbeing Treatment (Brenda Hunter)
- 4 bottle Cider Variety Pack (Daylesford Cider Co)
- 1 double Movie pass (Daylesford Cinema)
- 1 beautiful hard copy Diggers Club Gardening book & an Opinel pen knife (The Garden of St Erth)
- 6 bottles Craft Beer Variety Pack (Holgate Brewhouse, Woodend)
- Gourmet Easter chocolate (Sweet Decadence, Daylesford)

Only you can say who will be the next Blackwood Queen & King. So make sure you vote.

Thank you once again to our generous Sponsors & to Queen Debbie & King Karl for being great sports & very cute Royals.



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• BLACKWOODIANS START 2017 IN STYLE • BLACKWOODIANS START 2017 IN STYLE • BLACKWOODIANS START 2017 IN STYLE •



LEFT PAGE: NYE celebrations at the pub. Magic supplied by Crazy Pete.

THIS PAGE: Free stuff was too good to refuse at the Blackwood Swap Meet.

TOP: Twin, Alisdair, says 'Look Mum, one for me & one for Willy!'

LEFT: Nice frock darts!

BELOW RIGHT: "I'm not sure what it is, but I want it!"

BELOW: I'll have that one, & that one, & that one!

BOTTOM: Sue's swap meet mantra was '2 out, 1 in'.





• CALENDAR OF EVENTS •

**FEBRUARY:**

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Sat 4	10:30am	Historical Society meeting	Museum
Sun 5	9am-5pm	Lyonville Woodchop	Lyonville
Thu 9-Sun 12	All day	Ballarat Beat Rockabilly Festival	Ballarat
Tue 7	8am-7:30pm	Yoga, meditation & more (pay as you feel classes)	Yogazen
Sat 18	10:00am	Blackwood Gardening Club - visit to Heronswood	Bwd Merchant
Sun 19	3:00am	Wombat Book Club	Bwd Hotel
Sun 19	9:30-4pm	Ballan Vintage Machinery Club	Ballan

**MARCH:**

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Sat 4	10:30am	Historical Society meeting	Museum
Sat 4	All day	Macedon Ranges Music Festival	New Gisborne
Sat 4	All Day	Kilmore Country Music Festival & Ute Competition	Kilmore
Sat 4 -Sun 5	7:00pm	Ballarat White Night	Ballarat
Tue 7	8am-7:30pm	Yoga, meditation & more (pay as you feel classes)	Yogazen
Thu 9-Mon 13	All Day	ChillOut Festival (LGBTI)	Daylesford
Sat 11 & Sun 12	10-4pm	Lost Trades Fair	Kyneton
Sat 11	11:30-5pm	Cat & Clint (Blackwood music duo)	Daylesford Cidery, Musk
Sat 11	10:00am	Blackwood Gardening Club - Proagating Natives	Bwd Merchant
Sun 12	11:00am	Composting with Worms & Bokashi	St Erth
Sun 12	9:30am	Harvest Festival	Bacchus Marsh
Fri 17	noon onwards	St Pat's Day celebrations	Pig & Whistle
Sat 18	noon til late	Let's Eat, Drink & Be Irish	Bwd Hotel
Sun 19	3:00pm	Wombat Book Club	Bwd Hotel
Sun 19	11:00am	All About Wicking Beds Workshop	St Erth
Sun 19	11:00am	St Pat's Day Procession	E Trentham
Sun 19	All day	Ballan Autumn Festival	Ballan
Sat 25	All day	Wombat Boogie	Trentham
Sun 26	11:00am	Growing Organic Garlic	St Erth

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



Santa takes a break from normal duties to assist the brigade.



An old photo of the back of the Blackwood Hall originally called the Mechanics Institute – to the right was the original kitchen. Added on section in middle for storage of seating when hall was used for a dance. The top end of the hall was the Mechanics Institute Library. Built by James Ferguson in 1869. (photo courtesy Margot Hitchcock.) Refer to article next page



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**GRAVES IN THE BLACKWOOD CEMETERY: JAMES FERGUSON**



The grave is in the Presbyterian section A, numbers 37. Compiled by Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society. 2017.

As reported in the Bacchus Marsh Express in 1894 – “A handsome tomb-stone has been erected in the Blackwood Cemetery to the memory of the late Mr. James Ferguson. Two years previously was reported the following on James Ferguson, an early pioneer, author, newspaper correspondent, Justice of the Peace in Blackwood, & builder of the **Mechanic Institute (Blackwood Hall)**. Mr. Ferguson wrote much as Correspondent for the Bacchus Marsh Express paper, & walked many miles to get columns of information which is very readable now on TROVE.

1892 - Mr. James Ferguson, J.P., a resident of over 30 years at Golden Point, Blackwood, died at Kyneton on Monday last, where he had been taken for the purpose of undergoing an operation. The deceased had been suffering from dropsy for some time. His age was 66 yrs.

Bacchus Marsh Express Sat July 30, 1892, Blackwood. By the death of Mr. James Ferguson, J.P., as reported in last week's Express, Blackwood loses a noteworthy personage, & the following remarks by one who has known him since 1857:- Mr. Ferguson was born at Burnhaugh, near Edinburgh, Scotland in the year 1827; was brought up & served his apprenticeship as a carpenter at Linlithgow, & came to Victoria in 1854 (as an unassisted passenger on the ship 'Contest', age 25 yrs). He carried on carpentering work at Brighton for a while, & then, hearing wonderful reports as to the richness of the newly discovered goldfield at Blackwood, came hither in 1855. In reference to the condition of Blackwood at that time, I cannot do better than quote from Mr. Ferguson's own writings, in which he said:- "Blackwood was first known as a goldfield in November 1854, & the ground first opened for mining was called Jackson's Gully. This gully was not of great extent, being only about 1/2 a mile in length from where it was goldbearing to where it joins the Lerderderg River. The gully was rich, & nuggets of gold were found varying in weight from 1dwt. up to 24lbs. The news of these discoveries soon spread, & by the end of June 1855, when the 'rush' had reached its climax, it was computed that over 20,000 persons had congregated on the Blackwood diggings." [The quotation is from a Short History of the Blackwood Goldfield." compiled by Mr. Ferguson at the request of the then Secretary for Mines], which appeared in the report of the Mines Department for 1/4 ended September 30, 1888, & is a valuable contribution to the mining literature of Blackwood.]

On coming to Blackwood Mr. Ferguson soon mastered the principles of alluvial mining. His principal mining for the 1st years was confined to about 1/2 a mile of the Lerderderg river in the vicinity of the famous Tipperary Point, he gradually but surely improved his financial position. He was married to Mrs. Ferguson in February, 1860. (Digger Records show James Ferguson married Mary Hunter in 1860. Mary's 1st husband was David Hunter who died in 1859 a year after she married him. Her maiden name was Duncan.)

Soon after this they opened the first lending library in Blackwood. A variety of circumstances led Mr. Ferguson to visit New Zealand in January, 1862. Finding the gold prospects excellent, he sent for Mrs. Ferguson, & by combining gold mining with a general store business at goldfield prices succeeded in gathering a fair competency, returning to Blackwood in 1865. About this time the first fervour of gold mining was passing off. Great efforts were being made, by the aid of readings, concerts, to erect new public buildings, of which the principal were the present Golden Point School, & the **Mechanics' Institute**.

The builder of the **Mechanics' Institute** was reported on June 5, 1869. "The contract to erect the **Mechanics Institute, Blackwood** has been let & operations begun. The building is to be 52 ft x 24ft. James Ferguson is the contractor.

His principal carpentering work on Blackwood was the **Mechanics' Institute**, and, although it has stood the test of upwards of 20 years' service, it still remains one of the most substantial buildings in the district. (written in 1892)

In the early part of 1870 he bought a principal interest in the **North Britain mine**, which had during the previous year been discovered & partially worked by a man named Wright. The mine was worked for a few years, when his Melbourne partner offered him the management of a nickel mine in New Caledonia, which he accepted, & left for that place in 1877.

James Ferguson carried on the work most successfully for about 2 years, when, on account of a glut in the market for nickel ore, the mine was stopped. Mr. Ferguson then returned to Blackwood, & recommenced active work in the **North Britain mine**. For several years he struggled hard,

either as chief proprietor or afterwards as manager, when the mine was formed into a company, to make it pay its way, but the refractory nature of the quartz to a great extent prevented him. He has often said since that his fortune had flowed into the Lederderg, because the process of saving & dealing with the goldbearing pyrites was not then sufficiently understood on Blackwood. Parcels of pyrites from the Britain mine forwarded to Germany for treatment since that time realized up to 12oz. gold per ton.

Mr. Ferguson was appointed a Justice of the Peace about 1883, & as he resided in the vicinity of the Blackwood Courthouse, he fell in for an extra large amount of the work incidental to the position. He also for a few years filled the position of one of the Shire Councillors for the East Riding of Ballan, & it was during his term as Councillor that some of the most effective work ever done on the Blackwood roads was carried out under the charge of the late Mr. Allan. During the last two or three years, although Mr. Ferguson was apparently quite unaware of it, the seeds of his fatal illness must have been working within him, for, although he kept himself employed at intermittent carpentering work, or at embellishing & improving his own house & garden, there was a remarkable absence of that energy which distinguished him in former years. When he knew his end was approaching he said he had no fear of death, his only regret was leaving Mrs. Ferguson to be all alone. She attended him with the most assiduous care, & is now lamenting her irreparable loss. Thus he passed away at 65 years, one of the best & most upright men Blackwood has known.

Bacchus Marsh Express - Saturday March 17, 1894. After a great deal of apparently unavoidable delay a massive & handsome tomb-stone has been erected in the Blackwood cemetery to the memory of the late Mr. James Ferguson, who for so many years filled a prominent position in the annals of Blackwood. The erection is 8 feet square, & covers the remains of both Mr. Ferguson & Mr. David Hunter, who was Mrs Ferguson's first husband. (Mr. Hunter's funeral in 1859 being remarkable for the fact that it was the first black-draped coffin used in Blackwood.) The erection may be briefly described as follows :-The lower basement consists of four massive blocks of Newport bluestone, rockwork dressed; & the second basement is of polished Malmesbury bluestone surmounted by a substantial bar railing. The covering slabs are of polished Kapunda slate, & the tombstone bears the inscription in deep cut gilt lettering "In memory of David Hunter. Died 7th May, 1859, aged 39 years;" & on the other, "Also of James Ferguson, J.P. Died 18th July, 1892, aged 65 years." With a blank, followed by the words, "Death is the gate of life."

Digger records have his father as William Ferguson & mother Christina Taylor. A further report tells the death of his wife – Mary Ferguson. Bacchus Marsh Express, 25 November 1911. Mrs. Mary Ferguson, late of Golden Point, died on the 6th inst., at her niece's (Mrs. M. Hunter) residence, "Yuruga house," Ballarat road, Footscray, & was buried in the tomb of her late husband, Mr. James Ferguson, in the Blackwood cemetery on the 8th. The last 18 months she had been bed ridden, & wholly helpless; aged 95 years. She left Linlithgow, Scotland, for Victoria, in October, 1857. She lived for some time in North Melbourne, where she was married to Mr. David Hunter, then a widower, with one son. They came to the Blackwood diggings, where her husband died about 12 months after marriage. Mrs. Ferguson married the 2nd time to her late husband's mate, Mr. James Ferguson. He was a miner & mine owner on Blackwood, & a Councillor for the East Riding of the Ballan Shire, & many years a Justice of the Peace. He was also correspondent for the Express & a great credit to himself. He pre-deceased his wife 19 years. His loss was long lamented by all who knew him, & he was one of the many remarkably able men Blackwood has had in her history. ©

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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### BLACKWOOFs



#### How Gerty took one for the Blackwoof team.

**SUMMER WAS** close & it was a lovely afternoon for walking. Gerty was just snuffling around the forest on her little dachshund legs, looking for badgers (dachs being German for badger, hund for hound). Being in Blackwood, she didn't really expect to find any badgers, but neither did she expect to bump into an ixodes holocyclus, which promptly bit her & filled her full of neurotoxins.

**THE PARALYSIS** tick is usually found in a 20km band along the entire east coast of Australia, from Cape York to east Gippsland. But not here.

**BY THE** time Gerty got back home, her head was wobbling from side to side & then her back legs joined in the wobbling. A dash to the vet, & the tick was removed; in good time, luckily, to avoid the necessity of (very expensive) anti-tick serum. The nasty creature was later positively identified as a paralysis tick.

**SO GERTY'S** cautionary message to her Blackwoof team is be on the lookout for ticks & talk to your vet about tick-removal & removal tools. They're not expensive.



### BLACKWOOD GARDENING CLUB

For our December meeting we took a bush walk to the area where Xanthorrhoea abound. There were at least 200, a quantity we had no idea existed in our own backyard. In the Brisbane ranges there is a problem with a disease carried on peoples' shoes which causes dieback & kills the plants.. So please if you come across them, admire them from a distance. We took the precaution of wearing shoe covers.

The Blackwood garden club clean up was a great success really making a difference to the areas around our wombat at the entrance to town & various corners around town. Lots of pruning, brush cutting, raking & rubbish removal... just goes to show how much a group of people can achieve. Thanks to everyone who came out & helped.

Looking forward to the February visit to Heronswood & March Propagating Natives Workshop. You don't have to be a member to join in an activity on the third Saturday of the month. Look out for our posters for info.

~ Jane Howat

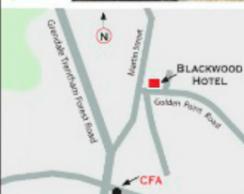
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Bag-clad garden club members Karen Bruno explores our bush with a sense of wonderment.

### Dear Pet Guru,

As the owner of a pet yak, I was intrigued to learn that in some countries they make an alcoholic drink out of fermented yak's milk. Do you think I could do this?

~ Perplexed of Port Melbourne



Dear Perplexed,  
That entirely depends upon the gender of your yak.  
Pet Guru

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### PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS

**WOOF:** In this months issue I would like to discuss a very dangerous subject. HEAT STRESS.

Heat stress can be fatal, unlike humans, most animals can't sweat to reduce body heat. Instead, dogs and cats lose heat by panting but there is a limit as to how much they can cool themselves down.



No matter how healthy you think your pet is, dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs etc. of all shapes, sizes and age can be affected by heat stress (or heat stroke) however, dogs with short noses, such as the bulldog, pug, boston terrier and boxer type breeds are particularly at risk.

Heat stress occurs when animals are confined in hot environments, often when locked in cars where the temperature can rise to lethal levels very quickly and in many circumstances it is life threatening.

Modifying your exercise or walking routine should be considered in the warmer months also. Jogging or walking early in the morning or late in the evening is recommend as the temperatures are definitely cooler at these times.

Ensure that your pet has adequate shade in their backyard and always refrain from tethering a dog to something that can prevent them from seeking different areas of the yard throughout the day.

#### Signs that your pet could be suffering from heat stress:

- Excessive panting
- Bright red gums and tongue which turn to blue
- Salivation
- Vomiting
- Anxious pacing, uncoordinated, stumbling
- Seizures or strange behaviour
- Collapse
- Coma

Heat stress can affect pets so quickly that they can become comatose within a very short timeframe of being exposed to the heat and direct sun.

If you suspect that your pet is suffering from heat stress you should contact your local Vet for advice immediately. In the meantime, there are a few techniques that you can do to keep your pet quiet and try to lower their body temperature.

#### First aid techniques for heat stress in pets:

- Soak a towel in cool water, drizzle the water on your pet concentrating on the head, stomach, neck, inner thighs and pads of the feet
- Wrap your pet in a cool wet towel
- For larger pets, gentle hosing or bathing with cool water, followed by cool towels applied to the head and stomach
- You want to cool your pet slowly to avoid hypothermia, which is why it is important to use cool water not iced water

#### Tips on preventing heat stress in your pet:

- Ensure that you pet has access to plenty of fresh, cool water at all times
- Modify your exercise routine with your pet to avoid the midday sun
- NEVER leave a pet in a car even if the windows are open or even if it appears to be an overcast day
- Remember that all pets can be affected by heat stress but pets with long hair, overweight, older animals and specific breeds are at a higher risk
- Make sure that outdoor pets have access to lots of shade, ensure they have the freedom to move freely around their yard.
- Inside animals also need to have access to lots of fresh water and well ventilated spaces

REMEMBER IF YOU ARE FEELING HOT THINK OF YOUR PET!

~ Woof for now. Seamus

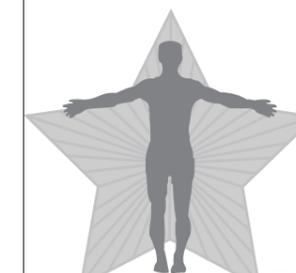
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### • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Hi Jinny,  
In the 1950 -1960s there was a small stand-alone kiosk opposite the entrance to the Mineral Springs (no kiosk in the Mineral Springs in those days). It was built in the recess that still exists there today along with the old palm tree & concrete remnants. The kiosk opened in the summer time for locals, holiday makers & campers. It was a welcome relief & a special treat to be able to buy an ice cream or cool drink there after the steep walk up the road from the creek & Mineral Springs.  
Out of curiosity I was wondering if anyone has any old photos of this kiosk or know the circumstances as to how it burnt down & when (approx in the late 60's) that they could submit to the Blackwood Times for local knowledge.

Regards  
  
~ Jan Purchase (Ogle)  
  
**Eds comment:** I love it when our readers ask questions of our readers. I believe Gary Matheson owned it at the time of the fire. There are a lot of tales about the burning ... can any one shed any light on the true story?



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### WOMBAT BOOK CLUB 2016

Hello, & Happy New Year from the Wombat Bookclub. With the business of Christmas behind us, we might actually have time to take a breath & relax in the warmth of Summer with a book. We chat about the book we have just read & of course write a review for this magazine. We have a lot of fun & meet the 3rd Sunday in each month at the Blackwood Pub. For more info please contact Jinny on editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au.

The 1st book, 'Love Song' by Alex Miller, is about a lost Australian tourist, John Patterner, who shelters from a sudden Parisian rainstorm in a cafe. Sabiha, the niece of the cafe owner, is mesmerized, John's calm grey eyes & his manner attracted her like no other. A marriage of two cultures, set a course of sad events.

**Brenda:** My first Alex Miller book & loved it – such beautiful, sensitive writing taking us right into the minds & souls of his complex characters. His treatment of Sabiha whose life is dominated by her longing for the child who will complete her is riveting. Have since read two more Miller books & will read them all.

5 wombies

The second book we read was 'The Storyteller' by Jodi Piccoult.

Set in New Hampshire, a story of Sage Singer, who is a baker at the place called the Daily Bread. A regular customer, Jospet Weber, a retired German teacher, confesses to Sage his darkest secret: that he deserves to die at her hands because he was a member of the SS guard in Nazi Germany a lifetime ago, & because she is a Jew. This leads to another story where Sage reflects on her grandmother, a survivor of Autzwich. This story has been decribed as a novel within a novel.

**Brenda:** Another great story from Piccoult. Sickening scenes from the hell of the Holocaust are lightened by the joy, smell & taste of baking the perfect bread roll. Interweaving stories are fascinating with a clever twist at the end. Compelling reading, frighteningly similar to current events abroad & at home. Now for time out to smell the roses.

4 1/2 wombies

**Jinny:** I confess to being a Jodi Piccoult fan so, a few years ago, I went to the Melbourne launch of 'The Storyteller' which was written by Jodi & her daughter. I wasn't keen on what I heard in their talk. The book maintained Jodi's signature elements - always tackling complex ethical issues but a fantasy twist was brought in this time imagined by her daughter. All in all, I don't think this book held together as well as Jodi's others. Although I enjoyed it, I can't rate it as highly as I would her other books.

3 wombies

**Deirdre:** After taking a little break from book club, this book was certainly worth reading. This wonderful story tells of a sad traumatised young woman who becomes friendly with an elderly gentleman with a very dark past. Their relationship develops into redemption and forgiveness but at what cost! Maybe this will be the healing process they both need. Thanks Jodi Piccoult.

4 wombies

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### WHO'S TATT'S THAT?



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This triquetra (3 cornered design) symbolises 3 essentials for its wearer: Love, Friendship & Loyalty. Below it sit the words, which are pronounced Diru Ar On Day, & translate as "Focus on the Good". Damn fine advice.

The next tattoo is not as simple as it seems. It was inked in Blackwood recently when a tattooist mate, Stooks, dropped by. But just who, or what, is Ray?

Although Ray Shepherd is indeed well-loved in Blackwood, it ain't him. Nor is the wearer declaring his love for his favourite radial saw (which he dearly loves). No, the Ray in question is a woman, sometimes called Ray Charles by her friends but, more often than not, simply Rach.

Even though they've been together for ages & he's devotedly followed her around the world, when Rach first saw the tatt she became giddy & cried, "It feels like we're married!"

Ah! The power of the Love Tatt.

A: I. Dierdre Cronin & Carlson



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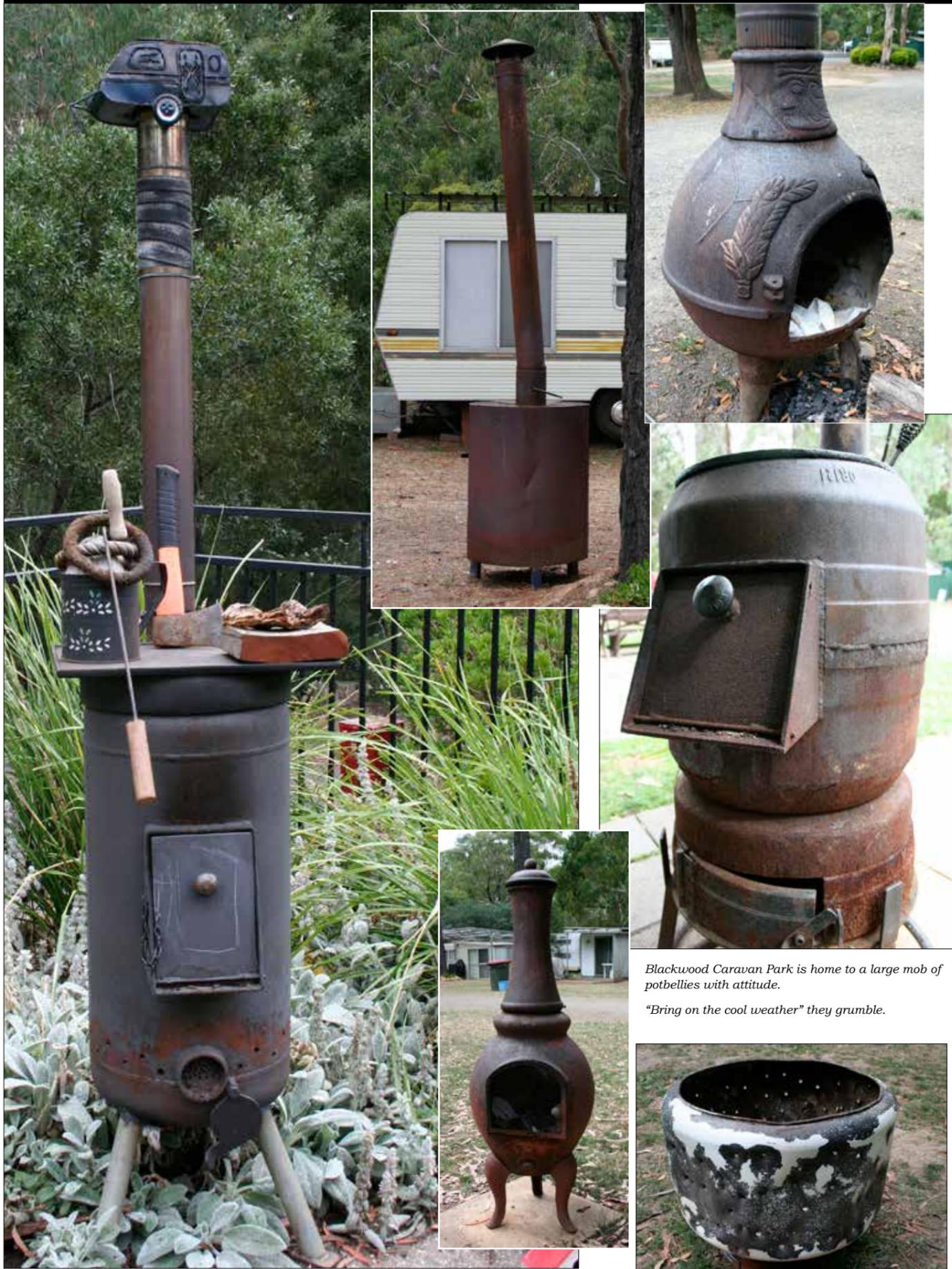


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by Kathie Strmota



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Research shows that meal timing is as important as nutritious food & exercise. Even with a ‘good diet’, poor meal timing leads to weight gain, & issues like heart disease & diabetes, while appropriate meal timing can reduce the effect of a ‘bad diet’, improve weight, & restore metabolic balance.

Eating in synch with your body requires a limited ‘eating window’ (between 7-9am & 5-7pm). This allows an overnight fasting period (no food) of 12-16 hours, for fat-burning & gut healing following daily wear & tear. You need to have a hearty nourishing early breakfast (7-9am), a big lunch (12-2pm), & just a small early dinner (5-7pm). There are several factors influencing appetite, fat storage & gut health, which reveal this as the body’s preferred eating style.

The hormones Ghrelin (feel hungry) & Leptin (feel satisfied) regulate food consumption. Leptin should be high overnight, when the body doesn’t want food, & drop in the morning, allowing you to feel hungry for breakfast. When leptin rhythm is out-of-synch (caused by sleep loss, shift-work, or eating late), problems like obesity, high blood pressure & diabetes, can develop. You don’t feel satisfied after eating, & have cravings for high-calorie junk foods.

Overnight, the body should switch to fat-burning mode & break down fat stores (weight loss) for energy production. If you eat late or overnight, the body will use those food calories instead & leave the fat where it is, while also storing the extra (weight gain). You are also most efficient at burning food calories in the morning, much less in the afternoon & poor overnight. Thus, it makes sense to eat the biggest meal at breakfast, when the body will use up most of those calories, rather than at dinner, when it will store most as fat.

Research found that people who had a late (or no) breakfast & late dinner gained more weight, compared with those who ate breakfast & dinner earlier. In terms of meal-size, people who ate a large breakfast & small dinner showed better measures all round (for things like weight, blood sugar, cholesterol, &

food cravings) compared with those who ate a small breakfast & large dinner (same daily calories).

There are also metaphysical factors, like the daily meridian energy cycle, which support this eating rhythm. In the morning (7-9am), energy is focused in the stomach meridian, making this the optimum time for receiving food & intensive nourishment. Failing to nourish yourself during stomach time weakens this meridian & impacts your life overall. Strong stomach energy encourages feelings of contentment & an appetite for life, while a weak meridian is associated with dissatisfaction, stress-anxiety, neediness, bitterness, disappointment, apathy, food cravings & comfort eating.

To get your eating patterns into synch with your body, start by having a large early breakfast every day (even if you don’t feel like it). This will re-set your food-related body-clocks and, within a week or so, you will begin to feel hungry in the morning. Getting breakfast right will gradually shift the food-hormone rhythm & influence your eating choices over the rest of the day. Even if you work night-shift, eat your food during the day. Have a big breakfast before you go to sleep & a good meal when you wake. If you feel peckish overnight, have lots of water, & nibble some fruit & nuts. It will make a world of difference to your health (and weight).

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- Lloyd Henderson 15-Year Service
- Ken Whiffin 25-Year Service

**National Medal recipients**

Awarded for diligent long service to the community in hazardous circumstances, directly protecting life & property.

- Gary Amy joined the brigade in July 1998, & held positions of: firefighter, 2nd & 4th lieutenant, brigade training coordinator & Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria delegate.
- Lloyd Henderson joined the brigade in 1999, & held positions of: firefighter, 3rd lieutenant, equipment maintenance officer & communications officer.
- Thomas Pywell joined the brigade in 1987 & held positions of: 4th, 3rd, 2nd & 1st lieutenant, as well as brigade health & safety officer & group delegate.
- John (Ian) Stewart joined the brigade in 1976 & is celebrating 40 years of service. He has held positions of: 3rd, 2nd & 1st lieutenant, captain

(2004 – 2015) & group delegate. Mr Stewart has also received the National Emergency Medal for attendance at the Black Saturday Fires in 2009.

• George Stockdale joined the brigade in 1956 & is celebrating 60 years of service. He has held positions of: firefighter, captain, communications officer & brigade chairperson.

• Ken Whiffin, joined the brigade in 1990 & held positions of: firefighter, as well as 4th, 2nd & 1st lieutenant.

#### Commendation for Service Award

For service of a meritorious nature or outstanding actions

• Thomas Pywell for outstanding actions at the scene of a car accident. Mr Pywell quickly ascertained the condition of the injured occupants, & provided constant verbal contact & comfort with a severely injured passenger. He upheld the highest ideals of the CFA putting sanctity of life before his own discomfort in exceptional circumstances.



Blackwood motorcycle club took a Great Australia Day run to Lal Lal Falls, lunch at the Gordon pub then a stop off at the Greendale Wood Chop before returning home to Blackwood pub.



# Leave early

## THE REASONS ARE BLACK AND WHITE

Bushfires can start quickly and threaten lives within minutes. When it comes to fire, what you need to do is black and white. Check Fire Danger Ratings daily and monitor warnings.

**Most bushfire deaths happen close to home, so leaving early, before a fire starts, is always the safest option.**

[emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au)

Download the VicEmergency app



Authorised by the Victorian Government,  
1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



# BLACKWOOD WOODCHOP AND EASTER CARNIVAL



## SATURDAY 15 APRIL

### STREET PARADE (11.00am) Starts at the bottom of Martin St and ends at the sports ground.

### WOODCHOP EVENTS INCLUDING VICTORIAN TITLE

**WORKSHOPS: BEE KEEPING, CHICKENS, GARDENING, CRAFT HISTORY: BLACKWOOD HISTORICAL MINES**

**KID'S GAMES & NOVELTY RACES | ARTS & CRAFTS | TREASURE HUNT  
MUSIC | RAFFLES | TUG-OF-WAR | FACE PAINTING | PET SHOW  
MARKET STALLS | GUMBOOT THROW COMP | GOLD PANNING**

**'Stake ur claim' - CHANCE TO WIN A GOLD NUGGET!**

**LICENSED BAR & GREAT FOOD | COURTESY BUS**

**ADULTS - \$5  
6 YEARS & ABOVE - \$1  
UNDER 5 - FREE**

GENERAL ENQUIRIES: Sue - 0419 527 990 | STALLS: Rachel - rachpalmer2000@hotmail.com  
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# The Blackwood Cricket Club

is hosting a

# Pink Stumps Day



McGrath Foundation  
**PINK STUMPS DAY iii**

<https://pinkstumpsday2017.gofundraise.com.au/page/blackwoodcricketclubPSD2017>

All Proceeds go to the McGrath Foundation for those affected by breast cancer

Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> from 1.30pm

Blackwood Recreation Reserve

Come on down to the ground to cheer the boys on & help raise much needed funds for women & families affected by this horrible disease.

The bar will be open and the canteen will be serving all day.



this community advertisement is sponsored by The Blackwood Times

## BEYOND BLACKWOOD...

### BOUQUET



I want to thank the small communities that spent some of their time writing messages of support to the soldiers & emergency services in Heidelberg Repatriation Military Hospital Ward 17 over Christmas. The few hundred cards & twenty gift parcels filled the tables in the hospital dining room & put smiles on every soldier & a few tears on the nursing staff.

Special thanks to the Ballan Primary school & St Brigid's Catholic Primary School Ballan, Ballan Kyokushin karate, Greendale pub, Trentham Cosmo Hotel, Blackwood pub & East Trentham Pig & Whistle pub & David & Janine Bryant & Mario Sartori for helping me with the fund raiser for Dean Mighell's "The Path of The Horse" & card signing at the Pig & Whistle pub. Big thank you to Caitlin Nash for giving up her Christmas morning to help me deliver the cards & presents. Thank you to all who filled in the cards. Some of the messages were amazing.

~ Cheers Clint Stretton



**April 13 – 17, 2017**

**Closing date for entry applications:**

**Fri 31 Mar**

**Opening & presentation of awards:**

**Thurs 13 April – 7.30pm (All welcome)**

**Trentham Mechanics Hall  
85 High Street, Trentham**

**General Enquiries:**

Jill McCallum 0403650811 [jillmccallum@live.com](mailto:jillmccallum@live.com)

**Entry Enquiries:**

Bette McLaren 54241127 [mclarenjr@bigpond.com](mailto:mclarenjr@bigpond.com)  
Jacinta Burke 0418542411 [jacinta@jacintaburke.com.au](mailto:jacinta@jacintaburke.com.au)

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### POSTIE BIKE RIDE THROUGH REGION

The Rotary Club of Daylesford are running Postie Bike Tours of Central Victoria to raise funds for community projects.

During Chill Out we will be running 2 one day tours. They will start (9am) & finish (around 4pm) in Daylesford. Taking in the surrounding forests utilizing many of our dirt roads in the area, particularly in the Wombat state forest.

The day will start with a meet & greet followed by a brief familiarisation then off on the tour which will include morning tea at historic Bullarto railway station, lunch showcasing regional produce by local chef, winding up with afternoon tea at Daylesford railway station. Tours will suit riders of any ability, & require participants to have a motorcycle licence or learner's permit, as well as appropriate riding attire, helmet, eyewear & gloves.

We will supply a fully-registered, well-maintained Honda CT110 Postie bike for the tour, lunch, morning & afternoon tea as well as full back up support team. **Tour cost \$295.00**

Our 7 day tour is going to be a week to remember & will feature our fantastic towns, spectacular scenery & don't forget our amazing food & wine. Starting Monday March 20 with a meet & greet, briefing & basic riding course in off-road techniques, followed by riding some of the Wombat State Forest, we overnight in Daylesford. Day 2 the tour will utilise as many dirt roads as we can to travel through Blackwood, Trentham, Mt Macedon staying at Cope Williams winery in Romsey. Day 3 we explore around Mt Macedon, Lancefield, Rochford, Hanging Rock, Cobaw Ridge State Forest, staying at Cope Williams winery. Day 4 we head west through Lancefield, Kyneton, Malmsbury, Guildford, Glengowa, Talbot, then overnight at Avoca.

Day 5 we travel east from Avoca to Bungbong, Amherst via Quartz Reef mountain, passing through Talbot, then on to Duncan, Clunes, Smeaton, with a treat in Kingston at an old cricket ground. After a rest we travel through Kangaroo Hills, Sailors Falls, Leonards Hill & through the Wombat Forest back to Daylesford. Day 6 we explore more of the Wombat State Forest before a walking tour of Daylesford which will be followed by a special charter on Spa Country Railways, from Daylesford to Bullarto return, before the final night's celebration dinner on the railway platform in Daylesford. Day 7, March 26, we have a leisurely breakfast before transferring to your transportation home.

Tour will suit riders of any ability, & require participants to have a motorcycle licence or learners permit, as well as appropriate riding attire, helmet, eyewear & gloves.

We will supply a fully-registered, well maintained Honda CT110 Postie bike for the tour, 6 nights twin share accommodation, all meals while on tour showcasing local produce as well as full back-up support team.

**Tour cost \$3750.00**

~ see poster on p22

### 2017 Season revealed!

The Macedon Ranges Film Society's committee has secured a brilliant & diverse selection of films for the 2017 season offering a film every month from February to November.

In addition to the regular screenings, August also features an additional film at the Sunday Afternoon Musical event - this year it's the much loved classic "Man of La Mancha" starring Peter O'Toole & Sophia Loren.

The line up for the year is: February – Mic Macs, March – Mystery Road, April – Moonrise Kingdom, May – Ida, June – Paul Cox tribute (TBA), July – Miss Potter, August – Little Voice, August Sunday Afternoon Musical – Man of La Mancha, September – Far from Men, October – The Imposter, November – The Party.

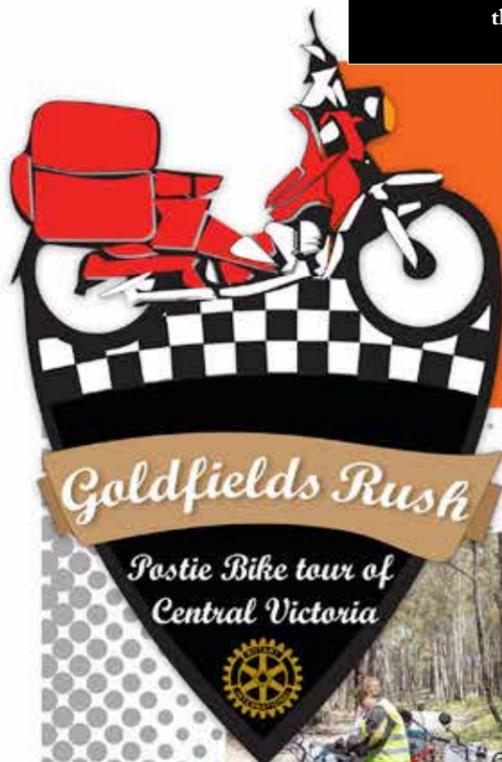
If you like good films, supper & some lively chat, consider joining. The Macedon Ranges Film Society meets on the 2nd Wednesday monthly at Woodend Community Centre. Film notes & an informal supper are part of the evening.

MRFS is a membership-based club; initial enquiries by email to [mrfilmsociety@gmail.com](mailto:mrfilmsociety@gmail.com), call Lorraine 5427 0921 or Christine 5429 5452

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2017

CHILL OUT 1 Day Tours  
Friday 10th March &  
Saturday 11th March

A Fundraiser hosted by the Rotary Club of Daylesford

Visit small gold rush towns in their Autumn Glory



**ACT NOW!**  
Reserve your spot.  
Limited to 20 riders



Requires motorbike licence or learners permit and appropriate riding gear.

Cost \$295

Fully registered Honda CT110 Postie Bike for the tour, support team, Lunch, morning & afternoon tea



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www.goldfieldrush.com ~ facebook.com/postiebiketours

THE PIG



FREE COURTESY BUS

Meal Bookings for 4 or more people – Can seat up to 11  
Trentham, Blackwood, Kyneton & Woodend

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PLUS SATURDAY & SUNDAY LUNCH from 12 noon**

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1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH from 2.30 pm  
Next Session is Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

**CELEBRATE ST PATRICK'S DAY TWICE!!**

**\*\*FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH ST PATRICK'S DAY from 5pm\*\*  
IRISH MEALS – IRISH MUSIC & IRISH DANCING**

**\*\*\*SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH ENJOY A GREAT FAMILY DAY  
IN THE TRUE IRISH SPIRIT\*\*\***

11.00am St Patrick's Day Procession from the old Sacred Heart Church in James Lane to The Pig & Whistle. Lead by the Bagpiper and the Tylden CFA Fire Truck

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[www.pigandwhistlehotel.com](http://www.pigandwhistlehotel.com)

Fb: The Pig and Whistle Hotel Trentham East

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The Blackwood CERT committee would like to notify the community that negotiations with Telstra, to build a shed for the CERT vehicle on the Telstra Exchange land, have now officially ceased.

The committee is in the process of pursuing other options.

We wish to thank the community for their support to date. Further updates will be in The Blackwood Times & Facebook at facebook.com/Blackwood3458CERT OR facebook.com/theblackwoodtimes/



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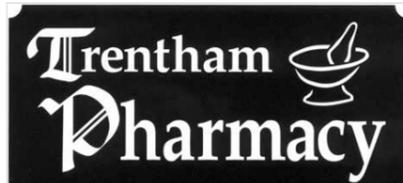
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Mary-Anne Thomas MP  
STATE MEMBER FOR MACEDON

As your local Member of Parliament I am keen to hear from the community and assist with any State Government matter.

Warm regards,  
Mary-Anne Thomas



OFFICE: Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne, VIC 3437  
POSTAL: PO Box 39, Gisborne, VIC 3437  
P: 5428 2138 F: 5428 2919  
E: mary-anne.thomas@parliament.vic.gov.au

Authorised by MA Thomas, Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne. This material has been produced by Mary-Anne Thomas MP using her parliamentary printing & communication entitlement.

## GREENDALE COUNTRY PUB

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Tues: Locals Slab Draw in Bar & Parma and Pasta \$14  
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**TRENTHAM 39 High St**

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**Expressions of Interest**



**BLACKWOOD 88 Simmons Reef Rd**

'Woodside Retreat' - this magnificent four bedroom, weatherboard home is north facing, and features a home is set on a private two acres, a floodlit tennis court, established fruit trees and gardens which attracts an abundance of bird life.

**\$805,000 - \$835,000**



**BLACKWOOD**

**1069 Greendale-Trentham Rd**

Built in 1898, this substantial, weatherboard, original heritage home has 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms and set on approx. 1,158 sqm.

**\$680,000**



**BLACKWOOD 44A Martin St**

Located just a short walk to the main street with established trees and a pleasant outlook is this beautiful piece of land of 1,737 sqm (approx.) with a recently issued planning permit!

**\$155,000**



**BLACKWOOD 75 Simmons Reef Rd**

Great opportunity to build in the 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**



**BARRYS REEF**

**Lot 2 & 3 Greendale-Trentham Road**

Approx. 1 acre cleared block in a great location. Current planning permit, water available and power nearby.

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**BARRYS REEF 29 Thurgoods Ln**

Two lots totalling 1,700 sqm approx. With newly issued planning permit for dwelling. Elevated position with views out to Wombat forest and Bluemount.

**\$130,000**



**BLACKWOOD 31 Golden Point Rd**

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