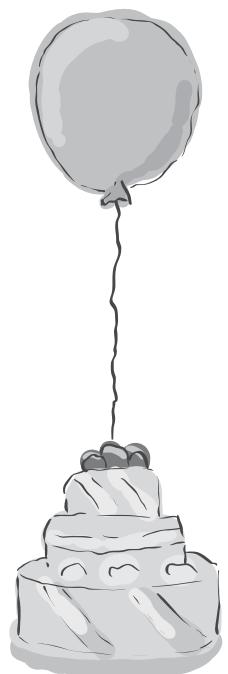


June - July 2017 vol 9 ~ issue 10:1



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
THE BLACKWOOD
TIMES
10YEARS THIS ISSUE

INSIDE:
p3: bush dance
p3: BLSP update
p6/7: community group updates
p8/9: album
p11: history
p12/13: garden & pets

Local axeman legend, Gary Matheson, doing his best promotional pose for the 2017 Blackwood Easter Carnival Woodchop.

See inside for umpteen more photos.

Photo courtesy
of Herald Sun
Photographer,
Rob Leeson



EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

Hollooooo Blackwoodians,

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US ... yep it's our 10 year issue – I can't quite believe that we've done this mad, crazy scurry to get an issue out 60 times now!

Putting the paper together is exhausting &, at times, nerve-wracking. Responding to emails, returning phone calls. Documenting events then culling photos because we just can't fit in any more (sad face). Keeping our ear to the ground for news & stories. Writing, typing, writing, typing. But at the end of the day it makes it every bit worth it when we visit Blackwoodians & are proudly shown their stash of Blackwood Times back issues, or they refer to the current copy for a tradie's phone number or to book a meal locally. What a lovely way to be involved in the community.

I've said it before but I'll say it again & again. We couldn't continue to publish the Times without the contributions & support of many people

- advertisements & donations are crucial to pay printing & running costs
- volunteers help to compile information, take photos of events
- writers who entertain us with their wisdom
- proof readers, typists
- distributors who regularly top-up hardcopies
- businesses who allow us to use them as distribution points
- & the list goes on

My heartfelt thanks goes to each & every one of you.

Since I moved out of my office in Footscray I haven't been hitting the road much but a few months ago while delivering The Times in Trentham I noticed a new blue direction sign "Path of the Horse", I wondered what it was all about. Last month I asked local man Clint Stretton about it. He has written up a fascinating story on p19.

Lots of photos to enjoy in this issue, please keep 'em coming.

~see you around, Jinny Coyle (editor)



BLACKWOOD COMMUNITY BUSH DANCE

Saturday 12th August 2017

5.30pm-11:30pm



Dust off your boots and join us for a fantastic family night of bush dance fun. Lots of spot prizes.

6pm – The Dear Family Band (Old Time & Bluegrass)

6:30pm - Spit roast dinner, dessert, tea & coffee. BYO drinks.

7:30pm - Paddy Wombat Bush Band. Dance the night away to the energetic chemistry of Paddy Wombat. No dancing ability or coordination required!

Cost: Adults: \$50 Children (5-12): \$15

Children under 5: free

Tickets on sale NOW at the Blackwood Post office

Tickets are limited & likely to sell out.

Don't miss this much-awaited event.



Ballan Plumbing install a state-of-the-art Fuji septic system.

BLACKWOOD'S GOING SEPTIC!

May has been a very busy month! I am excited to announce that the planning assistance program has had some great initial success with 7 individual landowners receiving assistance with development applications on their vacant land within the township.

Landowners, Water Authorities, the Country Fire Authority, Town Planning & Domestic Wastewater Consultants & Moorabool Shire Councils Town Planners & Environmental Health Unit have all worked collaboratively to investigate the feasibility of developing these vacant parcels.

To date, the relevant authorities have provided in-principle support for a range of varying residential dwelling sizes on the 7 blocks of land. Whilst the landowners will still need to undertake the process of applying for a planning permit, the planning assistance program is a clear example of what can be achieved when agencies work collaboratively.

Our Consultants are currently working with another 15 landowners on various development proposals. If you have a vacant parcel of land & want to determine the feasibility of developing the land it's not too late to contact me to discuss.

Round 2 of the septic tank upgrade works are well underway & our contractors have been working tirelessly in the race against Blackwood's wet winter. By the end of May, approximately 30 new septic tank systems will be installed throughout Blackwood & Barry's Reef. I am still going through the list of identified properties receiving upgrade works in the later stages of the program. However, the best way to determine if you will be receiving works is to contact me to discuss.

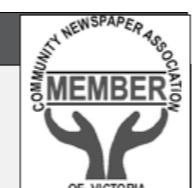
A community wastewater education forum was held on May 13 at the CFA office in Blackwood. The forum was well attended by local community members with many open discussions about all things wastewater! Further forums will be scheduled throughout the year.

I 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



James' presentation at the education forum



the BLACKWOOD TIMES info

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

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

NO late submissions will be accepted. Please email submissions, display ads & articles to editor@theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au or post to The Blackwood Times, PO Box 39 Blackwood, 3458.

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

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There are substantial costs in putting on such an event and your donations, in addition to the hard work of volunteers, enables the Blackwood Easter Woodchop & Carnival to continue. It would be nice to think it will still be around in another 125 years!

Accounts are still being finalized, but we expect that an amount of money will be available to invest in community projects. If you have any suggestions please ring or email David White 0418 372203 m24dbd34@gmail.com or Terri Simpson 0421 061536 terris@y7mail.com

**CAN WE BUILD YET? YOU BET!**

After a building drought of near-15 years, Steve Empey is the first to break ground.



Steve test-drives his newly-installed fire shelter.



I always think it is important to encourage the work of the support groups which form in our smaller regional communities.

This is not an observation about every activity & decision they take, but more about the energy & focus that organisations like the Blackwood Action Group can bring to a community. They are so important.

The BAG has provided important leadership on vital issues like bushfire building laws & waste water management to name just 2.

It helps give direction to activities like Clean-up Australia Day & organises public meetings which bring relevant speakers & exhibits to the community.

As your Federal member I know how vital such groups are in tying our regional communities together. I have seen the positive results many times. Keep up the good work.

Likewise the Blackwood & District Community Emergency Response Team members provide often critical support in medical emergencies until paramedics arrive.

I know the team was keen to build a new station for its ambulance & equipment but so far has been unable to bring that to fruition. Let's hope the right circumstance can be put in place soon to make it a reality.

My office was assisting with a funding application for the station but this had to be suspended when other elements of the project could not be concluded. I would be happy to assist again with any future application under a relevant funding program.

I was pleased to catch up with many of you at the Easter Carnival & Woodchop. I hope to chat to more of you when I visit Blackwood as the year progresses.

~ Catherine King MP Federal Member for Ballarat

**COMMUNITY FUND-RAISING NOTICES & RELEASES
as well as local gigs & events ARE PUBLISHED IN
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HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

MONTH & YEAR	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall historical average (mm)	Temp monthly min (deg C)	Temp monthly max (deg C)	Temp average daily max (deg C)	Temp average daily min (deg C)	Temp average for month (deg C)
Mar '17	*32.5	56.1	3.8	35.9	27.7	10.1	17.5
Apr '17	*195.4	71.9	2.6	23.3	17.1	6.9	11.4

• **VALUE** from Trentham BOM

MARCH WAS very dry and hot but April had above average rainfall.

~ by Don Owen

SO MANY BOOKS, SO LITTLE TIME!

~ by Ewan Cameron

I can't imagine a world without books! Some of my oldest, dearest friends sit on shelves - bookshelves that is. I may not interact with them for months or occasionally even years. However, they mean a lot to me as they continue to give me pleasure over time & hold fond memories for me. That is because, as I reacquaint myself with them, I recall the instances through which I acquired them; the places, the people, the celebrations. Whenever



I buy or receive a new book, I try to remember to write the date, place & sometimes the occasion on which I acquired it. For example, my favourite book of all is a simple cookbook titled "Greek Island Cookery" given to me 28 years ago. I love it for a number of reasons. Firstly, each recipe is presented through the author's experiences of travelling around the Greek Islands, collecting recipes, painting rich word images of the villages & the people who provided them. Each story is also enhanced by wonderful watercolours of the places visited. But the best reason that book remains a treasured friend is that it was the first Father's Day book I received.

One of our fondest memories is that of meeting the Yorkshire vet, James Wight, better known as James Herriot, who wrote his peerless series of stories, "All Creatures Great & Small". A signed copy of his book holds pride of place on our shelves. A little book that we value highly is one we bought at Fitzroy Crossing in W.A. Titled "Kimberley Doctor". It was sold to us by the widow of the late Dr. Holman who was the flying doctor of that area in the 1950's. Full of wonderful anecdotes & characters, it has so much atmosphere you can smell the spinifex before a desert storm. That is just what a good book does; it creates the atmosphere so well that you are living in that moment.

So books are special friends that hold fond memories for us. Somehow, although one can read e-books on a Kindle etc, they seem coldly impersonal to me however practical they may be. I have never lost the love of the feel, the smell & the comfort of a book. With a book, no imagery is forced upon you as your imagination allows the settings & characters in a story to be just as you want them to be. What I really savour is that a particularly good sentence or paragraph can be relished again & again just as one can roll delicious food around in the mouth to prolong the taste. I often say to myself, "I wish I had the ability to write that." For me, it is true to say that a good book has a personality all of its own.

Years ago, when working on the Tanami Track, the Alice Springs Regional Library Service to remote areas was a godsend to us. Every 4 weeks, a large box of books would arrive at the airstrip not far from the back of our house. When delivered to our home, we would set upon it hungrily as we fought over the contents. The library staff would ask at the start of the year what topics or authors were preferred & each time they sent a great variety that always seemed to cater for our interests.

Imagine then, our delight at discovering that Blackwood also has a wonderful service provided through the Moorabool Library Services. Each Wednesday, Faye & I try to get to the Blackwood Hall so we can meet the library van. Christie & the other staff cannot do enough for their customers. Books, topics or authors sought after are researched for us & brought to us the following week or put on hold so we can have them as soon as they become available. To our delight some great books we've received have been provided as suggestions because

Christie has come to know the subjects & authors we are most interested in. We are really very well looked after!

What a great service for Blackwood!

Our dream is that one day the library van could be parked in the main street, perhaps near the post office. This would save anyone lugging books on foot up Prayer Hill but more importantly, it would remind Blackwoodians of the availability of this wonderful service. Besides, imagine the happy hours of stepping from the van into The Blackwood Merchant or the The Blackwood Pub for a drink in hand & a new book under the arm! Bring it on, I say.

Bob Carr, former NSW Premier, once said, "So many books, so little time!" He sure was right!

**DO YOU KNOW THESE THIEVES?**

They were photographed between 5 & 6 am on Mother's Day (Sunday, May 14) – the same time that a motorcycle was stolen from a property in Handley St, Blackwood.

At least 1 of the thieves entered & left the property via an adjoining Cann St property. It is thought that a vehicle was parked near the corner of Cann St & Blackwood-Greendale Rd.

It is further understood that the same thieves had earlier in the night robbed a property in Golden Point Rd.

In these infrared photos, the smaller thief can be seen wearing an ill-fitting pair of gardening gloves – possibly taken from a car during the break-in at the Golden Point Rd property.

The smaller robber could be a child. He/she is short & slightly built. This person was wearing dark trousers & a two-tone hoodie during the robbery.

The taller thief is older, quite tall & thick set. He was wearing light-coloured track pants & hoodie. The hoodie has a prominent brand emblazoned across the chest (possibly "Vans"). This man's sneakers have a reflective surface on the outside of the ankle.

The stolen motorcycle is blue a Yamaha TTR 125, 2006.

If you think you recognise this pair, please contact Ballan police sergeant Paul Menz on 5368 1303.

**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 Myrniong 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 Myrniong & Bacchus Marsh including, Cafe Church, Messy Church, Senior Citizen's Services & Sunday & Wednesday services please see www.bacchusmarshanglican.org.au or contact 5367 5362.

~ *Nina Harbison*

Blackwood Action Group (BAG)

see James Maw's BLSP article p3 & first sod turned photos p4

~ *Brendan Hehir (chair)*

Blackwood CFA

A very successful Easter Carnival with a fantastic turnout for the day. It has been a nice quiet time for the brigade & we're looking for people to join who are interested in helping the community, we do more than fight fires.

As most people are aware, the emergency number in Australia is 000 but there is also another number which is for the mobile phone network 112. You can store both in your phone so that if you come across an emergency it's easy to find. If ever you do need to call 000 you will be asked for your location & in some cases the nearest intersecting road as this gives a good reference point.

As a little trivia point, emergency numbers for other countries such as 999 & 911 also work here. The rationale is that people are usually brought up knowing the emergency number so well it is an automatic reaction when needing emergency services.

Be careful of scammers. Microsoft, Telstra, Optus or any other organisation will never ring you to tell you they have found a problem with your computer. If you get a phone call like this, hang up & under no circumstances give them your card details or allow them to access your computer.

As we are now definitely heading into winter be aware of leaving heating items on. Check that the electric blanket is turned off when not in use. Electric heaters/fans are turned off when not needed & all their vents are free of any obstructions such as lint, dust, hair, material.

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 (search for Blackwood CFA) & <http://www.blackwoodcfa.com>

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

~ *Karl Church, Brigade Community Safety Coordinator*

Blackwood Crown Reserves**'Changes at Crown Reserves'**

With long term members Brian Moore, Elizabeth Hall & Barbara Sweet standing down from the committee after years of dedicated service some of the relatively new members have continued on & are looking forward to the challenge of bringing about change whilst accepting the enormous responsibility of managing valuable assets on behalf of the Blackwood community..

The retiring members have, over the years, maintained & developed these community assets & leave the committee with a sound financial base to continue work on behalf of the community.

Currently the committee consists of three members - David White, Peter Fowler & Michael Boyd. Another applicant is awaiting Ministerial approval. However we could certainly use further hands & if anyone has a few hours a month to spare we would love to discuss your opportunity to serve Blackwood.

The main assets to be managed are the Mineral Springs, the Caravan Park, the Sports Ground & the Hall. We are currently in the process prioritising works required at each of these venues. Work will commence on the upgrading of the sewerage system at the Sports Ground & we were able to negotiate the inclusion of the old toilet

block in this upgrade programme. This is essential when major events take place like the Easter Carnival & the Music Mestival.

There have also been a couple of important decisions taken by the committee to ensure we are inclusive of the Blackwood community.

1. A key will be made available to CERT for the gate at the Sports Ground to ensure an efficient transportation process is in place for emergency air evacuation required for a seriously injured person.

2. Future meetings of the Crown Reserves Committee of Management will be open to the Blackwood Community. This is to ensure transparency in our processes. Naturally there may be occasions when part of a meeting may have to be in camera, but such occasions would be the exception rather than the norm.

The committee invites & welcomes community input & if you have any suggestions please contact me on 0418 372203 or email m24dbd34@gmail.com

~ *David White, Acting Chairman*

Blackwood Community Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)

We are currently incorporating the lessons learned from the recent Emergency Scenario Exercise into the Community Emergency Management Plan. Public feedback will also be incorporated. The plan will be published later in the year. The pub-friendly scenario is due close to the next fire season.

~ *Blackwood CEMP Planning Group*

BLACKWOOD CERT

You might have seen CERT out & about at the Blackwood Easter Carnival & the Trentham Spudfest. We've enjoyed meeting people & answering your questions. Also fun for us has been watching you guess how many lollies in the lolly jar, & watching some lucky people win our raffle. Nice work community! Thanks for supporting us as your local first response team.

With National Volunteers Week just behind us, we'd like to thank our other unsung volunteers - our committee has been working hard behind the scenes to manage the big decisions – like managing our finances, negotiating the land for our station, & garnering community support in the name of "Friends of CERT". This is exciting seeing that being part of CERT doesn't always mean being first on scene. It also means we can share the load around – being in CERT is a large time commitment right through the year.

Being in the CERT is sometimes hard work. There is a lot of training, meetings, & a heightened level of responsibility to the community. The rewards range from small moments like when a patient's condition improves, to amazing ones like seeing a critically ill person turn a corner. Recently our crew attended a local CPR case supporting ALS & MICA paramedics & the HEMMs Air ambulance. The patient was revived & survived - the best outcome all around! We wish the patient a full recovery.

Blackwood CERT is hosting a Volunteer from South Australia in July. We're looking forward to sharing knowledge & skills with our state counterparts. Our exchange volunteer will be on any call outs over the week, so if you see us touring with a new member in a different colour uniform, please come up & say hello!

A flu-season reminder...as the cold weather sets in, now is the time to get an Influenza (Flu) shot from your doctor or community health centre. Also, with icy roads & active wildlife, please drive carefully. We'd prefer to say hi in the main street, than see you in a car accident.

Blackwoodians & other locals can be a tough mob. We can brush off health concerns as too much hassle, but then in hindsight wish we'd just called for help straight away. If you think someone needs an ambulance, please call 000. Even if they're saying not to worry & it will be all right. Let the paramedics have the discussion. Do not drive yourself or a critically ill person to hospital – this can be time consuming, expensive, & even dangerous.

Blackwood CERT members are highly trained in many aspects of emergency first aid – the cases ambulance are called to, we may be called to. We attend on average a couple of calls a week – these could be any kind of critical health concern such as: stroke, cardiac pain

& heart attack, premature labour & childbirth, acute or worsening mental health conditions, car & bike accidents, broken bones, drug & alcohol related trauma, assault, babies & children with worsening symptoms of colds & chest infections, severe cuts & post-procedure bleeding, severe allergy, snake bites, hypothermia, & asthma (to name but a few!). We arrive on scene, introduce ourselves & after making an initial assessment, we report to our paramedic backup, & are able to provide appropriate medication to bring about patient comfort & medical management for the presenting problem. CERTs are all local volunteers. We follow Ambulance Victoria protocols & work hard to provide a confidential, non-judgmental service for all our community – locals, visitors, young & old alike. You can be very proud of your CERT.

~ *Margaret McCarthy, Blackwood CERT Team Leader 0427 344 055*

Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare**NEW LANDCARE PRESIDENT**

Catherine Moser is the new president of Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group.

Cat was elected to the position at the group's annual general meeting at the Blackwood Hotel on Sunday, May 21. Gerry Daly is the group's secretary & Shane Scanlan is treasurer. (see photo p14)

Gerry was among a number of Blackwood new-comers who are interested in environmental issues facing the townships & surrounding forests. Also new to Landcare are Claudette Koller & Carol Guthrie.

The group agreed to meet by-monthly, with the next meeting scheduled for 6.30 pm at the Blackwood Hotel on Sunday, July 23. All welcome.

Ideas for future activities raised at the AMG included: educating people to curb the weeds on their properties, organising a "how-to" propagate native plants event, distributing to new residents the group's guide to local weeds via the Blackwood Post Office & amending the group's website to publicise which authority is responsible for which areas around the town – including contact names & phone numbers.

For further information, see www.blackwoodlandcare.org.au

~ *Shane Scanlan*

Blackwood Historical Society

We hope everyone had a great Easter & that the school holidays were enjoyable.

Thanks to Blackwood Progress we were able to run our drinks stall & get money for our club which goes to maintenance & paying power bills, etc. at the society building. Like many groups in Blackwood we do rely on this for raising funds. We are hoping to add ramps to our building in the future.

Thank you to all the people who attended our stall, bingo & our Sunday open day.

Thank you to Mark, Jenny, Aline, Shawn, John, Monica, Cathie, Phillip & Catherine & Georgia also to Genevieve & Kenny for all the work & help over the Easter weekend & weeks before. We are very grateful for without you we could not run these things.

Please note, our meetings are on the 1st Sunday monthly at 10.30am. Everyone welcome

~ *Elizabeth Hall (secretary)*

Blackwood Progress Association

see thank-you poster p3

~ *Sue Donnelly, Secretary*

Blackwood Senior Citizens

We hope everyone had a great Easter with family & friends. Thank you to all who bought tickets for the Easter raffle & a huge thank you to Fred Moore & Bev Herd who made up the Easter baskets for the raffle & another thank you to everyone who donated eggs for the raffle. Our Christmas in July will be held at the Commercial Hotel in Ballan on July 20 at the cost of \$30 per head.

Come & join us on Wednesdays at the Blackwood Hall 10.30am start. We have a 3 course meal for \$10, raffle prizes & bingo. We have Rumikins & pool before lunch, & after we play bingo & carpet



bowl. Everyone is warmly welcomed. If anyone needs to be picked up or knows of someone that would like to join us & needs to be picked up, call Dianne on 5368 6795 & arrangements will be made. That is all for now, stay warm & safe.

~ Dianne Volpe (*Secretary*)

Blackwood Uniting Church

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

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:sandyss@hotmail.com). We'd love to hear from you.



BCC serving up yummy snags at the carnival.

BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

The Blackwood Cricket Club had their presentation night at Blackwood Hotel on Saturday April 8, thank you to all club members & supporters for attending. The following awards were presented on the night

- Dick Cater encouragement award - Bodhi Robinson
- Bert Suters (best clubman) - Nash Robinson
- John Davies U'21 award - Nick Whan
- Duck Trophy - Nick Whan
- NACA award - Matthew Taylor (Squizzy)
- Ray Meade Memorial (club contribution) - Jodie Bantz
- Bowling average (25 wkts @ 23.08) and Jack Stringer best bowling figures (6/36) - both to Alan Salmon

But the big winner of the evening was Wayne Robinson who took home the following trophies;

Ron Salmon for highest score (164*), Batting average (962 runs @ 74) & the Wally Sweet Memorial for the B&F.

Thanks for the continued community support, we are looking forward to a great 17/18 season.

~ *Jodie Bantz*



• EASTER CARNIVAL 2017 •



Spectating appears to take as much concentration as the sport itself does.

This page photo (left) courtesy Jeff McLachlan (top) Peter Donnelly

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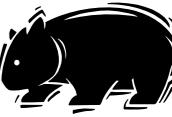


**ANOTHER BUMPER EASTER
WOODCHOP CARNIVAL.**

Full of colour, action & just a little nervousness.



• EASTER CARNIVAL 2017 •





WHOSE TATT'S THAT?

WALKING PAST the tattoo joint in Bacchus Marsh, he was reminded of his teenage daughter's recent instructions, "Dad, it's time you got tattoos for Mum & me." He stopped & peered through the window. Someone in the process of being inked was waving him in. Greg Fagin?

"COME IN!" Greg was calling. So he sidled in & told Greg & the tattooist about his promise to his daughter. "10 minutes!" the tattooist assured him, maybe sensing his hesitation. "Greg! Out of the chair!"

10 MINUTES later, he was heading back out the door with his loved-ones' initials on his fingers. A modest tribute, you might say. His daughter certainly told him as much. "OK, Sweetheart, next time it's a full-back picture of you!" "Daaad!"

NOTICE, THOUGH, the 2 dots on the other fingers. What were they about?

TESTING. I'VE got them on my ankles as well. When I was 18, I inherited a tattooing set from a friend who was holidaying at Her Majesty's Pleasure. It was a wonky little thing, battery & lacka-band driven. I kept it in my bag at trade school & marked anyone stupid enough to ask for it. I had no idea what I was doing. I did a giant spider with horrible, skinny legs on some poor bloke's thigh. I did 'Bluey the Snake' (a favourite back then). He looked like a worm. One bloke wanted 'Hold on. Rough Ride.' tattooed on his belly. We got as far as 'Ho'. I wonder if it still says 'Ho'. I inked someone in the backseat of a car as we drove around Sunshine. That didn't end well, either. I must have done my worst to at least a dozen blokes, including myself. I always used to test it on myself first to see if it was working."

AND SO, more than 35 years on, a modest tribute of 2 letters starts to look completely sensible.

A. Gavin Turnbull



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Around 40,000 issues of the Blackwood Times are downloaded bi-monthly + with 600 hard copies distributed in the local area no-one can deny advertising with us is value for your hard earned dollars. Investing \$2.50 per colCm ex GST & an extra 50c per colCm for your ad to be colour in the online issue just makes good sense.

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1. their own name or their company name or their registered business name. &
2. either: The street address of their business or a business name registration number or a business licence number such as their licence number to be an estate agent or plumber (note: an ACN or ABN is not sufficient)

~ Fair Trading Act advertising requirement June 2004

It is the advertiser's responsibility to ensure correct information is supplied for their ad.

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FROM THEBLACKWOODTIMES.COM.AU**

• WEEKLY STUFF •

DAY	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Tues	5pm	Tuesday Date Night	Radio Springs
Wed	6pm	Curry Night	Blackwood Pub
Wed	5pm	Judder Bar Eats food truck	Lyonville Hall
Fri	6pm	Pizza Night	Blackwood Merchant



The CERT station sub-committee is working on securing a location for a permanent home. In the meantime the vehicle is now housed in the hall carpark. The council has now installed Emergency Vehicle Parking signs which allow for the vehicle & one responder's car. These signs are legal signs & should not be ignored.

Moving the vehicle at a moment's notice to respond to a callout could be the difference of life or death for you or a loved one.

• CALENDAR OF EVENTS •

JUNE:

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Sun 4	11am	Winter Pruning Fruit Trees	St Erth
Sat 10	2.30-5pm	Keeping Backyard Chooks	Trentham NC
Sat 17	11am	Herbal Medicine	St Erth
Sun 18	3pm	Wombies Book Club	Blackwood Pub
Sun 25	11am	Complete Care for Roses	St Erth

JULY:

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Sun 9	11am	Composting & green manures	St Erth
Sat 15		Blackwood Garden Club	Kyneton Botanic Gardens
Sun 16	3pm	Wombies Book Club	Blackwood Pub

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

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Some History of the Oak Tree next to the Blackwood Hotel

Compiled by Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society. May 2017

I've had a query about the age of the oak tree next to the hotel & have done some research into the person who planted it -

The Cann story of the Cann family owning the Hotel was written up by Frances Dillon (Nee Matheson) & published by Robina Brown in the August/September 2005 to December/January 2006 of the then Blackwood Newsletter.

Frances told me - "As had been told through the generations of the Cann Family, the large Oak Tree next to the Hotel today, was planted on Rebecca Cann's 50th Birthday which was on the 27th of August, 1894. Rebecca's daughter, Lucy May Kinear Cann, then 18 years of age, planted the tree. The occasion was celebrated with a grand party held in the hotel at the time. Rebecca Perry (Cann) was born on 27-08-1844 in Hobart Town, Tasmania."

Prior to this the Blackwood & District Historical Society registered the tree with the National Trust's Significant Trees Register with myself & Penny Garnett in 1982 & the information Penny provided was - "Quercus Oak Tree planted 27 August 1908 by George Carruthers on the 50th birthday of Rebecca Perry Cann - owners of Cann's Family Hotel - husband John Cann Owner & Licensee.

Another contradiction was in my book 'Aspects of Early Blackwood' where on pages 57 & 58 regarding the Wall family who claimed that Mary Shaw had planted the tree. 'Joseph & Anne Shaw first came to Blackwood diggings in 1855 & their daughter was said by the family to be the first white child born on the Blackwood goldfield. Her name was Mary Shaw & she is said to have planted the big oak tree next to the Blackwood Hotel at the age of 7 years at some gathering to mark the occasion.' (Not to be confused with the other family story of how the son of Matthew Sweet, Jack (John) Sweet was the first boy born on the Blackwood goldfield - born 1855, Golden Point, Blackwood.)

Frances told me - "The Cann family while acknowledging the belief of the Wall family that an oak tree had been planted by Mary (Shaw) Wall when she was seven years of age - she being the first white child to be born in Blackwood. The family coming to the Blackwood diggings in 1855.

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Blackwood Festival of Music & Culture presence at the Easter Carnival. The 2017 festival will be held on the Melbourne Cup weekend, November 3-6. Performers expressions of interest due by June 30. See blackwoodfestival.org or the facebook page.



This would date the planting to around 1862. The hotel was not built until 1868. Grimes' Store was originally on the site. Most likely Mary Shaw could have planted a tree there. With all the building works that would have taken place during those early days of establishing the hotel & coaching stables, this tree that would have been more than 30 years old in 1894 may have been replaced by the Cann Family. Rebecca was well known for her love of plants & the garden."

Frances said in an email to me that - "Grandfather Edwin Cann had told the story to Mum (Nell Matheson - nee Cann), Aunty Oll (Olive Cann nee Cann) many times, & agreed that it should be written in the family bible. I sat down with Aunty Oll on the 1st May, 2004 & wrote it in officially, Aunty Oll signing the inscription."

Also was written the future of the tree was uncertain with possible change of ownership of land. The Stockdale family, the owners of the Hotel in 1982, wished to buy the land for Motel Units but the present owner, Cyril Jones would not sell the land because he did not want to see the tree cut down."

The tree has been preserved by Cyril Jones & his family who owned the land & they have retained & not sold the land, as they did not want the tree cut down if new owners wanted the land for building purposes.

Frances also said - "Cyril Jones together with his daughter Faye can be certainly credited with caring for the tree. At the time of doing all my research on the tree Faye put me in touch with Trevor Lawrence, the arborist that she had looking after the tree. He did work for the National Trust. Also, he told me that the tree was an 'ALGERIAN OAK TREE'. So according to this, it is not a 'Quercus Oak Tree' as registered with the National Trust's Significant Trees Register.

So we come back to the most likely story that the Algerian oak tree next to the Blackwood Hotel was planted on Rebecca Cann's 50th Birthday which was on August 27, 1894. Therefore making the tree this year to be, on August 27, 2017, 123 years old. (Many thanks for Frances Dillon for all her family information)

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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PLANTING IN BLACKWOOD

Autumn is a busy time in the garden. In our cold Blackwood climate the 1st frosts knock back the last of our flowering perennials, finish off the tomatoes & turn the leaves of our deciduous trees.

In the flower garden we are cutting back our dahlias, salvias & other herbaceous perennials which will allow us to feed them over winter with a dressing of homemade compost. Many of our summer flowering perennials are herbaceous & have a period of dormancy over winter. This allows us to divide up plants, move them around & tweak our plantings to ensure renewal in the garden. Often we will trial a flower in a particular spot but decide it is not garden-worthy, or perhaps it is but it belongs elsewhere.

With all our cutting back & raking of leaves comes huge amounts of material for the compost heap. At St Erth we mix this material together, shred up any twiggly material & pile it up in windrows to decompose over the winter months. The trick to making good compost is to ensure the ingredients are well mixed together & to make sure they are wet right through.

Well-made compost should heat up to 50 – 60 degrees as it breaks down & cook any nasty weeds or seeds. After a few weeks worms move in & begin turning our garden waste into rich, dark compost. The gold of the garden!

Our compost usually takes 3 – 4 months to mature & is then used on our flowers, new plantings & vegetable gardens.

In the vegetable garden the last of our summer vegetables have been finished off by frost. Any unripened tomatoes are picked & pickled & we prepare our vegetable beds for winter crops & green manure.

There is a very short list of vegetables which we can successfully grow here in our cold winters. Perhaps the most exciting of them is garlic. Garlic actually needs cold, frosty conditions to create good flavour & decent sized bulbs so is the ideal crop to plant at the moment. Soil which has grown summer vegetables like tomatoes or zucchinis is ideal for garlic & we usually only feed it a small amount of organic fertilizer at planting time.

It is a good idea to grow a couple of different types. This helps to stagger the harvest in spring when gardeners are usually flat out weeding, mowing & planting. If you choose wisely you can grow 2 or more very distinct types. I grow 'Early Purple' which is a medium strength variety that I find very reliable & a small amount of 'Dynamite purple', which is a spicy hardneck type that knocks your socks off.

For those who have already planted their garlic there are other vegetables to plant now, although it is fairly limited. Broad beans survive incredibly cold temperatures & are fantastic for the soil. Turnips, rocket, kale & other mustards also grow through winter & should provide some fresh picking.

~ Garden of St Erth



BLACKWOOD GARDENING CLUB

Many thanks to Blackwood Ridge Nursery for the seedlings they donated for The Easter Carnival Kids Potting Activity, it was a great success with nearly 90 kids taking part. Passing on skills & plants is what gardening is all about & it's nice to think that this experience might be the beginning of a passion for growing & nurturing gardens of the future. Also presented by members of our group & well attended, were workshops in Bee Keeping with Richard & Poultry with Karen.

In May we took a beautiful walk from New Sultan's Mine Track to Blue Pool & returning via part of the Heritage Track. It's a great season for fungi of all kinds.

Our next meetings are June 17 for a clean up & planting in a lower area of the the Mineral Springs. If anyone has natives to donate it would be much appreciated. On July 15 we'll visit Kyneton Botanic Gardens which date back to 1858 & has a large selection of magnificent trees with plant collections including Kniphofia (Red Hot Poker) & Quercus (Oak).

~ Jane Howat

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PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS

WOOF: As temperatures continue to drop we find ourselves rugger up with warm jackets, scarves & extra blankets on our beds to keep us warm at night. But what about our pets, how can we keep them warm & cosy during the winter?



It's sometimes forgotten that our pets are just as accustomed to the warm weather & shelter of our indoor homes as we are. It is important to consider your pet's well-being during the cooler months & the many things that you can do to keep your family pet warm & safe over winter.

Winter Warming Tips

1. Good Exercise: Keep your pet warm & healthy during winter & prevent any extra kilos creeping on with plenty of exercise.
2. Regular Health Checks: Don't forget to take your furry friend to the vet for a winter health check-up. Older pets in particular are susceptible to chilly temperatures & you may notice them start to slow down over the next few months. Arthritis can be a major issue for some pets but a range of treatment options are available.
3. Fresh Water: Pets still require plenty of fresh water in winter especially when they are spending time indoors as the heating can dehydrate them quickly. If you live in a particularly cold area, be sure to check your pet's water bowl regularly to make sure that it has not iced over.
4. Warm & Comfy Bedding: Now is the time to reconsider where to house your pet overnight. If your pet sleeps outside, provide them with a warm place to sleep & rest utilising thicker bedding, warm jackets & even microwavable heat pillows if necessary.
5. Maintain Grooming Regime: Don't forget your pet still needs to be groomed during the winter months as well as the summer ones. Many pet parents leave their dogs & cats coats to grow long over winter in an attempt to keep them warm but this can lead to some skin problems, matting & long hours of brushing & trying to get those knots out. Ensure that your pet is comfortable & continue to get them clipped to a manageable length.

Let's all enjoy winter together & stay warm.

~ Woof for now. Seamus

BUILDING A HUGELKULTUR

Blackwood Ridge Nursery are currently embarking on building a 40m long 'Hugelkultur' (hill culture) bed to increase their fresh greens production for the café kitchen.



This method was popularized by 2 German horticulturalists in the 1970s. The idea is to build layers of garden waste starting with twigs and branches on the base, and you can even use logs, topped with a layer of leaf matter, fresh from the autumn trees and then topped of with a generous

layer of compost and topsoil. It can be built up as a simple mound with steep sides or as we are going to trial, building the sides with straw bales 450mm tall around the perimeter.

As the garden waste starts to break down and compost it releases nutrients and heat into the bed during the winter months while providing good water retention and free drainage. We are primarily planning to grow root vegetables over the winter months and hope to have them on the menu by spring.

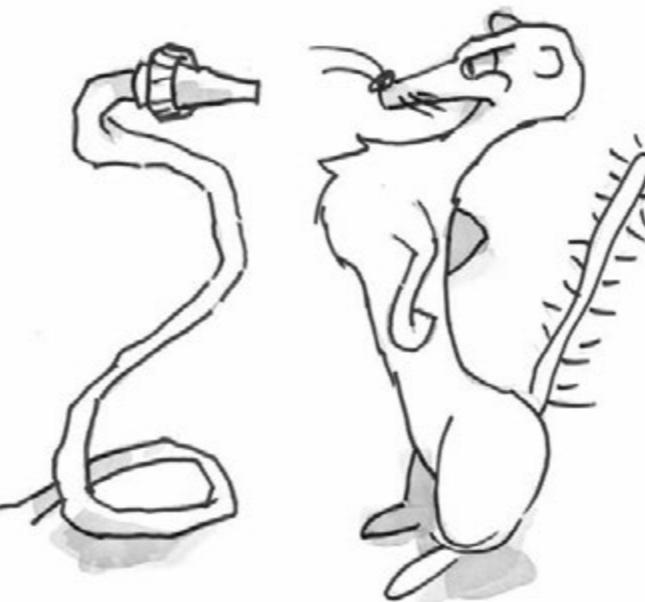
It's a great idea for vegie gardening in Blackwood with a lot of the local soil being very heavy and the Hugelkultur is basically a form of "no dig gardening".

The 'Hugelkultur' is at the back of the property & not accessible to the public however I have heard a whisper that they may run a 'master class' day in spring & invite people to see it then. (watch this space)

Dear Pet Guru,

I am worried about my pet mongoose. He is fretting because he can't find any snakes to confront.

Signed,
Troubled of Traralgon



Dear Troubled,
I suggest you give him a length of hosepipe and some shoelaces to play with.

Good luck to you both,

Pet Guru

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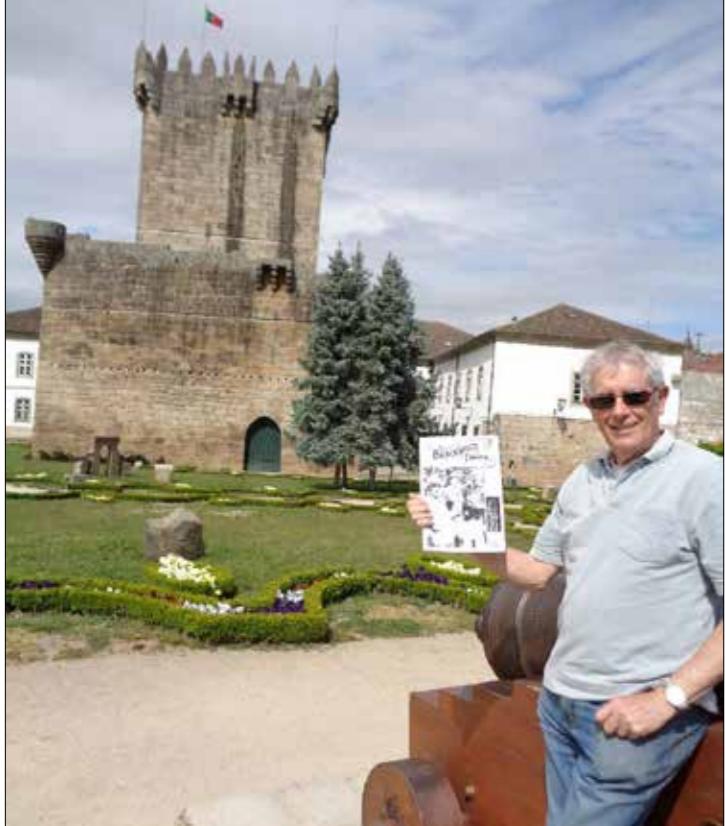
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Landcare meet to map the future. see p7

BLACKWOOD TIMES GOES TO ...

Blackwood Times slipped off to Portugal on May 1 with Don Owen. Some time was spent hanging out at the castle in the centre of the town of Chaves.

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**YE OLDE CARNIVALE**

Fifty years ago, our parents Bev and Ken Boyd, ran the Spinning Wheel stall at the Blackwood Easter Woodchop. Before this role, Ken had the unenviable task of manning the back gate to the Sportsground, so organising the Spinning Wheel was quite a step into the limelight. For Bev, who enjoyed working for a good cause, in this case Blackwood and the CFA, it was business as usual.

During the year they would visit a goods warehouse to purchase gifts suitable for the Spinning Wheel, and add to that with extra shopping to make a great display of prizes. Then on the big day the trailer would be packed with goods and shelving to be assembled on site for the winners to make their choice. There was also a lucky envelope stall and a penny table that we kids would help to run.

As Dad never threw anything out, we still have the 'lucky' envelope sign, photo included - a momento of happy Easters past and childhood holidays spent in Blackwood.

~ Judy Hansford, Trentham & Lynne Boyd De Garis, Blackwood

**WOMBAT BOOK CLUB 2016**

Hello from Wombat Book Club. Hasn't the weather got somewhat cooler lately? A nice time to relax by the cosy fire with a good book. We meet the third Sunday of each month at 3pm at the Blackwood pub, a great place to catch up for a drink & a friendly chat about the book we just finished, in a warm room near the fire ... cosy. For more information please contact Jinny on editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au.

'The Girl On The Train', by Paula Hawkins, was the first book we read. This is an intriguing story about a woman, Racheal, on a train who commutes daily & the people she can see in their backyards as the train passes. These become the focus of her imagination & what she perceives their lives might be like. The story entwines her own personal life & how she relates to one particular couple. One day a woman who Racheal frequently observes from the train, disappears, which changes her life.

Sandy: The story is intriguing, & keeps the reader interested. There are a few characters to try to keep up with, but a good read.

3 wombies

Jane: I found this a pretty weird book, annoying a lot of the time but amazingly I was hooked to keep reading on. Everything was resolved but they were pretty unattractive characters & the obsession of the main character was unending. At least she finally found peace.

2.5 wombies

Jinny: An interesting idea which documents the fantasies of a bitter women scorned. The characters are excruciatingly ugly yet I couldn't put it down. I've no idea how to rate this as it revolted me while drawing me in!

2.5 wombies

Our next book was, 'After school charisma', written & illustrated by Kumiko Suekane. This is a Manga type book about school age children who are clones of talented & famous people. There is one boy, Shirou, who is the natural son of a scientist involved on this experiment, & is a misfit & the envy of other students. They come to realise they are to face the same fate as their originals.

Sandy: This is a thought-provoking & interesting novel. Easy & quick to read, as it is in picture-book style, reading from right to left given the author is Japanese. A very different style of book.

3.5 wombies

Anne: -- I have never looked at such a heap of rubbish -- totally unreadable [or lookable].

1 wombie for putting it on paper.

• BLACKWOOF •

"WHAT?" "WHAT!?", I can hear the dogs of Blackwood bark. Yes, it's finally happened; our regular in-depth interview with one of you remarkable local canines has turned a bit, well, feline.

BUT WHAT a cat!



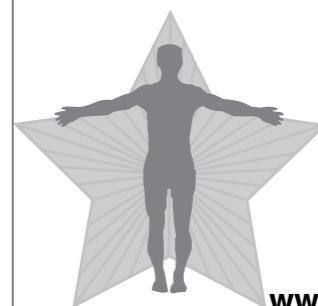
WILLOW WAS abandoned by her mother during a fierce storm on Phillip Island, making her escape to the gentler climes of Blackwood

in the back seat of a car & backchatting her new family all the way home— "Shhh", "Meow!", "Shhh", "MEOW!!" "Shhh!" "MEE-OWW-UH!!!".

SHE'S 8 months old now & much calmer, as you can see. Although she never got the hang of the cuddling business, she's very good at all the other cat skills: ball chasing, epic purring sessions on the bed, chasing skinks around the backyard, appearing on the internet. After her start in life, however, Willow is still not fond of the cold or loud noises.

YES, AS it seems with all cats, she is a bit of a star online. Check her out on her Instagram account, [the.willowkitty](#).

REALY, YOU dogs out there have a bit of catching up to do.

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(above left & right) Some of us get together on Easter Mondays to toast the Easter Monday Mine. This year we emerged to find a group of (mostly Skinners) descendants of the original owners had exactly the same idea.



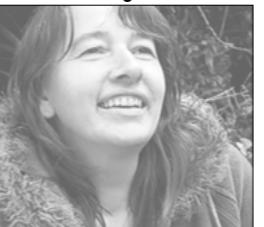
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(left & above) animals play a big part at the carnival.



NATURAL RHYTHM Lunar Cycle 2: Moon Wishing



by Kathie Strmota

Previously, I looked at how we are influenced by the moon cycle. Now, let's explore how you can take advantage of these cyclic dynamics. By simply understanding the dynamics, you can stay in charge of your choices. For example, knowing that the inward nature of a dark moon reduces the desire for social activity means you can give yourself permission to be a 'couch potato' for a couple of days. Or, understanding that the full moon disturbs sleep can reduce frustration around being wakeful at that time.

You can also apply lunar dynamics in a pro-active way, by planning activities at specific times, so they are more strongly supported. Choose the best time to begin or complete projects, do a creative activity or renovate, plan a quiet retreat or have a party. Working with moon energy is about enhancing quality of life & chances of success, by going with the flow rather than pushing against it.

The lunar cycle lasts about 4 weeks & moves through two main flow dynamics marked by transitional moons.

At the dark moon, the downward flow of the last quarter reaches its deepest point, & generates a powerful inward space, before beginning to draw us out again into a new cycle. It is full of potential & possibility, supporting review & soul-searching. It encourages connection with your inner wisdom, allowing you to gain insights, find solutions, & consider directions. It supports quiet retreat or solo activities, rather than socializing

or complex group interactions which pull you away from yourself. Use this time to consider the 'state of things', whether in personal life or in some business activity or project. Feel into your heart & send out your wishes for growth & change.

When the new moon appears as a thin crescent, it fires up the energy for forward movement, characteristic of the whole waxing period that follows, which supports action, creation, beginnings & renewals. This is the time for grounding your dark moon insights & plans by taking practical steps. These may be as minor as making a list, or as major as signing a contract. Use the waxing period to start new projects or make improvements in an existing project, submit a job application, start an exercise routine, hold a gallery opening, rearrange the furniture, join a club, or have a make-over. The waxing dynamic peaks with the full moon, in a high energy creative outward flow which adds power to new activities & stimulates passion in any tired or stagnant situation. While imagination is greatly expanded at this time, impulse-control & rational discernment are reduced. The full moon can be a brilliant support for brainstorming, creating artwork, delving into sensory pleasures, or having optimistic adventures, but the heightened irrationality at this time can also lead to confrontation, drama & regretful choices. Celebrate & be inspired, but avoid confronting conversations & challenges.

When the full moon passes its peak, the strong upward dynamic is suddenly released, but the intensity remains. Thus we enter the waning period with an amplification of its dynamics, which encourage a reflective frame of mind, & support review, release, resolution, maintaining steady progress, & sorting out where we are. The intensity quickly releases, creating a steady support for addressing existing circumstances. Complete projects, have a farewell party, do some emotional healing, do repairs or declutter the house, troubleshoot a situation or relationship, or simply keep reinforcing a new routine.

Then, as the waning moon disappears completely, you enter the dark moon phase once again ... same cycle ... different day ... different you ... & so it continues ...

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Someones been Stone Stacking (or Rock Balancing) down at the Martin Street bridge. Apparently it's a Thing these days, google it.



Blackwood CERT among the Winners at Spudfest

Community groups in Trentham & surrounds benefitted directly from Spudfest 2017 on Saturday May 6, with nearly \$5,000 being raised from the sale of chips, potato gems, scones, soup & raffle tickets. Spudfest will be contributing to specific community projects from the general funds raised & is initiating a scholarship for local second year Agricultural Business students at Latrobe University, from first semester 2018.

Trentham CFA (\$2200) & Trentham Primary School (\$1448) topped the list, with the CWA, Historical Society, & Kindergarten also running successful fundraising stalls. Blackwood CERT collected \$220 & raised awareness of their great work as well as signing up a bunch of new Friends of CERT – well done!



(above & right) Lucky family guesses the number eggs in the CERT Easter fundraiser.

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Busy running the carnival



CFA in the Easter Parade



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BEYOND BLACKWOOD...

THE PATH OF THE HORSE

Therapy with animals is not a new thing but therapy using horses is relatively new & it works. Giving or providing care to people using animals often has an immediate impact on someone's mood & wellbeing. It has something that no laboratory office or white-walled building can provide. Unconditional acceptance without judgement.

The "Path of the Horse" is situated at the John Monash Centre on Domino Rd Trentham. My mate Dean Mighell has given his time, money & a lot of hard work to providing a safe place for people to just be themselves without judgement on 29 acres in the beautiful Wombat Forest using his herd/family of gentle horses.

Dean wanted to provide a place where soldiers who live a life of almost total control & then retire to a very different life as civilians, a place that they were free to just be themselves without judgement & total control. A soldier's life is a constant test & when they retire to civilian life, a soldier is faced with the adjustment from an absolute automated life to a life with a very chaotic & judgmental civilian world. If you are a soldier with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) then civilian life can sometimes be very overwhelming just to be part of it.

The Path of the Horse is also available to people who've had varied types of emotional or physical traumas & has already helped autistic children & people subjected to family violence & others through the care of the horses giving nature. We're there for emergency services (police firefighters & paramedics etc) who have a high rate of PTSD in their services & need to be given back to.

The Path of the Horse is not a riding school, however some horses are ridden at times. The horses are free to just be themselves also & are cared for & excepted for their own individual personalities. So when Dean introduces a person to the herd as part of the therapy, the horses respond by coming over to touch & lay next to or just stand near the person receiving therapy because they feel the person's emotional pain & care & want to comfort them. The horses are amazing at sensing when people are sad or have internal emotional trauma. It's beautiful to see the horses want to protect a person who is hurting. Seeing them lay next to an autistic child & letting the child lay on them or next to them is really fulfilling. It's great to be a part of something that gives so much to people. The horses get a lot out of what they do too, I think. I love 'em.

That's our payment as staff or carers of the horses because The Path of the Horse is a charity & any donations or money received goes into feeding & caring & upkeep of the property & herd.

So if you want to come along & spend time with our herd of furry caring horses then feel free to contact us. Facebook The Path of the Horse or Dean Mighell 0418354362. Website is still in development.

~ Clint Stretton



Giant bubble master at the Trentham Spud Fest

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WHIMSICAL WES WOWS WOODEND

Macedon Ranges Film Society's April screening featured acclaimed director Wes Anderson's whimsical, quirky & ultimately heart-warming film "Moonrise Kingdom" about two runaway, outsider 'teenagers' & the adults intersecting their lives. A stellar ensemble cast included Bill Murray, Frances McDormand, Ed Norton, Bruce Willis & Tilda Swinton.

Up next month; In May MRFS is screening the 2013 Polish film 'Ida' directed by Pawel Pawlikowski. Anna, a young novitiate nun in 1960s Poland, is on the verge of taking her vows when she discovers a dark family secret dating back to the years of the German occupation.

In other news, the Film Society now has a web site www.mrfilmfociety.org allowing members & the public to keep up to date on forthcoming screenings, film notes, special events & other film related news & information.

Macedon Ranges Film Society meets on the second Wednesday each month at Woodend Community Centre. Film notes & an informal supper are part of the evening.

MRFS is a membership-based club. Enquiries by email to mrfilmfociety@gmail.com or call Lorraine 5427 0921 or Christine 5429 5452 www.mrfilmfociety.org





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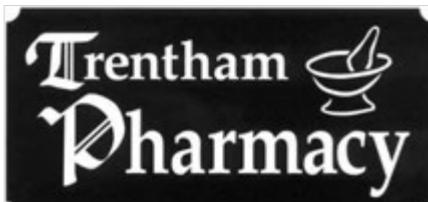
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