

WHO KNOWS THIS SAD OLD HOME?

TOP: 1961 "Old building near sports ground, Blackwood"
J.T. Collins Collection, La Trobe Picture Collection,
State Library of Victoria

RIGHT: 1954 Grace Huggett with her family in front of the old
Blackwood Springs bridge

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EDITOR’S THOUGHTS...

Hellooooo Blackwoodians,
I do hope you’re keeping warm. Our wood stack has certainly grown smaller over the past month!
How glorious is the pink heath this year? It’s a joy see it lining the road heading out of town. I don’t remember seeing it so prolific in the years we have lived in Blackwood.

Earlier in the year we featured 97yo Grace Hugget meeting our grandson on what was her last visit to Blackwood. Grace died peacefully at the end of June - 20 days short of her 98th birthday. I have fond memories of Grace’s daily walk past our house on her way to & from the post office. She loved our 3 girls, always curious to know what they were up to. Grace never failed to drop in a little birthday present for each of them - usually a pretty handkerchief with a little card.

An old photo of Grace with her children in front of the old mineral springs bridge is featured on our front cover.
I’m about to start rummaging through my wardrobe searching for rarely worn frocks & heels to wear to the Bush Dance in a few weeks - what about you? Will we see you there?

~see you around, Jinny Coyle (editor)

Thank you our HANDS-UP helpers – you are the reason we’re able to keep publishing... (along with our regular contributors of course!)	
Jimmy Olsen played by...	Brendan Hehir
Calendar of Events co-ordinator	Rachel Palmer
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Regular Photographers	The Donnellys, Jimmy Olsen
Event columnists	Do you love to write?
Community Co-ordinator	Sandy Schmidt
Senior Citizens Co-ordinator	Lindy Mundy
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Distribution Co-ordinator	The infamous Carlson
Typist	Di Hewes

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	Sept15	
Regular Contributors, Features & Items of Interest, Community Groups & Clubs	Sept 15	
Display Ad Artwork, Gig & Events Guide		Sept 20
Late breaking News		Sept 20

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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
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Grace was involved in many fundraisers for Uniting Church, Senior Citizens, tennis & Easter events in Blackwood. When she was older she had a mobility scooter called a Gopher, Grace liked dressing herself & the Gopher up for Easter Parades at Blackwood.

FAREWELL GRACE HUGGETT

Huggett Lane cuts a gentle curve into the hill above the Blackwood Mineral Springs before hiding itself away in the forest. At its very end sits a cottage built by Grace’s husband, George, & his parents in the 1930’s. Grace was a regular visitor to Blackwood from the mid-30’s before marrying George in 1941 & calling the cottage home since the 60’s.

Diane, her daughter, recounts,
“They were involved with Senior Citizens & Grace more so when on her own (George died in 1983). Grace was also involved in many fundraisers for Uniting Church, Senior Citizens, tennis & Easter events in Blackwood. She played tennis when aged 65 to 80 but didn’t run after the hard shots then.
Grace had 4 children, 15 grandchildren & 15 great grandchildren with another one on the way.”

In extracts from her eulogy:
“She remembered many people’s birthdays & other important occasions & sent cards & gifts with a cheerful spirit. Grace had an amazing memory, & was a real stickler for recalling specific details of happenings & events & places & dates.

Over the years Grace endured the sad loss of many members of her family, both older & younger, some under very tragic circumstances. She made herself available in various ways to show comfort & assistance where possible during these sad times & indeed also to many in the Blackwood Community as they lost their partners or family members, or were ill or lonely. She visited with some of the locals regularly & enjoyed attending weekly meetings at Blackwood Senior Citizens Club where she served on the committee. She held various offices over the years including Treasurer, Secretary, President, Vice President & happily got up early even in the winter on a Wednesday to travel on her 4 wheeled electric Gopher chair, along the road & up the hill track to the Club to open the doors by 9a.m. She enjoyed & supported bus trips for shopping & occasionally went on holidays for a few days which the bus company organised.”

Grace left Blackwood in 2006 for a retirement home & later a lovely round robin of living with each of her 3 daughters for a few months at a time. Grace was hale & hearty to the end; Blackwood Times (Feb/Mar 17, p4) recalls bumping into her as she strode down Golden Point Rd. at the age of 97½.

Also from the eulogy:
“In recent days she needed extra care & was admitted to hospital where she received oxygen & blood to assist with her breathing. Mum was very tired & she asked God to let her die peacefully in bed & to please take her home. She seemed to pick up a bit & looked like she would be out of hospital in a day or two. Then at 1.00am on Friday 23rd June 2017, after just settling back into bed, she had just dozed off when she took two deep breaths & passed on..”

Grace died just short of her 98th birthday.

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)
May '17	*46.1	89.8	-1.9	20.1	14.2	4.4	8.6
Jun '17	*14.9	105.1	-3.1	16.8	11.4	1.2	5.8

A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE ... & SO CLOSE TO HOME

~ by Ewan Cameron

The older one becomes, the more we appreciate animals & what tremendous value they have. Too often cruelly mistreated, neglected, ignored & taken for granted, animals offer us so much. For both Faye & me, our pets over the years have never been regarded as simply “the dog” or “the cat”. They have been faithful family members who have given us love, respect, gratitude & loads of laughter. The vulnerability of any animal touches the heart & its response to respectful kindness is payment to us tenfold. Dogs are referred to as man’s best friend, but I don’t accept that they are the only creatures able to relate to humans with love & gratitude. We’ve seen cats, donkeys, sheep, ducks, pigs & so many other creatures show empathy & love.

Last week we had a wonderful experience when we decided to take three international visitors from Hong Kong to see Dean Mighell’s “The Path of the Horse” near Trentham. We were all amazed & touched to see how his wonderful horses interacted with & responded to visitors who were looking forward to meeting such calm & intuitive creatures.

None of us were really familiar with horses & one lady displayed obvious nervousness at mixing so closely with such large animals. But with some help & encouragement she was soon at ease & relaxing with a smile. The horses’ gentleness, sensitivity & loving attitude shone through as they accepted all of us into their world.

It’s true to say, in fact, that the horses’ kindness & understanding was palpable. It was also very touching to see the depth of love & acceptance shown by Dean to his equine friends & in turn their reciprocal love & responsiveness. Some of his horses have been rescued from hard situations & show obvious gratitude & deep affection for him.



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• **TRENTHAM** BOM rainfall figures. Note that the rainfall for June was very low compared to the long term average.

~ by Don Owen

What a wonderful concept to utilize these beautiful horses to help people who have experienced different kinds of emotional & physical trauma, as well as enriching the lives of people with various disabilities. It is therefore easy to understand how the lives of such people can be enhanced.

In our modern, highly stressful world we are so increasingly disconnected from the needs & feelings of others. In addition, increased technology has led us to become further desensitized to the needs & beauty of the natural world. In my view, Dean’s approach helps people make reconnections which assist them to regain touch with their inner selves. This enables them to establish a capacity to deal with others & to see the world as a better place.

Of their time in Australia, our overseas guests counted the experience at “The Path of the Horse” as the most rewarding & enjoyable one.

Having been teachers for more than forty years, Faye & I have worked with children with special needs. We can easily see how an equine psychotherapy approach could be so valuable in helping such students to unlock their potential & facilitate their connections with the outside world.

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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 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)

Being an old gold mining settlement, Blackwood has numerous blocks of uncategorised Crown land scattered throughout & around the town. Many of the smaller Crown land blocks were originally reserved for community purposes when the population of the town in the late 1800's had 13,000 people residing. BAG plans to make a written submission to VEAC & would love to hear any ideas from residents on how they see these blocks of Crown land being best managed into the future. It will be important the future management does not compromise fire protection for the township. There is also the option of attending the community drop-in session at the Daylesford Neighbourhood Centre, 13 Camp Road, Daylesford, on Tuesday August 1, 2017 from 3pm to 7pm. Written submissions can be submitted to VEAC up until August 21, 2017. Further info is available from their website <http://veac.vic.gov.au/investigations/type/current> & you can subscribe individually via their website for further updates on the investigation process.

THERE IS already plenty of confusion surrounding the practical application of the current fenceline clearing "4 metre rule" & how it is shared across the fenceline boundary, particularly with Crown land. For example, even given the 4 metre rule, if 4 metres is cleared on the freehold land side of the boundary, native vegetation clearing will not be granted on the Crown land side of the boundary fence.

BAG is concerned at the double standards being proposed between freehold land & Crown land, given the vegetation clearing between adjoining freehold landowners is normally shared equitably. The Crown will generally not share the costs of boundary fence construction & installation with the adjoining freehold land owner, even fencing maintenance is all at the freehold landowner's expense. If the boundary fence happens to burn down during a bushfire, the cost of replacing the fence is totally the responsibility & expense of the freehold land owner. Given these one sided standards, you would think the Crown would at least provide the courtesy of allowing sufficient fenceline clearing space to help their law-abiding neighbour protect their fence from any potential bushfire.

BAG plans to lobby the government on better bushfire protection for the town & will even submit a proposal for the costs of boundary fencing with the Crown within the township being shared equitably. If you have any ideas or comments about these matter, please send them through to BAG via the Blackwood Times or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BlackwoodActionGroup/>

~ *BAG*

Blackwood CFA

So far a nice, quiet, albeit, chilly winter but never let complacency overshadow fire awareness. Just because it is cold & reasonably wet, emergencies, other than fires can strike at anytime so look around the house & 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.

Ensure fireplaces are maintained & that the areas around them are kept safe & clear of anything that may ignite if an ember happens to fall from the fire place. Always keep a full spray bottle within reach of the heater as this can be used to squirt a few quick sprays into the fireplace to aid in knocking down a possible fire.

If you are drying clothes in front of the fire be wary of how close they are & always maintain a close eye on them. Always be careful with children & candles & matches, the 3 should never mix. When driving around in wintry wet weather avoid using the cruise control & travelling too fast or too close to other vehicles. Always keep an eye out for animals especially at night when they are particularly active. 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>

~ *Karl Church, Brigade Community Safety Coordinator*

Blackwood Crown Reserves

It is a little quiet this time of year at the Caravan Park, but for bookings & information please call Brad & Jenny on 53686539.

~ *Jenni Panos*

Blackwood CERT

While Ambulance Victoria provides our vehicle & equipment, one of the committee's roles is to fundraise for day to day expenses. Caroline Parker (Vice President) & I have put together a fund raising calendar. Keep an eye out for our responders & volunteers - we could be anywhere anytime - rattling collection tins, selling raffle tickets in a pub, cooking snags at an event, ... you just don't know when you'll come across us. We've recently started accepting membership into FRIENDS OF CERT. Our friends don't have to attend meetings, they are there to offer a helping hand when we need extras ... securing raffle prizes, selling tickets, helping out at working bees. If you would like to become a friend of CERT email editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au for info.

~ *Jinny Coyle (president)*

Blackwood Historical Society

The Historical Society has a good collection of books written about Blackwood & by Blackwood people. On a search for a book about Ernie Ould we found out that he lived in Barry's Reef & later rode a bike around Victoria. Some older community members remember him riding his bike into Blackwood when they were at school. We also had a gentleman researching the Avenues of Honour around Victoria. He had found 2 men from WA in WWI who had come from Barry's Reef, once we have their names we'll check to see if they are on the honour board. The society would like to extend sympathy to Ian & Valissa Stewart & Heather, Phillip & family on the death of their brother "Spike" David Stewart. David was the voice for the victims of the Bali bombing after losing his son there.

~ *Elizabeth Hall (secretary)*

Blackwood Senior Citizens

I hope you are all surviving the winter months I personally cannot wait for it to be over. I would like to know if anyone would like me to pick them up for Senior Citizens on Wednesdays. We have a great time & a fantastic 3 course meal that our wonderful cook, Jenny, works hard to give us. Dianne 5368 6795. Hope to hear from you.

~ *Dianne Volpe (Secretary)*

Blackwood Uniting Church

The Uniting Church Meditation Group at Blackwood House, is now meeting fortnightly (no longer the 1st & 3rd Monday of the Month) please contact Robyn on 5368-6792 if interested.

~ *Robyn Zanon*

This issue we have no report from Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare. If you would like to let your community know about your organisation, what your focus in the community is & how you would like support, please email Sandy at – galaxyss@hotmail.com. We'd love to hear from you.

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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.

The Rev. Dr. Peter Blackwood is a painter of iconography.

He will be giving the service at Blackwood Uniting Church at 10am on Oct 8 and will follow with a lecture on iconography.

All welcome, & there's lunch!



Blackwood Progress Association Annual General Meeting

Date: 21 August 2017
Time: 7:30 pm
Location: Blackwood Hall

All are welcome and encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Blackwood Progress Association. The meeting will be followed by general discussion to seek the views of the community regarding the direction of the Association and how it can assist Blackwood community
Your input and ideas will be of valuable assistance to the committee.

The aim of the Progress Association is to build a better community by raising money to provide financial support to community groups that operate within Blackwood and to fund community projects that will benefit the town. This year our aims are to develop a website for the town, develop the tennis courts, successfully run a Easter Carnival in 2018 and to distribute money raised from the 2017 carnival throughout the community.

In order to achieve our aims, the committee needs new members.
As the old saying goes many hands make light work

A light supper, refreshments and door prize will be provided



BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

Yet to have all the information regarding schedule and fixture for the upcoming 2017/2018 cricket season but watch this space coz in the next newsletter we should have all the info. We are looking for players for the new season. If anyone is interested please contact Steve O'Brien 0488 978 684 or keep an eye on our facebook page (yes it is a closed group, click Join and let us do the rest) as we will announce when the training starts and if you are interested just pop on down and talk to the boys. Hopefully everyone is enjoying the ups and downs of the AFL season, don't forget to support our local boys and girls at the Trentham Football and Netball Club if you find yourself with some free time on a Saturday, all day program from 9 in the morning till 5 at night during home games.

~ *Jodie Bantz*

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UPDATE ON THE BLACKWOOD LOCALISED SEPTIC PROGRAM

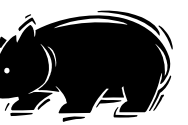
The Blackwood Localised Septic Program (BLSP) has reached the halfway mark with some great milestones achieved over the past 12 months. Round 2 septic tank upgrade works are almost complete with only a couple more jobs to complete by the end of July. Round 1 & 2 of the upgrade works has seen 27 residential properties throughout Blackwood & Barry's Reef receiving works as well as a 20,000L holding tank at the Blackwood Recreational Reserve.



The new system at the Recreation Reserve is now in operation & will provide sufficient capacity to accommodate the various community events & festivals held throughout the year without the burden of pumping the old system out frequently. The residential installations have seen a number of innovative installation methods on some of the more constrained properties within the program area. We are currently scheduled to commence round 3 upgrade works at another 25-30 residential properties in September as well as a new wastewater treatment system at the Blackwood Caravan Park prior to the busy peak season commencing.

The Planning Assistance Program has seen approximately 25 vacant parcels of land involved at different stages in the program & our town planning & domestic wastewater consultants have been very busy finding innovative results for landholders. If you own a vacant parcel of land & would like to know more about the program, time is running out as we need to get works moving prior to the end of the year. If you haven't spoken to me regarding the septic tank system at your property, please don't hesitate in contacting me to discuss. I am more than happy to meet on-site to discuss any questions you may have. For further information or to book a suitable time to meet at your property, please contact me at the Moorabool Shire Council on (03) 5366 1365 or 0428 743 042.

~ *Regards, James Maw*
Project Manager – Blackwood Localised Septic Program



CFA REFORM - NOT REALLY

I joined the Blackwood Fire Brigade in 1964 after a big fire that impacted on the town earlier that year & have witnessed many positive changes to brigades & CFA over the years.

We are now faced with a proposal to re-structure fire services in Victoria. There are those who will tell us that this is good thing for Victoria & that the CFA will be granted independence to grow as a volunteer service & nothing will change in rural areas served by CFA.

Nothing could be further from the truth. I am particularly concerned of the impact of these changes for communities like Blackwood. Consider the following:

- Firstly the Legislation introducing these changes uses the term "Reform". What has been placed before us is not Reform, it is a crude & rushed re-structure.

This re-structure is not based on any strategic long-term objective other than to meet the short-term Industrial & Political whims of a Government.

Contrary to government claims, none of the recent government inquiries have recommended the model now being put forward.

The proposal lacks substance, credibility & direction, as no meaningful consultation has occurred with those with experience in fire operations, not even with key personnel in CFA & the Emergency Management Victoria.

- Previous objections to the Governments industrial agenda were based on real concerns that volunteers will be discriminated & sidelined in any EBA. Barriers placed in the Fair Work Act to stop interference to CFA volunteers have now been cleverly sidelined, as the new FRV will have total control over CFA through a management by secondment arrangement.

This has been created by a proposed structure relying on key management staff being seconded from the new separate Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV), with resultant loss of ownership, continuity, commitment & control within CFA.

Further, & just as concerning, the legislation severely curtails the independence & power of the CFA Chief Officer & Board to govern their organisation.

This loss of independence by CFA revealed in the legislation is already creating great anxiety within volunteer ranks & will see a lowering of morale & departure of volunteers from the service, particularly in integrated brigades.

Of particular concern is the destruction of the highly-successful integrated brigade model in Outer Metropolitan & Regional centres. These have traditionally been a major source of surge capacity to form Strike Teams when major fires break out in places like Blackwood.

- Consider also that the seconded staff will come from a largely metropolitan-based, new urban fire authority with minimal practical experience in suppressing wildfire.

Brigades & Groups will be particularly effected under conditions, based on previous draft EBAs, soon to be rolled out, that propose to create new postings for FRV staff in CFA positions traditionally filled by CFA employees, many currently by lateral entry from volunteers. These include Community Safety & Education Officers & Brigade Administrative Support Officers. The previous EBA also proposed to place urban-based FRV Commanders,

with no local knowledge & only with a limited experience in bushfire operations & managing local groups of Brigades.

Under this legislation, CFA will be powerless to control these external interference in its management.

- Finally, the success of any major change such as this will be dependent upon adequate ongoing funding.

Remarkably, there has been no funding modelling for this re-structure.

The lack of autonomy for CFA under this re-structure does not augur well for any equitable cost-sharing arrangement between the 2 new services, particularly when the legislation clearly places CFA so dependant on FRV.

We simply don't know how the new Fire Services Levy will be apportioned or what mechanism will be put in place if CFA is financially compromised by these un-costed changes.

Consider the impact on Brigade donations if residents are hit hard with increase in the Fire Service Levy through their rates.

The flow-on effects to Brigades from the inevitable cost over-runs could potentially be disastrous for infrastructure improvements, equipment replacement, training programs & support.

A bottom-up approach through persistent, active leadership & advocacy by local brigades, in conjunction with staff committed to a fully-integrated organisation has been successful in making CFA the leading fire service in Australia.

The forces behind this current attempt at change will soon evaporate as do all political power struggles. This is a totally untried change with no precedence but will have serious consequences.

We will then be left will be an unworkable fire services management structure which has been born for the wrong reasons & will fail to deliver improved safety for Victorians.

~ Bill Stockdale, Old Golden Point Rd

WEEKLY FRIDAY RAFFLE

My name is Ceara Cronin & I've lived in Blackwood for 3 years. I'm currently studying a BA in Applied Science & Master of Occupational Therapy at La Trobe Uni.

In January 2018 I will be undertaking a volunteer trip to Battambang, Cambodia with Challenges Abroad Australia, alongside other health university students.

During this program I will be working amongst children within schools to promote all the aspects of a healthy lifestyle. I will be teaching children about a range of subjects such as how to eat a balanced diet, the importance of physical activity, general & dental hygiene, common food-related diseases & how to avoid them as well as why it's important to go to the doctor.

This will be a truly unique volunteering challenge & a wonderful opportunity to make a positive difference in underprivileged communities.

I would love it if Blackwood locals would support me in my endeavour to travel to Cambodia to aid children who often go without the basic care & support they need.

A different prize each week. Raffle tickets available at the pub from midday every Friday til the end of September & drawn 8pm that night.



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EDITORS POSTBOX

LOST ONE RED WINTER SCARF
Has any found a (very big) red scarf? I seem to have lost mine. You
would think all my fur would keep me warm, but I miss my scarf.
If found please return to me. I will need a little help putting it on
though.
Paws crossed (all 4).

~ Wombie

Dear Editor,
Re - My last article & the history of the Oak tree next to the Blackwood Hotel.
My son, Philip Hitchcock has an interest in trees & said that the name of
the Oak tree is both names ie -"ALGERIAN OAK TREE". With the botanical
name Quercus canariensis. The Algerian oak is one of 450 species of
deciduous & evergreen trees native to the temperate zone of Europe, Asia &
North America with a small number extending into tropical Asia & America.
The oak is a large evergreen tree from the Mediterranean region occurring
in the woodlands of Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, Algeria & Morocco & is a
long-lived species.
The outstanding feature is the spring growth of bright lime green leaves that
contrast with the dark colour of the trunk & branches. The leaves are very
similar to the English oak (Quercus robur) in shape, turning dark green by
late spring & evergreen in warm zones. In cooler zones the oak is semi-
deciduous & completely deciduous in the coldest, turning a brown autumn
colour before falling off.
The tree's stout trunk supports a canopy of broad spreading horizontal
branches of dark grey, deeply fissured bark in a pattern of square rough
plates. The acorns are a dark nut brown & ripen in April.
There is a grand old Algerian oak tree that was planted on 19 May 1863. It
resides within the Kyneton Botanical Gardens in the town of Kyneton. This
tree is listed by the National Trust on the Register of Significant Trees in
Victoria. There are also 2 good specimens located in the Ballarat Botanical
Gardens, one of which is believed to have been planted in 1920.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quercus_canariensis photo in the Kyneton
Botanical Gardens

~ Many thanks Margot Hitchcock

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**NATURAL RHYTHM
Move with the Rhythm 1:
Exercise is Hard Work**

by Kathie Strmota



Lifestyles of convenience have reduced natural physical activity to such a degree that we have to schedule artificial 'exercise routines' just to keep the blood flowing. This is such an unnatural concept that, for many people, maintaining such routines is a constant struggle. Regular physical activity is crucial for health, but it doesn't have to be a meaningless muscle-grind.

Some people joyfully maintain an exercise routine because they experience immediate pleasure & reward. Others are driven by focused purpose (athletes) or a whole-hearted goal (the bride-to-be with a too-tight wedding dress), where deeper motivation overpowers resistance. For the rest of us, routine exercise is a job we 'should do' but don't really care for, & that's a recipe for failure.

Unless an activity is pleasurable, & happens easily for you, give it up now, because life's too short. Move your body with activities you enjoy. Go dancing, chase the kids around the yard, join a local sports team, go rock-climbing, or get on your Wii.

Exercise should be a natural by-product of life, rather than one more thing you have to do. Back in the day, when we hunted & gathered, the idea of going to the cave-gym to lift stone-weights for an hour would have been ludicrous!

If your job is physically active, consider it a blessing. If not, incorporate more body movement into your usual activities (which already have purpose) for an extra thrill of physical exertion. Hand-wash the car (upper-body workout); hang washing from the ground (bend-stretch); stand for tasks that don't require sitting; walk or ride (don't drive); use stairs not lifts; & get physical with your friends by replacing a café sit-down with a walk on the beach. Such small changes can add up, effortlessly providing the fitness benefits of an 'exercise routine', often with greater emotional-mental benefits. I love stacking firewood when a load is delivered. There's pain & pleasure, & the gorgeous tiredness of a body well-stimulated, & then the best sleep I've had that week. There's also the wonderful sense of achievement, the empowerment of overcoming a challenge, & the fresh burst of pleasure each time I see my tidy wood-stack. I never experienced this complexity of satisfaction when running on a treadmill. I just got bored.

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Operating this way also encourages unexpected exercise, simply because you're up-and-about. If you regularly walk (not drive) to local haunts, you'll inevitably end up in a power-walk or jog occasionally, like when I literally sprinted up the Golden Point Road hill until my lungs were on fire because I was late for a meeting. If a trainer had set me that task, I would have suddenly remembered a prior appointment with my couch. Yet, driven by purpose, I accidentally did an intensive work-out!

Such 'natural exercise' combines a wide variety of activities to give you a whole-body work-out, & also exercises your brain-muscles with stimulation & challenge, things repetitive exercise often fails to do. To re-create these benefits with exercise routines, you need to combine aerobic, resistance, fancy-foot-work, hand-eye, balance-work, stretching (all body parts), meditative exercise (walking, tai chi), & more ... & vary it regularly.

Incidental body movement within daily activities is the epitome of 'living in your flow' regarding exercise, but you can successfully incorporate a pleasurable exercise routine by understanding your reasons, connecting with purpose, & doing suitable exercises at the optimum time of day (according to your body's natural daily rhythms & the structure of your own personal life).

In the next few issues, I'll explore different types of exercise, their benefits & optimum timing, & do some myth-busting around exercising for weight-loss.


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WHOSE TATT'S THAT?

"IT'S JUST a hibiscus, doesn't mean anything", she says of her one & only tattoo. "I had it done at Sebastopol, about 12 years ago by Kerry Robinson, daughter-in law of Bev Robinson, an out & out legend in the trade."
"HALF THE western suburbs were tattooed by Bev in her Williamstown parlour. "The classy lassie with the tattooed chassis" was how they described her in the 60s when she

toured as one of the first heavily-tattooed women in the country.
WHEN THE hibiscus was finished, her husband, who had been paying close attention, asked if it had hurt. "Nah, not really", she said. He looked relieved. "Book me in, Kerry. I'm next".
A Jill Hewat



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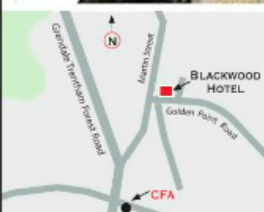
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• BOUQUET •

Bouquet (or perhaps a couple of beers) to Phil & Richard who recently
donated their time to install a solar light overlooking the CERT vehicle.

Not only does it make our vehicle more secure but our volunteer
responders can now see what they are doing when they head out to
nighttime emergencies.

~ Jinny Coyle

• CALENDAR OF EVENTS •

AUGUST:

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Fri 4 - Fri 18	Various	Words In Winter (Festival)	Daylesford
Sat 5	10:30am	Blackwood Historical Society	Blackwood Museum
Sun 6	12:30pm	Cat & Clint: Live Acoustic (Gig)	Daylesford Cidery
Sat 12	6-11:30pm	Blackwood Bush Dance	Blackwood Hall
Sat 19	10:00am	Blackwood Gardening Club (Funghi Workshop)	Blackwood Merchant
Sun 20	3:00am	Wombat Book Club	Blackwood Merchant
Sat 26	from 6pm	A Night Of Magic + Dinner	Blackwood Pub
Sun 27	11:00am	Bush Regeneration (Workshop)	Garden of St. Erth

SEPTEMBER:

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Fri 1 - Sun 3	10am- 4pm	Kyneton Antique & Vintage Fair	Kyneton Town Hall
Sat 2	10:30am	Blackwood Historical Society	Blackwood Museum
Sat 2	1pm- 6pm	Local Art Exhibition	Uniting Church
Sun 10	11:00am	Vegetable Gardens All Year Round (Workshop)	Garden Of St. Erth
Sat 16	10:00am	Blackwood Gardening Club (Poultry Workshop)	Blackwood Merchant
Sun 17	3:00pm	Wombat Gardening Club	Blackwood Pub
Tue 27	8am- 7:30pm	Yoga, meditation and more (pay as you feel classes)	Yogazen Blackwood

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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WOMBAT BOOK CLUB 2016

Hello from Wombat Book Club. Although we haven't had a lot of rain lately, the nights have been cold. Good times for an early night with a good read. The last 2 books we have read have been interesting. That's what has been great for me to join Bookclub, I wouldn't have the exposure to a wide range of literature we cover. We meet at 3pm on the 3rd Sunday monthly at the Blackwood pub, a great place to catch up for a drink and a friendly chat about the book we just finished, in a warm room near the fire ... cosy. For more info please contact Jinny on editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au.

The first book we read was 'Dirt Music by Tim Winton'.

What is good about Tim Winton is he writes about coastlines & places where people can relate to. This tale is about two unlikely people who meet and form a passionate and volatile relationship.

Sandy: I found this novel verbose and a little difficult to follow. But for Tim Winton fans, you will love it.

4 wombies for his grand show of literacy.

Brenda: Tim Winton writes with such energy and emotion about his beloved West Australia and this love story with complex characters pulls you into his world. Exhausting and I loved it.

4 1/2 Wombies

& the 'The Slap by Christos Tsiolkas'.

This story examines the use of physical discipline and the comparison to violence on another person. In this story, an adult slaps a child who wasn't his. This particular child needed a 'rod of guidance' from someone, in most cases should have the parent. But this was a child who knew no boundaries, & the effect he had on other people. This story went off on tangents around other people who were somehow involved with the family.

Sandy: For me the regular use of vulgar language got in the way of which possibly might be a good read. Which I have to question about good literacy.

1 1/2 wombies

Brenda: This book took me out of my comfort zone as I hated most of the people in it, but I couldn't put it down. Powerfully told through the eyes of its main characters, I particularly liked the stories of troubled teenagers, Richie and Connie – spot on. This is the modern world and we are living in it.

4 1/2 Wombies

Dee: In the heart of suburbia, during a congenial barbecue a young boy is slapped by someone who is not his parent. Everyone in attendance is shocked by the act but have differing opinions of it. The book then goes on to detail how this slap affects the lives of everyone who witnessed it. Offering a brutal and at times crude and unbelievable view of suburban Melbourne life. This book was highly addictive but very different to anything i have ever read.

4 wombies



Heath that is flowering in abundance this year especially along the Greendale Road. I've never seen it as good as this season. The heavy frosts have certainly hit, even some of the hardy plants in my garden but I seem to have more extreme temperatures; at -8 on several mornings & the frozen ponds barely melt through the day.

Our visit to the Kyneton Botanic Gardens was definitely worth the visit. The many old trees some with the last of their leaves & a few extraordinary conifers.

Unfortunately our July working bee at the Mineral Springs was cancelled because preparation of the area was unable to be done....so we'll do that another time. Our August meeting we will be fungii foraging. We have an expert coming from Melbourne to identify the many varieties we have here in the Wombat Forest.... not to be missed. In September Karen will show & share her knowledge on keeping chooks.

Don't forget everyone is welcome to come along to any of our activities. We meet at the Merchant at 10am on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

~ Jane Howat

BLACKWOOD TIMES GOES TO ...



The Blackwood Times hiked with Cat & Clint to the top of Buffalo Mountain in Floyd County, Virginia. The peak is 1,210 meters elevation.



The Blackwood Times hung out with Terri, Brett, Paige & Jalen in Coober Pedy, with the Ghan in Alice Springs and Uluru

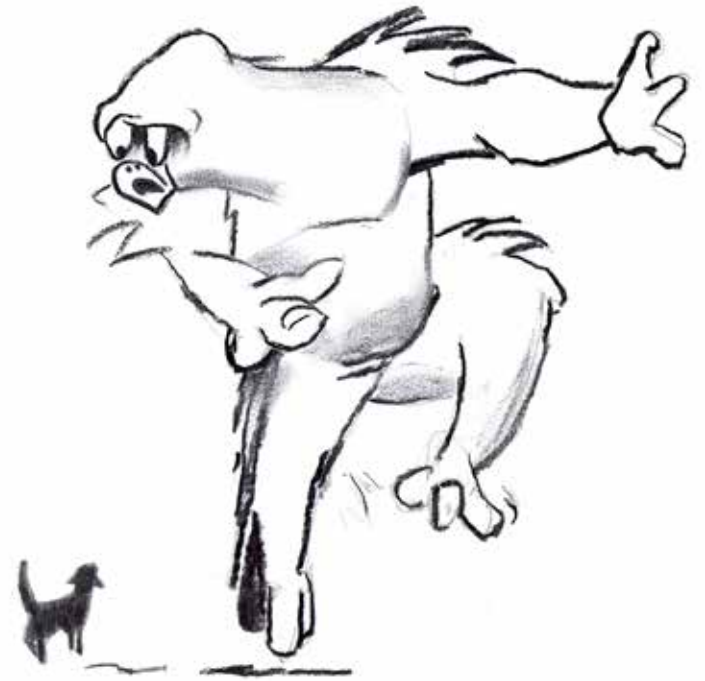


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Dear Pet Guru,

*My pet gorilla is terrified of my kitten. Why is this and what shall I do?
Concerned of Kyneton*



Dear Concerned,
Gorillas are intelligent creatures and he probably realises that kittens, however cute, are killers in training. If I were you I would get him a puppy because dogs are nicer than cats and a puppy's first instinct is to be friendly.

Pet Guru

PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS



WOOF: In this month's edition I would like to confess my deep dark secret, & NO it's not running away from home only to be found at the Blackwood pub after a quick jaunt across the cemetery chasing kangaroos. It's THUNDERSTORMS!!! I hate them & they scare the bejesus out of me.

For many of our 4 legged companions, thunderstorms can be very traumatic often presenting a range of behaviours that we would not ordinarily see in pets including; hiding under furniture, drooling, pacing, barking & sometimes destructive chewing & even attempts to escape from the backyard or home. These can all be symptoms & behaviours of a storm-phobic pet so it's important that when dealing with a pet that suffers from storm or noise phobia to stay calm & be patient.

We do know that storm & noise phobia in pets is one of the most common behavioural problems however the reason some dogs fear storms & loud noises so much is not entirely known. The one thing we are sure of is that this can result in a very stressful situation for both the pet & the owners.

There are many safety measures that you can take to keep your pet safe & relaxed during thunderstorms. Talking to your local Vet would be the first step to helping your dog overcome their noise phobia. There are many



• BLACKWOOFs •



YEARS AGO, Molly, the staffy/bull terrier, found her Blackwood family through RSPCA's Adoptapet . That was rather clever of her. She's 9 years old now and has had a thoroughly enjoyable time living with them all.

THEIR HOME is down by the river and that suits her just fine; she loves splashing about. Sometimes the family go to Indented Head, which she loves even more, if that's at all possible. She splashes about with extra relish as she eats the salty waves.

MOLLY IS a very fast runner and an escape artist, so she can be way up the road begging treats from the staff at St.Erth just as you swear she was underfoot a minute ago.

YOU CAN never lose her, though, when a thunderstorm comes along. There is only one place she'll be; way down deep under the sheets of your bed and probably looking like she does in this photo.

• WEEKLY STUFF TO DO •

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
Thur	6pm	Thai Night	Radio Springs
Fri	6pm	Pizza Night	Blackwood Merchant

options available to assist in desensitising your dog to storms & depending on the severity of the phobia it may be as simple as providing some of the following:

- Provide your pet with a safe & familiar place. A small space like a toilet or bathroom can make your pet feel secure.
- It is important to anticipate your pet's reaction without letting them know, the best thing to do is keep routine & act as though nothing is happening, try not to mollycoddle them.
- Playing soothing music before your dog becomes frightened can help to maintain his composure, or at least be less stressed when the storm or fireworks hit.
- Thunderstorm & Fireworks CD's are available that can be played around the house to expose your dog to the common storm noises which in turn will begin the process of desensitisation.
- ThunderShirt's are a fantastic pressure jacket that applies constant pressure to relieve stress & has an amazing calming effect . This has proved a very effective drug-free solution.

All of these techniques should be used in conjunction with training & positive reinforcement.

Depending on the severity of your dog's phobia there are some natural anti-anxiety products that rely on the calming pheromones a mother dog produces around her pups which can be very effective.

If your dog suffers from storm or noise phobia contact your local Vet to discuss the best method that will assist in modifying your dog's behaviour during storms & loud noises.

So next time a thunderstorm rolls into Blackwood , I will be wearing my Thundershirt, chilling in my beanbag, curtains pulled & watching my favourite episode of Bondi Vet.!!

~ Woof for now. Seamus



The History of Blackwood – Blackwood Religious book with bullet hole on display in Anglican Archives, Melbourne

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

The biggest tragedy that ever happened in Blackwood took place on 19th June 1908. Billy Pincombe in a fit of mental illness shot & killed the Anglican Minister, Mr. Harold Robinson through the heart, while he was reading a religious book in front of his chest. The Religious book is now on display in the Anglican Archives. This book has a story in itself to tell. But, leading up to the book, is how the bullet hole got there in the first place.

I recently published *“The Billy Pincombe Tragedy”*. The story tells of the events leading to an incident involving a man, his wife, the local preacher, the bible, some guns, an axe, a deranged woman & some of the people of Blackwood.

William (Billy) Torrington Pincombe was a Gold Miner in Blackwood in 1908. The bullet which shot Robinson went through the religious book he was reading as he walked on his verandah of the Vicarage next to All Saints Church in Blackwood. Billy Pincombe fired the shot from his house opposite the Vicarage, through a partly open window, while lying on a bed, & resting his rifle on the window sill & taking careful aim.

Billy & his new wife Annie Morrish lived in Blackwood after their marriage in January 1906 &, 10 months later, a son was born in Blackwood. A month after their son John was born, Annie was admitted to the Kyneton Hospital on November 20, 1906 suffering from mental illness & insanity brought on by confinement. Annie was admitted to the Sunbury Mental Hospital in 1906 age 21yrs. Annie’s insanity was recorded as being in the form of religious mania whereby she had got out of bed & nearly chopped her right hand off with an axe. The question was asked - Did Pincombe imagine the book the minister was holding to be a bible & had fired at the instrument of his wife’s self-maiming rather than at the man behind the book? To further explain this - The Leader newspaper report on June 21, 1908 stated: *While at home, her madness, which took the form of religious mania, became more acute. During a raving fit, she kept repeating the biblical injunction, “If thy right hand offends thee, cut it off - my right hand hath offended me.” She was found in the yard later with an axe in her left hand & her right hand severed at the wrist. She is now in the asylum hopelessly insane.*

After Billy Pincombe shot the Minister, the local policeman shot Billy Pincombe through the head after which he died in the local Blackwood jail. So what became of the Religious book with the bullet hole in it? The religious book, was amazingly said to have been found at a church fete, returned to Blackwood & given to Tom Garnett who lent it to Bert Oliver, a trustee of the church, for safe custody. It used to be on display in a glass show-case in the Blackwood General Store, but was later removed when the store was sold in 2001. The book in the glass show-case was then in the safe keeping of All Saints Church of England in Blackwood. Recently All Saints Church closed down & members of the Blackwood Historical Society were concerned about the safe-keeping of the Religious book. Stuart Duff a concerned member of the Blackwood Historical Society rung the Anglican Archives in Melbourne & reported to them the whereabouts of this important historical book & that the society was concerned for

its safety. They got permission from the Anglican Diocese to come to Blackwood & removed the book in its glass showcase to the Anglican Archives in Melbourne. I have rung the Archives & told them about my book - *“The Billy Pincombe Tragedy”* & offered them a copy so they know the significance & history of the old religious book with the bullet hole in it. They told me they have the glass showcase on display with the book in it & also a glass showcase they removed said to be made by Peter De Groote with a diorama of a gold mining in Blackwood with a well-made turning wheel, which looks like a water wheel. Also they retrieved the hymn board dedicated to the minister, Rev Harold Robinson who was shot, to put together on display in their Archives. Helen, the Archivist of the Anglican Archives asked me if I could help her, she said *“I am trying to locate information about the diorama that was donated to the Archives from the All Saints Anglican Church in Blackwood when it was closed. Hazel was told that this diorama was created by a Peter de Groot, a resident of Blackwood & member of the Church. I have found a small amount of information about him through the Blackwood Times but was wondering if you had any further details about when & why he created the diorama. I will send you some photos of it - it is a small goldfields scene with a turning wheel with pages noting the main landmarks in Blackwood.”*

~ article to be continued in the OctNov ‘17 issue

For further reading - Copies of “The Billy Pincombe Tragedy” available for the Blackwood Historical Society Museum, the Blackwood Post Office, or by contacting Margot Hitchcock for a copy mailed to you. 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

FROM CATHERINE’S DESK

Federal Member for Ballarat, Catherine King, today welcomed the announcement that Victoria had negotiated a commitment for \$1.42 billion to go toward Victorian Regional Rail, including \$555.6 million for upgrades to the Ballarat rail line.

Ms King said the overdue commitment of funding for the Ballarat rail line would be a sorely needed boost for our region.

“I am incredibly pleased to finally see this funding confirmed. Ballarat is a booming region, but we have been overlooked time & time again when it comes to Federal investment in infrastructure,” Ms King said.

“With so many people from Ballarat & the west commuting to Melbourne, reliability of rail is extremely important for the future of our region.

“This money will not only ensure that we have more services & less pressure for passengers, but we will see more jobs at V/Line & Ballarat companies like Alstom who manufacture rail carriages & supplies.”

Ms King congratulated the Andrews State Government for continuing to fight for a fair share of infrastructure funding for the state.

“After months of uncertainty, leaving the Regional Rail project & more than a thousand jobs in jeopardy, the Federal Government has finally got on board & released this funding,” Ms King said.

“Daniel Andrews & Jacinta Allan should be commended for not giving up & making sure more than \$500M flows to our region, where it belongs.”

BEYOND BLACKWOOD...



BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS NOW OPEN

The Ballan & Community Bank, with the Ballan & District Chamber of Commerce, launched the Business Excellence Awards at the Ballan Council Offices recently. The Awards seek to showcase businesses around the Moorabool area & hope to provide inspiration to businesses & lift their profile within the Community.

A welcome change for this year’s Awards is that you don’t need to wait to be nominated. Submissions opened in early July & will close on August 11. The Committee advise anyone that is interested to visit the website www.ballanchamberofcommerce.com.au & first register you interest to lodge a submission & read through the extensive information provided so you can make a start on drafting up your submission.

It is a great opportunity to get your staff involved & boost morale. The Gala Dinner will be held on October 27 at Wallace Hotel. Tickets will be available soon. Do ‘Like’ & visit our Facebook page to keep up to date with developments ‘Business Excellence Awards 2017’

For further info contact Angie Colliver 0409 996 393



WINTER IN LYONVILLE

Despite the winter chills, the Lyonville Community continues to congregate & work together. Events at the hall are slowly evolving & the regular presence of the local food truck each Wednesday evening brings hardy souls out to enjoy Shane’s delicious food.

As the village embraces new members, with several building projects around town, new & longer term residents are welcome to join the Hall committee & the CFA.

It’s a great way to meet people & get that warm, fuzzy feeling of community belonging this winter.

Contacts: Hall Committee Tony Corneille 0488 427 886
Trentham CFA (Lyonville Satellite): Brian Smith 0429 946 597
Bake Off helpers: Dorothy Fuller dottifuller@gmail.com

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REMEMBERING DAYLESFORD TRAGEDY AFTER 150 YEARS

June 30 marked the 150th anniversary of a tragic event in Daylesford’s history where three children, aged 4, 5 & 6, became lost in local bushland & were never found alive.

Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning Regional Manager Forest & Fire Operations Peter Kambouris said: “After a massive community search effort the remains of the children were found in September 1867, about eight to ten miles away from where they wandered off.”

“In 1988 DELWP established the Three Lost Children Walk as part of the Bicentennial events”, Mr Kambouris said.

“Little was known about the exact route that the boys took, but the walk uses existing roads to link the few known points of the boys’ travels. The walk will take you through bush landscapes that were once active goldfields, & now part of the Wombat State Forest & the Hepburn Regional Park.

“Along the walk you will see the remnants of goldmines, water races & tramways.

“In 2007 DELWP in partnership with Hepburn Shire Council & Parks Victoria revamped the walk with new signs & a map to indicate the directions from Daylesford to Wombat Creek Dam & monument.

“Following the Three Lost Children Walk will help keep the memories of those little boys alive”.

View a copy of the Three Lost Children’s Walk map @ https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0022/26284/FS0084-The-Three-Lost-Children-Walk.pdf or contact DELWP’s Customer Service Centre 136 186



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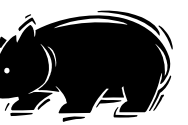
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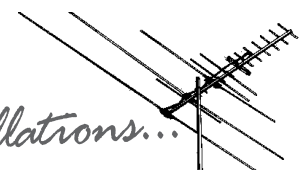
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