

December 2017 ~ January 2018 vol.9 ~ issue 10:4



SILLY SEASON?

**We'll show you silly
season**

ALL THE FESTIVITIES

OAKS DAY at the pub: p1 & p4
BLACKWOOD FESTIVAL: ps 5-7
+ p17
ART & MUSIC: p 17
COMING UP:
Boxing Day Mass @ St.
Malachy's in Blackwood p9
NEW YEAR @ the Pub p12





EDITOR’S THOUGHTS...

Happy silly season folks ...
The Blackwood Times has certainly been up, up & away over the past couple of months with a full page of The Blackwood Times travelling the world on p21. Once again we show how much Blackwoodians love a good ‘pardie’ with Oaks Day @ the pub on p4 & the 2017 Blackwood Festival on p5, 6 & 7.

As 2017 comes to a close I want to acknowledge each & every volunteer who puts their hand up to help around our little village. You make our town special ... from the formalised committees (reports on p8 & 9), to our emergency CFA brigade & CERT team, to special interest groups, pat yourselves on the back each & every one of you. Not to forget the Blackwood Time’s trusty advertisers, contributors & helpers. We couldn’t continue to publish without you.

On a completely different note, I was really sad to hear of the passing of Trevor Hill. He holds a special place in my memory as the CERT responder who came, with Wendy Bridgeman, to my aid when I broke my hip outside the post office 5 years ago. I’ll never forget my relief when they showed up with pain relief! As our post master he was always there with a smile, a chuckle & a quick chat about the latest wine he had found at auction. My thoughts go to Anne & family. I hope you enjoy this issue, see you in 2018.



MEMBER 2018 ~ 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
Advertising co-ordinator	Could this be you?
Regular Photographers	The Donnellys, Jimmy Olsen
Event columnists	Do you love to write?
Community Co-ordinator	Sandy Schmidt
Media Co-ordinator	Perhaps this is up your alley?
Distribution Co-ordinator	The infamous Carlson

RIP DYLAN EMMERSON

12-05-1992 to 21-09-2017

Blackwood was Dylan’s boyhood home & he was looking here to buy a house.

He loved the hills & trees.
He would walk through a wall if a friend needed him on the other side.

He would be the first to pick up any load.

He was a regular blood donor.
He was a bone marrow donor.

He loved animals & donated to their cause.

He could lighten a room with his sense of humour.

He was a rock of dependability.

He loved & he was loved.



PATH OF THE HORSE OPEN DAY

We recently had our 1st open day at the Path of the Horse for soldiers and families &, in my opinion, the day couldn’t have gone better.

To see soldiers and families interact with the horses and find some peace for a day gave me something that words wouldn’t be able to define.

It was such a successful day for the equine therapy charity and a proud day for all of the people who make the Path of the Horse possible. I’ll let the photos tell the story.

~ Cheers Clint Stretton



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)
Sep '17	*71	102.4	-2.9	25	14.2	3.6	8.5
Oct '17	*37.4	93.4	-0.9	28	19.6	4.9	12

IT’S ALL IN THE WORDS ~ by Ewan Cameron

Last night, Faye & I watched a great film that was excellent in many ways. It had wonderful actors such as Geoffrey Rush, Emma Watson & Sophie Nélisse. Set in Nazi Germany, the plot was gripping & the sets were so genuine. The individual characterisations were delivered brilliantly by the the cast. But for me there is one aspect of a film that makes it or breaks it & that is the screen dialogue. Now I couldn’t fault the screen dialogue in last night’s “The Book Thief” as it was all appropriate to the situations, neither over-dramatic nor schmaltzy.

However, in some films there are words uttered by a character that can salvage a mediocre film or, for me, otherwise completely ruin its validity. Great acting performances, special effects & fine cinematography can rescue a drab product on screen but if the lines delivered are excruciating then the film loses any claim to credibility. Great lines can inspire us & even become part of our language. I can hear you say, “Frankly, my dear, I don’t give a damn!” See what I mean? Although “Gone With The Wind” was made generations ago, that line persists in our cultural memory. A film can be stacked with good actors, have a reasonable plot, exciting special effects & so on but one bad line & then it’s lost me forever.

I can remember the excitement created when “Pearl Harbour” hit the screens. Faye took our son, a teenager back then, to see it & they both came home appalled for a number of reasons. For example, the sound track was not genuine forties music & the special effects had WW2 aircraft pursuing each other whilst flying on their wing tips between tall buildings.

NO!
However, when I watched it I thought, “ Oh well, it is a sort of adventure film.” That is, until I reached a critical part of the film when masses of attacking Japanese aircraft were destroying the American airfield. Amid multiple explosions, aircraft strafing & debris being hurled about, two brave young aviators race across the tarmac to the only couple of planes left. So far, so good. Historically correct up to this point. Then one pilot delivered the line that shoots down the whole film. With scores of enemy aircraft diving on the airfield, he says (& I’m paraphrasing) “Let’s see if these SOBs can fight like Americans”.

Game over for me, as a film has to be authentic.
When the screen dialogue is excellent we often find that it stays with us, sometimes for years. We can often apply it to many of our own situations. Good films are thought-provoking because they cover issues & it is the screen dialogue that delivers the “punch line”.

One such example is that of “The Castle”. There is a scene in which teenager Dale Kerrigan, the film’s narrator, tells us that he knows just how to tell his older brother in prison that the family has lost a legal battle to keep the family home. How does he tell him? “We lost!” Just tell it like it is.

Later in the film, Dale’s father links indigenous land rights issues with his own problem of dispossession when he says, “This country’s got to stop stealing other people’s land.” This line still strikes a chord with many us today.

I understand that a film’s quality is often simply a matter of personal taste. For both Faye & me, the hands down winner is “Out of Africa” because it has great actors, fabulous cinematography, many intense scenes & a wonderful plot based on fact. The film is centred on the life of Baroness Karen Blixen (played by Meryl Streep)& her love affair with big-game hunter Denys Finch Hatton (Robert Redford) set in colonial British East Africa during the early part of the twentieth century. The screen dialogue really makes this film & both of us can quote it almost line for line.



*NOTE: RAINFALL recorded at Trentham which is normally slightly higher than Blackwood.

RAINFALL FOR September & October this year is much less than last year. This October temperatures have been a lot higher than last year & are similar to those of 2015 which was exceptionally warm.

~ by Don Owen

In one memorable scene, as Karen is stranded without her horse, a lioness threatens to charge. Karen begs Finch Hatton to shoot it but he hesitates whereupon the lioness backs up & slinks away. A furious Karen asks,“Why didn’t you shoot her?” Finch Hatton replies, “She was waiting to see if you would run. They’re a lot like people that way.” How true! In an earlier scene, Karen is aboard a train carrying her & all the expensive trappings of her former privileged life across the open veldt to Nairobi. The train stops in the middle of nowhere to enable Finch Hatton to load on his large cache of ivory. When his native bearers heave the tusks on top of her crates of expensive crystal, Karen calls out, “Be careful, that’s my Limoges!” Finch Hatton casually drawls, “Sorry, they didn’t know it was Limoges!” So at home, if one of us drops a cup or anything, that expression often comes out.

The most brilliant scene matched by the best line in the film is one I’ll always remember. As their relationship deepens, Karen is invited on a safari with Finch Hatton. For fun, they set up a wind-up gramophone to play to some baboons & hide to watch the animals’ response. As a Mozart concerto is played, the curious baboons approach the gramophone & for a while appear to be both intrigued & entranced by the music. Finally, one baboon lashes out at the instrument & ends the show. The next line from Finch Hatton seems to sum up all that is wonderful about Africa - the mystery, remoteness, adventure & timelessness of the continent. “Imagine that,” he says, “never a human voice & then Mozart!”

A great film addresses issues that need to be revisited & brought to our attention. A carefully crafted screen dialogue raises people’s awareness of them & encourages further discussion. In “Out of Africa”, indigenous dispossession, racism, human rights, gender equality, nationalism, imperialism & relationship issues are all wonderfully covered & assisted by clever screen dialogue.

Of course there are films with guns blazing, screeching tyres, car crashes & blood flowing but they are not the kind of films I’m talking about & their plots are usually very simple, not addressing any issues at all.

So when it comes to the importance of screen dialogue, frankly my dears, I DO give a damn!



Another captivating performance at the Blackwood Festival



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• 2017 BLACKWOOD OAKS DAY •



• BLACKWOOD FESTIVAL: PETER DONNELLY'S VIEW •





• 2017 BLACKWOOD FESTIVAL •





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)

Update on the Blackwood Localised Septic Program – 27 November 2017

December closes out what has been an incredibly busy but rewarding 2017 for the Blackwood Localised Septic Program (BLSP). The BLSP Governance Committee have been overwhelmed with the level of interest from owners with vacant land in the Planning Assistance Program. In 2017, 33 vacant parcels of land have been included within the BLSP & the relevant agencies, including Moorabool Shire Council & water authorities have provided in-principal support for 16 new developments. 17 additional vacant parcels are still to be finalised through the program. To date, 3 planning permit applications have been made with Moorabool Shire Council.

Round 3 of the septic tank upgrades will be completed within the first week of December. In 2017, this part of the BLSP involved either the upgrade or renewal works at 51 separate properties throughout Blackwood & Barry's Reef. This has included:

- 3 Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems & Rhizopods systems;
- 42 Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems & irrigation systems;
- 1 conventional septic tank & soil absorption trenches;
- 3 upgrades of existing sub-surface drip irrigation systems;
- 1x20,000L holding tank at the Blackwood Recreation Reserve;
- Replacement of failed soil absorption trenches at the Blackwood Public Toilet.

In 2018, works will commence on Round 4 which includes either the upgrade or renewal works at 32 additional properties including the Blackwood Mineral Springs Caravan Park.

If you own a vacant parcel of land & would like to know more about the Planning Assistance Program, time is running out as we need to engage consultants on your behalf prior to February 2018 to allow sufficient time to undertake investigations prior to the program concluding in July 2018.

For further information, 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*

Blackwood Caravan Park

See article on p10
For bookings & information please call Brad & Jenni on 53686539.

~ *Thanks Brad & Jenni*

Blackwood CERT

It felt very reassuring to see CFA, DEWLP, Red Cross (where I also work), Wildlife Rescue & CERT all in the one place at the Greendale Emergency Services Day in early November. Twenty of our finest emergency service local volunteers & staff got together to find out more about each other, share stories, & look over the various trucks & equipment. Thanks to Donna & Damo & the Greendale team for welcoming me & to everyone who came for making it a fantastic day! When you see who is supporting our towns you realise how much effort locals go to to give their time & volunteer. Just awesome!

Are you finishing your VCE? Or studying at uni? Or, maybe living locally & looking for work. Being a CERT volunteer is a fab way to build your experience, your cv & maybe discover a career path in health or community work. It's free to join & all training is provided. We've got a couple of new

members about to hit training, so maybe you could be joining them. We've got a solid team & experienced members ready to welcome any newcomers on board.

On the subject of new careers, I heard this week from a young paramedic who joined Ambulance Victoria as a volunteer Ambulance Community Officer with his mate when they were 18 & then they both chose the pathway to paramedicine. Being a CERT is not only for middle aged old geezers like me, as long as you're 18, you can apply. It's the perfect volunteer position for:

- building your experience (which employers always want).
- volunteering looks great on your CV.
- we have flexible rosters which can fit in with your work & exam timetables.
- great life-saving skills.
- potential pathway to health or other emergency services
- plenty of opportunities to learn more about the emergency services.

Talking about great opportunities - a couple of us have joined the Daylesford ambulance branch as Ambulance Community Officers, meaning we're increasing our level of skill all the time. Recently Ambulance Victoria sent me to Tassie on exchange. Next issue you'll see how Tassie does community emergency health. Thanks to Ambulance Tasmania for being excellent hosts.

Thanks to everyone in our community for your ongoing support of CERT. We only exist to serve & support you, thank you for your support. Our committee is excellent - I would like to especially thank Jinny Coyle, Caroline Parker, Jane Elliott & Kathie Strmota. Our first responders are also fantastic - thanks team! It's been a good year for us & we can't wait to see what next year holds.

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

At our AGM in October the committee remains as follows: President Jinny Coyle, Vice President Caroline Parker-Rolls, Secretary Jane Elliott & Treasurer Kathy Strmota. Committee members are Ivan Johnston, Leonie Brasier, Margaret McCarthy & Jan Purchase.

As you probably know we've been flat out fund-raising over the past 2 months. In October we raffled each Friday at the Pub ... thank-you to the pub for allowing us to use their venue & to each & every one of you who bought a ticket or 3.

The Blackwood Festival invited us to run the marketplace this year with stall costs going to CERT. With 6 weeks lead-time & no list to speak of, this was a challenging undertaking but we did it. Stallholders & festival organisers were happy & we raised more than 25% of our 2017-18 financial year target. Massive thanks go to following people for their kind donations to our raffle: Cat Moser; Daylesford Cider; Sue Donnelly; Holgate Brewhouse; Fromagerie Cheese Bar & Merchants; Lauren Matthews; The Tea Caravan & these bands for their signed CD's ... The Exciting McGillicuddies; Homebrew Verandah Singers; Foghorn String Band; Mac Traynham & Shay Garriock; Cat & Clint; Nigel Wearn ; Saoirse; Fiona Ross; & the Ramshackle Band. What an incredible prize for the lucky winner!

In December we will be running the Sausage Sizzle at the Trentham Farmers & in January we'll be found wandering around the Cosmopolitan selling raffle tix each Friday night.

If you don't have a current or compete First Aid kit, ask to see a catalogue folder at the pub, PO or caravan park or download a form at <http://theblackwoodtimes.com.au/home/community/>

'Til then though, here's to a safe & enjoyable silly season.

~ *Jinny Coyle (president)*

Blackwood CFA

FIRE DANGER PERIOD DECLARED

The Fire Danger Period for this summer commenced on November 27. The commencement of the Fire Danger period depends on local conditions that lead to increased fire risk for your locality.

Please note: Your local council or shire may have their own local laws.

For further information contact your local council.

Knowledge is the best tool when it comes to fighting fires; help spread this information by talking to your family, friends & neighbours.

Stay safe this summer.

~ *Media Release: Steve Warrington, Chief Officer CFA*

Blackwood Historical Society

The past year revealed a busy time with the addition of new t-shirts printed up for members to wear at events, bags printed for sale & the re-print of some history of Simmons Reef as we have sold over 500 copies. Thanks to Blackwood Post Office, Caravan Park & St Erth for helping us sell our books.

We have some new committee members: Pres A Hall | Vice Pres P Skinner | Sec M Devinish | Treas C Thompson | Hist M Hitchcock (for people history) | Host S Skews (for places & things) | Archive A Thompson | Committee: L Henderson & R Brown.

The Historical Society & Mrs de Groot have been involved in negotiations with the Anglican Church over the removal from the Church of the bible with the bullet hole in it & the Diorama (Waterwheel made by the late Mr Peter de Groot).

A member claiming to be from the Historical Society, who is also not financial, went to the Bacchus Marsh Church & expressed concern over things being left in the Church. The Church sent a person from the archives in Melbourne to remove things from the church. Blackwood people were not told, nor were they aware the church is closed as there has been no service for closing.

The bible was found in a market & handed to Mrs Garnet, when the bible went to South Australia, Mrs Garnet went & brought it back to Blackwood where she said it belonged. The bible was later put in to a glass case with the waterwheel & was on display at the General Store. When the store was sold it was taken to the Anglican Church.

The Historical Society expressed interest in having it on display at the stables as the believe it belongs to Blackwood.

We believe that things people donate to the town or clubs should stay in the town for people to see.

Our final event for the year will be Christmas lunch so with that, we wish everyone a very happy Christmas & a safe & great 2018.

~ *Allan Hall, President*

Blackwood & District Landcare

Presidents Report - 13/11/17: Blackwood Barrys Reef Landcare Group held a Community Weeding Day last month. We managed to weed a big area of Broom & Gorse on Vigor Street & were pleased to find quite a few significant local native plants in the patch. We are hoping to hold more of these weeding days & encourage anyone in the community to join us.

The next Landcare meeting will be held at The Blackwood Pub on Sunday 3rd December at 6.30pm. New & old members are always welcome. Check our Website & Facebook page for news & details of upcoming events.

<http://blackwoodlandcare.org.au>
www.facebook.com/BlackwoodLandcare

~ *Cat Moser, President*

St Malachy's Church, Blackwood

26 Dec, 2017 Mass @ 10am St. Stephens Day
The church is also available for other services, Weddings, Funerals, Recitals etc. Parish Priest Fr Declan O'Brien 5422 1261

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 Progress, Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee (but see article to the right) or Senior Citizens.

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.



BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

2017/2018 FIXTURE

2017	Blackwood Versus	Where we're playing ...
		1 days start at 1.00pm 2 days at 1.30pm
Dec 2	East Sunbury	John McMahon Reserve
Dec 9 & 16	Woodend	Blackwood Rec Reserve
2018		
Jan 6	Rupertswood	Rupertswood No. 1
Jan 13	Sunbury	Clarke Oval, Sunbury
Jan 20 & 27	Diggers Rest Bulla	Diggers Rest Main Oval
Feb 3 & 10	Rupertswood	Blackwood Rec Reserve
Feb 17 & 24	Romsey	Bendigo Bank Oval, Romsey
Mar 3 & 10	Sunbury	Blackwood Rec Reserve

CROWN RESERVES PROBLEM
NEEDS TO BE RESOLVED

The Blackwood Caravan Park, Hall & Sportground are our most important public assets & revenue generators. They have been diligently managed for decades by local volunteers of the Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management, voted in by the community & approved by the Minister.

It is alarming, then, to see the numbers on the committee dwindling to just 3 people (one of whom is on indefinite sick-leave). The workload on the other 2 is unsustainable. How did we get to this situation? 4 years ago, the community voted in 9 nominees for the BCRCM, but then, instead of referring the nominees to the Minister, DELWP overturned the election & installed a new system under which *they* would choose the committee. It's not gone well for them ever since.

The Department, in taking the extraordinary action of overturning a legitimate community election and, despite many requests from the community & local & state government representatives, have resolutely refused to offer an explanation. When recently asked by DELWP why Blackwood was not volunteering for the committee, our local councillor replied, "Because you insulted the town."

I spoke to Grant Hull from DELWP about the parlous state of BCRCM numbers & the history behind this serious problem. His response to the community is below. I believe we should keep pushing for an explanation from the Department, to put an end to this sorry affair & to get on with the management of our reserves.

Hello Brendan,

Following on from yesterday's conversation & your discussion with David White of the committee, I would be pleased if you wished to promote through the next edition of the Blackwood Times, that DELWP is seeking to augment the current membership of the Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management Incorporated. We would be pleased to hear from any community members with an interest in the day-to-day management, care & protection of the Blackwood Crown Reserves on Crown land in Blackwood. DELWP believes this a great opportunity for local people to become actively involved in the management of several highly significant reserves on behalf of the local & the wider Victorian community.

Nominations are invited from members of the community wishing to be considered for membership to the Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management Incorporated.

Interested community members should email DELWP at publicland.ballarat@delwp.vic.gov.au & ask for a nomination form.

For further information please contact Daniel McMahon on 5336 6834.

Thank you

*Grant Hull | Regional Manager Land & Built Environment Programs
| Acting Regional Manager Natural Environment Programs |
Grampians Region*

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Recent studies around the world have found "an association between higher levels of Lithium in local water and beneficial clinical, behavioural, legal and medical outcomes." A Japanese study says "Lithium appears to promote the health, growth and resilience of neurons, reducing stress-induced damage." It's brain food!

Lithia waters were very popular at the height of mineral water use 100 years ago. Springs at Vichy and Evian were originally promoted on their high Lithium content, but perhaps the most famous of Lithia waters appeared with the 1929 launch of a drink called 7Up. That's right, this ubiquitous soft drink started life as a brain tonic "for hospital and home use", while also "dispelling hangovers". Rumour has it that the '7' in the name refers to the atomic mass of Lithium and the 'Up' to its affect on the mind.

20 years after the launch of 7Up, an Australian psychiatrist, John Cade, established the link between Lithium and the stabilizing of bi-polar disorder. Its benefits with dementia have also been well-documented.

So take the waters, people; they're a tonic for the body, and the brain. And while you're down there, take in the surrounds— a clinically-proven tonic for the soul.

For more on the subject, take a look at the story in our sister publication, the New York Times.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/14/opinion/sunday/should-we-all-take-a-bit-of-lithium.html>

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HAPPY CAMPERS

Have you noticed how popular the caravan park has become? I don't think I've ever seen it so consistently busy. Brad & Jenni say much of their business now comes from word-of-mouth (these days mostly social media). Apps such as Wiki Camps rate caravan parks, etc. based on input from the users & their experiences. In the past, ratings would be assigned by organisations such as RACV, concentrating mostly on level of facilities available. A modest, community-managed, park such as ours never could compete with the big commercial operations under those terms.

When it comes, however, to level of fun available, Blackwood shines; & gets a very healthy star rating from its customers. Brad says, "Kids, dogs & campfires. It's simple & relaxed here. People love it." Add a safe river to paddle & swim in, some of the best bushwalks around, a lake for kayaking, mineral springs & beautiful Blackwood town, all just an hour from the Big Smoke & even I'm sold.

Jenni makes sure there are plenty of family activities throughout the year: popcorn movie nights, discos, kids' activities— just for starters. Many of the events are organised by the 'regulars', loyal Blackwood campers who have been here for generations, showing the newcomers how it's done in a true community camping ground.



TREVOR HILL

Anne & family wish to thank their Blackwood friends for the support & love offered with the passing of Trevor. This community will not readily forget the generous & gentle man, CERT leader, Crown Reserves Committee member & absolute legendary Pub Postmaster.



Winner of the CERT count the lollies jar competition at the Blackwood Festival, Sylvie Ryby shares her bootie with Genevieve Messenger.

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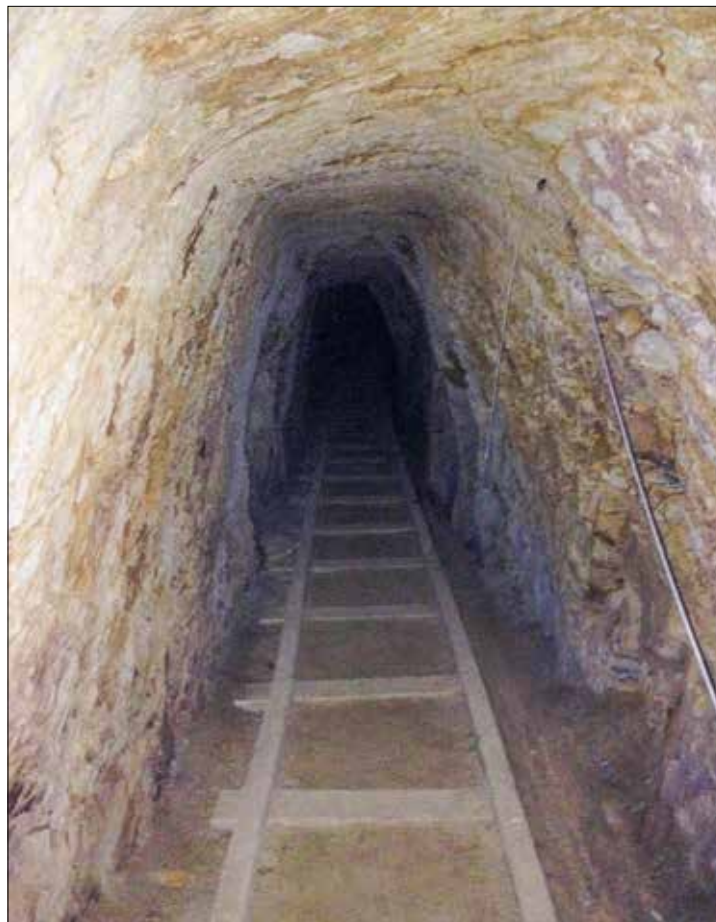
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STRUCK OIL MINE, BLACKWOOD.

About half a mile south-westerly from the Red, White, & Blue battery (and the Briton mine), a number of reefs have been opened on a hill. Often dyke stone & reef occurs in the same fissures. There appears to be a lot of low grade ore here. Some crushings from the shallow workings returned 1 oz. to the ton. A quartz & ironstone leader shows gold. The tunnel from the tram level to the battery requires to be driven 200 feet further when these reefs could be worked.

(from the Bacchus Marsh Express July 15, 1905)
Present-day photos from Des Peters

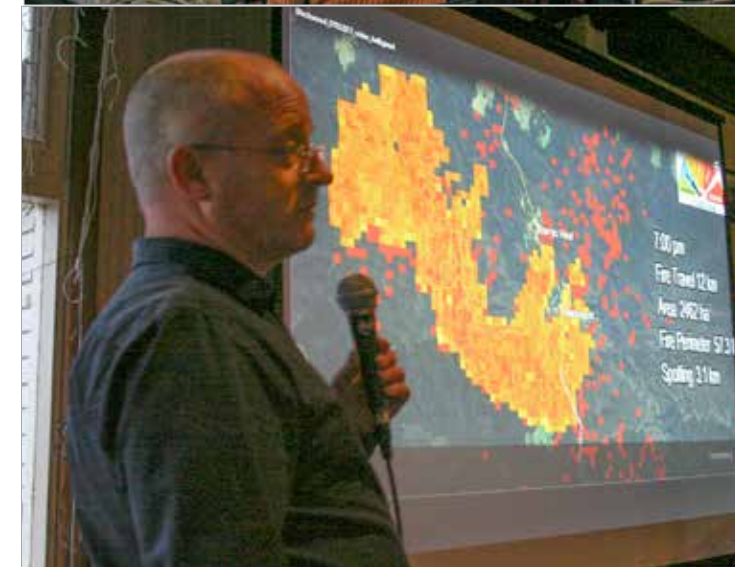


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KNOWLEDGE = SURVIVAL

Thanks to Blackwood Hotel for hosting the Pot & Plan evening where we measured our fire plans against an unfolding fire scenario. Steve Cameron (EMV) guided us through the exercise. Donna & Trevor Hart shared their experiences of the Scotsburn fire.



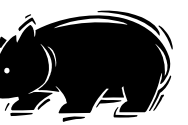
EDITORS POSTBOX

Dear Editor,

I felt that there was a lot more to Max Matheson than the description of some of the outlandish things that were described in the previous month's Blackwood Times.

He did many acts of kindness including delivering a load of wood to my mother when my father was sick. He also helped the community in many ways such as being CFA captain for many years. I for one together with many others will miss him.

~ Don Owen



New Year's Eve..

Back By Popular Demand...



Aussie Pub Rock

The
Blackwood
Hotel

03 5368 6501

The Blackwood Hotel will be closed from 3pm Sunday 17th for our Wonderful staff's Xmas Party

Monday Nights

Old Fat's Night.
Nibbles and Raffle
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Tuesday Nights

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THE BLACKWOOD TIMES FREE OF CHARGE.

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



GARBAGE MONDAY

June 15 • 19

July 3 • 17 • 31



HERE COME THE BLACKWOOD WOMBATS

Blackwood's latest batch are ready to play, & they'd like you to join in the fun. Kicking off in late November, the new playgroup will meet every Tuesday (10 til 12) at the hall until Dec.19, after which they'll be building their resources for a grand re-opening on the first Tuesday of the new school year.

If you'd like to join or support the group, call Kirsty on 0413 131920 or check out their facebook page. They're called Blackwood Wombats Playgroup (Vic.) & are registered & insured by Playgroup Victoria.

The kids are looking for toys, books, craft supplies, wheeled toys, shelving & outdoor play equipment. Watch out for working bees over summer—they want to re-establish the playground at the rear of the hall with a sand pit, shade cloth, etc. Sounds like fun, maybe we can dig them some burrows.

LEFT: Shane uncovers a patch of significant local vegetation during the Landcare Community Weeding Day (see p9)

PLAN AND PREPARE

THE REASONS ARE BLACK AND WHITE

There's no questioning the facts. In a bushfire, most homes burn down due to ember attack.

It's your responsibility to be fire ready this summer, so prepare your property, fire plan and emergency kit now.

And on high-risk fire days, leaving early, before a fire starts, is always the safest option.

emergency.vic.gov.au

Download the VicEmergency app



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1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



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EULOGY OF DENNIS STEPHEN NORGATE

29/6/1926 TO 2/10/2017 “FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS”

Dennis Stephen Norgate was born on 29 June 1926 to Renee Norgate (nee Ricketts) in Canterbury, Victoria. As a young boy, Dennis, along with his older sister, Unita, lived with their mother in St Kilda where his mother worked as a gardener (which obviously had a strong influence on her son); they later moved to Bayswater.

Dennis attended Boronia State School where he enjoyed being with friends but not so much the academic side of things; there was only one train per day on that line and, that went past the school, so a lot of the school children (including Dennis & his friends) would run down to the fence line to watch the driver, with his blue cap on, blow the whistle long & hard as the engine went by.

As a school boy, he played football & cricket, he played the drums as everyone marched into school (sometimes having the drumsticks taken off him for mis-use) and, after school, they made their own fun ... one of the things they did was to make a canoe out of old sheets of iron & taking them out on the nearby dam, which they did naked in case they fell in & got their clothes wet!

As he grew a little older, Dennis, still a school boy, began working with plants & upon leaving school, after completing Grade 8, worked as a brick layer – which he did for only a couple of years to earn money to support his love of gardening. He gave it up when he could support himself, but, without completing the top layer of bricks on a fence he was building for friends & it still remains that way today.

Dennis grew tomatoes ... lots & lots of tomatoes ... & brussel sprouts (which were better than those of almost all other producers.) Westlows, of Heathmont, would come to pick up the produce & take it to market. He was also growing his favoured perennials at this time, all on a one acre block! Needless to say, vegetables featured prominently on the menu daily, rarely with meat, if so, it was usually rabbit; almost an early vegetarian.

He then moved down to another block, further down the road, where the soil was not good & neither was the drainage, so Dennis set about building frames to grow his plants on. He would go to the poultry farm next door with a cart to get manure for his plants, he bought fertilizer in Bayswater & carried it back on the handlebars of his bike, got trailer loads of seaweed to dig into the soil & advertised in the Argus Newspaper, later taking out advertisements of up to 2 pages in the Garden Lover magazine, which was Australia wide. His plants sold all over Australia & were packed in moss from the bush for protection when posting.

Dennis would meet up with his mates at the barber's shop on occasion; they would just “hang out” together, maybe go to “the pictures” or ice skating at St. Moritz. He was once embroiled in an incident where there was an altercation with another group which resulted in Dennis & his mate literally running for their lives - not stopping until well clear of the situation.

Needing more land, Dennis made the decision to move out to the country to pursue his passion for plants, choosing Barry's Reef as the location.

He would leave the “city” on a Monday morning with his car & trailer filled with everything they needed for the week & drive up to the block to build the house he would later live in, doing a large portion of the work himself, with help from friends & loans of their equipment & also using his bricklaying skills to build the chimneys & glasshouse walls.

The car would usually boil over by the time they reached Essendon & they would often have to wait at Gisborne for fog to clear before continuing on. The return journey was made on a Friday afternoon.

When Dennis finally moved up, he brought his draught horse, Betsy; she didn't like the idea of getting into the back of the truck so, Scoresby Road, then just gravel, was blocked off for some time whilst this mission was

accomplished.

At first things at the new location were not going so well & Dennis contemplated moving back to from whence he'd come but a chance meeting in Trentham with the local Bank Manager changed his mind; the bank manager asked him to bring in all his paper work & when Dennis did so, the bank manager wrote out personal cheques to cover all the bills so that “Norgate's Plant farm” would survive. Possibly a contributing reason for Dennis' generosity to others in similar situations.

Dennis went on a date with a girl named Iris; it didn't go smoothly & he thought he would never see her again but a couple of weeks later he got a phone call from her! He would ride his bike to go & see her.

Two locked trunks appeared in the shed that was used for sorting plants & preparing them for sale & posting; when one of the workers asked what was in them, Dennis replied “Never you mind!” and, soon after, his new wife, Iris, appeared on the scene. They were married on the October 2, 1957 (Dennis actually passed away on what would have been their 60th wedding anniversary.)



Although Dennis was largely a “happy-go-lucky” person who didn't show a lot of emotion, he collapsed outside the lifts at St John of God Hospital in Ballarat in the late 1980's after being informed that the lung cancer Iris had been diagnosed with was terminal & he spent the night in the Emergency Department there.

To get electricity to the district, 100% of residents needed to agree to having it put on. Along with Les Armstrong, Dennis went door-to-door to convince everyone to sign up (a great way to get to know the community he would live in for 60 years.) The first, & only time, he served on a committee! But he got the job done.

Dennis' mother, Renee, moved up to live on the property; she had her own little cottage & helped out with the Plant Farm in various ways. Unita was a frequent visitor. Three children came along to join the family:

Debbie, who is married to Ian & has 3 children (Kym, Glenn & Lisa) Stephen, who is married to Joan & Gordon (who has 2 sons, Andrew & Laurie.)

Bedtime stories for the children were Dennis' speciality. No reading of fairytales but stories he made up himself! The children loved them, as did their friends when they stayed over.

Dennis taught his family to live within their means, to get a good job, to work hard, and, if you do, you will succeed. Something he lived his own life by.

Iris & the children regularly went on holidays, Dennis drove them to their destinations but did not stay as his plants could not be left unattended!

In 2001, Newbury became Dennis' new home & yet another Nursery was established. He was never interested in monetary gain but making a living from what he enjoyed; he often said he'd never worked a day in his life because he loved what he did. He was also very good at it, developing his own blends of fertilizer by trial & error, often losing valuable plants in doing so until he got it right.

He was very observant, recognizing disease in plants when others saw nothing & knowing what to do to keep them healthy. He introduced many plants including: **Penstemon Susan** – after the woman from whom his mother had taken the original cutting; **Scabiosa Debra Norgate** – named for his daughter; **Red Verbena Gay Border** & **Eryngium Violetta** – Sea Holly – Blue Thistle.

He always talked about plants, kept seeds in his fridge until they were ready to be used & knew about the plants he loved.

Dennis was a simple man who never wanted or needed extravagant things; he was a very hard worker, a loyal friend (who kept in touch with family

& friends regularly) & was very involved in helping others ... not for any acknowledgement or gain but because it made him happy. Things like:

- Picking up hitch-hikers & not just giving them a ride to where they were going (sometimes out of his way) but also a few dollars to help them on their way)
- Ordering new bikes & giving plants to a family who had to rebuild after a house fire
- Helping individuals in the community after a bushfire
- Giving flowers for (community) events
- Lending money to help small businesses get a start
- Lending money to friends & neighbours when they were in need
- Giving to fundraisers

In fact, he was buying raffle tickets for a local charity one time & said he would donate the prize back to them if he should win; surprisingly, he won it 2 years in a row!

He was also known for being able to assist young men in trouble by giving them a job in his nursery to keep them out of trouble, & surely, it goes without saying, that he would also give them his “words of wisdom”! Some parents, who had fears of the direction their sons were headed, approached Dennis to help them in this regard.

Dennis loved music (Colleen Hewitt & classical among others); he loved the humour of Dave Allen, Dick Emery, “Get Smart” & “The Three Stooges”; he loved history & watching World War 1 & 2 documentaries; aircrafts & going to the Airshow with Stephen when it was on – attending last year in a wheelchair. Dennis was a prolific reader, he had read the Bible three times, & when Iris attended the library, she had a difficult time choosing something as he had read everything! Dennis was a man with a great sense of humour & loved to tell jokes & laugh; on one occasion, he went to see the guys at the local “servo” who were sitting around the fire having their break, he started to tell his joke & his false teeth flew out, landing in the ash, but, without missing a beat, Dennis picked them up, put them back into his mouth & finished telling the joke ... the guys were laughing just as hard at what had happened as they were at the joke!

Dogs played a large part in his life from the first red heeler, Oigle, gifted

to him from the poultry farm next door (probably because he attacked everyone except Dennis), to Sheila, his constant shadow, & his last dog Sally (now happily residing in Ballarat) & the 12 others in between.

Cars featured prominently too – the black Nash, Plymouth, four Dodges, a solo Holden, a Nissan ute & five of the “famous” (or infamous) Peugeots! Never new models, always second hand.

Early in 2016 Dennis took his metal detector out to look for gold, a favourite hobby, & decided to go up the Blue Mount via Tower Track, which was very steep. He attempted to turn around in the white Peugeot but it became stuck & the hot exhaust started a fire! He managed to get out & grabbed a pillow from the car in case he needed to rest on his walk home ... but he managed to get a lift from a CFA volunteer. However, he was mortified that he lost the gold sample he used to tune the detector.

Despite stories to the contrary, Dennis' thumb was lost when one of the power phases went out (on the water pump) & he “tested” it ... with his thumb! The “jury is still out” on if the dog ate it or not!

Tributes to Dennis in Social Media have featured the words: respected, kind, generous, funny, rare gem, icon, grand, gentleman, “plantsman” delight, laughter, intelligent, inspiring, humour, jokes/stories, “salt of the earth”, “great nurseryman”, knowledgable (& willing to share).

We truly appreciate the care given to Dennis by the staff at Trentham Aged Care in the last few months of his life ... you have gone above & beyond our expectations & we will be forever grateful.

A sincere thank you to all the doctors involved for their guidance & attentiveness; your efforts made a difficult time more bearable.

Our thanks to those who visited Dennis during his time in care to keep his spirits up & be entertained by him ... it made his days so much brighter.

Thank you one & all.

“You shine on in gardens across the country, in the many plants you sold, & in the extra clumps you gave away ... forever inspired by your humour, your laughter, your knowledge & your generosity. You have inspired others. Shine on.”

~ Written by Joan Norgate – daughter-in-law

Photo: Sally paying a visit to catch up with Dennis on 15 April 2016 at Trentham Aged Care

FAMILY VIOLENCE HAS NO GOOD DAYS.

Family Violence stems from men who think they are better than women. Men who exercise control, and misuse power. And they might think it's only their wife or partner they're harming, and that their children are fine. But they're not.

In fact the violence their children are witnessing or hearing is just as damaging to them, their futures and their future relationships.

If you need support, talk to a friend, or go to vic.gov.au/familyviolencesupport or call Safe Steps on 1800 015 188.

RESPECT WOMEN **FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE**

VICTORIA State Government

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• WHOSE TATT'S THAT? •



THE CAMINO de Santiago, also known as The Way of St. James, has felt the feet of pilgrims for centuries, most popularly during the Middle Ages. These days the dozens of routes, which make up the trek to Galicia in northwest Spain and the reputed remains of St. James, are trod and cycled as much by outdoor enthusiasts as by those on a spiritual path.

THE SCALLOP shell, abundant on the Atlantic shoreline of Galicia, has long served as a symbol of the Camino de Santiago. Each kilometre along the route is marked by a yellow arrow, "If you haven't seen one in a while, consider yourself lost", says our tattooed traveller. He walked 915 of those kilometres on the French Way, which wanders through the Pyrenees. The sun symbol refers to the end of the traveller's journey at the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela and the shrine of St. James. After which, for good measure, our modern-day pilgrim took a dip in the frigid Atlantic, his swollen feet stumbling on broken scallop shells. "I lasted 10 seconds" he says.

AN ENGLISH girl, co-traveller, suggested a bit of ink on their arms to commemorate the adventure. Hers was tiny and hidden under her watch, "Gran would kill me if she knew!" His was the whole inside forearm, "My first and it didn't hurt a bit. Maybe I was numb to pain after all that walking."

BACK IN Oz, he immediately followed up with the other arm with his beloved Pyrenean landscape.



A. Peter Daylsh

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(no lunches on Mondays)

for information call St Erth on (03) 5368 6514
or visit our website www.diggers.com.au



BLACKWOOD GARDENING CLUB

Garden Group has been inactive for the last couple of months. In December we are having a BBQ & will be finalising activities planned for 2018.

I have been amazed at the egg & bacon plants this Spring; everywhere you look are the golden pea flowers.

Hopefully we've seen the last of frosts for this year; though I believe February is the only month never to have seen a frost in Blackwood so it's good to feed your citrus every few weeks from now on.

New members are always welcome. We meet at the Merchant at 10 on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

~ Jane Howat

BLACKWOOFs



Flynn waiting to have some lunch with Gary, Max & Arty & Frances (Oct 15, 2015) Being told to sit down he got up on the chair & sat down! He did like sausage rolls.

Flynn is a Smithfield, a Collie-type herding dog. Large, shaggy of coat and floppy of ear. Introduced to Australia in colonial times, the dog had been a favourite at the Smithfield meat markets in London. These day Smithies are celebrated each year at the Campbell Town Show in Tasmania. Sounds like fun, but take an extra chair, you may need it.

THE CHURCH WAS ROCKING

(after another successful art show) with the sounds of Blackwood's own "Wild Bloom". Thanks to the Uniting Church for the use of this perfect venue.



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

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



THE BLACKWOOD FESTIVAL is done & dusted for another year. Once again there was a fantastic turn out, & even despite the very cold weather (especially overnight) a great time was had by all.

The diverse line up of performers all put in their very best & provided the highest quality music & entertainment over the course of the weekend. Some of our personal highlights were Foghorn Stringband's excellent set on the Friday night in the marquee & of course the big dance finale on Sunday.

It was a fantastic family atmosphere with festival attendees ranging in age from babies to octogenarians! It was also great to see so many Blackwoodians taking advantage of the discount tickets for locals.

The festival organisers would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who helped to make the festival happen this year, but in particular we would like to thank; the amazing performers, MCs & volunteers who really make the event what it is; Jinny, Caroline from CERT who did an absolutely brilliant job putting the market together - what a great vibe (not to mention yummy food & drink!) it added to the festival! Brendan Hehir for the gorgeous signs & mulled wine! Kathryn Berrill - we all know what a bus-driving legend Kathy is! Judy Oleinikov & the Quebec Fiddle Weekend who ran their event alongside ours & made it possible for David Boulanger & Simon Marion to perform at the festival - they were amazing! & of course we are so grateful to the SES team who did the front gate for us again - they make our lives so much easier by taking this on each year. We also would like to make special mention of Holgate's, Daylesford Cidery & Radio Springs Hotel who helped us out too - having the support of all of these groups & individuals is so important to us & immensely appreciated.

And of course we thank everyone who came along & supported the event - we hope you enjoyed it & had a great weekend!

~ Nicola Strating

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SOME History of Blackwood – Strange happenings in Blackwood



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

I had an unusual email from Bridie Laffey, she said “A friend of mine went cycling in Blackwood recently & had some strange things occur to him. We had a quick look online to see if anything stood out in regards to the history of the area & I discovered your book - “The Billy Pincombe

Tragedy— Murder, Madness & Mania”? Could you advise me on how I can purchase a copy? I work in the Humanities Department at St Patrick’s in Ballarat. Our library here might also be in touch for a copy of your book. The tale has piqued the interest of the Humanities Department & we have a plan for an excursion out there come cup weekend. It seems there are a few of us who need to see the trail for ourselves.

With his permission his story is - (Nathaniel Winfield is a Dales Creek resident). He was cycling along the ‘Morning Star Track’ & turned onto ‘Deadman’s Track’ in Blackwood. He said he was listening to music which he’d downloaded but it cut out. He saw some tape up around the trees which read CAUTION KEEP OUT. He ducked underneath it with his bike & headed down the gully & became suddenly overwhelmed with a feeling of fatigue & sadness. He went back up the gully but the tape was gone. Once he was back on the track he felt fine again & his music came back on but he was thoroughly spooked.

We looked it up online & further along Deadman’s Track were 2 graves with wooden crosses. The photo had been taken in 2008. He went back to find the crosses yesterday but couldn’t find either, because they aren’t there anymore or because he just couldn’t see them as it was getting dark.

Are you aware of anything significance occurring in that area? Attached are a couple of images but 1 mystery has been solved - the cross-

like shape on Deadman’s trail is an optical illusion! No wonder Nathaniel couldn’t find it when he returned. There is one vertical log in the foreground & one horizontal log lying in the background!

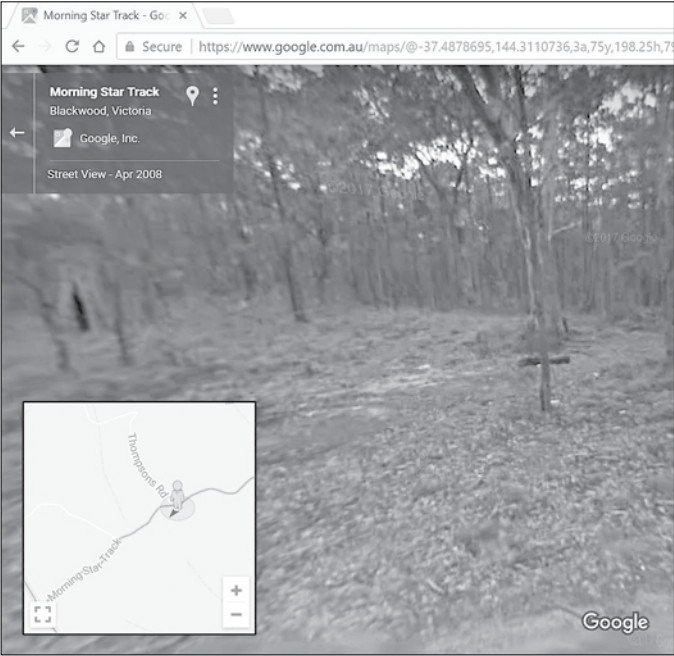
Anyway, we have a number of explanations for Nathaniel’s strange experience:

- a) Residual paranormal activity left behind after a traumatic event
- b) Infrasound - some kind of noise made at a lower in frequency that human hearing permits but nevertheless carrying a vibration that can alter one’s mood.
- c) Nathaniel’s imagination running away with him...!

I have looked in all my records & cannot find how ‘Deadman’s Track’ got its name. I wonder who died there & under what circumstances, & does a ghost haunt the area? Blackwood has so many hidden tales & mysteries still unsolved. If anyone has had a similar experience or knows any more we would be interested to know.

For those people who have enquired when my latest book – ‘The History & Pioneers of Blackwood’ will be published all I can say at this stage is that I missed out on the latest Public Records Grant but hope to apply for the next one to pay to have my book printed. If anyone knows anywhere else I can get a grant for the book I would be happy to hear from them.

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 – margoitchcock@bigpond.com



Another big turn out for the Blackwood Special Schools Super Ride



Oh dear. There’s always one!

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• CALENDAR OF EVENTS •

DECEMBER:

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Sat 2	10.30am	Blackwood Historical Society meeting	Blackwood Museum
Sun 3	10.00am	Cultivate, Cook & Consume - Extended Workshop	Garden Of St Erth
Sun 3	2.30pm	Irish Music Session	Pig & Whistle
Sun 10	11.00am	Summer Pruning & Espalier Training - Workshop	Garden Of St Erth
Sun 10	noon	Wombat Bookclub Xmas Lunch	Garden Of St Erth
Thur 14	7.30pm	Christmas Trivia Night	Pig & Whistle
Sat 16	9am-1pm	Trentham Farmers Market	Trentham
Sat 16	10.00am	Blackwood Gardening Club	The Merchant
Mon 25		Christmas Lunch	Pig & Whistle
Sun 31		NYE	Blackwood Pub

JANUARY:

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Sat 6	10.30am	Blackwood Historical Society meeting	Blackwood Museum
Sat 20	9am-1pm	Trentham Farmers Market	Trentham
Sat 14	10.00am	Blackwood Gardening Club	Blackwood Merchant
Sun 15	3.00am	Wombat Book Club	Blackwood Pub
Fri 26	all day	Australia Day Woodchop	Greendale Hotel

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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Trentham - 24th Midnight Mass (at Midnight)
- 25th 8.30am
Blackwood - 26th 10am St Stephens Day
Kyneton - 24th Vigil 6,30 Carols Mass 7pm
-25th 10.30am
Times for Reconciliation yet to be finalised

• WEEK NIGHT STUFF TO DO •

DAY	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Mon	5pm	Old Fart’s Night	Blackwood Pub
Tues	5pm	Tuesday Date Night	Radio Springs
Wed		Locals Night	Cosmo
Wed	5pm	Judder Bar Eats food truck	Lyonville Hall
Thur	6pm	Thai Night	Radio Springs
Fri	6pm	Pizza Night	Blackwood Merchant

Jindarup

Blackwood Antiques, Gifts, Post Office and Store



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This little store has so much to offer.

In this store old meets new.

Find an antique or vintage treasure.

Spoil yourself and purchase a gift for yourself or a gift for someone special.

The gift store offers soaps, hand creams, scarves, jewelry, crockery, glasses, bags,hats, souvenirs, tee-shirts, cards, maps and much more.

In store you will also find a very well stocked mini supermarket. If it’s not there, it will be in stock next time you ask. You can get all the essentials such as bread, milk, eggs, bacon, honey, butter, cream and so on.

The store also sells ice creams, lollies, chocolates, drinks, chips and other great snacks.

The latest edition to the shops fare is COFFEE!!!

Karon Farm Coffee Locally roasted in Gordon And what’s more you can drink it in Jinderup’s beautiful backyard and enjoy the views.



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PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS



WOOF: In this month's edition I would like to cover the topic of SNAKES again. Australia houses some of the most venomous snakes, some of which account for the majority of snake bites amongst our four legged companions. In the warmer months, snakes become much more active, & we as pet owners need to be cautious & safeguard our pets by remembering a few simple tips; avoid walking in long grassy areas & don't allow your pets to explore holes or dig under rocks, & don't allow your pet to approach a snake even it appears to be dead.

Our canine companions are inquisitive creatures & will often chase or attempt to kill snakes, while our feline friends possess that hunting & chasing instinct which exposes them to become susceptible to snake bites.

Envenomation from the toxins contained in snake venom is life-threatening & should always be treated as an emergency situation. If you do suspect that your pet has come into contact with a snake, it's vital that you immediately seek veterinary attention.

Some of most common snakes that threaten the lives of our pets here in Australia include the Eastern Brown, Red-bellied Black, Taipan & the Tiger Snake. It's important to note that snakes don't intentionally seek out our pets but due the instinctive nature of them both, incidences do occur & the best thing that we can do is be prepared & don't panic.

If you have sighted a snake in your yard, contact your local snake catcher. They will safely remove & relocate the snake into an environment that will avoid putting pet's lives in danger. Identifying a snake can be difficult so never assume it is non-venomous. By no means should you attempt to catch or approach the snake but if you can safely identify it by taking note of its colour & markings this will be help your veterinarian & also the snake catcher.

Remember, if you suspect that your pet has been in contact with any snake please contact your local vet immediately.

First Aid Tip for Snake Bites

This is an ***EMERGENCY*** situation, transport your pet to a vet immediately

- Bites are usually inflicted on or around the head, neck & front legs
- Take note of the colour & patterns on the snake
- Do NOT attempt to catch the live snake
- Snakes are protected & killing them is illegal

Signs that your pet has been bitten by a snake:

The area around the bite may swell rapidly

Area around the bite may be very painful

It may be hard to find the bite in some cases as there is no obvious swelling or or swelling may have caused the fang marks to disappear

Difficulty in breathing due to narrowing or blockage of your pet's airway

The affected pet can react in different ways. Symptoms can be: Dilated pupils | Weakness in hind legs | Trembling | Drooling | Pale gums | Depressed | Pace around anxiously | Vomiting | Panting | Collapse straight after being bitten & then act normally for a period of time | Become comatose

First Aid:

- Keep your pet calm & quiet
- Apply a pressure immobilisation bandage if possible
- Carry your pet to the car, do not allow your pet to walk if you can help it
- Transport your pet to a vet immediately

Always act proactively to get to a vet clinic even if you are not sure that your pet has been bitten. Time is of the essence in this life-threatening emergency. Hope you all have a safe snake-free summer & a Happy Christmas.

Hope you enjoyed this interesting topic

~ Woof for now, Seamus

Dear Pet Guru,



My pet tortoise is busy training for the traditional race between the Tortoise and the Hahir. Do you think the tortoise has an advantage because his low centre of gravity makes him unlikely to overturn when cornering at speed? Concerned of Castlemaine

Dear Concerned,
No I don't think that. And could I have \$1 each way on Brendan?
Pet Guru

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BLACKWOOD TIMES GOES TO ...



Clockwise from top left:

Melbourne Airport with Fish; see the replica David statue in Florence with Jeanne Tahini; Santiago during a slow stroll across Spain with Peter Daglish; Sicily's ancient temple with Jeanne & Philip; the southern rim of the Grand Canyon in USA state of Arizona with Keith & Karyn Osborne; the Parthenon in Greece with Philip Batty & the famous Red Dog Saloon in Juneau Alaska with Keith & Karyn.





TRENTHAM ART & CRAFT SHOW

2018

Thurs 29 March - Mon 2 April

Closing date for entry applications: Fri 16 March

Opening & presentation of awards:
Thurs 29 March: 7.30pm (all welcome)

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

General Enquiries:
Jill McCallum 0403650811 jillmccallum@live.com

Entry Enquiries:
Bette McLaren 54241127 mclarenjr@bigpond.com
Jacinta Burke 0418542411 jacinta@jacintaburke.com.au

GREENDALE COUNTRY PUB

Pizza: Wed, Thurs, Fri 6-8pm & Sun noon-8pm
Tues: Locals Slab Draw in Bar & Parma and Pasta \$14
Friday: Happy Hour 5-7, \$3 POTS, Bar Nibbles & Meat Raffle
Wed - Sun: Full Menu Dinner
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FROM THE SHIRE'S DESK ...

FORGET THE HEADLINES & DEAL WITH THE FACTS

Moorabool Shire Council is advocating to the State Government to provide funding for a business case looking at key aspects of the Ballarat rail line.

Moorabool Mayor Cr Paul Tatchell & CEO Rob Croxford are joining other members of the Ballarat Rail Action Committee (BRAC) in ensuring the Ballarat Rail upgrades remain front & centre in politicians minds. "The group has a good idea of the needs & challenges along the line, & we have identified the need for a business case for proposed future upgrades, on top of the \$513 million works that are currently underway," Cr Tatchell said. "We would be looking at things such as the electrification to Melton & potentially Bacchus Marsh, quadruple tracks for V/Line & metro trains, & park & ride options at Warrenheip or Wallace."

"At the moment, a submission is being made to the 2018/19 State Budget for a detailed business case on electrification to Melton. "This business case will not only look at the possibility of electrification to Bacchus Marsh/Rowsley but implications for the whole line, & the measures needed to cope with growth issues in these areas.

"The metro tunnel needs to be completed in 2024 before electrification will be effective, but planning for this does need to start now.

"We don't want to get caught up in the 59 minute train talk at the moment. What we need is a commitment from the State Government for this business case so the future of the line can be developed appropriately & with the best outcomes for our growing communities," Cr Tatchell said.

Moorabool Shire Council will work closely with BRAC over the coming months to develop advocacy collateral to support their push to the State Government.

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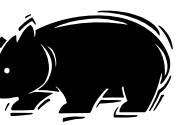
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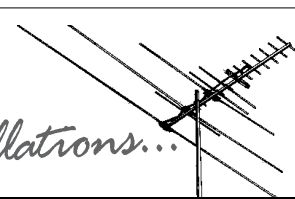
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We wish you a wonderful holiday season, and a joyous new year.

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