

ABOVE: Flying axes & quiet concentration at the Easter Woodchop Carnival



LEFT: Right royally regaled to within an inch of their lives, newly-crowned monarchs Sue & Daz take the opportunity of a quiet sit down in the royal carriage during the Easter Parade.

Photos Peter Donnelly

INSIDE:

Loads & loads of photos:

p3, 4, 5, 7, 13, 14

Community Updates: p6-7

History of Blackwood Pub: p15

Beyond Blackwood: p 18-21



EDITOR’S THOUGHTS...

Wow what a busy Easter we’ve had this year! This issue a bit late out because we wanted to get in all the Easter festivities & my what a lot of photos we have for you to enjoy.

On Friday night Blackwood’s new King & Queen were announced, our own publican, Darren Lynch & his capable helper, Sue Anderson, what a pair they made, meeting & greeting at the carnival.

I reckon this year’s carnival was one of the best yet with great activities for the young & old, there was something for everyone. Congratulations team.

We know how Blackwoodians love to have fun so, no rest for the wicked, the Pub’s 150th celebration team are well & truly in the thick of organising a brilliant street bash. They’ve even secured a local radio station to broadcast the event live! Applications for quality stalls are closing mid April so get your application in quickly - forms are at https://theblackwoodtimes.com.au/stallholders-wanted-hotel-fair-may-19/. You can read Margot Hichcock’s history of the pub on p15. Does anyone have any old photos of the pub?



MEMBER 2018

On p11 you can read about a campaign to save the Golden Duke mine’s boiler & bring it home.

Thank you to Peter Donnelly for some outstanding photos we have in this issue.

Until next time ...

~ 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	Peter Donnelly, 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

THE PUBS 150TH BASH

Calling all makers & art & craftspeople to join us at the street fair during the Blackwood Hotel & Community 150th Celebrations!

When: Saturday, May 19, 2018

Where: The Blackwood Hotel & surrounding streets

Time: 11:00am – 6:00pm

COST: 3x3m stall @\$30 for the day (by application & prepaid)

Birthday celebrations will have something for every age including:

- CUB’s Carlton Clydesdales wagon rides
- Jumping Castle
- Bucking Bronco for those wanting a little adventure!
- Fairy floss
- Bushranger histories & talks
- Stalls of crafts, goodies & food
- Hcal Society displays
- Ghosts! Learn the paranormal history of the Pub & it’s “not-so-alive” residents...
- Gold Panning
- Come & have a yarn – hear from past publicans & the stories they have to tell
- Live music all day
- Children’s activities
- Wildlife display & MORE!

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Blackwood Mineral Springs Reserve

14th April 2018 | 2pm-4pm

<https://www.kyibooking.com/111111> | Tickets \$15 per adult & \$10 per child

Visit Blackwood Mineral Springs Holiday Parks Facebook page for more information

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)
Jan '18	*	50	4.2	41	29.1	10.5	18.6
Feb '18	*	54	5.1	36.2	26.6	9.6	17.3



The past 2 months were a renovator’s delight when the locals watched the make-over for the Blackwood Merchant (top)& re-roofing of the pub (bottom)



ABOVE: Goldpanning Championships #1

RIGHT COLUMN: Dee’s 50th celebrations descended into mayhem with the arrival of a gang of marauding vikings who set about plundering her party supplies..

*TOTAL RAINFALL for January and February was 105.7mm. Most rainfall occurred in January.

“IT IS unfortunate that both Blackwood and Trentham BOM’s are no longer operational. The table figures are ones that I recorded but as I cannot determine rainfall daily it becomes uncertain as to what month a rain event occurred. I wonder if some Blackwood resident is more able to do a daily rainfall measurement?”

~ by Don Owen


FROM THE ED: Is there anyone in the community who is interested in taking this on?





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Blackwood Action Group (BAG)

see article p8 regarding a residents BLSP experience.

Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management

The Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management has been through a relatively busy period over the last couple of months. The design of the septic system for the caravan park & mineral springs has been finalised & the construction is currently out to tender with the hope that the works will be finished by June 30. It has been a challenge to design a system taking into account the layout of the park. The agreed system will adequately cope with demand into the future & it will provide a minimum disturbance to the current layout of the park. The Moorabool Shire is currently inspecting all halls in the municipality to ascertain their suitability to purpose & their overall condition. In other words are all halls still viable in relation to use. The inspection of the Blackwood hall took place a few weeks ago & a report has been prepared by the relevant council officer. Generally speaking the report was very good taking into account the ongoing problem of expansion & contraction of the new floor & some regular maintenance that requires attention. The committee has been reviewing the maintenance of the hall & works that need undertaking as soon as possible include re-puttying of a number of windows, rotting doors to be replaced, external painting & some outside drainage works. These are in addition to a solution to the floor problem. The committee is also preparing a list of tradespeople who are willing to tender for maintenance & capital works. The preference is obviously to use, where possible, local people.

~ Dave White

Blackwood Caravan Park

For bookings & information please call Brad & Jenni on 53686539.

~ Thanks Brad & Jenni

Blackwood CERT

Once again, the Blackwood Community Emergency Response Team has been busy over the last few months with frequent medical emergencies & training commitments. We have attended multiple road accidents including at the recent Eureka Car Rally in the Wombat Forest. Both the Blackwood CFA & CERT supported at the scene to ensure patient safety & wellbeing.

You may have noticed that in recent weeks CERT have been encouraging community members to join our team. Posters have been displayed, letter drops have occurred & Facebook has saturated with messages. These efforts culminated in a CERT information session at the Blackwood CFA on the March 17. Team members spoke about the responsibilities & benefits of being in the team & our Ambulance Victoria Team Manager shared his experiences. The event was a success with six people leaving with an application pack. In spite of this success, if you missed the information session & would still like to join us, please phone Margaret on 0427 344 055. However, be aware that the next training program begins in May, so applications need to be in soon.

Although with the current weather we wouldn't know it, we are in autumn. This means we have to start thinking about booking in to have an influenza vaccination. All are encouraged to have one. Last year Australia experienced its worst flu season in many years. Make sure you are protected this year.

Finally the team would like to thank the Blackwood CFA for their ongoing support. The CFA regularly welcome us to their station for our training sessions & other events. CERT really appreciate the opportunity to use their facilities.

~ Margaret McCarthy, CERT Team Leader, 0427 344 055

Fund-raising is going well this year. On p19 see a photos of responders thanking Trentham Lions Club for their very generous donation & we also thank Progress for the opportunity to share profits from the sale of hotdogs at the carnival this year. We're co-ordinating the market stalls at the pub's 150th celebrations on May 19. Do you know anyone who could have a stall? <https://theblackwoodtimes.com.au/stallholders-wanted-hotel-fair-may-19/>.

If you would like to support our CERT but have an allergy to meetings, becoming a friend of CERT (helping with fundraising etc) might be just the medicine ... read more here <https://theblackwoodtimes.com.au/friends-of-cert/>

~ Jinny Coyle (president)

Blackwood Barry's Reef Landcare

The Blackwood Barrys Reef Landcare Group have been meeting every 2nd month. We will continue to hold semi-regular community weeding days (targeting mainly Broome & Gorse) & we encourage everyone to join in! This is a great way to help look after our local natural environment as well as learning about noxious weeds & native plants on your own properties.

In addition to the weeding days, I have been propagating local native plants from seed collected around the area. One of these species is locally rare Themeda triandra (Kangaroo Grass) that was collected from a remnant patch at The Blackwood Cemetery. We hope to plant some of these species around town to increase biodiversity & showcase the beauty of our local plants.

Our next Landcare meeting will be held at The Blackwood Pub on Sunday April 22 at 6.30pm. New members welcome!

~ Cat Moser

Blackwood Historical Society

The historical society has had a busy month. We've put up a new storage shed at the stables & our next print run of Simmons Reef book has been completed. Thanks to all who helped.

Congratulations to Aline Thompson from Melbourne & origin from Barry's Reef who was awarded the Order of Australia for scouting. She is a great asset to the society, making the trip from Melbourne for each meeting. A very well-deserved award.

~ Elizabeth Hall, Secretary

Blackwood Progress Association

Hello everyone,
Blackwood Progress are working very hard to make this years Easter Parade, Carnival & Woodchop a great success. To each & everyone who has been working so hard thank you so much without your input we would not be able to have such a great event.

The Blackwood Big Ideas project applications have closed & it has been received with great enthusiasm. The committee will be make a decision in early April. Thank you to everyone who submitted an idea, & goodluck.

Scott O'Hara & Daniel Carlson had a wonderful day with the ART SHOW they hosted, we wish them every success in the future, Blackwood Progress assisted with a \$500.00 donation.

The sausage sizzle in February was very successful, lots of people chatting & meeting & eating Brett & Terri's great cooking. Bruce & Brett were also selling t-shirts & stubby holders which were well accepted.

If you would like to come & join us the committee meet 2nd Monday monthly at the Blackwood Hall at 7.00 pm. Everyone is very welcome.

Be sure to come up to the main drag of Blackwood on April 22 for a hotdog & chat (community fund raiser).

~ Bev Butler, Secretary

Blackwood Senior Citizens

I have a huge apology to make to our May Burling. I omitted to put

that May is our Vice President, so sorry May. We had a wonderful day at the Werribee Zoo. Thank you to all who came along & supported our bus trip. Over the last few months we have had a few of our members not well & are very happy to have them back (Joan & Harry, George, Wendy & Hank. Happy Birthday to Betty, Bev Bennett, Barb Sweet, & our wonderful cook, Jen, we hope you had a wonderful day celebrating with family & friends. We hope all will be happy & safe till next time.

~ 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 CFA. 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.



Above: CERT responder Kathie Strmota kept busy at the Easter Carnival showing children how they use their equipment.



Goldpanning Championships #2



LEFT: : CERT responder Jan Purchase demonstrates the equipment stored in the back of the CERT vehicle

ABOVE: Newest CERT responder Jan Purchase meets founding CERT team member Wendy Bridgeman at the CERT information session last month while Kath Berrill chats in the background.

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BUILDING IN BLACKWOOD

After an extensive search for affordable land west of Melbourne, we came across Blackwood in May 2016 & fell in love with the town & its sense of community. We were aware through reading The Blackwood Times that not much had happened with new builds for quite some time, due to the restrictions associated with bushfire threat & the lack of a town septic system in a water catchment area. However, we were given hope by the introduction of the Blackwood Localised Septic Program (BLSP) that was commencing later that year.

For our own peace of mind, the first step was to call bushfire planning consultant, Kevin Hazell, to implement a 'desktop' inspection of some properties, which resulted in one clear winner from a safety perspective. Kevin then spoke to the CFA prior to meeting us on the half-acre block to confirm his BAL29 assessment & create a pre-purchase BMO report. We also engaged an Environmental Engineer to supply a desktop Land Capability Assessment (LCA) to ensure we were likely to pass the wastewater requirements for our modest two-bedroom home. As this LCA did not include a physical inspection of the land, I contacted James Maw, who was newly appointed as head of the BLSP, to talk through our plans. James knew the block & was able to instil confidence that he could help us get over the line.

We decided to purchase the land in October 2016, with settlement going through in early February 2017. James was quick to involve us in the BLSP & we were appointed a Town Planner to create a Planning Feasibility Assessment. Several months later, the assessment was positive & the program instigated a full LCA. This determined we would need a secondary treatment plant for wastewater & an irrigation field of 500 square meters due to the soil conditions & average rainfall.

In early May, James invited us to attend a pre-planning meeting for our development at the Moorabool Shire offices. All of the relevant council planning & waterboard authorities were present & we left feeling confident that all major hurdles were achievable. It took a further six months to finalise our building plans with Bond Homes in Ballarat, & almost a year to the day after deciding to purchase the land, our Planning Application was submitted to Council.

Part of this application required the mapping of all native vegetation on the block & preparing a statement as to which trees needed to be removed or lopped. We completed DELWP's online assessment ourselves, taking plenty of photos & producing a detailed site map. Despite all of our due diligence, not at any stage did we pick up, or were told, that there were costs involved in the removal of this vegetation. It was not until a month later, when we received an approval letter from DELWP, that we realised we were required to purchase Native Vegetation Offset Credits. We immediately 'Googled' what this meant & discovered we needed to engage an 'offset broker' to locate a landowner to plant & manage the trees on our behalf. Three separate quotes all came in at about \$6,000 to offset the removal of 8 small trees. Understanding the need for these offsets, but annoyed that we had not been made aware of this significant expense, we contacted DELWP for more information & a review of our application to ensure our 'untrained' submission was accurate. We learnt from DELWP that weeks after we made our submission the department had updated the whole process to ensure land owners were made aware of the associated costs early on in the planning process & that more detailed data was now required, including actually measuring the girth of the trees. DELWP was very helpful & understanding of our situation & after two months of dialogue has allowed us to resubmit our plans under the new, improved system. We now await the new assessment.

We had hoped to be in by Christmas this year, with our factory build home only taking 8 to 12 weeks to build & truck to site. However, our builder has informed us that the Section 173 Agreement, which is a legally binding agreement between the responsible authority & landowner that sets out conditions or restrictions on the use of the development, can take up to six months to be organised. In our situation, the Section 173 is an agreement between Western Water, the Council & us in relation to the wastewater treatment upkeep & servicing.

Watch this space!

~ Travis Trewin & Melissa Morrow



BLACKWOOD CROWN RESERVES COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Invites tradespeople to register with the committee for the purpose of, when required, to provide quotations for maintenance and other capital works on the various properties the committee manages.

Trades are as follows;
BUILDERS/CARPENTERS
PLUMBERS
ELECTRICIANS
PAINTERS
EARTHMOVING
HANDYPERSONS
OTHER RELEVANT TRADES

Persons registering must provide the following
ABN & TRADE REGISTRATION NUMBER (if applicable)
Where applicable those registering must be willing to supply (where applicable) Certificates of Compliance. All works must be undertaken within relevant regulations and with relevant permits.
Registrations must be received by the 30th April and sent to the committee c/o Post Office Box 241 Blackwood 3458

The purpose of this registration process is to provide opportunities to ensure, where possible, work is undertaken by local tradespeople.

With the growth of young families in town, some of our existing sporting facilities are in desperate need of upgrade & new facilities need to be considered; such as exercise equipment to compliment the oval's walking track.

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On the road with the Blackwood Motorcycle group.

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THE BLACKWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HOSTING a BBQ AT THE TENNIS COURTS RECREATION ROAD ON SUNDAY 29th APRIL COMMENCING AT 11.00AM

The purpose of this is two fold:
1. A THANK YOU FOR THE VOLUNTEERS AT THE EASTER CARNIVAL
2. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE RENOVATION OF THE TENNIS COURTS INCLUDING POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF A NETBALL COURTS AND LIGHTING

FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE ASSOCIATION - BYO DRINKS
To assist with catering it would be appreciated if you could phone David White (0418 372203) regarding your attendance.

Children most welcome. Bring your rackets!





NATURAL RHYTHM

Move with the Rhythm 4: Optimum Timing

by Kathie Strmota



Circadian rhythms change your body's metabolic landscape over the day, & doing your physical activities at times that suit its natural rhythm can make the activity easier, improve performance, keep your body-clock in sync, & reduce body-stress & potential damage.

In the early morning after waking, you're still 'coming back' after nightly dream-journeys. This calls for body-attention & a quiet mental space to help you fully ground your consciousness. Take a gentle approach to morning routines, & engage in meditative physical activities which involve the legs & feet, like walking, stretching or yoga, & tai-chi.

Once grounded, your body is ready for general physical activity over the morning, but this is a time when mental clarity & focus are optimised. I'd use this time for challenging brain-work & leave physical work for later, with the exception of activities involving complex brain-muscle communication. While the brain is most 'switched on', schedule physical activities which require attention to detail (like picking & packing customer orders), detailed co-ordination (like creating a dance routine), or delicate motor control (like crafting jewellery).

In the middle of the day, energy is focused at the heart, so use your lunch break for some pleasurable, social physical activity, with a walk in the park (smell the flowers) or a bike ride (enjoy the sights), or some group fun kicking a ball around (be silly & laugh).

By afternoon, the brain has pretty much 'left the building', so schedule your general manual tasks now, & get into some housework or yard-work. If you're at the office, file paperwork, clean your cubicle, or kick the printer! If you're a tradie, book routine uncomplicated jobs for the afternoon. If you're a labourer, this is the time for your heavy grunt-work.

In the late afternoon, your body is optimised for serious physical exertion, with high core body temperature, peaking cardiovascular efficiency, & muscles at their highest potential for strength & speed. Schedule your heavy exercise work-out at this time, to apply the most body-effort with the least body-stress. In fact, many athletes have reported their best performances at this time. You can also get into some fun physical leisure activities ...take the kids for a swim after school, play a round of golf, or do a dance class.

A stimulating, vigorous physical interlude at the end of the working day allows you to release the day's tension & drama, relaxes you for the evening wind-down, & sets you up for a wonderfully nourishing sleep.

Avoid both challenging brain-work & serious physical exertion in the last

4-6 hours before bed. As with early morning, quiet meditative activities are best for the evening. Do some gentle stretching or take a walk & watch the sunset. This is also a good time for restful manual creative activities, like crafting a model aeroplane, doing embroidery, painting or colouring, or even repairing a gadget. The aim now is to give your body the freedom to make necessary metabolic shifts which optimise its vital sleep-time activities of repair & regeneration.

This describes an ideal physical-rhythm day, but the body is quite adaptable when it comes to movement timing. If you can't schedule a regular activity at the ideal time, then choose the best time for you, & do it at roughly the same time-of-day, each time. Although your body may not naturally 'be ready' for the activity at your chosen time, it will gradually adapt to some degree, & become 'more ready' over time. Body movement serves as a circadian trigger, so consistent activity timing can help maintain stable metabolic rhythms even when the timing itself isn't perfect.



Maternal and Child Health

Pop Up and Play Session

Tuesday 10 April
10am to 12pm

Blackwood Sports & Recreation Reserve
31 Recreation Reserve Rd, Blackwood VIC 3458

Come and join us for some fun activities for children, and meet some of the Moorabool Shire Council Early Years team.

Why not make it a day and bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at the nearby springs afterwards?

Everyone welcome. Please note: all children must be accompanied by an adult.
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CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE GOLDEN DUKE'S BOILER

LEFT: Jess & Wayne are raising funds to save the Golden Duke's boiler from the scrapyards. Blackwood Progress & Crown Reserves are currently helping to get this piece of Blackwood history installed on permanent display. Jess has also approached Moorabool Shire, Mary-Anne Thomas & Catherine King for support.

Call Jess (0447 988 999) if you'd like to be involved in this important project.



Goldpanning Championships #3

CATHERINE KING MP
Federal Member for Ballarat

On Saturday May 19th my mobile office will be in Blackwood on Martin Street from 11.15am - 12.00pm

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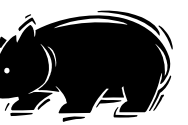
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To be included in our next publication please email us information, posters & articles by the nominated deadlines on page 2.

BLACKWOOD GARDENING CLUB

It's been a tough, dry summer for our gardens, fortunately mine is well established and heavy mulching really has helped keep the roots cool to hold in the moisture. Autumn is having a slow start, hopefully we'll see some vibrant colours as the night temperatures drop. I hope you've been busy preparing your vegetable gardens and there is still time to sow winter crops. For those of you who are thinking of joining our group, our Saturday has changed to the 2nd of the month and we meet at the Merchant at 10am to have a coffee before our activity for the day. Look for the poster outside the P.O. for upcoming plans.

~ Jane Howat

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~ Jinny Coyle

• WELCOME TO PLANET EARTH, YOUNG BABES. FIRST STOP, BLACKWOOD •



Clockwise from top left we have: Elea, born to Stephanie & Lee (in the middle of renovating their new home at Golden Point). The little girl's name came to Stephanie in a dream 5 years ago, each letter being laid down as a card.

Luke & Millie Laux, along with Peter (the proudest grandad in Barrys Reef) show off newborns India & Harriet at the carnival.

Number 4 for Jess & Wayne! Little Aubree (the only name mum & dad could agree on) has arrived to join Jordan, Milly & Morgyn.

Luka Freddie Ludewig attended Saturday's Carnival in Mum's tummy, arriving later that evening. Congratulations to Zamira & Jaikie, as well as little Zoe.

Vivien (meaning lively) is a name that suits this one. Born to Sarah & Dave late December, Vivien is the oldest of this crop & already joining Mum in her late-shift at Bacchus Marsh Library. Sarah would like to get a casual bush kinder going sometime down the track. Interested? Give her a bell, 0401 346740.

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Tricks, frocks & cheery looks, thanks to our band of Blackwood & their friends at the carnival's dog show.

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SOME EARLY HISTORY OF THE BLACKWOOD HOTEL



Compiled by Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society. January 2018

The present Blackwood Hotel stands on land, originally known as Grimes corner on Allotment 1, Section C on the corner of Martin Street & Golden Point Road, Red Hill. The land was bought for Mary Grimes on October 20 1859 for £6.10. Making it the first block of land granted on the Blackwood Goldfield at the first sale of Government land in the area. Bridget Cruise bought the block of land in

November 1867, & with a series of big mortgages on this & other blocks, she built up the 'Family Hotel'.

Bridget Cruise had lost her husband, Joseph Cruise when he died in April 1867. Joseph Cruise had bought the Victoria Hotel in Red Hill (Blackwood) in 1864, which burnt down in December 1867. When this disaster struck Bridget lost all her possessions & her livelihood. Bridget was left with four young children, having lost three other children, whose deaths are some of the earliest tombstones found in the Blackwood Cemetery.

The Bacchus Marsh Express paper of March 21, 1868 states that a handsome hotel is being erected for Mrs Cruise of Red Hill, (Blackwood) with the contractor being Mr Ross & the painting etc. by Mr Henry Greig of Blackwood. Mrs Cruise's Family Hotel commenced business with an opening ball on September 4. 1868 (making the hotel 140 years old this September).

In 1877 the 'Family' Hotel was sold to Joshua Vines & John McPhee with John Cann as hotel keeper. The Hotel was a booking office for the Cobb & Co coaches & the main doors into the public bar still have this sign on them today. In 1887 there was known to be a coach shed & stables behind the hotel, & renovations some years ago unearthed some old horse-shoes. Also found under the hotel was a room used by a servant, & a room which was kept as a temporary morgue should a person die accidentally & there had to be an inquest. The body was kept in this room until the magistrate could be sent for from Bacchus Marsh & an inquest held.

In 1889 the hotel was sold to John Cann & became known as John Cann's Family Hotel. In the late 1890's the verandah which still surrounds the hotel was added. John Cann died in February 1895 at 51 yrs of age, & his widow Rebecca Cann took over as hotel keeper holding the licence until 1907 when she handed it over to her son John William (Bill) Cann.

The Cann family then sold the hotel in 1916 to the Fitzgerald's Brewing Co. Fitzgerald's was to become the Castlemaine Brewing Company. Carlton & United Breweries bought the hotel in 1920 & then sold it to Cyril C Jones in 1927. The hotel was then known as the 'Blackwood Hotel'. Cyril Jones was the longest owner, having owned the 'Blackwood Hotel' for

50 years, until he sold it to George & Margaret Stockdale in 1977. The Stockdale family with their daughter Sandra & son Ron Stockdale ran the hotel & renovated the interior as you see it today in keeping with the past. The Stockdale family were the licensees until 1987. George & Margaret Stockdale sold the hotel in 1995 to Ken & Anne Cooke. There have been many owners & Publicans of the Blackwood Hotel, & licensees, one recent one was Peter Olivieri & his business partner Lyn Wright, & the present licensee, Darren Lynch.

The Hotel today still provides good meals, some of the best warm fires in winter in the bar & a cosy corner in the dining room. Great views & a nice homely atmosphere, where good company & drinks are served night & day. Old photos on the walls provide some history in one of the oldest buildings still standing in Blackwood.

Researched by Margot Hitchcock from her forthcoming book 'The History & Pioneers of Blackwood', hopefully to be published soon. Other books published by Margot Hitchcock – "Aspects of Early Blackwood", "Some History of Simmons Reef, Blackwood" & "The Billy Pincombe Tragedy". See – www.blackwoodpublishing.com For help with information on Blackwood ancestors contact Margot Hitchcock – email – margothitchcock@bigpond.com

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HEARTFELT THANKS

I would like to say thankyou to the many people who took the time to write messages in Christmas cards for military & emergency services patients in Heidelberg repatriation hospital over Christmas.

Thank you to the people who donated their gifts from music CD's & honey to chocolate & socks, socks & more socks & much more. It was a pretty big effort to organise & fund, etc., etc., Christmas cards & presents for the military & emergency services patients in Heidelberg repatriation hospital ward 17. The response from caring people almost doubled last year's efforts. I am glad to say there were no patients at all admitted today over Christmas however that doesn't mean there aren't hundreds trying to get help at Christmas. The parcels & foods & all other gifts donated were given to patients as they arrived during the week. The staff left the cards set up for patients when they arrived. Thanks Matthew Blunt (soldier retired) for getting up early & helping today & making the Para cord jigs.

To all the people who cared enough to help make this possible from schools & school children & small businesses & social groups & the single mum who made 20 hampers & Tai Chi participants to the disabled & Aussie rules football clubs & more.

You've all made a positive difference in the lives of soldiers & emergency services patients. The effects may not be obvious straight away, but be assured they will be appreciated. You've all let people who do extraordinary jobs protecting others know that when they need help themselves that the general public do remember & care. Thank you.

~ Clint Stretton

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• CALENDAR OF EVENTS •

APRIL:

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Sun 8		Myrniong Car Sprint	Myrniong
Sun 15	3-5pm	Wombies Bookclub	Pub
Sat 14	10-12	Gardening Club	Merchant
Sun 22	11-	Progress Hotdog stall	Martin St
Sun 29	11am-	Progress BBQ	Tennis Courts

MAY:

Sat 19	11-5pm	Blackwood Pub 150th	Martin St
Sat 12	10-12	Gardening Club	Merchant
Sun 20	3-5pm	Wombies Bookclub	Pub
Sun 20	11-	Progress Sausage Sizzle	Martin St

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

• 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	5pm	Judder Bar Eats food truck	T/tham Railway Station
Fri	6pm	Pizza Night	Blackwood Merchant

WOMBAT BOOK CLUB

THE CLAN OF THE CAVE BEAR by Jean M. Auel

The first book in the Earth's Children book series which speculates on the possibilities of interactions between Neanderthal & modern Cro-Magnon humans.

Terri: I loved this imaginative read set in pre-historic times. It speculates on how Neanderthal clans may have lived off the land in great detail, the possible way their brains were wired to have different thought processes to our own. The character Ayla who is orphaned & a Cro-Magnon is inspirational in the way she adapts to live with the clan & her grit & determination at times brought tears to my eyes while reading on the train. I recommend this book & look forward to seeking out the next book in the series.

5 wombats

HOWARDS END by E. M. Forster

First published in 1910, about social conventions, codes of conduct & relationships in turn-of-the-century England. **Terri:** I like English history novels & this was no exception. Set in the early 1900's it explores the different classes of rich & poor, forward thinking & those based on tradition. I did find the language challenging & was quite happy to learn that our reading coincided with the mini series being aired on TV. Reading the book at the same time as watching the show gave greater depth to scenes where I got an insight into what those "looks" meant & equally watching the show gave context to the reading.

3 wombats.

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PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS



WOOF: At Easter with all that yummy chocolate is a great time to remember chocolate & dogs don't mix!. Chocolate contains theobromine & caffeine, which in larger amounts is especially dangerous because pets can't break it down & eliminate it the same way humans can.

It can build up to toxic concentrations in all animals that ingest too much chocolate & this can cause multi-organ disease &

failure if not treated properly. Of all pets, dogs & cats are mostly prone to the effects of chocolate & can be detrimental to their health.

What symptoms will I see?

Symptoms will occur from 4 to 24 hours after your pet has eaten chocolate & will vary depending on the amount of chocolate (theobromine) your dog has eaten.

Theobromine mainly affects the heart, central nervous system & kidneys. "Theobromine is a toxin that can be linked to hyperactivity. [Affected pets] can have tremors, seizure, vomiting & diarrhoea. It can be fatal in some circumstances. If they eat chocolate, then you need to take them immediately to the vet, so that we can either assess them – if they're stable & then induce vomiting."

If your dog or cat has eaten chocolate, you may also see:

- Rapid breathing
- Muscle tension, incoordination
- Increased heart rate
- Blood in vomit.

You should not give any chocolate to your pet, though sometimes pets can obtain chocolate without you knowing. In the order of theobromine toxicity & chocolate consumption, here's a list from worst to least: is

- Baking chocolate (worst)
- Dark chocolate
- Milk chocolate
- White chocolate (least).

Treatment: There is no antidote for theobromine poisoning. In most cases your vet will make your dog vomit. They may wash out the stomach & feed activated charcoal, which will absorb any theobromine left in the intestines. Other treatments will depend on the signs your dog is showing. They may need intravenous fluids (a drip), medication to control heart rate, blood pressure & seizure activity. Chocolate ingestion may also indicate that it might not just be theobromine that's causing issues. There are also a whole lot of other ingredients in chocolate your pet could be reacting to, & these could affect allergies or genetic differences in some breeds.

With prompt intervention & treatment, even in dogs that have eaten large amounts of chocolate, the prognosis for a poisoned dog is usually good.

If you are concerned that your pet may have consumed chocolate, contact your nearest vet for treatment to discuss amount ,type & time consumed.

~ Woof for now, Seamus

DEAR EDITOR

Please slow down! As a part-time resident I am stunned at the speed & arrogance of the drivers around the narrow, sometime dirt roads around town! Jesus, what's the hurry! Every time I come to Blackwood I see more and more road kill, let's protect the local wildlife & local families. Name withheld due to fear of reprisals.

~ name withheld



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Dear Pet Guru,

I am a camel dealer and I have one camel who looks just like Yasser Arafat. Shall I travel the world with him and charge people to see him?

- Achmed, Achmed Used Camels, Ramallah



Dear Achmed,
I'm sorry to rain on your parade but I must tell you that all camels look like Yasser Arafat and vice versa, but good luck to you both.

Pet Guru

In fairness to other leaders bogged down in the Middle East dispute c.1970, the Pet Guru's Basset Hound friends have agreed to claim Golda Meir as one of theirs. Not one animal yet has confessed to looking like Richard Nixon. (Ed)



Goldpanning Championships #4

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2018

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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

As the Art Show continues to grow, they really need more committee members (there are only 4 on the committee & 1 about to retire). Contact Bette on 5424 1127

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SPLENDIDLY SPUDTASTIC

Trentham is gearing up to host more than 6000 visitors at its 11th annual Spudfest on May 5. The event celebrates the not so humble spud - 20 gourmet varieties are grown locally - & the town's 160-year potato growing heritage.

The event, created to help put the then down-on-its-uppers town, has outgrown its traditional base in Trentham's Quarry Street Reserve on the western edge of the town centre.

Increasing visitor numbers, including a growing stream of weekend & B&B visitors from Melbourne, have seen Spudfest expand from Quarry Street Reserve to become a whole-of-town festival also taking in High, Market & Victoria Streets & the historic Railway Station. Tourists have reported in previous year's Spudfest visitor surveys that they love Spudfest but also want to see the rest of the village & other nearby attractions, including Blackwood, during their trip to the potato-themed festival. The event has become so well-known that it is now publicised by Melbourne & national media which is, in turn, seeing tourist numbers kick up.

The not-so-humble spud is star of the Spudfest show, via farmer sales of traditional local varieties that actually taste like potatoes, but also via spud-flavoured foods to eat & cooking demonstrations.

But there are plenty of other typical village fair attractions, including live music, stalls, horse-drawn wagon rides & history displays, to name just a few.

A tractor pull in the railyards was also very successful last year & attracted the attention of Melbourne TV news coverage. Spudfest's success is a tribute to a small army of current & former local volunteers, both in the lead-up planning that starts months out, & during the set up, operation & then break down of the festival itself.

~ Peter J Young

HARVEST FESTIVAL 2018

The keen gardeners of Lyonville are at it again producing the annual Lyonville Harvest Festival which will take place on Saturday April 7 from 11am - 3pm at the Lyonville Community Hall in Bremner Ave, Lyonville.

The Lyonville Harvest Festival celebrates the gardens, produce & hard-working gardeners of the local towns & hamlets of the Central Highlands with displays of delicious produce, flowers & preserves.

As well as seeing the wonderful produce grown by local gardeners this year, there are some great prizes on offer including:

1. Diggers Club have donated, 2 x couple garden entries (worth \$20), 1 workshop entry (worth \$49) & 2 pairs of gloves.
2. Jack Marshall at Frogmore Gardens & has kindly donated 4 x couple entries to their open garden (worth \$20)
3. Kids prizes

Lyonville local, & member of the Harvest Festival organizing committee, Vicki Jackson said, "This summer has been a tricky growing season but we're looking forward to seeing what our local (and not so local) gardeners are going to bring to the harvest festival this year."

Anyone from the region is welcome to bring along their Autumn harvest. There are 5 prize winning competition categories (competition entry fee \$2 per entry):

1. Best novelty vegetable (for kids only)
2. Bountiful basket
3. Supersized vegetable
4. Flower posy
5. Best jam or jelly from home grown or foraged fruits

You can also bring along your excess produce to either sell yourself (BYO stall fee is \$10) or donate it for sale at the hall produce stall.

All competition entries are to be presented at the hall between 10 - 10.30am. Winners in each category will receive a certificate & a commemorative ribbon.

Delicious food & refreshments will be provided by Judder Bar Eats & The Tea Caravan.



In February the Trentham community said an emotional farewell to local, yet world-renowned sculptor, Matt Harding in a moving service at the Catholic Church.

With public artworks across most major Australian cities, Matthew Harding's legacy will bring joy to generations to come.

Matt is survived by his wife Freya & 4 young children.

Funding campaigns have been set up to help Freya & the children. Go to <https://www.gofundme.com/fund-for-freya> or donate at the Trentham Bendigo Bank.

Entry to the festival is by gold coin donation & there will be a lucky door prize drawn at the event. All proceeds of the day will be shared between the Lyonville hall & Lyonville CFA.

Vicki added, "We hope to see lots of keen gardeners (and your fruit & veggies!) at this fun, family friendly event."

To stay up to date with what's going on in Lyonville you can like their Facebook page @LyonvilleSnippets, follow their Instagram @LyonvilleSnippets or sign up to their regular community newsletter.

Contact Vicki Jackson for further info on vickicj102@gmail.com or ph: 0438 178 150



LYONVILLE

Harvest Festival

➤ Saturday 7th April ➤


11am- 3pm

Lyonville Hall, Bremner Ave



@lyonvillesnippets

INTRODUCING KIM HAUGHIE AS ARTIST IN RESIDENCE




LITTLE GALLERY

Welcome Kim Haughie as our Artist in Residence @ The Little Gallery Trentham for the next 4 months. Kim's work is inspired by the natural world, her ceramic forms esoterically references the landscape of the Central Highlands region of Victoria where she lives. Traversing the horizon line where the earth meets the sky are central themes to Kim's current work, as she explores shifts in the spatial relationship of perspective in her

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GO SAINTS

The Trentham Saints have been preparing for the upcoming season with a few practice matches in the past few weeks playing in the Leith Dicker Memorial Cup & the Trentham Cup. Both days were very successful & it gave the coaches a great indication & how we are faring for the upcoming season.

The coach's appointment for this season Seniors Clayton Scoble & Rick Dowling, Reserves Greg Fegan & Matt Law, U/17.5 Daniel Lendrec, U/11.5 Melissa Scoble. Netball A&B Grade Premiership coach Erin Richardson returns, C Grade Denise Knight, U17 Mia Kelly & Holly Wheeldon, U/15 & U13 Erin Richardson & Livia Bourke.

The upcoming season commences on the April 14 with a home game first up against Avoca. Our numbers are looking good in most grades, how ever we are still keen for some players to join us for the U11.5 & U14.5 football & U15 netball grades. If you know of any anyone in those ages groups or you are keen to join us please call in to the club on a Thursday evening. We are also seeking a head trainer (this a paid position) & trainers to assist us on training nights & match days. Please contact our club President Cello on 0419 161 002 if this something you would be interested in.

Congratulations to Riley Matricardi & Ryan Bourke who have been selected to play in the U18 AFL Goldfields team & will travel to Central Australia to play against the AFL Central Australian team. This is a wonderful opportunity & we wish the boys the best of luck.

Well done to Jenna Bruton who has made through to the AFLW competition Grand Final with Western Bulldogs. Not only are your family & friends proud of your achievements but the club & wider Trentham community is also proud of the success you have achieved.

With season starting soon & you would like to be a sponsor & member of club, please see our website for further details www.trenthamsaintsfncl.com. sportingpulse.net or call into the club on a Tuesday or Thursday evening.

Go Saints!



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Blackwood CERT responders Margaret McCarthy & Marie Claire Blin thank the Trentham Lions Club for their very generous donation which will go toward building a station to house the CERT vehicle.

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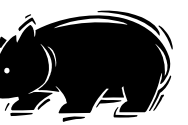

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BLACKWOOD 202 Golden Point Road

\$260,000

Cute, cosy 2 BR cottage in a delightful bush setting of approx. 800m² opposite the Lerderberg River. Open plan kitchen/living with gas stove and wood fired slow combustion heater.



TYLDEN 51 Clowes Street

\$480,000—\$515,000

Completely renovated 3BR 1BA 1930s weatherboard home on approx. 1041 sqm. Timber floors, carpet in bedrooms and living area. Kitchen with 900mm stainless steel gas stove, dishwasher, and meals area. Sep. laundry. Wood heater and split system.



TRENTHAM 39 Cosmo Road

\$550,000

4BR 1BA weatherboard home on approx. 1/4 acre an easy stroll to the town centre. Gas cooking, slow combustion wood heater, split system, separate laundry, al fresco dining area, powered shed.



LYONSVILLE 116 Frith Mill Road

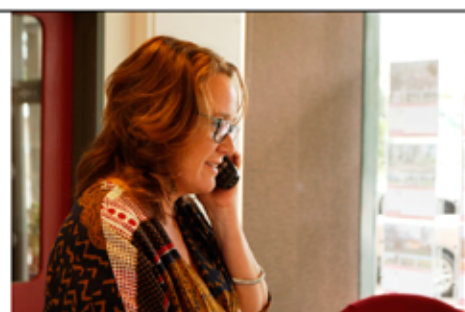
\$430,000

Approx. 10.3 acres of Rural Living zoned land on the edge of the Wombat State Forest. Located 9km from Trentham, and 15km from Daylesford. Perfect opportunity to build your dream country home (STCA).

RENTAL PROPERTIES ARE IN HIGH DEMAND!

More than ever, people are contacting our office looking for homes to rent in Trentham and surrounding areas.

If you've been considering renting out your home, this is the perfect time to sit back, relax, and have your property start working for you.



Contact our team for a friendly chat and a free rental appraisal.

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We are *Trentham's ONLY* local agency.

We know and love our local area!

HARKIN PROPERTY

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