

Jun-Jul 2018 vol 10 ~ issue 11:1



Top: Our village celebrates 150 years of Blackwood Hotel.

Left: Faye Jones' father, Cyril, passed the pub on to George Stockdale in 1977, after 50 years ownership. George owned the pub for a further 20 years. Together Faye & George represent 1/2 of the pub's 150 year life.



**The Blackwood Times
10 YEARS OLD**

INSIDE:

Photos Galore

Community Updates p8-9

Beyond Blackwood p14-15



EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

Happy 10th Birthday to the Blackwood Times ...

This time in 2008 we distributed the very first issue of the Blackwood News & later changed the masthead to 'the Blackwood Times'. What a ride it's been for Brendan & me. Every 2 months for the past 10 years we've locked ourselves away to produce another issue.

Several years ago we did a call-out for helpers to take on specific jobs because we couldn't continue to do it all ourselves. This has been a great help, but more recently we've realised that, if the Times is going to continue into the future, we need a succession plan.

My feeling is that the workload needs to be shared. I've attended 8 Community Newspapers Association of Victoria conferences over the years & explored a number of community paper running models. I would like to develop a process where we have a core group of committed locals & each person is trained in every aspect of producing an issue. Main roles such as editing, proofing, collecting articles, photo selection, website maintenance etc could be rotated over a 3 issue period, which results in equally shared responsibility.

Although we don't plan to give up the Times in the immediate future, we'd like to hear from anyone who wants to get together to discuss succession possibilities. The role offers a great way to learn new skills, meet people & there is a load of job satisfaction to be had.

This issue is a slim volume as input from the community has tailed off. What great content can you generate to fill future issues?

I'm looking forward to hearing from you but in the meantime I hope you enjoy this 10th birthday issue.

~ 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
Regular Photographers	Peter Donnelly, Jimmy Olsen
Event columnists	Do you love to write?
Community Co-ordinator	Sandy Schmidt
Distribution Co-ordinator	We'd love a helper

the BLACKWOOD TIMES info

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

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

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

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Top: Mary-Anne Thomas MP inspects the tennis courts & says that an upgrade is "very do-able) Above: Progress kicks off the tennis court project with a BBQ.

BLACKWOOD TIMES GOES TO ...

Taken outside one of the main stations in Paris, Gare de l'Est but don't speak to Don about French trains as "they were on strike while they were there & really stuffed us around. I suppose it was their turn as last time we were in that neck of the woods the German trains were on strike ... grrrr."

150th Blackwood Hotel & Community Celebration

ON BEHALF of Michael Boyd & myself, I would like to thank the Committee & the many volunteers who helped us during the day.

EVENTS LIKE this don't happen without a lot of community support. Thanks also to all our staff, who put in an amazing effort. The day was a great success & we hope everyone had a good time. Thanks again!

Darren Lynch, Publican - Blackwood Hotel

HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

MONTH & YEAR	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall historical average (mm)	Temp monthly min (deg C)	Temp monthly max (deg C)	Temp average daily max (deg C)	Temp average daily min (deg C)	Temp average for month (deg C)
Mar '18	*	56.1	0.6	34	24.6	8.2	15.2
Apr '18	*	71.9	-1.2	30.8	21.3	5.8	12.6



RIP Brendan Anthony Rayner
April 10, '47 - May 20, '18

*MARCH AND April have been fairly dry and warm. The total rainfall for Blackwood for the year up until the 6th of May is 177.9mm. This is lower than the long-time average of 232mm up to the end of April. Monthly rainfall figures have not been possible up to now but someone has shown an interest in recording the daily rainfall which will enable this to occur.

~ by Don Owen

HI, WE read that you are looking for daily rainfall data in the Blackwood & Trentham areas. We have our weather station on Trentham online & updating every 5 minutes. Temperature, dewpoint, relative humidity, wind speed & direction, barometric pressure & rainfall totals & rates are recorded. The daily recording period is midnight to midnight. This station is located in Groves St, 2 blocks south of the post office & has been online since 2007 & follows on from Dr Julian Hollis' long term recordings from Park Street Trentham. The web address is http://trentham.bsch.com.au/Trentham/Current_Vantage_Prop2.htm Hope this is helpful to you & the local residents Cheers,

~ Clyde Herbert & Jane O'Neill, Australian Sky & Weather

BLACKWOOD LOCALISED SEWERAGE PROGRAM

The \$500,000 top-up to the BLSP, announced by Mary-Anne Thomas MP (on behalf of Minister Lisa Neville) during the 150th pub celebrations, is a welcome boost to a program that has helped bring our town (including vulnerable buildings of historic importance) back from the brink.

After a 15-year effective ban on development, Blackwood is again open for business. Locals are upgrading their businesses (Blackwood Merchant, Jindarup Store/Post Office- see stories below) or embarking on new ventures (Blackwood Hat Shoppe, Blackwood Hair Boutique). Residential properties also are being renovated, often with an eye to the holiday market.

Upgrading old & failing septs under the project has not only improved our homes & increased their values but also helped to protect our river's health.

We're excited about the next major work; the upgrading of the wastewater system at the Mineral Springs Caravan Park. This community-managed asset is crucial to our town's economy yet clearly remains the single largest threat to river water quality in our catchment area.

Blackwood is still waiting, however, for an outcome on its original request - the resumption of building. Although 34 properties have gone or are going through the planning process under the BLSP, as yet no homes have been built under this program. We are told that 3 property owners are at a stage where they can break ground. We continue to watch with anticipation.

The Jindarup Store/Post Office has been steadily expanding its services since receiving a wastewater system. They've installed a toilet, small kitchen & wash basins, allowing them to remain open 7 days a week (9-6pm) & now serving take-away food. Look out for hot soup & locally-made pre-prepared gourmet meals- coming soon. Martin & Carol plan to extend the shop & also add a deck to compliment the beautiful garden setting that is now open to the public.

The Simons at the Merchant are equally excited to be receiving a fit-for-purpose wastewater system in the next round of BLSP works & are confident that it will accommodate their expanding business. They add:

Both Simons now work full time in the venue. This was always planned for the 2-3 year time frame. It's been 3 1/2 years but it's happened. Simon



Mary-Anne Thomas MP announces a further 1/2M dollar funding for BLSP.

Gracie (the British one) now runs front of house & Simon Daniel (Aussie Si) is back in the kitchen, after a rather long break. He's been cooking everything for the past month & a 1/2.

The Simons are also establishing the coffee consultancy further, with plans to develop this into a local operation too. Very exciting for our community, it's always great to welcome new business into town.

Susie is semi, semi retiring, after semi retiring about a year ago. She semi, semi retired about 6 months ago (in other words she's been slowing reducing her hours over the last 18 months.). Susie will now be spending more time in her beloved garden & with her grandchildren, one of which only a week old! Welcome Finn & congratulations to Sheherazade & Brian. Susie will still be here, as a waiter & barista & every Friday night.

Phillip is joined by Brooke Turnbull who has been with us for several months & developing her customer service skills. Another local, John joins us as Simon's assistant in the kitchen. We've a few other new, junior locals starting soon too, keep an eye out. Currently several young locals are trialling for their first ever job. Wish them well if you see them.

As always, say g'day, they love being part of this wonderful town. Everyone is always welcome, at Blackwood Merchant cafe.

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• 150TH BLACKWOOD HOTEL & COMMUNITY CELEBRATION •

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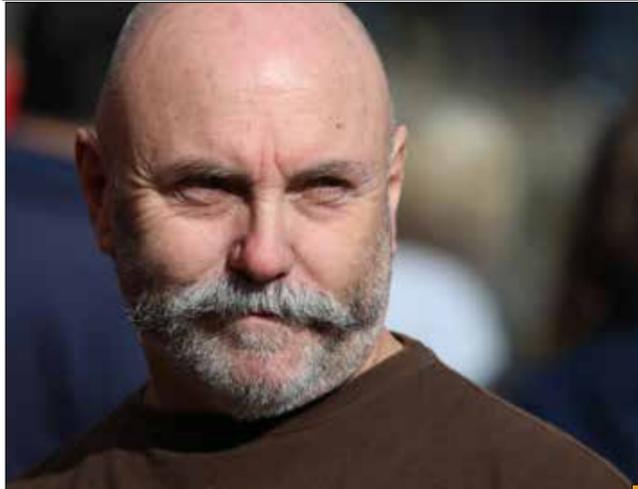
FROM THE DESK OF MARY-ANNE

The Andrews Labor Government will invest a further \$500,00 into the Blackwood Localised Septic Program to complete all failed systems in the area. Mary-Anne Thomas MP announced the funding at the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Blackwood Hotel. This funding is in addition to the \$2.6 million already invested.

The project has repaired & replaced 56 failing systems on residential & community properties. A further 17 are earmarked for works during June. This includes the major works at the Mineral Springs Caravan Park.

The program has also given the local community an important insight into the merits of best-practice wastewater management, with homeowners able to liaise directly with industry experts on ways to treat, re-use & dispose of wastewater.

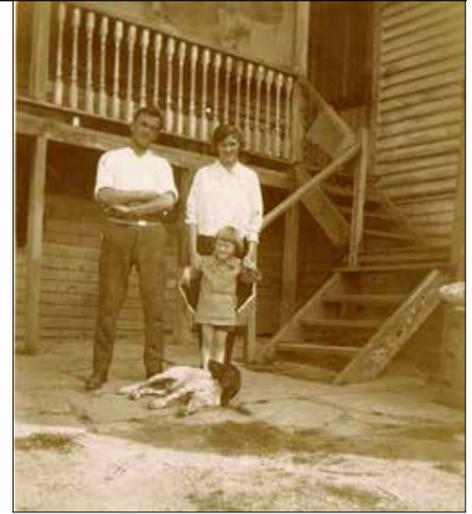
Mary-Anne says planning would be undertaken later this year to develop a strategy for the use of the additional funding, with the Shire, water authorities & State Government agencies, as members of the BLSPP governance committee, to play a key role in the development of the plan.



PHOTOS FROM ERN & ALICE MORGAN'S TIME AT THE BLACKWOOD HOTEL AS LICENCEES: 1928 - 1940

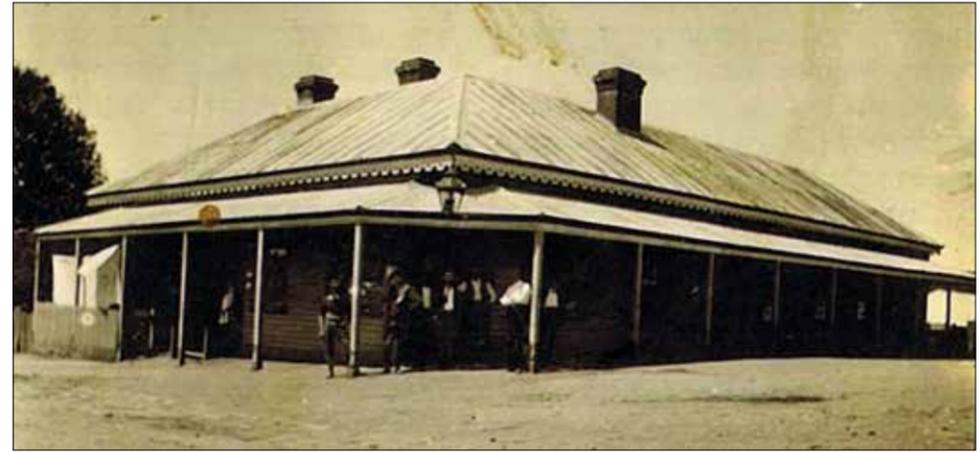


Eclipse Cricket Club up from Fitzroy 1928



Ern, Alice & daughter Joan at the back of the pub

These photos are courtesy of Gwen Page
Christmas Day Alice cooked for over 100 people with help from Lizzy Sweet, Edie Lalor & Maggie Wall among others



The hardworking clothes line at the Blackwood Hotel



Ern & Alice with friends out the back of the hotel



Joan with Sweet kids, Gladys & Wally (possibly in front of the old oak tree)



• COMMUNITY UPDATES • COMMUNITY UPDATES • COMMUNITY UPDATES • COMMUNITY UPDATES •

Blackwood Action Group (BAG)

see article p3 & 6

Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management

Rumours have been doing the rounds regarding the adequacy of the sewerage system installed at the recreation ground following a failure late in the afternoon during the Easter Carnival. The fault on that day was nothing to do with the system. The problem was caused by unsuitable items being placed in the toilets which ultimately resulted in a pump becoming blocked. The matter was easily fixed & the system is now working perfectly.

We are still awaiting the outcome of our application for funding to do repair work at the mineral springs.

Progress is continuing regarding the restoration of the tennis courts & the provision of a netball court with discussion continuing with the State Government & the Moorabool Shire for funding. Discussion is also taking place with the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning.

Work is expected to commence on the new sewerage system for the caravan park immediately after the Queens Birthday weekend.

~ Dave White, President

Blackwood Caravan Park

As we approach 5 years managing the Caravan Park, we reflect on our time. Overall, we still feel very lucky to be here. We have had some great times, funny times, dramatic times, & also some sad times.

One of our first week-ends here back in 2013, we were thrown in the deep end when two 7-year-old boys went missing from the Caravan Park. They had wandered off into the bush. It was late afternoon when we heard, & emergency services were called immediately. Within about 15 minutes the Caravan Park was swarming with police units & sniffer dogs with the chopper on standby. The residence was commandeered so they could spread out maps & grid the area. This was not taken lightly as nightfall approached. Just before dark a police car drove into the park & out hopped two terrified young boys. I am not sure if they were quite as terrified about being lost as they were about being in trouble! Since this there have been numerous other people lost out in the bush, although our 'backyard' is beautiful & full of adventures, it is also rugged & unforgiving. Please stay safe out there, be prepared!

We have had to make quite a few calls to the Ambulance service, with a man dropping a camper trailer on his foot, a suspected stroke, a bike crash, & a man setting himself on fire! This has given us first-hand experience with our local CERT volunteers. What an amazing & selfless team.

Activities have become more commonplace, with disco's, movie nights, arts & crafts & our Annual Easter egg hunt, which is a massive hit with the kids. A lot of this could not happen without the help of some of our Annual Caravan Owners, we are forever thankful.

When we started here our kids were only 2 & 4, they have spent majority of their lives in Blackwood. We love the environment they are growing up in, they are learning social skills, they are learning about diversity, & they are learning to be accepting. Our son Casey has also become somewhat of an entrepreneur. He came inside one day with a handful of gold coins. We asked him where he got them from & he replied that he had been running tours! He was giving history on the area & particularly the Rip Van Winkle Gold Mine at the top campground.

It's not all roses, we have put in many hours of hard work, & regularly do 12-hour days & mostly work 7 days a week. But we have a lot of pride in what we do & wouldn't trade for a 9-5 job! We are very lucky to have such supportive families who you will quite often see down at the park helping us out. We even took 3 months off thanks to Jen's

mum & travelled this beautiful country of ours!

We have experienced the drama a small town can bring, but have decided the community is just like a close family. You don't always get along but as soon as someone is in need the community bands together to help. Could you really ask for more?

So we look forward to whatever the next 5 years has in store for us, drama & all!

~ Thanks Brad & Jenni

Blackwood CERT

Community says "I can do that"

A few months ago we called out for six new recruits in our aim to provide 24/7 cover in our region. I'm delighted to say that our community has stepped right on up & sent us not one, but six new recruits. There are some applications still in progress, & in the next issue of Blackwood Times we'll introduce you to your newest community emergency health volunteers. We won't call for volunteers for a little while now, as we'll be turning our attention to bringing our new crew on board. Thank you community for attending our info sessions, sharing the word, & giving me & the team words of encouragement. If you missed out this time around, or you want to know more about joining CERT, please give me a call.

Welcome Zach

Right now, we have our first new recruit halfway through his training - welcome Zachary Harper. Zach will be out on the road soon.

CERT's out & about

In other CERT news, we've been out & about - CERT met the AV Board at a breakfast in Ballarat, Leonie Braisier attended the Volunteer Leaderships Forum, & three of our team went to the First Responders Conference in Warrnambool.

Volunteering about town & country

CFA make it easy for us to train by allowing us to use their facilities at the refuge. Over the while we've got to know CFA & SES better & it really helps when we meet up on the road as we sometimes do. Our communities run on volunteering - our committee & friends of CERT is all volunteer run - thanks especially to the awesome work by Jinny Coyle & Jane Elliott. Sandy Schmidt, who was also a valuable CERT member, now volunteers to keep articles & reports like this in the Blackwood Times (Thanks for the reminder, Sandy!). Have you thought about how you can contribute your good energy to your town? Here are a few more ideas...

Defibs, Good Sam App & new ways of helping

You don't have to be in CERT to save a life - anyone with CPR skills or the right guidance can make a huge difference. If you are first aid trained, jump onto the Good Sam App & register. This alerts you to someone having a heart attack nearby. It also lets you know where the nearest defib is.

Early defibrillation is the key to surviving a heart attack. CERT is currently assessing the need for more publically available defibs (AED). If you or your organisation have a defib, register it with Good Sam so that it can be easily located in an emergency. Ideally we would have one located in the centre of each of our towns. Public access defibs also provide a visible prompt - take notice of where your closest one is, & let us know if you'd like to take part in getting one for near your community.

<https://www.goodsamapp.org/>

Stay safe out there - we'd rather see you socially than in an emergency. But if you think you need us, call an ambulance on 000.

~ Margaret McCarthy, Blackwood CERT Team Leader

Blackwood CFA

Welcome to Winter everyone, The fire season has officially ended but fire is always a danger. The latest rainfalls have been a welcome change in the weather. It has been a long fire season from November to May. Although we

had sporadic dumps of rain, the fire danger has remained high till the start of May.

The brigade has been especially busy this year turning out to an increased number of fires in the surrounding area & we have been providing tankers & crews for strike teams to other parts of the state. The brigade has also been assisting Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) with local burns. With the long run of dry weather late in the season, FFMV has been able to complete significant fuel reduction burns at Morning Star track & around Dales Creek. With the current wet conditions, the burn to the North of Blackwood will have to wait till Spring.

- Reminder to make sure flues & chimneys are clean & check & clean the lint catchers in electric drying machines.
- Always keep drying clothes well away from heaters & fires.
- Be especially careful with candles.
- Take note where your nearest hydrant is. Take a look around the roadside & nature strip to see if you can locate the fire hydrant closest to your property, these are marked by a white post with red stripes & a blue cats-eye on the road.

For more information contact the station on 53686526 on Sunday mornings over the summer period, the 1st Sunday of every month as we are there for training & equipment checks.

Now is the time to review & prepare your fire plan ready for next summer, details can be found on the CFA web site or ask at the station. Keep an eye on the weather forecasts. Make sure your friends & family know your plan & even the triggers that put it into action.

Karl Church, Blackwood Brigade

Blackwood/Barrys Reef Landcare

The Blackwood & Barrys Reef Landcare Group have set a date for our next community weeding day for Sunday June 17 at 10am. We will meet on Cann Street near the Blackwood Special School Outdoor Ed Centre. BYO gloves, weeding gear & thermos for smoko time. The Landcare group are still meeting every 2nd month on a Sunday evening at The Blackwood Pub. The next one is Sunday June 24th. New members welcome!

~ Cat Moser (President)

Blackwood Progress Association

Blackwood Progress Assoc. wish to thank everyone who helped in this year's Easter Carnival & Woodchop. It was a great success & we hope you all enjoyed the festivities as we as a committee did. The weather shined on us & we had great attendance. The photos in last BWT showed how we all had a great time.

On the April 29 we had a thank-you BBQ at the Tennis Courts to say thank-you to all volunteers who helped before, during & after the Carnival, it was a great turnout & hope you all enjoyed it. (see p2)

As we are heading into winter we all need to keep warm & stay healthy, get out your winter woollies & brollies as I think we are in for

• MEETINGS ETC •

DAY	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
1st Sat	10:30-12:30	Blackwood Historical Society Meeting	Stables, Martin St
Tuesdays	All Day	Yoga, Meditation etc (Pay As You Feel Classes)	Meditare Blackwood
Tuesdays	10-12	Blackwood Wombats Playgroup	Hall
2nd Sat	10am	Blackwood Gardening Club	Merchant
3rd Sun	3pm	Wombies Book Club	Pub
4th Sun	PM	Landcare (bi-monthly)	Pub

a chilly time ahead.

We are very happy to announce we have a winner in our "BIG IDEAS" program. After much consideration the successful idea was Bocce Club. We feel this idea will be enjoyed by young & older people in our community.

We also congratulate all other entries who at this time were not successful but this is not to say they will not be considered in the future. Our intentions are to review all ideas over the coming 12 months.

A reminder that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on August 13, 2018 at the BLACKWOOD HALL @ 7pm. If you are wanting to voice an opinion or have a vote on Blackwood Progress Association matters you will need to become a member prior to this night. You can join by paying \$2.00 membership. The Blackwood Post Office will be handling memberships, so if you can pop into see Carol or Martin, that would be wonderful.

~ Bev Butler, 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 Historical Society or Blackwood Seniors. 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.

Holy Trinity Anglican Church

The service times are currently:

Holy Trinity Bacchus Marsh

Sunday 9am - Traditional Holy Communion | Sunday 5pm - Contemporary Service | 1st Sunday of Month - 10.30 - Cafe Church | Wednesday 10am - Holy Communion

St Georges Balliang

2nd Sunday of Month - 11am | 4th Sunday of Month - 9am

Christ Church Myrning

1st Sunday of Month - 11am | 3rd Sunday of Month - 11am

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.

MONEY TO PICK OUR PROJECT

'Pick My Project' is a community grants initiative, with \$30 million available to fund local projects. Come up with a project idea, vote for your favourites & make your community an even better place to live.

1. Submit your project May 21 - June 24 '18
 2. Projects reviewed June - July '18
 3. Voting opens July - August '18
 4. Projects selected September '18
 5. Projects begin September '18 onwards
- Check out the guidelines @ <https://pickmyproject.vic.gov.au/> Blackwood is listed under the Central Highlands Region.

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WATER FOR LIFE ART EXHIBIT



Local identities (well part time at least) Marilyn & Alan Hutchinson are in Canada. Marilyn was invited to exhibit in an exhibition titled 'Water for Life', promoting clean water for the planet featuring the work of 37 international artists.

Marilyn pictured also in front of her photography with Suzanna Moase, the curator who also has lived in Australia, Adelaide for 9 years & is married to an Aussie. She clearly had good taste!

The exhibition, opened by the Mayor & local politicians, was also attended by an ensemble of Native American Indian women who performed an initiating ceremony, singing & drumming .

The opening was to a packed house & was fabulous, with canapés, wine

& of course media coverage. It was like being on the red carpet at the Logies!

If you are in the vicinity between now & September 9, then pop along to the Niagara Falls History Museum & Gallery In Ferry St. Niagara Falls & don't forget to see the falls as well. They look great too!

~ Marilyn Hutchinson

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Cheeky New Video for Skip Bin Customers

A cheeky new online video from Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) is helping Victorians to fight widespread illegal dumping of skip bin waste.

The animated video gives a simple tip to make sure your skip bin waste goes to the right place - ask the right questions before you hand over the money.

EPA wants you to ask the skip bin company if they can provide documents that show your household garbage or renovation waste went to the right place; a licensed landfill or recycling facility will give them paperwork whenever they drop off a load.

By seeing receipts, you can make sure your waste is not dumped in the bush, local parks or creeks, on farmland, at a former industrial site or in a rented warehouse.

Illegal dumping costs the State Government and local Councils more than \$100 million a year.

EPA's animated video Is Your Waste in the Right Place is on the EPA website at: <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/your-environment/waste/hiring-skip-bins>

You can report illegal dumping on the 24-hour hotline 1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842).



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STORMS & NEWS IN BLACKWOOD FROM NEWSPAPERS ON TROVE



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

Apologies for mistake in the last article in the Blackwood News magazine - the Blackwood Hotel will be 150 years old in September 2018 not 140 years old.

Bacchus Marsh Express, Saturday 22 June 1878.

BLACKWOOD. In consequence of the late heavy rains, the Lerderderg River rose considerably, causing the heaviest flood we have had for the past fifteen years, sweeping away dams, sluice boxes, tools, &c., also injuring several races & fluming. It carried away the bridge at Ballan flat, & it being the only available road for the traffic of goods, &c., it is to be hoped that our Shire representatives will at once get this replaced. A party of Chinese lost about £3 worth of sawn timber just delivered for boxes; it was swept away. Mr. Thos. Hayden lost his very useful mule (so well known on the Melbourne & Ballarat road) through a tree uprooted during the storm falling & breaking its back. A Court case occurred on Monday. It appears a Chinaman named Ah Tan was drying his jumper during his dinner hour, when a China-man came into the hut for shelter from the rain. Ah Tan removed the jumper from the fire & took it into an inner room; in doing so he dropped a bundle of seven £5 notes from the jumper without noticing it. This parcel, it is said, was picked up by the Chinaman, & secreted in his long boots. Ah Tan missed his money almost immediately, & caused a search to be instituted, searching all in the hut, but forgetting to look in the boots. The Chinaman who is charged with having picked up the notes & went outside towards the creek, & it is alleged he secreted the notes in a tuft of grass.

Bacchus Marsh Express - Saturday 27 November 1897.

BLACKWOOD. The phenomenal storm of Friday, 10th did a considerable amount of damage to property here. All the principal buildings stood the shock well, but orchards & outhouses suffered severely. Mr. W. Byres, amongst others, had his cowshed & barn levelled to the ground. Perhaps the most serious damage was at the Blackwood cemetery, where several costly tombstones were blown over & smashed. The storm was heralded by a shower of hailstones the size of marbles, & then came the wind & rain. Houses in what were considered the most sheltered situations felt the wind most on this occasion, as it seemed to come over the hills & down on the roofs with avalanche force. In the forest round about, decapitated trees (the ground being mostly too hard at this season for them to be uprooted are to be seen in all directions, & in one particular place on the old Gisborne road, where the conformation of the gullies formed a sort of funnel, nearly every tree in a space of several acres has been completely destroyed. About 80 points of rain fell during the half-hour or so the storm lasted.

Bacchus Marsh Express, Saturday 26 November 1898.

BLACKWOOD. The weather has been very stormy here during the week, & although the wind was scarcely so strong as in the phenomenal storm of last November, yet a considerable amount of damage has been done by it. Amongst others may be mentioned the smashing of one of the noted big pine trees in Mr. Cairnes' block, & the general wreck made of the Church of England minister's hooded buggy, which had been left standing by the parsonage, & was blown over & over till brought to a stop against Mr. Mohekey's fence, some 50 or 60 yards away. Mr. Edward Beale, of Barry's Reef, who has lately been working at Neerim, Gippsland, had a nasty accident there last week, as a single-barrelled gun which he was using



Sunday May 27. Near Hayden Track. The Great Dividing Trail Association have a well-earned morning tea. Sue Donnelly takes advantage of the catering

burst, & lacerated one of his hands in a terrible manner, but fortunately no bones were broken, & the wound healed up as well as could be expected, though it will take several weeks before he can resume work.

Bacchus Marsh Express, Saturday 11 April 1903.

BLACKWOOD. We were visited with a storm on Saturday afternoon; from noon the sky was black with dust, & at various intervals during the afternoon one could hardly see inside, & when the rain did come, about 5 o'clock, it was mud, with the result that the tanks held water hardly fit for consumption. However, it cleared the atmosphere beautifully, which was something to be thankful for. Blue Mountain & the local cricket club met on the reserve on Saturday, but it was a terrible day for cricket, the light being bad, & ground slippery, & sundry adjournments necessary through the storm. Matheson Bro's. & W. Whatmough have been fortunate enough to unearth a nugget weighing 17ozs. at their claim in Golden Point.

For help with information on Blackwood ancestors contact Margot Hitchcock - email - margothitchcock@bigpond.com

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



MEET YOU AT THE TRAM ...

Victoria's retired trams, including the iconic W-Class, have transported millions of Victorians, connected communities & are an integral part of our rich heritage.

VicTrack is opening an Expression of Interest (EOI) process for the community to acquire one of Victoria's retired trams.

As Melbourne's transport system has modernised & the needs of public transport users have evolved, older trams have been progressively retired from the network.

Some of these trams have been re-purposed & now provide tourist services such as the City Circle. However, most of the retired trams have been stored away at the Newport workshops & are in varying states of repair.

These trams are not suitable for returning to the network as they do not meet modern safety & accessibility requirements.

The EOI process will ask potential recipients to demonstrate how they intend to re-use the tram & how it will benefit the community. The EOI will be overseen by an independent evaluation panel.

How to apply for a tram

The EOI is open between 9am on Monday 28 May & 4pm on Friday 6 July, & you can only apply to receive a tram during this period.

To be in the running you must complete an online application form, which will be available on this webpage from Monday 28 May.

All applicants must complete this application, even if they have previously expressed their interest in receiving a tram.

Contact

If you intend to apply for a tram, VicTrack encourage you to read the FAQs <https://www.victrack.com.au/i-want-to/reinventing-trams>. If you have read the FAQs & require more info, email trams@victrack.com.au



• CALENDAR OF EVENTS •

JUNE:

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Sat 2	all day	Winter Art Hunt	Trentham
F8 - M11	All Day	Woodend Winter Arts Festival	Woodend
Sun 10	10am	Garden Tools Workshop	St. Erth
Sat 16	10:30am	Acapella Workshop	Lyonville Hall
Sun 17	10am	Landcare Weeding Day	Cann St
Sun 17	11am	Path of the Horse Fundraiser	Trentham
Mon 18	7pm	Progress Association Meeting	Bwd Hall

JULY:

Wed 4	1:30-2:30pm	Free NAIDOC craft activities with Moorabool Libraries =	Blackwood Hall
Mon 9	7pm	Progress Association Meeting	Hall
Wed 4	1:30-2:30pm	Free NAIDOC craft activities with Moorabool Libraries	Blackwood Hall

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

WHOSE TATTS THAT?



Am I a monkey or a fish? Depends which way you look. To the West, and you were born a Pisces. Look to the East and the Chinese will say you're from the Year of the Monkey. And if you look inside you may recognise that you're a bit of a comedian.

Hence this bloke's take on his astrological signs. I wonder if he considered monkeys in a sardine tin?

His mate at 3rdEye Tattoos in Carlton inked him. Nice work.

A: Nara Demasson

WOMBAT BOOK CLUB

Kate Grenville's "Secret River" is a historical novel about an early 19thC Englishman transported to Australia for theft. The story explores what might have happened when Europeans colonised land already inhabited by Aboriginal people.

Secret River by Kate Grenville

Terri: The Secret River was an interesting read about Colonial Australia. I particularly liked that it was set on the Hawkesbury river near where I spent some of my childhood. Trying to imagine a bush setting in what is now city & suburbs was a challenging for the imagination. Kate Grenville's descriptions of initial interactions between aboriginal communities & the English pioneers as they tried to move further into this great land proved both intriguing & confronting. I'm moving onto the sequel...

4 wombies.

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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.

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PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS



WOOF: IN this month's edition I would like to discuss HEART DISEASE. The heart is a 4-chambered muscular organ that functions to pump blood around the body. Heart failure occurs when the heart fails to pump enough blood to meet the body's demands. This causes changes in the body as it tries to support a faltering system. These changes include increased blood pressure, increased heart rate & fluid retention.

Heart disease can have many origins. It can be caused by changes in the heart's muscular walls, defects of the valves separating the chambers of the heart or narrowing of the vessels leaving the heart. As with humans, heart abnormalities can exist at birth or can develop late in life & of course in pets, heartworm can be a contributing factor.

WHEN THE heart is unable to function correctly, there is a build up of fluid pressure within the circulatory system. This can cause "leakage" of fluid into the chest or abdomen & is responsible for many of the clinical signs seen with heart disease.

CLINICAL SIGNS seen with Heart Disease:

- coughing • difficulty breathing • engorgement of veins (often can be seen in the jugular vein in the neck) • swollen abdomen (ascites - fluid in the abdominal cavity) • enlarged liver • weight loss • decreased exercise tolerance - the dog tires easily • pale or blueish mucous membranes • cool extremities (toes, tips of ears etc) • fluid swelling of lower limbs

IF YOU suspect your pet is suffering heart disease, it is wise to have it examined by your veterinarian. Diagnosis of heart disease begins with a thorough physical examination. Listening to the patient's chest with a stethoscope can allow the veterinarian to identify any abnormal heart sounds, rhythms or lung sounds. If an abnormality is suspected, the next step is to x-ray the chest. Chest x-rays show the size & shape of the heart silhouette, any blood vessel enlargement within the chest & any changes in the lungs.

SOME HEART diseases can be diagnosed with the above, but there are other tests that can help further define the problems. Ultrasound of the heart (also called "echocardiography") is a technique that is very useful. It is used to see the size of the heart chambers, the degree of contraction of the heart & more advanced ultrasound machines can even show the direction of blood flow through the heart.

AN ECG (electrocardiogram) is another way to investigate heart disease. This device records the electrical impulses across the heart as nerves fire to stimulate the heart to beat. ECG's are useful to determine any changes in the heart's rhythm & can give an indication of changes of heart chamber size.

OTHER TESTS such as blood & urine tests can help determine changes caused by heart disease & are often recommended before therapy for heart disease is started. Many different therapies for heart disease are available depending on the type & severity of the disorder. Most pets with mild heart disease respond well to therapy & can have an extended lifespan with treatment. Unfortunately, many heart conditions are progressive; this is why diagnosis of heart disease can be very important to give a more accurate prognosis. Therapy for heart disease is lifelong & generally requires regular rechecks to assess the stage of heart disease & any changes occurring.

~ Woof for now, Seamus

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Dear Pet Guru,

My pet 100 year old giant tortoise caught a glimpse of herself in a mirror and now wants me to buy her cosmetics. She can't possibly put them on with her huge front hoof. What shall I do?

~ Galapagos Guy from Gordon



Dear Galapagos Guy, Oh dear. "Vanity, thy name is woman". I can only suggest that you take all the mirrors out of her den. Good luck to both of you.

Pet Guru

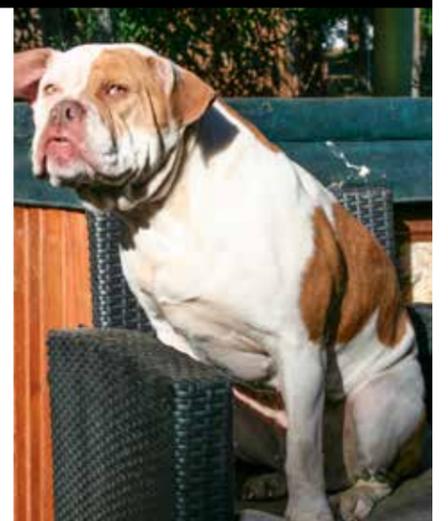
• BLACKWOOF'S •

Hey there, the name's Gucci, but I sure ain't no handbag. I'm a big ol' American Bulldog and, as you see, I do carry a good bit of luggage.

My folks rescued me a couple of years back & gave me a job raisin' their brood. Those little varmints ride me like a bronco, it's kinda fun. I love 'em to bits, especially when they find me a little somethin' to nibble on.

'To Protect & Serve' - that's my motto. One time I heard lions roaring from behind that TV screen thing they keep on the living room wall. Well, I had to charge around & into that room behind the wall, bellowin' as loud as you ever heard. I must have scared them lions good. When I got there, they were nowhere to be found.

Well, I guess that's enough about me. This winter sunshine aint gonna get soaked up all by itself, so I best get back on the job.





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• BEYOND BLACKWOOD •



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LISTEN WITH YOUR EYES

The Macedon Ranges Art Trail is hosting a preview of work by 30 artists before the opening of the Woodend Winter Arts Festival on Friday, June 8. 'Listen with your Eyes' is a visual art exhibition reflecting the themes of Woodend, Winter & Festival. The artists have been invited to interpret one or more of the themes.

Located at the Woodend Tennis Club, behind the visitor information centre, MRAT welcomes people to drop by the exhibition from 5.00pm & enjoy a festive drink before moving on to the fireworks at Buffalo Oval. Leave your vehicles near the tennis club & stroll to the spectacular display that has become an annual highlight on the town calendar.

The art exhibition will run on Saturday, Sunday & Monday from 10am to 4pm. All work will be for sale including paintings, ceramics, origami, photography & jewellery. Among the artists participating are several who have won the major prizes at recent shows including Helen Cottle, Kathy Medbury, Lynn Munn & Shay Downer.

Donations are appreciated in lieu of an entry fee to support MRAT's ongoing promotion of local artists.

~ Nadine Hartnett, Macedon Ranges Art Trail, 0439 399 838
above "PLEASE, no more Wombat jokes" by one of the exhibitors, Philip J. Gray

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THURSDAY VEGGIE BOXES

Barry's Reef local Michelle Roberts is making up vegetable boxes for pick-up on Thursday arvos at Trentham town square 3-4pm & Blackwood under Hotel verandah 5-6pm,

The veggie box concept is developed by Michelle, a semi-retired chef of 40 years, to be seasonal, using produce from her garden, local & Victorian farms, to provide a quantity & variety of fresh produce for a week including ideas & recipes. The service also helps save on shopping time, cutting down on waste & saving some money. Market prices do fluctuate, currently boxes start at \$12.50 for 1, \$17.50 for 2 & \$25.00 for 3.

What might you discover in a weekly box? ... Local Nicola potatoes, sweet potato, carrots, onions, celery, cauliflower, beans, zucchini, brussell sprouts, leek, pumpkin, apples, pears, rhubarb, garlic, ginger, chilli, parsley, thyme.

To place an order call or text Michelle on 0409 588 710, with your name & how many people the box is for.



Hello There! Welcome to the Neighbourhood.

Trentham Neighbourhood Centre, in conjunction with the Hepburn Shire Council and the Trentham Community Bank will be running two New Residents Welcome sessions on April 19 and June 30. Come along and find out what's available in your new community, meet people and have your questions answered. Light refreshments provided. All welcome.

Thursday April 19, 7pm-9pm
Saturday June 30, 2pm - 4pm
Trentham Neighbourhood Centre, High street, Trentham
Enquiries: 5424.1354



• 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	5pm	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

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Authorised by MA Thomas, Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne. This material has been funded from Parliament's Electorate Office & Communications budget.



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Photos Mez Lanigan & Jimmy Coyle



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Harkin Property is always proud to support local events and organisations, including the Blackwood Wood Chop and Easter Carnival, The Blackwood Cricket Club, The Blackwood Festival of Music and Culture, and The Blackwood Times.

Frances Harkin

BLACKWOOD 9 TERRILL STREET

\$480,000 - \$495,000



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TRENTHAM 16 MARKET STREET

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