

Aug-Sept, 2018 vol 10 ~ issue 11:1



HOW ABOUT A HAND?

see BCRCM p12

After massive works at the Caravan Park to install a new wastewater system (40K Lt. holding tanks, a treatment unit & effluent field) "there's not an inch of the park that hasn't been ripped up", say Jenni & Brad. Now for the big cleanup: resurfacing, re-grassing, clearing, landscaping & planting. "We'd like to thank Ross (Golden Point Garden Maintenance) for volunteering his time & machines. If anyone else feels like lending a hand, just give us a call."

The Blackwood Mineral Springs Caravan Park is a community-run enterprise which brings a lot of tourist dollars into the town & directly supports our other community facilities, such as the hall & sportsground.

INSIDE on page 12:

- CFA Fiskville Cup comes to Blackwood Landcare & Progress AGM's (& p16)**
- Big Idea Winner & Tennis Courts update**
- Seniors Christmas in July dinner p3**
- Party Animals: p4, 5, 6, 7**



EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

HELLO again,
We're in the thick of winter &, in our 26 years of living in Blackwood I can't remember having such bitter winds in July! I don't know about you, but I can't bear the thought of venturing out into it & driving – well let's not even go there with sleet, hail & low sun glare!

Winters can be tough for Blackwoodians so it's lovely to get together to let off some steam with locals. Last issue we had Blackwood Hotel's 150th anniversary celebration, this issue I'm going to nickname the Party Animal issue with a full spread of photos of Karaoke at the pub on p4-5. If you've wondered at the number of shaved heads wandering around Blackwood check out p6-7 for an hilarious album of head-shaving to raise funds for Motor Neurone Disease (MND).

It's lovely to see that plans are afoot for our bush dance on September 1. This has become an annual highlight & tix do sell out fast. Book a table at the post office.

Blackwood is certainly a busy little town with many activities & events. Did you know that the majority of these are run by volunteer committees? If you want to get involved, both Progress & Landcare have their AGM's in August (p16) & the CERT committee AGM is in October.

We're still looking for a group of Blackwood Times devotees to take on the task of producing the paper. "Many hands make light work" & with a committed number of people we can continue publishing into the future. We'll train all volunteers in each aspect of producing the Times &, with enough volunteers, each person would only really need to commit a few hours every 2 months. Once we get a few takers we'll call a meeting to discuss how to move forward.



See you around ...

~ Jinny Coyle (editor)

MEMBER 2018

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	Sept 15
Regular Contributors, Features & Items of Interest, Community Groups & Clubs	Sept 15
Display Ad Artwork	Sept 20
Late breaking News	Sept 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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**BLACKWOOD COMMUNITY
SPRING BUSH DANCE**

**Saturday, 1st September 2018
5:30pm-11:30pm**

VENUE: BLACKWOOD COMMUNITY HALL

6:00pm - Cat and Clint
6:30pm - Spit roast dinner, dessert, tea & coffee - BYO Drinks
7:30pm - Paddy Wombat Bush Band

Adults - \$40
Children (6-16) - \$10
Children Under 6 - Free
Family Ticket: 2 Adults 3 Kids - \$100

**Tickets on sale NOW at the Blackwood
Post Office**

FANTASTIC SPOT PRIZES TO BE WON

DID YOU HEAR?

Blackwood Bush Dance is celebrating its 3rd very successful year. And as a big thank you for supporting this fantastic event, we have reduced ticket prices. Running a not-for-profit event, we can now cover costs making this year more affordable for everyone. We'd like to thank Blackwood Progress for their donation.

Blackwood Pub & Blackwood Merchant Cafe have kindly donated spot prizes. So if you have the best hat/boots or even moves, this event promises to be even bigger and better this year.

Tickets are selling fast from the Blackwood Post Office.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

A 'baited sausage' was recently picked up by a dog in the Old Golden Point Road area. Fortunately the owner was with the dog at the time. Fur-child owners, please keep an eye out & don't let your dogs wander alone.

There have also been a number of community reports in the region of unknown cars acting suspiciously & daylight house clear outs when people were at work. Although I haven't heard reports in Blackwood it is close to home & perhaps only a matter of time before we are targeted.

Please keep an eye out. If you see anyone acting suspiciously or something to be concerned about please call the police.

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The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.

HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

MONTH & YEAR	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall historical average (mm)	Temp monthly min (deg C)	Temp monthly max (deg C)	Temp average daily max (deg C)	Temp average daily min (deg C)	Temp average for month (deg C)
May '18	*	89.8	-0.63	22.1	13.1	4.8	8.7
Jun '18	*	105.1	-3.6	15.1	9.9	1.4	5.2

The yearly rainfall up to the end of June is 374.7mm which is below the long term average for this period of 427mm. It is unfortunate that I cannot provide monthly rainfall details for this period but we now are fortunate to have a local who will record accurate daily/monthly/yearly rainfall records which will feature in future reports.

We have experienced a number of very cold nights below zero particularly in late June.

~ Don Owen



ABOVE: Blackwood Seniors enjoy a lavish Christmas in July lunch catered by BELOW: Jenny with Deanne & husband Robert (& daughter Debbie not in photo) helping to dish up.



OPERATION: RESTART A HEART

Over 6000 Victorians suffer a cardiac arrest every year, with only one in ten people surviving the medical event. For every minute that passes after someone's heart stops working the chance of surviving decreases by up to 10% for every minute that passes without CPR & defibrillation using a defib. (Also known as an AED or Automated External Defibrillator). With this in mind, the Blackwood CERT has launched **Operation: Restart a Heart.**

The team project will involve a few steps-

- Locating all publicly-accessible defibs between Greendale & Trentham.
- Registering the defibs with Ambulance Victoria & also, onto the GoodSAM app to allow all responders, including the CFA & off duty medical professionals to locate the closest AED & respond to the emergency.
- Assisting organisations who have defibs to ensure that they will work when needed.
- Offering practical training sessions for community members to provide them with basic skills that could save someone's life.

To get this venture rolling we need your help! If you know the location of a defib in town please let us know by emailing blackwoodcert.teamleader@ambulance.vic.gov.au or speaking with a CERT team member.



Born June 20 (8lb, 10oz) Jake Patrick Gee (I wonder if he'll get Gerry as a nickname) has wasted no time in getting Mum (Annalice) back to work cutting & dyeing at BHB.



• KARAOKE AT THE PUB •



Katey sings up her 18th birthday



Eagle Rock of course



Karaoke mayhem





ENCOUNTER A SOFT, FURRY CREATURE

Come along to Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group's annual general meeting (AGM) on August 26 to hear how you can help search for threatened species in the Wombat State Forest.

Threatened species officer, Brad Blake, is to be the guest speaker & he will tell how you can join a "citizens' science project" to record sightings of the Greater Glider & other threatened wildlife.

Brad works in neighbouring Macedon Ranges Shire, where he has been busy working with the community on citizens' science projects.

Although he has much to do within the north-eastern parts of the Wombat, Brad hopes to later extend his activities into our "neck of the woods" & he's looking for recruits.

He'll explain what's required but, essentially, the opportunity is to venture into the forest with a spotlight at night to try to locate & record sightings of various species.

His survey in the Macedon Shire concentrates on Powerful Owl, Phascogale & Greater Glider.

When appointed to his current position, Brad said: "It's extremely important that we continue to collect data on the threatened species of our region so that government & the community can better manage our public & private land."

"This will ensure that species at risk of extinction survive & persist into the future for generations to come."

"I'm looking forward to engaging the community & helping them learn the techniques required to survey their local area for these iconic threatened species."

The landcare group's AGM starts at 6.30pm at the Blackwood Pub on Sunday, August 26. Everyone is welcome.

~ Shane Scanlan



L-R: New CERT trainees Jaike Ludewig, Dianne Volpe, Kirsty Vella, Peter Daghish & Doreen Dabrymple check out the brand, spanking new CERT vehicle with Ballan Ambulance Acting Team Manager Steve Riley.

• MND FUNDRAISER AT THE PUB • MND FUNDRAISER AT THE PUB •



Those locals who didn't give up their hair were more than happy to open their wallets to support Blackwood Pub's Shaving Night which raised \$1,160.75 for Motor Neurone Disease (MND).

Good on Jaime Henderson for instigation the fundraiser & publican Daz for taking his scissors out of retirement for the night.



BRENDAN ANTHONY RAYNER APRIL 10, 1947 – MAY 20, 2018

Brendan was born in an ambulance at the corner of Nicholson & Victoria Pde., East Melbourne, enroute to St. Vincent's Hospital, on April 10, 1947. For laughs, he used to joke & tell people he was born in the gutter.

He was the second child of Jack & Grace Rayner, a brother to his older sister Christine, who was born while his father Jack was stationed with R.A.A.F. Squadron 464, in Europe during WW2. His future siblings were Tess, Peter-John, Brian, Pauline, Chris & Marita.

The family lived in Newstead St., Maribyrniong, throughout Brendan's early years, before they moved to Lawson St., North Balwyn.

He started school at St. Bede's, North Balwyn. Whilst in Prep, Brendan wagged school when he decided rather than be in class, it was much more exciting to watch the "Bullrizers" as he called them, making Doncaster Road. He then attended Parade Preparatory College, Alphington, & finally Parade Senior College in East Melbourne, known by the students as "The Bluestone Pile."

He was a bit of a rebel in the later school years & was occasionally the recipient of the punishment known as "the cuts" or "the sixers". He remained friends with a number of his school friends, some of whom attended his funeral, including one who flew over from Tasmania for the day.

He joined the Parade Cadets & went on a number of bivouac camps at Puckapunyal. This involved camping out in the open without tents or cover & was meant to "toughen the boys up."

However, Brendan had already camped out in the bush or down by the Lerderderg River with his brothers & sisters on many occasions, as the family spent all the school holidays at their log cabin in Golden Point. He wasn't in the least bit fazed by the bivouac experience.

Brendan had a love of animals, particularly birds & horses. The first horse he purchased for himself was bought with the money he had saved from retrieving & selling lost golf balls back to the Kew Golf Club. He was also an enthusiastic player of polocrosse at the Koonung Club.

One day he tied his horse up to the gates of the North Balwyn house. A passing car backfired, causing the horse to shy & pull over the brick gate post. Much to his parents chagrin, the repair costs were invalidated by their insurance company as the horse belonged to a member of the family.

One time Brendan decided to ride his horse from North Balwyn to Blackwood. He set out early in the morning & camped by the roadside somewhere between Melton & Bacchus Marsh. He resumed the ride the next day, & arrived at Blackwood late in the afternoon. That evening he attended one of the regular dances being held at the Blackwood Hall. Apart from being a bit stiff & sore, he was able to engage in the usual dances with the local girls.

His first job after leaving school, was with the Land Tax Department in Melbourne. He next ventured into truck & spare parts services, beginning at Hancock Motors in Melbourne, & later continuing this line of work at the Ballarat Ball Bearings & Truck Spares Company.

In November 1969 Brendan had a car accident just outside of Blackwood. His mum (Grace) was in hospital after a gallstone operation & so the family contrived not to tell her the serious nature of his injuries – only that he had a broken leg. However, his younger siblings Chris & Marita spilt the beans & gave a full account of his broken legs, broken arms etc.

Whilst recuperating in the Ballarat Base Hospital, Brendan met his wife-to-be Gabrielle Boermans who was one of the many nurses caring for him. They married in 1973 & soon moved to Sulky, just outside Creswick, in 1974, to live on 20 acres, while he continued working at Ballarat Ball Bearings & Truck Spares.

His 3 children – Tristan, Johanna & Jake – were all born there & he was

very proud of their achievements as they grew into fine young adults. Brendan often said his 3 children were the most important & best thing that ever happened to him.

His work at the Bald Hills Primary School as a School Council Member, parent & regular volunteer, was legendary, & he saw many projects completed for the school community. He was also President of the School Council for a number of years.

Brendan was passionate about landcare & became a Councillor with the then Creswick Shire, later being elected Shire President in 1990.

His experience, insight & knowledge honed from the time he served on the Creswick Shire Council & his term as Shire President, stood him in good stead. All this knowledge enabled him to contribute to a robust & critique discussion on many events.



Brendan's friends will miss his twice yearly reminder of either the solstice or the equinox – the lessening of daylight or the growing of daylight.

Brendan could be a bit of a practical joker, but he also loved discussing politics, nature, birds & wildlife. He enjoyed playing backgammon & hunting with his hounds.

His dog Strider was a staghound/greyhound cross – a large dog that smiled with all teeth showing – a fierce & intimidating beast to strangers. Throughout the winter months he'd take his 3 dogs plus his Fox Terrier, out on regular hunts with a group of fox shooters. Brendan had the ability to skin & gut a rabbit in a very short space of time

Once his little Fox Terrier was caught in a rabbit burrow. Being unable to extract the dog, Brendan sadly returned home lamenting his lost dog. However, a few days later, the dog returned, had lost some weight & somehow managed to extract itself from the burrow.

Brendan became a house dad – not in the usual sense – his responsibilities were outside the house. They had a cocky, cows & a stallion in the stable yard & other horses in the paddock, plus chocks, ducks, & two roosters. He also kept goats to help reduce gorze & blackberries.

Brendan planted more trees, built sheds, & fenced his paddocks when he became the owner/builder of the new Sulky family house after selling their home which was previously known as the Red Lion Hotel in former days.

Once Brendan made up his mind to tackle a new task, he wouldn't stop until the job was complete. It was his meticulous methods & attention to perfection that left many in awe if not admiration of his tenacity. Once an idea was conceived, it took lots of planning, thinking, more thinking & contemplating. Weeks might pass with lots of talk. However, once started, he'd not stop until the job was complete. He was always a night owl, & once sat glued to the Commonwealth or Olympic Games, watching all the events over the two week period. He slept throughout the day so he could continue to watch the games all night.

Brendan could never be hurried in any endeavour, always marching & moving to his own beat. He was often the last to leave any gathering, wanting one last cuppa & another smoke.

Brendan was very knowledgeable about trees & freely used the common & botanical names. He was involved with land care, always the green advocate for a healthier sustainable environment.

He gathered seed for the Seed Co-Op taking request & specific orders for less common species of eucalyptus. His knowledge of Australian & exotic trees was keen & he often remarked that trees planted by Council were either in inappropriate locations or an unsuitable variety.

If every anyone needed a hand trimming or taking down trees, Brendan would crank up the chainsaw & he'd have the job completed quick smart. One time he talked his way through a Police road block to volunteer his

help protecting a friend's rural property from impending bush fires.

Once he moved into Rowe St., Ballarat, he went about a quiet domesticity routine of shopping, visiting friends & enjoying current affairs, cricket or football.

Each year he would purchase the E2C calendar as it was his diary of day to day reminders. He'd notate all sorts of info on this calendar

Brendan loved reading the Ballarat Courier for all of the local, State & national news. It might be Council meetings or the constant partisan wrangles, political intrigue on all levels of politics - especially incompetent screw-ups & political spin of various PM's or Premiers, Senators or Members of the House of Reps., the local Mayor or Council Members – they were all fair game.

Brendan also enjoyed travelling. Some highlights included a trip to Europe & the UK with friends, a road trip to explore the Australian outback, & more recently a journey to Canada & Alaska to visit his son Tristan. Jake would often skype Tristan & Tara in Canada for him so they could enjoy family chats.

Last January Brendan confided in his brother-in-law Stuart Day (Marita's husband) that he wasn't feeling well. Sadly not long after he was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. He was to have been included in a new trial to help combat this insidious disease. He endured radiation therapy & chemotherapy but unfortunately the cancer had metastasized to other parts of his body & he passed away on the 20th May last. It was difficult to watch Brendan's strength seeping away but we are grateful he is now at peace with no more suffering.

Tristan & Johanna made a couple of cross global journeys to be with their beloved dad & to say their final goodbyes. It was well timed, as his health declined too fast for any of us to contemplate. Brendan was so proud of Jake's strength, love & ability to care for him in his time of need. He often said Jake was his rock & he wouldn't have lived the five months after his terminal diagnosis, had it not been for Jake's constant care & unselfish devotion to his needs.

The public expression of grief is necessary as we confront the loss of a family member or partner, friend. Our tears heal our loss & are a reminder we're human. It's also about each & every one of us confronting our own mortality. Please make the most of being healthy, vertical, living & caring while there's still time. No second chances

We love you Brendan & will never forget the special dad, family man, brother & friend you were to all of us.

Rest in Peace.

~ Tess Egan

~ Noelle Shader

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CALLING LOCAL BUSINESSES

Accommodation and Event Venue Operators Networking Forum

Moorabool Shire Council is hosting a forum at the Garden of St Ethr, Simmons Reef Road, Blackwood on Wednesday August 15 at 6.00pm and you are invited.

Join us to hear how Council can provide you with support to build your business capability, hear from our guest, Dr. Stuart Toplis, Manager Industry Sustainability Tourism, Events and Visitor Economy Branch and enjoy networking with other business operators.

The objective is to develop opportunities to collaborate, network and support each other to grow business in Moorabool Shire.

We'd like to connect with you and learn more about the local business environment.

A light meal, soft drinks, tea and coffee provided

Bookings are essential. Please register at <http://bit.ly/2uYz6Pi>



ALL SAINTS: A MISSION CHURCH

In the early days of the gold rush in Blackwood the Church of England (as it then was) services were held in the 2 Church of England schools at Golden Point & Simmons Reef. (a few years later they became Public, or State, schools). The rector of Kyneton rode over on his horse to officiate. The congregations soon started to raise money to build a church & parsonage on its present site in Red Hill (Blackwood was the name of the whole district). This was named All Saints, a Mission Church of the Diocese of Melbourne, & was presented with a bible, still used today. It also received an annual donation as a mission church. For some years the rector of Ballan came over & was put up for the night by the Church warden & given an allowance for his horse. The first baptisms at Blackwood are recorded in the Ballan Register, all to the children of miners.

The son of the first rector of Blackwood, writing as an old man, remembered staying in lodgings waiting for the Parsonage to be completed, being kept awake by the noise of the stamper.

In 1873 Rev. Frederick Smith arrived & not long after that a Christian convert, Peter Bak Soo, from St. Arnaud. Soon an interpreter was found, he visited the magistrate & started to preach to the 300 miners in the area. Rev. Smith found him 'two good rooms for 4 pounds' in the Chinese camp (Golden Point) &, in 1875, 6 Chinese were baptised. 'It was a service never to be forgotten in Blackwood' preached the rector.

In 1876 the Bacchus Marsh Express reported a great farewell for Rev. Smith, who reported that 'opium smoking had decreased in the camp & 'almost entirely the presence of unmarried European women.' The wives of Chinese were attending services, & the children Sunday School.

In December 1877 there were 60 Chinese at a Church Missionary Society lecture by a Mr. Veale, then no more is recorded of the mission.

Rev. Alexander Turnbull, the next rector, had a memorable life, recorded by a PhD student in 1970's. His troubles started when his wife, Harriet, eloped with Frederick H. Horne, clerk at the National Bank in Blackwood, in 1878, abandoning their 5 young children. He had to resign because of the scandal, although the Diocese of Melbourne paid for his divorce, & by 1895, he had founded a Labour Church in Tasmania & was leading marches of the unemployed.

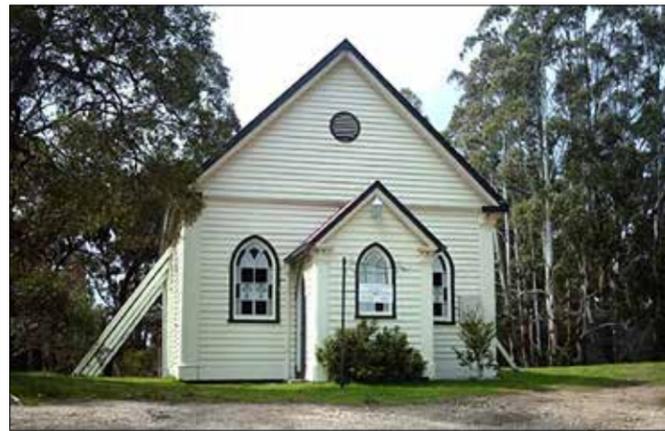
The story of Pincombe, & police officer Saunders is told in detail by Margot Hitchcock in her book.

By that time there was only a Stipendiary Lay Reader & his wife living in the Parsonage. The book with the bullet hole was given to Rev. John Price, & then given to the then Church Warden, Bertie Oliver. When he & Joy moved to South Australia they took it with them. In December 1995 Tom & Penny Garnett were going to Adelaide to farewell their eldest son, Gerald who was returning to Canada, & managed to call & collect the book & return it to where it belonged.

At some stage Blackwood was 'lent' to the care of Woodend parish, & at some time a tennis court was built, (restored in 1980's) & the Parsonage sold.

The church almost closed somewhere between 1930 & 1955, but was saved by the efforts of the women of the congregation, led by Nell Matheson & Olive Cann.

During the time we lived at St Erth (1974-1996) we had a annual picnic to celebrate All Saints Day, money was raised to re-block & renovate the church. The belfry was blown off during the 1983 bushfires & never replaced. Someone broke in & stole the clock which hung at the West end. It was saved by Judith, at Blackwood Store, who saw people acting suspiciously & phoned the police. The clock was returned & its face renovated.



The church featured briefly in a TV production of 'Man From Snowy River,' Mrs Walker at the organ. & a few years ago, (back in Melbourne Diocese, under the care of Bacchus Marsh,) there were great celebrations for the 150th anniversary (only 2 years late by my reckoning) & a great deal of information on display in the Blackwood Hall.

A small church in the bush in which many had worshipped & cared for, for many years.

~ Penny Garnett

Editors note: The All Saints Church went on the market recently. Expressions of interest closed on July 19.

And on asking Margot Hitchcock to confirm the year of the 150th anniversary she responded ...

"Hi Jinny yes the 150th anniversary was in 2015 –

From my next book – "A building grant from the Victorian Church authorities of 150 pounds was received in 1865, & the balance of the cost of 650 pounds was presumed to be raised locally. The Lands Department files show that one acre of land was surveyed by Mr E.G. Magnus, Mining Surveyor by June 1865. The area was Gazetted in September 1865.

This historic church was consecrated on Sunday 29th October 1865 by the Lord Bishop of Melbourne, Charles Perry. It is one of the oldest buildings in Blackwood & one of the few to have been given a National Trust classification. The others are Guggenheimer's Cottage, St. Erth, & the what used to be the Royal Mail Hotel. This weatherboard church has a seating capacity of over 200 people.

In 1866 a tea meeting was held to raise funds for a Parsonage, & in May 1867, Mr Magnus surveyed another site of one acre, & the Bishop applied for a reserve. A grant of 120 pounds was received from Melbourne towards the cost of 350 pounds. The parsonage for the church was built in 1869.

The first Rector of All Saints was Rev. Matthew Henry Ashe, & he remained there until 1873. The second Rector was Rev. Frederick Smith who arrived in July 1873 & remained until 1876.

He also looked after Christ Church Myrmiong, & the Sunday School at Simmons Reef, & in 1874 he conducted church services in the school house in Barrys Reef, Blackwood. This was before Barrys Reef had their own church, St. Stephens built. During his stay in Blackwood is the first mention of the Chinese Mission at Golden Point, Blackwood, with the first Chinese Catechist being Peter Back Soo.

On Christmas Day 1873, the Lord Bishop Perry of Melbourne, Charles Perry came back to Blackwood where he preached to a crowded congregation & confirmed 25 young people....."

Thanks Margot

NATURAL RHYTHM

Smiling Exercise

by Kathie Strmota

I've been sharing a lot of 'serious exercise' info, & it's time to lighten the mood.

Smiling is an effortless exercise with wonderful health benefits, & you can do it anywhere, anytime! Smiles light up your face, open your energy, & brighten your world. When you smile at others, you light up their lives, & when a smiling person makes eye contact with you, it's almost impossible not to crack a smile yourself. Smiles are infectious - in a good way!

When life is looking a bit dark, do some smiling exercise. The physical change in your facial muscles will release hormones which create an immediate shift in mood & perception, allowing you to see the whole situation differently.

Obviously, you won't feel like smiling, so it must begin as a mechanical action. Soften your face, lift the corners of your mouth, & allow your cheeks to lift very slightly until your eyes crinkle gently at edges. This is not the fake lip-curl we slap on occasionally for expediency. You need to 'smile with your eyes'. That's what brings your whole being into the experience.

Play with it until you feel the subtle shift, as feel-good juices start flowing, & you'll see what I mean. Once you hit the right 'wavelength', you won't be able to just hold the 'mona-lisa smile' for very long. Smiling eyes are like magnets that pull the corners of your mouth up higher & higher until suddenly you're barking out a laugh! It's quite extraordinary! What began as an outside smile suddenly comes from the inside, even when you feel you have nothing to smile about, simply because our marvellous bodies are wired that way!



The reverse also applies here. The muscle posture that creates a frown will bring your energy down, dampen your mood, & make everything look that little bit darker. When you notice that you're wearing a grimace, simply relax your face. Even if you really can't manage a smile, just removing the frown-posture from your face will improve the way any experience looks.

The smiling exercise is a wonderful quick-fix, but to brighten your perception of life overall, cultivate the habit of looking for the humour in life's little dramas. Even the worst situations have an edge of the ridiculous, & we can recognise this without disrespect.

A sense of humour is one of our best coping mechanisms. It reduces overwhelm & increases your sense of control over difficult situations. It also improves mental flexibility & creativity, enabling you to be more innovative when finding solutions to your daily problems. Physically, the habit of humour reduces the stress-hormone cascade & its damaging effects, & actually improves immune system health, which means far less disease overall. (We are, of course, talking about laughing with others, rather than laughing at or ridiculing others. That's a not-funny habit which is actually shown to make you sick.)

A true sense of humour reflects a light-hearted & playful frame of mind & the ability to laugh at yourself & the crazy situations you find yourself in. It makes any life drama (or trauma) much more manageable, & actually reduces recovery time (physical and/or emotional).

Remember that Peter Pan can only fly when thinking happy thoughts and, according to Leunig, the fallen angel told Vasco Pyjama that the only reason angels can fly is because they take themselves so lightly.

Do your best to see the ridiculous, truly laugh at your 'humiliations', or simply do some smiling exercise ... & let the lightening of your heart & mind help you rise above it all!

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

Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management

The Crown Reserves Committee of Management has been very active over the past month with the progress of several projects.

A grant of \$36,500 has been approved for some much needed improvements at the Mineral Springs. This money will be utilised to renovate the gazebos, erect new signage, paint the pedestrian bridge, improve fire services & some landscaping. As part of the grant conditions these works must be completed within 12 months. To ensure the monies are used most effectively the committee will be requesting some voluntary assistance once the weather becomes a bit brighter.

The sewerage works at the caravan park are nearing completion & negotiations are taking place with the Moorabool Shire regarding the provision of sanitary services in the annual van sites. The new sewerage system has resulted in the loss of 6 camp sites to allow for the water evaporation pit. This would result in the loss of approximately \$10,000 annual income & the Shire acknowledges this significant income loss to the park & negotiations are taking place for suitable locations to replace these sites.

The sewerage works has resulted in significant disruption to main camp sites, so the committee has seen this as an opportunity to fix up some drainage problems & resow grass so the sites will be pristine for the busy summer season. Whilst works were taking place the committee also seized on the opportunity to significantly upgrade the power reticulation within the park to ensure adequate electricity supply for the future.

Applications are before DELWP for the renovation of the tennis courts incorporating a netball court & the provision of clubrooms & amenities & the approval for the Bocce area. As you are probably aware the Bocce enthusiasts were the winners of the inaugural "big idea" project run by the Progress Association.

~ Dave White, President

Blackwood CERT

CERT welcomes 6 new people to our team! (photo p12)

A while back, when we started our recent round of recruitment, a local said to me, "if the community values CERT here, then the community will provide enough people". Well, with 6 new people about to start training, & another trained & ready to go, I think it's fair to say the the community values CERT. Thank you everyone for investing in your CERT - it is a valuable resource & it will keep going strong with your ongoing support.

While we haven't been on a lot of calls lately, we have been busy - training, skilling up, & working to improve the health outcomes for all who live in, & visit, Blackwood & surrounds. One important activity is the Defib project that Marie-Claire, Jan & Kathy are leading to make sure that we have enough publicly-accessible & functioning defibs to help save someone's life. If you can help, please contact me.

We also met with Blackwood, Greendale & Trentham CFAs for our local emergency services dinner. Thank you Deirdre for hosting our part, for Jinny Coyle for her president's address & to Steve Riley our Paramedic Team Manager at Ballan for coming along to support us. Working together is important & I believe we are doing it well.

You'll notice our new CERT car. We're all pleased to have it & happy to have something that is modern, reliable, safe (and looks good).

Stay safe & come & say hi to us if you see us around!

~ Margaret McCarthy, Blackwood CERT Team Leader

Blackwood CFA

Welcome to Mid-Winter everyone, Not long to go now & we can enjoy some more pleasant weather.

FISKVILLE CUP TO BE HELD AROUND BLACKWOOD.

On Sunday, October 21, Blackwood Brigade will be hosting the

Fiskville Cup.

This is a yearly training exercise/competition for brigades within the Ballan CFA group.

Nine tankers from as far afield as Mount Wallace will be travelling around the town attending approximately 10 predetermined training scenarios.

Training situations include bush fire, car fires, house fires & hazardous chemical spills. As it is being held at Blackwood, we also hope to include a mine rescue scenario.

This is good chance for neighbouring brigades to get experience driving around the town, locating our water supplies & understanding the unique problems fighting fire in a relatively steep, isolated environment.

Blackwood has proudly been a past winner of the Cup a couple of years ago with almost a clean sweep, Jack winning the Crew Leader Award & the brigade winning the Cup itself, unfortunately we missed out on best-presented truck that year.

So as you are moving around on the day, be aware of Fire Vehicles & Crews moving around the Blackwood area.

Don't forget about your nearest hydrant. 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 first 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/Barrree Landcare

We have our AGM coming up (6,30pm Aug 26) & threatened species officer, Brad Blake, is the guest speaker. He is looking to recruit a few volunteers to conduct spotlighting in our area to count numbers of Greater Gliders & Powerful Owls.

~ Cat Moser (President)

Blackwood Progress Association

It has been a busy 2 months for Progress Association where all of the members have been very active getting numerous projects up & running.

With the AGM coming up on August 13, we are looking forward to not only giving the annual report but also an update on each project that we are working on & what future opportunities we are exploring for the benefit of Blackwood. The meeting will be at the hall & commences at 7:30pm. A light supper will be served.

The committee welcome everyone to attend, whether you live in the area or are one of our regular visitors.

The Golden Duke Update

The metal cylinder with the name Golden Duke mine on it will return to Blackwood following the approval of a generous grant of \$3000 by the Moorabool Shire. The cheque was presented to Jessica Kalmar (the project initiator) & the Progress Association represented by David White at a function on Tuesday July 24 at the Shire offices in Ballan. Where the cylinder artefact will placed is yet to be finalised & any suggestions would be welcome

The Big Idea Update – Bocce Group

The Big Idea has awarded to the Bocce group & two meetings have taking place to finalise plans such as the preparation & laying of the playing surface, what equipment is required such as balls, scoreboard & seats.

We hope Bocce ground will be located alongside the water tank in the old Bowling Green area & an application has been lodged with

DELWP for formal approval to utilise this area. There is a lovely buzz about town for this new group as people are excited to learn how to play. Rachel Palmer is the Progress Association liaison person & if you are interested or have any questions, please contact her.

Tennis/Netball Club

A funding application has been lodged with the state government "pick my project" scheme for money to assist with the development of the tennis/netball court area. It is hoped that we can refurbish the playing area to accommodate both sports & to build club rooms adjacent to the courts. The Progress Association is calling for an interested person or people to assist with the planning & development of a tennis/netball club & to have input into the project. So far we have 25 names of people interested in forming a tennis/netball club & we would like someone to take a lead in getting it off the ground. Please contact David White on 0418 372 203 if you are interested.

You might not be aware that there is an existing Blackwood netball team who play at Ballan – they started this year & are called the Black Hawks & new players are always welcome.

At our last meeting we were delighted to have Robyn Zanon attend from the Uniting Church who gave an update on the development/renovation of the Blackwood Uniting Church. We love the sound of their concepts & are very keen to support their initiative.

With our secretary Bev Butler enjoying warmer weather up north, Karen Bruno is filling in with a report for this edition. If you have any questions please contact her on 0409 212 473. Stay warm everyone

~ Karen Bruno

Blackwood Seniors

Sorry to have missed the last issue so we would like to say Happy Birthday to all that we have missed. We went to Tarneit to see Abba & had a good time. On a sad note our beautiful Betty Banks passed away in June & is missed very much. Betty always helped at the club & always stayed behind to help clean up. Please if you know of anyone who would like to come on Wednesdays & cant get there. Call Dianne on 53686795 & we will make arrangements for them to be picked up & taken back home. We hope you all stay safe & warm until 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 Historical Society or Blackwood BAG. If you would like to let your community know about your organisation, what your focus in the community is & how you would like support, please email Sandy at – galaxyss@hotmail.com. We'd love to hear from you.

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PARENTS & BABIES/TODDLERS BUSH TIME



A weekly meet-up, starting Monday September 10, for an hour and a half together in the bush. Meet outside the Blackwood Jindarup store at 10 am. Bring your baby carriers, off-road strollers, water, appropriate weather gear, snacks, and walking shoes. Please be willing to turn your phone off for the duration of the time. Once the group is established, we will meet at different places for different activities.

Contact Sarah for more information on sarahataylor1234@gmail.com

photo: Brenda Hunter

• 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

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DELIVERING FOR ALL VICTORIANS

WOMBAT BOOK CLUB

The Wombat Bookclub is an informal group of locals. When we formed in 2014 we decided we wanted to enjoy a wide range of books selected by our members. Our mobile library librarians have been very supportive, organising up to 12 copies of each book we request. Membership is free, although a refundable deposit is required to access library books in case of loss or damage.

We meet at the pub, 3pm every 3rd Sunday where we chill down with bubbles or wine & chips (yes, we even have a chip float) while we discuss, sometimes debate the latest book before enjoying some social time. If you like the sound of this, pop in to a meeting, we always welcome more readers.

Because our members choose the books, the range is diverse, from graphic novels to children's books & everything in between.

Our June book was the classic 'Wind in the Willows' by Kenneth Grahame. Originally illustrated by Ernest H. Shepard the group enjoyed looking through the many graphic interpretations since then.

DEE: This classic children's novel was always a favourite of mine as a young girl. It tells the story of friendship & loyalty between 4 very different characters. The will to understand one individuality & willingness to save the day for all.

3 wombies 🐨🐨🐨

TERRY: I listened to Wind In The Willows on audio book & was instantly transformed to my childhood where I remember watching plays & cartoons. It's charming characters are delightful. My favourites were Mole & Ratty.

4 wombies 🐨🐨🐨🐨

SUE: It was a delight to rediscover Wind in the Willows. Highly recommend it, but absolutely make sure you get a picture book. The pictures bring the story alive; incorrigible, wide-eyed toad careering along in his too-fast car, moles' cosy underground cabin, sneaking into Toad Hall to wrest it back from the evil stoats...great fun!

5 Wombies 🐨🐨🐨🐨🐨

BRENDA: An absolute joy. Took me back to my mother's stories & weekly library visits.

Loved sweet Mole and Rat rollicking on the river and boastful Toad's delight in discovering the motor car – poop poop. Sadness too, & all wonderfully illustrated by Eric Copeland. My grandson needs this book.

5 wombies 🐨🐨🐨🐨🐨

The next book was 'Batavia' by Peter Fitzsimmons. The Shipwreck of the Batavia combines in just the one tale the birth of the world's first corporation, the brutality of colonisation, the battle of good vs evil, the derring-do of sea-faring adventure, mutiny, ship-wreck, love, lust, blood-lust, petty fascist dictatorship, criminality, a reign of terror, murders most foul, sexual slavery, natural nobility, survival, retribution, rescue, first contact with native peoples & so much more.

TERRY: The Batavia is such a scandalous tale it is almost unbelievable that is part of Australian history. I was disgusted at times but couldn't stop reading to find out how it would unravel. I don't know why this story is not more widely-known. Fascinating yet horrifying at the same time.

5 wombies 🐨🐨🐨🐨🐨

SUE: The little-known historical events depicted in this story are amazing & disturbing. However, the book itself is long-winded & just not very gripping. It did make me want to learn more about the actual events though, so for that it gets a few wombies.

3 wombies 🐨🐨🐨

BRENDA: After a lengthy but necessary prologue came the fascinating tale of machiavelian Jeronimus Cornelisz cleverly seducing like-minded characters into mutiny. The massacre after the shipwreck was horrifying and sickening. Not one for the faint-hearted.

4 wombies 🐨🐨🐨🐨

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THE HISTORY OF BLACKWOOD - Street names - 'Decker Street'



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

Decker Street runs off the Simmons Reef Road – the 2nd street on the left.

Alexander Decker was listed in the Post Office directories of 1868-1869 for Mount Blackwood, as a Storekeeper. He is also listed in the 1870, 1884/85, & 1888/89 directories. A photo of the General Store in Martin Street opposite the Hotel

shows the name Alex Decker on a board out the front of the building. According to contact with some relatives of Alex Decker, he was a Loyalist & granted land in Nova Scotia, in North British America after the American War of Independence – mercenaries in 1780's. The family were descendant from the German Deckers, & he came by the United States & arrived in Australia from Nova Scotia in 1844, age 21 yrs.

Alex Decker & the family owned several properties in Blackwood at one time. Other family information was Alex Decker was a butcher & storekeeper. Alex Decker also lived at Castlemaine. Alexander Decker's father was Joseph Decker, & his mother was Henrietta Meirs.

The first wife of Alex Decker was Rose Macken – married prior to 1852 & had 5 children. Rose Decker (nee Macken) died 1862 age 31yrs with parent's names unknown. Rose was born in Armadale in 1831. (*Digger records*)

Alex Decker married a 2nd time to Caroline Sargent/Sargeant on June 22, 1865 & most of his children had Sargent as a 2nd name - being his wife's maiden name. Alex & Caroline Sargent/Sargeant had 12 children born in Blackwood. With Alex Decker's first 5 children to Rose Mackin & then 12 children to Caroline Sargent this made a total of 17 children born to Alex Decker! He must have had to keep adding bedrooms onto his house!

There was a Frederick Sargent listed as having died at Red Hill in Blackwood in 1866. His tombstone in the Blackwood cemetery reads 'Frederick Sargent of Berkshire, England died July 31 1866, age 63 years.' According to a descendant, Frederick Sargent was a storekeeper of Red Hill, Blackwood. He left 6 surviving children, Caroline (who married Alex Decker), Frederick James, William, Margaret, Valentine & Edward Hollyer.

The Digger records list Frederick Sargent as born in London in 1803 with father Frederick Sargent & mother Elizabeth Hollyer. Also a Mrs Sargent living in Blackwood in the Post Office Directories in 1868/69 /1870.

Alex Decker was a butcher in Blackwood then a butcher in Malvern, & their house was named Laradoc, which was the original name of the Lerderberg River. He is listed on March 26, 1898 as living in Malvern & later St Kilda – a colonist for 54 years. Alex Decker had a gold mine at Blackwood – a record shows the *Art Union mine* with the Manager as Alex Decker with a lease at Union Reef.

Alexander Decker died at Malvern in 1898 age 75 yrs with father listed as Joseph Decker & mother Henrietta Meirs. This made Alex Decker born in 1823. Alex Decker's wife, Caroline Decker died on the 6th January 1919. There is a Decker listed as buried in the Blackwood cemetery in R.C. section M – 49 but no name or details, & no headstone. There are 3 Decker children listed as having died at Blackwood between 1868 – 1875.

In the Bacchus Marsh Express paper of August 2, 1879 a Police report from the Blackwood Court stated – "Police charged Ah Tong, Ah Hing, Ah Hoe, & Hong King of having in their possession stolen fat. etc Mrs. Decker, sworn: I am carrying on the business of a butcher, & on Blackwood: On Friday last I had cattle slaughtered at the yard. My husband killed at the yard, for me. On the following morning we found that 20lb. of beef had been cut out of the Carcase; all the fat & tongue were taken away from the yard. Alexander Decker, sworn: I killed a very fat cow at the slaughter-yard on Friday last for my wife. I left the beef at the yard after slaughtering. The tongue & fat were also left there on a hook. On the following morning when I went to the yard I found all the roast beef cut off the ribs from the hind-quarter to below the shoulder-blade. The tongue & all the fat were gone-about 50lb. I fastened all up safely when I left the yard, & put a padlock on. On the following morning a thick board was partly prized off, & a hole cut in same large enough to admit of bolt being removed. The meat was of a high colour through being driven from Ballarat; there was a piece of brisket fat among the rest. I am nearly positive from the appearance of the fat, meat, any part of tongue produced, that it is part of the same I lost. I know the prisoners. I did not sell them any portion of the meat now in court. Senior-constable Young, sworn: On Saturday last I received information that meat & fat had been stolen from Decker's yard.



On Sunday I visited 1 or 2 Chinese huts, also the hut occupied by the 4 prisoners. Saw one of them cutting up some of the meat. I suspected it was part of the stolen meat. I asked him where he got it from. He could not give a satisfactory answer. I immediately procured a search warrant, & searched their premises. I found the meat, part of tongue, & fat now produced; the fat was partly rendered, & in a boiler under one of their bunks; also some portion of the meat tied up in old bags. When I took them to the lock-up 3 of the prisoners said "Ah Hing, he took him." Ah Pack, the interpreter, sworn, stated that he interpreted to the prisoners when they were taken to the lock-up that if they had purchased the meat from any person they must get him to attend the Court as evidence for them. Mr. Decker, to the Bench: I consider the damage done, with what was taken, was fully £3. The prisoners, in defence, made some very contradictory statements about purchasing the meat from some Englishman for 5s., but could not say from whom, or where he lived.

Verdict:-Two months in Melbourne Jail, with hard labour, or a fine of £2 10s. each.

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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• CALENDAR OF EVENTS •

AUGUST:

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Sat 4	10am	Ballan Station community consultation	Ballan
Sat 4	10am-3pm	Winter Pruning (\$45)	TNH
Mon 13	7.30pm	Progress AGM	Bwd Hall
Wed 15	6pm	Business Forum	St Erth
Sat 18	4.30pm	Cool Climate Cinema Festival	Newham
Sun 26	10am-1pm	Fermentation 101 (\$100)	TNH
Sun 26	6.30pm	Landcare AGM	Bwd Pub
Wed 29	10am	Beeswax Wraps (\$20)	TNH

SEPTEMBER:

Sat 1	5.30pm	Blackwood Bush Dance	Hall
Sun 2	11am-3pm	Basketry with Natural Fibres	St Erth
Tue 11	1-3pm	Fresh Flower Crowns (\$50)	TNH

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?

Mum,
Your body once carried me.
Close to its heart,
Into this world.

And now,
My body will carry you.
Until that day
It also leaves.

Memorial tattoos declare the permanence of love in the face of loss, defiance in the face of death. The living carry, close to their hearts, the stories of their dead.



Also, her first choice (the beautiful diamond pendant "M") proved too hard to find, so a "Mum" inking worked just fine. (left)

A: Sue Anderson

Did you know?

People are adding the ashes of their loved ones their tattoo ink so that they can literally carry them around. Creepy or cool?

Below: Auntie Linda used to make up little bags of lavender to help her niece sleep well at night. They were close, aunt and niece. Linda died 2 years ago, but she's kept close with this elegant tattoo.



A: Kelly Simpson

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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 Bladder Stones (Urinary Calculi). This is a very painful & irritating condition that affects most breeds.

Calculi or bladder stones are rock-like collections of minerals that form in the urinary bladder. They may be in the form of a large, single stone or as multiple small stones like sand or gravel.

Why are they a problem? The stones may cause an obstruction to the outflow of urine

making your pet strain without passing urine. They can also cause trauma to the lining of the bladder or urethra resulting in production of bloody urine.

When there is an obstruction the bladder cannot empty & this is very painful. Pets may cry in pain, especially if their abdomen is pressed. They may also lick at their vulva or penis.

How do they form? There are many causes of bladder stone formation & most cases are a combination of these. High concentrations of minerals in the urine can cause the small mineral particles to collect together & form stones. The increased levels of these minerals may be due to a diet rich in them or previous bladder injuries (like infection). Abnormalities in body metabolism can also cause increased mineral levels in the urine.

How are they diagnosed? Some bladder stones can be palpated (felt) through the abdominal wall however not all are found this way. Most bladder stones are visible on x-ray or ultrasound. Stones not visible this way may require a contrast dye to be placed in the bladder before taking a radiograph (x-ray). Ultrasound examination is a very sensitive way to visualize both large bladder stones & the sand/gravel (small stones) that can also form. Cystitis (bladder infection) will cause similar signs to urinary calculi & is much more common, tests may need to be run to distinguish between cystitis & stones.

How are they treated? There are two ways to remove bladder stones/calculi. The fastest is via surgery. The bladder is opened & the offending stones are removed. Surgery is indicated if there is an outflow obstruction from the bladder or infection associated with the stones or with some specific kinds of stone.

The other way to treat bladder calculi is via a prescription diet. There are three main disadvantages to this method.

1. It is not effective on all types of stones. You may have to try to identify the stone type before trying the diet.
2. It is slow to work, so if your pet is in pain or discomfort it may not be the best option.
3. Not all pets will eat the prescription diet & it must be fed as a sole food source or it will not work.

Can they be prevented? Yes. If stones are removed surgically or if small ones are passed in the urine, they should be analysed. This will tell us if the use of a prescription diet will be helpful in preventing further stone formation. Regular urine tests will be required to monitor for any signs of recurrence. Antibiotics may need to be used intermittently to treat bacterial infections. If you suspect your pet may be having urinary issues best to check sooner as early intervention is ideal.

Hope you are all staying safe & warm.

Woof for now ... Seamus

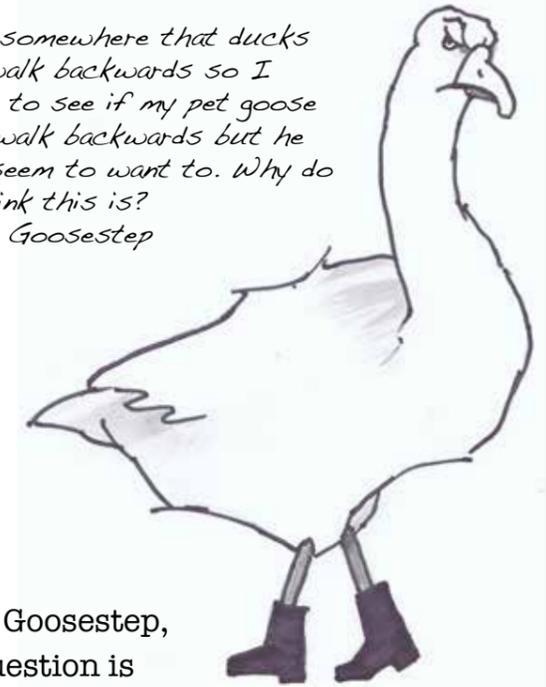
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Dear Pet Guru,

I read somewhere that ducks can't walk backwards so I decided to see if my pet goose could walk backwards but he didn't seem to want to. Why do you think this is?
Gareth Goosestep



Dear

Gareth Goosestep,

That question is

imponderable, almost as imponderable as the question of why would anyone in his right mind want to teach a goose to walk backwards.

Pet Guru

• BLACKWOOLS •



In a heart of a very cold June night, our family was extended by 36 cute little paws! Our dogs, Wiggles and Johnnyboy have become brand new parents of 9 beautiful puppies and Lee, Stephanie and Elea welcomed

them in our ever-growing family, alongside our 2 dogs, our cat, chooks & newborn.

After our own Blackwood White Night full of surprises, happy thoughts, sleepless moments, some gross bodily fluids that I never want to see in my life ever again, huge cuddles to the brave dog-mum, a dog-dad that couldn't care less & slept like a log, we saw the sun rise to a sea of loving 9 dog-newborns.

They've been nothing short on funny moments, cute cuddles with our daughter Elea, running after them when they ventured outside to play tag with the chooks, a lot of cleaning after them (like A LOT), a huge amount of photos on instagram, barely any sleep, & we wouldn't trade those 7 full-on weeks for all the gold in the world.

They all now have gone to their new loving homes, mainly in the Blackwood area, so if you see one of them running around in the direction of the pub, you'll know that they're the rightful descendants of a proud Blackwoodian family.



FOREST CAMPERS URGED TO CLEAN UP THEIR ACT

Visitors using free campgrounds within Victoria's State Forests are reminded that it is everyone's responsibility to ensure campfire safety rules are followed, after an unsettling incident over the recent Queen's Birthday long weekend was reported from Ditchfield's Campsite, north-east of Beaufort.

Forest Fire Management Victoria's Midlands District Manager, Jasmine Filmer, said "Our Authorised Officers conduct regular patrols of popular forest areas for both compliance & maintenance purposes, but they cannot be in all places at once.

We are urging forest users to be vigilant about campfire safety & if they see illegal activities in our State forests, report to the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning on 136 186, or call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000," Ms Filmer said.

"What concerns us most is that some people are not respecting the needs & expectations of other visitors; while most people are keen to do the right thing, there remain a few campers that continue to flout our forest laws.

The building of huge bonfires is unacceptable. People are not using their common sense & are blatantly disregarding the rules."

"Careless behaviour by people who do not obey campfire safety rules, do not extinguish their campfires properly or leave them unattended is putting fellow campers in danger.

1. Knowing how to properly light & maintain a campfire is vital; the ground must be cleared of any flammable material such as twigs & leaves & an adult must be in attendance at all times to take responsibility for the fire.
2. Use a purpose-built fireplace where provided, otherwise light your campfire in a trench at least 30-cm deep. Ensure the trench is no larger than one square metre in size & the area around the trench is cleared of flammable material up to three-metres in all directions, including above the campfire.
3. Branches & logs on your campfire must be less than one metre long – keep your fire just big enough for warmth & cooking.
4. Never leave a campfire alight or unattended. You must maintain a 50m line of sight of the campfire at all times. An adult must be present at all times when the campfire is alight.
5. Ensure your campfire is completely extinguished using water not soil.

Under the *Forest Act 1958*, on the spot fines of up to \$476 can be issued for people breaching campfire safety rules & a person can face a maximum penalty of up to \$15,857 if the matter is prosecuted in Court.

For more information on campfire safety visit <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/fire-restrictions-and-regulations>

• 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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to join the

BLACKWOOD CROWN RESERVES COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management oversee the day-to-day running of the sports ground, hall, mineral springs & caravan park.

With the continuing growth of Blackwood we need help with this for the betterment of the town.

We need more input from the community. We meet once a month. If you are interested in joining the team please contact David White on 0418 372 203



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<https://www.facebook.com/theblackwoodtimes>

JUNE LANDCARE WEEDING DAY

Despite revolting rainy weather, the hardy members of our local Landcare (Peter & Shaun Donnelly, Shane Scanlan & Anka & Byron) met at the Special School corner to do some weeding.



The Blackwood Hat Shoppe

15 Martin St.
Open Sundays 11- 4pm, other times by appointment or chance ph 9018 5458

MORE MOBILE COVERAGE FOR DALES CREEK

Residents of Dales Creek & the surrounding area will soon be better connected following an announcement that Optus will build a new mobile tower in the town.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas, has announced the location of the new mobile phone tower as part of the Andrews Labor Government's Victorian Mobile Black Spot Project (VMBSP).

Dales Creek is one of 28 communities that will be safer & better-connected through Round 3 of the VMBSP.

The Labor Government is partnering with Optus & Telstra to build new mobile towers across Victoria, with the towers set to cover around 2,000 square kilometres & connect more than 4,000 premises.

The Labor Government has invested \$11 million to build the towers, which brings the total amount of state co-funded towers to 229 – representing approximately \$190 million of infrastructure investment in regional Victoria.

The Government is also developing digital plans for the nine Regional Partnerships using the most comprehensive, up-to-date information on each region's digital infrastructure & services. This is due to be finalised later this year.

Mary-Anne Thomas MP said "I'm thrilled that the Andrews Labor Government has funded this tower through our Victorian Mobile Black Spot Project."

"The construction of a tower in Dales Creek is a great outcome for locals & for those visiting the area, helping people stay connected, while providing a lifeline during an emergency in one of the most bush fire-prone areas in the world."

For more information, visit economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au/connecting-victoria



• BEYOND BLACKWOOD •

• BEYOND BLACKWOOD •



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Tues: Locals Slab Draw in Bar & Parma and Pasta \$14
Friday: Happy Hour 5-7, \$3 POTS, Bar Nibbles & Meat Raffle
Wed – Sun: Full Menu Dinner

Daily: Lunch @ noon-2pm **Mon-Fri:** \$12 lunches

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BALLAN STATION UPGRADE

Landscaping & Heritage Consultation

Plans have been unveiled for the Ballan Station upgrade, which is due to be transformed as part of the half-a-billion-dollar Ballarat Line Upgrade.

The station upgrade will include:

- an additional platform
 - a new pedestrian overpass
 - an improved bus bay layout
 - new bicycle storage facilities
 - lifts & ramps for accessibility
 - a new car park with a drop-off zone on the south side of the station
- improved security, lighting & landscaping.

Accessibility will be a critical part of the upgrade, with new lifts allowing all passengers to easily access both platforms, & ramp access to platforms from the car parks.

The revamp will maintain the heritage value of the existing station building & will be integrated with its existing look & feel, which is integral to the Ballan township.

We're asking the Ballan community to have their say on tree planting, landscaping & heritage at the station. Just go to our online survey at <http://bit.ly/2LruWtD>, or come along to the second community information session at the Ballan Mechanics Institute Hall, 143 Inglis Street, Ballan on Saturday August 4, 10am - 1pm

Other major work is continuing on the half-a-billion dollar Ballarat Line Upgrade, including the Ballan passing loop, track duplication, Maddingley stabling & Rockbank Station rebuild.

ref <http://bit.ly/2uVst0k>



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DR GWEN

A REMARKABLE WOMAN



An exhibition celebrating the 80th anniversary of her arrival in Trentham

80 years on and people are still talking about her

Friday 28 September 2018 • 10 am to 12 noon

Trentham Mechanics Institute Hall
85 High Street, Trentham

Photos and film footage of Dr Gwen will also be on display at
Trentham Neighbourhood Centre from 1 to 31 October
(open Mondays to Thursdays from 9am to 4.30 pm)

TRENTHAM POLICE IN CONJUNCTION WITH TRENTHAM EASTER ART & CRAFT SHOW COMMITTEE

A REMARKABLE WOMAN

Friday September 28, 2018 marks the 80th Anniversary of the arrival of Dr Gweneth WISEWOULD to Trentham – to the exact day!!!

Dr Gwen became an icon in Trentham & surrounding areas. Her book 'Outpost – A Doctor on the Divide' provides a fantastic snapshot of the area & times she lived & worked here. But Dr Gwen doesn't talk a lot about herself in her book – that's where Ian Braybrook's book "Outpost Doctor" fills in the gaps about her very interesting life. We had a celebration last year entitled "Dr Gwen – A Remarkable Woman" & this year we are continuing that theme. There will be an exhibition of photos, video footage (approx. 7 minutes worth) – purchased this under a licencing agreement from the ABC & only for display at community events for 6 months) & memorabilia celebrating this wonderful woman & her contributions. After the 28/09/18 the photos & footage will be on display at the Trentham Neighbourhood Centre (TNC) throughout October.

SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

The Macedon Ranges Film Society announces its inaugural Short Film Festival - "Cool Climate Cinema"

Starting at 4.30pm on Saturday August 18 at the Newham Mechanics Hall, Cool Climate Cinema celebrates the skill & creativity of short film producers, working with limited time & usually very limited budgets to tell engaging, entertaining & often moving stories.

The program features 12 short films screened in 2 halves of approximately 50 minutes each with a 20 minute interval. Genres featured include Comedy, Drama & Animation.

Drinks & canapes will be available on arrival & at interval.

Purchase tix at Trybooking via <https://www.trybooking.com/TXYV>



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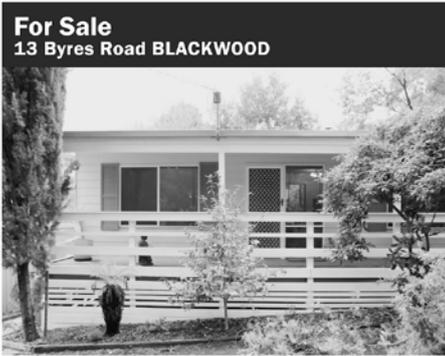
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For Sale
9 Terrill Street BLACKWOOD

\$480,000 - \$495,000

CHARMING COTTAGE

Approx. 3/4 acre, corner block, 2-3 BR, 1 BA home constructed with local timber. Refurbished kitchen, gas cooking, dishwasher, large living area, polished floorboards, new wool carpet in bedrooms, high ceilings, original sash windows, updated bathroom, new roof, wiring, paint, and hot water service. Enclosed verandah. 8 x 16 metre powered shed with concrete floor.



For Sale
1065 Greendale-Trentham Road

\$259,000

COMPLETE THE DREAM

Held by one family since the 1980s, this weatherboard cottage just needs a little love and attention to bring it to life and complete the dream weekend getaway on this picturesque approx. half acre. Simply connect electricity and water services and a septic system, and the property will you with a tranquil and peaceful home to escape the hustle and bustle of city life.

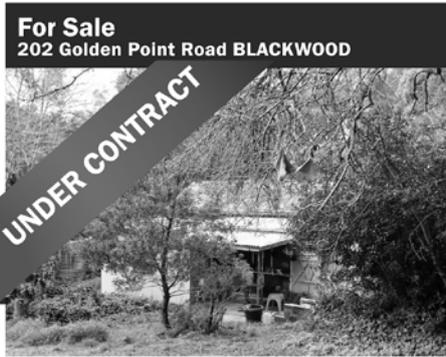


For Sale
1 Byres Road BLACKWOOD

\$330,000 - \$350,000

TRANQUIL RETREAT

This cosy 2BR 1BA cottage is a peaceful retreat, surrounded by just over a quarter acre of established gardens. Open plan kitchen/living/dining, slate floors, timber cabinets, pantry, Simpson dishwasher, electric cooking. Raised back deck, wood heater. Carpeted bedrooms, powered garage with laundry connections, sink, pot belly stove, access to the house. Back yard with large lawn and shed.



For Sale
202 Golden Point Road BLACKWOOD

\$260,000

WEEKEND GETAWAY

This cute and cosy 2 bedroom cottage sits privately in a delightful bush setting of approximately 800 square metres (200 square metres crown land) opposite the Lerderberg River. Open plan kitchen/living with gas stove and wood fired slow combustion heater. Enjoy the peaceful country atmosphere.



For Sale
LAND - 53 Falls Road TRENTHAM

\$395,000 - \$425,000

Cleared, 2,742 sqm block walking distance to the town centre, is in close proximity to the famous Domino Trail, and is a hop skip and jump from the golf course. With all town services available, this is a wonderful opportunity to build your dream home in beautiful Trentham (STCA)



For Sale
LAND - 4 Horvaths Road TRENTHAM

\$395,000 - \$425,000

Peaceful, 2,634 sqm block walking distance to the town centre, is in close proximity to the famous Domino Trail, and is a hop skip and jump from the golf course. Stunning, gumtree-lined entrance, established gardens, orchard, all town services available. Great opportunity to build your dream home in beautiful Trentham (STCA).

We know and love our local area!



Frances Harkin & the team



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