

Pat & his groomsmen prepare on the big day. "Dee left last minute instructions for us, has anyone seen them?"

Blackwood **EASTER CARNIVAL & WOODCHOP**

PARADE - GAMES - MARKET

Easter Saturday 11am-4.30pm



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EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

Hello, hello, hello,

Since last issue when I announced that we were giving up publishing The BlackwoodTimes after the June July '19 issue we have had many discussions with Blackwoodians who want to see the paper continue production. I want to thank you all for your input, ideas & offers of support. It has been heart-warming that the Times is seen as such a valuable asset by so many. Chatting with Robina Brown, who started the Blackwood Newsletter, we realised that, between us, we have produced this community information resource for 1/4 of a century!

At the Progress Associations March meeting David White proposed that "Progress Association would seem the ideal fit as the future custodian of the Blackwood Times. A purpose of a Progress Association is to attract personnel from within a community to ensure continued growth of events, communication and publicity of a region. The Times is one of a number of vehicles to develop this purpose." Davids presentation was accepted by the committee & since then there have been a number of discussions about how this might work. The current committee is committed to a number of activities & it is proposed that a sub-committee be formed whose responsibility would be to manage & produce the Times. If you would like to be a part of the 3rd generation of our local paper, you are invited to come to a meeting (see notice to right) to discuss how the Times can be managed into the future. Beside the physical paper there are many activities like maintaining the website & social media presence, distribution, writing articles, encouraging others to submit articles, accounting, responding to & collating emails, sorting through submissions, looking after advertisers. We are committed to ensuring a smooth transition & will consult & train as necessary.

With Easter just around the corner, I'm looking forward to another fabulous carnival & catching up with everyone before we go into winter hibernation. See you there.



MEMBER 2019

~ Jinny Coyle (editor)

Thank you to our helpers, our regular contributors & our advertisers.

Jimmy Olsen played by...	Brendan Hehir
Regular Photographers	Peter Donnelly, Jimmy Olsen
Community Co-ordinator	Sandy Schmidt

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	May 15
Regular Contributors, Features & Items of Interest, Community Groups & Clubs	May 15
Display Ad Artwork	May 20
Late breaking News	May 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.

Download our Advertising Rate Card & back issues (in colour) from www.theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au & while you're there, sign-up to join our eList & follow us <https://www.facebook.com/theblackwoodtimes>

The BLACKWOOD TIMES reserves the right to edit or refuse any article or advertising. The opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the editor.

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IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CARNIVAL PROGRESS IS HOLDING A FREE COMMUNITY BBQ A WEEK BEFOREHAND ON THE APRIL 13 IN THE MAIN STREET BETWEEN 10AM-1PM. THEY HOPE THAT IT'S A TIME FOR EVERYONE IN TOWN TO GET TOGETHER & GET EXCITED ABOUT THE UPCOMING EVENT OR JUST DROP IN FOR A SNAG.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Blackwood Progress Association is holding a meeting at the Blackwood Hall

on WEDNESDAY 24th APRIL 2019 at 7.00pm.

Purpose of this meeting is to **discuss the future of the Blackwood Times.**

All interested community members are invited to attend and discussion will take place on roles and responsibilities including editorial, production, printing, advertising and distribution.

The outcome of this meeting will hopefully establish a sub-committee to oversee the above tasks.

Light supper will be provided.

David White and Bev Butler - Committee Members

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HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

MONTH & YEAR	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall historical average (mm)	Temp monthly min (deg C)	Temp monthly max (deg C)	Temp average daily max (deg C)	Temp average daily min (deg C)	Temp average for month (deg C)
Jan '19	14.1	49.8	3.2	40.3	31	10.1	19.3
Feb '19	15.8	54	0.1	37	27.2	7.5	16.5

REVISED ROAD CLOSURES

Roads affected on the 20th April, 2019 EASTER SATURDAY

Martin Street, Whalebone Rd, (Assembly Point) Golden Point Road, Greendale-Trentham rd, Terrill St & Simmons Reef Rd & Recreation Reserve Rd.

The parade starts at Martin St, at 11.00am and crosses Greendale-Trentham Rd between 11.20 and 11.30am.

Road signage closures will be in place prior to the event.

Our rainfall is well below the average for this time of the year. The river has ceased flowing and gardens are under great stress. Lower January & February rainfall seems to be mostly the pattern nowadays. The latter period of February was warmer than the earlier period.

~ Don Owen

WHO WILL WEAR THE CROWN?



The search for a 2019 Blackwood Carnival Queen & King has begun. Everyone in Blackwood gets to vote for who they would like to be King & Queen.

Entry containers & forms are available at the Blackwood Post Office & Hotel & voting finishes 5pm on Friday April 12.

The Royals need to have a strong connection to Blackwood. Royal duties are minimal & benefits & surprises many!

The votes will be tallied the week prior to Easter & a community Crowning Ceremony will be held Good Friday evening at the Blackwood Hotel.

Come along & join in the fun. Fancy costume & hats encouraged. Lolly bags for young kids with maybe a few left over for big kids.

BELOW: What better opportunity for a town folk photoshoot that Pat & Dee's wedding?



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• THE LONG AWAITED WEDDING FEATURING PAT & DEE • THE LONG AWAITED WEDDING FEATURING PAT & DEE •



Above: Likely lads & lasses
L: Boys in the band
R: Jodie does have a frock & she knows how to twirl it.



• LOVE IS IN THE BLACKWOOD AIR • LOVE IS IN THE BLACKWOOD AIR • LOVE IS IN THE BLACKWOOD AIR •

PLATONIC OR ROMANTIC, OLD OR NEW, FAMILY TIES ... THERE IS PLENTY OF LOVE TO GO AROUND IN BLACKWOOD!



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

Blackwood Crown Reserves COM

Recently the Crown Reserves Committee of Management met with the Department of Environment Land Water & Planning. The department classifies its committees into categories, 1-4. One being the committees with the highest responsibilities & 4 being the smaller committees with perhaps only one property to manage. Our committee has been in category 3 but has been upgraded to category 2 in recognition of the number & complexities of the properties we manage on behalf of the department. This upgrading is recognition of the work done over the years by numerous committee members & just recognition of that work. In real terms it is hard to quantify the benefit to be received but it will certainly involve greater support from DELWP particularly from an administrative & support basis.

The committee has been very active over the last few months finalising plans for works at the mineral springs, looking at ideas for renovating the exterior of the hall, finalising a new contract for the ranger, dealing with ongoing problems in relation to the sewage & sullage system at the recreation oval & acting upon a report on all trees at the caravan park & mineral springs.

In relation to the sewage systems both at the recreation oval & the caravan park there are ongoing problems & a meeting has been requested with council officers but at this stage there has been no response for this request. The system at the recreation oval is a storage system rather than a treatment system & since January 2018 the committee has spent \$7,000 in pump out costs. This is simply not sustainable. Prior to this new system being installed our annual cost was approximately \$800. Also the pump, as part of the new building erected some years ago constantly fails & one could reasonably conclude that the original design & implementation was inadequate. Hopefully a meeting will soon take place with council officers & mutually agreed resolutions will be the outcome.

The amount of work faced by this committee is considerable & the need to for constant upkeep & improvements of our most important assets, the hall, recreation ground, mineral springs & caravan park is vital not only for the Blackwood community but also for our businesses which rely heavily on tourism.

If you think you would like to know more about the Crown Reserves Committee or would consider becoming a member of this committee give me a call on 0418 372203.

~ Dave White, Chairman

Blackwood CERT

STOP PRESS! CPR Training outside Martin Street Coffee on Sun 31. CERT will be running a short interactive training with our New Community Defib on Sunday. Please stop by & learn how you can use this life-saving equipment to save a life.

TRENTHAM is hoping to establish a CERT. There will be a meeting in Trentham on April 3 at the Football/Netball Club. If you live in Trentham & have been thinking about volunteering, why not go along. Blackwood CERT will be there with our car & are happy to answer questions. For anyone who doesn't know, Trentham is in our call-out zone, we continue to attend calls in the town, out to the Falls & into the bush. In the past year we ran a defib program across all our area, including Trentham, & checked the available machines & encouraged owners to register with AV & GoodSam.

RECRUITING: Have you thought about joining CERT? This is the time to put your hand up. Watch out for an info session coming soon. Being in CERT is a great way to grow your CV, support work & study in health care, get a great retirement job, or the main reason: help those in the community & in turn help all of us. Call CERT Team leader Margaret McCarthy on 0427 344 055 or check out the AV website for volunteer opportunities.

YOUR CURRENT TEAM: Kirsty Vella (CERTP), Marie-Claire Blin, Sarah Crowhurst (CERTP), Deidre Cronin, Zachary Harper, Leonie Brasier, Jaike Ludewig, Marie-Claire Blin, Kathy Berrill, Margaret

McCarthy (TL), Jan Ogle, Ivan Johnston (on leave), Kathie Strmota
EASTER CARNIVAL: We hope you can join us at the Easter Carnival for some hands-on fun. Try your skill at CPR on one of our lovely Annies. Kids can make a mummy out of a CERT member with splits & bandages. Find out some more about what we do. & you never know, you might win the famous huge lolly jar!

CALL-OUTS: We've attended many call-outs across our region. One of note is where one of our responders was off-duty & came across a traffic accident. Thank you CERT member Jaike Ludewig for giving your time & skills to help the community when off-duty. Jaike was an integral part of the paramedic crew & was able to assist significantly. Thank you to all the locals who also assisted with traffic management & other help. You know who you are! Our crew also managed to support a high-angle cliff rescue in the Lerdederg. It was great to see that our team was able to assist with location, skills & knowledge, & equipment. We got to take part in some awesome teamwork, including with the Blackwood CFA & even got to make it to the news!

TRAINING: Our training season has begun with "High-performance CPR" being first cab off the rank. We are trained by Alex Cairns, Ambulance Victoria paramedic from Ballan. We continue to use the Blackwood CFA facility for training & appreciate their generosity. We have a conference just up ahead.

DEFIB: Thanks to all involved in mounting the public defib. We've received positive (even a little envious) feedback. It's something our town can be proud of & a good example of what we're talking about for other locations in our zone. Fortunately, we haven't had to use it yet, & are hoping that there's never a need.

FIRE PLANNING: One of our unfinished tasks is to work with CFA for a more comprehensive fire plan. It was pleasing that many of our team went to the recent community meeting at Greendale to be informed of local risks & we made a plan for the days to follow. No CERT volunteer is asked to put themselves in danger.

~ Margaret McCarthy, Team Leader, 0427 344 055

Fundraising to help with running costs is an important activity for the COM. I'm looking forward to hanging out at the CERT stand at the carnival doing our usual fundraising, the ever popular "count the eggs" which Leonie puts together each year & (hopefully) a raffle for the big kids.

We'll also be fundraising at the Cosmo over the month of May.

~ Jinny Coyle, President, CERT Committee of Management

Blackwood CFA

We hope everyone has had a safe Summer this year.

As Summer ends & we are into Autumn & the time to set your clocks back an hour approaches, ensure that your smoke detector battery is replaced & check the manufacture date on the under side of the unit. If it is 10 years or more it may need replacing.

Please take a look around your property & make sure that the brigade is able to access it easily in the event of an incident. Low hanging branches & gate widths are something to consider. If in doubt, contact the brigade & we can take a drive to your property & see if the trucks will fit.

We have had some suspicious fires in our district this fire season. If you are driving around or walking on some of our many great walking tracks & notice anything suspicious or not quite right, take any details you can, & if there is a suspicious incident, details can be passed onto police.

Blackwood Fire Brigade has been successful in gaining a grant for an electronic message sign at the Fire Station. The sign will be used predominantly for CFA fire & safety messaging, but can also be used community messaging. Sign will be installed in coming weeks.

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 during the rest of the year, as we are there for training & equipment checks.

Have you got your Fire Plan ready? Keep an eye on the weather forecasts. Make sure your friends & family know your plan & even the triggers that put it into action.

Please remember that the Refuge is a last resort measure & that you should have your Fire Plan in place.

If you are interested in joining, we always welcome new members. We can be contacted at the station or through the Brigade Facebook page.

It is with some sadness that I write this, as I believe this may be the last Blackwood Times Edition.

I would like to thank Jinny for all the support she has given the brigade & also myself, the Blackwood times will be missed.

~ Karl Church Blackwood Brigade

Aww shucks thanks Karl, but you have to put up with us for one more issue after this & then we hope that Progress will take it on (see p2 & the Progress report)

~ Ed

Blackwood & District Landcare

Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group will continue to work towards weed eradication this year. After seeing noxious weeds such as Broom & Gorse flowering more profusely over summer this year than ever before, as a community we need to take action. In the last few years, we have organised working bees to combat weeds, but could do with more humanpower. If you can spare the time, we would love your help! Stay tuned for more details on upcoming weeding days.

Blackwood Barry's Reef Landcare Group will hold a Fungi Foray on Sunday June 30, led by local naturalist John Walter. Blackwood & surrounds is a real fungi hotbed & enthusiasts flock here every Autumn to capture a glimpse (or a photo) of some weird, wonderful & rare mushrooms. We will meet at 10am at the Jack Cann Reserve, go for a walk & learn about our fascinating local fungi. The walk will be followed by a shared lunch. Stay tuned for the eventbrite link on our Facebook page. For more information about upcoming events, projects & meetings, you can join our mailing list or check our facebook page & website for updates. <http://blackwoodlandcare.org.au> <https://www.facebook.com/BlackwoodLandcare/>

~ Cat Moser

Blackwood Historical Society

The past couple of months has seen a revamp inside the stables & thanks to the Scout Heritage Group for giving us some great glass cabinets.

Thanks to Brian & Fred Moore for the donation of photos which are on display.

We were also handed a copy of the General Store dated 1902. These are all added to the collection of Blackwoods past & on display on our open days.

Please note we will be doing BINGO at the Blackwood Hall on Sunday April 21 @ 7.45pm for prizes. \$5ph + raffle. Supper provided. Happy & safe Easter.

~ Elizabeth Hall (secretary)

Blackwood Progress Association

The Blackwood Progress Association at its last meeting March 11 2019, decided to form a sub-committee to takeover the production of the Blackwood Times. This follows the decision made by Jinny Coyle & Brendan Hehir, to retire from the production of the Blackwood Times after 13 years of running the paper.

To facilitate this, negotiations are underway by The Crowns Reserve Committee with the Senior Citizens for them to relinquish their Billiard Room. Acquisition of this room will allow the Crown Reserve Committee, The Blackwood Progress Association & Blackwood Times to have a permanent & secure office.

The Blackwood Times becoming part of the Blackwood Progress Association would seem a logical fit for both organisations. The Blackwood Progress Association intends to operate the Blackwood Times by forming a sub-committee of interested people to run & publish the newsletter.

~ David White (Vice-President)

Blackwood Easter Carnival

Have you heard about the Blackwood Wood Chop & Easter Carnival on the radio, 98.5 Apple Radio, or spotted it in your Royal Auto (RACV magazine)? It is under a month until the parade begins.

This is the town's largest fundraiser for the year, supporting many local community groups & bringing many old & new visitors to town. A huge thank you to all the sponsors, donors & volunteers, you make a difference every year to the success of the event.

The parade kicks off at 11am, all are invited to join the parade as it makes its way down to the Sport & Recreation Reserve. There are tons of activities, old & new.

This year there will be talks by Maverick Upholstery on upholstery & Richard Robinson is giving his backyard bee-keeping talk. There will be roaming entertainment including a unicycle juggler, hoola hoop classes for those who aspire to spin multiple hoops & the popular gumboot throwing, treasure hunt & pet show. The day will conclude with the auction of wood.

Entry prices remain \$5 for adults & \$1 for children. We look forward to seeing you there with family & friends. Keep an eye out on Facebook for the details of the King & Queen crowning ceremony at the Blackwood Pub on Good Friday & the Woodchop Program.

In the spirit of the Carnival we are holding a free community BBQ a week beforehand on April 13 in the main street between 10am-1pm. We hope that it's a time for everyone in town to get together & get excited about the upcoming event or just drop in for a snag. Also, a thank you to Bruce & Brendan who are fixing up the seat at the bus stop.

~ Terri Simpson on behalf of Blackwood Progress Association.

Blackwood Seniors

Hi to all, we have had a few members not well over the past month but are back now. We wish Maria a speedy recovery & hope to see her back again soon.

Blackwood Seniors meet every Wednesday at the Blackwood Hall from 10.30am until approximately 2.30pm, everyone 55 & over are very welcome.

Thats all I have at the moment, & we hope everyone stays well & safe.

~ Dianne Volpe, Secretary

Blackwood Uniting Church

The Uniting Church Meditation Group at Blackwood House is now meeting fortnightly. Please contact Robyn on 5368 6792 if interested.

~ Robyn Zanon

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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THE HISTORY OF BLACKWOOD - DIPROTODON OR GIANT WOMBAT

By Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society. April 2019

Following on reading a book I have entitled – ‘The Bacchus Story’ – a History of Captain Bacchus & Bacchus Marsh, I read with interest how ‘bones were unearthed of a Diprotodon or Giant Wombat in a soil pit he owned on the Korkuperrimul Creek in Bacchus Marsh which is near Blackwood. Large jaw pieces were collected which revealed the animal had incisors about four inches long. Carbon tests showed the Diprotodon dated back 30,000 years. Other bones of ancient animals dating back to the late Pleistocene Age were also found, including those of Procoptodon goliah, or the giant kangaroo. The gentle grass-eating Diprotodon (about the size of a Hippopotamus) is the largest known marsupial. The National Museum of Victoria considered this a significant find. It is believed the Diprotodon became extinct about 10,000 years ago, possibly owing to climate changes & shortage of food supply. They were also hunted by Aborigines. The Aborigines who lived in the area, now called Bacchus Marsh belonged to the Kurung tribe. The dark forests, west of Mount Blackwood were avoided for it was believed that there, evil spirits dwelt.’

In a New Guinea newspaper on Trove I read how in 1973 bones were unearthed by the daughter of Mr. Hine of the skeletons of Diprotodons in her father’s quarry.

Papua New Guinea Post-Courier Friday 9 November, 1973 - “A sharp eyed 12 year old girl was responsible for the discovery in Victoria, Australia, of the skeletons of five or more Diprotodons—the largest marsupials the world has known. The skeletons of the Diprotodons - the ancestors of all modern Australian vegetarian mammals are thought to be 30,000 years old. They are the first whole articulated skeletons of the extinct giant marsupials to be found in Victoria though fossil remains are abundant & widely distributed in other parts of Australia. The animals were found only in Australia. The largest species — Diprotodon opatum was the size of a large rhinoceros. The latest discovery is probably of a smaller species. The diprotodon- was a plantigrade type, walking on all fours. Its foot structure shows evidence of its descent from tree-climbing ancestors. Its enormous teeth were adapted for cropping & mastic-eating tough vegetation.”

“On May 8th. this year, Kerry Hine, daughter of one of the owners of a large clay-pit near the town of Bacchus Marsh, 33 miles north-west of Melbourne was walking around the pit where her father was working when she noticed some large bones. They had been uncovered by a bulldozer. One was part of the jawbone of a large animal with enormous teeth still in their sockets. She took it to the Bacchus Marsh High School where she is a pupil, & Mr Royce Borgelt, a science teacher at the school, sent it on to the National Museum, Melbourne. It was identified by the curator of fossils at the museum, Mr. Thomas Darragh, who made a trip to the clay pit to see for himself. Quickly an excavation team was formed comprising

Mr Darragh, his technical assistant, Mr Ian Stewart, & Mr Kenneth Simpson, his research, zoology assistant at the Monash University, Melbourne. With the willing help of the Hine family most of the bones were removed & taken to the National Museum. There they are being cleaned & a detailed assessment made of them. Parts of the fossils will later be put on display. Some bones remaining were covered with earth & later, probably, in the spring, these will be removed & a further search will be made of the area. The fossils are at the bottom of a 15 ft deposit that once was a stream bed.”

“Mr Graham Pizzey, a prominent Melbourne naturalist, says that Diprotodons were a large group & were of various sizes & forms. They appear in the fossil records in Australia as early as any marsupial, at the beginning of the Tertiary period about 60 million to 70 million years ago. It was during the Pleistocene period that spanned the last million years to the beginning of the present period that disaster overtook the Diprotodons. Perhaps in the space of 30,000 years the last of these vast creatures perished. A general view is that the collapse was caused by climatic change. As vegetation being sparse & hard - leaved in response to aridity & as river systems dwindled, their numbers would have fallen back into pockets of verdure. In such refuges the last diprotodons perished while lesser creatures, like the burrowing wombats or the possums, survived. The unknown factor is the contribution of man to their disappearance. Mr Pizzey believes it is far from proved that aboriginals killed Diprotodons. Only by continued research & investigation of more deposits like those of Bacchus Marsh & of prehistoric aboriginal culture will the story of the aboriginals or the diprotodons be documented.” ©

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

• EDITORS MAIL BOX •

Hi Jinny. Hearty congratulations on the way you have developed the Blackwood Times & the years you have given to the task! I understand your feeling that it is time to move on, though I’m sure your editorial hand will be greatly missed. Very best wishes for the future - both for you & Brendan, & for the B.T.


~ Cheers Elaine Boucher

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Intimo Stylist

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LOVE INTIMO



• 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

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• FROM THE DELWP DESK •

Autumn Firewood Collection Season starts soon

The 2019 Autumn Firewood Collection Season opened in March & closes on Sunday June 30.

Grampians Region Assistant Chief Fire Officer Tony English said: “It’s important that people only collect firewood from designated firewood collection areas on public land & stay within collection limits.”

“Interactive maps showing where you can collect domestic firewood from will go live from March 1 when the season gets underway,” Mr English said.

“Designated collection areas are put in place to protect sites of cultural & environmental significance.

“The felling of any trees for firewood is strictly prohibited. Authorised officers will be patrolling parks, forests & reserves to ensure people are doing the right thing while collecting their firewood.

“We’re reminding people to stay within collection limits, which are a maximum of 2 cubic metres per person per day & a maximum of 16 cubic metres per household per financial year.

“Some households rely on domestic firewood for winter energy, so it’s important to consider others when collecting firewood from state forests.

“Be sure to check local weather & forest conditions before heading out to make sure it’s safe before collecting firewood in your area.

“Some collection sites may be part of the autumn planned burning program, so it’s a good idea to check where burns are happening as these areas may be closed at short notice.”

More information including rules, updates & interactive maps showing designated collection areas is available from www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood.

Under the Forest Act 1958, people who collect firewood outside designated firewood collection areas or a firewood collection season or take more than the maximum allowable amounts can face fines of up to \$7,928, or a maximum penalty of one-year imprisonment or both, if the matter proceeded to Court.

For any further information on firewood collection or to report illegal or suspicious behaviour in public land areas, please contact the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) on 136 186.



Big sister Rylee says hello to Mackenzie Nicole Jarvis, born to Nicole & Hugh on March 6 after 1 hour drug-free labour. Go Mum!

• WHOSE TATTS THAT? •



THIS IS a tattoo I had done when my grandpa passed away in 2003. We used to sit either side of his boogie box, listening to the races.

I WAS really close to my grandpa. He and I were like 2 peas in a pod. I would always be by his side, every day.

AT NIGHT the box would play Country & Western. My brother & sister & I, Grandma & Grandpa would all dance to the music.

GRANDPA WOULD always say I was his daughter, not his granddaughter. I was & always will be “Daddy’s Little Girl”.

A: Nikki (Pub)

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23 Martin Street Blackwood. 5368-6542.

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PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS



WOOF: In this month's edition I would like to discuss that very distressing moment visiting the vets. No one loves visiting the doctor. Likewise, our pets may not be fond of a visit to the vet. The stress of visiting the vet can mean you opt not to. Putting it off may seem like an easier option at the time, but it could leave your pet with serious health issues that may become complicated to treat.

We know bringing your pet to us can be stressful. There are lots of smells, sounds, pets, people, &

unfamiliar surroundings that can make pets feel anxious, not to mention the challenge of the car trip.

There are many ways to help minimise the stress of visiting the vet & make it a positive experience for both you & your pet.

CATS: Cats are sensitive creatures who are easily disturbed by sudden change. Here are some tips for bringing your feline friend to the vet:

- Leave the carrier open at home for a few days prior to the visit. This will allow your cat to explore & become familiar with the carrier
- line the carrier with something soft like a towel or bed
- Feliway spray the carrier prior to putting your cat inside to alleviate stress calmly place them into the carrier.
- If your cat is reluctant to travel, wrap them gently in a towel that has their scent or a pheromone spray like Feliway
- Place a towel over the carrier so they can't see out to reduce stress
- Secure the cat carrier on the back seat of your car with the seatbelt, or against the front seat drive smoothly, without loud music, talking to your cat in a soothing voice
- If possible, keep windows closed for extra safety
- When you arrive at the clinic, place the carrier in the waiting room away from dogs & facing away from other cats
- Bring treats to reward good behaviour

DOGS: For dogs, it's often the car trip that creates the most anxiety. Making minimum fuss when you're about to visit the vet is key, as our canine companions are experts at reading your emotional signals. If you're nervous or anxious, your dog will pick up on that.

It's a good idea to get your dog familiar with being examined from head to toe. Touching your dog's feet, lifting their ears & lips & running your hands over their tummy & can be helpful to desensitise handling issues.

Other tips to make the process easier include:

- Be calm & positive about the car journey
- Avoid feeding your dog approximately 4 to 6 hours before the car journey
- Spend time with them inside the vehicle while it's stationary
- Once they feel relaxed in the car, take them on very short trips, say around the block, before progressing to longer journeys
- keep your pet relaxed by giving lots of physical attention & talking softly whilst in the waiting room
- Bring treats for positive reinforcement

In addition to these techniques, you can always pop by & visit your local Vet clinic at any time. A visit every now & again that involves, cuddles, pats & a treat rather than being in a consultation environment, can help to desensitise your pet to the environment. You never know, a trip to the vet could become their favourite outing.

TRAVEL SAFETY TIP: Always remember to safely restrain your pet in the car. An unrestrained pet is a distraction to the driver, particularly if they are a little nervous.

If your pet is nervous to visit the vet, please feel contact your local vet clinic to discuss any helpful aspects that may help .

Woof for now ... Seamus



Happy Easter

SPACE ENERGY

Emotional Energies & Thought Forms

by Kathie Strmota



An enthusiastic person can inspire us, & a warm sunny room can uplift us. In our interactions with spaces & people, we are affected both by our practical experience (what we see, hear, & physically feel) & by an unseen energetic interplay of emotional energies & thought forms. Your home is also affected by 'interaction' with occupants & visitors. The energy dynamics it experiences over time contribute to its overall 'feel' and, subsequently, how it influences you when you're in the space.

A brief experience of intense emotional energy, such as a random argument or an exhausting visitor, may leave an energetic 'scent' that lingers in the space for a short while & then dissipates. Repeated experiences, however, can change its energy dynamic, or 'personality', over time, just as they do with people.

If you expose your home regularly to positive experiences, it will feed these energies back to you. A 'happy home' can provide comfort after a hard day, encourage better sleep, or reduce the likelihood a discussion will 'turn sour'. Likewise, repeated exposure to negative experiences can create an unhappy home.

For example, a client, happily married for 8 years, moved into a new home. Within 6 months, the couple's interactions had become irritable & quarrelsome "over nothing at all". Upon investigation, we found the house had been occupied for 15 years by an unhappy couple who, according to a neighbour, "were always fighting & throwing things", & eventually separated. We did some clearing work, but the more powerful change came over time, as the new couple consciously chose to give the house beautiful experiences. Once they recognised the source of the influence, it was easier to control feelings of irritability, & they helped each other along with humorous comments like "Is that the house talking?". Over time, their home environment became lighter & more supportive of their original friendly relationship.

It's good to clear any new space, for a fresh start, & any existing space after a period of difficulty or illness, but, generally, if you love & appreciate your home, it will love you back.

Treat it as you would a treasured friend ... lots of positive feedback, respectful behaviour, & 'warm hugs'. Notice its functional & pleasurable aspects, & tell it (or others) how wonderful it is. Don't go on about its not-

so-great qualities. Change them if you can, or learn to see past them.

Your home is an extension of your personal space. When you invite people over to share your space, choose those who make you feel great. Meet draining acquaintances away from home, encourage challenging visiting relatives to stay in a hotel, & take 'difficult' conversations to a neutral environment, preferably in nature (to help absorb any energetic fallout).

Consider your own activities around the house. Things you enjoy will naturally generate pleasurable energies. If something feels like 'hard work', try to shift your perception to see a positive in the process, & generate less resistance, or pay someone else to do it!

Think about what you watch on TV or YouTube, the music you listen to, & what you read, & how these things make you feel. Do you mostly experience feelings of pleasure, or does what you see & hear often generate frustrated or draining energies?

Basically, if an activity is likely to be fun, inspiring, or uplifting, do it at your home ... a stimulating creative project, a warm celebration with good friends, an inspiring brainstorming session with a business partner, or a spiritual ceremony which expands feelings of love & joy.

All these beautiful energies will make your house smile!

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• FROM THE SHIRE'S DESK •

BIZCONNECT MOORABOOL NETWORKING EVENT: We are a group of individual businesses wanting to create a stronger, connected voice in Moorabool Shire. We invite you to join us for our first network evening. At this not to be missed evening, businesses will hear from:

- Moorabool Shire Council CEO, Derek Madden on the future of business in Moorabool Shire;
- Angie Colliver, representative from BizConnect Moorabool on the new BizConnect network & how business can get involved;
- Melbourne Business Network Executive Officer, John Stock on what it means to be a connected business, the politics of business & strength in being together.

When: Thursday 28 March 2019, 6.00-7.30pm
Where: The Royal Hotel, 200 Main St, Bacchus Marsh
Attendance: Attendance is free but seats are limited. Light supper provided

Register at <http://bit.ly/2HAihIV>



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www.trenthamspudfest.org.au

• FROM THE DESK OF DELWP •

Smythesdale man convicted over firewood offences

A 41-year-old man has been convicted & fined for breaching Victorian firewood collection laws within a firewood collection area of Ross Creek State Forest, south-west of Ballarat.

At the Ballarat Magistrates' Court on Thursday March 14, 2019, the Smythesdale man pleaded guilty to 2 charges under the Forests Act 1958 relating to cutting & felling a standing tree.

Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning's (DELWP) Grampians Regional Manager Environmental Compliance, Grant Allan said "the incidents occurred during May & June 2018. While the Autumn Firewood Season does extend from 1 March to 30 June each year, the felling of any trees for firewood is strictly prohibited."

"These are serious offences that are regularly prosecuted by DELWP & particularly aggravating since this was not a first-time offence," Mr Allan said.

"Apart from cutting & removing timber unlawfully, the man was also

capitalising on a natural resource for personal gain.

"This type of activity has a significant impact on the environment, which leads to loss of habitat for native fauna that rely on the development of hollows in mature trees for nesting & roosting sites.

"The man was convicted & fined \$1500 plus costs of \$143.

"Under the Forest Act 1958, those found guilty of firewood collection offences can face fines of up to \$8059, and/or a maximum penalty of one-year imprisonment.

"Authorised officers will continue patrolling parks, forests & reserves to ensure people are doing the right thing while collecting their firewood.

"Further, our officers will continue to investigate reports of suspected illegal firewood collection."

For any more information on firewood collection or to report illegal or suspicious behaviour in public land areas, please contact DELWP on 136 186.

• BLACKWOOLS •



LADY ARABELLA Blackwood, known to her chums as "Bella", greets me with a friendly peck at the front door. As she guides me through the corridors of her country digs, attending to the occasional workman with her customary grace (the house is currently under extensive renovation) I find myself again utterly charmed by this young woman of gregarious nature & fine breeding.

STRANGELY NOBODY seems sure – some say 12, some 14, but it is generally agreed that this champagne-blonde socialite hails from a very large brood of the notable Cocker-Spaniel family (the English branch, naturally).

WITH THE approach of her 5th birthday, it seems that her reported "wild" days are indeed behind her. Girl-chum, Fizzy Smith-Bromley, recalls when Bella, off the leash for the first time in Melbourne, had to be fished out of a stagnant pond at the Botanical gardens, her famous locks covered in green slime.

AND IT'S true, she does seem to radiate a new-found contentment in Blackwood, now a self-professed "homebody", at peace with herself & her environment, even to the point where she no longer yells at those blasted kangaroos nibbling away at the bottom of her garden.

Meet young Russell Almond Wand, born 17 Feb at Bacchus Marsh hospital, not long before Mackenzie his neighbour across the road (p11). This brings the number to 5 babes born within a stones throw of the intersection of Simmons Reef Road & Reserve Road over the last few months. This little neighbourhood has become known as the Blackwood's Fertile Crescent. Russell, by the way, loves music, crying and big walks.



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Dear Pet Guru,

I am worried about my pet octopus, Oswald. I decided he needed some more exercise so I took him for a walk and he just flopped along. Do you think he might have a damaged tentacle?

~ Amateur Naturalist, Alphington.



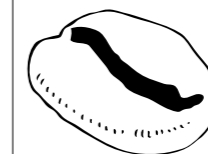
Dear Amateur Naturalist, Naturalist you may be but you are no David Attenborough. Let me explain: Octopus are marine animals and not built for walking. If you think Oswald needs exercise take him to the beach for a swim.

Pet Guru.

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• BEYOND BLACKWOOD •

• BEYOND BLACKWOOD •

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2019

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Opening & presentation of awards:
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PRODUCE EXCHANGE TURNS 5!

January saw the 5th Birthday of the Trentham Food Hub Produce Exchange. The Produce Exchange is held monthly at the Trentham Lion's Farmers Market, by volunteers from both the Trentham Food Hub & Trentham Sustainability Group. The purpose of the Produce Exchange is to encourage the enjoyment of local food & limit food waste, with participants coming from near & far with their excess produce to swap with others.

Swapping begins at 10am & the wide variety of goodies on offer never ceases to amaze the volunteers. The Produce Exchange is also a great place to meet other locals, especially for those new to town & swap gardening tips & recipes.

Local food is at the heart of the Trentham Food Hub & while the Produce Exchange encourages backyard gardeners to get involved with sharing their excess, the Food Hub's weekly veg boxes support local farmers. The contents of the veg boxes are organic & are sourced from farmers within 40kms of Trentham & aim to provide local farmers with a regular source of income.

The Trentham Food Hub was founded by 7th generation local Justin Walsh, who is the 1st generation who hasn't farmed the land, with the family farm being sold shortly after he was born. Supporting local farmers & keeping them farming, was the key reason for founding the Trentham Food Hub. The Produce Exchange was one of the first regular activities of the Food Hub, set up by Food Hub member & Trentham Sustainability Group founding member, Glenda Holmes, along with Samantha Rixon from Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group. Both Glen & Sam were there to celebrate the 5th Birthday of the exchange, along with regular volunteers, Judy Weatherhead, Jane Elliott, & Polly Cameron.

If you'd like to join the team or would like more information about Trentham Food Hub, please contact Justin on justin@trenthamfoodhub.org or visit <http://www.trenthamfoodhub.org/>

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ARTISTS OPEN THEIR STUDIOS

The Daylesford Macedon Ranges Open Studios program is gearing up for its 7th year!

This year 24 artists in 21 studios invite you to their diverse working studios, continuing to bring together professional visual artists and you the public, in the beautiful surrounds of the Daylesford and Macedon Ranges (DMR) region.

Studios will be open on the April 13-14 & 20, 21 and 22 (Easter Monday).

Autumn is a simply splendid time to visit this part of Victoria; the season we believe our beautiful countryside to be at its best.

We are pleased to announce the addition of 2 program innovations in 2019 – our Artist-in-Residence, and the implementation of our mentoring program.

Mark your diaries to come and meet 6 new artists, 18 returning artists and our indigenous Artist-in-Residence, Janet Bromley.

Once again we are planning a group show exhibiting works by all of the Open Studios artists to accompany the program, to be held at the gracious, heritage-style Convent Gallery in Daylesford.

Visitors tell us they love the group show as it allows them to see examples of all the artists' works in the one place, helping them to then decide which particular studios to visit to chat to artists about what they do, how they do it and why.

Our popular guidebook listing all of the artists, showing examples of their work and containing a map to help you find which studios to visit, will be out shortly.

In the meantime, you can see details on our website at www.dmpopenstudios.com.au,

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Set on approx. 703 sqm, this elevated site has panoramic views, township zoned, prime retail location on two street frontages. Magnificent terraced yard, wrap-round veranda and decking, garage and storage under house.

**For Sale 17 Shaw Street
BLACKWOOD**



\$295,000 - \$320,000

COTTAGE WITH A VIEW

This ca. 1960s elevated, 2 bedroom fibro cottage is awaiting your special touch to bring it to life. The cottage is set on approximately 822 sqm with views to the lovely Blackwood hills, and is a short stroll to the historic Blackwood town centre and steps from the Lerderderg River and gorgeous walking trails.

With an open plan kitchen/lounge with exposed beams, separate laundry, front veranda, north facing windows, and a shed with concrete floor and power, this property is brimming with opportunity. Town water and electricity connected.

**Land For Sale 519 Blackwood Road
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\$295,000

OVER HALF AN ACRE IN TIGHTLY-HELD NEWBURY

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**Land For Sale CA 9-13 Section J
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**For Sale 9 Terrill Street
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CHARMING COTTAGE ON 3/4 OF AN ACRE

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L-R top row: Genevieve Messenger, Nicoletta Astuto
L-R bottom row: Wayne McGregor, Frances Harkin, David Hannon

NEW LOOK FOR HARKIN PROPERTY

Harkin Property's expanding and has a new look.

After its third anniversary, Harkin property's success has naturally lead to an expansion and you might have noticed some renovations in the office.

Harkin Property is ahead of the game in terms of local knowledge and professionalism.

Frances Harkin the director says "I enjoy building relationships with people who have bought in the area. Actually, people I have sold to are now our staff. We support each other as colleagues, enjoy networking together and are more like family."

Harkin is Trentham and surrounds leading boutique agency. "Our passion is building local relationships, thriving together, having strong ethics and a high level of professionalism."

We welcome Wayne on sales, David in Property Management. David and Nicoletta are new residents to Trentham and look forward to being part of the community.



*Frances Harkin
& the team*

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