

June July 2019 vol 11 ~ issue 12:1



"HANDS OFF THE ROYAL LOLLIES" SAYS KING LOU TO COMMONER RAY "THEY'RE FOR THE KIDDIES" Meanwhile Queen Sue is busy knighting Blackwoodians in the background.  
More coronation photos below



## Are We Building Yet?

Yes! After many years of campaigning for the right to build on our land, renovate and develop our homes and businesses, it looks like

this community finally can celebrate its first building approval for a dwelling. In our next issue we'll be covering in depth the (long) road to success

for this Blackwood landowner. Do you have a story to share about your build? Contact us [editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au](mailto:editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au)

### INSIDE:

**THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN' p3**

**A BLACKWOODIAN EASTER P6-7**

photos: Peter Donnelly





## EDITOR’S THOUGHTS...

Hello & good-bye,

A dozen years ago I took on the publication of the Blackwood Newsletter from Robina Brown when she had to hand it on for family reasons.

This, my final Editor's Thoughts, is bitter sweet. Well not so much bitter as sad. Sad to see the end of our era publishing Blackwood News (which later became The Blackwood Times).

Every 2 Months for the past decade or so, Brendan & I have holed up in our office, sweating over whether we would have enough content to produce an enticing issue that the community would enjoy - what articles should we cover & were there any issues we should raise.

I would be tied to my laptop, tapping away, moving ads, articles, stories & photos around like a jigsaw puzzle while Brendan raced around looking for photos & stories - many of you will have been tracked down by him because he had been tipped off that you would know about ... whatever.

For a decade we have had so many wonderful businesses supporting us with their advertising, many have also shared their knowledge & skills through regular articles. **Thank you.**

For a decade we have had members of the community support us by writing articles & taking photos for the paper. **Thank you.**

For a decade the community has eagerly awaited the delivery of the next issue. **Thank you.**

To each & everyone of you who have supported us in publishing a decade+ of news, stories, memories & history. **Thank-you.**

Then there is the sweet ... a well-loved publication we can hand on to the care of the community.

The weekends we'll now enjoy with family & friends instead of being locked away in the office. The hobbies we can now pursue. New opportunities & travel, ah yes, travel!

All this said, I'm happy to say we are leaving our baby in good hands. Read about the future plans on p3.

~ Jinny Coyle (editor)



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

<b>Jimmy Olsen played by...</b>	<b>Brendan Hehir</b>
<b>Regular Photographers</b>	Peter Donnelly, Jimmy Olsen
<b>Community Co-ordinator</b>	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	July 15	
Regular Contributors, Features & Items of Interest, Community Groups & Clubs	July 15	
Display Ad Artwork		July 20
Late breaking News		July 20

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

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The BLACKWOOD TIMES is produced as a community service by Jinny Coyle 5368 6444 & sponsored by [FluxDesignStudio.com.au](http://FluxDesignStudio.com.au)

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DURING THE BURN-OFF photo Peter Donnelly

## PIMP MY BRIDGE

Wombats, platypuses, roos and kookas have taken up residence on the mineral springs bridge, giving the 1967 structure a new whimsical look. The forest folk are joined by a prospector and his poppet head; all created in raw metal to fit in with the look of the footbridge.

The Crown Reserves Committee commissioned Gaz and Jack's Rusty Garden Art (ph: 0407 802116) for the work. Committee member, Bruce Butler, says "we looked at the option of painting the bridge, which would have first involved stripping the old paint. Both processes would have required isolating the job from the heritage river below."

They went with the cheaper, more creative option and I'm glad they did. Judging by the number of visitors taking photos of this new attraction, so are they.

If you would like to be involved in great community work like this, whether at the Springs, Hall or Sportsground, call David White (0418 372203).

*Progress member Bruce Butler is chuffed with how the sculptures turned out.*



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## THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

In our recent February/March issue we announced that we were giving up producing the Blackwood Times in the new financial year.

A handful of people attended a meeting later in February & couple Stephanie Durant & Lee Duclos were keen to form the basis of a committee.

Progress Association agreed to auspice the Times as a sub-committee & called a 2nd meeting in April, more people put their hands up & gradually things were starting to take shape.

Early in June, after the distribution of this issue, we will begin the process of succession with the new committee. There is much to be done to enable a successful transition, but I'm so pleased to be able to introduce you to some of the new team. Brendan & I will continue in a consultancy capacity end at least until the year's end.

Our core team (below) will be supported by an interim advertising manager (Doreen Dalrymple), co-ordinator roles include features, social media, regular contributors & community groups, distribution as well as a photo editor.

David White, who has been instrumental in liaising with Progress to date, will continue in this role.

**We are still seeking someone to take care of accounts, this entails invoicing advertisers, banking cheques & donations @ Bendigo Bank, paying invoices, keeping accurate records & reconciling accounts. Please email team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au if you wish to take help with this.**

### CASSANDRA TOMKINS:



#### Production Co-ordinator

Introducing Cassandra Tomkins to the new Blackwood Times Committee, working aside the core editorial team as Production Coordinator.

Cassandra moved to Blackwood exactly 1 year ago with her partner Daniel. Growing up in Hoppers Crossing, Cassandra had been involved in several charitable & community projects in the Wyndham area. Some of these include Cancer Council, Worldwide 40hr famine,

& on her own organised the raising of funds for "Jeans for Genes".

Before moving to Blackwood, Daniel & Cassandra would visit Wombat for 4WD day & overnight trips during their free time. During the week Cassandra worked as a children's presenter/entertainer. On a weekly basis she travelled around the western suburban areas, visiting a variety of kindergarten, community & daycare centres, to teach & empower pre-school children. The classes she would present through storytelling, musical instruments, song & dance, as well as incorporating fun sports & yoga. One of her greatest strengths is having the intuitive ability to understand others, particularly when bonding with children. This is where Cassandra became passionate about little people, not only because the children could express their enthusiastic & energetic selves, but so could she. In this time Cassandra became quite the local celebrity to many children & parents, performing at major community & stage events including the Werribee Park Family Day.

It was then time for Cassandra to have a career change due to financial commitments & needed something a little more consistent. After leaving the company she worked for she continues entertaining children with her own small business "Cassie's Party Fun" for birthday parties & smaller community events. Today Cassandra uses her passionate energy through helping people sell their homes. Currently working at 'YPA Bacchus Marsh' & living in Blackwood, she says "I've truly found my home. I love meeting new people around town, hearing their stories & now working with the Times I can share them too. I couldn't be any more excited to have this new chapter here in Blackwood & continue my journey in our local community. This is definitely the perfect place for Daniel & I had always dreamed of living & to (in the far future) start a family too.



### STEPHANIE DURANT: Desktop Publisher

Idea girl, a people-person despite being really shy, always looking for useless gadgets to invent (but too time-poor to execute them), advertising nutcase & currently getting ready to launch her new digital strategy business, Steph is a Blackwoodian newbie but a country girl at heart & from a very young age, lover of whisky & soon-to-be mother of two meatpie-eating girls, as well as her first fur baby ragdoll cat & 2 kelpies that feel the need to protect

the Golden Point area.

After a 15-year stunt in multiple advertising agencies across Melbourne - working with companies as big as Kmart & as small as, well, her own; she's now currently working at Visit Ballarat headquarters & learning A LOT about the tourism industry & how to market a region to visitors. All these amazing workplaces introduced her to new people, big ideas & global concepts that helped shape the person she is today (good & bad, we're only human). Daughter of a french inventor & an accountant, steph's not really limited to the digital marketing world, she was also a bands' manager while she grew up in her small village in the South of France (to make up for the complete lack of musical talent & awkward sense of rhythm), & copywriter for her uni newspaper. So, when not in front of her computer or passed out from newborn-induced sleep deprivation, you can find her in the major music events around town & thinking up something fabulous with her clients on yet another innovative project.

### LEE DUCLOS: Copy Editor

Passionate about nature & everything that our beautiful Blackwood forest has to offer, with a mother as strong-willed as Loris Duclos (very active participant of local Landcare group), it's not surprising to see that Lee is, more often than not, out & about, working on his house to be able to enjoy the peaceful view of the Golden Point nursery & the forested hill, in town giving a hand, at the pub mingling with our local tribe or in the garden making sure that everything is growing well & his family is fed strong & happy plants.

He's the proud dad of a little 1yo daughter (and another one on the way) & 3 fur babies: 2 full-of-beans kelpies & 1 totally-unco-but-cute ragdoll cat. You can't speak about Lee without speaking about Johnnyboy. More than that, you will probably see Johnnyboy before meeting Lee, his first fur-baby, the sweetest & wildest kelpie around, these 2 are inseparable.

Fun facts about Lee:

- He grew up in Daylesford in the 80s, & has always been a country boy at heart, but is an avid traveller
- He's missing one toe (one unfortunate adventure with a electric saw a couple of years ago)
- He enjoys wine & good books, & late night discussions around a good meal
- He studied philosophy while working as an arborist, & a lover of great words as much as his appreciation of beautifully built wooden furniture
- He's currently working as a contracting saw-miller, as well as being a part-time stay-at-home father & he's excited to put his love of good words for the Blackwood Times editor position.







MONTHLY FIDDLIN’ AT THE PUB



OLD TIME Jams at the Blackwood Hotel first Friday monthly - 6:30-8:30pm



LINDA’S 60TH MOTOWN PARTY



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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)
Mar '19	23.5	56.1	-1.4	38.1	25.5	7.4	15.3
Apr '19	13.1	71.9	-1.9	28.4	20.6	4.9	11.8



PLANNED BURNS

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) & CFA conduct planned burns to reduce bushfire risk to communities & the environment. We prepare a three-year joint fuel management plan that sets out the actions we will undertake to deliver on our bushfire management strategy. Working with local communities is a key part of this to make sure everyone has their say about where & when planned burning should occur.

Blackwood is one of the highest areas of bushfire risk & therefore, is one of the highest priorities in Victoria for fuel management activities.

We also work closely with the Bureau of Meteorology to assess weather conditions, such as humidity, temperature & wind speed. Planned burns can only go ahead when the weather conditions are suitable. We conduct most of our planned burns during autumn (March to April) when the weather is mild & generally more stable. We will also do some planned burns during spring & if suitable, a limited amount during other months. The main opportunities for planned burning in the Midlands District are from mid-April to early May.

A small, but highly complex planned burn — Blackwood-Albion Track — was recently conducted by FFMVic Midlands District crews. There were many complex planning & delivery issues surrounding this planned burn, particularly in Block 2 that was ignited on the Thursday prior to the Easter weekend. These included community-identified Greater Glider habitat trees & inherent feeding zone as well as other species habitat trees within the main gully line. There were also multiple safety hazards including steep topography & abandoned gold diggings.

The objective of this planned burn was to achieve an acceptable fuel reduction result for the protection of the community of Blackwood (located within the Wombat State Forest & Lerderderg State Park), without the planned burn affecting the sensitive environment & its threatened species.

The plan of attack in Block 2 was well thought out by Burn-Officer-In-Charge (BOIC) Robin Holmes & assistant Adrian Balharrie. The crew began by walking the burn line together, identifying more than 22 habitat trees that each required 1m-wide raking around the tree for their protection. They affectionately named one of these as the “Mother Tree”. It was a tree of impressive stature within the landscape & an identified Greater Glider habitat tree, & incredibly vulnerable given its topographical position, structure, fracture points, & debris-filled hollows.

One crew were tasked to burn at very low intensity using matches only (no drip torches) around all the raked trees. G-wagen crews

The rainfall up to the end of April this year has been 66.5mm which is well down on the average of 230.8mm. The river has stopped flowing and is just a series of puddles. At the time of writing we have received some welcome rain but lets hope it continues. We had some very hot days in March especially early March.

~ Don Owen

made sure that these were fully extinguished while monitoring & extinguishing any fire running up their bark.

Another crew followed behind on the track’s edge, using single match ignition points to allow the fire to creep downslope. Unimog & G-wagen crews worked together to monitor & extinguish that fire edge, restricting the burn’s run to 5-10m from the gully line

When the main ignition was occurring around the “Mother Tree”, a Unimog was resourced specifically to that location to moderate any adverse fire behaviour. It was a very labour-intensive ignition pattern that took an entire 10-hour shift to work along just 1km of burn line. But with organisation, patience & commitment, the venerated “Mother Tree” still stands, despite significant wind & rain since. A great result & one that was appreciated by local community members who joined FFMVic on a post-burn walk-through!

~ Anne Bell (DELWP)



The Blackwood Times, along with Peter from our CFA & Brad & Jenni from the caravan park joined the walk (& drive) through. It provided a fascinating insight on the management of our forest home.

Jenni, raising concerns over the affect of the burn on tourist numbers over what is the busiest week of the year (Easter this year rolling into the Anzac weekend) asked why the alternative spring burns have been scaled back over the last few years. We were told that, since the Lancefield spring 2015 burn (which re-ignited after the burn, destroying 4 homes & burning over 3,000 hectares of farmland & State Forest) spring burns have been restricted to small, 1 day projects.

The risk of spring burning conditions suddenly escalating to summer-like conditions is very real. A burn that is done & dusted can be brought back to life by unexpected hot, blustery conditions. Forest Fire Management need to be sure that they have a safe window of opportunity, not only on the days of the burn, but for a full 3 days after.

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BINGO!!!





## • COMMUNITY UPDATES • COMMUNITY UPDATES • COMMUNITY UPDATES • COMMUNITY UPDATES •

### Blackwood Academy & Music Festival

We would like to take this opportunity to show our appreciation for ‘The Blackwood Times’ & to thank Jinny & Brendan for their outstanding contribution to our community & support of the many ‘Academy’ community events & Blackwood Music Festivals, over the past decade. We appreciate the hard work & huge commitment involved in providing us with the ‘glue’ that connects our unique & beautiful small town. Well done & congratulations on ensuring that the future of this wonderful community asset, remains in safe hands.

Unfortunately, we have no news of upcoming events to include in this issue. We look forward to bringing you more exciting news of upcoming events, in the next era of ‘The Blackwood Times’!

*Janet Dear, Blackwood Academy & Revue Inc.*

### Blackwood Crown Reserves COM

If you have visited the Mineral Springs recently you would have seen the amazing metal artwork adorning the pedestrian bridge & depicting the mining heritage of Blackwood & the local native animals. If you have not as yet seen it go down there as it is well worth a visit. A new handrail has been installed on the pedestrian path down to the springs.

Further, in relation to the springs, we are finalising quotations for the renovation of the rotundas & some new signage.

The committee is about to lodge an application to DELWP for the installation of fire service points throughout the mineral springs area.

At long last the fence has been repaired at the tennis courts where there was damage caused by a falling tree.

The Elizabeth Hall walking track around the oval has been renovated with the removal of weeds & the addition of some gravel to fill the low spots.

In relation to the hall, the committee is preparing plans for some external renovation & badly needed maintenance. When these plans are finalised & costed a grant application will be lodged.

*~ Dave White, Chairman*

### Blackwood CERT

Once again the Blackwood Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) have had a busy few months. We have attended multiple medical emergencies from Greendale, Blackwood & Trentham during this time & enjoyed a full day's training session refreshing our members' pharmacology knowledge & practice.

**CERT at Easter Woodchop & Carnival:** The Team had great fun participating in the Blackwood Easter Fair & Woodchop Carnival in April. Our raffle, organised by team member, Leonie Brasier, was a huge hit, raising \$660 to support the team with its on-going costs. The wonderful prizes were kindly donated by Ballan's Sher Wagyu, Prestige Foods International, Chocolatier & another team member, Zach.

**New Members Welcome:** Late in April, the team held a recruitment information session. A number of people came along & we hope that a few new members will join the team soon. If you missed the session & would like some information about joining the team, please give Leonie a call on 0438 797 007. New members are always welcome!!!

**Team Leader:** Margaret McCarthy, our intrepid & fearless Team Leader is currently having a break from CERTing & her role. In the meantime, team members Jan Ogle, Leonie Brasier & Marie-Claire Blin have stepped in as co- team leaders in the short term. In June the team will meet to consider nominations for the next Team leader.

**Winter is coming – be ready:**

With winter almost here, the team would like to remind all about the importance of having a flu vaccination. This year's flu season has already been widespread & can be very debilitating for weeks. A simple injection can help prevent this. Head to your local GP or pharmacy to be protected!

**CPR:** On April the Blackwood CERT held a CPR & AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) instruction & demonstration session with

enthusiastic participation from a number of locals.

Immediate, effective CPR (compression of the heart by putting pumping the chest) is the first & critical step in the “Chain of Survival” following a cardiac arrest as it enables oxygen carrying blood to continue being pumped to vital organs, such as the brain, before an ambulance arrives. Administration of a shock to the heart via an AED can help to restart a heart in certain rhythms, again improving the prospects of survival.

**AEDs:** AEDs are designed to be “user friendly” – the machine delivers verbal instructions to anyone operating them. They may seem daunting, but they are not. CERT is keen to run another session to demonstrate their use – the more people in our community who know how to do CPR & use AEDs the stronger & healthier our community will be.

In Blackwood we are fortunate to have 3 AEDs available. These are located at:

Martin St Coffee – 24 hour access (on front wall)

Blackwood Hotel – during opening hours

Garden of St Erth – 24 hour access (in ticket box/rotunda)

Stay tuned for details of upcoming CERT CPR/AED sessions on facebook & flyers around town. All welcome!

*~ Marie-Claire Blin, Co-Team Leader*

Fundraising to help with running costs is an important activity for the Blackwood CERT Committee of Management. As always the ‘Count the Eggs’ jar was really popular at the Easter Carnival with kids galore trying to win the jar. Leonie organised this & an absolutely enviable raffle of a BBQ & food goodies to go with it. Thanks to all the responders who manned the stand for the day as well as every one who supported us on the day.

We've had loads of fun selling raffle tickets at the Trentham Cosmopolitan over the month of May. We thank the Cosmo for their generosity.

*~ Jinny Coyle, President, CERT Committee of Management*

### Blackwood CFA

WINTER IS COMING!! One could be forgiven for thinking it is already here.

We are finally out of the Fire Danger Period after 6 months of high fire risk. It is very rare for fire restrictions to carry on till May, but as we have had record low rainfall, the fire risk has continued - especially with windy weather. But, at the time of writing, Blackwood has had 115 mm of rain for May & this moisture won't disappear with the cool weather.

The brigade has had a busy summer with a number of local fires & has provided Strike Support to fires at Hepburn, Buninyong & the Gippsland fires. We have also supported FFMV with the fuel reduction burns before Easter.

The brigade has been successful in gaining a grant to purchase an electronic community messaging sign. The sign will not only be used for fire safety messaging, but also community announcements.

As we prepare for the cold months, now would be a good time to consider your flue & fire place. It could be time to get a cleaner in to make sure that it is free from debris which may cause a fire or problem with smoke building up.

As a precaution, keep a couple of spray bottles filled with water near the fire place, these can be used to help in the event of a fire in the chimney. If this happens, you should call the brigade & then spray a few good sprays into the fire place to help extinguish it.

Remember to always call the brigade first in the event of an emergency, it is better to have us rolling up even if you can extinguish the fire yourself.

Did you change your smoke alarm battery when we changed from daylight saving? If you have one that is not wired in permanently, remember to check the date of manufacture which can be found on a label on the back of the alarm.

Always keep an eye on the weather forecasts & any information

regarding possible problems including the signs at the fire station.

Have a look in your street, where is the closest fire hydrant? Can you see the blue cats eye usually near the centre line & indicates the side of the road the hydrant is located? Are you able to see white maker with red striping & another blue cats eye? Is the area around the hydrant cover free from grass, dirt or other foreign material.

Is your house number clearly visible to emergency services? Searching for houses in the middle of the night is not easy - a clear number at the front gate makes all the difference & if you have concrete kerbing & guttering outside your house, consider getting the number painted in contrasting colours that can be read easily from the road..

Don't forget our Facebook page which is Blackwood CFA.

Take care & remember in the event of any emergency call 000 & look out for your neighbours.

*~ Karl Church Blackwood Brigade Community Safety Coordinator*

### Blackwood & District Landcare

see articles p15

*~ Cat Moser*

### Blackwood Historical Society

Thank you to all who attended Easter Bingo. A great evening. Thanks to the members & people who helped the society.

New members are presently being sought to help with keeping the History of Blackwood & the upkeep of all our historical articles on display.

GREAT NEWS: We are to have the book where the minister was shot & the bullet hole is in the book 1908 to come back to Blackwood. Notices will be put up for an event at the hall in June or July.

*~ Elizabeth Hall (secretary)*

### Blackwood Progress Association

A month on & the Blackwood Wood Chop & Easter Carnival has come & gone, but what a day! The weather was spectacular, the people were out in droves & by all accounts it was a successful & enjoyable day for the thousands who came into town to be a part of it. As the major town fundraiser we estimate it raised about \$15,000 that can go back into the community. This wouldn't be possible without all the volunteers, community groups, event sponsors, wood choppers, market stalls, Progress committee members & visitors (old & new). THANK YOU! There were over 75 volunteers, plus the volunteers associated with the Blackwood Cricket Club, CERT & the CFA. They looked after jobs from manning the gates, running events, checking on toilet facilities, first aid & traffic control/ road management (we estimate about 120 in total)

Congratulations to the new Blackwood King, Lou Henderson & Blackwood Queen, Sue Donnlley. Thanks also to The Blackwood Pub for hosting a great night, it really kicked off a fantastic weekend.

There were so many highlights on the day, too many to mention them all, but I will try to summarise. Congratulations to Blakeville men's team who won the tug-o-war. We have had reports that this is a follow on from tradition, there were a number of Bink family members on the team & the family have been participating in the tug-o-war since at least the 1930's. The “Best In Show” for the Pet Show was Dee & John's fur baby, Fletcher. The children enjoyed the jumping castle, especially the restricted time frame provided to the under 5's, to jump their hearts out without the older children bouncing them about. Kevin's mini animal circus delighted the young & old. There were hoola hoop lessons for 40 people at a time, you all looked like you were enjoying yourselves. All but 6 scones sold out, the remaining 6 were gratefully received by volunteers, thank you to all the local bakers. RSL Ballan were grateful to be a part of the day by running the hot dog stand, profits being used to upgrade their hall. Brendan, was well watered & fed, while being MC for the day, he did a fantastic job. Thank you to Mark for running the gate, new to the role, it was

a great undertaking to welcome all the people through the gate & organising the numerous volunteers. The children's races were again a popular attraction, thanks to Mez, Bruce & Sue for looking after all the eager participants. Belinda & her feathered friend welcomed children to the popular treasure hunt. Rob & Linda heckled & encouraged the gumboot throwers. The longest throw was about 13m... who will take the title next year? The wood chop has been running in the area since the mid 1890's, they are always energetic & the women's event was particularly inspiring & a crowd pleaser. New this year, we had some ticket sales up at the main street, thank you Wendy, this helped the gate flow greatly. The EFT was also popular at the gate & we hope to expand its use next year.

It is hard to single out everyone's contribution but I would also like to also thank Peter & Sue for helping to control the wasps. There were noticeably less that came out this year. Thank you also to Elizabeth Hall for feeding the troops on Friday after set up.

The weekend finished with the Historic Society Bingo night in the hall, what a fun night! And finally a thank you to the Blackwood Progress Committee Members who put in hours of time to prepare & execute a successful event, Bev, Brett, Brendan, Bruce, David, Deidre, Jeremy & Karen. Without you the day would not have occurred. For such a small group this is a large undertaking of your time & energy, I hope you were repaid on the day by all the positive feedback & the great community spirit that was alive & well.

With community support, it will be back again next year. You are invited to our next meeting 7pm, June 3 at the Town Hall.

*~ Terri Simpson on behalf of Blackwood Progress Association*

### Blackwood Uniting Church

Our beautiful old building is undergoing its own resurrection. The stumps & floor has been replaced, new weatherboards have replaced old rotted ones & new doors are in place. Nick & Lachlan Dear are doing a superlative job, we are so fortunate to have in our town people who know how to renovate heritage buildings & do it to such a high standard. The new doors have been hand made by them from the old floor boards, with the addition of glass sections which allow light to spill in. The amazing thing is that the building is in alignment, the roller coaster floor is gone, the lining boards are straight & the porch doesn't look as though it may slide down the hill because of its lean. On completion it will be a building that the community can be justifiably proud of & one which will be used by the community.

When a small group of us were discussing the possible renovation a few years ago we had the notion of calling the refurbished building a chapel linking this to the story of Saint Martin who in the depths of Winter cut his military cape in two to share with a beggar in need. The word for cape in old French is Chapelle which in Middle English is chapel. The first chapel was a sanctuary in which St Martin's cloak was preserved. In England as well as serving as places of worship, chapels were often shared with the community as meeting places. This history based on the legend of St Martin seemed to reflect our vision of a sanctuary, a place of worship, a shared space, a meeting place.

We have also been in negotiations with CERT to provide land to build a garage for the CERT vehicle & for them to have access to the main building. We hope that the building will be finished in the next couple of months & look forward to inviting everyone in the community to the opening of the Blackwood Uniting Church Chapel.

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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## • 2019 VINDURO • 2019 VINDURO • 2019 VINDURO •



98 dedicated riders of vintage trail bikes descended on Blackwood, bringing with them 250 extra people, the available accommodation in the town quickly filled.

The riders all agreed that the riding was great & the trails offered by the Blackwood district were first class. Organisers are hopeful of the event becoming an annual attraction & perhaps the Australian titles.

No major accidents were reported & great weekend was had by all.

PHOTOS: [www.ceveservices.com](http://www.ceveservices.com)



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### BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

#### Presentation Day

ABOVE: Cricket Club stalwarts Karyn & Keith Osborne receive the Ray Meade Memorial Award

### DOWNUNDER 135

Is an annual 135 mile (217km) non-stop foot race & one of the most extreme on offer in Australia. The course followed the Lerderberg from Bacchus Marsh, through Blackwood to Leonard's Hill & back.

Top finishers were 1st Michael Stuart (NZ) 44hr 28min, 2nd Ross McPhee 46hr 37min & Karen Barrett (below left) 49hr 37min, also the 1st woman ever to complete the event.







## INFORMATION FOUND ON THE BLACKWOOD GOLDFIELD - BIG NUGGET FOUND AT BLACKWOOD



Compiled y Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society. May 2019

The very rich alluvial gold of the early days was chiefly found in the Lerderderg River & its tributaries, & the Nuggety, Long, Yankee, Jackson's Dead Horse, Whipstick, Back & Kangaroo Creeks.

The sinking was very shallow, averaging about 20 feet. The

old mining registers hold records of many large nuggets discovered. In Long Gully a nugget weighing 60 ounces was found. The workings in Shicer Gully yielded several nuggets weighing 42 ounces, 46 ounces. A nugget of 62 ½ ounces was found in 1931 by Thomas Matthews & his son-in-law William Waters & known as the 'Blackwood Eagle' in Shicer Gully. This nugget created some publicity in the Melbourne papers, which was in the grip of the depression, & resulted in a minor 'rush' to the area when 30 claims were pegged out in one day.

Found on Trove in the Weekly Times - 21 February 1931 - BIG NUGGET FOUND AT BLACKWOOD

'A picture taken close to the scene of the finding of the 62oz. nugget in a hill on Simmons Reef, Blackwood. The nugget, which was discovered by two miners, Thomas Matthews, aged 75, & his son-in-law, William Waters, is pictured (inset), contrasted, for the purposes of size with an ordinary matchbox. Matthews is seen in the main photograph washing "dirt" from the creek. The nugget has been named the 'Blackwood Eagle'.

Six claims have been pegged on behalf of members of the family of Mr Thomas Matthews & Mr William Waters, who found the nugget. These are in the gully from which the nugget came. The nugget has been named the 'Blackwood Eagle', because of its shape. Its exact weight is 62oz. 4dwt., & it has very little alloy in it. The men hope to get £5 an ounce for it or a total of £311. Mr Matthews, who is 75, is the oldest native of the

district, & Mr Waters, who is his son-in-law, is a Melbourne man. They have been working in the district since last winter. The nugget was found on a claim they had been working for about 6 months. Mr Matthews's father-in-law, Mr Beasley, was the first man to take a gold-washing cradle into the Blackwood district. The Assistant Minister for Industry in the Federal Cabinet (Mr Beasley) is a nephew of Mr Matthews. The nugget has been brought to Melbourne.'

I did some further research on Thomas Matthews who found the big 'Blackwood Eagle' nugget in 1931 when he was age 75 yrs. A newspaper report when he died said - Age - Monday April 29, 1935,

ABOUT PEOPLE. 'Mr. Thomas Mathews, one of the early pioneers of Blackwood, died on Saturday, aged 79 years. He was born at Blackwood & had lived there, practically all his life. He was the finder of the 'Golden Eagle' nugget. A widow, 2 sons & 2 daughters survive'.

So I further checked my Digger birth records & found he was born at Blackwood in 1856 with his father being William Matthews & mother Catherine Brennen & he had siblings - John Henry Matthews born, 1858 & twin sisters born in 1859 - Catherine & twin Anne Jane, & then more twins - Elizabeth born, 1862 & twin sister, Mary. I can't imagine living in Blackwood possibly in a tent in the 1850's gold rush days & having two sets of twins in 1859 & 1862... what a life Thomas must have lead being the eldest son, born 1856 in the height of the gold rush days. How excited he must have been to find his big nugget so late in his life when he was 75 yrs old.

A gold painted plaster replica of the 'Blackwood Eagle' nugget found, is in the Blackwood Historical Society's museum, donated by the family of the finders.

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](http://www.blackwoodpublishing.com)

For help with information on Blackwood ancestors contact Margot Hitchcock - email - [margothitchcock@bigpond.com](mailto:margothitchcock@bigpond.com)



Tom Matthews in Whipstick Gully



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## • EDITORS MAIL BOX •

Thank you Jinny & Brendan, for 10 wonderful years of The Blackwood Times. Great articles, important & often vital information to keep the town connected, & for all the "silly stuff" too.

~ Noelle Shader

Dear Jinny,

I hope means that you & Brendan are going to have much more fun in your lives! Congratulations on a decade of community service & leadership - which I know is appreciated by all your Blackwoodians. As a very occasional advertiser on Wombat Arts' behalf.

**Best Wishes & Good Luck, Sarah Peckham**

Good Luck to you & Brendan, Loved the publications, many thanks.

**Regards, The Wolter Family.**

Have fun with your final issue.

You have been a brilliant editor! You have produced a brilliant paper! Even if someone else takes it on, it won't be what you have made it. This is the end of an era, & I salute you ...

**Thanks, Kathie xxx**

When I discovered Blackwood in late 1990, I stayed at the pub's motel for the 3 days it took to find my dream home, "Faraway". There was a trampoline at the back of the pub & 4-year-old twins Peta & Jessi were bouncing while my 18mo Lucy watched, mesmerised. A kindly voice called from the lounge above "Come & join us for a drink?" It was Brendan, & I thought he must have owned the pub as he & Jinny seemed so at home there. But no, they actually lived a few doors down, & invited us into their lives. They'd only been in Blackwood 6 months... & here we still are, 29 years on.

We were invited to their wedding at the sports ground a few months later, where their friends from the band Frente played & sang, & Hetty the Hen did laps of the oval with about 20 of us piled aboard. I was sitting next to a girl who managed to slip off & get run over by us all... and survive! Brendan recently assured me that she was fine, & went on to have kids of her own... & if that wasn't a good omen I'll go hee.

When "dream baby" Ellen arrived, Lucy fitted neatly between the older & younger girls, though in later years (& especially when she was stricken with Ewings sarcoma) it was Ellen whom she sought during the months of chemo. They'd just sink into the couch & watch movies, with no distraction apart from the delicious food at Chez Jinny & Brendan.

Despite arriving as a single mum with a toddler (somewhat out of my comfort zone!) I never felt like a stranger in town as I realised I had something in common with everyone else; we were all here because we just loved Blackwood. The bush, the river, the fog, the rain, the starry sky, the wildlife, & the fact we were all neighbours who couldn't believe our luck.

I've lived here now for half my life. No plan to leave. Met Steve at the pub 24 years ago... the planets were truly aligned that night! Most Friday nights we return to the pub to meet up with old friends & new. People who value the connections & intricacies of village life, who truly care for each other & welcome newcomers with open arms. And on the shelf above the open fire is the Blackwood Times, where every month we proud Blackwoodians are immortalised in print.

Thank-you Brendan & Jinny, & thank-you Blackwood & all you wonderful friends.

~ Margot Nelmes

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TOP: Submitted by John Fowler  
ABOVE: Kookaburra party with some leftovers from a pork roast. Mum & Dad called the kids to join in. Submitted by Helen R

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## FROM THE DESK OF CATHERINE KING MP

### THE HON BOB HAWKE, AC

{Last month} Australia mourned the loss of one of our greatest Prime Ministers.

Bob Hawke changed our country

As our longest-serving Labor Prime Minister, the reforms instituted by his government have made our country the place it is today.

The Hawke Government opened our economy to the world, floated the dollar, saved the Franklin River, reset industrial relations, outlawed gender discrimination in the workplace, and launched Medicare.

His Government's achievements in Australia and overseas are too many to be listed here.

When Bob entered Government 30% of Australians finished year 12 – when he left 70% did.

He transformed our nation.

Following on from the work of Bill Hayden and Gough Whitlam, Bob and his Minister for Health Dr Neal Blewett built Medicare.

All of us carry a green Medicare card in our wallet – for that we have Bob to thank.

Australians now take it for granted that if they are sick they will get the care that they need – for that we have Bob to thank.

This is perhaps his greatest legacy – that rich and poor alike can have faith that when they need help, help will be there.

Beyond his policy achievements and policy reforms, Bob was beloved for his empathetic common touch.

He abhorred racism – at home and overseas – and he worked tirelessly to confront poverty and address indigenous disadvantage.

Bob made friends wherever he went.

Everyone who met him has a story that they will cherish forever.

When I first ran for office in 2001, Bob came to help.

We picked him up in Melbourne and drove him back to Ballarat.

Together we walked through Wendouree Village – with Bob being mobbed every step of the way.

Never one to stick to a schedule, he ducked off from our walk to check out the Guinness Book of Records in a bookshop – seeing if his famous record still got a mention.

Before leaving Ballarat he insisted on heading up the stairs of our campaign office to have a cigar.

Surrounded by the old ovens of what used to be a bakery, Bob held court with all our young volunteers – passing on his advice and stories, and giving us all a memory which we will cherish forever.

My sincere condolences to Blanche and Bob's family, as well as to all those who loved and knew him.

**Vale Bob Hawke.**

## BLACKWOOD BOCCE

We are happy to let all Blackwoodians know that our have regular Bocce games at Blackwood Oval have been fun. Beautiful environment, lots of laughter and great people.

Yes fun!...even at 10 am on Sunday morning! Everyone looks forward to coffee around the pot belly at Jindarup afterwards.

Come and join us.

10.00 am Sundays and 4.30 pm Wednesdays.

Young or Old, Shy or Bold, Speedy or Slow, Child or Adult

EVERYONE WELCOME! astothiathromo@gmail.com



*Locals .... & Dee hang out with Pat & his crew.*

## PAT CALLINAN 4X4 ADVENTURES IN TOWN!

Channel 10's popular TV show "Pat Callinan 4x4 Adventures" came to town on Anzac Day Eve to shoot an episode for their upcoming 12th season, which is to be aired later this year.

You would recognise Pat's TV Show on Sunday afternoons, where they visit iconic Australian destinations, taking viewers on a journey around the country & giving families advice with the best tips & tricks known when camping or travelling out in the bush land.

As Pat & his team work closely with one another to find the best & most scenic locations to share with Australian's across the country, they found that while in Victoria for the next few weeks that Wombat & Lerderberg was a must-see place to visit.

One thing that came to surprise was that they didn't have a specific plan or itinerary when visiting the area. Instead of relying on popular well-known locations from online sources, they will also come into the area & directly speak to the local community in which they then find all the best & hidden.

Pat & his team received tips on places to go from our local friend, Rosco Odgers, who had also recently volunteered with wood preparation at the Easter Woodchop Carnival. After speaking with Ross, they were certain to visit a few sneaky spots amongst our forest & of course with great 4X4 tracks, of all levels. Some include the beautiful & secluded Blue Hole Waterfall, New Sultan Mine Track, Nolans Creek Camp, Yankee Mine Ruins & more. Keep an eye out in the upcoming series around October/ November this year!

Pat & his film crew mingled with many locals at the local Blackwood Hotel sharing many stories, a few laughs & even a couple of sociable bevs. Pat even volunteered & drew the weekly meat raffle with Louise.

Pat Callinan's down-to-earth nature, authenticity, family values & 4WD knowledge has resonated with us all. It shows why he fit in so well with our local town & community. His comments were "I love this town, I've been to many small towns, but this one really gives a warm energy. Everyone gets along & the Blackwood area is gorgeous".

Part of his appeal has been in not overselling the 'celebrity' status, & just focusing on what matters most to true Australian four-wheel drivers. Before Pat's TV career, he had worked as an editor for at the time Australia's #1 4wd magazine. During this time, he had produced several DVD's presenting them to major television networks in hope of getting them picked up until he arrived to Channel 10's studio where they then signed him up to air his TV Show early Sunday afternoons.

Pat Callinan is currently based in the lower Blue Mountains of New South Wales, where he lives with his wife & three children. I asked Pat if his wife is as passionate about the 4X4 adrenaline, however he said, "not so much, she is always shitting herself".

He has now built up an amazing reputation as a 4X4 journalist, producer & presenter. Currently working on multiple projects, Pat is a busy but very inspirational man with genuine knowledge & experience for any family who is wanting to take a day road trip, or a holiday.

Check out Pat online where you can find many tips & tricks, subscribe to bi-monthly emails, his magazines or follow him on Facebook.

'Unsealed 4X4' [www.unsealed4x4.com.au](http://www.unsealed4x4.com.au) | "Pat Callinan's 4x4 Adventures" [www.mr4x4.com.au](http://www.mr4x4.com.au) | "RV Daily" [www.rvdaily.com.au](http://www.rvdaily.com.au)

~ Cassandra Tomkin



## MAYOR SAVES NATIVE PLANTS

Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group (BBRLG) has expressed its gratitude to Moorabool Mayor Paul Tatchell for saving several hectares of native vegetation from destruction.

Via a "quiet word", Cr Tatchell on May 13 diplomatically convinced the Vintage Enduro Riders Inc (VERi) to cancel its planned "special test" enduro through native vegetation on Crown Land on the southern outskirts of Blackwood.

The event was scheduled as part of the group's Australian 3 Day Vintage Enduro (A3VE).



The "special test" would have destroyed many native species, including the Wombat Bush Pea (*Pultenaea reflexifolia*), which is classified as rare in Victoria & only grows in the Wombat State Forest.

Other species in the firing line included (there were too many to list!) the Tall Greenhood orchid (*Pterostylis melogramma*), Slender Rice Flower (*Pimelia linifolia*), Common Heath (*Epacris impressa*), Grass Trigger Plant (*Stylidium graminifolium*), Purple Coral Pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*), Handsome Flat Pea (*Platylobium formosum*) Cranberry Heath (*Astroloma humifusum*), Trailing Shaggy Pea (*Podolobium precumbens*) & Common Hovea (*Hovea heterophylla*).

Landcare members first raised concern with the organisers of the event before contacting Cr Tatchell after noticing about a km of motocross course taped out through a forested section of Crown Land.

It seems incredible that VERi members thought this was appropriate in the first place & it makes you wonder what happens out there in the anonymity of the forest.

It also raises questions about how permission was (without a permit) granted for the "special test" on Crown Land.

Landcare president Catherine Moser wrote in a letter of thanks to Cr Tatchell: "The group applauds your sensitive approach to this matter, which has resulted in an amicable outcome without any harsh words being said."

"In small towns like Blackwood, it is important that issues like these be worked out before they become divisive."

"The community welcomes the event to Blackwood, but just without any damage to our precious native vegetation."

"We look forward to hosting the vintage enduro riders to Blackwood & working with them in the future to ensure that all interests are looked after – including our wonderful natural environment."

Landcare members on May 17 dissembled the course.

*TOP: The illegal motocross course on Crown Land on Blackwood's southern outskirts.*

*SIDE: The Wombat Bush Pea (Pultenaea reflexifolia), which is classified as rare in Victoria & only grows in the Wombat State Forest was one of many species under threat.*

~ Shane Scanlan

## LANDCARE REPORTS ON ITS “WAR ON WASPS”

Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group (BBRLG) "declared war" on European wasps last year, but it was only recently that the battle really intensified.

That's because it was only in the weeks leading up to Easter that the pest introduced species really made their presence felt.

And it's only by tracking the wasps back to their nests that real action can be taken.

The "war" will go on into coming years, but Landcare inflicted thousands (if not millions) of casualties in what we are calling the "battle for the sportsground".

In the lead-up to the Easter carnival, local "wasp-whisperer" Peter Donnelly honed his skills & tracked & dispatched at least half a dozen nests in proximity of the oval.

There was still some wasp presence on the day, but it was nowhere as bad as it would have been without Peter's efforts.

Once a nest is located, the technique is to visit after dark with some wasp dust (we use Bayer Ant & Wasp Dust) & liberally powder the nest entrance. The whole nest is destroyed in hours (importantly, including the queen).

Landcare has this dust available at the store, with many locals taking advantage of this free offer.

Store owner Carol Guthrie reported the destruction of a mega-nest in the township as the wasp season drew to a close in May. She said the ground under the nest fairly rumbled when treated with the dust.

This was particularly satisfying because, although Blackwood is cold, it's not cold enough to wipe out a colony during winter (unlike in Europe).

When the next season cranks up in spring, Landcare plans to hold some public sessions to educate the community about how to find & destroy nests.

Until then, enjoy the lull in hostilities in our ongoing "war on wasps".

~ Shane Scanlan



## FUNGI IN THE FOREST

Join local field naturalist John Walter on a walk in the Wombat Forest and discover the wonderful world of fungi. John has studied local fungi for the last 10 years and is a frequent visitor to Blackwood in search of fungi.

The Jack Cann Reserve is home to a wide variety of fungi species and the damp gullies and fallen logs host fungi in all shapes, sizes and colours. Bring your camera and get close and personal with the fungi in the forest.



Sunday June 30, 10.00 am  
Meet at the Jack Cann Reserve Carpark, just next to the Garden of St Erth

Did you know that Australia's rarest fungus species grows on just one tree at Blackwood

Hundreds of species have been recorded in the area

Learn why fungi are essential for good forest health

Light rain will be ignored and persistent heavy rain will be enjoyed from a nearby indoor venue where local fungi images will be presented

BLACKWOOD BARRYS REEF LANDCARE GROUP will provide a light lunch after the walk

Please RSVP for catering [moser.cat@gmail.com](mailto:moser.cat@gmail.com) or phone 0407 685 763

Sunday June 30, 10.00 am





## SPACE ENERGY Clearing Routines

by Kathie Strmota

Feeding your home lots of positive emotional energies, appreciation, & lovely experiences, is a key factor in creating a nourishing, comforting & uplifting space. But, just as dust gathers in corners & food spillages mark the stove, unsupportive energies still find their way in, & regular cleansing can help keep your home-energy flowing & vital.

There are two main aspects in space-energy maintenance ... (1) cleansing: to clear undesirable energy dynamics & (2) blessing (or positive intention): to generate a framework for desirable change.

There are many different clearing methods (eg. sound, sacred smoke, or intentional visualisation), & no one 'best' way, so apply those which most suit you. Sometimes, you may just do a quick-cleanse & 'sweep the space' using a single process. At others, a more intensive clearing may be needed, applying several cleansing processes in succession, & focusing on specific areas of stagnant energy, individually, as you move through the space. If using several methods in succession, as a general rule, it's a good idea to start with those tools which affect physical energies first, & gradually work up to those with a more refined effect, but always trust your intuition & apply tools in the order that feels right for the situation.

Sound waves create both physical & energetic vibration, so are a great all-round tool. Begin with percussive sounds (like clapping or a rattle or drum) to shake up & loosen dense stagnant energies, followed by more resonant sounds (like bells, singing bowls, 'beautiful' music, or vocal toning) to clear & harmonise the energy dynamics. I generally associate all other clearing methods with the four elements [earth (physical), water (emotional), air (mental), & fire/light (spiritual)], & tend to use them in that order. For example, if I'm planning to clear with a white-light visualisation, salt water, bell, & sage smudge, I'd use the bell first (sound), then salt water (earth & water), then sage smoke (air), & lastly visualisation (light) for the finest clearing.

After clearing (release past), you may wish to bless the space (define future). This can be as simple as intending that the house continue to be a beautiful safe-haven for you & your family. Or, you may engage a more

complex blessing process, which imbues the space with a framework of energies that support your future becoming. As with clearing, there are many ways to focus & energise your intentions (such as symbolic objects, or making changes in décor) but, essentially, the core process is to clearly define your intentions (what you actually want to experience) & then to express those intentions into the space. Adding visualisation to illustrate your positive change, including the associated wonderful feelings, can be a powerful way to focus your intent.

It's not always obvious when a space needs clearing, so a regular routine can be helpful (eg. monthly 'sweep' with annual 'deep-cleanse'). Do incidental clearings whenever your home feels 'not quite right' or when you can't relax & 'breathe freely' at home, or after sickness, unpleasant visitors, burglary, & any other such negative experience. A need can also be indicated by problems in the flow of your life, like troubled sleep, or feeling apathetic, drained, disorganised, or hitting constant obstacles, and, of course, any time you yearn for change.

Apply the same logic to space-energy management as you would to physical house-hygiene: the more regularly you clean, the less negative fall-out you experience. If you never washed the loo, cleaned out your fridge, or vacuumed the carpet, the accumulation of stink & grime would eventually make life pretty ugly!

## New map & upgrading of the Lerderderg Track begins

Daylesford – Blackwood – Bacchus Marsh

A shared use track for mountain bikers and walkers, the Lerderderg Track includes some of the wildest and most rugged landscapes close to Melbourne. In recent years, it fell into disrepair. Now, the Great Dividing Trail Association (GDTA) has begun upgrading the 87km long Lerderderg Track along the Daylesford – Blackwood – Bacchus Marsh route in association with the land managers.

Recently, map maker Ken Dowling produced a new map on waterproof paper that features alternative bike routes and a revised means of threading through the booming suburbs of Bacchus Marsh to the railway station. The new map is available at the Daylesford Information Centre, the Blackwood Post Office Coffee Shop or online via the GDTA website – [www.gdt.org.au](http://www.gdt.org.au).

The Victorian Government Department of the Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is providing funds to repost and repaint post tops. To distinctively brand the Lerderderg Track, post tops are gaining a sky blue stripe. DELWP is building new bridges across two of the more challenging wet areas along the track. For much of its length, the Lerderderg Track follows the heritage-listed Lerderderg River, which falls steeply into a deep gorge. At gorge-end, the river contains a rich repository of geological features of international significance.

At the Daylesford end of the Lerderderg Track, the GDTA has begun upgrading signage from the new trailhead overlooking Lake Daylesford at the Bridport St lookout. It is expected that the upgrading will be complete by spring this year. The track has already been fully audited and all land managers have been consulted by the GDTA. Land managers are DELWP, Parks Victoria and Hepburn and Moorabool shire councils.

For further information:-

- Re the map, contact Ken Dowling on 5348 3792 or email – [ken@mapsport.com.au](mailto:ken@mapsport.com.au)
- Gib Wettenhall, President, GDTA, on 0419 370 342 or email – [gib@vic.chariot.net.au](mailto:gib@vic.chariot.net.au)

## WOMBAT BOOK CLUB

Now the nights are closing in, the chill factor draws us closer to the fireside, all we need is a glass of something warming, background music & a good book to take you to another world... Welcome to Wombat Bookclub.

Our Bookclub is held every 3rd Sunday in the month at the Blackwood Pub. We discuss the book we have finished, then the rest of the 'meeting' is rather social. The books we have read the past two months were 'When We Have Wings' by: Claire Corbett, & the enchanting 'Daughter of the Forest' by Juliet Marillier.

**Sandy:** 'When We Have Wings' is a typical story of the 'have' & 'have nots'. However, a dream to fly & growing wings brings many privileges and some sacrifices. One such is, to fly, a woman may need to relinquish bearing a child of her own. Some women were not able to fly again once pregnancy occurred. A family of flyers hires an Au Pair, Peri, who was hired to conceive a child for the wealthy couple, with the promise of providing surgery and training so she too can have her wings. Peri flies off with the baby, & the investigation into finding her and why she flew the coup, leads to many twists & turns in this intriguing novel.

4.5 Wombies

**Brenda:** Fascinating and thought-provoking, showing a rather frightening future when it is possible to fly if you have the right genetics and are happy to go through radical surgery, but the wonderful life of flight might be worth it. Rather happy I live in today's world.

**Sandy:** 'Daughters of the Forest' is book 1 of a trilogy. This magical tale introduces us to Sorchia, who is the 7th child & only daughter of Lord Colum of Sevenwaters. Set in an ancient forest where there is unrest between the Fair-Folk, Brits & the Picts. Sorchia's Mother died when she was young, & her father re-married a cruel woman who bewitches her father & her brothers. She escapes this & is on a quest to save her brothers from this evil trick.

Living in a forest, one can fantasise about what dark secrets the trees hold. Being a big kid with fairytales- I gave this - 4.5 wombies

**Brenda:** Delightful historical fantasy. The characters are passionate and well-written and the story unfolds at a lively pace, slowing a little towards the end. A little magic to take us into older, more superstitious times.

Previous books we read were: 'Uprooted' by Naomi Novik - a fairytale for big kids like us. It is an enchanting tale of a magician known as 'The Dragon' who every 10 years took a girl from the village. It was a mystery what happened to these girls, because they never returned to the Village. Agnieszka, a village girl who was taken learnt how to perform magic from the Dragon. They formed a strange relationship which together, fought the evils of the Wood.

**Sandy:** I loved this story, over time it was uncovered why nature became so hostile towards the humans, & how this girl was able to settle into an eccentric life. Had me captivated.

4 Wombies

**Terri:** I listened to 'Uprooted' on audio book, read by Katy Sobey. It was a unique magical story. Agnieszka's story of a peasant girl whose village is protected by the wizard named Dragon had me laughing, crying & on the edge of my seat. I can see why this book has won prizes & been shortlisted for a number of others. Must-read/listen for the lovers of Fantasy novels.

5+ wombies

**Sandy:** 'The Rosie Project' by Graeme Simpson is a heartwarming story of an intellectual Geneticist, with aspergers trying to fit into society, & trying to find love & companionship. He is on the lookout for a life-long partner, which he titled 'Wife Project'.

Through a twist of fate, he becomes involved with a woman trying to find her biological father. All the time, his life-long partner is right under his nose. This story is well told, hilarious & at times heartfelt.

5 Wombies

**Brenda:** It took me a while to get into the characters of this book, but highlighted the fact, even therapists have their own life struggles to deal with.

3 wombies

**Terri:** Recommend by the librarian, winner of 2 literary awards and short-listed for another, 'Between a Wolf & a Dog' was an emotional read. How much can you cover in a day? The story touches on the lives of different family members on a rainy day in Sydney. It took me on a journey, exploring love, loss, the past & future possibilities. I will be thinking of this book in the upcoming days...

4½wombats.

Another for reading & reviewing was the very popular 'The Handmaid's Tale' by Margaret Atwood, an award-winning television series has made this book a curiosity to read about what happened to USA, renamed Gilead. The story of the character 'Offred' her handmaid name given to each who 'belonged' to a Commander to conceive offspring for his 'infertile' wife. This read is dark, as is the TV series on which it is based on. One could question, 'Could this really happen?'

Reminds of a quote from The Telegraph, 'Democracy consists of choosing your dictators, after they've told you what you think it is you want to hear.' Alan Corenk

**Sandy:** This is a dark read, & on occasions the writer repeats herself, possibly for impact. For me, because I viewed the series, I was curious to know more detail how the situation transpired. I was a little disappointed. But a compelling, interesting read.

3 Wombies

Coffee roasted in Blackwood  
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Wed	5pm	Locals Night	Cosmo
Wed	5pm	Judder Bar Eats food truck	Lyonville Hall
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## • NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK •



Will Clayton & Max James Lesko were born to James & Mia on May 1, 2019 at 7:14 & 7:15am, 1st born Will weighed in at 2.226kg & 45cm long while Max was 2.214kg & 46cm long.

Both boys & Mum are doing fantastic.

Will is on the left & Max on the right.



## NOTICE OF AGM The Blackwood Progress Association Inc is holding its ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**on MONDAY 8th July 2019  
at 7.00pm.**

BLACKWOOD HALL

Tea/Coffee Provided

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## PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS



**WOOF.** In this month's edition I would like to discuss the very painful condition, arthritis. As winter sets in & the temperature drops, vets often see an increase in arthritis cases in both young & old animals. One in 5 dogs suffers from the pain & disability caused by arthritis. Cats can also suffer from the damaging effects of this condition & may have difficulty grooming themselves or going to the toilet.

Sadly, the majority of these pets go undiagnosed & untreated as their owners don't understand the reality of this condition. However, pets experience real pain with arthritis, comparable to the pain experienced by humans with this disease.

Arthritis is actually one of the most common conditions affecting dogs but as pets are unable to communicate their pain, the early signs of this illness are often missed by owners & simply attributed to old age.

Yet arthritis is a chronic, painful, degenerative condition that can develop gradually over time, affecting one or more joints (typically the hips, knees & elbows) & causing much inflammation & pain.

Arthritis is not limited to certain breeds & it can affect any pet at any age. It can influence a pet's quality of life & prevent it from enjoying simple daily activities such as walking, running or playing.

Signs that a pet may be suffering from arthritis

- Reluctance to walk or play
- Limping
- Stiffness of joints in the morning or after a sleep
- Licking or biting of joints
- Difficulty in rising from a resting position
- Difficulty in climbing stairs
- Change in personality – less happy & playful or sometimes aggressive & irritable

Early detection & proactive treatment are essential to ensure your pet's comfort & quality of life as they age.

There are many options available to aid in the prevention of pets that are at risk of arthritis – e.g. large breeds, overweight, having sustained injury, & those over 7 years of age. Contact your local vet clinic for treatment options & give your pet a pain free happy life.

**Woof for now ... Seamus**

## • BLACKWOOF •



I came from Maryborough when I was very little & when I got to my new home in Blackwood, I saw rain for the first time. It was really exciting. The dam filled up & I jumped in & I chased away the ducks. I'm allowed to do it all the time now because I am 5 months old & very grown up. I saw my first snow this morning. Gee, I love this place!

My name is Fletcher because Dad likes a very old man called Dustin Fletcher who kicked balls for the Bombers. Every morning when Dad & I go to pick up the paper, we say hello to all the people in town & all the kids leaving town on their big buses. They all pat me on the head & say "G'day, Fletch!"

The week I came to Blackwood all the people got together & had a carnival party. Gee it was fun! Mum & Dad put me in a competition and, guess what, I won! They said I was Best Puppy & Best in Show. Dad was so proud. He said it was better than watching Dustin torpedo that 70m goal.

Mum just said that I am allowed to write again to the Blackwood Times, like my friend Seamus (above) does with his regular column, Pet Shenanigans. Woohoo! Gee, I love this place.

## Dear Pet Guru,

*I was very lonely when my pet Yeti died and felt the need for a big friend, so I bought a pet Big Foot and he wants me to get him a pair of sandals. What can I do?*

*Puzzled of Portsea*



Dear Puzzled,  
I suggest you get hold of a couple of old surfboards and put ties on them.  
Good luck

Pet Guru.

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### MOVIE STAR VISITS WOODEND

Australia's best known movie reviewer & expert, the legendary David Stratton visited Woodend on May 8, attending the Macedon Ranges Film Society's May 8 screening of the classic 1950 film 'Sunset Boulevard'.

David is visiting Macedon Ranges in his capacity as Patron of The Federation of Victorian Film Societies to provide advice & encouragement for grass-roots community groups who love cinema.

Best known for his television program with colleague Margaret Pomeranz 'At The Movies' on ABC & in its earlier version 'The Movie Show' on SBS. In the 70's David Stratton & Margaret Pomeranz played an important role in challenging the often heavy-handed censorship decisions of the Australian Classification Office. "We were delighted & privileged to have David & his wife Susie as our guests at this month's screening. David introduced our May film 'Sunset Boulevard' to a packed audience providing an in-depth description of the film & its place in cinema's hall of fame.

Afterwards David joined us for supper & engaged in general movie discussion, fielding many questions from an enthusiastic audience. His encyclopedic knowledge of movies is astounding. It really was a night to remember" said MRFS President Christine Wangerek. Stratton has stated on numerous occasions that his favourite film of all time is Singin' in the Rain. He currently writes reviews for The Australian newspaper & formerly did so for the US film industry magazine Variety. David also lectures in film history at the University of Sydney's Centre for Continuing Education. In 2008 he released his autobiography called 'I Peed on Fellini', a reference to a drunken attempt to shake Federico Fellini's hand while using a urinal.

*Photo: MRFS committee with David Stratton*

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### Trentham Football Netball Club Update

The Trentham Football Netball club season is back in full swing. With 4 football teams & 6 netball teams competing this year. Unfortunately, the club made the tough decision to pull the U14.5s football team out of the competition due to a lack of numbers for this age group. The saints will take the remainder of this season to focus on ways to increase the numbers for the age next season. At our first home game we unfurled the U17.5 football & A Grade Premiership flags. This such a great achievement for such a small community. So far this season all grades are going along nicely & our youngest grade U11.5 footballers had their 1st game winning in a thriller by 4 points.

Last month the long-awaited netball Pavilion at the Trentham Sports Ground Reserve was officially opened by Martin Pakula, Minister for Tourism, Sport & Major Events. The pavilion is the result of the combined efforts & funding of the State Government, Hepburn Shire Council, Trentham Football Netball Club & Sports Ground Committee.

If you are interested in football, netball or being involved in a great family-friendly community, the Trentham Football Netball Club is the place for you. Please consider coming to watch a game, be a member or even volunteer. Every Thursday night we offer a great value meal for only \$10 for 2 courses. We have a number of functions coming up & this years our major raffle is a Husqvarna Power Equipment Pack valued at \$6500 for \$10 a ticket. Our next few home games are on June 1 & 8, July 6 & 27 & August 3. We generally have a club function afterwards, we would love to see you. For more information about our club contact Cello 0419 161 002 or Sam 0438 686 794

### FIRST AID COMES TO TRENTHAM

Trentham Neighbourhood Centre is hosting a first aid course on Monday June 3 at the Centre.

This First Aid course is a fast track Level 2 with pre-course homework that covers all elements of First Aid in a shorter day that focuses on all practical training.

The cost is \$125pp. Book here:  
<https://www.its.vic.edu.au/enrolment-form/?eventid=9174>

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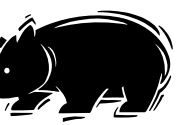
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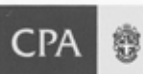
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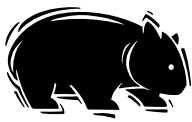
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*Frances Harkin  
& the team*

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