

August/September 2019 vol 11 ~ issue 12:2



~ Jenny Bridger



EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

First of all, a big thank you to Brendan and Jinny for running such a great publication over the past years. The Blackwood Times has been an integral part of the web that has helped hold together our small town, chronicling the changes, ups and downs, comings and goings. Their efforts have been selfless and often overlooked.

They have left us, the new Blackwood Times' team, with big shoes to fill and a important task at hand: take the pulse of our little town and be the voice of the community.

Blackwood might have a reputation for being cold but, in winter, we embrace the chill - think cosy open fires at the Blackwood Pub, wholesome food from Jindarup, steaming hot chocolates & soulwarming red wine at the Merchant, and rugging up in winter woollies & jumping in puddles down at the Springs.

And what a winter it has been so far: Blackwood saw the Fungi forage walk bringing a huge amount of information about our own backyard, there was a kangaroo rescue by Badgar that made it to Channel 9, more power outages that got all of us being creative on how to organise a decent dinner without electricity, and more music and gigs than you can dream of.

Sure, Blackwood might be a little chilly but as always you'll get a warm welcome when you're here.

~ Blackwood Times' team



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Fungi forage p4-5
VEAC recommendations p11
History of Blackwood p12
Badgar rescues p14 & p18
Power outages p18

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

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Regular Photographers	Peter Donnelly, Brendan Hehir
Consultants	Jinny Coyle, Brendan Hehir

the BLACKWOOD TIMES info

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

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

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The BLACKWOOD TIMES is produced as a community service by the Blackwood Progress Association.



WILLIAM
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ALEXANDER

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&
CLINT

★

APPEARING
AT

★

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HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

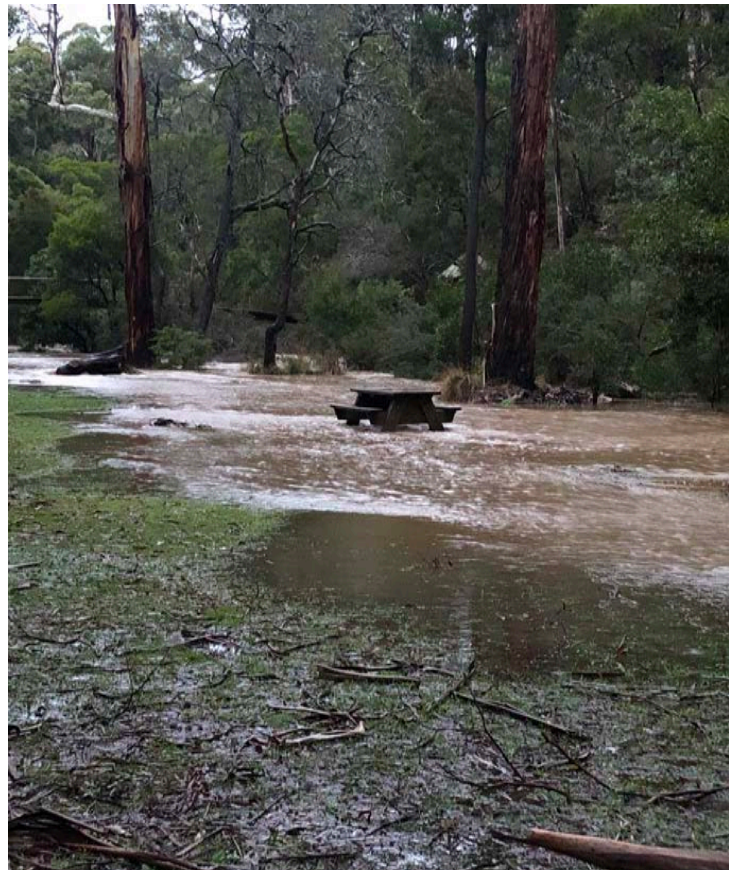
MONTH/ YEAR	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall historical average (mm)	Temp monthly min (deg C)	Temp monthly max (deg C)	Temp average daily max (deg C)	Temp average daily min (deg C)	Temp average for month (deg C)
May '19	175.9	90.5	-1.5	17.6	12.6	3.5	7.9
Jun '19	245.1	104.7	-3.4	15.1	10.3	1.5	5.6



We have certainly made up for the low rainfall experienced up to the end of April with rainfall in the months of May and June well above normal.

As winter is upon us now, cold temperatures as measured are only part of the story as the apparent temperature can feel much lower due to the wind chill factor.

~ Don Owen



The photos were taken on the 29th of June the second time this year that the river has burst its banks. The first time was the 3rd of June.

~ Photos by Brad and Jenni from the Blackwood Caravan Park



• FUNGI FORAGE BY CAT •

We all had a wonderful time on the Fungi Discovery Walk, led by local naturalist John Walter back in June. The event was organised by Blackwood Barrys Reef Landcare Group, as part of a series of educational walks, talks and events we have been putting on for the community. On Johns advise, we capped the group at 20 people, and asked for people to RSVP to manage numbers. A smaller group is much easier to manage on field trips like this, then everyone gets to see and hear descriptions and information along the way. Despite this, there were quite a few attendees who didn't RSVP, and we ended up with a big group of 30 or so! At times, there was not 'mushroom' for everyone on the walking track (bad joke). In the end, everyone was very welcome and John took it all in his stride.

Our minds were blown on many occasions along the walk. We learnt that Fungi plays a vital and fascinating role in our forests ecosystem. One of the highlights was learning that one of the rarest species of fungus in Australia, grows on a single Narrow-leaved Peppermint (*Eucalyptus radiata*) in Blackwood. Just one solitary tree! The rare fungus' scientific name is *Auriscalpium* sp. The 'sp.' means it hasn't been given a species name yet. Evidently, there are numerous groups of fungi that are yet to be mapped or named. There is definitely an opportunity for locals to get there explorer caps on, and go out checking Narrow-leaved Peppermint trees for *Auriscalpium* sp. Fungi are the too often forgotten 'Kingdom' alongside Flora and Fauna, and a whole lot more complex. Great fodder to get the brain juices flowing!

These events have been really successful in bringing the community together to celebrate our mutual love of our local bush, and to provide an opportunity for learning. They have also been great social get-togethers. Where else would you want to live!

On behalf of Blackwood Barrys Reef Landcare Group, I would like to thank John Walter for leading the walk, and sharing his knowledge of the fascinating world of Fungi!

~ Cat Moser, Landcare President





• FUNGI FORAGE BY DON •

We were very fortunate to be able to join Blackwood-Barry's Reef Landcare Group for their Fungi Foray on Sunday June 30, led by local naturalist John Walter.

Prior to commencing our walk, John gave us a very interesting insight into the world of Fungi. In particular we learnt that the Blackwood area is renowned for a wide variety of fungus and attracts many visitors, including those from overseas.

During our walk John identified several of our fascinating local fungi. These included many that range from weird to wonderful and rare. We will leave it to John to identify them for the readers, so many names to remember.

John also explained that to obtain their nourishment, Fungi create a web-like mass, (mycelium) of tiny, tiny hairs or filaments underground. There is a very short window of opportunity to observe the actual fungi fruit (mushrooms and toadstools) above ground. This is what we see, and many people are totally unaware of the magic below ground. A period of good rain is required for them to produce their fruit which is usually short lived – so one has to be there at the right time!!

Fungi form an essential and very special and mutually beneficial relationship with trees and shrubs and other life forms. Indeed, without Fungi much of our natural environment would not exist.

We enjoyed a shared lunch over which we were pleased to meet so many other like-minded Blackwood residents. Despite our long association with Blackwood (back to 1854) there are now many "newbies" whom we had not previously met.

A great day was had by all despite the very cold conditions.

A big "Thank-you" to John, Blackwood-Barry's Reef Landcare Group, Jinny and Brendon.

Below is an "Earth Star" (we think Geastrum, maybe triplex or maybe pisolithus) from our garden at Blackwood.

~ Don Owen





• COMMUNITY UPDATES • COMMUNITY UPDATES •

Blackwood Crown Reserves COM

With winter upon us things have been relatively quiet. We are still awaiting a response from DELWP in regard to our application for a grant to extend the water main into the mineral springs area.

A fantastic development is the establishment of an office/meeting area that will service the Crown Reserves Committee, the Progress Association and the Blackwood Times. The area to be utilised is the room previously occupied by the Senior Citizens as a billiard room. The three groups involved must thank the Senior Citizens for making this room available. To date the room has been painted, thanks to the generosity of Brendan Hehir. Carpets will be laid soon and furniture has been ordered. All going to plan the renovation should be completed and ready for occupation by mid August.

The recent motorcycle event, which was a resounding success saw the caravan park booked out for three days in what would normally be a very quiet time of the year.

On behalf of the Crown Reserves Committee I congratulate the people for putting their hand up to take responsibility for the continued production of the Blackwood Times, ensuring its place as news source for all residents. Equally we must thank Jinny Coyle and Brendan Hehir for 13 years devotion to the publication of the Times.

~ Dave White, Chairman

Blackwood CERT

The last few months have seen the Team continue to be busy with their commitment to respond to medical emergencies in the region. We have four new recruits who are in the process of undertaking training and will join us soon. They and all new members are always welcome.

To find out more about joining as a Community Emergency Responder, check out "Volunteers" on the Ambulance Victoria website www.ambulance.vic.gov.au.

Being a responder is not for everyone and there are other ways to support emergency medical responders in our area such as becoming an active member of the Committee of Management or signing up as a Friend of CERT. If interested contact President@blackwoodcert.org.au.

The Responders really appreciate the Community support they receive through the Committee and Friends, as it allows them to focus on their key activity of training for and responding to medical emergencies in our area.

Emergency Services AFL Round

July 5th saw the inaugural Emergency Services Round played between Collingwood and Hawthorn. Outside the ground there was an exhibition of some of the equipment and vehicles used by various branches of emergency services – police, ambulance, CFA, MFB, SES, Forest Management, Surf Life Saving and others. This was a hit with the crowd, especially the junior members.

Before the game, representatives of each of these Emergency Services were on field with police and ambulance helicopters provide an impressive flyover.

The purpose of the round, held on "Thanks2U" Day, was to highlight the range of services – both paid and volunteer- who provide essential emergency support and response in our Community.

Three of our Team – Marie-Claire, Jan and Leonie, were "rattling the tin" to raise money for the Emergency Services Foundation – a not-for-profit body set up established following the Ash Wednesday bushfires in 1983. The ESF operates as a trust to provide immediate support for those who suffer hardship as a result of the death of a family member or injuries sustained in the line of duty. The Foundation

also provides educational scholarships to members of the emergency services industry and conducts activities such as the annual Emergency Management Conference to increase the understanding of the key issues that challenge emergency services personnel.

Blackwood CERT members have taken part in that Conference over recent years and expanded their understanding of how they operate within the larger emergency services framework which serves us all.

With winter well and truly on us, stay warm and well and continue to look out for others in our Community.

~ Jan Ogle and Leonie Brasier, Acting Team Leaders

We had a great CERT family catch-up last month read more about that p.13.

We will be holding out AGM in October so we'll be on the look out for members of the community who are interested in accepting a role on the CoM. Please feel free to contact president@blackwoodCERT.org.au if you would like to discuss what is involved in joining us.

We are starting to look at our budget & fundraising activities for 2019-20 and it would be great to have more "Friends of CERT" sign up. Generally "Friends of CERT" want to support us but don't want, for what ever reason, to be on the responding team or the committee (i.e. don't do meetings). We simply call on you when we need a helping hand, generally at the Easter Carnival or procuring raffle prizes or selling raffle tickets. We'd love to have you, yes you, on board. Email me at president@blackwoodCERT.org.au & I'll send you the (very simple) application.

~ Jinny Coyle, President, Blackwood CERT CoM

Blackwood Seniors

Hello to all, sorry I missed last edition no excuse.

A belated Happy Birthday to Marty, Dianne, Pam, Dorrie, Harry, Wendy and Jim.

A very special congratulations from all of us to Harry and Joan on their 65th wedding anniversary on the 10th of July 2019.

Our train trip to Maryborough was enjoyed by all that went. Lunch at the station and a visit to the museum and a nice relaxing train ride home. Christmas in July is on the 17th July at the Greendale Hotel which we are looking forward to. The August Bus trip is still being decided but we will let members know the date and time and venue in plenty of time. We meet every Wednesday at the Blackwood Hall at approximately 10.30am for games and a chat. Then a fantastic 3 course lunch at the cost of \$10.00 at 12.00pm prepared by our beautiful Jen and Deanne.

Just a thought - A yawn is just a silent screen for coffee.

Take care everyone and stay warm.

~ Dianne Volpe, Secretary

Blackwood CFA

Great to see plenty of rain. After a very dry four months to start the year, our rainfall is now about average for this time of year. June was the wettest June in Blackwood since 1952. The more moisture in the soil, the later the introduction of the fire danger period. After last season's six month Fire Danger Period, a short season would be most welcome. Keep in mind though that the Bureau of Meteorology continues to predict a dry Spring, so fingers crossed.

The brigade's new electronic sign will be installed in the next month and will be ready for the fire season. The sign will not only carry fire and weather warnings, but also community announcements.

Reiterating Karl's important messages for the cold months. Looking at 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 chimney fire or problem with smoke building up.

Remember to always call the brigade first in the event of an



• COMMUNITY UPDATES • COMMUNITY UPDATES •

emergency, it is better to have us rolling up even if you can extinguish the fire yourself.

Smoke alarms have made a massive improvement to fire safety over the last 20 years. Make sure the battery is good and the smoke alarm is checked regularly.

Finally, ensure your house number is clearly visible from the road. 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. The minutes saved finding your house, could mean the difference between life and death.

We are on Facebook under Blackwood CFA.

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

~ Ross Hall, Blackwood CFA Captain

Blackwood Uniting Church

The renovations on the Church are moving ahead and it is looking remarkable thanks to the amazing skills of Lachie and Nick. Wait until you see the doors they have made from the old floor boards. Thank goodness the windows went in before the rain set in.

We are beginning to plan some events including a grand opening. Hopefully we will have a date for the next edition.

As mentioned before, as well as being a space for worship and meditation, the venue will be available for use by community groups for a small fee that would cover electricity etc.

If you have any ideas or would like to use the facility when it is complete please get in touch with Robyn or Wally Zanon..

Take care everyone and stay warm.

~ Robyn Zanon

Blackwood Progress

The Blackwood AGM had to be postponed due to the many of the Committee being unavailable and scattered in different corners of Australia and overseas, the next meeting was then postponed due to the town blackout on Monday. Stay tuned for the announcement of the new committee with the next meeting due to be held 29 July. I take this opportunity to thank the outgoing committee, Brett Bond, David White, Beverly Butler, Jeremy Pearce, Caroline Guthrie and Deidre Cronin. Stay tuned for the announcement of the new committee next edition.

The focus over the last two months has been working with the Blackwood Times to handover to the new production team editors and organising a community office space in the Blackwood Hall.

The Progress Committee meet the first Monday of the month, in the Blackwood Hall at 7pm. If you are interested in what we are doing or would like be a part of this community group there is always an open invitation. You can contact the committee at blackwoodprogress@gmail.com or find us on FB.

Terri, on behalf of the Blackwood Progress Committee

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.

around \$3pw ex GST your businesses advertisement will support the continued publication of The Blackwood Times. Call 5368 6444 or download a rate sheet from theblackwoodtimes.com.au



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• HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BLACKWOOD MINERAL SPRINGS HOLIDAY PARK •

YOU HAVE BEEN
NOMINATED!



BALLAN & DISTRICT
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
**BUSINESS
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS**

Dear Blackwood Mineral Springs Holiday Park,
Congratulations!

We recently called for nominations for the 2019 Ballan & District Chamber of Commerce **Business Excellence Awards** that was open to all businesses in the Moorabool Shire and your business was nominated!

The Blackwood Mineral Springs Holiday Park has just been nominated for the 2019 Ballan & District Chamber of Commerce - Business Excellence Awards.

This is fantastic news for you and a great reflection on all the work Brad, Jenni and the Holiday Park team has put in so far.

The winners will be announced at a Gala Dinner at St Anne's Winery in the 25th of October.

We're all crossing our fingers and toes for you.

~ Stephanie Durand

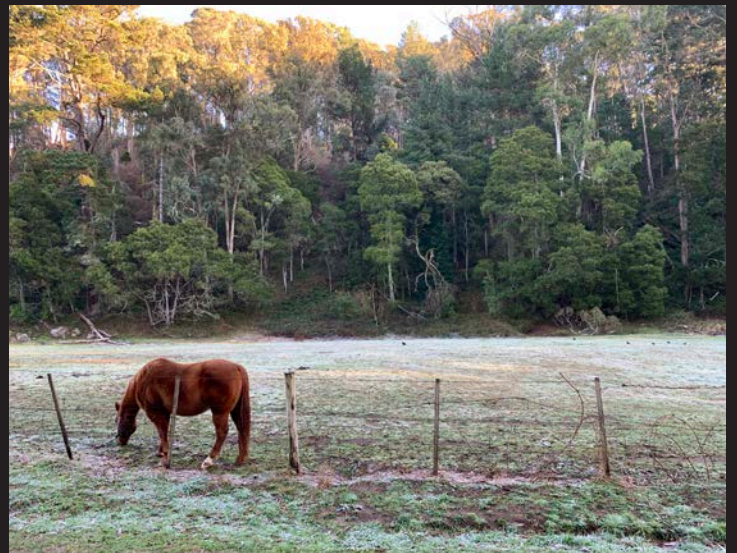


• BLACKWOOD IN WINTER •



Is there anything more beautiful than Blackwood on a winter morning?

PHOTOS: Peter Tragardh-Daly



Jam session

PHOTOS: Peter Donnelly





• JAM SESSION •





• EDITORS MAIL BOX •

Just want to put a thumbs down to the VEAC report.

The main dissapointment being the phasing out of firewood collecting over the next ten years.

90% of houses in Blackwood and surrounding areas rely on firewood for heating, its on our backdoor, its free, it also helps in saving our houses from burning in the summer season by clearing the undergrowth around town..

Environmentally it is a better form of heating than either gas or electricity.

This choice by VEAC is a burden on our lifestyle.

Driven by city dwellers living in the concrete jungle with no care for the locals that will suffer.

100 years ago Blackwood was cleared of trees as they were used for heating and structure during the gold rush so the near extinct natives that are thriving now are a strong breed and will continue to thrive if we were to still collect firewood.

Please for all the tree huggers out there, remember this the next time you are sitting around the campfire.

~ Brian Suters

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• TIMES WILL TRAVEL •



Jodie & Kate with some light reading at Chichen Itza, Mexico



VEAC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WOMBAT FOREST

Final recommendations to the state government by VEAC, the Victorian Environment Assessment Council, have been released to the public. The report has been made after a long, and often divisive, consultative phase with meetings held in the Blackwood area so residents could be informed of the proposal and also voice any concerns. This led to an impassioned debate, with many of the forest users differing in their opinions and expectations as to what the government should be doing in terms of management.

If the final report is adopted a majority of Wombat State Park and Lerderderg State Park will become national park. This will mean the end to prospecting, timber harvesting firewood collection and hunting.

VEAC has a focus on protecting our biodiversity and water quality, and with a changing climate these are important issues, however the forest is integral to the people who live in and around it. Of particular concern to or town is the phasing out of firewood collection over the next ten years. With many locals collecting their heating needs from the forest, losing this resource is sure to be difficult.

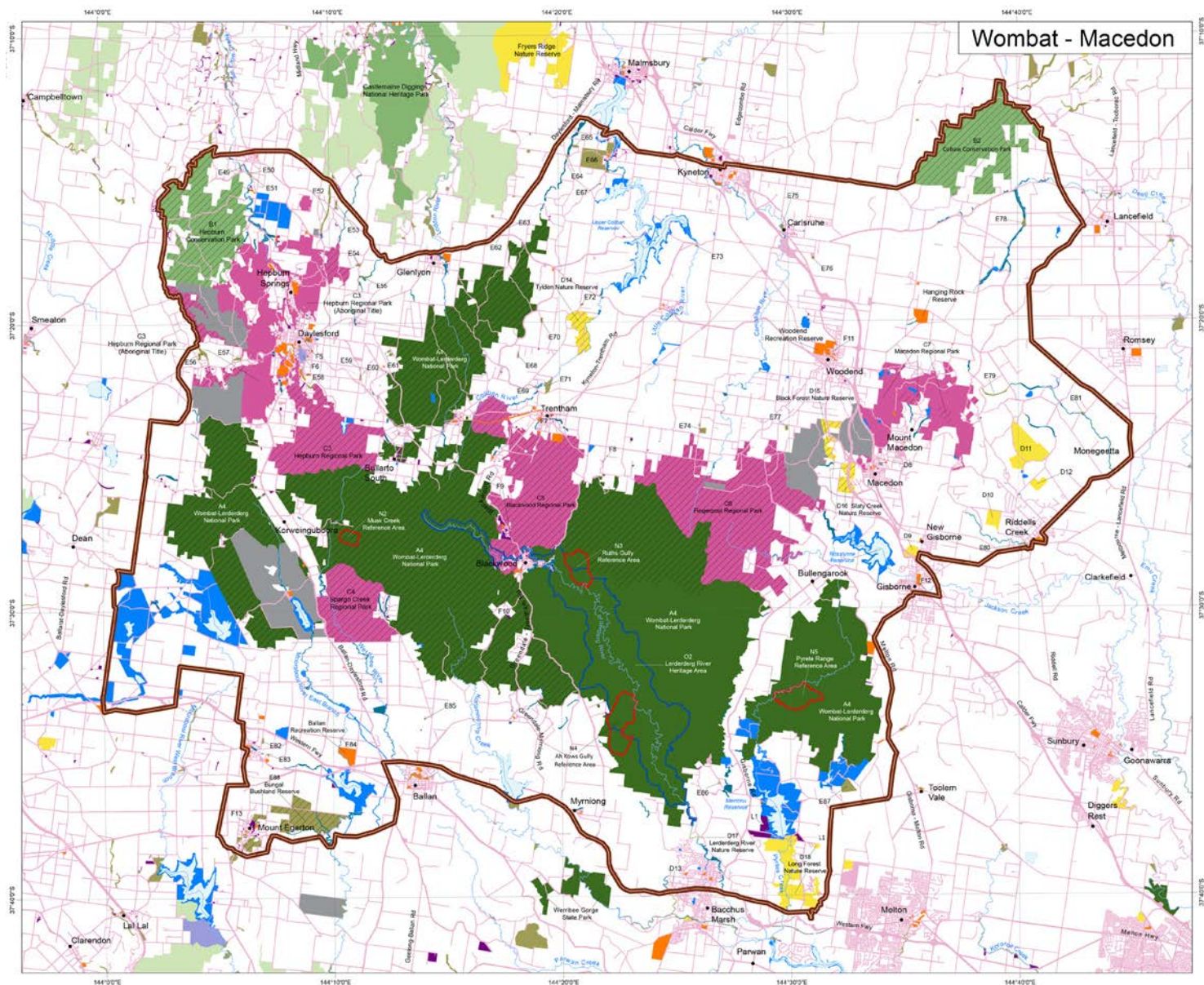
The management of the forest is a balancing act that requires knowledge and careful planning and it is obviously difficult to meet all needs, but for communities like Blackwood that rely on the forest for so many things it is absolutely vital that they get it right.

Public land use category

- National park, State park
- National heritage park
- Conservation park
- Regional park
- Nature reserve
- Bushland reserve
- Historic reserve
- State forest
- Water frontage, beds and banks reserve
- Water production reserve
- Community use reserve
- Utilities and government services reserve
- Land leased or licensed for plantation purposes, Plantation
- Uncategorised public land

Public land use overlay

- Reference area
- Heritage river
- Investigation area boundary
- Recommended change in public land use
- Major road
- Major waterway or waterbody

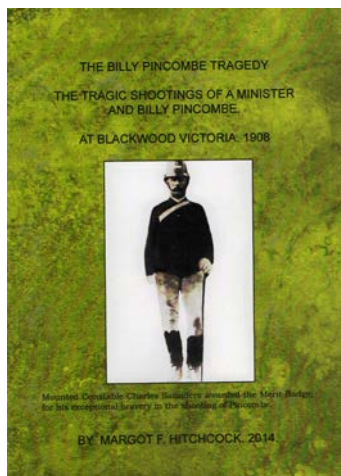




THE HISTORY OF BLACKWOOD: BLACKWOOD RELIGIOUS BOOK WITH BULLET HOLE TO BE RETURNED TO BLACKWOOD.

Compiled by Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society. July 2019

The biggest tragedy that ever happened in Blackwood took place on 19th June 1908. Billy Pincombe in a fit of mental illness shot and killed the Anglican Minister, Mr. Harold Robinson through the heart, while he was reading a religious book in front of his chest. The Religious book was on display at All Saints Anglican Church then removed to the Anglican Archives, when the church was sold, but after much negotiating it is to be returned to Blackwood for display at the Blackwood Historical Society Museum. This book has a story in itself to tell.



The story has been researched and written in a recently published by Margot Hitchcock entitled – “The Billy Pincombe Tragedy”. The story tells of the events leading to an incident involving a man, his wife, the local preacher, the local Policeman, the bible, some guns, an axe and a deranged woman and some of the people of Blackwood.

William (Billy) Torrington Pincombe was a Gold Miner in Blackwood in 1908. The bullet which shot Robinson went through the religious book he was reading as he walked on his verandah of the Vicarage next to All Saints Church in Blackwood. Billy

Pincombe fired the shot from his house opposite the Vicarage, through a partly open window, while lying on a bed, and resting his rifle on the window sill and taking careful aim.

Billy and his new wife Annie May Morrish lived in Blackwood after their marriage in January 1906 and ten months later a son, was born in Blackwood. A month after Annie's son John Pincombe was born, Annie was admitted to the Kyneton Hospital on 20th November 1906 suffering from mental illness and insanity brought on by confinement. Annie was admitted to the Sunbury Mental Hospital in 1906 age 21 yrs. Annie's insanity was recorded as being in the form of religious mania whereby she had got out of bed and nearly chopped her right hand off with an axe. The Leader newspaper report on the 21 June 1908 stated: While at home, her madness, which took the form of religious mania, became more acute. During a raving fit, she kept repeating the biblical injunction, “If thy right hand offends thee, cut it off - my right hand hath offended me.” She was found in the yard later with an axe in her left hand and her right hand severed at the wrist. She is now in the asylum hopelessly insane.

After Billy Pincombe shot the Minister, the local policeman, Constable Charles Saunders, shot Billy Pincombe through the head after which he died in the local Blackwood jail. (The Police Station is where the Special School Camp is now in Martin Street Blackwood. The Police Stables is where the Blackwood & District Historical Society currently has their museum, and is on the same property where the Police Station was.)

So what became of the Religious book with the bullet hole in it ??? The religious book, was amazingly said to have been found at a church fete and returned to Blackwood and given to Tom Garnett who lent it to Bert Oliver a trustee of the church for safe custody. It used to be on display in a glass show-case in the Blackwood General Store, but was later removed when the store was sold in 2001.

The book in the glass show-case was then in the safe keeping of All Saints Church of England in Blackwood. But members of the Blackwood Historical Society were concerned about the safe keeping

of the Religious book when All Saints Church closed down and recently later sold. The Anglican Archives in Melbourne got permission from the Anglican Diocese to come to Blackwood and removed the book in its glass showcase to the Anglican Archives in Melbourne. This book with the bullet hole ripped through the pages, was thought by some to be a bible. After the author had an article on Billy Pincombe published in the Blackwood Newsletter, August-September Issue 2002, she received a letter from Bishop John Stewart, Rector for the parish of Woodend which also covers Blackwood. Bishop Stewart was able to provide the history behind the book as was told to him as follows:

“Harold Robinson, the lay reader at All Saints, Blackwood, was reading a copy of “On Faith and the Creed” by C.A. Heurtley on the verandah of the Rectory at All Saints when he was fatally shot by Billy Pincombe in June 1908. The bullet passed through the book. He then revealed how several people were responsible for the return of the book to All Saints Blackwood.

The title page of the book has at the top in pencil, presumably in Robinson's writing; H.G. Robinson, Blackwood. The title page reads - On Faith and The Creed by the late Rev. Charles A. Heurtley, James Parker & Co Oxford 1896. Making this book 123 years old.

Harold Robinson was buried the Blackwood cemetery and his headstone reads – ‘In memory of my loved husband, Harold Gamil Robinson, Stipendiary Reader, suddenly shot at Blackwood Parsonage 19th June 1908, age 44 yrs.’ Billy Pincombe is also buried in the Blackwood Cemetery but in an unmarked grave with a concrete edge.

As Rev. Harold Robinson was reading the book it is evident that the bullet grazed the spine of the book, passed through the back cover, and emerged in page 49 before fatally wounding Robinson.

The bullet hole can be clearly seen in the pages through which it passed. On page 49 Mrs. Robinson has written; “Last study of dear husband, Harold Robinson. Was held in hand when shot at Blackwood by lunatic. Shot 12 o'clock June 19 1908.” There are pencil marks on pages 48 and 49, and pencil markings and notes up to these pages as Robinson was evidently noting the book as he read it. The section he was reading when he was shot was St Augustine's ‘Sermon to Catechumens,’ and the meaning of the ‘quick and the dead’.. “He doth judge both, giving to each their due reward.” Go ye into fire eternal, prepared for the devil and his angels.” Thus will the quick and the dead be judged by Christ.

Did Billy Pincombe be judged to ‘Go into eternal fire, prepared for the devil’ and did the Minister “Come blessed of the Father to receive the kingdom prepared for him from the foundation of the world?”

Now how ironical is that in this story and almost too true to be told. To hold the book in one's hand, one can understand the power of relics after knowing the full story behind this remarkable book. Truth is sometimes stranger than fiction and leaves you wondering about the circumstances that surround this remarkable and tragic chain of events.

On Saturday 3rd August at 12 noon a member of the Anglican Archives will return the book to Blackwood at a special invitation only meeting, at the Blackwood Hall for members of the Blackwood Historical Society and invited guests. You are welcome to come and view the book at the Historical Museum on the 1st Saturday of each month during the hours of 11am – 1pm. New Members welcome.

For further reading - Copies of “The Billy Pincombe Tragedy” available from the Blackwood Historical Society Museum, or by contacting Margot Hitchcock for a copy mailed to you.

Researched by Margot Hitchcock from her forthcoming book ‘The History and Pioneers of Blackwood’, hopefully to be published soon. Other books published by Margot Hitchcock – “Aspects of Early Blackwood”, Some History of Simmons Reef, Blackwood” and “The Billy Pincombe Tragedy”. See – www.blackwoodpublishing.com

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



BLACKWOOD SHOVEL-READY

We are happy to say that Blackwood, finally, is building again. At least 3 building permits for dwellings have recently been issued, as well as permits for major renovations and extensions to homes and businesses.

Many years after the start of the 'Can We Build?' campaign, launched by this paper, our community can at last feel confident in its future. Building a home in Blackwood is again possible, but certainly not easy, as evidenced by the following stories of those about to build (congratulations Mel, Travis and Melissa).

We trust that more landowners will feel encouraged to build their homes once they see the progress over the next couple of months. How will the VEAC recommendations for a Wombat National Park affect our town's ability to build? That would be a story for the next issue.

~ **Brendan Hehir**

My building of my home in Blackwood has been eventful to say the least but I am finally commencing after a little under 2 years. My obstacles have not been local council requirements but the privatised building inspectors and their 'professional' practices. Their practice is to require full payment of costs prior to commencing your application then send a list of requirements for you to complete. Details of requirements, returning phone calls, messages, or emails is not included in their customer service or consumer accountabilities. This can vary from each individual inspector as I was to discover.

My first inspector received this completed list of requirements (time 6 months) as requested. On receipt of these requirement with 1 week declared he was unable to continue due to being unable to get professional insurance.

When requesting my monies to be refunded he failed to respond, and I registered this matter at Victorian building disputes with no resolution reached. Further action is to lodge application at VCAT for my monies to be returned.

To continue I was required to appoint another building inspector and to do so I had to make application to the Victorian Builders Association to revoke this inspector from my application to reappoint another inspector (time delay 2 months).

The second inspector (money up front of course) has taken over 9 months to issue my permit producing lists of requirements which differed from the previous inspector which has been frustrating to say the least. As one local wag stated, "it would have been easier to build an apartment block".

Meanwhile my existing planning permit required extension time and various other bits of residential codes added costs and time delays to the completed process. Finally, the building permit was issued last month and construction of my simple one storey small kit home has commenced.

Throughout this time the good will of the Blackwood community, my neighbours, and others assisting with preparing my block for the final build has been fantastic.

I now 'know' my decision to move to Blackwood was right for me and I cannot thank you all so much for this support.

Warm regards

~ **Mel Walters**

Our last update was in the October-November 2018 edition (p3), having just obtained our Section 173 agreement for the wastewater treatment.

Our building permit came through in March, which allowed our builder to finally set a completion date of late November this year.

We have recently constructed the driveway ready for the house stumps to be installed and then our factory-built home craned into position in just a few month's time.

We hope to give a final update at the end of the year.

Regards,

~ **Travis & Melissa (recently engaged while visiting family in NYC)**

CERT FAMILY DINNER

Late last month the Blackwood CERT family joined together for a pizza night at the Blackwood Merchant.

Blackwood CERT has 2 parts which intrinsically belong together. The CERT team is made up of volunteer responders trained by Ambulance Victoria (AV) while the Committee of Management takes on all administrative duties necessary to enable the team to get on with their job of looking after people. The CoM is responsible for all the legal requirements of an organisation, fundraising to make up for the short fall between what AV provides (vehicle & maintenance, uniforms, equipment, training etc) & what the team needs to run smoothly and community education.

While the CERT family holds an awards function each Christmas, this event was purely social so we could all get to know each other better.

Around 20 CERT'ies came to the dinner along with their partners & children. There was an extra special thank you to the families of the responders who are left behind to hold the fort when their partners attend calls.

There was lots of laughter & interesting discussion, this is sure to become a regular event.

~ **Jinny Coyle**





• 70KG KANGAROO RESCUED FROM A MINESHAFT •

Despite blustery winds of 8 degrees or less, Mark Firman and his canine mate "Buddy" decided to bravely battle the elements for a run in Creswick Forest Sunday (14/7/19) morning. Puzzled by 'Buddy's' behaviour about 30 metres to the side of one track, Mark investigated.

He found a very cold male kangaroo sitting and suffering, half-submerged in an abandoned mineshaft of three or four metres depth. The roo was exhausted and entering hypothermia after at least one cold night down there.

The signs of his futile attempts at escape were evident with the many claw scrapes on the top edge of the 'collar' of the mineshaft. He'd rounded-off the whole edge while trying to jump and pull himself out, but had only managed to scrape off the top edge with his foreclaws.

This kangaroo was doomed to a terribly miserable demise unless something was done to help him. Mark called BADGAR Emergency Wildlife Rescue who alerted volunteers Gary Ward and Michael Sari. They assembled the necessary equipment and met with Mark on location.

The track was pretty rough and slippery for any vehicle so a ladder, ropes and other equipment were carried in by the three, -Mark keen to assist. It was a hundred metres or so to the mineshaft.

After the least stressful plan was formulated for the kangaroo, he was hauled from the mineshaft using a heavy rope and ladder. Gary was pushing up from below while Michael and Mark participated in a definite 'tug-o'-war' on the rope.

The roo weighed around 70kg so this was no small task!

The roo was elevated and carefully manoeuvred over the top and onto flat ground where he was secured on a stretcher and carried back by all three to the vehicles. Mr Roo was then taken with haste to Hepburn Wildlife Shelter where Jon and Gayle performed emergency treatment.

This included sedation and assessments of temperature, heartbeat, circulation, -as well as washing off the caked-on mud while raising his temperature and drying him off.

Now laying in a warm bed just for him, it's going to be a struggle for his recovery but we're keeping our fingers crossed. Signs are hopeful... - and all thanks to a 'man and his dog' who didn't turn a blind eye to this poor fellow.

There are thousands of disused mineshafts throughout the 'Goldfields' region in Victoria. They don't have to be deep to act as terrible traps for wildlife. Kangaroos, Wallabies, Echidnas and other animals can all fall foul and most are never discovered. We really have no idea of the true toll of these deadly traps.

This boy was one of the very few lucky ones.

BADGAR Emergency Wildlife Rescue: 1300-223-427
(Ballarat-Greendale Region)

~ Michael Sari, Badgar volunteer





FROM THE DESK OF THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

COMMUNITIES TO HAVE SAY IN REVIEW OF 10 YEARS OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REFORM

The Inspector-General for Emergency Management (IGEM) invites individuals and organisations to contribute to the review of 10 years of emergency management reform.

Over the last decade many changes to the emergency management arrangements have been introduced to improve the way Victoria prepares for, responds to and recovers from emergencies such as bushfire, flood, storm and heatwave.

Independent inquiries and reviews which have followed significant Victorian emergencies including the 2009 bushfires, the 2010–11 floods, the 2014 Hazelwood Coal Mine fire and 2016 thunderstorm asthma event have all aimed to improve our emergency management practices.

Inspector-General Tony Pearce is conducting a comprehensive review of the progress made in the emergency management sector since the 2009 Victorian Bushfires.

This review will not re-examine past emergencies, nor the findings or recommendations from independent inquiries and reviews such as the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission.

The scope of this review is limited to reforms prior to March 2019.

The review recognises the emergency management sector is constantly evolving in its practices and approaches, including changes made in response to significant inquiries and reviews.

The review will examine if changes over the past 10 years are actually achieving better outcomes for Victorians – before, during and after emergencies.

This is an opportunity for communities to have their say on what they think is working well and what could be done better before, during and after emergencies.

The insights and experiences gathered from this consultation will be used to inform the review.

The primary goal of this review is to understand whether Victoria's emergency management reform strategy has achieved the outcomes it set out to achieve for the sector, and importantly Victorian communities.

The Inspector-General will provide his report to government by December 2019.

For more information on this review and to give your views go to:
<http://engage.vic.gov.au/tenyearreview>

Individuals and organisations can contribute their views until **Friday 16 August 2019**.

Media contact: 03 8684 7938

• CFA SURVEY •

HELP CFA TO BETTER UNDERSTAND COMMUNITY NEEDS FOR BUSHFIRE PLANNING SUPPORT

CFA (Country Fire Authority) is interested in receiving feedback from community members to help us understand how you want to receive information about bushfire preparedness.

We are interested in your experience in attending one of the CFA's Community Information sessions delivered by your local CFA.

We invite you to complete this survey and add your ideas and experience to our knowledge about what works. Your responses will be anonymous and confidential. You will not be identified in any way in reports or other communication about this work.

Your assistance with completing this questionnaire is much appreciated. The survey will take between 6 and 8 minutes to complete. Go to this link to complete the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JLHVMJF>

Please note the survey is only available for those subscribers of My CFA who are not CFA volunteers or paid employees. Question 1 asks you about this to ensure that only community members participate.

Thanking you in anticipation.

~ CFA Community Safety Team



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• GREATER GLIDERS IN THE WOMBAT FOREST •

Great news! A population of Greater gliders have been documented in the Blackwood area.

Wombat ForestCare, after many hours spotlighting, have managed to photograph the elusive possum.

Greater gliders were once abundant throughout the Wombat forest but have suffered from habitat loss and forest degradation and have recently been classified as vulnerable to extinction.

They are one of the few Australian animals to eat eucalyptus leaves of which they need to consume large quantities of due to their low nutritional value.

Generally living in large, old trees in gullies they are susceptible to heat stress. The population in the Wombat Forest is being monitored to establish numbers and distribution.

If you know of any Greater Gliders, please contact Gayle at Wombat Forestcare - <http://www.wombatforestcare.org.au>.

~ Lee Duclos

Greater Gliders can be found along the Great Dividing Ranges from Queensland to the Wombat Forest, the western edge of their range. They exist mainly on eucalyptus leaves, favouring new shoots and den in tree hollows. Their populations have declined significantly and have they have disappeared from some areas such as Hanging Rock. Due to the declining populations, they have been listed as vulnerable, that is vulnerable to extinction, by both the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments.

Eucalyptus leaves are low in nutrients and Greater Gliders need to consume large quantities, which require considerable energy. They are also prone to heat stress.

The population in the Wombat Forest has not been monitored to establish whether they are declining or secure.

~ Gayle, Wombat Forest Care



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• POWER OUTAGE RECAP •

We have experienced many power outages this year mostly unplanned.

I realise that most outages are unavoidable in a wooded environment where branches can fall across power lines.

This has resulted in a lot of inconvenience as well as food spoilage.

Have a look at my excel spreadsheet attached showing times for outages so far this year.

I hope we get some compensation.

cheers,

~ Don Owen

Day	Time (h:m)	Outage time (h:m:s)	Event
18/01/19	13:11	9s	
18/01/19	13:11	3h44m	
18/01/19	16:56	4s	
30/01/19	15:19	35m10s	
30/01/19	16:04	5s	
30/01/19	16:04	4s	
30/01/19	16:40	5s	
30/01/19	16:40	5s	
30/01/19	20:23	3h42m35s	
09/02/19	18:13	24m38s	
09/02/19	18:49	52m31s	
10/02/19	08:34	1s	
10/02/19	08:34	1s	
10/02/19	08:35	1s	
10/02/19	08:35	1s	
10/02/19	08:35	1s	
10/02/19	08:36	47s	
10/02/19	08:42	1s	
20/02/19	16:18	46m59s	
24/03/19	23:08	5s	
29/03/19	17:03	3h32m	
10/05/19	13:08	2s	
10/05/19	13:08	11s	
29/05/19	09:14	5s	
29/05/19	09:14	5s	
29/05/19	09:14	2h39m8s	
31/05/19	17:23	4m19s	
17/06/19	09:04	3h16m31s	planned outage
19/06/19	16:58	2s	planned outage
08/07/19	09:24	5h24m14s	planned outage
Total (note: times are est.)		25h03m59s	

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• ANOTHER BADGAR RESCUE •

On Sunday a local team of volunteers from BADGAR Wildlife Rescue (Ballarat And District Greendale Animal Rescue) were called to an address in Greendale to assess a kangaroo who had fencing material wrapped around its legs. Thankfully, Anne a local resident and long-time supporter of BADGAR had noticed it frantically trying to untangle itself and called BADGAR for assistance.

Six BADGAR Volunteers responded and found the kangaroo exhausted and badly injured. After assessing the situation, they were able to safely and calmly capture the kangaroo and work to untangle it from two meters of wire, which was attached to a wooden fence post. The Kangaroo was taken to Greendale wildlife shelter for full assessment before being transported to the Anakie Wildlife Shelter for rehabilitation.

Donna Zabinskas, the co-founder of BADGAR Wildlife Rescue, says these kinds of wildlife rescues are very common due to people leaving old fencing and barbed wire laying around their properties. Barbed wire and old fencing debris is very hazardous for wildlife and it's something that can be avoided by rolling it up or disposing of it.

Fencing can be hazardous to all forms of wildlife, not just kangaroos. BADGAR have also had to rescue and rehabilitate sugar gliders, magpies, parrots and a boobook owl, who were all caught in barbed wire fences.

BADGAR shelter is currently caring for 14 baby joey's who have all lost their mothers from roadside accidents. Donna urges drivers to slow down at night and be aware of wildlife venturing onto roads. Most kangaroos hit by cars sustain injuries that result in them having to be euthanised.

The kangaroo rescue from last Sunday was one of the rare happy ending situations experienced by volunteers associated with BADGAR. Following rehabilitation, this young kangaroo will be returned to the property where he was found.

We urge anyone needing assistance or advice to call 1300 BADGAR (1300 223 427)

~ Jessica Robertson and Naomi Carr





• PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS •



Woof: In this month's edition I would like to discuss food intolerance. I personally myself have a sensitive tummy and careful of trying new food.

When your dog has a food intolerance, this means that they are not able to properly digest an ingredient in their food.

This results in gastrointestinal upsets like vomiting, increased flatulence, and diarrhoea. Food intolerance is quite a common issue with 1 in 3 dogs suffering from digestive disorders. While it is not a serious condition, it can cause your dog discomfort so it is best to seek veterinary advice as soon as you see the symptoms.

Unlike food allergies, which are immune reactions to proteins that generally show on the skin, food intolerances in dogs often appear as stomach issues. However, as some of the symptoms can overlap, if your dog is experiencing skin or stomach sensitivities, you should take them in to see a Vet who will be able to diagnose which ailment is affecting your dog and provide you with the correct treatment advice.

Signs your dog may have a stomach issue:

- runny stools
- mucous like jelly in the stools
- specks of fresh blood in the stools
- gassy
- vomiting
- abdominal pain
- gurgling stomach
- weight loss
- loss of appetite
- Please book an appointment with your local vets if you notice any of these symptoms in your dog.

Food intolerance

Dogs can have a variety of adverse reactions to food. These are often all incorrectly ascribed as food allergies, however this is only one of the forms that adverse food reactions can take. All the other types of negative reactions to food that do not involve the immune system are known as food intolerances.

Though they may produce a similar reaction in the body, food intolerances are different from allergies in a number of ways. Food intolerances are not caused by a dog's immune system, so symptoms can appear the very first time that a dog consumes the trigger food. Just like lactose intolerance in humans, these symptoms are typically one-off bouts of diarrhoea or upset stomachs. However if you are regularly feeding your dog a diet that contains the ingredient they are intolerant to, this means that they will experience chronic digestive issues. You can prevent your dog from experiencing an intolerance to their food by removing the offending item from their diet.

Transitioning to new food

In general, dogs have more sensitive stomachs than humans and can experience digestive upsets if you suddenly change their diet. If you are switching your dog to a different brand of food, or food with different ingredients, a gradual introduction is recommended over a period of 14 days. Note that some dogs may take longer than this.

What to expect at your dog's health check

If your dog is displaying signs of stomach sensitivities, take them in to see your Vet who will determine whether these symptoms are caused by your dog's diet. If this is the case, they will be able to recommend a new food for your pet that is suited for sensitive stomachs and will not contain the offending ingredient. Once you have correctly transitioned your dog to this new diet, their symptoms often resolve within a few days. If symptoms persist a vet visit is recommended.

Woof for now

Seamus

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• BLACKWOOFs •



With the grace and poise reminiscent of an elegant young lady of the gilded age we introduce to society Lady Brooke Astor.

Whilst only young, Brooke (as know to her peers) is already holding her own and commanding her position as she follows in the paw prints of her elder sister Lady Arabella Blackwood of the ascended pedigree bloodline.

With a broad appreciation for culture, the arts, fashion and the country way of life, Lady Brooke Astor is as comfortable in a string of pearls, white gloves and gown as she is tending to her garden wearing muddy boots and bounding down her Blackwood lane.

Like every country lass, this young lady enjoys the pursuit of game, chasing the local wildlife, kangaroos, birds that flutter and spirited young suitors to name a few. If seen after dusk this dazzling young socialite will not disappoint, as her audacious wit and charm prevails.

Seated here in her comfortable chair beside the fire she gives us a nod and hopes to make your acquaintance soon.



FLETCHER'S ADVENTURES



WOOF. Well hello everybody.

My name is Fletcher and I am a relatively new resident of beautiful Blackwood. I am a 6 month old Cocker Spaniel. I arrived with my Mum and Dad from Maryborough in April this year and when I spotted Dad's dam in I thought I'd arrived in Heaven!

Wow. What a place.

The trees to relieve myself on and the birds to chase, this is great. I love chasing the ducks into the dam but it's still a bit cold to dive in after them. I love water but I prefer the warmth of the wood fire better at the moment.

My first real outing was the Blackwood Easter Carnival in April and my Mum put me in some sort of Dog show. By the time the Dog Show began and after I had walked for miles on my small legs, I was that dog tired that I just sat there dazed as to what was going on and these people they call judges came around and thought I was so well behaved and nice, I ended up getting a trophy and a goodie basket for my work.

Mum was so happy she was crying which I thought was a bit odd as I thought I was a good boy but she opened the winner's basket to give me some goodies. Yum.

From that time on from the carnival everybody seemed to know who I was. When Dad takes me to the Post office for coffee and cake (which I never get a taste of) people who come in seem to know who I am and pat my head.

Life seemed pretty boring before I came here although at the start I did miss my Mum and brothers and sisters.

But when I first got to Blackwood Mum and Dad had lots of toys and a comfy bed to make me feel better and at home.

Until next time. Woof Woof... Fletcher

Dear Pet Guru,

*My pet Basilisk keeps on blinking.
Should I be worried?*

Signed Monster Keeper



Dear Monster Keeper,

A Basilisk is a mythical creature created when a serpent incubates a bird's egg. They are reputed to have huge, glaring eyes and both their breath and their gaze are said to be fatal. If yours is blinking that is a mild safety factor.

Good luck to both of you, but at all costs, avoid eye contact.

Pet Guru.

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• BEYOND BLACKWOOD •

• TRENTHAM NEIGHBOURING CENTRE •

WE'RE DOING OUR BIT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT... COME AND JOIN IN!

Our "Recycling Station" is open for business.

TNC are proud to provide support for recycling the following items:

- PRINTER CARTRIDGES
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- TOOTHBRUSHES, TOOTHPASTE TUBES, DENTAL FLOSS CONTAINERS
- LIGHT GLOBES
- BATTERIES (household only)
- MOBILE PHONES & SMALL DEVICES
- PLASTIC BREAD TAGS

***Unfortunately we can no longer accept Expressi coffee pods (Aldi brand) until another recycler is found - the only coffee capsules now accepted are Nespresso



In addition to our recycling depository we are producing re-useable shopping bags. Every second Wednesday our community bags group meets between 1.30pm - 3.30pm - the aim of this group is to produce re-usable bags from recycled material that will be available free in a number of local shops. Eventually we would also like to produce shopping bags, produce bags and beeswax wraps to sell, with the revenue going back into the programs and activities of the TNC. Come along and join in the fun - we would love to have you involved (and there are many jobs that don't involve sewing!)



New Fitness Timetable Term 3

- Pilates
- Strength & Flexibility
- Dance Fitness
- Yoga

TUESDAY

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| • PILATES | 8.45AM |
| • STRENGTH & FLEXIBILITY | 9.45AM |
| • YOGA | 11AM, 1PM & 6.30PM |

THURSDAY

- | | |
|--------------------------|------|
| • STRENGTH & FLEXIBILITY | 9AM |
| • DANCE FITNESS | 10AM |
| • PILATES | 11AM |



Booking or for more information please contact our office
03 5424 1354 / admin@trenthamnc.org.au

Community Bag Project

Our Community Bag Project is off to a great start this month!
Our volunteers that came along the screen printing workshop last month managed to get over 80 labels printed!



If you are interested in helping us get our shopping bags out into the wider community but are not a sewer, do not despair as we have plenty more roles within this community group that need filling.

Group meets up fortnightly on a Wednesday at 1.30pm

Give us a call on 03 5424 1354 to discuss further options!



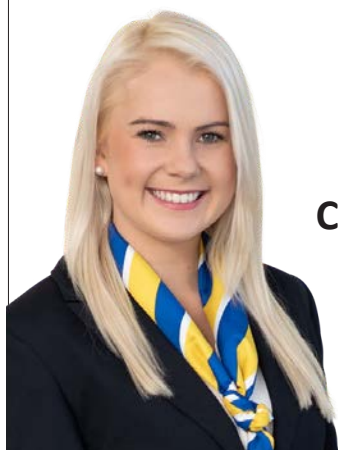
• BEYOND BLACKWOOD •



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BURGLAR**



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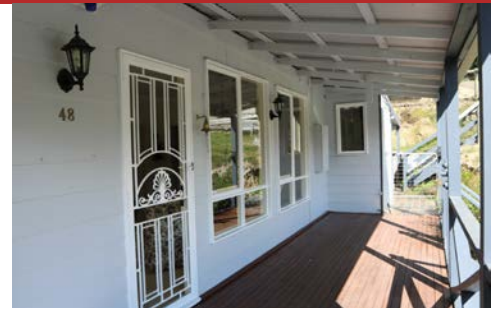
48 Golden Point Road BLACKWOOD



\$880,000

OVER HALF AN ACRE IN TIGHTLY-HELD NEWBURY

In a prime location, Coventry Cottage is a beautiful renovated home originally built in the 1930s. The home takes in full uninterrupted northern sun and has a 5.13kw solar system, brand new luxury carpet and polished slate flooring to wet areas. The home has an Inbuilt wood heater, wood oven and stove. Four bedrooms plus study nook, separate dining room, generous sized laundry, bathroom with corner spa. Television / media / reading room, separate sunroom off lounge and a cinema room downstairs with fourth bedroom tucked in behind making this the ideal teenagers retreat or guest room. Outdoor undercover area spanning 12m x 6m with a 3.2m clearance under roof deliberately measured to accommodate the tallest full-sized caravans on the market should you happen to own one. Also, a wonderful area to use for outdoor entertaining. Vegetable garden and large garden shed and additional covered and lockable storage area under the front verandah. The vendors are also open to offers above the asking price as a fully furnished home as they have no immediate need for the items within the property. This includes tools and a ride-on mower.



20 Decker Street BLACKWOOD



\$880,000

OVER HALF AN ACRE IN TIGHTLY-HELD NEWBURY

This double brick home comprises 3 bedrooms, master with ensuite bathroom, large open plan kitchen, living and dining, central bathroom and detached self contained bungalow. Both house and bungalow are energy efficient with double glazed windows throughout, wood heaters as well split system heating and cooling. Situated on a large residential block with two street frontages and features views to Blue Mount, and include lovely garden sculptures, landscaping, mature plantings and a powered double garage.

1071 Greendale-Trentham Road BLACKWOOD



\$595,000

HISTORIC COBB & CO COLONIAL INN (CIRCA 1860)

Meticulously renovated with period features including 12ft timber ceilings, high dado boards, polished floorboards, lead-light windows and doors, bay windows and two Eureka wood heaters. Consists of 4 bedrooms, 2 ensuite bathrooms, 2 powder rooms, commercial kitchen, open plan lounge-entertainment area, tiled sitting area, wine cellar and cool room. Set on approximately 703 m2, this elevated site has panoramic views, is township zoned, and has prime retail location (currently let as accommodation/B&B) on two street frontages.

2 Matheson Lane BLACKWOOD



\$330,000 - \$350,000

HILLSIDE GEM

Nestled in the hillside of Blackwood and situated on approximately 1,300 m2, this property includes 2 garden sheds. The home comprises of 2 bedrooms, electric hot water system and newly upgraded septic system, wood-fire heater, and Fujitsu air conditioner. The open plan kitchen/dining with electric oven and opens out to a large wooden deck which has beautiful views. Close to the Blackwood town centre with its gift-ware shops, pub, cafe, general store and post office. Also close by is Garden of St Erth and a number of plant nurseries.



Frances Harkin
& the team



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