

April ~ May 2020 vol 11 ~ issue 12:4



PHOTO: <https://www.facebook.com/RescueWombats>

**BURROW DOWN, PEOPLE.
THIS MAY TAKE A WHILE.**



EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

Ahoy over there! Welcome to the new abnormal normal. Naturally this issue's production is a bit different to our usual. April & May are one of my favourite times in Blackwood, with family coming up to the crowning of the year's King & Queen, the Easter Carnival, Easter egg hunts & bingo, followed just weeks later by Trentham's Spud Festival in May. This year we are hunkering down, waiting for the virus to pass & each one of our worlds to return to some sort of normal.

On Leap Day the Blackwood Times was saddened to hear of the passing of our Pet Guru, whose whimsical articles have been enjoyed by many of our readers since we first began publishing. Each 2 months Robin Bradley & Brendan Hehir would huddle together & chat about Robin's latest ideas for the text. Once finalised Brendan would put his hand to the illustrations. You will find some of our favourites scattered through this issue. I do hope you enjoy them.

Even as gigs & events were being shut down & cancelled, Sue has used her fine wit to put together an amusing gig & events article - thanks Sue. As a result of social-distancing advice we have had to cancel face-to-face training of the new Times crew, but Lisa & Kathie have done marvellous jobs sorting & typing submissions. Kate has hassled & hassled for photos as a part of her role as photo sorter. While, as usual, Brendan has put together an entertaining "Whose Tatts That?" & helped Maxwell Murphy with some serious advice about the virus. Be sure to like the Times on facebook for the latest news, see you on the other side.

~ Jinny Coyle (acting co-ordinator)

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Table with 2 columns: Role and Name. Includes Jimmy Olsen played by, Regular Photographers, Community Co-ordinator, and Helpers.

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

Table with 3 columns: Category, Start Date, End Date. Includes Advertisers book space, Regular Contributors, Display Ad Artwork, and Late breaking News.

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The BLACKWOOD TIMES is produced as a community service by Jinny Coyle 5368 6444 & supported by Blackwood Progress Assoc.

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Dear Pet Guru, I am very worried about Horace, my pet huntsman, who is losing weight at an alarming rate. I took him to the vet, but the lady behind the counter just said "EEK!" from Disquieted, Dales Creek. Illustration of a spider and a person at a table.

BLACKWOOD TOGETHER VOLUNTEER GROUP

Blackwood Together is a group of volunteers who are just a phone call away. The group has been set up to support the local community in this anxious and uncertain time - when we're all finding our way in dealing with the impact of Covid-19 in our lives.

- Allison 0411 562 618 | Brendan 0419 137 812
Darrell 0476 336 975 | Fiona 0425 422 416
Karen 0409 212 473 | Mike 0418 302 706
Rachel 0416 717 792 | Sophie 0421 655 786
Stephanie 0432 406 814

Feel free to call any one of us. We are an informal group of volunteers - if you can't reach the first person you call, just call someone else on the list. Let's all stay safe and look after each other.

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GIGS & EVENTS: APRIL MAY

Most public events & gigs for the next 2 months have been cancelled or postponed, however, a very few venue are still trading with outside music & reduced numbers. It is worth checking with your favourite venues, as many are being 'creative'.

- Walking NOT CANCELLED
Cycling NOT CANCELLED
Music NOT CANCELLED
Daydreaming NOT CANCELLED
Reading NOT CANCELLED
Yodeling NOT CANCELLED
Flatfoot dancing in your lounge-room NOT CANCELLED
Laughing NOT CANCELLED
ALSO NOT CANCELLED
Blackwood Bushwalking & Outdoor Swimming Assoc
3 Triple Wombat Community Radio on your airwaves
Blackwood-Workout-Wombats*

*https://app.activeapril.vic.gov.au/register Register free & request to join Blackwood-Workout-Wombats: Join other locals virtually or in real time, for some fun, non-judgemental exercise. The aim is to exercise for 1/2hr every day during the month of April.

Further good news: Renowned local musicians; Fiona Ross, Scottish Traditional singer, & Honeyfields are about to release their long-awaited albums.

Blackwood local, Fiona Ross, is very excited to announce the release of her new album 'Sunwise Turn' on in April. Fiona is originally from Scotland & a renowned singer of traditional Scots song. She was shortlisted for Scots Singer of the Year in the prestigious Scots Trad Music Awards 2019.

For the past few years, Fiona has been performing at festivals across Australia with ARIA award-winning musician, Shane O'Mara. This album of Scottish songs with guitar accompaniment showcases their work together. Unfortunately many of her upcoming concerts have



FROM CATHERINE'S DESK

2020 has already been a very difficult year for our community & communities around Australia. First we faced unprecedented fires, & now we are facing a health emergency unlike any other most of us have faced in our lifetimes.

Over the past weeks we have all faced worries about our own health, as well as the health of our loved ones.

Now, day by day we are seeing the economic toll this crisis will have, & we are facing down mass unemployment & financial hardship on a scale that only a few weeks ago was unimaginable.

We don't yet know how bad things will get, but it is beyond doubt that they things will be easier if we stick together. We may not be able to physically see our friends & families, but with modern technology it is easier to keep in contact than ever before. It is important to remember that self-isolation does not mean social isolation. We will all need to stick together to get through this.

Earlier this year, before we'd heard of COVID-19, we saw the best of our community throughout the bushfire crisis. The best of our nation were those who have travelled across the state, giving up their summer break, to provide food & support to those working & living in fire zones. The best of our nation were all of those amongst us who have reached into their own pockets to give a little to help our fellow Australians in their times of need.

We saw the best of Australia in this compassionate, selfless & community-minded response. It is that response we will need to see again.

been cancelled, however the album will be on sale for \$25 at The Hat Shoppe, the Post Office, & through Fiona's website at www.fionaross.com.au

Asked about the album, Fiona said "I'm really proud of what we've achieved with this album. It includes some of my favourite Scots songs! I love working with Shane O'Mara - he's such an amazing guitarist. We're both delighted to be able to share our work together here."

Honeyfields are also pleased to announce the release of their album "Fortune's Wheel". The album is a collection of traditional & self-penned songs from a range of folk genres & features the sublime three-part harmonies & multi-instrumental talents of Cat Moser, Corinn Strating & Nicola Strating.

Fortune's Wheel takes the listener through mournful songs of the coal industry & mining tragedies, warning songs to young women of the follies of love, calls to social action & songs of love & longing. Engineered & Mastered by the inimitable Luke Plumb, the album is



full with rich sounds & arrangements reminiscent of the folk traditions the trio are borne of.

In their own words: "The three of us became best friends more than 20 years ago, & our bond was forged through sitting around kitchen tables or campfires singing our favourite songs. This album is a return to & acknowledgement of the joy we feel when we

simply sing together."

Due to the current restrictions Honeyfields have unfortunately had to cancel the album launch concerts they had planned. They will be doing an online live-streamed concert instead. Updates will be posted on their facebook page & instagram (@honeyfieldsband) accounts (& shared on the Blackwood Times FB page).

Digital downloads & hardcopy discs can be purchased from their bandcamp page: honeyfields.bandcamp.com & for \$25 from the Blackwood Post Office.

If, throughout this crisis, you do find yourself needing help, there is always someone you can call.

If you are concerned about your health, call your GP or the national Coronavirus Health Information Hotline on 1800 020 080 for advice. The line operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- If you are an older resident of our community, you can also call the Older Persons Advocacy Network on 1800 237 981 from 8am - 8pm Monday to Friday to discuss your concerns about COVID-19.
If you have online access, up-to-date information & advice is available at the Commonwealth Department of Health (www.health.gov.au) & the Victorian Department of Health (https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/).
Advice for businesses & individuals facing financial strain can be found at https://www.business.gov.au/ or https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/
As in every national emergency, ABC will be providing accurate & informative coverage.

As always, my office is here to help. There may come a time soon when we have to close our front door, but we will always be available to support you if you call (03) 5338 8123 or email catherine.king.mp@aph.gov.au.

Over the coming months, remember to keep yourselves healthy. Eat well, keep active & keep in touch with your family, friends & loved ones. Please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions.

Yours sincerely Catherine King



Blackwood Community Bush Radio is looking at some options for locals during Covid-19.

If anyone would like to go onto our contact list, they just need to email their mobile number to threetriplewombat@gmail.com

They will be notified by our communications department of any upcoming broadcasts via text.

“BLITHERING HEIGHTS”

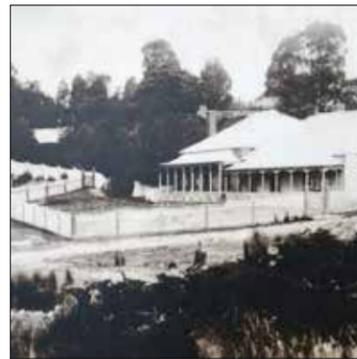
This story has been sent to the Times by Justine Bradley, the daughter of Reginald Patrick Garnier Bradley & sister of Robin Bradley (Pet Guru who features through out this issue) who owned the land that our beautiful Garden of St Erth now stands on.



The origin of this name, which seemed to stick to our mountain home, came about this way.

Our eldest son Garry volunteered to go up to the old home to arrange the furniture in the house, build a fowl house, chop up some logs for fuel (as we had been promised a very cold winter) & repair some fencing. The cold had established itself in Melbourne as soon as Garry departed, & became so intense that we became worried about his supplies - food & rugs etc. So the next weekend we all decided to go up & investigate Garry's circumstances.

When we reached the Highlands after Bacchus Marsh bitter wind lashed sleet against the windows of the car, then a little further on



& higher, the sleet turned into snow, higher still into heavy snow falls when cars began to bog, & on a particularly steep hill, about 8 cars became bogged in trying to storm the steep rise. As the bogged cars left a reasonably clear passage, & as I was very worried about Garry's supplies knowing that he would have to trudge through heavy snow to the town, I decided to proceed where others had failed. My self confidence didn't

help me at all, as I nearly reached the top & was prepared for cheers, we slid sickly sideways & got bogged - so instead of cheers, we nearly got jeers, however we managed to descend the steep snow covered road again, then I remembered a back track, no so high or hilly, which led somewhat precariously to the old home. The family had been discussing the book “Wuthering Heights” when a fifteen year old voice came from the back seat “hm this place should be called “Blithering Heights”, & so it was!

Born as one of Christopher Robins jokes, this somewhat intriguing nomenclature tickled our sense of humour, & excited our imaginations, & so, “The Stone House” the mansion St Erth became - & is still referred to by family & friends as the less ostentatious but more imaginative name of “Blithering Heights”. The original name of the house was St Erth, named after a Cornish saint.

Two foot thick stone walls, big wide windows with white painted frames, a wide fireplace in the lounge, & a wider fireplace in the music room, the water supply was from a concrete tank 9

Ftx18 & 6ft deep, & a corrugated iron tank near the kitchen door. Water from this tank was used only for drinking as a very dead possum & birds were found in the concrete tank. I had it cleaned also sealed electric pump installed, & that winter's rain filled it.

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HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

MONTH/ YEAR	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall historical average (mm)	Temp monthly min (deg C)	Temp monthly max (deg C)	Temp average daily max (deg C)	Temp average daily min (deg C)	Temp average for month (deg C)
Jan '20	70.6	49.9	3.3	39.8	26.2	8.5	16.6
Feb '20	59.1	53.7	0.2	30.9	22.9	9.8	15.4

Reasonably good rainfall in January and February which makes up for the low December rainfall.

~ Don Owen

Dear Pet Guru,

I saw your ad in the last Blackwood News for a bird house to let. Well, my husband Amos & I are sober and well-behaved so I would like to apply for it.

~ Ermatrude Emu



Dear Ermatrude,
I regret to say that as the ceiling height is only 10cm, you may find the house a little cramped. So sorry. With best wishes to you and Amos
Pet Guru

Dear Pet Guru,

You may remember me, I am the small child who used to live next door to the broken-down horse in the Blackwood paddock, but now he has gone away & I am sad because I miss him. Do you know any animals in Blackwood who could be my friend?
~ signed Small Child



Dear Small Child,
Indeed I do. In the driveway next to the Blackwood Merchant there is a very nice dog called Tyson who likes children, & a few doors down Golden Point Road there is a small, hairy dog called Max who would love to be your friend.
As would I.

Pet Guru

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• COMMUNITY UPDATES • COMMUNITY UPDATES •

Blackwood Cemetery Trust

We have a new sign in the rotunda at the cemetery, telling a little of the history. Thanks to Ray Castellin for organising that. We continue to receive compliments on the appearance of the cemetery which is mainly due to John Vanstan, Lou Henderson, Phil Skinner & Wally Zanon. Thank you to those people for your hard work.

Some work is also being done to repair & stabilise some of the oldest gravesites in the cemetery. This will help to ensure that the names of our early pioneers are not forgotten.

~ Robyn Zanon, Sec Blackwood Cemetery Trust

Blackwood CERT

The early onset of autumnal weather in February & March has seen an increased number of CERT call-outs to recreational activities, particularly users of road & dirt bikes. To all our local & transient bike riders, the importance of good fitting helmets, protective bike-riding clothing & boots is imperative to help reduce the degree of trauma, should an accident occur. Be aware of the road, the speed limits, its curves & loose gravel.

As our community & the world braces for the Covid-19 pandemic, we urge everyone to be vigilant with hand hygiene, social distancing, respiratory hygiene/care & self-isolation if required. Please check on the well-being of elderly residents in our community & contact a health clinic if anyone suspects they have the virus. The best source of information is the Department of Health & Human Services VIC website <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/> as there are constant updates & changes occurring. Ambulance Victoria has prepared our CERT team with advice & updates on protocols & procedures for Covid-19 call-outs in our area.

Flu vaccinations will become available in April from most medical centres & early vaccination is encouraged, particularly coming into this year's winter.



On a lighter note, several members of our CERT team popped over to the Daylesford Chill Out Festival for the parade on Sunday, March 8. It was a gorgeous sunny day for the walk & we were accompanied by some of our 4 legged mascots. Pictured is Marie-Claire, Leonie, Sarah & Zach.

~ Jan & Leonie, Blackwood CERT Co Team Leaders

Sadly all our public fund-raising events have been cancelled indefinitely, however you can still pick up a spare coin jar from the Jindarup Store if you find you have too much pesky spare change hanging around at your place.

~ Jinny Coyle, President, CERT Committee of Management

Blackwood Crown Reserves COM

no report this issue

~ Dave White, Chairman

Blackwood CFA

We still have a long way to go before the fire season is over.

No burning off without a permit & there is a zero tolerance for illegal burn-offs. If we get called, the incident will be handed over to the police & you could face the possibility of court & fines.

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

During this time, please look around your property & make sure that the brigade can access it easily in the event of an incident. Low hanging

branches & gate widths are something to consider. If in doubt, contact the brigade & we can take a drive to your property & see if the trucks will fit.

Can we find your house? You would be surprised how hard house numbers are to see at night & even during the day. To help us, have a good look at your number, is it clearly marked & easily seen from the road? Is it visible at night? Signs with good contrasting colours & large numbers make it easier to see.

Don't forget about your nearest hydrant. Look around the roadside & nature strip to see if you can locate the fire hydrant closest to your property. These are marked by a white post with red stripes & a blue cats-eye on the road.

We will let people know about fire restrictions via Facebook & the electronic sign, as soon as we have more information. Keep watching our Facebook page for any updates on fires or other events around the area.

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

Our thoughts go out to the firefighters, support staff, other emergency service workers & victims who have suffered during the past few months with the large fires.

As everyone is well aware, the current situation with the Covid-19 virus is causing a lot of concern & the best defence is common sense. The brigade has postponed all training & meetings for the foreseeable future. Sunday morning truck & refuge checks will be done with a minimal crew. We will still be turning out to emergency situations.

Wash your hands regularly & maintain personal hygiene, avoid close personal contact with others during this time. If you feel unwell, seek medical advice from a GP.

A website & advice line have been set up by the government: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>. The Advice line number is 1800 020 080

Remember to use common sense & there is no need for the panic we have seen in recent weeks.

Be Alert but not Alarmed.

If you are interested in joining, we always welcome new members. We can be contacted at the station or through the Brigade facebook page, just search facebook for Blackwood-CFA

~ Karl Church Blackwood Brigade Community Safety Coordinator

Blackwood & District Landcare

no submission this issue

Blackwood Historical Society

We have had an exciting summer with some wonderful donations.

- The original Mining Registrars Books from 1860s by Robin & Wally Zannon
- A Queensland man delivered a DVD of parade & the event of the turning on the power in Blackwood
- A journal from Whiteman's sawmill in Barrys Reef
- A scrapbook on all the Pincombe events with police reports included on the shooting at Blackwood

We have welcomed new members. This is great.

We are in hope of working with the Cemetery Trust to place white crosses on unmarked graves during the coming year.

~ Elizabeth Hall (secretary)

Note from the Editor: We have removed all events due to current government restrictions.

Blackwood Progress Association

It was with a heavy heart the Blackwood Progress Committee had to cancel the Blackwood Woodchop & Easter Carnival for 2020. The decision was made after the Australian Government placed restrictions on non-essential gatherings for crowds over 500 people.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all those who have spent a lot of time & effort in the preparation to date, including current members

of the Blackwood Progress Association.

In the days leading up to the event there would have been efforts made by locals to address the wasp population with the assistance of Blackwood Landcare group. Volunteers would have helped to set up the site on Friday & then shared a lunch provided by Elizabeth Hall while we admired the quiet site in anticipation of tomorrow.

If it had gone ahead you would have seen the day start with a visit from Apple 98.5fm radio in the main street to greet the parade. Westside Cruisers Hot Rod & Custom Car Club were set to ferry the newly elected Blackwood King & Queen with old favourites such as Hetty the Hen & the Blackwood CFA fire truck & crew. Hava Palava would have had us dancing to their beat as they provided tunes for the march down to the oval among the floats & participants.

At the oval you would have found the Midland Axemen Association holding 12 different events, including the 300mm open underhand championships. The woodchop had been generously sponsored by Western Land Services, John Pope & Family, The Blackwood Cricket Club, Andrew Robinson & Faye Hill, IGA, Town & Country Line Marking, Arch Wood Protection, Mary Anne Thomas M.P, Blackwood Hat Shoppe, Bacchus Marsh Farm Supplies, Darley Bearings, Eureka Glass, Wayne Hodges, & Ballan Hardware.

There were also big plans this year, which included a wine bar sponsored by St Anne's Winery with a music tent showcasing our local talent: Greater Glider String Band, Hardrive, Cat & Clint, Ar Leith, Alfonso the Great, Gobrión, Wild Bloom & Lyonville Ramblers. There was an axe-throwing demonstration, new roaming entertainment & many of the classic activities such as the children's races & gumboot throwing. If you like markets, you would have found 45 stalls to browse & our favourite food stalls run by both local community groups (Blackwood Historic Society hot dogs, the Blackwood Cricket Club BBQ & Bar) & local traders (Yo India, Lyn's profiteroles, Karen's baked potatoes, Swaggys' Ice cream, Mr Squidgy calamari, Sharon & Jeff's coffee. Pets would have been welcome & could have been showcased in the pet show.

After you had enjoyed your visit to the carnival you may have caught a ride back with Kath Berrill in the Blackwood Cricket Club bus, which helps ferry people around town on the day. Fundraising of thousands of dollars was a blow-out.

Hope you can all make it next year.

~ Terri Simpson on behalf of Blackwood Progress Association

Blackwood Seniors

Normally we meet Wednesday's at 10.30am for rumekins or just a chat then at 12 noon, lunch - a 3 course meal provided by our lovely cook, Jenny, & her equally lovely assistant, Deanne. The cost is \$12 & is well worth the price. We have raffles for \$1.00 per ticket with great prizes. After lunch we play bingo at \$1.00 per card for 10 games. Our next bus trip is to Riddles Creek for Sand Art at a cost of \$50, which includes the bus, entry & guide. Lunch is at your own cost or BYO & sit in the beautiful gardens.

We have a hairdresser come out to us every 1st Wednesday of the month with a discount if you are a member. The Ballan Nurse will also be back again on the 3rd Wednesday of April to do check-ups & give any advice if needed. For bus times & pick up areas please ring me Dianne Volpe 5368 6795

Presently not meeting as per shire instructions & we will let everyone know when we can resume.

Dianne Volpe, Secretary

Blackwood Uniting Church

Work is about to recommence on the renovations, thanks to the generous injection of funding from the Presbytery of Western Victoria, who are now supporting the completion of this project.

We have many exciting plans for worship, education & cultural events. We have also had many requests to use the space when we open our doors. We want this space to be used by the community. There will be good heating, a kitchenette, toilets, comfortable, moveable furniture & audio visual equipment. We still don't have a firm finish date but we will

keep you informed. In the meantime, if you are at all arty or crafty, we are planning to have an art & craft market when we can all get back together safely. There is no cost to have a stall, we just invite you to get involved. Please let me know if you are interested. You can ring me on 5368 6792 or email me at robyn.zanon@gmail.com. If you have any ideas for the chapel let me know.

~ 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.

WOMBAT BOOK CLUB

Hello from Wombat Book Club where many words are read & books discussed at a warm, friendly social get-together. It is interesting what each of us get from different writings, it is after all, subjective. We meet on the 3rd Sunday of monthly at 3pm, at the Garden of St. Erth cafe. For more info, please email Brenda on woodbinelodge1@gmail.com

The two novels covered over the last 2 months were 'The Time Traveler's Wife' by Audrey Niffenegger ... & no, it's not a Dr Who episode; & 'The White Girl' by Tony Birch.

"The Time Traveler's Wife"

Sandy: What can I say? A cross between a love story & a sci-fi about a man who has a genetic disorder which causes him to time travel. The man Henry De Temple & his wife Clare Ann Abshire first meet when she is 6 years old, & he is a grown man. However, his age varies throughout the tale as he comes & goes often turning up naked. It is an intriguing story, one which I did find a little hard to follow at times. Not sure who kept falling out of the timeline, Henry, or me the reader.

3 Wombies

"The White Girl"

Sandy: Was an excellent story, easy to read & a reminder to us all what devastation settlers caused to the first peoples here in Australia. The protagonist, Odette Brown, is an Aboriginal lady living in a small country town, left to raise her granddaughter Sissy, who is white. Odette & others are under the control of the new local policeman, who threatens the freedom Odette has come to enjoy. She plans a daring escape for herself & Sissy, with the determination to find her daughter, Sissy's biological mother. Well written & a must read for all.

5 Wombies

Jane: I enjoyed The White Girl. It is an often-told story; simply written, telling of the atrocious treatment of Aboriginals & also the bond & love between Odette & her granddaughter, Sissy. Both characters are bold & courageous. I couldn't help but admire the strength & dignity of the story's Indigenous women.

4 Wombies

Jinny: I don't often get a chance to read a full book but I'm so glad I found time for this one. It is truly horrific how our first nation people have been treated &, although fiction, the story is heavily-researched & well supported by fact, so it is a great way to learn more about our past.

4 Wombats

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ROBIN BRADLEY 1937 – 2020

Robin was born on Valentines Day, 1937, into a family of musicians: concert pianist mother & a father who played violin for the Victorian Symphony Orchestra, Eunice & Reginald had six children, all tarred with the same brush: Garry, Desmond, Robin, Marita, Justine & Juliette— musicians, singers & composers.

Later in life, Robin picked up that same brush & saw to it that his own daughter was suitably tarred. Louisa insisted at age four that she already knew how to play piano, Daddy. Yet Robin very patiently persisted in teaching her. For her first violin exam pieces, Robin had written accompaniment, unaware that such were things already in the school book. His compositions for Louisa's recorder project rather extended the capabilities of both instrument & daughter and, despite the swearing, the project did much to establish Louisa on the music scene. At university, founding a chamber group, Louisa was supported in every way by Robin & Brenda, particularly with their business advice.

Robin himself had studied to become a pianist but realised that dedication to a single pursuit was not for him. His interests in life, his loves, were much too wide-ranging. His writing & his painting, his... have I mentioned his wine? Robin bought his first good bottle of the stuff while still at school, as a present for his parents. It was a 1946 Chateau Yquem (bad year, but a lovely wine) says Robbie. He went on to say a lot more about wine. In fact, he made a career of it. His writing, of course, was never restricted to that subject. He philosophised, he wrote poetry, music. He even had a lucrative spell in the 80's of writing computer programmes.

Growing up, Robin was surrounded by not just musicians, but artist friends of his parents – Jock Frater, Colin Coulihan & many others. He remembers, as a little boy, watching from a mezzanine bunk above an artist studio, an old man with a big, bushy beard, working away intently on a canvas. It was the great painter, Max Meldrum.

Years later, Louisa brought her first watercolour set home from school. Robin seized it with excitement & launched himself into years of painting. "There was a time where I could not not paint" he said " if I ran out of canvas, any flat surface, plate or tray was not safe". Robin's works were distinctively tonal pieces, very much in the style of that old man Meldrum.

Robin's childhood home was in Essendon. He loved his sleepout, with its icy windows, walking home from school, collecting flowers from the neighbourhood to present to mother. His older brothers bashing his head on the footpath. Oh, how he loved women. & his dogs—he remembers them all. If you're back for drinks after the service, say hello to Lydia. She's the latest. The family also owned a property here in Blackwood. These days it's called the Garden of St.Erth but then it was referred to as Blithering Heights. As a 13 year old, Robin planted an oak which, now at 70, towers above & protects the young plants in the nursery below.

Robin was educated at Assumption College, Kilmore & St. Kevin's, Toorak. He wasn't a bad footballer, by most accounts. He went on to join the ABC & radio Australia. It was around that time that his old school chum & lifetime friend, Ivan Page, lured Robin into the world of wine via the group Les Amis de Bon Vin. Much of the winetasting, it seems, concentrated on the 1956 Bailey's, a hefty Rutherglen Red with distinct barnyard overtones. Even now, Robbie's cellar houses a Bailey's or two. Robin started a chapter of the Les Amis wine group in England when he moved there with his first wife, Gaynor.

On return to Australia, Robin founded a wholesale wine company with colleague, John Kelly, specialising in small estate wines. Brenda Hunter, Robin's love of 50 years now, charmed the retailers as the company's sales rep & every Tuesday night she hosted them at the company's beautiful Jeffcott St. cellars in North Melbourne. They ran the very first wine auction in Australia, at the Melbourne Town Hall, following up with the launch of Expovin, the international wine exhibition which brought wine & judges from all over the world. Countess Inez de Lupe from France, Helmet Becker from Germany, the Grand Old Man of the English wine trade, Harry Waugh & the ever-partying Earl, Patrick Litchfield. A total of 11 exhibitions were staged in Melbourne & Sydney.

One Expovin guest, best-selling wine writer, Hugh Johnson, gave

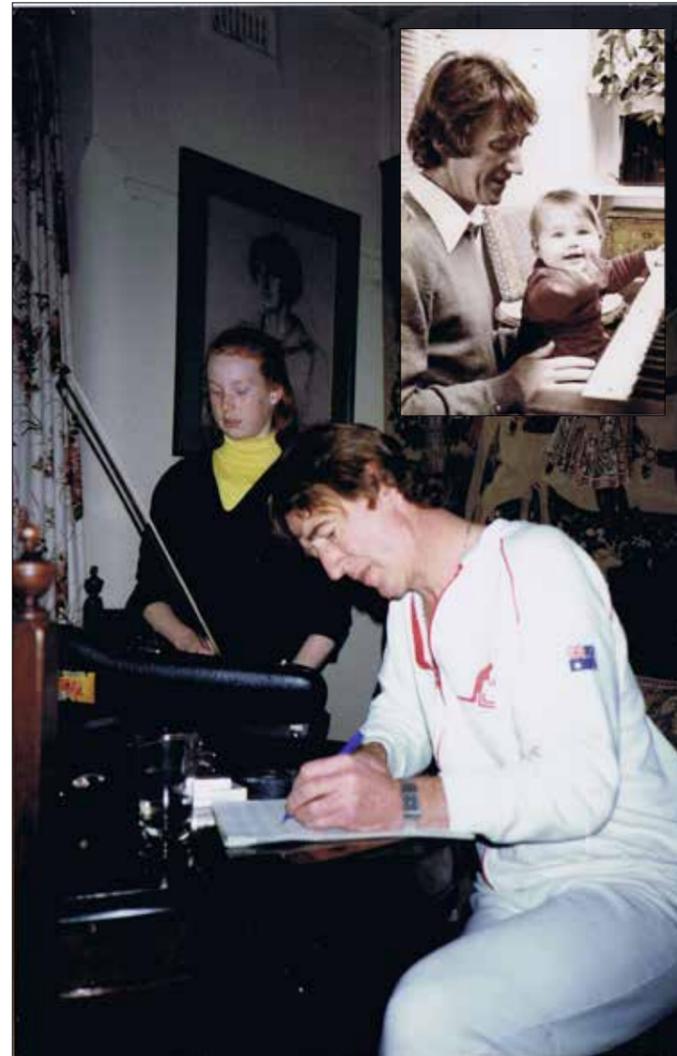
Robin a copy of his Pocket Wine Book. At the time, Robin was writing frequent wine articles for newspapers & magazines & thought he'd have a crack at his own pocket book and, in 1978, published "The Australian Wine Pocket Book", with a forward by Malcolm Fraser. It sold 24,000 copies. Robin followed it up with "Small Wineries of Australia". Robin & Brenda went on to create the "Australian Wine Vintages" series of books. Known as the "Gold Book", it was considered by many to be the bible of wine drinkers for the next 25 years. Emboldened by its success, Robin wrote two editions of a USA version "Wine Vintages of the West Coast".

Most wine enthusiasts can cite a favourite drinking experience. When asked, Robin would often say, "that would be my next glass". But he did like to relate a time where he & Brenda, with a small group, were dining at the White Horse in Sussex. Looking to the back of the wine list, they discovered a treasure trove of ancient French wines. Clearly they needed to try as many as possible & before long, the table was full of bottles, the waiter helpfully turning the labels out so that all the other diners could join in the excitement. Robin proudly drank from the 1870's. Harry Waugh later suggested that they had stumbled across the best wine list in England.

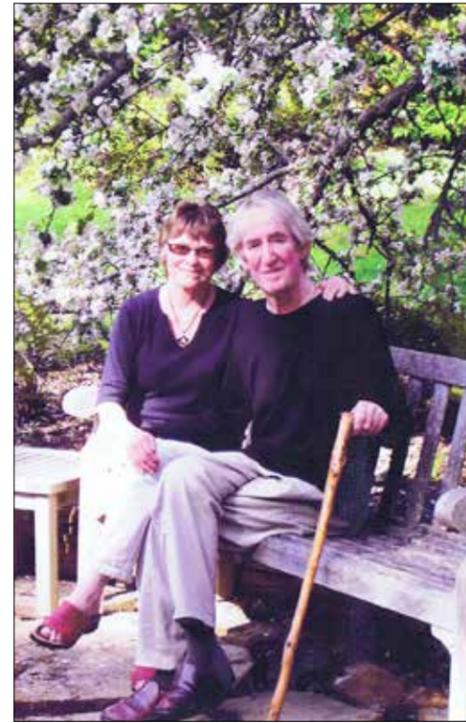
Yes, Robin could occasionally indulge his love of fine wine. To be fair, as a Valentines baby, it was his birthright to indulge his loves. What do you do, for instance, when you are hit with a rather large tax bill? Robbie went out & bought \$3000 of music dictionaries. & when, in cashing in his 80's computer programming money, he blew the money on a boggy, inaccessible & blackberry-infested patch in Blackwood. He & Brenda, of course, turned it into the beautiful home & parklike gardens it is today.

He arrived on Valentines Day & left on the Leap Day. A lover of life, never afraid to take the leap of faith.

~ Brendan Hehir



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A few of the many guises of Robin Bradley

I REMEMBER ROBIN

I remember, having played chamber music for many years with Garry, Robin's older brother, & on occasion with Reg, their father, that I knew of Robin well before I knew him.

I remember playing at Expovin in the Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne, & I may have met him briefly there. We were paid with wine, & as we were playing in the Connoisseurs Terrace, that was acceptable.

Karen & I were living in Blackwood then, as we did for 15 years. During a meal at the Blackwood pub, feeling certain that a group with a young girl of about 11 years of age on the other side of the room was the Bradley family, we introduced ourselves, & I remember that a friendship developed from that moment.

At one of our early get togethers, I remember serving Robin & Brenda wine that we kept in a cask on top of the fridge. It was destined to become a close friendship, as they both were bravely, & seemingly happy to have a second glass, or more.

I also remember that regular Friday lunches began around that time, often at Cobb & Co, & Robin, even recently would speak fondly of those times.

I had been working at one of Melbourne's exclusive girls' school for many years, & I remember Robin being impressed with the quality of the wines that Karen & I would continually arrive with. I guess that many of my Christmas presents had come from some of Toorak's better wine cellars.

I remember that Robin composed a suite, of what would eventually become, often performed pieces for our flute, oboe, 'cello trio. Flattering, not only because he was willing to devote considerable time to this, but also more importantly, because he obviously felt that our playing was worthy.

I also remember him requesting my help in transcribing a movement from a Rachmaninov string quartet from disc to paper. I was never quite sure whether I was there to help with the tea & coffee or not. I do feel however, that I did help with a note or two.

I remember Brenda's birthday lunches, she liked to go somewhere swish, often to the Lakehouse in Daylesford, & Robin was always willing to oblige, as "she was worth it". I remember shuddering at Robin's frighteningly expensive special occasion wine choices, but also breathing sighs of relief when he graciously explained the rules. Karen & I would pay for our meals, & he for the wine.

I remember many balmy afternoons on the balcony at Lost Valley, when, while appreciating their antics & beauty, many disparaging

remarks would be made about the incessant screeching of the cocking fuckatoos.

I also remember many trips to & from the Footscray Hospital, & I certainly remember, when at the hospital with Brenda & Louisa, I was privileged to be considered family when important, & undeniably correct, decisions needed to be made.

I remember Robin's passion for correct pronunciation & grammar. When visiting, Karen & I were sure always to carefully speak, & I'm certain that this aspect of our relationship has resulted in Karen & I talking much better.

I know everybody at the Daylesford Hospital did their utmost to perform a miracle, & I just hoped that last sentence may have succeeded!

I remember Robin's love of, among many other composers, Rachmaninov & Bruckner, as well as his disdain for Italian opera, & most things Mozart.

The traditional Friday lunches continued. Logistics, because of Robin's wheelchair were often difficult. Not because of the wheelchair as such, because Brenda had become world champion at wheelchair unpacking & setting up. Mostly because the wheelchair invariably had flat tyres. It did however, finally graduate to solid tyres.

I well remember that Robin's wit never faltered, & his recent comment about the current USA president's reason for showing his signature around after signing important documents was, in Robin's words, "so everyone would see that he could do joined-together writing", was classic.

It's a pity that he hasn't been here during the last week, as I'm sure we've all thought he would have had something to say about the current terrible toilet tissue tragedy.

These have obviously been just a few of the many memories from a long friendship, & as we all know, over the years memories come & go.

There are however two things I'm certain that Karen & I will never forget;

1. The dedication, devotion, remarkable resilience & never ending love of Brenda, &
2. How privileged & fortunate we are to have had Robin playing such a large part in our lives.

This day, had to come.
Just, not expected so soon.
Vale, Robin, friend.

~ Kevin Thomas



• CHEAP & CHEERFUL BLACKWOODIAN FAVOURITES •

MOONG DAHL

- 1/4c split moong dahl
- 1tab Sesame oil or ghee
- 1/2tsp Cumin seed
- 1/4tsp Ajwan seed
- 1/4tsp fennel seeds
- 1tsp minced ginger
- 4 fresh curry leaves
- 1/2tsp turmeric powder
- 1/2tsp coriander powder
- 1/2tsp cumin powder
- pinch of hing/astofeda
- 1/2 tomato
- 1 tab fresh chopped coriander
- salt and pepper to taste
- 4 fresh curry leaves
- 1tsp freshly minced ginger
- 2tab finely chopped celery
- 1/2 tomato (grated without skin)
- 1 Tbs chopped fresh coriander

METHOD: In pressure cooker add 1/4 cup of split moong dahl with 1 cup water, a pinch of turmeric, 2 whole cloves, and 2 peppercorns. Secure lid to pressure cooker, place over flame, and cook for 5 to 6 whistles. run under cold water until pressure releases and remove lid. If not using pressure cooker, place moong dahl in saucepan and 3 cups of water and boil for 40 mins covered. Use less water if you want a thicker dahl but be careful not to boil dry.

While dahl is cooking, in small fry pan heat sesame oil or ghee and add spices in order: cumin seeds, ajwan seeds, fennel seeds and stir. add ginger with curry leaves, turmeric, coriander, and cumin powder with a pinch of hing. Add tomatoes and simmer gently for 3 minutes. This is called the masal mix. Pour the masala mix into the dahl, add fresh coriander, and stir. add salt and extra pepper to taste. Continue to simmer this dahl if desired or waiting to finish other items for this meal. If you don't have all of the spices, don't worry- either omit or improvise

~ submitted by Karen Bruno

SPANISH STEAK

- 1lb blade bone steak
- 1 large spud
- 1 large onion
- 1/2 pint water or veg stock
- 1 large tomato
- 1 large apple
- Fat (lard or dripping preferred)
- Salt & pepper & celery salt (optional)

METHOD: Melt fat in a baking dish, add steak in one piece. Cook for 10mins in oven 450°, turning once.

Add warm water (*or vegie stock*), cover & cook 15 minutes on 350°.

Slice onions, put over meat & cook for 30 minutes.

Slice spuds, add & cook for 15 minutes.

Add sliced apple & tomato & cook 15 minutes.

Remove, cover & cook for 15 minutes.

Season each layer with salt & pepper. *Cooking time 1 3/4 hours in all.*

Note: ingredients/instructions in italics were added to original recipe

~ submitted by Jinny Coyle - from her mum's recipes

RABBIT, CHORIZO & OLIVE CASSEROLE

Preparation time: 35 minutes
Total Cooking Time: 2 hours 30 minutes
Serves 4-6

- 150g (5oz) French shallots
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2kg (4lb) rabbit pieces
- 2 chorizo sausages, sliced
- 12 pickling onions
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 tablespoon plain flour
- 1/2 cup (125ml/4fl oz) white wine
- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml/12 fl oz) chicken stock
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1/2 teaspoon grated orange rind
- 1/3 cup (80ml/2 3/4 fl oz) orange juice
- 12 Kalamata olives
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- 2 tablespoons chopped chives

METHOD: Soak the shallots in boiling water for 30 seconds; drain & peel. Preheat the oven to moderate 180° (350°/Gas 4).

In a large, heavy based pan, heat half the oil & brown the rabbit in batches over high heat, then transfer to a large casserole dish. Heat the remaining oil; fry the chorizo, shallots & onions over medium heat until soft & golden.

Add the garlic, thyme & paprika & cook for 1 minute. Add the flour & cook for 30 seconds.

Remove from the heat, pour in the wine & stir well, scraping up any bits in the pan. Return to the heat, add the stock & stir until bubbling. Add the tomato paste, rind & orange juice, then add hours, or until the rabbit is tender. Season to taste, stir in the olives & parsley & scatter with chives to serve.

Note: Chorizo is a spice Spanish pork sausage flavored with cayenne.
Serving Suggestion: Lovely with creamy parsnip mash.

~ submitted by Jennifer Bridger

SALMON/TUNA RICE CASSEROLE

- 1x 450g can salmon or tuna
- 3 cups cooked rice
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1 chopped onion cooked in butter
- 1 tbsp chopped parsley
- Salt & pepper
- Broccoli or zucchini par boiled
- OR
- Canned drained asparagus
- 1 cup grated cheese
- 2 cups thick white sauce (see below)
- Sliced tomatoes, capers, parsley, buttered crumbs

METHOD: Drain & flake fish & mix with rice, juice, onion, parsley, salt & pepper in greased oven-proof dish.

Spoon vegetables in border around dish. Add 1/2 cheese to hot white sauce & stir until melted. Spoon over salmon. Sprinkle with cheese & crumbs.

Bake in a moderate oven till heated & golden. Garnish.

WHITE SAUCE

- 1tbs butter | 2tbs flour | 1/2 pint milk | Salt | Cayenne pepper

METHOD: Melt butter, add flour off the flame and stir till smooth. Cook 1-2 minutes, add milk gradually. Stir constantly till boiling and cook 2 minutes.

~ submitted by Jinny Coyle - from her mum's recipes



• FAREWELL PET GURU • FAREWELL PET GURU •

Dear Pet Guru,

My pet hen refuses to lay any eggs. She seems quite healthy and crows every morning when the sun comes up. Signed Perplexed.



Dear Perplexed,
Crows every morning does she? I suspect that your hen is in fact a rooster and no eggs will be forthcoming.

~ Pet Guru

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OH, WHAT A BEAUTY!

We love to see new businesses open in town, particularly when the owners are Blackwoodians from birth, so we are excited to tell you about our newest local business.

Blackwood Skin & Beauty is now open in Martin Street, alongside Blackwood Hair Boutique at the historic Blackwood House. Residents & visitors of Blackwood now have access to a number of beauty services including facials, massage & body treatments, waxing, spray tanning, make up, manicures & pedicures, nail enhancements & cosmetic tattooing.

Facials & skin services are a specialty, offering many services that will support skin health & function. These will include advanced dermal planning sessions to put in place strategies to combat major skin concerns & conditions, advanced enzyme & peptide peels & microdermabrasion.

Cosmetic tattooing/ permanent make-up will also be available, including eyebrows, lip blush & eyeliner. These procedures can

Dear Pet Guru,

I am very worried about me pet bunyip. He is terrified of my budgerigar for a start. And last week he ate three of my neighbour's sheep. And this morning he ate the postman. What can I do?

~ signed Bemused, Buninyong



Dear Bemused,
You must take a very firm line with him. Tell him that if he doesn't behave you'll set the budgie on him.

signed Pet Guru

provide a corrective treatment or subtly enhance natural features.

Owner, Annalice Gee, has been successfully running Blackwood Hair Boutique since 2016 & this will continue to run as normal. The additional services will be available in the new building right next door.

Annalice hopes that the new salon will help bring more visitors to Blackwood & keep tourists in the area while staying in one of the many quality b&bs in town. She believes Blackwood is the perfect location to offer these services, as visitors appreciate the peace & quiet & locals love not having the inconvenience of travelling.

Appointments can be made via facebook or on 0407 562 018. More information & prices can be found at blackwoodskinandbeauty.com.au.



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"We are lumberjacks & we're ok.....we sleep all night & work all day"

Born & bred in Blackwood, since returning to live in Blackwood Oliver has been getting into an entrepreneurial mood.

Oli & Gerry are local lads who believe in not letting anything go to waste. A few months ago Oli & Brendan were making hay while the sun shone, & now that 'winter is coming' they are providing Blackwoodians with kindling & medium size firewood for a pre-hysteria buying price of \$10 for 10k. Framing timber also available.

The kindling is kept in recycled hessian coffee sacks, which can be reused. All the wood is dried & recycled from high-end joinery off cuts. They also have medium size timber off-cuts which burn, burn, burn when mixed with other woods.

So give these lumberjacks a call Oli on 0491 064 620 or Gerry on 0407 059 915



L-R: Brendan, Max & Oli bring back a second load of hay.

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THE BLACKWOOD GOLDFIELD – SULTAN MINE, BARRYS REEF, BLACKWOOD



Compiled y Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society, March 2020
From my unpublished book – 'The History & Pioneers of Blackwood' & my web page – www.blackwoodpublishing.com

The Sultan Mine in Barrys Reef is very much a part of the early deep reef mining in Blackwood's history. Barrys Reef became a thriving township in the 1870's with the opening up of mechanised digging to obtain the gold deposited in the quartz reefs found running north & south through Barrys Reef. The first reef was worked by two men called Barry & Bawden. Their claim had a battery on it & the mine was worked by a whip. Several other parties of men were also working in the area such as Candage, Hood, Crook & others.

The chief reefs were Barrys Reef, & Trehwella's Reef opened about two miles N.W. of Blackwood in 1858. The prospectors of Trehwella's Reef were brothers, Benjamin, John, Matthew & Christopher Trehwella & Tobias Uren. The success of the Trehwella Brothers brought other prospectors to work & in 1868 Messrs. Harris & Fitzgerald, on the Trehwella line further north discovered this reef line which was called 'Eureka' Reef. They worked the claim as a private party & had several crushings yielding three ounces to the ton. Messrs. Harris & Fitzgerald sold their claim to the public company called the Sultan Mining Company which consisted of 2,500 shares at £5 each.

The Sultan Mining Company commenced operations in 1869 & they had their first crushing in July. They worked from 2 shafts, the deepest being about 240 feet & for almost 12 months the returns were excellent. They obtained over 3,000 ounces of gold with ore yielding well over an ounce to the ton. The company paid a dividend of £2,500. After these rewarding returns the yields steadily declined to less than half an ounce to the ton. By 1872 the company was letting parts of the mine out to parties of tributers. Things were looking grim with not much gold being found. About this time the company had a change of management & appointed a new mining manger, a Mr. Andrew Robertson. He immediately ordered cross drives to be put in east & west in direct line with the shoot of gold previously worked. In this way 6 more gold-bearing lodes were discovered with the result that the mine by 1873 had again become a dividend paying good money. In 1874 Mr Robertson ordered a 60 horse power steam



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Miners in the cage for descending down the Sultan Mine, Barrys Reef, Blackwood. (Courtesy of the late Les Armstrong) Copyright - Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society.

engine with a 20 stamp-head battery attached to be erected at a cost of £4,748. In all, over £15,000 was spent on the plant & machinery to make it one of the best-equipped in the Colony.

In just 3 months in 1874, Barrys Reef had 80 new buildings erected with close to 4,000 inhabitants. The town was now a thriving community, & up until 1876, the mine employed over 300 men on 3 shifts which represented 2/3 of all the quartz miners in the Barrys Reef district.

The large mining village at Barrys Reef was later surveyed as Bayup, but later renamed Barrys Reef. The people who did not work in the mines also did a good trade with numerous businesses & stores. There were also 3 slaughter houses supplying the butcher shops, a brewery supplying 10 hotels, a bakery, stores of all description, banks, a post office, shoemaker, hairdresser, Mechanics Hall where regular social functions were held, & a well-stocked library & a school in 1877, which had 316 pupils.

For many years the town did well until a few months before the company collapsed, late in 1880. Before then the mine continually paid good dividends. In all, the Sultan Mine yielded 65,801 ounces of gold valued at £264,000 (\$528,000) & paid £58,562 in dividends. This gave a good return of over £22 per share & made the Sultan one of the most profitable mines from the shareholders point of view in Victoria's history. Most of the gold came from the upper levels of the mine &, although the main shaft was sunk to a level of 914 feet, it was not much worked below 750 feet. The gold at the 700 foot level was so rich that it was called 'the jeweller's shop'. One crushing of 1,969 tons yielded one ounce thirteen pennyweights & four grains of gold per ton. The boom years were 1874-1876 & after that the yields declined although from 1877-1880 they were still profitable with fewer men employed. In 1877, 220 men were employed at the mine & in 1878 the numbers had reduced to 96 men. By the time the company collapsed in 1880, it only employed 70 men. The Sultan Mine began in 1869 & closed in 1880. In 1874 the town had close to 4,000 inhabitants. With the success of the Sultan Company, 2 other public companies were floated at Barrys Reef close to the Sultan Company. They were the North Sultan Co. & the Sultana Co. These 2 companies were supported by local people, but they failed not long after without making big profits. By 1880, the population of Barrys Reef Township was less than 2,000 people. The Sultan Company was wound up in December 1880 with a storm of protest from the residents of Barrys Reef. By its closure, about 100 men were out of work. The gold in the mine was traced to a depth of 750 feet but at this level the country was greatly disturbed. No gold was found when the shaft was sunk to a depth of 914 feet. ©

Reference – information on the Sultan mine from 'Quarterly Mining Registrar's' reports, 'A Short History of the Blackwood Goldfield' by James Ferguson J.P.; 'Ballarat Star' newspaper report December 18 1880 – Balance Sheet of the Sultan Co., 'Aspects of Early Blackwood' by A.J. Buckingham & M.F.Hitchcock.

The recent 'Blackwood Times Magazine' had my historical article about the Chinese in Blackwood & this photo but they omitted to put my details for the photos which is - Photo courtesy of Seaborn family of Anderson house Barrys Reef & the B.D.H.S. Copyright Margot Hitchcock. The only known photo of a group of Chinese in Blackwood was of 6 Chinese men at the Blackwood Sports Ground ready for a foot race, taken in 1900.

Information noted on back of same photo courtesy of the late Les Armstrong -Names of Chinese left to right - Jack Sugar, Long Ah Toy, Jimmy Ah Foo, Ah Wah, Ah Toy, Happy Jack. Ah Quay (partly seen right in hat) was King of Golden Point Camp. Race was 75 yards & every year for a bag of rice.

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

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



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• BLACKWOOF'S •



Hi, Max here. Normally I interview one of my doggo mates for this column but, sadly, these are not normal times. No-one's inviting me around for a visit anymore and, when I take one of my regular daily walks, I don't see Scout or Krumm or Spotty or anyone. Please, humans, take your doggies for a

walk. By all means, follow the very latest virus containment rules, but remember we live in a walker's paradise here, not an overcrowded urban landscape. Fresh air, exercise, social contact (it's very easy to keep a safe distance in Blackwood) and no virusy surfaces to touch, unless you care to lick the road (I don't recommend it).

Can you get Covid-19 by patting us Blackwoofs? The folks from my old home, Lort Smith Animal Hospital, say this: "At present there is no evidence suggesting companion animals including dogs or cats can infect humans with the new Coronavirus Disease..." Of course, you should wash your hands after patting me or my mates. So, for the health and happiness of the whole family, consider making the most of our beautiful, safe outdoors. This is not Government advice, I am just a dog.

I'll finish off with advice from Tiger in case you humans really are running out of toilet paper. It's called scooting.



• WHOSE TATT'S THAT? •



If you try really hard in New Zealand you can get yourself (almost) a full 120 kilometres from the sea. You'll be in a town called Cromwell, and it's on a lake. New Zealand is a land dominated by water and the protector of all that water is called Taniwha (pronounced Tunifa).

Just what shape Taniwha takes will depend on your tribe or location. The being can be whale-like or shark-like, could resemble a giant eel or a large, ferocious reptile. This one, designed by its wearer, is none of the above and, maybe, all of the above.

She says, "I grew up steeped in Maori culture. Its relationship with the land and the sea gets into your blood. Treat the sea, rivers and lakes with respect and they are life-giving, mistreat them and Taniwha will teach you a harsh lesson".

These days, said Maori academic, Ranginui Walker, people are turning to Taniwha as a source of hope in troubled times. As the deserted canals of Venice turn clear and the dolphins and fish, ducks and swans return, I wonder how the lesson could be any more obvious.

A. Suzie Deebie

FLETCHERS ADVENTURES

Hello my friends in Blackwood.



I've been a very busy bee since the last issue & lots of things have happened to me.

Mum & Dad took me on a holiday to Mildura & I



was lucky enough to stay at my cousin's place who is a Spoodle called Lily. The weather was really hot for me & I missed my dam to swim in but I got to swim in Lily's pool in the backyard. I turned 1 on Christmas Day & Mum bought me some new toys. Over the moon I was but Lily & all my other cousins thought my new toys were fabulous as well, so I had to share them in the Christmas spirit. I really had a great time on holidays but the trip in the car was a bit long.

It is always beaut getting back home to my dam & my familiar trees. I still love heading up the hill to visit my neighbour Sooty the cat. He belongs to Sue & Peter. Sooty & I have a wonderful relationship. He sits in the window to stir me & I just stand there & bark. Mum gets angry sometimes with me for barking but I'm only having a conversation with Sooty.

New Year came & went in a flash but what I love at this time in my first year is Dad getting the yabbies & me eating the rancid meat he puts in the nets. Yum, the meat tastes like when I bury my bones for a week. Mmmm delicious.

One day in January, Mum & Dad left me at home & after a while came back with a little sister called Joanie. I can't believe my eyes. Someone to play with. She is really small but she can bite with those teeth & scratch with those nails. She is my new best friend. So I'll leave you now with a photo of me & my beautiful sister.

Hooroo, Fletcher

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Life as a Teenage Boy in the 1960's

Just a few things that we could do to entertain & amuse ourselves. We could buy & explode firecrackers & sky rockets in numbers only limited by our pocket money or money we could earn from part-time jobs. We could make slingshots, billy carts & assorted dangerous toys that could inflict all sorts of injuries. We were allowed to own old motorcycles which we rode without crash helmets or any other protective gear. When we reached 18 it was assumed by the authorities that we were sensible enough to drive cars (we did need a licence). It was also assumed that it would be ok to give us access to a wide range of firearms without the need for any licence or training. So as teenagers with all these useful skills & experiences we were able, when necessary, to live off the land. The way the world is at the moment I may need to brush up these skills & go bush until the dust settles.

Robert Bridger's darling, Jenny, has a recipe on page 10 for the bunny Robbie shot & skinned.



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TRENTHAM EASTER ART & CRAFT SHOW

Dear Friends of the Trentham Easter Art & Craft Show, Regrettably, the TEACS Committee have decided to cancel this year's show as the health, wellbeing & safety of our community is paramount.

We are proud to promote local art & invest in our local communities. We are incredibly grateful to our broad & generous supporter base who enable this - our artists, our judges, our sponsors, our volunteers, our patrons & our visitors. To all of you who make this show so special - we apologise for any inconvenience & thank you for your support.

We remain committed to celebrating local art & are exploring future opportunities. Keep up to date with TEACS news via our website Trentham Easter Art & Craft Show or Instagram trenthamartshow. We have been in contact with our artists & are reaching out to our sponsors. However, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you again for your understanding - wishing you good health during this challenging time.

Regards, TEACS Committee

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Dear Pet Guru,

I am worried about Wilbur, my wombat as he keeps on climbing trees, & I fear he may one day fall out & I might find him lying on the ground with his big eyes closed & his bushy tail unmoving.

from Bothered, Blackwood

Dear Bothered,
 "Bushy Tail???" What you have is not Wilbur the Wombat, but Percy the Possum, you ignorant lout.

- Pet Guru



Meet the Harkin team: (L-R) Ceri Spain, David Hannon & Director Frances Harkin. Leslie Scott Photography

TRENTHAM SURE HAS POTENTIAL

Harkin Property is Trentham's only local real estate agent, offering property consulting, sales, leasing & management. Our well educated & passionate team, which combined have many years of experience in buying, selling, renovating & investments, working with you & your needs to achieve your results.

We also offer strengths & qualities in our communication, negotiation & efficiency. We have an eye for a property's potential, keeping up to date with current market trends & legalities.

Being a local agency, we have prime window exposure to showcase our available properties for the local, Melbourne, interstate & International market to see. We have the opportunity to meet many of the tourists, allowing us to show what Trentham & surround have to offer.

At the moment we have an abundance of land available for both rural & residential zoning. Land properties vary in size & price depending on location, size & accessible town services.

The opportunity to build on land in a rural setting & only minutes to Trentham town centre is something to consider. If you work in Melbourne city, it's only a 60-minute drive down the freeway. There is also the option of VLine train service from Kyneton or Woodend, both towns only a 15-20 min drive. It is the best of both city & country lifestyle.

If you're wanting to have space to grow veggies, fruit trees & be self-sustainable with tank water & space for an energy-efficient solar system, then many of the blocks we have available would suit this concept.

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Built in 1869, this weatherboard cottage features a covered veranda entry, open plan kitchen/dining/lounge with 'Masport' fanned wood heater, air conditioning and French doors. Two bedrooms, bathroom/laundry with an original claw foot bath and slate flooring, attic and under house storage, timber wall and ceiling panelling, sash windows. TV satellite booster, electric HWS plus 4000L rainwater tank, established garden beds, double carport, additional toilet, garden shed, wood storage, and a shipping container for additional storage. Don't miss out!

26 Tim Lane
BLACKWOOD



\$795,000 - \$850,000

GRAND MODERN HOME IN FOREST OASIS

Featuring high ceilings, full-height windows, polished timber flooring, exposed timber edge details, Daikin split-system heating/cooling. Open plan kitchen/living-dining area with fireplace. Large entertaining deck, two bedrooms with BIRs, main bathroom, separate WC, and large laundry. Upstairs is an extensive main bedroom with WIR, en suite and outdoor deck. Outdoor features a large work shed (convert to single car garage), woodshed and pizza oven. Services include town water supply plus two rainwater tanks and septic tank with a water treatment plant.

18 Handley Street
BLACKWOOD



\$475,000 - \$495,000

WEATHERBOARD COTTAGE IN SECLUSION

This weatherboard cottage comprises 12ft timber ceilings, high dado boards, polished floorboards, leadlight windows and doors, bay windows and 2 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, township zoned, prime retail location on two street frontages. Magnificent terraced yard. wrap-around veranda and decking, garage and storage under house.

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9 Martin Street BLACKWOOD

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Lot 4 & 5 Thurgoods Lane BARRYS REEF

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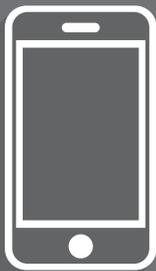
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