

# THE BLACKWOOD TIMES

*June~July, 2020 vol 12 ~ issue 13:1*



**“SENDING LOTS OF LOVE OUT TO EVERYONE DOING IT TOUGH RIGHT NOW. OLLIE PAINTED SOME LOVE HEARTS AND WE HAVE PUT THEM ON OUR FRONT PORCH TO SPREAD THE LOVE.”**

**Melanie & Ollie**





## EDITOR’S THOUGHTS... BLACKWOOD, YOU ARE GROUSE.

When the whole world upended, it felt that our little town had miraculously landed on top. “Where else would you rather be?” we kept asking each other, not quite believing our luck. Nature was turning it on for us, the weather was kind, the people even kinder.

Everyone’s been out taking advantage of the walker’s paradise that is Blackwood. They’ve been busy with long-neglected projects, patching the house or putting in the veggie garden. And they’ve been looking out for each other.

What’s the crucial factor to surviving a crisis? Not money, not infrastructure, not services. It’s been shown time & time again that community connectedness, social capital, is the thing that gets you through.

So, yes, we have been lucky. But a lot of that luck we made ourselves as we invested in our community. We’ve been shopping for each other, dropping off meals, checking on those in need, babysitting for others, entertaining each other, swapping veggies, books & DVD’s.

The stories in this edition of the Blackwood Times stand as testament to the utter grouseness of this little town, sitting here on top of the world.

~ **Brendan Hehir**

(thankyou, Jinny, for letting me write this one)



Special thanks go to Sue & Karen for helping get so many contributions together. Also to the wonderful Barry & his team at TMP Digital (our printers) who got our last issue out just before the shut-down came in & this issue before they are fully re-opened.

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

<b>Jimmy Olsen played by...</b>	<b>Brendan Hehir</b>
<b>Regular Photographers</b>	Peter Donnelly, Jimmy Olsen
<b>Community Co-ordinator</b>	Sandy Schmidt
<b>Helpers</b>	Kathy Berrill, Lisa Moore, Sue Donnelly, Karen Bruno

### 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	<b>July 15</b>	
Regular Contributors, Features & Items of Interest, Community Groups & Clubs	<b>July 15</b>	
Display Ad Artwork		<b>July 20</b>
Late breaking News		<b>July 20</b>

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

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

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

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

**theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au**

©2020 auspiced by Blackwood Progress Accociation Inc

## LOCAL EARRING MAKER SEEKS SINGLE-USE PLASTICS!

Working from her home studio here in Blackwood, Jessica of SINGLE-USE MULTIVERSE creates earrings, by hand, from 100% recycled single-use plastics.

She has a deep passion for re-using and up-cycling in a bid to keep ‘single-use’ items out of landfill and our oceans.

“The plastics I melt down to create my earrings include milk cartons, straws, plastic lids, shampoo bottles, formula lids, dish-washing liquid containers, meat trays and more. Every bit of colour you see in my work is melted plastic. Through lots of experimenting, I have developed a technique where I use the melted plastic like paint. There is a ‘multiverse’ of useful, beautiful things, these throw-away plastics can become.”

Customers love both the finished product as well as the story behind it, as they can indulge in the fun of a fashion purchase whilst being the ultimate Green Consumer.

If you would like to see your single-use plastics put to new use, you can keep them for Jessica, who will happily collect from anyone local. The plastics to keep are numbers 2,4, and 5. (most plastic packaging will have a little triangle on it with a number inside it)

Please email her at: [singleuse.multiverse@gmail.com](mailto:singleuse.multiverse@gmail.com) or if you’d like to see her work, check out her website: [www.singleusemultiverse.com](http://www.singleusemultiverse.com)



## BEAUTY IN BLACKWOOD

Blackwood Skin & Beauty is finally opening its doors after restrictions on beauty services have lifted. Original opening date was set for early April, but the new beauty salon is now open in Martin Street alongside Blackwood Hair Boutique from June 10. Residents & visitors to 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 & a range of skin treatments are available, from mindfulness facials with guided meditation sessions which simultaneously treat skin health & overall wellbeing to the most advanced clinical peels, & aesthetic procedures to provide intense skin corrective results.

Owner Annalice Gee has been running Blackwood Hair Boutique since 2016 & this will continue to run as normal. The additional services will be available in a new building at the same location.

Annalice hopes that with the addition of beauty services the salon will bring more visitors to Blackwood. She believes Blackwood is the perfect location to offer these services as clients appreciate the tranquil surroundings & peaceful atmosphere.

Appointments can be made via facebook or on 0407 562 018. More info & pricing can be found at [blackwoodskinandbeauty.com.au](http://blackwoodskinandbeauty.com.au).

Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES

## NEW THERAPIST IN TOWN



New local, Cherie Amor has run her business, Amor Natural Therapies, in Castlemaine for the past 2 years.

She recently moved to Blackwood and is offering treatments from her home on Tuesdays & Wednesdays in Greenhills Rd.

Cherie offers a unique service in her treatment called Emmett therapy (remedial) mixed with some therapeutic massage.

Emmett therapy is a gentle, remedial session using non-

evasive points on the body to release tension and improve mobility as well as giving a balancing and grounding feeling. It can greatly help with anxiety, lymphatic drainage and has many more applications. Most treatments are clothed and can be given to any age.

To make an appointment you can message Cherie on 0400544210 or for more info visit her facebook page ([amornaturaltherapies](https://www.facebook.com/amornaturaltherapies)) where there is lots more info and reviews.

Personalised and professional  
hairdressing services

**Now Open**

0407 562 018

29 Martin st, Blackwood



## SEEKING KAREN MOORE

This is a picture of our home 155+ years ago. The property was owned by the Webster family right up until 1987, when our family bought it. (Dawn Webster is in picture). The Webster family name has been in the Blackwood area since 1855.

I am eagerly trying to contact Karen Moore (Webster?) who is the grand-daughter of one of the girls in this photo.

If anyone from Blackwood and surrounding areas know of the Webster family or Moore family, or anyone associated with them, please share this post with them (I have tried searching Facebook with no luck).

I am welcoming any contact, please private message me through Facebook or email me.

~ [bruce.butler1950@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.butler1950@gmail.com)



On Anzac day our flags were half mast, a wreath and 3 posies were laid under the flagpoles & Priya did a special Anzac window.



JOIN THE FUN & STAY UP-TO-  
DATE ON FACEBOOK

[https://www.facebook.com/  
theblackwoodtimes](https://www.facebook.com/theblackwoodtimes)



Kath was busy sorting out stuff at her place when the COVID restrictions hit. She packed up a box of kids books, games & puzzles & put a call out to the community to come & get what they wanted.

The idea proved a winner & the community library soon moved to the front of the Post Office where Carol has tended it like a burgeoning plant, organising, sorting & clearing.

DVD's have been added, as well as magazines & even some CD's. Who knows how long it will be there, standing proud in our main drag, so enjoy it while you can.





Jeanne cleans the board up in readiness for Iso Art

### ISO ART IN BLACKWOOD

It's time to pull out your paintbrushes, start up your camera or get your biro ink flowing and contribute to our local Iso Art Board. Adding to community involvement at the front of the Post Office, Martin Street Coffee and the Hat Shoppe, the whiteboard outside the Pub has been taken over to display our creative efforts, in art, poetry or anything handmade. Rob, the Publican, even helped to clean the whiteboard and then contributed a couple of his own carefully designed art works. There's still a lot of space to fill on the whiteboard and there's the whole wall after that! Especially welcomed are pieces from kids.



#### ADVERTISE FREE: BUY, TRADE or SELL

Have you got something to sell or give away, trade or are you looking to buy something? (local, private adverts only)  
email team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au

### HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

MONTH/ YEAR	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall historical average (mm)	Temp monthly min (deg C)	Temp monthly max (deg C)	Temp average daily max (deg C)	Temp average daily min (deg C)	Temp average for month (deg C)
Mar '20	68.7	55.9	2.6	31	21.5	8.1	13.6
Apr '20	139	71.5	-0.75	23.8	15.3	4.6	9.8

### HOW'S THE TRANQUILITY?



Pink moon from my deck in Blackwood ~ Peter Tragardh-Daly

March and April have had very significant rainfall this year as well as lower temperatures compared to last year.

~ Don Owen



walking in ISO with Brenda ~ Sue Donnelly



### AN ODE TO A HUG

Oh dear hug where have you gone?  
I miss you so much & try not to be forlorn.  
And the people you bring when you arrive in my arms,  
I miss them too & their loving charm.  
Hugging a tree is good, hugging a dog is better,  
A rock hug doesn't quite work & birds have too much feather.  
The warmth & healing from a human embrace is what I crave,  
Hang in there Blackwood, cos when we can, we will all be saved.

~ written by an Anon local



"Wowza nate, check out that view !" (Byers Back Track)jm

### THE GARDEN OF ST ERTH

open 7 DAYS a WEEK  
Garden & Nursery 9am - 5pm  
Cafe 10am-4pm Thur - Sun  
Membership & gift vouchers available



Entry to wander through St Erth gardens is free for Diggers members and children under 16 and \$10 for visitors.

**FORK TO FORK CAFE OPEN: 10-4 Thur-Mon**  
Ph: 03 5368 6520 (no lunches on Mondays)

for information call St Erth on (03) 5368 6514  
or visit our website [www.diggers.com.au](http://www.diggers.com.au)





## • COMMUNITY UPDATES • COMMUNITY UPDATES •

### Blackwood CERT

We are pleased to make known that after negotiations between the CFA and Ambulance Victoria we will be able to house our CERT car in the CFA refuge over Winter. This will reduce cold car battery and equipment issues and allow us to respond quickly, without firstly having to scrape ice or snow off the car windscreen. The team would like to convey our gratitude to Blackwood CFA, Captain Ross Hall and the members who readily agreed to made space for our car in their truck bay.

The Victorian COVID restrictions saw a dramatic reduction in general Ambulance 000 calls over March and April. However May has been busy with community calls and we anticipate more call outs to follow as recreational activities resume. Ambulance Victoria has stipulated that we now attend all calls donned with goggles, masks, gloves, and often aprons. Please do not be offended we are just following safety rules and be reassured our team members are well versed with COVID procedures.

Continue to take care of yourselves, each other and stay safe.

~ Jan & Leonie, Blackwood CERT Co Team Leaders

### Blackwood CFA

Winter is coming, while you're stocking up with firewood, think about getting the flue checked & cleaned as a preventative measure.

As the COVID restrictions are slowly being eased, it is even more important to ensure keeping to the guidelines set out, social distancing, minimising the number of visitors to your house, etc. We must remain vigilant to stop a secondary wave of outbreak, but we are able to see light at the end of the tunnel.

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.

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.

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

Normally we would be at the station on the first Sunday of each month but due to the current crisis, there is a very minimal activity at the station but we will turn out as normal for emergency situations.

Stay safe & together we will get through all this.

~ Karl Church, Blackwood Brigade

### Blackwood Crown Reserves COM

The Crown Reserves Committee of Management has, along with many other businesses & organisations, suffered significantly from the Coronavirus pandemic. The forced closure of the caravan park, mineral springs & hall have resulted in no income but the majority of expenses continue to accrue. The income loss cannot be recovered. However there is optimism that when the caravan park can reopen there will be busy period as people will hopefully be wanting to travel, but their destinations will be limited.

On a positive note, the closures have allowed for maintenance which can proceed without any interruption. This maintenance has restoration work on the rotundas at the mineral springs, a new garden bed at the mineral springs & general maintenance at the caravan park.

A grant application is being prepared for a new amenities block at the caravan park. The current facility is very dated & has no provision for people with disabilities & also for babies - both are necessities in in this day & age.

Preliminary work will soon commence on providing six new camp sites at the caravan park. These new sites are to replace those loss due to the installation of the new sewerage system.

The State Government is also considering providing labour &

materials for work on state owned buildings as an impetus to get the economy moving post-Coronavirus. Applications will be lodged for maintenance at the hall & also at the oval.

Hopefully life will return to some normality in the not too distant future.

~ Dave White, Chairman

### Blackwood & District Landcare

Although we have all been in lockdown, Blackwood & Barrys Reef Landcare Group have been anything but idle! Our first online Zoom Meeting was a success, & better attended than usual meetings.

We have held the 'Ultra Weed-a-thon' which ran for a number of weeks beginning in April. Each week featured a different type of weed to be eradicated. Locals were encouraged (bribed), by the promise of a chocolate frog from the Post Office, if they took part. Despite some inclement weather, we were heartened to see quite a few locals getting involved. Have a look at our facebook page to see some photos of some weeding legends in action! We also have a photo story opposite.

Blackwood & Barrys Reef Landcare Group also held an Online Weeds Forum, via Zoom in mid May. The idea was to invite the various authorities/organisations to a roundtable, to discuss what actions they are taking to combat weeds in our town. Basically, putting the pressure on them to be accountable for their actions. The forum was chaired by Mary-Anne Thomas, Macedon MLA. The attendees were; a core group of Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare members & office bearers, Adrian Balharrie from DEWLP, Adam Barber from Melbourne Water, Tom Miller from Moorabool Shire Council, James Rowe from Agriculture Victoria, Russell Schoenfisch from the CFA, Robin Holmes from Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, Roger McRaid from Moorabool Landcare Network, David Tsardakis from Nature West, Barry Kennedy from Port Phillip & Western Port Catchment Management Authority & Silvana Mitchell from Regional Roads Victoria. There will be more details about each of these attendees, & their roles & responsibilities, available on our website. We should all know them, & hold them accountable to do their job for our community. They were very keen to hear from the Blackwood community, in directing them towards problem areas & locals concerns.

~ Cat Moser, President

We have no reports this issue from the following groups: Blackwood Historical Society, Blackwood Progress Association, Blackwood Seniors, Blackwood Uniting Church

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.



With the world in ISO, even Blackwood's post box was shutdown. Sign reads "OUT OF ORDER" Please drop off inside Post Office for now Thanks.



Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES





## HELP WANTED

The Blackwood Times transition to the community has been severely hampered by COVID-19.

Over the past 15 years we have been able to use the equipment of FLUX Design Studio but this is no longer feasible. We are looking for donations of a laptop which can run inDesign & an A3 printer for proofing. Alternately do we have anyone in the community who can put their hand up to apply for grants to purchase the equipment & software we need to continue to publish? Please email [editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au](mailto:editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au) if you can help.

## WOMBAT BOOK CLUB

Hello from Wombat Book Club where many words are read, books are discussed & warm, friendly social get togethers ...well, that was the way it used to be, & hopefully will be again. Last meeting, we zoomed in on each other & had our say about 'The Arsonist' which we read collectively. For now, we are all parted in different reads. We still embrace new members even for eBook-club at the moment so for more information please email Brenda on [woodbinelodge1@gmail.com](mailto:woodbinelodge1@gmail.com)

**THE ARSONIST** by Chloe Hooper

**Sandy:** This was a sad story. The evidence was circumstantial, but this man, which evidence leads to lighting the Churchill fires, has been teased & abused all his life because he was different. It was heartfelt & sad both from this man's life story, & the victims of the fire.

From the writer's aspect, I think some of it was overwritten to make the point. However, it was thought-provoking as to why someone might be fascinated with lighting fires. I did find the forensic investigation fascinating.

4 Wombies 🦘🦘🦘🦘

**Lynn:** I didn't really want to read this book about a deliberately lit fire, yet I loved it! Hooper writes the narrative as if it is a detective story. We follow the police specialising in the study of fire & arson, the landscape where the fire begins, the town & the terrain & finally the main suspect. The description of the character of the suspect is both sympathetic & open minded. Chloe Hooper's writing is concise & poetic, she makes a difficult story a great read.

Highly recommend

4 wombats. 🦘🦘🦘🦘

**Jane:** I'm glad that the Arsonist wasn't a book chosen to read in the middle of Summer, because its content was very graphic in its descriptions of the bushfire itself & the the strong emotions triggered by such a bewildering event. The book made me question the issues discussed & I'm not sure that I could draw a definitive answer as to whether the central character was in fact guilty of lighting the fire or not. A good read though I wouldn't recommend it.

3 wombies 🦘🦘🦘

**Annie:** This was a very easy read – a true account of the horrific bushfires in Gippsland in the summer of 2009. I felt as if I were sitting in a train listening to Chloe tell me the story of a 39 year old man from Churchill who was eventually imprisoned for starting the fires. Brendan Sokaluk was on the autism spectrum, but living independently, assisted by his parents. He held jobs, enjoyed scouring the bush in his old car for scrap had a live-in girlfriend for a while but had been bullied badly at school & was seen by those who knew him to be sly & was generally incompetent. His father took him shopping every Saturday.

**Deirdre:** I really enjoyed this book. It not only took you into a fire-storm & its descriptive horrendous results, but also into the mind of the serial firebug. The Arsonist was a gripping account of how the legal system should work but sadly failed the mentally-challenged in this situation. Living in our beautiful Blackwood, fire is always a threat & made this story even more realistic. (*Dee, I can't do 4-5 wombies LOL*)

4-5 wombies 🦘🦘🦘🦘🦘



## BLACKWOOD GROWERS CO-OP

Early in April, Ben Sims asked if "anyone was interested in being part of a Blackwood growers co-op, veggie garden tips & harvest swaps etc." The response from Blackwoodians was overwhelming - within the hour he had started a facebook group. The 2 Simons kindly agreed to have a table out the front of Martin St Coffee where locals could swap veggies, seeds & plants & the Blackwood Growers Co-op was born.

The group has 73 members where inofmation, tips & photos are shared. Well done Ben.



Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES

The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.

## ISO FUNGI SEASON

One of the totally unexpected things that has come out of this period of "isolation" for me is discovering a passion for finding & photographing fungi. This all happened quite by accident. First of all, I couldn't help but notice the iconic red & white toadstools (amanita muscaria to give them their proper name) – all around the garden. Then I stumbled across a couple of unusual-looking mushrooms when I was out walking the dogs – one that looked like a bright purple yo-yo...& the other a bright yellow puffball...& it all took off from there. Once I started looking – I couldn't stop seeing them – they are everywhere! Having got my "fungi eyes" on – I have been taking photos of my finds every day. I'm told by the experts that this is an exceptional fungi season & Blackwood is the perfect place to spot them – it really is a fungi paradise. I feel so fortunate to live here & be able to pursue my new found fungi love...!

~ Fiona Ross

The photos scattered through the issue from Fiona's growing collection



## MOORABOOL FIREWOOD

\$130 per M3 mixed commonwood

\$160 per M3 gum hardwood

Free delivery when ordering 3 metres

Ph 0460 596 674

msg FB @moorabool Firewood



## BLASTING THROUGH COVID

During COVID-19 the Three Triple Wombat studio on the flatlands of Blackwood has been busier than ever. DJ sets have been heard from Blackwood Heights, the top of Margarets Mad Mile & even in Blackwoods Upper Echelons.

Big Danny Sydney & DJ Ruby Princess have kept the studio humming with Barry from Stats collecting data both big & small.

FLASH BANG a sparkling array of local DJs have been throwing down week after week, including the likes of DJ Zach, Prickly Moses, Little People, Oligarchy, Peggy Sue, Coco Pop (Stonehouse Kathy) & 90s Parsley.

The regular Loved Up & Locked Down Show has been turning up the heat in Blackwood homes during cold iso nights. According to Barry from Stats romance has hit an all time high.

Three Triple Wombat has seen people connecting with each other & hanging out from their homes; sending in updates on what's cooking for dinner, what they are drinking, jokes, banter, videos of loungeroom dancing, love song dedications or just hitting the community playlist. Even though we know DJ Shipwreck is drinking a Carlton it's always nice to get the text confirmation.

A big thank you to all the listeners & the community, stay weird & keep it locked.

Photo: DJ Ruby Princess, Big Danny Sydney and DJ Zach





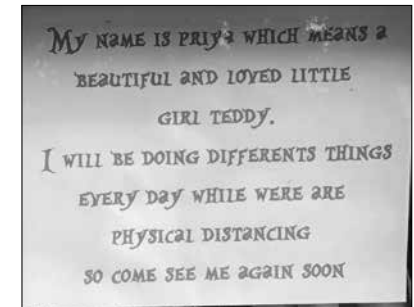


# • PRIYA'S WINDOW • PRIYA'S WINDOW • PRIYA'S WINDOW • PRIYA'S WINDOW • PRIYA'S WINDOW • PRIYA'S WINDOW •



It's 60 days & counting since Karen Bruno's teddy, Priya, started dressing up in the Hat Shoppe window daily for the community.

Thank-you Karen, we love going on our morning (social distancing of course) walks to see what Priya is up to!



*"My name is Priya which means a beautiful and loved little girl teddy."*

*I will be doing different things every day while we are physical distancing. Come see me again soon."*

## 1st ROW left - right

1. Bath time- day 39: Rub & Dub Dub Our Priya is in the tub.
2. The painter
3. A high tea party to welcome new friends. Priya is helping Mum today & earning some money waitressing. A real community effort today with visiting Lorraine & Rebecca from Jinny Coyle & their beautiful wardrobe. Chocolates compliments of Fiona Ross and Flowers by Kathryn Berrill.

## 2nd ROW left - right

4. Priya applies for a DJ job during ISO
5. Let's go shopping
6. Meditation is a good way to stay warm

## 3rd ROW left - right

8. Prayers for world healing & to keep our little community safe. Good girl Priya
9. Yesterday was international nurses day & Priya decided to nurse Lorraine's broken toes. We send a big thank-you out to those who serve in this important profession
10. It's a good day for drying the washing

## 4th ROW left - right

11. My Jackie isn't here anymore but I am having fun with Jack in the box Teddy
12. A good book snuggled down for an Autumnal Sunday in Blackwood.
13. I owe, I owe, it's off to work I go
14. The teddy bears picnic: Priya took her new friend Edward (Jinny Coyle's Mums teddy bear) into the bush and, in between showers, found a lovely spot to have a picnic





## WORKERS IN THE PANDEMIC

Blackwood is home to many interesting people from all walks of life & the COVID-19 pandemic & subsequent restrictions have affected our community in many ways. Here is the story of 3 locals whose contributions have assisted many people both in Australia & around the world. Thank you to them for sharing part of their story.

### Allan Tait: COO Melbourne University

Allan Tait works as Chief Operating Officer for Melbourne University & he & his partner, Fiona Ross, moved to Blackwood in 2018 together with their 2 doggies, Vinnie & Nessa

#### 1. Why did you choose accounting as a career?

I can't say I chose it at all...I did economic history at uni & when I finished I didn't have any idea what I wanted to do. A few of my friends got a job in accounting so I thought I'd try it. I didn't like it at all & only lasted a day! I then became a sales rep, which I did for about 18 months but was hopeless at it, hardly sold anything. So I thought I'd better give something else a go & fortunately the accounting firm I'd left after a day took me back. The rest, as they say, is history. And in the end I'm glad I did it as it enabled me to come to Australia & ultimately meant I met Fiona!

#### 2. What do you do in your day to day job?

As Chief Operating Officer for Melbourne University, I look after the operations & no day is the same, which is great. I could be working on things to do with the University's student services, commercial activities, finances, property, technology, or a range of projects. I also get to work with some very smart people, which keeps me on my toes!

#### 3. How did your work change when the COVID-19 pandemic began?

Once it became clear that it was going to be a pandemic & significant business restrictions were going to apply - the University set up a pandemic response group which I then headed up. This meant that nearly all of my other work stopped. Then, like most other businesses nearly all of the University's staff started working from home – we went from having nearly 8,000 people on campus to fewer than 500. And all teaching went online, so there have been no students on campus either. I've been working from home in Blackwood for about 2 months now.

#### 4. What has been the biggest challenge during the pandemic?

The biggest challenge is separating work from home life. All my life I've gone to work in an office, so had a routine of leaving home at a certain time & coming home after work's finished. Now I just move from one room at home to another. I also go outside less than when at the University, where I move around quite a lot. So I take my hat off to those who work from home regularly. I also spend a lot of time in meetings via zoom which seems much more tiring than face-to-face meetings – endless staring at a computer screen. On the bright side though I get to spend more time in beautiful Blackwood & with Fiona.

#### 5. What do you plan to do next in your professional career?

I've been at the uni for over 10 years now & really enjoy working there & what I do. I'll probably keep doing that for another couple of years then it might be time to wind down a bit & find something where I can spend more time enjoying Blackwood – I might even try to work from home a couple of days a week in future so I don't need to go down to Melbourne.

### Margaret McCarthy, Red Cross Emergency Services

Margaret McCarthy moved to Blackwood in 2013 with her daughter, Vera. She is a CERT responder & works as Coordinator Capability & Capacity, Red Cross Emergency Services Victoria

#### 1. Tell us about your career

They say that you don't choose emergency services, it chooses you. I've had many different jobs. I was a mobile hairdresser & teaching digital literacy & learning at TAFE's & community houses. Blackwood CERT had dwindling numbers & needed support, so I joined. I wasn't ready for the surprise I got as a new first responder - I loved working in high performance teams & helping people in emergencies. It was fun & meaningful & great getting to know my community.

I joined Red Cross Emergency Services, which gave me the chance to develop forward-focused & cohesive teams on a bigger scale. Being in CERT & an Ambulance Community Officer for Ambulance Victoria

really helped me develop leadership skills & I'm incredibly grateful for that opportunity

#### 2. What do you do in your day to day job?

My actual title is Coordinator Capability & Capacity, Red Cross Emergency Services Victoria. That's a fancy way of saying I look after the people who look after the people. I have a team of 6 direct staff, am part of the broader state leadership team, plus a wide group of volunteers. All of us together support a team of 1000 volunteers who help people in emergencies - it's pretty cool to be part of. We help people prepare, then support during & then in the long journey afterwards. I supported the state through emergencies such as the evacuation of Mallacoota, food distribution of hundreds of tonnes of food to isolated communities, through the Barwon South West Fires, Bourke Street & Flinders Street attacks & for other emergencies such as homicides, factory fires & single-house fires. We also work with to build good relationships with Aboriginal & Torres Strait communities who've got a lot of knowledge to share about survival & resilience.

#### 3. How did your work change when the COVID-19 pandemic began?

We moved off-site early as we couldn't run the risk of not responding to emergencies if we got sick. My whole team & volunteers have been working from home for 3 months now. We've also been running the COVID-19 emergency activation this way - so that's a whole statewide emergency service that's gone virtual, overnight. We have an Incident Management Team which supports teams all over Victoria. Keeping these volunteers safe & making sure they have a good experience is our mission. This way they're supported to do good work.

On the upside, there is no more commuting, less pollution & more time in my own community of Blackwood. The downside is I haven't been able to volunteer as much in CERT as the isolation requirements & constant state of emergency have made this tricky. I've made stronger work connections & bigger decisions & had to rely on people more to get results. Trust has been the biggest requirement - without it we'd be in trouble!

#### 4. What has been the biggest challenge during the pandemic?

For me it's been staying connected to people who don't have access to good technology, or don't have the skills to use it. Many people have made the leap, I know I have, but lack of good technology access will leave some people behind. However, it's also been really exciting to see volunteers who only wanted to help community in a face to face way do this via technology. It's amazing what people are capable of when they have to. We just had a "Zoom" awards night & it was great to see so many volunteers turn up in camera & take part. People with flexibility & community-minded attitudes are going to come out best up ahead.

#### 5. What are you most pleased with in your professional career?

Knowing that working in great teams has meant we've been able to help so many people in need. First the biggest bush fires of our times, then delivering food & talking to people statewide for this pandemic - I can say that people in my teams have helped people keep safe & saved lives & I'm incredibly proud to work alongside them. Sometimes I pinch myself. It's a privilege to be able to serve my community. I love seeing others do well & having the chance to get on & live their best lives!

It has really warmed my heart to see our community connect & offer support throughout the early phases of this Global Pandemic. The volunteer care group, the teddy bear window displays, the community garden sharing & the constant kindness of the post office. Amazing place to be out of anywhere in the the world, country & state right now. So cool, Blackwood

### Lesley Pearce, Senior researcher CSIRO

Lesley Pearce & her husband Jeremy purchased their weekender home in Blackwood in 2016 & have spent many a weekend & holiday here with their two children Ella & Lucy. Lesley works for CSIRO as a senior research scientist & has had many changes to her work as a result of COVID-19.

#### 1. Why did you choose science as a career?

I grew up on a small family farm over at Campbelltown, not far from Blackwood, near Clunes & Newstead. If you stop & think about it, a farm is probably the one of the biggest laboratories out there. The farmer is the scientist & the farm is the laboratory, the real-life



experiment is growing your food & the crops for income which are dependent on many variables: insects, fungus, frosts, droughts & hail.

Secondly, when I grew up, there were no digital distractions nor even a VCR, just the TV, & you had to watch what was live on TV, whether you liked it or not.

I loved watching the science programs like, "Why is it So" with the wacky the Prof. Julius Sumner Miller (Einstein look-alike) & "Curiosity Show" starring Deane Hutton. Those two guys presented science in a fun & engaging way.

Thirdly, science is all around us – everything we do involves some aspect of science i.e. "what might happen if". Science is predicting (hypothesis), planning, doing & analysing the results. WE are all scientists in some shape or form.

#### 2. What do you do in your day-to-day job?

Believe it or not, this year is my 30th year working for CSIRO, in Parkville. During this time, I've had many different scientific roles.

I started off as a Junior Technical Assistant on a project to develop a vaccine against foot abscess in sheep. This was the early 1990's & Victoria had experienced a number of wet winters; sheep were dying because they were lame due to foot infections & couldn't move around to feed. I spent a fair majority of my first year doing fieldwork in Moyston, East of the Grampians & in Holbrook (NSW) on numerous Merino farms. Thinking back

to those days, I'd like to think that I was as good as a shearer "flipping a sheep". A skill like this was necessary so that we could access the space between sheep's digits, take swabs & isolate the bacteria causing the infection. Back in the lab growing the bacteria caused enormous conflict with other scientists. These bacteria are anaerobic, meaning that you have to grow them in jars without oxygen. When the jar is opened to examine the agar plates where the bacteria are growing, the most incredibly foul smell imaginable is released.

These days, in my current role as a Senior Research Scientist, I am totally laboratory based (believe it or not I studied Agricultural Science as I didn't want to work in a laboratory). At our site in Parkville, we have a fermentation team that produces anything from 100 mL to 50 L volumes of a "specific protein" in laboratory strains of E. coli bacteria or mammalian cells. It is my task along with others to purify these recombinant proteins (usually human proteins that we have the DNA code for that specific gene), antigens, antibodies, tumour growth factors & cellular receptors to be used for diagnostic & therapeutic purposes by companies in Australian biotech industry, academic institutes along with our own in-house research. I have purified recombinant proteins fermented in safe mammalian or bacterial culture systems from vastly different origins, like Ebola Virus, MERS, SARS, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), Hendra Virus, cat allergens, & proteins involved in various growth of various cancers.

#### 3. How did you get an opportunity to work on the COVID-19 vaccine?

CSIRO were already working with UQ (University of Queensland) on their vaccine technology. This project was funded by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), & in January this year, CEPI asked UQ & the team to use the technology to develop a vaccine against COVID-19.

UQ have developed a rapid-response vaccine technology called the molecular clamp. <https://www.csiro.au/Showcase/COVID-19-vaccine>.

UQ partnered with CSIRO to produce & purify the COVID-19 protein for use at the various stages, of their vaccine pipeline. I, along with a small number of colleagues have moved from our research lab at Parkville to CSIRO's state-of-the-art biologics production facility in Melbourne's South East.

We are currently in the process of scaling up production of the COVID-19 vaccine candidate using best-practice manufacturing standards for UQ to continue with the next stage of vaccine development studies, testing & Phase-1 clinical trials.



The project is also supported by the Queensland & Federal Governments as well as generous philanthropic donors.

#### 4. How does it feel working on such an important world wide project?

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a real difference to something that is happening right now. An opportunity that not many scientists will ever get in their career.

I liken it to being a volunteer firefighter with the CFA. In early January this year, practically half of the state was threatened by the horrendous bushfires & the CFA volunteers were fighting fires for weeks! It was at the same time when we first heard news reports about a new respiratory disease in Wuhan, China.

Since then scientists from the CSIRO fermentation & purification teams have been working flat-out fighting to make a vaccine against COVID-19.

Yes, it has been exciting, challenging, exhausting, frustrating & rewarding. At times, two steps forwards, one step backwards. You are dog tired, but you just keep going, time is crucial.

We are just part of a global push, striving to help develop one of the many vaccines being trialed. We won't stop until we have finished our part of the development process.

#### 5. What are you most proud of in your professional career?

Science is a big investment & no one person or facility can cover all the facets required to get a drug or vaccine to market.

I am proud that I have developed the skills to help enable companies in their pipeline to make a new cancer treatment or diagnostic test.



I am country girl from a small rural school – 18 students in total, a school that no longer exists. I am one who has taken opportunities, made opportunities & is currently striving to help make a difference in this world of COVID-19.

Wish us luck, sometimes in science things don't always go the way you want. However, I am proud that I am part of a CSIRO team that has given COVID-19 vaccine development its best shot.

~ article produced by Karen Bruno





## A LETTER FROM BRAD & JEN

It is with mixed emotions that we announce our departure from the Blackwood Mineral Springs Holiday Park. After more than 7 years we have so many amazing memories of Blackwood, the Caravan Park but most importantly, the people.

On the March 20, 2013 we arrived at Blackwood completely naive to what we were getting ourselves in for! We had never done anything like this. We had seen an ad for the job in our local paper & decided why not? So, with a 2yo & a 4yo in tow, we took a big risk leaving steady employment & arrived at Blackwood hoping for a better lifestyle for our family. We can wholeheartedly say it was the best decision we have ever made!

Thank-you from the bottom of our hearts to everyone that we have made connections with over this time, for everyone that has supported us, helped us through tough times & cheered along with us through so many great times.

From humble beginnings back in 2013, Blackwood Mineral Springs Holiday Park has grown substantially. The visitor numbers have almost doubled in the last 7 years with no sign of it slowing down! More & more people have discovered the beauty of the area, & we have been honoured to share it.

We have had so many hopes & dreams for the park, with some coming to life & some still in the pipelines waiting for someone else to take the reins! We wish the next managers all the success & joy that we have experienced. It will be awesome for us to come & visit Blackwood as guests!

Although we are sad to leave our home in Blackwood, we are super excited for our next journey.

We are the proud new OWNERS of the Barmah bridge Caravan Park!! Nestled on the banks of the Murray River in the Barmah State Forest. This was the next logical step for us & we are thrilled to be starting this new adventure of owning our own business (also slightly terrified!)

So, wish us luck & we hope one day you call in & say g'day at Barmah!

We wish each & everyone of you all the best & hope you continue making amazing memories in Blackwood!

We would like to give our sincere thanks to the original Committee members who took a chance on us & offered us such a wonderful opportunity. So thank you to Tony Bellette, Brian Moore, Barb Sweet, Peter Fowler & an extra special thanks to Elizabeth Hall, who even after leaving the committee continued to support & help the Crown Reserves & us personally!

We would also like to thank Jan & Leonie & the whole Blackwood CERT for encouraging & supporting Jen in her short journey with CERT. Although it was not a long time, so much was learnt, not just about CERT but also about stepping outside of comfort zones & learning self confidence. We take this knowledge with us into our next chapter.

Lastly, a big thank you to the whole Blackwood & surrounding community. There are just too many people to thank personally but we will never forget the kindness we have been shown. We will miss you!

~ See you soon Brad & Jen

**BRAD, JENNI**, Ella and Casey, we will miss you. Winner of the Ballan and District's Excellence Award 2019 and, at 4.7 stars, now the highest-rating Caravan Park in the Central Highlands, under Brad and Jenni's

management it has also become a favourite with customer's online reviews at sites such as wikicamp. The Mineral Springs Caravan Park remains the largest single driver of this town's economy and we thank Brad and Jenni for their tireless work in building the capacity of this major town asset.

~editor



Lots of gardening been happening in ISO ~ Peter Tragardh-Daly

**YOUR LOCAL COFFEE ROASTER**

**MARTIN ST. COFFEE**

**DINE IN MEALS  
DELICIOUS COFFEE  
FRESH TAKEAWAY FOOD  
FRIDAY NIGHT PIZZA PLACE**

21 MARTIN ST. BLACKWOOD  
martinstreetcoffee.com  
03 5368 6525



**DOORWAY SALES** at Martin Street Coffee. When we're roasting, we're selling.

Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES

The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.



**THE FOLKS** at Jinderup have been working their bums off. Mail, especially parcels, has gone ballistic. And they've taken on Dales Creek's mail. Keeping the town supplied with basics has required a lot of old-school hunter/gatherer skills, all the while dealing with "the Rona" requirements (a full-time job in itself). Carol, Martin, Jaime, Alexander and Rachel...we salute you. Oh, and "Cheeky" the magpie, thanks for keeping us entertained.

~ editor

## JINDERUP

Without naming names because there are just too many. Thank you to all of the people who have: supported the business, listened to us when feeling down, excused us when we have felt totally frazzled & overwhelmed, waited patiently in the cold to be served, provided advice, helped promote us, gone out of their way to help us access stock or things we've needed for the store, provided words of encouragement, looked after children so staff could work, kept us company, made us laugh, shared their stories, provided us with ideas to keep us entertained at home, given us gifts, come into the store with a smile or blown a kiss from over the counter. But hey, that pretty much sums up Blackwood.

While we may have been open for business all of the above has made it a worthwhile & a total pleasure to be a part of this town. Thank you for giving us a purpose & focus during COVID-19.

Sometimes we are the only people some people see.

Our staff are amazing.

- They always do their very best
- They treat our business like their own.
- They are all a pleasure & a delight to work with.
- We couldn't cope without them
- Hand health - our hands are really taking a beating. We all have old lady hands
- The busier we get we get the more anxious we get
- Constantly telling visitors to socially distance & directing traffic

## What we are doing differently

Advertising - INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK, LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

- Hand washing hand washing hand washing
- Constantly sanitising everything
- Sanitising after touching money or mail
- Ensuring social distancing
- Sanitising coins
- Trying hard not to handle money
- Working more with local suppliers
- Ensuring safe exit & entry points. Enter through front door, exit through back.
- Limiting numbers in the store to 2
- Buying in stock that people might need - sanitiser, hand wash, toilet paper, tissues, flour, etc, etc, etc.
- Only take away
- Delivering to vulnerable locals or those in isolation
- Setting up accounts.

~ Carol & Martin



## UNITING CHURCH

*Hope is like a road in the country: there never was a road but when many people walk on it, the road comes into existence. ~ Lin Yutang.*

We are all walking a road that has not existed before. It is a road we are sharing but our experience of the road & our perceptions are our own. We are not even sure of the destination, how long the journey is or how we will know when we have arrived. There is no GPS or map here. But it is hope that is our navigating tool.

Norman Cousins describes the capacity for hope as the most significant fact of life. It provides human beings with a sense of destination & the energy to get started.



One of the hopes being fulfilled at the moment in Blackwood is the renovation of the Uniting Church Chapel. The time to celebrate this is still a little way off but we have been considering how to mark this event.

It would seem that the completion of the chapel

should coincide with a time when we can all meet together again as a community. There will be so many stories, both good & bad, to share.

Blackwood is made up of so many talented & creative people. We would like you to consider sharing your stories of this journey.

What were your fears, the things you have been thankful for, the things you have learnt? Has it changed you or your family & the way you look at your life. Has it altered your priorities, has your reset button been pushed?

You are invited to respond in any way you like, any medium you prefer. A drawing, painting, sculpture, needlework, the recipe you have perfected during lockdown. For those among us who are musical, a song, a piece of music you wrote or a piece that brought you hope, joy or consolation. Maybe writing is your thing, poetry, story telling or photography.

When we are able to gather & share our experience it will also give us the opportunity to acknowledge the privileged position we have been in during this pandemic. How grateful we should be to live in this country & in this wonderful community where care & concern for others is evident every day.

You might have some ideas to contribute to this celebration as well as responding to what has been suggested. Please join the conversation through the Blackwood Times on facebook.

~ Robyn Zanon

**THE DEVELOPMENT** of the Uniting Church Chapel and grounds as both a community space and spiritual centre is an exciting new development for the town. Over the years services, funerals, weddings and Sunday School in this beautiful space have given way to music and art, prayers and fairs. Smack-bang in the centre of town, its grounds fronting the main intersection and its doors soon to be open, "the Chapel" will surely grow to become a much-loved local institution. Congratulations and thanks to the Uniting Church and its local representatives.

~editor







## FLETCHERS ADVENTURES

Well a big hello to all my isolated friends in Blackwood. Hasn't it been very quiet for all us social butterfly pets? Joanie and myself try our best at seeing all our friends at this time when Mum & Dad let us out.

Together, we run to Barrys Reef or down to the sports ground and beyond just to catch up with our counterparts, just to make sure we are staying in touch! But it all ends up with Dad picking us up in the car after someone reads our phone number on our collars. Joanie and I look at each

other and both think we are in TROUBLE again. Mum's given us our new names of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, whoever they are. She says its because of our adventures around Blackwood but Dad tends to differ on that one!

The days have been so nice and sunny for us and that means there are birds to chase and bones from Ballan butcher to be eaten in the sun and then buried for later. Joanie is getting much bigger now and tons of fun to play with. I'm so glad she lives here with me as I really love her and she always lets me know how she loves Blackwood and her favourite thing is to go with Dad in the car to the Post Office with me and see everybody getting their mail and coffee.

Anyway hoo roo from the doggie guru and look forward to seeing all our friends out of isolation.

Love Fletcher

## PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS



### PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS

**Woof:** In this month's edition I would like to talk about HOME ISOLATION & keeping sane working from home. Struggling to keep your dog entertained? For those of us with kids, it is not very different. To keep your furry friend from getting bored, keep their mind working & provide plenty of physical exercise to ensure a healthy, happy pet. Here are our 5 top tips to keep your dog entertained!

**1. Keep them active:** Not only is this good for us, it's good for our pets. If we are asked to stay home more, it is important that we still keep ourselves active whilst practicing social distancing. To do this with our pets is relatively easy. You can still take your dogs for leash walks, being careful to maintain the appropriate distance from others as we have been asked to do.

Short, brisk walks multiple times a day allows our dogs to get out & explore their surroundings (they will naturally do this, sniffing as they go along). Outdoor adventures provide excellent mental stimulation & this activity outside is relaxing for dogs & for us too!

**2. Food games & puzzles:** These encourage physical activity & alleviate boredom. They also present a novel way for you to feed your dog. You can feed your dog through enrichment toys such as a KONG toy – these are usually filled with kibble or tasty treats. You can improvise at home & use toilet rolls & fill them with dry treats or even sprinkle food in trays to keep their minds active!

This can provide hours of fun for your pet & provides mental stimulation. Remember to ensure that any treats or food given in this way is accounted for in their daily caloric intake. When we are home with our pets it can be tempting to overfeed them. If you're concerned about your dog's weight, monitor & weigh weekly.

**3. Toys:** With some creative thinking you can find ways to enjoy endless fun & activity with your dog, using simple items found around your home. Many dogs love to play chase, so throwing toys or balls for them to retrieve is great exercise. Playing tug of war or fetch in the yard is a great way to increase activity & also interact with your dog. You can hide toys around your home & encourage your dog to find them.

**4. Allow them to chew:** Chewing is a natural behaviour for dogs & is a way of exploring the world. It is also a great way to beat boredom & relieve anxiety. Remember to make sure that your dog has safe chew toys that are right for them. Make sure the toys are durable, pet-safe materials & the right size for your pet. If a chew toy is too small, they may accidentally swallow the toy. Not only can chewing help with boredom but it can reduce other destructive behaviour in some dogs, especially with puppies.

**5. Scent work:** Dogs love sniffing & they have an excellent sense of smell! You can use this natural instinct as a great way to interact with your dog, & you can do this if you are confined to your home. Gather some of your dog's kibble & some delicious treats & whilst your dog isn't there, hide the treats & kibble around your garden. You can try placing treats in areas where your dog needs to step up or sniff around an obstacle to find them. Place your dog on a lead, or simply encourage them to follow you around the yard & find the treats. Reward your dog when they find the treats. This game will fill in time & keep your pet from getting bored. It is also a great way to feed your dog their meals over the course of the day.

Remember that we are all in this together & will get through it. See you all soon.

Woof for now ... Seamus



## The Blackwood Hat Shoppe

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

## SOME EARLY HISTORY OF A BLACKWOOD PIONEER – ALEXANDER DRUMMOND



Compiled y Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society, May 2020

Bacchus Marsh Express Newspaper - Saturday 8 December 1894

BLACKWOOD. (From Our Own Correspondent.) Quite a shock was experienced by the residents in this locality when it became known that **Mr. Alexander Drummond** one of our best known & most respected miners, had been killed by a fall of earth in his alluvial claim at Yankee Reef on Saturday last. The deceased, with his father-in-law & one of his sons, was working ground about 8 feet in depth, & at the time of the accident they were engaged in removing the 6 feet of surface soil by a process of dry-stripping, & the deceased had just about finished the under- cutting preparatory to falling the ground with the crowbar when a large block of the hard earth suddenly came away, & partially buried him. He was at once extracted by his mates, & found to be seriously injured, but was quite conscious, & tried to make light of his hurts, saying that as soon as the numbness went off he would be alright. He, however, died a few minutes later, whilst being carried to his house, some 300 or 400 yards away, & the doctor's examination afterwards showed that, besides fractures of the leg & hip bones, he had been injured internally.

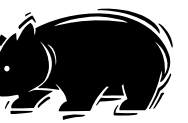
The deceased leaves a wife & 11 children, the youngest being twin daughters, only 4 months old, but the fact that he had his life insured for a moderate amount will help somewhat to alleviate the sadness of the circumstances. The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon, & was largely attended. Mr. P. Duncan was the undertaker, & the religious service was conducted by the Rev. J. Illingworth, Wesleyan. It may be added that the deceased has been mining on Blackwood for about 25 years, & was one of the principal working shareholders in the Victoria quartz mine, at Yankee Reef, during nearly the whole time it was at work, & it is only since the stoppage of that mine, some 2 years ago, that he had taken to regular alluvial mining. He was a brother of Mr. Peter Drummond, a Teacher in the State School service, & I understand that, if it had not been for the assistance of the deceased in their early struggling years he would scarcely have been able to acquire the education necessary for the position.



Top: Drummond home in Yankee Road, Blackwood. (No longer standing.) Left: Monument to the Drummonds. Right: Remains of the Yankee Mine, Yankee Road, Blackwood. 2008.

Photos: Courtesy of Margot Hitchcock, & the Blackwood Historical Society. Researched by Margot Hitchcock from her forthcoming book 'The History & Pioneers of Blackwood', hopefully to be published soon. Other books published by Margot Hitchcock – "Aspects of Early Blackwood", Some History of Simmons Reef, Blackwood" & "The Billy Pincombe Tragedy". See – [www.blackwoodpublishing.com](http://www.blackwoodpublishing.com). For help with information on Blackwood ancestors contact Margot Hitchcock – email – [margothitchcock@bigpond.com](mailto:margothitchcock@bigpond.com)

The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.



## The Post Office Coffee Shop & Jindarup Store



This cute and quirky little store has everything:

Great coffee	Gifts	Cakes
Toasties	Homewares	Ice-cream
Hot pies	Jewelry	Drinks
Pastries	Vintage pieces	Groceries

Not to mention a warm fire and a tranquil garden with beautiful forest views.

Open 7 days a week  
23 Martin Street Blackwood. 5368-6542.



JOIN THE FUN & STAY UP-TO-DATE ON FACEBOOK  
<https://www.facebook.com/theblackwoodtimes>



## LoveLight Co-Creative HealthCare

Holistic Medicine & Vibrational Healing

supporting your physical & emotional health

natural medicine, nutrition, dietary guidance, energy healing, intuitive counseling

workshops

practical training, personal growth, meditation

Kathie Strmota  
53686560  
[www.aquarianblessings.com](http://www.aquarianblessings.com)  
[kathie@aquarianblessings.com](mailto:kathie@aquarianblessings.com)

Blackwood & Yarraville  
ATMS accredited member





## FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BALLARAT

# CATHERINE KING

Authorised and printed by Catherine King MP, ALP, 5 Lydiard St Nth, Ballarat 3350.

STANDING UP FOR  
OUR COMMUNITY **Labor**

03 5338 8123 Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au



**FLUX** design studio identity | print | web | motion  
• sponsoring the Blackwood Times •  
5368 6444 (Blackwood) fluxdesignstudio.com.au  
@jinny@fluxdesignstudio.com.au FluxDesignStudio

ADVERTISEMENT

## Mary-Anne Thomas MP

LABOR MEMBER FOR MACEDON

Welcome back to The Blackwood Times,  
and welcome to 2020!

As your local Member of Parliament, I am  
keen to hear from the community and assist  
with any State Government matter.



Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne, VIC, 3437  
P: (03) 5428 2138 E: mary-anne.thomas@parliament.vic.gov.au  
f MaryAnneMacedon @maryannethomasmp

Authorised by MA Thomas, Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne. Funded from Parliamentary budget.



## • BLACKWOOLS •



Some people are never without a dog of course, but many of us can wait years from the death of one beloved family member to the adopting of another. What is it we do “between dogs”? Are we grieving, enjoying our freedom or just resting? Are we wary of giving our hearts again? Or has some stray moggie moved herself in?

With her beautiful Jack 6 years gone, Kathy Holowko knew she was finally ready for some more puppy love. Along comes Coco... Coco Holowko.

The little white ball of fluff was freighted down from a NSW breeder, and the uniformed officer at the airport handed it over, shaking her head, saying “I know, it’s

almost too much” as they both gazed upon the cuteness.

Goodles are cute, there’s no doubt. But initially they were bred for a purpose: the mix of Golden Retriever and Standard Poodle was found a perfect fit for blind people with fur allergies. The NSW breeders were serious about avoiding health issues with the breed, minimal as they are, and treated their dogs and pups as inside family. Kathy made a point of finding caring breeders and recommends we do the same.

Coco went straight into a few months’ quarantine in Blackwood until she was old enough for her immunisations. That was followed immediately by Covid iso. She’s 5 months old now and wants you all to know that she’s super-ready for pats and doggy parties. Welcome to our little town, Coco. We trust that yours will be a long and happy stay.



KATHY HOLOWKO has a rather large visitor called Uoo Uoo. It is a mascot from the Royal Childrens Hospital. 100 Uoo Uoo’s have been farmed out to 100 artists, who will let loose their creative magic on the creatures. The Uoo Uoo’s will then show themselves off at public sites around Melbourne and Geelong, after which they’ll all be auctioned off (proceeds to the hospital). I wonder if my loungeroom is big enough.

## PLAYING THE SALTWATER FESTIVAL FROM HOME

3 local Blackwoodian bands sang & played their hearts out at the virtual Saltwater Festival (search “The Saltwater music festival 2020 live” on FB)

Top: Honeyfields, Bottom L: Cat & Clint R: Fiona Ross & Shane O’Neill:



Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES  
The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.





## A MESSAGE FROM CFA CEO/CO STEVE WARRINGTON

This week I launched the Silence is Deadly campaign to highlight the dangers of not having a working smoke alarm in the home.

In the past 10 years CFA has responded to more than 17,000 residential fires in Victoria, with more than 400 resulting in death or serious injury. A quarter of these fires started in sleeping areas, 23 per cent in lounge areas and 15 per cent in kitchens.

Sleeping and lounge areas are the biggest risk and without properly placed smoke alarms your chances of escaping a house fire are greatly diminished – especially when you're asleep.

We recommend that interconnected smoke alarms be installed in every bedroom, including in hallways and stairs between floors. A recent survey of Victorian homes showed only 11% had interconnected smoke alarms installed.

Interconnection means that the smoke alarms communicate with each other so that if one smoke alarm activates in one room all the smoke alarms activate, making it more likely that everyone will have the best chance of getting out before they are overcome by smoke.

Research also tells us that most children do not wake to the sound of a smoke alarm. This makes it even more important that adults in the home can hear the smoke alarm especially in modern homes where the parents' bedroom is often in another part of the house.

Everyone is responsible for making sure they have working smoke alarms in their home. It only takes minutes for a fire to take hold.

Visit <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/silence-is-deadly> for more information on interconnected smoke alarms, their installation and maintenance.

House fires can happen to anyone, any time. Only working smoke alarms save lives.

~ Steve Warrington, CFA CEO / Chief Officer



**WEDNESDAY**

# LOCAL'S NIGHT

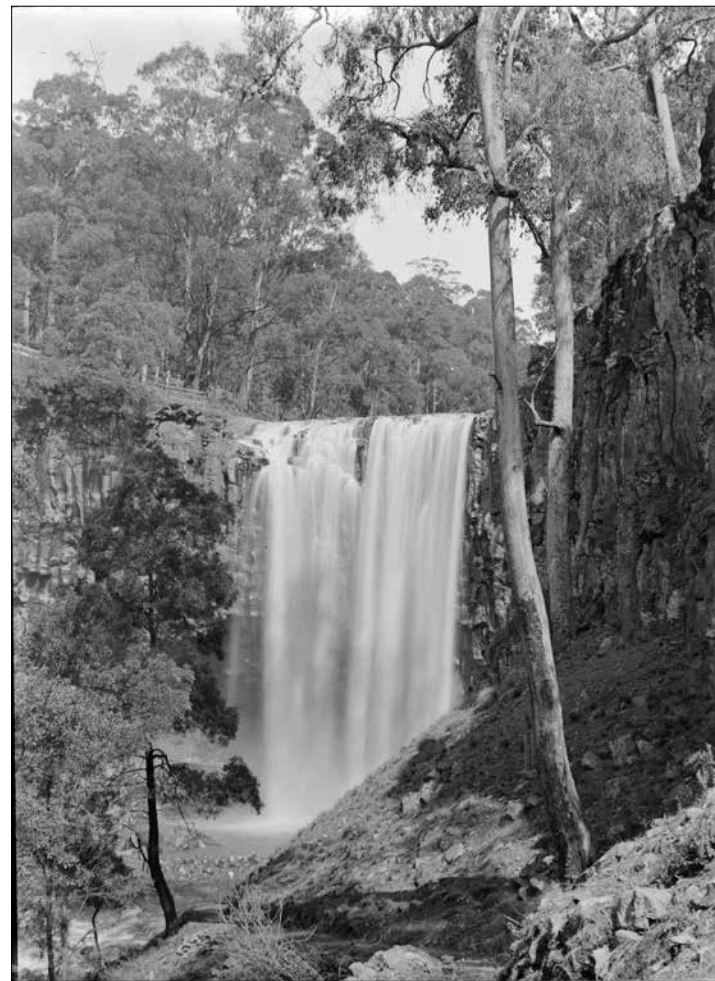
**\$18**

*All Cosmo Classics*

**FISH & CHIPS**  
**CHICKEN PARMA & CHIPS**  
**BURGER & CHIPS**  
**WEEKLY SPECIALS**

*Kids Meals* **\$9**

REGULAR MENU ALSO AVAILABLE



Trentham Falls, Victorian Railways, photographer [ca. 1945-ca. 1954] Courtesy State Library of Victoria


**(03) 5368 1355**

## GREENDALE COUNTRY PUB

**Pizza:** Wed, Thurs, Fri 6-8pm & Sun noon-8pm  
**Tues:** Locals Slab Draw in Bar & Parma and Pasta \$14  
**Friday:** Happy Hour 5-7, \$3 POTS, Bar Nibbles & Meat Raffle  
**Wed - Sun:** Full Menu Dinner  
**Daily:** Lunch @ noon-2pm **Mon-Fri:** \$12 lunches

**LARGE BEER GARDEN AT REAR**  
**General Store stocks all, drinks, icecreams, grocery items, toasted sand, take away bottleshop, newspapers daily, bread, ice & anything else you may just need.**  
**Shop opens at 10am every day and is open late with Pub.**  
**LIVE MUSIC:** Check our facebook page  
*your hosts: Tony and Leanne Sproule*

**5368 1355**  
3 Greendale Myrniong Rd, Greendale 3341



**JOIN THE FUN & STAY UP-TO-DATE ON FACEBOOK**  
<https://www.facebook.com/theblackwoodtimes>

Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES

The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.

## • BEYOND BLACKWOOD •



43a High Street, Trentham 3458

**5424 1000**

**Mon-Fri 9am-5pm**  
**Sat 9am-12.30pm**  
**Closed Public Holidays**  
[trenthampharmacy@gmail.com](mailto:trenthampharmacy@gmail.com)

*Mina Ghobrial, B.Pharmacy (Hons), MPS*

## RADIO SPRINGS HOTEL

03 5348-5562 **LYONVILLE**

Dinner ~ Thur, Fri, Sat, Sun  
Lunch ~ Fri, Sat, Sun  
Lunch & Dinner ~ Public Holiday Mondays



**Stuff your pantry! 9am to 1pm**  
3rd Saturday of every month in Trentham's Town Square

## TO BE CONFIRMED

eggs cheese wine  
honey fruit & veg  
sweet treats dips & preserves  
sourdough oil

 Central Victorian producers welcome - conditions apply  
call Shirley Corneille for an application  
5348 5690 or 0427542811

**COMMUNITY PROJECT**

**SHARE YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE!**

**LET'S MAKE HISTORY TOGETHER!**



## FROM THE DESK OF TNC

We're just checking in to see how all our TNC friends & supporters are doing.

We hope everyone is well and keeping warm. Some may have returned to work, some parents may be even have children returning to school next week leading a little normality back into everyday life.

Our staff are still here in the TNC office, offering a range of services in the front alcove entrance as a contact-less drop off point - the automatic doors are set to open between 9.30am and 4pm Monday to Thursday. (If you need printing, email it to us and we will leave it here for you to pick up.)

Our Pop Up Food Bank in the front alcove at the TNC is being utilized and we are overwhelmed by the support the Trentham community that has been giving. Thank you to everyone who has supported this essential service.

At this stage TNC will remain closed to the public as per the guidelines for Neighbourhood Houses from the DHHS. We hope that we may be able to re-open by the start of Term 3, but re-opening will depend on what the current Covid-19 restrictions are and what we are able to offer safely at the Centre.

TNC is here to support our community and your needs, if you require any help during these trying times please do not hesitate to contact us on 03 5424 1354 and we will endeavour to help in anyway we are able to.

Stay Safe, Stay Warm! TNC Staff



## Trentham Saints Football Netball Club

Following the recent announcement from AFL & Netball Victoria the committee has met to make decisions on how we plan to make a return to training. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page & website for updates when training will resume.

The League has not made a decision on whether the 2020 season will commence.

With 'Volunteers Week' celebrated recently we want to shout out to all our amazing volunteers. We appreciate each & every one of you for all the work you do to make our club the best club.

Watch our Facebook for weekly draw winners, club profile posts to get to know those around our club a little better as well as throwback posts to remember the good ol' days!





# TREE LOPPING

## Gerard Styles

ALL ASPECTS OF TREE WORK, EXPERIENCED CLIMBER

Home: 5342 8261  
MOBILE: 0428 518 999

Lic. No. 94004666

SUPERB RATES: Ask for a free one "QUOTE"



Think Globally Employ Locally

## SOL PLUMBING

Fully licensed and insured.

Residential and commercial

- Competitive rates • Free quotes •

Call Simon on **0417 335 831**

(leave a message if no answer)

LIC NO 38657

## TOWN & COUNTRY LINE MARKING P/L

- Car Parks • Arrows • Speed Humps
- Pre Cast Kerbing • Numbering
- Bollards • Safety Mirrors
- Safety Lines & Safety Signs

All Areas

**MICK**

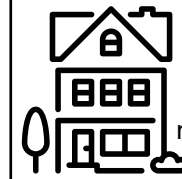
**0408 999 643**

tclinemarking@yahoo.com.au

N & J Dear and Sons Pty Ltd  
Est 1988



Talk to us first, big or small builds,  
design & project management



Call or email for a quote  
Nick Dear 0421593998  
nick@dearandsons.com.au



Registered Builders | CDB-U 56564 | HIA member 605135



## SOLAR POWER: On-Grid & Off-Grid

03 4309 4027 [www.breaze.org.au/pv](http://www.breaze.org.au/pv)  
[energysolutions@breaze.org.au](mailto:energysolutions@breaze.org.au)

## HOMEWORKS DESIGN

- DESIGNS, DRAWINGS & PERMITS
- NEW HOMES / EXTENSIONS
- PASSIVE HOUSE DESIGN

- VBA REGISTERED (DP-AD: 1581)
- BLACKWOOD & SURROUNDS

[WWW.HOMEWORKSDESIGN.COM.AU](http://WWW.HOMEWORKSDESIGN.COM.AU)  
[HOMEWORKS@OPTUSNET.COM.AU](mailto:HOMEWORKS@OPTUSNET.COM.AU)  
JOHN: 0405 389 557  
DEAN: 0432 385 265



TREAD INTENTIONALLY



Trentham Gas  
Your Local Gas Supplier

For Gas Orders Ring 0409 135 070

## Clement F Mooney

Email: [c.mooney@bigpond.net.au](mailto:c.mooney@bigpond.net.au)

Liability limited by a scheme  
approved under Professional  
Standards Legislation.

T: 03 5424 1441

F: 03 5424 1149

M: 0412 584 555

19 Albert Street, Trentham VIC 3458  
PO Box 118, Trentham VIC 3458



Certified Practising  
Accountant

Registered Tax Agent  
B.Com, C.P.A., M.B.A.

CPA

## TV TUNING

and antenna installations...

Is Your TV Reception As Good As It Can Be?

Call for a FREE on-site reception test, no strings attached.

Experienced, local, fully qualified electronics technician.

Rob: 5368 6485 or 0431 704 203

ABN: 55 335 542 987

## TRENTHAM PETROL & STUFF

1 Market St ph 5424 1611

Mon-Sat 8am-6pm Sun 9am-6pm

petrol, oils, swap & go gas, firewood permits, farm  
produce/produce store  
papers, ice, milk, soft drinks, take-away pies, coffee  
confectionery, local honey etc  
rusty junk, secondhand books, old wares

NVG



Heavy Equipment Services

Blackwood  
Victoria 3458

Mobile: 0481 088 800  
Office: 03 5368 6467  
Email: [info@nvg.net.au](mailto:info@nvg.net.au)

- Maintenance & Repairs
- Handling Equipment
  - Access Equipment
  - Agricultural Machinery
  - Earthmoving Equipment
  - Forestry Equipment

Naten Van Gossum  
Mobile Technician

## BALLAN HARDWARE

True Value  
HARDWARE

"For all your building supplies"

119 Inglis St Ballan

ph: (03) 53681230

fax: (03) 5368 1937

Keemin REC 5096  
Electrical  
INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL  
RESIDENTIAL

240 Main St  
Bacchus Marsh 3340  
Ph. 5368 2001  
Fax. 5367 0776

119 Inglis St  
Ballan 3342  
Ph. 0418 518 226  
[jcutler@keemin.com.au](mailto:jcutler@keemin.com.au)

Painter  
RAY FOWLER

Phone/Fax: 5474 3109



## Golden Point Garden Maintenance



Ross: 0423 259 038

Specializing in driveways and  
site cleaning / leveling and Mowing

General mini digger with attachments

-EG Trencher, Post hole digger

-Stump Grinding

-Small tree removal / Pruning

Wood chips available

Burglar  
Liquid Waste

The  
TURD  
BURGLAR



Darryl: 0418 363 030

## WHY ISN'T YOUR ADVERT HERE?

95x50mm Business Card  
\$25 for greyscale print & online  
or \$30 for greyscale print & colour online  
6x a year (ex GST)

download your booking form from  
<https://theblackwoodtimes.com.au/advertisers/>

Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES  
The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.





## 114 Golden Point Road BLACKWOOD

1796m<sup>2</sup>



FOR  
SALE

\$550,000 - \$595,000

### COSY COTTAGE WITH PERIOD CHARM

Built in 1869, this period weatherboard features an open plan kitchen/dining/lounge with 'Masport' fanned wood heater, air conditioning and French doors opening onto a veranda. Two bedrooms, a bathroom/laundry with original claw foot bath and slate flooring, attic and under house storage.

Original features including timber wall and ceiling panelling, sash windows with free-blown glass, door locks, light switches and baltic pine flooring. Services include TV satellite booster, electric HWS plus 4000L rainwater tank, phone line and security lighting.

Established garden beds, beautiful trees, double carport, additional toilet, garden shed, wood storage, and a shipping container for additional storage.

## 17E Byers Road BLACKWOOD

900m<sup>2</sup>



FOR  
SALE

\$185,000

### BUILDING BLOCK IN ELEVATED POSITION

Permit to build in a bushland setting, offering an eastern outlook with established trees, water connected and electricity at the boundary, this block would be perfect to build your country home on now.

## 9 Martin Street BLACKWOOD

860m<sup>2</sup>



FOR  
SALE

\$155,000

### LOVELY BLACKWOOD BLOCK

Ideally located in the heart of Blackwood's Village. Steps from the Blackwood Pub, Martin Street Coffee, and the Blackwood Post Office. With Township Zoning and mountain views to the west, this is the perfect opportunity to build a dream country home or weekender (STCA). Current permit in Place.

## Lot 6 Cnr Rayner Crt & Greendale-Trentham Rd BLACKWOOD

1560m<sup>2</sup>



FOR  
SALE

\$230,000 - \$250,000

### OUTSTANDING CLEARED BLACKWOOD BLOCK

Cleared land in historic Blackwood. Concealed by perimeter hedging, the site is primed for power and water connection. Ideally located 10 minutes from Trentham and 30 minutes from Daylesford. A 10 minute walk to Blackwood village and only 1 hr drive to Melbourne via Bacchus Marsh, or 20 mins to Ballan train station.

## 6 Old Golden Point Road BLACKWOOD

1214m<sup>2</sup>



FOR  
SALE

\$195,000

### QUARTER ACRE BUSH BLOCK READY TO BUILD

Primed for a buyer with a vision to build a home or weekend getaway (STCA). Flanked by native gums and nestled in the Wombat forest, whilst benefiting from close proximity to the town centre, the classic Blackwood Hotel and Martin Street coffee roasters. 15 mins drive to Ballan railway station for a relaxed commute into Melbourne city, or under one hour's drive. 10 minutes drive to nearby Trentham.

## Lot 1 Martin Street BLACKWOOD

1446m<sup>2</sup>



FOR  
SALE

\$180,000

### BUILD YOUR DREAMS

Located close to Blackwood Village which has the Blackwood Pub, Martin St Coffee and General store/Post Office. Current permit in place to build your weekender or dream home (STCA) located near the Lerderberg River. Township zoning, water connection and beautiful bush views.

## LOT 1 - 2B Golden Point Road BLACKWOOD

2440m<sup>2</sup>



FOR  
SALE

\$260,000

### LAND OFFERING IN BEAUTIFUL BLACKWOOD

This half acre block of land has all the right ingredients to build a country home or weekend getaway (STCA) secluded in the Wombat forest. Positioned close to the town centre with the classic Blackwood Hotel and Martin Street coffee roasters. Only 15 mins drive to Ballan railway station for a relaxed city commute ior under one hour's drive to Melbourne. 10 minutes drive to nearby Trentham historic village.

# HARKIN PROPERTY



45 High Street TRENTAM | M 0425 766 799 | P 03 5424 1866 | frances@harkinproperty.com.au

[www.harkinproperty.com.au](http://www.harkinproperty.com.au)