

THE BLACKWOOD TIMES

August-September, 2020 vol 12 ~ issue 13:2



LOCALS FIGHT MINING IN BLACKWOOD more on p3

Photos Peter Donnelly



EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

I have dog envy. There it is - I've said it out loud. For all the wonderful contributions in this edition, the ones I honed in on were Pet Shenangans, Fletcher's Adventure & Blackwoofs. Why? Because there is nothing more wonderful than the unconditional love a dog/cat/bird/donkey/llama (you get the picture) provides when times are tough.

One of the positive outcomes of this pandemic is that pet rescue centres & animal shelters are just about empty of surrendered animals. This is great news - except when you are searching for your fur-ever friend as we currently are. As I write this, we have an appointment at the Bendigo Animal Shelter to meet a 3yo kelpie who has become available. (More on Kelpies on p16). But she may be adopted before we get there argggghh! You know I think the chances of me winning lotto are currently better than getting a dog!

While winter has settled in, & it's fair to say that times aren't great in our fair state, there is still much to be thankful for here in Blackwood. I think this edition reflects all that is positive in our community - we are definitely all in this together!

See you next edition.

~ Lisa Moore, Communications co-ordinator



The Community Newspaper Association of Victoria (CNAV) is the peak body representing not-for-profit community newspapers across Victoria.

CNAV works actively with its members to enhance the capacity and standing of community newspapers, to enable them to fully realise their vital role in communities.

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

Jimmy Olsen played by...	Brendan Hehir
Regular Photographers	Peter Donnelly, Jimmy Olsen
Community Co-ordinator	Sandy Schmidt
Helpers	Kathy Berrill, Lisa Moore, Sue Donnelly, Fiona Ross

the BLACKWOOD TIMES info

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

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

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.

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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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WHAT'S ON?

Whilst many things are still on hold, don't despair, quite a few things are on & happening.

Trentham Neighbourhood House & Daylesford Neighbourhood Centre (DNC) are holding classes with limited numbers & physical distancing. Check their websites or fb pages for further details.

Trentham Neighbourhood House is also offering a free VCE student mentoring program. They would love to hear from any Blackwood students needing support with any aspect of their VCE studies, including, but not limited to, organisational skills, motivation, well being & future planning. They can also organise tutoring.

Daylesford Market is currently operating every Sunday, (food stalls only) & Trentham Farmers Market, every 3rd Saturday. Trentham Railway market (4th Sunday) is expected to start up again, possibly in September. Fancy a slow drive & a market, who doesn't? Perhaps just check for the latest updates before heading out.



And, a subject close to my heart, LIVE MUSIC baby. Radio Springs Hotel has live music Saturday evenings & Sunday lunchtimes. Bookings are essential & dining numbers are limited. If you're going, I recommend a beautiful stroll along Domino rail trail from Trentham to Radio Springs to build an appetite. You won't regret it. The trail is well signposted, just continue on straight & you will come out at Radio Springs car park. It takes about 1hr 15 to 30 mins, one way.

The lovely Leticia is offering online yoga & meditation classes & has been the whole way through. Well done, Leticia! Check the Meditare Centre website & fb page for class descriptions.

Of course, let's not forget our favourite local bush radio, on the airways when you least expect it, with quirky tunes & 'always interesting' commentary.

~ Sue

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Potential Gold Mine in Blackwood

One morning, early in June, some of Blackwood's residents were woken from their sleep to an unfamiliar noise. Others who were up & about remarked that they stopped suddenly when they heard it. Described as the sound of a motor constantly revving, the noise was investigated & found to be exploratory drilling for gold up near Shaws Lake in the Wombat State Forest. The noise continued all day & every day for some time until they moved to another site in Blackwood where it appeared that the same works were taking place. Those who heard it (& many did) said it was awful & disturbing. The constant drone of the drill was most unsettling & made it very difficult to concentrate on anything, especially with the lockdown resulting in many locals working from home.

It turns out that an exploratory licence for gold was obtained by one of many mining companies who now have a right to explore for gold in our area. They are able to come right up to the boundary of our properties &, if permission has been granted to mine on your private property prior to you owning it, then that permission is still valid & there is nothing that the current owner can do to revoke it. The exploratory drilling was sudden & unexpected & it appears no one in Blackwood had been advised that this was about to commence.

Once it became clear what was happening at Shaws Lake, a large group of locals sprang into action very quickly & formed the No Wombat Gold Action Group. Unfortunately COVID restrictions meant that any group gathering had to be strictly controlled in both numbers attending & with regard to physical distancing & safe hygiene practices. But this did not stop a growing groundswell of concern by locals & friends of Blackwood. Nor did it stop the first meeting of the action group, nor the two protest marches from occurring.

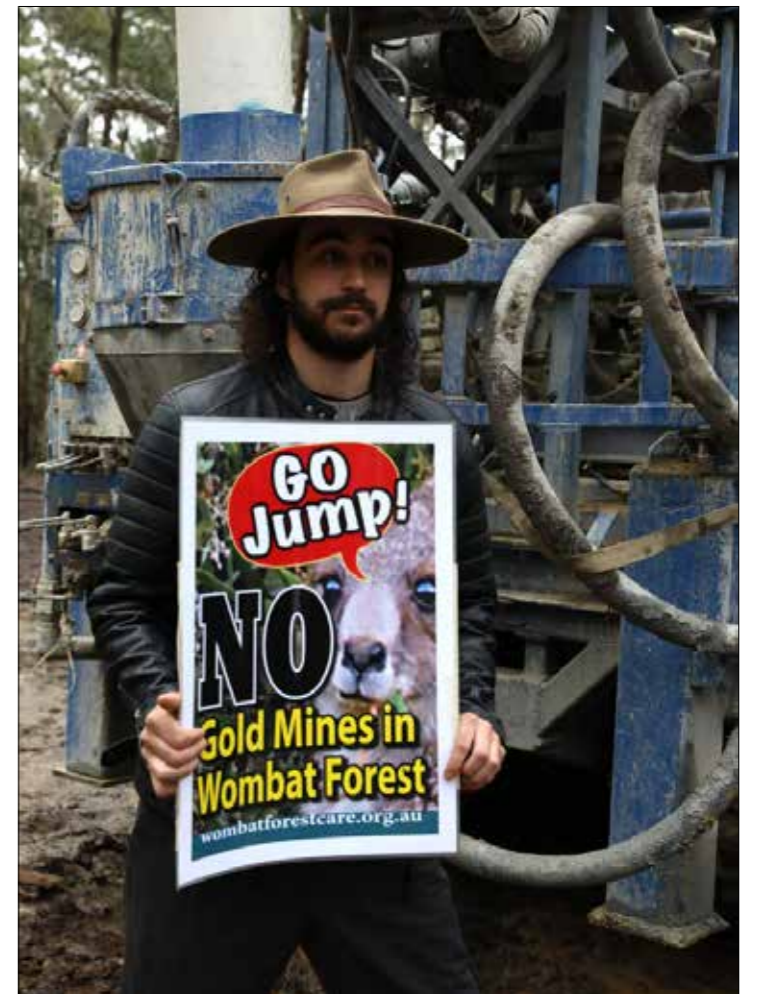
The No Wombat Gold Action Group is against Industrial Mining in the Blackwood Area & Wombat State forest. We support recreational fossicking & gold panning. We are aiming to consult as many locals as we can to give them information about what has happened to date (as we know it) & also how a large scale mine will likely impact on our town & lifestyle. We recently distributed an information sheet through the post & plan to follow that up with further information. We currently have over 130 members in the group, made up of locals & friends of Blackwood. We also have a petition underway with nearly 5000 signatures calling for a halt to mining in the region. If you would like to add your name to the petition, you can find it at www.change.org/nowombatgold.

We really encourage you to contact us with any questions or concerns. You can call Matthew Curlie on 0427 860 979 or email us at nowombatgold@gmail.com or [facebook.com/NoWombatGold/](https://www.facebook.com/NoWombatGold/)

~ No Wombat Gold Group



Judd, Elke, Anna and Wren, kickstarting the No Wombat Gold virtual protest with Pepper the dog. To join, email a photo with your protest sign, at the big Wombat to anna.perry1201@gmail.com.



SAY NO TO INDUSTRIAL MINING IN BLACKWOOD

A number of mining companies are now focussing on Blackwood and the surrounding area for large-scale commercial mining projects.

Exploratory drilling has already been undertaken near Shaw's Lake, with further exploration imminent in other areas around Blackwood.

Licences to undertake mineral exploration cover all of our township - not just common areas - these licences include residential properties.

Industrial mining has the potential to destroy life in Blackwood as we know it

MAJOR CONCERNS

- Devastating consequences on recreation & tourism-related activities that Blackwood relies on
- Destruction of the Wombat State Forest - home to rare & threatened species of animals and plants
- Huge impact of noise & traffic (including heavy trucks) in our town
- Water supply and contamination risks
- Mining being conducted on individual properties

Locals have formed a group called **No Wombat Gold** to fight the mining companies' plans. We have staged protests & been in contact with local & state government and the media. We have also circulated a petition calling for a halt to mining activity in the region. It has already received thousands of signatures. You can find the petition at www.change.org/nowombatgold

If you would like to get involved and / or receive further information contact:

nowombatgold@gmail.com

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



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ENID ISABEL MACUMBER (WALKER)

1/10/1929 to 3/4/2020

Wife, Mother, Nan, Great Nan

Born on October 1, 1929 in Portland, Victoria, Enid moved to Ballarat at the age of 14 & worked in a boarding house as a cook. Years later she moved to Bendigo where she met Russell Macumber & married at the cathedral in Bendigo. They moved around a lot as Russell worked on the Victorian Railways. They always owned milk bars & Enid used to run them while Russell worked. They finally settled & built their home in Mitcham where they brought up 5 children, Geoff, Phillip, Graham, Lynda & Greg.



After Russell left the railways after 36 years, they bought the Blackwood General store which they owned for 3 years. Russ ran the shop & petrol & Enid was the post mistress (back when the store was a place to meet around the old pot belly stove). Had the original old post office where people could still bring in their gold to be weighed on the original gold scales. They sold everything from food, freezer goods, papers, lollies, groceries & souvenirs. You name it, they sold it.

After 3 years they brought the property on the corner of Byres Road & Bates Road called Grafton. They lived there until Russell passed away over 25 years ago. Enid lived there until February 2019 at which time she moved in with her daughter in Byres Road.

She loved her senior citizens & all their outings & unfortunately has outlived a lot of her dear friends. She went in her sleep which was such a beautiful way to go.

There are lots of Blackwood residents that will remember her smiling face. She is buried at the Blackwood cemetery with Russ, just inside the front gate to the left.

A beautiful soul that will be missed.

The Blackwood Hat Shoppe

15 Martin St.
Saturday and Sunday 11 to 4pm, other times by appointment or chance
ph 9018 5458

WELCOME TO BLACKWOOD

The Blackwood community welcomes our new Caravan Park managers, Amanda & Phil Porter to Blackwood.

They arrived on July 15 & are originally from South Australia, where they raised their brood of 5 children who now have fast growing new families, both in South Australia & Victoria.

Amanda & Phil have 20 years experience in the tourism industry, operating their own business as well as managing others & have most recently arrived from sunny Queensland.

They love nature & wildlife & are avid wildlife carers with experience in raising kangaroos, wombats, koalas, gliders & birds of prey.

They also love chooks & hope to start a flock here soon which will be a lovely addition to the homeliness of the caravan park. We will hear more about Amanda & Phil in the next edition of the Times but in the meantime we say a heartfelt welcome.



& MORE WELL-WISHING

Pop on down to the Mineral Springs Caravan Park. Brand-new managers, Amanda and Phil Porter (along with feathery receptionists, Thelma and Louise) would love to meet you. They've run resorts for 20 years (mostly large, mostly remote) in outback Queensland and relish the opportunity to downsize and become a part of a community again.

They're looking forward to "putting a shine" on the park and working with the community, local businesses and government to build tourism in Blackwood. Oh, & the grandkids, they get to see their grandkids, who live down this way.

Amanda tells us that they were sold on our town after reading "about a year's-worth of Blackwood Times". Well researched, you two, and a sound decision. You will find this place every bit as good as we claim in this paper. Welcome.



HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

MONTH/YEAR	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall historical average (mm)	Temp monthly min (deg C)	Temp monthly max (deg C)	Temp average daily max (deg C)	Temp average daily min (deg C)	Temp average for month (deg C)
May '20	99.5	90.6	-3.25	16.7	11.5	3.1	6.8
Jun '20	78.5	106.1	-4.75	13.6	10.2	1.4	5.3



CALL FOR HELP

The Blackwood Times transition to the community has been severely hampered by COVID-19. In August we will be applying for a council grant to help with costs but we still need people on the ground helping.

We need someone to distribute (fortnightly to Trentham & Lyonville) as well as people to help gather articles. Many hands make light work so the saying goes, if you can spare some time please email editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au.

Early June saw a run of very cold overnight temperatures followed by sunny days.

~ Don Owen



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THE TIMES SAYS THANK YOU

Our regular readers will know that Brendan & I have been attempting to hand the Blackwood Times over to the community for the past year or so.

Looking back, it has certainly been a much harder transition that we expected. Although we have workable office at the hall, we have not had the equipment necessary to produce the paper. We needed a decent computer, printer & software because in the time we have produced the paper, we have always used our businesses assets.

Enter Phyllis Griffin, a Blackwood Times fan from way back, who has generously donated \$1000 to be put toward a computer - this will go a long way to the dollar for dollar grant we are applying for in August.

When dropping the last issue into little Ollie, who featured on the front cover, I got chatting with his dad & mum. They were confused that we were still doing the times. I explained that, although we have a small team (thanks Lisa, Kathy, Fiona, Sue & all the other people who have organised articles for us this year) we were in a difficult situation with a lack of equipment & also attempting to train during COVID-19. I had no idea, but Ollie's parents had previously run a pub in Footscray & had a number of iMacs stored away. They are old but should handle the industry standard photo manipulation software we use to produce the Times.

The photo below is of me training Kathy Berrill in how to use iDesign. We feel totally appreciated with these donations. A thousand thank-yous from the team to both Phyllis & Ollie. Our plan is to buy a new iMac through the grant & use Ollie's iMac to prepare photos.

~ Jinny Coyle, co-ordinator

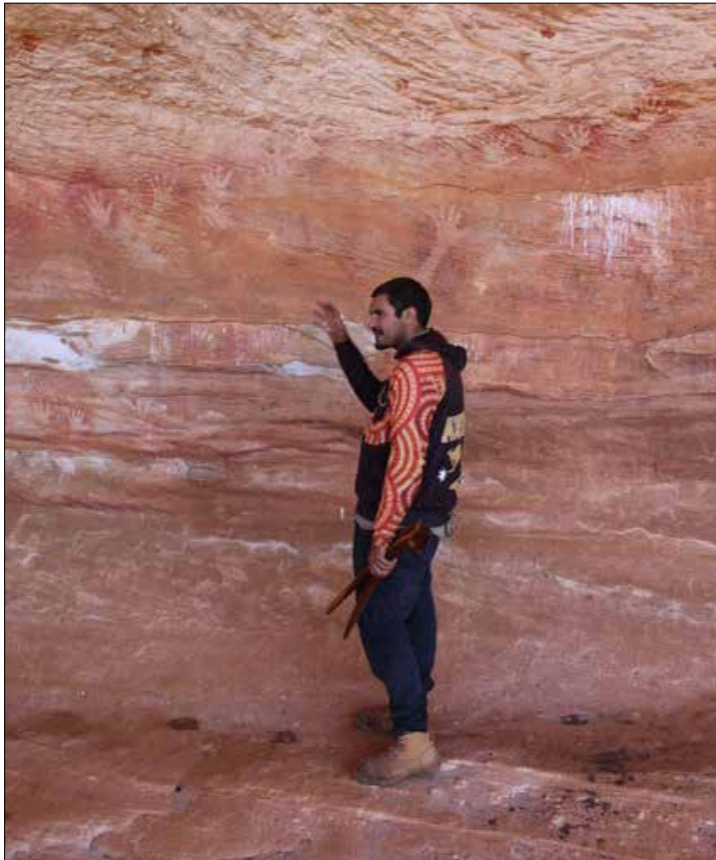


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New signs at the springs se p10

• BLACKWOOD ADVENTURE TO MUTAWINTJI NATIONAL PARK • BLACKWOOD ADVENTURE TO MUTAWINTJI NATIONAL PARK •



TOP: Cultural Tour Uncle Willie, Carlson, Garni and Clint MIDDLE: Garni Cultural Tour BOTTOM: Cultural Tour Garni Clever Woman

In early July, a crew from Blackwood ventured north to the ancient landscape of Mutawintji National Park, which is north-east of Broken Hill. The red desert landscape is dominated by the Bynguano Ranges & is rich in Aboriginal history & is one of the richest sites of Aboriginal art in New South Wales.

The National Park has joint management between NSW National Parks & the Mutawintji Board of Management, which is mostly Aboriginal Traditional Owners. The Traditional Owners are the Barkandji people, a tribe that traditionally live around the lower Darling River. Barkandji meaning "Darling folk". 'Barka' relates to the river, the 'nji' on the end means belonging to. A Barkandji person belongs to the river & its surrounding country.

Mutawintji is a beautiful & sacred place. We were lucky enough to meet some Barkandji Elders, Uncle Badger Bates & his sister, Aunty Muriel Riley. Both are renowned artists, educators & beloved Elders in their community. Aunty Muriel showed some of us her weaving technique & you'll see many hats in Blackwood sporting red, black & yellow hat bands that are her handiwork!

Cultural Tour

We went on an amazing cultural tour with Field Officer Keanu 'Garni' Bates. He showed us the 270-million-year-old fossilized footprints of a sea scorpion. Back in the Devonian period, Mutawintji was covered by a warm, shallow ocean.

Garni showed us many caves with hand stencils, & rock art from local Barkandji people. When the hand stencils showed the length of arm, this indicated a clever person - someone who demonstrated acute awareness & skill above others, often medicine people & of ceremonial importance. We were also shown some petroglyphs (rock peckings) made 8000 years ago, depicting important food sources & totems including the emu & kangaroo.

Bush Food & Medicine – the 'Mutawintji Supermarket'
Some of the food & medicine plants we were shown included: the Ruby Saltbush (pictured) with edible berries, Harlequin Mistletoe the fruits sometimes called bush lollies or snotty gobbles (because of their gooey texture) & an important food source for the mistletoe bird. Eremophila longifolia (Emu Bush) has many medicinal uses, & is used for smoking people before they go into sacred sites, & when they leave. Native parsley, native mint & mustard flowers were also prevalent. One of the spiny wattles was used to kill warts.

You can check out more here:
<https://www.facebook.com/ABCBrokenHillvideos/220554842273184/>



ABOVE: Wild Bloom Unplugged

Music: Some other highlights included singing songs around the campfire every night, with the local Barkandji mob such as Leroy & Uncle Willie, complete with locally-made clap sticks. Blackwood was well-represented with songs from Wild Bloom (unplugged!), The Blackwood Brothers (Carlson, Oli & Jack), Cat & Clint & Gerry Daly.

Camp Cuisine: Inventive camp cooking was a daily event! Some highlights were Kangaroo Curry with Johnny Cakes, provided by the generous locals. Clint's classic was the Baked Beans tin straight on the coals with a cracked egg in the top if you want to get fancy. There were a lot of delicious roasts, stews, etc made in the camp ovens.

Johnny cakes are made with a similar dough to damper. We made them with half SR Flour & half Plain, water & salt. Mix it up (no need to knead much), portion into balls, then flatten them & cook on a grill over the campfire coals. They turn out like pita bread pockets, perfect for filling with your favourite camp fare, or dipping in a stew.

Spuds wrapped in foil & cooked in the coals were always a winner. William Alexander's Camp Spuds: 4 potatoes straight in the coals (foil is for wimps), 2 for eating, & 2 for the bottom of the swag!

Cat's Hot Camp Tip: The Soda Stream! Save on plastic bottles going into landfill, it doesn't need power, & you can carbonate our very own pure Blackwood water!

Karaoke Night: The Palace Hotel was our last stop, hosted by Broken Hill's very own fabulous drag queen – 'Amanda Screetly'. Everyone had their moment in the spotlight. Clint slayed the crowd with his amazing air guitar solos, & vocals in Black Betty, Alright Now & On The Road Again. Jack sang a tear-jerking version of Nothing Compares to You. Oli sang a sweet duet version of Cruisin' with his friend Alex. Cat sang some Dolly Parton & a duet of Highwaymen. The Blackwoodians left them for dead!

~ Rach & Cat



TOP: Carlson and Jack marvelling at the gorge BOTTOM: GMutawintji Ruby Saltbush



TOP: Uncle Badger & Aunty Muriel MIDDLE: Mutawintji Cultural Tour BOTTOM: Garni Cultural Tour Ampitheatre Photos: Cat Moser

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• BLACKWOOD ADVENTURE TO MUTAWINTJI NATIONAL PARK (CONT) •



TOP: Cat & Clint at Homestead Creek BOTTOM: Jack Karaoke Night Broken Hill

TOP: Mutawintji Sea Scorpion BOTTOM: Cat & Clint at Homestead Creek (Rach & Oli in the background) PHOTOS Cat Moser

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• PRIYA'S FEATURED WINDOW •

The Priya Windows (featured in the last edition of the BWT) were set up in response to an idea created by some clever person during COVID lockdown in March. It was called "the Teddy Bear Hunt." The idea was that children could see how many teddy bears they could find in windows of houses in their neighborhood. When I created my first window I thought it might entertain a few children in Blackwood, but more & more adults began saying how much they enjoyed them too. I was then encouraged to put them online so those who could not come down in person, could see them as well. One of those people was my dear friend Peter Uhlherr, who lives in Melbourne. He created 2 windows from his home in Mt Waverley & gave me strict instructions as to how to set them up. His windows were artistically beautiful & creative & showed many, many hours of work. Their popularity led to a request to write a story about him & his connection to Blackwood. So here it is!

Peter is 82 years old & we have been friends for just 6 years but it feels like a lifetime. I began working for him as a handywoman in 2014 & our friendship developed quickly as we jointly tackled some of his big projects around the home. Despite the fact that Peter was a cat person, he had an instant connection with my old dog, Cooper, & the 2 old boys became great buddies, often choosing to stay at home on the couch while I took Jackson out to the park to play.

Peter is a Chemical Engineer (Sydney University) & started a PhD at Monash University in 1961, where he was in the first group of students through the then new university. He was awarded his PhD 4 years later but during his candidature was a senior tutor & was one of only 2 staff in the Chemical Engineering Department. How times have changed with Monash now having 35 staff working in that same department.

Bonded to the Australian Atomic Energy Commission due to a scholarship for his Bachelor of Engineering, Peter was obliged to work for them for 5 years but was thankfully released after 2. He then got a lectureship at Monash & started in 1967 on the academic staff where he worked his entire career. He retired officially in 1997. He then continued working, initially as a volunteer, & then as a casual lecturer & researcher for another 14 years. That is an incredible 48 years working for Monash University - what an institution they both are. Peter often lectured up to 350 students at one time. They were teenagers straight from high school & Peter can tell many tales of how students' attitudes to learning changed over the years - but that is a whole other story because it wasn't always for the better.

Peter has visited me a few times in Blackwood. In 2018 he was a guest speaker at a Blackwood Gardening Group gathering where he gave an informative & interesting talk on fungi. It was our biggest gathering & over 20 people attended.



Peter is a naturally talented artist &, prior to his marriage in 1963, used to paint many landscapes. After this he developed an interest in photography. Peter mainly took landscape photographs but also studied native orchids & so began focusing on macro photography of them & other wildflowers. Later on he discovered many species of fungi close to his home (all in one reserve) & began systematically photographing & identifying them. He has also offered his results to the management of the reserve. His talk in Blackwood led to him giving 2 presentations to the "Friends of Valley Reserve" on fungi.

Peter was widowed in 2000 & has 2 adult children who live close by. He keeps busy with many hobbies & interests. He enjoys my regular visits although I am sure less so now that both my boys are gone! With COVID restrictions we don't get the chance to catch up as often but he enjoyed keeping up with the Priya Windows. Peter offered to help with the windows & his first contribution was the amazing "Shoe" that the old woman Priya lived in. His second window showed off his love & knowledge of science fiction & the "Stars Wars" window was born. Peter created figures & masks with incredible detail & research to ensure accuracy. R2-D2 was made with great difficulty, out of cardboard & hand drawn (not computer generated) details of wiring & mechanics. At age 81 (then) he would sit on the kitchen floor painting the props because paint is easier to get off lino than carpet. He spent hours & hours creating & said he loved every minute.

Now we are concocting a plan to do a Nativity Window for Christmas. It will have changing characters & scenery for the 10 days leading up to Christmas Day, where baby Jesus will appear in the manger. We are currently auditioning teddy bears for different roles such as the 3 Magi, Joseph, the innkeeper & shepherds. So if you have a teddy bear or other suitable soft toy who would like to be involved in the Nativity Window, then please contact me and let me know. Costumes will be made to fit, so the sooner the cast is finalised the better.

Until then stay safe & well.

~ Karen Bruno





• COMMUNITY UPDATES • COMMUNITY UPDATES •

Blackwood CERT Team Leader report

The Team is now settled into its shared premises at CFA & really appreciating the shelter & warmth it offers – compared with doing equipment checks outside in the elements!

With a return to COVID 19 restrictions for the metro area, we are again having fewer recreational visitors & hence, less demand for first aid at motorbike crashes! With less flu circulating this year, it is also pleasing that fewer locals are needing help with the usual winter lurgies – a positive side effect of less social interaction. Whilst not as busy as usual, Blackwood CERT is still here to assist our community should you need emergency medical assistance. Please continue to call Triple 000 if you need help.

All CERTs & Ambulance Victoria responders are well trained in infection control measures & will be covered up for their sake & yours – masks, gloves, gowns & contact limits.

We remind anyone who has Covid -type symptoms to get tested & stay isolated until your results are in.

Stay updated with the latest Covid 19 information (including testing sites) at www.dhhs.vic.gov.au

Training: Throughout this unusual year our Team continues to train & update our knowledge through webinars & online courses provided by Ambulance Victoria.

A new intake for the online Cert II in Emergency Medical Services is scheduled to start in September. This is the foundation course for all CERT First Responders. If you would like to join the Team & undertake this excellent training, let's talk.

We are always keen to welcome new members into our diverse, yet close knit, Team who work with & for our Community throughout the Greendale/Dale's Creek/Blackwood area.

Please call Leonie 0438797007 or Jan 0409857180 to learn more. In the meantime, stay safe with good handwashing, social distancing & face masks. #stopthespread.

~ Jan & Leonie, Blackwood CERT Co Team Leaders

Blackwood CFA

As we head into another round of lockdowns, we are still running the station under the current rules, which means access to the station is being kept to a minimum as far as training goes. Some members are still doing truck checks & station checks to ensure everything is ready for any events.

During these times it is important to keep adhering to the Covid-19 rules & maintain social distancing, wearing masks & only leaving the house for the four reasons the government has stated.

Even though we are in the middle of winter, keep in mind that fires can occur at any time & keep an eye out for possible hazards around the house & yard to avoid any problems.

Use this time to start organising your fire plans for the upcoming summer & fire season.

Most of all, stay safe & take care of yourselves, your families, your friends & neighbours.

In the event of any emergency, always call 000.

~ Karl Church, Blackwood Brigade

Blackwood Crown Reserves COM

It is with a great deal of pleasure & excitement for the Committee to announce the appointment of Phil & Amanda Porter to oversee the management of the Crown properties in the Blackwood region. Phil & Amanda come to us with a wealth of experience in managing accommodation & recreational facilities throughout Australia. Their immediate past appointment was a significant complex in far North Queensland. We hope that they can quickly acclimatise to the warmth of a Blackwood winter. They have moved into the residence at the caravan park & have some great ideas for improvements at the park & promotional programmes to increase occupancy. When they have settled in & it gets a little warmer the committee will host a town BBQ at the Mineral Springs to officially welcome them to Blackwood & to

meet the local community.

Upgrade work at the Mineral Springs is almost complete with the last item, signage, due to be installed by the end of July.

As with many community assets the Caravan Park has been severely affected by Covid 19. Our income has decreased by around 90 per cent but operating costs continue. Just when we thought we were over the worst & we were allowed to reopen, the second wave of Covid was upon us with the subsequent restrictions on travel from the Melbourne region. Hopefully restrictions will be lifted by Spring.

On a positive note the lockdown/reduced trade has allowed for some much needed maintenance at the Caravan Park & also allowed the opportunity for the Committee to consider a long term development plan for both the Caravan Park & the Mineral Springs. Both of these assets have been under-utilised in bringing visitors to Blackwood.

In closing I must thank the commitment & dedication of Bruce & Bev Butler & Barry & Wendy Brown in keeping the Park & Mineral Springs operating whilst we were awaiting the appointment of new staff. Without their help the ongoing operation of these facilities would have been impossible.

~ Dave White, Chairman

Blackwood Landcare

see article next page

Blackwood Uniting Church

The renovations at the Blackwood Uniting Church are powering ahead. Framework for the new toilets & kitchenette can be seen on the north side of the building. The hydronic heating will soon be going in. The ergonomic chairs are waiting to be assembled & we plan to buy some round folding tables for the new space. Exciting times.

One of our plans is to have a seasonal arts & crafts market, so if you are finding yourself wondering what to do on these 'weather enforced' days inside you could think about what you could make to sell at the market. Do you paint, sculpt, knit, sew or embroider or work with wood or metal or do you want to learn a new skill? If so, this could be a great opportunity for you to showcase & make a profit from your talents.

Do you have some ideas for this community space once it is finished? If you would like to discuss your idea or you would like any information give me a ring on 53686792.

~ Robyn Zanon

Holy Trinity Bacchus Marsh

Services are currently being conducted within normal times, however worshippers are asked to ring and advise of their desire to attend as numbers are limited. The phone number for Reverend Richard Litjens is 0439 983 011.

Services at Holy Trinity Bacchus Marsh are: Wednesday 10am and Sunday 9am.

Myrning services are held on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11am.

Worshippers are asked to observe social distancing protocols and not to attend if unwell.

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

St Malachy's Catholic Church

St Malachy's Catholic Church of Blackwood opened up for Sunday Mass at 4pm over a year ago & has had a great response with many people coming from the local area, Bacchus Marsh, Trentham & Ballan. All are welcome & some who are not Catholic have come because they want to sit still & contemplate in prayer with others in their community. It has been a relaxed & friendly gathering followed by a cuppa & some wonderful cake made by local Christina who conjures up a new delicious cake each week for us to share. Only weeks before

lockdown, we had a wonderful Indian banquet at Karen's home as our first social gathering. 26 people came to enjoy some new recipes she had just brought back from India.

Unfortunately the COVID lockdown has put a temporary stop to church gatherings for Mass (amongst many things) & at this stage there is no word on when this might change. In the meantime there is a live stream of Mass from Kyneton & Trentham each Sunday on youtube.

This issue we have no reports from the Blackwood Historical Society, Blackwood Progress or Blackwood Seniors

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 – galaxys@hotmail.com.

CHIPPING FOR LANDCARE

In January 2020, Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group purchased a C13 Hansa wood chipper. As an available service to the community, this enabled those seeking an opportunity to apply an alternative approach to burning off. The benefit's being: 1) No smoke 2) Carbon remaining in the soil 3) Mulching for healthier soil, protecting the roots of plants & trees. With Spring clean up & the approaching fire season, the Landcare Group would like to raise the awareness of the benefits of using the chipper, by sharing feedback from 3 local "chippers". James Schiavone, Frauke Hoffman & Daniel Barrett.

1) Was the process of hiring the machine straightforward?

J. S. - Yes. I sent a request online & then arranged with Shane to pay for the membership & hire at the same time.

F.H. - It was really easy to book the chipper. One email only.

D. B. - Very easy! Soon after I became a Landcare member, I enquired about using the chipper. Luckily for me it had not been booked for that upcoming weekend. Sunny weather was forecast, so I booked it for that Saturday.

2) Did you find the educational induction into the safe usage of the chipper adequate?

J.S. - Yes. I was confident to operate the machine & also troubleshoot/resolve any jamming issues.

F.H. - The instructions were easy to use. Also, Shane took the time to teach my husband & I as well. He was very generous with his time.

D. B. - Yes I did. I also looked up a YouTube tutorial video prior to pickup, so I had some idea of how the machine worked. Shane, who was assisting me booking the chipper, was away at the time, so Pete was nice enough to give me an induction & afterwards I felt confident in using the chipper. It did come with PPE, tools, manuals & other items I might have needed when using the chipper.

3) Did you find the chipper easy to use, & did the machine fulfil the mulching requirements for your property?

J. S. - It did a great job on the sticks & branches that were 70mm (2 inch) diameter or less.

F. H. - The chipper was easy to use & it was fantastic to have all this mulching material for our garden. A lot of plants are already benefiting from this beautiful mulch. So much better than burning off.

D. B. - Pete was a great teacher. I felt confident in using the machine & was able to tow it back to my place to get to work. I found it very easy to use & was able to create a huge amount of mulch for my garden. Like it stated in the manual, it doesn't like branches larger than 9 cm & it did get blocked a couple of times because I was throwing heaps of pine needles without the wood. However that issue was effortlessly sorted by turning it off, lifting up the safety guards, & pulling all the pine needles or whatever blocked the machine from underneath the blades. I had such a huge volume of mulchable material. I was very wise & had a prep day before my mulching day, where I had already placed all the branches in a big pile to be thrown into the chipper.

4) Did you find the chipper cost effective, & would you hire the chipper for use in the future?

J.S. - Yes. It was great to be able to turn the sticks that were too big



BLACKWOOD CERT RECRUITING FOR 2020

Blackwood CERT is a dynamic team made up of volunteers who respond & assist with Ambulance Victoria call outs within our local community.

We are keen & ready to accept new members & interested parties for our ever increasing team, unfortunately due to COVID we are unable to have an official Recruitment/Information day this year.

A willingness to assist community members in their time of need & to work as a team are the only requirements.

No past medical knowledge or experience required as you will be trained as a First Responder with advanced First Aid skills by Ambulance Victoria.

Applications need to be in by as soon as possible/mid August with a Training Course held in September.

Chat to Team Leaders Leonie Brasier 0438797007 or Jan Ogle 0409857180 for more information & the application process.

into kindling & those too small to be effective for firewood into mulch for the garden.

F. H. - The hire for the chipper was dirt cheap. We are trimming the trees in the garden, & once the branches are drier, we are going to hire the chipper again.

D.B. - \$30 bucks, bloody bargain! Picked up right here in Blackwood, get outta town! Yeah, I definitely plan on taking advantage of this great resource once again when I have built up enough stuff to mulch.

Other Comments:

F.H. - We didn't have a tow bar, which could have been a problem. However, Shane was very kind & delivered the chipper to us. I would like to thank the Landcare Group for the use of this amazing machine. I believe it will make a huge difference to our environment if more people used a chipper rather than burning off.

D.B - It was tiresome, all that mulching, but so satisfying after I had finished to see my yard so clean, & a big plus now I have a good supply of mulch for the garden. Win, win!! Thanks Landcare.

At the present time, only members can hire the machine, but membership is open to all & costs \$10 annually. Machine hire costs \$30, & members are covered by the group's insurance through the membership of Landcare Vic Inc.

Contact admin@blackwoodlandcare.org.au if you are interested in hiring the machine. We are looking forward to meeting new "chippers" in the future.

~ Noelle Shader for Blackwood & Barry's Reef L&care Group.

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EARLY NEWSPAPER REPORT FOUND ON BLACKWOOD 1867

Compiled by Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society, July 2020



Bacchus Marsh Express, Saturday 26 October 1867. Blackwood, The prompt action which has been taken regarding the late robbery of gold from the store of Mr. George Williams, Golden Point, is highly creditable to our local police. No trouble has been spared by Sergeant Wood in this matter, & if the real culprit escapes detection & punishment, no fault can be attached to that really praise-worthy & highly efficient officer. In conjunction with Constable M'Bride, his efforts have been most unremitting in the faithful & judicious discharge of those peculiar duties which the law expects & society requires..

It is our painful duty to record the melancholy demise of a young girl named Elizabeth Webster, the daughter of one of our earliest residents. She was attacked by that invariably fatal disease called diphtheria. She was alternately attended by Drs. O'Hara, Plews, & Bailey; & I believe that Dr. Rae, your esteemed townsman, visited her, when last at Blackwood; but all that skill & attention could do was of no avail. She gradually sank & died on Sunday last. A large number of friends attended her funeral on Monday last. She was scarcely 19 years of age. I have very little to report from our mining companies this week; the Annie Laurie Company, Barry's Reef, are getting excellent stone; 30ozs. of amalgam were taken from the plates after a few days crushing. The True Blue Company are raising good stone, & a good crushing is expected. The Faugh-a-Ballagh is looking first-rate; it is supposed that a new reef here been struck in that claim. Taylor & Company are raising excellent stone; they have started to crush in Hansmann's machine. The Beehive is looking much better. Trehwella Brothers are getting payable stone. Poverty Reef Company are not getting on well; their tunnel has been an arduous undertaking. Harris & party have taken up a new reef at Davis's Gully. The whole of the companies at Simmons Reef are crushing vigorously. Turner & party, Yankee Reef, are getting good stone. Thompson & party are getting on well. Mr. Candage's party have good prospects, & are about to get machinery.



The 5th of a series of Popular Readings in aid of the erection of a

Mechanics' Institute at Blackwood was held in the Common School-room, Simmons Reef, on Wednesday, 23rd inst. E. Baber, Esq., J.P., occupied the chair. The attendance was thinner than usual. Mr. Hornell sang "The Bonnie Hills of Scotland" admirably. He received an encore, which was, however, declined. Mr. Woolf's reading, "Done Brown," was rendered well, 'This gentleman reads with much taste. Mr. Ferguson sang a Scotch song, in a very spirited style. Mr. H. J. Naylor read a humorous piece, called "Mothers & Daughters." This reading was highly appreciated. He reads with very correct emphasis, & a fine conception of the humour required, Mr. E. Hill sang "Dreams of the Heart," with much taste & sweetness. A hearty encore induced him to sing "Annie Lisle." Mr. Mitchell delivered a recitation composed by him-self, entitled "Tom Pick's Return from New Zealand." Although by no means what might be called a gem, it was heartily applauded. Mr. Ferguson gave a few "Reminiscences of his Life." They were very amusing, & were applauded, Mr. Woolf gave Julien's "Nightingale Waltz," on the English Concertina. He played with expression, & gave general satisfaction. Mr. E. Hill sang "The Anchor's Weighed," with much taste. Mr. H. J. Naylor read "Saved from Thrashing," with exquisite humour. This reading created great merriment, & was vehemently applauded; Mr. Hornell sang an Irish comic song in capital style. Mr. Woolf read "Peter Clause, or a Legend of Rip van Winkle." This reading was highly commendable. Mr. Ferguson sang "John Anderson, my Joe, John," in a very happy manner, & an encore was declined. A reading from Artemus Ward, by Mr. Naylor, was given as it ought to be. Mr. Woolf played a solo on the Concertina very sweetly. Messrs. Hill, Quick & Williams sang a glee in capital style. "God Save the Queen" concluded the entertainment.

One of the severest thunderstorms felt for some time passed over Blackwood on Wednesday night last. It continued for about 5 or 6 hours. The lightning, was more than usually vivid, & very heavy rain fell during a portion of the time. Thursday presented every appearance of a continuance of the storm.

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

b. 80% wool blanket - total weight 1,500grams (1.5kg), same size as above - 1.5 x 2m. GSM = 1,500/3 = 500GSM or double the thickness of the 100% wool.

This also means a single layer of the 80% wool blanket, would provide 60% more actual wool over you at any point, (than the 100%) is double the thickness, so is of an improved protection level - so GSM is important.

Here's some information on the wool blankets sold by my Emergency & Bushfire Kits (see also www.EmergencyBK.com.au), so people can have all the information at hand & combined with their budgets & needs, make up their own minds.

Wool %	Dimensions Meters	Size Square Meters	GSM - Grams per Square Meter	Total Blanket Weight Kg	Weight of Wool in Blanket kg
80%	2.29 x 1.68	3.85	520	2.0	1.6
85%	2.27 x 1.72	3.90	460	1.8	1.53
100%	2.13 x 1.67	3.56	420	1.5	1.6

Simply looking at wool percentage or size, won't give you a clear picture of the performance of the blanket under emergency scenarios, but following these 4 steps will give you some good guidance & help you compare.

Note: If the retailers don't or won't provide this basic information, that's probably a good warning sign of poor quality.

~ Emergency & Bushfire Kits - Safety & Survival

HUGHIE MARTIN

Hughie Martin was a fine man - a good looking Irishman who chose to live as a hermit in a log cabin surrounded by gumtrees, just over the rim of my mountain. Hughie's log cabin rough as it was must've been heaven to a man who spent about 15 years of a 20-year jail sentence behind the bars & high frowning bluestone walls of Pentridge jail. Three of these years were spent in solitary confinement.

Hughie left Ireland & came out to Melbourne during the great depression of the early 20s & being young & not particularly enamoured at the thought of work he bought & stocked a wagon full of merchandise, shirts, socks, boots, etc & toured the countryside trying to sell these goods to families too poor to pay for them. In the era before the depression a man named Sydney Myer did the same thing & ended up becoming the multimillionaire head of the biggest store in Australia "Myers Proprietary Limited".

Not so Hughie as he had a sympathetic heart & couldn't bear seeing children running around in winter, wet, blue with cold & bootless. So not having enough money to restock his wagon he sold it & repaired to a nearby pub to drown his sorrows with a few beers. There he met a couple of cronies who were also a bit allergic to anything in the nature of hard work & whose rebellious souls bitterly resented the system whereby all some other men had to do was to make money, & so a plot was hatched.

One Monday morning the newspapers carried the alarming caption "Coles Bourke Street store raided" "Policeman shot" "Three men arrested at gunpoint"

During the subsequent criminal proceedings, Hughie with his soft, gentle Irish voice & persuading overtones was surprisingly acquitted but when the "Black Maria" carrying his two companions neared Pentridge jail, Hughie was there to meet it with a gun in each hand, holding up the convoy, he released the prisoners (who were almost immediately re-captured) & soon afterwards Hughie had to pay the penalty of a 20 year sentence for his mistaken loyalty & for the daring, foolishly conceived "hold up". Three of these years had to be spent in solitary confinement. It seems that potentially there is honour among thieves?

Having become used to solitary confinement Hughie evidently preferred to continue living that way in his new freedom. He was mostly alone, & his picturesque little log cabin was certainly solitary, & the whispering gum leaves, the "peep peep" of his tiny feathered friends, occasionally with the distant golden clatter from the throats of the magpies, & during winter the pleasant aroma from the eucalyptus leaves burning in his open fire, were the only company had. He was not an avid reader & mostly lived with his thoughts as sad as one could imagine they would be.

Neil McInnes was his closest neighbour but they were always offhand with each other. I was sorry for Hughie & when shopping in town always brought a bottle of beer to share with either Neil or Hughie which we drank in front of one or the others open fires. Then I would trudge off to my home in the gathering dusk or darkness often in rain or snow or strong winds which made the young saplings obsequiously bow & scrape as I made my way down the rocky path. One night when the wind was particularly strong I was in my bed asleep & was woken by an ear-splitting crash & bang all seemed well inside my home as I returned to bed & determined to investigate the cause the next morning.

A galvanised iron roof 12ft by 60 had been torn from an outhouse & hurled about 30 feet away over a fence & inside my top paddock being stopped by a couple of big gumtrees beside my 60 foot shaft (which wouldn't hold water!)

This could have killed any humans or animals in its path. The winter over & spring with a smiling eagerness painted various colours on the forest trees particularly golden as black wattle & Bailyanna wattle trees abounded in our area which after all was in the "Black Forest".

Warmer weather enticed visitors up to Blackwood, good Masonic friends of Neil's - leaving their aprons behind -came up for weekends but through the years gradually dispersed. They were fine types of men but I don't think they took very kindly to the "dormitory", a big log cabin building fitted with rough bunks for their sleeping quarters

the outside barbecues for their meals, spiders in the unsealed cracks between the logs & occasional bush rats investigating their strange sleeping bodies.

Hughie's friends were different, they, as visitors were like angels - "few & far between". Some of the gentlemen look like well-dressed, retired thugs. Others were detectives or plainclothes police to whose imagination his intrepid, romantic, foolish history had appealed.

I was not introduced to any of these people & of course never intruded if I thought he was entertaining any of them in his remote log cabin. It was obvious to anyone interested in this taciturn, lonely, gentle natured man, that he would never again be a party to anything of a criminal nature. Hughie had learnt his lesson & just wanted to be left in peace.

An attractive woman & her young son came occasionally to stay at the local pub for the weekend & she was so like my erstwhile Sydney sweetheart Eileen, that of course I very soon made her acquaintance & I took them for an occasional picnic or walk to the Lerderderg River where we would chat over a few drinks or thermos of tea & sandwiches. She was very intelligent & charming, her name was Margaret Berman, but one Saturday afternoon when I took her up to see Hughie Martin whom she knew, I left her & her little boy with Hughie as they quite evidently had a lot to talk about. Later that afternoon I drove down to the hotel for a few beers & a chat & noticed a tall stranger in the bar. On enquiring of one of the locals who he was, I was informed that he was Detective Sergeant Ford, a friend of Margaret Berman. This fortunately ended any further interest I may have evinced in the lady. I say fortunately because Margaret B, Detective Ford & other detectives & two well-known doctors would later embroiled in an unpleasant abortion case during which it was revealed that bribery & corruption were involved!

During one of many occasional trips to the city when I would stay for a day or two at "Canamans", Dick Burt who hadn't seen Hughie around for a few days became anxious as to his well-being (Dick had discovered Neil's death) & went to the log cabin to see how he was & finding Hughie seriously ill he & a few others organised an ambulance to take the patient to the Ballarat hospital. When I returned to Blackwood & heard about this I intended taking a few of his local pals over to visit him but my hand was badly bitten by a wild Queensland healer dog so I was not able to drive my car. When someone told poor dying Hughie of this circumstance before lapsing into unconsciousness he said "Poor Reg" "Poor Reg". I think the reason Hughie allowed me to befriend him was because on one occasion I had the temerity to defy him & tell him "I was not his chauffeur I would do as I liked & that I was not at all afraid of him or his cohorts".

Nevertheless, I feel sure that I contributed a little to his happiness may God rest his tortured soul.

This story was submitted by Juliette Bradley who is the daughter of the author, Reginald Patrick Garneir Bradley. He notes above this story "I am incorporating some "Blackwood tales" into my Chronicles because although the stories bear no relationship to my usual activities they become part of my life's experiences & therefore I think they should be told. In any case they reflect a tiny bit of little Blackwood history - very little of which is known or recorded."



Piano at rest stop near Broken Hill Photo: Cat Moser (see story p6-7)

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WOMBAT BOOK CLUB

HELLO FROM Wombat Book Club where many words are read, books discussed & a warm, friendly social get together is enjoyed by all... hopefully we will return to getting together again soon. Now libraries are re-opening we can all meet again & share the same book title. For now, we are all parted in different reads. The weather still beckons us to the fireside or an early night with a good story. We still embrace new members even for E-book-club at the moment so for more information please email Brenda on woodbinelodge1@gmail.com

Sandy: The book I have read is The Brethren by John Grisham. Whilst I'm a fan of John Grisham, I did find this convoluted story difficult to read at first. It does slowly & brilliantly adhere together as Grisham's novels do.

The story is about lawyers & judges who have fallen from grace finding themselves in prison for tax evasion & other white-collar crimes. They band together & form a money making scheme, by hooking gay men (some married), blackmailing them & threatening to expose who they really are.

4 wombies

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<https://www.facebook.com/theblackwoodtimes>

• RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS •

A shout out to DJ Ruby Princess & Big Danny. Thanks for all the tunes & laughs. For spreading happiness & keeping us connected & loved up, in & out of lock down. 3 Triple Wombat rocks - always.

Many thanks to: the devilishly handsome (rarely sighted) gentleman who dropped newspapers to my door, to everyone's favourite IGA babe who responded to my urgent calls for mulled wine ingredients & lemon Kookas biscuits, & to all the other 'Wee Folk' who dropped hairclips, jigsaws, food, dvds & dvd players, handcream, books & numerous other items to my door step during isolation. Blackwood is magical, no doubt about it.

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 Cafe 10am-4pm Thur - Sun
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Entry to wander through St Erth gardens is free for Diggers members and children under 16 and \$10 for visitors.

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 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



13yo Blackwoodian, Amelie Sims, taught herself AutoDesk sketch to produce this great anime work. We particularly like the one she did for her mum with parrots.



BOCCE REVERSES AGEING PROCESS



Are the Bocce group members crazy? Out in the middle of the Blackwood Oval at 10 on a Sunday morning, in the bitter cold with ice covering the grass?!

Well I have big news for you all. Research done by John, who is a former NASA scientist, & Dusan, a former OLYMPIC sportsman, have proven that Bocce played in the mystical surrounds at the oval actually reversed the ageing process!

We've had some visitors join in with our regular players & of course we always welcome Brian & Rocky's help in keeping the score.

All COVID 19 restrictions & protocols are observed & we have gloves, masks, sanitiser available as well as social distancing at every game.

Keep well & keep safe & keep happy.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Dear all,
Thank you all for the latest Blackwood Times, a true community newspaper.

I would like to propose some planting ideas for the centre of town. To plant a row of Rosemary at the remembrance plaque. Also, for the town to consider replanting an Avenue of Honour. There used to be an avenue walking down to the mineral springs.

Perhaps the entrance to town, from Greendale? The concept of Avenues of Honour was created in Ballarat, so it has an historical significance for this area especially.

I hoped that local nurseries could assist with plant stock & volunteers, including myself, could plant out.

Could you put me in contact with the appropriate people to discuss these plans with?

Thanks,

~ Best Lynne Boyd & Peter De Garis, Golden Point, Blackwood

• WHOSE MASK'S THAT? •



Alison Acevedo makes masks that are in accordance with the health recommendations and sells them for \$10. Call her on 0411 562 618.

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• BLACKWOOF'S •



WHEN MEIKO'S mum was surrendered to a Bendigo animal rescue, no-one knew that she came with 11 little surprises. Meiko was the runt of the German Shorthaired Pointer/Dalmatian litter and clearly missed out on most of the Pointer genes. She looks quite the Dalmatian. Her carers turned their bedroom into a doggie nursery for the duration and, when the time came, approved new homes for the youngsters only after great deliberation. So committed were these animal-lovers that, 2 years later, they arranged a birthday get-together for the whole litter!

NOW, MEIKO has never been a high-energy girl; her favourite activities include watching youtube with Lenny, tellie with Mum or TV with Amelie but leaving Dad to watch his boring docos by himself. She prefers Anime and K Drama (those Korean boys being so cute and all).

SHE ALSO likes snoozing with her 2 cat friends and sitting in the chicken coop, guarding her clutch from the kangaroos (she is convinced they eat chooks).

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PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS



Woof: In this month's issue I would like to talk about adding a NEW FURRY BABY to your family. My Mum, who as you all know works locally as a vet nurse, decided we should talk about suitable breeds. Things are a little crazy at present with families making this decision - & of course IRISH SETTERS are the best!!! But let's look at other options. We have recently had gorgeous Kelpie cross puppies added to our Blackwood community so understanding

this working dog breed is important & beneficial. Hardy, devoted & super-intelligent, the Australian Kelpie could make a great addition to your family. However It is important to make an informed decision as to whether this particular breed could be the right one for you.

A true Australian breed: The Kelpie came into being in the late 19th Century. The Australian wool industry was becoming big business & farmers needed tough dogs who could not only handle the unruly sheep but also the harsh environmental conditions & vast acreages. The Kelpie's ancestors include British herding dogs (that may also have contributed to the development of the Border Collie, English Shepherd & Australian Shepherd). There's a story that in 1870 Jack Gleeson & his unnamed puppy, were sitting by a creek in country Victoria when the mist rose off the creek inspiring the pup's name, 'Kelpie', which is Gaelic for 'water sprite'. At the same time, another Victorian gentleman imported a male & female sheepdog from Scotland. One of their offspring, 'Caesar' was eventually mated with Gleeson's 'Kelpie'. There are also some reports that Dingoes were bred into the Kelpie breed. It is from these beginnings that we have the Australian Kelpie today. By the 1880s, Kelpies were winning sheep dog trials across NSW & Victoria. Today the breed is still popular in working paddocks & in the show ring.

Smart, loyal & always by your side: As far as temperament goes, the cheeky Australian Kelpie has oodles of personality & a wicked sense of humour. Sounds very Australian indeed! They are versatile working dogs, highly intelligent, alert & capable of learning a great deal, but they're also independent thinkers. The Kelpie is a breed with an exceptionally high IQ & may get into mischief if left to their own devices. They require plenty of exercise & may become bored if cooped up for long periods of time. Keep a Kelpie occupied & engaged & they'll thrive. Their greatest joy is tender loving care, whilst their greatest disappointment is inactivity & lack of attention. Kelpies are 'velcro' dogs, so wherever their humans are, that is where they are... whether it's going for walks or on the lounge watching television. They can be timid with strangers & this makes them good watchdogs (but as they are not biters, they're not regarded as good guard dogs). They can round up your visitors as this is natural behaviour.

FLETCHERS ADVENTURES



Hello again to all my Blackwood friends. Fletcher here to let you all know I've been busy isolating as much as I possibly can - kind of. Lately when mum takes me out of the house to do my business, I sniff the air in the direction of the sports ground & when she looks at the veggies growing in the veggie patch, that's my queue to escape to the country! I take the steep hill next to the house on the hill & straight down to the fun of running free & meeting new friends such as Stevie Thompson & lots of other little friends I don't know the names of. The humans

that are there at the ground are always really kind to me but then they look at my collar & get on their phone & low & behold Dad pulls up & I'm in trouble again! Most times though he takes me straight to our favourite coffee shop at the Post Office to get an extra hot latte with half a sugar. I don't mind doing this as I get to see all the friendly faces of Blackwood & around. If Joanie gets to join me on my escapades she gets really worried that she is in trouble & doubles back to mum who is (if you haven't heard her already), screaming her head off from the house for us to get home NOW! I consider myself the braver one out of the 2 of us!

I miss you Sootie cat & Evie Krygsman & John-Boy & Max Hehir & all the other Blackwood animals. Can't wait to see you all again.

Hooroo from Fletcher the Brave.

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Appearance: The Australian Kelpie is moderate in size, weighing 14-20 kilos. They usually look & feel like they could do a day's work without any effort. In appearance they're lithe, athletic & muscular, & slightly longer than they are tall. The breed comes in seven colours - black, black & tan, red, red & tan, chocolate, fawn & blue. (There may be deviations in these colours, but if there is, they wouldn't be acceptable in the show ring). Because they were originally bred to herd animals, Kelpies are quite agile - they can turn suddenly at speed & are capable of crouching & stealthy creeping. The breed has almond-shaped eyes, which is a practical feature, as it avoids dust getting into them from the paddock or yard. A Kelpie's ears are pricked & the inside of them are well furnished with hair to keep out the dust of the sheep yard (or sand from the backyard family sandpit)

Suitability: If you want a medium-sized dog that's built like an athlete, loves to work, thrives on exercise & can learn almost anything when well-trained, an Australian Kelpie may be right for you. The breed is suitable for families or singles willing to make the dog part of their lifestyle. Kelpies don't like to be left out! Once trained, they're the type of dog that will always give more back than they take. While their hardiness & ability to work long hours make them a valuable asset for farmers, it's their devotion & loyalty that can make them a suitable pet for today's families.

Health & Wellbeing: The Kelpie is a relatively healthy breed with very few hereditary problems. The Kelpie has been bred to be hardy, so they will potentially have very few health issues throughout their life. Hip Dysplasia, Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) & Cerebellar Abiotrophy (CA) are said to exist in the breed. Other problems that can occur in the breed include Collie Eye Anomaly, which is a common eye disorder found under the retina of a dog's eye. Present at birth, it can generally be detected in puppies between 5-8 weeks of age. They may also be prone to Hypothyroidism, where there are low thyroid levels causing dogs to have a slow metabolic rate causing specific hair loss, weight gain & seeking out warmth. Always seek out registered breeders if you have any concerns or purchase from a home based family where puppies are well socialised.

Grooming: The Kelpie is relatively low maintenance when it comes to grooming with their 'wash & wear coat'. However for such a short haired dog, Australian Kelpies shed much more than you might think. You'll need to brush them weekly to keep loose hair under control. Active Australian Kelpies often wear their nails down naturally, but it's a good idea to check them weekly to see if they need a trim.

Always remember a new puppy is for life not for when we are bored at home during these Covid Restrictions.

Woof for now ... Seamus

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Dear all, Thank you all for the latest Blackwood Times, a true community newspaper.

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Perhaps the entrance to town, from Greendale? The concept of Avenues of Honour was created in Ballarat, so it has an historical significance for this area especially.

I hoped that local nurseries could assist with plant stock & volunteers, including myself, could plant out.

Could you put me in contact with the appropriate people to discuss these plans with?

Thanks,

~ Best Lynne Boyd & Peter De Garis, Golden Point, Blackwood

ON LEAD?



When Blackwoofs are walking off-lead with our humans it can be scary for some children, adults, or visitors to Blackwood who don't know us.

A man, called the Council Ranger, told one of our mates that he needs to always be on a lead. We don't want to worry anyone, especially the new people in Blackwood, so we're not going winge if our humans put us on a lead from now on.

• WHOSE TATT'S THAT? •



NO PRIZES for guessing this one.

THE GIRLS' names were originally to sit on either wrist but, considering how busy this mum gets, they may well have worn off. Better anyway that they're together on the arm, swimming in their favourite colours, around and around the infinity sign.

AND THE feather? "Not sure. I have a dreamcatcher on my back. Could be a connection."

NATIVE AMERICANS regard the feather as "a gift from above" and use it as a symbol of honour and strength, wisdom, power and freedom. Sounds good to me.

THE INKING was done by Garry Oates in his home at Dales Creek as his Melton studio is "Closed for Covid".

The Post Office Coffee Shop & Jindarup Store

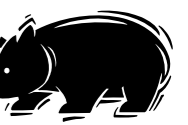


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ANY SYMPTOMS
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It's not over yet.

STAYING APART
KEEPS US TOGETHER

Find out where to get tested visit vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





A message from CFA ACO Garry Cook

More than 90% of Victorians recently surveyed agreed that having a working smoke alarm at home made them feel safe.

But only 1 in 10 households have their smoke alarms in the recommended location, with the remainder putting themselves at risk of serious injury or death.

Are your smoke alarms in the right places? Our latest fire safety advice is that all homes should have smoke alarms installed in each bedroom & living area to give everyone the greatest chance of escaping a fire. For an even greater level of protection, we recommend they be interconnected, which means that if an alarm is activated in one room, all other alarms will also activate. See how interconnected alarms work < <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F35ejH-uUjM>>.

CFA data for the last 10 years shows a quarter of all house fires resulting in death or serious injury started in bedrooms. More than half occurred between the sleeping hours of 8pm & 8am with the majority starting between midnight & 4am.

Most fatalities occur in July & August. So winter is a critical time for you to be aware of the dangers that may be present in your home.

See where your smoke alarms should be installed < <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bY5UTqjGHbc>>. Checking, maintaining & installing smoke alarms is faster & easier than you think.

Sign up to <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/my-cfa> to get more myCFA information.

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

~ Garry Cook, CFA Acting Chief Officer

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

The 2020 MCDLNL Season has been cancelled after the executive decision was made by the League due to the current COVID19 pandemic. We were hopeful that some sort of season would have been able to proceed however with the current climate of the pandemic for the safety of all who are involved & the wider community the decision was made to cancel the season.

While this is very disappointing for the Club & League we need to ensure that the safety of players, members, supporters & the community is the priority during these times. The Club Committee will meet in the next week to discuss the decision & begin planning for the 2021 season.

We hope you all keep safe & well during these times.
GO SAINTS 2021!

LYONVILLE NEWS

We are very lucky to have escaped the reimposition of COVID restrictions in Hepburn Shire & hope life can return to some sort of normality in the not too distant future. As the Council's offices remain closed, it's not so easy to get a newsletter printed so I thought I'd update everyone on a few recent developments.

Cafe de Lyonville is back! Operating every Sunday from 10am to 1pm. We have COVID restrictions in place (you must leave a name & contact number on arrival, use hand sanitisers, & socially distance). But it has been lovely to catch up with neighbours again & sample the delicious coffee & homemade cakes. Our cafe coordinator, Natalie, has done a great job of organising the cafe & volunteer roster, but has recently advised she is unable to continue. If anyone would like to volunteer to take on this role, please get in touch.

Radio Springs Hotel: Don't forget that our favourite local is open again on Thursdays to Sundays serving great food, wines, beers & even locally made spirits.

Community Planning & Charter Group formation: Charter group applications have now closed & it looks like Council received enough applications offering a range of skills to form a successful Charter Group. Recommendations for membership will go to the September council meeting and once ratified, we should be able to commence the community consultation process in earnest.

Community Winter Solstice Lunch postponed: The lunch was scheduled for Sunday 26 July, but with gatherings still limited to 20 people, we have postponed this event. We hope to hold it later in the year if / when restrictions lift.

Wood fired pizza oven at the hall: Council has given provisional approval, subject to health department advice, for us to build an outdoor wood fired pizza oven at the hall. This means that we can now apply for a grant from Bendigo Bank & if successful, can start to build the oven. We are looking forward to the grand opening in the (not too distant!) future.

Garden Club: The Lyonville Garden Club is a group of keen gardeners who meet each month to exchange ideas & visit local gardens. The next meeting is this Sunday 19 July. Meet at the Cafe de Lyonville at 10am for coffee & cake followed by a local garden visit.

Toilet access at the hall: Following vandalism to the disabled toilet, we had been keeping the toilets locked when the hall is not in use. In response to access requests from locals & visitors, the disabled toilet is open again. Please let me know if any damage recurs.

Lyonville Snippets Group Facebook page: Join our FB page to keep up-to-date with all things Lyonville <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1187024134798318/>
That's all for now. Stay safe & well.



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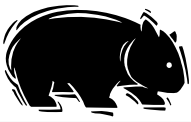
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