

December 2020 January 2021 vol 12 ~ issue 13:4



For all your Christmas plant needs visit Ricky at Country Flowers (Simmons Reef & Skinners Road)
story on p17



EDITOR’S THOUGHTS...

Hello Blackwood & visitors to our wee village,
What an amazingly unexpected year it has been! Who else is looking forward to 2021, mind you have you seen the meme going around? If you thought 2020 was bad, Mad Max is set in 2021!

With restrictions easing & a view to being able to set the office at the hall up for the team to put produce issues together, I’m planning on submitting an application for a grant to the Bendigo Bank for the equipment we need.

I’ve had a taste of what working together might be like with Lisa Moore organising all the emails that come in so when I get to put the issue together everything is beautifully organised into folders ready for input & then Kathy Berrill spent the Sunday after deadline with me, learning the ropes of putting the paper together on a tight deadline. She searched for copyright free images, organised lists of upcoming events ready to insert, she learned how to prepare the photos for both the print & the online issue. She contacted folk to get last minute photos & articles & gently kept me sane. It is going to be marvelous when we can get into the office!

I want to thank everyone who supports the paper through articles, photos, donations & of course our advertisers. I wish you all a fabulous silly season & 2021.

~ Jinny Coyle, 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

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	Jan 15	
Regular Contributors, Features & Items of Interest, Community Groups & Clubs	Jan 15	
Display Ad Artwork		Jan 20
Late breaking News		Jan 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.

theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au

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Merry Christmas

SO MANY REASONS TO CELEBRATE & WE WILL!



Photo of Methodist Church c1950’s (photo courtesy Robyn Zanon)

Much has been happening in the last 3 months as we continue to plan for the reopening of the Uniting Church. Our working group has come up with so many wonderful ideas to celebrate that our reopening is going to be a 2 day event. It will be held over a weekend early in 2021. We will let you know as soon as we can firmly set the date.

It is so exciting to see the transformation of the building & its purpose. So many plans for things to come.

Even the grounds are having a make-over, thanks to the members of Landcare who have cleared the front of feral vegetation & plan to re-introduce indigenous species to the area. Once again we can see the church & grounds from the road, literally allowing the sun to light the area again. Thank you so much Landcare volunteers for your help & support. It is truly appreciated.

This really is further evidence of a robust & connected community where we can support each other for the benefit of everyone.

As we work towards the reopening, we are hoping that we can also get the assistance of some sewers who would help to make bunting for the festival. If you don’t sew you might like to buy some raffle tickets for a patchwork quilt. We are also looking for a fridge & an urn, if you have either that is no longer being used we could certainly put them to good use.

If you would like to be involved or have any questions please give me a ring on 53686792.

~ Robyn Zanon



The church renovations in progress photo Brendan Hehir

IN MEMORIAM OF MICHAEL BRENT ALLEN

(10 November 1944 – 6 October 2020) by Karen Bruno, Genevieve Messenger, Wally & Robyn Zenon, Brian Moore, Patrick Healey.

Mike rode into town on his Harley Davidson about 15 years ago with his studded black leather saddle bags full to the brim with enthusiasm, adventure & laughter. From the moment he arrived, Mike’s focus was on the health & well being of Blackwood & it’s people & that continued on until the very last.

Some of the ways he demonstrated his passion for the Blackwood Community was through his many years of service on the Crown Reserve Committee, The Positive Ageing Committee for Moorabool Council & running Lerdies. & most recently he open-heartedly agreed to be part of a local COVID telephone support group.

Lerdie’s Restaurant was an important source of employment & entertainment for many locals & visitors alike. He introduced music there & organised New Years Eve parties to great success. It got to the point where roads were closed & he hired a big truck for the bands to play on. Even though it rained on the first year, over 200 people were crammed throughout Lerdie’s having the night of their lives.

Mike ran antique fairs, created & judged Junior Masterchef Competitions, helped to develop the general store into an antique & art gallery where many locals displayed their works. He introduced music at Lerdies. His most recent idea was Blackwood Hat Town – where 3 shops sold hats. His plan was for a hat-lead recovery but now he will have to conduct that from above.

But before we were blessed to have this dynamic man in our midst, Mike was leading the way in so many other areas. Mike was a Harley man through & through & persuaded the Harley Davidson bosses to create the very first chapter of the HOGs (Harley Owners Group) outside of the United States. Previous OzHOG President, & now historian, Dave Scott explains: “In 1987, Mike Allen rocked up unannounced at the Harley-Davidson headquarters in Milwaukee & asked to speak to Willie.G. After waiting for some time, Mike & Willie G. had the first of several discussions” which lead to the formation of OzHOG.

Another incredible accomplishment was to do with his vast retail experience & vision for the future. Mike brought Target to Australia for the Myer Group & he also was the decision maker on the location of several retail centres including Chadstone & Highpoint.

There are many stories from Mike’s life that can be told & at this point we will hear from some Blackwood locals about their relationship with the man we called Big Mike. But before we do, we offer our sincerest condolences to Mike’s partner Margaret, whom he loved & cherished & worked so well with, both in business & life. For Margaret his loss will no doubt leave a huge gap for he was such a big-hearted man.

Michael, we miss you.

We miss chatting over the fence & putting the world to rights.

We miss your enthusiasm for the town & your ideas for improvements, Your entrepreneurial skills, your ability to excite others about possibilities & your work & support in getting things done.

We miss seeing the Land Rover of the day coming up the driveway to announce with colourful flags that you were open for business.

We miss your generosity of spirit, your kindness & your friendship.

We miss your presence.

From Wally & Robyn Zanon

It was an honor recently to be the celebrant for Mike’s funeral, sometimes it is sad that in death we learn so much more about a person. I wish I could’ve got to know more sides to Mike. There was so much to him, he was a ‘can do’ guy, nothing was too big to achieve.

I remember he wanted to be a celebrant at one stage, so I sat down with him & took him through the steps. He ended up being a celebrant at a big wedding in Carlton Gardens, & in Mike style he threw caution to the wind & winged it a bit – but got away with it! He just had that knack. I could tell he also had a spiritual side & he encouraged me to read Tarot for the amazing antique fairs he organised in his & Margaret’s garden. He put his own funds into marketing the fairs & people came from everywhere, Blackwood was swarming with people – it was also great fun & people loved to come together. I was also



thrilled to hire their place for my 40th Birthday & Margaret & Mike have always been generous in regard to me walking in their garden or perusing the antiques, walking into the music room or just having a chat.

Mike created an Empire & the whole building & surrounds in Martin St. are so playful & beautiful. Like a big movie set. Mike has left many different legacies & we are lucky to have known him.

From Genevieve Messenger

On the 6-10-2020 Blackwood & Moorabool communities lost a wonderful & caring man. Mike in his time in Blackwood & Moorabool Shire areas attended many seminars & meetings as a consultant &/or participant. In my time as a member & president of the Blackwood Crown Reserve committee of management, Mike was vice president for a considerable time. In that time Mike’s knowledge & calming nature was a huge help to all members of the committee. During my time with Mike as a personal friend for many years, Mike always brightened my day. Mike always had a great saying- “always keep friends close & your enemies closer.”

Our sincere condolences to Margaret & family from Fred & Brian Moore. The Moorabool Shire has lost a wonderful, kind & caring man.

From Brian Moore, past President & member of Blackwood Crown Reserve Committee of Management

I loved how Mike would never lose sight of his goal. He was singularly focused.

He told me the story of a price war he was in once when he was producing milk in South Africa. He was much smaller than the other producer who kept undercutting his milk prices trying to put him out of business. Mike said that eventually we were selling milk below the cost of production & so Mike in his determination gave the milk away for free. He won that battle & continued on successfully after that.

From Patrick Healey

My friendship with Mike began the moment I met him 5 years ago & I am so grateful to have known such a big-hearted & generous man. When I first moved here after a drama in my life, he supported me in so many ways & shared his vast knowledge & experience & sensitivity with me & helped me heal. He was always someone that I could go to for anything & at any time.

Recently we began hatching plans for new businesses & developing existing ones. He was a big supporter of me & my dreams & had been encouraging me to get the food van going for over a year. I am sorry he won’t be here to see it finally launch but Mike, you will always be present in my life with all that you have taught me.

From Karen Bruno





LARAINÉ ELIZABETH RAMSELAAR
(nee Wall) - 1946 – 2020

Laraine was born in Maryborough to Charles Henry & Myrtle Elizabeth Wall (nee Whalebone). Charles was working at the Saxon Sawmill in Tanjil Bren & would see his daughter for the first time, when she was 2 months old. Myrtle & Laraine would live in the bush with Charles until Laraine was 4 years old. The family would move to Moe so that Laraine could attend school & would remain there for the rest of their lives.

Over the years, Laraine & Myrtle would travel to Maryborough & spend time with her grandparents – Alfred Charles & Emma Ann Whalebone (nee Stagg). Charles would go to see his mother (Beatrice Elizabeth Wall nee Stewart) who lived in Blackwood. Charles’s father – William had died in early 1946 before Laraine was born.

In 1963, Laraine started work at the Moe Council, working in different sections becoming a secretary.

Laraine married Johannes (Hans) Ramselaar in 1967 at St. Kieran’s, Moe. They have two children, Andrew & Joanne.

Early 1980’s, both Hans & Laraine started to research their families. Hans passed away in 1986 & Laraine decided to continue researching both sides.

Laraine joined several organizations – Mid Gippsland Family History Society, The Genealogical Society of Victoria, Descendants of Convicts Group, Port Phillip Pioneers Group, Moe & Blackwood Historical Societies as well as many others.

Family history would become a lifetime obsession & dedication which resulted in over 25,000 people in her database. You would be welcomed into the extended family, regardless of what your connection was.

Laraine loved to travel. Over the years, there were many family trips back to Blackwood, Maryborough & surrounding areas plus around Victoria. These were planned around visiting relatives & new found ones.

With Laraine, I had been to Tasmania to visit the Convict Brick Trail for which we both had convict ancestors.

We would attend Family History Conferences, Seminars, Workshops & meetings. Laraine enjoyed catching up with family & friends, whether by phone, email, Facebook or a visit.

Laraine would also travel to New Zealand & back to Tasmania with her daughter, Joanne. These were her favourite destinations.

Locally, she had been a member of the CGOARN group for over 20 years. Laraine thoroughly enjoyed their trips for a day, few days or a week around Victoria. Inverloch was always popular with Laraine & taking George (Joanne’s dog) to the beach.

With a gentle demeanour, you were always greeted with a warm smile on her face. Laraine loved meeting people & having a conversation with them.

After a short illness, Laraine passed away on September 5, 2020 at Latrobe Regional Hospital, in the presence of family. Laraine is survived by Andrew, Joanne & their families.

Everyone was dear to her & family was her life.

~ Karen E Healy



Phaedra’s campaign manager, Knuckles the Dog

INTERVIEW WITH PHAEDRA MORRIS

- candidate for Moorabool Shire Council Election

Despite missing out on the top spot in the Moorabool Shire Council’s Woodlands Ward Election 2020, it’s very impressive that you, a Barrys Reef local & first-time candidate, received almost 31% of the first preference votes.

1. Are you happy with the result?

My main focus has always been starting food support out of the Ballan Community House & I’m working with Council & other care providers through the Shire. Christmas hampers next! So I’m just fine with the result.

2. Do you think Blackwood is in safe hands?

The Council didn’t seem interested in our potential goldmine issues, but the community certainly was. I don’t know our new councillor. We shall have to wait & see.

3. Did you enjoy running?

I found promoting myself excruciating, but driving around the Ward doing flyers was lovely. Just green farms & bush.

4. How did you find campaigning in the Covid environment?

I haven’t campaigned any other way. Writing seemed to be the biggest task. Ads, articles, candidate statement, flyers & Facebook. Trying to reach people through print because you could not see them in person.

5. What have you learnt from the process?

I’ve made some good contacts & council elections can get as nasty as state & federal ones. We kept it nice in Woodlands. I think a lot of us are over self-interested political carry on.

6. How did you find the compulsory training?

That was about an hour working through a website course. No test, just explaining how Council works.

7. Do you have a greater understanding of how local government works?

Yes. It can take hours to get through those council minutes. One councillor told me it was all about horse trading with Bacchus Marsh. Another said it was planning, planning, planning.

8. Do you think you’ll run again in the future? Would you change anything about your campaign?

I have no idea if I would run again, it depends on where I am in 4 years. Knuckles the Dog was the campaign manager, I’ll give the cat a go next time :)

9. What’s next for you?

Might have to go stand in front of those trucks full of PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). I’m sure I won’t be alone.

~ Sophie Guerin

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The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.

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)
July '20	54.2	101.5	-3.4	14.5	9.7	2.6	5.7
Aug '20	119	110.5	-2.4	16.3	9.8	2.2	5.7
Sep '20	79.8	101.4	-3.1	20.9	13.6	3.5	8.4
Oct '20	127.3	92.9	-1.6	25.3	16.3	5.1	10.2

PRIYA’S GOT VISITORS



Denise Bentley and Joan Ash live in Caroline Springs and wanted to come up to Blackwood to meet Priya at the first chance they could after lock down. They told how they loved to find out what adventures she was up too each day and found it a welcome break from all of the doom and gloom of COVID.



It was a very enjoyable, well organised & family-orientated drive-in evening at Greendale! The weather was spectacular. “The Croods” was a great movie, & CERT were very honoured to have been in attendance for the evening. A massive THANKYOU to the event organisers for involving us.

~ Kirsty Vella - CERT responder

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

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

Up to the end of October, we have had 895.7mm which is above the long term average of 834.3mm. This is good news as it reduces the danger of bushfires in the coming months. October 2019 only had 37.5mm & was significantly warmer.

~ Don Owen

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

UPCOMING EVENTS ...

Local Blackwood Events ...

Blackwood Community Christmas Catch-up
Saturday Dec 19, 12:30 - ? at Blackwood Mineral Springs BBQ area
This community event is held each year before Christmas and is a great chance to catch up with your neighbours and usually has a visit from Santa in the fire truck.

Blackwood New Years Day recovery BBQ
Friday Jan 1, 1pm, Blackwood Mineral Springs BBQ area
This community event is held each year as a day to recover from the night before.

Wednesday Dec 9, 2020 6-7pm
Online community session 4: AEMO (Australian Energy Market Operator) explains RiT-T (Regulatory investment test for transmission) and findings. This community session will address common community questions regarding the initial assessments behind the WVTNP (Western Victoria Transmission Network Project) including
What is the RiT-T process and how was it done for the WVTNP?
What were the findings? How/what alternatives were considered?

Monday Nov30, 9am - Friday Dec 25 23:45
It’s the most wonderful time of the year – Christmas in Moorabool Shire. Celebrate the festive season by taking part in Moorabools Christmas activities.
Visit our 4 giant Christmas trees in the main streets of Bacchus Marsh, Ballan, Gordon and Blackwood. Take a photo and post to social media using #ChristmasinMoorabool - Village Green, Bacchus Marsh | McLean Reserve, Ballan | The front of Gordon Public Hall | Blackwood Town Square

Jan 1, 2021,10:30 - 5:00 Glenlyon New Years Sports Day
The Glenlyon Sports Day has been going for over 160 years – come and be part of the tradition!
Old time sports day with a local twist – including the unique World Mineral Water Drinking competition and World Bull Boar Eating competition – always fun to watch (if not join in). Other traditional sports day competitions include wood chopping, gum boot throwing, nail driving competition, horse events and children’s running races.

Vicswim School Holiday Program
Bookings are now open for the school holiday learn to swim program, 30 minute lessons will be held Monday - Friday over 3 weeks in January
Week 1: January 4-8 | Week 2: January 11-15
Week 3: January 18-22 Check Vicswim.com.au to find your closest pool and make a booking.



• COMMUNITY UPDATES • COMMUNITY UPDATES •

Blackwood Crown Reserves CoM

The Crown Reserves Committee of Management would like to acknowledge David White & the past 6 years of tireless work he has given to the community.

David has had a bit of a health scare over the last few months & it is for this reason he has decided to step down as Chairperson of Crown Reserves. David, we would like to wish you all the best for the future. David is still very passionate about Blackwood & is willing to assist in any matters moving forward.

Our new managers, Phil & Amanda Porter, are making inroads into new initiatives for the caravan park & surrounding areas. Hopefully with Covid-19 slowing we will all get back to a more normal way of life.

With the membership of the Crown Reserves Committee down to 4 people, it is a constant struggle to keep ahead with all the duties & tasks involved. Our membership category stated by DELWP should be a minimum of 7. We urge people in the community to come on board & get behind Crown Reserves, working together with the various community groups we can improve our town.

~ **Bruce Butler** Committee Member

Blackwood CFA

As Spring is in full swing & Summer is just around the corner, it is time to inspect your blocks & make sure your grass is kept mowed & that you inspect all of your property for anything that may be a fire hazard. Please make sure you have finished any cleaning up required.

It is also that time to check your smoke detector battery & replace it, as well as checking the manufacture date on the label under the unit. If it is 10 years old or more it may need replacing.

Already we have had two calls to burn-offs that have caused a problem for the people working them & requiring brigade assistance.

Check the following web sites for fire restrictions in the Moorabool Shire area.

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/restrictions-during-the-fire-danger-period> or <https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/news/prepare-your-property-upcoming-fire-season>

What firefighting equipment do you have close at hand in the house & on the property?

Stove fires are a common source of fire, in the event of a pot or pan catching fire in the kitchen, call 000, remove the source of the ignition, for example, turn off the gas at the stove, IF IT IS SAFE TO DO SO. Place a fire blanket over the fire, if you don't have one, a towel will work, a damp one is preferable.

THE FIRST PRIORITY IS YOUR SAFETY

Always ring 000 in the case of an emergency, even if you do put the fire out, it is better to have us responding than to wait until it is too late.

Are fire trucks able to access your property?

Take a walk around your property & make sure that the brigade can access it easily in the event of an incident. Low-hanging branches & gate widths are something to consider. If in doubt, contact the brigade & we can take a drive to your property & see if the trucks will fit.

For more info contact the station on 53686526 on Sunday mornings over the summer period & the first Sunday of every month during the rest of the year, as we are there for training & equipment checks.

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.

Have you got your Fire Plan ready? Keep an eye on the weather forecasts. Make sure your friends & family know your plan & even the triggers that put it into action. Please remember that the Refuge is a last resort measure & that you should have your Fire Plan in place.

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

DO NOT USE FACEBOOK IF YOU ARE REPORTING AN EMERGENCY... ALWAYS RING 000

~ **Karl Church**, Blackwood Brigade

Blackwood CERT

2020 has been a year with a difference for everyone, including Blackwood CERT.

In summary:

- Huge "Thank you" to all out-going Members of the Committee of Management for their hard work & support over the last year & over many past years.

- Team's call out rates have been down, but increasing now with Victoria opening up.

- New Members are always welcome to join our Team. Call 0438 797 007.

- Huge "congrats" to Marie-Clare Blin on 5 years of service with Blackwood CERT & our community.

- Thank you to Greendale Dales Creek Social Club for inviting us to take part in last Friday's "Drive in" movie night.

- We're looking forward to more community events, now that we are all out of lockdown!

~ **Leonie Brassier**, co-team-leader

Blackwood Landcare

Blackwood & Barrys Reef Landcare Group held its AGM on October 11 & Diana Dawson is now President, Brett Bond is Treasurer & Shane Scanlan continues as our hard-working Secretary.

Donna Zabinskas from BADGAR Wildlife Rescue gave a fantastic presentation at the AGM with instructions on how to give first response to injured wildlife. Having a box in the boot with gloves, blankets, spray paint (for marking a deceased animal that has been checked) & putting BADGAR's phone number in your phone, are easy steps to assist. The phone number is 1300 223 427.

Speaking of wildlife & phones, these apps are easy to use & a great way to record sightings in the area:

- WomSAT (www.womsat.org.au) for wombat sightings, alive,

- dead & mange infected.

- FeralScan (www.feralscan.org.au) for those pesky pests, rabbits,

- deer, foxes, goats, etc.

- EchidnaCSI (www.facebook.com/EchidnaCSI) for, you guessed it, echidnas.

If you know of other wildlife apps let us know!

An exciting project that Landcare is coordinating is the revitalisation around the Uniting Church grounds as part of the Town Square project. This involves weeding & replanting with local native plants. First working bee was held on November 14. Thanks to everyone involved.

With Christmas approaching, 'tis the time to pull out holly! The red berries of autumn will be sprouting with the warmer weather & rain, so are easy to pull out. Unfortunately, the berries get spread into the bush by birds. If you spot a larger holly bush, please take a photo, note the location & send to admin@blackwoodlandcare.org.au. If you don't think holly is a problem weed, read about how bad it has become in the Blue Mountains behind Sydney: "The Blue Mountains City Council has been targeting English Holly at over 180 Council managed sites on public land, throughout the Blue Mountains, since July 2017. They have also been asking landholders to remove this weed from private lands. The weed is prolific in the upper mountains". It would be horrible to have that happen here!

The next Landcare meeting is Sunday, December 6, from 5pm. Contact admin@blackwoodlandcare.org.au for more info or have a chat to Shane. Don't forget the Landcare mulcher/chipper is available for hire for all those summer garden prunings. Keep in the loop via facebook.com.au/blackwoodlandcare.

~ **Diana Dawson**, President

Blackwood Progress Association

2020 AGM is to be held Dec 7, 7.30pm at the dining room of the hall.

All welcome, committee nominations. You are welcome to come on board.

~ **Brendan Hehir** (Pres.)

Blackwood Seniors

Hi everyone. We are still waiting for an answer from the council as to when we can go back. We are hoping for the 2nd Wednesday in January but not looking good so far.

Thank you for keeping in touch during the year & hope to have a better 2021.

~ **Regards Dianne Volpe**

Blackwood Catholic Church

As new easing of Covid restrictions are expected from the Premier, new diocesan directives will be issued. So at the time of this edition going to print, we are unable to advise when Catholic Church Mass will recommence. Once decisions have been made, a sign will go up on the church gate, on Facebook, & on the Blackwood Community Noticeboard page. So stay tuned & stay well.

~ **Karen Bruno**

Blackwood Uniting Church

see article p2

This issue we have no reports from the Blackwood Historical Society, or Blackwood CERT CoM (see p13 for out-going president's report).

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.

Thoughts on living in Blackwood

Been in Blackwood going on 5 years on December 15, 2020.

My dog Ralph is 10 months old (a Kelpie Heeler Cross) has met this wicked chick that just moved in named Kia who he adores so much ... she even sneaks out to come see him.

CFA hat on ... if you're burning off, please never leave your fire untended as we don't need to come out unnecessarily as we do have lives of our own.

Blackwood Motorcycle Club is hoping to have its first ride in December (probably the 20th) but please keep an eye out on our Facebook page for more details - Blackwood Motorcycle Club.

Landcare has a chipper that can be hired out for \$30 to members (\$10 membership) which is better than burning off & better for your garden.

Blackwood Progress Association requires new members & ideas so please place your hand up. Review on FB for more info.

Please keep an eye on your neighbours & friends, and on any unknown people as we want to keep safe & also protect our possessions.

Hoping to do a **Christmas catch-up** down at the Mineral Springs, like last year, for anyone in town to attend. So keep an eye out on the Blackwood Community FB page.

Last of all ... please think of others & remember everyone doesn't think how you do.

To finish off ... Merry Christmas all & Happy New year.

~ **Brett Bond**



BOCCE BOWLERS

Hello fellow Blackwoodians,

Isn't it wonderful to be able to see family & friends after all this time.

We invite anyone who wants to have a laugh, get mild exercise and have a social coffee afterwards to join us at 10am Sunday mornings down at Blackwood oval.

We have a relaxed and supportive recreational approach and love introducing people to this very simple but very fun game.

Maybe see you there!

~ **Stephanie Kondos**



DO YOU KNOW?

No Wombat Gold are a group of citizens concerned about the renewal of commercial gold mining in the Wombat State Forest area. To get involved or receive further information please contact nowombatgold@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/nowombatgold. Locally-made protest signs have been popping up around the area. If you'd like your own sign please visit: <https://dazzlingdecals.com.au/product/nowombatgold/>

~ **Sophie Guerin**

STILL GROWING THE TEAM



The Blackwood Times' is looking for someone who can put together events & gigs each issue.

No special skills required, we'll train you & you can put in as much or little time as you have to spare.

Many hands make light work so the saying goes, if you can spare some time please email editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au.

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The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.



Victoria, you know fire.

Victoria was hit hard in the 2019-20 fire season. The 2020-21 season is coming and you know as well as anyone how important it is to plan and prepare. Ensure your home is fire ready, ensure your family knows your plan, and be ready to leave early.

How well do you know fire?

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to vic.gov.au/knowfire

VICTORIA
State Government

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

ADVOCACY SUPPORT

Advocacy support for Disability Royal Commission is now available in Regional Victoria, which includes regions such as Bendigo, Geelong, Horsham, Mildura, Shepparton & surrounding areas.

People with disability living in these locations & have experienced violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation, can now access free & independent advocacy support.

Around 4.4 million Australians have a disability, & research shows that they are more likely to experience violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation than people without disability.

The Rights Information & Advocacy Centre (RIAC) is one of 50 providers to receive additional funding from the Australian Government to provide individual advocacy support to help people engage with the Disability Royal Commission.

Karryn Goode, RIAC CEO, states that RIAC helps to protect the rights & interests of people with disability, & support people to speak up:

“Advocates are supporting an increasing number of people with disability & their representatives since the Disability Royal Commission kicked off in 2019. Advocates can help people to make a submission to the Disability Royal Commission, arrange accessible supports such as interpreters, & connect people to services such as legal, counselling, financial & other supports. Advocates are also available to support people with disability to make decisions about engaging with the Disability Royal Commission.”

For advocacy support, contact RIAC on (03) 5222 5499 between 9am & 5pm Monday to Friday (AEST).

People can also contact the National Counselling & Referral Service on 1800 421 468 9am to 6pm (AEST) weekdays & 9am to 5pm (AEST) weekends & national public holidays.

People who are deaf, have a hearing or speech impairment can contact RIAC through the National Relay Service on 133 677.

RIAC can arrange free translations & interpreting for people who need help in another language.

For more information, visit our Website at <https://riac.org.au>

People can visit the Department of Social Services’ website for captioned videos, Easy Read & Auslan resources, & a full list of organisations providing counselling, advocacy, legal & financial supports for the Disability Royal Commission.

Confidentiality

RIAC also understands that there are people with disabilities who are reluctant to share their stories due to fear that their names & personal details will be published & the retribution that may follow.

RIAC wish to assure everyone that it treats confidentiality with utmost importance. We are legally bound to protect your privacy. We will not share any of your confidential information with anyone else unless you give us specific & expressed instructions to do so.

If you are currently experiencing any form of violence or abuse, or you are concerned for your or someone else’s safety, please call 000 immediately.

Counselling Services

Free, independent counselling is available for people with disability who have experienced violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation; & anyone affected by the Disability Royal Commission. Call the National Counselling & Referral Service on 1800 421 468, 9am–6pm weekdays & 9am–5pm weekends & national public holidays or ask to be connected to a counsellor advocate near you.

For more information, including a copy of media guidelines, please visit www.dss.gov.au/disability-royal-commission-support

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MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

It is often said that if you want something done you should ask a busy person & in a small town like Blackwood this especially rings true over the past month.

Twenty or so locals made a great start on cleaning up around the Uniting Church while a group of locals with the blessing of the Crown Reserves committee have undertaken the task of tidying up the playground behind the hall.

As we move out of restrictions the village is ready for a great summer season.



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THE HISTORY OF BEN TREWHELLA, PIONEER OF BLACKWOOD.



Compiled by Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society. November 2020 ©

Benjamin Trehwella was an early Pioneer & gold miner in Blackwood. Edward & John Hill arrived in Australia with Isaac Povey & Ben Trehwella in 1854. The large mining village at Barrys Reef was later surveyed as Bayup.

The chief reefs were Barrys Reef, & Trehwella’s Reef opened about 2 miles N.W. of Blackwood in 1858. The prospectors of Trehwella’s Reef were brothers, Benjamin, John, Matthew & Christopher Trehwella & Tobias Uren. Ben Trehwella Sen. had pegged out the ‘Lucky Hit’ mine in 1862 on the Yankee Reef & a seam of gold was found just below the surface.

The success of the Trehwella Brothers brought other prospectors to work & in 1868 Messrs. Harris & Fitzgerald, on the Trehwella line further north discovered this reef line which was called ‘Eureka’ Reef. They worked the claim as a private party & had several crushings yielding 3 ounces to the ton. Messrs. Harris & Fitzgerald sold their claim to the public company called the Sultan Mining Company which consisted of 2,500 shares at £5 each.

The Trehwella Brothers have been the most successful quartz miners on Blackwood, & as they were the discoverers of the Sultan line of reef, which afterwards became famous for its richness, a few particulars concerning their career may be worth recording. Benjamin, John, Christopher & Matthew Trehwella, in travelling to & from Simmons Reef to Blue Mount, north of Blackwood, in 1866, usually passed the Kyneton Gully (now called Split Tree) where there were alluvial workings.

They picked up some angular quartz showing gold, & they came to the conclusion that a gold-bearing vein must be near at hand, but as only 24 feet on the line of reef was allowed to be taken up under the mining bye-laws by any one co-operative party (no matter how many members it consisted of) they determined to keep their own counsel until a larger area should be obtainable. Accordingly, in 1867, when the bye-laws were altered so as to allow each miner 20 feet on the line of reef, the Trehwella’s pegged off a claim about half a mile from the old Barrys Reef (now Egerton Company) to the west & applied for a prospecting grant of an extended area. Their application was opposed by Candage & party, but the warden, (then, as now, Mr. Charles Shuter), having visited the ground in dispute, awarded the Trehwella Brothers 160 feet on the assumed line of reef. They immediately set to work, & soon came on a small quartz reef, which was thin & poor at

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Hello
What a year it has been. One we can reflect on with some uncertainty as to where it all could end.
With many inconsistencies & variables changing from week to week, leaving one not sure what can be done & what can’t be done.
But Blackwood Post Office has been the one constant we can be sure is always there.
Whether you are picking mail, the paper, your parcels or just want to say ‘Hello’ & grab a coffee, there has been a smiling friendly face to greet us.
So to Carol & her team, from all of us, a big ‘Thank you’, just for being there.
Merry Christmas & hopefully a better year ahead.

~ Sandy

first, but afterwards widened to 2 feet, showing good gold.
They sank till 90 feet was reached, & then put up a rude battery, which was driven by water power. A road 3/4 of a mile in length was cut from the mine to the battery, & soon crushing began, the first quartz treated yielded 2ozs per ton. The brothers continued to work the ground, meeting with great success until the claim was swamped with water. Operations were then suspended for a time, but were subsequently resumed, when the tunnel was extended. In doing this, what was afterwards known as the Trehwella Western Reef was crossed. Messrs. Trehwella continued to work for about 2 years after this, during which time, they cleared about £1,200 (\$2,400) per man, but finding it would be necessary to erect pumping machinery they decided to sell out, & Messrs. Mounter & Company became proprietors of the mine.



An article in the - Bacchus Marsh Express, Saturday November 15, 1902, states - BLACKWOOD. By the death of Mr. Benjamin Trehwella, J.P., of Blue Mountain, the district loses one of its oldest identities & honored residents. Deceased was in his usual health on Thursday, 6th inst., but during the night he was taken ill, & expired almost immediately from heart failure. Mr. Trehwella was born in the parish of Lidgvin, Cornwall, in 1827, & was therefore 75 years of age at the time of his demise. He arrived in Victoria in 1854, & in company with his brother, Christopher, went to Forest Creek. From there he tried his luck at the Avoca & Creswick fields, with varying success, eventually arriving at Simmons’ Reef in 1855, where he started to mine in what is now Mr. B. Hosking’s lower garden. He also opened up various points between Red Hill & Simmons’ Reef, being now joined by his brothers John & Matthew. They opened up a rich lode at Barry’s Reef (known now in the Sultana lease as Mounter’s.) Here

they discovered some exceedingly rich stone, each of the brothers realising a competency. At this time he selected his farm at Blue Mt., where he has since resided. Photo of Ben Trehwella Blackwood. © Courtesy 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.

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



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SHAWS LAKE

At a meeting of a group of Miners working in the Yankee Gully area a contract for the building of a large dam was awarded to a Mr Shaw & his 2 sons. The dam was to serve miners sluicing in the area which was too high up the mountain for the Lerdederger River to be of any use. The Shaws were awarded the contract as they were known to be strong men & good hard workers & so the taciturn Father Shaw & sons set up camp on the mount & started operations. Their only tools being picks, shovels & barrows, & their task was an immense one as the dam was to be 250ft long, 150ft wide, 3-ft-deep at the shallow end & sloping to 12 ft deep at the other.

The Shaw brothers took it in turns to walk into Blackwood town on Friday evenings or Saturday mornings for their meagre supplies & to pick up their mail (if any) & the weeks leftover newspapers, which for most of the miners was the only form of literature they had.

It was Jim Shaw’s turn to be in Blackwood one Saturday morning, & after securing the weeks food supplies for his father, brother & himself he awaited the arrival of the coach from Melbourne. The coach was a strong caravan drawn by 3 horses, as the roads – once of the main highway – were rough & steep as the snaked over the heavily-wooded ranges of the Blackwood Forest.

The Blackwood Ranges were so named because of an unusually high proportion of the beautiful Blackwood trees, jealously but hopelessly trying to crowd out the fast-growing gums of all varieties that claim most of Australian forests.

After the unloading of the coach at the store opposite the Blackwood Pub, Jim asked the coach driver for a ‘lift’ down to the Royal Mail Hotel about a mile down the hill east from the Blackwood town, after a assenting smile & “hop in Jim” the coach moved off as Jim clambered inside to be confronted by two very pretty ladies who readily smiled & introduced themselves as “Amy & Bedilia”. “Bedilia is my daughter” explained the older lady & we are going down to the Royal Mail Hotel to stay for a few days.

As Jim gallantly helped the ladies from the coach his avid smile to Bedilia was warmly reciprocated & Jim thought he never seen anything as beautiful as this young woman. Jim & some of the men standing by eagerly came forward to help the women & their luggage into the hotel. A few days later a small house was found for them by the gallant women-starved miners.

The Royal Mail Hotel was an imposing wooden structure built on the corner of a deep gully & it boasted a few small bedrooms & a dance hall next door. Jim & his brother commenced attending the Saturday night dances more regularly & enjoyed a romp to the music of an accordion. These dances were well patronized as they were the only social functions held in this area of miner’s cabins, rough shacks & a few more pretentious cottages built by some of the “diggers” who had struck it rich, as the saying goes.

Jim became infatuated with the younger woman & he & Bedilia often took a walk together on Sunday afternoons, Jim proudly taking her up to show her how the big dam was progressing, then taking her hand they would continue their stroll through the woods happily. On the afternoon he courageously took Bedilia in his arms & kissed her he was astonished by the avidity of her response, & was somewhat shocked, having expected a more gradual development of their love making, however he had a lovely young woman in his arms, the afternoon was warm, the forest was quiet, the wind was still & even the birds ceased to sing as they lay together on a leafy bed.

The rumours that these women were no good did not reach Jim’s ears & he looked forward to his Sundays with Bedilia as during the week days it was hard work all day, hard sleep all night in preparation for work the next day. The Saturday nights at the Pub & the Dance were about the only social occasions these hard-working miners enjoyed. One night when the dance ended & the women departed, the accordion player & some of the boys came into the bar for a few goodnight beers. Jim, standing at the bar with his brother, neither being loquacious types, listened more than they talked & the group of men standing next to them were talking of the 2 women newly come to the district Jim overheard one of the men say ‘ They are only a couple of whores”, in a flash Jim flattened the speaker & the surprised group were ready to attack, but hesitant as Jim & his brother are ready



Historical swimming at Shaws Lake in Blackwood, circa 1920-1954, sourced from the State Library of Victoria | Rose Stereograph Co (1920)

for them & had a reputation of being good with their fists & quick with their guns. The fellow who was hit is helped to his feet by his pals, rubbed his sore chin, glowered at Jim, thinks better of any more remarks & goes on drinking with his mates.

Jim recalled seeing a couple of men sitting on a log smoking their pipes, one dark night, at the back of the girl’s house when he had walked her home but hesitated to accept the ugly rumours, particularly about Bedilia. His temper rises as he slammed his glass on the bar & commands the fellow who made the unfortunate remark to come with him & he will prove him wrong.

They leave the hotel & walk through the darkness to the women’s cottage, they go in the back way & enter the kitchen dimly lit by a flickering kerosene lamp & see 3 men sitting drinking wine with the alleged mother. As they enter the kitchen a bedroom door opens & the young woman, Bedilia, emerges in a negligée followed by a half-dressed man, Jim reels as though stunned, slowly recovers his wits & orders the men to leave immediately.

May says, looking fearfully at Jim’s glowering face ‘Well, what do you expect? How do you think we can live here there’s no work here for us & we’ve got to eat”?

Jim draws his gun & tells the women, ‘The coach leaves here at 11 tomorrow morning, see that you 2 are on it otherwise there are 3 bullets here. One for you, another for you & the 3rd for me”.

The women were on the coach the next morning. Jim, never very talkative became more taciturn than ever, he didn’t notice the sympathetic glances as he broodily walked the streets. Jim never married. Shaw’s Lake remains a monument to the name of Shaw, a father & his 2 stalwart sons, & is now a beauty spot for people on holidays, an ideal swimming pool & picnic area & its deep quiet waters are a home for good size trout & Blackfish.

This it the last of the stories 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.”



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BIG CANOPY CAMPOUT

On the October 17, the ‘Big Canopy Campout’ visited our wonderful Wombat State Forest. Socially-distanced tree huggers, regional campers & Blackwood locals alike got together for this annual event.

The BCC is a worldwide event that occurred in over 140 locations this year, where people are encouraged to camp out in native forests together in solidarity, while celebrating the wonderful natural habitats, enjoying the sights & sounds of the forest & highlighting the various issues that hinder the preservation of these beautiful spaces. Covid made it a little bit difficult, but by keeping numbers low & getting together in shifts a great time was able to be had by everyone.

The idea is that campers actually sleep all the way up in the tree canopy. There was one tent pitched 25 metres up a tree although most campers at the Wombat Forest location opted to sleep more comfortably on the forest floor.

There was a Webinar, which allowed comrades from metro Melbourne to be included in a Zoom chat where each canopy campout location was able to communicate with each other showcasing the specific beautiful area they were camping in & explaining a little bit about its habitat. The Zoom call crossed to many locations across Australia & even crossed to Big Canopy Campers up trees in Europe!

The Wombat State Forest was chosen because of its unique habitat. Not just the home of Wombats, there are also some extremely special fauna living in the area which are classified as threatened species, such as the Greater Glider & the Powerful Owl.

Some members of the local group ‘No Wombat Gold’ also attended the campout as they also wish to see no more harm come to the natural habitat that is called The Wombat State Forest. Many locals have recently become concerned as there has been exploration / mining licences granted in the area & mining companies have started test drilling.

The campers, who happened to be quite handy with ropes, set up a giant swing where visitors were able to jump into a harness, & swing through the canopy. The swing would have been the highlight of the evening if it were not for the amazing Giant Golden Curry cooked in a cast iron pot over the campfire. Fun was had by all involved, stay tuned for next year’s campout!

~ by Daniel Barrett, music teacher



NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BLACKWOOD CERT TEAM

The CERT CoM AGM in November saw the end of just over 4 years of my involvement with the Blackwood & District CERT Committee of Management.

In 2015, just prior to my involvement, the committee decided in 2015 to remain incorporated until, in the words of the committee, the CERT shed “was sorted”. (Mins 2014)

I was invited to join the committee to broaden community representation & to alleviate the load on responders. At the time, Ivan Johnston was team leader & Leonie Brasier was stepping down as President.

Since 2016, in my role as president, I’ve led the growth of a community committee which has consisted of responders & non-responders.

The successes of the committee since 2016, include:

- A recruitment campaign resulting in a full room of interested people, & 4 new continuing team members
- A fundraising campaign, regularly drawing on non-responders & using an evidence-based system for innovation – donation jars, raffles, co-ordinating market events, a whole town garage sale & sausage-sizzles at events. Each event has been coupled with positive health awareness messages, & awareness of what CERT does
- The committee has supported the team through the provision of lunch at functions, & funding all equipment requests including the installation of storage cupboards, signage, security & safety lighting at the hall, etc.
- We have implemented communication systems, including a PO box, domain name, domain-based emails & cloud data storage
- We have developed a social media policy & raised awareness of CERT in the community
- We have developed a “Friends of CERT” register of local people with a range of skills who we have been able to draw from as required
- We have ensured good governance, running a high-functioning committee in accordance with our model rules
- We have grown our internal funds from an annual loss to close to \$25,000 - & can boast excellent financial & data management

In 2016 the pressing issue was to secure a site & oversee the likelihood of funding for the development of a shed for the vehicle. We set up a working group to focus on the shed location who would report back to the committee. This was shortly after the collapse of the Telstra site arrangements & the committee saw the need to step cautiously, given the unclear paper trail which had left the committee exposed after the Telstra site collapsed. There was no central repository for documents, including plans, & much of the relevant communication was by email to personal addresses. The committee saw the need to



MELBOURNE ARTIST Jessierose Streker fell in love with Blackwood when she exhibited at one of Carlson & Scott O’Hara’s shows at the Uniting Church Hall in 2017. She was inspired to paint the Blackwood Pub while missing the countryside during lockdown in 2020. Sophie Guerin of Barrys Reef was lucky enough to receive this beautiful painting for her birthday.

identify & prioritise potential sites based on likelihood.

The committee facilitated a walk-around of potential sites & a session to refine our collective thinking. As a committee, we decided to pursue the United Church site, given the high likelihood of approval, & the ability to access funding to mitigate any site issues (drainage). A report was tabled to the committee identifying risks & mitigation for all sites & negotiations began with the United Church, resulting in a firm offer of a lease in November last year.

In December, the new team leaders notified the committee that the location & building for the shed/station was seen by AV to be operational & therefore not the domain of the Committee of Management. Soon after we were informed that AV had taken a keen interest in the location of the vehicle, & had deemed the site the committee had been offered as unsuitable.

The committee voted in mid 2020 to move to an auxiliary, as there was no longer a functional role in the managing of the site for the car. The need to access grants & to support the team more broadly was to be returned to the team & to an auxiliary.

It is with pride & sadness that I say goodbye to the out-going committee. It has been a source of community strength and, in recent years especially, regarded as a well-run & organised community asset (ref: CEMP community assets register 2016).

The challenge has always been how to manage the various stakeholder relationships. AV, the Team & the Committee leadership often have different expectations & priorities. While we were focused on the shed site we all shared a common goal.

The need for individual contribution to be valued & seen as valuable is never greater than for volunteers in a committee with a central cause. The COVID pandemic aside, this has been missing since the revelation that the central cause is no longer relevant work for the committee. The non-responders committee members have chosen not to move across to the auxiliary in the belief that more direct line of communication between the team & AV is advantageous as the committee transitions to an auxiliary.

The committee remains a success, in that has thrived well into 5 years after the decision to remain. It has built on the skills of the many wonderful people involved.

The responders are now much better supported by AV & our non-responding members will continue to support our community in other ways.

Either way the community is a better & healthier place to live in.

~ Jinny Coyle (out-going CoM President)

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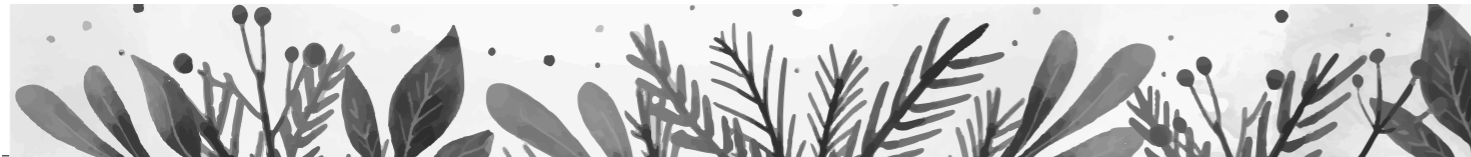
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2020 CNAV CONFERENCE

"Community newspapers are the voice of the community" <https://cnav.org.au/about-us/>

CNAV (Community Newspapers Association of Victoria) was established in 2005. It is open to any community newspaper in Victoria. A community newspaper is defined as 'one that is owned by its community'. Community newspapers have a very strong culture of volunteerism.

The Blackwood News joined in 2008 and has been honoured to win a number of awards at their annual conferences.

The 2020 conference was held over one day in November. I was particularly interested in the afternoon presentation which discussed the historical significance of community newspapers.

Did you know that The Times' predecessor the Blackwood Newsletter was first published exactly 27 years ago by Robina Brown?

Seen to the right, it was hand-typed & photocopied for the first 48 issues before it was computerised.



WINNER: BEST PHOTOGRAPH

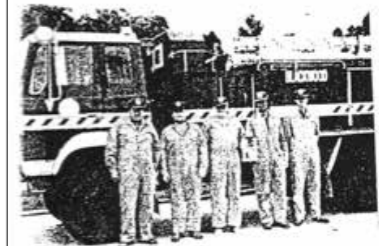
Judge's speech "This year's winner is the Blackwood Times photograph 'Sending Lots of Love'. Let's face it the health, economic & social reach of COVID-19 has made 2020 a tough year for so many people, but this photo of young Ollie sitting on the verandah looking up at the love hearts that he's made strikes a genuine note of optimism. It reminds us to focus on the positive, tight framing, really well-considered arrangement of all the elements within the frame, including an almost symbolically empty couch, & the flash of colour in the hearts, in what's an otherwise subdued pallet of colour, makes this a really memorable image of its time & that's why it's the winner of this year best photograph award, congratulations. Congratulations to all entrants for some great work.

Jinny's response: It's not me who needs to be congratulated it's the mother of that beautiful young boy Ollie. COVID was really difficult to put together issues as I am sure everybody understands. In that particular issue we had no idea what we were going to put on the front page because there had been no events in Blackwood. Somebody mentioned a beautiful photo of Ollie at the front of his house, they had done a painting session. His mother sent it & it just screamed front page. So thank-you, Ollie is going to be beside himself to hear his mum's photo is a winner.

See the award presentations at <https://bit.ly/2020CNAVawards>

Blackwood NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1992-JANUARY 1993 ISSUE



ACTIVITY DAY

Ballan Community House are running an activity day at the Blackwood Hall on Thursday 14th January 1993. There will be:

Plaster Fun House. 10am-12noon.
Cost \$2.50 to \$5.00.
Badge Making. 10am-12noon.
Cost \$1.50 per badge.
Life Be in It Games. 1pm-4pm.
Cost \$3.00.

For enquiries ring Ballan Community House on 681934. It will be an answering machine so leave a message and they will get back to you.

TEAM EFFORT

The Fiskville Cup is an annual inter Ballan group of Fire Brigade exercises, consisting of a number of assignments. The Brigade who scores the most points holds the perpetual trophy.

There is also a perpetual trophy for the best presented Tanker with special regard to crew safety. The Blackwood crew won with a maximum score, the latter trophy and performed well in the Fiskville Cup. It is several years since the Brigade won a trophy and this was an excellent result.

CONGRATULATIONS to the team who won the trophy.

From the left are, Peter Brown, Ian Witmitz, Captain George Stockdale, Ken Whiffin and Heath Stretton.

EASTERN HILL TRIP

The Cobb & CO Hotel Sports & Social Club are organizing a visit to Eastern Hill Fire Station on Friday 22nd January 1993. There will be a bus supplied by the Social Club. If any families are interested please contact, Jan Salmon on 686655 or Sue De Jong on 686648 as soon as possible.

CHEERS TO OUR LOCAL HEROES

To the locals who cleared the broom from View Crescent.
To the 20 or so folk who help landcare clear the church grounds.
To the people who pick up litter on their daily walks.
To those who have been cleaning up the hall playground.
To everyone who volunteers their time & skills in our village.
To the people who mow public spaces & clean up park benches.
Thank you.

You are the heart of this town & we see you!

~ Jinny Coyle

THE FACELESS MEN & WOMEN by Max Walker

Hallam has rapidly grown from a sleepy, peaceful country residential estate to a thriving development area. No matter how nostalgic we are of the early days when everyone knew each other & a new house was a cause of great excitement & interest, the fact remains that houses are now so numerous & population so increased that a vast majority of our community is faceless & nameless. Over against this factor we have the same committees endeavouring to supply the needs of the now vastly expanded communities. This is not feasible. To make this community really swin & to provide facilities that are adequate for now & the future we need the assistance of the faceless men & women. If every citizen spent an hour a week on community work we would undoubtedly have the best community in the state. Let the aim of every committee be community involvement.

from Hallam News, March 1971, issue 6

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PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS



Woof! In this month's edition I would like to continue to discuss different breeds of dogs & suitability for your family.

The Maltese Terrier is ranked as one of the most popular breeds in Australia. It is one of the most ancient of the 'toy breed' dogs, tracing back at least 2 millennia. No-one's 100% sure where the Maltese originated from, but there are a couple of theories. Many people believe this pooch originated in Malta, just like the name – which makes sense, doesn't it? Or perhaps, Melita, a town in Sicily. Both theories have been investigated & have some factual evidence behind them, but no-one can know for sure. What we do know is that their roots trace back to the Mediterranean area. It's also believed that the Maltese dog was worshipped by the Ancient Egyptians. They believed they had the power of healing.

Little big softies: Although the Maltese dog is gentle, playful & small, don't underestimate their size. They know how to stand up for themselves if they feel a threat. But mostly they're just big softies. Believe it or not, they actually make pretty good watchdogs, giving the impression of being fierce to ward off strangers. Once they know a person is not a threat, they will jump up & lick them. They may like to play the tough guy act initially, but their real temperament will reveal itself soon enough.



Appearance: The Maltese is a small, hardy dog with silky hair. Their average height is 21-25cms & they weigh between 3kg & 4kg. It's often referred to as a 'toy breed' because they're so small. Their coat is pure white, although some might have a touch of lemon. Their fur is naturally soft, silky & has a slight wave to it. They have a long tail which is held over the back with a graceful curve. Their ears fall very close to their face & can often blend in with their coat. Their appearance can change significantly depending on how you style their fur, & there's often a lot of it

Suitability: The spirited Maltese is trusting & devoted to its family. Don't over-pamper these little dogs as they could develop small dog syndrome where they can display behaviours such as acting timid, wilful, demanding or obsessive barking. Unlike some bigger dog breeds, Maltese don't really need a backyard, & are happy to live indoors. They still like a good walk, but don't require as much exercise as some bigger dogs. They love to play with toys, bounce about the place, or even just sit on the couch & watch a movie with you. .

Health & Wellbeing: One of the main health issues with a Maltese is their teeth. They tend to get a build up of plaque & hence tartar on their teeth. Brushing their teeth daily is the best way of reducing plaque buildup. Some other common health issues Maltese may encounter include Heart Disease, Cushing's Disease, Luxating Patella & Hypothyroidism. Regular trips to the vet & a well-balanced lifestyle should minimise these risks.

Grooming: Because Maltese are known for their performance in the show ring, grooming possibilities are endless. Show dogs are referred to as a 'full coat'. These show dogs require a lot of maintenance – about one hour a day on average actually! But your everyday Maltese family pet can sport many different looks because of their long, wavy fur. Some owners prefer the fluffier look. In that case, they require a weekly bath with a good quality shampoo & conditioner specially formulated for dogs, & a good blow dry afterwards. If this seems a little too high maintenance, you can always get them clipped at the salon. They might prefer a shorter 'do' for the summer & wavy locks for the winter.

We all love Alfred (our Maltese) at our house & even though he is the smallest furry member of our family, he certainly makes up for it in personality & attitude!

~ *Woof for now ... Seamus*

• BLACKWOOF •

Nice-looking dog, but didn't we interview this Blackwoof in the last issue?

No, that was Kia.

As in the car.

That's right. You may remember her telling us that she'd found the dog of her dreams.

Yes, another red Kelpie X named Ralph. Does he have a car named after him?

I hope not (I think we all learned a lesson from the Nissan Cedric). Anyway, Ralph, unlike Kia, is Blackwood born and bred. Another from the burgeoning clan of that Man-About-Town, Johnny Boy. Born at the start of the year into a litter of 9, Mother (understandably) sent them packing at 7 weeks old. Ralph landed in his new home on the eve of covid lockdown.

Good timing.

Yes indeed.

So...what's he like?

Well, he's excellent at soccer, he's an enthusiastic helper with all things digging (gardening, laying pavers, plumbing, etc.) and he has a real love of bird seed.

Is he a Good Boy?

He ran away on his first trek up to Shaw's Lake. His mum and dad searched all over before returning home to find him waiting on the porch.

Good Boy, then.

He did follow it all the way home, so I guess he's nose is good. He wrapped up a jogger once by running circles around him with his lead.

Operator error. Should talk to his mum about that. He's a Good Boy.

Why are you so sure?

Because he's sitting in my lap.

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FLETCHERS ADVENTURES



Hello again to my Blackwood woof woof friends. How nice is the weather? It's so hot, the sun is giving me more freckles! The flowers are beautiful everywhere & the grass is growing like crazy!

Well great news from up the hill. My new neighbour Rupert moved into his house 2 months ago & him & I really like each other. I try to visit him when I'm allowed out on my own (that's really meaning when I escape) mum says I'm disturbing the peace over there but I know

Rupert really loves my visits.

Joanie & I love going to the tennis courts to have a run around. We chase each other flat out & sometimes we run into some friends from the neighbourhood to run with as well.

I think Joanie & I are getting a haircut next week. I hope so as we both feel better with short hair. It's better for us when we are swimming & playing.

Well everyone that's the news from up the hill & I can't wait to see all my mates soon.

Love from Fletcher.

• WHOSE TATT'S THAT? •



Something for the year that has been, thought I'd place my family close for the times I'm away from them..

The triangle lines are the international Down Syndrome symbol, the wheel is Arlo's passion for riding as well as his determined attitude to be always 'on the move', the Wattle is the strength of Lori tying us all together.

It's also a Blackwood in flower which has a nice significance also.

Anyway as I travel around I find myself happy that they are on the same journey.

Thanks to Leonie New at Forest Creek Tattoos *A: Peter Tragarah-Daily*



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COUNTRY FLOWERS

I love walking my dog. Together we discover all manner of things - birds, wombats, kangaroos, & really neat people.

Imagine my delight when we came across the 'Country Flowers Stall' in Simmons Reef Road!

I thought, wow, what a great idea. Kinda like a kid's lemonade stand with a twist.

So who is the entrepreneur behind this enterprise?

Meet young Ricky Acevedo. A 9 year old with great ideas & a 'roll your sleeves up & get the job done' attitude.

I sat down with Ricky & his mum, Alison, to find out all about it.

How did you come up with the idea?

"I had seen other people selling things on the side of the road & I wanted to make some money & buy a camera. So I decided to sell flowers & plants. I'd been thinking about doing it last year, but I didn't get to it. But in August I started."

Ricky planned it out all by himself. He, with a little bit of help from his mum & dad, made a table out of bits & pieces in the shed, an old bedhead & some marine ply for the top.

He made the sign himself & began the process of finding plants to sell from his garden. Bluebells, oregano & a Pom Pom tree are some of the products that have been successful.

He is also cultivating succulents now. Some of his dad's work colleagues heard about his project & provided cuttings.

Ricky is a busy man & is not always on hand to meet customers in person. He bases his business model on the old-fashioned honesty box system, & it is working for him. He made enough to buy his coveted waterproof camera!

Ricky has 2 brothers who are coming on board as his apprentices, with a view to perhaps splitting the profits. Ricky wasn't 100% sure about that, but is thinking of saving up for a day trip that the whole family can enjoy.

So if you are walking along Simmons Reef Road, do yourself a favour & grab a bargain - particularly with Christmas approaching. Ricky's prices range between \$2 & \$5. I think the Garden of St Erth might be getting nervous!

~ *by Lisa Moore*

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CYCLING ADVENTURES THROUGH THE FORESTS

My name's Monica & I have just got back from a week-long cycle trip that included an event called the GDT400. I started in my home town of Queenscliff, rode to Bendigo, did the GDT & rode most of the way back to Queenscliff. I love travelling by bicycle: camping along the way, meeting people, sharing stories & immersing myself in new places.


The GDT400 was something new for me. It's a mostly gravel & single track cycling adventure that starts in Bendigo, heads down to Buninyong, across to Bacchus Marsh, up to Blackwood & over to Castlemaine. It uses large sections of the Goldfields & Lerderberg Tracks. The event has a set start time (this year multiple times over 2 days because of COVID) & entrants take from 24 hours to a number of days to finish the 383km course. Every rider follows a set route & travels either individually (like me), in pairs or in small groups. Friends & family can follow our progress because we carry tracking devices - this is called dot-watching & I was very keen to check on the progress of other entrants whenever I was in a town with mobile access.

Blackwood had one of the best parts of the whole event: the Byers Back Track. What an amazing place! I wasn't very quick, greeted quite a few walkers heading the other way & was a walker myself through some of its trickier sections. It wasn't my first experience of a track cut into steep terrain but it's certainly spectacular.

This year there were 49 riders in the event - with 26 completing the whole course. I was the only female to cross the finish line, demonstrating that a slow pace & perseverance are one way of getting things done. Oh, & my finishing time? 80 hours & 30 minutes. Way to go!

~ Monica Nitz







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BLACKWOOD WOMBIES

Ah, at last, blue skies & sunny days, a perfect time to sit outside & get some Vitamin D with a good book.

It's been a long year & we can only look forward to better days. So, from all of us here at Wombat Book Club, Merry Christmas & hopefully it will be a better New Year for us all.

Finally, as we slowly emerge from this lockdown, we can meet again, monthly on the 3rd Sunday, at the Garden of St Erth cafe. It is great for us to sit & chat over a wine instead of zooming. We embrace new members so, for more information, please email Brenda on woodbinelodge1@gmail.com

The 2 books we have recently read were **'The Nowhere Child'**, by Christian White & **'Where the Crawdads sing'**, by Delia Owens.

'The Nowhere Child' is about a young woman, Kim, who is approached by a man who turns out to be her brother she did not know about. This story unveils a convoluted past Kim never knew she had. The story goes back & forth, present to past, to tie together what happened in her past life in the USA & how she became part of a family in Australia.

Sandy: This was well-written & kept the reader turning the pages. Going from past to present intrigued me into what happened to her & why she was kidnapped & ended up in Australia in a family who kept her real identity hidden. What unfurled when she went back to the USA & how events tied together led to events which a religious sect blinded the minds of the followers & Kim realises she had a lucky escape as a child by the hands of people who believed they had delivered her from a fate which was harmful to her.

4.5 Wombies 

Anne: Kim, a photography teacher in Melbourne, Australia, is approached one lunchtime by a stranger claiming he believes she is actually the kidnapped 2 year old child [Sammy Went] taken 28 years previously from her home in Kentucky, USA. She decides to investigate so travels back to Manson, her supposed home-town in Kentucky.

This is a tale of religious fanaticism, homosexuality, fear & poverty, amongst other things.

Back to the past; We have Jack, the gay married husband, who is totally disconnected from his wife Molly. She is trying to gain comfort after having had daughter Sammy, from the cult she is dropping further into, and is probably suffering postnatal depression. What else could go wrong with this lot? Poor Molly is convinced that the child, Sammy, is the cause of all her problems & must be possessed by the Devil so she needs to be cleansed. [probably by the cult leader who is deranged].

On the way we meet the cult leader's sister who has been traumatized by her brother performing a cleansing on her unborn baby which caused an abortion. [It gets worse & involves a lot of snakes]. There is a confrontation by the sister to save Sammy from his clutches when the sister is killed, but her boyfriend saves the day & takes Sammy to the USA .

Back to the present; Kim/Sammy is helped to unravel all this by her real brother Stuart. She meets her parents & discovers that her supposed father is not her father at all.

What a family!!

4 wombies 

Deidre: The Nowhere Child was a fantastic psychological thriller which kept you guessing with each chapter. American Sammy Went goes missing at the age of 2 & turns up in Melbourne years later as a young woman with a new identity. She has no memory of the trauma, cult or the family she had left behind. A compelling recommended read & won the 2017 Victorian Premier's Literary Award.

4 Wombies 

Sandy: 'Where the Crawdads Sing' Set in North Carolina, a young girl, Kya, survives among the marshes. When a young man is found dead, suspected murdered, she is suspected of the crime. She is later tried but not convicted. A human story of love & betrayal. It seems we are too quick to misunderstand some people, & not whom we judge them to be. One we could all relate to, & most of us who read it seemed to think this was a good read.



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2020 SAINTS ROUND-UP

The Saints family would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year! The club is looking forward to getting into the swing of things coming into season 2021!

PRESIDENTS REPORT – Marcello Matricardi: 2020 has no doubt been a very different year, one that I don't think we will ever forget. I would like to thank all our families, players, members, sponsors & the wider community for doing their bit to help us get through this year & we hope you continue to look after each other.

The biggest thing I have missed this year is the people, the families & the atmosphere of our wonderful club. Now we must start to look towards 2021 planning to get our kids back playing football & netball & get the adults fit again, well most of us fit haha.

Next year I hope will be a great year for the club & I would like to have as many people get involved with the club to help. We are in need of more support & new members to share the workload & come up with some new ideas to help continue the club to grow.

This club is a great family & community club for our locals. & finally, I wish everyone a safe & happy Christmas & New Year! Thanks, Cello

FOOTBALL: Senior Football training will recommence on Tuesday 17th of November at the Trentham Sports Ground, & will run on Tuesday & Thursday nights until the Christmas break. The club welcomes & encourages all new, old or aspiring players to join or anyone who just wants to come along, have a run around & a long overdue catch up!

As you may have seen on our Social Media platforms the club has been busy securing the signatures of many of our key players re-signing for the 2021 season!

The club is also very pleased to announce the re-signing of Rick Dowling as Senior Coach & Dolf Reid again committing to coach the Reserves & U/11. Both men are super keen to get stuck into things & have high hopes for the upcoming season.

Jason Shaw has taken on the U/14.5 Coaching job which is very exciting, whilst the club is still taking applications for the U/17.5 coaching job.

NETBALL: The netballers are taking a well-deserved long break & plan to get back up & running in the new year, keep an eye on our Social Platforms for upcoming announcements of Netballers re-committing & coaching announcements. Charlene Dowling has re-committed to coaching C grade & U/15 bringing a wealth of experience to share with her senior ladies as well as providing great mentoring to our up & coming Netballers.

The club is seeking applications for the following Netball positions:
 • Netball Co-ordinator • A&B grade head coach • U/17 head coach
 • U/13 head coach

Exciting times for the Club & Community heading into 2021 with lots going on behind the scenes to make sure it is a very successful year for all involved!

If you have any questions, queries or wish to apply for any vacant positions within TDFNC or offer a helping hand, please contact:
 TDFNC – trenthamsaints@gmail.com

Cello Matricardi - marcello@pinnaclefresh.com.au
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If you employ young male or female workers learning their trade through training ie: traineeships, apprenticeships or if you have qualified tradespeople or contractors who work with you, please consider nominating them in the Young Trades Awards Program.

There are 3 Award Categories included.

- Apprentice or trainee – Employed & learning
- Qualified tradesperson – Employed
- Entrepreneur or Self-employed Tradesperson

We look forward to you being part of this community initiative sponsored by CCCE & Community Bank Trentham & Districts, to recognise the achievements of young people in our district.

Nominations can be made at the Community Bank Trentham & Districts branch or search Bendigo Bank Trentham to register your nomination via our website.

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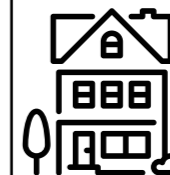
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