



October November 2021 vol 13 ~ issue 14.3



St. Erth Spring Plant Sale October 2

LEFT: Greg and Kerryn sniff their way to choosing the perfect plants for their new fragrant garden. St. Erth is currently open 7 days a week (10-4) with the café (11-3, excluding public holidays).

STOP PRESS:

STORM RECOVERY ONLINE SESSION:

Blackwood & Surrounds Lessons Learnt and Storm Recovery Update Session with council & emergency stakeholders

Thursday 7 October 6-7.30pm

Register at <https://bit.ly/storm-recovery> - limited seats.



EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

My oh my, what a wacky year & a half we've had! Bushfires, COVID, lockdowns, cool climate cyclone & finally an earthquake! All-in-all it could be the making of a really bad movie! The great news is that, after a really horrid winter, spring has sprung. Hopefully by the next issue, lockdowns will be a thing of the past & it will be easy to fill the issue with lots of happy events, photos & the best of fun that we Blackwoodians remember.

We have a lot of new Blackwoodians so we thought it would be fun to include articles from the Blackwood Newsletter, which was first published in 1992 by Robina Brown. With the new cricket season about to begin we have chosen Mick Healey's story about the history of the club post WWII on p10. Please remember to send us your stories & photos. The Blackwood Times is your paper. If we don't get submissions there is nothing to print & The Times will become a distant memory.

On page 7 Margaret shares what she loves about Blackwood & on p3 Jeanne has compiled some of the community's experience of the recent earthquake. Thank you both for responding to our last minute call-out for articles when we had pretty well nothing to print at deadline time.

What can you pull together for the December/January issue? I'm sure you can think of something. Well I hope so!

~ *Jimny Coyle, Co-ordinator*



MEMBER 2021

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 & 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
Community Co-ordinator	Sandy Schmidt
Team Members	Kathy Berrill, 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	Nov 15
Regular Contributors, Features & Items of Interest, Community Groups & Clubs	Nov 15
Display Ad Artwork	Nov 20
Late breaking News	Nov 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 & supported by Blackwood Progress Assoc.

theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au Phone: 0491 061 717

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ALL HAIL OUR TRUE HARDENBERGIA!



It's the time of year when a lot of our beautiful indigenous species are beginning to flower. One of our local favourites is Hardenbergia violacea. Some people pronounce it with a hard G (like burger) & others with a soft G (like urge). Interestingly, some people call it 'Happy Wanderer' but this is not its name at

all. Although they look similar, the 'Happy Wanderer' is actually a nursery cultivar, not to be confused with our local beauty H. violacea. In fact, if 'Happy Wanderer' is planted near bushland it can cross-pollinate & hybridise with our local Hardenbergia to the detriment of the indigenous form. Maybe it should happily wander off to another more suitable site & leave our local beauty alone!

Hardenbergia violacea has a striking dark purple pea flower & likes to scramble along sunny slopes in well-drained soil. It is also an important food source for caterpillars. If you love our local species, you can often source it from our local indigenous nurseries, including Wombat Nursery (Bullarto), Newstead Natives, Rowsley Nursery & more. You might be lucky to have Hardenbergia growing in your yard already! The seeds can be collected (by law: only from private land with permission from the land owner) & are relatively easy to propagate. Why not give it a go? If you need any tips, send a message to Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group Facebook page & I will share what I know.

Cat Moser (Blackwood Barrys Reef Landcare Group)

SPOTTED ON GRAND FINAL W/END



The Blackwood Hat Shoppe



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

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

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 '21	105.9	101.5	-4.75	12.9	8.5	1.7	4.9
Aug '21	79.8	110.3	-2.7	17.6	11	2	6.3

WHO FELT THE EARTH MOVE?

On Thompson's Road

"Just before the earthquake hit I was on the couch with the air conditioner blowing away the cold air. At first, when I felt the tremor through the earth, I just thought that the air conditioner has starting to blow much more air. But when I realized that it wasn't the air conditioner I thought someone was using heavy machines, but then I looked around & saw that my Dad too was startled, that is when I knew it was an earthquake. It was quite scary but also a little exciting. For the rest of the day my friends where all talking about it. Friends from Ballarat & Bacchus Marsh." Jonathan

"When the Earthquake struck, at first I thought it was my heart pounding & moving the chair but then I looked around & saw that everything was shaking. I felt nervous about it & thought that the earth would end." Kristopher

On Simmons Reef Road

"It was seemingly just another Wednesday morning working from home on beautiful Simmons Reef Road. I was sitting at the table in our living room on a zoom meeting with around 25 of my colleagues from the University of Melbourne, which had started at 8.30am. At around 9.15am, when ironically we were discussing the University's commitment to environmental sustainability, & becoming carbon neutral & climate positive, there a rumbling noise which I thought was coming through my headphones. I then noticed our house starting to shake & wondered whether another tree was falling - our garage was destroyed by one in the storm! Fiona thought it was something our dogs, Vinnie & Nessa, were doing!! Then all hell broke loose in my zoom meeting - a level of mild panic, with plenty of "OMG" & "what the f#!% is happening", people running to other parts of their house, others calling to their partners & kids, & 1 person disappearing altogether as their power & internet was cut off. Once everyone realised that it wasn't just them & the shaking subsided (thankfully not our house!) relief took over & people started laughing at how ridiculous it all looked on zoom. One person said they ran to open their doors as they'd been told that's what you have to do in an earthquake (how they knew that in Melbourne I've no idea!), another said that her apartment building was swaying alarmingly (she lives on the 21st floor, which sounds scary) & another said that it was a sign from nature that we needed to get carbon neutral quicker! My daughter later told us that she'd hidden under their table, which her partner said was ridiculous! All's well that ends well - a bit of excitement during our current lockdown & no one was hurt or had any major damage!" Allan

On Golden Point Road

"My swish home office, a fibro garage on stilts, wobbled like jelly on a plate. A huge truck must be going past, but no! The rumble seemed to be from underneath. Was it my imagination? The water in my filled glass lapped at each edge then splashed onto the table. The windows rattled. This place is going to collapse! I scuttled out the door. Outside, the ground vibrated a second longer & faded to nothing. Everything was still. I looked up & down the street. No truck. No one else to witness. Then made the first call of several. Earthquake! Later that day had the conversations with work where we used the words "fizzer" & "near miss". Phew! another day in our wacky world." Margaret

On Victoria Street

"I was having a bit of a lie in when the bed started shaking. I thought the morning was about to get a little bootilicious." Carlson

On Martin Street

"On the day of the Earthquake I was expecting a tradesman to come. I heard a sound & it sounded like someone was walking on the roof. I thought he had arrived & started inspecting the roof without talking to me & without activating our canine alarm system, even though it was the wrong section of roof where the sound was coming from. When

the tradie arrived he mentioned about the earthquake, so that must have been my roof walker." Kath

On Greendale-Trentham Road

I was still lying in bed listening to a podcast with my eyes closed. I felt something but couldn't figure it out. Then 2 thoughts flashed through my mind, in quick succession: Oh no! another tree has fallen; followed by Ha! that prankster partner of mine has crept in & shaken the bed as a bit of fun to get me up.

I still had not figured out what happened 5 minutes later when my daughter rang from Melbourne telling me they had all rushed out of their apartment building as things rattled on the shelves. The next big feeling I had was that Mother Nature is reminding us of her power yet again. She is reminding us of what the science is showing us. We humans are not paying attention to our planet's balance. Reminding us that her power will always be greater than human power on Earth, no matter how big our brains are, because we don't respect our amazing planet." Stephanie

At the Garden of St Erth

"I was working in the Garden at St Erth with my colleague, Linda, weeding & chatting away when I felt the earth shake beneath my knees. Shhh I said. We stopped talking & looked up from the radishes. I pressed my hands to the soil. The plum trees covered in blossom were dancing before us. I looked over my shoulder to see the broccoli plants waving in slow motion. I glanced at my watch. For 30 seconds or so it shook beneath us. A few moments later, both our phones started beeping as our family & friends wanted to know if we had felt it!

Meanwhile, at home, my partner David went to see if the washing machine was running & shaking the house!" Polly

On Byres Road

"Like most of us, I have a morning routine. Mine compromises a morning walk, followed by a stretching/yoga routine on my lounge room floor, not always done without a few cheats. I was halfway through my exercises, one that involves lying on your back & rolling through the spine in a front to backwards motion, daydreaming, when my lounge windows began to shake & rattle loudly. My first thought was, "Bugger, I'm sick of this wind", followed by a Rumble, "Bugger, now Thunder!" I then realised the floor underneath me was moving from side to side, &, as I was lying on the floor, it felt as if the house was momentarily disengaging from the house stumps. After living in Blackwood for 25 years - never say never - even to an Earthquake!" Noelle

~ *Compiled by Jeanne.*

"I was engaged in a bit of a brisk walk around the oval & didn't feel anything out of the ordinary!"



Blackwood Times used to bulge with pictures of social events (we do like a party in this town...and a festival, dance or spot of cricket). Those days will return but, until then, here's a picture of Sally and her boys keeping the spirit alive in the town centre.



• ANOTHER BLOODY LOCKDOWN (FOR MELBOURNE): GUESS WHICH ALBUM •



Over the past 18 months of lockdowns Priya has entertained us from her windw outside the Blackwood Hat Shoppe. Moving into 'another bloody lockdown' she has again entertained us with her rendition of some famous album covers.



Kids see if you can match the Priya photos to the album covers below ...



KIDS, HERE is a challenge for you and your families. Have a look through your mum or dad's record or CD collection, if you are not sure what they are, that is how we bought music back in the day. Get your family together to re-enact an album cover just like Prya, send your photos in to team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au. All photos will be in the next issue.



Can you see the rainbow peeking out through the storm damage? Photo Margaret McCarthy

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH -

What is it that keeps Blackwood & co going?

It's 4 months since the storm. The chainsaws still whirl every day. The views around town gain more drama as the foliage browns & the bones of trees become more prominent: white shining elephant trunks of manna gums lie among thousands of boxwoods' fat denuded pickup sticks with monster flat-topped root balls at one unbalanced end. This is physical proof that something did happen in town, as well as out across the forest. But how else can we see what is it like for us?

The winds have been odd all year. The winter wind came from the north, bringing warm gusts & rain. The storm wind come from the east & knocked us side-ways. The October wind usually blows the blossom off, but it's icy from the south, & well...the blossom has been knocked already. & not to ignore the pandemic, which we'd like to but can't. The pandemic is the ill wind that blows in & out of the mouths of the unsuspecting, & terror into the hearts of the most stoic adult. And we forest folk, usually protected from these winds by our trees & valleys as we twitter around our little forest homes. How are we? Are we still standing upright? Bending & flexible? Or a little out of sorts? While you wonder & check in with yourself & loved ones, I'll share a little of how it looks from the bench at the triangle in town.

We've been mending. Repairs have been undertaken, trees removed, chopped & mulched, countless others squashed, leaning, or just laying around for bracken to grow up between. In my case I've half a new roof, & 4 giants removed like wisdom teeth & molars. I feel better without them, but mighty gappy. The church is looking pretty near ready for the weddings we'll surely have. The doors are still closed around town, but the post office goes strong, & is ready to expand.

We've forgotten. We've forgotten that we need to get ready for the fires we usually stress about. We can't imagine what else might scare us. We have rising COVID cases & know that COVID will be here within weeks, if it is not already amounts us. We have had daily riots - riots! - & constant bickering about vaccinations, we even had an earthquake. We remember sometimes, but then, we sit down before we've fully stood up - can we be bothered to do much about anything? Burning off? Brush cutting? Checking our insurance & our fire plans? What will "leaving early" look like in COVID? And what will we do this year if we need to evacuate if we have a sore throat? ...time is now.

We're drooping, withering, in a weakened state. Most people acknowledge the upside of being stuck in COVID in the bush. We might be used to being self-sufficient, poor (or poor-ish) & isolated, though no-one gloats - it's still tough. Our friends & family in Melbourne are finding it harder to call & chat, to zoom or to connect. We are finding it hard back at them too because we're all in a state of languishing. And we miss each other dearly. Our shared birthdays, our visits, our children connecting, our shared grieving at funerals & wakes, our simple beer at a pub & a game of pool. We've lost people over the past couple of years, & not been able to properly say goodbye. Or to get together & remember them. We've lost contact with people who were incidental, but there. A friend of a friend. Or "what's her name" at the petrol station who used to sell me an ice-cream with my petrol? Or the Ballan Station master who, after I mentioned I got up at 5 to see a "blood moon", teased me forever after about getting up at witching hour, but also held the train up for me once while someone ran a forgotten phone to me from the carpark - who is he & will I ever say hello again? We are missing these connections which stretch us & keep us healthy & active. Maybe some of us are moving around more freely than others (no judgement here), but even so, all will be feeling the weight of constant restriction. This state, it's called "Languishing".

We're generous. Here's my proof. A few days after the storm, Jody asked me what I was doing for cooking. I'd been almost each night at other people's houses (you could back then in that little window), & while it hadn't been a priority for me to fix. I hadn't needed a generator because I'd been focusing on other things. I used my car to power my phone, & when I jumped into bed at night I fell straight asleep. However, it was clearly time to get my act together but I couldn't get the personal mojo to pull my finger out & make a kitchen or bathroom with hot water & light happen. (Even in the bush, there's only so many days a gal can go without a wash & a home feed!) Within a few hours Jodie & Kate turned up with a gas bbq, & camp stove & two bottles of



gas. Jodie with her big smile was all, "No worries, matie. You gotta be able to cook!" When Kate set the BBQ up outside it looked classy - if it weren't too icy in days to come to use. I watched amazed at the energy of these 2 - like watching a base camp get set up in no time. Then I came back later that day to find a load of wood in my front yard from Tommy & Brian. Nice work fellas! Then Anthony leant me a generator & voila! Power! I got countless offers of beds, a few nights in a B&B, dinners cooked, a bottle of champagne. And lots of offers of chainsaw help - we even did a bit. And that was just me - I heard so many stories around of people reaching out for others. Trees that were chopped, dinners cooked, people driven to medical appointments. And lots of offers of chainsaw help - we even did a bit thanks Jeanne & Philip, and Brett! And great call-bys: Jane and Fiona and Alan and Scott!

We're grateful for small things. For me, it was the first bath after the storm. I boiled water on the gas stove in pots for a hour half an hour. Pouring into the little shower tub, & took a hot bath - the first in 4 days. I can't think of when a bath, even if it was 4 inches deep, felt better. I lit a fire with the wood, & felt incredibly supported. The power came on sometime the next day. It's taken the better part of 4 months to get to the point that most of the repairs are done, & I can look forward. For many of us, we're grateful for a smart hairdresser & her apprentice in town - Annalice & Laurie, you keep us looking good when the chips are down.

We are connected. Nearly every day I walk around "the block" & chat & waved to local folk. I can see our routine constitutionals, & the drives out around town keep us rooted to reality. I'm looking at you, Mai, Mick, Melissa, Norm, Noelle, Noel & Neil, Nick, & Nyla the dog. (And yes, there are others whose names don't start with "N" & "M"). We have a steady, sometimes heated, conversation on our facebook pages, & can read our community voices in this little newspaper thanks to Kath, Jinny & Brendan & Peter. We crisscross over committees, volunteer groups & of course, book club (lovely ladies, & kept in the good books with the library by Brenda & with the review submissions by Sandy). The school bus which our parents gather around, the bus drivers who wave, their eyes smiling over their masks, the teenagers with long streaky hair with vivid colours & heavy backpacks - we miss them when they're not there.

We are kind. We have a post office that fronts up as a meeting point every day. I live alone and, through these extended restrictions, outside my walks, many times the post office is my one point of connection with people face to face (or mask to mask). On-line sessions with work people nationwide, & long office days (in the garage), take their toll. Last week I walked to the post office to pull my emotions back into check - I was teary after an intense meeting on the zoom. Small matter, but on that day I was frayed... The warm & understanding welcome was like no other. I was given a coffee, a bickie & "oh lovie!" Jamie, Tayler, Carole, Alexander, Martin, & Rachel - you're just the best.

We're going to get through this. Babies will still be born (there's one I know of on the way right now), children will still get up to mischief & see the world through fresh eyes, we will have way too many weddings to go to, tourists will come back, we will walk the forests, we will tell the stories. We'll grow old & braver. From the bench at the triangle, it looks like we're living through interesting times. What does it look like from your patch?

~ Margaret McCarthy

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THERE'S A MILLION REASONS TO GET VACCINATED.

Mine's getting back out in our community, what's yours?

Mary-Anne Thomas MP
LABOR MEMBER FOR MACEDON

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• COMMUNITY UPDATES • COMMUNITY UPDATES • COMMUNITY UPDATES •

Blackwood Crown Reserves

The Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management recently welcomed Rebecca & Troy Smith as the new park rangers at the Blackwood Mineral Springs Caravan Park. Since commencing at the beginning of September they have taken advantage of the Covid lockdown to familiarise themselves with park operations, Mineral Springs & other Crown Reserves. The park is looking great & they are looking forward to the return of regional & metro visitors once the lockdown is lifted.

Unfortunately the lockdowns have caused a significant decline in patronage at the caravan park. September school holidays & the AFL Grand Final long weekend are usually extremely busy, unfortunately this has not been the case this year.

On the upside the bridge railings at the Mineral Springs have been repaired & look fantastic. While the walking track to Shaws Lake remains closed, the mineral spring over the bridge is now accessible. Also a big thanks to Kenny Cann for removing the storm damaged tree stump at the caravan park.

On the down side the walking tracks have not reopened as Parks Victoria are still completing clean up works in the state park. Similarly clean up works at the mineral springs have not been undertaken due to more pressing demands on DELWP staff & contractors.

Committee members have inspected the hall, recreation oval & Povey's Reserve to assess how to best utilise all Crown Reserve properties under the committee's control & prepare a schedule of maintenance works.

~ David White, Chair, BCRCOM 0418 372 203

BLACKWOOD CERT

Our committed Team is still going strong riding the ups & downs of 2021 along with everyone in our communities.

With lockdowns, there have been some challenges in fielding full Teams, as half our crew live outside the area & are only available intermittently.

On the upside, with ongoing lockdowns, there have been fewer calls on our Team to attend motor bike & other accidents. On the down side, this means we are not getting as much clinical experience. On the upside, we are continuing our online learning & some face to face training. It's a mixed bag, for sure!

Looking ahead, we still need more community-minded folk from Newbury, Barry's Reef, Blackwood, Dale's Creek & Greendale who are willing to commit to providing First Responder ambulance response in the local area. Fast emergency medical care makes the world of difference in many situations & the reality is that our area sometimes has long wait times for available Ambulances to come from nearby towns.

As new people move into our areas, this creates greater need for emergency medical response. It also creates greater opportunities, to learn, engage & support your family & friends locally, whilst, in turn being supported by the skills & resources of 6,000 strong Ambulance Victoria.

No prior skills or training needed, as full on the job training & qualifications are provided.

Keen to join this vital community group? Great! Let's hear from you soon. Jan: 0409 857 180 Leonie: 0438 797 007

- Watch out for snakes coming out of hibernation! If bitten:

- Ring 000
- Immobilize bite area.
- Apply pressure bandage.
- Keep patient still & calm.

~ Leonie Brasier, Co-Team Leader

Blackwood CFA

Spring is here & daylight saving will start soon. Time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors & give the detector a test. Smoke detectors save lives.

Spring is a good time to take a look at your yard & see what needs

cleaning up.

1. Get the grass cut.
2. Clean up trees, over-hanging branches & bushes.
3. Clean the gutters of any accumulated leaf litter.
4. Survey the yard, the house, & shed for anything that could be a fire hazard.

Is your driveway free from any obstructions that could make it difficult to get one of our trucks through? How visible is your street/lot/house number? Can it be seen easily day & night?

Where is your closest fire hydrant?

Spring is a good season to check your fire readiness plan. Has anything changed that needs to be incorporated?

During these lockdowns keep an eye on family, friends & neighbours. Remember help is available through many outlets. It is a trying time for everyone.

THE FIRST PRIORITY IS YOUR SAFETY

Always ring 000 in the case of any emergency. If you have & fire & do manage to put it out, it is better to have us responding than to wait until it is too late.

For more information 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.

Never let complacency set in & always be prepared, no matter what the season.

Always keep an eye on the weather forecasts.

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 Facebook page.

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

~ Karl Church, Community Safety Liaison Officer, Blackwood Fire Brigade

Blackwood Landcare

While it has been a quiet time for weed-busting due to the weather & COVID restrictions, Landcare has been busy.

We sent a survey to our members (we now have 40!) & from the responses have done up a 5 year action plan to help plan future activities. The plan will be put on the new website in October (blackwoodlandcare.org.au).

We've been successful in obtaining 2 grants. Moorabool Council is supporting the annual "Ultra-weed-a-thon". What the heck is that?? It's a weed-busting blitz where you are encouraged to pick a site, weed it & let us know how you went. At the end of each week of the ultra-weed-a-thon we tally the results & award some prizes. It's a good activity for kids too. More details will come & of course it's COVID dependent.

The second grant is from Melbourne Water to prepare video material about the catchment where Blackwood is situated & the impacts of weeds locally & downstream. Some of the creative members of the group are forming some interesting ideas on this. Stay tuned!

Landcare continues to support the Blackwood Uniting Church, St Martin's Chapel project by assisting with the landscaping. Soon a garden of local plants will be added. We are looking forward to holding some of our events in the lovely centre now that it's finished. Landcare is also working in partnership with the Crown Reserves Committee of Management with the plan to hold regular working bees on the priority crown reserve sites.

The Landcare community chipper has been getting a workout after the weather we've had. Get in touch via the website or to Brett directly about borrowing it. If you have any ideas on future events & activities we'd love to hear from you.

~ Diana Dawson, Secretary

Blackwood Progress

**EVENT MANAGER REQUIRED
for Blackwood Easter Carnival**

email brendan@hehir.id.au
for position description

Blackwood Uniting Church - St Martin's Chapel

Did you hear the church bell ringing last month? Yes, all building work is complete, we have all the permits & we are now able to use the Chapel.

After 4 years of highs & lows we have made it to the finish line & what a beautiful space to be able to share with everyone in our community.

The Dear Family have done us proud. The quality of the workmanship is superb as is the attention to detail to keep the authenticity of the building. Thank you.

The uncertainties of COVID restrictions are hindering us in choosing a date for the official opening but it will happen too. What an event that will be with our street procession, art show, concert, taster sessions of the type of sessions that will be happening in the future in the space, a market, shape note & community singing, Devonshire teas & food stalls & more. I have a huge list people to say a heartfelt thank you to:

- The Daylesford Uniting Church Church for loaning us the money to install 3 reverse cycle air conditioners - they heat the space beautifully.
- Bev & Bruce Butler for the donation of a plug in light fitting that matches the others in the church.
- Jeanne Tahini for a microwave & an initial supply of toilet paper that will keep us going for quite a while.
- Gary Matheson for using his machinery to level the soil at the front & side of the church, what a difference it has made.
- Rev Jenny Hayes for the generous donation of \$250 & to the lovely person who paid the council rates & Fire levy but wishes to remain anonymous.
- Brendan Hehir for sowing the grass seed which should get off to a good start in this weather.
- Lou Henderson & Wally Zanon for clearing & burning off the stumps & tree litter.

The members of our Management Committee Rev Jenny Hayes, Fiona Ross, Jeanne Tahini, Karen Bruno, Stephanie Kondos, Hamish McWilliam, Wally & Robyn Zanon who are working so hard.

We are all so blessed to be part of this community where people are so willing to help each other & contribute their time, gifts & talents.

If you would like to use the chapel to run an event the Committee of Management have set some introductory rates for locals that will be in place until the 1st of November.

A full day is \$100, a half day is \$40 & the hourly rate is \$15. If you are interested in hiring please give me a ring on 53686792 or email robyn.zanon@gmail.com

If you would like to have a look inside to see the Chapel I would be happy to show you around.

• ~ Robyn Zanon

Your community wants to know about your club or organisation, what your focus in the community is & how you would like support, please email your regular reports to Sandy at - galaxys@hotmail.com by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing date.

Sign up at theblackwoodtimes.com.au to get deadline reminders.

Blackwood Motorcycle Club

Now let start with a joke as this lock down has got to everyone.....I purchased a world map and then gave Terri the dart and said....."Throw this and wherever it lands-that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends" Turns out, we're spending 2 weeks behind the fridge.....

Now I hope that put a smile on a few faces as everyone has been looking a bit sad lately. Not as sad as the Blackwood Motorcycle Club has been looking, as we haven't been able to get out there & enjoy ourselves. But with the country restrictions lifting and the weather starting to warm up we are hoping to take off soon and hopefully down to the coast for a luncheon. Location has not been set yet but we are thinking November will be the time will hit the road. So, planning the third Sunday which will be the Nov 21.

If you would like to come along, please message Blackwood Motorcycle club on FB. or contact myself.....phone number is on the local notice board.

~ by Brett Bond

Blackwood Bocce Group

The Bocce group is still going strong in spirit, despite the lockdowns. A group text is sent every Saturday to make sure all our members know if the current restrictions permit us to play or not on Sunday. It's a great way to keep in touch anyway and check in to see how people are maintaining their sanity in these complex times.

Some things always stay the same. When we play we all have a lot of laughs and we all love the social conversations over coffee afterwards at Jindarup.

JOIN US: 10am Sunday mornings at the oval and/or 11am Coffee at Jindarup

Call Stephanie on 0432406814.



Jane, Jim, Michael, Dusan, Susan and John shining their balls in simpler times.

Blackwood Cricket Club

Hello, It's that time of year again
CRICKET

Starting on the October 9 (don't have a fixture yet). But this will be another year of one-dayers, so more exciting games.

You will be advised of home games via the Blackwood Community notice board on spacebook as well as signs at the shop and Blackwood and Greendale hotels.

We look forward to seeing the community support again and enjoying a cold drink on a hot, warm or cold day & the canteen will be running as usual.

~ Regards Brian Suters President

brian.suters7@bigpond.com

Read the history of the club on p11.

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BLACKWOOD TIMES GOES TO ...

When we are allowed to travel again, where are you looking forward to going? Me, I want to be near and under the sea. During lockdown I have been going through my travel photos, looking for interesting photos to use as backgrounds for my video meetings with my students, there were camels in Broome, the pyramids in Egypt and Manta Rays at Lady Elliot Island.

While searching through my photos I found this shot which I sent to 'Blackwood goes to....' In 2014. This photo was taken while scuba diving at Lady Elliot Island which is the southernmost island of the Great Barrier Reef. I put it into a waterproof map holder and tucked it into my BCD before the dive and pulled it out when we got to the wreck (a yacht sank during a cyclone). Can you imagine my dive buddy's face when I pulled it out and gave him my camera to take the photo?

I am not sure where I will go as there are many great dive places in Australia. I was planning to go to WA this holidays to play in a hockey tournament & travel around, but it was rescheduled to next year due to lockdowns. So maybe WA in April, watch this space.

~ Kathy Berrill

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With the cricket season about to commence it is timely to re-print a part of the club's history which was first published in the October/November issue of the Blackwood Newsletter in 1997.

The club welcomes players, sponsors & supporters.

Keep an eye out for the board at the Cobb & Co corner when games are being played at the sports ground

BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

Although the Blackwood Cricket Club goes back a long way, I shall attempt to encapsulate the scene since the Second World War.

By Mick Healey.

1947 - 51/52

Manpower was scarce both during and after the war. Sunday social cricket was played nearly every Sunday. The patriarchs and organisers were Jack Cann (43) who was Captain and Secretary, Les Armstrong (40) was the oval curator and also a good batsman. There was always four from Newbury: Ray Stanyer (25) wicket keeper batsman, M. Robson (23), Max Tucker (28), and Stanley Wood (27). Kevin Cahill, then 13, played regularly and by 1954 was a good all-rounder but had to leave to seek livelihood elsewhere-a bane of most young people for many years. There was always 1,2 or 3 players past the "use by date". The team was strengthened after the war by the arrival of Harry Tolman (23, a foundry worker) and Mick Healey (21, Forest Officer). Healey was a very quick new ball bowler although often erratic and dangerous on concrete wickets. He was a fierce competitor. Jack Archer, storekeeper, was also a post-war acquisition but stayed only one season.

These Sundays were very enjoyable and looked forward to. Because the team was always low in numbers, occasional 'outsiders' were often invited particularly Vic Cann and Ern Wall when visiting Blackwood relatives. Henry Matheson returned to his home town in 1951. He had operated a garage in Trentham but sold out when his wife died in 1950. The team became very competitive under Healey in 1951-52. Three or four older members were replaced by three younger guys from Trentham. Big Mick had a Jardine Larwood approach to the game. Only two games were lost during the season.

The club was admitted to the Bacchus Marsh league in 1952-3. This meant the loss of the Trentham contingent, and Healey was often absent on bushfire standby. The more mature Henry Matheson replaced Healey as captain. Although not as ruthless as Healey. Henry had a similar approach to his big fast bowler and encouraged him at all times. Although highly competitive the team won only 5 games and failed to make the finals.

1953-4 was to be a good year for Blackwood. Kevin Cahill developed into a young quick. Allan Marshall was recruited and the team made the finals. However, after leading Comaida on the first innings, Blackwood collapsed badly in the second innings.

In the 1954-5 season the side was depleted and withdrew. Sunday social cricket also fell away. Visiting social sides had to bring two teams. 1963-68

In 1963 Mick Healey and Bill Dalziel a Korweinguboorra patriarch-decided to promote a once-a-year match under test cricket conditions. This was held on the Sunday of Labour Day weekends. As he was the only player left from the fifties side Healey was able to invite good cricketers from Altona and Shepparton, but all had some connection with Blackwood. By this time the new booth was operating and these were very enjoyable days.

After 1968 social cricket fell away until 1990 when it was revived by Jock O'Connor.

Our population has increased since reticulated water was turned on in 1987. Ray Meade has continued Jock's good work. We should keep our present club, not only viable, which it is but also highly competitive. We can form an enjoyable social atmosphere around it, culminating in Ray's big Cobb day against Grencoe for the Cobb & Co Cup.

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• WHOSE TATT'S THAT? •



YOU'VE GOT to admire his commitment to minimalism. Inked 20 years ago, it remains his sole tattoo, and at just 2 inches long on his big-man 6 foot 6 frame!

CREATED TO honour the Prog Metal maximalists (who are still making great music) it takes an early band logo from the 1996 album, Oenima. Some might scoff at this dated tribute, but to true Toolheads the world over this tattoo speaks of a long-lasting and faithful pride.

OH, AND yes – Danny Carey really is the best drummer in the world.

Curly

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Gday Jinny,
I am writing to you quickly to give you a quick update on what's been happening in Broken Hill for the last couple of months. I hope all is well back home in Blackwood & I look forward to seeing everybody soon.

As I am sure you know, Broken Hill has been in lockdown now for 6 weeks. We have been averaging 1 - 3 cases a day with some spikes up to 10. So since lockdown there hasn't been much happening. Everyone has been pretty good staying home & waiting it out.

Before the lockdown I had just started a soup kitchen. It is called The Goat Shed. A pay-as-you-feel soup kitchen on Monday nights. I was focusing on creating a nice space for all members of the community to enjoy healthy & delicious food. Promoting local produce & a mostly plant based diet. We had 4 weeks of the kitchen being open until the pangolin wrath reached the far-west borders & we had to close temporarily. I am looking forward to opening back up & serving some fresh spring food.

Other than the soup kitchen I have been focusing on playing music with the band (Leroy Johnson & the Waterbag Band) & finalising my application to be a firefighter with Fire Rescue NSW.

I hope this helps with the paper. Warm regards & kind wishes,

~ Jack Simmonds

PHOTO: Jack was the recipient of the Australia Day Junior Citizen of the Year award in 2014. Check out the full article at <https://theblackwoodtimes.com.au/february-march-2014/>



What's the odds?

Munching through his Greendale Pub pizza, Carlson was astounded to uncover this perfect (and somehow familiar) leaf formation. Amazing. But, when you think about it, like really think about it. The pizza starts off a circle and is then segmented into eighths. It's a universal pattern, right? One which appears from the quantum level right up to the cosmic. It's all about nature's tendency to keep minimal surface area for a given volume. Like leaves. Not sure where the square cardboard box comes into it...hey, is there any pizza left?

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WHY NOT GO BACK TO BEING WELL?

One of our favourite Goldenpointers, Rachel Palmer (Ray), has hung out her "Holistic Health" shingle in Martin Street, at the Skin and Beauty studio (thanks for the space, Annalice). You can work with her there on building your physical, emotional and psychological health (Mondays in Blackwood, Tuesday and Wednesday at Good Self in Kyneton).



Ray has a long involvement in health & psychology, complimented recently with qualifications in Mind Body Medicine, which employs both traditional and current-science approaches to healing while treating the mind and body as one.

Who these days doesn't feel like they need a little bit of healing? – see contact details p11



RIP MAX

Max was the faithful friend of Micheal Boyd who was one of the licensees of the pub from about 2015 - 2019. He was well loved by the patrons of that time. "Good ol Maxi he has done 13.5 years of living with me. He shall be sadly missed - specially going on the walks with him. Now he has gone to a great place in the world of dreams teaching young doggies. So long Max & you can now rest with peace." Kye Keilor



"Max loved life in Blackwood with Kye and I at our beautiful spot called Morningside.

- so many laps around that pristine oval under the shade of the majesty of that tree
- perched on Kenny Cann's barbers chair in the post office awaiting the arrival of his many friends
- lost for 5 nights in the forest found by the pub delivery truck
- his friendship with the Hall's, our beautiful neighbours.

Max was my rock, my king & our loyal friend. We miss him so but our world was brightened by an amazing Staffie. Thank you to all of my Blackwood friends who cared for Max.

He had an amazing life enriched by your love." Michael Boyd
TOP: The 3 maxketeers - from the FebMar 2016 issue for the Blackwood Times
INSET: Max was well known for his grin.



Jindarup extensions: Planning approval. Tick! Now to get on with the surveyor's work. Watch this space...it's about to grow.



Hat Shoppe re-opens: After a nervous start, Karen and the Hat Shoppe found their stride and managed some good trade coming out of lockdown. The vast majority of shoppers came to buy, keen to support small businesses as the economy slowly starts to open up.

LEFT: Springs: The bridge has been beautifully repaired by Steven Hollis, with help from Mick Thompson and Garry Matheson (aka Handsome Mick and Young Garry). You can now come and bottle some mineral water but unfortunately there's still no access to the walking tracks after June's destructive storm.



EARLY GRAVES IN THE BLACKWOOD CEMETERY



- WILLIAM LAWSON – died Blackwood, December 6, 1855
by Margot F. Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood Historical Society. September 2021

Researching history of Blackwood can be an interesting experience. Some years ago I received a letter from a Mrs. Harrop who had purchased my book 'Aspects of Early Blackwood'. Mrs.

Harrop's family ancestor was William Lawson from Perth in Scotland, who is buried in the Blackwood cemetery, and she sent some information the family had, including an inquest report on the accident William Lawson had while felling a tree at Blackwood, when a branch struck him on the head and killed him.

A working bee at the Blackwood cemetery by Cemetery Trust members uncovered the headstone that was hidden in a flax plant, and was noted in an article in The Blackwood Recorder Vol 8 No. 1 June 1982 when I the Editor for the Blackwood District Historical Society. Part of that article read - The earliest grave found so far in the Blackwood cemetery with a headstone is that of William Lawson, whose headstone bears the inscription - "Erected by Mrs. Mary E. Lawson in memory of her beloved husband WILLIAM LAWSON who was killed at Acre's Hill 6th December 1855 aged 41 years."

Acre's Hill, is near the Albion Reef which is north of Blackwood past Barrys Reef near Yankee Reef. Acre's Reef was an early name for Yankee Reef on the Yankee Road. I researched the death and found the following article on-line on Trove -

The Argus - Melbourne Newspaper - 13th December 1855.

Blackwood - (from our own correspondent) 10th December 1855. Acres Reef: Lamentable Accident. WILLIAM LAWSON.

"William Lawson, a machinist, who lately settled at this reef with a stamping machine met with an untimely death on Friday last. (6th December) He was intending to remove his machine to the top of the hill, to crush dry, (As water was scarce in the area.) Lawson was engaged in felling some timber to clear a spot for the machine. A tree in falling caught on another tree which caused some of the top branches to spring back again and fall off. On its descent it struck poor Lawson on the side of the head, dashing his brains out. He never spoke afterwards and shortly expired. He has left a wife and four children and the scene presented, when his wife and family on being informed of the fatal accident rushed up frantically to the spot, one of the most painful description. Lawson was buried on Saturday in the Blackwood cemetery."

Of interest is some letters the family still have written in 1853 by William Lawson from the Mclvor diggings to his wife Mary and his 4 children. Part of these letters read – August 6, 1853 – Saturday.

"Dear Wife, I received your letter dated 19th June on the 30th and it cheered me much to learn that you and the little ones were all in good health. I am out of a mate and I sink a hole like a well and I assure you it is not easy to throw up the earth and stuff from the bottom, it makes the sweat run. I am sorry to say it is the worst hole I have sunk. I only got 2/- (20 cents) worth of gold on the bottom. One day I made 20/- (\$4). I am left alone (his brothers having gone to the Goulbourn diggings) yet I cannot say that I am weary except for seeing you and the little ones. The Mclvor diggings are very poor – yet there are 100 lbs (Pounds) of gold in this locality if one could hit on it. Drays last week were charging £80 (\$160) per ton for carriage to Goulburn from here. I shave every week and wash my clothes weekly and do it pretty well.

I am your affectionate husband, William Lawson"

"Mclvor Diggings 11th August 1853. – Dear Mary, .. I am as you will think very lonely being in a tent by myself, far from neighbours in a wood, yet I don't feel anyway alarmed. If I had you and the dear little ones by me I could be comfortable enough, but I have no one to speak to, but thanks be to God I am in health and can write to you, but I cannot see your dear face and through your eyes read your kind heart. I am longing to see you and to hear your dear voice my dearest friend. If the Goulburn diggings does no good I don't intend taking out another licence, so 20 days will settle the matter as it is useless waiting here and loosing time and money as very few are making expenses on

Mclvor.Yours ever, Wm Lawson"

It is not sure where William Lawson went after his stay at Mclvor diggings in 1853 until his death in Blackwood in December 1855. After her husband's death, Mary Lawson married her husband's brother, Charles Lawson in 1857 and they had 3 daughters. Mary died age 73 yrs in 1893 and is buried in the New Melbourne Cemetery with her husband Charles who died in 1903.

Such stories tell of some conditions and hardships on the early goldfields, and we are lucky to have people who are willing to share these family stories of interest with us. A full report will be published in my next book 'The History and Pioneers of Blackwood', hopefully when it is published soon.

©Margot F Hitchcock.

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

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



Grave of William Lawson buried Blackwood cemetery December 1855. (Photo courtesy of Margot Hitchcock taken in 1982 before headstone was accidentally damaged in a cemetery clean-up)

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• FLETCHERS ADVENTURES •



Well hello to all my friends in semi lockdown.

Fletcher here with the latest news of not much due to the current circumstances.

The weather has been very kind to Joanie & me so we have been taking advantage of being able to swim, swim & more swimming in the dam. We are still busy chasing the ducks out of the dam but I particularly love when Daddy throws the stick in the water & I have to swim flat chat to get

it before Joanie does. Because Joanie is 1 year younger than me, she is so much more agile & quicker than me unfortunately. Speaking of girls (which happens to be one of my favourite subjects) I have had the regular pleasure of hosting Rani Bruno at my place for playtime with us. She is one foxy lady. We run all day & frolic in the dam as she loves the water like me. Joanie gets a bit put out but I have a ton of fun with Rani & I always look forward to her visits.

When Daddy takes us out in the car, I still can't believe the damage from the wind of the trees that are still around. I get a bit upset because it reduces the amount of obstacles I'm able to do my business on & sniff around! Other than that, I haven't been doing a whole lot due to this little disease they call something 19 or other.

I really miss all my mates around Blackwood & I do look forward to a big doggie reunion somewhere in town so we can share a drink together & talk about the good old days.

Take care my canine & feline friends, until we met again.

~ Adios Amigos. Fletcher Fowler

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BLACKWOOD WOMBIES

Hello welcome from Wombat Bookclub where we all get to read & chat...more the latter. We read a book a month then meet the third Sunday in each month. Times & venue are subject to change. The last couple of times we have met for lunch at The Garden of St Erth. A very pleasant environment to share thoughts about the book we have just read & socialise. It offers the participant not only a chance to read about topics & novels which we may not think to pick up; & keep us in touch with others of our community.

Especially during these times of locked & unlocked yoyo we have all experienced.

If you would like information about our lovely, informal gathering please contact Brenda Hunter at woodbinelodge1@gmail.com

The books we have covered the last couple of months were: 'Just An Ordinary Family' by Fiona Lowe, & 'The Dictionary Of Lost Words' by Pip Williams.

Just an Ordinary Family-

Sandy: 'Just An Ordinary Family' was quite the page turner & hooked the reader into many twists & turns in the story, which kept me turning the pages.

The protagonist, Alice Hunter, finds herself single & unemployed & returns to her family home at an Australian seaside town. She compares herself to her Sister Libby, who is a doctor & has a successful marriage. However, over time some family secrets are revealed, keeping the reader intrigued. Alice eventually finds herself & love.

4 wombies

A Gentleman in Moscow-

Sandy: 'The Dictionary of Lost Words' has to be the most original story I have read. The Protagonist, Esme Nichols, is motherless living with her father. He is involved in word gathering & definitions for the publication of the Dictionary. Esme secretly gathers her own selection of words she hears & is not in the word collection for the dictionary. She eventually has her own Dictionary of lost or obscure words published. Set in England during the rise of the Suffragettes & the First World War. This story is about love & power.

5 Wombies

• BLACKWOOFs •



I FELL in love with this shy, anxious, pretty 3 year old Kelpie at Pet Haven, Woodend. After a short wander with her trotting along quietly at my heels, I was thrilled to take her home with me. Friends remarked what a sweet gentle girl she was.

FAST FORWARD a week and Lydia was hurtling around the house with every visitor her long lost friend who needed to be jumped on and persuaded to make a fuss of her.

I STILL love her but am so glad we have a big paddock where she can run as much as she pleases while entertaining her many four legged friends.

~ Brenda Hunter

Foodies looking for something local.....

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Thursday	Thai nights	Radio springs hotel

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TRENTHAM SAINTS

Trentham Football Netball Club is excited to announce Danny Sutton of the Under 11.5 Football team placed equal first in the MCDNFL League Best and Fairest. Danny is a dedicated player who trains with his own team, and the Under 14.5 players and often also with the Seniors, due to a lack of numbers Danny also played two games every Saturday. Coach Dolf Reid is so proud of Danny and the player he is becoming, Dolf commended Danny on his work ethic. The Club as a whole is so proud of Danny, winning a League best and fairest is a great achievement.

A big congratulations to all the Junior players who polled votes in the League count, it is a wonderful achievement and shows the talent we have coming through our Club as future stars.

The Saints are looking forward to hosting our Club Best and Fairest awards celebrations when restrictions allow, after a tough season with a number of extended breaks due to COVID resulting in the season ending early a number of our teams final hopes were over, as a Club we are dedicated to celebrating our players success and efforts for this season by postponing our Presentation Night for when restrictions allow for a deserving celebration.

~ by Mikaela Fleming



Garry Matheson did a brilliant job, volunteering his time to landscape around St. Martin's Chapel. We'll be opening soon (honest). Garry is available for local earthmoving (ph: 0421 062196).

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Last month Nicole (CAFS) & her volunteers showed The Blackwood Times around the Thread Together 'store' in Ballarat. This unique organisation has partnered with over 100 fashion brands to clothe people in need for free. Read about their work at https://www.threadtogether.org/

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