

December 2021 ~ January 2022 vol 13 ~ issue 14.4



**BRINGING A BIT OF COLOUR  
BACK TO TOWN: DECEMBER 18**  
**Preparing St Martin's Chapel for  
Blackwood's first big bash in a long time**

see pages 2-3

Thanks to Moorabool Shire for their Community Arts & Culture grant for the event. Thanks also to community support especially Jindarup.

*PS: This special colour front page is courtesy of our long time print Barry Bird of TMP Printing in North Melbourne.*

**The Blackwood Times acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional Owners of the land, waters & forest where we live & work. We pay deep respect to Elders past, present & emerging.**





# EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

Hello Blackwoodians,  
 We are well & truly into the silly season as this issue comes out. Yes, it is very, very late but the team made an executive decision to publish late for the first time in its 14 year publication. Some of the core team were not available last weekend for personal reasons. This should have been when we would have set the 2-3 days aside to put this issue together. Although this is the first time we've ever published late, as we move into COVID normal I can see that team availability could potentially become an issue. I am asking (read this as begging?) that anyone in the community who would like to be a part of the Blackwood Times team, please put your hand up now. No specific skills are required & time commitment is flexible. That said, I would love to find someone who would like to learn about desktop publishing who can take on my role.

On to this issue. After almost 2 years of lockdown I was excited to put the gig guide together. It is so fabulous that we can finally get together as a community again. In the spread on p4-5 we have photos of the Christmas gathering at the oval last weekend. And on the facing page is the program for the re-dedication of the the Uniting Church - which is re-named as St Matins Chapel.

The Blackwood Times team wished every single one of you a **marvelously silly season & a year to remember in 2022.**

~ *Jimmy Coyle, 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 & 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.

<b>Jimmy Olsen played by...</b>	<b>Brendan Hehir</b>
<b>Community Co-ordinator</b>	Sandy Schmidt
<b>Team Members</b>	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	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](mailto:team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au) or post to The Blackwood Times, PO Box 39 Blackwood, 3458.

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

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

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

[theblackwoodtimes.com.au](http://theblackwoodtimes.com.au) Phone: 0491 061 717

©2021 auspiced by Blackwood Progress Association Inc

## • GIG & EVENTS GUIDE •

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
Dec 9: 6pm	6 months on with Dr Rob Gordon OAM	Blackwood Hall
Dec 11: 10am-1pm	Breckin & Honeyfields	McLeans Res, Ballan
Dec 12: 10am - 4pm	Christmas Market	St Ann's Winery
Dec 13: 1am	Fire Danger Period begins	
Dec 15: 7:30 - 9:30	Blackwood Hotel Paranormal Investigation & Dinner	Blackwood Pub
Dec 16: 7pm	Free Bushfire Planning Workshop	The water tanks, Dales Creek
Dec 17: 4pm	Greendale & Surrounds Christmas Catchup!	Egans Reserve Greendale
Dec 17: 7pm-late	Old Time Jam	Blackwood Pub
Dec 18 - 19	ART EXHIBITION	St Martins Chapel
Dec 18: 10 - 11am	Yoga with Leticia Dornelle	St Martins Chapel
Dec 18: 11:30 - 12:30	Generative Writing W/shop with Genevieve Messenger	St Martins Chapel
Dec 18: 1:30	Procession & Re-Dedication	St Martins Chapel
Dec 18: 1:40-2:30	Shape-Note Singing Session	St Martins Chapel
Dec 18: 2.35 - 3.00	Fiona Ross (Scottish Songs for Bairns!)	St Martins Chapel
Dec 18: 3:15 - 4:00	Newbury Fog	St Martins Chapel
Dec 18: 4.15 - 5.00	Cat & Clint	St Martins Chapel
Dec 18: 5:15 - 6:00	Hardrive	St Martins Chapel
Dec 18: 6:15 - 7:00	Dirty Dan & The Blackwood Bangers	St Martins Chapel
Dec 19: 10 - 11am	InterPlay with Fiona Ross	St Martins Chapel
Dec 19: 11:30 - 12:30	Arts, Crafts & Sewing Ideas with Jane Howat	St Martins Chapel
Jan 12: 7:30 - 9:30	Blackwood Hotel Paranormal Investigation & Dinner	Blackwood Pub

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

## Foodies looking for something local.....

Tuesday	Parma & Pasta night	Greendale Hotel
Tuesday	Whataburger	Blackwood Hall
Wednesday	Locals night	Cosmo in Trentham
Thursday	Thai nights	Radio springs hotel

Please check with all venues for confirmation of events regarding current restrictions & tixs.

## 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)
Sep '21	101.5	101.4	-2.5	20.4	13.7	3	8.1
Oct '21	110.9	93	-1.9	24.3	15.4	3.5	9.2

# COMMUNITY EVENT

to mark the

## RE-DEDICATION of ST. MARTIN'S CHAPEL

Martin Street, Blackwood, Vic. 3458

Rainfall has been quite high for September & October. Temperatures for October have been cooler than other years.

~ *Don Owen*

SATURDAY DEC 18		
10.00am-12.30pm	Taster Sessions	A chance to try out some of the wonderful activities – classes & workshops – that will be happening at St. Martin's Chapel!
10-11am	Yoga with Leticia Dornelles	"Leticia Dornelles is a Yoga & Meditation Teacher & Healer. All welcome to this yoga class. Please wear comfortable clothing & bring your own yoga mat. For more info: <a href="http://www.meditarecentre.org">www.meditarecentre.org</a>
11.30-12.30	Generative Writing Workshop with Genevieve Messenger	We all have stories inside us. This creative writing workshop is for all levels from beginners to professional. It will bring out the stories & characters that live within you! For more info: <a href="http://www.genevievemessenger.com.au">www.genevievemessenger.com.au</a>
SATURDAY AFTERNOON from 12 noon onwards Arts & Crafts Stalls, Devonshire Teas		
1.30pm	Procession & Re-Dedication of St. Martin's Chapel	
1.40pm – 2.30pm	Shape-Note Singing	All welcome. Let's raise our community voices together in song! Uplifting singing for all ages. Guided
2.30pm – 7pm	Outdoor Concert	with some of our local muso's Fiona Ross, Newbury Fog, Cat & Clint, Hardrive, Dirty Dan & The Blackwood Bangers (refer to gig guide p2.
SUNDAY DEC 19		
10.00am -12.30pm	Taster Sessions	More opportunities to try out some of the wonderful activities – classes & workshops – that will be happening at St. Martin's Chapel!
10 - 11am	InterPlay with Fiona Ross	InterPlay is a relaxing, playful way to explore creativity using the body's own wisdom. & it's great fun! No experience required. Wear comfy clothing. For more info: <a href="http://www.birkentree.com.au">www.birkentree.com.au</a> & <a href="http://www.interplayaus.com.au">www.interplayaus.com.au</a>
11.30-12.30	Arts, Crafts & Sewing Ideas with Jane Howat	Jane will draw on her background as an artist & costume designer to share some fabulous ideas for creative projects. Jane is also keen to hear from the community as to what type of classes you would enjoy in the future.



Can you name any of the children in the photo to the left, or the folk in the old photo on the front cover?

We would love to have your photos & stories please email them to [team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au](mailto:team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au)

*Historical photos of the Anglican Church courtesy of Robyn Zanon*

# 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](mailto:team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au)

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





• CHRISTMAS IN BLACKWOOD • CHRISTMAS IN BLACKWOOD • CHRISTMAS IN BLACKWOOD •

It was Sunday December 5 & the kids/social locals xmas party was happening.

Four weeks prior, the idea came when inside a shed drinking beers, talking to a new Blackwoodian about the old social club we had in town.

That's when the mention of doing a xmas party came up. Later that night apparently a young lady got a message asking for help to organise the said party, luckily she said yes & the ball was rolling.

Messages back & forth to organise a date, place & other ideas & talking with others, ie the jumping castle, whataburger, raffles, Santa, music & of course the bar.

It all come together on the best day we have had in Blackwood so far this summer.

Many thanks to Morgan, Mitch & other helpers, it was a great turnout. Whataburger donated 10% of their day's takings & along with donations for prizes & a donation from Crown Reserves everything was covered.

See what happens next year.

Also, a sorry to Kath B for stepping on her toes as she had been doing this the last couple of years. (an oversight on my behalf) But Kath still has the new years day recovery at the Mineral Springs.

~ Brian Suters







• ALLAN GEORGE HALL JUNE 15, 1944 ~ NOVEMBER 19, 2021 •

Allan was born 15.6.1944 in Carlton, the son of Albert & Mabel Hall. He lived in Footscray & moved to Blackwood in 1954 at the age of 10. He attended State School in Blackwood where the Special School is now. He went to High School in Bacchus Marsh on the Blackwood bus. He met his now wife, Elizabeth, & went on to do a carpentry apprenticeship with A.R.P. Crow in Yarraville while living in Carnegie. He was in A.R.P. Crows office at the Westgate when the bridge collapsed. This was just after his father had died in Ballarat.

After this he worked for Whittenbury Homes, Evans & Morton, building at Mount Beauty, Maintenance Manager for Burbank Homes, Bellhaven & V.P. Cooper, then Tribeca Homes. All the time doing his own building & renovating many homes in Blackwood, his pride & joy being the cottage in Martin St. near the Uniting Church. He also worked on the Dynon Road Bridge & on many buildings in Swan Hill, such as the Post Office, TV Station & others back in the 1960's. In 2020 we took him back to Swan Hill. A lot of what he related to had been pulled down. He was devastated.

At 65 he retired from Burbank Homes & went overseas with workmates, going to London, Italy & France. He returned to start work again. Mining was a big part of his life, his father found a nugget in 1934. Allan spent a lot of time with mining gentlemen at their camps, gaining a lot of knowledge of the past history. He loved meeting up with Herb Cann for a mine story. He later joined the Subterranean Historians investigating the old mines.

Allan married in 1967 at Myrning then went to live in Melton, later Bacchus Marsh then coming back to Blackwood in 1993, where the family ran the coffee shop on the corner of Martin & Terril Street. He loved to get customers involved in his stories of Blackwood's past. He knew who lived in all the houses, going back to the first dwellers. He would love to hear someone tell a story & would always wait till they were finished before correcting them, especially if you said you went to school here. He would check with Max Matheson & if they did not remember you had to prove it.

He believed we needed to put back into the community so he was



always working for some group. He was on Crown Reserves working with Jack Rayner, George Stockdale & Penny Garnett on the hall additions & the Senior Cotizens room & kitchen. Also with Don Matheson on setting up the Mineral Springs in the 1970's.

Groups in Blackwood had to fundraise a lot to do things around town's many fundraising events – Progressive Dinners, The Ugly Man competition, Hawaiian nights at the Springs, Revue concerts, bingo and of course, the Easter Carnivals. Easter was a big event that Allan was happy to set up, then you lost him chatting to the many people catching up on the past but he was always at the cleaning up until everything was away.

He joined the Historical Society in the 1970's, becoming secretary relating to his knowledge. He was part of the re-enactment team doing shows at Blackwood, Ballan Arcadian Arts, he ran tours on Daffodil Day & was always happy to do tours for walking groups or if you wanted to know where your past relatives lived, he was only too pleased to give time to this. Later, becoming President, our meetings were always running late as Allan has a Blackwood or Captain Moonlight story.

He was proud of putting the extension on to the Police Stables, of the Simmons Reef book launch with Don Nardella\* & looked

forward to meeting with Catherine King\*\* Three & a half years ago he has a stroke & remained at home till he had another one in September 2021. Unfortunately he had to be in hospital for 11 weeks & with COVID no-one could visit. In the last week he was brought to Bacchus Marsh palliative care where we could visit.

Allan is survived by wife, 3 children & partners & grandchildren.

~ Elizabeth Hall

\*Don Nardella served as our state member from 1992 until 2018.

\*\*Catherine King has been out our federal member since 2001.

ED NOTE: We were very sorry to hear of Allan's passing. He will be remembered as on our you classic Blackwoodian characters. our thoughts are with his family & friends.



Subterranean Historians

PARTS OF Allan's Eulogy (written by Elizabeth Hall) are published with the permission of the family - although there is some repetition, an editorial decision was made to print it because it adds to Allan's busy & colourful life

Allan was born on the 15th of June 1944 in Carlton at The Women's Hospital now known as the Royal Women's. He was the son of Albert & Mabel Hall, he lived in Footscray & moved to Blackwood in in 1954, at the age of 10. He attended the State School in Blackwood where the Special School is now.

He went to High School in Bacchus Marsh on the Blackwood Bus.

The High School bus is an important part of this story for it is also the same bus Elizabeth took to go Bacchus Marsh High School where they both attended. As teenagers they hit it off, laughed a lot & became good friends. Their romance naturally grew over time.

From then on they did everything together & were always there for one another through thick or thin. They were a great team, & as Elizabeth shared, their star signs were Gemini's, so they were a bit like twins.

After his schooling, Allan went on to do a carpentry apprenticeship with the A.R.P. Crows Company in Yarraville, while living in Carnegie. He & Elizabeth would catch up on the weekends. After his father died Allan went into the A.R.P's Crow's office to ask for time off. While he was in the office the Westgate bridge tragedy occurred where it collapsed & 35 Workers died. It was the 15th of October 1970, & one could say someone was looking after him that day. (... ..)

It's worth mentioning that son-in-laws Kenny & Ian got involved with Allan's mining stories & went with him to go out & see the mines – Allan loved this.

Elizabeth's & Allan's time for each other over the years was always the mornings when he got up early for work. They would chat about the family – it was their time to connect.

Allan loved Blackwood people he spent a lot of the time with Ray Williamson. He related a story when Ray on a motorbike thought he was Evil con Evil. He took his bike to the top of Shaws Lake & took off into the lake when Max Matheson yelled, "He can't swim!" So they had to save him. After that Allan called two or three times a week to make sure both mother & Ray were ok.

Allan was caring & would keep an eye out for people. He especially kept calling on Pat Liffmann because she was always getting into trouble. He focused her attention on working with him, & they would look into history matters.

Allan loved to:

Go for a drive on Sunday to see who was at Max Matheson's to listen to & tell tall stories.

He loved to see Rod Matheson at the (Old Police) Stables where they would catch up on bush finds like old bottles & plates & sort them there. He was proud of putting on the extension on the main building, it was a great achievement.

He was proud of producing & contributing to the Simmon's Reef book on the history of the area which Pat Liffman also researched. It was launched with the local state MP of the time Don Nardella.

Allan would also catch up with Federal Member Catherine King every year at the Easter Carnival. The Carnival has always been a reunion of Blackwood Locals & Allan would be chatting to people all day. He had a thing going at the Easter Carnival with Mr. Whippy, we chased him up to get him to go the carnival. Every year Mr. Whippy came from Altona & Allan would get his free ice-cream first thing. It was just a little ice-cream either he trot around & gloat while we all had to line up.

Allan was one of the boys, he loved spending time with his Blackwood mates Max Matheson & Ray Williamson both who we remember today, & Kenny Cann & Rod Matheson. Once they all got together, 'you could forget it.'

Three & a half years ago when Allan was 74 he had a stroke, Elizabeth looked after him & remained at home. Elizabeth read history books to him at night & was his eyes & ears. He was forced to retire but they got to spend quality time together. He would say to Elizabeth, "I don't like you today", & she would reply "I'm the best you've got! They also had a lot of laughs. He will be deeply missed.

Every morning at 9.30am he had his friend the magpie visit, & he would walk with the magpie outside & watch him eat. The magpie now looks for him & visits with her little ones.

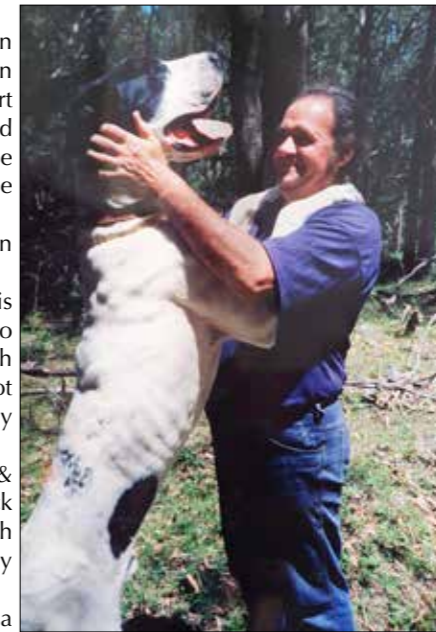
After he had the first stroke he looked forward to Brian Moore visiting each week. They shared a love for the Bulldogs. He would say "Brian hasn't come yet." & then Brian's dog Rocky always went up to Allan. Also every morning & hear the machinery at Kenny Cann's & then tell Elizabeth what he thought he was working on. Always amusing.

Allan had a second stroke in September 2021 during Covid. Unfortunately he had to be in Ballarat hospital alone for eleven weeks. However the children rang him every night. He loved that everyone was in the building game: Peter, Valissa & Genevieve. They would ring would & ask his advice. It kept him going as they were talking his language. Grand-daughter Layla dropped him off a present every week & he so looked forward to receiving it.

Towards the end, Allan was transferred to Bacchus Marsh Hospital for palliative care. He loved the fact he could see Elizabeth & the children. For that last week when the family visited they got to say their goodbyes in person.

At the end of each year he took time to take a cabin on the Murray & just sit & watch the paddle steamers. It was his "Turn off time."

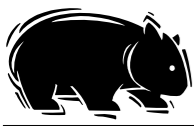
The lives of so many have been enriched by knowing you, now you can tell the stories in Heaven.



Allan is in looking proud as punch the front - arms crossed , green polo at the town photo at the Blackwood Hotels 150th birthday celebrations. Photo courtesy Margot Hitchcock

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





• COMMUNITY UPDATES • COMMUNITY UPDATES • COMMUNITY UPDATES •

**Blackwood Crown Reserves**

Blackwood Crown Reserves are saddened by the loss of Allan Hall who has been a long-standing resident of Blackwood. Allan has been a wonderful man, who has a long history of Blackwood. He has been on a number of committees in Blackwood & mostly The Historical Society where he enjoyed telling people the history of Blackwood. Allan will be sadly missed & we wish Elizabeth & family all the best.

As the weather is improving the Committee are moving to undertake the renovations of the Caravan Park Amenities Block.

It was great news to hear we had received the grant to upgrade the facility & hope it will begin in early 2022.

We have also commissioned an Arborist Report on the condition of trees in the caravan park & mineral springs, quite a few have already been addressed by the storms we have had, but there are still some that are being addressed.

Wishing all a safe & merry Christmas & happy New Year.

~ David White, Chair, BCRCOM 0418 372 203

**BLACKWOOD CERT**

**Why?** The population in our area (Greendale through to Newbury) is increasing. Team Members are decreasing as life's usual challenges & changes occur.

Half our Team does not live in the area full time - so having more full time locals covering emergency call-outs will help us all.

**What?** Be supported to train as an Ambulance Victoria First Responder. Learn new skills & create new connections in our community.

Be part of an emergency support network in your community. All welcome, no prior skills or experience needed.

**SHOCKTOBER** Shout out to CERTs who led online CPR training during Shocktober!

Learning CPR & the AEDs in our local community could be the difference between life & death for someone you love.

AEDs are located at: Martin Street Coffee, Blackwood Pub Garden of St Erth & Mineral Springs Caravan Park

~ Leonie Brasier, Co-Team Leader

**Blackwood CFA**

What an interesting 2 years we have experienced with the recent storms & loss of many trees, power outages, an earthquake & the Covid19 situation. Finally many of the Covid19 restrictions have been eased & we are about to head into summer.

Keep alert whilst out walking or driving as many trees appear to be dangerous with a distinct possibility of falling. On Wednesday November 7 a tree just south of O'Brien's Crossing turnoff was identified as a very dangerous tree as it had tilted about 30% since the previous weekend. Many of you will know the tree concerned as it was the one with the cross on it. The road was blocked off, the tree felled & cut up, then moved to the side of the road.

This story highlights the possible dangers that are currently present around our beautiful town so keep your eyes & ears open & make a note if you do see one that appears dangerous.

Contact the SES on 13 25 00 or advise us via phone or through the Facebook page.

REMEMBER that your safety is the first priority & do not go walking around the tree or getting too close.

**Did you change the batteries in your smoke detectors** & give the detector a test? Smoke detectors save lives.

As Spring comes to a close & Summer is just around the corner, it 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?

Check your fire readiness plan. Has anything changed that needs to be incorporated?

We have it on good authority that Santa will be making his normal appearance around Blackwood on Christmas Day with his helpers.

From myself, Ross & all the members of the Brigade, have a safe & merry Christmas & a very Happy New Year.

**BREAKING NEWS.....**the Fire Danger Period & Fire Restrictions for Moorabool & Hepburn Shire begin at 1 am Monday December 13.

**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 via 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 Historical Society**

ALLAN HALL, Past President of the Blackwood & District Historical Society, sadly passed away recently on Friday November 19, 2021. Allan lived in Blackwood & his passion was the History of Blackwood which he devoted his spare time & to preserving the History of Blackwood. He was responsible for the Historical display of many amazing articles at the Historical Societies Police Stables Museum that he built. He will be sadly missed by the Society members & people of Blackwood. Condolences to his family & his wife, Elizabeth Hall. A Funeral service was held in the Blackwood Hall on Monday November 29 before proceeding to the Blackwood Cemetery.

The Blackwood and District Historical Society is looking for new members who are interested in preserving the history of Blackwood and helping to look after the Historical Museum and the historical items on display. We hold monthly meetings on the 1st Saturday in the month from 10.30 - 12.30pm. People who want to help carrying on the great job job Allan Hall did as our Past President.~ Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society.

~ Margot Hitchcock, Historian

*Photos courtesy Margot Hitchcock & Allans family. Eulogy on p 6-7*

**Blackwood Progress**

Organisation for the 2022 Woodchop & Easter Carnival is well underway. We can expect lots of our favourite family activities, as well as some exciting new entertainment. We are always on the lookout for any new ideas & suggestions to make this event a stepping stone for bigger & better things to come, so your suggestions are welcome.

A registry for volunteers for the day will be launched in the New Year & we hope many of you will be able to assist.

Stay safe over the holidays & have a Merry Christmas & a happy New Year.

~ Darren Lynch, Secretary

PS: Vale Allan Hall, a stalwart of the Progress Association (Pres)

**Blackwood Seniors**

We have had a very up & down year, hopefully we don't have anymore downs.

We had a couple of very special birthdays, one 90 & one 80. I won't mention names as I didn't get their permission. Unfortunately we won't be able to accept you at seniors if you are not double vaxxed, the only exception is with a medical exemption & proof will have to be supplied.

**The Blackwood Seniors is changing its name to Blackwood over 55's Social club so a new & exciting era begins.**

A Happy Birthday to all who have birthdays while we were away & missed out on us singing to you (all in key of course). We are having our 50th Birthday next year so the party hats will be on.

We break up in December & meet back in January I haven't got dates as yet. We meet at the Blackwood Hall every Wednesday (as long as Dan says we can) at around 10.30am to have a chat & play games, then at noon we have a 3 course meal, the cost is \$15.00. After that we have a nanny nap, just joking, we play Bingo at the cost of \$1.00 per card. The raffle is \$1.00 per ticket with some great prizes. We finish around 2.30-3.00.

All welcome. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas & a happy, healthy & safe new year.

~ Dianne Volpe, Secretary/Treasurer

**Blackwood Uniting Church - St Martin's Chapel**

St Martin's Chapel formerly Blackwood Uniting Church has a date for the official re-dedication and opening of the renovated building & we are celebrating this on December 18, 2021.

It has been a long time coming but it was worth the wait. Now it is time to celebrate with a community get together. So much is planned & although we have had to downscale the event somewhat due to COVID restrictions we are still going to have a fantastic festival.

There will be a concert, an art show, a market, shape note singing, a procession, bell ringing, an official rededication & Devonshire Teas. Local traders Carol & Martin at the Post Office, the Blackwood Hotel, Karen Bruno & Whataburger will have a variety of delicious food & drinks available.

Over the whole weekend there will also be some sessions held to give you a taste of the sorts of things that will people will be offering at the chapel. Genevieve Messenger will be offering a Generative Writing class, Leticia Dornelles will run a Yoga class, Fiona Haigh will take a Tai Chi session, Fiona Ross will be leading an hour of InterPlay & Jane Howat will share some arts, craft & sewing ideas.

Come & share in the celebration. What a great timing for a town party, after all this community has been through - COVID, windstorms, earth tremors, more windstorms & blackouts, but you can't keep a great community down.

If you are interested in having a stall at the market (spaces are limited) please contact me on 53686792.

Get your party gear ready Blackwoodians!.

~ Robyn Zanon

*See p3 for details ..*

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 SPECIAL SCHOOLS OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE**

While 2021 has been a very different & on occasions difficult year for all, the operation of Blackwood Special Schools has also been modified to allow for the times. On Monday November 8 the staff at Blackwood were very happy to welcome students back to the School after not seeing any students onsite since August. With cancelled bike rides, programs, & visits on regular occasions throughout the year, it has once again been wonderful to hear the student voices across the property, see them engaged in our Outdoor Education lessons & challenge them to extend their comforts while at Blackwood.

As with all businesses things happen in the background & at the beginning of Term 4, after a long journey, we received some wonderful news from the Department of Education that we have finally received a campus Student Resource Package resulting in funding that will help us develop & improve our facilities with a focus on creating better outcomes for all students accessing Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre.

Frankston Special Development School will remain our parent School, but now & into the future we have funding to invest in the students to help them learn, engage, & grow through experiential education opportunities.

This is wonderful news for Blackwood Special Schools & all Special Schools across the State of Victoria, & we look forward to the challenges ahead as we create a unique facility designed to provide for students across the Victorian Special Education Sector.

**BLACKWOOD MOTORCYCLE CLUB**

Currently it is all quiet in the biking world. Rides are determined by the weather as we are old farts now.

The good thing is that we have had heaps of enquires on our next ride so if November one didn't take place December will be it, so watch out everyone.

The hardest part is that all riders have to be fully vaccinated to enter pubs & cafes which makes it hard so maybe back to Talbot Market for some yummy pork rolls & gravy which is a winner by all.

Also watch out on the local Landcare noticeboard as I am going to print of all of the local FB pages you can join & if any group wants theirs on there please let me know as my number is on the board.....

Please stay save everyone over Christmas & New Year's.....Ho Ho  
~ Brett Bond

**BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB**

A quick rundown..1st game washed out

2nd game against Sunbury at home: Sunbury made 182 Blackwood made 184 with 1 ball to spare

3rd game against Digger rest Bulla: Diggers 7-155 Blackwood 6-279

4th game against Gisborne: Gisborne 155 Blackwood 60 undermanned.

5th game is at home 11th December v Bacchus Marsh After xmas we have 4 home games

Saturday 8: against Hanging Rock Saturday 22: against Woodend

Saturday 29 & Feb 5: 2 dayer against Diggers Rest Bull Saturday 26 & March 5: 2 dayer against Bacchus Marsh

Mark these dates on your calendar please & make your way down to the ground for a quiet drink, hotdog & dumsims

~ President Brian Suters

*- see photos p12*

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





Sam Rae inspecting the damage at the Mineral Springs after the big storm in June.

• MEET SAM •

Hi, I'm Sam & I am proud to be Labor's candidate for the new seat of Hawke. Hawke includes Sunbury, Diggers Rest, Bulla, Melton, Bacchus Marsh, Ballan, Blackwood & surrounds.

You can read more about our new electorate at <https://www.aec.gov.au/profiles/vic/hawke.htm>

My partner Zoe & I live on Wurundjeri land with our two kids. We love our local area but we also face challenges. The extraordinary rate of growth in our suburbs & towns is putting our social & physical infrastructure under pressure. We want to spend less time in our cars, & more time with our families & friends. We want our kids to be given the best opportunities by having access to great schools. & we want our loved ones to get world-class healthcare when they need it.

I saw first-hand the transformative power of good public education, as my mum was a public-school teacher & a proud union member. She instilled in me the principles of a fair go, community contribution & responsibility. These are the principles by which I live my life – in the workplace, at home with my family & out in my community.

If I am fortunate enough to get the opportunity, they are the principles that I will bring to representing Hawke every day.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me over the coming months by email on [sam.rae@vic.alp.org.au](mailto:sam.rae@vic.alp.org.au). You can stay up to date with the campaign for Hawke on my Facebook or Instagram.

If you have questions about your voter enrolment, you can get in touch with the Australian Electoral Commission here. A Federal election must be conducted by May 2022, so please update your enrolment information if you need to as soon as possible.

~ Take care, Sam Rae



# Did you know bushfires kill from 200m away?

The flames of bushfires can reach temperatures of up to 1100°C. Long before the flames reach you, the wave of radiant heat can kill you from 200 metres away. Planning for bushfire is the only way to survive it.

How well do you know fire?

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to [vic.gov.au/knowfire](http://vic.gov.au/knowfire)

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



## TODAY IS CALM

As I sit & watch the serenity of our beautiful backyard today, it's hard to imagine that 2 nights ago we were once again bunkered down in the entrance of our house, with our beanbags & blankets, our headlamps & our torches, listening to the wind howling & the trees crashing down.

This morning is peaceful. The sun is shining & the sky is blue. I can't hear any chainsaws yet, but I know they won't be far off. I can imagine everyone is enjoying some extra sleep after our harrowing night the other night. But as I look out my kitchen window into our beautiful forest, the reminder is there.

To anyone else, if they didn't see the fallen trees on the ground, they'd probably think it looked ok. But to the locals of our little town & to the many that frequent this majestic place, we see a huge difference. Since June our beautiful, once dense, forest has become a fraction of its former glory. The clean up has been hard. Everyone has been working their butts off. You try & fit in some chopping & burning off on weekends, or days after work, if the weather's playing nice. But there seems to be more windy days than nice these days.

Fire season is gonna be stressful. When you live in a place like Blackwood you're used to trees falling & power outages. When you tell people where you live you're usually met with 'aren't you worried about bushfires?' Of course I am, but it's more than just being prepped for fire season. You're alert all year round. You get used to watching the wind & knowing when to trek or when to burn off. When to drive down the hill or up into Trentham. Making sure everything's charged on windy days, just in case the power goes out. It's part & parcel of the lifestyle. But this year's been different. The storm in June hit us bad & even though a clean up has been going for months, everything is still vulnerable. The trees, the animals...and us.

The drive up the hill every day is heart-breaking & the drive into Trentham is even worse. I work in Ballan so I come up from Greendale everyday. You can see so many trees just out of place, even if they haven't come down. Like the tree on the bend with the cross on it\*, who is ever so slightly on a different lean. I know it is cos I've watched it every day for years. You learn to know exactly what a tree looks like. But then you start questioning yourself. Was that tree on a lean before or am I just imagining it? It just looks different, I know it does! Just past that tree there are 3 trees that have amazingly held each other up on an almost 45% angle towards the road for months. I was positive they'd go the other night. But nope, they're still standing...just.

Trees are amazing. I've got so many out the back of my place that are holding each other up. We refer to some of them as though they are drunk. There's this one that I've been checking everyday. He was slightly uprooted & leaning towards his tree mate next to him, who was holding him up by just a couple of leaves. It's freaking crazy! I worried for those trees the other night. The kids & I had predictions over which ones would fall & then in the morning when the sun rose, we couldn't wait to see. & yep, our poor drunken mate was laying across my back driveway.

It's such a relief when the sun comes up & you can see where the destruction is. Imagine the night time & not knowing where that crack is coming from. Listening carefully. Knowing which trees have the

potential to hit, or cause a domino effect. It's so scary.

It's not the windy days that scare me. It's the nights. The not being able to see. How do I avoid it if I can't see?! But I had to do things differently this time. I tried not to be as panicked. Don't get me wrong, I was hella scared, but I couldn't let that unnerving feeling in my stomach, that reminder of how scary it was last time, get the better of me. We bunkered downstairs, which isn't unusual on super windy nights, & as the wind crept up to 97km/h & trees crashed in the darkness, I made the decision to stop looking at the wind speed on my phone & I closed my eyes. A bit of a difference to the last time when I bunkered down in the pantry with my dog & covered my ears with my hands, breathing as loud as I could to block the noise out. Not my finest moment as a parent I must say! I wasn't doing that again. Although I do have to laugh. We're so used to this now that even the dogs took themselves off to their safe place in the pantry, without being guided there. Haha they just know!

I don't know how fast the wind got to. A part of me doesn't want to know. I just know that when the sun came up I knew we'd be ok. & we were. We spent the morning sitting by the kitchen window, watching as huge trees came crashing down in the forest. Listening carefully to make sure we didn't need to run. It's like a routine. You hear that first crack & everyone takes in a deep breath & then as you see it crumbling down you all let out a 'wooahhhh'. The noise of it crashing to the ground is so loud that the dogs start barking, so you reassure them 'it's only a tree guys', like they understand you. & this routine happens over & over again for hours, until the wind calms. It feels weird to say it out loud like that. 'Hey guys, what did you get up to yesterday?' 'Oh not much, we just sat by the kitchen window watching huge trees come crashing down.' It's crazy that it's almost like it's our normality now.

I don't expect people to understand why I live here. I can't explain it. But I just love my little town. I love the people. I love the quiet. And as scary as the reality of it is sometimes, I just can't imagine being anywhere else right now. This is my home. Ah there it is. The sound of that first chainsaw. I guess it's time to head out & start cutting & burning while

I can.

Today is calm. But tomorrow.....well that might be a different story....

~ Andrea Vale

\* see the CFA report p8

Thank you Andrea for allowing me to reprint this wonderful story. I just know so many Blackwoodians will relate.

KINESIOLOGY **Ray** MIND BODY MEDICINE  
 HOLISTIC HEALTH  
 Blackwood, Kyneton & Online. Ph: 0416717792  
 Email: [rayholistichealth@gmail.com](mailto:rayholistichealth@gmail.com) @rayholistichealth

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





### MINING IN THE WOMBAT STATE FOREST - COMMUNITY SAYS 'NO CONSENT'

No Wombat Gold is a group of residents from Blackwood, Victoria and surrounds. We live within the Wombat State Forest.

We are currently experiencing a barrage of exploratory & mining licence within a small area in Barrys Reef, near Blackwood, an hour from Melbourne

The Wombat State Forest is likely to become a National Park. However these miners are operating in an area for a proposed Regional Park, very popular with tourists day tripping from Melbourne.

"In the Wombat Macedon area we're creating a new national park, 4 new regional parks, & two new conservation parks.

We're protecting our natural environment & our treasured species, including Greater Gliders, Powerful Owls & Swift Parrots, & ensuring Victorians can continue to enjoy our beautiful open spaces." DELWP brochure "New parks in the Wombat Macedon area"

Having gold mining here would be at cross purposes to the Regional Park's stated aims.

The licences are situated at the source of the Lerderderg River, in the Melbourne Water catchment.

Cauldron Energy are currently exploratory drilling from within the Tyrconnel Adit (a horizontal mine shaft) that goes underground & sits above the water table. They eventually want to mine under the water table. Historical mining did not have the technology to do that, so the gold deposits there are relatively untouched.

Earth Resources has said exploratory activity should not be conducted within 100m of a waterway, but Long Gully Creek, which flows into the Lerderderg River is a stone's throw away from the Tyrconnel Adit entrance.

The water coming out of the Tyrconnel Adit has been tested with arsenic levels of .18 to .29mg/l. The WHO recommendation for drinking water is 0.01mg/l. If they proceed to mining a lot of water will need to be removed to get under the water table & mining activity will release more arsenic into the environment. The Tyrconnel Adit runs under the houses in Barrys Reef. Eight residents have received consent forms, to exploratory drill within 100m of their houses. From underground. Cauldron Energy have now also applied for a prospecting licence roughly 200m from houses. Simon Youds from Cauldron says "A prospecting licence allows us to test the material that we access from underground." A prospecting licence is a small mining licence. We don't believe it is just for testing purposes. We suspect they want to prospect gold for cash flow.

"The Blackwood Gold Project provides exceptional prospectivity & high potential of early cashflow." Cauldron Energy Investor Presentation [https://cauldronenergy.com.au/app/uploads/2021/05/CXU\\_InvestorPresentation\\_20201028.pdf](https://cauldronenergy.com.au/app/uploads/2021/05/CXU_InvestorPresentation_20201028.pdf)

Nuggety Gold Mining are trying to renew a lapsed mining licence. Nuggety Creek is close & also flows into the Lerderderg River. Currawong Resources did exploratory drilling north of Blackwood in June last year. They have informed the community they plan to come back & do more drilling further north. They are also keen to get under the water table. This frenzy of licence activity is likely a direct result of the land release in 2019 by the Victorian Government



**EDITORS NOTE:** Local mining has become a contentious topic recently, particularly on social media. Volunteers at the Blackwood Times are not journalists, & as such do not feel qualified to comment. On this basis we have asked each party to present their own article. We encourage Blackwoodians to conduct their own due diligence in order to form their own opinions.

& the success of the Fosterville Gold Mine. "The Victorian Government has opened more land in central Victoria for gold exploration. The North Central Victorian Goldfields Ground Release will be open to international tender, following the success of Kirkland Lake Gold's Fosterville Mine." Bendigo Advertiser, October 29 2019 <https://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/6462644/moreland-open-for-gold-exploration-in-central-victoria/>

Communities around Victoria, especially in old gold mining areas, are fighting the rash of exploration licences across the state. Here are a few groups from Facebook: **Let's stop proposed mining exploration in North East Victoria** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/238228828220832> **No Wombat Gold** <https://www.facebook.com/NoWombatGold> **Don't Undermine Steiglitz** <https://www.facebook.com/NoSteiglitzMine>

Common concerns are water quality & the impact on the environment/tourism.

The Moorabool Shire Council spent millions replacing leaky septic in Blackwood & Barrys Reef to protect the environment. Allowing gold mining in this area doesn't make sense if so much has been done to protect the water catchment. Barrys Reef residents & supporters recently had a covid-safe (well spaced small groups) 'No Consent' protest. A moratorium on commercial mining in this area would be ideal. It would protect the water catchment, save communities a lot of grief, & not waste the miners' time & money.

~ No Wombat Gold community group



**BADGAR**  
EMERGENCY WILDLIFE RESCUE  
[www.wildlifeshelter.org.au](http://www.wildlifeshelter.org.au)  
WILDLIFE RESCUE 24 HOURS  
**1300 badgar**  
1300 223 427

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

### CHANGING THE FACE OF AUSTRALIA'S MINING INDUSTRY

Cauldron Energy (Cauldron, or the Company) is a junior ASX resources company based in Perth, Western Australia [www.cauldronenergy.com.au](http://www.cauldronenergy.com.au).

It's time to change how we mine in Australia. Here at Cauldron, we are trying something new - beginning our operations with open & transparent community engagement at Barrys Reef. We are listening to the local community, specifically their concerns about underground traditional mining. Cauldron are utilising handheld mining & existing rail-line transport which make for a smaller, less energy-intensive mining method. . No large, hydrocarbon-fuelled machinery will be involved. The local community benefits through job opportunities & increasing economic growth. Contrary to popular belief, mining activities can be undertaken without impacting the environment. We are changing our approach to ensure that the wishes of the community are considered. We commit to no surface impacts, no waste dumps, no process plants. We hope the community has seen how our actions to date prove that we are upholding our commitments. We encourage people to contact us directly so that we can explain Cauldron's unique & innovative mining model, which puts the environment & community first in all of our planning work. This article is written, partly, to dispel some of the mistruths & misinformation recently circulated about our operations at Barrys Reef.

Directly addressing the first false allegation, there has been no release of hydrochloric acid into the environment. In fact, there has been no acid storage at our sites, as confirmed by a short Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) investigation, which cleared our operations as safe & met their strict standards of environmental protection.

The 2nd major allegation suggested the release of arsenic from the mine. Arsenic occurs naturally within the surrounding rocks and, by way of natural weathering & erosion processes, the groundwater systems in the area. We have never denied that the existing water in the mine, left as a legacy from historical gold mining, contains abnormal levels of arsenic. Independent testing of the groundwater sampled directly from within the Tyrconnel Adit Portal (Tyrconnel) at Barrys Reef, showed an arsenic content of 0.29 mg/L. However, the same independent testing program also took samples from the sediment dam system & discharge point into the Lerderderg River. The latter sample contained arsenic of only 0.02 mg/L. According to the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2011, updated March 2021), drinking water supplies in Australia typically range between values less than 0.001 & 0.03 mg/L. Additional independent test work also revealed that water from the same source aquifer is naturally higher in arsenic because of the surrounding host rock. Cauldron had earlier initiated discussions with local businesses to treat the water with algae, as explained in the next section & backed by industrial case studies.

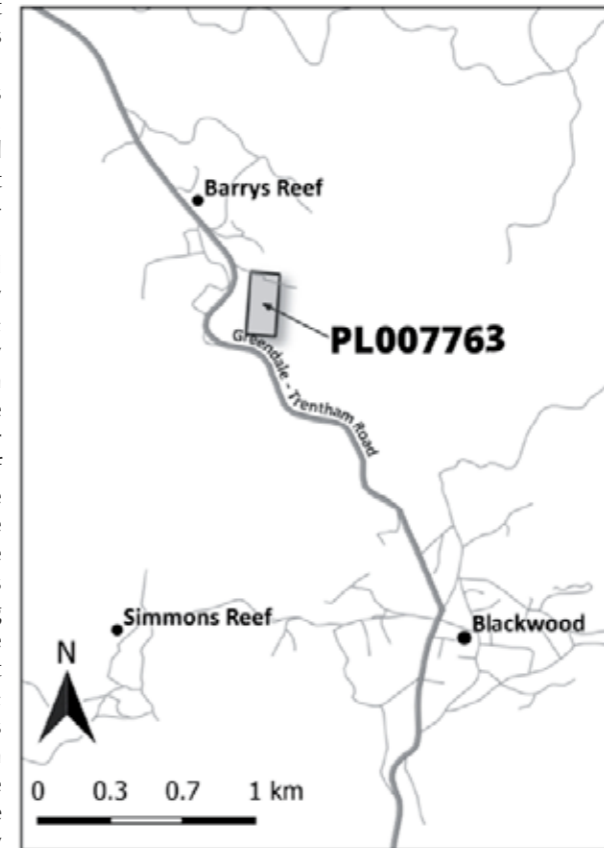
The Company maintains regular communication with all regulating authorities including EPA, Melbourne Water & the Earth Resources Regulation of Victoria (ERR), ensuring that we remain compliant in the adoption of the best strategies to protect the surrounding environment. The Company has sought, & will always seek to obtain, the necessary approvals with which to conduct our work. This includes endeavouring to not only meet, but to exceed, the requirements for



community engagement. We pride ourselves on our commitment to minimise impacts to the beautiful environment in which we operate.

#### Cauldron's Innovative, Small-Scale, Circular Economy Approach

We are committed to a Zero-Carbon operational target. To do this, we engage with local, environmentally-focused, business owners & programs to enable the integration of mining into a circular economy. This, in turn, enables us to become part of the climate-change / land-improvement solution. Two early examples of this are:



**Mine Water Treatment:** Cauldron is working with a local business entity to utilise algae for cleaning & treating historical, arsenic-rich water that was pumped from the mine. Algal treatment of this water would result in cleaned, "recycled" water which is then pumped into the upper reaches of the local river systems to replenish the water catchment area. Case studies supporting this method are provided by Flinders University (2015) & Arizona State University (2015/2020).

**Large-Scale Soil Improvement with Waste Rock:** Another local group have initiated a soil remediation project in the region, processing waste rock material to create a soil improver.

Further information is provided in our October 21 Facebook post on the Blackwood Community Forum & via our website. Cauldron's proposed mining operations are planned in such a way to demonstrate that we are instigating a paradigm shift in thinking. We strongly encourage the local community to get on board & help us be the face of that change.

We welcome community feedback & respectfully request that communication channels remain open so we can continue to adjust our plans in line with genuine & reasonable concerns raised. We can be contacted via the email below, through our website or by the Facebook forum.

~ [Simon.youds@cauldronenergy.com.au](mailto:Simon.youds@cauldronenergy.com.au)

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

(03) 5368 1355  
**GREENDALE COUNTRY PUB**  
**Pizza:** Wed, Thurs, Fri Sat, 6-8pm & Sun noon-8  
**Tues:** Parma and Pasta \$18  
**Friday:** Happy Hour 5-7, \$3.50 POTS, Bar Nibbles & Meat Raffle  
**Wed - Sun:** Full Menu Dinner  
**Daily:** Lunch @ noon-2pm (closed Monday)  
**LARGE BEER GARDEN AT REAR**  
**General Store stocks all, drinks, icecreams, grocery items, take away bottleshop, newspapers daily, bread, ice & anything else you may just need.**  
**Shop opens at 10am every day and is open late with Pub.**  
**LIVE MUSIC: Check our facebook page**  
**5368 1355**  
3 Greendale Myrniong Rd, Greendale 3341





Season opener on the prettiest pitch in Victoria see Blackwood Cricket Club update p9

### PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS



**Woof:** In this edition I would again like to cover Diabetes since I've been recently being diagnosed.

**What is Diabetes Mellitus?** Diabetes in pets (Diabetes Mellitus) is a common disorder that affects animals similarly to the way it affects humans. It is caused by a lack of insulin in the body, or the body's inability to respond to insulin. Insulin is produced in the pancreas & allows the body's cells to utilise glucose from the

blood for energy. When an animal does not have enough insulin, glucose levels in the blood increase. Without insulin, the body is forced to use energy sources other than glucose. This leads to a build-up of toxins in the blood.

**How is Diabetes in pets diagnosed?** Diagnosis of diabetes in pets is usually straightforward. A simple blood test will reveal the increased levels of glucose. However, urine tests & further blood tests can help determine the severity of the effects of diabetes on the body. Diabetic pets will require a further diagnosis to determine how severe their case is. Clinical signs of Diabetes in pets can include the following: increased thirst & increased urination, increased appetite with variable weight changes (often increase in early stages), depression, lethargy, vomiting, sweet, 'acetone' breath, dehydration & cataracts in the eyes.

**How is Diabetes in pets treated?** Treatments for diabetes depend on the severity of the disease. Most pets with diabetes will require insulin injections once or twice daily. Once an animal is diagnosed as a diabetic, more tests to determine how the diabetes is affecting the body are necessary. 'Simple' diabetics who are eating well will often start insulin injections straight away & spend only a short time in the hospital for monitoring. The patient can then go home & you can administer regular insulin injections as determined by your vet. Often, dietary changes are necessary, & diabetics need to be fed at times suitable for their insulin levels. Diabetic pets will also need to revisit the veterinary clinic for regular blood glucose monitoring. This is important as insulin requirements can change over time. Pets with more severe diabetes will require different treatments and monitoring. These pets usually require a longer period of hospitalisation, and intravenous fluids to correct dehydration & electrolyte imbalances. It can take a long time to stabilise particularly sick diabetics, & some do not respond well to treatment. Owners must be aware of the time, costs & possible treatment failure before treatment is started.

With regular monitoring & treatment, good control of blood glucose levels is possible in most cases. This reduces the risk of long-term side effects like cataracts. It is also important to rule out concurrent diseases that may affect glucose control. Most pets with diabetes will need to have their blood glucose checked every few months. This involves a day in the hospital with several blood tests throughout the day, as blood glucose levels fluctuate. My Diabetes is very manageable & even though I get 2 jabs a day, I get to have yummy food twice daily now. My mum takes very good care of me & have many a senior years left.

~ Woof for now & happy Christmas ... Seamus

**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.

### • FLETCHERS ADVENTURES •



G'day all in the doggie town of Blackwood. Fletcher is back with all the news about the town. Well I've been quite busy lately getting about in the car with Mum & Dad & my sister Joanie. The weather is fining up just a little bit through the break of the constant rain so myself & Joanie have been driving all around Victoria looking for tree damage & checking on people in the area maybe affected by the second

wind storm. My dad just loves driving & looking around so mum always says that he should have been a Policeman & not a Fireman. She calls him Inspector Fowler & Joanie & I think it's hilarious! Mum & Dad say the Moorabool Council are doing a great job with helping the community as they put on barbies that I am not allowed to attend & other things like skip bins & things that if I get the chance, I love leaving a wet mark on what I find. The two magpies who live up here near us are acting funny at the moment as the weather is fining up, they are swooping Joanie & I something fierce. All we do is what doggies do, is mind our own business running around & they give us curry. In saying that, most of the year we are busy chasing them. Anyway, my friends. I so look forward to my regular catchups with my local mates & more social meetings now with the warmer weather.

~ Hooroo from Fletcher Fowler



**BREAZE ENERGY SOLUTIONS**

# SOLAR

## \$1,888 REBATE

- As one of a limited number of Clean Energy Council (CEC) Approved Solar Retailers locally, we can access the Solar Victoria Rebate and Solar Victoria Interest-Free Loan
- Locally Owned & Operated in the Central Highlands
- Local Consultants & Accredited Installers live in Moorabool, Hepburn & Macedon Shires & City of Ballarat
- On-Grid, Off-Grid, Domestic & Commercial Experience
- Expertise combining Solar PV with Batteries & Hot Water

Contact your Local Consultant Karl Haller  
0435513572 karlhaller@breaze.org.au

03 4309 4027 www.breaze.org.au/pv  
energysolutions@breaze.org.au

### BLACKWOOD WOMBIES

Hello welcome from Wombat Bookclub where we all get to read & chat, & bask in the spring sunshine & lockdowns will hopefully be behind us. 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. If you would like information about our lovely, informal gathering please contact Brenda Hunter at woodbinelodge1@gmail.com From Wombat Bookclub, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas & a 'lockdown free' New Year.

The books we have covered the last couple of months were 'Infinite Splendours' by Sofie Laguna & 'The Love That I have' by James Maloney.

**SANDY: 'Infinite Splendours'** is set in Victoria near the Grampians. The protagonist, Lawrence Lowman, is a talented painter who lives at home with his widowed mother & his younger brother. Life was normal for a young boy, full of curiosity & loved exploring. Life drastically changed once his uncle came to live with them. Not only was his young innocence betrayed, but he found himself in a position where he could repeat history.

This novel is not for everyone, it contains some confronting events & there is no happy ending in this book. However, the writer gives some insight in to how events can easily unfold in a persons' life.

4 Wombies



**SANDY: 'The Love That I have'** is a heart-warming story about love & betrayal. Margot Baumann leaves school to work in the mail room in an office next to a German Prison camp. She was asked to destroy letters from the prisoners to their loved ones. Instead, she reads some of the letters & realises the prisoners are people who feel & love. Through one of these love letters, she connects with a German prisoner arrested for hiding a family of Jewish people on the run from the Germans. She begins to understand just how cruel the Nazi regime is. This is an easy read which easily connects the reader with the characters.

5 Wombies



## THE GARDEN OF ST ERTH

open 7 DAYS a WEEK  
Garden, Shop & Nursery 10am - 4pm daily  
Cafe 11am-3pm Fri, Sat, Sun  
Membership & gift vouchers available



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

**FORK TO FORK CAFE**  
Ph: 03 5368 6520

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



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





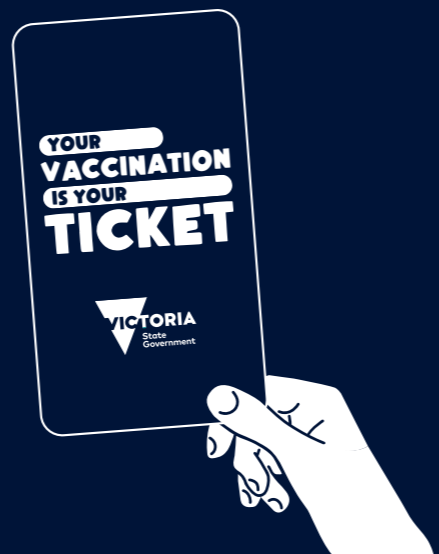
My vaccination is my **ticket** to the camping spots we've **missed**

Victoria, vaccination is your ticket to everything we love and miss.

Book yours today at [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au)



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



### THE HISTORY & PIONEERS OF BLACKWOOD



**ISAAC POVEY DIED Blackwood - JULY 1855.**  
*Compiled by Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society. November 2021*

Standing all alone on what is called Deadman's Hill, Simmons Reef, Blackwood is the grave of Isaac Povey.

Isaac Povey is recorded as being born in Birmingham, & was christened on the 21 August 1834 at St. Phillips, Birmingham, Warwickshire in England. His parents were recorded as John & Mary Povey & he had two brothers, Charles Povey & Joseph Povey, & a sister Mary Povey. (*information courtesy of Daryl Povey of Ballarat from researched records*) He was 21 yrs of age when he came out to the Australia landing in NSW in 1854, with his mate John (Edward) Hill from West Bromwich, Birmingham, England. He came out hoping to make his fortune & then return to his sweetheart, Mary, within 3 years.

Povey & Hill first went to Sydney where they worked at building the Sydney Mint in their trade as bricklayers. Later they arrived in Melbourne & made their way to the Mount Blackwood ranges.

Within a year, Isaac Povey caught a chill & died in July, 1855. As there was no cemetery at that time in Blackwood, John Hill buried his friend in a coffin made of sheets of bark, on the summit of the hill now known as Deadman's Hill, Simmons Reef, & marked the grave with stones & a wooden tablet.

John Hill stated 23 years later that "he could not let poor Mary know of his fate because he did not know where she lived & Isaac was too bad to tell us at the last." So Mary waited, but Isaac never returned.

Many years later, the lone grave was visited by a Mr. Tom Johnson, then the proprietor of a foundry in the Melbourne suburb of Brunswick. Some years later, Mr Johnson visited Birmingham on matters connected with his foundry business, & walking along a street, he noticed above a business premises, the name of Isaac Povey, which struck a chord in his memory. On impulse, Mr. Johnson went inside, & on meeting the principals of the firm, asked if any relative of theirs had gone to the Australian goldfields. He learned that there was indeed, a relative called Isaac Povey who had gone to Australia, & the family believed, although without certainty, that he had died soon after arriving in Australia. To their very great interest & gratitude, Mr. Johnson told them of the grave of Isaac Povey on the hill above the Lerderderg River in Blackwood.

Several years later, around 1926, a bush fire swept through the hills, & the wooden tablet on the grave of Isaac Povey was destroyed. Mr. Johnson having heard of the fire, made another visit to Blackwood & revisited the grave. After talks with the local people he offered to have a bronze tablet cast in his foundry. This he did & the local residents transported it to Deadman's Hill & erected the headstone on the grave with the inscription reading 'Isaac Povey, died July 10th 1855.'

*Information on Tom Johnson from The Australia Post Office magazine*



*August-September issue 1960 - page 7, written by the late Joseph Shaw courtesy of the late Grace Rayner. Joseph Shaw & his family were connected to Shaw's Lake Blackwood & old Joseph Shaw lived in a log cabin in Blackwood in Whalebone road. (see pages 53 & 58 of 'Aspects of Early Blackwood' book)*

Today the grave stands alone, occasionally visited by people who search it out. The area surrounding the grave is riddled with mine shafts & open reefs with quartz exposed where local legend has it that gold was found while they dug his grave, presumably on his claim. The bridge across the river, having been washed away, access is only by a rough track across the river, & up the steep hill through the bush & natural surroundings now reverted to much the same as when Isaac Povey first arrived there - a fitting resting place for a pioneer.

On obtaining Isaac Povey's death certificate it stated his parents names were unknown. His name was recorded as Isaac (Isaah) Povey, parents Unknown he was aged 21 years, making him born in 1834, it was stated he had died at Mt. Blackwood, the death was registered by Dr. Caesar Kieser of Mt. Blackwood, he died of pulmonary disease of the lungs, & died on the 10th July 1855, & the undertaker or by whom certified was James Darly (sp?) & he had been in Victoria for 9 months. Reg Number: 4625.

From this we can substantiate that Isaac Povey arrived in Victoria in October 1854, & was one of the original party with Edward Hill who first found gold in Blackwood.

*(Some of the above information is gratefully acknowledged to Grace Rayner for her poem 'Deadman's Hill', based on an article written by the late Joseph Shaw in the Australian Post Office Magazine Aug-Sept issue 1960. Also to the late Edgar Williams, Great Grandson of John (Edward) Hill, for information kept in a scrapbook by his Aunt Annie Williams.)*

©Margot F Hitchcock.

For help with information on Blackwood ancestors contact Margot Hitchcock - email - [margothitchcock@bigpond.com](mailto:margothitchcock@bigpond.com)

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

Personalised and professional hairdressing services

**B&B** Now Open

Blackwood HAIR BOUTIQUE 0407 562 018

29 Martin st, Blackwood

**LoveLight Co-Creative HealthCare**  
*Holistic Medicine & Vibrational Healing*

supporting your physical & emotional health  
natural medicine, nutrition, dietary guidance, energy healing, intuitive counseling

workshops  
practical training, personal growth, meditation

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

Blackwood & Yarraville  
ATMS accredited member





• FROM THE DESK OF CFA •

A big clean up before the fire season can make a huge difference to the safety & survival of your home in a grass or bushfire.

Preparing your property means you minimise the chance of damage during a fire, even if you plan to leave early, so keep trees, overhanging branches & shrubs to a minimum near your home, particularly around & under windows. If you need to undertake preparations at a property other than your primary residence check the Victorian Coronavirus website for up-to-date advice.

If burning off is part of your property preparations, make sure you check restrictions, monitor weather conditions – especially wind – & always register your burn-offs.

Leading up to summer, our skilled & ready volunteer brigades are running online sessions to help you understand your fire risk & help you prepare.

Prepare your property

- Prune tree branches so they are not overhanging the roof or touching walls
- Keep grass shorter than 10cm. Regularly remove leaves & twigs
- Don't have plants higher than 10cm in front of windows or glass doors
- Check that your home & contents insurance is current & includes a level of cover in line with current building standards & regulations

Keep burn-offs safe & legal

- Check fire restrictions with your local council & if needed apply for a fire permit
- Notify your neighbours
- Leave a 3m fire break, free from flammable materials around the burn
- Have enough water & equipment to stop the fire spreading & to extinguish it
- Never leave a burn-off unattended – stay for its entire duration
- If your burn-off gets out of control, call '000' immediately

For more information about bushfire planning & preparation visit <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/>

~ Jason Heffernan  
CFA Chief Officer



Kim Arthur & Emma Brelsford & from Cafs (Child & Family Services in Ballarat)

POST STORM FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Victorian State government has recognized the impact of recent storm & flood events in Moorabool & Hepburn Shires & have funded two financial counsellors to assist affected residents.

Emma Brelsford & Kim Arthur from Cafs (Child & Family Services in Ballarat) have been attending community BBQ's in Blackwood, Dales Creek & other affected towns to meet impacted residents & explain how a financial counsellor can help following a natural disaster.

"Many people affected by natural disasters don't know that there is someone there to help with insurance issues or to provide guidance on accessing grants & payments" explained Financial Counsellor Emma Brelsford.

"Many people feel traumatised for months following a natural disaster & can be preoccupied with cleanup efforts & don't realise there is someone to talk to about how their personal finances have been impacted by the storm"

Financial Counselling is a free & confidential service where an initial financial assessment can be made & options are presented to help people make informed decisions on what to do next. Financial Counsellors can also provide advocacy for clients in negotiating with banks & other creditors including utility companies & insurance companies.

Financial Counsellors can also help residents to negotiate payment deferrals & contract variations, install affordable payment plans, assess financial capacity & provide advocacy & support.

The storm & flood financial counselling program is funded through to June 2022 & appointments are available now.

Residents are invited to have a confidential chat about their situation by contacting: Emma Brelsford 0437322933 | Kim Arthur 0429 263 645 | Cafs Ballarat 03 5337 3333

**Catherine KING MP**  
Federal Member for Ballarat

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

Standing up for our Community!

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



JOURNEY TO BUILD IN MOUNT BLACKWOOD:

In 1864, my 2nd great grandfather Hermann Friedrich Wolter, the second Hermann, out of 3, arrived at Australian shores on April 4, 1864, at Hobson's Bay, Williamstown, one of the main entries into Melbourne. Most ships at the time were too big to continue up the Yarra River with its low bridges & small entrances, so overseas ships had to reside & depart at the local port of Williamstown, which had a reasonably deep channel.

Hermann had stayed in Melbourne to see the city, but the anticipation of gold & wealth encouraged him to obtain the four-pound ticket needed to ride Cobb & Co's carriage out to the goldfields, along with some moderate supplies before settling into his new life in Australia. He had left Germany & his family for Australia in search of gold, a massive move considering that German families were normally very close.

The family religion was 'Evangelic' & from the religion of Kirchdorf, in the district of Lower Saxony, the northern part of Germany. There had been some hesitance from other family members towards the move back in the 1860's. His father, (my 3rd great, grandfather) 'Johann' & his wife 'Anna', reluctantly gave permission to their son to leave & head for the Australian gold fields on a promise of a better life & a wealth of unknown riches.

A ships carpenter at 25, he started working in the mines shoring up timbers for miners & working for many of the local larger mine's productions. This wealth finally came about when he met his future wife, a striking girl from a northern Irish county called Down. Having arrived a year earlier, 'Annabella' was from a very strict Presbyterian family 'The Wightman's', with her father a prominent pioneer of Mount Blackwood, having arrived himself early back in 1855 & gave some interesting insights into Blackwood at the time.

John Wightman's comments was that the diggings were 84 miles from Melbourne through plain & forest, where he had walked all the way, with the temperature being around 100 to 140°. In a letter sent home, John stated it was nearly all too much. "I am here among

strangers from every nation of the earth not excepting the Chinese as there is many thousands from that nation, with rifles, revolvers, & pistols, fights, drinking, among dogs barking at night, this is anything but a quiet place.

How true were those words when Mount Blackwood went from a small rural timber settlement to a massive influx of nations of the world peaking at around 20,000 people during the gold strikes. Meanwhile Hermann & Annabella Wolter, had set up camp initially in Barry's Reef, then later Red Hill, with Hermann finally building a very nice house in 1871, split on two large blocks, in an area where gold was found, Golden Point.

In 1850's, the miner's diggings cutting through both sides of the present block, as it did with the neighbor's house in Golden Point Road. There are lots of quartz chunks & the other block shows gold fossicking signs. This place was to be our family ancestral home for the next 151 years. Hermann & Annabella eventually married & became great pioneers of the district, having two sons who helped start up the first bakery in Blackwood in the late 1800's.

The house built by Hermann Friedrich Wolter was purchased in the 1980's & continues to be renovated by The Hutchinson's, great people & very good friends.

Their family is related to the Whalebone's, also originally from Blackwood. The Wolter household may also have been owned by a Frank Dusing in the 1900's but was originally owned by his mother Eileen Dusing. She apparently bought it from people named Coyle, who we think were from the Ballarat district. The Dusing family were from the Portland & Woodend areas. The house has now been renovated but retains its history.

My 3rd great grandparents died in the district, after serving the community for many years, Hermann Wolter, age 66 in 1904 & his wife Annabella, a young 58, in 1896. Both are buried in an unmarked grave (sadly) in Blackwood Cemetery. I hope to change that one day.

~ Glenn F Wolter

Note\* The author is a genealogist with Diplomas in family history, engineering, & has a (MBAI) Master's in Business Administration International.

**Trentham Pharmacy**

43a High Street, Trentham 3458

**5424 1000**

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm  
Sat 9am-12.30pm

Closed Public Holidays  
[trenthampharmacy@gmail.com](mailto:trenthampharmacy@gmail.com)

Mina Ghobrial, B.Pharmacy (Hons), MPS

ADVERTISMENT


**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

Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne, VIC 3437  
E: [mary-anne.thomas@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:mary-anne.thomas@parliament.vic.gov.au) P: 5428 2138  
Authorised by MA Thomas, Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne.



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





# • BEYOND BLACKWOOD • BEYOND BLACKWOOD •

## STORIES OF THE STORM:

### Mary Walsh

This episode is by 88-year-old Mary Walsh, well known & loved in Trentham. Railway Farm has been her home for 60 years. She provided shelter, warmth & cuppas to storm refugees who had been stranded in their cars on the Trentham-Tylden Road for many hours during the ferocious storm in June. This is her story.

"That night was very wild, the winds were hurricane like. At midnight the electricity went out, I was in the dark (Mary lives alone). My phone was flat, I couldn't find a match. I came out to the kitchen falling over, I couldn't see. The wind was howling, the sheets of tin were flapping on the sheds. I was so cold. I lit the fire, got it going then managed to find a candle from the light of the fire. I put the kettle on, & the coffee pot on. When I was looking for the matches & a candle I could see a big ray of light, a searchlight, on the road, & I knew something was wrong. "The wind was wild. I was hoping I'd have some refugees. I heard the cars on the road that had stopped.



I made the kitchen warm. Two guys in yellow jackets; Twiggy & Pat Sutton, came in. They said, 'There's 6 people stuck in cars on the road, can we bring them in?' They'd been stuck in their cars half the night. There was a couple from Lyonville, the wife was really unwell. The storm was violent & big old trees had fallen across the road. "Twiggy & Pat brought everyone in. I said, 'Come in, come in!' They sat around the table, 6 people. Then 2 of my grandchildren (Mary has 21 grandchildren) who live nearby came over, they'd walked from their place. My grandson accidentally tipped the coffee over, however we still had tea. There was no water because we have an electric pump, & the power was out. The lady that was unwell was sitting in the chair by the fire, she needed oxygen, but she'd run out. "Then the local CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) team; Ethan, & his partner, came in & reassured her. I was busy making the coffee. They put her in the ambulance & took her to the Trentham Aged Care Facility where they had oxygen. Eventually Twiggy & Pat came back & said to the others, 'We can take you to Trentham but no further.' (All roads out of Trentham were still blocked). "When they'd all gone, I looked out of the window & couldn't believe my eyes. My old house was fine, there wasn't a thing wrong. The roof was half off the shearing shed, & the old barn looked a bit shook. I saw large branches down on the road, it had been very destructive. I looked out my window towards Newtons Lane across

the old railway line. I saw a car there, they had to drive across the paddocks because the roads were blocked. It sank in as time went on that we did have a serious hurricane that was very destructive. There's been a lot of destruction on the farm, a lot of trees over fences. "I was contributing something helping the people who were stuck in the cars on the road all night. Here I am in this big house, I'm very comfortable. I feel for the refugees who didn't have a roof over their heads. "I've learnt, but then I forget sometimes, to have some means of lighting

the way, let there be light! If the electricity goes out, we have no water. We do have a tank outside but it's hard to get out there in the rain & the cold. I think supporting each other, communicating, popping in, (in the time I interview Mary, 4 people drop by to say hello) ringing up, checking on people, coming for a cup of tea. A cup of tea solves all problems! "I remember working at the Trentham Bush Nursing Hospital. One day this man came in distressed, there was blood, he had had an accident, I took him down to Emergency & assessed him. I called someone & said, 'bring a tray with tea & sugar.' He said, 'If Mrs Walsh says I can have

a cup of tea I'm not going to die!'

*Stories of the Storm is proudly supported by Hepburn Shire Council Community Bank Trentham & Districts & Trentham Lions Club. Reprinted with permission Sandy Scheltema.*

*Photo courtesy Sandy Scheltema*

**RADIO SPRINGS HOTEL**  
 03 5348-5562 LYONVILLE

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



*Plain-backed adult Mountain Skink Liopholis montana found in Wombat State Forest, Victoria. Photography © Jules Farquhar.*

### Mountain Skink *Liopholis montana*

In December 2020, Monash University reptile researcher, Jules Farquhar, with his companions Wyn Russell & Nicholas Gale, discovered several individuals of *Liopholis montana* in the Wombat State Forest. They observed 6 adult & 7 juvenile specimens active or basking on low rocks & logs.

Their recently published paper, "A significant range extension for the mountain skink *Liopholis montana* (Donnellan, Hutchinson, Dempsey & Osborne, 2002) on the Western Uplands of Victoria", details the detection of a population of Mountain Skinks along the Lerderberg River, west of Blackwood. This is a very exciting sighting as the known range for the Mountain Skink extended from the Australian Capital Territory to southern New South Wales to Victoria along the Great Dividing Range, with the western limit of the range defined by a record at the Upper Yarra Dam.

The Kilmore gap, a broad & low saddle in the Great Dividing Range between Wallan & Kilmore, separates the Western Highlands from the more mountainous Eastern Highlands. This record is the first for this species west of the Kilmore gap.

Another interesting detail is the altitude of this new discovery. To date, Mountain Skinks have only been found at elevations between 900m & 1800m, with the site on the Lerderberg River having an elevation of approx. 620m. The Mountain Skink was only described in 2002 & has a scattered distribution, & is largely found in rocky habitats in subalpine woodlands or open dry forests. It is a medium sized, smooth scaled skink native to southeast Australia with a snout to vent length up to 111 mm. The basic colour is grey-brown & most skinks have a reddish brown upper surface. There is also a patterned morph, which is not as common. The juveniles have white spots alternating with dark stripes, which fade as they mature. They construct deep burrow networks beneath rocks & live in colonies, which is uncommon in the reptile world & appear to form stable pair bonds. The females give birth to 4 young. Their diet is omnivorous & includes seasonal fruits. Jules Farquhar, in an interview with the Ballarat Courier, spoke about

**HOMEWORKS DESIGN**

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

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

WWW.HOMEWORKSDESIGN.COM.AU  
 HOMEWORKS@OPTUSNET.COM.AU  
 JOHN: 0405 389 557  
 DEAN: 0432 385 265

TREAD INTENTIONALLY

### Holy Trinity Anglican Church

Thank you for your assistance over the year. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. Here are details of our Christmas service times as requested.

#### Christmas Eve

- 6.00pm Christ Church Myrning
- 8.00pm St George's Balliang
- 11.00pm Holy Trinity Bacchus Marsh

#### Christmas Day

10.00am Holy Trinity Bacchus Marsh

Further details can be obtained from our website

[www.bacchusmarshanglican.org.au](http://www.bacchusmarshanglican.org.au) or by phoning 5367 5362.

~ Nina Harbison, Holy Trinity Anglican Church Bacchus Marsh

**Clement F Mooney**  
 Email: [c.mooney@bigpond.net.au](mailto:c.mooney@bigpond.net.au)

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

A.B.N. 37 961 487 978

**Certified Practising Accountant**  
 Registered Tax Agent  
 B.Com, C.P.A., M.B.A.

CPA

T: 03 5424 1441  
 F: 03 5424 1149  
 M: 0412 584 555

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

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

THE COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL

WEDNESDAY

**LOCALS NIGHT**

\$18

All Cosmo Classics

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

Kids Meals \$9

REGULAR MENU ALSO AVAILABLE

the significance of this discovery. He said that these peripheral populations are usually genetically unique; they are in a very different environment, & may therefore be exposed to unique threats that the species might not be facing in other parts of its range.

"Genetic work has been done on *L. montana* in NSW, & it basically shows where they occur on different peaks, they're genetically divergent on different mountaintops."

Scientists at the Arthur Rylah Institute are undertaking genetic research to find out whether the Wombat State Forest population is an 'evolutionary significant unit'.

#### Second location

For a number of years, Wombat Forestcare volunteers have been moving motion-sensing cameras through a large area south west of Blackwood & were amazed to find that a Mountain Skink was captured by one of the cameras. There are now 2 verified locations for this species in the Wombat Forest.

There are a number of other camera locations with unidentified skink images that will need to be checked in the warmer months, however, they do appear to be the relatively common Southern Water Skink *Eulamprus tympanum*. Further targeted searches for the skink will give our volunteers a great opportunity to spend some time in the healthy forests south of the Lerderberg River. This will also present the opportunity to examine the rocks & vegetation & compare this with the granite boulders, slabs & rock scree & associated vegetation of the Alpine locations.

~ By Gayle Osborne, Wombat Forest Care

Reprinted with permission. Read more [http://www.wombatforestcare.org.au/newsletters/WombatForestcareNewsletter57\\_September\\_21.pdf](http://www.wombatforestcare.org.au/newsletters/WombatForestcareNewsletter57_September_21.pdf)





### TOWN & COUNTRY LINE MARKING P/L

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

All Areas  
**MICK**  
**0408 999 643**  
tclinemarking@yahoo.com.au

### TREE LOPPING

Gerard Styles

ALL ASPECTS OF TREE WORK, EXPERIENCED CLIMBER

Home: 5342 8261  
MOBILE: 0428 518 999

Lic. No. 94004666  
SUPERB RATES: Ask for a free one "QUOTE"

**Local arborist**

Pruning, weight reductions, uplifting and removals.  
Fire risk reduction

Climbing, chipping and splitting avail

Qualified Insured

**Scott**  
**0437 916 030**

### WESTERN LAWNMOWING SERVICES

DAVID: 0475511037  
FULLY INSURED  
WESTERNLAWNMOINGSERVICES@MAIL.COM

FREE QUOTES // LAWN MOWING  
WHIPPER SNIPPER/EDGING

RUBBISH/WASTE REMOVAL  
GENERAL YARD CLEAN UP  
HANDYMAN SERVICE

### Golden Point Garden Maintenance

**Ross: 0423 259 038**

Specializing in driveways and site cleaning / leveling and Mowing

General mini digger with attachments  
-EG Trencher, Post hole digger  
-Stump Grinding  
-Small tree removal / Pruning

Wood chips available

### Keemin Electrical

REC 5096  
INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL  
RESIDENTIAL

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

119 Inglis St Ballan 3342 Ph. 0418 518 226 jcutler@keemin.com.au

### BALLAN HARDWARE

True Value HARDWARE

"For all your building supplies"

119 Inglis St Ballan ph: (03) 53681230 fax: (03) 5368 1937

### Trentham Gas

Your Local Gas Supplier

For Gas Orders Ring 0409 135 070

### Painter

RAY FOWLER

Phone/Fax: 5474 3109

### N & J Dear and Sons Pty Ltd

Est 1988

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

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

Registered Builders | CDB-U 56564 | HIA member 605135

Think Globally Employ Locally

### SOL PLUMBING

Fully licensed and insured.  
Residential and commercial

- Competitive rates • Free quotes •

Call Simon on **0417 335 831**  
(leave a message if no answer)  
LIC NO 38657

### BREAZE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

**SOLAR POWER: On-Grid & Off-Grid**  
03 4309 4027 www.breaze.org.au/pv  
energysolutions@breaze.org.au

### TV TUNING

and antenna installations...

**Is Your TV Reception As Good As It Can Be?**

Call for a FREE on-site reception test, no strings attached.  
Experienced, local, fully qualified electronics technician.

Rob: 5368 6485 or 0431 704 203  
ABN: 55 335 542 987

### TRENTHAM PETROL & STUFF

**1 Market St ph 5424 1611**  
Mon-Sat 8am-6pm Sun 9am-6pm

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

### NVG

Heavy Equipment Services  
Blackwood Victoria 3458

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

Mobile: 0481 088 800  
Office: 03 5368 6467  
Email: info@nvg.net.au

**Naten Van Gossum**  
Mobile Technician

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





# NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE IN THE REGION WE HAVE YOU COVERED



We are the local team that services Trentham, Daylesford, Clunes, Blackwood and the greater Hepburn Shire region.

Contact your local area experts today on 03 5424 1866.

**Belle Property Daylesford**  
58 Vincent Street 5348 1700  
daylesford@belleproperty.com  
belleproperty.com/daylesford

**Belle Property Trentham**  
45 High Street 5424 1866  
trentham@belleproperty.com  
belleproperty.com/trentham

hockingstuart

