

April ~ May 2022 vol 13 ~ issue 14.6



THEY DON'T HOLD A HOSE – AT LEAST NOT TODAY.

With the Easter Carnival returning after 2 long years, Blackwood’s CFA are in furious training for the tug-of-war championship against evil regional brigades. Go the Blackwood Tuggers! 120th anniversary Easter Carnival (see inside)

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,
3 decades ago Blackwoodian Robina Brown & I, a newbie in town, chatted on the roadside with our youngsters in tow.
Robina voiced concerns that it was difficult to find out what was happening in town & I wanted to find activities, especially bush, for my young twins. Just 2 months later Robina distributed the 1st (hand typed) Blackwood Newsletter & I began promoting the 1st Blackwood School Holiday program.

Very many years later our children were grown & I inherited the paper from Robina. I re-named & re-formatted it to its current lay-out. Brendan came on board & after a few years we re-named Blackwood News to The Blackwood Times - given that, as a bi-monthly publication, it was more a living document than news. For those who are interested in the recent history of Blackwood - the archives on theblackwoodtimes.com.au are a wonderful resource for you to access online. I encourage you to check it out. Of course, you will also find the Historical Society's early history articles. The current website has every issue of the News & Times available to download.

Moving forward, after 15 years Brendan (aka Jimmy Olsen) & I are delighted to hand the future of the Times to a wonderful new, diverse & energetic team who will take up the reins of the Times. This is the last issue we will produce - from the JunJul '22 issue the team will take over the production of The Blackwood Times, with our support, until the end of 2022. After that - who knows where they (& you) will decide to take the paper?

I know you will support our team as you have supported us. I thank every single person who has supported us & wish the very best for the new team. I just know I will screw up if I try to name everyone so, to all our regular contributors, helpers, supporters - I offer a heart-felt thank-you to each & every one of you. Bye now ...

~ **Jinny 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.

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	May 15
Regular contributors, features & items of interest, community groups & clubs	May 15
Display ad artwork	May 20
Late breaking news	May 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.

Download our Advertising Rate Card & back issues (in colour) from www.theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au &, while you're there, sign-up to join our eList & follow us at <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 Phone: 0491 061 717

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MEET THE NEW BLACKWOOD TIMES TEAM

Kylie Richardson - Co-ordinator



My name is Kylie & I am so happy to be a resident of our brilliant little town. By sheer good fortune I made the permanent move to Blackwood just before covid became a thing. Although that bit seems like forever ago it has actually just been a bit over 2 years. I have 2 fantastic teenagers, Darcy (yes, the kid with the mullet) & Elly, as well as an often-naughty black Labrador named Charlie. Despite his advancing years Charlie

still manages to go on occasional adventures to visit his friends in Martin Street (sorry Penny & Ed!). Having enjoyed a warm welcome to town & a great sense of community, particularly evident after last June's storm, I hated the idea of The Blackwood Times folding & thought volunteering would be a small way of contributing to the community.

John Kemp - Vice



Maeve & I bought into Richards Road (from Dot & Ces Marchant) 20 years ago. Before that we had a timber-cutters cottage near Daylesford (20 years) but it got too noisy & up-market. Work & family commitments have kept us from a full-time tree change but our love for Blackwood, the community & environment has grown ever stronger. When friends stay overnight they have the best sleeps & those early morning cuppas waking up with the bush & listening to the river flow are treasured moments that keep on giving. My working life started out teaching Maths/Physics in secondary schools & then moved to managing educational services in TAFE colleges & work with the Technical Teacher Union. All of this was interrupted by (or vice versa) a few years working & travelling overseas. Early years I played & coached cricket & baseball & then moved on to horse-riding treks, scuba diving, kayaking & jumping out of aeroplanes. On 'retirement' I volunteered with the Alternative Technology Association helping establish small-scale solar energy training & installations in Timor-Leste. These day's gardening & house maintenance (x2) keeps me occupied & semi-fit physically. Maeve is a qualified yoga teacher; has almost completed Alexander Technique training & is a serious dharma/Buddhist student. There is some flow-on effect. Seeking improvement not perfection is my mantra. Also, I am intrigued with the game of Go & would be delighted to find there are other players in Blackwood. After many years I am very much looking forward to contributing to this fantastic community.

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Paul Kukiel - Secretary



I recently moved to Blackwood as we just fell in love with the area. It's been a great start (with all the blackouts, hot days then good amounts of rain) but the family & I already feel at home. I work in IT so am able to assist the team in those areas as-well as chasing up articles & content so you'll likely see emails from me at some point. We are really pleased to live in an area that just cares about it's surroundings & the people of the town. Feel free to stop me & say hi when you see us around.

Robert Poulter

Robert & his partner, Vincent, fell in love with the Blackwood township & the people in 2017 & decided to make it home. Robert brings 40 years of banking & financial services to his role as Treasurer.

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)
Jan'22	110.9	51.1	5.2	35	27.6	11.8	18.7
Feb'22	1.6	53.2	4.6	34.3	25	9.2	16.1

Over the last two years we have had wet Januaries & dry Februaries. These 2 months were warmer than last year but no 40° days.

~ **Don Owen**

Caitin Hansford - Production



Hi Blackwood (and all surrounding communities)!! My name is Caitlin & I moved to Dales Creek just under 12 months ago. Moving to a new community throughout a pandemic made it difficult to become a member of the community, so I am excited to get amongst it all & "meet my neighbours". I am a graphic designer who recently has set up my own business to help other businesses with their needs, from business cards to menus to logos. I have two

beautiful dogs Theo & Blue & two incredible cats Camper & Fluffs. I love to build things, get my hands dirty in a new project, trail run & mountain bike, camp & sit by the campfire; anything outdoors I am there!

Kathryn Berril



Hi I am Kathy B. my role at the Blackwood Times is to format the photos which then get put into the paper.

I am a special Ed teacher in Melbourne, I moved to Blackwood in 2000 when I started working at the Outdoor Education Centre. In 2002 I moved back to the school in Melbourne but decided to stay living in Blackwood.

I like to think I am a contributing member of our little community. I am a member of the CERT team, I drive the shuttle bus for the Easter Carnival & town events. I organise the newly formed dinner club & I look after the Community Events Facebook page. Throw in playing hockey a couple of times a week & an interstate masters each year & I am pretty busy.

I have really enjoyed helping Jinny & Brendan put the times together because I like having a sneak peak before it is published.

Karen Bruno



Karen has lived in Blackwood for 8 years having bought the famous Lerdies Building in the main street. It was being run as an antique place at the time but she renovated her way into a charming & old world bed & breakfast which is still running today. After some time the hats came along & the Blackwood Hat Shoppe was born with a huge opening in true Blackwood style with lots of grog & live music. Her latest endeavour has the centre of town a buzz with hay bales & beach umbrellas providing seats for the customers of Karen's Kitchen.

Karen has been involved in many community groups & committees over her time here & joining the Blackwood Times Team is her latest commitment. She loves to write & so will be providing a few articles each edition & will be on the snoop for new stories ala Jimmy Olsen although she is the 1st to admit Brendan is a hard act to follow.

Happy Easter folks!



Noelle Shader

I moved to Blackwood in 1996, so after 26 years I suppose that makes me a local.

My profession & career has mainly been in the performing arts - dance- as a performer & a teacher, with professional & educational institutions & in the community for 40 years. But my love of nature brought me to Blackwood,

where I have remained. During the past 26 years, Blackwood has experienced drought, bushfire scares, severe storms with extreme wind & rain & even snow, which have affected the community & myself personally.

My skills to offer the group? Computer skills may not always be reliable, but I have enjoyed writing articles for the paper & will continue. My association with the Blackwood Action Group [BAG] & now an active member for Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare, gives me an overview of the community & the surrounding landscape. I also joined the Blackwood Times to support & ensure the ongoing existence of an invaluable resource for the community. The Blackwood Times has been a part of the town's important growth & survival during its lifetime, a reliable & necessary source of information & communication for all Blackwoodians & surrounds - a reminder of who we are - our values - past, present & future. An asset we cannot afford to lose.



On a dark Friday evening while the gigs palyed at St Martin's it was hot in Karen's Kitchen with curry on the menu. Karen and Rose cooking up some hearty Indian.



A Fistful of Posters is an exhibition that celebrates the spaghetti westerns of the 1960's & 70's through an incredible collection of posters, lobby cards, books & other rare publicity material. With a focus on the groundbreaking work of Italian director, Sergio Leone, who re-imagined the American western in the deserts of Spain, this presentation examines a genre that produced over 700 films. Some good, some bad & some downright ugly.

Come & immerse yourselves in the extraordinary soundtracks of Ennio Morricone while gaining insight into the birth of this unique genre, the main players both in front of & behind the camera, & its legacy on the worldwide film industry.

The exhibition will be held in Blackwood's newly refurbished Uniting Church (St. Martin's) on the weekend of May 28/29.

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• ST MARTIN'S OPENING •





• OUR CARLSON'S GIG FOR EPILEPSY AWARENESS •



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BLACKWOOD WOODCHOP & EASTER CARNIVAL



WHO WILL WEAR THE CROWNS IN 2022??

The search is on for the 2022 Blackwood Carnival Royal Couple. Queen Sue and King Lou are very happy to relinquish their throne after a very lengthy royal reign. Everyone in Blackwood is officially encouraged to vote for a Queen & King and support this great event.



IF YOU DON'T WANT US TO HASSLE YOU - VOTE!

Entry forms will be available from Thursday 3rd March at the Blackwood Post Office and The Blackwood Hotel. Voting closes on Sunday 10th April at 6pm.



The Royals need to have a strong connection to Blackwood (past or present) & a sense of fun.



The Crowning Ceremony event will be held on Friday 15th April, 6pm onwards at the Blackwood Hotel supported by local live music



Lolly bags and prizes for best Tiara/Crown and Royal Attire.



BLACKWOOD ST MARTINS ST

10AM - grab ya tickets

10:45AM - ASSEMBLE!
on Whalebone Rd

PARADE

11AM - PARADE STARTS

DANCE, SKIP, RIDE
TO THE OVAL

CLAIM YOUR
PRIZE!

CARNIVAL



BLACKWOOD WOODCHOP & EASTER CARNIVAL

Easter Saturday, April 16th - 10am

LIVE MUSIC FROM 12.30 'TIL LATE

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Nara & Karina | Hardrive |
| Cat & Clint | Peter Daffy Trio |
| Lyonville Ramblers | Blackwood Big Band |
| Fiona Ross & Shane O'Mara | Charlie & The All Night Longers |
| The Lorderdiddydees | The Hank Williams Band |
| Fingerbone Bill | |

Blackwood Recreation Reserve
Street Parade, Artisan Markets, Food & Drinks, Music, Pet Show & Activities
\$10 entry over 16's, under 16's free





• WHAT'S ON AT ST MARTIN'S? •

EVENT	TIME & COST	CONTACT
Christian meditation	2nd & 4th Mondays of the month, 7pm-8pm	Robyn Zanon 53686792
Yoga	Tuesday mornings 10am-12pm, by donation	Leticia Dornelles meditarecentre@gmail.com
Bible Study	Tuesday 4pm-5pm	Robyn Zanon 53686792
InterPlay	10.15-11.30am April 6, 20 May 14,18 June 1,15,29 Suggested donation \$15. Welcome to join even if you are unable to donate.	Fiona Ross 0425 422 416
Little Ones Story & Activity Time	Last Wednesday of the month - Mar 30, April 27, May 25 Sponsored by Blackwood Hair & Beauty Salon (March), Uncle Ed's Fix It Shed (April) & Rev Jenny Hayes (May)	Robyn Zanon 53686792
QiGong	Friday's 10-11am \$15 per session Starts Apr 8	Fiona Haigh for details 0406523406

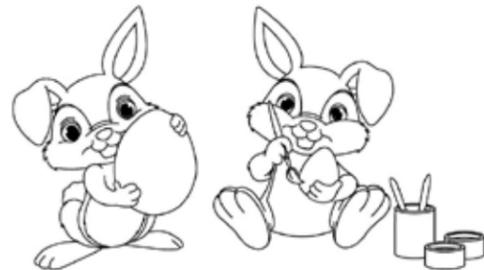
• A BOUQUET TO ALL THE HELPERS •

The St Martin's Management Group would like to thank the following people who made the refurbishment of our 1890's Church a lovely venue for the whole community.

1. Highlands Cluster Council & the Synod of Victoria & Tasmania for allowing us to use the proceeds of sales from churches in the Parish for our renovation.
2. Rev Jenny Hayes for her vision, her determination & her ability to deal with the red tape in getting this renovation finished. Who would think a renovation to a modest wooden church in a small country town could take four years?
3. Daniel Carlson & Sue Donnelly for writing the successful submission to stage the Art Show & Concert & to the Moorabool Shire for awarding the grant that made the future concert possible. The concert will still go ahead when the restrictions around performances are lifted.
4. Members & ex-members of the St Martin's festival & management committees: Karen Bruno, Daniel Carlson, Nick Dear, Jenny Hayes, Brendan Hehir, Stephanie Kondos, Fiona Ross, Noelle Shader, Jeanne Tahini, Hamish McWilliam & Wally & Robyn Zanon for their commitment to this project & the giving of their time & talents.
5. A very special mention to Jeanne Tahini for all the time, energy & expertise in pulling this event together. She has spent countless hours organising the procession & coordinating the day. We take our hats off to you & thank you for all your hard work.
6. Karen Bruno for setting up the festival group. She was the one who sparked the light for this event.
7. Fiona Ross for organising the Taster sessions which will happen at a later date, the publicity for today & for entertaining us with her beautiful voice.
8. Nick & Lachie Dear, Brendan Hehir & Janet Dear & all those who worked on this renovation. Nick & his team went above & beyond in restoring this historic building using traditional expert skills.
9. Landcare for removing the feral vegetation from the site & then replanting during numerous working bees & their commitment to maintaining the area.
10. Ballan Hardware for their donation of the picture rails for the art show. These are now a permanent fixture & we are looking forward to many more art shows being held in this space, Blackwood being the home of many talented artists & crafts people.
11. The many people who have donated equipment, items to raffle & money to the Chapel. We started with \$24 in the church bank account. The renovating of the chapel serves to prove that it isn't just money that is important with an endeavour such as this. It is the vision, the support & good will of the community that is the greatest indicator of success. Thank you to all those who have contributed to this community space.

12. The bunting makers who have brightened the space & heralded the festivities.
13. The Presbytery of Western Victoria who have given us grant money towards the cost of tables & a storage shed.
14. The Daylesford Uniting church congregation for loaning us the money to install reverse cycle air conditioning.
15. Michael Murray for the loan of the significant art work in the foyer.
16. Gary Matheson for coming in with his earth moving equipment & landscaping the grounds.
17. Brendan Hehir & Wally Zanon for all the work they have done getting the grounds ready, & the many jobs they have taken on to ensure the success of the day.
18. To the many volunteers who are helping today in many different capacities to make this day a success & to those who have helped before today in a myriad of ways.
19. To the stall holders who have added colour to the day & started what will become a regular event.
20. To Hamish McWilliam for taking photos of the day's events. It will be great to have a visual record.
21. To Jinny Coyle for her expert design skills in producing the poster & flyers.
22. To all the wonderful Blackwood artists who have their art work on show which has been expertly hung by Brendan Hehir.
23. To Trentham Neighbourhood Centre for the donation of tables & the loan of chairs.
24. To Deidre Cronin for the loan of chairs.
25. To Kieran Foley for donating the trailer load of wood for the raffle.
26. To Chaplins at Trentham for donating to the Devonshire Teas
27. To Carole & Martyn at the Post Office Coffee Shop for hosting several fundraising raffles we have undertaken & for their kind donation of cash towards support for the future concert.
28. The Ballan Butcher & Darley Bakery for their support & to John Fowler for making a special trip to pick up the bread.
29. To the Blackwood community members who participated in the procession: Kristopher, Jonathon, Philip, Olive, Odette, Lucas, Jaime, Tayla & Rylee.

We hope we haven't left anyone off this big list. It all goes to show the wonderful support we have in Blackwood to establish St Martin's Chapel as a venue for the community



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The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.

HISTORY OF THE BLACKWOOD WOODCHOP & EASTER FESTIVAL.



The First Axeman's Carnival was held in Blackwood in 1952. A newspaper report stated- 'Bacchus Marsh Express, Saturday April 18, 1953. - Easter Sports at Blackwood, - The Blackwood Sports Association held their 2nd Axemen's carnival on Easter Saturday. A much bigger attendance was expected than the 700 who paid admission to the grounds. Rain on Friday night & Saturday kept a large number away, & somewhat nullified the efforts of the committee, who had worked so hard for a successful meeting. Bigger prize money on this occasion attracted many first class axemen from all parts of Victoria & the 2 major events were run off in heats. Apart from the prize money, a "Hytest" - green racing axe was donated by the Hytest Axe & Tool Co. for the underhand chop, & a "Plumb" special racing axe by Messrs. Fazette. R. Plumb, inc., Philadelphia, for the standing block. For these 2 events, 2 sashes were donated, one by the President (Mr. F. Melrose), & the other by Mr. M. (Mick) Healey, the Forestry officer. The goal-kicking competition introduced on this occasion was very popular, & attracted many entries. The £30 underhand chop was won by G. Johnson, of Mansfield, with M. Healey (Blackwood) second & J. Gilholme (Trentham) third. There were 15 entries. The £30 standing block was won by J. Gilholme (Trentham); M. Healey second. There were 15 entries for this event. The £5 novice, with 16 entries, was won by A. Miller, of Wandin, with G. Johnson (Mansfield) second, & G. Morris (Trentham) third. The £5 maiden chop was won by A. Spratling of Blakeville; K. Hodge (Blakeville) second; & G. Morris (Trentham) third. The double-handed saw event for £7 was won by A. Herrod & A. Spratling (Blakeville). Single-handed saw -A. Elliot (Wandin). The £20 goal-kicking event was won by J. McMahon, of Darley, with J. Carr Bacchus Marsh) second, & J. Ashby (Bacchus Marsh), third. The 100 yards sprint was won by R. Martin, of Darley. Cr. L. D'Arcy, M.L.A., presented the prizes. The 3rd Axemen's Carnival on Easter Saturday was held in 1954 to mark the occasion of Centenary year for Blackwood as stated in the - Bacchus Marsh Express, Saturday 30 January 1954. Blackwood Easter Carnival. The annual meeting of the Blackwood Sports Association was held last week, with a fair number present. The credit balance of the Association was disclosed as £178/10/-, & it was decided to hold a big Axemen's Carnival on Easter Saturday, to mark the occasion of Centenary year for Blackwood. This will be a registered wood chop fixture. The two main events, the underhand & standing block, are both £50 events. There will also be novelty events such as tree-felling, & a race between chain saw, axeman, & doublehanded saw. Other items will make up a good programme. The association were fortunate on this occasion to have with them Mr. Vern Fleming, secretary of the Victorian Axemen's Association, & he gave very good advice & guidance. He promised to be present at the sports, & volunteered to act as announcer. Some of Victoria's best axemen will be seen in action on this occasion. The association is going to a big expense to entertain the people at Easter. Some donations are already in hand, & further subscriptions would be gratefully received. Apart from this sports meeting on the Easter Saturday, it is to be hoped that other entertainments will be organised for the Easter period. Many hundreds of people will be coming back to Blackwood for this centenary meeting, & no doubt people living in surrounding districts will come along on this occasion & renew their acquaintances. A further report after the Easter Carnival stated - Express, Bacchus Marsh, Saturday 24 April 1954. AFTER 100 YEARS.



Blackwood Wood chop 2010. Gary Matheson, far right. Photos courtesy Margot Hitchcock

Constable On Point Duty at Blackwood. The Blackwood Centenary celebrations went off with a great swing over the Easter holidays. A very large crowd of people visited Blackwood for the occasion, many of them "coming back" after 40 & 50 years. On Saturday the population of Blackwood rose to about 3000, the highest since the early sixties, but the majority returned home the same night, owing to lack of accommodation. They had come for the Centenary Axemen's Carnival, which was a great success. Cars lined every street in Blackwood, & a constable was needed to direct traffic, for the first time in the history of the town. A novel event was a triangular contest between a two-man crosscut saw, an engine-driven chain saw (with crew of two) & an axeman, who all attacked identical logs. The crosscut saw won easily, with the chain saw second. Messrs. R. Joshua, M.H.R., & L. F. D'Arcy, M.L.A., attended the Easter Saturday sports & presented the trophies. Good Friday night was taken up with a concert in the hall. The people were told how gold was first discovered here in an account of some early history, & there were some very good musical items. On Saturday night a huge crowd attended the dance connected with the sports. On Sunday a tennis tournament was held at the Red Hill Court, & a barbecue at night, the court being lit up with electric lights for the occasion. On Monday morning a "back to school" was staged. Many had their "school togs" on again for the occasion, & it was delightful to see many old pupils present. Mrs. Morphet was the teacher for this occasion. She was an early teacher at the Golden Point school, as Miss Vigor. Mrs. Morphet read out the attendance rolls from 1878 to 1930, & many ex-pupils were present in a crowded schoolroom. On Monday afternoon a procession starting from the old Royal Mail Hotel (Golden Point) to the Sports Ground was a very fine affair, led by the band on a lorry. There were many decorated floats relating to the goldfield days. Dancing along the route & in the Sports Ground, the people were thoroughly enjoying themselves. Dozens were dressed up for the occasion. On Monday night a fancy dress ball was held to conclude the Centenary celebrations. Probably (he oldest "comeback" at the Blackwood Centenary celebrations was .Mr. George Jensen, aged 94, of Melbourne, whose father once conducted a bakery at Golden Point. Mr. Jensen is staying at present with his daughter, Mrs. Jack Smith at Bacchus Marsh. A lot of work was put into this festival, & the Blackwood folk deserve a great amount of credit for their effort. Previous to this the Easter Festival started off as a Sports Carnival at the Blackwood Sports Ground & early newspaper reports show one was back as far as 1879. It was reported as - Ballarat Courier, Saturday 19 April 1879, BLACKWOOD. On Easter Monday Sports were held on the cricket ground, which, in conjunction with the cricket match drew a very fair attendance. The first race, for a prize of £2, presented by Mr D. Cameron, U.L.A, was won by Mr K. Edwards; second prize of 15s. was taken away by some of the Williamstown visitors second race, of three pounds, was won by John Gribble 1st, George Collins 2nd, Chambers 3rd. In the evening a cricketer's ball was held in the Mechanics' Institute, Red Hill, which was quite a success in its way, nearly 200 being present. A good big band from Melbourne discoursed sweet music for the dancers, who kept it up until four am, everyone enjoyed themselves to the top of their bent, & thus closed the Easter festivities. As early as 1930 it was reported in the Bacchus Marsh Express Saturday 10 May 1930. BLACKWOOD CARNIVAL. By "A Dark Horse." - In conjunction with the Blackwood Sports Association, the Ariel Motor Cycle Club held a carnival at the Recreation Reserve on Easter Monday. A large number of the members journeyed to this well-known beauty spot for the week-end. Saturday afternoon found some of the happy party preparing their camp, while others made themselves comfortable in a room kindly supplied by two of Blackwood's popular residents.

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

For help with information on Blackwood ancestors contact Margot Hitchcock - email - margohitchcock@bigpond.com



• COMMUNITY GROUP & CLUB UPDATES • COMMUNITY GROUP & CLUB UPDATES •

Blackwood CFA

Welcome Autumn. Cooler temperatures, changing colours & time to ensure your flu/chimney is serviced in preparation for winter.

It has been a reasonably quiet summer for Blackwood from our perspective, with calls to assist other brigades & other areas.

Big thank you to the Blackwood Ridge Nursery who are passing on their private gardens entry donations to the brigade. This has totalled over \$1500 collected since February.

An amazing effort & a stunning endorsement of their superb gardens. Most will be familiar with the posts made by Captain Ross Hall on the Facebook page that we utilise to keep everyone informed about events involving the brigade as we are all part of the community.

This year it looks like the Blackwood Easter Carnival will finally go ahead, which is great news as there is a rumour of a tug of war competition that should be a good piece of entertainment for all.

Daylight saving is due to end on April 3 this year so it is time again to check your smoke detectors & change the batteries. While checking the detector, locate the label on the base of the unit & check the manufacturing date. If this is 10 years old or more it will require replacing.

Take a look around the house. Do you have a fire blanket near the stove? Extinguishers in appropriate locations with easy access & well labelled? Do you have any other unusual types of fire fighting apparatus such as a spray bottle full of water near the fireplace? A pressurised sprayer, filled with water, normally used in the garden? All these can be used to extinguish a wood or paper fire.

I stress - only try to extinguish a fire if you feel comfortable to do so & make sure you have an escape route to safety in the event of an emergency.

In all emergency situations see below.

THE FIRST PRIORITY IS YOUR SAFETY

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

For more info contact the station on 53686526 on Sunday mornings over the summer period & the first Sunday each 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

St Martin's Chapel

WHOLE TOWN GARAGE SALE: What a fun day in Blackwood. The gorgeous weather welcomed many people to Blackwood on Labour Day Weekend for the Whole Town Garage Sale. It started at 7.15 for me when the early birds were already arriving to buy their maps.

It was a great to see so many smiling faces as people just enjoyed being out in the sunshine meeting up again, chatting, sharing stories & spotting a bargain.

Thank you to Jinny Coyle for her magnificent organisation of this event. Thank you too to all the stall-holders for making it so worthwhile for people to come as buyers, there was a fantastic range of things on offer.

Thank you Ray Castellin & Wally Zanon for cooking all those sausages & to our local food providers Carol, Karen, & their teams for keeping up the buyers caffeine hits.

I am already thinking about how I will set my stall up for next time & that I need to get up much earlier for the early birds.

OPENING of St MARTIN'S CHAPEL: Well we finally crossed the finish line. What a day it was! We were blessed with perfect weather &

it was wonderful to celebrate the opening of St Martin's Chapel with so many people from the town attending & sharing in this special event.

Great to see so many people showcasing their talents, whether it was through the art show, performing or through the great assortment of hand-made goods on sale at the market. Fresh sourdough loaves, handcrafted wooden spoons made from fallen Blackwoods that toppled during the June storm, plants, cards, knitted & crocheted wares, scented candles, a wood raffle & a display from the historical society were just some of the things on offer.

Rev Jenny Hayes declared St Martin's Chapel officially open & reiterated that this new space welcomed all & while still being a sacred place of worship it was also available for use by the community. Rev Jenny spoke about the significance of St Martin in this venture. St Martin of Tours lived between 316 & 397. He was conscripted into the Roman army in his youth but called himself 'Christ's soldier' & was jailed for refusing to kill others.

He performed a number of miracles during his lifetime but St Martin is best known for the account of using his military sword to cut his cloak in two, to give half to a beggar clad only in rags in the depth of winter.

This sharing of what we have underpins the intention of this beautifully restored little wooden building.

On the day Brendan Hehir as Master of Ceremonies thanked the many people who have contributed to finally being able to have this celebration.

We have included this list again, & it is a long list, but having so many people involved attests to the inclusivity & involvement of our fantastic community.

Added to this is a thank you to Rev Jenny Hayes for her gift of an icon of St Martin which is in the entrance. Above it is the painting done by Michael Murray depicting symbols of Holy Communion that was on loan to us for the day & was subsequently donated by Michael as he felt the spot was just perfect for it. Thank you Michael.

Already we have a number of ongoing & one off events happening at St Martin's & we are planning the next market for May when, no doubt, we will need to move inside. Some times for worship will also be announced soon.

If you are interested in hiring the venue or taking part in the market please contact me on 53686792.

~ 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 team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing date. Sign up at theblackwoodtimes.com.au to get deadline reminders.



LANDCARE: Autumn weedathon...60 hrs, 15 trailer & ute loads, great company, beautiful weather, fab BBQ (thanks Troy)

Blackwood Motorcycle Club

No Sunday rides have happened BUT a few of us braved a weekend ride over Mt Hotham. First night stop was in Bright at the Alpine Hotel/Motel which fed & kept us hydrated due to temp getting up in the mid 30s with us silly ones wearing winter jackets. Next day was over Mt Hotham with only 10 metres visibility & drizzling but cleared up by the time we hit Omeo. Lunch was at the Blue Duck Inn which was an amazing place so that's recommended. Final stop was at the Mitta Mitta Pub where we stayed for a great night with live music & a great feed. The last day was a long ride home as we all took our own adventure to get there.

~ Brett Bond

Blackwood Cricket Club

A season of ALL or Nothing. This season was a rollercoaster of 2 wins to start followed by 3 losses then 6 more wins then lastly a defeat sprinkled with some draws along the way. Stand-outs were 2 fine centuries from Luke including a thumping 192 against Diggers Rest early on, we bowled well in the defeats with the bat letting us down, some great wins with some good bowling to get us some wins with a special 6/17 of Trav against Malmsbury a highlight.

Some good signs with a good march to the finals will lead to a solid foundation for the next season.

~ Stephen O'Brien

Dinner Club



Over dinner during January a group of friends decided to start the Blackwood Dinner Club. We just thought it would be a great way to meet new people & try different restaurants & cuisines.

We decided the 1st Thursday monthly would suit & using the cricket club bus (Thank-you BCC) we can take at least 10 people, more are welcome & we will book as a group but someone will have to volunteer to drive the overflow.

So far we have been to the Thai restaurant in Woodend - the food was delicious, company was great with lots of laughter & happy conversation.

In March we went to the Indian restaurant in Daylesford, where once again a great time was had by all. The next outing in April is to the Japanese restaurant in Ballarat.

If you would like to come you need to go to the Blackwood Community Events Facebook page & register your interest. Priority on the bus is given to people who don't drive or find it difficult to drive at night. Ideas for the next months outing are discussed on the night & posted during the month on the Facebook page where people register their interest. We look forward to seeing new faces each month & are open to any suggestions for future outings.

~ Kathy Berrill

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



Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre Update

A lot has changed at Blackwood Special Schools in a very short period of time.

The biggest change ... the students are back & once again accessing Blackwood on a weekly basis through residential (camping) programs, day visits & work experience (VCAL) programs. It is wonderful to see students once again engaging in lessons at Blackwood Special Schools as they discover more about themselves, the Wombat State Forest & the world around them. To hear their voices, conversations, laughter & cheering echo throughout the property as they learn new skills, enjoy new opportunities & experience new adventures truly is wonderful.

Also keep an eye out in the trees for a small team of VCAL students who are supporting Parks Victoria in helping clear tracks so that everyone can once again re-engage with & enjoy the experience of bushwalking along the local forest tracks within the surrounding the township of Blackwood.

With Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre now a fully funded Department of Education Campus of Frankston Special Developmental School (SDS) things are changing within our School starting with the volume of staff. Throughout term 4 last year Blackwood employed a number of new staff who all started at the beginning of this academic year. Our full time staff now include:-

- Alex Turner • David Bulluss • David Ogilvie • Shane Le Fevre • Nick Summit • Chrissy Noble • Ella Harris • Paris Davey-Vale • Rebecca West • Tony Bellette

In mid-February we farewellled Abbey Dawkins for 2022 as she started maternity leave, with Abbey & Zak expecting their 1st child in late March.

All our staff are very grateful to Steve McMurtrie who is an integral part of our Blackwood Special School Team working on-site 2 days a week. On occasions you may also see Scott Tucker & Wendy Bice from Frankston SDS within the township of Blackwood.

But what's with all the trucks & cranes driving up & down Cann Street recently?

For a number of years, we have been requesting new buildings from the Department to help support student programs & staff at Blackwood Special Schools. In mid-January the portable buildings started to arrive. The first building was an administration building which has moved our staff out of the shed they have called an office since the early 1990's into this new facility. The next 2 buildings are General Purpose Classrooms which we will use to help improve student outcomes as they continue to engage in experiential programs & lessons at the School. Together with our Environmental Centre, these buildings have created a Student Learning Hub at the top of Cann Street where eventually we will be able to refocus on one of the founding aims of the School back in 1970 by enhancing the students independent living skills as Blackwood Special Schools evolves into a fully catered Outdoor Residential School with students supporting & engaging each other through a unique catering curriculum.

~ Tony Bellette

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STORM RECOVERY

Representatives from DELWP & Moorabool Shire met with local stakeholders to discuss the process of recovery from last June's storm. Over half a million ton of the Wombat Forest's trees lay on the ground, according to a recent article from the Weekly Times (see Blackwood Times fb page). Traditional Owners, the Dja Dja Wurrung, having rights to timber under the State Government Land Use Agreement, are in discussions with VicForests to extract up to 80,000 cubic metres of saw logs, subject to DELWP approval.

DELWP representatives say they are canvassing all options, including increased local access for firewood & milling. Long-term strategies will also include fuel reduction burns, & the leaving of debris to feed the soil. Right now, say DELWP, their priority is public safety & access. A specialised team has been contracted to clear & repair walking tracks around Blackwood. They'll be getting stuck into the task within weeks.

Our meeting at the Mineral Springs (photo) covered many areas, including tourism, environment, local economy, skills & opportunities. Do you have an interest in the storm recovery process? Are you a dedicated walker, a timber worker or a part of our tourism industry? Whatever your interest, contact us at editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au to add to the conversation. A town meeting with DELWP & Moorabool Shire will be held not too far down the track.

Oh, by the way, check out google maps new satellite images of the Wombat Forest, which show much of the storm damage (although areas to the west, including Nolan's don't seem to be updated).

~ Brendan Hehir

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A weekly adventure in varied bush locations for pre school aged kids (babe to prep).

10am Mondays all year round.

Text Sarah on 0401 346740 for our weekly location and to join the group on "signal" (an app).

For the morning, please try to avoid packaging, don't bring any toys and minimise the use of phones. Your child is your responsibility and your knowledge as a parent is our gift.

• FLETCHERS ADVENTURES •



G'Day all in Blackwood.

Well I have been a very busy bee since the last issue as I have been having a particularly close relationship with my Joanie since Christmas & New Year & now we are proud parents of 5 beautiful little babies. We had them on the March 9 & mum says that March babies are special babies as it is nice weather & the trees start to turn in preparation for winter. I love sneaking a look at the babies when Joanie isn't looking because she growls at me mostly for coming near our babies. I've been going for trips in the car with dad as I think he feels sorry for me but I still love going places anyway & it gets me out of the house. Things have been pretty quiet for me at home as the attention is mostly on Joanie & co with their care & love but I don't mind as I really love still running around by myself chasing birds & kangaroos so this keeps my busy & I look forward to seeing my friends again soon.

So my fellow troops, stay well & out of trouble & I wish you all a Happy Easter & I hope you get a lot of pet friendly Easter eggs!

~ Adios friends from Papa Fletcher

An absence of these creatures.

Am I missing something or not looking hard enough?

In recent years many birds, animals & insects which were once common, seem to be absent from Blackwood & I suspect in many other similar places.

Years ago, night times would be punctuated by the sounds of Mopokes (Boobook owls).

Little bats would be seen flying at dusk & later, catching the many flying insects.

At dusk in particular, driving would result in windscreens scattered with many kamikaze insects.

It is rare now to see even grasshoppers & dragon flies

Spitfires & emperor gum moth grubs could once be seen in many gum trees. Branches would be covered in a writhing black mass, & we would run extremely fast past them, to avoid being spat upon.

Koalas would sometimes be seen but I haven't heard of any recent sightings.

Kangaroos & wallabies mainly avoided the town but were plentiful in the forest.

Now it seems that the only wombats that I see, are lying dead on the side of the road. Occasionally we do have one that has been living under our house in the winter.

And of course fish in the river. Many a time when I was young I would drag myself out of bed & armed with my fishing rod & worms (mainly obtained from the back of the pub) & hook a wonderful breakfast of fresh trout from the Lerderderg river. Some wicked individuals who shall remain nameless stooped to very naughty ways of fishing such as tickling & stunning them with a rifle shot near them so that they could be picked up by hand. Unfortunately the Lerderderg is no longer stocked with fish.

Maybe there could be some sort of conversation started regarding this topic?

What are other readers' experiences & opinions?

~ Don Owen.

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THE YOUNG WORKERS OF BLACKWOOD

This little article is about 3 young women who work in Blackwood in their very first jobs. Shontay Rogers aged 16 is working for Karen's Kitchen. Charlee Whitehouse who is 15 is working at the Blackwood Pub & Matilda Cassidy who is also 15 years old is working at the new Vietnamese Restaurant in Daylesford. That these 3 young people are still at school whilst working part time shows that determination & hard work still exist as values for the youth of today & that makes me, a "not so young" person, feel better about the future.



Shontay lives in Dales Creek & when not working in the food van, loves chatting with her sister & playing with her two dogs. She actually is a real dog lover & most days when she arrives for work, her first job is to play soccer with Karen's dog Rani. Not a bad job to have really!

Shontay is in year 11 & would love to be a forensic scientist & hopes to go to University straight from school.

Shontay is very focused on earning money & having it in the bank. That certainly wasn't me as a teenager & still isn't today. She said "I am a saver. I like the money to be there but have no idea what I am saving for." She is not keen on getting her driving license which is a wise move if you want to save money.

When asked about how she has fun, Shontay couldn't say but gave that shy cheeky grin she is known for. This perhaps indicates that there is indeed fun in her life but she isn't saying. But she did say what wasn't fun & that was a snake in her path one day when she & friends were walking in the bush. One of them nearly stepped on it & thankfully was able to jump over it mid step. Screams rang out as they all ran away but no doubt they turned to laughter pretty quickly as they were all safe including the snake.

Charlee, the 2nd of our group, has been working at the Blackwood Pub for quite a while now. She has just started working on weekends at Karen's Kitchen as well as being full time at school. This young woman obviously has a great work ethic. Charlee is in year 10 & her dreams are to work with young children as maybe a kindergarten or primary school teacher. She has done lots of baby sitting & has always been around groups of children in her family life.

Unlike Shontay, Charlee is keen to get her licence as soon as she can but says her Mum is dreading it. She is saving for a motorbike but may decide to buy a car instead or a block of land. Charlee loves living in Dales Creek & sounds like a real outdoors person. She has enjoyed fixing up the garden with her parents & just loves to be outside in the bush. She loves to ride bikes & has had a few stacks but one in particular she recounts where she "came around the corner on a gravel track & crashed into a tree. There wasn't too much damage but I had to wheel the bike all the way home" she said.

Charlee mentioned an interesting thing about social media. She uses Zoom or Snap Chat but says she doesn't like to be on it too much. "It's taking over activities & people are on it too much" she said. Charlee realised it a while ago & cut back her own use & she said some of her friends are doing the same.

For Charlee the biggest issue in growing up is how expensive things are & that she will have to pay for them. No wonder she is working hard & is no doubt going to succeed.

Advertisement for Ray Holistic Health, featuring the name 'Ray' in a stylized font and the text 'KINESIOLOGY MIND BODY MEDICINE HOLISTIC HEALTH'. Contact information: Blackwood, Kyneton & Online. Ph: 0416717792. Email: rayholistichealth@gmail.com @rayholistichealth



And our final young worker who is balancing school life, family & friends with a job, is Matilda Cassidy. Matilda works at the new Vietnamese restaurant in Daylesford & really enjoys serving customers & taking orders. She is also doing food prep & some cooking. "It is a very good place to work" she says & nice people to work with.

After Matilda finishes school she hopes to go to University but is still figuring out what path she will take. Psychology interests her but she is still exploring.

Matilda loves to read & really enjoys playing tennis. She absolutely loves the beach & regularly goes on holidays with family to the seaside where she loves to swim or walk along the shore. Matilda isn't interested either in getting her licence but enjoys saving & likes to put aside a certain amount each week.

For Matilda, the biggest issue for her growing up is that she won't know what to do with her career choices. I feel for her because the pressure at this young age is enormous but want to reassure her & all the other young adults by saying that what you choose now doesn't have to be forever. Changing careers or jobs throughout your life is common so pick something now that feels right & go for it.

So here we end our little get to know three wonderful young women. I am inspired by their commitment to & care about the future & particularly their savings patterns. Thank you for sharing some of your stories with us Matilda, Shontay & Charlee.

We at the Times would love to here more from this age group. We would love to talk to any young workers or entrepreneurs like Brook Turnbull who has made her own candles for sale at a very young age. So parents, friends or the young adults themselves, please contact us if you would like to be interviewed.

~ Karen Bruno

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PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS



Woof: In this month's edition I would like to discuss ANXIETY IN DOGS. I am very prone to this & especially with our recent storms we have had some sleepless nights.

The more time we spend with our humans, the more we feel like we share the intuitive knack of knowing how we are feeling at any given time. We are great at expressing when we are happy, hungry, tired or just want a good belly scratch,

but unfortunately anxiety is a lot trickier to notice in dogs & you'd be forgiven for incorrectly interpreting these symptoms. The more you know about what triggers anxiety in your dog, the quicker you can notice the signs & seek help for them.

What causes anxiety in dogs? Particular sounds, situations & environments can all lead to anxiety & stress in your dog. These situations can include:

- Being apart from their owner, that is, separation anxiety
 - Car travel
 - Moving house
 - A new baby in the home or unfamiliar visitor
 - Building or renovation work
 - Veterinary visits & returning from hospitalisation
 - Hectic/noisy events (Christmas, fireworks, thunderstorms, parties)
 - Change in routine (pet sitters, new job routines).
- For some dogs, the cause is less obvious & possibly related to temperament, genetics & past negative experiences.

What are the symptoms of anxiety in dogs? Correctly interpreting your dog's body language is very important. Below are some of the initial reactions that your dog may display when they come across an anxiety inducing experience:

- Lip licking
- Yawning
- Ears pinned back, lying flat on the head
- Corners of the mouth pulling back, which may appear like they're 'smiling'
- Hypervigilant, constantly scanning the environment, frequently running around the house or yard
- Tucked tail
- Hair on their back going up
- Trembling
- Whining
- Hiding behind your legs or furniture
- Turning or looking away
- Sneezing
- Panting & drooling
- Sudden urination or defecation
- Destructive behaviour
- Pacing
- Defensive aggression - growling, biting, barking

How to help a dog with anxiety: Avoid their triggers. The best way to help your dog with anxiety is to identify the signs & triggers for their anxiety & to remove them from these situations.

Reassure your dog & never punish them for their reactions. Seek advice from your local Vets who may refer you to a veterinary behaviourists & certified behaviour trainers who use positive training methods, & avoid your dog's triggers until their anxiety has been managed.

Socialise them early: The critical socialisation period of a dog is when they are 4-16 weeks old.

This is the period where a dog's brain actively learns how to accept & interact with other members in social groups (dogs, people & other animals) & their environment. For a puppy to develop into a friendly, confident & happy adult, regular handling & being exposed to novel situations in a non-threatening manner during this period is very important.

Research has shown that puppies who are not exposed to other dogs & people during this critical period are more likely to develop fearful & aggressive behaviour & behavioural problems later in their lives.

Therefore, it's very important to socialise your puppy before they're 16 weeks old. Check out: <https://www.petbarn.com.au/petspot/puppy/behaviour-and-training/puppy-socialisation/>

Pheromone relief: One of the most useful ways to reassure or appease your anxious dog is to use Adaptil. It is a synthetic copy of the natural pheromone that a puppy's mother releases during nursing. This pheromone is only detectable to dogs, so you & your other non-dog pets won't notice any difference but your best friend will feel safe & secure & experience less fear & stress.

When you're on the go, pheromone collars or sprays are available. Spray can be applied to a bandana that your dog wears & will last for 2 hours. When you're at home, set up a diffuser to create a relaxing environment for your dog. Collars & diffusers will need to be changed monthly.

Thunder shirts are also recommended as they have a swaddling effect when worn tightly which generates calmness & reassurance.

There are also a range of products that can be purchased over the counter at your local vet clinic which may help.

If you suspect your pet may be suffering from anxiety, always seek the advice of your vet. Especially when the symptoms rapidly appear over a short period of time, they could possibly relate to medical problems or pain that causes an increase in irritability & long term medication may be prescribed.

Lucky my mum knows exactly what to do to help me with my Stress Storm Anxiety & we have discovered late night SBS if we have power!!

~ **Woof for now ... Seamus**

• TIPPLE TIME •

As the Autumn winds start to blow & the smell of smoke from chimneys wafts through the eucalypts, surely, it's time for a warming glass or two of red wine from our wonderful region.

The Macedon Ranges Wine Region is home to over 40 vineyards with most sitting 300 – 800 meters above sea level. The cool climate (well cold really) produces diverse wines from the 20 plus grape varieties planted & are of the highest quality. While volume is limited due to the cooler conditions, the slow ripening ensures delicious full flavored, medium body wines which exhibit big, highly perfumed aromas. Getting thirsty already?

One particular wine which would suit sitting in front of the fire, gazing longingly into the flames is the wonderful 2017 Wombat Forest Vineyards Pinot Noir.

It is a classic medium bodied Pinot Noir full of juicy red fruit flavours. Whilst light in colour, it's not light on anything else. Hints of intricate cherry & concentrated earthiness warm in the glass followed by some heat from the spice developed from the French Oak casks it was aged in. A well developed example of one of the world's most popular grape varieties.

This family owned vineyard have been making wine in the region, Denver, to be precise, since the late 90's & the cellar door is open weekends.

Don't put it off, do yourself a flavour, get out there & try this wine or one of the many wonderful wines available around our area!

~ **CHEERS Michael**

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• WHOSE TATT'S THAT? •



The symbol representing a zodiac sign is known as a glyph & can be a tattoo that is both personal & tells us something about the person it decorates. Aries is the first astrological sign in the zodiac & is most often represented by a ram's head. Depending on what you read people born under the Aries star sign are said to be fun, passionate, independent, adventurous, free-spirited, honest, energetic & intelligent. The owner of this tattoo also likes skull art & added flowers to the design to add a bit of prettiness.

~ **Carra Dix**

YOUR JUNK IS MY TREASURE

I never thought that a garage sale could be such an emotionally charged event.

First, relief that the sun shone & I thank the organisers for that along with the smooth running of the show. Then, deciding what should be offered. Letting go of stuff that might have been useful some day & all with its own history; accepting that imagined projects won't ever be done; feeling ok about low prices so that treasure would be snapped up by a good home (complete hardback set of Dickens for \$20) & the great pleasure that goes with the knowledge of so much less going to landfill.

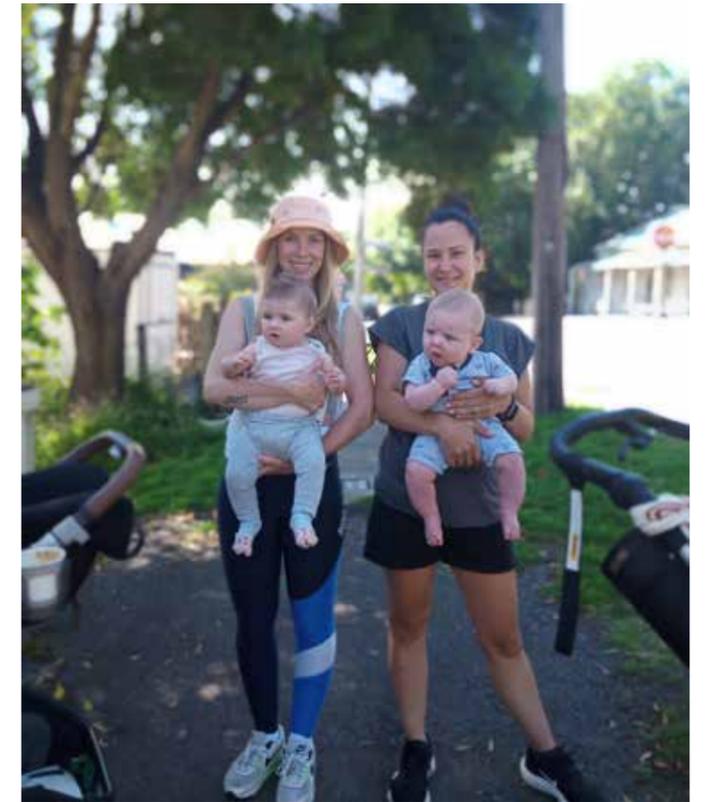
I have one suggestion for the map. It should have a note that bounty hunters who rock up at 7.30am will be charged treble for any item.

~ **John Kemp**

• THE TIMES GOES TO ... •



Ask the Nanny Goat: A rare window opened for Margaret McCarthy to explore the forests & highlands of the south eastern coast & hinterlands. It's what you might call a "creative journey" creative in that she had no idea how it would unfold or where she'd end up. Blackwood has our own history of silly old goats, but as a solo woman travelling around, she chose to ask the Nanny at Nanny goat Hill at Cooma for advice. Wise Nanny told Margaret to stop racing about like a blue bottomed fly & spend the rest of the year with her daughter in Canberra. Should one argue with a silly old goat? Naaaayyyyy! Time to connect for all of us if we can. Self, family & friends. (And the odd goat).



New mums Rachel Jones (on left) with 6 month old Olivia & Jacinta Sweet with 4 month old Marley

PRESCHOOLERS RULE (OR SO IT SEEMS IN BLACKWOOD)

Has anyone besides me noticed how many new babies there are in town. My estimate is that there are as many as 30 pre school children living here at the moment. This is hugely different to when I first came 8 years ago when there would have been less than 5 preschoolers living here. If 30 is even close to accurate, there is an obvious need for changes to infrastructure & services & even community groups. These young families are the future of Blackwood & it appears that not many of them are involved in existing community groups. If this is the case, then why? Do they want other groups? Or need other services? Do they feel encouraged & empowered to join?

So together with the Blackwood Times, I have decided to conduct a research project to find out just how many preschool children are living in the Blackwood, Dales Creek & Barrys Reef Area.

Aim: The aim of this project is to not only find out numbers, but to also find out what needs the parents have now, as well as what they project they will need in the future before their child goes to school. The data will be useful for local groups such as Progress, Crown & even service clubs like the cricket club. Faith based groups as well as businesses will also be able to cater to the needs of this new population. We might have a whole new cricket club coming through or a future netball side in the making- it will be exciting to find out.

As I interview each parent, I will hand them information on all of the groups currently running in the area & encourage them to get involved. But the main aim is to find out how many preschoolers we have here now.

Research Plan: The plan is that all parents of preschool children be invited to participate in the research. Once the data is collected it remains confidential & in my possession until it is collated & then will be destroyed. Results will be published in the Blackwood Times & therefore available for anyone to utilise for service development, funding, program ideas & creation & for general interest in the changing population of Blackwood.

So spread the word & please contact me on 0409212473 or karenbruno@optusnet.com.au

~ **Karen Bruno**



CAULDRON'S '3-ZERO' TARGETING STRATEGY – CARBON, COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT FOR ZERO IMPACT OPERATIONS

Cauldron Energy (Cauldron or the Company) is continuing its non invasive exploration underground at Barrys Reef with Phase 2 of its drill program now underway. Our underground rehabilitation & drill preparation works have been continuing since July 2021, mostly unnoticed by residents.

As part of the overall goal to integrate with the surrounding community, the Company has become involved with various environmental initiatives. These include:

- **Waste Rock to Food Secure Melbourne (FSM) Project** – systematic geochemical sampling has revealed suitable zones of rock that can be used for significant soil remediation. Cauldron has been meeting with the various groups involved in the FSM & the investigation of these waste rock zones is ongoing. The objective is to improve soil that has been degraded over years of unmanaged Market Garden irrigation to the North of Melbourne. The FSM requires waste rock, such as that which is produced from our proposed mining, to improve the sub-soil drainage in parallel with their soil improvement techniques.
- **Wombat State Forest** – population decline due to mange & increased road fatalities as wombats seek relief from itching outside their dens. Success at Cauldron's Blackwood Project will greatly assist with the implementation of wombat protection & conservation programs.
- **Environmental Commitment** – the Company's commitment to green, low-impact, energy is being demonstrated by its continued use of biofuel for power generation to support the underground exploration. This ensures that a) there is no pollution of the surrounding pristine environment, & b) carbon reduction is achieved as proven by the Carbon Reduction certification awarded (Figure 1)
- **Fauna Sanctuary** – regular monitoring of the water chemistry from the Tyrconnel Adit is showing significant reductions in the arsenic content between the inside of the mine & the Lerderderg River catchment. This is proving that the existing sediment dams are working efficiently & that the excess water can still be used to create a river sanctuary for native fauna & flora. The Company plans to repurpose the water to create trout hatcheries into the upper Lerderderg River. The work involved in this stage will also incorporate algal treatment to result in cleaned, "recycled" water which is then pumped into the upper reaches of the local river systems to replenish the water catchment area, which will also assist with mitigating risks of increased climate-change related weather. Case studies supporting this method are provided by Flinders University (2015) & Arizona State University (2015/2020).

The above environmental initiatives are a statement to the Company's ongoing commitment to community, environment & carbon reduction. These programs assist with Cauldron's low-energy/low-cost alternative for conducting narrow-vein style exploration.

Food Secure Melbourne (FSM) Project: The FSM Project (Figure 2) is an innovative & technology-based initiative run by the collaboration of the University of Melbourne, Flinders University (South Australia) & Flinders Peak Water. The program takes waste streams (soil, rock, waste water) & utilises them in significant soil remediation for growing food crops in market gardens. This initiative is proven & in use today in South Australia, which is much further advanced as a direct result of the prompt recognition of its value from the South Australian government.

The FSM will deliver a number of outstanding state- & nationwide economic benefits through the creation of a food bowl in a 50,000 hectare area on Melbourne's doorstep, generating considerable value in the local rural area. Key local knowledge of market gardens will be combined with using waste stream systems & world-class soil remediation expertise from the University of Melbourne.

Cauldron's underground waste rock generation from current exploration & potentially future mining operations will be incorporated into the FSM soil remediation programs. This waste rock has been extensively analysed as part of the general exploration & resource processes, & has been shown to be ideal for use as a base for redesigning soil & improving drainage for an extensive area. The Company's completion of recent geochemical samplings reveals suitable zones for this soil re-engineering which is critical to the FSM Project.

Altogether, the FSM is an outstanding project for the State of Victoria

& aligns perfectly with Cauldron's Ethos of Negative Harm – i.e., mining process that improve the environment & community in which it operates.

Water Management: Cauldron plans to assist local entities with the development of a local trout farm, with a pilot version planned in North Blackwood. Using repurposed water from the Tyrconnel Adit, with algal filtration planned to potentially allow its re-use for local businesses, water authorities & even bushfire fire control during times of low rainfall predicted to occur as a result of climate change. Existing periodic monitoring work is already showing reductions in deleterious elements despite the underground activity contrary to the opinions of some local groups.

Additionally, the Company will maintain & improve the current clean water supply to Melbourne Water, & potentially even providing treated water from underground mine flows to augment the existing Central Highlands Water supply during low rainfall events.

No Surface Impacts – no waste dumps or tailings dams: The Company plans low-energy/low-cost extraction of rock from the narrow gold reef systems which will be transported by battery driven rail underground ensuring no fuel hydrocarbons entering underground water flows. The high value gold ores make it economical to transport this material to treatment plants outside of the Blackwood area, thereby removing the need to construct a separate processing plant in the vicinity. Cauldron's current systematic geochemical work is helping to understand the chemical composition of the waste rock to provide the most suitable material to FSM. The Company has always acknowledged that, due to the extensive mining history of the region, there are many historical mining voids which are of concern to the local community. All waste rock & material which is deemed unsuitable for use in the FSM Project could therefore be used to backfill & stabilise these historical mining voids, which will also assist in protecting the surface from any potential disturbance or subsidence.

Minimal Carbon Footprint: The narrow, structurally complex, high-grade nature of the Blackwood gold reefs means that the Company needs to use specific, targeted, narrow-veining gold mining techniques to extract the ore. The existing underground rail is being rehabilitated & reinforced which will allow it to be used again in potential future mining operations. There will be minimal rock breakage which should assist in maximising the gold grades mined & treated.

The work outlined here will involve a very low energy input – Cauldron has already been using biofuels to generate power for all of the existing underground rehabilitation & exploration activities. This has had the proven effect of significantly reducing the Company's carbon footprint, as evidenced by the regular receipt of carbon credit certification (Figure 1). The use of the underground rail with battery power means no hydrocarbons are utilised & the mine water remains cleaner & free of pollutants. Waste rock is repurposed for the FSM Project soil remediation & the waste water treated for the purpose of replenishing local water supplies, as outlined in the previous section.

As always, the team are very happy to explain the Company's operations to any members of the community. The ultimate objective is to promote the innovative change to mining techniques that will benefit the surrounding communities while ensuring safeguarding of the area's pristine environment.

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MAX TO VIE FOR YOUNGEST EVER MP



Born in 2003, Max Martucci turned 18 in September last year while completing his final year of school. A local from the area, he grew up on a farm, playing footy in the RDFL & Bendigo league & completed his high school years in Sunbury. Max will contest the next federal election for the newly created seat of Hawke. "I've lived in & around this area my whole life. Most of my friends live here & it'd be fair to say Hawke is my backyard."

Max will be running as a candidate for TNL, a new grassroots party that formed in 2019. "My interest in social issues began when I was around 13. My love of science, technology & astronomy makes me a fierce progressive at heart. Constant progress is how we survive. Yet what I saw as I got older was a government that did everything to impede progress. That didn't sit well with me" he explained. If he wins, he will become the youngest ever federal member of parliament, beating out Wyatt Roy by 2 years.

The recent high school graduate says it's not a career move. "I'm not looking for a comfy job like most other politicians are. Ultimately I want a career in science, but Australia's current political climate makes any progress in that field almost impossible." In his view there "is no reason for me to be in parliament if I'm not making change."

Although young, Max was described as "18 going on 50" in a tweet by Victor Kline, the party leader. "What I lack in experience I make up for in commitment, honesty & integrity. I have enormous experience in the form of an amazing team backing me. It isn't hard to see how little is on offer from the current parties, that's why I joined TNL."

With the backing of his party & his dad as his campaign manager, Max hopes to inspire others to stand up to the establishment of career politicians that threaten to take away his future as well as the future of every other young Australian. "I don't know what my chances are, but I'm going to give it everything I've got as a true representative from the people of Hawke."



Blackwood baby gang celebrating their first Lunar New Year. Photo (courtesy of their mums; Michelle Wood, Jacinta Sweet, Rachel Jones, Aimee Ngo); clockwise from bottom left - Blackwood's latest additions Billy, Marley, Olivia and Luci

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2022 AUSTRALIAN GOLD PANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS



It was a fantastic day that greeted us for the 2022 Australian Gold Panning Championships. We had panners attend from as far away as Queensland. Normally we have a contingent of Kiwi's make the journey across the Tasman to participate in the competition however the Covid restrictions prevented them from attending. We look forward to seeing them back at next year's competition. Overall panners were down on 2020 however as expected with covid restrictions & people unable to attend due to being in quarantine.

As with previous years, panning categories ranged from Veterans to U12's & included a novice category for those infrequent or beginner panners. For the panning heats, panners receive a bucket of gravel which has been seeded with a set number of pieces of gold. The competitors pan off the bucket of gravel to find the seeded gold & place it within a bottle which is provided. The time taken for the panner to complete the bucket of dirt is recorded electronically & the number of pieces found is counted. A 3 minute time penalty is applied to a panners recorded time for each piece of gold missed. This time penalty is reasonably punishing so panners who recover all of the pieces (even if it takes longer) typically produce faster overall times.

The finals for each of the categories are made up of panners who obtain the fastest times within the heats. The overall winner is determined as the panner with the best aggregate time from two categories, the traditional pan & the skilled final. The traditional pan category is where all panners are provided with the same type of pan. This category creates a level playing field & takes away any potential benefit of one pan type over another.

This year saw a new panner Rob Page being crowned as the "Australian Gold Panning Champion" with Marcus Binks being runner up. Congratulations to all the category place getters & well done those new panners that came along to give it a try. We hope to see you all back next year.

The day concluded with a great meal & a satisfying cold drink at the Blackwood hotel.

The 1st Ballan Scout Group did a wonderful job catering for the event & providing hard working scouts to assist in running the panning heats. Sharon from Mrs Bee's Coffee satisfied those that needed a caffeine fix or something sweet to eat.

Appreciation goes to the key sponsors including Minelab, Lucky Strike, Onsite Laboratories. Cross Roads Trading from Ballan sponsored the gravel for the event which was well received.

The Victorian Gold Panning Association appreciates the support of the sponsors & the many volunteers that are required to make the competition a reality. We also thank the Blackwood Crown Reserves committee for allowing the us to use the facilities.

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• GIG & EVENTS GUIDE •

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
APRIL		
Sat 2 & Sun 3	Wrapped Up 3	Phoenix Park, Ballan
Sun 3	Will Day & Chris Williams	Bacchus Bowling Club
Wed 6	Paranormal night	The Blackwood Pub
Thur 7, 7-10pm	Tasting with the Distiller - The Gospel	The Taproom, Bacchus Marsh
Sun 10, 11-5pm	Vibes in the Vines	St Anne's Winery
Sun 10, 3 - 6pm	Tristan J Ross	The Taproom, Bacchus Marsh
Fri 15, 7pm	Crowning of the King & Queen followed by Cat & Clint	The Blackwood Pub
Sat 16, 8pm-late	Rock'n'Co	The Pig & Whistle
Sat 16, 11am	Easter Parade	Martin St from Whalebone Road
Sat 16 from 10am	Blackwood Woodchop & Easter Carnival & Live music from 12:30pm til late	Blackwood Cricket Ground
Sun 17	The Trio	The Blackwood Pub
Mon 25, 1-4pm	Bryan Sadler	The Greendale Pub
MAY		
Sun 1, 9am-4pm	Lerderderg State Park Hike - 16.7kms	Mackenzies Flat, Bacchus Marsh
Wed 4	Paranormal night	The Blackwood Pub
Sat 7	Spud Fest	Trentham
Fri 13 - Sun 15	Down Under 135 (135 km run)	Mackenzies Flat, Bacchus Marsh
Sun 15	Marty Luke	The Greendale Pub
Sun 22, 9:15am-1pm	Moorabool Reservoir Walk	Moorabool Reservoir
REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS		
Mondays	Old Farts night	The Blackwood Pub
Tuesdays from 4:30pm	Date night - movie & pizza	Radio Springs Hotel
Wednesday	Locals night dinner	The Cosmo
Thursdays	Locals night dinner & drink specials	The Pig & Whistle
Thursdays	Sri Lankan night	Radio Springs Hotel
Fri 5 - 8 pm	Meat tray raffle + cocktail hr	The Greendale Pub



It's going to be a fun-filled season back on the playing ground, so get along, cheer & support your local teams. Trentham District Football Netball Club is a vibrant family-focused club celebrating the clubs 130th anniversary this year. We welcome any new members & players to come along & be part of a great club. We are looking forward to a huge round one clash at Carisbrook on Saturday, April 23.

Registrations are now open for all programs including both Senior & Junior levels. Auskick & NetSetGo programs are planned for Term 2. Juniors train Thursday afternoons. Seniors train Tuesday & Thursday evenings, Thursday evening training is usually followed by a meal & social catch up at the club too.

Keep an eye on our Facebook groups & website for all the updates, contact information & details for registration too. www.trenthamsaintsfnc.com

Senior Football Coach Rick Dowling said, "I'm pleased to see the group come together again with the same drive & determination. "The side this year is looking good with natural strengths in the recruits. Keep your eye on Darcy Matricardi (NT Thunder), Liam Bianco (Woodend), Michael Shaw (Nth Heidelberg), & Michael Hourigan (returning). A great combination that adds excellent depth to the team & will hold us in good stead for the 2022 season.

Senior Netball Coach Sharna Ford said "The 2022 season is fast approaching & the Trentham Saints netballers are keen to get into it. We have some new faces amidst our ranks, including sisters Tegan & Mia Finch. Both girls bring speed, agility & versatility to our side which is super exciting & we welcome any other new recruits that are interested in playing! The girls are smashing through our preseason & are looking fit & ready for a competitive season. Bring on 2022!"

The Sportsground club rooms are undergoing a major reconstruction. It will provide a great atmosphere both on training nights & game days when it's complete. I strongly encourage all supporters to get along & back your local team, jump on board & support those who work so hard to manage the Club, volunteer to help out for any of the 100 jobs that need doing. Cheers

~ Corina Sabo, VP / Netball Administrator

Community Banking is about more than money!

To Blackwood, the most important part of the name of Community Bank Trentham & Districts is the ' & Districts'. Blackwood is just a hop, skip & jump away from Trentham & is very much part of the district which we love to support.

Supporting local projects is the difference that makes community banking so valuable in towns like ours. Many people don't know that 50% of the profits of a Community Bank is invested in the local community.

Trentham & Districts is proud to get behind the Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group with their 'WaterBug Project'. This unique community program is designed to engage & educate local people about the Lergerderg River by monitoring the river's health & water quality. We sponsored the Waterbug Kits to start checking what waterbugs are living in the river & waterways. The equipment will be the basis for a number of future projects, such as community monitoring days & participating a national "Waterbug Blitz".

One of the big annual events in Blackwood is, of course, the Annual Easter Carnival & Woodchop. Community Bank Trentham & Districts is delighted to be one of the major sponsors of this year's event, providing prize money for the four prizes (value of \$820) for the '300mm Underhand Championship' as well as purchasing fluoro safety vests for volunteers to wear this year & for future events.

We like to provide more than just money, so keep an eye out for our marquee being used by the Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare Group to showcase their WaterBug Project Kits, Plants etc. Apparently, Wilbur the Monster Weed will also be making an appearance - he's very hard to miss!

And if you'd like to know more about our services, our Manager Joel is a certified mobile lender & is very happy to take a trip to Blackwood to meet with you! Call 54241608 to make an appointment.

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• BEYOND BLACKWOOD •



One of the many great things about living in Blackwood & surrounds at this time of year is getting a regular peek at the magnificent Greendale Sunflower Farm on the well-worn trip to Ballan & back. Although the fields of yellow feels like a regular feature of late summer & early autumn, the farm is in fact only in its second year.

Owner Simon is a 5th generation farmer on the Ballan Greendale Road property & has primarily farmed sheep, cattle & some crops. Wife Anita says that as long as 25 years ago they planted a small crop of sunflowers along the driveway which they then sold in her uncles \$2 shop in Daylesford. Fast forward to 2019 & the family were toying with the idea of planting a paddock of sunflowers to cut & sell.

In 2020 Anita & Simon decided to plant a crop in their front paddock. Simon first sowed the seeds in October of 2020 but a frost 2 weeks later saw the seeds freeze in the ground. Not to be deterred Simon planted a second time & was well rewarded with a full paddock of sunflowers in February of 2021.

The paddock looked brilliant on the way up the hill from Ballan & soon people were stopping regularly wanting to walk through the field & take photos. Anita & Simon decided to open it to the public & have since met some fabulous people & been witness to a lot of joy. Anita says that "The great thing about the sunflowers is that when people leave they are so happy. The flowers give you a warm & fuzzy feeling." Many of the people who visit the farm have never stepped foot in a paddock before & love the experience of walking through a crop.

Visitors to the farm come from all around. There are regularly visitors from the Macedon Ranges & surrounds as well as from all areas of Bendigo & Melbourne. On a recent weekend the farm was visited by a family from Vietnam & another from Scotland. What a contrast to a Scottish winter!



And the prize for the sunniest face goes to ...

Although most people, & their dogs, are happy to just wonder around the paddock & often pick their own sunflower, the farm has also been host to many special events in its short life so far. There have been engagements & a wedding as well as a film crew shooting a music video. In addition, there have been numerous artists & photographers keen to capture the beauty of the golden fields.

As well as an experience all ages can enjoy, a visit to the farm is also a very affordable family day out.

The farm closes after the first weekend of April. Keep an eye out for it next year. It is an adventure not to be missed.

~ Kylie Richardson

EDITOR NOTE: Did you know the sunflower (Sunnyashniki) is the official national flower of Ukraine?

Deep in the red volcanic soil of Trentham and surrounds, underneath all this lush green growth, the taters are slowly swelling. Local farmers say they'll be ready just in time for the Great Trentham Taterfest on Saturday, 7 May 2022.

Don't forget to save the date!

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