

August ~ September 2022 vol 14 ~ issue 15.2



Vale Lynne Boyd De Garis see pg 5



Betty Batty hits the ton

ABOVE: While staying in Blackwood with her son, Philip, Betty received congratulations from the PM.

LEFT: June 2 was colder than a 3 dog night. Luckily Fiona and Shane brought their own dogs to the performance (Hide & Seek Music Festival pg 4).

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...

Hi Blackwood residents (and beyond)!

Well it's certainly started to get cold hasn't it. For those new to the town including me I was warned and told "if you can make it through the first winter you'll be ok".

I've also learnt the a fire place keeps you warm twice (stacking/ chopping and burning). Now as for the new team, hopefully the last issue wasn't too far off the mark and we felt quite pleased with ourselves as we put together the last edition with only oversight from Jinny, let me tell you it's quite a lot of work!

In this edition we also published some census data and it's interesting to see the town has grown since 2016, there are new faces and there are also existing faces that now call their secondary residence at Blackwood there primary, we also have seen an increase in the average number of children per family. We also have a new segment called Blackwood Makers where each edition we talk to locals around interesting side hobbies/gigs and the things they make and build.

I hope that everyone enjoys the current edition and gets to know Jinny, Brendan and Margot as they feature in a mini-biography and an interview.

As always we hope you enjoy this edition and don't hesitate to reach out either by flagging one of the team down or simply emails us at team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au

~ Kylie Richardson, 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.

JINNY AND BRENDAN HAVE ISSUES...84 OF THEM!

Interview with Brendan and Jinny on 14 years of doing the Blackwood Times-Part 1.

How long have you been doing the Blackwood Times and how and why did you first get involved?

Jinny - Not long after we moved to Blackwood, more than 30 years ago, I was chatting by the side of the road to Robina Brown, a long-time local woman. We were chatting about how good it would be to have a local newsletter & also a school holiday program for our local kids. A couple of months later Robina published the first Blackwood Newsletter - 6 pages typed on a manual typewriter, photocopied & stapled in the corner and I had started the school holiday program. 15 years & 100 issues later Robina announced that she had to give up the newsletter for family reasons. I was a qualified graphic designer so it made sense that I should take it on. My idea was that it should be a community service, and a means of sharing information. The first copy of the Blackwood News came out in June, 2008. In 2013 we changed the name to the Blackwood Times because we felt that, since it is only produced every 2 months it's not strictly a newspaper, it's more of a historical document.

Brendan - The Blackwood Times became more than a historical document. It was a campaign paper as well. We felt it was a good vehicle to promote discussion and it provided a means of advocacy on behalf of the community. Many important issues over the years were covered over long periods of time through many editions.

Has the style/focus of the Blackwood Times changed over the years?

Jinny - As the years have gone on we've felt a lot more confident to take on issues. I think it was a big change taking it from Blackwood News to The Blackwood Times. The internet has obviously made a big difference with people getting information from the internet rather than from print media. Covid was definitely a difficult period to keep publishing. I'm very proud that we didn't miss a single issue during the period of Covid shutdown, even though there was very little going on. I think we did a good job of helping to hold the community together.

Brendan - With the internet as years progressed, more and more people have read the Blackwood Times online. This has changed the way the Times is perceived. Years ago we decided to make it more of a pictorial. People love seeing themselves and others they know, in the paper. We didn't have to lose content to have pictures, which was a good thing.

Jinny -Another reflection of how times have changed over 15 years is that we used to have a birthday calendar where people's birthdays were listed each issue. As time went on this became impossible to upkeep as the population changed and new people moved into town. The personality of Blackwood changed and grew.

Brendan - In the early days everybody knew each other. These days we are fortunate to see a new influx of people and new families moving in and the days of a tiny town has gone. We think the focus of the Blackwood Times has changed in tandem with the community changing. We have always wanted the Times to reflect the community.

Jinny - We have also wanted it to be a vehicle to bring joy and connection.

Brendan - We have pushed as much as we can to grow the community content in the paper, rather than us generating it all. The community itself has generated content. It's been a reflection of the changing community. When a big issue came along it tended to dominate the paper and often it took years to work through.

Have you done stories that have given you joy and some that have given you pain which you still remember years later?

Jinny - My favourite issue was the Max Matheson obituary. I loved putting it together. Brendan collected many stories from Max's life and many of his antics. It gave a true sense of the community.

Brendan -We put together a 5 page spread that reflected Max's life as a local legend. Everyone had a Max Matheson story, there were many

HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

MONTH/ YEAR	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall historical average (mm)	Temp monthly min (deg C)	Temp monthly max (deg C)	Temp average daily max (deg C)	Temp average daily min (deg C)	Temp average for month (deg C)
May'22	38.7	90.5	3.1	18.7	12.7	3.2	7.3
Jun'22	104.1	106.5	-3	13.8	8.5	2.2	5.3

We have had a half yearly rainfall of 434.5mm which is very close to average so it will be interesting to see how the rest of the year pans out.

~ Don Owen

reflections. His life was full of stories. Not only was it about this great character, it was also about many people's recollections and input.

Jinny - The most difficult story we had to do was one when we lost a community member only days before deadline and we had to try to figure out how to handle that within the paper. We were uncertain as to whether the family was aware of the situation but we had to cover the story as it would have been negligent to not talk about it by the time the paper came out. It was the most difficult decision I have had to make and the most difficult edition we have had to put together. It was very very sad.

Brendan - Some of the campaigns for justice for this community that we have covered have given me satisfaction. Many were very long and arduous but a lot of the time they were successful and rewarding. As a paper we focus,

maybe obsess, on the best of this community, its resilience, self-reliance and hope. We have never got bogged down with in-fighting. It's a mixed bag of people here in Blackwood. There are many ways of looking at a situation and issues. We have tried to look at the bigger picture. Within Blackwood, what everyone has in common is a deep love for the town, a great self-sufficiency and resilience. It's the town's character but also the character of nearly everyone who comes here as it's a hard place to live. People who don't have that tend to move on quickly. The weather can be hard, services are sketchy. The people who stay have a strength. We have always tried to throw it back to them.

Jinny - Along with strong characters comes a lot of prickly people. The people here are strong, resilient, and self-sufficient. With that comes highly opinionated people. Brendan - Our opinions don't always meet, nor should they. What does meet is the character of the people here. It's a real thing. Going through hard times, and God knows we've seen enough, it's the character of the town and the people in it that we try to talk about in the Times. But, overlaid with this, is an attitude of "we've got this". We have been at pains to reflect the best of Blackwood back to itself. There's the news, and there's the events, and the events over the years have been cyclical. What lays on top of that is the character of the



town and we don't want people to forget just how grouse they are!

Are there aspects of putting together the Times that you will miss? Jinny - I could say the involvement but we can still be as involved as we want to be.

Brendan - That's well put Jinny. We are not going to miss anything, really. We will still write articles and send in photos.

Jinny - I won't miss the responsibility. It's a big responsibility to try to be on time and to get it done with the deadlines involved and carrying the sole responsibility of the paper's production. We've done it as our parents were dying, as we've been as sick as dogs and on other occasions we were personally quite stretched.

Brendan - It's a big commitment and you just have to do it. We've

said no to special events, family get-togethers and things like that. I will miss the late-night piecing together of the paper with my wife. A glass of wine in hand, a deadline, the crazy nervous energy to get it all done. We squirrel ourselves in the office late at night, it's kind of fun, but exhausting. It's a hard working date night!

Jinny - The other thing I will miss is bringing the boxes of the newly printed paper into the house, and both of us sitting

down and reading a copy. It's like we haven't seen it before. When it's being put together we are just doing it, making it happen. Seeing it in print we often say 'oh this is so good'. I will miss that. It's like unwrapping the baby.

When you bow-out of your constant involvement, at the end of the year, what will you do with all your 'free' time?

Jinny - I think it's more that I will have the freedom to make choices. It's having time to discover new things, and have time with family and to travel. We will have freedom to make choices.

Brendan - We will be able to leave town from time to time and won't have to be constantly available.

Do you have any advice for the new team that has taken on the role of putting the Blackwood Times together?

Brendan -Content is the most important thing. You need to get out there and listen.

Jinny - You need to have your ear to the ground and know what is going on. I am excited about the new team. It's a fabulous mix of highly motivated people. I am excited to see where they take our baby.

~ Jeanne Tahini

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the BLACKWOOD TIMES info

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

Advertisers book space	Sept 15	
Regular contributors, features & items of interest, community groups & clubs	Sept 15	
Display ad artwork		Sept 20
Late breaking news		Sept 20

NO late submissions will be accepted. Please email submissions, display ads & articles to team@theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au or post to The Blackwood Times, PO Box 39 Blackwood, 3458.

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• HIDE AND SEEK MUSIC FESTIVAL •



The Moorabool-wide festival kicked off in Blackwood on a chilly June 2, with a warming performance by Brekin at the Hat Shoppe, youngsters The Trentham Trio smashing and shredding it out the back of Jindarup and a (very crowded) night at the Blackwood Hotel singing Crowded House songs.

St. Martins Chapel joined in the fun with a day full of music (thanks Carlson, Sue Donnelly and Moorabool Shire) where Shapenote Singing returned to Blackwood, with Shaun and Natalie from Melbourne Sacred Harp expertly guiding a mob of beginners to raucous choral ecstasy. Cat and Clint charmed the audience, as ever. Fiona Ross and Shane O'Mara (front cover) followed with their haunting renditions of Scottish tunes; the songs often enough with themes of Scottish Hauntings. Hardrive made a welcome return, featuring new member and mandolin wiz, Ashton. Enjoy the circus, young man.

~ Brendan Hehir



BLACKWOODMAKERS

In this episode of Blackwood makers we introduce Dave.



For his main job, Dave contracts as a technical illustrator where he interprets and visualises complex engineering methods for major infrastructure projects, typically for non-technical audiences.

However, you most likely know him as the 'Spoon Guy'. That's because his real passion is making and baking things! Last year Dave kicked-off a small studio called 'The Maker's Dozen' where he plays with wood, resin casting, metal, ceramics and studio photography. He even

bakes delicious winter pastries for the general store.

Over the past 12 months he has spent most of his energy setting up the studio and hand-making beautiful and unusual spoons and crafts made from wood reclaimed from last year's storms and neighbourhood gardens. Currently, he sells his crafts directly, at the Green Store in Trentham and Blackwood market.

In the near future Dave is very keen to start a 'Blackwood Them Shed' where locals will be openly welcomed to join the fun of making things. When asked about this, he said: "Blackwood seems to be thriving with all kinds of creative sorts. Many of them have expressed a very strong interest in getting together to play in the studio; so I figure, lets do it. Let's have some fun together!"



Dave says, he's always up for a coffee and chat and would love to hear from anyone interested in joining the 'Blackwood Them Shed'. He can be contacted via his web site www.themakersdozen.net.au, or just around town.

Next edition we have Kieren Foley and his home-crafted bird boxes.



VALE LYNNE BOYD DE GARIS

1953 - 2022

Blackwood is rich with generations of families who have become part of the town's diverse history. This article is written out of great respect and love for Lynne Boyd De Garis - not to be forgotten.

BLACKWOOD

Lynne's grandparent's, Jim and Mabel Boyd, built a hut on Golden Point Road during the Great Depression. Jim's sister, Egie Boyd, married Mick Cocciardi and settled further along the road,

the Cocciardi's being a local family represented on the Blackwood Honour Roll. Meanwhile, the Boyd's younger brother Bill, a Gallipoli veteran, established a house in Ballan.

Jim and Mabel's children, Maise, Ken and Ethel, were brought up with great love of Blackwood, with Lynne's Mum and Dad, Bev and Ken Boyd, building their holiday home in King Street near the Morningstar Track, alongside other local families, the Rayner's and the Turner's with the Matheson's nearby.

Lynne and her sister, Judy [Hansford] spent many joyful weekends and holidays in the town - picking blackberries, walking everywhere - with visits to the Springs, riding horses, attending the Blackwood Easter Show and Review, and dances at the local hall, where teenage Lynne with her halo of blonde wavy hair was an eagerly sought partner.

Lynne loved Blackwood, and with her husband Peter, renovated the family's home on the hill in readiness for their retirement. Facing the inevitability of an early death, she chose to be in Blackwood for what remained of her life, and was supported by Peter and their children, Georgia and Christian to do so. Her last months were spent enjoying family and friends, with a glass of prosecco in hand, talking all things life giving - art, books, politics, family and Blackwood.

She is survived by her loved and loving husband, children and sister. Her ashes will be interred at the Blackwood Cemetery.

The family wishes to thank the palliative care service and staff at Kyneton Hospital for their kindness and professionalism.

Patricia Pollard [Lynne's Cousin]

THE ARTIST

Obituary for Lynne Boyd, Excerpts with kind permission from Charles Nodrum Gallery

"Charles Nodrum Gallery held the first of many solo shows of Lynne's work I 1995. She completed studies at the Victorian College of the Arts in 1984, and a Master of Fine Arts at Monash University in 2004. She later lectured at the VCA, RMIT, Monash and La Trobe Universities.

Lynne lived and worked in Melbourne her entire life, with all her adult years in easy reach of Port Phillip Bay. She began exhibiting her paintings of the Bay in the mid - 1980's [at Arden Street Gallery in Melbourne], and variations of this subject remained the core of her practice thereafter. Of the many artists who confronted this subject, few could handle her subtle and sensitive handling of its light - particularly on those grey and misty days when the air itself seems to shimmer and sea and sky seem to melt into a barely differentiated whole. In these works her "atmospherics" combined depictive precision with meteorological accuracy to produce works which evoke in the viewer a sense of quiet contemplation. They exemplify Berenson's [now unfashionable] criterion that art should help us to breathe more deeply."

Lynne's work is represented in the National Gallery of Victoria, National Gallery of Australia, Parliament House Art Collection plus state and regional university collection's throughout the country Her 2010 works, "Twilit, Trentham" and "Glide, Trentham" are held in private collections. In 2011 she won the prestigious \$10,000 Fleurieu Water Prize for her work, "Lilac Time, Port Phillip Bay".

~ Noelle Shader for the De Garis Family





RECONCILIATION WEEK IN BLACKWOOD - FLAG RAISING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

On Friday May 27, the beginning of National Reconciliation Week, we invited the community to join in raising the Aboriginal Flag on our town flagpole. Blackwood locals have been inquiring into the pre-colonial history of Blackwood for many years, and some of us recently formed a group as a way to continue the discussion, and share information with the intention of working towards Reconciliation. We were overjoyed to see a good turnout at this event - about 130 locals came to show their respect and support for the cause. We were also



joined by guests Cr Ally Munari and Ashley Malloy from Moorabool Shire Council who are both keen supporters of Reconciliation.

National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. It's all about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, for the benefit of all Australians.



An official Welcome to Country can only be performed by Traditional Owners, or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have been given permission from Traditional Owners, to welcome visitors to their country. We look forward to confirming an official Welcome to Country in Blackwood some day soon!

We raised funds at our community Laksa Night back in May to put towards booking a Wurundjeri elder to perform an official Welcome to Country. Unfortunately, Wurundjeri representatives were all booked up for other events as Reconciliation Week is a very busy time for them. Our spirits weren't dampened though as we joined with our community in speaking a public acknowledgement



of country together. An official Acknowledgement of Country can be offered by anyone, and we encourage everyone in our community to give it a go. You can acknowledge country in meetings, gatherings and events, online or in person as a mark of respect in upholding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural protocols. It's also a great reminder that every day we live, work and thrive on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands.

The acknowledgement that we spoke in Blackwood is written below, and we welcome others to use it too or adapt it to make it your own. Remember, it's the intention that counts and the more we practice it, the easier it becomes!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY
"We begin today by acknowledging the Wurundjeri people, traditional custodians of the lands on which we meet tonight. We recognise their continued connection to the land and waters of this beautiful area and acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded. We pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to all First Nations People present today".



We would like to thank the following people for helping organise and for supporting reconciliation: Robyn Zanon, Karen Bruno, Anna Perry, Mel Bodiam, Caitlin Perry, Michelle Wood, Alice Pollard, Bobby Bravington, Judd Kirby, Matt Bodiam and Clint O'Grady. Thanks to Peter Donnelly for being our photographer too! There are many who show support for the cause, so thank you all!

-Cat Moser (on behalf of Blackwood Reconciliation Group)
Comments from some attendees:
"When I first moved to Blackwood in 2008 I was wondering why there was no signage or mention of the First Nations People anywhere in the Moorabool region. I often wonder what the sacred sites are and if they are protected. It was so fantastic to see all generations turn up to honour country. It was so moving to do a Welcome to Country in unison and see the Aboriginal and Australian Flag sit side by side. Thanks to those who got this moving, the time is ripe. Finally." (Genevieve Messenger)



"It was so good to see so many people attend the reconciliation & flag-raising ceremony, it was a great opportunity for people to meet & show respect to our indigenous people & history". (Peter Daghli)
"Raising the Aboriginal flag for Reconciliation Week was a fantastic sign of respect and a big moment for our little town. It was great to see so many people in our wonderful community turn up and show their support." (Rachel Palmer)



"A proud day for Blackwood, for the first time we are flying the traditional custodians flag. Our diverse community welcomes the acknowledgement of the most ancient community with our shared love of nature." (Greg Cassidy)
"The reconciliation and flag raising event marked a new chapter for the Blackwood Community. So wonderful to see families with the next generation of Blackwoodians excited to share and be a part of such an important event. We are so lucky to live in this beautiful landscape, and important to be reminded of the original custodians of this land, and that there is a place for all of us together." (Noelle Shader)



• SPAGHETTI WESTERN POSTER EXHIBITION •



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• BLACKWOOD PUB HOSTS A SUPER GLAM AFFAIR FOR SHARON'S 50TH •



THANK-YOU BASH FOR CARNIVAL VOLUNTEERS



Thanks to all the volunteers who helped stage the Easter Carnival. (Shout Out to Our Volunteers pg 15)
Photos by Peter Donnelly.

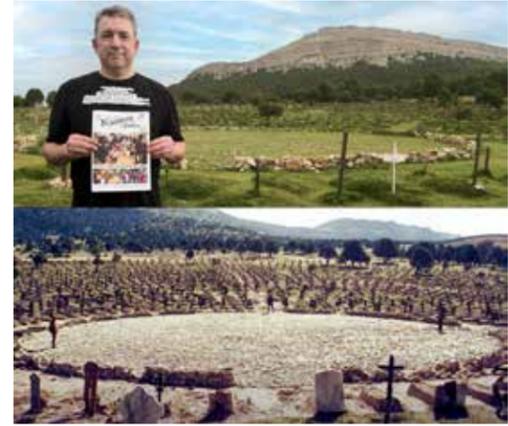


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A FISTFUL OF ICONIC LOCATIONS

After his impressive exhibition "A Fistful of Posters" at St. Martin's, Travis Trewin set off to Spain to see for himself the iconic locations featured in his beloved Spaghetti Westerns. After, that is, marrying his even more beloved Melissa in Malta. Congrats, you two. He writes:



Overall I spent 4 days on the road in a hire car, covering about 1,000kms from Almeria in the south to Santa Maria de Silos, 2 hours north of Madrid. I stopped at 21 different filming

locations from A Fistful of Dollars, For a Few Dollars More, The Good, the Bad and the Ugly and Once Upon a Time in the West. I found these locations through various Spaghetti Western Facebook groups and a book published in Spain on Sergio Leone filming locations, which all provided exact GPS locations. My research and planning commenced about 5 years ago, with each day scheduled to the minute to fit in as much as possible.

I have included some pictures of some 'selfies', which includes the location of the final duel between Lee Van Cleef and Gian Maria Volonte in For a Few Dollars More. This is in the small village of Los Albaricoques, about 30 mins drive from Almeria, and has been beautifully maintained. The other location is Sad Hill Cemetery, 10 mins drive down a rough dirt road from Santa Maria de Silos, which is the site of the famous final duel in The Good, the Bad and the Ugly. This location was the subject of a documentary, Sad Hill



Unearthed, 6 years ago, when a group of fans decided to restore the site for the film's 50th anniversary. They crowd-funded the film and restoration and offered a cemetery cross with your name on it if you contributed. I felt like Tuco, running around the hundreds of graves trying to find mine. Sadly, nature is already starting to reclaim the site and cattle are allowed to graze in the cemetery, so it won't be long before nothing much remains again.

Some of the locations were off the beaten track and I wondered if I would be ever seen again. Other locations, both natural and man-made, crumbled just weeks before I arrived after surviving over 50 years. Overall a fantastic road trip and a great way to see the 'real' Spain.



LETTERS TO THE ED

FOREST CLEARING

In the June-July 2022 issue of The Blackwood Times, Gayle Osborne, convener of Wombat Forestcare, outlined the concerns regarding the Victorian Government's DELWP engaging VicForests to remove large fallen timber.

A large forest area has been cleared for a log landing and machinery depot. Whilst some clearing is necessary, eg clearing and utilisation of fallen timber from the storms, it needs to be done with great care to avoid serious damage to what remains of the forest.

In 2001 the Blackwood Forest Protection Group confronted, in direct action, the State Government's plan for 34 coupes to be logged in the Wombat Forest.

Fortunately, with some success.

Blackwood would not look the same if this logging had proceeded.

Imagine the loss of habitat for our native animals and the loss of plant species indigenous to this area, most particularly Fungi, for which the Wombat Forest is world-renowned.

Such action taken now to preserve this unique area of the Wombat SF could lead to participants being jailed.

The Victorian Government is introducing a bill to Parliament which would lead to jail for anyone trying to prevent deforestation (a world wide problem) from entering a logging coupe.

~ Don Green

THE CLEAN-UP OF WOMBAT STATE FOREST

I am not a graduate of some university holding a degree in forest husbandry, an expert or worker in the commercial industry of timber harvesting, a recent blow-in, tree-change type person, to the region taking on a tree-hugging attitude because I feel it is the thing to do, or an indigenous person with interest in "Country", I am simply a lover of the Wombat State Forest, an environment I have enjoyed for many decades and just have an individual's opinion on what work is being performed by VicForests' contractors. I am sure the majority of the community is aware of the clean-up of fallen trees following the extreme wind storms of June and October 2021, but more importantly the divisive discussions this activity has generated on Social Media. The divide is very much black and white with no grey area and the passions of each side make the definite fence between the 2 very evident. I do not declare myself a true resident of the Wombat Forest, I reside in Bacchus Marsh but I have used Wombat for recreational activities now clocked at over 51 years. Some may know my name from my dedicated web site about dispersed camping in this forest, (sorry long-gone due to cost to maintain), past articles about this State Forest especially the possible change in status to a National Park, some in this great local "Rag" and others in newspapers and media outlets over recent years.

The picture above is typical of many areas of Wombat now especially the tops of ridges. If you use "Google Earth" and zoom to the Wombat Forest area recent aerial images taken with reasonable resolution show many areas of fallen trees looking like match sticks thrown haphazardly across the ground. Not a pretty sight with many thousands of downed trees. So what do you do after such a disaster? Do you leave the trees in place except for those blocking the made roads and gazetted tracks? Leave the trees as a habitat, as some suggest, to eventually rot away or at worst become fuel for the next major bush fire? In either case eventually the carbon locked away in these trees will be released to add to the intimated climate change issues our planet has. Or do we make use of the valuable hardwood timber given to us by Mother Nature in this dramatic and immediate event, clear majority of the fuel from the forest floor area and turn the timber into beautiful furniture, long-lasting flooring and other works of art for future generations to admire, thus keeping the carbon locked up for generations as a bonus. I am sure I have now given a good inkling to everyone my preferred direction and solution for Wombat State Forest.

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CROWN RESERVES COMMITTEE UPDATE

To all Blackwood Residents,

Hello everyone, hope you are enjoying the beautiful weather in Blackwood, we all know how cold and refreshing our town can be. Cheer up it doesn't last for ever. It's a good time to use your gloves, beanies and every mentionable wet weather gear you own, not forgetting a warm fire.

The committee has been very busy in and around the reserves we manage.

Firstly we would like to thank the person or people who cleaned up the Waterhole, it is greatly appreciated and the rubbish will be burnt when the weather improves, a job well done. Many thanks.

Secondly, the taps at the recreation reserve have been locked and one will have a turn on-off switch for dogs, the bowl has been relocated near the Woodchop Bar. The reason we have implemented this system is due to a tap being left on and a water bill in excess of \$1200. Also doggie bags have been supplied and we urge you to use them please, every little bit counts.

~ Stephen Smitham



I am not in favour of commercial logging in the Wombat at this time but I do see the need to clear many of the fallen trees from the 2 wind storms. Wombat has a long history of logging from the gold rush days when gold was discovered at Blackwood, timber used for mine shafts and train tracks. Wholesale logging then occurred and it is known the forest was nearly wiped out at that time. It came back after a spell of closure to mining and logging. Logging resumed middle of last century and continued until around year 2000. It was during those years just prior to year 2000 that I witnessed an alarming increase of logging in the Wombat and got involved with The Greens Party, yepThe Greens. I became a paid-up member of the Greens and I worked with them and the local concerned communities to stop the logging and we were successful. In those days The Greens had practical policies and ideals compared to the ridiculous agenda they have today. No way would I be associated with them now. In the future, most likely when I am pushing up daisies, I see some common sense coming to the attitude of husbandry of forests and realistic sustainable harvesting will return, surely many too have an appreciation of the beauty of timber in art, furnishings, floorings and other features and these creations are all carbon stores.

~ Stephen Smitham



In the mineral springs and around the caravan park we have had trees removed and as these were done after the storm we have also had VicParks and Delwp come and clean up the mess left behind. The ground is very wet at this time but hopefully in spring the grass seed will be sown.

The cleanup is ongoing but Troy and Rebecca are working towards making the springs enjoyable for everyone.

Old and damaged seating will also be replaced. Orders have been placed for tables and chairs and will be installed in the spring.

Also we are commissioning new signs for the mineral springs and hope these will be completed in the near future, strategically placed in the township and the mineral springs.

On another note, the Community Hall has had a film crew using the senior citizens rooms for a film(a sequel to The Dry), very exciting. They were a lovely group and assisted us in some repairs around the building. We have also had the emergency lighting upgraded to meet compliance. Bollards have been installed to protect the building.

Refurbishment of the amenities in the caravan park are proceeding nicely and will commence very soon.

MINERAL SPRINGS: FREE ENTRY for locals, playgrounds in caravan park & mineral springs are for public use. Just toot as you are entering the springs.

If you are interested in your community new members are always welcome.

Take care everyone.

~ Bev Butler (Treasurer)

Blackwood Crown Reserves committee of Management

LANDCARE NEWS

Our video project is nearing completion. Local artist Kathy Holowko and photographer Daniel Williams have taken on this amazing project - an animation style video about the town, the river and the local plants and wildlife. It is beautiful!. We will launch the video at the Landcare AGM on Sunday the 7th August, at 11 am at St Martins Chapel Community Centre. Kathy will have some of her lovely artwork there



Holly pile from St Martins Chapel grounds working bee, June and will explain the painstaking process of creating the video.

Light lunch will follow the (quick) AGM. Please join us.

Landcare has been successful in securing a grant from Moorabool Council to run a series of workshops under the "Gardens for Wildlife" theme. All are welcome to participate. Further information will be distributed soon.

Our next working bee is scheduled for Saturday August 27, 9-11am at the Mineral Springs reserve. Everyone is welcome, especially families. Coffee, tea etc. and cake will be available at the end.

~ Diana Dawson



Blackwood CFA

On Wednesday July 6 we had the privilege of a special training session utilising Virtual Reality Technology, which we will be seeing much more of in the future. The virtual reality system called FLAIM allows training to be carried out in many different scenarios which vary in difficulty, yes it is very much like a computer game.

A participant can be placed in a highly dangerous situation and learn how to handle situations without being in real danger. The technology is immersive to a point that you find yourself reacting to events that are happening around you. The training is excellent for assessing situations and looking around and beyond the obvious threat, one example being a haystack fire that upon further investigation has a large gas tank on fire and that could create a potentially lethal BLEVE.

Some of the scenarios we were put into included a car fire with a fuel tanker involved, protecting a property during a large bushfire including ember attacks, having to make your way up a large container crane gantry at the docks (not one for those with a faint heart and a fear of heights) as well as a rescue and being trapped in a burn-over during a bushfire.

The system also had a smaller component that was a fire extinguisher simulation where you were presented with a situation and had to select the correct extinguisher and extinguish the fire. This is also a good way to show what can go wrong in the event of selecting say a class A extinguisher (water based) and trying to use it on a petrol or oil fire.

The fire danger rating signs that are commonly seen outside Fire Stations and on main roads will be changing from this September. The signs will be the same across all states and there will now be only 5

WOMBAT BOOKCLUB

Hello and welcome to the other side of Winter Solstice. Yes, I know it's still fireside hibernation weather, a good excuse to curl up under a rug with a good book. Speaking of keeping warm, a big thanks to Sue for inviting us into her warm house for a wonderful afternoon at our previous Book club get-together. Here at Wombat book club, we read a book a month then meet the third Sunday in each month. Times and venue are subject to change. Mostly of late, this venue seems to be at the Garden of St Erth, a lovely relaxing setting to discuss the novel we have done and socialise over a glass of wine. Ideal, for when the warm weather returns.

If you would like information about our lovely, informal gathering, please contact Rose at rcarrington1@hotmail.com

The last two books we enjoyed were – 'Hello From The Gillespies', by Monica McInenney, and 'All The Light We Cannot See', by Anthony Doer.

Sandy: Hello From The Gillespies, Angela Gillespie, from England married and was living in an outback town in Australia. Every year, she wrote a Christmas email to everyone she knew, 'Hello from the Gillespies...'. She painted a perfect family picture of how well the family were doing. One year, she told a friend it was time for her to be honest. One year, whilst writing this letter, said everything on this email which was really happening with the family. This email was to herself, and she never meant to send it. An incident happened which required her to take her son to the hospital. Her husband went on the computer and pressed 'send' as a favour. The story gets interesting when she realises the email had gone, and the family then worried what reactions were going to take place once a lot of their friends gathered at their house for Christmas. A long but easy read.

4 Wombies

Jinny: Generally I enjoyed 'Hello from the Gillespies'. It was a light, easy read when I was unwell. I thought the essence of the story was good but not strong enough. I got frustrated that the women were so passive to circumstances but I did love the descriptions of life in the Aussie farming outback.

2.5 wombies

Sandy: All the Light We Cannot See, was a heart-warming story of two teenagers. One, Marie-Laurie LeBlanc, a blind girl who was raised by her father in occupied France. Another, Werner Pfennig, a bright

levels of fire danger. The previous fire danger ratings looked at only 2 kinds of fuel (grass and forest), while the new system uses eight different types from grass to pine forests. The new ratings will also take into account advances in the modelling of fire spread and spotting. As before, the fire danger ratings indicate how difficult it is to suppress a fire, not how likely a fire is to start. This is why it is important for the community to recognise the fire danger rating levels. The higher the fire danger rating, the more uncontrollable any fire is.

THE FIRST PRIORITY IS YOUR SAFETY

Always ring 000 in the case of any emergency. If you have and fire and 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 and the first Sunday of every month during the rest of the year, as we are there for training and equipment checks.

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

If you are interested in joining, we always welcome new members. We can be contacted at the station or through the Brigade Facebook page or the morning of the first Sunday of each month

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

Rainfall - from the Bureau of Meteorology we had 104mm of rain for June which is about average. So far July is tracking well below average with about 22mm to date.

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

orphan boy who had been selected to work on radios for the Nazis. A story how their worlds became intertwined when he rescues her from hiding in an attic, after her father had been captured. A sad tale although parts of the ending were a little vague.

4 Wombies

Jane: Fabulous book where 2 characters' stories run concurrently. The backdrop is World War 2. German boy Werna conscripted into the army as a radio expert and Marie-Laure a blind French girl, lives come together in Nazi occupied France.

Beautifully written creating gorgeous images. I didn't want it to end.

4 1/2 WOMBIES

Jinny: Second time I've tried to read this – second time I couldn't get through the first chapter. This is probably more my own state of mind than the book because it comes with great reviews. I will keep trying to read it – no wombie rating because I didn't give it a chance.



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THE HISTORY of MARGOT HITCHCOCK

HISTORIAN for the BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY and AUTHOR of BOOKS on the HISTORY OF BLACKWOOD. Interviewed by Noelle Shader, July 2022.

Margot Hitchcock has spent many years researching Blackwood's history. Without her skills, intellect, dogged determination and love for her profession, Blackwood's history would not have been recorded and would have been lost for future generations. Thank you, Margot.

Question: There have been 6 generations of your family in Blackwood's History. Could you give us an account of your family's past?

My Family's story of how we became connected to Blackwood goes back to the 1880's when my Great Grandmother came to Blackwood to live. Fanny Eliza Conlon was a widow when she gave birth to my grandmother, Frances Kate Conlon [Dot] after her husband died of T.B. in 1877, age 26 years old. Fanny brought up her daughter in Richmond, and when Dot was about 5 years old, she caught Typhoid. Fanny was advised to take Frances[Dot] to live in a more healthy climate, and so Fanny then moved to live in Blackwood with my Grandmother from about 1883 to 1889. Fanny took a trip to Trentham and the Cobb & Co. Coach to Blackwood for its scenery and fresh air. Fanny E. Conlon is listed in the 1890 Post Office Directories of Mt. Blackwood as a Dressmaker. Fanny Conlon brought Frances back to Richmond when she was 12, to further her education.

My grandmother married my grandfather, Walter Warner in 1899, and they went to visit Blackwood for the holidays, and it was here that Walter purchased two blocks of land on a Miners Right. He bought the Barrys Reef School No.885, built in 1875 for the miner's children but no longer used, and he then had two houses built in 1929 out of the timber from the school. One house he sold, and the other 'Wannawong', was kept as a holiday house for the family, and which we still use today for holidays. A Miners right in those days let you have a 3/4 acre block of land for 5 shillings[50 cents] a space year, and

COMMUNITY GRANTS ARE OPEN

Each year, our Community Grants provide more than \$270,000. These grants help support groups, organisations and people to provide local activities, projects and events.

In 2021, Council allocated over \$250,000 to successful community organisations across the Shire!

Our Community Development team are available to answer questions about how to apply, the grant criteria and general queries (03) 5366 7100 or info@moorabool.vic.gov.au

Community Grant Drop in Sessions

Come along to a drop in session to discuss your grant application with staff and receive support.

Thursday August 4: 8:30 - 5:00pm at the Lerderberg Library

Monday August 8: 8:30 - 5:00pm at the Ballan Council Offices

Book in a date and time slot of your choice via email or show up on the day to chat to staff and we will fit you in as soon as possible.



you had to build a house on the land. The Warner family with their 3 children, including my mother, enjoyed the summers and Easter holidays at Blackwood. This house now owned by Margot Hitchcock and her family, is used by her, her 2 children, 6 grand-children and 2 great grand-children.

Question: Do you have any favourite memories of Blackwood as a child?

I have loved going to Blackwood with my family since I was a child, and my favourite walk was to go to the Blackwood Cemetery and reading names and information on the tombstones, and then wishing someday I could learn more about them. My favourite being 'Little Doaty', and then later as a Historian learning who she had been and how she died.

To be continued...

~ Margot Hitchcock

Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society July 2022



The team who brought us the hit movie "The Dry" return with another adaptation from crime novelist, Jane Harper. "Force of Nature", directed by Robert Connolly, had been filming in the Dandenongs and the Otways but took a little detour to Blackwood to shoot some bush hospital scenes in the senior citizens rooms.

Seniors' secretary, Di Volpe, stuck her head in for a quick look and was given the VIP treatment for 2 hours. Cast and crew showed her the ins and outs of movie making and Jacqueline McKenzie and Eric Bana posed for this snap (Di is the one in the middle).

~ Brendan Hehir





PET SHENANIGANS WITH SEAMUS

Woof :Tribute To Seamus
Blackwood's Very Own Red Dog
Seamus was born at Bacchus marsh Vet clinic on Sunday 8/10/2010. The emergency caesarean produced 17 puppies with 14 viable active screeching Irish Setter babies. The biggest pup, Seamus, prompting this procedure due to his size and determination to cause a plug. As a vet nurse I never imagined owning an Irish Setter as I know how naughty they can be . But Bill Cross was very determined we needed a puppy and with his Kennel name Columcille

Corcaigh (I come from Cork (Corcaigh) in Ireland) I was hooked. When we got Seamus at 8 weeks his ears seemed too long for his legs and he delighted in tormenting my Cavoodle Jenny especially. He had a close call meeting with our horse Dolly and she decided to teach him a polite lesson which ended up with another emergency visit. We lived near the clinic in Bacchus and our neighbours had calves who Seamus loved to chase every chance he got out that front door !! We ended up having a permanent sign saying "Seamus runs away shut front door". When Seamus was 2 we moved to Blackwood and how he loved it , the freedom and ran away on a very regular basis even though we had containment fences, that front door was always a problem. Neighbours got to know him very well and I often got phone calls



at work to say he had visited. A friend had mentioned that her daughter was playing and talking in her bedroom so she popped her head in to see Seamus sitting there having a great old time and then took himself off out the door on another adventure. Seamus started writing for the Blackwood Times "Pet Shenanigans With Seamus" soon after we moved into town and shared lots of valuable information every issue. He took great pride in being the Pet Mascot for the Easter Carnival Pet Show and loved all the attention as he was such a happy handsome fellow.

He loved going for a walk with refreshments at the Blackwood Hotel followed by a quick dip in the dam by the graveyard. reorganising a neighbour's pond and best of all dancing to Irish music with his adoring Mum on the decking. Seamus sadly developed Diabetes 12 months ago and never flinched with any injections or treatments. Seamus went to his doggy heaven in the sky 4 heart breaking weeks ago, he is running free, wind in his ears and not a care in the world. Vale Seamus Cronin you will always be in our hearts and memories.



~ Woof for now, Deirdre Cronin



• WHOSE TATT'S THAT? •



Skull tattoos have long been thought to symbolize power, rebellion and even a kind of rebirth or overcoming of diversity. A skull with a top hat is a very popular design that some say represents a debonair or 'devil-may-care' attitude towards both life and death. This design found its way on to a Blackwood local during a footy trip to Adelaide back in the 90's so there is a good chance that this may be correct! I am sure it was a great night in the infamous Hinley Street.

~ Brian Suters

CENSUS

	2006	2011	2016	2021
PEOPLE	235	297	295	387
Male	117	57%	52.70%	51.50%
Female	118	40%	47.30%	48.50%
Median Age		47	44	47
FAMILIES	63	65	68	96
Average children per family		1.6		
for families with children			1.7	1.7
for all families			0.5	0.5
ALL PRIVATE DWELLINGS		271	287	305
Average people per household	2.1	2	2	2
Median weekly household income	\$700	\$768	\$1,180	\$1,424
Median monthly mortgage repayments	700	\$1,387	\$1,300	\$1,300
Median weekly rent	113	\$150	\$245	\$305
Average motor vehicles per dwelling		1.8	1.8	1.8
Occupied private dwellings		131	111	161
Unoccupied private dwellings		127	160	119
	181	258	271	280

SHOUT OUT TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Small towns like ours can't thrive without the efforts of volunteers. There was no better example of this than the hugely successful Easter Carnival held earlier this year. Over 4,000 people attended the event, moving effortlessly through the gates thanks to the volunteers who did an amazing job of making sure there were no long queues, despite the unprecedented number of people coming through. The Easter Carnival has been community-run for all of its 120 years. Blackwood Progress has been the driver of this for many decades now but naturally the people involved have continued to change. What doesn't change is the energy and goodwill of so many people who work tirelessly to ensure an event that the whole town can enjoy and be proud of. The extent of the work required for this kind of occasion is such that an Event Manager was employed to provide assistance with this year's carnival thanks to a grant from Regional Development Victoria. Naturally it was volunteers who successfully applied this grant which was subsequently administered by Moorabool Shire Council. This was a fantastic outcome for a relatively new Blackwood Progress Committee. So many people contributed to putting on such

an incredible event that I don't want to name names for fear of missing someone. The one exception I need to make to this, however, is to give a huge shout out to the always amazing Sue Donnelly. Everyone who knows Sue would be very aware of her incredible energy, her passion, and her love of the Blackwood Community. Sue provided countless hours of her time, as well as an invaluable well of knowledge, to ensure the Carnival's success. Aside from the planning, organizing of permits and stall holders, putting banners up throughout the region and liaising with council and VicRoads, there are many other jobs that need community minded-folk to come along and assist with. This year saw around 20 volunteers enjoy the sunshine on Good Friday to get the reserve ready for the event. Event areas needed to be marked out, chairs and tables were cleaned and more star pickets that you could count needed to be hammered in. Other volunteers came and made sandwiches, a fantastic tradition long-maintained by Elizabeth Hall, to make sure everyone stayed well nourished. Some nice cold beverages were also provided and no doubt made some of us hang around and help out for a few more hours than originally intended! On the day itself over 30 people helped out, many of them for the entire day and evening. One of the most incredible things I witnessed on the day was that some of these volunteers were not even Blackwood residents, but were helping out anyway due to their love of our little town. Volunteers were running activities, selling raffle tickets, beers and snags, painting faces, emptying bins and making sure things happened when they were meant to. The Carnival is the biggest fund raiser for the year for our community groups making its success even more important. Another first, but hopefully not last, for 2022 was a party held at St Martins Chapel to thank everyone involved. Around 80 people attended on the night and thoroughly enjoyed the free pizza and drinks provided. It wouldn't be a Blackwood party without music and there was dancing and singing well into the night. Volunteers don't generally help out for the thanks but I am sure all those who attended really appreciated the gesture and had a great night. Blackwood Progress do an amazing job for our town and are always keen to welcome new members. Their Annual General Meeting is in August and anyone who is interested is encouraged to come along. For more information check out Progress on Facebook or contact Brendan on 0419 137 812. And from all of us in Blackwood and surrounds, a big thanks to Progress, Sue and all of the amazing people that continue to allow such incredible events to happen.

Progress – upcoming Annual General Meeting, new people always welcome, only 6 formal meetings a year.

~ Kylie Richardson

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Blackwood Bush Play;

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

10am Mondays all year round.

Text Sarah on 0401346740 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.

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• MEDIA RELEASE •

Mary-Anne Thomas MP
LABOR MEMBER FOR MACEDON



FREE CAMPS FOR STUDENTS IN MACEDON

The Andrews Labor Government will help Victorian kids enjoy the best camps, sporting programs and cultural experiences Victoria has to offer, re-engaging them in the extracurricular activities they loved before the pandemic. Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas today announced that local camp providers Doxa Youth Foundation in Malmsbury and PGL Adventure Camps in Tylden, will be delivering free camps during 2022, targeting those students who wouldn't normally have the chance to attend a camp. Victorians did an incredible job of looking after each other during the pandemic, staying home to slow the spread of coronavirus. But that also meant schools had to cancel sports, camps and all of the other extra activities kids love. Positive Start in 2022 will help get students back out and about around the state, and support their physical and emotional health and wellbeing.

The \$84.3 million program will focus on students from government and low-fee non-government schools who have been most affected by COVID-19 school closures – as well as students and schools that might otherwise be unable to participate in an outdoor education or camp program. These camps will provide unforgettable experiences for students that might otherwise have missed out – paddling a canoe under the stars, doing a rockpool ramble, trying their hand at a boomerang, or conquering the high ropes course. A further \$12.4 million will provide access to a broad range of arts, sporting and cultural experiences for students at every government and low-fee non-government school in Victoria. Mary-Anne Thomas says, "Congratulations to Doxa Youth Foundation and PGL Adventure Camps on partnering with the Victorian Government to deliver fantastic camps that I know will provide wonderful experiences for kids in Macedon as well as students across the state." "We know the pandemic has been challenging for many kids, missing out on the things that make our Education State so great – and this program makes up for lost time with exciting experiences for everyone."



facility has processed more than 13,000 tonnes of trees and storm debris which have now been returned to the community as timber, fence posts, sleepers, stakes, firewood, mulch and sawdust.

Councils play a major role in helping people after recovery and can

face significant resource demands in supporting their community. The Government has invested \$8.2 million to help affected councils coordinate and drive recovery locally, including to help process planning matters quickly. The Government will also invest a further \$4.76 million to extend this funding to 8 affected councils for another 12 months, including Macedon Ranges Shire and Hepburn Shire, ensuring they are resourced for the long-term recovery journey ahead. The \$13.8 million recovery support package announced following the disaster provided dedicated and ongoing recovery case support. It has since provided a gateway for 2,200 Victorians seeking advice, accommodation, insurance, health, wellbeing and financial support. The Government has also streamlined planning requirements and the application process to help residents rebuild faster and will continue working with locals on the challenges people are facing – particularly where rebuilding in bushfire-prone areas when material and labour are in high demand.

Mary-Anne Thomas says, "Recovering from a disaster is complex and takes time – we're continuing to provide support to local families, businesses and communities who were affected by this unprecedented event."

"We can't change what these communities have been through, but we are doing what we can make recovery that little bit easier and build back better and stronger."

Mary-Anne Thomas MP
LABOR MEMBER FOR MACEDON



CALL FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF FOREST FIREFIGHTERS

The Andrews Labor Government is recruiting 300 forest firefighters to help keep Victorians safe over the upcoming fire season.

Recruitment opened today for 300 project firefighters to work with Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) over summer, encouraging Victorians who are passionate about protecting their communities and the environment to apply for a new challenge.

The Labor Government is delivering tangible employment, training and pathway opportunities for regional communities, with project firefighters based at more than 80 locations throughout the state.

The new positions are for a range of seasonal roles including general firefighters, fire support officers and rappel crews.

The fixed term positions are based across regional Victoria and successful recruits will undertake emergency response activities, planned burning, pest and weed control, road maintenance and other land management activities.

Eighteen of the roles are dedicated for Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, helping Traditional Owners to care for Country and lead cultural burning.

The new recruits will add to Victoria's existing 300 project firefighters who are supported by more than 2,000 permanent staff who can be called on to perform emergency roles when required.

Crews will work alongside key fire management agencies including the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria.

Applications for project firefighter positions close on Sunday 31 July. For further information and to apply visit ffm.vic.gov.au or call 136 186.

Mary-Anne Thomas says, "This is a great employment opportunity for regional communities and I'd encourage people from all walks of life and backgrounds to consider becoming a seasonal project firefighter."

Minister for Environment and Climate Action, Lily D'Ambrosio says, "If you are keen to work outdoors and want to be part of a diverse and inclusive team that helps protect our communities and environment, then I encourage you to apply."

Forest Fire Management Victoria Chief Fire Officer, Chris Hardman says, "You could be operating heavy machinery one week and responding to an emergency the next – no two days are the same and I encourage interested people to apply."

"Successful recruits will be fully trained and get the opportunity to work with experienced staff from a range of fire management agencies right across the state, and potentially nationally and internationally if required."

Mary-Anne Thomas MP
LABOR MEMBER FOR MACEDON



NEW HUB TO CONNECT TRENTHAM COMMUNITY

The historic Trentham Mechanics Institute is set to be transformed into a new community hub that will help bring locals together for events big and small, thanks to support from the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Regional Development and Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas today announced the start of construction of the Trentham Community Hub, backed by a \$3.5 million investment from the Labor Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund.

The funding will enable the council to extend and renovate the existing mechanics institute to deliver new spaces including a library, function and meeting rooms – creating more space for the Trentham community to gather and participate in local events.

The council will also operate a new visitor information centre and customer service centre within the hub, giving locals and visitors access to key facilities in a single location.

Initial works will involve asbestos removal, demolition and site preparation. Up to 26 jobs will be created during the hub's construction with another five ongoing jobs to be supported once the project is completed late next year.

Established in 1881, the Trentham Mechanics Institute was turned into a town hall in 1938. Mechanics institutes were located across Victoria and offered education for tradesmen, with many since restored as community centres and libraries.

The Government is also supporting Trentham with over \$2 million through the Community Sport Infrastructure Stimulus Program for the Trentham Sportsground Reserve Pavilion Redevelopment.

The \$178 million sports infrastructure program has backed 70 projects worth \$335 million, generating more than 800 jobs.

The redevelopment will deliver a community sports facility that delivers all abilities access, gender neutral changerooms and a family-friendly design for sports clubs and the community.

The Regional Infrastructure Fund is part of the Government's flagship Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund and is key to the Government's record investment of more than \$36 billion across regional and rural Victoria since 2015.

The Labor Government has invested more than \$700 million in its Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund since 2015 – supporting around 13,000 jobs and delivering 1,000 projects.

Information and guidelines for the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund can be found at rdv.vic.gov.au/rjif

Minister for Regional Development and Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas says, "This is a really exciting time for Trentham as we see the community's aspirations come to fruition."

"I'm confident that the new hub is going to breathe new life into the Mechanics Institute providing an asset the whole community can enjoy for many years to come, while supporting local jobs."

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COUNCIL BRINGS COMMUNITIES TOGETHER WITH STORM RECOVERY BOOK

Moorabool Shire Council's Storm Recovery book, a collection of community stories that acknowledges the severe impact of the June 2021 storm, is now available for storm impacted residents to collect for free from the Ballan Council Office, following its launch at two successful community events.

The events were held to acknowledge one year since the major storm in June 2021, and to provide storm impacted residents with the opportunity to catch up with recovery agencies and emergency services over a meal and voice any thoughts on the ongoing recovery journey.

Moorabool Mayor, Cr Tom Sullivan, launched the Storm Recovery book at the two events, held on Sunday 19 June at the Blackwood Recreation Reserve and Sunday 26 June at the Korweinguboor Recreation Reserve.

"The impact of the storm is still being felt by our communities. The idea of this book came out of a community meeting six months ago, where residents and Council decided to document Moorabool's recovery journey. It's almost like a communal diary – everyone has their own story to share," Moorabool Mayor, Cr Tom Sullivan said.

Many members of the community contributed personal stories and images for the book, and articles were also submitted by VICSES, CFA, Blackwood & District CERT, DELWP, BRV and community wildlife groups, detailing the night of the storm and the recovery journey since.

The idea of a book to document Moorabool's shared storm experiences came directly from the storm impacted community. Residents in attendance at a 'Six Months On' Storm Recovery event in December 2021 expressed to Council a desire for a creative outlet for their storm experiences. A similar book project was also undertaken by the Scotsburn Community Recovery Committee following the fires in 2015/2016.

"The book points out how resilient the community have been, in coming together to deal with this major event that occurred. We're working out a way forward together," Cr Sullivan added.

Moorabool Shire Council was successful in funding both the book and the 'One Year On' community events through the DFFH's 2021 June Storm and Flood Targeted Recovery Funding Initiative. The Initiative was jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Victoria under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Storm impacted residents from anywhere in Moorabool Shire can visit Council's principal office at 15 Stead Street, Ballan, and collect a copy of the book for free. The book is also available to borrow from the Ballan and Bacchus Marsh libraries.

To find out more about Moorabool's Storm Recovery, visit moorabool.vic.gov.au/storm-recovery

~ Tarnay Sass, Communications Officer

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THE BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB IS STARTING JUNIOR CRICKET THIS SEASON (2022/23)



4 to 14 year olds welcome (after 13 you're eligible for senior cricket). We'll start with home games on Saturday mornings (10-12) and hopefully build numbers from there.

Party pies after the match!

At this stage the fixture has not been finalised so watch The Blackwood Times for further info. Any enquiries, questions or interest, please email brian.suters7@bigpond.com



“BUT I WANT TO BE 4!”

• GIG & EVENTS GUIDE •

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
AUGUST		
Fri 5	Martini Set	Radio Springs
Sat 6, 8pm on (meals from 6)	Rock'n'Co.	Blackwood Pub
Fri 13, 7-1030pm	Burlesque	The Bowls, Bacchus Marsh
SEPTEMBER		
Thurs 1, 8-10pm	Lehmo	Local Taproom, BM
Fri 2	Martini Set	Radio Springs
Fri 16	Martini Set	Radio Springs
Fri 23, 830pm	Rock in the Bush	Greendale Pub
REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS		
Mondays	Old Farts night and meat tray raffle	Blackwood Pub
2 & 4 Mondays, 7-9pm	Christian Meditation	St Martins Chapel
Tuesdays 10 -11am	Yoga	St Martins Chapel
Tuesdays 11-1130am	Meditation	St Martins Chapel
Tuesday 4-5pm	Lenten Study	St Martins Chapel
Tuesday 430pm	Date night - movie and pizza	Radio Springs Hotel
Wednesdays	Taproom Trivia	The Taproom, Bacchus Marsh
Wednesdays	Locals night dinner specials	The Cosmo
2nd Tuesdays	Disco bingo	Pig and Whistle
2nd Wed, 10-1115am	Interplay	St Martins Chapel
Mondays	Locals night dinner and drink specials	Pig and Whistle
Fridays 10-11am	Qigong	St Martins Chapel
Fridays 5-8pm	Meat tray raffle + cocktail hr (7:30-9:30pm)	Greendale Pub
Friday pm	Meat tray raffle	The Cosmo
Friday pm	Raffle	Pig and Whistle
Last Friday monthly	Flashbank Friday with Ian Banks	The Taproom, Bacchus Marsh
Saturday	DJ, Duo or Band	Pig and Whistle

• BEYOND BLACKWOOD •

BAF IS BLOOM'N BACK!



The Ballan Autumn Festival Makes a Return (... and for this year there is a difference).

With great excitement we can announce the Ballan Autumn festival will return on November 13th 2022. We'll be springing into Autumn with a Blooming Marvellous floral theme. After a 2 year hiatus we are beyond excited to share this news.

The 2 year absence of the Ballan Autumn Festival has left a big hole in the local community calendar – missed by locals and regular visitors.

We are returning with a slightly different format...watch our website and socials for further exciting announcements.

<https://www.ballanautumnfestival.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/AutumnFestivalBallan>

Some much-needed funding from the State government and Moorabool Shire Council (for which we are most grateful) will enable us to be spending the coming months shaping the festival and ensuring we develop a model to deliver a sustainable covid-safe festival going forward.

Thanks to those who participated in the recent survey – your feedback is helping up make sure we present a festival that reflects the local needs and expectations.

We look forward to bringing you further announcements as the shape of the new festival evolves.



Save the Date ... Thursday August 4!!

7.30 pm at Trentham Neighbourhood Centre
Dear Trentham Sustainability Groupers, Friends & Supporters,

We have exciting news to share ... The consultants for our energy project, Middleton Group, are ready to present findings of the feasibility study to our community.

You are invited to this important session to hear the results and learn 'next steps' on how we can strengthen and improve energy reliability for essential services, businesses and households.

The Energy & Climate Resilient Trentham project aims to stimulate greater business and private take-up of solar, batteries and reliable energy supply through solutions like community energy grids and batteries. The project aims to mitigate climate change and build resilience against extreme weather events at household and community levels.

Come and hear about the solutions available to us in our local community. This will also be a great opportunity to have your questions answered by the experts.

~ TSG Team

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