

*October ~ November 2022 vol 14 ~ issue 15.3*



# ARE YOU RACING SEASON READY?

Especially for the Big One - Oaks Day. Blackwood Pub will host this traditional ladies day extravaganza and the Hat Shoppe can deck you out with fascinators et al.

**Blackwood  
Progress Association  
AGM**

October 12, see page 12

**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...

Greetings Blackwoodians and friends.

How good is it to feel some warmth on our backs after such a long, wet, cold winter. Deciduous trees and shrubs are daring to bud and open; birds and bees are getting noisier and we all may dare to risk putting the thermals away for a few months. So, in this edition of The Times we have articles on caring for a Blackwood garden and a Garden for Wildlife Gardening Guide; walking tracks that will be more enticing and a cricket season that is about to kick off. Grass will need mowing soon!

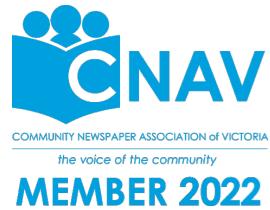
The second part of the Jinny and Brendan article as well as the interview with Margot Hitchcock will make for a good read. These icons of Blackwood deserve our gratitude for their years of contribution to our community.

An article on the upgrade of the post office is a must read. Carol and Martyn have done such a great job for us over the last 5 years and no-one will be looking forward to the renovations being completed more than them. Thanks go to Simon and Simon the Coffee Roasters who have provided fantastic support over this time.

Well worth a look is the remarkable 3 minute animated film produced by Kathy Holowko and Daniel Williams for the Landcare Group in the article Caring for our Patch.

As ever we hope you enjoy this issue and look forward to meeting and greeting as we all move away from our log fires - gradually.

~ John Kemp, VP



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! PART II

In the last interview -Part I- you said that many important issues were covered over long periods of time in many issues. "The Blackwood Times became more than an historical document. It was a campaign paper as well". What are some of the memorable campaigns you have covered?

Jinny - Most of our community would have been impacted by the septic program -Blackwood Localised Sewerage Project (BLSP). Our advocacy attracted a focus group of the major stakeholders associated with building in Blackwood including the Water Boards, EPA, state government. Out of that group came a grant from the State Government to upgrade septic systems so people could renovate and build.

Brendan - We found ourselves in a situation in a catchment area where the Water Boards decided that there would be no more septic systems created in Blackwood. As a result, for 15 years no one was allowed to build, renovate or upgrade businesses or extend existing buildings as the Council would not approve the installation of any new septic systems. Basically we were being strangled as a town. Blackwood Times took up the campaign. It took a few years but we succeeded and were able to build and renovate, albeit in a restricted way.

Jinny - Initially we called a public meeting & out of that came a group called Blackwood Action Group (BAG) who researched & advocated. Blackwood Times had regular articles noting BAG's progress. It was this advocacy that attracted funding through a grant from the State Government. (<https://theblackwoodtimes.com.au/february-march-2016-issue/>)

Brendan - The back story to the campaign was that way back when John Brumby was the Premier and Thwaites was the Water Minister, about \$40mill was set aside to sewer the small towns up in this area including places like Gordon, Skipton and Blackwood. That project went ahead but one little town fell off the end of the project and that was Blackwood! We waited quite a few years for the solution and when the solution fell over we had to take up the cause again. That's when we realised we had to run the campaign for septic upgrades ourselves and the Blackwood Times was the voice for the town. We kicked the campaign off with a photo of an old dunny on the front page (<https://theblackwoodtimes.com.au/october-november-2012/>) and our own investigative journalism. The whole town was invited to a public meeting hosted by The Times.

Jinny - This all occurred during a State Election where we had lost our previous member so it was open house to whoever would be elected in. We had all the political candidates campaigning. Mary-Anne Thomas made a promise that if she got in she would have a focus group within 100 days. She got in and she made good on her promise and we had the Minister visit Blackwood on a number of occasions bringing all the agencies to the table for discussion. This was three Water Boards and the Victorian Environment Protection Authority. Previously these groups did not speak to us. It was a four year campaign.

Brendan - As a result of the go-ahead Blackwood became a test case for the first new technology septic systems in Vic in 25yrs. Previously Victoria was a laggard in this area as all around the country these systems were being adopted. The EPA's attitude in Victoria was to use no new technology. This was our most successful campaign which had good positive outcomes for the community.

Jinny - Another campaign the Times was involved with was the installation of the mobile tower in Blackwood. We had considerable expansion at the time with new people coming into town and many people relied on mobiles for internet coverage.

# HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

MONTH/ YEAR	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall historical average (mm)	Temp monthly min (deg C)	Temp monthly max (deg C)	Temp average daily max (deg C)	Temp average daily min (deg C)	Temp average for month (deg C)
July'22	70.9	101.3	-5.25	12.6	8.7	1.3	4.75
Aug'22	146.5	110.5	-4.5	14.3	9.8	3	6.3

July was colder than other years and August had significantly higher rainfall than average.

~ Don Owen

Brendan - After the Black Saturday bushfires Blackwood was added to the list of the most vulnerable towns in Victoria- there were 52 of them. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2009-08-18/bushfire-hit-list-52-towns-at-risk/1395318> It was identified that surrounded by forest, and with no mobile coverage in the town we were doubly at risk. Blackwood Times campaigned again with partners and Local, State and Federal Government to get a mobile tower installed. Catherine King, our Federal Member, became involved in this campaign.

How has the Blackwood Times changed over the years-in focus, content and style

Jinny - In the last few years we have placed a heavy emphasis on photos. We have learnt a lot and this is shown in the paper. We have become more confident in dealing with content.

Brendan - Jinny has honed her project management skills over the years as I have with my writing. It's been a great education for me.

Jinny - We have also become more confident with advocacy. The previous Blackwood Newsletter had a 'no politics'. I followed this approach through until I realised we were losing a great chance to respond to the needs of the town. We were losing the opportunity to bring about positive change.

This is particularly important as we don't have a lot of services. The local commercial papers don't do many stories about Blackwood unless it is a big story. We have no direct mail delivery. It was important to broaden our scope.

What is different about the Blackwood Times compared to other local papers

Jinny - We are not a commercial paper, we get no funding & rely on advertising & donations. We are completely volunteer run. We are very specific in what we print, it should be relevant to Blackwoodians, even with articles like the gig guide. The purpose and mission of the Blackwood Times is to serve, communicate & advocate.

It's not about running a boutique, high-end paper. For instance, with our small distribution, there is little chance that we could afford to go full colour. As a designer, the style is deliberately a bit folksy and country. Despite proofing pre-press there are often mistakes we haven't had time to pick-up. I never mind if people point out mistakes - at least they are reading it. Many new people to town have told us that they have read the Times and how Blackwood sounded like a fantastic community. In fact I know of a number of people who have moved here because of how great our wee village sounds.

Brendan - A quote comes to mind from the time we won the Community Newspapers Association of Victoria (CNAV) 'Best Community Content' award way back when we were still the Blackwood News. A part of the judges comment was "Although the Blackwood News is a black and white publication, there is still plenty of colour in its pages." This resonated with us as we have always tried to ensure the Blackwood Times is full of colourful stories, reflecting the community we live in. (<https://theblackwoodtimes.com.au/april-may-2011/>)

~ Jeanne Tahini

Waste. Good things to you all.

**& THE JUDGES SAID... COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA AWARDS 2011: BEST COMMUNITY CONTENT (33 ENTRIES) WINNER: BLACKWOOD NEWS**

"All entries were impressive, with such a lot of dedication & community involvement evident. Congratulations to all entrants for the quality of their publications. Many communities have overcome great adversity, particularly after devastating events of nature. A great kindred spirit marked all the publications.

Although the Blackwood News is a black & white publication, there is still plenty of 'colour' in its pages. The local community is brought to life with an inviting, clever mix of news events, human interest & reader involvement. Readers are given a bird's eye view of the local community - & what a great place it seems too - through the pages of the Blackwood News, which canvasses everything from editor Jinny Coyle's thoughts to what's on at venues around town, new born youngsters & glamorous 'olders', even a happy bunch of fiddlers. The win "Mr Wabbit" competition, where kids- but probably lots of grown ups too - are challenged to count the number of bunnies in one issue, is a great idea. In addition, the history & travel tales are wonderful. So too, the reflective pieces from locals about their life experiences. With everything from lost & found to football tips, CFA updates & church rescue missions, the Blackwood News is a great read & a great insight into the local community. & was this deliberate? Almost everyone in the myriad of photographs seems to be smiling."

**THE JUDGES:**  
**Anne Sutton:** Executive Assistant to Melbourne City Council's CEO. She has worked in local government for more than 25 years, first at Bendigo & then Melbourne.  
**Roger & Mandy Calder** are retired teachers living in coastal Victoria. Roger has always had a keen interest in both history & media while Mandy's interest has been in language & communication. They share a concern for environmental & social justice issues.  
**Kathleen Buchanan** is a widely published former Fairfax journalist who has also taught feature writing, news reporting, ethics, & international journalism at Monash University for 7 years. Kathleen has undergraduate degrees majoring in journalism from RMIT & an MA (Communications) from Swinburne Uni. She is embarking now on a PhD in creative writing.  
**Sebastian Purcell, Karlie Italia, Eliza Wilkinson, & Jessica Evans** are 1st year journalism students who bring the insights & responses of youth to the judging this year.

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

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

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### A POST OFFICE RENO



Watch this space.

Running a post office was not the plan when Carol and Martyn moved from inner suburban Melbourne to Greendale over 12 years ago. Martyn had always been handy with tools and ran a home maintenance business while Carol worked in education. Carol had long had an interest in selling antiques which is where the post office story begins.

Carol and a friend had a stall at the Brick Lane market in Daylesford and enjoyed it as a "working hobby". When this came to an end she wanted to find somewhere else to continue her hobby. At the time the Blackwood Post Office was being run as a post office and also sold antiques and bric a brac. Carol approached the then owner about having vintage bits and pieces in the shop on consignment. It wasn't long before the owner casually mentioned that the business was for sale and the rest, as they say, is history.

It was 5 years ago last April that Carol and Martyn made the leap



and bought the post office. At first it was the business only but they then also purchased the premises, always with the view of extending at some stage. It has taken 3 or 4 years, much hard work, loads of frustration and sometimes tears to get the required permits, but work is finally underway.

The building itself is over 100 years old and has been home to many different enterprises. In the early 1900s it was a hay and corn store. For a long time it was a part of The Blackwood General Store. You could actually walk straight through from the Blackwood General Store into the existing post office building. At one stage the Blackwood Historical Society was given the building to operate as a museum. However an alternative site for the museum was found and the building was sold to

help finance the project. During the 1970s the building was earmarked for demolition, which is not surprising as the building has been propped up on bricks and rotting stumps. Because of this, the first stage of the renovation is all about protecting the existing building which really had to be rebuilt from the ground up. The old flooring was removed, concrete stumps put in, all joists replaced, a new floor installed and existing walls straightened. The building now is as solid as a rock. It will easily survive the next 200 years.

The next stage will see the building extended mainly on the driveway side and down towards the carport which will allow for a new kitchen, post office space and toilet. After that the outside area under the Birch trees will be decked. The outcome will be a flexible space that will combine food, café seating, retail and post office services.

The post office is very much at the heart of the Blackwood community and the work currently being carried out will enable it to continue to be a great benefit to both locals and visitors to our town.

The project itself is a fantastic example of our community working together with much of the building being done by Martyn and fellow local builder Steve Empey. Carol said that they had been incredibly lucky to have Steve on the project and described him as both a "wonderful tradesman and a wonderful person" as well as "a delight to work with."

So many others have assisted with the project to date with architect Rick Blake deserving a shout out for sticking through numerous delays and changes. Monique Rasing, who was the projects drafts person, also did a great job. Other locals who have assisted with getting the process underway include: Matt Bodiam, Kenny Cann, Gary Matheson, Steve Hollis, and Councillors Paul Tatchell and Ally Munari. Also thanks to Ami Gammon, Angie Spence and Jane Howett who also deserve a mention for their assistance with the not so small task of packing up the post office allowing for the work to commence.

In such a small town you would think it would have proven very difficult to find a space to allow the post office to continue functioning for the community while the building works are underway. Such is the nature of our community however that Martyn and Carol received offers from the two nearest businesses. The pub kindly offered to provide some space and the same offer from Simon and Simon allowed them to continue operating right next door. The Simon's and Suzie have been very generous and hospitable with their time and space, but it won't be too long now before the post office can start operating back in their building albeit not finished.

There are still many unknowns and like before, the business will no doubt evolve as it goes along. What will be offered while the renovation is underway will depend on spaces available as the project continues. On completion what will be offered is yet to be worked out but will be determined by the culinary skills that new and existing staff will bring. What is known, however, is that Carol and Martyn will continue to go above and beyond to provide an amazing service for our community.

~ Kylie Richardson



### WOMBAT BOOK CLUB

Hello and welcome to the Wombat Book Club review corner, or wherever we're placed in this issue of Blackwood Times. In the next couple of months, hopefully we can look forward to some warmer weather now Spring is nearly upon us. We thought about some locations we can hold our book club meetings. Most favoured keeping them in a Blackwood Location, usually in the Garden of St. Erth a gorgeous, handy spot for all, the site of our last get together.

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

The three books we all enjoyed this last couple of months were: 'The Fairvale Ladies Book Club' by Sophie Green, Empty Cradles by 'Margaret Humphries' and 'One Italian Summer' by Rebecca Serle.

'The Fairvale Ladies Book Club' by Sophie Green  
Sandy: This book was an easy read with everyday characters all with their own story and how they all bonded together through the challenges of living in an outback town in Australia. A woman called Sybil who was well-known and influential around the town, managed to bring together family members and others around the town involved in the Women's Country Club, to form a Book club. For those who like an easy, romance, this one is for you. Although some didn't quite go as expected.

I think some thought their Book Club at Fairvale was much like ours here at Blackwood, perhaps so.

4 Wombies  
Jane: Definitely, a women's book. A diverse group of women each with their own challenges living in the Northern Territory who come together not only to share books. I really enjoyed the book, a well-constructed easy read with believable characters bonding through their love of reading.

Jinny: Women bonding through a series of books in rural Australia. This was an easy read which I did enjoy although my feminist tendencies, perhaps unrealistically, was annoyed by their emotional reliance on men.

Empty Cradles by 'Margaret Humphries'  
Sandy: Empty Cradles is Margaret Humphries' journey in uncovering the child migration program which wrenched children from the homes and familiar surroundings to unfamiliar and hostile territory. The children were shipped to Canada, Australia and Africa. Often used for hard labour and abusive institution life. Margaret was able to reconnect some people with lost parents and siblings. Their stories were a stark parallel with our own Indigenous children, also wrenched from the families and communities to cruel institutional lives.

Sad and confronting stories which may not be a good read for some who may have suffered trauma. A must for some truth telling of Australia's dark history.

4 Wombies  
Jinny: When I picked up this book I had no idea about the thousands of young boys who were sent from England to be 're-homed' in Australia. Yet another terribly sad tale of decisions made by authorities, in this case the church, with deeply disturbing consequences. Add this to other dark tales from our countries short history -Stolen Generations, Forgotten Australians, & now Britian's Child Migration Program. The authorities have a lot to answer for when it comes to our children they



are supposed to be protecting!

5 wombies  
'One Italian Summer' by Rebecca Serle.

Sandy: One Italian Summer is a quick easy read. Katie and her mother Carol, whom she is very close to, plan a holiday in Italy. Carol then dies, and Katie decides to go by herself and visit the places she and her mother were going to go. Whilst she is there, she meets a lady, also Carol who is so much like her mother. The story gets convoluted as Katie is tempted to call her 'friend' Mother, instead of Carol. The reader must keep reading on as the story unfolds it reveals what had happened, and answers Katie's questions. This all leads to a rekindling of love between Katie and her husband Eric. A romance with a difference.

4 Wombies

### LANDCARE NEWS

Another successful weed removal working bee was held in August down at the Mineral Springs Reserve, behind the caravan park.

Mainly gorse and some broom removed, all with "pretty" yellow flowers.

Although it is likely that previous years seeds will sprout, at least this year the seeds haven't had a chance to set.

Smaller plants will be easier to remove. Thanks to the helpers on the day. The next working bee will be 8th October 9.30am in the grounds of the Blackwood Town Hall.

We have started a series of workshops on the topic of wildlife gardening, in conjunction with Moorabool Gardens for Wildlife. The first is all about nest boxes, including making and taking one home.

Noelle Shader has put her hand up to be a Gardens for Wildlife Garden Guide for Blackwood, she has her training wheels on under the program.

Please drop us an email if you would like her guidance 3458landcare@gmail.com

~ Diana Dawson

*Moorabool Gardens for Wildlife - Blackwood chapter*

**GARDENS ARE IMPORTANT PLACES. THEY OFFER US REFUGES, FOOD, RECREATION AND A PLACE TO CONNECT WITH NATURE. OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS ALL HAVE A PASSION FOR GARDENING AND THE CONSERVATION OF OUR INDIGENOUS PLANTS AND ANIMALS. BEING PART OF THIS PROGRAM IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THIS PASSION FOR GARDENS AND TO BE PART OF A LIKE-MINDED AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY.**

Our specially trained Garden Guides are here to assist Garden for Wildlife participants plant wildlife friendly gardens and show ways to attract more species to their gardens.

Garden Guides visit program participants in their gardens, discuss the visions of the garden and prepare a short report including the ways to make gardens even more beneficial to our native wildlife.

Contact 3458landcare@gmail.com



## SOME EARLY HISTORY OF "LITTLE DOATY" DIED BLACKWOOD 23 OCTOBER 1878.



This month of October commemorates the 144th year since the Historical death of a much loved little girl who died at Blackwood and lies in a grave just inside the main gate of the Blackwood cemetery with the inscription of ' Little Doaty died 23 October 1878'.

Many visitors to the Blackwood Cemetery stop at the little grave inside the main gate and wonder who was "Little Doaty". The family story was told to the Blackwood Historical Society by Mrs Mary Kane who is the daughter of Doaty's brother John Rowan. It tells how Doaty was the eldest child of Joseph Rowan Clerk of Courts of Blackwood. Her mother, Margaret Keiran was born in Melbourne in 1855, and her father, Joseph Rowan was born in 1844 Tipperary, Ireland, they were married on the 10th September 1873 at Sandhurst (Bendigo).

Doaty had one brother John Keiran Rowan who was born in Sandhurst on 2 January 1876. Doaty was born in August 1874 at Sandhurst, (Bendigo) and was named after both parents Josephine Margaret. A family photo of Doaty, taken in Sandhurst (Bendigo), when she was aged 2 yrs and dated 20 October 1876 shows a pretty little girl with dark hair and pale eyes in a pretty lacy dress. The photo was kindly lent to the author by the niece of Doaty, Mrs. Kane This photo was taken in Sandhurst (Bendigo), just 2 years before Doaty died tragically at the age of 4 years from an epidemic of diphtheria raging in the district. Mrs Kane made several trips to Blackwood to attend the Blackwood Historical Society's meetings and she arrived by taxi from Kew in Melbourne. The author then visited Mrs Kane in her home where she was lent the family photos of Doaty and her parents so they could be copied by Margot for the Historical Society's records.

Margot Hitchcock paid for and obtained Doaty's death certificate, it states her name as Josephine Margaret Rowan aged 4 yrs, who died from diphtheria.

A report in the Bacchus Marsh Express paper states "Mr Rowan, Clerk of Petty Sessions, has, I regret to say, lost his oldest child, a fine little girl who died on Wednesday night at 10 o'clock from Diphtheria".

Her parents were heartbroken and her mother's health suffered. On medical advice, Doaty's mother went to stay with her relatives in New Zealand. (Mrs. Rowan's father was a doctor in New Zealand.) Joseph Rowan stayed in Blackwood in his role as Clerk of Courts, to look after their son John with the help of a nurse. Mrs Annie Byres was said to be like a second mother to young John. Very sadly John was never to see his mother again and remembered being preoccupied playing with a new toy car his mother gave him on the verandah when she left after a tearful goodbye. For unfortunately Mrs Rowan's health became worse and she had to delay her return home, and died suddenly on the 27 February 1883, age 27 yrs of pneumonia at Kumara near Hokitika on the South Island of New Zealand and was buried there. Her father, Thomas Keiran,



a surgeon, as listed as the medical attendant at her death and her mother's name was Kate Keiran nee Sweeney. Mrs Rowan had arrived in New Zealand in 1879 and had been there 4 years at her death and her son John, was noted on her death certificate as being 7 years of age. (Digger records show Thomas Keiran and Catherine Sweeney had 4 children with two boys who died young and Margaret and Mary Jane Keiran surviving. Margaret Keiran born 1855, married Joseph Rowan in 1873.)

However true is this story from official records and her family, another Blackwood version of how Doaty died was told to the Blackwood Historical Society by the late Bill Matheson by his grandmother. It recalls how Doaty was left in the charge of some neighbours for the day while her parents were away. Sometime towards evening she and another girl, (said by the late Frank Matheson to be Sue Vigor quite a lot older than herself went for a walk). On the way they chased a mob of goats which were plentiful about Blackwood at the time. She became separated from the other girl and was later found drowned.

After checking the Bacchus Marsh Express papers on the death of Doaty there also appeared a report some six weeks previously which reported the death of a child, Selina Bass 21 months old who drowned in a waterhole on the 13th September 1878 at her grandmother's (Margaret Lindsay) home, her mother's name being Jane Bass. Maybe this last bit of evidence goes to show how the confusion about drowning and diphtheria could have arisen with the two little girls deaths being within a short time of each other. Evidence to show how folklore can be passed through the generations and the true story forgotten or mixed up with time.

It is thought that "Doaty" must have been her baby way of saying "Josie" which is probably the name her parents called her. The Rowan's home was on the high bank of Golden Point Road that leads to the Mineral Springs. When the fortunes of the town declined the old home with many others was removed to Trentham. Doaty's father, Joseph Rowan went to live at Beechworth around 1886 where he remarried and became the Police Magistrate and Warden of the North Eastern Goldfields.

The Beechworth Historical Society's Museum has a photo of Joseph Rowan listed with their early pioneers, as seen by the author.

~ Margot Hitchcock

Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society, Sept '22

## CARING FOR OUR PATCH



Local artist Kathy Holowko and photographer Daniel Williams, have produced a remarkable three minute animated film for Blackwood and Barry's Reef Landcare Group, which is both educational and visually beautiful. Through the vision of past Landcare President Shane Scanlan along with Diana Dawson, an application for a grant from Melbourne Water was successful. The film aims to help educate

Blackwood residents on the importance of weed control to promote healthy waterways. Kathy's proposal was chosen for her artistry and her knowledge of and empathy for the Blackwood landscape.

Kathy -- "I was really interested in applying to do this project because all of my artwork is based around telling stories of ecology and I'm always searching for ways that can help communicate this through art. We put forward the idea of an animated short story for Landcare. We took a chance to say ... you know what, it might be a bit unusual to talk about environmental issues through drawing and animation rather than using real images but I really thought that seeing Blackwood transformed into an illustrated wonderland would catch people's attention and keep them watching, so that the message was heard".



"The visual concept was to show Blackwood in a very colourful, artistic and illustrative way. I used quality paper, bleedproof fineliners and watercolours. Using a photo reference I would loosely draw in the black lines and add the colour in watery drops. Adding the colour is a really beautiful process because it's out of control! Then it was a matter of sitting down with the scalpel and cutting out each piece. The process took many hours, but the good thing was once they were created, some of the trees or the hills, or other pieces could be re-used in another scene. Each element is a separate component that is layered in a 3 dimensional scene, so we could set up a scene and then



the camera could travel through the mini landscape. We also used stop motion and moved some objects frame by frame. There was a lot of frames for Daniel to stitch together - over 1000 individual photographs! All the artwork can be stored away in a shoebox sized container with the larger components layered flat in my plan draws. One day I hope to turn them into dioramas.

"The concept and script was really based on Shane's proposal, and we made sure that it ticked all the boxes for what Melbourne Water wanted us to accomplish which was explaining how weeds spread through our waterways and what we can do about it. It was a matter of re-writing it in a way that was sequential and could actually be visualized."

"I hope people enjoy watching Blackwood illustrated in this this animation and think about the beautiful environment that we live in and how we can all tackle weeds to ensure our native species thrive."

If you haven't had a chance to see the "Caring for Our Patch" animation yet, you can view it on facebook.com/BlackwoodLandcare/ or visit https://vimeo.com/735278839.

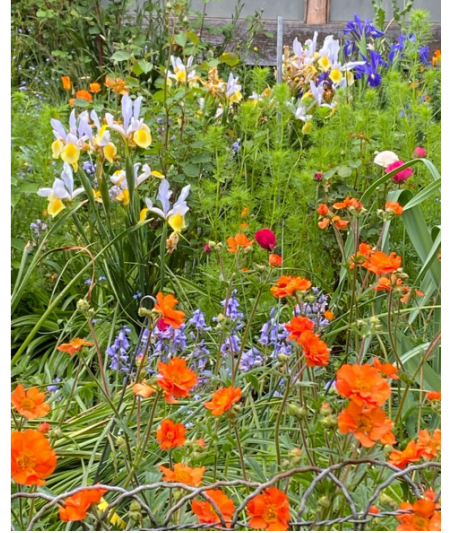
This film is an important reminder of how and why we love living in Blackwood, but also shows us how to take care of it now, and in the future.

~ Noelle Shader

## A BLACKWOOD GARDEN

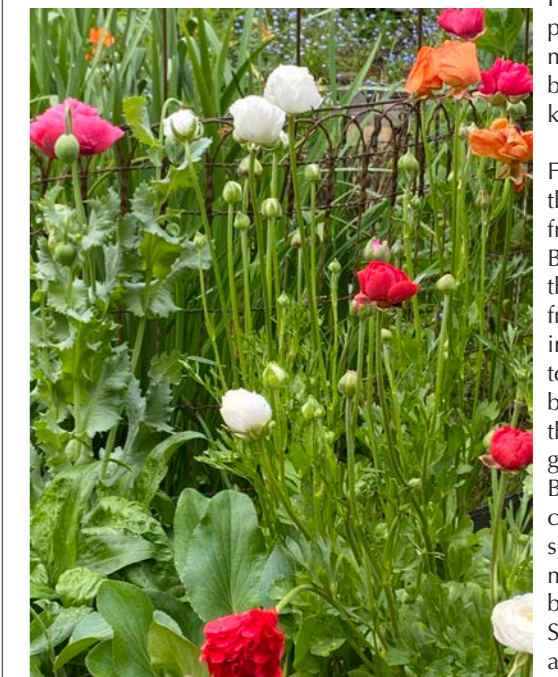
It's been a cold wet Winter and now Spring is slow to warm and it's continuing to be wet.

I'm no gardening expert, but I have become passionate about growing things and have worked out how to manage my Blackwood garden. I've made many mistakes but have learnt along the way and had lots of success as well. There are many of you who are new to Blackwood and possibly creating your first garden, so some of what I've learnt might help.



I know the most important thing to make a good garden is soil... good soil!. In my garden I've had to contend with heavy clay and shale and no topsoil. Had I known how important good soil is, I would have worked harder at creating it and added as much organic matter as I could lay my hands on and learnt how to make good compost. I'm getting better at making compost. I have found that cutting up the plant matter creates compost faster. There's lots of information available on making good compost to build up your soil. Use plenty of compost and aged well-rotted manure. Gypsum is invaluable as a clay breaker. Slow release fertilisers, sprinkled on the surface, will be watered in with Spring rains.

Like all gardeners I have spent too much time weeding. While the soil is wet weeds are much easier to pull out so now is a great time to try to rid your garden of weeds. Every year there seems to be new weeds arriving. Unfortunately many come in with the plants you buy.



I don't like using poisons so adding mulch to garden beds also helps to keep weeds down.

Until last year, February was the only frost-free month in Blackwood but then we had a frost! The late frosts in Spring seem to be the worst because they hit the tender new growth. Because Blackwood has a cool climate and a short warm season, many seeds are best sown in early Spring in punnets and not planted out until the soil

warms. Some seeds however, such as beans and carrots, are best sown directly in the soil. I've never planted my tomato seedlings until Cup Day and have found that works well. Recently I learned to plant them deeply, about 1/3 of their height which has helped to give them a sturdier stem.

Look around to see what does well here, never be afraid to ask others for their tips and tricks and enjoy gardening!

~ Jane Howat

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# THE HISTORY OF MARGOT HITCHCOCK

... continued from August-September issue.

Question: What made you become interested and influenced you in becoming a Historian and Genealogist?

In my interest of Genealogy, I became a member of the 'Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies', and volunteered to help in their library where I learnt to research records, and was then offered a job as a Professional Researcher. With this knowledge, I then researched my own Family Tree and that of many other requests for help with family Genealogy. My research led me to the Public Records Office, Shipping records, Latrobe Library and later Trove- Australian early newspapers on-line, and Victorian BD& M records, and Inquest Records etc.

Question: As a founding member of the Blackwood & District Historical Society, could you tell us how you became a member?



I went to the first Meeting on the 14th April 1973, organized in the Blackwood Hall over Easter by Bill Matheson, who thought it was a good idea to form a Historical Society. I became a member and was voted onto the committee, and have been the Official Historian since 1980 because of my interest in writing and researching local history. This was followed by being asked by Alan Buckingham to become Co-Author of a book on the history of Blackwood. I typed up my contribution on my

portable typewriter for this book called 'Aspects of Early Blackwood', and it was published in 1980, and launched in the Blackwood Hotel by the Minister of Tourism from Ballarat. Today, I am the only active person left who is still a current member of the Blackwood Historical Society for 49 years.

Question: How has the love of photography played a major part of your ability to visually capture history?

In my role as Historian for the Blackwood Historical Society, I visited people from Blackwood who had stories and photos to show me of early days in Blackwood. I bought a Pentax [SLR] Single Lens Reflex camera with a Macro lens for copying photos, and set up a stand for copying photos lent to me. I was also lent some old glass negatives which I paid to have made into photos. People also contacted me through my web page which I set up in 2000 with some help, where people emailed me copies of their family photos. With these, now over 1,000 copies of photos, I feel they bring to life the true history of Blackwood.

Question: How and when did the Blackwood Historical Society move into the old Police Stables?

The Blackwood Historical Society was given permission to use and restore the old Police Stables building as a Historical Museum, by the Education Department, who then occupied the Police Station for Special Needs Children as a school camp. The money for some renovations came from the sale of the building next to the General store, that had been donated to the Historical Society by the family of the late Cyril Jones, but due to problems with boundary areas, and an underground petrol tank, this building was sold to the Store, and the money agreed

upon by the Society to be used to build a museum at the back of the Police Stables. This work on the Stables was commenced in 1976, and carried out by members of the Society together with members of the Police Historical Re-Enactment Society, who joined the Historical Society.

Working bees were held, led by Stuart Duff, and work was completed to lock-up stage in 1978, with work also done on the interior of the Stables, where various donations of historical items were put on display. The Stables were open over the Easter celebrations in Blackwood in 1978, and members took part in the Parade. At the Easter Events in 1979, members of the Society and Police Re-Enactment Society put on a shoot-out between 'bushrangers', and the Society members dressed in period costumes and Police Uniforms, with the Stables open to the public showing a Police Historical and Goldfield's display in the Stables.

In 1984, I became the Editor of the Blackwood's Historical Society's magazine called 'The Blackwood Recorder', and I used my portable typewriter and typed up the magazine which we had copied to give to members.

In 1998, Alan Hall, a builder and President of the Society, then commenced to build a Meeting Room and Museum on the back of the Stables, to incorporate a kitchen and a big area to display historical items and photographs etc. This work was completed in 2003, during which time the Historical Society had been dormant for several years. The Historical Society resumed in 2004 with some original and new members interested in continuing the work on the Police Stables restoration, so that it could be an added tourist attraction to Blackwood, and show some of Blackwood's fascinating Gold Mining Era.

Question: You have written nearly 60 research papers and 4 books on Blackwood's History. Could you tell us about some of them?

In 2006, I was given a Victorian Small Grant, organized by a member of the Society, Pat Liffman, and in 2007, I typed up a new book called 'Some History of Simmons Reef, Blackwood' on my new computer. It was printed in July 2007, and launched by Don Nardella M.P. Member for Melton.

In 2009, following my debilitating stroke, I commenced to write my next book 'The Billy Pincombe Tragedy- The Tragic shootings of a Minister and Billy Pincombe', which I typed up on my computer. It was printed in 2014, and launched in the Blackwood Historical Museum by Stuart Duff.

Over the years since, I have kept up my love of the history of Blackwood, and continue to add information to my Blackwood web page - www.blackwoodpublishing.com and also add information to my Facebook page- 'Blackwood History and Pioneers', and answer enquiries about family ancestors and the history of Blackwood.

My next book - 'History and Pioneers of Blackwood' was commenced in 1996 when I purchased my first computer. Over the 30 years I have researched this book, I have typed up over 700 pages. It is hoped that one day I can obtain a Government or similar grants to have it published, so I can share these pages of interesting history of Blackwood.

Thanks to all the people, who over the forty nine years I have been collecting photos and information on the history of Blackwood, have helped me to show that "I have a legacy to leave the present and future generations of people who love Blackwood".

~ Margot Hitchcock  
Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society July 2022



# WALKING TRACKS DAMAGE UPDATE PLUS A FEW WALKS

Lerderderg Heritage River Walk has been largely cleared and should open soon.

Other cleared tracks include New Sultan Mine, Pottery, Povey, Morning Star and Byers Back Track Walking Trail.

Whipstick Loop Walk remains closed due to the storm damage experienced last year. DELWP Storm Recovery Team has advised that: "... due to the extent of infrastructure damage to the Whipstick Loop track it is unlikely that this track will re-open this year."

Many thanks to DELWP and to all those involved in clearing our local tracks. This has been a mammoth task. It's great to be able to walk our forests again.

For those wanting to walk closer to town, here are a few options. Note distances are approximate.

## 1 Whalebone Rd - Martin St - Blackwood Cemetery

The old log mining huts in Whalebone Road date from the early 20th century. The white hut belonged to the Shaws who built Shaws Lake and many surrounding water races (see walk below). In 1944 the Shaw family gifted an area of 1.5 acres comprising Shaws Lake and its immediate surroundings to the town, as a reserve for public purposes.

Many of the buildings situated along Martin Street are original, dating from the late 19th or early 20th century. The cemetery in Byres Road was established in 1860, although it is believed there were burials at the site prior to this. The cemetery has many old pioneer graves and a Chinese burial site at the rear.

For further information about the history of the township and surrounding areas contact or visit the Blackwood Historical Society - open the first Saturday of every month from 11.30am. You will find a wealth of information, old photos, maps and local artifacts. Contact: Elizabeth Hall 53686537



## 2 Whalebone Rd - Shaws no. 7 water race track - Mineral Springs Reserve - Shaws Lake: total distance: 2.19 kms

40 metres down Whalebone Road take the water race track on the right which leads to the playground at Mineral Springs Reserve, follow GDT (Great Dividing Trail) signposts.

This track is incorporated into the Great Dividing Trail network and signposted accordingly. The water race is narrow with steep drop offs, some erosion and great views down to the river. 500 metres along the water race there is a short diversion from the original track due to erosion. Stay right and follow signs.

### Segment distances:

Top of Whalebone Road to Mineral Springs footbridge: 1.29 kms

Footbridge to Shaws Lake Rotunda (turn left over footbridge): 0.9 kms

## 3 Shaws Lake Full Circuit Loop. Total distance: 6.2 kms

Cross Mineral Springs footbridge and turn left to Shaws Lake or take the water race track on right to North Blackwood Road. The water race section is narrow, somewhat eroded and can be slippery when wet.

If turning left (my preference), follow the track up to Shaws Lake, continue on the road past the lake to North Blackwood Road, turn right



and follow it down to Lerderderg river. Turn right on the near side of the river onto water race track and follow this back to the Mineral Springs footbridge.

Note that the GDT sign indicating water race track at junction with North Blackwood Road is located off the road.



## 4 Shaws Lake Half Circuit via Moonlight Gully & Sweets Lookout (steep). Total distance: 2.5 kms

For a shorter, but steeper Shaws Lake circuit, cross the Mineral Springs footbridge and turn right along the old Cocciardis water race track.

Approx 600 metres along the water race turn left at the 'Lookout' sign (Moonlight Gully) and climb steeply uphill to the site of Sweet's Lookout. Follow the path and turn left at Shaws Lake Road to Shaws Lake. Follow the path past Shaws Lake back to the footbridge.



Unfortunately Sweet's Lookout is no longer in existence, although the location is still known by this name. It would be great to see it reinstated. What do you think?

Segment distances:  
Footbridge to Lookout sign: 0.6 kms  
Lookout sign up to Sweet's Lookout: 0.26 km steep

## 5 Whalebone Rd - Lerderderg River crossing - unnamed track to Shaws Lake circuit. Total distance: 1 km

This alternative route to Shaws Lake is limited to summer months due to river crossing.

Start on the corner of Martin Street and Whalebone Road. Walk down the length of Whalebone Road, (passing the GDT water race track), until you reach the River. Do not turn sharp left to the river at the bottom of the hill, instead continue on the road as it veers right and curves a number of times down to the river. Cross the river and take the unnamed track almost immediately on the right. This track leads up to the Shaws Lake circuit track, then turn left to Shaws Lake or right to the Mineral Springs footbridge.

### Segment distances:

Top of Whalebone to Lerderderg River crossing: 0.7 kms  
Track opposite side of river up to Shaws Lake circuit: 300 metres  
Research your walk and take a map!

'Wombat Forest Touring Guide' map is available for sale at the Blackwood Post Office Coffee Shop and Store. The map shows Lerderderg Heritage River, Whipstick Loop and GDT walks, but without much detail. More detailed bushwalking maps (ie 1:25,000) are available through Vicmaps and there are several online apps.

'AllTrails' and Bushwalking Victoria websites have walk descriptions and maps.

Walking Groups. Many walking groups walk locally including Trentham Walking Group (Neighbourhood House), Daylesford U3A, The Great Dividing Trail Association and Melton Bushwalkers.

Watch out for snakes year round. Snakes are semi-dormant in winter, but still seek water and warmth. I met a very aggressive snake early July last year, luckily it stood up and said hello at a distance, allowing us both to back away nervously!

Cheers and happy walking.

~ Sue Donnelly

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### SAVE THE DATES!

**Restart A Heart Day 16th October 2022**  
**CFA Refuge 11.00am**

Join us to learn CPR and gain the skills to help save a life in the event of a person suffering a cardiac arrest. CERT will be holding CPR demonstrations at the CFA Refuge on Sunday 16th October at 11.00am.

**Blackwood CERT 20th Anniversary Celebration**  
**2.00pm Sunday 3 December 2022 @ St Martin's Chapel**

We're turning 20 and you are all invited to join us to celebrate our past service in the community and learn about the exciting plans for the future. Blackwood & District Community Emergency Response Team officially started serving the locals as First Responders in 000 medical emergencies in December 2002. We are proud that we were the second Team formed in Victoria with the challenge to improve response times in areas remote from established Ambulance stations (our nearest is Ballan).

CERTs "get there first" to provide immediate care until Advanced Life Support Ambulances can arrive (which may take over an hour or more). 20 years down the track and the need for these volunteer First Responders remains just as important for our local and growing communities – particularly as we see new homes being built and we welcome new members into the Greendale/Dales Creek/Blackwood/Barry's Reef/Newbury hamlets.

To celebrate our milestone, we invite everyone to celebrate with us on **Sunday 3 December 2022 at 2.00pm at St Martin's Chapel.**

Past "CERTies", community members and those curious about what we do and how, are all invited to join with us on the day to celebrate the past as we look forward to the exciting developments of the next 20 years. We extend a particularly warm invitation to those newly arrived in the area so you can explore what we do and see if this is the volunteer opportunity you are looking for in your new community. Locals – both old and new- are very welcome!

### BLACKWOOD MAKERS

If you've noticed a "Fix it Foley" sign on the way into Blackwood, (near old golden Point Road), then you've come across this edition's Maker, Kieran Foley.

Kieran and his partner Rochelle are fairly new arrivals to Blackwood – a few years or so.

As a qualified carpenter, Kieran has become well known around town as the 'go to guy' for all things, building, renovating, repairs and fix'n things. Simply put, for any job requiring someone with good tools and a technical mind; Kieran is your guy.

Most recently, Kieran has been pottering around with bespoke birdhouses designed specifically for our local birds and surrounds. Made from reclaimed site scraps, he builds incredibly durable bird houses worthy of design awards. Not only beautiful, his designs allow people to enjoy the beauty of our feathered neighbours whilst keeping the hassle of bird poo and cocky vandals at bay.

#### Q&A

Editor: Kieran, what brought you to Blackwood.

Kieran: "I've always loved the countryside and when we came across Blackwood, I instantly fell in love with this peaceful town – especially the wilderness".

Editor: So how did you come up with the idea of building the bird houses?

Kieran: There is such great diversity of birdlife in the area, we all love to see their amazing colors and their beautiful calls in our day-to-day life. I saw people putting up bird houses on their decks and also noticed that the birds make a lot of mess on peoples decks. I thought, "surely there's a simple answer for that".

So, I headed to my shed after work, poked around, scratched my head and played with some ideas. Eventually, I came up with the idea of creating brackets that would extended (cantilever) bird houses completely separate from the deck. In hindsight, it seems obvious. Works a treat! And, the garden bed's below appreciate the little gifts of fertiliser.



Editor: Are you selling these?

Kieran: Yes! I have them for sale and, because of the reclaimed materials, managed to keep the costs down. So if you are interested, give me a call or a message on 0484 694 482.

In our next Edition, we catch up with Greg and Kieran Cassidy and explore the Forrest Therapy trails they have created in Blackwood.

~ Paul Kukiel

### TRICK OR TREAT!

Blackwood community is celebrating Halloween again this year with a Trick or Treat register. Wrapped individual treats preferred without nut ingredients. Simply leave your address on this post to register, start time between 3 to 4.30pm. Maps will be available and posted within this event by the Sunday before Halloween.

Have a Happy Halloween with lots of scary fun.

Halloween Trick or Treat Register event - [shorturl.at/bl147](http://shorturl.at/bl147)


Event on FB - [shorturl.at/gqz15](http://shorturl.at/gqz15)



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### BLACKWOOD HAT SHOPPE IS RACING SEASON READY

The Blackwood Hat Shoppe held a racing hat extravaganza on 17 September where hundreds of racing hats were on display and sale. So many in fact that it took over the BnB. Unfortunately the weather was against us but, for the locals who braved the elements to come inside, they ended up playing all day in the warmth and shelter of Sivani House. Good time indeed was had by all and Karen will try again once the weather gets warmer.

~ Karen Bruno

### WANT TO HELP BUT "DON'T DO MEETINGS"?

Don't worry, we get it. We on the Progress committee don't much enjoy them either, useful as they are (being an incorporated group, they're also compulsory).

Blackwood has always been a volunteer-driven town and we know there are many of you wanting to get involved in community projects and events (including the big one at Easter) without having to front up to monthly meetings.

That's why we're cutting the Easter Carnival jobs into bite-sized pieces and inviting you to take one. You'll have all the support you need in an important, but not too demanding job. And no monthly meetings!

So do yourself in for a satisfying role in organising the street parade, gate sales, advertising, entertainment, sports activities, contractor liaison, music program, woodchop, council liaison, technical support, etc...you get the idea.

There are plenty of other opportunities to help out through the year, just ask. Or better still, tell us. Progress is happy to support your bright idea.

And if you really do like meetings, feel free to put your hand up for a committee position. Call me/fb message, or just stop Daz, Louise, Allan or Nick in the street.

AGM October 12, 7pm at Blackwood Hall

~ Brendan Hehir  
ph: 0419 137 812  
Facebook: Blackwood Progress

### • WHOSE TATT'S THAT? •



This tattoo started on a 17 year old as a swallow chasing it's mother. The tattoo of the mother swallow is somewhere that we can not publish and has been seen by very few! The current regulations for tattooists were not in play at that stage and scarlet fever was the result. The tattoo did not heal properly and the ink spread blurring the image. Almost 2 decades on the wearer's husband designed a new picture to cover it that also incorporated part of a design from their wedding invitation. Not a fan of names on tattoos, the bee references the talented husband in question.

~ Jinn Coyle

IS 'SPRINGING' BACK

**SUNDAY NOV 13<sup>TH</sup>**

FROM: 9am

**BALLAN AUTUMN FESTIVAL**

Autumn Marvellous!

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

**BLACKWOOD CFA**

Now that spring is here it is time to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors and to check the date to ensure they are still current, for example, less than ten years old.

Working smoke detectors have proven time and time again to be life savers so don't let yours fail.

Earlier in September we attended a range hood fire in the Greendale area, which is a timely reminder regarding smoke detectors as well as fire fighting apparatus in the kitchen and house.

In the kitchen you should have a fire blanket mounted correctly in an easily accessible location near the stove and a small dry chemical fire extinguisher which should also be accessible. We often talk about event of a house fire?

Take some time to discuss a plan with your family, such as what to do when you notice a fire, the use of extinguishers, identifying several exit points around the house to safely escape a fire in any part of the building, the correct number to call such as 000 or dialling 112 on a mobile phone and a gathering place for everyone to meet. Also consider the correct information to give to the call taker including address, closest cross street, number of occupants, any injuries, any persons trapped and number of storeys to name a few. All of these help in getting appliances there quickly including ambulances and police if necessary. The better prepared you are, the better you can protect your family and yourself. Remember the most important rule 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 or 112 on a mobile.**

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

**THE BLACKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Thanks so much to the Purchase family for the photos and info on the All Saints Vicarage.

The historical photos given and progress pics of the renovation are priceless, the place looks a treat now and we are all indebted to the historically sympathetic way the works have been done. Great Job !!

More thanks to the Liffman family for the donation of Pats old pictures, some of these revealing images of the people and structures of Barrys Reef, no longer there and rarely seen before.

Yet more thanks to Belinda for the photos and info on her distant relative, sadly murdered for his gold near Drury's Mt Blackwood Hotel (this was situated near the top of Mt Blackwood on the way to our goldfield).

We really appreciate this as it helps paint a better picture of our heyday, with both the characters and buildings.

~ Ray Castellin

**BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB NEWS**

Hello all young and old,  
The season starts on the 8th October. No real news at the moment, the ground has been rolled and will have been cut by the time you are reading this. Some cleaning up along the bank was done and due to this wet season work has stopped. Hopefully it will be completed soon to rid the blackberry and other weeds. Kids cricket will be starting soon but until we get the fixture we have no idea when. For all home games you will see the cricket bus parked up the street as a reminder to come down and enjoy a cold beverage and food at the canteen. We may even have a meat raffle happening.

~ President Brian Sutters

**CRICKET FIXTURE**

<b>Round 1 AWAY</b> Sat Oct - 1pm	<b>MALMSBURY v BLACKWOOD</b> Malsmsbury Cricket Ground
<b>Round 2 HOME</b> Sat Oct 15 - 1pm	<b>BLACKWOOD v St. ANTHONYS</b> Blackwood Recreation Reserve
<b>Round 3 AWAY</b> Sat Oct 22 - 1pm	<b>HANGING ROCK v BLACKWOOD</b> Hanging Rock Reserve
<b>Round 4 BYE</b> Sat Oct 29 - 1pm	<b>BYE</b>
<b>Round 5 HOME</b> Sat Nov 5 - 1pm	<b>BLACKWOOD v SUNBURY KANGAROOS</b> Blackwood Recreation Reserve
<b>Round 6 AWAY</b> Sat Nov 12 - 1pm	<b>LANCEFIELD v BLACKWOOD</b> Lancefeild Recreation Reserve oval 1
<b>Round 7 HOME</b> Sat Nov 19/26 - 1:30pm	<b>BLACKWOOD v RUPERTSWOOD</b> Blackwood Recreation Reserve
<b>Round 8 AWAY</b> Sat Dec 3/10 - 1:30pm	<b>DIGGERS REST BULLA v BLACKWOOD</b> Diggers Rest Recreation Reserve oval 1
<b>Round 9 AWAY</b> Sat Dec 17 - 1pm	<b>BACCHUS MARSH v BLACKWOOD</b> Bacchus Marsh Racecourse Rec. Reserve
<b>Round 10 HOME</b> Sat Jan 7 - 1pm	<b>BLACKWOOD v DIGGERS REST BULLA</b> Blackwood Recreation Reserve
<b>Round 11 AWAY</b> Sat Jan 14 - 1pm	<b>RUPERTSWOOD v BLACKWOOD</b> Salesian College oval 1
<b>Round 12 HOME</b> Sat Jan 21/28 - 1:30pm	<b>BLACKWOOD v HANGING ROCK</b> Blackwood Recreation Reserve
<b>Semi Finals</b> Sat Mar 11/12 and <b>Final</b> Sat Mar 18/19	

**BLACKWOOD PROGRESS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

12 October 2022 - 7.00pm at the Blackwood Hall  
The Blackwood Progress Committee will be holding its AGM on Wednesday, 12 October 2022. We welcome all past and present community minded residents to attend. We will be electing our new Committee and look forward to seeing you on the night. If meetings and committees are not for you, you might like to get involved in other one off events or the Easter Carnival. Look forward to seeing you on the 12th.



~ Blackwood Progress Committee

**BOCCE GROUP**

Every Sunday morning at 10 we arrive at the Oval to play. The game is important but so is the beauty and history of this special place. Sometimes it's so misty it feels ethereal! When it's sunny birds are calling, people and dogs are playing. Every time I look around at the slopes rising on one side and listen to the river and feel cradled into the environment. Yes I'm being poetic! The big tree stands and watches us as it has watched the much of the history of our town. Reassuring!  
When it's very cold we all come prepared. Thermal gloves, assorted hats, beanies and heated jackets help us get started. Of course the real joy is meeting with our group members. Our group's age range is 14 to 86 yrs. Our playing style is competitive enough that we score and measure according to rules but is also jovial so that there is enough joking, teasing and banter to bring on laughter and joy...more like a laughter therapy session! Call me on 0432406814 or just come down on any Sunday at 10 am. Below is John Nugent keeping score. See you soon!

~ Stephanie Kondos



**BLACKWOOD CEMETERY TRUST**

Firstly a big thanks to John from Dales Creek, an unassuming and unheralded person, John mows the cemetery in his own time, with his own equipment for no reward and shies away from recognition.

We receive many compliments regarding the state of the property so a big pat on the back to you John (won't reveal your surname !)

In living memory it has always been assumed Bridget Buckley (nee Cruise) builder of the current hotel, was buried in the cemetery with her two ex husbands.

This was believed to be the case as somebody decades ago entered her name in the register. Research has found this to be incorrect, she is in fact buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery with her daughter Ellen. It never seemed quite right that anybody in her family didn't bother to enter her name on the monument ! We have developed a self guided tour of the cemetery to engage the towns visitors, and hopefully, stay a little longer spending some coin !

The tour involves a marked path with stops along the way at 23 locations. A brief description of the interred will be on the back of the card.

There are many people/family's that will not be represented only due to lack of space. If the tour proves to be extremely popular we may look at doing a more comprehensive version in the future. We have attempted to narrow the 23 down to those the average tourist will be interested in.

~ Ray Castellin

**DINNER CLUB**

Dinner club has been running since February 2022. Congratulations to Rose who has been every month and Janette who has only missed one. Dinner Club meets on the first Thursday of the month and all are welcome. Keep an eye on the community events page for posts, usually a week before outlining the venue and transport. Hopefully now the weather is improving the numbers will pick up. We try somewhere different each month but from the comments below the focus is more on the company than the food.

**Kathy:** I don't really care where we go for me it is about getting out, trying new foods and spending time with friends. My favourite was

Thai and the Japanese in Melton - I never thought I would say that! I give them 4/5 cupcakes

**Karen:** my favourite was the Thai in Kyneton although we need a return so we can eat at a relaxed pace!

**Janette:** My favourite was the Thai in Woodend but the service was woeful.

**Sue:** I'll try anywhere, except for an Offal 'Awful' restaurant - it's a thing. I love food and and sharing it with good company. Always lots of laughs around the table.

Oh and my favourites so far are the Japanese in Melton and Trentham General.

~ Kath B

**ST MARTIN'S CHAPEL**

It feels as if we are coming out of hibernation. As signs of spring appear our calendar of events is increasing and things are happening. We have three concerts coming up which all sound fabulous and an outside art installation which will be one of a number on display throughout the Moorabool Shire at the beginning of October.

We were successful in securing a Community Strengthening grant from the Moorabool Council thanks to the perseverance and hard work from Stephanie Kondos who put our application together. This will allow us to buy some much needed equipment and host a number of community events and activities.

Thanks to all those who supported our pizza and pasta night. Money raised will go towards the purchase of a stove for the kitchen. This will give greater options for the use of the Chapel in the future.

Our Little Ones Group has continued through winter and we are now looking forward to being able to have some outdoor activities in the warmer months. Our theme for September is "Things that move". I think I can sense a Teddy Bears' Picnic coming up as well. Thank you to those people and businesses who have sponsored this group. It only costs \$20 to sponsor a session so please let me know if you would like to help us in this way.

You may have noticed the sign letting everyone know that church services are now being held twice a month on the 1st and 4th Sundays of each month at 2pm. Listen out for the church bell ringing again.

~ Robyn Zanon

**PIZZA AND PASTA NIGHT AT ST MARTIN'S**

We really hope everyone who participated enjoyed the pizza and pasta night that was organised to raise money to go towards the purchase of a stove for the kitchen at St Martin's Chapel.

Thanks to everyone who supported us and for all the great feedback.

It nearly didn't happen as the pizza oven that was kindly loaned to us from Bacchus Marsh Primary didn't suit bottled gas. It was team work and the wider community coming on board that saved the day.

Simon and Simon came to our rescue and allowed us to use their kitchen and pizza oven, even cooking them for us and keeping the pizza and pasta makers going with a glass of wine or maybe two.

Dennis and Wally became the delivery boys taking the food up to the chapel. We only lost one meal somewhere along the way, we are so sorry Jane.

Lyn and Jamie joined the team as the back up girls up at the hall, cooking pizzas there as well.

Jeanne and Rev Jenny were the checkout chicks at the Chapel and Rev Jenny also enjoyed a good yarn with a number of people.

Thanks also to the Crown Reserves Committee for allowing us to do the prep work on the day before in the hall kitchen.

We are looking forward to running some more events like this and, when the weather improves, to dine at the Chapel as well to make it more of a community get together.

If you have any ideas or requests let us know. Rose, Edward and Robyn.

~ Robyn Zanon

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• GIG & EVENTS GUIDE •

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
<b>OCTOBER</b>		
Sat 1, 6-8pm	Michelle Nicolle Quartet	St Martins Chapel
Sat 1, 6pm on	The Duck Downpickers	Radio Springs
Sun 2, early arvo	Adam Spicer	St Anne's Winery
Sat 8, 8pm on	Rock n Co	Blackwood Pub
Sun 9, early arvo	Irish Jim	St Anne's Winery
Sat 15, 8:30pm on	Marty & Bec	Greendale Pub
Sun 16, early arvo	Bryan Sadler	St Anne's Winery
Sun 16, 3pm	Chris Meek	The Taproom, BM
Wed 19, 7:30-10pm	Paranormal investigation/ dinner	Blackwood Pub
Sat 22, 9am-2pm	Ballan Town Garage Sale	Pick up maps from Skin Inn
Sun 23, 1-4pm	Brian Sadler	Greendale Pub
Mon 31, 3-430pm	Halloween Trick or Treat	Blackwood
Mon 31, 5pm	Leroy Johnson & The Waterbag Band	St Martins Chapel
<b>NOVEMBER</b>		
Sat 5, 7-9:30pm	We Mavericks	St Martins Chapel
Wed 16, 7:30-10pm	Paranormal investigation/ dinner	Blackwood Pub
Sun 20, 3pm	Chris Meek	The Taproom, BM
Sun 20, 1-4pm	Brian Sadler	Greendale Pub
Sun 25, 8:30pm on	Marty & Bec	Greendale Pub
Sun 26, 9pm on	Back to Rock	Flanigans, BM
<b>REGULAR STUFF</b>		
Mon	Old Farts night & meat tray raffle	Blackwood Pub
Mon	Locals night dinner and drink specials	Pig and Whistle
2nd/4th Mon, 7-9pm	Christian Meditation	St Martins Chapel
Tues, 10-11am	Yoga	St Martins Chapel
Tues 11-11:30am	Meditation	St Martins Chapel
Tues 4-5pm	Lenten Study	St Martins Chapel
Tues 4:30pm on	Date night-mov/pizza	Radio Springs
Tues, 6pm or 7:30pm	Locals night	Chaplins
2nd Tues pm	Disco bingo	Pig and Whistle
Wed, 7-10pm	Taproom Trivia	The Taproom, BM
Wed evenings	Locals night specials	The Cosmo
Fri 6-8pm	Happy Hour	Blackwood Pub
Fri 5-8pm	Meat tray raffle/cocktail (730-930pm)	Greendale Pub
Fri pm	Meat tray raffle	The Cosmo
Fri pm	Raffle	Pig and Whistle
Last Fri monthly	Flashbanks w/ Ian Banks	The Taproom, BM
Sat pm	DJ, Duo or Band	Pig and Whistle
Sun	Pizza with live music	St Anne's Winery

**BALLAN TOWN GARAGE SALE**

It's a party of pre-loved stuff!

The town of Ballan will spring to life when it hosts a huge town-wide garage sale on Saturday, 22nd October from 9am to 2pm. There will be 1000's of pre-loved items for sale at multiple locations throughout town.

The organisers hope the day will attract visitors to the region, providing a boost to the local economy and the environment.

"Australians send thousands of tonnes of unwanted goods to landfill each year and events like this are a great way to extend the life of our things. People love garage sales because they are fun and thrifty and a great way to find a bargain. But they are sustainable too! By trading in our unwanted items instead of putting them in the bin, we are contributing to the circular economy and maximising all the energy and resources that goes into making the stuff we buy".

Maps of the garage sales around town are available for preorder now at <https://www.trybooking.com/CCWES>. They will also be available to purchase from The Skin Inn in Ballan from 15th October. Profits from map sales will be distributed among local community groups.

Thanks so much!

~ Melanie Boardman (Mel)

**BALLAN TOWN GARAGE SALE**

3342

**SATURDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2022**  
**9AM TO 2PM**

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• BEYOND BLACKWOOD •



**TRENTHAM DISTRICT FOOTBALL AND NETBALL CLUB INC.**

The 2022 season has ended and although the playing season is finished there is still a lot of work happening around the club. Preparation is underway to have the marquee and all the portable buildings removed over the next two weeks. It is anticipated that the new facilities build will be completed in November, we are looking forward to moving into our new home before season 2023 kicks off in April. Watch our socials for regular updates and details on registering for the 2023 season.

The club would like to express their gratitude to the entire Saints family for their support, this season has been a great success coming out of COVID with six out of ten teams making it to the finals. The committee have worked extremely hard to ensure that all areas of the club were functioning at their best throughout the season. Every challenge was met and defeated with true Saints fortitude and grit, congratulations to you all.



The Saints have taken out the Reserves Grand Final in 2022 continuing their fine form defeating Talbot to bring home the cup. Final Score Trentham 7.2.44 v Talbot 4.5.29. Best Players J Steen, M Peeler, C Whelan, D Reid, H Sundblom & J Beecham. Goal Kickers J Murphy D Reid 2, A Rintala R Tobin C Whelan 1.

Grand final celebrations continued well into the evening, the club

**Max Martin**  
**Administrator of**  
**The Year**

Sam Whitehouse  
Trentham FNC

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family is very proud of the Saints and their performance on Saturday. The boys found their rhythm early in the first quarter and didn't let up until the very final siren.

The Saints also attended the annual MCDFNL awards nights in September. Congratulations to Darcy Matricardi winning Football Rookie of The Year 2022, Darcy has been a welcome return to the club this year after having stints with NT Darwin Buffalos and NT Thunder. A strong junior and premiership player at Trentham, this year Darcy has cemented his position within the senior side and is more than holding his own in the midfield and forward line.

The Max Martin Administrator of The Year 2022 was awarded to our very own Sam Whitehouse. A well-deserved award for the most knowledgeable and compassionate administrator of all time, Sam the club would be lost without you. What you do is not unnoticed, and we are so very proud of all that you do. Thank You Superstar.

Junior presentation night will be held at Lyonville hall on 30 September 6pm & Senior presentation

night 1 October 6pm in the atrium at Sacred Heart College Kyneton, this is a ticketed event and players need to contact the club prior to the event.

The major raffle is to be drawn at the senior presentation night. The major raffle tickets for the domestic trailer, ride on mower & power tools are available at Community Bank Trentham & Districts and by messaging the club via social media or email. Get in quick as there are a limited number of tickets left.

All our info and contacts are on our website [www.trenthamsaintsfc.com](http://www.trenthamsaintsfc.com) and as always watch out on our social media platforms for upcoming events. Share our posts and tag the club #TrenthamSaints.

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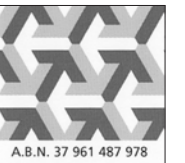
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