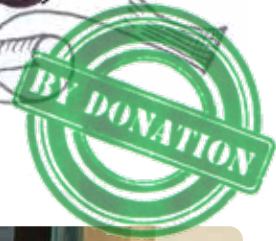


*February ~ March 2023 vol 14 ~ issue 15.5*

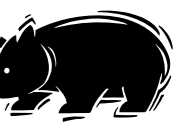


**MOORABOOL SHIRE COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR  
Blackwood Woodchop & Easter Carnival**

The Carnival celebrated its 120th year in 2022, with approximately 2,600 adults and 1,400 children attending the carnival on Easter Saturday. Although the event varies slightly from year to year, it remains true to its roots, celebrating simplicity, old style fun and the Carnival's history. Longstanding activities include the gumboot throw, a treasure hunt with map, pet show, children's running and novelty races, the Tug-O-War and the woodchop, which is the keystone event of the day. The event celebrates Blackwood's history, and the long-standing traditions of the event, which began as a town gathering and sports day. Gold panning instruction has been added to the day and a musical program has also been included. See page 14.



**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...

Blackwood is a busy place as highlighted in this issue. Over the past two months we've seen many gatherings, parties, farewells, community carols, babies born, a garage sale and care expressed for our wonderful forest environment amongst many other events. The glorious sunshine we have experienced over the past few weeks made these activities all the more delightful.

As Editor for the February-March issue, I am particularly pleased with two stories I hope you find as interesting as I did. Firstly, we have an entertaining insight into a bunch of Melbournians who have been coming to our little town for the past fifty years to play cricket. No wonder they want to play here! Our oval, as we all know, surrounded by magnificent trees is the perfect place to spend the day. Secondly, I felt privileged to interview an amazing local, John Nugent. In an edited version of that interview, John takes us on an interesting journey through his life and career. Starting as an engineer on the nation-building Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Scheme, he was employed by the US Navy to help NASA put a man on the moon!

Blackwood and its people are certainly a talented and diverse bunch. Thanks to the herculean efforts of Jinny and Brendan, The Blackwood Times was a finalist in this year's Community Newspaper Association's awards. Excellent work you two! Blackwood also won the Moorabool Shire's Community Event of the Year Award for its massively attended Woodchop & Easter Carnival. Congratulations to everyone who helped run that brilliant event.

On behalf of the team of nine people now tasked with putting together the Blackwood Times, I will say thank you for your support in this time of transition, and we welcome feedback and comments.

A big thanks also to Dave Commins for content coordination and publication design. Enjoy the warmth, and long may it last!

~Jeanne Tahini (February - March Editor)~

### the BLACKWOOD TIMES info

The BLACKWOOD TIMES invites submissions from the community. If you're at a local event please take a photo or two & write a few lines, or even submit a **non-political** cartoon to share in our community news. Deadlines are as follows:

Advertisement bookings	<b>Mar 15</b>	
Regular contributors, features & items of interest, community groups & clubs	<b>Mar 15</b>	
Display ad artwork		<b>Mar 20</b>
Late breaking news (100 words max)		<b>Mar 20</b>

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

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

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

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

[theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au](http://theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au)

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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.

## BLACKWOOD TIMES ANNOUNCED AS BEST NEWSPAPER FINALIST

*Each year Victoria's peak community newspaper association (CNAV) holds awards in a number of categories in which 70+ members can enter.*

Entries must be published between September the previous year and August in the current year. As CNAV member's for over 15 years, the Blackwood Times has been awarded winner and finalist in Best Community Content, Best Design & Layout, Best Photograph & Best History article.

The one category we have never entered is (what we've always felt was) the most intimidating one – Best Newspaper. This category recognises excellence in layout, style & content. The entry is three separate issues of the whole publication. We never entered this one because we never wanted a polished magazine, we always wanted to reflect our community spirit – higgledy piggledy, spirited, opinionated and, as Brendan and I often say, prickly.

Last year I was encouraged to submit an entry into this category so I chose the Aug Sept '21, Oct Nov '21 & Dec Jan '22 issue. These were the 3 consecutive issues that focussed on the big storm or cool climate cyclone – thus reflecting our community connection and resilience in a climate anomaly.

In 2022 best newspaper was judged by Jeanette Severs who has been a journalist for nearly 40 years and has won a number of industry awards. She was editor of a regional community newspaper for nearly seven years. Other than that most of her work as a journalist has been in mainstream rural and regional media and industry magazines.

In judging the awards she said "There were 19 newspapers that entered, with 3 copies each". She described her process "I start off with one pile and that devolves into 2 piles. One pile is the newspapers I've judged worthy of being finalists and one pile is the non-finalists. Then I take the stack of newspapers that are finalists and I go through them a second time, judging them about whether they're worthy of a place, or remain in the finalist's group. Once I had chosen the four publications worthy of a place, I read through those entries again and – I'll be honest – this year there was one publication that stood out consistently through each judging round for winner. So the hardest job I had this year was choosing which publications were worthy of 2nd and 3rd place, and finalists. And at home I now have a stack of newspapers that I want to re-read their stories, this time as a reader, not as a judge."

The Blackwood Times is so incredibly proud of this award – it is a marvellous acknowledgment of our work and I look forward to many new awards submitted & won by our new team of volunteers who are working hard to make The Blackwood Times an outstanding bi-monthly paper that the community & tourists alike love.

~ Jinny Coyle ~



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### 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)
Nov '22	126.2	75.8	-0.7	24.7	15.9	5.6	10.4
Dec '22	48.3	61.6	0.2	33.2	21.7	6.9	13.8

### SOME MEMORIES OF FLOODS AT BLACKWOOD

My grandma Lucy Sweet was prone to repeating many stories of the old days at Blackwood and one of her favourites was that of the big flood of August 1909 when the reservoir at Simmons Reef burst.

This was also described by our Blackwood historian, Margot Hitchcock, in an earlier Blackwood Times edition. At least 5 bridges were swept away and considerable damage was done to some properties including fences, orchards and the recreation reserve had 6 feet of water over it. This resulted in the cricket pavilion and the dressing room being deposited at the bottom end of the reserve. Ten goats were also swept away with only one surviving. No residences were damaged, according to what was recorded in The Express 28th August 1909.

In more recent times, we kids would marvel at the changes to our favourite swimming holes particularly the mineral pool near the camping ground. This is where I learnt to swim at the age of 7. Being by myself one morning, I finally got the courage to dog paddle over some deep water. After one particular flood, the topography totally changed and it created a much larger pool which was welcomed by us kids.

Floods at various times have damaged or swept away many bridges and have resulted in more robust bridge replacements. I don't ever remember a flood that reached the bottom of the mineral spring over the bridge as shown in the Dec22 - Jan 23 issue of the Blackwood Times. This is to be expected as October this year had the highest rainfall on record being 237.5mm. We can be grateful that Blackwood is not located on a flood plain.

However, with Climate Change, we may expect flooding in the future in areas previously not affected.

I have a photo of a friend behaving foolishly by hanging from one arm with the other hand raised dangling over raging flood waters on the bridge across the N Blackwood Road crossing of the Lerderderg at Golden Point taken many years ago. In our younger days we were prone to do risky things but with age one becomes much more cautious and sensible.

~ Don Owen ~



Photo taken in the mid eighties, no one was harmed

## Blackwood Times supports our community. Your advertising helps Blackwood directly.

The Blackwood Times is a community newspaper run by volunteers that connects the community of Blackwood and its immediate surrounds by dispersing information, news & items of general interest.

It aims to foster understanding as the demographics of the area change, as well as provide a platform for locals to showcase their creative skills & voice opinion.

The Blackwood Times is a bi-monthly community service published by The Blackwood Times Vic Inc. Publication costs are met through the support of advertisers & donations, and in return the Blackwood Times will continue to support community groups and projects.

Your advertising investment will ensure that your business will be seen by residents and visitors to Blackwood, Trentham and Greendale with a print run of 500 copies and an average of 4,000 downloads per issue from our website:

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

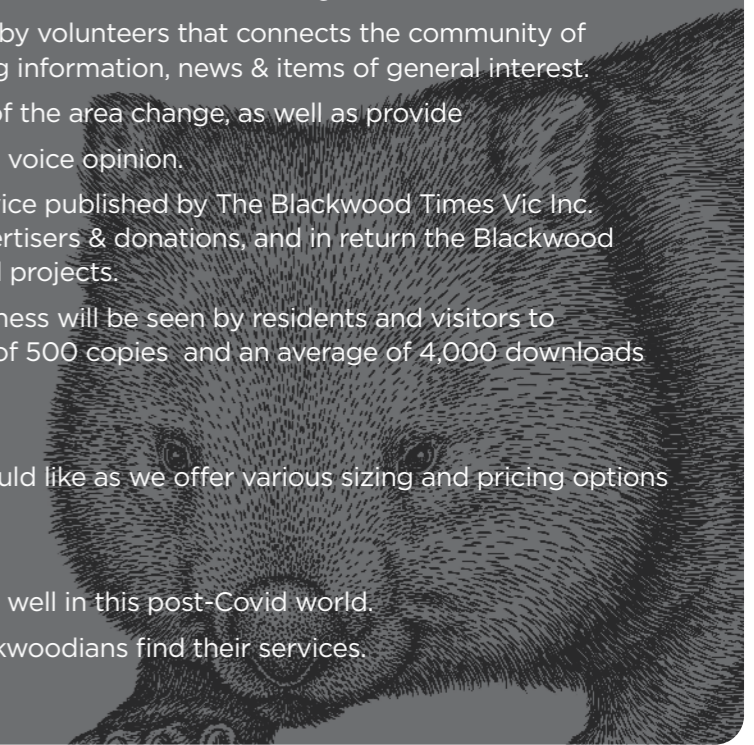
Your investment can be as small or as large as you would like as we offer various sizing and pricing options which are outlined on our website.

The Blackwood Times needs:

- An advertising coordinator to help the Times survive well in this post-Covid world.
- Advertisers who promote their services to help Blackwoodians find their services.

Please email [team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au](mailto:team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au)

The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.





### BLACKWOOD MAKERS



This month's Blackwood Maker is Collette Tennant. Collette and partner Ross are recent Blackwood arrivals – slightly north of 12 months. Loving it already, they say! Originally From Ballarat, Collette is a qualified Dress Maker and Tailor, known by many locals as 'the go-to person' for quality clothing repairs.

Collette can make anything from children's clothes to Halloween costumes. She even sews wedding dresses, albeit far and few between these days. "People rarely understand how many hours goes into a custom wedding dress – typically 100's of hours", says Collette. When it comes to her wider range of work, Collette is perhaps best known for her handmade bags – each wonderfully unique and colourful.

**Q: How did you get started with this?**

**Collette:** The pandemic was a tough time for Tailors, we were unable to do clothing repairs due to regulations, so I had to come up with something. Some of my friends were making small cloth bowls in a similar fashion. So, I started to experiment making bowls too. This led to my first prototype bag. I liked what I was seeing but also wanted some lively colour, and that's why I explored hand dyed threads woven into the multi-colour string bags. Having mastered a few designs, I then started selling some of my bags at the retail store where I work part time.

I'm now looking to expand my range and perhaps start selling my crafts at the next town market. I'm also interested in collaborating with other local makers to create hamper packages together, especially for special events such as Mother's Day.

**Q: The colours are fantastic, do you purchase the material this way, or make it yourself?**

**Collette:** Actually I hand die the coloured string. So my bags really are handmade in every respect – dying, stitching, assembly... everything. It's quite a process to get it all 'just' right and the dyeing itself requires many steps. Each bag is genuinely unique.

To find out more about Collette's products, prices, clothing alterations and repairs please call 0402 286 923 or "Beautiful Heart Designs" on Facebook.

~ Paul Kukiel ~

**The Blackwood Hat Shoppe**



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

### WOMBAT ACTION GROUP UPDATE

VicForests 'timber salvage operation' throughout the Wombat State Forest, is being questioned by members of the community and the Wombat Action Group (WAG). The ongoing 'storm recovery' project was meant to see VicForests only remove the storm-fallen timber, however locals believe the logging contractors are also felling a large number of standing healthy trees.

"Many in the Wombat community feel this 'timber salvage' is a guise for large scale logging; something that would damage our valuable forest ecosystems and damage areas proposed as a national park by the government", said Angela Taylor-Haplin, a retired CSIRO science communicator and now forest activist.

VicForests has finished logging areas in Barkstead and is currently logging forests around Bullarto, on Wombat Creek and Osborne Roads. Many believe once Bullarto has been logged they will then move to Blackwood and Barry's Reef.

Community members are questioning whether the logging operation is legal.

"Recently, VicForests lost a Supreme Court case that determined its surveying of forests before logging, and protections for rare wildlife, was inadequate. In these forests we have listed rare species that are likely being killed; Koalas and Greater Gliders for example", Angela said.

After the Judgment and Orders were handed down, VicForests instructed its logging contractors to halt operations statewide. The court allowed VicForests to only remove already felled trees until adequate surveys were carried out and protections were in place. However, locals claim they have found machines felling healthy standing trees, dramatically increasing the area of damaged forests around Wombat Creek road.

"We are also very concerned to see log trucks without registration plates operating throughout the Wombat Forest carrying these fresh logs. Along with the fact that we are not receiving answers from VicForests or the logging regulator, we have reason to suspect that this is not all above-board and stretching the definition of storm felled trees" Angela said.

~ Wombat Action Group ~



Wombat Creek Road, Bullarto, logging coup

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### BEFORE I CAME TO BLACKWOOD

**John Nugent**

*Interviewed by Jeanne Tahini*

**Q: When did you come to Blackwood?**

I came to Blackwood from Melbourne in 2012 and continued to travel to and fro as I was working as the Security Officer for Instra Corporation, the second largest internet registrar licenced to distribute domain names for websites. It was a hard commute as I drove early morning in the dark, and mostly got home around midnight. I called it the kangaroo run as kangaroos were a danger in the dark. Before the mobile tower came to Blackwood there was no ability to work from home.

**Q: What training did you have?**

I graduated from the University of Queensland in electrical engineering in 1962. This was in the time the government of Robert Menzies had a recession, a credit squeeze, which affected the whole of Australia and so I took the first job that was offered to me-repairing TV sets, as few people knew then how a TV set worked.

After this I felt I was rescued by the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Authority. I was hired as a Remote Control and Telemetry Engineer. The Snowy Scheme had an advanced remote operation of the power stations and big penstocks, which control the flow of water. This was pertinent experience for NASA as they were working out telemetry and control for spacecraft. NASA asked the Australian Government to put forward suitably qualified people and I was flown on a DC-6, to Perth for an interview, in which I was successful.

When I got the job I was shipped off to Wallops Island Virginia, the headquarters of the US Navy 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet, and I was employed by the Navy not NASA. The Navy was awarded by NASA, the contract to maintain and operate the manned space flight network. The reason that we worked for the Navy was that they had, in those times, to fish out the spacecraft from the ocean when it came back to earth and landed with parachutes in the ocean. The Navy also ran a whole fleet of ships that were capable of tracking. Navy pilots were the first astronauts and the Navy ran the ground-based stations and the recovery vessels. There was a great deal of maintenance associated with the whole program. The ground stations needed to be calibrated as the Navy planes would fly over and the tracking station would then track and calibrate the equipment effectively. Wallops Island is where the nuclear submarines were developed. I stayed at the Navy base for about 6 months learning about NASA's systems.

After my training, I was employed and was working in a tracking station on orbits for the Gemini and Mercury space programs. These were manned low-energy, near-earth orbits which needed tracking stations using earth intersection orbits. If not set up properly these experimental flights could be a death trap. At this time radar was not accurate enough and ground stations were needed to track spacecraft accurately.

At Houston Space Center they had computers that generated pointing data. After a rocket was fired off from Florida the pointing data was used from each of the earth tracking stations. Australia had two tracking stations in Western Australia – Muchae and Carnarvon. My daughter Luise, who lives in Blackwood, was born when I was stationed at Carnarvon. She is a genuine paid-up space girl!

**Q: How much security was around at this time?**

There was very little security needed at this time as the internet was not around.

We were sworn to secrecy and I had to sign a confidentiality agreement.

In Carnarvon WA, with a team sent from America, we installed the new equipment that was shipped over. The computers were very advanced and specially built. They were military models of the Univac 1218 computers. Univac were the people that invented computers, though there is much argument about this, but I will go with this story as I knew the individuals.

**Q: Where did you get your engineering brain?**

It is a matter of pride in our family that we have engineers. My son is an engineer and my grandfather was also an engineer who brought in the Chillago mine and worked on the Mount Morgan mine in Queensland.

After I left NASA and Carnarvon I was very hot property as few people knew as much about computers as I did. I took a job as Project Manager for Univac and installed the world's second cable telegraph system which replaced the manual telegraph system. With computerisation, telegram transmission became automatic. The second cable telegraph system to be installed was booked for Hong Kong and my family and I were shipped off to Hong Kong. My children went to early school there. At this time, the main frame computers were about the size of a refrigerator and were state-of-the-art modern things with semi-conductors. I was employed by Cable and Wireless (Britain) which eventually became Vodafone. The first cable service went into Montreal, in Canada, and the second one was in Hong Kong, and the one I worked on.

**Q: You have lived in many places that have been attached to projects that you have worked on. Which world and project did you find the most interesting?**

There's no doubt, it was Project Apollo. I got to meet scientists that were doing ground-breaking work. When I joined NASA, I joined for project Gemini. NASA wanted to put two men in a capsule in space. Gemini is the Greek word for twin. Project Gemini had a lot of different purposes and importantly it was preparing hardware for project Apollo, and the moon landings. For the moon shot they had a maneuver called the trans-lunar injection and this was trialled with Project Gemini. With Project Apollo, NASA needed a restart-able rocket. Having got to the moon successfully, they needed to get back to Earth again. It was an exciting time as it was focused on discovery.

One of the things Korean leader Kim Jung Un managed to do in the last few years, was to build his rockets using NASA technology and hypergolic fuel. NASA did not make a secret of what they did and the information was freely available. The technology involved two tanks in a rocket, one for the oxidant and one for the acid and the joining of the two is blown into the rocket bowel. Where they meet, they explode so there is no need for an ignition. It's a timing matter.

The most exciting thing I have ever done is to fly a warbird across the Pacific. This was a flying boat called the Grumman Albatross which was built for the US Navy and was wheeled out of the hanger on the last day of World War II. It was bought out of the 'boneyard' in Arizona by the owner of the Tocumwal Sportavia Gliding Company. Four glider pilots crewed the Albatross. I will have to tell you this story another time!



John Nugent at the Univac 1218 computer at Carnarvon Tracking Station, 1966



## STOLEN - JACKSON'S GULLY GOLD DISCOVERY PLAQUE



The plaque commemorating the discovery of gold at Jackson's Gully was stolen off the Golden Point Road monument, and was noticed missing in December 2022. Local CFA members Ken Whiffen and Ross Hall were heading out to do a burn off in early December, when Ken noticed it missing and pulled over to inspect the theft and damage. Ken was also originally involved with installing the rock and plaque at Golden Point. The barren stone monument still sits on the hair pin corner of Golden Point Road, next to Jackson's Gully.

The plaque was placed on a large rock to honour the discovery of gold in Blackwood by the Progress Association sometime in the late 1990's according to Elizabeth Hall (Secretary of the Blackwood Historical Society), and was sponsored by the Community Support Fund, Victoria. The plaque reads:

**GOLD FIRST FOUND  
AT  
JACKSON'S GULLY, GOLDEN POINT  
BY 2 TEAMSTERS  
ON  
SUNDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 1854**

An excerpt from Melton Express, 24th September 1927 tells the tale:

*"Harry Athorn and Harry Hider were the first to discover gold at Blackwood.*

*They made the discovery in the latter part of 1854. Six bullocks that had got away from earlier carters were generally known to be there, on the Laradoc (as the Lerderberg was colloquially, and, perhaps, correctly styled by the early settlers), and previous attempts to get them had proved unsuccessful.*

*Athorn and Hider went on three different Sundays to seek them, and on the last occasion, when in the vicinity they were supposed to be running, they stopped about mid-day to have lunch on the bank of the creek where Golden point now is.*

*The water was clear. While eating their lunch they saw water-worn gold at the bottom of the stream. They collected as much as was visible.*

*Overjoyed at their discovery, they returned with the gold, and two of the bullocks, blazing a track out to make sure of finding the place again.*

*As soon as they returned to East Ballan a party was made up to prospect the discovery, composed of Athorn, Hider, and three others named Jackson, Dungey, and Bellinger. The arrangement being that they all were to share equally in any gold discovered. Jackson, Dungey, and Bellinger were to do the prospecting, while Athorn and Hider found them in food and other requisites.*

*The prospectors began work on Jackson's Gully (named after one of them), and they camped on the far side of the creek, where the Golden point bridge is."*

Unfortunately, the plaque was able to be easily removed by the thieves, as it was glued onto the stone. Needless to say, it is very disappointing and disturbing to have lost an important marker of Blackwood's history, and hopefully will be replaced by the Blackwood Community in the near future. Look for further information regarding the history of Jackson's Gully in upcoming issues of the Blackwood Times, by Margot Hitchcock. If you have any further information, please email team@theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au.

~ Noelle Schader ~

## A STORY IN TIME

### Blackwood Vintage Fashion Exhibition – call out for your submissions

A group of Blackwoodians, with support from the Blackwood Progress Association, intend to hold a vintage fashion exhibition in Blackwood in mid 2023 and need your help.

Some garments can tell a story, remind you of a special person or prompt memories of an iconic event, so we hold onto them, even if we have no intention of ever wearing them again. We'd love to help share the stories behind the garments or accessories that might be hidden in the back of your wardrobe (or in a box in your garage). Perhaps you have an item that:

- was handed down to you
- you would never throw away
- you wore to an important event in your life
- reminds you of a special someone
- was the most gorgeous (or hideous) thing that you ever wore

If you have a garment (or accessory) which you think might be suitable to include in the exhibition please send a photo and brief details of its history to [astoryintimeblackwood@gmail.com](mailto:astoryintimeblackwood@gmail.com) or contact Deirdre (0427016284) or Sophie (0421 655 786). We're also seeking display items like mannequins and props. Submissions due March 31st. Any items lent for display will be looked after with the greatest care.

~ Author(s): Exhibition team - Deirdre Cronin, Sue Donnelly, Sophie Guerin & Louise Scott ~



Vintage 1957 Going Away Honeymoon Dress. A Story in Time of love, fashion and memories.

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## ELEANOR TAYLOR AND THE BARRYS REEF SCHOOL

Eleanor Taylor who organised the Planting of the Avenue of Honour, Barrys Reef 1919.

Courtesy of Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society. January 2023.

BARRYS REEF STATE SCHOOL No. 885. - Head Teacher Eleanor Taylor from 1907-1921.

Miss Eleanor Taylor (known as Nellie) was Head Teacher at the Barrys Reef school for 14 years, 1907-1921. The longest time a Head Teacher was there. Nellie was born in Barrys Reef to Margaret Taylor nee Denn and George Robinson Taylor. Her father was a miner and had a partnership with John Mounter in the Robin Hood mine located on the Annie Laurie Reef. The family lived in a house in a street now called Flemings Lane in Barrys Reef. Nellie's sister was Isabella Margaret Fleming, who was Vern Fleming's mother. When her sister was eight weeks old the family moved into the new house which later became the Fleming's holiday home, now over 100 years.

In 1919 the School Committee and Miss Taylor planted 29 Elm trees as an Avenue of Honour on Arbour Day. They were assisted by the pupils and a number of relatives of the men who had served in the First World War. Each tree had a metal nameplate and this was attached to two big pieces of hardwood that had come from the poppet head of the Sultan Mine which was being dismantled at the time. The reason being that a large number of the 29 men had been employed in some capacity at the mine prior to 1914. Miss Taylor carried countless buckets of water from mine holes to try to keep the trees alive during the summer months, but only two trees survived that of Will Broad and Fred Rattray.

Miss Taylor resigned as Head Teacher in 1921 because of her mother's failing health, as she was nearly bed-ridden. After her mother died, Eleanor Taylor resigned from the Education Department and lived on in Barrys reef living the last twelve months of her life living with her nephew Vern Fleming and his wife. Eleanor Taylor died on August 11 1946 and was buried in the Blackwood cemetery with her family.

Of interest the Barrys Reef School No. 885 closed in 1928 and Mr.H.H. Cann (Senior) purchased the remaining school buildings 53' x 20' (built December 1875) for the sum of £35 for the author's grandfather, Mr Walter Warner and grandmother, Mrs Dot Warner nee Conlon. From the timber of the school, two houses were built, one 'Lumeah' on the road to the Sports Ground in Blackwood, and sold, and the other house 'Wannawong', was kept as a holiday house for the Warner family, which has now been passed down to Margot Hitchcock's family. It stands on a hill on the main road into Blackwood on the corner of Warner Street, one house up from the Blackwood

Historical society's Museum.

The builders of both houses were Mr. H.H. Cann Snr., Mr. Magnus Williamson and Herb Cann Jnr. who was 14 yrs at the time. The house is now in the possession of the author's family who use it still as a holiday house.

Photos below: The Hitchcock family holiday house at Blackwood. C. 1960. Barrys Reef School no. 885, with the school garden and children. C.1890. Margot's family at Blackwood house - back - Walter Warner, Dot Warner, (grandparents) Dorothy Roberts (Mother) Jill Roberts (sister) - Nina (sister) and Margot Roberts. (self)

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

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

~ Margot Hitchcock, Historian ~



## MOORABOOL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Feb 8	6-8pm	Community Emergency Management Planning Workshop	Blackwood Hall
Feb 9	6-8pm	Community Emergency Management Planning Workshop	Korweinguboora Recreation Reserve Hall
Feb 19	9am-4pm	Mental Health First Aid Training (Day 1 of 2)	Blackwood Hall
Feb 26	9am-4pm	Mental Health First Aid Training (Day 2 of 2)	Blackwood Hall
Mar 18/19		Community Arts Program	Blackwood Hall

Submitted by Amanda Western, Storm Recovery Officer, Moorabool Shire

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OPEN DAY  
11th MAR 10-4  
50th Anniversary  
at the Stables**



# FIRE AUTHORITIES URGE THE PUBLIC TO HELP PREVENT CAMPFIRE CATASTROPHES

The Conservation Regulator, Parks Victoria, Forest Fire Management Victoria, and the County Fire Authority are banding together to warn Victorians about the risks of unsafe campfires and barbecues as tens-of-thousands of people prepare to take a long weekend.

For those taking the opportunity to turn the public holiday into a long weekend of outdoor activities, vigilance around campfires and barbecues is crucial to decrease the risk of fires, whether at home or on public land.

With plenty of grass growth on public and private land in recent months, unattended campfires and barbecues could quickly escape and spark bushfires. Conservation Regulator and Parks Victoria Authorised Officers, and Forest Fire Management Victoria crews will patrol campsites on public land to educate campers and enforce campfire rules to keep visitors and the environment safe.

Forest Fire Management Victoria crews have already responded to 96 unattended campfires on public land this summer, many of which escaped and caused larger fires.

Fire services are also warning those cranking up the barbecue at home to take care to avoid causing fires or burn injuries. CFA volunteer firefighters responded to almost 200 barbecue and other outside cooking equipment-related fires across the state last financial year.

Visitors to public land are responsible for checking fire danger ratings and weather conditions before lighting a campfire or barbecue, and for ensuring fires comply with safety rules. Wrongdoers on public land face on-the-spot fines of \$555 or a maximum penalty of \$18,174 if the matter is prosecuted in court.

The maximum penalty for lighting or maintaining a fire during a Total Fire Ban is \$43,617 and/or two years in jail. Report unattended campfires to 136 186 or call 000 to report a bushfire.

For more information about rules in state forests, including campfires and vehicle use, visit [vic.gov.au/rules-in-state-forests](http://vic.gov.au/rules-in-state-forests). For information on barbecue safety, visit [cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fires-in-the-home/barbeque-fire-safety](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fires-in-the-home/barbeque-fire-safety)

Quote attributable to Chief Conservation Regulator Kate Gavens

"After a wet spring, summer is well and truly here and the risk of an unattended campfire becoming a bushfire is still high. Those who ignore the rules will face penalties."

Quote attributable to Forest Fire Management Victoria Chief Fire Officer Chris Hardman

"Just one spark from an unattended campfire is enough to have devastating consequences. Never light a fire on a Total Fire Ban day, never leave a campfire unattended, and always have enough water to fully extinguish a campfire before you leave. It should be cool to touch."

Quotes attributable to Parks Victoria Director Fire, Emergency and Enforcement David Nugent

"We know people will be keen to get back into nature following the wet summer we have had. Fire risk may not seem as obvious this year, but hot weather and windy days can change things very quickly. Always check weather conditions and park closures before you head into the bush."

Quotes attributable to CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan

"Conditions have been heating up in recent weeks which has dried vegetation out considerably, so I urge all Victorians ahead of this weekend to check the Fire Danger Ratings and to heed our warnings before heading out and about."

### Campfire safety:

In state forests, use a purpose-built fireplace if available, otherwise dig a trench at least 30cm deep.

In national parks, fires can only be lit in purpose-built fireplaces.

The campfire must not exceed one square metre, and three metres above and around your fire must be clear of flammable material.

- Branches and logs on your campfire must be no longer than one metre.
- Never leave a campfire unattended – always stay within line of sight.
- Campfires must be extinguished with water, not soil, as fires can still smoulder under soil. If the remains of campfire, including coals, are cool to touch, they are safe to leave.
- All rubbish must be taken home with you, not burned.

### Barbecue safety:

- If a fire occurs, turn off the gas at the cylinder or meter, but only if safe to do so. In most cases this should allow the fire to extinguish itself. If you're unable to extinguish the fire safely, call Triple Zero (000).
- Check the LP gas cylinder on your barbecue before you turn it on. A cylinder must not be refilled if it hasn't been tested for more than 10 years or if the cylinder has been damaged.
- Check the hose to make sure it has not deteriorated.
- Check the connections to make sure they are tight and that the O-rings are in good condition and have not cracked or split.
- Check for gas leaks by spraying soapy water on the connections and hoses. Bubbles will appear if there is a leak when you turn on the gas.
- Use your barbecue in a clear space. Never use it indoors or in a confined area and ensure there is adequate clearance from walls, fences, and other property.
- Cook with barbecue utensils and wear an apron to protect yourself from hot fat.
- Remove excess fat from the barbecue after each use to prevent fires.
- Do not use barbecues in windy conditions as the burners may blow out, risking a gas leak.

### Charcoal burner barbecue safety:

- Use your charcoal burner in a clear space. Never use it indoors or in a confined area and ensure there is adequate clearance from walls, fences, and other property.
- Never dispose of or handle old coals until they are completely cold.
- To eliminate the possibility of accidental flare ups, always cool down old charcoal and ash but slowly pouring water over the charcoal and stirring to completely eliminate the possibility of dormant embers re-igniting.
- Be careful adding water too fast to hot coals as this can create hot steam which can burn. Make sure you pour slowly to avoid creating hot steam.
- Once charcoal and ash is completely cold, it can be disposed of safely.

April Dudgeon | Media and Communications Advisor | Office of the Conservation Regulator



### Australia Day flag raising ceremony

On Jan 26 a small group of Blackwoodians raised the Indigenous flag along with the Australian flag in recognition of the First Nations peoples.

~ Jinny Coyle & Caitlin Perry ~

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# COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM VOLUNTEERS

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) [volunteers](#) are dispatched at the same time as an ambulance to potentially time-critical emergencies within their local community. CERTs are trained in providing basic emergency care services within their local community until the ambulance arrives. They do not transport patients, but provide emergency response in locations that have a low caseload and limited ambulance coverage. (Source [www.ambulance.vic.gov.au](http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au))

Our local communities have been fortunate to have been served by Blackwood & District CERT for 20 years. This milestone was celebrated with a gathering at St Martin's Chapel on 3 December 2022.

We were thrilled to see existing and past First Responders, friends and family, Ambulance Victoria Regional and State Managers and others join together to mark this milestone in the life of our community. L-R Kirsty Vella (ex-CERT) Leonie Brasier, Zachary Harper, Dr David Anderson (Clinical Director, AV), Jaikie Ludwig (ex-CERT) Simon Vendy (Team Manager, Ballan), Ivan Johnston (ex-CERT), Sandy Meade (ex-CERT 2002), Aleisha Robinson (Acting Regional Manager) Jan Ogle (CERT Team Leader) Marie-Clare Blin, Kathy Berrill.

Many others were present – this is a snap shot of some who gathered together.

The gathering was a great opportunity to look back over the history of the Team through the visual display highlighting milestones in its history - thank you Kathie Strmota for your strong work in digitising the 20 years of records, to preserve this local story which started out in 2001. A snapshot of that history is:

Early 2001 A group of locals (from Blackwood and Trentham) were concerned at the towns distance from the nearest Ambulance Station – meaning long delays for response and treatment in a medical emergency.

Mid 2001 following public meetings and the formation of a Steering Committee, a submission was put to Rural Ambulance Victoria (it was then separate to metro services) to form a local volunteer staffed, Ambulance trained Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) . At that time CERTs were a new concept and Blackwood had put up its community hand to be a trial site. That honour went to Lavers Hill in the Otways.

April 2002 a delegation including local MP, Don Nardella, set off to Laver's Hill on a fact finding trip as part of the local campaign for our community. Fate intervened when the MP's vehicle was involved in a minor accident and the local CERT turned up to render assistance. This was proof of concept in real time – CERT arrived on scene in less than 10 minutes, whilst the nearest ambulance was over 30 minutes away. June 2002 Blackwood & District CERT approved and a grant of \$130,000.00 allocated to set up and train the Team who were "supervised" by the Committee of Management.

30 November 2002 After recruiting and training up the Team (completion of Cert II Emergency Medical Services) an official Graduation Dinner was held, with CERT responding to their first call outs for help on 1 December 2002.

In the years since, there have been many changes of people, processes and governance as CERT evolved in response to the changed organizational structure following Rural Ambulance Victoria merging with metro to form "Ambulance Victoria" ("AV").

Operationally, this saw a huge change in the training and support for our volunteers as well as a change of uniform from the dapper green to navy blue. Importantly, in 2015, CERTs were absorbed into AV as an integral operating unit of it, rather than being operated via the original Committee of Management structure. This integration led to improved volunteer conditions and opportunities – with CERTs having access to similar benefits to professional paramedics and opportunities to progress to full status via a scholarship program. (We currently have 3 current or former volunteers who have taken up that opportunity).

Other volunteers have used the training and contacts formed to forge careers in other areas of emergency management and health care – all whilst retaining their commitment to the locals.

One issue that has been on the agenda since the inception of Blackwood CERT is a "home". Locals have been very generous in their support of this quest over many years and together we have raised a substantial sum towards the build. The issue has always been "Where?"

Many people and groups over the years have put time and effort into resolving this issue and it was fantastic that as part of our 20th Anniversary celebration, a formal announcement was made that Blackwood CERT will soon have its own home. In what is a great outcome for the community, separate housing will be built for the CERT vehicle at the rear of the CFA Refuge, with access to and use of kitchen, toilet and training facilities.

We thank the CFA -both the local team and regional management in working with AV to make this happen – and for having us as "house-mates" for the last few years.

The money raised over the years by the community will go towards the costs of this facility, which will ensure the longevity of CERT and make life and service an easier proposition. We are hopeful of having the build completed and moving into our new home by our 21st!

At our 20 year mark, we look back with huge gratitude for the help and support of so many over so long and look forward to welcoming new volunteers to keep supporting this local service into the future (see [www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/volunteers](http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/volunteers))

~ Blackwood CERTies ~





### REPLY FROM THE MINSTER'S OFFICE

The following letter is the response to the Landcare Letter (Issue 15.4, December 22 - January 23, page 17) to Mary-Anne Thomas MP, State Member for Macedon

REF: CORG-2-280036

Dear Mr Hotchin

#### WOMBAT STATE FOREST SALVAGE OPERATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF BLACKWOOD

Thank you for your letters of 31 October 2022 and 24 June 2022 addressed to the Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas MP, the former Minister for Agriculture, regarding Wombat State Forest salvage operations in the vicinity of Blackwood.

This correspondence has been delegated to me for response in my capacity as Deputy Secretary, Forestry, Resources and Climate Change. As you are aware, in June 2021 a significant storm caused widespread damage across large areas of Victoria, impacting around 1.97 million hectares of public land, with more damage caused after further storms on 29 October 2021. One area that was severely impacted was the Wombat State Forest, which has resulted in a significant amount of fallen and hazardous trees and debris.

The Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, trading as DJAARA, has partnered with VicForests to assist in restoring Country in the Wombat State Forest and surrounding areas following the 2021 storms. I welcome this agreement with the Traditional Owners which represents a first of its kind. I encourage you to seek out the statements made by the CEO of DJAARA, Rodney Carter, on the importance of these works to DJAARA.

VicForests is also working with the Wurrundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to progress works to restore Country in the areas surrounding Blackwood. All such works are to be undertaken with the agreement of the relevant Registered Aboriginal Party to ensure they are done in alignment with their desires for long-term management of Country.

All VicForests' harvesting operations comply with the requirements outlined within the Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014 (the Code). As the storms did not have a uniform impact on these areas, each affected site will be assessed to determine the most appropriate treatment for rehabilitation.

This work will be conducted in partnership with the relevant Traditional Owners of the land, in addition to VicForests' own adaptive management procedures. This includes the management of threatened flora and fauna, old growth forest, rainforest, and cultural heritage and historic values.

Unlike operations after wildfire, windthrow recovery operations have the advantage of ground cover still being in place. This assists to control and slow the overland flow of water following rainfall events. Any soil disturbance associated with any Forest Recovery operations will be managed in accordance with standard timber harvesting practices including the provision of buffers on streams in accordance with the Code.

In many areas the vast number of trees on the ground are inhibiting passage for wildlife and local communities, therefore removal of significant amounts of this debris is expected to improve amenity for wildlife and visitors alike. Not all the fallen timber will be removed, so there will still be timber on the ground to provide different forms of habitat as it decays into the future. The number of standing trees which were not blown over in the storms will also continue to provide habitat.

VicForests is working with Traditional Owner groups on all operations it undertakes on the Forest Recovery Timber Utilisation Plan (TUP). In doing so, VicForests aims to assist them to realise their own ambitions for these areas. An interactive map and details of this TUP are available online at <https://www.vicforests.com.au/tup>.

VicForests would be happy to meet with the Blackwood and Barry's Reef Landcare Group to discuss the concerns noted in your email. If this would be of interest to you, please contact Anna Stefanatos at [vfs.engage@vicforests.com.au](mailto:vfs.engage@vicforests.com.au) to arrange a suitable time.

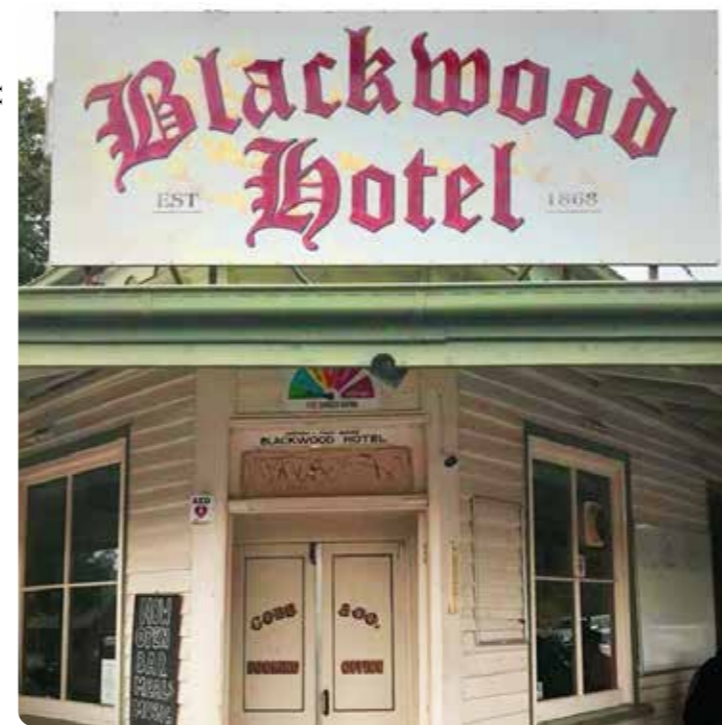
Thank you for taking the time to write and I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely

Paul Smith

Deputy Secretary, Forestry, Resources and Climate Change

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Locals recently gathered for a working bee to give our cherished pub a much needed clean out, complete with a revitalised sign, Thanks to Brendan and the gang!



### BLACKWOOD PUB NEWS

#### HUGE Thanks Ebonnie, Bec and the crew!

Late last year the current publican of our local pub commenced extended leave. The dynamic duo from Dales Creek, Rebecca and Ebonnie, were both already working long hours at the pub on top of their day jobs when they decided to go all in to keep the pub running. The pub has had long periods of closure for various reasons in recent years and the girls were determined to make sure that we all continued to have a place to catch up and unwind.

Over the last 8 weeks the pub has gone from strength to strength thanks to the efforts of Eb and Bec, along with their partners Jarod and Troy. We have had plenty of entertainment options with everything from pub rock to karaoke to drag shows and the numbers showing up for these events have indicated our gratitude for this. Nothing, however, says thank you quite like a working bee!

Saturday 17th December was a nice(ish) summer day in Blackwood. There was a market in town, and everyone had plenty to do in the lead up to Christmas. Despite this, 5 local legends, Robert, Tommy, Helen, Darryl and Troy, showed up to the pub and put in an amazing days work. There was slashing, pressure washing, gutter cleaning, rubbish removal and sweeping. By mid afternoon the place had never looked so good. A special thanks must also go to Brendan who painted the Blackwood Pub sign and brought it back to life, and to Simon who took on the task of cleaning all of the windows in the lead up to the working bee. It was a fantastic effort by a small but incredible team. It was also the perfect way to let the girls and their families know how very very much our community supports and appreciates them. Well done and thanks to all involved.

~ Kylie Richardson ~

### CHRISTMAS CAROLS BY TWILIGHT AT ST MARTIN'S



This was a time to come together, give thanks and celebrate through song the birth of Jesus Christ. Brendan Hehir started off the evening by paying respect to the Traditional Owners of the land and welcoming everyone. Fiona Ross led the singing of well known Christmas Carols brilliantly. As the evening progressed more and more people of all ages wandered in from different directions boosting the volume of the singing. Ray Castellin and Wally Zanon sizzled the sausages and we also enjoyed the delicious food brought by many to share. We were also given the opportunity to reflect on the fact that the birth of Christ was an incredible exercise in communication - God coming to live amongst man in human form. Jesus directly communicating the love, grace and peace of God through word and deed.

As the sun was slowly going down and the singing came to an end, people lingered in the lengthening shadows, chatting, sharing their plans for Christmas and enjoying each other's company. A beautiful way to end the evening.

~ Robyn Zanon ~





## MEET THE NEIGHBOURS:

### Wombat Forest through the eyes of a naturalist, Tanya Loos



Naturalist and acclaimed author, writer and Biodiversity Projects Officer, Tanya Loos recently met with Blackwood Times to share a few insights about the Wombat Forest ecology and introduce us to a few furry-feathery-green neighbours.

As Tanya explains, Wombat Forest could be easily mistaken as an isolated forest. In reality, it serves as an important ecosystem linking a vast interconnected network of ecology and migratory wildlife across the Great Dividing Range through to the top of Australia – the mountains of the Grampians are the last southerly point of this important ecosystem.

Within the Wombat Forest, we share country with some rare and important neighbours including Powerful Owl, Greater Glider, Echidna, bush rat, swamp rat, mountain brushtail possum, koala, wombat, black wallaby, eastern grey kangaroo and rare plants.

So let's meet a few of our neighbours:

#### The Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*):

Australia's largest owl, with a wingspan of up to 140 cm. The Powerful owl is a notoriously rare and reclusive bird which nests in large tree hollows – commonly old Manna Gums.

The wombat Forest is one of just a few habitats of the Powerful owl. Its lifecycle relies almost entirely on forest stability as it requires very large old trees with large hollows for nesting. Families of Powerful owls are known (through documented studies) to nest in the same trees for multiple generations.

#### Wombat Bush Pea (*Pultenaea reflexifolia*)

This beautiful red and yellow ground cover is found in just a few areas of Victoria and is categorised as 'Rare and Vulnerable' (Atlas of Living Australia ala.org.au). The future of this species and its interconnected relationship with all manner of insects and plants is under threat. The Wombat Forest serves as a critical link in helping this species survive.

#### Wombat Bossiaea: (*Bossiaea vombata*)

Not an actual Wombat, but a stunning red and yellow flowering plant specifically named after the Wombat Forest. In fact, it's only found in the Wombat Forest. Perhaps we could call it 'The Wombie'?

Sadly, the Wombat Bossiaea is classified as "endangered" under the Victorian Government Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988. All the more reason to cherish and protect our local forest.

#### Greater Glider (*Petauroides*)

The greater glider, with its distinctly large ears and thick, dark brown and cream fur is Australia's largest flying mammal. According to the Victorian National Parks Association "32% of greater glider habitat

was lost in the Black Summer bushfires in 2019/20 with Wombat State Forest now containing the only population of the species west of Melbourne – a clearly critical habitat for this entire species. Sadly, it's greatest threat comes from being hunted and killed by foxes and cats.

#### Our old friend, Koala

Our good friend the Koala, Australian icon known throughout the world, also lives in the Wombat Forest. Listed as 'Endangered' in QLD, NSW and ACT, it is also under increasing threat in Victoria. Fortunately, Victoria leads the way in Koala conservation programs.

The Koala is a very fussy eater with its diet limited to only 6% of eucalypt species. Some of these eucalypts are found in the Wombat Forest. Destruction and fragmentation of habitat means Koalas need to spend more time on the ground moving between trees to find food. This makes them much more vulnerable to being hit by cars and attacked by dogs. This elevated stress makes them prone to sickness and disease.

#### Weighing up the risks

When quizzed about forestry and conservation, Tanya outlined that the greatest risk to the survival of our 'wild neighbours' comes from destruction and sudden changes of habitat and ecology. The consequences of which are far-reaching for entire populations of native Australian wildlife and fauna.

With respect to Forestry in Wombat Forest, there have been widespread protests calling for tighter government policy to conduct habitat surveys coupled with strategic conservation zoning. Tanya suggests that these surveys should be considered critical to ensuring that Wombat Forest's Flora and Fauna are protected.

#### Want to help the Forest?

If the ecology of Wombat Forest concerns you, one very effective way to help is by contributing to the citizen science effort using the iNaturalist App – found via Apple and Google apps. This will allow you to photograph and log valuable data about any wildlife you may encounter. Your contributions then help to build a greater catalogue of data informing forest conservation and management efforts.

#### Tanya's Work

Tanya is a published author of Daylesford Nature Diary; six seasons in the foothill forests. She is currently writing a book about living with local wildlife; including why it's important to avoid feeding wildlife, and what to do if a bird is attacking your windows.

To find out more about Tanya's work and writing, visit [www.tanyaloos.com](http://www.tanyaloos.com)

~ Dave Commins ~



### WHOSE TATT IS THAT?

This tattoo was done after I undertook the greatest challenge of my life - walking 915kms along the Camino Trail from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port in France to Muxia in Spain in 2017. This was the first tattoo I got at the age of 60.

~ Peter Daglish ~

## BLACKWOOD INTERNATIONAL CRICKET CLUB

We started out playing cricket in the backyard of a student terrace house in North Melbourne in the early seventies. Needing a broader canvas on which to display our skills, we found the Blackwood Recreation Reserve. Such a pretty venue, surrounded by towering eucalypts which throw their shade across the carpeted pitch in the late afternoon. We have been coming on the first Saturday in December for the last fifty years. We decided that 2022 would be our final match.

We know the event simply as "Blackwood". Regulars come from interstate and overseas. Blackwood has marked our progress as we have wooed, married, had kids, sometimes parted and endured various ravages of age. Now our children are big and strong and their kids have started playing as well. Our scorebooks have recorded more than 400 different players over the years.

The trophy is a carved fence paling, originally used for beach cricket. It is keenly sought after and the Captain's team vies mightily with the President's team for the honour of having their name inscribed on a badge added each year. We have witnessed major ground improvements, spectacular innings, huge sixes into the Lerderberg, brilliant fielding and ferocious bowling. Of course, the older players

now exhibit fewer of these skills (if indeed they can be induced to leave the barbecue).

A noteworthy fact is that we unfortunately missed the memo from the Australian Cricket Board in 1979, mandating six ball overs. Consequently, we have steadfastly maintained the eight ball over (although umpires always seem to say "one more" when asked how many to go).

We all love cricket (especially the longer form) and Blackwood is our enduring homage to the precepts of the game. Having monopolised the Reserve in early December for these fifty years, we happily cede to the actual Blackwood Cricket Team, thank them for their forbearance and wish them every success this summer and for many summers to come.

The quiet of the afternoon, the laugh of the kookaburras, the thwack of a good shot, the polite ripple of applause and the camaraderie and gentle humour of the oft repeated repartee... this has been our Blackwood.

~ B.J. Foley, Secretary, Blackwood International Cricket ~



## LOGGING AND MINING FOLLOW-UP

The last issue of The BlackwoodTimes reported on logging and mining activity in the Wombat Forest and contracted to provide comment from organisations and individuals who may have other points of view on these activities. With Christmas and shutdowns it has not been possible to obtain these comments. Over the next few weeks we intend asking the following questions to:

- VicForest
- Central Highlands Water
- CFA
- Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
- Politicians
- Moorabool Council

Questions raised by Blackwood Barry's Reef Landcare Group in correspondence to Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas MP (24 June 2022) have been followed up and reported on. They will be a guide to our questions.

The resolution from the Town Meeting on 15th October 2022 voted unanimously to, "request a moratorium on all licences, permits and works for all commercial log removal and mining related activities in

the Wombat Forest until after planned legislation granting National Parks and Regional Parks status."

Do you have any objections or suggested amendments to this resolution?

1. Whilst fallen trees are not suitable habitat for Southern Great Gliders, Koalas or Owls, nevertheless they become a critical environment for the life that these creatures feed off. Where should we draw the balance between removal or not?
2. The debris left after logs are removed is far more combustible than left untouched. Cool burning could eliminate this hazard. If this was to happen, how would you like to see the land managed after this?
3. What do you regard as the costs of mining in the Wombat Forest? What are the benefits?

Individuals and other organisations are welcome to contribute to the discussion by sending comments to:

[team@theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au](mailto:team@theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au)

The outcomes from our enquiries will be reported in the next issue.

~ John Kemp ~

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# BLACKWOOD WOODCHOP & EASTER CARNIVAL

EASTER SATURDAY - Blackwood Reserve  
10am Woodchop • 11am Parade



Street Parade • Arts & Crafts • Food & Drinks • Music • Pet Show & Activities  
\$15 entry 16 years and over • Free entry 15 and under

## VOLUNTEERING

We need your help! If you'd like to volunteer please email [blackwoodprogress@gmail.com](mailto:blackwoodprogress@gmail.com) or phone Allan on 0409 419 104

## PARADE

Get your floats ready, get your trailers decorated and your bikes adorned! Registration not necessary. Any questions phone Louise on 0417 866 971

## STALLHOLDERS

Want to hold a market stall? Please email [blackwoodprogress@gmail.com](mailto:blackwoodprogress@gmail.com) or phone Deirdre on 0427 016 284



## ST MARTIN'S CHAPEL - THE FIRST YEAR IN REVIEW



The St. Martin's Chapel rededication occurred on 19th February 2022. In the past year, we have seen a dream come to fruition. Our vision of what could be, began six years ago. Reverend Jenny Hayes encouraged and supported the Blackwood Uniting Church congregation to explore whether there was a future for our church, and if so, what the possibilities could be. Our numbers were small, our finances even smaller. The wooden church structure, built in 1896, was run-down and in desperate need of renovation. However, we saw a future where the church played a role in enhancing and strengthening the whole community. We wanted an inclusive and accessible structure that could invite the people of Blackwood to celebrate their connection to each other. We aspired to be a place for growth, where we could learn together. We dreamed of promoting well-being, creativity, faith and enjoyment in our town.

Over the following six years, we worked hard to keep the dream alive. We were able to secure funding for our renovations from the Uniting Church Synod and the Parish Council. They agreed to contribute the money raised from the sale of two other church buildings in the Parish, because they believed in our vision and our ability to bring it into being. The renovations included a modernized kitchenette, the construction

of indoor toilets, the installation of heating and cooling, and a verandah with wheelchair access, as well as much needed renovation to the original structure. Local builders, Nick and Lachie Dear, carried out the excellent refurbishment using traditional methods. Assisted by Brendan Hehir and Janet Dear they went above and beyond to ensure the project was completed to a very high standard so that it would stand for the generations to come.

The rededication Festival Committee, instigated by Karen Bruno, were disappointed when their plans for a town wide opening of the new building was put on hiatus due to the Covid restrictions in 2021. After multiple attempts and continued down-scaling, the rededication was a smaller affair than originally planned. It still managed to celebrate the coming together of community, creativity and enjoyment that we had first envisaged. The church, which had previously been named the Blackwood Uniting Church, was rededicated as St Martin's Chapel.

St Martin started life as a soldier. One of the stories of his saintly journey tells how, when he met a man in great need, he tore his cloak in half and gave it to the man. We feel that this story reflects the role that our Chapel will play in the community, for while we may not have much, what we do have we willingly share to provide welcome and shelter.

Since the rededication, St. Martin's Chapel has hosted a multitude of events that have run thanks to the valuable work of the Management Committee. This includes many musical concerts, yoga and qigong lessons, pre-school play groups, church services, bible study, poster displays, markets, art shows, a biggest morning tea, weddings, a baby shower, the CERT 20th anniversary celebration, pizza night, Christmas carols, music day, community meetings, training workshops, an agape, and a reconciliation event.

This last year has been the fulfilment of our dream, and now it is time to turn our attention again to the future of St Martin's Chapel. We still have loans from the refurbishment that need to be repaid, and as a self-funded operation, this means that we will run fundraising events. We look forward to running more markets, we will run a cabaret event, and we are available for hire to local groups and events. We look forward to continue being part of this community and seeing you throughout 2023.

~ Robyn Zanon ~

## A BLACKWOOD GARDEN

Summer has certainly hit us with high temperatures and lots of sunshine, unfortunately this year virtually no rain. Well so it seems... you can't have it all! Unless you mulched well before the heat began you will have noticed how quickly your beds dried out. Even with the wet winter and spring we had, certain areas of my garden are still bone dry.

My garlic harvest was the best ever with large bulbs due to the high rainfall and the addition of lime at planting. The broad beans are still producing (not a bumper crop), but I make a great African fool salad with them and, as we all know, there's nothing like home grown. Parsley, silver beet and rocket have all gone to seed and I always leave some in to self seed or to collect seed to give to friends. My tomato plants are growing well but still have no flowers so unless we have a long summer I probably won't get tomatoes. The best type to grow in our climate are ones with small fruit.

While a friend has been away I've been watering her garden and feeding her chooks. She has a berry patch and I've been feasting on raspberries and other berries. Having seen how productive they can be, if netted properly, I'm going to plant some canes in wicking beds.

It's a great season for roses and my Queen Anne's Lace is 8 feet tall and hydrangeas are going to be fabulous though they are thirsty plants, so mulch well and keep them in dappled shade with no hot afternoon sun. I thought I might have had more nasturtiums to have self seeded and so have only recently planted seeds, so hopefully, with ideal conditions, they will get a move on.

I'm seeing very few bees and something I picked up from a garden I visited recently was that planting lavender for summer flowering and rosemary for winter flowering both attract bees. I plan to plant these near my veggies.

Don't forget to refill your bird baths regularly for not only the birds, but the bees as well. Happy gardening.

~ Jane Howat ~



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## • COMMUNITY GROUP & CLUB UPDATES •

### CRICKET CLUB UPDATE

#### The year so far:

We haven't won a game as yet.

We have been struggling for numbers but the solid 7/8 have put in a great effort and it has been fun playing with the team.

As the news is going to print, we are chasing 190 runs with a full day of batting and a full team, (second time this season). We then have an away game followed by a two dayer at home and then away again. Doesn't look like we will make finals this year, but will be focusing on numbers for next season.

If you have some spare time on Saturday's even if you have never played, you are more than welcome to join us. We are pretty much the only ground that gets spectators who enjoy a quiet ale, dim sims or a hotdog. See you there.

~ Regards Brian, President ~



### BLACKWOOD BOCCE

We would like to wish all our fellow Blackwoodians a healthy and prosperous year ahead. A sprinkling of happy surprises would be wonderful too.

We are pleased to announce that we have a new storage space and a new cart for our equipment.

Thank you to Blackwood Progress Association for their support.

These changes have been a great boost to morale and have made it a lot easier to organise, store and set up equipment for each game.

However, that was not the only new equipment we acquired recently!

"Coach" John Nugent decided to graduate from a walking stick to a four wheel walk.

To join in the fun you can call me on 0432406814 or just come down on any Sunday at 10 am (unless it's raining heavily) followed by coffee and brunch at Jindarup.

~ Stephanie Kondos ~

#### DID YOU KNOW?

In 1919 Blackwood's Avenue of Honour ran from Blackwood Mineral Springs Caravan Park to the village (Martin Street) and disappeared with the widening of the road.



### CFA REPORT

Summer is in full swing and we've seen an interesting series of weather events, it also brings back memories of 40 years ago.

On the 8th January we remembered two FCV members who lost their lives fighting the Greendale fires 40 years ago in 1983.

Des Collins and Alan Lynch were operating a bulldozer cutting a fire break along the northern edge of the fire when disaster struck. Vale Des and Alan.

One month later we experienced a severe dust storm that rolled across the state of Victoria putting all emergency service on a heightened state of alert. As it rolled in from the west, it appeared like a massive red wave covering everything outside as well as inside houses.

This was followed about a week later by the fire that was to become known as the Ash Wednesday fire which started on February 16, 1983 which resulted in the deaths of 47 people here in Victoria including 14 CFA members as well as the destruction of approximately 9950 square kilometres of land. Below are links detailing events from these fires.

We remember all those lost in those fires and every other event.

- <https://www.victoriasforestryheritage.org.au/activities1/fire/27-the-1982-83-fire-season-tbc.html>
- <https://victoriasforestsfireheritage.com/2022/06/26/greendale-1983/>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ash\\_Wednesday\\_bushfires](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ash_Wednesday_bushfires)



### Lights, camera, action!

Filming has commenced on a documentary about the Blackwood Storm of June 2021.

If anyone has a storm related story, photo or memory to share, please contact Brendan on: 0419 137 812

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## • COMMUNITY GROUP & CLUB UPDATES •

### 2022 LANDCARE REPORT

Last year Blackwood and Barry's Reef Landcare Group had a very productive year and would like to share what was accomplished with the Blackwood community.

Landcare membership at the end of 2022 – 63 members

#### Working Bees:

- **March/April:** 3 day Weed-a-thons for removal of heavy infestation of broom, gorse, holly and blackberry from Mineral Springs Car Park embankments and entry road down to Caravan Park, including the clearing of weeds on Lerderderg River Banks.
- **June:** Spraying blackberry View Crescent/ Removal of blackberry in black spot tower area behind the Town Hall/ Removal of broom around paths and public toilets Town Hall/ removal of large area of holly infestation at St Martin's Chapel.
- **August:** Removal of heavy gorse infestation on banks surrounding Caravan Park.
- **October:** Removal of heavy broom infestation behind the Town Hall.
- **November:** Continuation of weeding at Town Hall and St. Martin's Chapel.

#### Workshops and Presentations:

- Presentation by Jackson Cass from the Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group on the Moorabool Koala Count.
- Participation in the co-design of the CSRIO project to monitor the koala population in Moorabool Shire.
- Elsbeth Swan from Moorabool Gardens for Wildlife presented a training workshop, with 10 local participants and 2 Landcare members have subsequently become Gardens for Wildlife auditors.
- Moorabool Council Grants approved an application for a Workshop series to compliment the Gardens for Wildlife Program which included Nest Box Making workshop presented by Miles Geldard and Indigenous Plant Identification Walk on Byers Back Track, presented by Jeremy Neal, Wombat Native Plants, Bullarto.

### BLACKWOOD OVER 55s SOCIAL CLUB

As you may have noticed, Blackwood Seniors have changed their name. We have found that people did not know that in the rural area people 55 and over can join a Seniors Club hence the name change. We celebrated our 50th Birthday last year as the Club was founded in 1972 so we had a Christmas/Birthday party in December and everyone enjoyed it. We welcome three new members, Ray, Christine and Eva and hope you enjoy us as much as we enjoy having you there. We meet every Wednesday from 1030 until 3pm with games before lunch. Lunch is at 12pm with a wonderful 3 course meal at the cost of \$10.00 (you need to be a member to receive the discount, membership is \$10.00 for 12 months) Rose is our cook and all her meals are delicious, at times we have guest speakers and try to have a range of topics. Bus trips will start again and I would love input on destinations. Bingo is played after lunch which is \$10.00 per card. A raffle is held with 4 prizes and are \$1.00 per card and is drawn during lunch. We have a new hairdresser starting on the 18th January 2023. You get a discounted rate (as long as you are a member). During the hot weather if it is going to 36 degrees or over, or a total fire ban day we do not meet. If you have any questions please contact Dianne Volpe 53686795 if I don't get to the phone in time leave a message with a phone number and I will get back to you.

~ Dianne Volpe - Secretary ~

- Funded by Melbourne Water, the launch of the remarkable video 'Caring for our Patch' created by Kathy Holowko and Daniel Williams, to highlight how weeds can move from gardens down to the river.
- **Easter Carnival:** Community education display held at the Blackwood Woodchop and Eatser Carnival Parade, including printed material, give away native plants, examples of weeds and weed biocontrol, and an interactive display of waterbugs from the Lerderderg River. Members also participated in the Parade with Wilbur the Weed Sculpture and attendants winning first prize for creativity.

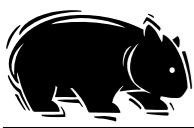
#### Letters and Submissions:

- Submission to Moorabool Council regarding draft township plan recommending to provide interpretative signage for walking tracks around the town and the prevention of spreading weeds and the requesting of more indigenous trees be planted.
- Landcare wrote letters to our local member, the Minister, requesting information regarding Vic Forests operation to salvage wind thrown logs (Letter in November/December Issue of the Blackwood Times).
- **Equipment purchases available for members:** The chipper has been constantly borrowed throughout the year. Further equipment purchased to assist working bees include loppers, backpack spray unit, tree popper, hand held sprayers and dabbers.

#### Projects for start of 2023

- Plant Propagation Workshop
  - Soil Health Workshop
  - Major planting of 900 indigenous plants at the Mineral Springs and Caravan Park
  - Weeding Working Bees
- Landcare welcomes your participation in any or all of these events.
- The Committee has arranged for a plaque commemorating the late Shane Scanlan and his efforts with Landcare, be placed at the entrance of the Whipstick Track.





• AROUND TOWN •

**FAREWELL TO FRIENDS**

The sun, and most of the town, came out to give a couple of much-loved locals the sendoff they deserved. The pub was overflowing with people keen to have a drink with Jaime and Alex and to wish them all the very best for their adventure. There was also no shortage of kids running around enjoying the chance to play with their mates whilst stuffing themselves with chicken nuggets and skittles. The turnout spoke volumes about the regard the community holds both Jaime and Alex in and it would have been impossible not to 'feel the love'!

So what takes a life long Blackwoodian and a 6 year veteran of our lovely town a lazy 3067 kilometres away? There probably aren't many amongst us who didn't fantasize about moving to Queensland at some stage during the brutal winter of last year but the move isn't primarily climate related.

A search for some land for some horses locally gradually grew wider and their beautiful new home an hour inland from Cairns offers much more bang for their buck. Being from Darwin Alex is sure to adapt to the climate fairly quickly but it might take Jaime and the girls a tiny bit longer!

It is certainly a move from one beautiful environment to another with the new one offering what seems like endless open spaces and adventures. Blackwood won't be the same without your ever-friendly and joyful faces but we wish you safe travels and all the very best for everything that comes next. Your new community are very lucky to have you. And even though it may be a 33 hour drive, don't forget to come and visit!

~ Kylie Richardson ~



**INTRODUCING SUNNY AND SADIE**

Jasmin & Georgie had these divine wee babes 2 days apart on 21 & 23 December. Early Christmas presents delivered by the same midwife in Castlemaine Hospital.



**A BLACKWOOD CHRISTENING**

Wesley Hendricks and his wife Madeleine (née Staub) had their daughter Macy Dedicated to God at the Blackwood Mineral Springs Reserve, under the witness of family and friends, on the 26th November 2022. Madeleine is a 30-year local, who was born and bred in Blackwood. Wesley and Madeleine have a strong emotional connection to the area and were married in December 2020 at the Blackwood Mineral Springs Reserve, so it was symbolic to revisit the Springs for the dedication of their daughter, Macy.

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• AROUND TOWN •

**BLACKWOOD CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Special thanks to Morgan Cann and Brian Sutters who, once again, organised this year's Blackwood Kids Christmas party. It was held at the usual location The Blackwood Cricket Oval.

As the photos show, the party was a great day for all. Many locals turned up to share a relaxing afternoon – a few drinks for the parents and playtime for the kids.

Mitchell was the star of the day and was recruited by the real Santa to step in as a Santa's helper, bringing lolly bags and small gifts for all the "nice" children. Surprisingly, there were no naughty kids this year! Tommy delivered Santa on the local Fire truck which added to the kids fun and excitement.

Special thanks go out to the volunteer BBQ team; Morgan, Mitchell and Brian who ran the bar, raffle, bubbles, lolly bag donations and occasional cat-herding. Thanks also to Kylie, Sue, Karen, Lee and Bev who donated raffle prizes, lollies and bubbles!

With so many new faces and kids turning up each year, let's make it an even bigger next year! Nice one Blackwood

~Paul Kukiel~



**PAUL'S BIRTHDAY!**

Paul has been a local resident of Blackwood for 20 years. Some might say he's a bit of a local celebrity as there's not many people who don't know him. He's been a regular at the Blackwood Hotel and he loves to help out at the pub when he can collecting the glasses and wiping down tables.

Paul is also the chief raffle drawer every Monday at 'Old Farts night'. Paul recently celebrated his 55<sup>th</sup> birthday with his favourite meal, a pot and a parma at his favourite place, the Blackwood Pub.

His special day was shared with his Dad Colin, brother Andrew, sister in law Jacque and sister Danielle.

So if you're not familiar with Paul, don't be shy to say hello, you'll be sure to make his day!



**GUESS MY BLACKWOOD STREET – WIN A SPECIALTY COFFEE**

Cipher the clues below to guess which Blackwood Street they relate to. The first person to give Martyn or Carol at Jindarup the correct answer wins a free specialty coffee.

- I am a street in between two bigger streets
- There is a street named after one of my residents

- I'm home to an adventurous Labrador who likes visiting locals
- Some windows along here shake when trucks go over the bridge
- A young lad who frequently has paint in his hair lives here
- The garbage truck has to reverse in
- Another local landmark shares the same name
- Another of my residents has a rather loud laugh



• AROUND TOWN •

WHOLE TOWN GARAGE SALE

A Whole Town Garage Sale was held on a bright and sunny day on Sunday 22nd January. Eager customers waited at 8am when the map went on sale, in front of Karen's van, revealing the eight houses selling their wares. The same shoppers were seen passing by the village, at various times in the morning, with cars full of newly bought treasures. Wandering from house to house we spotted camping gear, toys & games, vinyl – even a ute tray covered in DVD's.

The increasingly popular art and craft market at St Martin's Chapel opened at 10am, with various hand-made craft items, beautifully knitted baby clothes, crazy tea-pot covers, succulents, beauty products – just to name a few.

Jess from Single-use Multiverse, Blackwood, who makes colourful earrings commented: "I had a great day at the Market at St Martin's Chapel, selling the earrings I make from recycled plastic. I loved meeting more of the locals from Blackwood & surrounding towns, especially those who regularly collect plastic and leave it up the top of the driveway for me! I felt very thankful for the support from my community; I couldn't run my business without the people of Blackwood!"

Proceeds from the day will go toward on-going maintenance of St Martin's Chapel. Keep your eyes out for our next sale - & save up those boxes you usually send to the op shop.

Remember – your junk is sure to be someone else's treasure.

~ Jeanne Tahini & Jinny Coyle ~



• GIG & EVENTS GUIDE •

Table with columns DATE, EVENT, VENUE. FEBRUARY section containing various events like Blackwood Dinner Club, Things of Stone and Wood, etc.

Table with columns DATE, EVENT, VENUE. REGULAR STUFF section containing events like Blackwood Dinner Club, Ballan Vintage Swap Meet, etc.

Table with columns DATE, EVENT, VENUE. MARCH section containing various events like Blackwood Dinner Club, Things of Stone and Wood, etc.

FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

As a result of new funding provided by Emergency Recovery Victoria, the Moorabool Shire Council Storm Recovery team is excited to present a program of free activities for the communities impacted by the devastating storms in June 2021. These activities will occur over February- May 2023 and include:

- Development of an updated Community Emergency Management Plan for the community of Blackwood and surrounds
• Development of a new Community Emergency Management Plan for the community of Korweinguboora and surrounds
• Practical First Aid Training
• Mental Health First Aid Training
• An exciting Arts program (delivered by Cat Moser in collaboration with artist Samantha Thompson)

All these activities are available to the community fully funded but registration is required for some events to ensure we have enough materials and catering for all attendees.

More details can be found at Council's website which will be updated frequently as new events are locked in.

Please just scan the QR Code or follow the link to read about these opportunities and register your interest.

More information and registration forms can be found at:

moorabool.vic.gov.au/storm-recovery-events or via the QR Code

For any enquiries please email the Storm Recovery Coordinator, Amanda Western, at awestern@moorabool.vic.gov.au



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Community battery follow up

In early December a gathering of Blackwood residents met with Frank Forster from the EnviroShop Newstead, to discuss the possibility and potential benefits of a community/neighbourhood battery for Blackwood. This was in response to State and Federal governments' intent to invest millions of dollars into installing hundreds of such batteries in small communities over the next few years.

The term neighbourhood battery is used when the installation has a capacity of 100 kWh up to 5MWh, and can service a neighbourhood of approximately 20-100 households and is connected into the electricity distribution network. Essentially, such energy storage units are filled at low cost, perhaps by solar from rooftops during the day and then distributed to connected households when the cost of electricity is higher, usually at night.

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other means, perhaps with excess or lower-cost solar generation in Ballan. Or, from other sources. In Blackwood we have mine-shafts and water as resources and at this stage we do not want to preclude any possibilities.

Our next step will be to apply for funding for a feasibility study into the best way to reduce energy costs for Blackwood households and businesses. This could be done through the Blackwood Progress Association and will take time but, in the long run, alternatives to gas and wood-fired heating will be needed as these sources become prohibitively expensive or even unavailable.

Anyone wanting more information or willing to assist with this project can contact me on 0400 686 770.

~ John Kemp ~



• BEYOND BLACKWOOD •

**THE REAL GARDENS OF LYONVILLE 2023**

The Real Gardens of Lyonville, Sunday 26 March 2023 from 10am - 4pm

The Real Gardens of Lyonville event is a showcase of our local cool climate gardens. Small and large, wild and manicured, you will see a selection of gardens to pique your interest. There is a dedicated group of passionate gardeners in our small township who tussle with the challenges of invasive weeds and an unpredictable climate to nurture some great gardens, both beautiful and bountiful.

The idea for this event was first hatched by the Lyonville Garden Club. It then made its way into the Lyonville Community Plan and this helped us when applying for a grant from Hepburn Shire Council to assist with the cost of setting up this inaugural event. All proceeds from the day will go towards the many other projects to enhance our township that are in the Community Plan.

For the first year of this event, we are delighted to include Babbington Park, home to celebrated chef and local restaurateur Annie Smithers. We also have six other local gardens for you to visit during the day. There will be short lunchtime talks from local garden experts scheduled at the hall. Refreshments, including morning teas and lunches, will be available at the Lyonville hall but bookings are essential when you buy your tickets. You are also welcome to dine at the iconic Radio Springs Hotel, which offers lunch and dinner, plus accommodation.

Tickets are available from <https://events.humanitix.com/the-real-gardens-of-lyonville>

Please visit our Facebook and Instagram sites for regular updates on our gardens and the event. Instagram [https://www.instagram.com/gardens\\_of\\_lyonville/?next=%2F](https://www.instagram.com/gardens_of_lyonville/?next=%2F)

FB <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088472648631>

All queries to Vicki Jackson [vickicj102@gmail.com](mailto:vickicj102@gmail.com)

**About the day**

On the day, registrations commence from 9.30am at the Lyonville Hall, corner Bremner Avenue and Gleeson St, Lyonville, where ticket holders will be given a leaflet with a map and description of each garden.

There are two ticket categories: Garden Friend and Garden Lover. Garden Friend (\$25) gives access to all open gardens except Babbington Park (Annie Smithers' garden). Garden Lover (\$50) tickets allow access to Babbington Park plus all other open gardens but tickets are limited to 24 so book early. From 10am until 4pm you are free to explore the gardens in any order.

Morning tea (\$8) and lunch (\$15) are available if booked when purchasing tickets.

The garden talks will be scheduled during lunchtime and visitors will be advised of speakers, topics and talk times closer to the date.

Please dress for the weather and wear boots or sturdy shoes. We love dogs but not when visiting these gardens please. All children must be under adult supervision.

**HOW DO WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?**

Community Bank Trentham & Districts opened its doors in 2011. Thanks to a dedicated band of locals who addressed the issue of not having a local bank. It took enormous effort from the steering committee, the overwhelming support from our communities, shareholders and the Bendigo Bank to open our Trentham branch. It's a story that never grows old and we love to tell it!!!

The Community Bank Trentham & Districts delivers quality products, exceptional customer service, and flexibility (we'll come to you) and comes with a real point of difference, where the profit goes back into supporting projects in our local communities.

Our most recent Community Investment with GDTA (Great Dividing Trail Association) sponsors the "Lerderderg Track Interpretive Signage and Visitor Enhancement Project". The Community Bank Trentham & Districts collaborative sponsorship will contribute to the design, production and placement of interpretive signage including QR codes for trail marker posts between Jubilee Lake and Bacchus Marsh along the 87 km section of the Lerderderg Track that runs from Daylesford to Bacchus Marsh via Blackwood. The project includes reposting the route and re-routing the trail to improve the experience for walkers and runners, competition date scheduled for May 2023.

Community Bank Trentham & Districts proudly support one of the biggest annual events on the Blackwood calendar. We are delighted to be the major prize sponsor of the Blackwood Easter Carnival & Woodchop Event. Supporting our local communities is a tangible example of the good that banking locally can offer and in return strengthens communities for the long term.

Whatever your banking needs, Community Bank Trentham & Districts are here for you. For a better banking experience call us on 5424 1608.

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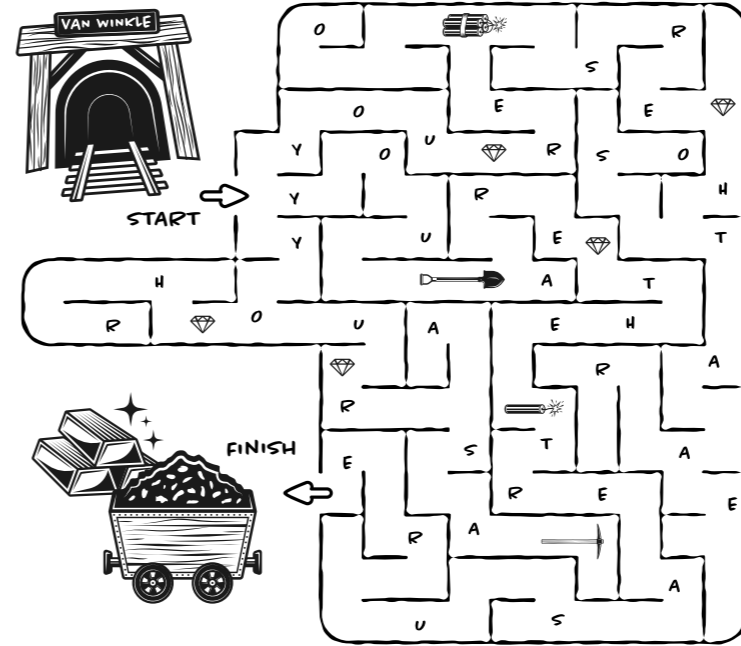
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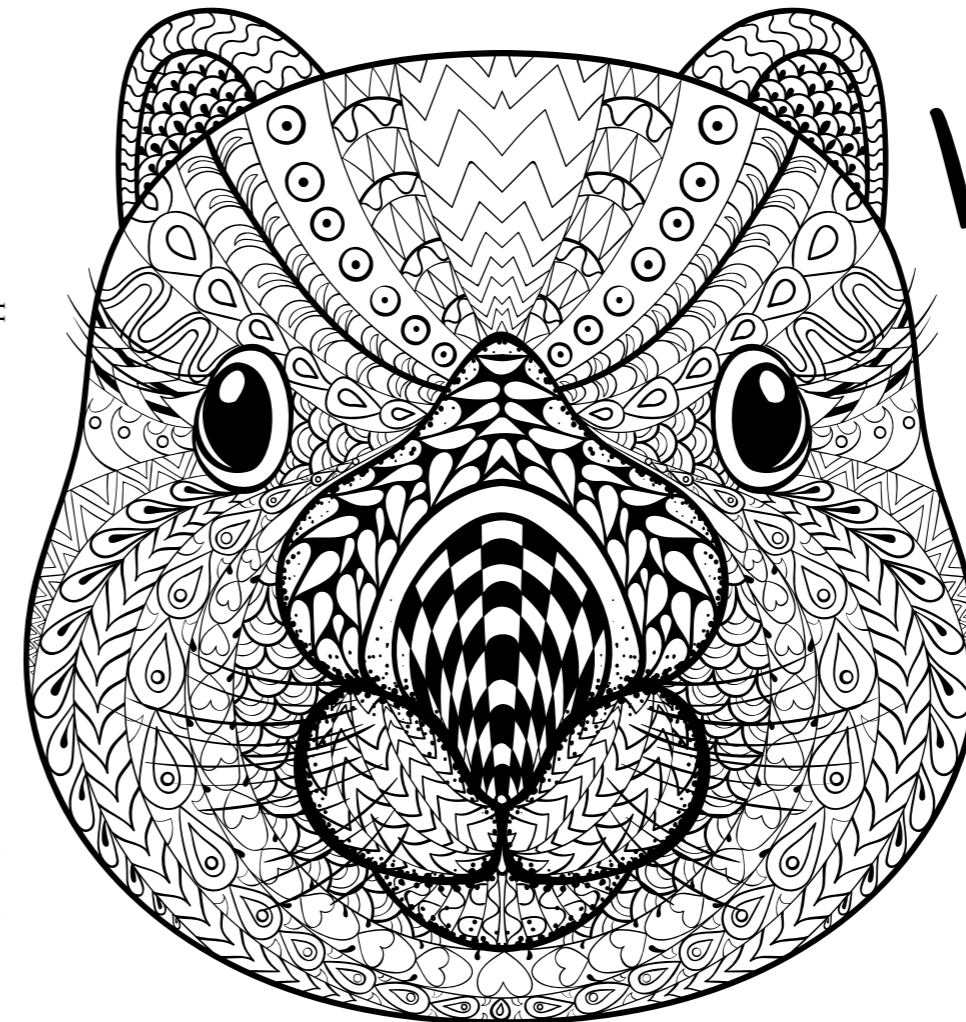
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J	T	R	E	E	S	F	D	S	P
I	S	E	L	O	H	T	O	P	R
N	K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O	I
D	H	T	A	B	M	O	W	M	N
A	S	O	P	D	U	C	K	I	G
R	N	L	M	U	S	I	C	N	S
U	I	O	W	E	B	L	A	E	A
P	A	R	R	O	T	S	L	S	F
G	R	E	E	N	D	R	B	A	C

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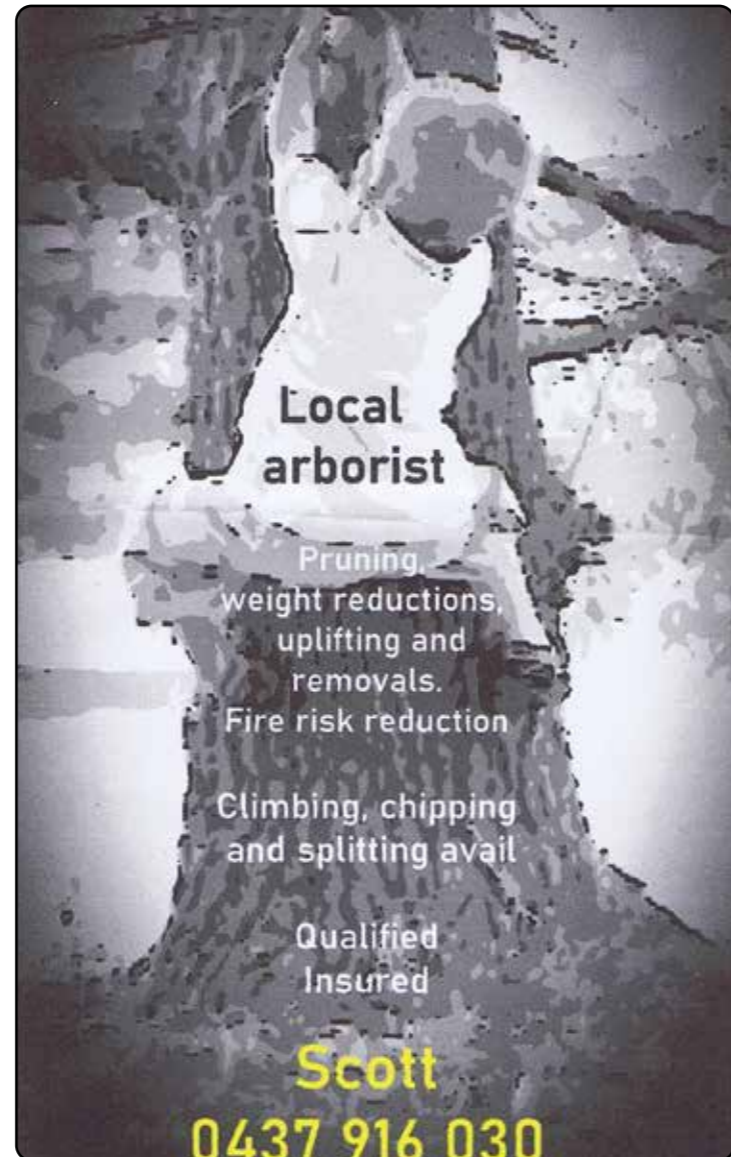
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**Trentham Sustainability Group**

*15th Anniversary! Let's celebrate!*

We'd like to invite everyone interested in sustainability to help us celebrate our 15th birthday!

5-7 pm, Sunday 5 March 2023 at The Cosmopolitan Hotel Wine Room, Trentham. 'Green drink' and finger food provided.



**Clement F Mooney**  
Email: c.mooney@bigpond.net.au

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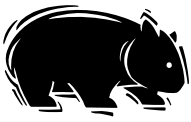


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