

April ~ May 2023 vol 14 ~ issue 15.6



# BARRY'S REEF AVENUE OF HONOUR



Planted in 1919 & rediscovered in 2008

See full story pp 4-5

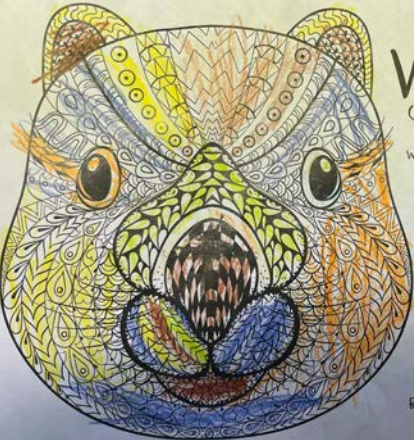
## WOMBIE COLOURING COMPETITION

Winning entry by Rennie Dix

See page 22 for all the entrants brilliant art work!

## BLACKWOOD WOODCHOP & EASTER CARNIVAL

See pages 12-13 for all the details of the Carnival, come along & cheer on Hetty the Hen!



**WOMBIE**  
COLOURING COMPETITION

WINNING ENTRY RECEIVES A PRIZE FROM THE BLACKWOOD PUB

JUDGED FOR THE MOST CREATIVE AND KEEPING BETWEEN THE LINES!

**KIDS ONLY**  
COLOURED IN BY

*Rennie Dix*

BRING YOUR ENTRY TO THE PUB  
WINNER ANNOUNCED FEB 27 AT OLD CRAFT MOUNT



The Blackwood Times acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung 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...

Two months between issues goes quickly. Bit of a scramble this one but here we are looking forward to the 121st Chop & Carnival and celebrating a number of special events.

The launch of the Barry's Reef Avenue of Honour was a significant event with several dignitaries in attendance. The presentation by Pippa Morris was a highlight of the proceedings. Our fantastic CERT team chalked up 20 years; Historical Society a magnificent 50th and the Gold Panners' a 30th, with their tradition in Blackwood going back 169 years!

These events and activities happen because behind the scenes are locals who are proud of our heritage and prepared to put in over many years.

This issue also acknowledges change. Our township now numbers a tad over 300 and the demography is changing. Many young families have moved in and 2 full school buses morning and evening attest to that. So we have indulged ourselves with a 2 page 'photo essay' as a centre spread of contemporary celebrities, old and young. And of course the brilliant Wombie, coloured in by the youth and madly in love on Valentines Day.

Next issue we should be able to provide an update on the campaign for a child-care facility in Blackwood.

Storm recovery deserves a special mention with community pulling together to help each other. Moorabool Council has run a terrific program and a taster of a documentary is further testament to our creative talent. How the land is restored remains a contentious issue covered in this and future issues.

Enjoy the Carnival!

~ John Kemp (April - May 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. The Blackwood Times Vic Inc will hold its Annual General meeting on Friday 28 April. Venue to be announced. Please contact team@ if you would like to attend.

Deadlines are as follows:

Advertisement bookings	<b>May 15</b>	
Regular contributors, features & items of interest, community groups & clubs	<b>May 15</b>	
Display ad artwork		<b>May 20</b>
Late breaking news (100 words max)		<b>May 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 run and published by volunteers.

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

©2023, Blackwood Times Vic Inc.



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.



Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES





## HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

MONTH/ YEAR	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall historical average (mm)	Temp monthly min (deg C)	Temp monthly max (deg C)	Temp average daily max (deg C)	Temp average daily min (deg C)	Temp average for month (deg C)
Jan'23	25.1	50.9	5.7	34.4	25	9.7	16.7
Feb'23	34.8	53	4	36.7	23.6	9	15.4

The January and February rainfalls were considerably less than average.

~ Don Owen

## JUNE 2021 STORM DOCUMENTARY

Victorians know that Easterlies are short-lived and benign; drowsy airflows that bring with them nothing more exciting than a damp sea mist. The languid Easterly's job is to herald the arrival of a proper weather system from the west.

Our trees also know this and bolster themselves with canopy and root distribution and growth stresses in the trunk to withstand the blustery NW and SW winds, not Easterlies. On the night of June 9, 2021 that all changed. Everyone was caught unprepared for a rapidly escalating "cool weather cyclone" from the east. With tree roots waterlogged and canopies heavy from la Nina rains, and the Wombat Forest country steep and shaley, loose ground at the best of times, our forest was never more vulnerable.

When it came, the storm brought with it a full 12 hours of 100kph+ winds, with hours of near 150kph and estimated gusts of 180kph. It left the Wombat in a mess, with over 80,000 hectares affected and the town of Blackwood isolated for a week, without power or communications. With trees down against all sides of her house, one local resident crawled out in the early morning to survey the damage.

Hers is just one of the many hair-raising accounts of that night. Chainsaws were already starting up, neighbours cutting access to neighbours. She chatted with the boys in the CFA truck doing the rounds and skipped over powerlines to get to the centre of town where she posted a simple note: let's all meet here at 1pm each day.

They did, and come the following night, the town was partying on that same spot. Someone brought light, someone brought heat, many brought their music and everyone brought the contents of their fridges. This is the story of an unusual storm and an unusually plucky community. It's a story of endurance and how a community comes together after a terrifying ordeal and rallies together.

It is also the story of the aftermath and recovery. 18 months on and it's obvious that our road to recovery is going to be a long one. While much effort state-wide has been put into road and private property clean-up, public land rehabilitation has been slow. Blackwood is a holiday town and our tourist infrastructure, our forests, walking tracks, riverside, mineral springs (all public land) were smashed and much remains that way.

The aim of this film is to understand and document this freak weather event, the resulting personal stories and the story of recovery. We hope this film will also become a tool in the advocacy of that recovery.

The film also has the capacity to reach a wider audience, both in the Central Goldfields and beyond. Through local networks and utilising social media, Screenings and Q @ A's will be arranged. Through streaming platforms, such as Youtube the film will be made available throughout Australia and internationally. It will remain not only a testament to the strength of local community but contribute to our understanding of these rare events.

We've been shooting over the last couple of months and hope to do another round of filming after Easter. Become a part of this project; this is the last call to bring your stories, your videos, photos or even sound recordings. Call Brendan 0419 137812 or email [brendan@hehir.id.au](mailto:brendan@hehir.id.au).

~ Brendan Hehir

## THE POST OFFICE CAFÉ RENOVATION UPDATE

Well... Where to begin?

Can I say, a commercial build is definitely not for the faint hearted. But I'm happy to say, we should soon hear the sweet sound of digging, hammering, drilling and the occasional expletives from tradies on the job. Phew! We can't wait to get this project over the line and completed. While we're not finished, we have many positives to report.

We are open again 7 days a week. We have set up a temporary shop front and registered a home kitchen. We have delicious food available. GOURMET toasties and locally handmade cakes are now on the menu.

In regard to staffing, we couldn't be happier. Firstly we have the lovely Ami who has proven to be a great asset to our business. It is also our great pleasure to announce that we have hired a chef and a cook. In fact they have already started. We are incredibly fortunate to have Daniel



Stuart and Janette Darwen join our team. Dan, a very experienced and talented chef and Janette who is well known in town for her beautiful baking. But first, we have to build them a new kitchen!

To that end we have been very fortunate to get some excellent advice from Heinz Scheel. Heinz is a new local with expertise in planning and surveying. Without Heinz's help we'd still be standing around, scratching our heads and probably thinking seriously about throwing in the towel. Happily, we are now back on track and moving forward. Heinz, thank you so much!

As soon as we get the green light, we will begin by building the sub floor for the extension work. The extension will predominately house our new kitchen, toilet and storage areas. That effectively means that the entire existing building will be front of house while the extension houses back of house. We also have plans for a decked outdoor dining area under the birch trees. From the deck there will be stairs into the garden that has wonderful forest views.

There is still lots to do and at times it feels quite daunting. But we've been told... 'The best things in life are often waiting for you at the exit ramp of your comfort zone'. We are looking forward to seeing the exit ramp and welcoming you to the new and greatly improved Post Office Cafe.

~ Carol Guthrie



## BARRY'S REEF AVENUE OF HONOUR

The Barry's Reef WW1 Avenue of Honour Restoration Launch was held at the Mechanics Hall in Blackwood on February 18. The launch was held to mark the completion of Phase 1 of a three Phase Project, to honor the 29 servicemen, 9 who died while serving for Australia from 1914 – 1919. Phase 1 of this project involved establishing partnerships and forming the Community Reference Group consisting of the Ballan RSL Sub-Branch, the State Government of Victoria, DWELP, the Ballan Shire Historical Society, the Blackwood and Barry's Reef Landcare Group and the Blackwood and District Historical Society.

In 2008, Pippa Morris, President of the Ballan RSL Sub-Branch and a resident of Barry's Reef, stumbled upon a beautiful glade of old and new oak trees and an historical marker labeling the glade Barry's Reef WW1 Avenue of Honour. In Pippa's words, "After some research, it became apparent that awareness of the Barry's Reef Avenue of Honour had become lost over the decades. Armed with this knowledge and a strong desire to have the Avenue restored and rededicated, in the following years I found like-minded souls after joining the Ballan Sub-Branch. After much debate and assessment, in 2017 the restoration of the Avenue was taken on by the Sub-Branch as a major project and, in negotiations with DWELP, began obtaining a management licence for the Crown Land Parcel which housed the Avenue. With support from the Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas, Macedon MP, DWELP issued the licence to the RSL in 2021.

started disappearing, as native plants overtook the Oaks and, in the 1950's, the State Government decided to sell off blocks in



*Des Callaghan, OAM BJ JP State Senior Vice President, Cr Rod Edwards & respected members of the RSL*

Barry's Reef but kept the land in Public ownership. After Mary Anne-Thomas was approached, a licence was then issued. She later spoke of the importance to engage and partner to work together to help community. After the plaque was unveiled to declare the start of the Restoration Project, refreshments were served by the Ballan C.W.A.

Phase One of the Project is now complete. Phase 2 will hopefully begin this year and will involve clearing the space to make it safe and useable once again, community consultation as well as designing and erecting appropriate memorials, history information boards, pathways and carparking areas. Phase 3 will complete the reflective space within the memorial to honour the sacrifice made by those in Barry's Reef and to re-dedicate the site. Pippa is hopeful the project will be completed in 4 years. Locals Ray Castellin and Brett Bond have been part of the Community Reference Group as representatives from the Blackwood Historical Society, Blackwood and Barry's Reef Landcare Group and the RSL respectively. Ray believes "the Historical Society will continue to provide the history of The Avenue and Barry's Reef, and the Project will encompass more than the history of the 29 people on the Roll Board. We feel if we are going to honour those men, we want to honour the community that was Barry's Reef and that little epoch in time and also remember the families. It is just the right thing to do." Brett believes, "the importance of this project, lies with the RSL, as the Avenue of Honour was built after WW1 for the returned servicemen and would be sad not to see it resurrected for all



*BACK ROW Sam Rae MP, Pippa Morris, Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP, Des Callaghan, State Senior Vice-President RSL  
FRONT ROW Cr Moira Berry, Rodney Ward, Ally Mujnari C*

The respected dignitaries at the launch included Minister Mary-Anne Thomas Macedon MP, Sam Rae MP, Moorabool Shire Councilors and respected members from the RSL. The launch was opened by Des Callaghan, State Senior Vice President of the RSL, with an Ode of Remembrance, followed by a minute's silence. Mark Devenish, from the Blackwood Historical Society did an Acknowledgement of Country for the Traditional Owners of the Land, the Wurundjeri People, which then opened the floor for Pippa Morris to tell the story. The Blackwood Hall had been chosen as the venue for the launch as it housed the Honour Roll Board. Pippa gave a detailed account of Barry's Reef history from the Goldrush days through to the onset of WW1, which portrayed a vibrant community with shops, a school, Whightman's Sawmill and the Sultan Mine. One third of the 29 men that enlisted to fight never returned to Barry's Reef after the war, a staggering 30% of those who enlisted died. Along with many other Central Highlands Communities, Barry's Reef chose to honour its WW1 servicemen by creating a living monument, with 29 Oak trees creating the Avenue of Honour in 1919. After both wars, the Avenue



the families. Landcare's involvement will be in Phase2, clearing and cleaning all the noxious weeds in the area. Phase 3, will hopefully be a place of reflection, it is in our backyards, and good to be part of." Pippa Morris has been pursuing this project for the past 15 years and has been working with the Ballan RSL for the past 6 years. "I am honoured to be able to drive this project for the people of Barry's Reef





and Blackwood, and I feel it is an exciting responsibility I have taken on. It has taken lots of people to get here and I feel this project will enable a connection to be established in Barry's Reef and Blackwood, through the Reference Group and partnership with the Blackwood Historical Society, and Blackwood and Barry's Reef Landcare Group. Last year, 2022, was a good year for the project, as the years prior to that were very difficult to get permission to access the land. Phase 2 will involve the CFA, and there will also be Community information Sessions. The Ballan RSL is also interested in expanding information on the history of servicemen and women who served in this area from 1920 to the present day, using the Blackwood Historical Society, and would like to be able to gather names from the community to be able to upgrade the War Memorial in Blackwood. The RSL Marker is in a beautiful spot, where the Oak trees that were placed in the Avenue of Honour have run amok and quite wild, but there is a beauty to them. An Arborist has assessed the area and will proceed to start trimming the trees for safety and to make the area accessible. Phase 3 will create this magical spot that will be an asset for all – a wonderful place to sit and equally good for mental health. We are awaiting the outcome of the grant for Phase 2 to begin shortly. I believe this project will be good for the consciousness of people who served in Barry's Reef and Blackwood and I am excited by this multi-faceted project, humbled and feel the responsibility." The complete story presented in a pamphlet by Pippa Morris will be available to be read as a storybook board on the Blackwood Public Notice Board in the town center. There will be a Dawn Service at 6:00am at the Blackwood War Memorial on ANZAC Day.

~ Noelle Shader

## A SPECIAL WEDDING



On March 11, a glorious autumn day, Stephanie Kondos and Dusan Devic celebrated their wedding at St. Anne's Winery. All weddings are special, but after 37 years together, Dusan, a vibrant 86 year old proposed to

Stephanie to ask for her hand in marriage.

The bride, groom, family members and Blackwood residents were driven to the winery in style – a beautifully decorated Blackwood Cricket bus. The marriage ceremony and vows were exchanged on a terrace overlooking the lake, followed by exuberant applause and a dance from the newlyweds. Guests were wined and dined throughout the afternoon, and musical favourites included Greek songs celebrating their union.



The Blackwood Cricket Club bus then returned a happy and much loved couple back to Blackwood – tin cans rumbling off the back of the bus to announce the Just Married couple, Mr. and Mrs Devic, to all.

~ Noelle Shader  
Photos - Karen Bruno

## LIVE MUSIC IN BLACKWOOD

How lucky were we 100+ to be entertained by Tony McManus recently. Hailed by John Renbourn as 'the best Celtic guitarist in the world' Tony McManus has been listed as one of the 50 (best) transcendental guitarists of all time by Guitar Player Magazine.

"Conjuring a unique but universal language from that most ubiquitous of instruments, the acoustic guitar, Tony McManus has both extended and transcended the parameters of contemporary Celtic music. Ranked by peers +and predecessors alike alongside the guitar world's all-time greats, his fiendishly dexterous, dazzlingly original playing draws on traditions from the entire Celtic diaspora."

<https://www.tonymcmanus.com/>

His wry Scottish humour added to a great evening. He acknowledged that the Scots are not given to overt displays of emotion, citing one chap as saying he loved his wife so much that he nearly told her.

~ John Kemp  
Photo - Peter Donnelly



**Flying past Blackwood?**

**Well don't!**

Stop in for breakfast, lunch or a snack.  
Great coffee, great toasties, delicious pies  
and home made sweets.

We are also offering...

**The Tradie\* Tuesday and Wednesday Special**

A large coffee & Egg, Bacon and Cheese Toastie  
on a large Turkish Roll. \$14.50

Phone orders welcome.

\*PS: You don't have to be a tradie to qualify.



Open 7 days a week  
**The Post Office Cafe**  
23 Martin Street  
Blackwood  
5368 6542





# A BLACKWOOD GARDEN

## AUTUMN

I'm sure I've mentioned before that Autumn is my favourite season.... but it is! It's the berries I love as well as the colouring leaves. It's the cold nights that intensify the colours. As with all the seasons over the last year, Autumn is very haphazard. In fact, if you keep a garden diary, very few years are the same.

I've been eating beautiful beans since mid-February and I planted carrots late February. A tip for planting carrots from someone's grandfather is, in order to keep constant moisture during germination is to lie a

board over the line of seeds for two weeks by which time they should have sprouted. Tomatoes have been slow to ripen and I didn't pick any until early March. The new crop of rocket is extra delicious when picked young. The strawberry patch needs thinning out, keeping the new runners which will be



more proactive next summer.

My lemon tree has had large lemons since last winter but very few have ripened...still. It flowered profusely in January and the new fruit are coming along nicely, but the older fruit is still green. I've been vigilant about fertilising the tree every few weeks and being in a pot requires daily watering. For those new to the area, the lemon to grow is the Meyer, which although it gets burnt by the frosts, tolerates them.

Sweet peas are traditionally planted on St Patrick's Day and I've recently heard for best results, to plant in pots and plant out later. I'll start harvesting potatoes soon, once they have died back almost completely and plant garlic in April and May. Sweetening the soil with a bit of lime produced great results.

I'm thrilled to see Emperor Gum Caterpillars with their vivid green bodies and brightly coloured tubercles. The other caterpillars which have been abundant, have been eating the grape leaves especially, especially those of the ornamental grape. I've never seen so many white butterflies (cabbage moths). I'm not sure if they have kept the variety of others away, although for a couple of weeks there was a variety and not the white. Who knows why?

Don't forget to freshen bird baths for the birds and insects. Take time and just observe.... what goes on in your garden and in the forest rewards in so many ways.

Happy gardening!!!

~ Jane Howat

## BLACKWOOD HISTORIC 50TH

On Saturday the 11th March the Blackwood & District Historical Society had an Open Day to commemorate the 50th Anniversary since the society formed in 1973, and Margot Hitchcock was the only active member for 50 years. The Museum was open from 10am – 4pm and many people attended to view the Historical items on display and especially the Religious book with the bullet hole in it

through which Billy Pincombe shot the Anglican minister in Blackwood. Margot Hitchcock was there from 1-4pm to sell her autographed book – 'The Billy Pincombe Tragedy' with the interesting history behind what happened that tragic day in 1908. More books will be sale on Easter Sunday when the museum will be open again to the public.



Photo of Margot with her small lamp collection and some items she donated to the Historical society, and some people inside the Museum for the Anniversary.

Don't forget the Historic Museum is open Saturday April 1st 10:00am – 1:00pm and May 6th 10:00am – 1:00pm hope to see you there ( small donation requested upon entry ). For more information see Margot's website – [www.blackwoodpublishing.com](http://www.blackwoodpublishing.com)

## St. Martin's Chapel

Come & Try FREE "Taster Sessions"

FREE EVENT

Saturday  
15th April

St. Martin's Chapel  
Blackwood, Vic. 3458

For more information contact  
[fionaross16@gmail.com](mailto:fionaross16@gmail.com)

Try out some of the many,  
great community activities  
on offer at  
**St. Martin's Chapel!**

9am to 10am

Holiday Event for Primary Aged  
Children with Robyn Zanon

10.30am to 11am

Wreath-Making with Jane Howat

11.30am to 12.30pm

InterPlay with Fiona Ross

AFTERNOON TEA

2pm to 3pm

Chi Flow Yoga with Susan Lord

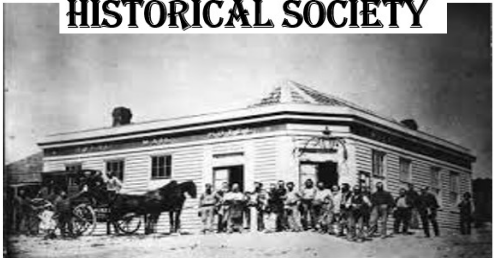
3.30pm to 5pm

Creative Writing with  
Genevieve Messenger



MARKET STALLS  
10am - 2pm

## BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Open Days are April 1st 10:00am - 1:00pm and May 6th 10:00am - 1:00pm  
Small donation requested on entry

Blackwood & District Historical Society and Police Stable Museum,  
Cnr Martin St and Warner St, Blackwood VIC 3458

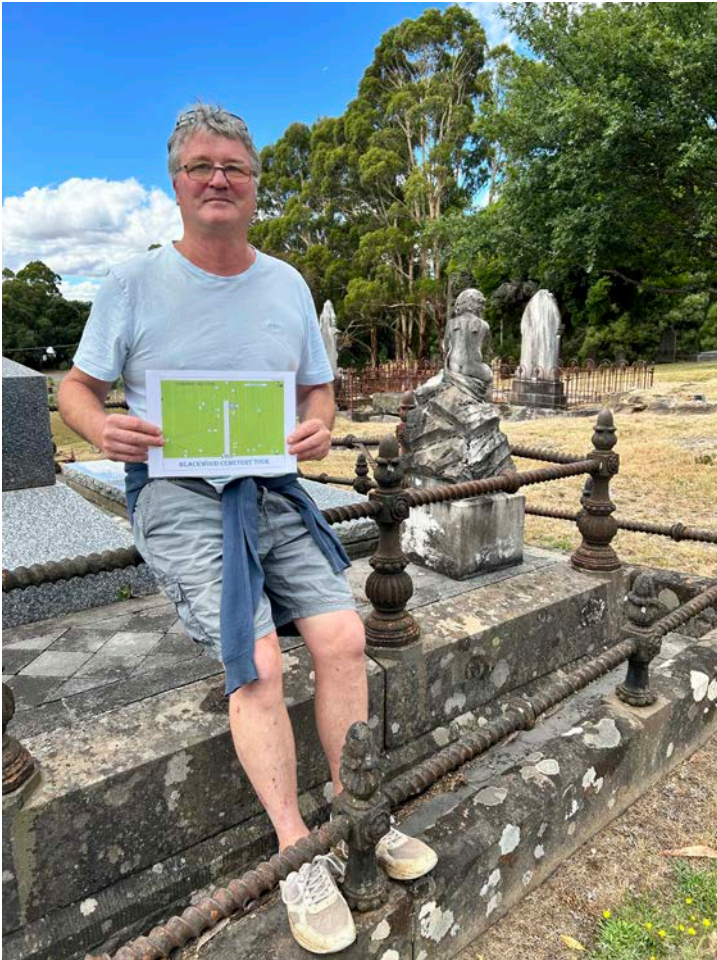
Please let our advertisers know you found them in The BLACKWOOD TIMES





## WHY I CAME TO BLACKWOOD - RAY CASTELLIN

Interviewed by Jeanne Tahini



### What brought you to Blackwood?

We came to Blackwood a few times when I was a child. The whole family would come for a day trip and my grandparents would fill their flagon bottles with mineral water from the Mineral Springs and we would have a BBQ. During grade 6 we came on a school camp and I really enjoyed it, as it was a different world. After that I would often pester my Dad to go camping in Blackwood. I remember a trip from our home in Altona where, when we got to Rockbank, storm clouds were gathering and Dad suggested that we would have to turn around and go home. I pestered him so much that we kept on going. In Blackwood we had a ball playing cricket with the kids in the Caravan Park. My brother and I also spent a lot of time in the river and built many dams. My Dad left us to it as he went to the Pub in the afternoon. He got to know many locals, and Blackwood really grew on him. Our family stayed several times in the little bed and breakfast huts run by Bon and Norah Tanner on Byres Road. King parrots and Crimson Rosellas used to visit every day and these intrigued me as they were different to the sparrows and Indian Mynas at Altona. During one visit, my Dad asked the Tanners if they knew of any houses for sale. As it happened the house next door to the Tanners was for sale and Dad bought it. My Father was an electrician and had many tradie friends who would come up for the weekend to help fix the house up and then go to the Pub in the evening. Sadly, after only a few years my dad died young without fully reaping the chill-time he was looking for. When we were of driving age, my brother, sister and I would take turns in booking the house for the weekend, mostly for parties with our friends. I then decided to buy the home from my Mum in 2008. I was very sentimental about the place and decided that I would just travel in to work each day as I thought the trip was worth it. I always had the feeling that

every weekend I was on holiday whilst the people in Melbourne were stuck there and would probably love to change places. When Covid hit I decided that, with the internet, I could run the business from home and stay in Blackwood and avoid Melbourne's worsening traffic and the 2.5 hours driving time wasted every day. Now those wasted hours are mine! I am involved with a few activities in Blackwood that I am committed to. These are the Blackwood Historic Society, the Cemetery Trust and more recently the working group for the Avenue of Honour restoration. It took a while for me to realise that if you want something done here you really have to get involved or it doesn't happen! My involvement with the Blackwood Historic Society began when I read the Aspects book. I spent much time walking the bush trying to find where the places mentioned in the book were. I am often told that I am more interested in the dead than the living! Recently I've become a member of the Blackwood Over 55s Social Club and I'm learning a lot from the other members and they are probably sick of my questions already! At the time that we first came to Blackwood, other people from Altona were already here. I went to school with Angela, who has a house over the road from mine...it's a small world!

### What makes Blackwood a special place for you?

Originally it was to be absorbed in the peace, quiet and nature of the place, and now it's more about the community. Blackwood is full of interesting people; you can see many at the Post Office and have a chat with them. We are all equals here, nobody gives a toss if you have one dollar or a million in the bank! I knew I wanted to retire here from long time ago but it was just brought forward 25 years or so!

## LANDCARE WORKSHOPS

B&BR Landcare offered 2 free workshops at St. Martin's Chapel during the months of February and March, supported by the Moorabool Council. The Native Plant Propagation Workshop was run by Roger Mac Raild, who runs the Moorabool Landcare Network Nursery in Rowsley, which specializes in producing indigenous plants from seeds and cuttings mainly sourced from within the Moorabool Shire. Seventeen participants attended the 2 hour workshop to learn about seed collecting, how to sow different seeds, creating a proper potting mix for planting and when the best time to plant them out was. How to propagate plants from cuttings was also discussed and demonstrated, and the participants were able to practice their new skills on various species of plants brought from the nursery, which they were then able to take home. The Soil Health Workshop was run by Frank Carland, who has worked for Natural Resource Management since 1987, and has years of experience in advising farmers and gardeners about their soils. Soil health is fundamentally linked to land productivity and environmental sustainability. The presentation covered an in-depth study on what makes up healthy soil, soil chemistry, and the importance of healthy soil being able to transfer nutrients consistently. Soil Textures, ie. Clay, and soil profiling was discussed, a pertinent subject for Blackwood due to the heavy mining and logging in its history. How to improve soil health was followed by the 10 participants checking samples of their own problem soils, which closed the soil workshop. Caitlan Findley, the Waste and Recovery Officer from the Moorabool Shire, then spoke of the new strategies being undertaken by the Moorabool Council to deal with waste management. There are now new Community Programs and Services being offered presently and working toward 2030 to complete all suggested projects is the goal. Some of the existing services now being offered: free monthly green waste drop-off at any of the 3 Transfer Stations in the Shire. (Next one is in May and will take as much as you can carry); a free chemical disposal day drop off in June; an evolving hard waste drop off, including ½ price on mattress drop off per month and free electronic waste disposal at various places in Ballan. A new waste collection contractor and new designs on collection trucks will highlight the importance of waste management to our environment.

~ Noelle Shader





## THE HISTORY OF BLACKWOOD - BUILDINGS IN BLACKWOOD.

### THE BLACKWOOD POLICE STABLES

The existing Police stables, which stand on the old Police Reserve, later established as the School Masters residence, in Martin Street, Blackwood, have a long history of construction, repairs, removal and conversion, which spans a period of over 150 years, since 1855. The present stables were removed from Golden Point in Blackwood to its present position in 1880. Temporary stables of logs and canvas were established at Golden Point in May of 1855, but were replaced by stables sent up from Melbourne. The stables were constructed in a prefabricated form by "Saunders & Sons" - timber merchants, and stored at the Richmond Depot. Unfortunately, documents concerning the stables have been lost, and only by reading the District Reports and Public Works Dept. records can we piece the history together. The stable sections were brought to Blackwood on a police wagon and assembled on a slight rise in the Police paddock at Golden Point, and housed stalls for six mounts, and a fodder room. It is believed they were completed by December of 1855, as it is reported that one mounted sergeant and five constables were operating from the stables by that time. The temporary log structures built by Thomas Disher were abandoned, and have since disappeared.

The stables and Police quarters were repaired in July 1866 by John Walker of Blackwood, and again in 1868 by F. Shenn of Blackwood.

In 1880 the Police station at Golden Point was closed, a new station was established within the

Blackwood Township in Martin Street. Mr. Andrew Buchanan of Blackwood was given the task of removing the stables from Golden Point and reassembling them on the new station area, but limiting their capacity to two horse stalls only. Mr. Buchanan had to convert the six stall stable to its present two stall status. A close inspection of the frame and exterior reveal the conversion work. Mr. Buchanan charged £38-9-6d for the work.

The stables were constantly in use until 1915 when the station was closed. The School Masters house and land was then rented out and around the 1970's it was then handed over to the Special Schools for the use of children with special needs. An agreement was made with the Special Schools who allowed the Blackwood and District Historical Society to have full use and restoration rights of the Stables for a nominal "peppercorn" yearly rental.

The Blackwood & District Historical Society first commenced in the 1970's - 14th April 1973 was when a meeting was held in the Blackwood Mechanics Hall led by Bill Matheson. Many interested people attended and when people were asked to put their hand up if they were interested to become a member Margot Hitchcock was



one who volunteered. Today Margot is the only one left who is still a current member, being in 2023 an active member for 50 years. The Society became active in restoring the Blackwood Police Stables to be used for a Historical Museum.

Weather, age and vandalism had taken its toll and it became the project of the Blackwood and District Historical Society to restore the stables to their 1880 condition, and to house a small museum dedicated to the work of the police in the district. This work was commenced in 1976 and carried out by members of the Society together with members of the Police Re-enactment Society who joined the Historical society. Working bees were held lead by Stuart Duff and work was completed to lock-up stage in 1978.

A re-enactment of the gold-field days by members of the society in

costume and assisted by mounted "troopers" from the "Historical Pageantry Society" over the Labour Day weekend in March 1977 with the Police Stables open to the public was a great success and added publicity to the Stables. The stables was also open over the Easter celebrations in Blackwood in 1978 and members took part in the Easter parade. At the Easter Events in 1979 members of the Society and the Police Re-enactment Society put on a shoot-out between "bushrangers" and the society members dressed in period costume and Police uniforms with the Stables open to the public showing a Police Historical and Goldfields display. Similar displays were held other

years and work was done on the interior of the stables where various donations of historical items were put on display. Similar displays were held other years and work was done on the interior of the stables where various donations of historical items were put on display. As noted by Stuart Duff during restorations - "The roof is the original galvanized iron which is screwed down. The stables' exterior walls were not painted, only the trims, such as vents, doors, facing boards, etc, which were painted buff and brown. The original brick lined, drain is still visible. The 'Fodder Room' is in its original condition, and the stable area is being prepared for restoration. The Society is grateful to Mr. Len Undy of the Public Record Office, and Sergeants Morrison and Storer of the "Victoria Police Public Relations Branch" for all their support and assistance in our research and restoration project."



The doors and window surrounds were painted in the buff and brown colours as it was originally and some of the old weather boards were replaced and the guttering. The room next to the stable area was where the saddles, harnesses and fodder were kept. This room has flooring and the ceiling is lined with cedar lining boards.

The Historical Society was given a building next the Blackwood General Store for the use of a Museum by the family of the late Cyril Jones, but due to problems with boundary areas and an underground petrol tank, this building was sold to the Blackwood Store and the money then agreed upon by the Society to be used to build a museum at the back of the Police Stables.

In 1998 work was commenced by the President of the Society, Allan Hall, a builder, to extend the back of the Police Stables to incorporate a meeting room with record storage space and in future, computers for public use, also a kitchen and a big area to display historical items and photographs etc. This work was completed approx. 2003 during which time the Historical Society, had been dormant for several years.

The Historical Society, resumed in December 2004 with some original and new members interested in continuing the work of the Police Stables restoration so it could be an added tourist attraction to Blackwood and show some of Blackwood's fascinating Gold Mining era.

(Information, research, and help with restoration of the stables provided by Stuart Duff and the boys of the Police Re-enactment Society - past members of the Blackwood and District Historical Society.) The Poppet Head has been built by the late Allan Hall and erected out the front of the Blackwood Historical Museum, and work done inside by Allan as well as his donation of Historical items, many of which once belonged to his mother, of which the Society is grateful for his help and dedication.

~ Margot Hitchcock

Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society





## BLACKWOOD MAKERS

Sarah the creator of Life of Sense is a resident of Blackwood and has an affinity for creating natural products that have no chemicals or additives, just pure whole ingredients sourced as sustainably as possible. "I started making my own soap for the family when I realised all the ingredients that were in mainstream soap were not something I would put on my own skin.

That led me to realise what we as a family were using on a daily basis and I wanted to reduce as many toxic substances coming into the house as possible, so I started to look into alternatives. I have been interested in aromatherapy for many years and have completed a lot of study and research. When searching for products to use on my children, I found it difficult to find things that had ingredients that I could pronounce, or recognise. I had to research products I was giving to my family to make sure they were high quality and good for their health. After my research I decided that a great way to be completely satisfied with the products we use daily was to make my own!



What products are your most popular?

"My handmade Magnesium balm, bath bombs, mud masks and essential oil roller blends are the most popular. I also produce a facial range which includes a cleanser, toning mist and moisturiser. In the future I am looking to make Eucalyptus hydrosol from the trees I have on our property, and a Lavender hydrosol from the plants I have been growing, which will assist me in creating more products to offer.

I've also started working on creating a group of blends which will resemble each of the elements, Air, Water, Fire, Earth and Aether.

If you want to come and visit me at the Blackwood Woodchop and Easter Carnival, I will have my stall with my most popular products. You can also view some of my products online at <https://lifeofsense.com/>

~ Paul Kukiel

## GOLD PANNING & PROSPECTING

Avoid the prospect of a penalty when fossicking. With tens of thousands of Victorians authorized to search for gold on public land, authorities are reminding recreational prospectors to do the right thing, keep safe and safeguard the environment. There are almost 73,000 active miner's rights in Victoria and the rush to get involved shows no sign of slowing with more than 8,000 purchased in during 2021. While they're out prospecting for gold, Earth Resources Regulation Inspectors and Conservation Regulator Authorized Officers are checking that fossickers are licensed, panning in permitted areas, and meeting their responsibilities to reduce any impact on the environment. Due to recent heavy rain and flooding, some areas across the state remain closed or inaccessible, so it is more important than ever for prospectors to plan ahead. Know the access rules and consent requirements of the preferred location; check local weather conditions, state forest, park and road closures at <http://mapshare.vic.gov.au/mapsharevic/>; always share travel and itinerary information with someone. Fossicking and recreational prospecting is permitted in state forests and in designated areas of some national, state, historic and heritage parks. Prospectors must also follow all other public land rules while out fossicking, including driving only on tracks or roads open to the public, taking all rubbish home, and immediately restoring the area to how it was found by backfilling any holes and replacing leaf litter. The use of mechanical equipment or explosives is not permitted, vegetation and Aboriginal objects must not be removed or damaged. In Victoria, hobby gold hunters must possess a miner's right, which allows them to keep any gold they find. Anyone caught panning or fossicking without a miner's right permit can face penalties up to \$36,984 under the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990. A miner's right can be purchased for \$26 from Services Victoria. Earth Resources Regulation has produced a Guide to Recreational Prospecting in Victoria and a helpful video, both can be accessed by visiting [earthresources.vic.gov.au/fossicking](http://earthresources.vic.gov.au/fossicking).

~ April Dudgeon

Media & Communications Advisor

## MY GOLD PROSPECTING EXPERIENCES AT BLACKWOOD

As the township of Blackwood was based on gold mining it was what many people did for a hobby after the serious mining of the area had finished. I was introduced to gold fossicking by "Mr Foster" who lived in the small two roomed "house" adjoining my grandmother's house in Blackwood. This small residence could possibly be described as a 19th century Granny flat. It was built by my grandfather to house his mother after his father died. At the age of about 7, I would accompany Mr Foster to his diggings down from the race about 50 metres from the river and upstream from the mineral springs. He had two not very deep shafts. He would take dirt in a pan to be washed in the river. I was very impressed at the gold he would get with a meniscus gleaming with gold, probably about a couple of pennyweight to the dish. He would always say how poor it was but I was impressed. He eventually left Blackwood and I have no idea where he went. Years later we kids, John Whitehouse, Michael Barry and I, would often go fossicking mainly up Yankee Gully Creek and we did get some nice alluvial gold. At one stage we set up a sluice box. John had more money than either Michael or myself and he would often graciously share his packet of chewing gum with us. In those days there was a higher rainfall and Yankee always flowed. We used to wish it would dry up so that we could get to spots we suspected of having gold. After that period had passed, as a young adult I started to get interested once again in fossicking for gold. After many fruitless attempts, try as I might, I could never find the spot where Mr Foster found all that gold. Oh well, there were other pursuits to involve myself with but I must say that seeing gold after washing a dish of dirt is hard to beat. Nowadays gold mining in the river, and on its banks, is disallowed due to erosion and risk of pollution to the river.

~ Don Owen





# AUSTRALIAN GOLD PANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hosted by the Victorian Gold Panning Association in affiliation with the World Gold Panning Association, the Fosterville Gold 28th Annual Australian Gold Panning Championships were held on Saturday 4th March at the Blackwood Recreation Reserve.

The event was first conducted in 1993 at Sovereign Hill and has been held at Maryborough and Dunolly but is now in its 8th year at Blackwood.

Marcus Binks, the President and a previous champion, comes from a long line of fossickers and panners with the family establishing itself in Colbrook in 1883, down the road from Blakeville.

Ian, his father, recounted tales of his grandmother trekking 7km through the bush with a pig tethered by the hind leg to deliver it to the Chinese in the market garden, on the very site that the Championship is being held.

John Henry Potter, the Binks great-great grandfather, managed the Simmonds Reef Mine for many years, and their grandparents were also mine-managers on the Blackwood fields in the late 1800's. Another connection with Blackwood is through Kevin Healey, a panner who also helped organize this event.

The pavilion at the Recreation Reserve is named in honour of his father



*Fossicker's hut not far from Golden Shaft mine near Potter's Creek & Wombat Gully, belonged to John Binks, great uncle of Ian C  
Image thanks to Gail Binks*

Mick, a forester and resident of Blackwood for 50 years.

The Gold Panning Championships are a celebration of an important part of Australia's heritage.

Categories include men's and women's skilled; veterans; novice; juniors; Batea (Spanish for gold pan) and the Eureka Challenge (gold panning using traditional pans).

Each panner has bucket of gravel with 5-10 pieces of gold (finals have 8-12 pieces), and race to find them all. A penalty of 3 minutes is applied for each piece that is missed.

At the World Championships, to be held in South Africa this year, experts will use modern flat pans invented in Sweden to locate all pieces in about 1 minute 20 seconds.

This year's winners were:

Eureka Challenge	Bill Dempster (5' 06")
Men's Skilled	Dylan Calvert (1' 06")
Women's Skilled	Abigail Apro (1' 43")
Novice	Mark Walker (4' 39")
Junior U/16	Sophie Scoble (4' 37")
Junior U/12	Charlotte Walker (4' 51")
Teams	Team Ozzipol (4' 42")
Batea	Dylan Calvert (4' 39")

Overall winner was Marcus Binks with Abigail Apro 2nd & Bill Dempster in 3rd place. Gold was first found at Jackson's Gully, Golden Point, Mt Blackwood on Sunday 14th November 1854 by 2 teamsters, Harry Athorn and Harry Hider, who were filling their billy with water to make a cuppa tea.

By the end of 1855 the gold mining village of Blackwood had 13,000 prospectors panning the creeks and sluicing the riverbanks and hillsides.

In 1907, unable to afford the three-penny entry to the Easter Carnival, poppa Skinner took the family fossicking up Back Creek and stumbled on a reef that made them rich and they called it the Easter Monday Mine.

So, if you can't afford the entry this year....

*~ John Kemp  
Photos - Peter Donnelly & John Kemp*





Stake-Your-Claim was a highlight of the day whereby each entrant pegged out a section of ground for the chance to win a gold nugget



# Mary-Anne Thomas MP

Labor Member for Macedon

**Delivering for Macedon**

 [mary-anne.thomas@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:mary-anne.thomas@parliament.vic.gov.au)

 PO Box 39, Gisborne, 3437

 Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street,  
Gisborne VIC 3437

 5428 2138

Authorised by MA Thomas, Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne

ADVERTISEMENT



**Victorian Labor**

The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.





# BLACKWOOD WOODCHOP & EASTER CARNIVAL

## EASTER SATURDAY • April 8<sup>th</sup> • Blackwood Reserve

Excitement is building as we once again gear up for the annual Blackwood Woodchop & Easter Carnival! Now in its 121st year, this historic event was the proud winner of Moorabool Shire's Community Event of the Year 2023 at the recent Australia Day awards. Woodchoppers will be here in force to get the day off to an axe-swinging start, while the raucous Street Parade, under the watchful eye of Hetty the Hen, is the first of many traditional Carnival activities to be enjoyed throughout the day - the tug-o-war, gumboot throwing competition, gold-panning and much-loved pet show to name just a few. There will also be live music, an artisan market, food stalls and licenced bars. The Blackwood Woodchop & Easter Carnival is always an action-packed and fun-filled experience for the whole family.



Greater Glider String Band. Photo: Karina Demasson

### COME FOR THE WOODCHOP, STAY FOR THE MUSIC!

The festival will feature Americana music from 1 - 6pm including:

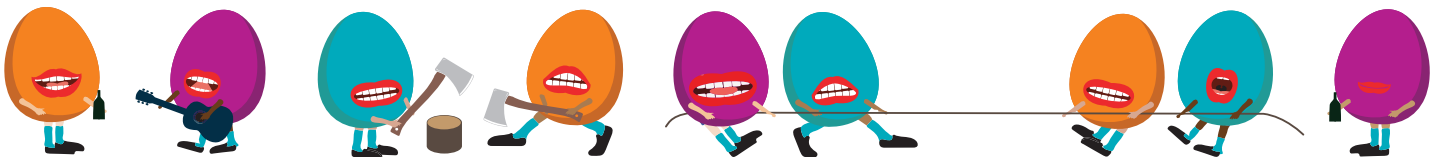
- Peter Daffy Trio
- Greater Glider String Band
- Hardrive Bluegrass Band
- Gumbo Zydeco Band

### EARLYBIRD TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

Beat the crowds and save money by grabbing your earlybird tickets now! Tickets available from <http://www.trybooking.com/CFPDV> or via the QR code below.



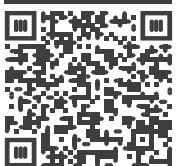
Woodchopping at the Carnival. Photo: Peter Donnelly



# 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**

Scan the QR code for more info or to purchase tickets



Supported by:







## BLACKWOOD PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Early in January a number of Moorabool council's Storm Recovery Officers met with a small working group to discuss a Storm Recovery Grant the shire had received from Emergency Recovery Victoria. The community-led projects focus was to build community recovery and resilience through respectful consultation with Traditional Owners of Country. Parameters of this project were that:

- Funding to be used by April 2023
- It must include collaboration and guidance with the relevant Traditional Aboriginal Owner Group responsible for Country
- Project focus is on community connections, healing of country and building resilience together

In February Noelle Shader & I were honoured to spend a zoom hour with Wurundjeri Elders Aunty Julieanne Axford & Aunty Gail Smith to discuss indigenous protocols. This was the first of 3 cultural consultations asking how best to use the grant & create a legacy. One of the outcomes of the consultation highlighted the importance of education across the generations. Given the very short timeline the Blackwood Progress offered to host a grant related event at the Easter Carnival. To this end, we are very fortunate to that Aunty Gail has accepted our invitation to read from her set of 5 children's books based on the rhythm of western nursery rhymes written in the traditional language of Woi wurrung. The Blackwood reconciliation collective are busy making a very special parade 'float' which will lead the children to Aunty Gail in the storytelling space. Our Blackwood & Barry's Reef Landcare group will be giving children native plants as well as providing education as a part of Healing Country. For Blackwoodian grown-ups, the working group are excited to offer the community places in an online workshop run by the Koorie Heritage Trust titled "Building Aboriginal Competency". These 4 hour online workshops are valued at \$250 per place but, for our community, these sessions are paid for as a part of the grant. These are standalone individual online training sessions. The facilitators are experts in the field and

deliver the workshop based around experiential/participatory learning that encourage reflection on participants' own values, beliefs and behaviour.

The learning outcomes of the training are to:

- Develop awareness of Aboriginal culture and identity
- Develop awareness of the strengths of Aboriginal culture and people
- Assist in making the connection and understanding the impact of colonisation and past policy for Aboriginal people today
- Motivate participants in their cultural competence journey

Those interested in taking a place can read further about the workshops at <https://kooorieheritagetrustau.rezdy.com/528538/online-workshop-building-aboriginal-cultural-competency>. Places in the workshops will be allocated on a 'first in first served' basis & you can choose from are April 13 or May 10 (9:30-1:30), they will be allocated on a first in basis. If you would like to be emailed the invitation form please send an email to [editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au](mailto:editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au) with Cultural Competency workshop in the subject line. I will pass your email address on to Moorabool's Inclusion officer who will send you a request form. This is the beginning of an exciting period in Blackwood's history. We hope you will join us for the ride.

~ Jinny Coyle

## BLACKWOOD WOODCHOP & EASTER CARNIVAL

Proud Winner of Moorabool Shire's Community Event of the Year 2023. Easter Saturday is a special day in Blackwood, a beautiful town in the Wombat State Forest, Victoria. Each year, the town hosts the famous Blackwood Woodchop & Easter Carnival. This event is now in its 121st year and is the second oldest festival in Australia. The Blackwood Woodchop & Easter Carnival was recently awarded the title of Moorabool Shire's Community Event of the Year 2023. The much-loved Street Parade featuring striking costumes and floats is a highlight of the morning's events.

Accompanied by a brass band, the parade makes its way from the town centre down to the Lerderderg River and the Recreation Reserve - rightfully known as "the prettiest sportsground in Victoria" - where the Carnival and Woodchop take place.

The Blackwood Woodchop is one of the oldest woodchopping competitions in Victoria, with axemen and women travelling from across the state to compete for the coveted titles and prize money. The Carnival is action-packed, with tug-o-war, gumbot throwing, and a pet show amongst the many popular activities happening throughout the day. And of course, to honour Blackwood's gold-mining history, there is the chance to try your hand at gold-panning. A family-friendly event, there is loads of other FREE fun stuff for kids too - the treasure hunt, novelty games and races, face-painting and more.

With fabulous live music, market stalls, delicious eats and licenced bars, the Blackwood Woodchop & Easter Carnival truly offers something for everyone.

The event is organised by the Blackwood Progress Association with proceeds from ticket sales going to support numerous community groups. Discounted Earlybird tickets can be bought online in advance, or you can purchase tickets at the gate on the day.

See you in Blackwood on Easter Saturday - April 8th!

For more information visit: <http://theblackwoodtimes.com.au/2023-blackwood-woodchop-easter-carnival/>

To book tickets: <http://www.trybooking.com/CFPDV>





WOMBAT FOREST WINES

---

**LOCAL'S DAY**

---

SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1-5PM

---



**LIVE MUSIC**  
JARED BRENTNALL  
ACOUSTIC TUNES  
**1PM- 4PM**

**LOCAL WINE + BEER**

BYO PICNIC  
OR  
ENJOY ONE OF OUR  
LOCAL CHEESE  
PLATTERS

\*NO BYO DRINKS

---

WINE • BEER • MUSIC • LAWN GAMES

189 SPRINGHILL RD, DENVER, VIC 3461  
PH: 0408 799 187 / 0427 239 334





• BLACKWOOD







POST CARDS •







# Moorabool Shire Council STORM RECOVERY Update



Check out the program of free activities for the communities impacted by the devastating storms in June 2021, made possible through Emergency Recovery Victoria funding.

## Free community activities

### Mental Health First Aid Training

- 13 & 14 May at the Blackwood Community Hall

### Practical First Aid Training

Free certification in HLTAID011 – Provide first aid

- 23 April 10am- 5pm at the Blackwood Community Hall
- 30 April 10am- 5pm at Koweinguboora Recreation Reserve Hall

### Recovery through the Arts Program

- Linocut print workshop will be offered in April in the Korweinguboora/Barkstead area.
- Date and venue TBA



For more information and registration forms for all the activities, visit [moorabool.vic.gov.au/storm-recovery-events](http://moorabool.vic.gov.au/storm-recovery-events) or use the QR code above. For any enquiries on these events, please contact the Storm Recovery Coordinator, Amanda Western, by emailing [awestern@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:awestern@moorabool.vic.gov.au)

## Thank you

The development of Community Emergency Management Plans (CEMPs) for the Blackwood and Korweinguboora areas has commenced.

Council would like to thank the many people who have committed their time to develop these plans and appreciate the efforts of each Committee member.

The two CEMPs will be finalised by the end of April. A random draw of the CEMP survey participants won prizes valued up to \$100.

The major prize winners were:

- Blackwood & Surrounds survey: Andy Morris
- Korweinguboora & surrounds survey: Cyana Lopez-Matta



Mental Health First Aid participants from the March course receive their certificates





# Moorabool Shire Council STORM RECOVERY Update



We have been delighted to see so many people participate in the Recovery through the Arts Program. The lino group produced a community Art Book and the Storm Choir recorded their performance, and these can be found at [moorabool.vic.gov.au/storm-recovery-events](http://moorabool.vic.gov.au/storm-recovery-events)

## Free habitat creation project

Forty eight per cent of Australian threatened species live on private land - here's your opportunity to help them by recreating habitat following the storm damage.

Council has engaged Ecology & Restoration Australia (ERA) to create artificial hollows in standing live or dead trees, using a suite of tools, which can suit native hollow-dependent species including all kinds of possums, gliders and birds. For information on ERA, visit [eraus.com.au](http://eraus.com.au)

We are inviting private landholders, through an Expression of Interest process, to participate in this unique program by using the QR code above or visit [moorabool.vic.gov.au/storm-recovery-events](http://moorabool.vic.gov.au/storm-recovery-events)



## Healing Country

A group of passionate Blackwood residents have developed a Healing of Country program in consultation with the Traditional Owners of this local area - the Wurundjeri people. Planned activities are:

### 8 April - Blackwood Easter Carnival

- 11am: The Blackwood Reconciliation Collective are leading a Bunjil parade
- 1pm-4pm: Aboriginal Storytelling Tent and free Indigenous plant giveaway.

### 13 April or 10 May

- 9.30am-1.30pm: Half Day Online Cultural Competency Workshop delivered by Koorie Heritage Trust. Limited spots available. Please contact Jinny Coyle [editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au](mailto:editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au) if you are interested to sign up.





## WHAT A LOT OF GARBAGE

Did you know that it costs rate-payers (us) roughly \$80,000 to clean up illegally dumped litter every year.

I'm sure most locals will have noticed that we seem to have a lot more dumped garbage over public holidays & with Easter & school holidays & so the following is a timely reminder from Moorabool Shire.

Littering and dumped garbage can range from a single bag of household rubbish to large household items, things like TVs, appliances and electronic waste, furniture, or mattresses. Also stuff from outside the home like industrial wastes, construction materials, garden waste, tyres, old cars and soil. Even asbestos has been illegally dumped in our forest.

Dumping litter is an offence under the Environment Protection Act 1970 and Council's Community Safety Officers investigate all reports received.

If you witness someone dumping rubbish on nature strips, parks and reserves or local roads please report it at <https://my.moorabool.vic.gov.au/do-it-online/problems-requests-submissions/complaints>. Please let us know if you see someone littering or dumping rubbish on:

Information that can assist us includes:

- The offender's vehicle registration number
- A photograph, if safe to take one
- A specific description of what was dumped
- A description of the person/people seen dumping the rubbish
- The location & date and time

Finally

- Never put yourself in any danger
- Do not approach the person dumping or touch the litter (touching it renders it contaminated)

We also have many local Blackwoodians who pick up random rubbish (bottles, cans, wrappers) while walking. I am discussing with council to possibility of having an easily accessible bin in town where we can put roadside rubbish so it doesn't take up space in our bins. Watch this space.

~ *Jinny Coyle adapted from <https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/Waste-and-environment/Dumped-rubbish-and-litter>*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to tell you about a 12-hour Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training that I participated last month. Too often people who are having mental health issues feel shame & guilt yet, in the most recent National Survey of Mental Health & Wellbeing, it was found that 1 in 5 (20%) of people between the ages of 16-85 will experience some form of mental illness in a single year. We need to change the narrative around mental health/illness. We need to learn how to support those around us who are having trouble keeping on top of their mental health & well-being. Over 2 consecutive Sundays in March, the free MHFA training was sponsored by the council through a Storm Recovery Grant. Pauline, the trainer, was super knowledgeable but she was also able to add humour into some really serious topics. It is widely recognised in emergency management that it can take 2 years after a traumatic event for the impact to affect our mental health. With the MHFA course under my belt I feel much more prepared to support community, friends & family, should there be a need. The good news is that you still have a chance to do this training as there will be another workshop planned for May. I encourage everyone to consider signing up.

Cheers

Jinny Coyle

Dear Editor,

The Environment Rally Non-Event of February 7th 2023.

I was at the so-called big environment meet, (Rally), Tuesday February 7th 2023 at Victorian State Parliament House steps just as an observer and with hope that the new Environment Minister would make an appearance. What a sad number of supporters attended this rally. This was supposed to be a major joining of concerned environment groups to make known their issues and connect with the new Victorian Minister of Environment the Hon. Ingrid Stitt. How pathetic that there was no attendance or show of interest from this person responsible for decisions on environment in Victoria. The only Member of Parliament I saw was Samantha Ratnam, Victorian Leader of "The Greens", there for 5 minutes and no speech, just there for a photo opportunity I reckon. Ha Ha. One part of the rally suggested "Stop the Trashing of Wombat State Forest" by VicForests. I was not sure what this crowd was on about and as many people of the Wombat know, as do others outside, the activities by VicForests in salvaging the fallen trees and those posing a danger is justified and necessary. I just dismissed them as a few with a knee jerk reaction to the forest floor disturbances required. Mother Nature created the greatest environmental damage with the wind storms of June and October 2021 that I have seen in my 50+ years of enjoying the flora, fauna, solitude and beauty of WOMBAT STATE FOREST. Yes this timber wonderland is still a STATE FOREST and hopefully will stay at that status until realistic management plans are set to ensure the longevity and safety of the forest flora and fauna and also allow for the continued open and accessible recreational activities people enjoy today. What we do not need at this time is another National Park to join existing ones that the State can ill afford to maintain and are left to become weed and feral animal infested lands with inaccessible overgrown tracks that make access difficult if not impossible for emergency vehicles. People like me, some now approaching twilight years, wish to ensure future generations have full and open access to our forests and want to talk to people of similar ilk, those that love the forests for their beauty, recreational uses and the lawful, regulated, sustainable harvesting of the renewable resource called "Timber". Since 2017 a group called BUGU, (Bush User Groups United), has tried to engage and work with this socialist far left State and develop a better management and maintenance process for our existing forests for real sustainability, but our requests fall on deaf ears. On three occasions before Covid, BUGU admin had meetings with Lily D'Ambrosio organised, at that time the Environment Minister, on each occasion we had the meeting cancelled at the last minute. As stated part reason for attendance at this rally was to engage with the new Environment Minister, I had a letter to deliver detailing BUGU's history and agenda and requesting a meeting. With no appearance and not permitted to pass letter through doors of Parliament House I sent it by snail mail to her Electorate Office. A week later I sent an email asking if the Minister had received the letter, all I have received is an automated response stating I may get a reply in eight to ten weeks. So it appears nothing has changed, there is little or no time for groups with possible opposition or question on this State Government's agenda. In closing I assume a few readers will remember me from previous issues of "The Blackwood Times" and my letters and articles rejecting VEAC's recommendations to State Government to change status of Wombat State Forest and Lerderberg State Park to joint National Park, this opposition based in part on the final majority of 67% of responses to the final public submission time against more National Parks. I want to ensure continued access to the Wombat State Forest for all recreational users, dispersed camping, horse riding, amateur prospecting, dog walking, 4WD, trail bike, orienteering and not forgetting domestic wood collection.

Also, I do not want to see Wombat State Forest turn completely into another weed and feral animal infested land and an inaccessible overgrown wilderness of the ugly kind.

**Any political opinions in this article are that of the author and independent of this newspaper.**

Stephen Smitham - Darley, Victoria





## • COMMUNITY GROUP & CLUB UPDATES •

### ANZAC DAY

There will be a dawn service on ANZAC day this year at the memorial in the centre of our bustling metropolis. The service will commence at 6.00am Tuesday 25th April, but please arrive 5 minutes early to ensure everyone is settled at this time. There will be coffee and breakfast on sale afterwards with proceeds going towards a bigger and better event next year. Many thanks to the Ballan RSL for driving this, in particular Pippa Morris. As a sidelight, we are looking to contact anyone who had relatives serve in WW2 from this district for an upcoming project. Please email ballanrsl@gmail.com in the first instance with info.

~ Ray Castellan

### ST MARTIN'S CHAPEL

It looks like being a busy year at St Martin's.

Already this year there have been birthday parties, markets, workshops, various meetings and a pizza night. Coming up shortly are musical events, a high tea, an Agape, markets, a wedding, more workshops and some taster sessions for activities you may want to become involved in.

Last month we had some fabulous news. During our renovations, we were mindful that it would be important to have an effective way to heat the Chapel. We also knew that this hadn't been included in our budget. The congregation at Daylesford Uniting Church agreed to loan us the money to install three reverse-cycle air conditioners and had allowed us three years to repay them. Every time we managed to build up some money we would get a hefty insurance or utility bill. So, the Management Committee of St Martin's was overjoyed to be told that the Daylesford congregation had decided to gift the money to us to continue our mission at Blackwood. We are so grateful for their generosity and goodwill. Thanks again to the people from Landcare who have kept the water up to the new plants over summer and to Peter Dalglish for the hoses. Thanks also to Jinny Coyle for organising the Blackwood Garage Sale and Rose Carrington for organising the Pizza night which were both great fundraisers. Money we raise now will go towards some planned kitchen upgrades, making the space even more versatile.

~ Robyn Zanon

### COMMUNITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR BLACKWOOD & KORWEINGUBOORA

The development of Community Emergency Management Plans (CEMPs) for the Blackwood and Korweinguboorra areas has commenced with community members having gathered multiple times in February and March to develop up the plans. Council would like to thank the many people who have committed their time to develop these plans and appreciate the efforts of each Committee member.

The purpose of the CEMPs are to provide the community with:

- knowledge of the emergency risks that exist in their local area
  - information to support the role that each member of the community can have in an emergency
  - a platform to connect with each other and Council before, during and after an emergency
  - the ability to support each other in an emergency event or disaster
- Victoria has a comprehensive emergency management planning framework at the state, regional, municipal, and community levels. These plans are designed to ensure that communities are prepared for, and able to respond effectively to, and recover from, emergencies such as fires, storms, floods and pandemics. At the state level, the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP), overseen by Emergency Management Victoria, outlines the roles and responsibilities of

government agencies, emergency services, and other organisations involved in emergency management. At the regional level, Victoria is divided into eight emergency management regions (Blackwood is in the Grampians region), each of which has a Regional Emergency Management Plan (REMP). These plans outline the specific risks and hazards appropriate to the region, and the strategies for managing them. At the municipal level, each local government has a Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP). The MEMP outlines the specific risks and hazards in the municipality, how these will be managed, and what local resources and assets can be used in an emergency. A MEMP often includes a variety of hazard specific sub plans with further detail on key activities, such as fire management planning, flood and storm preparation, and relief and recovery operations. Moorabool Shire's MEMP is available on the Council website. Community Emergency Management Plans (CEMPs), such as those currently in development for Blackwood and Korweinguboorra, form part of the MEMP, and are an important part of the emergency management framework. CEMPs are developed by communities, for their community, and outline how community members will prepare for, and respond to, emergencies. They often include information on evacuation routes, emergency shelters, communication strategies, and key capabilities across the community. The Blackwood CEMP will be finalised by the end of April. It will be based on the feedback received from community via community workshops and a survey. Overall, Victoria's emergency management arrangements aim to ensure that communities are prepared for emergencies and can respond effectively when they occur. They involve a coordinated effort between government agencies, emergency services, and local communities, and are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect changing risks and hazards.

**Rescheduled to next Thursday**  
**Local residents of Blackwood and surrounding areas**

Tell us what would make you better prepared for the next emergency at our 'pop-up' workshop

First 20 participants receive a **\$10 voucher for the Blackwood Pub**

Thursday ~~23~~<sup>30</sup> Mar, 6pm - 8pm

Blackwood Pub  
 22 Martin Street, Blackwood

Note: this event has been relocated from St Martin's Hall



~ Amanda Western & Cam Anderson  
 Moorabool Shire Council

### SPIRITS AT THE PUB Paranormal Investigation & Dinner

That chill you felt in an old house just might be a former Blackwood resident returning. Perhaps they have something to tell you!

Come along and meet some of Blackwood's colourful characters, past and present.

**When:** 15th of each month, dinner

**Where:** Blackwood Hotel





# • COMMUNITY GROUP

## BLACKWOOD CERT TEAM LEADERS REPORT



*Kirsty, Zac, Leonie, Jake, AV, Ivan, Sandy, Alicia, Jan, Marie-Claire, Kath C*

Once again, our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is looking forward to participating in the Blackwood Easter Parade and Carnival. Come and visit our stall for a chance to win a BIG jar of Easter Eggs in our traditional guess "How many eggs are in the jar" competition.



*Pippa the comfort dog*

This can be a great time to view our CERT car and how we operate the equipment. Team members will be available to answer any questions regarding interest in joining our CERT team and pathways to Ambulance Victoria Paramedicine.

In March all team members were reaccredited with Ambulance Victoria's annual First Responder "Authority to Practice" certificate. Our team is very proud of this achievement which allows us to continue to offer our First Responder Ambulance Victoria services to our local community.

*~ Jan and Leonie  
Blackwood CERT Team Leaders*

## CEMETERY TRUST

It has been all quiet on the western front at the cemetery for the last few months, but that's okay.

You can run but you can't hide!! You will spend at our shop sooner or later. We are still in the process of obtaining quotes to hang our new gates but unfortunately coming across the same old apathy. Hopefully soon, as they will look good.

A little cemetery humour to lighten the tone.

Robyn walks up to her friend Kris who is having a cigarette on a seat in the cemetery. "What are you doing here smoking all alone Kris?"

Kris replies, "Just wanted to be amongst fellow smokers who have stopped." Ouch, sorry smokers!

Another.

Wally is at the funeral of his ex-boss Lou. After the service Wally walks up to the coffin and whispers "Who is thinking outside of the box now Lou!!"

*~ Ray Castillin*

## CFA REPORT

Summer is officially over but the Fire Danger Period is still in force. Think before you light up. The CFA has a zero-tolerance policy to fires lit during the FDP and police will be called. From the Bureau of Meteorology website is this latest report that we should all read and prepare for since it will mean drier and hotter periods with less rainfall and the possibility of drought conditions. La Niña has ended in the tropical Pacific Ocean. The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is now neutral (neither La Niña nor El Niño) with oceanic and atmospheric indicators having returned to neutral ENSO levels. After last year's flooding and almost record rain, Blackwood's weather has turned dry again. Current rainfall for the year is well below the long-term average as the amount of bark and dry leaves on the ground clearly show. Fire Restrictions will not be lifted until we see some substantial rain. Although most of the heat has now gone out of the weather, winds are the main concern with the very dry forest fuel able to carry uncontrollable fires. Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) are now carrying out fuel reduction burns when conditions are suitable (low winds and higher humidity). After a fairly quiet January, the brigade was kept busy with multiple jobs in February. On February 12th a generator fire in Newbury caused a large lithium storage battery to catch fire. Multiple brigades attended the fire as water was deluged on the battery to cool it down. A specialist Hazardous Material appliance from Ballarat also attended. The following Tuesday, brigades to our north attended a fire on the forest originally thought to be in Bullarto South. The fire was eventually found to be along the Lerderderg river east of Nolan's Picnic area. The fire had supposedly spread from a riverside campfire up a steep incline covered in fallen trees from the 2021 storm. As this was on public land, FFMV were the controlling agency. A helicopter water bomber halted the spread up the hill and the fire was eventually made safe with a manually cut mineral earth break and the dragging of multiple lengths of hose up the steep hill. On February 17th, Blackwood brigade provided an overnight crew to help patrol the Rowsley fire that raced through 145 hectares of farmland and light bush. Our brigade/Fire Refuge open day on February 12th was interrupted by the call to the Newbury fire and some inclement weather. Thanks to Robert Foote who organised the virtual fire extinguisher demonstration on the day. It was great to show people around the station, our appliances and explain how the station is designed as a place of last resort in the event of a serious fire. While the fire station meets all the technical requirements for a fire refuge, it has never been tested in anger.

### THE FIRST PRIORITY IS YOUR SAFETY

Do not use Facebook if you are reporting an emergency

Ring 000 or 112 on a mobile

If you have and fire and do manage to put it out, it is better to have us responding than to wait until it is too late. For more information contact the station on 5368 6526 on Sunday mornings over the summer period







# P & CLUB UPDATES •

and the first Sunday of every month during the rest of the year as we are there for training and equipment checks. Never let complacency set in and always be prepared, no matter what the season. If you are interested in joining, we always welcome new members. We can be contacted at the station or through the Brigade Facebook page or the morning of the first Sunday of each month or drop us an email to blackwoodcfa@gmail.com

~ Karl Church

*Comms & Community Safety Liaison Officer/Blackwood Fire Brigade*

## CRICKET CLUB UPDATE THE SEASON HAS FINISHED

And no, we didn't win a game.

To be honest, we didn't have the best season on the field but we had a great year. Some of us even improved as time went on, and we picked up a new player or 2 so bring on the 2023/24 season and we will get on the board with some wins. Crowd participation was fantastic and thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed the day. A thank you to our sponsors (although they may not have received a bill). Next year we will come out shining, chase a few loose ends up and enjoy another season of cricket. If anybody wants to play but are worried about their standard, just remember, I last played in under 16s and I'm 55 so golden ducks and ducks are just part of the game. Should've been a duck farmer, (sorry Jason/Craig ha!) But anyway, male or female you are more than welcome.

~ Brian Suters

*President*

## CROWN RESERVES COMMITTEE

Leading up to and over Christmas the Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management has been busy with a multiple of projects. As part of a state Solar Panel program, solar panels have been installed at three locations: Rangers house at the Caravan Park; Sports Pavilion and Community Hall. Refurbishment of tennis courts and preliminary discussions with Moorabool about further development of immediate areas around tennis court are in progress. Caravan Park amenities renovation is planned to be completed by the end of May. In addition to the initial grant application response there was a significant amount of "Red Tape" the committee had to address prior to appointing a building company. Ballarat Building Solutions was chosen primarily because they were the most receptive to our Request for Quotation. Also, the fact that they were a reputable regional business who was familiar with planning and building permits and coordination of approval from Traditional Land Owners. On the 27 March we hosted a team from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) who the committee works closely with. The group familiarised themselves with the Caravan Park, Springs and Sportsground and the projects currently being undertaken. The committee specifically requested momentum around the remediation of the Mineral Springs area post the June 2021 storm. The committee would like to thank several annual site holders (you know who you are) who took the time pre, during and post the Labour Day weekend for managing the park over what was a busy weekend. Without your efforts the weekend would not have been the success it was.

With the recent resignation of the Caravan Park management the committee has engaged an independent Human Resources provider to identify and appoint full time park managers. In the meantime, Annabelle, Wendy and Barry Brown will keep the Park open up to and including the busy Easter period.

~ Peter Fowler

*Chair Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management*

## WHOSE TATT IS THAT?



Answer: Matt and Mel Bodiam

We have matching tattoos for our matching love of a person with trisomy 21. It's an international symbol that's called "the lucky few". The 3 arrows are the number of 21st chromosomes, the arrows symbolise how we rise up and move forward. We wear them with pride and love.



## WOMBAT BOOK CLUB

Hello and here we are in warm sunny Autumn, still sunny enough to sit somewhere warm with a good book. We hold meetings for Book Club at 2.30pm third Sunday of each month. The last two were held at the Blackwood Pub. Locations could vary. If you would like information about our lovely, informal gathering please contact Rose at rcarrington1@hotmail.com. The two books we all enjoyed reading this last couple of months were: 'Songbirds', by Christy Lefteri, and 'Leave The World Behind', by Rumaan Alam.

**Sandy:** Songbirds, for me took some time to get into the characters, and it was from this first person's point of view the story unfolded. Set in Cyprus, the story is a sad plight facing many women from impoverished countries to take up work in richer countries so they can send back money to family members looking after their children. The people they work for often do not see them as human beings, but there to be at their beck and call, whichever work these people do. Nishka, from Sri Lanka was one such lady, who struck up a love relationship with a man called 'Yannis' who was involved illegal bird poaching trade. Nishka wanted him to stop, and on the way to see the man responsible, she disappeared. This is a story of how some of these women went missing, with a tragic end - 4 Wombies

**Sandy:** Leave the World Behind, is an intriguing story about a family, Amanda and Clay, who go on vacation at Long Island, with their two children, Archie and Rosie. They rent a house, then a couple knock on the door claiming to be the owners of the house and something has happened to the world. The couples manage to blend together. Information is non-existent, due to power and technology going down.



All they heard was a noise. They didn't know if it was a war, but something had changed. They all somehow adapt to this strange new world, then their daughter Rosie disappears. The ending is nondescript, leaving the reader to speculate - 3 Wombies





• BLACKWOOD PUZZLE PAGE •

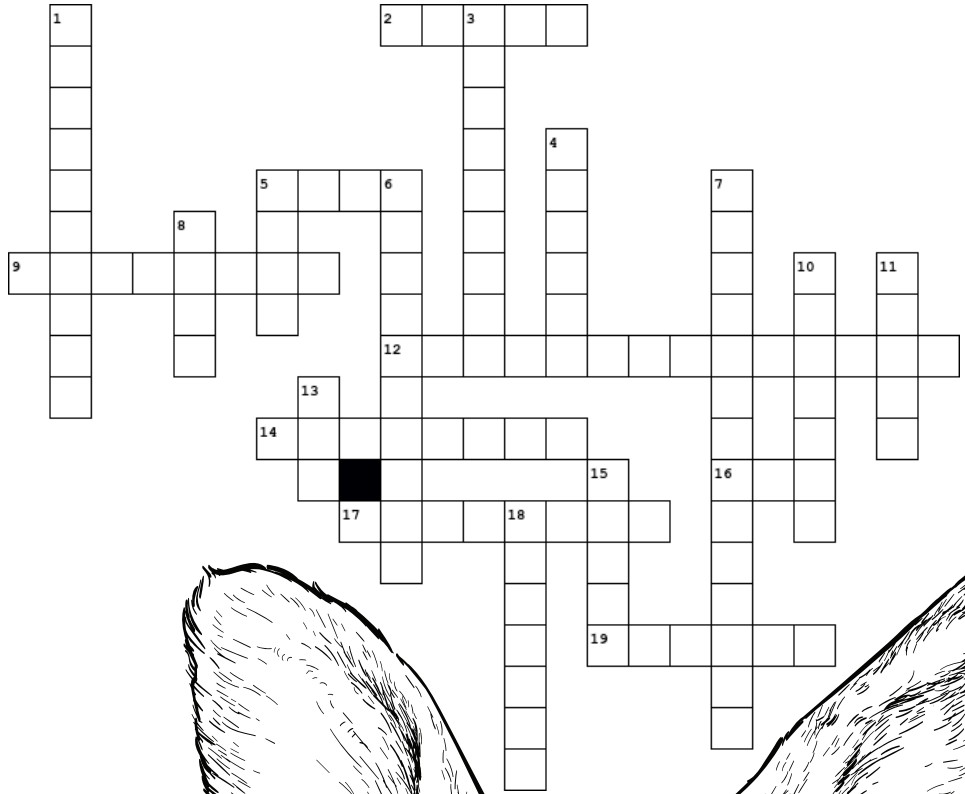
### THE BLACKWOOD CROSSWORD

**Across**

- 2. \_\_\_\_ creek reservoir
- 5. It's played at the pub
- 9. Thrown at the Easter carnival
- 12. A big town celebration
- 14. Another name for our post office
- 16. She's married to Pete
- 17. Home of spudfest
- 19. Our nearest footy team

**Down**

- 1. Our laughing friends
- 3. They hop all over town
- 4. He welcomes us to town
- 5. He's married to Sue
- 6. The river that runs through town
- 7. Where we fill up our bottles
- 8. The treasure in our hills
- 10. The sport played at the reserve
- 11. Our local lake
- 13. The \_\_\_\_ & whistle
- 15. Creek Just down the road
- 18. The CFA is on the corner



# BLACKWOOD EASTER CARNIVAL

## Colouring-In Competition

### WOMBIE COLOURING COMPETITION

Well done to all six entrants in last months colouring competition don't forget to collect your prize from the pub (parent of course)! We look forward to next months entrants! Winner: Rennie Dix. Entrants: Aleksander Kukiel, Alvie Dix, Khloe Whitehouse, Madison Meehan & Eliza.







• GIG & EVENTS GUIDE •

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
<b>APRIL</b>		
Sat 1: arvo	Beat Bros	Pig & Whistle
Sun 2: 12 - 4	K9 Castle Adventure Hike	Lerderderg Gorge Road
Fri 7: day	Bacchus Marsh Easterfest	Maddingley Park
Sat 8: 11 - 6	Blackwood Woodchop & Easter Carnival	Blackwood Cricket Ground
Sat 8: evening	Rock'n'Co	Blackwood Pub
Sun 9: 2pm	Easter service - all welcome	St Martin's Chapel
Sun 9: 7pm	Bingo	Blackwood Hall
Wed 12 - Sun 16	Swordcraft Ballarat Quest 2023: Honours Curse	Phoenix Park, Ballan
Sat 15: 10 - 2	Market	St Martin's Chapel
Sat 15: 12 - 1	iNaturalist Session	Mackenzie Flat Picnic Area, Darley
Sat 15: 1 - 5	Locals day - live music & picnic	Wombat Forest Wines
Sat 15: 9:45pm	Bitter Sweet	Flanigans
Sat 22	Book launch & expo - Gnats Journey to Home	76 Steiglitz Street, Ballan
Fri 28 - Sun 30	Down Under 135	Lerderderg State Park
Sat 29: arvo	Beat Bros	Pig & Whistle
Sun 30: 12 - 6	CMCC & St Anne's car food & wine fest	St Anne's Winery
Sun 30: 2	Agape	St Martin's Chapel

<b>MAY</b>		
Sat 6: 9 - 4:30pm	Spudfest	Trentham
Sat 12: 9:30pm	Dulcet	Flanigans
Sat 13: 7 - 10pm	Michael Gate + 2 others	Bacchus Marsh Music Bowl
Sun 14: 3- 6	Fire Cider Making	Barrys Reef

<b>REGULAR STUFF</b>		
Mon from 5	Old Farts Night & meat tray raffle	Blackwood Pub
Tues, 6 & 7:30	Locals night	Chaplins
Wed, 7 - 10	Taproom Trivia	The Taproom, Bacchus Marsh
Wed evenings	Locals night dinner specials	The Cosmo
Thu evenings	Movie and pizza night	Radio Springs
2nd Tues, pm	Disco bingo	Pig and Whistle
Mon	Locals night dinner and drink specials	Pig and Whistle
Fri, 5 - 9	Meat tray raffle & cocktail night	Greendale Pub
Fri pm	Meat tray raffle	The Cosmo
Fri pm	Raffle	Pig and Whistle
Last Fri monthly	Flashbank Friday with Ian Banks	The Taproom, Bacchus Marsh
Sat, pm	DJ, Duo or Band	Pig and Whistle
Sun	Pizza Sundays with live music	St Anne's Winery
2nd/4th Sun: 2	Regular service	St Martin's Chapel

• BEYOND BLACKWOOD •



Brendon & Deidre Lawlor, owners of the Wombat Forest Vineyard, are proud winners of the 2023 Australian Good Food Guide Reader's Choice Award for the Macedon Ranges & Spa Country Wineries.

In recognition of the huge vote of support from the local community and their valued customers they will open for their annual Local's Day on Saturday 15th April.

**The Great Trentham SPUDFEST**  
Celebrating our People, Produce & Region  
— 6 May 2023 —

A Spudtastic festival of fun, food, wine, music, kids games & activities, history, spuds for sale & much, much more!

trenthamspudfest | trenthamspudfest.org.au

— THANKS TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS —







## THE GARDEN OF ST ERTH

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



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

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

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

## Golden Point Garden Maintenance



**Ross: 0423 259 038**

*Specializing in driveways and  
site cleaning / leveling and Mowing*

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

Wood chips available



**BANK  
LOCAL**

Edyta Wyatt  
Branch Manager

Corina Sabo  
Home Loan Specialist

## Not all banks offer 100% offset on their home loans.

We're not all banks.

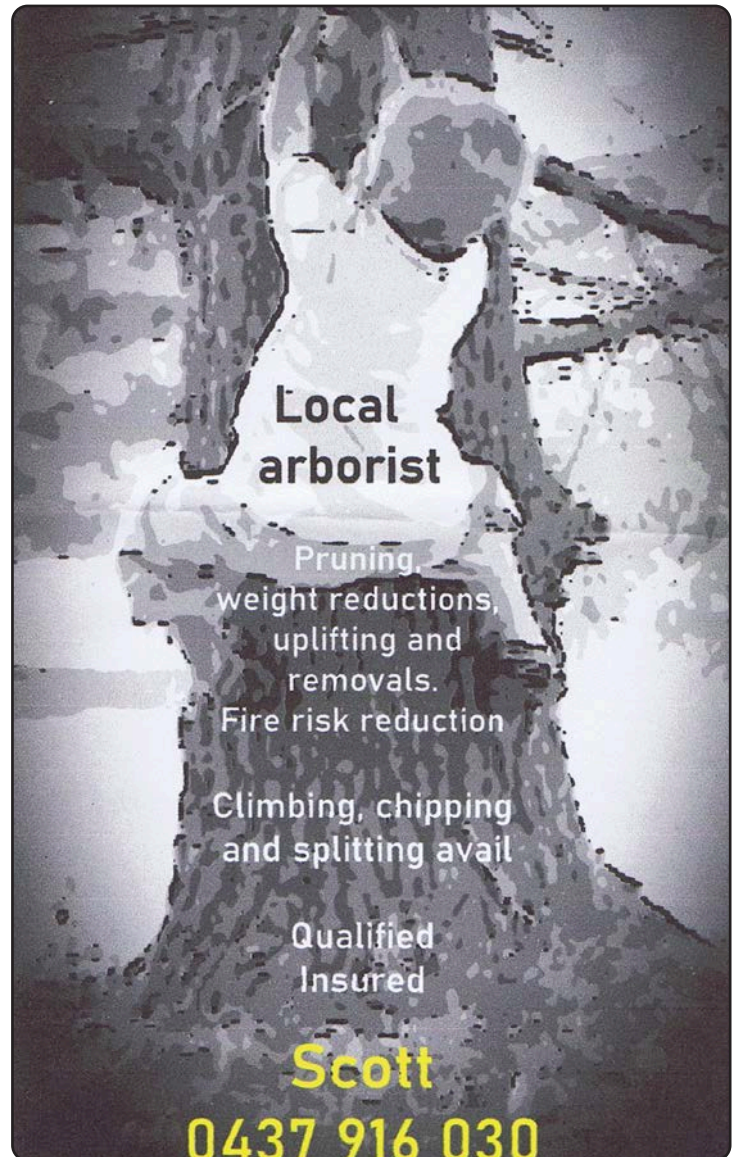
Our Complete Home Loan offers 100% offset on fixed and variable home loans. Which means you could own your home sooner.

Find out more. Search Bendigo Bank home loans.

📍 Community Bank Trentham & Districts 5424 1608



Terms and conditions, fees, charges and lending criteria apply. All information including interest rate is subject to change without notice. Full details available on application. Full offset facility is available for Bendigo Complete Home Loan for both fixed and variable loans. Offset facility can only be linked to one loan at any one time. A maximum of 6 offset facilities can be linked per loan account. Linked offset facility must be in same customer name/ number. Credit provided by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 Australian Credit Licence 237879. (1728832-1767000) OUT\_28452603, 15/03/2023



## Local arborist

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

Climbing, chipping  
and splitting avail

Qualified  
Insured

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





# SEPTIC SERVICE



## Wastewater Plumbing

The Best for Quarterly Maintenance of all Wastewater Treatment Plants & Pump replacements on all septic systems, Supply and Install New Treatment Plants, Septic lines, Anything Septic

*The Septic Guy*

PH: 0457 898 463

### HOMEWORKS DESIGN

- DESIGNS, DRAWINGS & PERMITS
- NEW HOMES / EXTENSIONS
- PASSIVE HOUSE DESIGN
- VBA REGISTERED (DP-AD: 1581)
- BLACKWOOD & SURROUNDS



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

TREAD INTENTIONALLY



43a High Street, Trentham 3458

5424 1000

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Sat 9am-12.30pm

Closed Public Holidays

trenthampharmacy@gmail.com

Mina Ghobrial, B.Pharmacy (Hons), MPS

# RADIO SPRINGS HOTEL

03 5348-5562

LYONVILLE

Dinner ~ Thur, Fri, Sat, Sun

Lunch ~ Fri, Sat, Sun

Lunch & Dinner ~ Public Holiday Mondays

## LoveLight Co-Creative HealthCare

*Holistic Medicine & Vibrational Healing*

supporting your physical & emotional health

natural medicine, nutrition, dietary guidance, energy healing, intuitive counseling

workshops

practical training, personal growth, meditation

Kathie Strmota

53686560

www.aquarianblessings.com

kathie@aquarianblessings.com

Blackwood & Yarraville

ATMS accredited member

Think Globally Employ Locally

## SOL PLUMBING

Fully licensed and insured.

Residential and commercial

- Competitive rates • Free quotes •

Call Simon on 0417 335 831

(leave a message if no answer)

LIC NO 38657

## TV TUNING

and antenna installations...

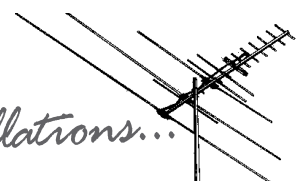
Is Your TV Reception As Good As It Can Be?

Call for a FREE on-site reception test, no strings attached.

Experienced, local, fully qualified electronics technician.

Rob: 5368 6485 or 0431 704 203

ABN: 55 335 542 987







**LAND CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT  
SEPTIC SYSTEM INSPECTION  
& MAINTENANCE**

KN252000K

[www.sanae-svcs.com.au](http://www.sanae-svcs.com.au)  
PO Box 1040, Daylesford, VIC 3460  
[koos.hulst@sanae-svcs.com.au](mailto:koos.hulst@sanae-svcs.com.au)  
**0437 747 619**

**BADGAR**  
EMERGENCY WILDLIFE RESCUE  
[www.wildlifeshelter.org.au](http://www.wildlifeshelter.org.au)

**WILDLIFE RESCUE 24 HOURS**  
**1300 badgar**  
1300 223 427

**For As Little As \$27,  
You Could Be Advertising to  
loyal locals in this space.**  
*We can even help with design!*

**Keemin** REC 5096  
**Electrical**  
INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL  
RESIDENTIAL

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

119 Inglis St  
Ballan 3342  
Ph. 0418 518 226  
[jcutler@keemin.com.au](mailto:jcutler@keemin.com.au)

**BB**  
**Blackwood**  
SKIN & BEAUTY  
**Blackwood**  
HAIR BOUTIQUE  
*Personal & Professional Service*  
**0407562018**

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

Liability limited by a scheme  
approved under Professional  
Standards Legislation.



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

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

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



(03) 5368 1355  
**GREENDALE COUNTRY PUB**

**Pizza:** Wed, Thurs, Fri Sat, 6-8pm & Sun noon-8  
**Tues:** Parma and Pasta \$18  
**Friday:** Happy Hour 5-7, \$3.50 POTS, Bar Nibbles & Meat Raffle  
**Wed - Sun:** Full Menu Dinner  
**Daily:** Lunch @ noon-2pm (closed Monday)

**LARGE BEER GARDEN AT REAR**  
**General Store stocks all, drinks, icecreams,  
grocery items, take away bottleshop,  
newspapers daily, bread, ice  
& anything else you may just need.**  
**Shop opens at 10am every day  
and is open late with Pub.**

**LIVE MUSIC: Check our facebook page**

**5368 1355**

3 Greendale Myrning Rd, Greendale 3341



**BLACKWOOD  
COMPUTER REPAIRS**

EMAIL SETUP, VIRUS REPAIRS, NETWORK AND INTERNET  
ADVICE. ALL DEVICES ALL TYPES OF TECHNOLOGY INCLUDING  
WEBSITES

Paul - **0403218804**

**The Local Specialty Roaster**



Available in:  
Blackwood | Trentham | Kyneton | Macedon  
Hepburn Springs | Daylesford | Melbourne  
Carlton | Docklands & Online  
[martinstreetcoffee.com](http://martinstreetcoffee.com)

ASIC reg: 93120059754





**BALLAN HARDWARE** **True Value HARDWARE**

*"For all your building supplies"*

119 Inglis St Ballan Ph: (03) 53681230 Fax: (03) 5368 1937

**TOWN & COUNTRY LINE MARKING P/L**

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

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

 **Trentham Gas**  
 Your Local Gas Supplier

For Gas Orders Ring 0409 135 070

**TREE LOPPING**  
 Gerard Styles  
 ALL ASPECTS OF TREE WORK, EXPERIENCED CLIMBER

Home: 5342 8261  
 MOBILE: 0428 518 999

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

**Bryan Rainford**  
 Registered Electrical Contractor REC 7310  
 Ph: 0425 822 838

All types of electrical work  
 New homes and extensions  
 Switchboard upgrades  
 Hot water services  
 EV Chargers  
 General electrical installations and repairs

  
 Messenger Tarot

GENEVIÈVE MESSENGER  
 TAROT/ THETA HEALING/ REIKI  
 IN PERSON & ONLINE  
 WWW.MESSENGERTAROT.COM  
 0407 013 014

**N & J Dear and Sons Pty Ltd**  
 Est 1988



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

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

Registered Builders | CDB-U 56564 | HIA member 605135

**TRENTHAM PETROL & STUFF**

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

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

**NVG**

  
**Heavy Equipment Services**  
 Blackwood  
 Victoria 3458

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

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

**Naten Van Gossum**  
 Mobile Technician

The BLACKWOOD TIMES thanks all our advertisers for their support.





# Your award winning local expert in sales.

Fiona Kelly | 0488 547 004  
fiona.kelly@belleproperty.com



Scan here to book a free appraisal.



4 🏠 2 🛋️ 2 🚗 1341 📏

3 Richards Road, BLACKWOOD

### RESTFUL RIVER VIEWS

Nestled high above Blackwood's famed Lerderderg River sits this character filled family home. Occupying a generous 1341m2 on a no through road, this thoughtfully renovated home offers privacy and solitude along with some pleasant surprises!



4 🏠 2 🛋️ 4 🚗 3843 📏

18 Cann Street

### STONEHAVEN

Nestled amongst the backdrop of the Wombat State Forest on a quiet unmade road sits the impressive house and parkland gardens of Stonehaven. Take the long circular driveway and you arrive at the beautiful home constructed in 1992 using Mt Gambier limestone, providing amazing presence on this elevated block.



3 🏠 1 🛋️ 6 🚗 2.7 📏

6 Cann Street, BLACKWOOD

### ECO BUSH SANCTUARY

Take the long driveway to this sustainably built, straw bale and stone home in one of Blackwood's most private settings. Bordered by beautiful bushland sits an architectural home thoughtfully created to maximise its energy efficiency and leave the lightest footprint possible on its surroundings, while providing an opportunity to comfortably enjoy the natural habitat.

Belle Property Trentham | 03 5424 1866  
45 High Street, Trentham

belleproperty.com/Trentham

**belle**  
PROPERTY