

June ~ July 2023 vol 15 ~ issue 16.1

# BLACKWOOD WOODCHOP & EASTER CARNIVAL



Let the festivities begin! This edition is packed full of highlights from this year's successful Easter Woodchop Carnival.



This year's Festival commenced with a smoking ceremony to welcome everyone. Great images - read more about this in pages 11-13.



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...

Welcome everyone to the June/July edition of the Blackwood Times.

When we first arrived in Australia, we were struck by how beautiful regional Victoria was and immediately started on a journey to find our own piece of paradise. Following a decade of quietly searching, the time was right, and we were fortunate to discover the unique township of Blackwood.

We did not know anything about this amazing town and local area but immediately fell in love with the vibrant collective of people from diverse and varied backgrounds. We not only fell in love with our historic property Ambleside Country (circa 1860) but also the community, which grows as we welcome newcomers to the town.

This edition focuses on our community spirit as we celebrate the successes of the Easter Woodchop Carnival, the events being held at St Martin's and the fantastic turnout at the Anzac Day dawn service. We also hear from our Indigenous friends and their great contribution to the Carnival right from the start with the Welcome to Country & Smoking Ceremony, together with regular articles from our amazing contributors in Blackwood.

I hope you enjoy reading this bumper edition of the Times as much as we did putting it together and please do not hesitate to reach out to us via email at: team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au

~ Robert Poulter, (June-July Editor)

#### the BLACKWOOD TIMES info

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

Advertisement bookings	<b>July 15</b>	
Regular contributors, features & items of interest, community groups & clubs	<b>July 15</b>	
Display ad artwork		<b>July 20</b>
Late breaking news (100 words max)		<b>July 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 105 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)

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### THE BLACKWOOD TIMES

#### PHOTOGRAPHERS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

An apology to Stephanie and Dusan for the mix-up with the photo on p-5 of the last issue. Whilst it was a pretty picture of a wedding tent, it was not of their Wedding.

A big thanks and acknowledgement from the Blackwood Times team to:

OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS – who tell a story in their own fashion.

From its inception the BWT has taken great pride in the images for the paper. Over the years Peter Donnelly and Brendan Hehir have been a great combo and can take much of the credit for this.

With the change-over of the publishing team this standard has been hard to maintain but we're improving. Peter has been ever-generous with his time and selecting the best 20 from his 300+ is a delightfully demanding task. In this issue the majority of the Carnival and music images are Peter's work but several other photographers contributed - and made the choices harder.

So, acknowledgements to our image-makers:

Peter Donnelly, Brendan Hehir, Jasmine Fisher, Kath Berrill, Bryan Rainford, Wendy Brown, Jeanne Tahini, Caitlin Perry, The Team@ & with apologies for any oversights.

~ John Kemp

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

The Blackwood Times Annual General Meeting will be held 7pm on Tuesday July 11th at the Blackwood Community Hall.

The Blackwood Times is a valuable community asset and we would love to see you there so we can share how the last year has gone, and also to hear from you about ideas for future editions. An opportunity to meet the team and join the party.

#### UMBRELLA PRIZE & NEXT ISSUE

Win a free copy of the Blackwood Times by correctly counting the number of umbrellas in this issue (I am not a Robot test).

NEXT ISSUE: we will celebrate winter in Blackwood. Join the party by submitting stories, photos, poems, etc. Best of these will be published and winners will receive another free copy of the Times.

Cover photos:

Parade: Jasmine Fisher

Smoking Ceremony urn: Peter Donnelly



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### HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

MONTH/ YEAR	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall historical average (mm)	Temp monthly min (deg C)	Temp monthly max (deg C)	Temp average daily max (deg C)	Temp average daily min (deg C)	Temp average for month (deg C)
Mar '23	62.9	56.3	5.25	31.2	20.3	8.6	13.7
Apr '23	97.7	72	-2.3	22.8	15.8	5.5	10.3

NOT AS LUCKY WITH THE EASTER WEATHER AS LAST YEAR. THE OCCASIONAL SHOWERS THIS YEAR DIDN'T STOP THE PARADE AND CARNIVAL.

### APPLAUDING OUR VOLUNTEERS

This year the Carnival was put together by approximately 60 volunteers who worked tirelessly in very wet conditions on Friday for the set up, Saturday for the Carnival and Sunday for the pack up. Thank you!

Paul & Aleksander Kukiel at the ticket stall in Martin Street  
Photo: Peter Donnelly



Tom Pywell, CFA, directing the parade and traffic  
Photo: Peter Donnelly

Wurundjeri Wurrung elder Julianne Axford delivering part of the Welcome to Country ceremony  
Photo: Peter Donnelly



President Brendan Hehir applauding the arrival of The Parade  
Photo: Peter Donnelly

Rob, Deb & Jen Bridger 2 days into their 3 day stint keeping volunteers & attendees fed and watered  
Photo: Jeanne Tahini



Deidre Cronin, Stalls Organiser, Pet Show Host and Information stall  
Photo: Peter Donnelly



Louise Scott and Darren Lynch and the famous tree climb event. The Carnival could not have happened without these two  
Photo: Jeanne Tahini

Olivia, Steve & Jodie at the Cricket Club Bar  
Photo: Jeanne Tahini



John Kemp & Jeanne Tahini at the Blackwood Times and Information Stall





## I GREW UP IN BLACKWOOD - ANNALICE GEE

Interviewed by Jeanne Tahini



### When did you come to Blackwood?

I came to Blackwood in 1990 when I was around five years old. We came here to help look after my grandparents and Blackwood House. My familial ancestors came to Blackwood from Cornwall five generations before me. They were tin miners who came here in search of gold.

### What was special about being a child in Blackwood?

Growing up in Blackwood always inspired a sense

of adventure. You could wander around all day, entirely fearless and with no agenda. Rambling through the bush, walking or riding around the street it often seemed that all roads or rivers inevitably led to Mineral Springs and an ice cream or packet of chewy from the little store that used to be there. Children in the city and suburbs are often told to be home before the street lights come on. There weren't many street lights in Blackwood, so we had to get home before it was already dark. I spent a lot of time with Peta and Jess Coyle and there weren't many others around of the same age. I'd leave the house with no idea if they were going to be home and had to knock on the door (I'm not sure that any knocking actually happened) and ask if they'd like to play.

### What were the advantages & disadvantages of a Blackwood upbringing?

One of the advantages of a Blackwood upbringing was being motivated by boredom; we just had to find something to do, whether it was climbing a tree or baking a cake, we had to get creative. On the opposite side of the same coin, this became a disadvantage as I became a teenager. I couldn't be spontaneous, as I was often dependent on others for transport. Attending Primary School in Bacchus Marsh and High School in Melton meant that my school friends were at least a thirty minute drive away. Even connecting with them on the phone or online was a challenge, with no mobile reception and only dial up internet. The competition for this and the home phone was fierce, having 2 older siblings, a mother who also had many friends and a father who loved to use the world wide web. I remember having a mobile phone when I was around 13, a Nokia 5110 with a pumpkin orange case. It was really only good for playing 'snake' on the way home from school, or standing out the front holding it in the air trying, but to no avail, to get a text to send.

### When did you leave Blackwood and then come back?

I left Blackwood as a young, not quite adult to pursue my hairdressing qualification. I moved to Bacchus Marsh and commuted by train to Melbourne for a hairdressing apprenticeship in Fitzroy. Over the next decade I moved around a few more times but on many occasions, when things hadn't gone exactly to plan, I would come back to Blackwood. Even though it didn't offer me the fast-paced lifestyle I desired, it always felt like home. When I met Anthony, my husband, and "settling down" became the desire, we were looking for our forever home. Our property in Blackwood came up and it was everything that we were looking for. I walked into the house and Anthony walked onto the property and we knew that this is where we wanted to be. We knew that we would be able to have chickens and dogs and the kids would be exposed to nature, and live with the earth

and the animals. I opened the salon at Blackwood House in 2016. I was blessed to have support from my family to help me build my business to where it is now.

### What do you think the differences are with your upbringing in Blackwood and your children's upbringing in Blackwood today?

The world is much more connected today than it used to be, and I don't think that young people in Blackwood have the same sense of isolation that I felt as a teenager. Blackwood itself has changed in dynamic and there are many more children and teenagers living here. It just feels different, more energetic, thriving and fun. The sense of community is so much stronger than it was when I was growing up. It certainly is a happy place. My experience in running a business here is that people are enthusiastic to support it and me. They are appreciative to have something available in their own town. People are proud to be Blackwoodians, as am I. We get to live in this Australian paradise, what's not to be proud of?

## DOWN UNDER 135

### GNARLIEST EVENT IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE?



In its 7th year, the 'Down Under 135' once again showcased the finest and most talented Ultra Endurance Athletes from around the world, competing in a gruelling 217km foot race throughout our majestic Wombat and Lerderderg State Forests.

Starting at MacKenzies Flat in Bacchus Marsh, the course traverses tough, rugged bushland to the Blackwood Caravan Park and then returns to the start/finish line. Only 5 out of 28 entrants managed to complete within the 56 hour time limit. In a hard fought race that came down to the wire 2023 winner, Tom Dade, crossed the finish line in 52 hours 17mins. The race is not just about finishing though. Most starters understand the enormity of the challenge in front of them and appreciate the race for what it gives them: a chance to find their limits. As always our thanks goes out to the Blackwood Community and in particular the Blackwood Caravan Park for their ongoing support.

~ Dale Chircop



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## ANZAC DAY



Something very special took place in Blackwood at dawn on the 25th of April this year. There is no official record of an Anzac Day dawn service taking place in Blackwood prior to this year but following the incredible turnout you can be sure it won't be the last!

In previous years those from Blackwood, Barry's Reef and Dales Creek wishing to pay their respects to those who have served had to head to Trentham, or in more recent years, Ballan. Ballan have long held a parade and

service later in the day, but a dawn service has only resumed in the last half a dozen years.

Ballan and Bacchus Marsh are the only RSL sub-branches within the Moorabool municipality. Bacchus Marsh is kept busy with its own significant population but membership in Ballan has been dangerously low with only 9 members around 7 years ago. RSL policy states that if a sub-branch falls below 9 members RSL Victoria can shut it down and sell off or repurpose its assets.

It was at this crucial time that former sub-branch Presidents Rick Campey and Bob Nason conducted membership drives in an attempt to keep the Ballan subbranch alive. Ads were run in the local newspaper and one person who noticed these was current President Pippa Morris. Pippa first saw the ad in 2015 but work was taking her to other parts of Victoria and even into New South Wales. By 2017 Pippa was on the road less and felt that she had some time to give to the RSL.

Pippa's background is in the Royal Australian Navy, and she has long believed in the importance of supporting the welfare of ex service personnel. Pippa has been an RSL member at other stages in her life and has also been a member of the Navy Association of Australia. Pippa has now been on the Ballan subbranch committee for 5 years and is in her 2nd year as President. We are very lucky to have such a passionate and



community focused leader right in our backyards.

Having lived in Barry's Reef for 22 years, bringing focus back to the area has been particularly special for Pippa. In recent years a partnership was established between the RSL, the Blackwood and District Historical Society and the Blackwood and Barry's Reef Land Care Group to restore the Barry's Reef Avenue of Honor. Various conversations took place within the community because of this and resulted in the Historical Society extending an invitation to the RSL to conduct a dawn service in Blackwood. Historically the Ballan subbranch did not have the numbers to do this but they found they were now in a place to be able to reach out further and Pippa jumped at the chance to bring this experience to her local community.

Speaking with Pippa since the service she admitted that she would have considered 20 people attending the service to be a success. She was more than pleasantly surprised to witness just over 100 people venture out on a considerably mild Blackwood morning to join together in the paying of respect. Pippa said that it was a credit to the Historical Society in getting the word out that so many left the warmth of their homes to meet at the town's small memorial. Thanks also has



to go out to Karen and her helpers for creating an atmosphere that provided an opportunity for people to stick around and share some further reflection.

The next step in this now solid community partnership will involve some potential upgrades to the town memorial. The memorial currently carries no names and there is no official record of locals who have served from 1920 to now. The Honour Board in the Blackwood Hall lists the names of those from the district who served in the First World War, but little is currently known

about those who have served since. The RSL have applied for a State Government grant that will assist with opportunities for community consultation regarding possible changes to the memorial and meetings are hoped to commence in the near future. In the meantime, if you have any information about anyone from the area who may have served any time from 1920, please reach out to the Historical Society or contact the RSL directly at ballanrsl@gmail.com.

~ Kylie Richardson







### THE HISTORY OF BLACKWOOD SCHOOLS

DALE'S CREEK SCHOOL, GREEN HILL. NO. 3124. By Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical Society. Dales Creek got its name from the Dale brothers who managed Sir John Pedder's station nearby. Dale's Creek is between Greendale and Blackwood, and the Dale's Creek school was on the road from Ballan to Green Hill. Green Hill was a farming community during the gold rush days at Blackwood which supplied meat and vegetables to the miners. There was also a store there and Hall's Sawmill which supplied timber for housing and to shore up the shafts the miners dug. The history of the Dale's Creek school No. 3124 was prepared and researched by Research Officer Ray Gill and Patricia Heywood of the History Section of the Education Department and sent to the author in June 1976 when she had started her research on the schools in the Blackwood area. The original request for a school at Green Hill was in 1890. The request was put forward as the nearest school was a distance of 3-4 miles at Simmons Reef. The original application for a school was signed by Alexander Mattei, Edward Cherry, Thomas Taylor, Patrick Kenefick, Robert Hall and William Livy. Mr. A. Byres was the Correspondent of the Board of Advise for the School District No. 80, Shire of Ballan. Mr. A. Byres suggested that the name of the school could be the Garibaldi Road School and that Mr. Guppy's property on crown land would suit all parties concerned for the new school. Mr. Mattei on behalf of the residents replied that the more suitable building belonging to Livy could be rented for 4 shilling rental per week and that the building would be available and suitable for school purposes in the locality and he believed it best to have a teacher appointed and open a school in that building.

Byres and Mattei seemed to have been the leading figures in the organising of matters to be put to the Education Department. The Department changed the name to Dale's Creek (near which creek it appears the applicants resided, as there was already existed a school known as Garibaldi. The District Inspector, Mr. Eddy visited Green Hill in March 1891 and recommended that a temporary unclassified school should be established by renting the building offered by Mrs. Livy for 4 shilling per week. The building was of hardwood, 21 ft x 10 ft with flooring, 2 windows and doors and a wooden chimney. The petitioners were prepared to 'put the place in suitable repair for school purposes and to erect an out-office.' If the average attendance was to exceed 20 pupils, then the possibility or building a permanent school could be considered. The Department informed Alexander Mattei that steps would be taken to establish a temporary Unclassified school provided the building offered was put into good repair, and they would lease the building at £10 per year (\$20). Mattei wrote in April 1891 that the building was in readiness for the school to be open. But by June 1891 nothing further had happened so A. Byres wrote another letter to the Department complaining that although the improvements had been made to the building teaching operations had not yet commenced. The school commenced with Head Teacher Charlotte T. Little, officially opening the Dale's Creek School no. 3124 on 22nd August 1891 with an enrolment of 23 children. However teaching was not continuous for on the 3rd May 1892 Mr. Edward Cherry complained 'that the school had not opened since the Easter recess. The next Head Teacher was Richard J. Kenafick who was appointed on 25th April 1892, arrived on the 5th May. In March 1893 there was some doubt about keeping the school open. A list of children attending and the distances from the Golden Point School No. 1074 was drawn up by Inspector Rix. The average attendance was 16 and net enrolment was 20 pupils. The Inspector commented that since most of the children lived 3 or more miles from the Golden Point School to which roads were very heavy in winter, the Dales Creek School should be kept open. The early 1890's were years of financial recession and between June 1892 and 1893 the Department requested Mrs. Eliza Livy to lower the rental of the school from £10 per annum to £7.10. This Mrs. Livy agreed to do. However in May 1893 the Department requested a further reduction of rent to £5 p.a. Mrs. Livy refused. The average attendances were January 15; February 17; March 17; and May 16.

The Department further requested her to accept the reduced rent or closing of the school will be at once taken into consideration. Mr. A. Byres wrote a letter requesting the Department to accept a rental of £6 and Mrs. Livy agreed to accept the reduced rental.

Children attending the Dale Creek School in 1893 were – Daisy, Alexander and Archibald Taylor; Kate, John and Thomas Kenafick; Walter and Fred Livy; Maggie, Helen, Annie, Walter and Alfred Cherry; Gertie, George and Bertie Mohekey; Fred Rae; Sophia, Theresa, Tranquillo; Peter and Francis Mattei; James Hall, and Ettie Irving (visitor). The Mohekey family were children of Louis Mohekey and Rachel Jessica Sawbridgeworth. The Mattei family were children of some of the 12 children of Alexander Mattei and Catherine Mulcahy. The teacher Patrick Kenafick children's mother was Margaret Murphy. The Taylor family were children of Thomas Taylor and Mary Elizabeth McDonald. The Livy family were children of William and Eliza Livy. The Cherry family were children of Edward Cherry and Sarah Johnson. Fred Rae was the son of James Rae and Ida Kellow. James Hall's father was Robert Hall. (ref- Digger birth records)

By April 1895 attendance had fallen and the District Inspector suggested that as the Greendale School No. 918 was about 5 miles apart that both the schools could be worked half-time by the one teacher. However no action was taken. Children who were attending the Dale Creek School in 1902 were Class 6 - Joseph Cherry age 13 yrs, Jane Hall 14 yrs, Class 5 – Henry Livy 12 yrs, Alice Cherry 11 yrs, Nellie Hall 11 yrs, Rita Dunbar 10 yrs, Lizzie Guppy 12 yrs. Class 3 – Robert Hall 9 yrs, Lizzie Irving 12 yrs, Bessie Cherry 9 yrs, Alice Guppy 10 yrs. Class 1 – Walter Guppy 8 yrs, James Dunbar 6 yrs and Lily Cherry 5 yrs. In June 1902 the Inspector recommended the closing of the school and the conveyance of the 14 children to Golden Point School No. 1074, four miles away. Mr. Edward Cann of Red Hill, Blackwood said he was willing to undertake the conveyance of the children to the Golden Point School. Several people such as A. Byres, Robert Hall and James Dunbar of Dale's Creek protested at the school's closing, but to no avail. The Dales Creek School closed on 21st November 1902, and the pupils were to be conveyed to the Golden Point School. The Dales Creek School had lasted in all, eleven years. Head Teachers at the Dales Creek School were – Charlotte T. Little 22.8.1891 – 4.5.1892; Patrick J. Kenafick 9.5.1892 – 1893; Anna Bella Cravino 1893 – 1895; Annie Bennetts 1895 – 1898; Anton W.R. Vroland 1898 – 1900; Annie Murray 1901 Eliza Kershaw 1902.

Researched by Margot Hitchcock from her forthcoming book 'The



History and Pioneers of Blackwood', hopefully to be published soon. Other books published by Margot Hitchcock – "Aspects of Early Blackwood", "Some History of Simmons Reef, Blackwood" and "The Billy Pincombe Tragedy". See – www.blackwoodpublishing.com For help with information on Blackwood ancestors contact Margot Hitchcock – email – margothitchcock@bigpond.com. Dales Creek School Greendale C. 1902. (Courtesy B.D.H.S.)

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### COMMUNITY UPDATES

#### CFA REPORT

Fire restrictions were lifted on April 17th and the rain has finally arrived. Normally we suggest you change the battery in your smoke alarms when we change our clocks. A new recommendation from the CFA is to test the smoke alarm every six months, not change the battery, as most are sold with 10 year lithium batteries now. Check your battery to see if it is a lithium or a normal type and replace any non lithium batteries. To test the alarm, you should see a button on the face of the alarm that you press for a short time and it will produce the alarm as if it was detecting smoke. Below is a link with up to date information. <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fires-in-the-home/smoke-alarms>. Can we locate your house or property number? Take some time to check your street number and ensure it is clearly marked and visible from the street. Some places to place a large number is on the gutter if applicable, on the letter box and gate or fence and near the front door. This helps all emergency services. While the fire brigade may have smoke to guide us, police and ambulance do not. Congratulations to all the members involved in the National Emergency Medal Awards. National Emergency Medals were presented to CFA members from across the Western Region on Sunday, the 30th of April at the Ballarat Civic Hall. The award recognises prolonged exposure to hazard in the service of the community - in this case, the Black Summer Bushfires of 2019-2020. Eight Blackwood members have been awarded the medal with five in attendance at the ceremony. These Blackwood members attended fires as part of Victorian CFA Strike teams in NSW and Victoria from October 2019 to January 2020. Some with multiple tours of duty.



Left to Right. Deputy Chief Officer Brett Boatman, Garry Amy, Brett Bond, Claire Purchase, Mark Purchase, Ken Whiffin and CFA Board Member Peter Shaw. Absent: Peter Daglish, Pat Larizza and Leon Rolls. Image Courtesy of Uniform Photography

#### THE FIRST PRIORITY IS YOUR SAFETY

Always ring 000 in the case of any emergency. If you have and fire and do manage to put it out, it is better to have us responding than to wait until it is too late. For more information contact the station on 53686526 on Sunday mornings over the summer period and the first Sunday of every month during the rest of the year, as we are there for training and equipment checks. Never let complacency set in and always be prepared, no matter what the season. If you are interested in joining, we always welcome new members. We can be contacted at the station or through the Brigade Facebook page or the morning of the first Sunday of each month or drop us an email to blackwoodcfa@gmail.com. See p-19 for the latest on the Community Emergency Management Plan.

DO NOT USE FACEBOOK IF YOU ARE REPORTING AN EMERGENCY... ALWAYS RING 000 or 112 on a mobile

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

#### CERT

**DID YOU KNOW?** Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers are dispatched at the same time as an ambulance to potentially time-critical emergencies within their local community. CERT's are trained in providing basic emergency care services within their local community until the ambulance arrives. They do not transport patients, but provide emergency response in locations that have a low caseload and limited ambulance coverage.

**DID YOU KNOW?** 10% of Ambulance Victoria responders are volunteers.

**DID YOU ALSO KNOW?** Blackwood volunteers have served our area as CERT's since 2002? NOW we have only 8 active volunteers in our Team, to provide service and support in our local area (approx. 1500 people). 8 out of 1500 is not enough and sometimes none of us is able to respond and help. This means locals have to wait longer for help, attention, pain relief and sometimes live-saving emergency medical services. We'd like to change that and NEED YOUR HELP. If you: • Live and/or work in Greendale, Dales Creek, Blackwood, Barry's Reef or Newbury (and surrounds); • What to be part of the service that we all rely on in emergencies; • Are keen to learn new skills for now and the future, and • Want to be something "bigger" - you are welcome to our TEAM. Learn more about CERT's in action by going to: [www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/meredith-cert-receive-a-gi-ant-thank-you](http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/meredith-cert-receive-a-gi-ant-thank-you). We'd love you to join us.



~ Jan & Leonie Co -Team Leaders  
Remember - In an emergency dial 000

#### AGAPE AT ST MARTIN'S

On the fifth Sunday of April, St Martin's Committee of Management and congregation invited the Daylesford congregation to an Agape at the St Martin's Chapel. As well as worshipping together it provided the opportunity to thank and show our gratitude to the people of Daylesford for donating the funds for the purchase and installation of the reverse cycle air conditioners. Brendan Hehir welcomed everyone and then Fiona Ross sang some beautiful hymns and traditional Scottish songs. Rev Jenny Hayes conducted the Holy Communion and Jeanne Tahini thanked our visitors and gave them a run-down of many of the activities that had happened in the Chapel since its reopening. She also highlighted that so many of these events were now able to be run, even in winter, thanks to the heating. Our small committee work tirelessly to improve and maintain the Chapel. We have recently installed outside lighting, purchased a stove and range hood and upgraded the internal wiring. This has been partly funded by a grant from the Moorabool Shire (thanks to Stephanie Kondos for the work in applying for this) and from fundraising events (thanks to Rose Carrington and Edward Zanon for the pizza nights). We keep the hiring fees for the Chapel low as we want it to be available to the community and have maximum use. St Martin's Chapel is self-funded so we will be running some fundraising events in the coming months. Please come along and support us.



~ Robyn Zanon

Robyn Zanon & Rev. Jenny Hayes with members of the Daylesford Congregation  
Photo: Jeanne Tahini





### COMMUNITY UPDATES

#### BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE

Despite the weather, the Easter carnival was another success for the BDHS. Our hot dogs sold out despite fierce competition from the many other alternatives to be had on the day. Nothing like 25% real meat to warm the insides on a cold day!! A quick thanks to all who made it happen on the day including Elizabeth , Ailene , Cathy , Jenny , Genevieve , Valissa , Layla and Mark. Bingo on Sunday was also a great success, with lots of laughter and positive feedback from all who attended. It is definitely a "must have" event on our towns social calendar as it engages the tourists and weekenders who are here for the long weekend. I would like to publicly thank Marilyn , Keith and Karen for making this event happen on our behalf. These guys aren't even members of the BDHS but spent countless hours in the organisation and preparation of this event for the benefit of the Society and the community in general !! Thanks also to those who donated prizes and baked dishes for supper afterwards. All of you contributed to a great night whilst the weather was crap outside. Thanks also to Crown Reserves for the hall hire , a real town asset. There were ninety people in attendance. As always , our meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month at 10.00 am with the museum open until 1.00 pm. Everyone is welcome (especially new members) . Our new split system will keep you warm ! Thanks for your work on this Elizabeth , they don't name walking tracks after "gunnas"! As Dipper would say BE THERE !!

~ Ray Castellin

#### BLACKWOOD MOTOR CYCLE CLUB



Photo of The Club pre-COVID

Blackwood Motor Cycle Club went for a ride to Maryborough on 25th April straight after an amazing first Anzac morning gathering up at the towns centre. After the morning remembrance of our fallen heroes, a few of us decided since it was a beautiful morning let's go for a ride. Maryborough was decided as I needed to pay respects to my parents at Talbot grave, so we fitted that into our days ride. Three bikes and five smiling happy faces as it's been so long between rides. If your keen on any rides, do please contact myself through either word to mouth or leave your information within my PO Box which the post office staff will help you out. Brett Bond.

#### WOMBAT BOOK CLUB

Hello again from Wombat Bookclub. We hold meetings for Book Club on the third Sunday of each month. The last get together was held at the Blackwood Pub. Locations and times could vary, although the Pub seems to be a favourite location at the moment. We are wondering what to call ourselves, sure we talk about the book we just read...briefly. But for us Wombie readers, it's more about a social



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drink and natter. We could only cover one book this time, although a review on other books we have read is welcome too. If you would like information about our lovely, informal gathering please contact Rose at rcarrington1@hotmail.com. The book we all enjoyed reading this last couple of month was: 'Hostage' by Clare Mackintosh. Sandy: Hostage, was a real page turner, with loads of tension, and a good strong twist at the end. Mina is a Flight Attendant on the first non-stop flight from London to Sydney. Whist on board she is blackmailed by hijackers, and her daughter's safety is threatened. She is left with the dilemma between her daughter and the passengers of whom some are children as well. This story keeps the reader engaged to the end. - 5 Wombies Jane Mac: It was quite good but a bit of a 'best seller' sort of book. For suspense and a good general read I'll give it... - 5 Wombies Sandy: In the absence of another book, I thought I would give one I read a plug. 'Utopia For Realists and how we can get there', by Ruter Bregman. I felt inspired reading this, he points out with the will of Governments and Companies, it is possible for Universal Basic Income and Universal Health and Education for all, and explains how this can be achieved. You might not agree with everything he says, but Ruter talks a lot of 'Basic Common Sense'. An interesting book, and leaves the reader with some hope which maybe one day, just might happen. Ah, do we dream... - 5 Wombies

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#### LANDCARE COMMUNITY UPDATE



Landcare enjoyed being a part of the Easter Carnival, with the Wilbur the Weed sculpture decorated with the finest local weeds, joining the parade down to the Showgrounds. Funded by Emergency Recovery Victoria, the Storm Recovery Project enabled the Landcare Stall to source and showcase 20 different varieties of Indigenous plants, divided into bush food, medicinal and cultural uses by the First Nation's People. Great interest was shown by the public, and 450 plants were given away supported by reference material and handouts. Thank you to the Rowsley Landcare Nursery and the Wombat Native Plants nursery for supplying the plants. Included on



the Stall were beautiful postcards and watercolour posters from local artist Kathy Holowko from her successful video, 'Caring for Our Patch', and Landcare's water bug kit, to the delight of many children. Landcare coordinated a community mass planting on Saturday 13 May down at the Mineral Springs Reserve. A big thank you to the 28 people (young and old) who worked hard in admittedly beautiful weather to put approximately 700 plants in the ground to hopefully outcompete any new weeds

after our weedathon last year. The CFA kindly donated the use of the fire truck to help with watering. Plants were supplied by Rowsley Landcare Nursery and the event was funded through the Victorian Government's Landcare Grants program. Enjoy the walk down to the springs and see this great community effort!

~ Diana Dawson & Noelle Shader

#### A BLACKWOOD GARDEN

In over the 20 years that I've gardened in Blackwood my daffodils have never been so late coming up. In other years they have come up mid-March but this year it's been late April. Because they are throughout a large area of the grass; them coming through, dictates until when I can mow. OMG what a cold snap we had in the first week of May...supposedly still Autumn! I hope it's not a sign of things to come. Last winter was far too long and cold. Luckily I had my frost protection up before the two frosts in a row, and now I have

also moved pots with frost tender plants into areas with protection. The longer you garden and, if you're observant, you'll notice and benefit from the micro climates you create. It's been a great season for Colchium and Autumn Crocus. I love bulbs. They're like little surprise packages and over the next few months my garden will be full of them, though many are planted in pots. It's often suggested to lift bulbs and put them in the crisper for several weeks before planting them out in February/ March. Generally I leave them in the ground and they just seem to bury themselves deeper, but unfortunately not deep enough to stop the rats from eating them! I don't have much luck with winter veggies. I do have my standards in, which seem to produce no matter what. Rocket and Silverbeet give me plenty of greens and both are all year rounders but produce best through the cooler months. Rocket pesto or salsa verde is really delicious and makes a great change from basil pesto. Spinach never seems to produce much before it goes to seed. If you use the lunar chart for gardening, for some plants, it particularly helps. This year apart from bulbs, I've planted Iceland Poppies, wallflowers and Primulas for winter colour. I'm always looking forward to, and grateful for the bounty my garden will produce but really nothing is a certainty. The only certainty is the joy that my garden gives me....Happy gardening all.

~ Jane Howart

#### WATER IS LIFE

There's a new artwork in Blackwood! As part of its Paste Ups Program, Council installed 'Water is Life' by local artist Kathy Holowko on Martin Street. Pictured is staff from Philip Smyth Visual Creations in Ballarat installing the work. Many thanks to Karen's Kitchen for supporting the program and hosting the artwork.

Council's Paste Up Program is designed to create moments of joy in everyday life - this is one of the pillars of our first Arts and Culture strategy, which Council adopted in August 2021.

This initiative seeks to create public spaces that are unique and engaging and offer immersive creative experiences for the entire community. The paste ups installed reflect the unique identities of our townships and their communities. They also work towards creating a Shire where there are many opportunities to engage in arts and cultural activities.

The first paste-ups program was delivered over summer 2021-22, with five outstanding works created by local artists. The second paste ups program was delivered in early 2023 with an additional five works from local artists installed across the shire.

Karen is hosting Blackwood's very own artist, Kathy Holowko, 'Water is Life' on her block in the centre of town.

"The fairy wren is a local resident that provides us with 'encounter value' - a scientific term used to describe the meaningful worth in



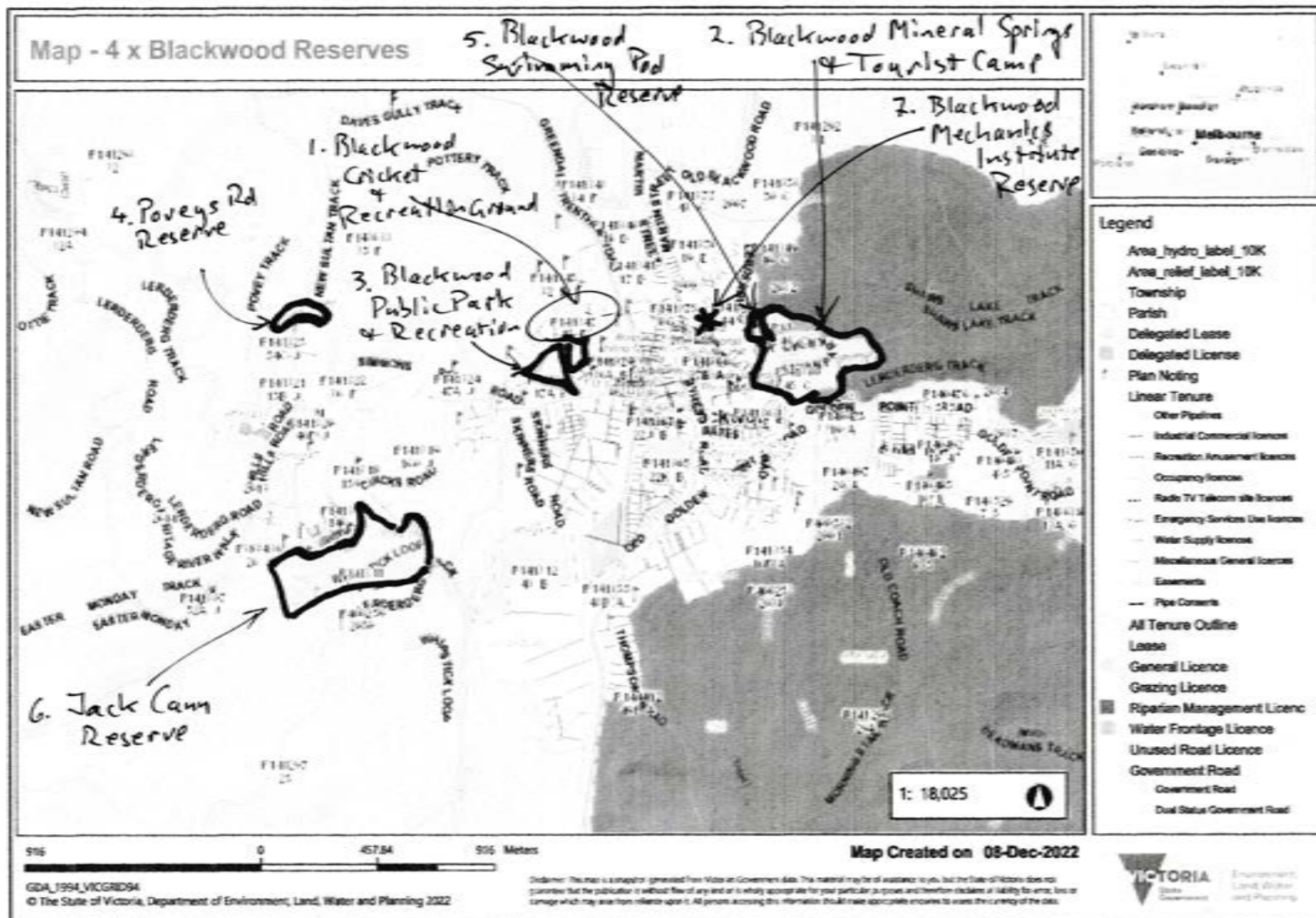
chance meetings with wild animals. This artwork includes illustrations captured in the pristine environment of 18th century Australia and utilises the museum trope of the diorama to create a replica of an ecosystem. The three-dimensional composition is a contemporary interpretation that reflects upon the idea that a healthy waterway is the life blood of a habitat that allows plants and animals to flourish... including the human animal."

~ Jinny Coyle





### COMMUNITY UPDATES



### CROWN RESERVES UPDATE



Caravan Park & Springs Reserve Park Ranger has been engaged! Nicole "born & bred" Blackwood local, moved to Cairns for a few years but decided on moving back to raise her family in the town she loved. Wyatt briefly lived in Blackwood with his grandparents through his teenage years and always wanted to come back to the area as an adult so this opportunity has been an easy decision. A butcher by trade, and even though he likes his meat; he loves the outdoors more and is excited to try out the Park Ranger role. Rylee and Mackenzie (pictured) are looking forward to having the Springs & Caravan Park as their backyard and can't wait to play with the many new friends they will make along the way. Nicole commented "On our days off we enjoy heading away in our camper, exploring new places, having dinner with family and friends. We look forward to catching up with old faces and meeting new ones. If you're down this way... pop in and say Hi"! Progressing well to date, the planned completion for the amenities at the caravan park is planned for the end of June. The timing for this works well as we are working to market the caravan park to increase patronage over the winter months which is traditionally a very quiet period. Landcare, along with other volunteers, have been busy clearing and planting out new plants throughout the Caravan Park and Springs and we would like to thank them for their ongoing involvement and support. The Committee would like to thank Landcare and the effort of other volunteers on the 2nd and 13th May in planting in and around the Caravan park. The resurfacing of the tennis courts is complete and hopefully getting plenty of use. New members - For anyone wishing to express an interest in joining Crown and making a direct contribution to the 9 state owned assets managed on behalf of Crown Reserves in Blackwood, applications are welcome anytime. More information can be attained by emailing blackwoodcrownreserves@yahoo.com.au and expressing an interest.

~ Peter Fowler

### VEC ELECTORAL STRUCTURE REVIEW OF MOORABOOL SHIRE COUNCIL

Moorabool Shire representation is under review. After the State Government decreed that all ward sizes must be of equal representation, a panel has been appointed to decide between two models. 1st model is for a single ward with nine councillors. The 2nd model is for three wards each electing three councillors, for a total of nine. As Bacchus Marsh and, to a lesser extent, Ballan grow faster, the population of Moorabool Shire will concentrate in these urban centres. The arguments

for the 1st model include the cost saving of not having to do regular redistributions as well as proportional voting allowing for minor party representation. The 2nd model would support only candidates with at least 25% support and rural electors would be concentrated into two wards, giving them a slightly more influence than the 1st model. My experience is that I can have personal contact with representatives from single member electorates but members representing multi-member electorates tend not to interact with voters. Over the past three years our MHR's, our MLA and the Woodlands Riding's Cr Ally Munari came to multiple events in Blackwood (along with Mayor Rod Wood and Cr Moira Berry). No MLC's or Senators have bothered to come to consult with us. Multi-member candidates tend to represent the party panel that assigns them the 1, 2 or 3 positions on the party ticket, not the voters who elect them. Blackwood was well served by Ally Munari during the 2021 storms. During any future fire or storm, who will come and do that for us if no one person represents our riding in the future shire electoral structure? By the time this letter is published, the review panel will have provided the Minister with its final report. It is up to us to ensure that we will be heard by the Minister. If we cannot be heard during a review, there is no realistic chance we would be heard when the phones are down and the roads are closed.

~ Michael Hotchin

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### CROWN RESERVES GUIDE

There are 2 other Reserves not listed on these maps which Blackwood Crown Reserves manages as well. First of these is the old bowling green on the left going down to the sports ground. The second is the swimming hole down at Golden Point in an area that is part of the swimming hole reserve.

The map is very poor quality, but Blackwoodians will be able to identify these locations easily. For better quality images (.pdf) including more detail for 5 of the sites, please contact Peter Fowler through email at:

blackwoodcrownreserves@yahoo.com.au

1. Blackwood Cricket & Recreation Ground: sport, public recreation, picnicking & toilet facilities
2. Blackwood Mineral Springs & Tourist Camp: mineral, springs, caravan park and camping, river walks, picnicking & toilet facilities
3. Blackwood Public Park & Recreation: tennis, recreation & bushwalking
4. Poveys Road Reserve: nature observation & bushwalking
5. Blackwood Swimming Pool Reserve: conservation, nature observation, bushwalking & picnicking
6. Jack Cann Reserve: conservation, nature observation & bushwalking
7. Blackwood Mechanics Institute Reserve: public hall & amenities, & kindergarten.

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## BLACKWOOD COMMUNITY

## BUSH DANCE 2023



SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY AUGUST 25TH

Our amazing Bush Dance is back on after a four-year break and this year promises to be bigger and better. Paddy Wombat Bush Band have reformed to attend their favourite event. Our caterers are booked offering an excellent feast. Time to dust off those dancing boots and Bush Dance moves.

We will promote this event locally once we finalise costs and details.

Look forward to seeing you all soon at the Bush Dance,

Blackwood Bush Dance Committee





## FIRST NATIONS PRESENCE - A FIRST FOR OUR EASTER CARNIVAL

### WELCOME TO COUNTRY & SMOKING CEREMONY



through a series of 3 community consultation sessions. With Easter Carnival fast approaching Blackwood Progress offered to host associated activities.

The working group was split into groups to co-ordinate

- Welcome & Smoking ceremony
- Bunjil & her wee ones in the parade
- A healing tent with story-telling

The day began with Aunty Julianne Axford welcoming us to country. If you missed this wonderful experience you can see similar on <https://mvcc.vic.gov.au/my-story-audio-project/>. Following the Welcome to Country Julianne's cousin Daniel Ross conducted a smoking ceremony. He was amazing with the children explaining the meaning of the ceremony & showing us how to participate. A good crowd attended the Welcome & Smoking ceremonies followed by the traditional parade leading down to the carnival.

~ Jinny Coyle

Two years after the June '21 storms, the council secured a grant from

Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) for a community-led project to build community recovery and resilience through respectful consultation with Traditional Owners of Country. In January a small group of Blackwoodwoodians met with council officers to brainstorm opportunities. It was decided that this was a perfect opportunity to learn about our pre-colonial history & invite community education. We were honoured to be guided in our approach by our Wurundjeri Woi wurrung elders



### HEALING TENT



At the conclusion of the parade Bunjil led the children down to meet Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Gail Smith at the 'Healing Tent'. A combined area for Landcare and Indigenous Storytelling to promote Caring for Country in the aftermath of the July 2021 Storms. Blackwood's own Jinny Coyle had arranged for Aunty Gail to be in attendance at the carnival. Along with her granddaughters, 16yo Tienna & 6yo Olivia, she read from her own publications which are translations of familiar children's songs into Woi wurrung language. The set of 6 children's books were illustrated by Tienna when she was just 13. It was a really great experience for the kids that attended. They all joined in with the song's actions and respectfully watched and listened. In Between book readings Aunty Gail stayed in the tent and invited questions from the crowd, allowing the adults to ask questions. It was an honor to have an Elder share such important knowledge and information.

~ Melanie

### BUNJIL PARADE & MAKING SESSIONS

When a plan to make a float for the easter parade was made, we thought the completion of the task was going to be our reward. Unbeknownst to us, something even more special occurred. The word was put out to families that had participated as butterflies in the 2022 parade. This year the theme would be Bunjil - the indigenous name for the beloved Wedge Tail Eagles that soar over Blackwood - including a large mother Bunjil with her little baby Bunjils flying below. The word spread and the response was enthusiastic. Blackwood families were invited to be as involved in the process as little or as much as they liked - parents didn't have to assist in making the costumes or larger puppet for their child to participate. As the number of children involved grew, we did briefly feel overwhelmed



but ultimately were up for the challenge. Through this process we discovered just how many kids now live in Blackwood! The Making of the Bunjil wings! Materials for the children's wings and the large Bunjil puppet were purchased with the generous assistance of Moorabool Council, through the Storm Recovery grant. We made a time to start making the wings and this is when the magic happened. Driven by the common goal of acknowledging and showing respect to First Australian People, the sovereign owners of the land on which we live

and love, people gathered. People wanted to get involved. Fun was had at the workshops, cutting, pinning and sewing feathers consumed us all. Participants even took work home to complete. We found the workshops an extremely positive experience. Conversations were had and bonds were made, all whilst the children played. We held 3 workshop sessions and they were all well attended, from Blackwood's tiniest newborn residents, to creative and crafty people without children, to grandparents. Thank you Blackwood. On the day the clouds parted just long enough for the parade to take place. Holding back the happy tears from witnessing the cultural smoking ceremony, we made our way to Whalebone Rd, to the start of the parade. The children all assembled under the big bunjil. 34 kids all flapping their wings. The future is bright. Want to get involved in future Grants and Activities - [thewombats3458@gmail.com](mailto:thewombats3458@gmail.com)

~ Anna, Caitlin & Melanie



### BLACKWOOD & BARRYS REEF LANDCARE GROUP

Wonderful to be a part of the Storm Recovery Project/ with Indigenous Presence, and to be able to share the journey with the Blackwood Community. Thank you to the Moorabool Shire, especially officers Jlaying Jiang and Ashley Malloy, Blackwood Progress and all those involved in the working party to make this unique experience happen. More Landcare detail in the Community Group Update section. Thank you.

~ Noelle Shader



### IN CONCLUSION

After the expenses from the Easter Carnival were calculated there were some funds remaining which are being allocated to books. In the months to follow we will be gifting an age-appropriate book to every Blackwoodian child aged up to 12years. We have also purchased a number of books about plants, bush medicine, bush tucker, First Nations stories & children's book which will live in a street library in the centre of the village. Watch this space.

Note: If you would like to purchase a set of Aunty Gail's books for your household, please contact Jinny at [editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au](mailto:editor@theblackwoodtimes.com.au)

~ Jinny Coyle

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# BLACKWOOD WOODCHOP & EASTER CARNIVAL

## THE WOODCHOP

After a 12-year hiatus from this part of the world, it was a joy to be back in the area and able to attend the Blackwood Easter carnival once again. The carnival is of course a much larger event than what was some years back. Several thousand people coming through the gate, even on a day where wet weather was forecast and threatened to discourage attendance. It was a testament to the wonderful locals whose hard work have made the carnival a must see. Our personal favourite is the woodchop. It's an event that has a long history with country Victoria and brings together a very different type of competitor compared to most mainstream sports. From 20 or so year old's to over 80's, all shapes and sizes, there is a place for all. They are as dedicated and skilled as any other sports person - watching a man in his 70's (I think) having a starting count of over 40 to come through and miss first place by a whisker was something to see. The last Blackwood woodchop that I remember was in the street outside the Hotel when Ray Meade (if I have remembered his name correctly) was the publican, and that was at least 15 years ago. The carnival is of course much more than the woodchop: it was a wonderful day with the parade, music, food and events for the kids. Spending time in the music marquee equally bought back fond memories, listening to the groups, seeing some old favourites and enjoying some of the younger performers was as ever a great part of the carnival. We have really enjoyed re-connecting with some old faces, and have been warmly welcomed back, I look forward to next year's event.

~ Bryan & Robyn Rainford



Photos: Bryan Rainford

## THE MUSIC PROGRAM

The Blackwood Woodchop and Carnival Music Program, now in its second year, has proven to be very popular. This year the Music Tent shook it up with Americana style: Rockabilly, Old Timey, hard hitting back hills Bluegrass and Zydeco kept the crowds warm. Peter Daffy Trio led off with a burst of 1950s Honky Tonk Hillbilly Rock that had people grooving in their seats and the aisles. Greater Glider String Band followed with fiddle driven Old Time tunes harking back to the Appalachian Mountains, played with authenticity, groove and passion. Hardrive Bluegrass Band are a 5 piece acoustic band renowned for their hard driving tunes and soulful duets. They definitely won the best dressed band of the day award for their stylish suits and hats. Shame there was no prize. Recently formed band Gumbo brought it home with dance music from the Southern State of Louisiana. They played up a storm, literally! People were puddle skipping in the rain thanks to the irresistible music and the proximity of the professionally run well stocked bar. A big thank you goes out to the many volunteers who make the Carnival happen and the long-suffering music volunteers: it's hard work putting that tent up. Come to Blackwood for the best live music in Australia ... and next year bring your dancing shoes, 'coz Nick's promised us a dance floor!

~ Sue Donnelly



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*"May have rained on our parade, but we were not deterred."*

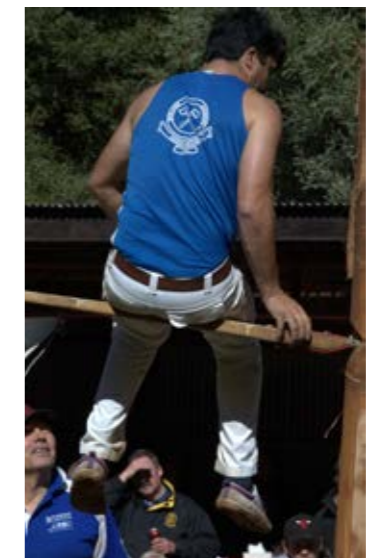
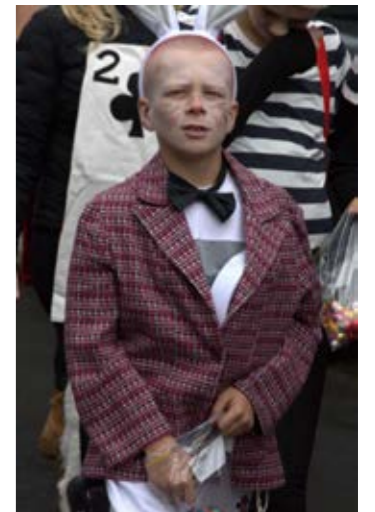
## PROGRESS REPORT

This year's Easter Carnival was again a great success!! We had a great turnout, despite the very unfriendly weather and a good time was had by all. The inclusion of music also has been a big hit! Stall numbers were at an all-time high with well in excess of 50. A huge thank you to our volunteers (50-60 strong), who worked tirelessly in very wet conditions on Friday for the set up, Saturday for the Carnival and Sunday for the pack up. We couldn't have the Carnival without our volunteers, but we still need more community help if we are going to have the Carnival going forward. Also to our sponsors a big thank you for all your support. Once again, we couldn't run the Carnival without your generous support. Progress will continue to support community groups and projects this year. If you have any suggestions or requests - please email [blackwoodprogress@gmail.com](mailto:blackwoodprogress@gmail.com).

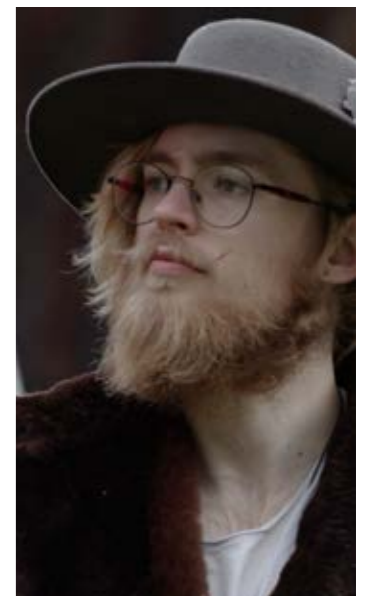
~ Darren Lynch - Secretary Blackwood Progress Association Inc



*"We did it one handed..."*



*"... and sitting down!"*







### BLACKWOOD WOODCHOP & EASTER CARNIVAL







## BLACKWOOD WOODCHOP & EASTER CARNIVAL

### GUMBOOT THROW WINNERS

This year's gumboot throwing competition came with a twist. As we arrived to start the shenanigans we realized that the area provided was significantly shorter this year and that there were several food vans right where multiple boots had landed last year. To avoid a gumboot through the windscreen of the ice-cream truck we quickly decided that this year's event would be about accuracy rather than distance. Two tubs were set out with several people coming close to the more distant "adults" tub but no one actually nailing it. The following champions managed to land a boot in the slightly closer tub: George, Teddy, Max, Phoebe, Finn, Muireann, Jazzy, Tyler, Albert, Anthony, Nell, Andrew & Helen. Well done everyone and see you again next year!



Great footwork. V Stylish. Poetry in motion

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### COMMUNITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN



Work continues on the Blackwood and surrounds Community Emergency Management Action Plan (CEMAP). The CEMAP committee has met regularly since February and consultation with the community has continued throughout that period. Based on feedback received from a community survey, a pop-up workshop was held at the pub on the 30th March which gave locals the opportunity to find out more about the CEMAP as well as share their ideas on the following questions:

- What style of emergency plan would you be most likely to use?
- What would help you feel more prepared in an emergency?
- What would help you to get to know your neighbours better?

From the input provided at the workshop attended by nearly 30 people it was clear that the community preferred an emergency plan in a fridge magnet format containing relevant emergency information. People also stated that they would like to participate in some emergency preparedness workshops or exercises to feel more prepared for future emergencies and that they all want a street party to help get to know each other better!

The idea of a CEMAP is to use local knowledge to plan for the types of emergencies that are most likely to affect the community. A disaster resilient community is often defined as one that "works together to understand and manage the risks that it confronts".

There is no doubt that our little part of the world will be impacted again by extreme weather events in the future and it is really up to us as individuals, and as a community, to plan and prepare. Although our volunteer emergency services do an incredible job they can't be everywhere at once, so we need to take ownership of our own safety, and that of our community.

One challenge that the committee has faced has been working within our areas of influence and understanding the things that we can do. State government legislation outlines emergency response roles and responsibilities to ensure clear areas of command and control. For example, the SES is responsible for storm and flood events and the CFA is responsible for fire.

Victoria Police play a coordination role and are also responsible for road closures and traffic management. Council's role in emergency response is to act as a conduit for communication to and from the emergency's control centre and coordinate community relief and

recovery operations following the event. Other service providers such as Telstra and Powercor also have their own response protocols however, feedback received from the community through the CEMAP process highlighted frustration following the June 2021 storm with a perceived lack of service provided to reinstate power and communications. To help address this, one of the actions in the CEMAP is to try and better understand the roles of these agencies and service providers during emergency events and to ensure that they also have a better understanding of our needs as a community.

It is hoped that through this and the other actions in the CEMAP, we will be better prepared for our next emergency as well as understand the role and responsibilities of others to support us. The CEMAP committee is to become incorporated to ensure the CEMAP is implemented and that we can continue to meet to advocate for our local communities.

We would love some new members to join the team and welcome you to attend our next meeting to be held at the Blackwood Hall on 7th June at 6pm.

~ Community Emergency Management Plan Committee

### STORM RECOVERY DOCUMENTARY

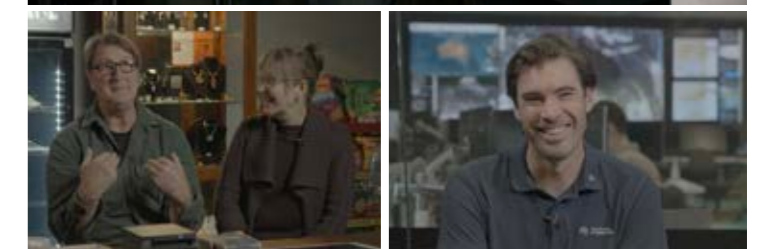
Thank you to everyone who has given their time to be interviewed and filmed. We've shot quite a bit recently, including a very interesting day with a senior forecaster at the Bureau of Meteorology as well as Blackwood Times' very own weatherman, Don Owen!



Filming (including the upcoming second anniversary street party) will continue for a little while yet, so please contact me if you have anything you'd like to contribute – images, audios or even a story.



~ Brendan Hehir  
0419 137 812







### ST MARTIN'S CHAPEL HERE TO STAY

There's been talk recently that the Uniting Church was looking to sell off the hugely popular community space, St Martin's Chapel. In mid-May, the Herald Sun reported (incorrectly) that Blackwood was on a list of churches, which included Ballan and Meredith, facing closure over the next couple of years. Robyn Zanon explains that St Martin's is regarded by the Uniting Church as a long-term prospect – that is, we have about 7 years to secure our future. Robyn will be preparing a report for the Uniting Church and asks the community to help make the case for St Martin's Chapel by sending letters of support (include an account of your favourite event or add a request for an event you'd like to see there). The Uniting Church would also like to see greater use of the Chapel for matters of the spirit, so Robyn's question to the community is, "What would encourage you to come?". Suggestions so far include: women's retreats, pet's services, iconography, ecotheology, bible history, feminine theology and meditation. Drop Robyn a letter at PO Box 59.

~ Brendan Hehir

Photo: John Kemp



### UPCOMING MUSIC IN BLACKWOOD

Rachel Hair & Ron Jappy are fine exponents of Scotland's most ancient and contemporary instruments, the clarsach (Scottish harp) and acoustic guitar. The renowned duo will be in Australia to perform at the National Celtic Festival in Portarlington. After that, they'll be heading here to Blackwood to perform at St. Martin's Chapel on Wednesday 14th June. Scan QR code for tickets.



Get your dancing shoes on and come on down to St. Martin's Chapel for the footstomping Transatlantic Sessions concert on Saturday 17th June! The concert will feature 3 top class bands who will bring us music from Ireland to Appalachia: Newbury Fog, Blue Mount String Band and newly formed Celtic trio Is the Big Man Within? Scan QR code for tickets.

For more information on these upcoming concerts email Fiona Ross at fionaross16@gmail.com

## MUSIC AT ST. MARTIN'S CHAPEL

### AMERICANA EXPLOSION

Review by Tonic

What a BLAST. Three great bands playing their socks off in the intimate setting of St Martin's Chapel. If you didn't get splinter injuries, you weren't tapping your feet enough! First up was Fingerbone, featuring Peter Graham, Michael McMonagal, John Ebzery, Dean Schulz and floating member Nara Demasson. A really tight five piece who set a blistering pace from the get go. Dean led us through a mountain range of classic southern and Appalachian music. I don't often get to see a banjolin but what a treat to hear it played well by Michael McMonagal.



Our own Hardrive was next up. Traditional bluegrass with Nick and Lachlan Dear, Matt Ryan, Mick Harrison and Ashton Edgeley. Ever



confident on stage, Nick and Lachlan gave us an authentic taste of bluegrass. Dressed to the nines and ready to please, the crowd was dancing in the aisles. I did enjoy the gentle ribbing of Mick as he kicked us off on another roller coaster ride with his finger picking

banjo. Rounding out the evening was Gumbo; Lachlan Dear, Nara Demasson, Louis Strating, Mick Thompson and Gerry Daly. Gerry kept up a frantic beat all set as Gumbo brought Zydeco to St Martin's. Lachlan and Mick mused over their experimentation during lockdown that led to some high-powered music that kept the audience on their feet, jiving and rocking the night away. Time was tight but Gumbo was able to fit in two encore pieces. Sadly, it all had to end but everything they sang was true. Thank you Fiona Ross, for another smash hit. Forget Chapel on Chapel, the best venue in the state is Blackwood's own St Martin on Martin St.



### SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS TO THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

Review by Tonic

What a treat that we had famous Scots fiddler Paul Anderson visit Blackwood and play to a sell-out audience in St Martin's Chapel. A performer of traditional Scottish fiddle music, Paul Anderson has composed over 700 tunes in the traditional style. He gave the town a taste of Scottish music on Monday, 15 May. Paul would be an imposing figure on any stage, but to see him so close and accessible in such an intimate setting stirred the blood and set many hearts a-flutter. The night began with a medley of tunes, including one by 'The Strathspey King', James Scott Skinner, a classic he wrote for posterity on a soap wrapper; and the reel 'The Left Handed Fiddler' complete with gory details involving a musket. Paul was a great talker, telling us all about his introduction to Scots music after he found an 18th century French



violin under the bed at his grandparents' farmhouse in Aberdeenshire. Once bitten he never let it go, playing that same instrument on the night. It was fascinating to watch his fingers caress its neck as the bow flashed across the strings, producing jigs and reels that would calm the savages and please the gods. We learnt the history of the Jacobite rebellions through the laments and bagpipe tunes. The beheading of Mary, Queen of Scots, the siege of Stirling Castle and the sorrow of Culloden. But we also felt the pride of the Scots in the Highland gatherings and service overseas (Lovat Scouts in the Boer War and fighting alongside Australians in Somalia). Not restricted to land, Scots fiddlers composed many hornpipes on HM Ships, keeping the crews fit and entertained. Paul played the music of the Cairngorms that allowed us to imagine the reds, blues and greens of the mountain range. After an interval, we were led by Fiona, singing unaccompanied, on a short but inspiring set that comprised 'This is No My Plaid', a Scots mouth music medley, and a variant of 'Loch Lomond'. We were all chuffed to join in with the chorus. A highlight of the night was Paul's playing of his famous composition 'The Beauty of Cromar Before Me'. A beautiful, lilting piece that allowed us to imagine the magnificent landscape where he likes to spend most of his time. But amongst this beauty, we also learnt of the infamous Stool of Repentance, thankfully a thing of the past. After the second interval we heard the music of the MacDonalds, the MacLeans that inspired Sir Walter Scott. We heard the osprey soaring over the water and we felt for them when the 'Dogs Bite Chapmen'. Then we could not help moving our feet with the 'Fairy Dance'. Paul was energetically asked for an encore and he played Niel Gow's Lament for the Death of His Second Wife. What a way to finish what was an outstanding performance! I do hope that Paul might make his way back to Blackwood soon. I reckon that if Paul had called us to rebel against the Saxe-Coburgs, we'd all be marching down the hill to the sound of his fiddle. Well Fiona Ross, you have done it again! How lucky we are to have you and your musical connections.



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## AROUND THE TOWN

### THE DAN DAN VAN

The post Office Cafe is pleased to announce that we have temporarily taken over Karen's Van in Martin Street while waiting for the completion of our renovation. Daniel Stuart, our talented and creative chef is able to spread his wings and show us what he he can do. It is our intention to provide restaurant quality take away meals. To keep it interesting we will theme the van and offer a range of different cuisines from around the globe. To avoid disappointment you can pre order for lunch or dinner. Open every Saturday and Sunday from 12pm - 3.30. 19 Martin Street Blackwood. 0419891957.

~ Carol Guthrie



### BLACKWOOD WELCOMES ADAM, THE GOOD BAKER

Hello! My name is Adam, and I'm doing my best to make good bread for people. Everything I make is naturally leavened (aka "sourdough") and I offer a varied range of loaves. I have got plain and simple sourdoughs, loaves packed with seeds, high tinned loaves for sandwiches and all manner of other good breads. I started the bakery from my home kitchen in Trentham in November of 2021 and have now moved my operations into the Martin Street Coffee Roastery on Martin Street full-time. The community has been so welcoming and I'm very happy to be here.



### WHO'S TATT IS THAT?

This tattoo symbolises two sisters. My sister and I were tattooed at the same time. Hers is the moon and mine is the sun. We wanted to acknowledge our life-long connection when she moved away to Queensland.

~ Ami Gannon



### TACO TIME!



Friday the 5th of May saw Charlie debut his "Taco Time". Charlie, his wife and brother in law put on a great selection of Tacos and Nachos. It was a great little get together even if it was a typical Blackwood evening, the fire was keeping us warm on the outside and Charlies Tacos warm on the inside. Great job Charlie, looking forward to what's next!

### MOORABOOL SHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & VISITOR ECONOMY STRATEGIES

Moorabool Shire Council is pleased to present the draft Moorabool Shire Economic Development and Visitor Economy Strategies for community feedback. Over 2021-22, Urban Enterprise, in collaboration with Council, undertook extensive consultation to inform Moorabool Shire's new Economic Development Strategy and Visitor Economy Strategy. These are separate Strategies that are designed to maximise economic, tourism and local jobs potential for the region. Please use the link below to complete the survey and share your feedback on these draft strategies. Feedback for these strategies will close on Sunday 11th June, 2023. <https://haveyoursay.moorabool.vic.gov.au/ed-and-ve-strategies-public-exhibition>. On behalf of Council, we thank you for your time and input into the development of these strategies. If you have any further questions or comments please contact Elaine Dunstone (Senior Economic Development Officer) at [edunstone@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:edunstone@moorabool.vic.gov.au)

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Youngest visitor to the carnival was 4 days old!

### A BLACKWOOD WEDDING

We were married on Easter Saturday 8th April. This was our fifth wedding date and third wedding venue after many cancellations due to covid, so we were SO happy to have all our family join us from W.A and New Zealand. We loved sharing beautiful Blackwood with everyone, and having the Easter Parade move through town while Annalice was beautifying the bridal party was a big highlight!

St Martin's Chapel was an ideal venue for our celebration. Elise and Eddy (now the Achesons!)



### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors

As the town is now full of kids and new ones on the way I think a segment which used to be in the Times might be reintroduced. Birthdays being celebrated in each issue.

Always look forward to the next issue.

Jane H



Editor's Reply

Hi Jane, this is a great suggestion and we will take it on board. If people would like theirs, or their children's birthdays mentioned in the Blackwood Times send the information in to [team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au](mailto:team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au)

three weeks prior to the publication date. Photos of birthday events might also be included, space permitting.

### FAREWELL

Brian Fredrick Small (Bushie)

6 September 1950 - 14 April 2023

'What is a life?' the Celebrant asked at your Service, and answered 'It's the little dash between the date you were born and the date you died'.

So small a thing to capture the richness and fullness of your life well lived Bushie. A life that touched and affected so many people in the communities of Barwon Heads, Blackwood and Trentham where, at different times, you lived, worked, played, stirred things up and touched many, many lives. We are all saddened at your passing but are comforted not only by all the shared stories and recollections and the fine stone and brickwork that will outlast us all, but mostly by recalling the way that you were able to make people feel. Your loving, generous, open - hearted presence made those who met you, made friends with you, feel happy, uplifted and inspired. Inspired by your devotion to your family, friends and especially your beloved Christine and inspired simply by seeing that a person's capacity to love has a powerful and positive effect on all those around them. Towards the end of the service at Point Lonsdale a number of people noticed a large, beautiful butterfly fluttering over the flowers near the front of the gathering. A sign? Maybe, who knows - but it was a touch of beauty in the midst of sadness and loss - something beautiful for this world. Thank you Bushie - you made a difference.

~ Maeve McKeown







### POETRY OF THE TOWN OF BLACKWOOD

In the town of Blackwood, Victoria,  
Amidst the hills and trees,  
There's a carnival that happens every year,  
That fills the air with glee.

It's the Easter Woodchop Carnival,  
Where the woodchoppers come to play,  
With axes sharp and muscles strong,  
They chop their way through the day.

The crowd cheers as the woodchips fly,  
And the sawdust fills the air,  
The woodchoppers give it their all,  
And show off their skill and flair.

But the carnival's not just about woodchopping,  
There's much more to be had,  
With food and drinks, games and rides,  
And entertainment to make the masses glad.

There are contests for men and women,  
And even for the juniors too,  
Everyone's got a chance to win,  
And show what they can do.

So come one, come all, to Blackwood's carnival,  
And join in the Easter fun,  
You'll leave with memories that last a lifetime,  
And a sense of community won.

~ Anonymous



### SPUDFEST

Limerick by Jacinta Hehir  
Dust settles on the Spud Festival.  
Flavours? Oh so very digestible,  
Bacon, leek, chilli tatties,  
The bands were very natty,  
Spirits as high as the locals' cholesterol.

### AROUND THE TOWN

#### BLACKWOOD MAKERS – ALISON ACEVEDO

Interviewed by Paul Kukiel



Alison, her husband Carlos and 3 boys Ricky, Eli and Donny have been residents of Blackwood for 7 years and absolutely love the area.

**Alison, please tell us about your side hustle and where you learned to crochet?**

I learnt to crochet as a child though I was never really great or considered it a special hobby. Actually it

was later in life, after my boys were born but still really little, that I picked up the needles again and began with my own designs.

**What products do you make?**

Anything that I get in my head. Beanies, scarves and fingerless gloves, amigurumi animals, shawls, cowls, jumpers. Anything really.

**What do you like the most? What is your favourite and best-selling item?**

The amigurumi and children's animal beanies. Amigurumi is the Japanese art of knitting or crocheting small, stuffed yarn creatures. The word is a compound of the Japanese words ami, meaning "crocheted or knitted", and kurumi, literally "wrapping", as in nuigurumi "stuffed doll". They are really cute and the children really like them.

**When and where can we pick up one of your creations?**

I used to sell them locally, but now they are available at the Trentham Farmers Markets most days it's open, you can also contact and purchase them through my FaceBook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Alidesignz/100043677106028/>

**Do you use any machines?**

The only machine I use are my hands, everything is hand crocheted, I'm continuing to update my creations. Also, I have been thinking about where I might collaborate with other makers, so feel free to reach out.



**What about customer requests?**

I'm more than happy to take on customer requests, if I am able to make it then I will.

Thanks for your time Alison, we love what you have been making and the beanies will certainly keep the warmth in as we enter the colder months! Till next time.



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### • GIG & EVENTS GUIDE •

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
JUNE		
Sat 3: 5- 8	Complete Unknown	Pig and Whistle
Sun 4: 12 - 3	Michelle Parsons	Greendale Pub
Fri 9: 9:30 - late	Kaze Karaoke	Flanigans
Sat 10: 7 - 9	Marlie	Pig and Whistle
Sat 10: 8 - late	Red Rock	Greendale Pub
Sun 11 - Mon 12	51st Bacchus Marsh Rotary Art Show & Sale	207 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh
Wed 14: 7 - 10:30	Rachel Hair & Ron Jappy	St Martin's Chapel
Sun 18: 12 - 3	Brian Sadler	Greendale Pub
Sun 25: 12 - 3	Marty Luke	Greendale Pub
Sun 25: 11	The Longest Lunch	Garden of St Earth

JULY		
Fri 7: 8 - late	Five O'clock Charlie	Greendale Pub
Fri 14: 6 - 8	Christmas in July	Greendale Pub
Sun 23: 12 - 3	Brian Sadler	Greendale Pub
Sun 30: 12 - 3	Michelle Parsons	Greendale Pub

REGULAR STUFF		
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
Mon	Locals night - dinner & 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 mntly	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
Sun: 3- 6	Celtic Sessions	Radio Springs
2nd/4th Sun: 2	Regular service	St Martin's Chapel

### 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

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

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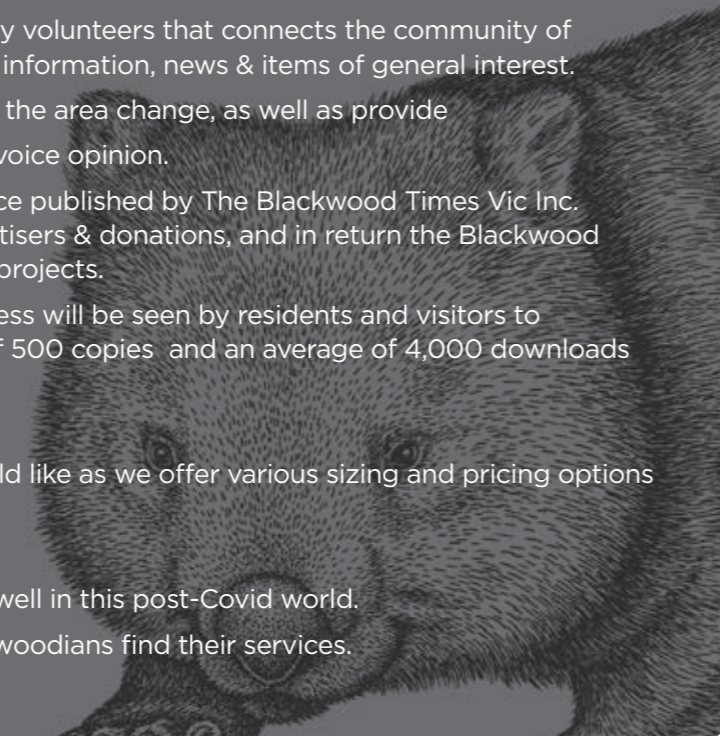
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### BEYOND BLACKWOOD

#### DESTINATION - THE PIG & WHISTLE, EAST TRENTHAM

Interview with Eammon Hamilton, Publican  
Interviewed by Jeanne Tahini

##### Question: What is the history of the establishment of the Pig and Whistle and its story to date?

The original hotel was established around 1886 by Maurice O'Connell, an Irish settler from Clare County in Ireland and it was called the Clare Maurice Hotel. It was a two-room structure, one room was the pub and the other room was for the family. In 1952 the name was changed to the East Trentham Hotel and it became the Pig and Whistle in 1956. There are a few Pig and Whistle Hotels in Victoria which leads to confusion as we often have half a tour group, or half a band turning up when they should really be at the Pig and Whistle in the Dandenongs or at Red Hill.

##### Question: What brought you to the Pig and Whistle and what is your background?

My Mum has lived in Trentham for about 25 years. After visiting one weekend I was driving back to Melbourne with my son and passed the hotel. We saw that it was closed and looked through the windows and thought we would make some enquiries to find out what was happening with the old girl. Through my brother, who did his apprenticeship in Trentham, we made enquiries as I knew that he had worked on the hotel. We tracked down an address for the free-hold owners. They had a commercial pool business in Bali looking after resort pools and they were stuck in Bali. At this stage it was the second year of Covid restrictions and they were at a bit of a loss as to what to do with the hotel. When we stumbled upon it, the previous publican, for whatever reason, had gutted it. The kitchen and the beer system were removed and it was left in a non-operating state.

At this time, it was about six weeks away from not being able to be re-opened again. In the 2nd year of Covid Liquor Licencing Victoria waived licencing fees. So, we negotiated with the free-hold owners and worked to make it operational again, otherwise we would have lost all the previous rights to operate. This was 2021. It then took about 6 months to piece the hotel together to get it to a good state. The hotel now owns everything. We are working towards ensuring that the hotel is here for another hundred years. It is the heart and soul of East Trentham and a community meeting place.

Prior to coming to The Pig and Whistle I had a venue in Melbourne for 20 plus years. We were mainly doing events and functions - weddings, corporate Christmas parties and product launches with a lot of themed events.

Revitalising the hotel was a lot about pulling the layers off rather than re-inventing the wheel. For instance, the floor in the public bar had seven layers of floors on top of the original floor. Over the generations people just kept adding and adding. We've sourced period-correct doors for the building and peeled away the layers. There were door jambs inside door jambs. It wasn't the prettiest Victorian building around, but it has charm. It has been quite an exciting challenge to put it together and hunt down appropriate pieces. The only thing left from the original two room hotel we found was the foundations for the original fireplace under the floorboards in the bar. There were three different sized floorboards throughout the hotel. We hunted for second hand boards to make it more authentic and tried to find unique pieces to add to the building. It was like putting a 500 piece jigsaw puzzle back together.

##### Question: Who Visits the Pig and Whistle?

We get many locals coming in regularly. Friday night is often very busy, especially at the time of the meat raffle. There are many interesting nights where we might have many locals, and anyone from a visiting barrister, to an international airline pilot and a potato farmer. It's mostly a good mix of interesting people. We are supported by Kyneton, Woodend and Trentham people. It is noticeable that there are a lot of young families in the region so we are developing a family friendly bistro environment. We are working towards creating an environment for our team where it's a career, not just a job in hospitality. We are about to invest in a brand-new state-of-the-art kitchen where the design has an emphasis on the chef's and the kitchen staff's good mental health. It will have lots of natural light and good air flow. We are trying to work towards being the employer of choice in the region, and looking at all aspects of sustainability for the business. There are quite a few staff members who live in Blackwood and the others live in the region.

##### Question: What Plans do you have for the future of the hotel?

The hotel had significant water issues and we had to install a water treatment plant. Recently we secured extra land at the rear of the pub and this will be turned into off-street parking and it will have an area for sub-surface irrigation so our waste water will be drained off into the paddock after it goes through the water treatment plant. Previously we have had to have the waste water carried away each week. The goal is to make the hotel self-supporting. A head chef and three other chefs are now on board and our menu will be expanded. The energy we put into renovating the beer garden gives me joy when I see families enjoying themselves on weekends. I think The Pig and Whistle has the perfect atmosphere for this great part of the country.



Keisha Shearer and Eammon Hamilton at the Bar of the Pig and Whistle.

Photo Jeanne Tahini





### BEYOND BLACKWOOD



The Saints would like to express our gratitude to the entire Saints family for their support in getting the 2023 season off to a great start with six Netball teams and four Football teams it takes a strong group to pull it all together. The new facilities were handed over the night before round one home game, the facilities are fantastic and all the kinks are almost ironed out. The new gatehouse is a hit welcoming everyone on game day. Training is well attended by players and families, Auskick has more than 30 participants with an exhibition match planned for Buddy Day 15 July, NetSetGo program has ended with lots of participants going on to play 11&under for the season. Thursday night meals are proving to be a wonderful social night and an opportunity to catch up with each other off the field. Check out our new website [www.trenthamsaintsinc.com](http://www.trenthamsaintsinc.com), and as always watch out on our social media platforms for upcoming events information pictures and results. Share our posts and tag the club #TrenthamSaints

Upcoming events:

27/5 Pool comp & juke box – 32 competitors and 32 songs.

3/6 Sponsor's & Life Members lunch followed by last ticket out evening function

24/6 FRAT (friends racing against time) Games Night – senior function

15/7 Buddy Day with Auskick exhibition match followed by Junior disco

22/7 Senior Club Ball at Macedon Spa

12/8 Red faces – Talent show

Season presentation nights and major raffle draw in September

Results at Round 5. Wins / Losses

#### FOOTBALL

Under 11.5 4/1

Under 14.5 5/0

Reserves 5/0

Seniors 5/0

#### NETBALL

11 & Under 1/4

15&Under 0/5

17&Under 0/5

C Grade 5/0

B Grade 3/2

A Grade 5/0

Clive Raak: Enjoying my time at the Saints, no ifs or buts we are primed for success. This is a warm and welcoming club.



Senior coaches - Clive Raak & Sharna Ford  
Photo Credits Trent Sainter

Sharna Ford: The senior Netball group has had an outstanding performance so far, the Juniors continue to improve every week. Go Saints.

2023 MCDNFL FIXTURE		
DATE	OPPOSITION	VENUE
15 Apr	Navarre	HOME
22 Apr	Royal Park	AWAY
29 Apr	Campbells Creek	HOME
6 May	Dunolly	AWAY
13 May	Maryborough Rov.	HOME
20 May	Harcourt	AWAY
27 May	Lexton	HOME
3 June	Avoca	HOME
10 June	King's Birthday	
17 June	Nette Bealiba	AWAY
24 June	Maldon	HOME
1 July	BYE	
8 July	Carisbrook	AWAY
15 July	Newstead	HOME
22 July	Talbot	HOME
29 July	Split Round Bye	
5 Aug	Navarre	AWAY
12 Aug	Royal Park	HOME
19 Aug	Campbells Creek	AWAY

26-27 Aug - Qualifying/Elimination Finals  
2-3 Sept - Semi Finals | 9-10 Sept - Preliminary Finals  
18 Sept - Grand Final Day

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