

WOMBIE IS PREPARING FOR A WARM ONE

- see page 14 for the story



THE STAMPER FROM THE RIP VAN WINKLE MINE

- see page 8 for the story





EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

Welcome to another issue of the Blackwood Times. Spring is here and Blackwood is starting to dry up. We are beginning to see more activity in our little main street, not to mention the current flurry of activity at the Post Office as renovations have moved up a gear and are well under way! We have also seen a few new members join our community, so make sure to say hi to the new faces around town.

It was great to see all the fun that was had at the bush dance. Unfortunately I missed out on tickets this year as it was a sell-out event. Next year I'll be booking early!

In this issue I'm pleased to see a good number of history articles about Blackwood and surrounding areas. We have a rich history! Now, with warmer days, it's a good time to get outside and do some exploring. Having said that, as the surrounding bush is drying, we all need to pay attention to the weather and have our emergency plans ready. Karl, from the Blackwood Fire Brigade, has provided a wealth of information regarding preparedness for the fire season. If able, come along to the Emergency Plan expo on the 21st October (see page 14). This one kept me really busy, I did multiple pop-in's, visits and freindly reminders to send in the content and we also had special help from Sophie from Barrys Reef step in and complete the amazing design and packaging of this issue, we couldn't have done it without you, so an extra special thanks!

As always we love hearing from you, and this month we have a special letter sent in from Dresden 11, who has received our new monthly \$10 post Office lolly voucher. If that's not a reason to convince your kids to get writing, then I don't know what is!

Take care and enjoy the issue.

~ Paul Kukiel, Editor for this issue

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH \$1500?

As a Blackwood Community member, we often hear lots of "The Council should do this, do that or the other" so, If you had \$1500 to spend on Blackwood what would you like to see done? Email us at team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au and we will post the results next issue.

I'll start "I'd love a new updated Blackwood Town Centre" sign at the start of Martin Street/Greendale-Trentham Road.

~ Paul Kukiel

BLACKWOOD PUB TURNS 155

On Friday 8th September some of the cream of Blackwood society donned their finest to celebrate the local pubs 155th birthday - an incredible milestone! How old this particular local felt the following day. There were ballgowns and bow ties and an interesting mix of all things in between. A photo booth in the front room captured some fantastic moments and we all got to enjoy the great musical talents of Jeff Tynan who made sure a good time was had on the dance floor. Coming hot on the heels of the bush dance it made for a big couple of weeks in Blackwood. Thanks to Bec, Eb and co for organizing a fun night out with a bit of a difference.



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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)
July '23	60.4	101	-3.5	12.9	9.8	2.9	6
Aug '23	53.5	110.1	-5.3	17.7	11.2	2.6	6.7

Some very cold nights in mid August and some quite high temperatures in late August. Rainfall for July and August has been well below average ~ Don Owen

WOMBAT STATE FOREST – STORM DEBRIS COMMUNITY MEETING

The community meeting run by Jon Rofe from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on Thursday 24 August 2023 at Blackwood CFA was well supported by a significant, friendly and informative contingent from Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) Storm Recovery and the Debris Management Teams – as well as our wonderful local CFA members. About 20 locals attended.

Jon explained the current works by FFMV are focused on track re-opening, fuel reduction and access for fire-fighting vehicles. Good access will support the aim of controlling outbreaks while they are less than 5Ha in size.

Work has recently been completed, or is being undertaken, around Cobaw, Firth Park, Barkstead, East Trentham and Bullarto.

Fallen trees, debris and overhead branches/partially fallen trees that pose a threat to public safety and fire-fighting access are removed up to 80m either side of roads and tracks. This is done using techniques and machinery that seek to reduce impact on the physical environment and its biodiversity. A pre-operation review at each site addresses biodiversity, terrain and risks and is used to create a site management plan.

Trees and debris on the ground are targeted – standing trees will occasionally be removed – but only if required to improve safety. The 80m distance is reduced if terrain is steep and difficult – and increased modestly where required.

Jon emphasised the importance of roads as fire control lines and the need to provide fire crews with quick, safe access to fire sites.

Work is now complete preparing sections of Pottery and Povey's Tracks close to Blackwood as Domestic Firewood Collection areas from 1 September for three months. Additional firewood collection areas are also available along Yankee Road, Firth Road near Trentham and Wombat Creek Road near Bullarto.

FFMV are managing and undertaking the work supported by VicForests resources where required.

Importantly and despite the promise to stop native forest logging by early 2024, VicForests still have their own operations underway regarding log retrieval – that work is separate to the work to support FFMV. Jon referred those enquiring to look on the VicForests web site for areas they are targeting with their Forest Product Licences.

FFMV work underway will continue through to next June and may continue after that subject to funding.

Requests from locals to review and address a couple of locations around Blackwood (Barry's Reef, a track off Broad Lane) were directed to specific FFMV staff attending with a view to potentially reviewing and actioning.

You can reach out to Jon at jon.rofe@delwp.vic.gov.au or Jen at jennifer.oberme@delwp.vic.gov.au

You can download detailed maps of the firewood collection areas here: <https://www.ffmv.vic.gov.au/firewood/find-a-firewood-collection-area>

You can see a map of FFMV activity areas here:

<https://www.ffmv.vic.gov.au/managing-fire-risk-timber-that-fell-during-2021-storms/wombat-state-forest>

And the VicForests approved TUP (Timber Utilisation Plan) from May 2023 here:

<https://vicforeststrp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=b1fd7ec3f87148ef8e3d77d0611fcd14>

~ Chris Durrell



Photos: Courtesy FFMV Example of work undertaken at Firth Park

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	Nov 15	
Regular contributors, features & items of interest, community groups & clubs	Nov 15	
Display ad artwork		Nov 20
Late breaking news (100 words max)		Nov 20

NO late submissions will be accepted. Please email submissions, display ads & articles to team@theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au or post to The Blackwood Times, PO Box 39 Blackwood, 3458. Download our Advertising Rate Card & back issues (in colour) from www.theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au &, while you're there, sign-up to join our eList & follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/theblackwoodtimes>

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A BLACKWOOD PROFILE - SHARON AND DEBBIE

We live in Blackwood and have a business in Trentham

Q: When did you move to Blackwood?

Shaz: I came 15 years ago as I had my daughter Rosie, and didn't want to bring her up in Melbourne. Mum and Dad had a holiday house here and we had been coming up on holidays for most of our lives.

Deb: I moved to Blackwood about 13 years ago when my daughter Cherry was one. It just felt natural to be with Mum and Dad and Shaz as we are a close family. Blackwood just gets into your blood! I've never felt isolated as we have a lot of family support, and it's often 24/7.

Q: Why did you decide to set up shop in Trentham? Are there advantages in running a business together?

Shaz: When our girls were little we had a cleaning business around Blackwood for four years. After this we decided it was time for a change.

Deb: We used to take the girls to cleaning jobs but the whole thing was exhausting-having a cleaning business and young children. We looked at Jindarup about 12 years ago and thought about running a shop there, and the thought about running a shop stuck, even though we didn't take on Jindarup.

Shaz: Someone we knew had a friend who owned a shop in Trentham and when we looked at it, we really wanted it. This was in 2013 and we launched Kuki. At the time the only retail shop, apart from us, was Two Fat Wombats. We wanted to open a shop for the people of Trentham. We began with two racks of clothes.

Deb: The shop was originally the Groves Bakery. It has had a few lives since then. It was also the Crooked Chimney-an Austrian cafe. Then it was Twigs - Cafe and Retail which then became Twigs BnB, before we took it over.

Shaz: Our main focus in stocking products has been on serving the local community. Often regular customers come in and take home a bag of clothes to try on, and they return the ones they don't want the next day.

Q: How do you manage the business together?

Shaz: We constantly talk to each other and begin a lot of conversations with - "what about?" We try to keep it interesting and respect each other's opinions, and we have fun!

Deb: We are aware of each other's fears and feelings about the direction we are taking and have lots of discussion.

Q: How did you survive Covid?

Shaz: We survived Covid the same way that most small businesses did-by the skin of our teeth. It was stressful but we came out the other side. We were home schooling at the shop because we didn't have enough Wi-Fi in Blackwood.

Deb: So, we set up the Kuki Covid school for four kids. It was a stressful time for the whole family. I did however, find some joy in home schooling. Cherry flourished and I loved the greater contact, and I almost wanted to become a school teacher!

Q: Do you have plans for the future?

Shaz: We essentially want to be here until our lease runs out. We love the shop and we love our lives. We are now the 2nd longest surviving retail business in Trentham after Helen in Jargon.

Deb: People often just come in for a chat, and many come in to see Charlie the Pug.

Shaz: Our door has always been open to Blackwood and Trentham people.

~ Interviewed by Jeane Tahini



Deb & Shaz outside Kuki, Trentham

THE BLACKWOOD HOTEL: AN HISTORIC GEM RETAINING ITS CHARM



A rich history and promising future situated on the corner of Martin Street and Golden Point Road in Red Hill; the Blackwood Hotel holds great historical significance as the first block of land granted on the Blackwood Goldfield. Originally known as Grimes Corner on Allotment 1, Section C, this land was purchased by Mary Grimes in October 1859 for a modest sum of £6.10. Today, the Blackwood Hotel stands proudly as one of the last remaining and operating pubs from the gold rush era, offering a glimpse into the past while catering to the present needs of its visitors.

The story of the Blackwood Hotel is closely intertwined with the will and resilience of Bridget Cruise. After losing her husband, Joseph Cruise, in April 1867, Bridget faced a devastating setback when the Victoria Hotel in Red Hill (Blackwood)—which her late husband had purchased in 1864—burned down in December of the same year. Bridget's possessions and livelihood were lost in the fire, leaving her with four young children. Tragically, three of her other children were buried in the Blackwood Cemetery, their tombstones marking some of the earliest in the area.

In March 1868 the Bacchus Marsh Express reported that a grand hotel was being constructed for Mrs. Cruise. The hotel, known as the Family Hotel, opened its doors on September 4, 1868 and quickly became a hub of activity in Blackwood. It served as a booking office for the famed Cobb and Co coaches, with its main doors still bearing the sign today. The hotel boasted a coach shed and stables, which have since been replaced by a veranda that embraces the building.

Over the years, the Blackwood Hotel changed hands multiple times. Joshua Vines and John McPhee acquired the establishment in 1877, followed by John Cann, who renamed it John Cann's Family Hotel in 1889. The hotel went through various renovations and refurbishments, including the addition of a room used as a temporary morgue and a servant's quarters.

Throughout the years Cobb and Co coaches traversed the region, Blackwood became a popular destination and a convenient stopping point en-route to other locations.

In 1916 the Cann family sold the hotel to Fitzgerald's Brewing Co., which later became the Castlemaine Brewing Company. The hotel passed through several more owners before finally landing

in the capable hands of George and Margaret Stockdale in 1977. The Stockdale family, along with their children Sandra Fletcher and Ron Stockdale, ran the hotel and undertook extensive renovations to preserve its historical charm. They made it their mission to maintain the cosy ambiance and warm welcome that the Blackwood Hotel is known for. After their tenure, ownership changed hands a few more times until it fell into the care of Ken and Anne Cooke in 1995. Among the hotel's recent stewards are Peter Olivieri, Lyn Wright, and Michael Boyd.

Now, as we enter 2023, the Blackwood Hotel is on the brink of a new chapter under the ownership of devoted locals Fiona Callow and Lisa Caines. Fuelled by energy and optimism, Fiona and Lisa plan to restore the hotel to its former glory, focusing on providing excellent hospitality, good food, quality wine, and refreshing beer. With their vision and dedication, the old girl is set to regain its place as a vibrant and cherished establishment within the Blackwood community.

Stepping into the Blackwood Hotel today, guests are greeted with a warm and cosy atmosphere, enhanced by the crackling fire in the bar during winter. The dining room offers a snug corner where patrons can savour delicious meals while enjoying breathtaking views. The walls adorned with old photos serve as a testament to the hotel's rich history and enduring charm.

While Blackwood's gold rush era may be in the past, the Blackwood Hotel remains a tangible piece of living history, providing future generations a glimpse into a bygone era. Its enduring presence and the rumours of resident ghosts have attracted local paranormal groups, adding to its mystique and intrigue.

Today, the Blackwood Hotel continues to serve as a hub of warmth, good company, and hospitality, providing a place where locals and visitors can come together to create lasting memories. As Fiona Callow and Lisa Caines prepare to embark on their journey as the hotel's new owners, they are poised to carry forward the legacy and traditions that have made the Blackwood Hotel a beloved institution. With their passion for preserving history and a commitment to creating a welcoming environment, Fiona and Lisa are set to breathe new life into this historic landmark, ensuring that it remains a cherished part of Blackwood for many years to come.

~ Written by Lisa Caines, Photos by Margot Hitchcock



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BLACKWOOD MAKERS - JINNY COYLE

In this issue of Blackwood Makers, we are speaking with Jinny Coyle. Many of you already know Jinny but for those that don't, Jinny and her partner Brendan ran the Blackwood Times for over ten years prior to the current team taking over. Jinny is still an active member of the team and focusses on social media.

Q: How did you start your journey in design?

Before I was a designer, Brendan and I ran a business focussing on Boutique Homewares as well as running a local tourism-based business - Blackwood Retreats. This was in the time before Air BnB. The business did well and grew to quite a size but with the advent of low-cost homewares stores beginning to open up, we weren't sure it was what we wanted long term for the family. We had a lot of stuff and most of our awake time was dedicated to work. We began to slow that



down and around this time I found out how expensive print-based advertising was. For example, advertising in the RACV was over \$150 a line and that was 25 years ago! Also around this time the internet began to surface. I was an early adopter and had used email before people knew what the 'e' stood for (it's electronic!). I decided that I would go back to Uni and began a graduate diploma in web technology at RMIT. But I soon discovered my passion was for design over coding.

I was also teaching web design and was offered a free B.A. while teaching. This marked the beginning of my design business, focusing on helping clients stand out by creating unique and impactful designs, both in print media and on the web.

Q: What makes a good design?

I think successful design is often characterized by its subtlety. If a design is effective, it should serve a clear purpose without drawing unnecessary attention. In contrast, poorly executed designs tend to stand out for the wrong reasons. I remember a particular job where something wasn't quite right, and I decided to pin the design up on a board. Over the next few days I walked past it many times until I spotted what was wrong. It was subtle but there was a border that once removed, changed the design. It's not just about fancy colours and graphics but the whole feel and message of a design that is important.

Q: Can you tell us about a few works we might recognise?

I have made a number of local marketing flyers including the Easter Carnival, the Town Garage Sale map and the signage for Silvani house.

Q: You mentioned you have worked on both Web and Print, which do you prefer?

I like both. The web allows for great flexibility and the ability to push out changes fast, verses re-printing a document. I'm a specialist in Wordpress which provides near infinite flexibility without a vendor lock in. However, recently I have been working on books including children's books. There is something about the ability to hold a book and ensure that it lasts forever.

Q: Do you have any closing comments?

The next generation of design is exciting. We are seeing much change with the introduction of AI. This helps in some cases such as in making simple posters, but it can also raise copywrite concerns. I consider it another tool in my toolbox, and it can help accelerate some of the grunt work. A lot of what designers do is to solve a problem for a customer and I believe I do this well. If anyone has design or web requirements, I'd love to hear from you. As I often say... "What problem can I help you solve".

<https://jinnycoble.com.au/>

~ Interviewed by Paul Kukiel

SAM RAE MP

LABOR MEMBER FOR HAWKE

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DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

The Blackwood Progress Association supports many & varied groups & activities in town.

Our main fundraising event is our annual Easter Carnival.

We would love to have more locals on the committee to help plan & manage our work.

Please come along to our **BLACKWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION AGM** where office bearers will be elected & the financial report will be tabled. Community support & new members (\$10 m/ship fee) will be greatly appreciated. Future community issues will be discussed to come along & be a part of improving our village.

7PM WED, OCT 18 @ BLACKWOOD HALL

Questions? Call Brendan on 0419 137 812

A BLACKWOOD GARDEN - SPRING

Hurray we're into Spring and doesn't it feel great. Busy, busy, busy. Always so much to do. The Blackwoods started flowering earlier than I ever remember; beginning during August almost a month early and for some reason those yellow blossoms seem larger than normal. My brown Baronia is flowering and it's perfume is simply divine especially towards the end of the day.

Early Spring in my garden is certainly bountiful with flowering bulbs... daffodils which sprang up through the "lawn" were one of the few things already here when I bought my property and were a wonderful surprise the following Spring. During my first Autumn I planted lots of Leucojum; a favourite of mine, with their glossy green foliage and small nodding white bells edged with green dots (snowflakes but often mistaken as snowdrops by novice gardeners). I also planted various Jonquils, Muscari (blue Grape Hyacinths) and beautiful Appeldorm Tulips (a large red variety with black centres). All the bulbs have returned and multiplied each year giving me great pleasure. In climates such as ours it is often said to lift Tulip bulbs once they die back. I haven't and they still perform.

I also planted a variety of Daffodil which had been in the garden where I grew up, of which my parents had taken some of the bulbs and planted in their next garden when they moved and so I also planted some of them in my new garden. In fact I had given some to a friend who already was living here but the guy who mowed his lawn always mowed over them and so they no longer flowered. I watch this happening in a stretch of nature strip in Trentham where the new owners continually mow and so no longer are there the swaves of blue Muscari amongst the green on the roadside. An important thing to know when growing bulbs is to allow the foliage to remain and die back. This can look unsightly but when in beds it's good to plant something alongside to cover.

Poppies are such a happy flower and I have planted lots of different varieties and many have self seeded from last year; in fact some have kept self seeding annually from those I planted at least 15 years ago. Mostly they are annuals but Oriental Poppies are perennial and just keep multiplying and so can be divided and planted elsewhere. Recently while planting out some seedlings I was horrified to find how dry the garden bed was even after the rain all winter and so just because it's rained don't assume the soil is moist. Unfortunately the wind which are far more frequent are very drying.

I'm surprised by some early butterflies and thrilled to see the bees are about and with the changing seasons some birds are leaving while others are arriving. Keep birdbaths topped up. Ahhh isn't life grand. Happy gardening!!!

~ Jane Howatt



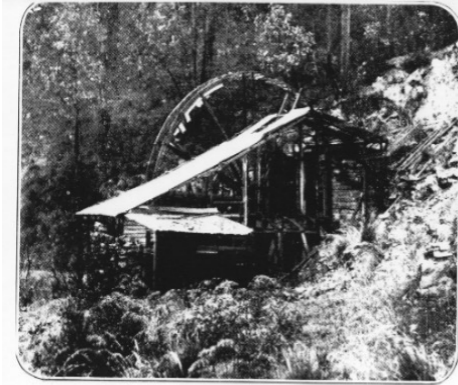


THE HISTORY OF BLACKWOOD - MINING IN BLACKWOOD

SOME EARLY HISTORY OF THE RIP VAN WINKLE MINE, MINERAL SPRINGS.

~ By Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical society – September 2023

The Byres family were instrumental in the operation of the 'Rip Van Winkle' mine that started where the upper level of the caravan park is today in the Mineral Springs. The mine travelled west towards Wall's, ending at an air shaft that came out in Jackson's Gully. There was a light hole for the mine on the edge of Old Golden Point Road.



A large set of gold scales that measured all the gold that was taken out of the 'Rip Van Winkle' mine was handed down from the Byres family to the late Ken Matheson. Ken proudly decided to put them on display in the Central Deborah Gold Mining Museum in Bendigo in 1980.

The Rip Van Winkle mine has a long history going back to

Blackwood's early gold-mining days and is first recorded in 1859 as the Early Bird mine and later the Great Extended mine which was situated on Johnston's Reef halfway between the then townships of Blackwood and Golden Point, and now located at the foot of the hill south of the present Blackwood Caravan Park.

In October 1859 the Early Bird Company crushed 20 tons of stone with a yield of 11 oz of gold. The reef where they obtained the gold in one place was eight foot wide. In December 1859 the Mining Surveyor's reports stated that "the Early Bird Company has been very fortunate in striking some very rich quartz, surpassing in richness any specimens found in this division since the opening of the Crown claim at Simmons Reef". In September 1860 the Early Bird Company was reported as being renamed the Caledonian, and in October the report states that the mine was abandoned by others who had spent about £2000 with little or no return and left in despair. The present owners sunk the shaft six foot deeper and struck auriferous quartz which paid 2oz to the ton of quartz. The report of January 1861 states the Caledonian Company purchased the interests of the Golden Point Co. in the adjoining claim. By May 1861 they are reported to be only obtaining 17 dwt. to the ton of quartz crushed, the total depth of the shaft then being 150 ft. By June it was reduced to 2 dwt., while in September it was 12 dwt. In October 1861 the amount of gold obtained was down to 2 dwt per ton and mining stopped.

The mine was idle for 3 or 4 years, then a company known as the Great Extended Tunnel commenced operations in approximately 1865. Messrs. Byres and party worked the two reefs. They had a suitable crushing plant of six heads of stamps, worked by a water-wheel 30 feet in diameter; the stamps weighed 600 to 700 lbs each. With two and a half sluice-heads of water, the stamps could be worked to 60 blows per minute. The reef was worked by an adit which was driven towards workings in the Early Bird shaft from which it was stated good returns were obtained before the records of the Mining Registrars were kept, as this gold was bulked with the Gold Escort returns of 1868. The company sank the main shaft 100 feet below tunnel level and crushed 2500 tons of quartz which gave value of about 3 dwt to the ton. The company worked the mine for about one year, then it closed down. A co-operative party then prospected the reef down the previous company's shaft at about 70 ft below the tunnel level and cut fair stone which was worked for several years. The whole reef for a distance of

between 200 ft and 300 ft north to the cross course was taken out and proved payable, the reef being between 2ft to 4ft thick.

In about the 1870's when alluvial gold had become scarce, Byres and Party commenced to dig a tunnel in an area which is now above the Mineral Springs camping area below the road to Golden Point, which was called the 'Rip Van Winkle' mine. It was dug a distance of approximately a quarter of a mile with several drives off the main tunnel. A huge wheel driven by a water race, was used to operate a plant to crush the quartz from the tunnel.

In 1896 the Rip Van Winkle Company took up the mine and while prospecting on the surface found a reef with good prospects. The history of this reef illustrates how a good mine may be missed even in the heart of a mining township.

When Byres and party (Mr Alex Byres, Jack Byres, Charlie Gribble and Mr Herb Cann Snr) found this reef, they stoped it to the surface, and it was noted that one large block of quartz projected above the ground, right on the roadway close to a house. Gold could be clearly seen in this stone, yet it had, thousands of times, been struck by the feet of the people of the village. In the upper workings of the reef there was a shoot of gold 140 feet long, which was worked to the 60 feet level. During the following 3 years of mining the company crushed 3000 tons for a yield of 1500 oz of gold.

From mining reports, the 'Rip Van Winkle' showed good returns. Altogether 1,100 ounces were obtained from the surface to a depth of 80 feet, and 1,245 ounces to a depth of 250 ft.

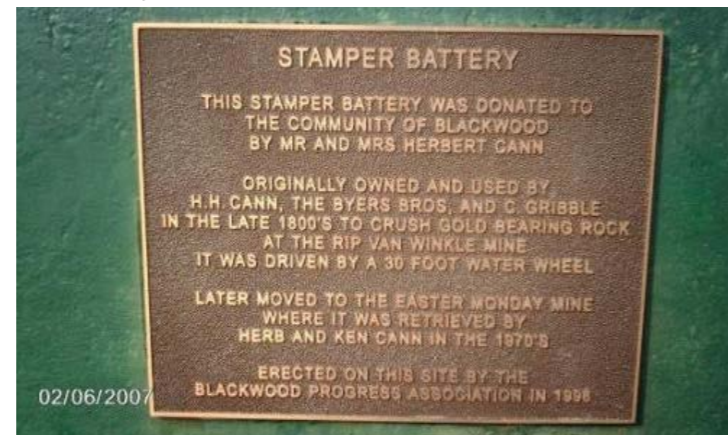
The 'Rip Van Winkle' was operated until the early 1900's. The crushing plant was removed in 1936 to the 'Easter Monday' mine, the water wheel unfortunately having been dismantled several years previously. The tunnel itself was last prospected about 1938.

Information from Mining Reports and also from a report 'Great Extended and Early Bird Mine Blackwood by H Foster 1932'; 'The Blackwood-Trentham Gold-field by W.H.Ferguson 1906 Bulletin 18 - Geological Survey of Victoria', courtesy the Victorian Mines Department, and 'Mining Surveyors Reports' 1859-1861, courtesy State Archives.

Researched by Margot Hitchcock from her forthcoming book 'Blackwood History and Pioneers', 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

Stamper and Battery that worked in the Rip Van Winkle mine – can be seen opposite the Blackwood Hotel in the main street of Blackwood.



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WHAT IS A CHARCOAL IRON?

The charcoal iron is a precursor to the modern electric steam iron. It was an iron roughly shaped like its modern counterpart, but with a hollow interior that could hold smouldering charcoal, which would keep the iron hot. The charcoal iron is an ancestor to the modern electric iron.



Definition: The charcoal iron is an ancestor to the modern electric iron. While today's irons use electricity to heat their metal bases and to generate steam, charcoal irons were heated by smouldering coals which were taken from a fire and placed inside a box on the top of the iron. The lid of the box had a handle which allowed people to hold the hot iron as they ran it over clothing, smoothing out wrinkles.

Earliest days: The earliest examples of charcoal irons were found in China. There are paintings dating back over a thousand years depicting women using an early charcoal ironing process. People would place charcoal in a metal pan and run it over silk and other wrinkled fabrics.

Early ironing in the West: In the Western world, people ironed their clothing with "sad irons," which were extremely heavy iron bars with handles that were heated in a fire. People would take the iron out of the fire, holding it with a cloth. However, these sad irons were poor performers because they cooled quickly and required constant reheating.

Evolution of modern charcoal irons: Sometime in the 19th century, people in the West caught up to China in the sense of developing the iron boxes described above. These charcoal irons stayed hot longer than sad irons and were easier to use. The charcoal iron had to have holes or vents along the sides to allow the coals to get enough air to continue burning.

While investigating the Charcoal Iron I was reminded of a tragedy that occurred in the late 1940's where a local, Laura Dalton, was working at the Blackwood Hotel and was using similar irons, though it was petrol powered to keep the heat going. The iron caught Laura's clothes on fire, she was severely burnt and died passing away in Ballarat hospital. Laura left behind 2 children whose father was in Darwin and not willing to look after the children. Earnest Burket of the Blackwood hotel took guardianship of the 2 children and used an interesting legal loop hole to successfully sue himself for funds to assist in supporting the additional children. There are a number of articles on this to be found in trove, please reach out to team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au for more information.

This is one of the Charcoal Irons you can see at the Blackwood and District Historical Society first Saturday of every month. We have much more to see so come and meet the friendly team. From next issue we will be posting the item and then encouraging feedback, with the following issue containing the item write up.

~ Margot Hitchcock (Historian) and Paul Kukiel



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Victorian Labor



• COMMUNITY GROUP & CLUB UPDATES •

CROWN RESERVES COMMITTEE

Now the weather is improving the committee has organised to repair or replace the Community Hall external doors and windows where necessary and prior to it being painted externally. We hope to have the hall painted by the end of October or early November.

Nicole and Wyatt from the caravan park have taken a planned break prior to returning for the busy school holiday period. Forward bookings for the caravan park are busier than ever and the caravans are also heavily booked.

Thank you to the volunteers that have assisted the committee in Nicole and Wyatts absence.



The new family friendly van that sleeps 6+3 or a whole clan of Hobbits. Photos: Nicole Brown

As mentioned in previous updates, an emergency generator is being installed in the caravan park as a backup for the community for future power outages. This project has required extensive coordination with various suppliers and authorities due to the work involved with the install. This program is a result of the Victorian Government's Energy Resilience Solutions Program that investigated energy back-up solutions for 24 high-risk towns across Victoria and Blackwood was selected for the installation of such a system.

In the previous edition we mentioned about sewer related issue at the caravan park which has held up the connection and ultimate completion of the amenities. This issue is ongoing and the committee and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is awaiting a response from Moorabool and the action they plan to take in addressing the immediate issue of connecting to the amenities, including the accessible toilet. More broadly we are requesting that Moorabool Council prioritise the non-compliant works previously performed. This issue has been ongoing since 2017.

I would also like to thank David White for his service to the Crown Reserve for the last 7 years. Starting on 20 January 2016, David previously chaired the committee from August 2017 until early 2022. David has made a significant contribution to many projects and was a solid committee representative. After 7 years David has decided it was timely to step down effective immediately 11 September.

As all existing committee member appointments will expire in March, DEECA will be advertising for new committee members. For anyone seeking to undertake what is an interesting responsibility and work closely with DEECA, other agencies and tourism representatives, there would be no better time to get on board. Such involvement will support the growth of existing businesses and tourism attractions that make Blackwood so unique.

~ Peter Fowler, Chair BRCOM

WOMBAT BOOK CLUB

Hello, and welcome to Spring Equinox we can now expect longer days of sunshine to sit out with a good book. We hold meetings for Book Club on the third Sunday of each month at the Blackwood Pub. Locations and times could vary, although the Pub seems to be a favourite location for our very informal meeting where we enjoy a drink and good company. Yes...we do discuss the novel we read as well.

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

The books we read this last couple of months were- 'Lovers, Dreamers and Fighters' by Lo Carmen, and 'The Pull of the Stars' by Emma Donoghue.

Sandy: Lovers, Fighters and Dreamers is a memoir by Lo Carmen who was born into a family of musicians and artists. She also starred in movies such as 'The Year My Voice Broke', 'Red Dog' and acted in 'Blue Murder' as Sallie-Anne Hucksteppe, whom the story was about, highlighting the Police corruption in NSW. She tells countless stories of singers such as Chrissy Amphlette, Renee Geyer and some American singers whom we know of.

There are points of interest in this book especially if you are an ardent music fan. It is written well, but might not hold appeal for some readers to read to the end.

3 Wombies

Sandy: The Pull of the Stars; is set in Dublin in the year 1918, the world is at war and a pandemic has struck. Julia Power is a nurse on the Fever/Maternity ward, due to staff shortages, she finds herself working alone in these challenging and dark times. A new Doctor Kathleen Lynn, on the run from police and a young volunteer, Bridey Sweeney, start work with Julia and impact each others lives in unexpected ways. This is an easy to read story, but some readers could find it depressing, given the detail of what is described with patients on the ward. The are moments of love and humanity amidst hardship. Those who enjoyed 'Call a Midwife' this novel is a suitable read for you.

3.5 Wombies

That's all from us...Wombat Book Club until next time. Cheerio

~ Sandy



The Wombat Book Club enjoying The Pull of The Stars and a wine

BLACKWOOD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Things are progressing nicely at the BDHS - Blackwood & District Historical Society. Member numbers are gradually increasing to the point where we will need to clear our meeting room a little to fit the newbies in!

With new members comes fresh ideas. One of the ideas, from Gary, is contained in this issue and is "Guess What It Is". We hope you all have a bit of fun working the items out.

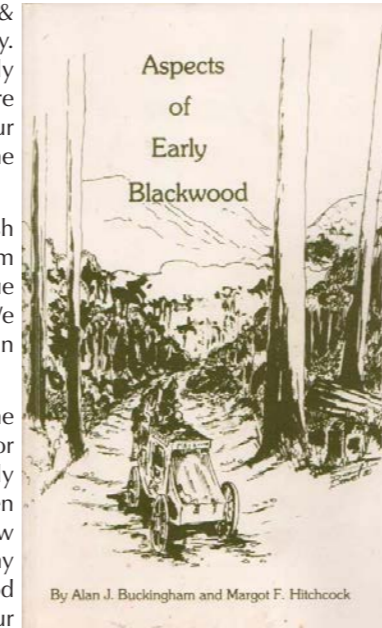
We are also currently in the process of obtaining quotes for a reprint of the "Aspects of Early Blackwood" book. This has been out of print for some time now and there will probably be many new residents of Blackwood who haven't had a taste of our fascinating past.

As always, new members are welcome to bring fresh ideas and continue the good work done by those before us. Meetings start at 10.00 am on the first Saturday of the month at the old Police Stables.

Mark (President) has organised an excursion to the Dunolly Museum in a couple of weeks to see how a similar former gold-rush town does things, and hopefully garner new ideas both ways.

On a lighter note, to those who think it's hilarious to call us the hysterical society - stop it! We may be a merry group of nerds but we have feelings also you know!

~ Ray Castellin



Hotel. Our youngest member Aleks was very happy to be playing pool for free. After lunch we all went for a short drive to Moliagul Historic Reserve State Forest to check out the site of the largest nugget found in the world in 1869 The Welcome Stranger and the monument. Most of us drove back to Blackwood but some keen members did some more exploring around Tarnagulla and Maldon. A great day was had by all, and I would like to thank all members that attended.

~ Mark Devenish



BDHS - VISIT TO DUNNOLOY

On Sunday 24th September Fifteen members from the Blackwood Historical Society drove to the small Goldfields town of Dunolly in Central Victoria for a field trip to the Dunolly Goldfields Heritage Museum. The purpose of the trip was to say thank you to our members who volunteer their time for all the hard work they have done to keep our Historical Society open as a great community and educational space for the town of Blackwood. Also to get some ideas for our own Historical Exhibit open on the 1st Saturday of each Month. After looking around the Dunolly Museum we all had lunch at the local

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• COMMUNITY GROUP & CLUB UPDATES •

ST MARTINS CHAPEL - ALL ABOUT TEAM WORK



Jake and Maisie enjoying the jumping castle at Maisie's eighth birthday party at the chapel.

Now the weather is improving the committee has organised to repair St Martin's Chapel -All about team work.

As I was thinking about writing this it occurred to me how fortunate we have been to have such amazing events happen in the Chapel. A magnificent selection of talented musicians, both local and overseas artists, have graced our stage this year. We only have to wander up the road and there they are on our doorstep. I was asked recently by friends "How is it that all these amazing events are happening in your little town?" It is because we have people like Fiona Ross, the Dear family, Corey Hall and others who organise events and perform for us as well. Then we have the people and groups who help with the setting up and the packing up and all that happens in between. A special mention to Jeanne Tahini who is invaluable in stepping in and assisting with whatever is happening and making sure that everything runs smoothly.

Great things can happen when people work together - the Storm Recovery Party was a great example of this.

St Martin's is also becoming a popular venue for children's parties. There are two weddings booked in and some more musical events will take place in the next few months.

The Cabaret, which is on the 14th of October, is to raise money for the ongoing running costs of the Chapel. We try to keep our rates as reasonable as possible but, as well as ongoing costs, we are upgrading the kitchen facilities to make the space even more versatile. Corey Hall and Jessica Wilkinson are wonderful singers and their accompanist Ross Bullock, are donating their time and talents to bring many show tunes and some original songs to our town. A three-course meal will be served and there will also be some raffles. It is BYO drinks and we are dressing up for the occasion. The cost per head is \$45. We hope you can come.

We are also planning a Christmas event. If you have any suggestions or would like to contribute in any way please let us know.

Thank you Brendan for our brilliant new signs and to Jane Howat for the beautiful dogwood tree that she bought for St Martin's. The dogwood replaced the tree from our opening ceremony that was going to be too tall for the space. We have positioned it near the Byres Road entrance so that we can see its flowers and changing colours throughout the year from the road or the verandah. Thanks to

Michael Hotchin for digging through the clay and stone to make a big enough hole. Lights have been installed at the Byres Road entrance to keep everyone safe at night. Thanks Ray Castellin and Wally Zanon for collecting and spreading the mulch over all the clay that had been exposed from the trenches being dug. Ross Odgers did a fantastic job grading and gravelling the Byres entrance road and we appreciate the financial assistance given to us from the Progress Association to allow this to happen.

Thanks to Lou Henderson for mowing the grass and Landcare for clearing, planting and watering the Chapel grounds.

A very big thanks to Stephanie Kondos for overseeing and organising the acquittal of our grant and for persevering so that we finally have an ABN. Yay. How blessed we are to have this team!

~ Robyn Zanon

CERT

Did you know that 10% of all Ambulance Victoria first responders outside the metro area are volunteers!

Our area is fortunate to have volunteers who make our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). CERT volunteers are dispatched at the same time as an ambulance to time-critical emergencies in the local area. CERT helps you until the ambulance gets to you, at least 20-40 minutes depending on demand.

Blackwood CERT volunteers have been serving our area since 2002 but to continue to deliver our service, we need more people to join the Team (currently 6 people) to serve the local population (1500 plus people in response area).

If you:

- Live and/or work in Greendale, Dales Creek, Blackwood, Barry's Reef or Newbury (and surrounds);
- Want 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 CERTs in action by going to 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

BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

It's that time of year again, YAY! Cricket starts the second weekend of October.

We had a bit of a recruitment drive this year and received a pretty good response with a couple of new players. We also dropped down a division as we had been struggling for numbers and probably still will, but that's better than dropping out altogether.

If anyone out there wants to have a game, you are more than welcome to join up. Skill level doesn't matter but you have to be 14 years of age or older.

The bus will be driven to all away games and, for home games, parked up the street as a reminder to come and support the team.

All games will be 1 dayers so a bit more exciting. We are still waiting on a fixture but it should be out soon, hopefully before the Time's go to print.

The cricket club will be putting an IBC container at the oval to collect aluminium cans as a fund raiser for Olly. More on this later.

~ Brian, President

CFA REPORT

Welcome to Spring which has given us some warm weather and now is the time to ensure you have your fire plan in place. Discuss this with your family, friends and neighbours. Some things to consider in your plan are where you will go, what you will take and who you will contact. Having a GO BAG is a good idea so you can leave quickly.

As we approach the fire season take some time to look around your property checking the grass length, leaf litter in the gutter, trees and plants that could cause a problem during ember attacks, storage of gas tanks, fuel cans and anything else of a similar nature.

Inspect your driveway and entrance to the property. Will fire vehicles be able to enter without obstruction? Check around for fire plugs, generally marked by a blue cats-eye on the road and a post with a red mark and blue reflector or a black mark.

Also, your fire plan should cover what to do in the event of a fire in your household and should include escape paths, smoke detectors, fire extinguishing equipment and, as with the outside, where any flammables may be.

With regard to smoke detectors, always test them by pushing the test button on the unit periodically, once a month for example, and when we change the clocks, change the battery and check the date on the bottom of the unit.

Download the Vic Emergency app to your phone. This will keep you up to date on any incidents and warnings and alerts through the App Stores or on your computer using this web site:

<https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/>

Some links to help you prepare and plan:

- <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/your-bushfire-plan>
- <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/fire-ready-kit>
- <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fires-in-the-home/escape-plans>

On August 24, Blackwood Fire Station hosted a Storm Recovery and Information session by Forest Fire Management Victoria. FFMV passed on details of the local firewood collection areas in locations severely impacted by the 2021 storm. Firewood collection is helping to reduce the amount of heavy timber on the ground along some important fire break ridges north of the town.

Blackwood CFA has been unusually busy since the last Blackwood Times issue. In late July, the brigade was involved in a rescue in the rugged bush behind Dales Creek where a vehicle came to grief and the occupants were having trouble finding their way out of the steep terrain. We have attended a car fire at Blakeville, spent an hour driving through the bush near Nolans Creek picnic area looking for a car fire which eventually turned out to be near the South Australian border and, more recently, with the warm, dry weather, two escaped burn offs at North Blackwood and Greendale.

After a good 30 mm soaking at the beginning of September, the weather has turned dry and much warmer than normal. Rainfall for both July and August were well under the long-term average. The Bureau of Meteorology has called an El Nino for this year. Even in September with green lawns and moist gardens, the forest ground fuels such as bark and leaves are rapidly drying out after a sunny day and will carry a fire with any significant wind.

If we have light winds, now is a good time to be raking up and burning some of the dry fuel like leaves and bark around your properties. Have

a hose or buckets of water handy and ensure it is out before leaving the fire unattended. At this time of the year council will often accept green waste at half price.

On Saturday, October 21 the Blackwood Emergency Resilience Group (BERG) has organised a Community Response Emergency Workshop. The workshop will be looking at understanding local response realities in a disaster or emergency; at a community's strengths to respond to an emergency; identifying key skills within the local community etc. After the storm of 2021, many of these subjects will be familiar. More details closer to the event date.

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

DO NOT USE FACEBOOK IF YOU ARE REPORTING AN EMERGENCY...

ALWAYS RING 000 or 112 on a mobile

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

REFERENDUM REMINDER

A reminder that the Voice to Parliament Referendum will be held on 14th October 2023. The voting station in Blackwood will be at the Blackwood Community Hall (80 Byres Road) and you can find other locations at <https://aec.gov.au/referendums/vote/find-my-polling-place.html>.

Each house hold has been provided with the information on how to vote with details on the proposed changes. If you did not receive a copy you can ask at the post office.

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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• COMMUNITY GROUP & CLUB UPDATES •

2023 FEDERATION WEEKEND FOR BUSH WALKING CLUBS

Bushwalking Victoria has selected the Blackwood and Trentham areas as the location for their annual event to be held on the weekend of 12th and 22nd October 2023. Approximately 200 members of bushwalking clubs from across Victoria will attend this event which includes almost 20 separate walks in the area each day. This event will boost the local economy as many members from across the State will stay in the area over that weekend – with the event headquarters at the Trentham Sports Ground.

Bushwalking Victoria Inc.

Bushwalking Victoria (formerly VicWalk) was formed in 1934 and currently has about eighty member clubs. It provides a number of services, including representing the interests of bushwalkers to governments and other bodies, a coordinated bushwalking insurance scheme to member clubs, and a volunteer search and rescue service (Bush Search and Rescue, (BSAR)) to the Victoria Police.

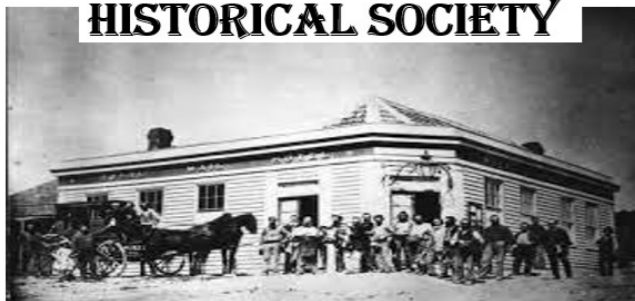
Federation Walks

A Federation Walk is a set of day walks, either for a day or a weekend, conducted by a BWV member club or clubs every year. The first such event was held in 1935, the second year of the Federation's existence. These events are open to members of clubs of any of the Federation's member clubs, and are advertised in the Federation's newsletter Bushwalking Victoria Bulletin and on their website at:

<https://us12.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=8596d8954f431422c507583cf&id=951eeda12f>



BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Open October 7th and November 4th 10:00am - 1:00pm
Small Donation requested upon entry.

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

BLACKWOOD EMERGENCY PLANNING EXPO

The newly formed Blackwood Emergency Resilience Inc (BERG Inc) want their local community to start thinking about emergency planning as we all head into an El Nino summer season.

Organised by BERG Inc, the 'So, what's the plan Blackwood? - Emergency Planning Expo (& community sausage sizzle)' will be a day for the community to meet with key emergency agencies, support services and local council representatives to better understand local risks and how to prepare for them. It will also include a fun and informative scenario workshop about what to do in the first few hours of an emergency and how to be better prepared.

Led by Jamie McKenzie (Red Flag Leadership) the session will start with a CSIRO visual presentation of a simulated emergency near Blackwood to help demonstrate the potential impact of an emergency and the options available for evacuation.

The BERG Inc will also introduce their Community Emergency Management Action Plan and launch their local emergency 'Flipchart' - a resource everyone in the community will want and should have!

A free community sausage sizzle (provided by the Blackwood CFA) will be provided following the session to wrap up a fun day that should leave all participants feeling more informed and better prepared for the next storm or fire and everything in-between.

'So, what's the plan Blackwood? - Emergency Planning Expo (& community sausage sizzle)' is a FREE family friendly event on Sat 21 Oct 2023 at St Martin's Chapel from 11am to 2pm.

To find out more email the BERG Inc at: BlackwoodERG@gmail.com or follow them on Facebook @ BlackwoodERG.

~ Gaynor Atkin



Blackwood Border Town. Border Collies everywhere! Photo By Karen Bruno

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So, what's the plan? Blackwood!




Emergency planning fridge magnet FREE!

FREE EVENT! FREE LUNCH!

Family friendly!

Win an emergency essentials kit!

Emergency Planning Expo & Community Sausage Sizzle

A fun day out for people from Blackwood and surrounds to become better prepared for emergencies

Saturday, October 21st • 11-3pm

St Martin's Chapel, Martin St, Blackwood

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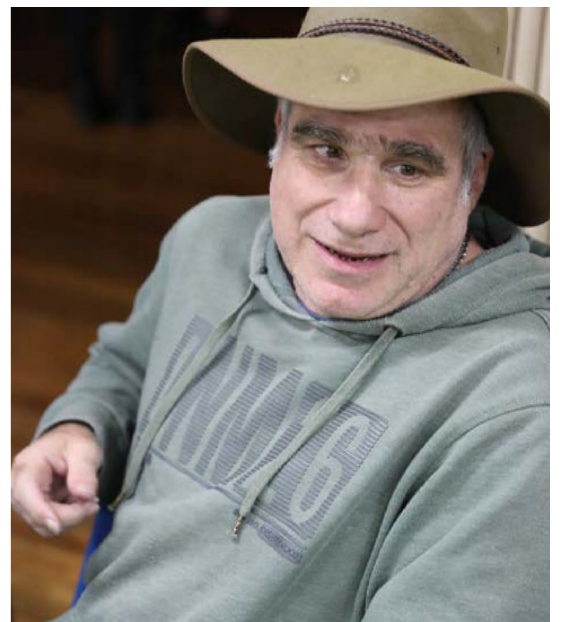
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• BLACKWOOD COMMUNITY BUSH DANCE 2023 •

What a night!!! After a four year break we came back bigger and better. Tickets sold out within 2 weeks thanks to a very persistent Sue Donnelly & no local left out! The sound of laughter and dancing rang throughout our little town as this fantastic event was thoroughly enjoyed by young and old. Bushwazee were magnificent, food amazing and best of all we had lots of fun. A big shout out to Crown Reserves who donated the hall for free; Progress for donating the table and chairs and donating the door prize; Senior Citz for allowing use of their room; Jane Howat for organising and creating the beautiful flower arrangements; the committee for all their hard work (Deirdre & Pat, Sue & Peter, Kathy Berril, Louise, Darren, Shelly & Paul, Brett & Terri, Fish) and to everyone else who helped. Love this amazing community, thank you all for buying tickets and supporting this event. Look forward to next year. Make sure you get in early for tickets!

~ Deirdre and Sue on behalf of Blackwood Community Bushdance Commitee





Frock up or frock down, it's time to celebrate spring with a beautiful new venue and format

TRENTHAM

OAKS DAY

11th YEAR

Lunch

Join the *Spring Fun!*



• Glass of bubbles and canapés on arrival



• Shared lunch platters, petit desserts and cheeses



• Drinks at bar prices



• Prizes and sweep generously sponsored by Harkin Estate Agents

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CNR. VICTORIA & MARKET STREETS, TRENTHAM



Cameo by Antoinette Braybrook, CEO of Djirra, providing vital support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families supporting violence. Donations very welcome on the day.

BOOKINGS & QUERIES

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rhoda@hsa.net.au

Sandy 0401 714 880
sandywatson555@icloud.com

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• COMMUNITY GROUP & CLUB UPDATES •

THE COMMUNITY CARAVAN: A LOCAL DREAM TAKING SHAPE



Hello, Neighbours of The Blackwood Times! I've been given the honour of sharing with you an exciting project that's been brewing in our community - the Community Caravan. As a member of the Greendale Social Club, it's a pleasure to tell you about this practical and innovative initiative and its journey from idea to reality.

The Community Caravan: Not Your Ordinary Ride

The Community Caravan isn't your run-of-the-mill caravan; it's a versatile, multifunctional hub on wheels that's set to revolutionize the way we connect, create, and celebrate as a community. It's a simple concept - picture a caravan equipped with coffee and tea facilities, a fridge, and a sink. Inside, you'll find basic shelves, a bench, and a sink. But what makes it unique are the extendable rods on the outside, perfect for showcasing clothing, flags, or artwork. Check out Spitfire Caravans to get you excited.

A Local Idea Taking Root

The idea didn't sprout overnight; it's been a seed of thought in the minds of local families in our community for a while now. Many of us often found ourselves yearning for a coffee van at Egan's Reserve during our gatherings. After all, with its playground, shade and facilities, Egan's Reserve is a hotspot for families near and far. and it was always noted that, while there are many cafes about, they aren't with playgrounds. And there's something special about enjoying a coffee outdoors, surrounded by nature.

The idea took a real turn into reality when I noticed working on events in the area the ease that food vans and caravans had it when rocking up to events, and the stress of marquee or similar outdoor activation set ups were for other locals, community groups and fundraising clubs. And for these groups the stress seemed real for a once off occasion to have some fun, fundraise for a good cause or self-promote. Especially in our Moorabool weather.

The Vision: Simplify, Empower, and Include

The vision for the Community Caravan is straightforward: provide an accessible, user-friendly space for community groups, organizations, and individuals within the Moorabool Shire to use at events, markets, festivals, and fundraisers. This project eliminates the need for expensive marquee setups and empowers diverse community activities, regardless of the weather.

Challenges and Optimism

As we move forward with this exciting project however, we're well aware of the challenges, particularly regarding funding. We're in the middle of funding applications, and there's no guarantee they will be granted. So if any other businesses or if you are keen on making this a

reality with us, there's ample space for your branding on the caravan itself as it travels all over Moorabool to fun and exciting places and events. Your branding will also be featured on the website booking system, and advertising materials.

A Symbol of Community Enrichment

In conclusion, the Community Caravan is poised to become a symbol of community enrichment. We have had such a great response to the idea, with endless support on social media, letters of support and an online petition. So it does seem that the community also believes it will be an immediate benefit for local events, a convenience, and increase participation, with long-term advantages that will nurture a resilient, interconnected, and thriving community. And hopefully encourage more fun and exciting things to happen within the Shire too.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about this project dear to our hearts. We're eagerly anticipating the chance to bring the Community Caravan to life and share it with all of you. If we do get funded, we'll hopefully have it all up and ready to book online by early to mid 2024.

~ Kristin Sargent
Member of The Greendale Social Club

LANDCARE ACTIVITIES

Winter had seen the Blackwood Barrys Reef Landcare Group go into planning mode. In between writing and publication, on 23rd September we will have continued our work on the link track from the Mineral Springs Reserve through to Whalebone Road. This picturesque walk has a couple of weed problems that we attack with weed poppers or slashing; Blackberry or Broom. If you miss this bee, we will be doing another on 28th October - weeding bee at Whipstick Track trail head, Jack Cann Reserve near Garden of St Erth. This is where we recently installed a monument acknowledging Shane Scanlan's contribution to Landcare and Blackwood. Please join us for an hour or two's social weeding...satisfaction guaranteed. Keep an eye out on <https://www.facebook.com/BlackwoodLandcare/>.

On 2nd December, in the Blackwood Mechanics Hall, there will be a presentation by Koala Clancy Foundation on the protection of Koalas around Western Victoria. The workshop will be presented by the President of the Foundation highlighting information on the status of koalas in Victoria, and the role the Koala Clancy Foundation has in planting habitat for the survival of the species in the wild. Not to be missed, so save the date. We still managed to do two other working bees over winter, one on Mineral Springs track and the other at the back of the Mechanics Hall. Both were very productive and rewarding. Thanks to everyone who came along to help.

~ Michael Hotchin, Blackwood Barrys Reef Landcare Group

ADVANTAGE BLACKWOOD

Pop down to the tennis courts for a hit on the newly resurfaced deck and, while you're there, have a think about what's needed for further improvements. Playground? Outdoor gym? Tiki Bar?

Thanks to Moorabool Shire for funding the (bright) blue resurfacing (apparently you can see it from space). Another \$30K (appx.) has been held for tennis club improvements in a Kyneton Commonwealth bank account since George Stockdale reallocated it from the (defunct) bowling club funds. If you are, or know who is a signatory to this account, please contact us. The only known signatory is David White and we believe there are two more.

Let's make sure the improvements continue. Call Bruce (0419 578822) with your ace ideas.

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• MEDIA RELEASES •

YOUNG COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

Moorabool Shire Council

Council is seeking community input into the development of its Young Communities Strategy – a fully integrated plan for people aged 0-25 years- the first of its kind for Moorabool Shire.

Council's Child Youth and Family Services team is reaching out to young people and families to share their feedback and help inform the strategy.

The strategy aims to:

- Identify trends and social indicators impacting health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people in the shire.
- Identify programs, services and infrastructure required to meet the current and future needs of Moorabool's communities.
- Identify potential cohorts and/or geographic locations that may require a more targeted approach to improved access to programs and services.
- Identify and recommend contemporary resource arrangements to facilitate the successful implementation and achievement of the plan, including external partnerships.

Drop in and online sessions will take place:

Wednesday 11 October 2-3.30pm – Darley Early Years Hub, 182 Halletts Way, Darley

Thursday 12 October 9.30-11am – Council Chambers, 15 Stead St, Ballan

Thursday 17 October 6.30-7.30pm online (registrations: www.trybooking.com/CMBJJ)

Moorabool Shire Mayor Cr Rod Ward said he hoped young people and families would take the opportunity to have their say.

"The voices of young people are vital to this strategy," Cr Ward said.

"Children and young people will bring unique ideas and opinions to help shape the document.

"We understand term 4 is a busy time of year for families with children at school and in early learning, so if these times don't suit, please contact Council and our friendly staff can arrange to have a survey sent to you so you can have input," Cr Ward said.

For more information, contact Council's Child Youth and Family Services team on 5366 7100.

MOORABOOL SHIRE WELCOMES NEW AUSTRALIANS

Moorabool Shire Council

What: Australian Citizenship Ceremony
When: Saturday 7 October 2023 at 11am
Where: The Mechanics Institute, 143 Inglis Street, Ballan

Moorabool Shire Council Mayor, Cr Rod Ward, will host an Australian Citizenship Ceremony on Saturday 7 October 2023 starting at 11am. The Ceremony will see 65 adults and 11 children proudly receive official Australian Citizenship.

New Australian citizens demonstrate an understanding and acceptance of Australian values, dedication and commitment to Australia by becoming official citizens at ceremonies held around the country.

Our newest citizens have travelled from countries across the globe including Chile, India, United Kingdom, Philippines, Fiji, South Africa, Vietnam, United States, France, New Zealand, Indonesia, Ukraine, Bangladesh, Ireland, Argentina, Mauritius, Thailand, Northern Ireland, Germany, Canada, Pakistan, Kenya and Malta.

Cr Ward said the event is a significant event in Council's calendar and is an opportunity to reflect on the privilege of Australian citizenship and what it means to be Australian.

"It's a fantastic opportunity for us to give a warm welcome to our newest citizens and acknowledge the importance of what it means to become a full member of the Australian community. There is no greater privilege than our citizenship. It's a life-long commitment to Australia's values of freedom, democracy, equality and respect," Cr Ward said.

Cr Ward said citizenship is the common bond uniting all Australians, whether you are a citizen by birth or by choice.

"I congratulate those becoming Australian citizens on making their commitment to Australia," Cr Ward said.

~ Mr Derek Madden, Chief Executive Officer

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Moorabool Shire Council

Do you know an outstanding Moorabool resident or an outstanding event worthy of being recognised on Australia Day?

Nominations are now open for our Australia Day Awards:

- Australia Day Citizen of the Year
- Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the Year.

These prestigious awards are one of the highest honours Council can bestow to publicly acknowledge local heroes, whose dedication and contributions may otherwise go unnoticed.

If you would like to recognise an outstanding resident or an outstanding event, simply download a form from moorabool.vic.gov.au/Australia-Day

Completed nomination forms need to be submitted to Council by close of business Friday 10 November, 2023.

• AROUND TOWN •

WHOSE TATT IS THAT?

This tattoo was done after a dream. It was done in Bali and is the Tibetan symbol for 'OM'.

The Sanskrit word 'OM' means 'all', and is considered a universal sound, the seed of all words without reference to any specific religion or god. By chanting OM, the divinity within each of us is addressed, invited and called in. The mantra sound indicates the continuity of past, present and future.



~ Susie Deebie

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• AROUND TOWN •

SPECTACULAR CONCERTS COMING UP IN BLACKWOOD!

The Melbourne Scottish Fiddlers are coming to town on Sunday 22nd October! The swell of fiddles will be augmented by harp, cello, double bass, guitar and voice with some 25 musicians raising the roof of St Martin's Chapel!

The Melbourne Scottish Fiddlers have a loyal following and their exhilarating performances always draw an enthusiastic crowd. They have recorded 7 CDs & regularly collaborate with some of the world's best traditional musicians.



For anyone who can trace a link back to Scotland..to Shetland..to Nova Scotia...or who simply enjoys top quality music and song - this concert is a must! Expect a heart-warming mix of the traditional and the contemporary - of songs and tunes that will bring a smile to the lips and perhaps even a tear to the eye...

This afternoon concert will be opened by Blackwood's own Fiona Ross, who will perform a set of traditional Scots songs. Fiona was finalist for Scots Singer of the Year in Scotland's prestigious Trad Music Awards. Her most recent album (with Shane O'Mara) won Music Victoria's Best Folk Album Award. There will be a licensed bar at the Blackwood Town Hall. For bookings and more information go to:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CKJDM>



From October's Scottish extravaganza, November will transport us to the Emerald Isle. Sionnach Rua's Great Irish Song Book brings Ireland's rich and unique culture to the shores of Australia, with a romantic passion that runs deep in Celtic veins. Sionnach Rua's Great Irish Song Book is an authentic music and story catalogue from Irish born and raised frontman, Gallie. Interwoven with rich stories from Gallie's Irish upbringing, with tales of Irish traditions and histories, audiences will be transported back to a lively session in a celebration of Celtic music with songs ranging from Planxty to Van Morrison to the Dubliners. This stage show will make you feel like you are visiting a lively "session" in an Irish bar without having to travel to Dingle. An assured crowd pleaser! Joining Gallie on stage will be acclaimed Australian maestros and multi-instrumentalists Ruth Wise on fiddle, Paddy Montgomery on bouzouki and guitar & Sam Davies on uilleann pipes, tin whistle and low whistle. Sionnach Rua's Great Irish Song Book at Blackwood Town Hall on Sunday November 12th.

For bookings and more information visit: <https://www.trybooking.com/CLUMD>

There will be a bar at the venue for both of these concerts. Thanks to Crown Reserves, Blackwood Progress Association and St. Martin's Chapel for helping to bring such a fantastic program of live music to the Blackwood community!



THINGS TO DO IN BLACKWOOD



Hi, my name is Dresden and I live in Blackwood. When you come to Blackwood, I recommend going to the post office. They have great snacks and drinks and the workers are really nice. And when you get hungry you can go to Karen's diner. They are only open sometimes but the food there is sooo good that I really recommend it. Then for dinner you could head to the Blackwood Pub. They have great drinks and food. I recommend the Parma, that's what I always get. Another place I recommend is the Blackwood Mini Street Library. It has kid's books and chapter books and it's located near Karen's diner and hat shop. Also, if you want to stay you can stay at the Caravan Park. It has playground. Also, you can go to the water hole if it is a hot day. Don't forget to go for a hike up at the Caravan Park. It is a beautiful forest walk. When you're all tired and puffed from your walk go down to the water hole for a swim. It's really fun in the summer so that's where I like to go. Sometimes there are great events in Blackwood like street parties and bush dances. If that is not enough head down to the oval, your furry friend would love it. That's right, dogs love running around there! It's also really good for kids and they can run around like crazy while the adults walk on the walking track. Not to mention there are beautiful flowers and trimmed grass. Sometimes there's even cricket matches there, which is why there is a cricket pitch. Well, that's all. Bye and have fun in my lovely town Blackwood!

~ Dresden Dix



• AROUND TOWN •

LOCALS TALK RUBBISH

Robert interviews Paul

The township of Blackwood prides itself on its natural beauty as it sits by the Lerderberg River, within the Wombat State Forest. Many visitors come to Blackwood to enjoy bush walks, riding trails and to sometimes find camping areas in the bush or by the river. Unfortunately, not everyone respects the natural beauty of the area and often we find that these visitors leave rubbish behind. Sadly, this is not only confined to tourists, but often locals dump household rubbish and building materials in the bush.

Local resident, Paul, (who is also a member of the Times team), was asked about his reaction to dumped rubbish.

Q: Paul, can you tell us a bit about what you found and where?

Recently I found a mound of rubbish at the little camping/picnic spot at the end of Old Golden Point Road. The spot is near to the bridge, over the flowing river. Like most Blackwood residents I was annoyed. It's disrespectful to dump rubbish, it's even worse when you can tell it was brought there to enjoy for a picnic/event and then just left for someone else to take care of.

Q: What did you do about it?

I took some away and threw it into the bonfire at home, but the larger items I needed a trailer to remove to the tip. I think it's a good idea to log each instance on dumping so that the council have some data. Maybe that's just wishful thinking, but if there is a paper trail then perhaps that can assist the case for the council to provide more monitoring and collection resources.

Q: What can our community members do if they come across dumped rubbish?

It can be reported to the council through this link:

<https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/Waste-and-environment/Dumped-rubbish-and-litter>

If you don't have a specific address, you can use a phone map to place a pin at the location, which is what I did. The shire will allocate someone to collect the rubbish. In this case it was Parkways but it took a few weeks for them to collect the pile of rubbish. While I'd like this to occur more quickly, it was better than just leaving it there. I recommend everyone report rubbish when they see it dumped.

We live in a beautiful place in Blackwood and we would like to keep it that way-rubbish free!

~ Robert

BLACKWOOD HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT

Whole of Blackwood, 5:00pm Start Tuesday October 31st. See Facebook or reach out to Deirdre Cronin for more info.



A VISIT BY 18 VINTAGE AND CLASSIC CARS



Photo: Jeanne Tahini

It was a glorious Spring day when eighteen vintage/classic cars arrived in Blackwood on Sunday 24th September. Members of Westside Cruisers Hotrod and Custom Car Club set off from their base in Laverton and travelled in convoy to enjoy lunch at the Blackwood Pub. The club also visited Blackwood to hold their Christmas Party at the Pub last year. The oldest car in the convoy was a 1935 Ford Coupe-painted a distinctive blue.

The club enjoyed their time in Blackwood so much that they will be here again, we were told!

~ Jeanne Tahini

WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

Well, that would be the remaining give-away books purchased for our local children.

These books were purchased earlier in the years as a part of a Storm Recovery Grant. As a part of this grant, we built the street library but we also developed a list of every Blackwoodian child under the age of 12 that we knew of. We then purchased an age-appropriate Indigenous book for every child on the list.

If your, or your neighbour's child/ren, have not received their FREE book yet, please email me at communications@theblackwoodtimes.com.au. You can pick them up from my house or the Post Office - your choice.

Let's get these gorgeous books out to their new owners.

~ Jinny Coyle

DINNER CLUB

For last month's Dinner Club we were booked in to go to St Anne's Winery, however, due to unforeseen circumstances the venue was closed for the evening when we arrived. After some intense on the spot negotiation, we came to the consensus that we would head to the Commercial Hotel in Ballan. The enthusiasm was not dampened by the change of venue. We had a couple of newbies to the group. Generous meals were enjoyed by all. Plentiful drinks along with great conversation made it a great night!

~ Rose

• GIG & EVENTS GUIDE •

Table with columns DATE, EVENT, VENUE. Rows for October events including Cabaret, Brian Sadler, Emergency Preparedness Expo, Rock N Co, Melbourne Scottish Fiddlers & Fiona Ross, Old Time Session, and Marty Luke.

Table with columns DATE, EVENT, VENUE. Rows for November events including Brian Sadler, Mexican Fiesta theme night, Michelle Parsons, Sionnach Rua's Great Irish Song Book, Burgers Beers Blues, Old Time Session, Wild West theme night, and Marty Luke.

Table with columns DATE, EVENT, VENUE. Rows for Regular Stuff events including Old Farts Night & meat tray raffle, Locals night, Taproom Trivia, Locals night dinner specials, Locals night dinner and drink specials, Meat tray raffle & cocktail night, Meat tray raffle, Raffle, Flashbank Friday with Ian Banks, Pizza Sundays with live music, Celtic Sessions, and Regular service.

• BEYOND BLACKWOOD •

RADIO SPRINGS HOTEL

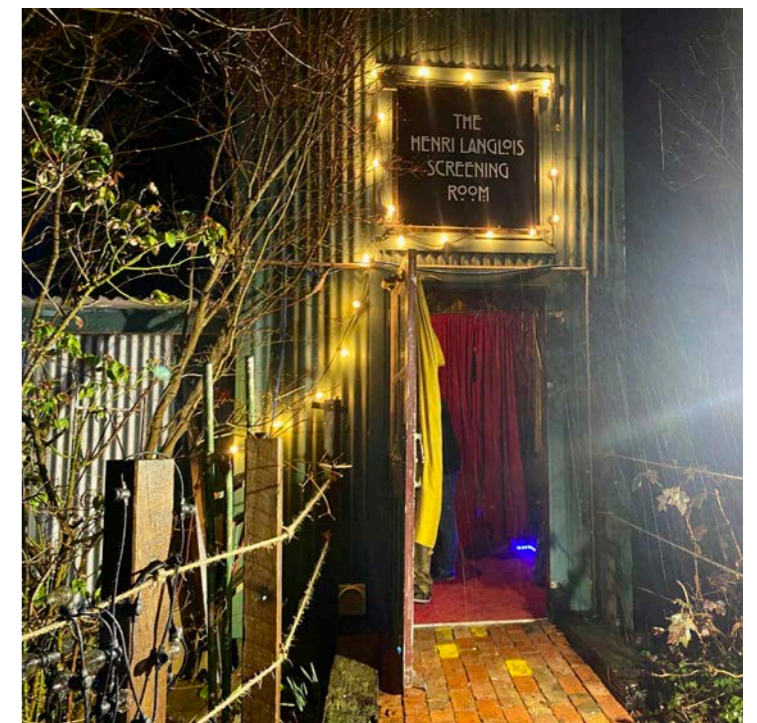
Radio Springs Hotel is opening its doors to locals and community groups to host their upcoming events.

Radio Springs Hotel is the perfect destination for your next event.

If you and your friends are looking at somewhere different, consider The Radio Springs Hotel Lyonville as a destination for your next event or outing. We have a variety of dining spaces and options you'll enjoy. If you belong to a Book club, Art club, or Knitting & Quilting club call us on 5348 5562 to help organize your next group experience.

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• BEYOND BLACKWOOD •

LYONVILLE BAKE OFF



10.30am – 3.30pm, Sunday 22 October 2023
Lyonville Hall, Bremner Avenue, Lyonville VIC 3461

The Lyonville Bake Off is on again for another day of decadent deliciousness. Join us at the Lyonville Hall on Sunday 22 October from 10.30am to gaze in amazement at the creations of the many talented local bakers and cake makers.

There are six competition categories: kids; decorated cakes; general cakes; cupcakes and slices; tarts and pies; special dietary. Entries should be dropped off at the hall between 9.00 – 10.00am so the judges can do their work.

Refreshments will be available including Devonshire teas, light lunches and barista coffee. Once the prize winners have been announced, the competition cakes will be available for purchase.

Entry is by gold coin donation. All proceeds go to the maintenance and development of the Lyonville Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

Any queries: Dorothy Fuller dottifuller@gmail.com or Vicki Jackson vickij102@gmail.com



Categories: •Kids •Decorated Cakes •General Cakes
•Cupcakes & Slices •Tarts & Pies •Special Diets

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All entries are donated to the Cake Stall after judging
Contact Dot: dottifuller@gmail.com

Community event with 100% of proceeds
donated to the Lyonville Hall

SET OF "THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER"

'There was movement at the station, for the word had got around' is a famous line from the Banjo Patterson poem.

Kattemingga meaning "Hill of Trees haunted by Spirits" is famous for being the filming location of 'The Man from Snowy River' television series along with productions such as "The Ponderosa", " Gundown", "The Mole and Gunslinger" as well as small budget films and documentaries.

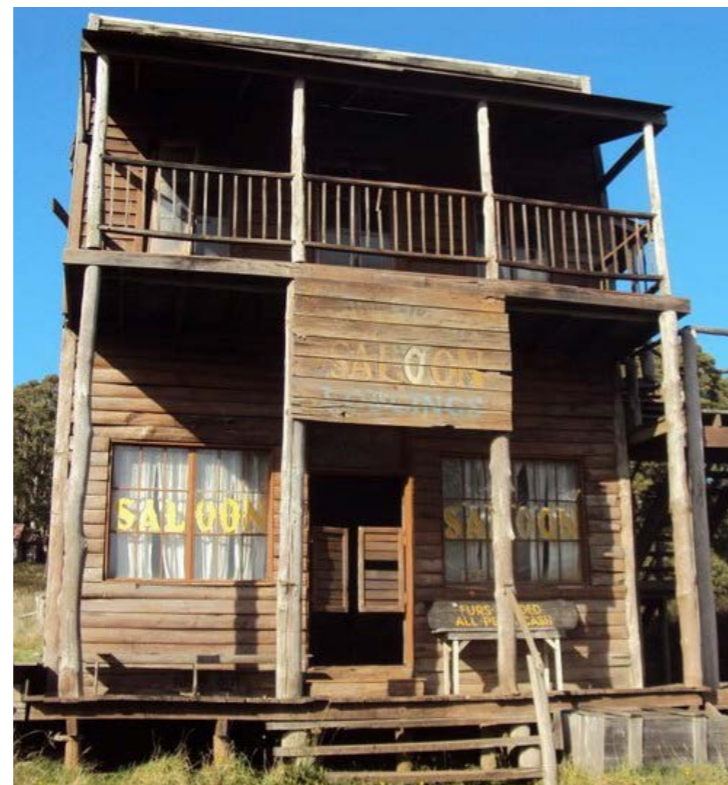
Built in the 1990s, Kattemingga was a modern-day ranch constructed on a property in Newbury specifically as a film set. It was able to transform from being a western to representing Australian bush life, as differing aspects of the buildings sported different finishes: logs for a Western and palings for the Bush. Such metamorphosis enabled the production of multiple film genres – "spaghetti westerns", dramas, action, and adventure as well as reality TV.

'The Man from Snowy River' (1994-1996) ran for 65 episodes and concentrated on the adventures of Matt McGregor (Andrew Clarke) a successful squatter who was widowed and was raising three children, - Colin (Brett Climo), Rob (Guy Pearce and Danni (Sheryl Munks). Matt is the hero immortalised in Banjo Patterson's poem and the series, set approximately 25 years after that famous ride, was known as: Banjo Paterson's – The Man from Snowy River.

In 2014, the property was sold to Buddhist Monks and its name was changed to the Newbury Buddhist Monastery. The 150 acres of rolling countryside, surrounded by the Wombat State Forest, provided the seclusion needed for meditative learning.

The Series is still available on DVD and there are many snippets of Blackwood including the swimming hole, the shack out past St Erth amongst others. The crew also supported local business including the Blackwood tea rooms whilst filming occurred. The set was also used in other films. If you have more information or photos, please email them to: team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au

~ Natalie Poole



• BEYOND BLACKWOOD •



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CAPTAIN MOONLIGHT (MOONLITE) PART 2

In the last Issue (August –September 23) we were introduced to Captain Moonlight who was known to frequent the Blackwood area as some of his belongings were found in a shack on Greenhills Road. We now further the speculation that Captain Moonlight (Andrew Scott) preached in our surrounding areas.



There is some record of encounters of him signing religious books and preaching in Bacchus Marsh. The folklore story mentions that Captain Moonlight stole the donated money that was to be used to complete the church in Greendale. This is the half-built church that you see as you enter Greendale on the way in from Melbourne. It's a great tale, but as yet has not been proved or disproved, so we welcome further information.

If you can add to this story please email: team@blackwoodhistoricalsociety.com.au

~ Paul Kukiel

THE POST OFFICE CAFE

We are full steam ahead with our extension and renovation.

To be honest, I am totally amazed at how much has been achieved in such a short time. Steve Empey (Our builder and hero) and Martyn are doing a magnificent job and setting a cracking pace.

The Blackwood post office staff got into the spirit of the grand final between Collingwood magpies and Brisbane lions Photo: Jeanne Tahini



STARRY NIGHT!

Hello Neighbours,

It's been a minute, but it looks as though we are brining back the Starry Night Greendale Drive-In - set for Friday November 17th. And this years Drive-in is to raise money for our hardworking volunteer fire fighters at the Greendale Rural Fire Brigade!

So before this hot and harsh Summer hits we'd like to send them a massive thanks for all their hard work (possibly in advance) and most defiantly for all their previous years of protection. And to make sure this happens we need to sell tickets!! SO What Movie would get you all snuggled up in your car/truck or trailers??

What is hot on the family film market at the moment? Comment below!

As per usual well have pre film musical entertainment, food trucks (but please also feel free to BYO bbq), kids entertainment and we'll sell tickets per car (so you can fill up the seats)

Also feel free to email kristinsargent@gmail.com your suggestions and your email so that you can be notified as soon as we have tickets up and running! Tickets will be limited and hopefully sell fast! Thanks in advance. ~ Kristin Sargent

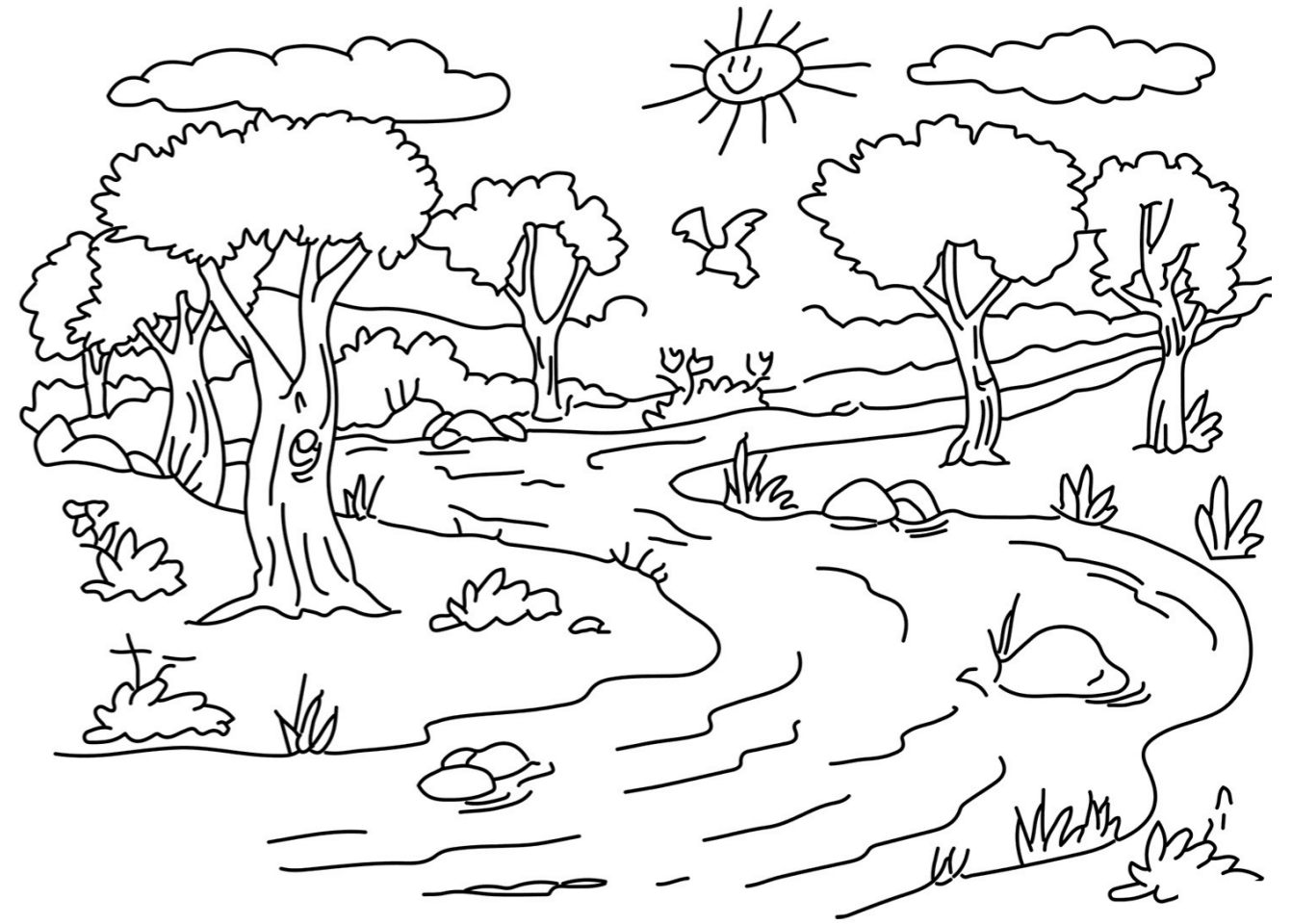


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• BLACKWOOD PUZZLE PAGE •

KID'S CORNER



CAN YOU FIND THESE WORDS?

- River
- Trees
- Clouds
- Birds
- Sun
- Holidays
- Rocks
- Sky
- Spring

R	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	S
A	R	F	L	S	C	S	G	Y
B	I	R	D	S	C	U	T	S
O	V	L	A	P	L	O	S	I
T	E	T	F	R	O	C	K	S
S	R	E	G	I	U	B	Y	U
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The Blackwood Times is a community newspaper run by volunteers that connects the community of Blackwood and its immediate surrounds by dispersing information, news & items of general interest.

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

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

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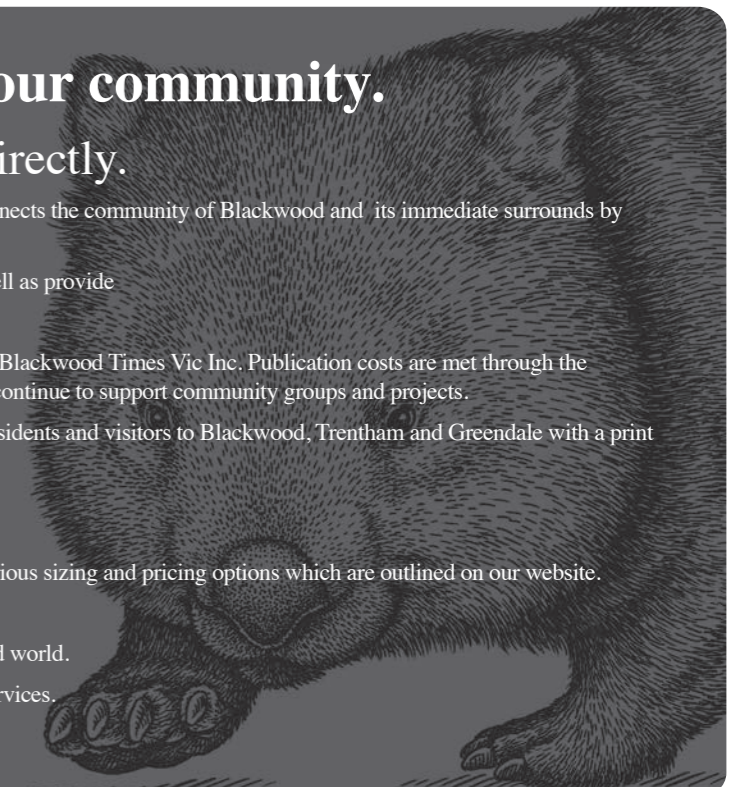
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Fiona Kelly came to real estate from a successful 35+ year background in the corporate world, specialising in the arts/entertainment and sports sectors in senior marketing and sales roles. The transition was a natural fit in a business built on relationship management and negotiation, while enhanced by her genuine desire to assist people to achieve the best possible outcome. With a long history and family association with Trentham (her ancestors settled here in 1877), Fiona knows her area very well and has a great understanding of its diverse range of properties, amenities and people. Being a local resident, she enjoys the many lifestyle benefits of the region and personally understands what draws people to this gorgeous town, plus she is known as a warm and friendly person who prides herself on treating all people with honesty and fairness.

Her skills and experience make a powerful combination with Belle Property's premium branding, exceptional customer service and strong connections to the Melbourne buyer market.

\$34m

SOLD Value Last 12 months

34

Properties SOLD Last 12 months

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*Source Agentbox

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