

*February ~ March 2024 vol 15 ~ issue 16.5*

## THE HOLIDAY ISSUE



**BLACKWOOD EAGLES ARE FLYING HIGH AND THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT IN RUSS WARD READ MORE P3**



**BLACKWOOD HAS HAD A GREAT SEASON AND IT'S NOT JUST THE GRASS THAT IS GROWING. SEE ARTICLE ON P13**





### EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

Welcome to 2024. It's been a nice wet start to the year and Don's weather update has certainly been showing us all how much rain we have been having! By the way, if you don't know, Don has been providing the rainfall for the area for quite some time on a device he made himself. There will be more on this in the next issue. I'm sure many of you have been busy mowing the grass, as I have. It's just gone crazy, but the constant mowing has made me think how lucky we are to be in an area that's large enough for many outdoor activities. Often when I am outside on the ride-on mower my two boys are doing their jobs as well. This is a great training ground for children, and I appreciate the safe environment our area provides.

In this issue Ricky Acevedo wrote about walking in Blackwood and some of his favourite trails. Don't forget with each issue we give out one \$10 voucher for spending at the Post Office for an author under 18years old. Thanks to all those who contribute to The Times with articles and photos. A special mention to Peter Donnelly who attends many Blackwood events and uses his good photographic skills. The team compiling the Times are all volunteers and you'd be surprised how much effort is involved in putting each issue together. Until next issue...

*Paul - Editor for this issue*

We wish to acknowledge and thank Robina Brown and Jinny Coyle, as well as the many volunteers including Brendan Hehir & Peter Donnelly, Kathy Berrill & Jane Howat for their work over many years. Started in June 2008 as the Blackwood News and morphed into the Blackwood Times in 2013, the new team has been on a steep learning curve since our first effort in June 2022. We thank all who have gone before for their continued support & advice. *Cover photos by Kathy Berrill & Jane Howat*


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

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

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MEMBER 2022

### WOMBAT BOOK CLUB



A very Happy New Year from Wombat Book club. Now you've had time to digest your plum pud, and when the rain stops it will be nice to find a shady corner and take in a few words of a good read.

The books we read this last couple of months were- a Jackie Collins novel, we had varying titles so I can only mention the one I had, 'Goddess Of Vengeance' and 'Naked Ambition' by Robert Gott.

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 stable location for our very informal meeting where we enjoy a drink and good company.

If you would like information about our lovely, friendly gathering please contact Rose at [rcarrington1@hotmail.com](mailto:rcarrington1@hotmail.com)

Sandy: Jackie Collins, 'Goddess of Vengeance', what can I say? If you love a good seductive plot with plenty of twists and turns, this one is for you. She does however have a lot of characters which the reader has keep up with. This does make an interesting movie series which are available on Youtube. It is well-written, language is easy, overall, a good read.

#### 4.5 Wombies

Sandy: Naked Ambition, a Political Minister, Gregory Buchanan, poses nude for a renown artist who has previously won the Archibald Prize. He thinks everyone will be pleased he had the courage to pose. However, a family gathering reveals some interesting and not so favourable views of the painting. The painting is stolen leading to an investigation and a surprising confession and motive. This is humorous and not quite an ordinary 'whodunnit'. The dialogue mostly takes place in one room, this would make an entertaining play.

#### 5 Wombies

*Sandra Schmidt*

## 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 charcters, past and present.

**When:** 15th of each month, dinner  
**Where:** Blackwood Hotel

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### HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

MONTH/ YEAR	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall historical average (mm)	Temp monthly min (deg C)	Temp monthly max (deg C)	Temp average daily max (deg C)	Temp average daily min (deg C)	Temp average for month (deg C)
Nov '23	75.4	75.8	3.1	30.2	21.3	8.2	13.7
Dec '23	153.9	62.2	3.3	31.1	20.5	9	14.5

The December rainfall this year was quite high bringing the total yearly rainfall to 929.8mm which was a little less than the average long term 978.8mm. The December temperatures have been fairly mild which is better than over 40 degrees such as what occurred in 2019 with the corresponding bushfire risk.

*Don Owen*

### THE BLACKWOOD EAGLES FLYING HIGH



It was a wintery summer day in Blackwood when the cricket team resumed the second part of a season that could so easily not have been. The Blackwood Eagles are the town's only sports team and have been in existence since the 1890's, but a lack of players meant they were not going to be able to field a team for the 2023 - 2024 season.

They might be a small team but they are also a passionate one and several people involved in the club were determined to not let this happen. Current captain Benny Whitehouse took to social media to encourage new players to join the club he has played for since he was 12 years old. His connection goes even further back with him having a hit at 'kid's cricket' with Kath on a Saturday morning as a little tacker. Kath continues to provide this fantastic opportunity for kids so any little tackers out there looking for a bit of fun should head on down.

On this particular Saturday, the 13th January, Blackwood have fielded a full team to play the top of the table Macedon in front of an enthusiastic home crowd. It would have been one thing to assemble numbers to be able to remain in the competition but what Benny, Stevo and Brian have done goes one step further. Last season they didn't win a game and finished on the bottom of the ladder after playing with only 6 or 7 players each week. (For the non-cricket tragics among you there are usually 11). Although they still struggle for numbers for away games, they are currently sitting 3rd and have an excellent chance of making the finals which commence in March.

There is a rich history behind both the cricket club and cricket ground in Blackwood and we are extremely lucky that a small group worked hard to keep it alive. It was back in 1875 that what has to be one of the most stunning cricket grounds in the country was listed temporarily as a "site for recreation purposes". This was made permanent on the 23rd December 1890 with the order declaring it a "site for cricket and other purposes of Public Recreation". Cricket has been played there in front of that magnificent Monterey pine for much of that time with a newspaper article from 1954 showing a photo of the team that was restarting after a long break, no doubt as a result of the war. During its long history the Blackwood Eagles have been a competitive team winning the Premiership in 5 seasons; 1925 - 1926, 1932 - 1933, 2012 - 2013, 2013 - 2014, 2014 - 2015.

Thanks must go to the players who have stuck by the club during some fairly lean years, and thanks must also go to the new players who have come down to ensure we continue to have a sports team in our small town. Particular thanks need to go to Steve O'Brien who has worked tirelessly for more than a decade to keep the team alive. The club has been on the brink of folding more often than it would like to remember and Stevo has flown the flag for the Eagles and fought to keep them on the pitch.

The new Eagles are a great mix and bring much more to the club than just numbers. Take Glen from Greendale for example. Not only is he out there having a crack but his wife Maddi is helping out in the canteen, and they have half a cricket teams worth of kids that add to the atmosphere. Also new this year is Josh Fitzgerald who took a spectacular catch at deep cover point off some impressive bowling by 2nd year player Mingma, playing in his hiking crocs. Yes, you did read that correctly!

Wyatt has come up from the caravan park to play saying that he couldn't see a local team fold. His cricket experience amounts to 1 season 10 years ago but his desire to see the team continue, and the allure of cheap beer, were enough to get him to have a go. John has been living just up the street from our beautiful cricket ground for 8 years and hadn't played the game for 19 years before deciding to come down and play this season. He said he thought it was a good time to help out now that his kids are a little bit older and before he is too old to have a go. Brad from Dales Creek has joined the team, as has Scott who is newer to town. Creating history is Leisha Lewis who became the first female to ever play for the Blackwood Cricket Club. Brent has joined the team from further afield, travelling from Lara to play each week. He hadn't played for 8 years and was thinking of returning to play in his old stomping ground of Romsey or Lancefield when he heard through the Whitehouse boys that the Blackwood team was in a bit of strife and decided to help out. We are very glad he did as he is averaging 50 with the bat and had the crowd on the edge of their bar stools when he was on a hatrick in the 33rd over.

Macedon had started the batting strong and were 1/50 off 14 overs before Brent narrowly missed out on hero status at 6/145. Benny's commitment to the team was plain to see when a 6 flew over the bar and into the river in the 38th over. He scaled the fence about 50 metres around from the dead roo with great agility and recovered in time for a catch on the boundary from the next ball. Macedon finished their 40 overs at a strong 9/207.

Blackwood came into bat needing 5 an over but that crept up to 7 an over after being 2/62 at the halfway mark. With 10 overs to go Mingma was at the crease and seeing them like watermelons. Smashing them all over the place the man in crocs had a great crack, at one point pausing to give a big thumbs up to the appreciative crowd before being bowled shortly after by a child. Ending the day with 30 off 15 balls, 2 wickets, a catch and a run out he was happy to call himself best on ground and who could really argue?!

Although falling just short at 9/158 the team did themselves proud and those responsible for keeping the club alive have done the whole town proud. With sometimes dozens of kids running around having a great time and cold drinks always available, it would be hard to find a better family day out. We should all be grateful that the club is too important to people like Benny for him to let it fade into history. Speaking to him during the game he said that he is really happy with how things are currently going and that his only hope now is that Sam washes his whites.

*By Kylie Richardson*

*Photo By Peter Donnelly*



## BLACKWOOD MAKERS

**In this issue we interview Izzy Roberts-Orr a local poet (Barry's Reef)**

**At what age did you begin to start thinking about producing poetry?**

I was interested in poetry, and writing in general, from a really young age - I wanted to write a novel by the time I was 16, which now seems completely bonkers! Something that really changed things for me with poetry was discovering Collected Works, a poetry-specific bookshop which used to be in the Nicholas Building in the city. I wandered in there, lugging my enormous school backpack, when I was about 17, accidentally knocking stacks of books over. Chris, one of the owners, eventually came up to me and asked if he could help me find anything in particular. I asked him earnestly, "Um, do you have any poets who are...Australian? Who are women? Who are, like...alive?" I was studying poets like John Donne, TS Eliot and Sylvia Plath at school - so it seemed pretty impossible to me at the time that there were poets who could be practicing and alive here today. He introduced me to the brilliant Dorothy Porter, and once I knew there was some possibility you could actually be a poet these days, I never looked back.

**Do you only write poetry?**

I also write plays, fiction and non-fiction and make podcasts and radio - but poetry is my main love. I was once shortlisted in the non-fiction as well as poetry categories for a writers' prize and didn't win either. Someone suggested that if I just picked one, I might have a better chance of winning - but personally I think it's really rich and interesting to have multiple strands to your practice, and to have different disciplines to draw on.

**Do other people in your family have artistic talents?**

My partner Lazarus is the visually talented one in our household! We both love making things with our hands too - I'm pretty into sewing, crochet, jewellery making and will have a crack at pretty much anything in the craft realm.

**What outcomes do you and other people that enjoy poetry writing see?**

Poetry can be the most remarkable distillation of ideas and experiences of the world, expressing what feels inexpressible. We're all traveling solo in this life in some ways, but poetry often manages to cut to the core of things and bridge that gap between individuals.



Poetry can be a powerful political and philosophical tool, it can capture the histories that fall between the cracks of how we tell and remember, and it's still what we turn back to at pivotal personal and social moments. Poetry is language at its most electric. There's solace, contemplation, resistance and play in poetry and one of the greatest outcomes I see for poets and lovers of poetry in my work is connection - with people, places, ideas and histories familiar and unfamiliar.

**This may be contentious but I thought I'd ask - what is your opinion on GenerativeAI and the ability to ask services such as ChatGPT to write poems.**

I see generative AI as a new tool, not a replacement for poets or any other creative. There are some interesting experiments that come out of that space - but honestly, I'm more interested in work created by poets and technologists than ChatGPT. I was part of a workshop group that worked with poets and technologists to design adaptive writing tools with Google a few years ago, and learning about both the limitations of the available data language models can access, as well as the particular challenges machine learning has with poetry was really interesting. The poetry these models generate is sometimes interesting to mine for novel ideas, but the work I've seen thus far is often pretty basic because it's essentially regurgitating the western literary canon. The other thing about poetry as a form which these models often struggle with is that although poetry has conventions, or some 'rules', it's not formulaic in the same way (e.g.) a crime procedural might be, and the most interesting poetry often breaks the rules or shifts the goalposts entirely.

For anyone interested in the intersections of poetry and technology, a couple of people whose work I'd recommend are Benjamin Laird, Kathryn Gledhill-Tucker, Jini Maxwell, Maz Breeze, and Oscar Schwartz. Crawlspace, run by Rory Green and Hannah Jenkins, is an ongoing project that platforms artistic and poetic applications of technology. Rory also provides some projects on Glitch you can use to remix your own digital poetic projects, which is fun! Voiceworks online and Going Down Swinging also have strong histories of presenting experimental digital poetic work.

I have to say though, I think we should be asking ourselves questions around what tech we're designing and why. Creativity can be such a joyful and rewarding part of life - wouldn't we rather design AI that uses its data processing capabilities to free up our time to make creative work rather than trying to replace artists with code? My hunch is that our fascination with AI's creativity is a kind of Turing test - once we design AI that can write brilliant poetry, how will we distinguish ourselves from it?

**Can you tell us about the classes you have been running?**

I recently ran a poetry workshop at Trentham Neighbourhood Centre, which was really fun! It's fantastic to engage with other people who are working on their craft, reading and writing poetry. I'll be running a longer series in Term 1 next year, so stay tuned and come along if you're keen to learn and write some poems in a supportive environment with a great bunch of people.

**Are you running any classes in Blackwood?**

Not yet, but if you're keen, bail me up at the Post Office or Pub and let me know and we can get some going!

**Lastly, what is your favourite place in Blackwood/Barrys Reef and why, and has it influenced your poetry living here.**

It's hard to pick just one - I love getting out in the bush with our kelpie Zephyr, and I particularly enjoy spending time along the river. Walking is a big part of my practice, and I draw a lot of inspiration from the world around me. Living on Dja Dja Wurrung Country is steeped into my poetry and I'm sure it will remain to be seen how it influences my poetry over many years - one thing I've definitely noticed is that I have been producing a lot more since moving here, it's a very inspiring place to be with lots of inspiring people around.

*Interviewed by Paul Kukiel*

## MY BEST FRIEND IS HAIRY



Photos: Ricky Acevedo

Dogs are man's best friend. They keep you company, love you when you are lonely and give you licks (Ours likes to lick our elbows in the morning.) and look off the deck and onto the world like she is queen. They are the best pet you can have, but did you know that there are ways to love your dog back. You can take them on some of the best walks around Blackwood. The places I like to go with my dog are the Whipstick Loop Walk and the cricket pitch, where we meet all our mates and play catch. Most dogs also love the beach like my dog, Pepper. Every time we go down to the beach, she is the happiest dog ever. She always goes straight to the sand, digs a big hole and sits in it. After this she runs to the water and takes a flying jump in. Last time she came boogie boarding with us and surfed in on the waves next to us. She also likes 'water hole or rivers where we can wade and swim together or just skip rocks, (which she tries to catch). We love to go camping and she comes along. She normally sleeps on her bed next to mine. Unless there is a storm, then she likes to sleep on my head when she gets scared. I like to use her like a pillow. If I take the dog out at night, she loves to chase the torch light on the ground. She chases all types of reflections coz she is a little crazy in the head. I also love to throw the ball for Pepper, and I also like running with her, but she tends to run under my feet (might have to work on that one a bit). So maybe next time you want to treat your pooch take them on a bush adventure with you and you will have the best time.

Now if you want to know where some great camping spots are that you can take your dog to here are some.

- Lake Fyans which are in the Grampians it is about 2 hours away.
- Sunny Acres Farm Stay, which is in Rushwort, 1hr 50 mins away.
- Riverside King Valley is a great place to take yourself and the dog. It is near Wangaratta and is 3h 8mins away from Blackwood.

Anyway, if you want to know about my dog more here it is: Breed-border collie • Age-2 and a half • She is a girl (kinda obvious) Dogs are very helpful and can be big helps like on the farm to being a guide dog they are some of the best pets you will ever have. Make sure that you look after your dog the best you can. Like checking that they have lots of food and water that they get plenty of exercise and lots of love.

**A few last fun facts**

- Dogs are not colour blind the just don't see as vividly as us.
- Dogs can dream like us this is a precious sight to see, you dog may quiver twitch or bark softly.
- Dog noses are at least 40x more sensitive than a human.
- Dogs have been known to poop in alignment with the earth's magnetic field.

Dogs are a man's best friend, but my dog is the best (obviously).

PS my dogs name is Miss Pepper Potts, Iron man's assistant for those Avengers' fans.

*Ricky Acevedo*

## ST MARTIN'S CHAPEL

It was great to have so many people attend our Christmas Carol service on 23rd December. I really appreciate having it so close to Christmas Day as it has become part of the lead up. Thank you to Fiona for her organisation and singing, thanks to Amelia for her preparation and reading of the Nativity story, and to Corey and Victoria for their singing and music. Thanks also to Wally on the barbecue. It was a fun night and was so good to welcome locals and visitors to our beautiful setting.



We have already had two concerts in January, and we can look forward to more great musical events in 2024. There might even be an Elvis night coming up. A Trivia Night is also on the agenda.

Over the last couple of months, the St Martin's Chapel Committee of Management has met with representatives from our Presbytery, and they have been very impressed and excited by what is happening in Blackwood. We have requested that we be recognised as a Faith Community which will effectively free us from many of the reporting and Church Council obligations. We have decided that our worship services will be in very different forms, not the "hymn sandwich" or traditional styles. This is something that we are exploring, and we will let you know as events are planned.



Thank you to everyone who has come along to the Chapel in 2023 to take part in the diverse range of activities that are being offered to the community by the community. If you have some ideas of things that you would like to see happen or that you might like to run please get in touch.

Here's to a wonderful 2024, May it be a year of fulfilled dreams and for exploring possibilities.

*Robyn Zanon*

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# AmbulanceVictoria

375 Manningham Road  
Doncaster VIC 3108  
PO Box 2000 Doncaster VIC 3108  
T 03 9840 3500  
ABN 50 373 327 705 004

15th January 2024

## Construction of Ambulance Victoria Garage, Driveway and Crossover Works Blackwood Outdoor Specialist School, Greendale-Trentham Road, Blackwood

Dear Residents,

Ambulance Victoria and the Department of Education are working together to support delivery of a new Emergency Services Facility (Ambulance Station) situated on part of the Blackwood Outdoor Specialist School site facing Greendale-Trentham Road, Blackwood.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about this project and provide you with contact details for the parties involved, should you have any queries now or during the construction works.

Outdoor Steel Solutions (Ranbuild) has been awarded the contract for these works. They can be contacted on 1300 447 076 if you have any queries during construction.

Moorabool Shire Council have approved the plans of the proposed building and works, Planning Permit PA2022183, and ASPER PTY LTD *Building Surveying*, Building Permit No. 7001665774843, respectively complying with relevant Planning Schemes and Building Code requirements.

The following estimated dates provided below for your information, noting that dates may change without notice:

Site Preparation Works Commence:	January 2024
Practical Completion of Building Works:	April 2024

Works will include upgrades to the existing driveway/crossover access and widening of this driveway/crossover for access to the new facilities and to maintain the existing access to the Outdoor Specialist School. During these works, minor disruption to public access to the front of the school site will occur.

We regret any inconvenience this may cause and thank you in advance for your patience. On behalf of all parties involved we look forward to delivering a facility that will be of great benefit to the Blackwood community for years to come.

If you have any concerns or enquiries, please contact Kane Rutledge (Outdoor Steel Solutions) on 1300 447 076.

Sincerely,

Eoghan Collins  
Project Manager | Property Services | Ambulance Victoria  
31 Joseph Street, Blackburn North VIC 3130



## • COMMUNITY GROUPS & CLUB UPDATES •



### BLACKWOOD CERT REPORT - GREAT NEWS!

Residents in the Blackwood town area should have recently received a letter from Ambulance Victoria, letting them know that work is about to start on our very own Ambulance Station. It will be on the Special School land, at the rear of the CFA Refuge.

Starting this month and due to be completed by April, there should be minimal disruption to neighbours – if there is, we apologise, and thank you for your patience in advance.

Patience is a quality that has been both tested and now, rewarded, with the commencement of this build. It is exciting for our community and our CERT to finally have a facility of their own to support their ongoing work.

Some may know the back story, but its worth repeating as this build is the culmination of many, many people over many, many years working to attain this facility, which will add to the overall emergency response capability in our area.

Blackwood CERT was set up in 2002 in response to community's need access to timely medical emergency response. (That need still exists) In those days, it was very much a locally "owned" and operated service – Rural Ambulance Victoria (RAV) provided a vehicle, equipment, and training, and the day-to-day management and staffing was up to local volunteers.

Over that time, both RAV and CERT became part of Ambulance Victoria. Our mission is still the same, and CERT is still "staffed" by local volunteers.

One issue throughout that time is that CERT we had no "home". Over the years, our AV-supplied vehicle was parked at people's houses and then in the car park at the hall. This lack of accommodation caused real response issues in winter, when, at times in emergencies, the vehicle would not start. This created a risk for locals and for CERT responders.

Over all these years a very dedicated group of people (both the CERT Committee of Management and others) put their heads together and looked at what options were available to solve this problem for our community. Other generous locals helped in raising funds to contribute to the future build. Our CFA provided an interim remedy – for which we thank them!

All of these combined efforts, over the years have now, finally, culminated in the current build as AV has taken on the task of providing fit-for-purpose accommodation for CERT and its assets.

This has already been a massive project and involved different government departments and agencies to get to this point. CERT is very grateful to all those involved at the finance, planning and development level.

With the end result in site, this long-running effort has been a true testament to the power of grassroots community engagement to achieve improved outcomes for all.

It also provides a solid foundation to enable CERT to continue to adapt and service the needs of our growing community.

TO ALL INVOLVED IN GETTING TO THIS POINT – WE SAY "THANK YOU"

Leonie Brasier

The Blackwood Emergency Resilience Group (BERG) will be starting their monthly meetings at the Pub from February. Plenty of copies of our localised Be Safe Blackwood flipchart are still available. It includes loads of information to help prepare us for various possible emergencies. Get yours at the Post Office or email us and one of the team will drop it off for you. If you are interested in attending follow us on Facebook for dates or email Blackwooderg@gmail.com

### BLACKWOOD OVER 55S SOCIAL CLUB



Di and Phyl, President, draw the raffle where everyone was a winner

Rose in the kitchen during the over 55's Christmas

Photos Jeanne Tahini

We had our Christmas Party on Wednesday 13 December with 16 people attending. A delicious three course meal was served by Rose. Vegans were also catered for with the wide selection of dishes. The buffet finished off with pavlova and Christmas pudding and custard. Everyone left full and happy, most also received a prize from the raffle! Everyone is welcome (if you are over 55!) to come along to Blackwood Town Hall from 10.30-3.00 every Wednesday.

Dianne Volpe

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## • COMMUNITY GROUPS & CLUB UPDATES •

### LANDCARE ACTIVITIES

In early December last year we had a wonderful talk by Janine Duffy of Koala Clancy Foundation in the Chapel. Janine is so committed to creating habitat for koalas that her enthusiasm is infectious!

We fully endorse the Foundation's scientific and practical activities. Thank you to Moorabool Shire Council for funding assistance to hold this informative event.

To kick off 2024 our first working bee was at the beautiful Mineral Springs Reserve on the Australia Day weekend, where we weeded and maintained the major planting from April last year. We also looked at the amazing waterbugs that can be found in the river.

Come along and meet your fellow landcare enthusiasts at "Landcare in the Pub", from 5:30 on Monday 5th Feb, Blackwood Hotel. This is an informal get together to share ideas. Future plans for the year include a native plant propagation workshop, a weed forum, Fungitown art activities as well as working bees. Keep an eye out for details on the BBRLG Facebook page.

*Michael Hotchin*

### CURRAWONG RESOURCES UPDATE

Currawong Resources will be drilling again at their Comet and Trojan prospects during the month of February and probably into March, following up on the success of their small drilling campaign in November 2023. The drilling will be mostly diamond drilling which is a quieter system of drilling though generally much slower. Diamond drilling produces drilled rock core samples that are used to map the underground rock structures and is capable of drilling to greater depths. The current proposed program will be drilling 3 to 5 holes of depths to 200 meters. We expect to be drilling by the second week of February. We ask that people follow the safety signs present at each drill site.

*Rex Motton*

### SEBASTOPOOL



Photo: Kylie Richardson

Local kids cooling off at the swimming hole, historically known as 'Sebastopool'. It seems like ages since it was deep enough to dive from the big rock at this Crown Reserves site. Apparently a bike club used to come & party there. The story goes that there was some sort of fight & perhaps a death. Fact or fiction...who knows.

Melbourne water and DEECA are in discussion to have a fallen tree removed.

*Jinny Coyle, Kylie Richardson*

### COMMUNITY BANK TRENTHAM & DISTRICTS



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Community Bank Trentham & Districts not only gives you access to award-winning financial products and services, we're also committed to returning profits to our local communities.

In 2023 our community investment program contributed to the Blackwood Times, Trentham Words in Winter, Annual Blackwood Easter Carnival & Woodchop, Woodend Winter Arts Festival, SALT mental health program for local sports clubs, Rotary Woodend Halloween, Trentham Primary School, Tylden Primary School, Trentham Neighbourhood Centre, Woodend Golf Club, Woodend Hesket Football Netball Club, Trentham Golf Club, Trentham Adult Riders Club, Trentham Football Netball Club, Great Dividing Trail Association, Trentham Spudfest and the Bullarto Tractor Pull Festival.

So by banking local – you're investing back into your community!

#### Products and services

We offer everything a big bank does - home, business and personal loans, refinancing, financial planning, and competitive insurance products. It might be a mobile lender you're after - our branch manager Edyta Wyatt will come to you.

#### Upcoming Community Events

Proudly sponsoring 3 day Trentham Adult Riding Club's Trentham Dressage Series in Feb, March & April.

Check Trentham Adult Riding Club's FB page for dates and get along to support horses and riders!

#### Reach out!

Please reach out with any banking queries:

call 5424 1608

Drop in 37B High Street Trentham or visit our website [www.bendigobank.com.au/branch/vic/community-bank-trentham-districts/](http://www.bendigobank.com.au/branch/vic/community-bank-trentham-districts/)

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## • COMMUNITY GROUPS & CLUB UPDATES •

### MOORABOOL SHIRE - SHAPING OUR COMMUNITY SERVICE CONNECTIONS

#### Have Your Say – Parter with us to attract local services

Council is undertaking a large piece of work to identify where there are gaps in local services in areas such as health and education, and we want your help!

We are wanting to hear from a wide range of people throughout Moorabool – people involved in the health, education, recreation, and community sectors, those who run community groups and anyone who can help shape our mapping, so that we can create an overall picture to help us advocate for services for Moorabool residents.

The first step in the consultation process is a survey through our Have Your Say portal on our website.

"We know there are gaps in a lot of areas where Moorabool residents can't access services locally or easily, which could impact on Moorabool Shire being a thriving and healthy community," Moorabool Shire Mayor Cr Rod Ward said.

"I encourage anyone involved in health, mental health, sports, recreation and education services and groups to jump online and complete this survey. The broader community will have an opportunity to have their say via a survey which will be online later."

"There are services, such as education, that Council does not provide, but once we complete the mapping project and work out what is needed and where, we can advocate strongly to other levels of government, such as the state government for education. This piece of work could result in great benefits to the entire shire," Cr Ward said.

"Our growing population makes this project even more important as we want to future-proof the services we offer."

Head to <https://haveyoursay.moorabool.vic.gov.au/community-services-engagement-2023> to take the survey.

We welcome your involvement.

*Michelle Venne Rowe,  
Social and Community Planner. Moorabool Shire*

### BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BW&DHS welcomes you to 2024. At the time of publication, we will have had our first open day for 2024 on Saturday 27th January. During December and January, the team had some time off from open days, to get a few jobs sorted. We have several outings planned for the year, so come along and get out and about with us. If you haven't been and seen our Museum, let 2024 be the year you visit. We are open February 3rd and March 2nd (Saturdays) from 10:00am-1:00pm and every first Saturday of the month throughout the year. We are hoping to be successful in gaining a few grants this year to help us with some upgrades and extra displays. Thank you to everyone that finds and donates items of historical significance to the area. We are proud to be the custodians of historical items. Don't forget you can support us at the Blackwood Easter Carnival by purchasing a hotdog or a book or two which we will have on sale. See you there!

*Paul Kukiel*

### BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

It's that time again and the cricket season is going well. That was until we played top of ladder, Macedon, who beat us by 49 runs.

That in turn dropped us down to 4th.

When writing this, but by the time it goes to print, we would've played away against Gisborne, Australia day bye and then away v Sunbury.



After that is 3 home games before we start the finals.

As I've said before, for a team that looked like folding and forfeiting the first game, we were sitting 3rd. That's not bad for a small town!

Kath has been trying hard with juniors and hopefully numbers pick up for the last 3 home games. Thank you Kath! We have filled 1 ibc with cans for Ollie and the second 1 is close to filling, we have also collected cans from the Blackwood Hotel. Thank you Ebb.

#### Social side

All games start at 1pm and are 1 dayers, (lots of big hits!).

The bar is open and a canteen supplies a good variety of food and drinks and everyone is welcome.

We have sponsors day and past players on February 17th.

Thank you for the community support throughout the year and crowds have been good.

Hopefully we bring the cup home at the end of the season.

GO EAGLES!

*Brian Suters*

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## • COMMUNITY GROUPS & CLUB UPDATES •

### CFA REPORT

#### Happy New Year Everyone

We hope everyone had a good Christmas break and not too many headaches on New Year's Day. 2023 ended with a heavy rainfall, as shown by a very drowned Santa after the Christmas Day Run, with December having a total rainfall of over 150 mm, most seemed to fall on Christmas day as shown in the following picture.



A busy end to the year for the brigade as well as a special birthday coming up for the Station/Refuge.

Friday, the 19th of January, 2024 marks the 10th anniversary of the opening of Blackwood Fire Station and Fire Refuge by the then Premier Dennis Napthine. This was the first Fire Refuge in a fire station in the world.

The new Fire Station with its generator, multiple toilets and large meeting room has been a real advantage to emergency services in the area and has been well utilised during storm events and prolonged power outages. Apart from the fire brigade, Blackwood CERT have used the station to store their vehicle and for training, plus Victoria Police Search and Rescue have made good use of the station over the years as a base for their training during the cooler months. Late last year, the communications systems in the refuge were upgraded to include fibre NBN and satellite internet.

After a very dry September, October and most of November, the heavens opened just as the fire restrictions began. The brigade has dealt with a small number of burn-offs since the introduction of restrictions (Fire Danger Period), but in general the fire aspect of the brigade's work has been quiet.

The wet weather and fog has caused more problems with a serious car accident just north of Blackwood in early December and then a couple of days later, the brigade was involved in traffic control with the multiple accidents in thick fog along the Western Freeway at Myrniong. Heavy fog on the afternoon of December 11th resulted in 6 accidents on the Western Freeway between Bacchus marsh and Ballan. Blackwood brigade assisted with directing Melbourne bound traffic exiting the freeway at Pykes Creek through Myrniong along the old highway. Another accident in the Pentland Hills then required all traffic to be diverted back to Ballan via Greendale. After four hours, the brigade was able to use the Myrniong Road again and were able to leave the scene.

The accident on the Greendale Trentham Rd near Pottery track required the attendance of a specialist high angle rescue crew for Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) stationed at Ballarat. The vehicle involved had slid off the road into a steep gully where it lodged against some trees. Ropes were run down the incline to allow ambulance and fire crews to access the accident scene. The FRV crew organised a rope pulley system to facilitate three crew to bring up one patient on a stretcher while 5 crew hauled on the rope. The other patient was able to walk

up from the site via a more gentle path. The incident had an excellent local response with Blackwood CERT on scene at the same time as the brigade and Police. Thanks also to Trentham CFA and CERT members plus the Ballan Rescue crew and FRV High Angle Rescue.

Great to see so much green grass around the town and the river flowing freely. Unfortunately, a week or so of hot, dry weather will turn all of this into our normal late January, February parched forest environment. Keep an eye on the Fire Danger ratings for the Central region.

We would like to welcome the new members who have joined our ranks over the last few months.

Download the Vic Emergency app to your phone which 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/>

#### 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](mailto: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*

## BLACKWOOD'S ANNUAL TOWN GARAGE SALE SATURDAY MARCH 9

8am-2pm

TIME CLEAR OUT ALL THAT UN-WANTED STUFF? YOUR JUNK IS SOME-ONE ELSE'S TREASURE! FIND IT A NEW HOME AT OUR ANNUAL SALE & MAKE SOME MOOLA.

MAPS & SAUSAGE SIZZLE available from 7.45am in the town centre

To be included on the map book your garage sale at <https://rb.gy/2zbd6c> (BONUS sale holders kit)

a fundraiser for St Martin's Chapel

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## • COMMUNITY GROUPS & CLUB UPDATES •

### CROWN RESERVES COMMITTEE

Monday 22 January DEECA will be advertising for new committee members as existing committee's expire on 22 March 2024. New appointees will be for 3 year period. See correspondence from DEECA.

If you have a special interest in one of the 9 Crown Reserves in Blackwood, or have an idea for improvement, or a particular concern, please get in contact through [team@theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au](mailto:team@theBLACKWOODTIMES.com.au)

We still have no response from Moorabool on the sewer issue at the caravan park. DEECA has engaged a legal representative to deal with Moorabool on this.

The makeover of the amenities still cannot be formally completed due to the outstanding sewer issue and Moorabool shire representatives not responding.

The caravan park has been extremely busy over the Christmas and New Year period. The facility continues to be very popular with all weekends in January fully booked.

The generator install has been held up due to the DEECA selected contractors finding the install to be more challenging than other locations, however the committee is expecting a succinct list of what will be available to Blackwood residents as a result of the Emergency back up generator by mid-February.

*Peter Fowler,*

*Chair Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee*

Hi Peter,

Thank you for all your time and dedication in managing the Blackwood Crown reserves over the last three years. All your efforts are much appreciated and the Blackwood community is fortunate to have had such a dedicated hardworking committee willing to support and develop the reserve for the local community. I certainly appreciate the difficulties of the last few years and appreciate your commitment to the committee.

The current committee's term expires on 22 March 2024, which means that it is time for DEECA to appoint a new committee for the next three years, expiring on 22 March 2027. This will be done through an expression of interest process.

As current committee members, you are invited to submit an expression of interest to re-nominate for another term on the committee. Peter, can you please advise if Naten van Gossum and Brian Suters are still involved in the committee?

An expression of interest must include:

1. Application form (attached)
2. Response to the basis of nomination questions (from section D of application form)
3. CV / Resume
4. Probity and Private Interest Declaration form (attached)

Expressions of interest will be open from Monday 22 January 2022 until 5pm Monday 19th February 2022 and can be submitted to:

Email: [Publicland.grampians@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:Publicland.grampians@delwp.vic.gov.au)

Post: Land and Built Environment Team

402 - 406 Mair Street  
Ballarat, Victoria, 3350

Expressions of interest may be followed up with a phone interview. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their expression of interest in writing.

There will be a call for expressions of interest in the newspaper (Ballarat Courier, Moorabool News and Blackwood Times), on Facebook and Seek Volunteers.

Please feel free to share and promote with anyone else you feel may be interested.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Kind Regards,

*Jennifer Bromley (she/her)*

*Senior Program Officer, Land and Built Environment*

## BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Open February 3rd, March 4th and April 1st 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

# PLUMBING SERVICES

Gas fitting	Servicing / repairs
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## THE HISTORY OF BLACKWOOD - 'STREET NAMES IN BLACKWOOD.'

BYRES ROAD AND BYRES BACK TRACK, and BYRES MINERS TUNNEL, BLACKWOOD.

Byres Road run past the front of the Blackwood Cemetery. The name Byres has been connected with Blackwood since the early gold-rush days of the 1850's, as research shows-

'The Byres family were one of the early families on the Blackwood goldfields. William Byres (Snr.) was born in Aberdeen in Scotland in 1809. He married Julia Howard in London in 1847. William came to Australia on the "Prince Regent" in November 1852. Julia came to Australia with her two children, William aged 7 and Alexander age 5 yrs, who were born in London, on the sailing ship, the 'Kent'. The ship left from 'Graves End' London on the 1st August 1857. William (Snr.) and Julie had nine children altogether, five being born in Blackwood. -

1858 - John Byres at Mt. Blackwood to William Byres and Julia Selina Howard (cert no. 16635).

1860 - Julia Byres (cert no. 07505) born to William and Julia at Mt. Blackwood.

1862 - Frances Isabel Byres (cert no. 883) born to William and Julie at Blackwood.

1863 - George (cert no. 6425) born at Blackwood, name spelt Byers. Died 1863. (Cert no. 05943)

1864 - also called George Byres, (cert no. 13498) born at Blackwood.

'Not all children survived and William (snr.) died in Blackwood in 1867 - just ten years after the family had arrived in Victoria. Born Aberdeen age 57 yrs. Cert no. 09879)

'Julia Byres operated a lolly shop and soft drink factory in Golden Point, using round-ended bottles that had to be stood up in special crates. The shop was adjoined to the Blackwood Post Office in Golden Point next to the Royal Mail Hotel. Julia Byres remarried Jean Marie Loiseleur. Julia was affectionately known as "Lolly Grandma". She died on 6-5-1910 age 85 yrs. The Post Office, operated by Ethel (Byres) and Albert Turner, continued until around 1927.

William Byres (2nd) (born 1850 in London) married Annie Pryn on the 1st February 1877 at Blackwood. Annie Pryn was born in Blackwood on 29-5-1860. The Pryn family lived up behind Walls house on the Old Golden Point Road, on what became known as "Pitch Fork Hill". Getting its name from when Annie's father chased one of the girls boyfriend's down the hill with a pitch fork! William Byres and Annie (Pryn) had ten children - eight girls and two boys: Elizabeth Byres, Annie Maud Byres, Ethel Byres, Frances Byres, Irene Byres, Ina Byres, Florence Byres, Minnie Byres, William Howard Byres, and John Byres. The last born, John died in his first year (1898). William Howard Byres (3rd) born 1896 at Blackwood, the youngest in the family, died age 22years on the 29th December 1918 from meningitis. William Howard Byres had enlisted in the army and had just received his posting for active service when he became ill and died. He had the nick name of "Butsy". The pine tree that is on the right hand side looking at the bridge in the Mineral Springs - one of the two remaining trees from the "Avenue of Honour" for WW1 Veterans - was named after William Howard Byres (3rd).

The Byres family owned and operated the Royal Mail Hotel, which



Annie Byres (nee Pryn).



Alex Byres. died 4.7.1917. Son of William Byres and Julia Howard.

was also a stage coach office in the early days. William Byres (2nd) bought the Royal Mail Hotel in 1898'. There were two Annie Byres - Annie Byres (nee Pryn) who married William Byres and Annie Maud Byres who married George Matheson. Annie Maud Byres was born on the 14th February 1881 at Golden Point. She was born in a house next to the old Golden Point school yard. She was the second eldest in the family. On the 3rd October, 1900 Annie Maud Byres married George Kenneth Matheson in the parlour of the Royal Mail Hotel in Golden Point. This united two of the original pioneering families of the district. At the wedding, rice was used as this was before confetti. The family has always delighted in telling this. Annie Maud's sister, Florence Eleanor Byres married Ernest Richard Terrill (born 1877 in Blackwood) on the 7th July 1917 at Blackwood. This wedding also united another pioneer family with the Byres. They bought a house that later Ern's grandson, Ernie Terrill lived in until his death in 2017. They named the house 'Byres House' and the name is still displayed proudly on the gate on the Road to Simmons Reef. Ernie Terrill's parents moved to the house at Simmons Reef on the left before the Sports Ground with an orchard which once belonged to Charles Gribble. Ernie Terrill's mother, Elma lived in that house until transferred to an aged care home in 2017. Ernie's father was Ernest (Roy) Terrill. Ernest and Florence Terrill had three sons - Ernest (Roy) Terrill born 1918, James (Jimmy) and Bill (William). Roy Terrill married Elma Broad. Florence Terrill died 1962 aged 69 yrs. Minnie Byres was a teacher at Blackwood State School for some time around 1912, when many of the family were attending school. Byres Road that comes down from Old Golden Point Road past the cemetery gates to the Blackwood Hotel corner was named by Bill and Don Matheson after the Byres family. With the unusual spelling of the name, the family likes to ensure it is always spelt correctly. The Byres family had a great interest in gold mining in those early days. Byres water race that was used in the sluicing for gold ran from behind the University in Simmons Reef for some fourteen miles down to 'Cane Saddle' which is between 'Break Neck' and 'O'Briens Crossing'. Water flowed very quickly through the race. It was a good supply of fresh clean drinking water.

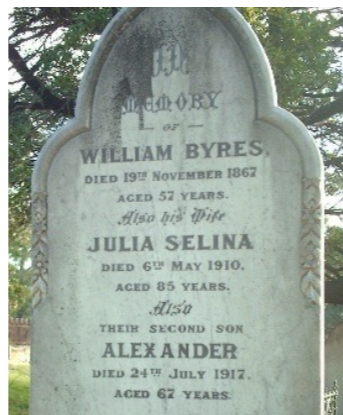
Information on the Byres family is with grateful thanks to Frances Dillion (nee Matheson) for the permission to copy her information from the 'Blackwood Newsletter' Feb. - March Issue No. 69.

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

Compiled by Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood Historical Society.



George and Annie Maud (nee Byres) Matheson wedding 1900.



Grave of William Byres and Julia Selina Howard and their son Alex Byres. Blackwood cemetery. (Photo Courtesy Margot Hitchcock.)

## A BLACKWOOD GARDEN

Although an El Niño has been predicted it has so far been a very wet summer. Many plants have flowered much earlier than usual and many of my trees have put on an enormous amount of growth.



I planted pumpkins for the first time which are growing rapidly. I'm interested to see which will do better; either the self-sown Jap from my compost, which I transplanted, or the Heritage Jarrahdale. I remember my father pollinating the flowers using a feather. I'm not sure why they needed his help; perhaps there were not enough pollinators or because pollen needs to be transferred from a male flower to the female flower. Actually, I've just checked on their progress and found that while the Heritage have put on enormous growth in every direction; they are still not flowering, while the others are covered in flowers, but although healthy, are still quite compact plants. My friend Kerry has just reminded me to add some Potash to encourage flowering. This is one of the things I love about gardening. People are always happy to share knowledge as well as their produce. I've actually just checked on their progress and found the Jap plants have plenty of flowers.



Photos: Jane Howat

This is also the first time I am having success with Zinnias, beautiful flowers which need heat for the seed to germinate. They are very healthy young plants and hopefully, with continued heat, will flower. I've planted sunflower seed but I'm not sure that I put them in early enough.

I'm not sure why, but my lemon tree put on a bountiful amount of fruit mid last year and most still haven't ripened even though it flowered prolifically at the beginning of January but unfortunately mostly were lost with the heavy rain before they had a chance to set fruit.

My grape vines are laden but I still haven't netted them from the birds and possums so that is still on my jobs to do list.

I am making plans for the year ahead. There are many areas of the garden which I'm still not happy with. Several don't have enough interest through all seasons or the colour combinations are a bit hit and miss. There is also a new area that I haven't developed beyond its first season. I mulched it heavily before winter last year with pea straw to improve the soil and plants have responded well especially as it gets plenty of sun and of course with all the rain we've had.

Who knows what the next season will bring, but Autumn is a good time to implement some of your plans. Enjoy!

Jane Howat

## BLACKWOOD IS A FUNGI TOWN

Fungi Town is an artwork on wheels that will make its debut at the Easter Carnival Parade this year and we would love your company as it makes its way through town. In the lead up to the event, Blackwood artist Kathy Holowko will host a series of children's art workshops to learn about these amazing lifeforms and create some fungi fun costumes/artworks for the parade. There is also a chance there will be a 'grow your own mushrooms workshop' for adults. If you would like to get involved or help in any way please join the 'Blackwood and Barry's Reef Landcare Group' on Facebook or email kathyholowko@gmail.com for notifications.



Kathy dreamed up this bandwagon for fungi appreciation after daily walks in the fungi filled forest during lockdown. The hot pink caravan swings open its doors to reveal a diorama of a forest floor and has travelled to many places encouraging an appreciation for ecology through art and science. Kathy is super excited to have some art fun with the local community, check out her exhibition 'Wild City' which is on at ArtPlay in Melbourne until June.

This project is supported by Landcare and received a Moorabool Shire community grant.

Kathy Holowko Photo by Daniel Williams

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## DESIGNER MAKES TREE CHANGE TO COUNTRY VICTORIA

Interior designer, Project manager and all-round creative Vincent Jenden was originally based in South Yarra and had been visiting country victoria for many years. However the tree change dream and his love of Blackwood and the Macedon Ranges really started when he discovered Ambleside Country Park, an 1860s Colonial house and property in the historic Gold Mining town of Blackwood. That was seven years ago, Vincent and his partner who purchased the property now reside in Blackwood and have fully renovated their historic home and developed the two acres of country garden that surrounds the house.

Vincent Jenden Design (VJD) has design offices in South Yarra and Blackwood and works with private clients in Melbourne and throughout the regions, assisting them with all aspects of design. Interiors, furniture procurement, styling and he often finds his design skills reach out to his client's gardens and entertaining spaces. Vincent is known for his classic sensibilities in design where he cleverly combines contemporary elements and design with objects from all periods.

Recently Vincent opened an Interior Design space in the heart of Trentham located at the rear veranda and courtyard of Kuki Fashion. Vincent offers an ever changing range of decorative objects, sofas, feature chairs, soft furnishings, lighting and antique furniture pieces from the 17th, 18th & 19th centuries. Amongst his busy client schedule you can often find Vincent in his design space at Trentham over the weekend speaking with the many clients & locals that call in to say hello..



*Vincent Jenden Design*  
Interior Design – Project Management  
Antiques - Furniture - Soft Furnishings - Lighting  
Kuki Veranda and Courtyard  
38 High Street, Trentham, VIC, 3458  
Instagram: vincentjendendesign www.vincentjenden.com

## Anyone for Tennis and Netball ....



Hi All - as you would know by now, the Shire has completed the resurface of the tennis courts at the Blackwood Reserve. We would like the community's input into upgrading the surrounds of the tennis courts, ie, fencing, children's area, equipment, etc.

We would like to have a get together to discuss with those interested, your thoughts and ideas for this update and how to take this club further. There is funding available for the project, which we are sourcing at the moment.

**We are proposing a free BBQ on Friday, 23rd February from 6.30pm at the tennis courts. All welcome. BYO refreshments.**

**If you want to have a hit, bring your rackets and netballs.**

Blackwood Progress Association Inc.

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# BLACKWOOD WOODCHOP & EASTER CARNIVAL

**EASTER SATURDAY - Blackwood Reserve**

**10am Woodchop • 11am Parade**

**Street Parade • Arts & Crafts • Food & Drinks • Pet Show & Activities**

## AND MUSIC !!!

This year's Carnival will feature incredible music throughout the day, with high energy Australian-Celtic band **AUSTRAL** and old-time bluesman **C.W. STONEKING** leading the way.



## VOLUNTEERING

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

## PARADE

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

## STALLHOLDERS

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



**Entry \$20 • Seniors \$15 • Early Bird (Online) \$15 • Free entry 15 and under**

**Buy your Early Bird Tix using the QR code above**





# Support for the Blackwood CFA from the Trentham Community with Frances Harkin

This summer, Frances Harkin, from Harkin Estate Agents is bringing the Trentham community and Blackwood CFA together as a way of saying thank you on behalf of the locals.

On every coffee order, from the new VIC MARKET Café in Victoria Street, Trentham, Harkin Estate Agents contributed 50 cents, recently gifting the total donation to Captain Ross Hall.

The CFA are a dedicated and skilled team, performing roles beyond fire suppression; educating and engaging the community, helping residents develop fire plans and responding to other emergencies when they happen.

Our valued advice and knowledge in fire behaviour, fire safety, incident management and community preparation adds further strength to Victoria's trusted and united emergency services sector.

Whether delivering community education programs to prevent fires or responding effectively to fires that have occurred, the services the CFA deliver seek to achieve a common vision – Victorian communities that are prepared for and safe from fire.



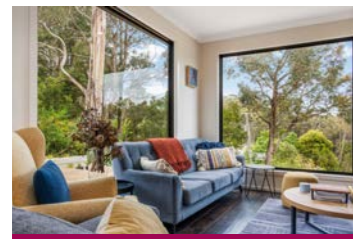
Captain Ross Hall being gifted a donation by Frances Harkin, from Harkin Estate Agents.

It is easy to be part of this ongoing community initiative, just head down to VIC MARKET café for your next coffee.

Property Update

## FOR SALE

10 Byres Road  
BLACKWOOD



**A Sustainable Modern Take On Golden Old**  
3 BED | 2 BATH | 4 CAR  
950 m<sup>2</sup>  
\$895,000 - \$985,000

19 Byres Road  
BLACKWOOD



**Brick home in the Heart of Blackwood!**  
3 BED | 2 BATH | 5 CAR  
1100 m<sup>2</sup>  
\$695,000

21 Thurgoods Lane South  
BARRYS REEF



**Two Delightful North Facing Cottages**  
4 BED | 2 BATH | 7 CAR  
2.5 Acres  
\$795,000

## RECENTLY SOLD

234 Blackwood Road, Trentham  
**SOLD - \$840,000**

15 Mulcahys Road, Trentham  
**SOLD - \$1,200,000**

150 Bergs Lane, Trentham East  
**SOLD - \$747,500**

560 Blackwood Road, Newbury  
**SOLD - \$470,000**

## LAND ONLY



14 Thompsons Road, Blackwood  
\$395,000 - \$439,500  
1 acre (with structures)



Lot 13 Old Blackwood Road  
\$250,000  
5,260.91 m<sup>2</sup>



SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW ALL LISTINGS

Contact Frances Harkin on 0425 766 799  
harkinestateagents.com.au

"Frances managed to list and sell my much-loved property for an excellent price in only 2 weeks! Drawing on her warm and sensitive approach combined with strong local market knowledge, she made the experience of selling a breeze, as I knew I was in confident and experienced hands. Thanks Frances for an exceptional and speedy result!" Dave

## • MEDIA RELEASES •

# Mary-Anne Thomas MP

LABOR MEMBER FOR MACEDON



## Media release

Friday, 19 January 2024

### READY TO LAUNCH REGIONAL TOURISM PROJECTS TO THE STARS

One in every 11 jobs in regional Victoria exists because of tourism, and the Allan Labor Government is bringing even more regional tourism projects to life.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas has launched the latest round of the Enabling Tourism Fund, which is all about getting the most exciting regional tourism ideas off the ground and ready for investment.

It has already supported the Bendigo Art Gallery and other projects across the state.

The new round of funding announced today will make available up to \$8 million to create a pipeline of more tourism infrastructure and more jobs.

Grants between \$20,000 and \$500,000 are open to tourism businesses, not-for-profit and Traditional Owner organisations, and more.

The grants will be delivered in two streams: the first providing support to test the concept of a large new infrastructure project like a feasibility study or masterplan.

The second stream funds detailed design packages, funding strategies or community engagement plans. Both are vital to attracting greater investment and getting projects off paper.

The fund is guided by five priorities of experiences that Victoria does best – First Peoples-led experiences, wellness, arts and culture, food and drink, and nature.

A new guide for tourism operators will also help them deliver projects that are ready for investment, delivering a great return and an even better experience for visitors.

The fund is one of the many things the Allan Labor Government is doing for regional tourism, with Bendigo's new planetarium now twice its size thanks to the Regional Tourism Investment Fund.

Applications for the Enabling Tourism Fund are open until Friday, 28 March 2024. For more information on the grants and the new guide, visit [tourism.vic.gov.au](http://tourism.vic.gov.au).

### Quote attributable to Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas

"From iconic Hanging Rock to spas and retreats in Daylesford and Hepburn, we know how amazing our local towns are for tourist visitors. These grants are an important step in welcoming more tourists, and supporting our local economy as we share our fantastic region with the world."

Media Contact: Kate Lee: 0438 196 211 [kate-ida.lee@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:kate-ida.lee@parliament.vic.gov.au)

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## • AROUND TOWN •

### DINNER CLUB

Dinner Club has started the year slowly with many Clubbers away during January. Don't forget if you are away from Blackwood on the first Thursday of the month you can still post photos from wherever you're visiting and having dinner, I made my tour group do dinner. Luv in Morocco. In February we have a full bus going to Cattelaya in Ballarat, the bus is full but we can amend the booking and organise a car pool if necessary.

*Kathy Berrill*

### NEW YEARS DAY RECOVERY BBQ



The annual Recovery BBQ was back at the Mineral Springs this year. The usual suspects were in attendance and it was great to see some new faces too. It is a very relaxed day, where everyone is welcome. It is great to see people bring their friends who are visiting Blackwood on the day. It was amusing to see a few people on the water this year after a big New Years Eve.

*Kathy Berrill*

### BLACKBEECH HONEY IN BLACKWOOD



Blackwood has a new little stall next to the Hat Shoppe, Blackbeech Honey. Sarsha Manual and her business partner Bill, run the honey stall as well as preparing and cooking NZ Fry Bread and Pizzas! Sarsha, originally from Oxford in New Zealand, fell in love with Blackwood and her favourite place is the Hat Shoppe where, when not making pizzas or selling honey, she can be found looking for new hats! Sarsha and Bill are passionate about their product and the process. They strive to ensure that the honey is ethically sourced and of the highest grade, with the rarest honey (Orohaki Honeydew) being sourced from native Black Beech forests and not from flower nectar! The stall is open Friday evening, and on Saturday and Sunday all day till about 7:00pm. I tried the mini NZ Fry Bread with vanilla whipped butter coated with honey and it was amazing!

Sarsha said that the take away pizzas have been very popular with Hawaiian, Mushroom, Peperoni and Margherita on offer. Sarsha is also thinking about other take away options, so if there is something you crave feel free to pass on your ideas.

It's been great having Blackbeech Honey operating in town, especially since we have a bit of extra sun around. It very relaxing sitting on the tables enjoying lunch or a snack with our amazing views!

*Paul Kukiel*

### WHOSE TATT IS THAT?

These tattoos hardly need any explanation! They have really helped with directions and on a daily basis. Many people in Blackwood will have seen them before!



*Annaliese Gee*

### ROSIE'S TAKE OUT

Opening every Wednesday night from 6.00 - 8.00 at Blackwood General. First month is Pizza.



### WHO IS BLACKWOODS CHRISTMAS GRINCH?



*It's Wayne haha*

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## • GIG & EVENTS GUIDE •

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
FEBRUARY		
Sat 3: from 10:30	Lyonsville Wood Chop	Lyonsville Hall
Sun 4: 2:30	Rebecca Barnard Jazz Show	The Cosmo
Sat 10: 7 - 9	Marlee Grace	Pig & Whistle
Sun 11: 12:30 - 3:30	Brian Sadler	Greendale Pub
Mon 12: 10 - 1	Super Bowl Live	Taproom, Bacchus Marsh
Fri 16: from 8:30	Line Dancing	Greendale Pub
Fri 16 - Sun 18	Bohemian Summer Festival	Phoenix Park, Ballan
Sun 18: 9 - 4	Ballan Vintage Rally & Tractor Pull	Ballan Racecourse Reserve
Sun 18: 1 - 3	Women's Clothing Swap	Trentham Neighbourhood Centre
Fri 23 - Sun 25	Sheilas Shakedown 2024	Phoenix Park, Ballan
Fri 23: 6:30	Free BBQ, tennis and netball (BYO drinks)	Blackwood Tennis Courts

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
FEBRUARY		
Sat 2: 7 - 9	Marlee Grace	Pig & Whistle
Sat 9: 8 - 2	Whole Town Garage Party	see map for stalls
Fri 15: from 8:30	Line Dancing	Greendale Pub
Sun 17: 12:30 - 3:30	Brian Sadler	Greendale Pub
Sun 17: from 7	Live music for St Patrick's Day	Flanagan's, Bacchus Marsh
Fri 23: 5 - 8	Brent Franke	Pig & Whistle
Fri 29: from 8	Tristan J Ross Country Night	Blackwood Pub
Sat 30: from 10	Blackwood Easter Carnival	Blackwood Recreation Reserve

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
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
Thu evenings	Pizza and movie night	Radio Springs
Mon	Locals night dinner and drink specials	Pig and Whistle
Fri, 5 - 9	Meat tray raffle & cocktail night	Greendale Pub
Fri pm	Meat tray raffle	The Cosmo
Fri pm	Raffle	Pig and Whistle
Last Fri monthly	Flashbank Friday with Ian Banks	The Taproom, Bacchus Marsh
Sun	Pizza Sundays with live music	St Anne's Winery
2nd/4th Sun: 2	Regular service	St Martin's Chapel

**Stop kidding yourself. If you drink, don't drive.**

Thinking about driving after a couple of drinks? Think again. If you blow .05 or over, you could face serious penalties, including fines, losing your licence, getting an interlock installed in your car and having to blow zero for three years.

TAC VICTORIA



## • COMMUNITY GROUPS & CLUB UPDATES •

### ANNOUNCING THE 122ND BLACKWOOD WOODCHOP & EASTER CARNIVAL



The Blackwood Woodchop & Easter Carnival was truly honoured and delighted to be crowned Winner of Moorabool Shire's Community Event of the Year 2023. Now in its 122nd year, this much loved event offers a fun, action-packed day out for the whole family. It features one of the oldest woodchopping competitions in Victoria, attracting axemen & women from across the State. The Carnival begins with a street parade, followed by a host of activities including tug-o-war, gumboot throwing, pet show, market stalls, delicious eats and licensed bars. There is loads of fun stuff for kids – treasure hunt, novelty games and races, face-painting and more. All set against the beautiful backdrop of Blackwood Recreation Reserve "the prettiest sportsground in Victoria"!

One element that makes the Easter Carnival here in Blackwood really special is the incredible live music on offer throughout the day...and this year's music program is absolutely top-notch. The lineup will see a tantalising mix of Americana, Australian-Celtic and original songs thrown into the melting pot.

One of our fabulous headline acts is none other than ARIA Award winner C.W. Stoneking. It's difficult to summarise all that this genre-spanning artist has to offer – old-time bluesman, potent storyteller, songwriter, guitarist and banjo player. C.W. himself describes his style as "Hokum Blues", a musical brew influenced by prewar blues, ragtime, vaudevillian novelty tunes, old hillbilly songs, jazz, and calypso. We are beyond thrilled that C.W. Stoneking will be performing right here at our Easter Carnival.

Another incredible headline act is four-piece band Austral - hot favourites on the folk festival circuit. Austral are a high-energy, Australian tunes band combining didgeridoo, Irish pipes, high powered fiddling, journeying songs and energetic foot percussion. Their music is infectious danceable and you'll find it hard to resist the urge to get up and join in with the dance party vibe. Austral are creating energetic new music from Celtic roots (and branches) to great acclaim at festivals at home and abroad. This band is not to be missed!

Also on the bill is Blackwood's own Fiona Ross. Fiona will be joined by fellow songstress Christine Kydd, who'll be visiting from Scotland. These two award-winning Scots singers will treat Carnival-goers to a timeless set of traditional, contemporary and original songs, all delivered in their characteristically earthy manner. The duo's appearance at the Blackwood Easter Carnival paves the way for their UK tour in April & May.

These are just a few of the acts who will be appearing throughout the day. Stay tuned for more amazing artist announcements via our Facebook page (see below) in the run up to Easter Saturday!

All this incredible live music is included in the festival ticket price of \$20 (Seniors tickets are \$15 and kids under 15 are free). Such a bargain! What's more, early bird discounted tickets (\$15) are available for a limited time via the TryBooking link and QR code below.

See you at the 122nd Blackwood Woodchop and Easter Carnival!

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BlackwoodWoodchop>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/blackwood3458/>

Website: <https://blackwood3458.com.au>

Tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/COPBM>

QR code



### PHOSPHORESCENCE, YOU SAID

Your moon's many shades of pale silver the flank of shoreline where our shadows squeak from dunes onto the flat slap stretching away from the waves. Bundled into backseats in the dead of night, dragged out of sleep in the heavy net of your arms to trudge out and witness this vast catchment of stars. We hover at the edge of the ocean and watch it explode – every wave.

Izzy Roberts-Orr



#### CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR RAFFLES

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- Winners will be drawn on Monday 12 February 2024
- Note: raffle has been extended from original draw date.



#### Expressions of Interest

#### Membership of Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management Incorporated

Nominations are invited from interested and skilled members of the community wishing to be considered for membership of the **Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management Incorporated**. This volunteer committee is responsible for the day-to-day management, care and development of the reserves under their control. The term of appointment is three years to 22 March 2027.

Specific interest or skills in one of the following areas would be highly regarded:

- Community connection;
- Governance;
- Financial management;
- Environmental management; and
- Teamwork

All registrations of interest for the voluntary role will be considered.

For further information and nomination forms, please contact Jennifer Bromley at [publicland.grampians@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:publicland.grampians@delwp.vic.gov.au) or phone 0448 389 270.

Expressions of Interest are to be on the formal nomination form and addressed to: Land and Built Environment Team, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action – 402 – 406 Mair Street, Ballarat Central, Victoria, 3350 or emailed to: [publicland.grampians@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:publicland.grampians@delwp.vic.gov.au).

Women, First Nations People, people with disabilities, young people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds are actively encouraged to apply to ensure that the committee's membership reflects the composition of the community it serves.

Expressions of Interest close Monday 19 February 2024 at 5pm.

[www.deeca.vic.gov.au](http://www.deeca.vic.gov.au)

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## • BEYOND BLACKWOOD •

### ELVIS IS IN THE BUILDING.



Well known Elvis impersonator Marcus Jackson played the Greendale Hotel on the 16th December. A few Blackwood people ventured down the hill for a great night of music and dancing. A great night was had by all who attended and it was great to see his loyal fans travel to Greendale to see the band perform, even though they thought it was a bit cold!

Kathy Berril

### TRENTHAM HOTEL



Fresh furrows have transformed the old Plough Hotel in Main St Trentham into the Trentham Hotel. The new Directors, Chris Anstey and Brooke Pollock, have a vision for the establishment to be a pub for the locals. Not clever and not a destination venue for out-of-towners, but a pub with high quality and affordable food and drink (Baykers brew at \$6 a pot; \$8 schooner & \$10 pint) & ginger beer on tap. There are 7 screens in the main bar covering every sport imaginable. Recently a patron was able to watch her niece being live-streamed as she competed in a basketball game in Albury. No problem for the venue manager, Ant(ony). For the non-sporting tragics, the bistro provides a quiet space with no screens, just the great food prepared by a team of chefs to ensure consistent quality.

Open Sunday to Thursday from 11am to 9pm & Friday/Saturday from 11am to 11pm.

Kath Berrill & John Kemp

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## • MEDIA RELEASES •

### MARC STADIUM COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Community members are invited to take part in an open day celebration at the \$17 million Moorabool Aquatic Recreation Centre (MARC) indoor stadium in Maddingley, the biggest facility of its kind in the shire.

Community can expect an array of free activities including adult and child-friendly Strength and Stretch classes, children's disco and various ball sport demonstrations. A sausage sizzle will be provided with a gold coin donation to the Belgravia Foundation, which aims to reduce participation barriers in sport and recreation.

"We are thrilled to open the doors of the MARC stadium to the community and showcase the state-of-the-art facilities; it's not just a stadium, but a hub for fitness, fun and community engagement," Moorabool Shire Mayor, Cr Ally Munari said.

Council has a three-year partnership with stadium operators, Belgravia Leisure, which will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the centre's four indoor highball courts, two multi-program spaces and function room with kitchenette.

The Community Open Day will be held on Saturday 20 January from 10am-1pm at the stadium located in Taverner Street, Bacchus Marsh.

For more information on the MARC stadium, please visit : [marcmoorabool.com.au](http://marcmoorabool.com.au).

*Anthony Cini - Digital Communications Advisor - Moorabool Shire*

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# SAM RAE MP

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

Your advertising investment will ensure that your business will be seen by residents and visitors to Blackwood, Trentham and Greendale with a print run of 500 copies and an average of 800 downloads per issue from our website:  
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