

April ~ May 2024 vol 15 ~ issue 16.6



Photo by John Kemp



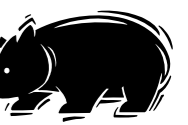
Photo by Peter Donnelly

With new regulations from Moorabool Shire and VicRoads requiring accredited companies to both produce the parade's Traffic Management Plan and man the road closure on the day (at a possible cost of around \$10,000) the future of this iconic and historic event is looking grim. Maybe Hetty the Hen needs to roll up to Spring Street for a stern word with our polities.

Brendan Hehir



The Blackwood Times acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional Owners of the land, waters & forest where we live & work. We pay deep respect to Elders past, present & emerging.



EDITOR'S THOUGHTS...

One of the first things I noticed when I moved to Blackwood 5 years ago was how much there was to do. Friends back in Melbourne would ask if I was bored, making an assumption that a town of Blackwood's size wouldn't have a lot going on. How wrong they were! Easter is obviously a special time here with a relatively small group of volunteers working tirelessly to put on a really big event. The sun was out again this year and thousands of people came from near and far to enjoy what is a very unique celebration.

During the remainder of the year we are spoilt with the number of events right here on our doorstep. From music festivals and bush dances to trivia nights or murder mystery evenings, there really is something for everyone. It might be having a social drink at the cricket while supporting our only sporting club and watching half of the town's children running around having the time of their lives, a game of bocce, a band at the pub or heading out with the dinner club. Back in the burbs not too far from the city I am sure I had to look harder and travel further to find such a variety of entertainment. A huge thank you to everyone in town who contributes to making sure we all have something fun to look forward to!

Kylie – editor for this issue

A Special Thank You: Here is a special call out to Peter Donnelly who constantly supplies a great amount of photos in each edition, sometimes we forget to attribute all our photos (forgive us it's never on purpose). Peter has again supplied many of the photos in this edition and we continue to value his input.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hey guys,
A possibility to consider for future publications could be a kids photo entry of wildlife/animal photos.



An entry could be published each issue and at the end of the year a prize could be awarded to the best entry. I have attached examples of what could be shown. Cheers Don Owen

Have noticed the Australian Flag flying at the Historical Building. Great to see as I pass through on the way to work.

Trentham Neighbour

TREVOR CRAWFORD - WOODLANDS WILDLIFE RESCUE

Blackwood is surrounded by the unique native wildlife we all love. This interview highlights the amazing volunteers who dedicate their time and finances to rescuing and saving the lives of injured animals.

Q: How did you get involved with Wildlife Rescue, and how long have you participated as a volunteer?

A friend of mine suggested that I should do a training course that was being run in Greendale by local wildlife group BADGAR. I already had a strong love of animals and the outdoors. I quickly started responding to rescue calls and discovered the extent of animals in need of assistance. I rescue pretty much full time now and I am also a licenced wildlife rehabilitator. I don't think many people are aware of the sheer number of injured, displaced, orphaned wildlife there are. I have been rescuing for 4.5 years. We have recently started our own not-for-profit group called Woodlands Wildlife Rescue to help try and support us staying on the road.

Q: What is the role of Wildlife Rescue Victoria?

Volunteer wildlife rescuers and carers around Victoria respond to basically all incidents impacting our native animals. We also quite often find ourselves attending to injured domestic and even pest animals. We respond to animals hit by cars, caught in fences, trapped in holes and dams etc, attacked by cats and dogs, illegally shot, sick and the list goes on! We must assess these animals to try and determine the extent of their injuries. We then transport these animals to vet clinics or nearby wildlife shelters. Many of these rescues are roadside and can sometimes be quite dangerous when there is fast moving traffic, like on the side of freeways.

Q: Could you describe what a normal active week involves, and some of the rescues you have done in Blackwood and the surrounding areas?

A normal week for me involves many kangaroo call-outs, usually starting around 6am, as people start seeing the animals that have been hit and injured overnight and calls quite often continue right through the day and into the night. I have had days where I have euthanised 10 kangaroos in a single day which ended up with 3 orphaned joeys. I

HOW'S THE WEATHER BEEN?

MONTH/ YEAR	Rainfall (mm)	Rainfall historical average (mm)	Temp monthly min (deg C)	Temp monthly max (deg C)	Temp average daily max (deg C)	Temp average daily min (deg C)	Temp average for month (deg C)
Jan'24	88	51.1	4.6	31.3	23.5	10.5	16.3
Feb'24	5.5	52.7	2.3	34	25.8	9.6	16.7

High rainfall in January but very low in February. Just looking at the data recorded so far for March shows 35 deg for Saturday 9th which was one of the three consecutive very hot days but at least Blackwood cools down at night so a good nights sleep is possible not like Melbourne.

~ Don Owen

also do tranquilliser darting so I respond to animals that are displaced in people's yards, schools, and industrial complexes. I have attended many injured kangaroos, wallabies, wombats and many different bird species in the Blackwood area. We have saved many orphans also from the Blackwood area. Along the way we have met many amazing, caring people.



BLACKWOOD TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

We all take for granted having phone lines in Blackwood. In fact, probably half of us no longer have a land line! This is a photo of the Blackwood Telephone Exchange. Yes this is the actual Exchange that was operated right here in Blackwood.

If you have any further information on the Blackwood Telephone Exchange please write in, or pop in on an Open Day, as we would love to know more.

Contact:

team@theblackwoodhistoricalsociety.com.au



the BLACKWOOD TIMES info

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

Advertisement bookings	May 15	
Regular contributors, features & items of interest, community groups & clubs	May 15	
Display ad artwork		May 20
Late breaking news (100 words max)		May 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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The Community Newspaper Association of Victoria (CNAV) is the peak body representing not-for-profit community newspapers across Victoria. CNAV works actively with its members to enhance the capacity & standing of community newspapers, to enable them to fully realise their vital role in communities.

MEMBER 2022

Q: What is the importance of this organisation?

This service is absolutely critical because we are the only ones doing this. If it wasn't for the volunteers rescuing and rehabilitating our native animals there would be no one else to respond to these animals.

Q: How can we help support Wildlife Rescue, and who do we contact if we want to get involved?

Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation is 100% volunteer and completely self-funded. If it wasn't for the kind donations of the public, we literally couldn't do this. If you would like to help, then donating directly to your local rescuers or shelters is a way of guaranteeing the money is going directly to help the animals. We are losing rescuers and shelters at an alarming rate due to the sheer cost of rescuing and caring with absolutely no support funding. I can personally speak from experience as I have lost my entire life savings over the last 4.5 years as it is very hard to stop rescuing when you know how many animals need assistance. My partner and I usually do between 25 and 40 rescues a week and drive between 1000 and 1500km every week at a cost of nearly \$1000 per week which is extremely tough as we are also not working at paid employment. This is why many people are forced to stop being involved with animal rescues. If you wish to get involved, Wildlife Victoria run various training courses on rescuing and transporting our native animals. If you see an animal in need of assistance, then calling Wildlife Victoria on 84007300 will ensure the messages get out to the largest numbers of volunteer rescuers.

How lucky we are to have all our local wildlife volunteers who work tirelessly, so please help support and fund this important cause by donating to Woodlands Wildlife Rescue on 0438 677 672. Continue to keep an eye on future local fundraisers to assist this aim too.

Interviewed by Noelle Shader



APRIL IS COMMUNITY SUPPORT MONTH

Apply for one-off support for your project or event.

Applications are open from 1 to 30 April.



CENTRAL HIGHLANDS WATER





THE BLACKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S POLICE STABLES MUSEUM.

Courtesy Margot Hitchcock, Historian for the Blackwood & District Historical society. March 2024.

The building which now houses the Blackwood Historical Society's Museum was once the Blackwood Police Stables. The original stables were the front of the building before the additions to the back. The Stables stood on the old Police Reserve in Martin Street, Blackwood. The house on the property was the Police Station, later established as the School Masters residence, and now part of the Blackwood Special Schools Education Centre. The stables have a long history of construction, repairs, removal and conversion, which spans a period of over 169 years, since May 1855. The original stables were removed from Golden Point in Blackwood to its present position in 1880 making the building in this position 144 years old.

The stables were constructed in a prefabricated form by "Sharp & Sons" – Timber Merchants of Melbourne, and stored at the Richmond Depot. The stable sections were brought to Blackwood on a police wagon, and assembled in the Police paddock at Golden Point, and housed stalls for six horses, and a fodder room. It is believed they were completed by December of 1855, as it is reported that one mounted sergeant and five constables were operating from the stables by that time.

In 1880 the Police station at Golden Point was closed, and a new station was established within the Blackwood township in Martin Street. Mr. Andrew Buchanan of Blackwood was given the task of removing the stables from Golden Point and reassembling them on the new station area, but limiting their capacity to two horse stalls only. The Blackwood Police stables have a long history connected to law and order on the Blackwood Goldfields, including two murders in 1908.

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

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

A re-enactment of the gold-field days by members of the society in costume and assisted by mounted 'troopers' from the 'Historical Pageantry Society' over the Labour Day weekend in March 1977 with the Police Stables open to the public was a great success and added publicity to the Museum. Work was done on the interior of the stables where various donations of historical items were put on display.

As noted by Stuart Duff during restorations - "The roof is the original galvanised iron which is screwed down. The stables' exterior walls were not painted, only the trims, such as vents, doors, facing boards, etc, which were painted buff and brown. The original brick lined, drain is still visible. The 'Fodder Room' is in its original condition, and the stable area was being prepared for restoration. The Society is grateful to Mr. Len Undy of the Public Record Office, and Sergeants Morrison and Storer of the "Victoria Police Public Relations Branch" for all their support and assistance in our research and restoration project." The doors and window surrounds were painted in the buff and brown colours as it was originally and some of the old weather boards were replaced and the guttering. The room next to the stable area was where the saddles, harnesses and fodder were kept. This room has flooring and the ceiling is lined with cedar lining boards." In 1998 work was commenced by the President of the Society, Allan Hall, a builder, to extend the back of the Police Stables to incorporate a meeting room with record storage space and in future, computers for public use, also a kitchen and a big area to display historical items and

photographs etc. This work was completed approx. 2003 during which time the Historical Society, had been dormant for several years. The Historical Society, resumed in December 2004 with some original and new Members interested in continuing the work of the Police Stables restoration so it could be an added Tourist attraction to Blackwood and show some of Blackwood's fascinating Gold Mining history. To commemorate Blackwood's 155 years of gold mining history Allan Hall had built a Poppet Head which was placed outside the Museum with an OPEN sign when the Museum is open to the public.

2021 – The Historical Society's Police Museum is dedicated to the memory of the late Allan Hall (passed away 19th November 2021) who dedicated so much of his time and personal Historical possessions to the building and preserving of the Museum for all Blackwood people to enjoy.

See my website for further information at <https://www.blackwoodpublishing.com/>



Blackwood Police stables before renovations in 1977 and 1998 with Allan Hall and Brian working on the Historical Society's Museum extensions at the back. Photos courtesy Margot Hitchcock.



Blackwood Police Stables after extension and restoration with Poppet Head, Allan Hall built. Photo courtesy Margot Hitchcock 2009. *Renactment Team 1977 with the 'Historical Pageantry Society' and horses.*

Margot Hitchcock

DON OWEN'S TEMPERATURE MACHINE

Have you ever wondered how the Times provides you with the data for "How's the weather been?" well, you're about to learn. Don Owen sends us the data for each issue. Don is a 5th generation Blackwood identity, in fact his Grandfather was one of the miners at The Easter Monday mine and used to trek all that way on foot to the mine and back every day! Don is an electrical engineer and is well versed in building and programming electrical devices. Don used a schematic (as attached) to build 2 parts of the machine- the temperature capture piece and the recording piece. Temperature is captured via a semi-conductor temperature probe which is located in a weather-shield and fed by a cable to a recorder box. The other method also uses a semiconductor temperature probe located in a similar weather-shield, however, the data is sent via UHF to the recorder box. Both methods are recorded and are displayed on a LCD display on the recorder box - see attached block diagram. The recorder box is powered from a mains-fed regulated power supply with a 3 day battery backup in case of a power outage. The batteries in the UHF transmitter last about 12 months.

The temperature is recorded every hour on a removable memory card and is then downloaded to a PC every month. A RTC (real time clock) timestamps every recorded measurement. Don also wrote all the software that performs the processing using the Arduino platform.

Thanks, Don, for the data and thanks for explaining the setup.

Paul Kukiel



IMPENDING TRAVESTY AT PYKES CREEK RESERVOIR

If you have never visited the picturesque Pykes Creek Reservoir located South of Greendale in the Moorabool Shire, you really need to. This popular reservoir managed by Southern Rural Water on the Western Freeway primarily supplies water to the Bacchus Marsh and Werribee irrigation districts. It's open for public recreation, including boating, water skiing, swimming, fishing, and kayaking. It has playground and BBQ facilities, picnic areas and is simply a beautiful place to enjoy with your family. People living near the coast can visit a beach, but if you live in the Central Highlands, that's over an hour away, this is what we have. Nature lovers will appreciate the majesty of the Wedge-tailed Eagles that live here. They are often seen flying over the reservoir at dusk as they return home to roost on the western ridge of the reservoir.

This is where AusNet and the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) think is an appropriate location to build the Western Renewables Link, a dual 500kV transmission power line with 60 to 80 metre high steel lattice towers. That's as big as powerlines get in Australia.

There are a lot of Aboriginal place names here. Waterways are particularly important to Indigenous Australians. As a tributary of the Werribee River, it's no surprise that the early Ballan settlers recorded in their journals encountering the Kutung, the Wathourung, the Wurundjeri, the Jaara and the Ngurelban. There were many eyewitness accounts of corroborees, tribal fights and the inevitable clashes with settlers. Cutumninip is the Aboriginal name for the creek which flowed through the centre of what was to become the property taken up in 1839 by Sir John Lewes Pedder, formerly the Chief Justice of Van Deimen's Land (Tasmania). Pedder owned Cutumninip until 1855 when it was sold to Mr Thomas Hamilton who renamed it "Glen Pedder". The land on which Greendale now stands was originally a part of this run. Cutumninip Creek which feeds into Pykes Creek Reservoir from the North is now known as Dale Creek. Two brothers named Dale managed Glen Pedder on behalf of Sir John Lewes Pedder. The Glenpedder Homestead survives and is currently on the Victorian Heritage Register.

The inlet to the North West of the Pykes Creek Reservoir is Korjamnunnip creek. Gold was being mined here in 1884. The Western Renewables Link is proposed to run through the Korjamnunnip gully, then over the reservoir with a tower located on the tongue of land between the Korjamnunnip and Cutumninip creeks.

A map showing the proposed transmission route can be viewed at <https://www.westernrenewableslink.com.au/>

A short video of Pykes Creek Reservoir can be viewed here:

<https://www.facebook.com/619170158/videos/323193994070236/>

Out of all the possible places to route a new transmission line, over the top an aesthetically pleasing waterbody open for public recreation with high visual impact, through prime agricultural land on both sides, through a location of cultural and heritage significance, with eagles, is what they came up with as the best option.

If this offends you as much as it does me, please write to your MP's and ask for alternative routing for the Western Renewables Link, or for it to be built as underground HVDC.

Underground transmission, does not fall over in storms, it does not get hit by lightning, it does not need to be turned off in a bushfire or get in the way of fire fighting efforts. Underground powerlines are not susceptible to wire-strike by light aircraft and have minimal impact on visual amenity, wildlife and agricultural operations.

HVDC is more efficient, can be run further, underwater and the maintenance requirements of the lines and easements are greatly reduced.

A once in a generation energy transition requires modern, low impact, efficient infrastructure, not more of what we did in the last century. Once built, this will be with us well into the next.

by Steve Clark

BLACKWOOD PEDESTRIAN PATH PROJECT

The beautiful, gentle summer weather has prompted many local residents and holiday-makers to take advantage of our Lerderberg home. However, many of us are finding that despite the abundant local resources available in Blackwood, safe access to town is severely limited by a lack of pedestrian pathways. As a result, residents who use car-seats and car-lifts would rather commit to longer journeys away from Blackwood by car to warrant the effort of buckling everyone and everything in.



Local kids gathering to show the need for a safe path

We are proposing the construction of a pedestrian path along Greendale-Trentham Rd to Martin St to connect all Blackwood residents with the town centre for the below reasons:

- Road safety** for pedestrians and motorists alike by increasing visibility around bends and providing designated and protected travel zones.
- Increased mobility** for residents using prams, bicycles, walking aids etc. to access the town centre and make important social and community connections.
- Facilitate existing and predictable pedestrian traffic** for local students using the school bus services and visiting students traveling between campuses at the Blackwood Outdoor Education School.
- Encourage accessibility** to 'green' ways of travel, partaking in safe, healthy lifestyle choices like our wonderful hiking paths, springs, and reserves.
- Participate** in our wonderful community initiatives like annual Trick or Treating, garage sales, Blackwood Eagles and kids' cricket, St Martin's markets, trivia, and local events.
- Clear roadside vegetation** to manage grass-fire risk, reduce roadkill, and provide larger thoroughfare in case of fallen trees, limbs, or the need for evacuation in a bush fire.

Currently, this project is awaiting review and approval from the "Capital Improvement Program" department of Moorabool Council. We hope to successfully and enthusiastically advocate for local residents' right to a safe and accessible means of travel through Blackwood.

Keep an eye on the Blackwood Times and around town for further updates and plans to raise awareness and support for a Blackwood Pedestrian Path in 2024!

Kathleen Cashin



REMINISCENCES OF A CHILD – CIRCA 1946

(In reply to “Jessie’s Jam”)
 Oh Mother dear, now that you and I are really getting old,
 I think the time has come for the story to be told.
 I remember thinking, breaking up from school,
 “Holidays at Blackwood!” O, what a little fool!
 Lurking in your grey cells was a devious little plan;
 “How can I get this rotten kid to help me with my jam?”
 After Christmas dinner and a friendly little chat,
 You were sitting, thinking – like a cunning pussycat.
 All us kids were ready for a lovely little swim,
 But all our plans were thwarted by your selfish, jammy whim.
 “Oh children”, you would carol in a gentle little voice,
 There are goosegogs in the garden, they are really looking choice”.
 We would crossly throw our bathers down thinking “Miserable old brute!”
 And pick our little basins up and go and pick the fruit.
 But that was just the start of it – more was yet to come.
 That was just a part of it, I’m giving you the drum!
 We’d have to scrounge around about and look for jars and pots;
 So, we’d sneak up to the cemetery and pinch them off the plots!
 Then Aunt Peg and Uncle Tom would turn up with their brood;
 What Bruce and Bill said of you, dear, was really rather rude!
 Yes, they were press-ganged right along with the Dunsdales and the Brickers
 And all us kids would end the day with prickles in our knickers.
 Donald had the right idea, the rotten little brat;
 He would be a perfect pain – cunning little rat.
 So, he’d be left with Aunt Luce, playing with his toys;
 We were not so fortunate, the older girls and boys.
 Uncle Tom would take the blokes and head for Greendale pub,
 While we kids were down at Broad’s, picking berries by the tub.
 It’s Autumn and the blackberries are ripe down by the creek.
 Now’s our chance to fix her!! We’ll really make her shriek!
 We kids would get our own back and double up with glee
 When we would yell out “Snake!”, and watch you shinny up a tree!
 Mother, you get all the credit for this fruit preserving lurk,
 But the truth can now be told:
 US KIDS DID ALL THE WORK!!!

Sonia (née Samways) Paterson. 1986

A BLACKWOOD GARDEN - AUTUMN

Last issue I talked a lot about pumpkins. An update; the self-seeded JAP pumpkins (just another pumpkin) produced lots of flowers but not one pumpkin. From the other Jarrahdale seedlings only one plant has taken off like a trifid; growing metres in every direction and with about ten small pumpkins. Hopefully there’s time for them to grow and ripen before the frosts come.

I dug some Dutch Cream potatoes before their greenery had died back, and was amazed at the size and quantity especially as these had grown from what I must have missed when harvesting last year. I’m hoping those I left in will have grown larger for when in need of more. After digging spuds if you want to store them, don’t wash them and keep them in a cool dark place.

The white cabbage butterflies, which we had in such huge numbers over Summer, laid so many eggs on my rocket, that it was spoilt even before it was eaten by the caterpillars and nasturtiums never even got a chance to really grow before they were eaten.

My success stories this season are definitely the Zinnias (unfortunately an annual) and the Agastache of which I planted ‘Sweet Lili’ and ‘Salmon and Pink’ varieties to achieve height and colour variation when planted together. Agastache are perennials so hopefully they will do well again after I cut them back in late winter. They have been flowering since late Spring and are still going strong well into Autumn and best of all, are an absolute magnet for the bees.

After having the wet start to Summer, the dry heat has certainly kicked in with a vengeance. In fact when the heat first hit in mid-January, with a couple of days in the mid 30s, some plants were totally scorched. Although December and January were wet; since then the rain has been negligible and so I’ve been watering ever since. Veggies especially need regular watering and feeding.

I hope your Autumn harvest will be bountiful and that you’ve enjoyed your garden successes and learned a bit more about gardening here in Blackwood. Get out there and soak up the heat while it lasts, as just around the corner, you know what’s coming next!

Jane Howat

BLACKWOOD MAKERS- SUE BORG ARTIST



Q: You mentioned you started painting about 7 years ago as a form of therapy after a back injury ended your veterinary nursing career. What drew you to painting wildlife and nature scenes?

I’ve always loved animals and nature. My career has centered around caring for wildlife, both as a vet nurse and wildlife rescuer. Painting birds and other animals was a natural extension of who I am. I taught myself by looking at photos online and attempting to recreate them on canvas. It

took years of practice to develop my style and skills. Now I paint the birds and landscapes I see right here in my beloved Blackwood surroundings.

Q: How has the Blackwood community embraced your art?

Wonderfully! The locals here really support each other. I donate paintings to various town fundraisers when I can. Last year I contributed a piece for the popular Easter Bingo event. I also participate in two big regional art shows each year - the Rotary Art Show in Bacchus Marsh and the show in Daylesford. I also sell some of my paintings and prints through my website.

Q: You moved here in 2020 and mention falling in love with the area. What do you love most about living in Blackwood?

The natural surroundings. I specifically wanted a tree-change near forest and wildlife. My property backs right up to the bush, which I think is stunning. I used to walk for hours on the trails until a knee injury sidelined me. The river walk is a favourite. There’s so much fascinating history here that you discover living in Blackwood. The gold mining relics, the old buildings, even hearing stories from old-timers who grew up here. The community is so supportive too. My husband I go to the Blackwood pub almost every weekend to chat with friends and neighbours. It’s our way of supporting local businesses. I really can’t imagine living anywhere else. They’ll have to carry me out of here someday!



You can see more of Sue’s art at: <https://www.suzannemarieart.com.au> and follow Sue on Instagram at Susan.Marie.Art and FaceBook by searching Susan Marie Art

Interviewed by Paul Kukiel

FRESH MOUNTAIN WATER

Whenever you take a long draught of cool, clear, colourless and tasteless Blackwood water do you think ‘boring’ or, rather, how lucky we are? There are very few other places in Australia where the joy of drinking water straight from the tap is not spoiled by the taste of chlorine, salt, or some other contaminant. How was it that a small town in the middle of a forest ended up with such good reticulated water?



Clearly, the location has a lot to do with it but it is never quite as simple as it might appear. The district is famous for the mineral springs and high salinity of the groundwater so we couldn’t just dig a well for water. The Lerderderg River was a source. Famously, Americans blasted a tunnel near O’Briens Crossing, Chinese diverted Yankee Creek and Pauline Bonford built weirs, dams and kilometres of water races, but the Lerderderg is prone to running dry in summer. When the storms come, infrastructure could be washed away in one event. The remnants of the Crown Dam are a testament to the power of the river in flood. Where could a constant flow of clean, clear water come from?

The answer lay in our high rainfall. This reliable precipitation meant that the soil and creeks at the top of the Great Divide downstream of Newbury stay moist and a reliable source of fresh, high-quality water. Flowing quickly down the slope, sufficient water is diverted from Long Gully Creek and Kyneton Gully Creek during the winter flow that storage basins could be refilled each year.

A 1978 public meeting initiated the project to get Blackwood a stand-alone water supply. Opened in 1987 as a water collection and storage facility, but was further improved in 2005 with a filtration plant. The current DAFF process uses Dissolved Air Flotation and Filtration to remove suspended material. Immediately prior to delivery, the water is sanitised by ultra-violet lamps. Both processes mean that there are no residual chemicals left in the water; pure, clean and safe.

The Department of Health requires testing and reporting to support community confidence in the supply. Neither Chlorine nor Fluoride are added to Blackwood water. Annual testing gives a natural background Fluoride concentration of 0.02 mg/L, just 2% of the therapeutic level. In order to protect growing teeth, permanent residents should seek professional advice and consider fluoride treatments for young children. Because no Chlorine or other residual antimicrobials are added and disinfection is achieved by UV irradiation, high turbidity would be problematic. In 2022/23 the Turbidity 95th percentile was 0.4 when the limit is 5.0 NTU. Turbidity did spike at 3.5 NTU in the 2020/21 storm year.

The pH results range from 7.0 to 9.5 with a mean of 8.0. Hardness and colour are well within the guideline values. Blackwood water consistently meets the compliance criteria, most often with a mere fraction of the compliance limit. Toxic ions and heavy metals (Mercury, Arsenic, Cyanide, Cadmium, Selenium) are generally not even quantifiable using validated methods. As might be expected, none of a range of herbicides, insecticides or fungicides were measurable in the source water.

In essence, Blackwood and Barrys Reef are lucky to have pure water supplied by modern infrastructure that is currently being well managed by Central Highlands Water and Veolia. There is a responsibility on residents and visitors to keep the water pure by ensuring the effluent from septic systems and run-off from our properties is as clean and safe as possible. Not just for our water supply but also for users of the catchment downstream of the Wombat Forest and Lerderderg Park.

References: <https://www.chw.net.au/community/water-quality> and personal correspondence.

Michael Hotchin

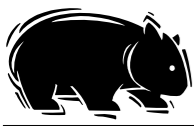
SAM RAE MP

LABOR MEMBER FOR HAWKE

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Modelled by Sam Rae MP, 100 McKenzie Street Melton VIC 3337



THE BLOODY WASPS ARE BACK: HOW TO SAFELY LOCATE AND DESTROY WASP NESTS

Prior to Covid, European wasps were becoming quite a problem in Blackwood. The three preceding Easter Carnivals were blighted by wasps: in one incident a child who had been stung inside his mouth had to be rushed to hospital. In response to the growing wasp problem, Landcare ran a wasp eradication campaign. It was very effective, so much so that the past few years have been relatively wasp free. Covid played a role - fewer people and less food waste means fewer wasps. But it wasn't just Covid – locals found and killed dozens of queens, and dozens of nests. Well done us!

It's That Time Again

The time for killing queens (early summer) this season has passed, but the time for finding and destroying wasp nests is upon us. So here are some tips to help you in your wasp nest eradication efforts.

Is it Safe?

It is, provided you take sensible precautions. Wear clothing that doesn't leave skin exposed. Long sleeves shirts and trousers; no exposed midriff or ankles. Button up cuffs and collars so that wasps can't get inside your clothing and sting you, recalling that wasps, unlike honey bees, can sting multiple times. To protect your face you can make a veil from gauze or netting. Drape it over a soft hat and tuck it into your collar, all around your neck. No gaps, especially if you find a nest that's above ground, make sure you're fully covered and buttoned down. You don't want wasps flying horizontally into the sleeves of your shirt, for example.

What do European Wasps look like?

Hopefully you already know this, but just in case: European wasps are quite a bit larger than honey bees, and have bright yellow and black stripes. Honey bees are a quite a bit smaller and their stripes aren't as sharply delineated.

If I find a Wasp Nest, what are my options?

You can call a pest eradicator, or call on someone in town who's experienced at destroying nests; or, if you if take the necessary precautions, do it yourself. Unless you're able bodied, leave it for others. And if you've ever had an allergic reaction to wasp or bee stings, or are prone to allergies generally, you absolutely should not attempt to destroy a wasp nest. If you do decide to destroy it yourself, I highly recommend getting someone experienced to help you, for at least the first nest (If I'm around, I'd be happy to assist).

So Where Are European Wasp Nests?

Under the ground, in any sort of wall cavity, in accumulated rubbish or junk, in or up a tree. About 80% of nests are underground, and that's good because these are generally much easier to find. They have an obvious, clearly defined entrance hole (once you spot it). It will be 5-15cm in diameter and appear black against the background of earth or clay, provided it's not obscured by branches of bushes (sometimes they are).

Ok, But How Can I Find the Nest?

If the nest is in your house, you may quite literally hear them. If it's in your yard, they'll be flying all over the place and driving you nuts. You'll have little trouble finding the nest. Follow the 'wasp gradient' to its source. If it's outside your house or yard ...I won't lie: it will require time and patience to find the nest. But don't despair: if you persist, you'll probably find it. And if you do find and destroy the nest, your neighbours for at a radius of at least 250m will be in your debt. They should shout you a drink! The basic technique is to follow the wasps back to their nest. But before you spend time on that, speak to your neighbours: if you're lucky, one of them might already have an idea of where the nest is. Tracking wasps isn't as easy as it might sounds, because when wasps are foraging - which is what they're doing most of the time - their often low to the ground, and when they're not,

their flight paths are seemingly random. If you're seeing quite a lot of wasp activity the wasp nest will be quite near, say within a radius of 50 metres. That doesn't mean the nest will be easy to find, especially during the daytime. Only if the nest is quite near, say within 25m, is there a reasonable chance of finding it in daytime. The technique is to wander around slowly to see if you can find a place where there seems to be a lot of wasps buzzing about. That means you're near the nest: even during the daytime, wasps must travel to and from their nests. The very best time to look for wasp nests is late afternoon / early evening, when all wasps must return to their nest. At that time you have a much better chance of identifying the direction to their nest from their flight paths. Stand still and watch for a good while - perhaps 10 minutes - to see if you can discern an average direction. If so, walk in that direction for a little bit, and stop, and do the same thing again. With luck, you're walking towards the nest. Rinse and repeat. It requires a lot of patience. If at some point you observe wasps all converging on one point, especially vertically downward: congratulations, you have found your nest. Maybe you aren't ready to deal with it right now. That's ok - mark the location (not the nest itself of course!) with some sticks or stones or spray paint and come back at a more convenient time. Late afternoon / early evening is a good time to hunt for wasp nests for another reason: it's much easier to see insects silhouetted against the setting sun. Position yourself accordingly - you need to be looking towards the setting sun. If you're patient enough, you will likely find the nest, eventually, and it's a very exciting moment. The good news is that once you've found your first nest, it will be quite a bit easier to find the next one. After about three or four nests, you'll be an expert. It's kind of addictive!

How To Safely Destroy a European Wasp Nest

The only safe and effective way of destroying a wasp nest is to use wasp powder, such as Bayer 'Ant and Wasp Dust'. You 'puff' the powder into and around the entrance of the nest. Wasps entering the nest carry it in on their bodies, and it kill the wasps inside. It works quickly and it is very effective. By far the best time to do it is in the evening, when the wasps are all back home in their nest. There's no need to wait until it's pitch black - you don't want to be stumbling around in the dark. Some people use a red torch or torch with red cellophane over it, as wasps apparently can't see much red. I just use a dim torch. Follow the instructions on the wasp powder container. There will be a guard wasp at the entrance of the nest. Consider taking this one out first. I sometimes use a blast of insect spray. Regardless, make sure the first puff of the wasp powder hits them, or they will signal your presence to the other wasps, and you don't want that to happen. It only takes 30 seconds or so to puff out a nest. Do it quickly but calmly and use plenty of powder. I always use more powder than is necessary, for my own peace of mind. Then, walk briskly away from the nest and let the powder do its work. The powder is deadly to wasps, and those near the entrance will walk it into the inner parts of the nest. Don't hang around - go home and come back the next day to see the result.

Bad Ways of Destroying a Nest

DON'T try to "burn them out" with fuel. This is a bad and dangerous idea, plus you might just set fire to the forest, which would be embarrassing for all concerned. DON'T try to dig the nest out. Say you know where a wasp nest is and you happen to have a backhoe or similar. DON'T try and dig it out or bury it. If you cave the nest in, expect a large number of angry wasps to emerge. If you bury it, they will simply tunnel out, and will likewise be cross.

Where Can I Get this Wasp Powder Stuff?

Garden nursery or hardware store. Supermarket if you're lucky.

Good luck!



Peter Donnelly

FAREWELL SOPHIE AND CURLY

Hey Soph and Curly, thanks for taking a few minutes to chat. The first thing I need to ask is WHY ARE YOU LEAVING US?

Sophie's parents, Noel and Di, who some of you may have met, are having a few little health problems and need some support, so we're going to go over to Adelaide to do that. While we're there we're going to fit in a bit of a caravanning adventure and see where life takes us. We're super sad to be leaving Barrys Reef, as we've never felt so at home anywhere.

How long is it that you have been in Barrys Reef and how did you end up here?

We've been lucky enough to be in the Reef for just over 6 of the best years of our lives. An old friend from Adelaide, Scott O'Hara, moved to Dales Creek a few years before we got up here and had a pretty wild party one night that Sophie was lucky enough to attend. It was quite late and Sophie may have had 5 million champagnes when the neighbours came round to the party and asked if "any of youse city people wanna buy our house?". In her drunken state, Sophie thought it was a great idea. While we didn't end up buying that house, once we had the Blackwood bug it didn't take us long to find the perfect place. We decided we didn't want to be in the hustle and bustle of the Blackwood city centre, so decided to move to Barrys Reef for a bit of peace and quiet.

You have both spent a lot of time volunteering and supporting the community in various ways. Are there any standout moments you can share?



Laz Acres

Firstly, we've been blown away by all the legends who lend a hand in this town - so shout out to them, they are what make this place so special and we just wanted to help them out a little bit.

Curly - Seeing the tireless work and dedication from CFA captain Ross and the rest of the team during this fire season was a highlight. Blackwood CFA provided a crew at all of the major fire events in Western Victoria and I was proud to assist with several.

Sophie - BERG "meetings" where we discuss emergency preparedness passionately with too many wines have been some of my favourite times in Blackwood, but I'm also very proud of the success of the Trentham Fashion Swap where I've been able to combine my passion for sustainability with an opportunity to always get a fabulous new outfit to wear to the pub.

What are some of the things unique to Barrys Reef and Blackwood that you think you might miss the most?

The absolutely iconic characters who make up Blackwood, our wonderful Barrys Reef family, the incredibly therapeutic bush, the monkey puzzle tree, and obviously, the pub! What a magical, chaotic and fun place it is.

Anything you're thinking maybe not so much?

We thought we'd have peace and quiet in Barrys Reef but it turns out it's pretty hectic here too.

The two of you have been universally loved during your time here, not just for your friendship and the fact you are both a load of fun, but for the community support I referred to earlier. Curly, you have been a very active member of the CFA and the Historical Society and Soph you have been a founder of the Blackwood Emergency Resilience Group as well as working with the Trentham Sustainability Group and the Easter Carnival. On behalf of the wider community I want to not only wish you all the best for the next adventure but to also say a huge thanks for your friendship, your support of the community and your all round awesomeness. We miss you already.

We miss you already! Leaving is breaking our hearts. We love all you kooky, hilarious humans so much. Thank you for making us feel so loved and welcomed. We'll be back to visit you soon!

Kylie Richardson

A THANK YOU NOTE TO BLACKWOOD



In the thick of lockdown, I had a recurring dream about road tripping to small towns. Not those well-heeled country destinations on the tourist trails. My dreams sent me to the little places we drive past on our way somewhere else.

So I pitched the idea to 3AW... let's do an hour of radio talking to people about tiny towns with big hearts.

And "On the Road Again" was born in 2022, a literal dream come true for this country-born-and-bred journo living in Carlton. Every Sunday (outside of the AFL season) I join radio legend Peter "Grubby" Stubbs in the 3AW studio telling the stories of little country communities doing great things.

But I digress. This is a thank you note to Blackwood, hands down the prettiest town I've visited since starting my radio segment.

Admittedly, it was a perfect summer day with the lightest of breezes, mild enough to sit on the stools outside the post office with one of Jeanette Darwen's excellent toasted sangas. I'll be back for a slice of Carol Guthrie's Sicilian apple cake. Or maybe the snot block. Or both, as there are plenty of Wombat Forest bush hikes to burn off the calories.

There are so many reasons for a return visit. I'll also need at least an hour for a try-on session at Karen Bruno's legendary hat shop, and a whole weekend to get my zen on at Karen's new Blackwood Retreat Centre.

Or maybe longer? This is a town with healing vibes. Shoulders drop and heartbeats slow. You can't help it.

On my next visit, I'll rent one of those charmingly retro on-site vans at the Blackwood Mineral Springs Caravan Park, sighing "aah the serenity" while drinking my bodyweight in mineral water (it really is the tastiest spring in Victoria's Central Highlands).

I'll also totter up the hill to the pub for a nice cold beer, perching on the back verandah for a parma (and hopefully a few ghost stories from the locals).

Perhaps I should move to this gorgeous pocket of the Wombat State Forest. Then I won't miss impromptu gigs by the town's swelling number of musicians, particularly Celtic songstress Fiona Ross. I can't wait to hear her at St Martin's Chapel, which has to be one of the cutest performing spaces in the state.

I could also spend hours wandering around Blackwood's ancient cemetery. So much history, thoughtfully conserved.

So thank you, citizens of Blackwood. You're doing great things.

Warm regards,

Wendy Hargreaves

PS: I must apologise to Simon Daniel and the crew at Martin Street Coffee Roasters for the little nose print on your front window. I'd just missed your opening time and may have pressed my schnoz to the glass while checking out all the goodies inside. You had me a hand-made chocolate, and I'll be back for that too.

For the Online audio of Wendy's segment see: <https://omny.fm/shows/the-weekend-break/on-the-road-again-with-wendy-hargreaves-blackwood> or <https://tinyurl.com/blackwoodfm>

* Wendy Hargreaves is a journalist, broadcaster and filmmaker with a focus on makers, growers and destinations. She spent decades writing for newspapers and magazines in Australia and abroad, and now happily runs her own content agency Bread & Butter Media (www.breadandbuttermedia.com.au). She loves making new connections, so reach out via Instagram (@wendy_hargreaves) or email (wendy@breadandbuttermedia.com.au).



BONE BUTTONS



My name is Belle Tweedale (nee Warwick), and I am currently pursuing a Master of Arts (Photography) at Photography Studies College, in South Melbourne. Long have I been fascinated with criminal history, the plight of our ancestors and the psychology of those who commit crimes. The process of exploring my family history has deepened my fascination with historical narratives granting me a profound connection to my roots. It not only imparts a sense of identity and belonging but also a feeling of continuity and legacy, as I recognise myself as a thread

woven into a broader narrative that transcends my lifetime.

The Victorian bush landscape plays a significant role in my creative endeavours and Australia's broader narrative and cultural identity. With a rich family history in Blackwood, the area is a tangible symbol of my ancestral past, eliciting a profound sense of connection and belonging. Using photography, I actively contribute to the ongoing narrative, weaving my family's history into Australia's broader cultural tapestry - a testament to the lasting impact of the landscape on individual and collective identities.

My research focuses on exploring the intricate ways photography can be utilised to narrate rich historical narratives. I have drawn inspiration from prior projects, delved deeply into contextual analysis, and navigated the complex interplay between factual accounts and fictional elements within these narratives.

As a descendant tracing back to the Merrifield, Armstrong, Carruthers and Warwick families, my insatiable curiosity has drawn me into the tragic and overlooked narrative surrounding my third great-grandfather, Henry Warn Merrifield. It's a tale of greed, violence, and injustice that unfolded on a fateful day in April 1858, at Mount Blackwood. His body was discovered on a makeshift pyre on the edge of Korkuperrimul Creek. According to family folklore, the bone buttons from his coat were discovered amongst the ashes long after his death. Yet, even with the lingering existence of police and court records, insufficient evidence left him forever known as the 'certain man whose name is unknown'. This leaves me to ponder the elusive essence of truth and whether it can ever be completely laid bare and/or actualised.

This tragic event has led me to reflect on the elusive nature of truth and the complexities of justice. I am determined to unravel the events surrounding Henry's demise and the legal proceedings that followed, driven by a need to understand and document his story.

A formal inquiry took place shortly after Henry's remains were discovered, presided over by Police Magistrate Charles Shuter. The evidence presented painted a grim picture of the violent circumstances surrounding his death.

Young James Clam stumbled upon Henry's charred remains while tending to cattle, sparking a chain of events that would unfold over months of investigation and legal proceedings. From the discovery of Henry's body to the conflicting testimonies during the trial, each detail adds depth to the narrative.



The trial exposed the contrast between the accounts of witnesses and the inconsistencies in their testimonies. From James Allen's drunken recollections to the conflicting statements of the Gorman family, the truth seemed elusive amidst a sea of uncertainty.

Despite the compelling arguments put forth by the defence counsel and John Kelly's steadfast silence, the verdict rendered by the jury fell short of providing the justice our family rightfully deserved. Henry's wife, Jane, found herself shouldering the immense responsibility of raising their children alone, her burden compounded by the profound sense of loss and injustice.

Following a trial where the accused, John Kelly and Michael Lavelle, were brought before the court, the prosecution's endeavours notwithstanding, they were ultimately acquitted due to insufficient evidence to establish guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Through my unwavering dedication to preserving my ancestor's memory, I vow to ensure that my third great-grandfather, Henry Warn Merrifield's name receives the recognition denied to him in life. His story serves as a reminder of the fragility of justice and the enduring power of remembrance.

Belle Tweedale (nee Warwick)

A BLACKWOOD PROFILE - MATT BODIUM



Q: When did you move to Blackwood and what brought you here?

My wife Mel and I owned a pub in Footscray - The Reverence- where we worked hard and managed to save a bit of money to put towards our future. When we were having a baby we came to Blackwood looking for land that we could put a caravan on as a little get-away from the pub for a few nights each week. Every block of land we looked at was on the side of a steep slope, but we loved the area. Then we

saw our house online and liked the look of it as it seemed to have a bit of rustic charm. The agent was Frances Harkin and it turned out that Mel and Fran used to be good friends who had lost contact. Previously the two of them had run a gallery together, and Fran had worked at our first pub - The Arthouse. Mel contacted Fran and then everything fell together. This was 2016 when Ollie was almost three. The plan was to renovate and have the house as our country escape. I grew up in Bacchus Marsh and I knew Blackwood, as my family used to come camping here. We love our house but it's still a work in progress.

Q: How has your life changed since moving to Blackwood?

Life is a lot less stressful now. Sometimes we feel that it's a bit sad to not have the business but the timing was a bit of a blessing as we got out of the business about five months before Covid hit. At the time we left, after seven years, the pub needed money put into the structure and freshening up, but we had a difficult landlord and making changes was hard so we decided to look to the future and move permanently into the house we had bought in Blackwood.

Q: Did you know anyone in BW before you moved here?

We un-expectedly did. When we first took over The Reverence, we closed the pub down for two weeks to paint and freshen it up. I had the windows blacked out and on day two of the shutdown there was a knock on the door and Carlson asked what I was doing. I told him that we had just taken over the pub. I sort of knew him as he used to come to our first Pub - The Arthouse, in the city. It was a music venue

and a Backpacker's which Mel ran with her Mother for twenty years. I used to go there when I was young and I used to play music and then I worked there. Mel and I got together and we lived upstairs. It was a fully immersive life! Getting back to Carlson.... after he knocked on the door, he asked me if I needed a hand as he lived just up the road in Footscray. I told him that I would love a hand but I couldn't pay him but I offered to feed and water him when we opened. We then made garden beds, put shelves up and Rachel also swung in to help. Together we brought the pub to life. Carlson and Rachel visited the pub for about a year and then they just vanished. Mel and I wondered what had happened to them. About year later we had a show at the Reverence-The Cosmic Psychos - to which a minivan pulled up full of people from Blackwood, and Carlson and Rachel jumped out telling us that they had moved to the country. They too had bought a place in Blackwood! Around the same time Curly and Sophie moved to Barry's Reef. Curly had helped me with the electrics at the pub. Then other people we knew moved to Blackwood.

In the pub, we never really had time to socialise at places other than the pub; it was 24/7.

Then we had Ollie and, as a parent, I couldn't keep working the hours that the pub needed.

Blackwood was a blessing when Covid hit as we had a freedom to be in the bush that we never had in the city.

Q: When did you get into music?

My Dad was a massive music fan and he always wanted to play guitar but he had fingers like tree trunks and couldn't manage it. I played guitar but then I moved to drums. Music has been a big part of my life since I was ten years old. I've been in many bands and done a lot of touring. The Smith Street band came along and finally I started making a little money. Pre-Covid the band was away about 6 to 8 months

of the year. The pub functioned well as a lot of our family members helped with it. Mel's Mum was involved; my Mum was the cleaner and my Sister lived and worked in the pub for a bit. Music is the only thing that I've really stuck at in my life, as I really love it. When we tour it's a big logistical operation with lots of equipment and a few travelling crew members. Running the pub and being on tour with the band are totally switched-on activities. Mel and I have always been doers and life in Blackwood is often an exercise in coping with whatever comes our way.

Q: What are your other passions and activities that you devote your time to?

I make guitars and all members of my band play my handmade guitars. Another reason for moving to Blackwood was to make a bigger wood-working workshop. During one of Ollie's long stays in hospital he kept talking about all the fairies in the park around the hospital. So, when he finally came home I made him fairy houses with the fallen wood from the 2021 storm. He now has a large village of Blackwood fairies at the side of our house.

Q: What do you especially like about living in Blackwood?

It has probably changed about ten times since we have been living here. We love the peace and quiet but when we first moved here I struggled to sleep well as I was used to city noise and traffic. I love the community in Blackwood, it is full of interesting people. There is always a new person to meet...sometimes I meet people I have never seen before and they tell me that they have lived here for thirty years or more! Most people know us as Ollie's parents, which we embrace. Ollie is more popular at the pub than we are! We came for the nature and the space and we found a whole lot more! We love Blackwood and the community.

Interviewed by Jeanne Tahini

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• COMMUNITY UPDATES •

CFA REPORT

It has been a very interesting start to the year after the deluge of rain during December and January, and now the dry weather has really set in. Blackwood has recorded less than 15 mm of rain since the end of January and the local Forest Fuel Dryness Index is about 95%. The bark and leaves are very crunchy under foot, reflecting the lack of fuel moisture. Even with cooler temperatures, a fire in the forest during windy conditions will prove difficult to control. Until we receive substantial rain, Fire Restrictions will remain in force for a while yet.

During the Total fire ban days, when the brigade was on Strike Team duty, crews were allocated for the teams with crews kept around town in the event of local jobs. Ross, the Captain, put in a lot of work ensuring we had enough crews to cover all events with some members spending time at the station monitoring all the events across the Grampians District.

The dry weather we are experiencing is occurring across all of Western Victoria. The brigade has been busy with an unusually high number of local call outs, plus supporting the major fires in the Grampians, Beaufort and south of Ballarat at Newton. A tanker from Blackwood attended the Pomonal fire to assist with blacking out. Blackwood members also helped crew other tankers at Pomonal as part of the blacking out effort.

The Beaufort fire in the State Forest was a major effort with CFA appliances protecting private property and farmland around the forested areas. Little could be done to stop the fire burning in the rugged State Park and it eventually impacted most of the state forest. The Newtown fire was again in state forest and a strike team from the Ballan group, which included our Blackwood tanker, was eventually deployed to the fire around 11 pm.

Sometimes strike teams are deployed to other areas once the fire danger has reduced in their home district. Local call outs consisted mainly of false alarms plus one campfire on a day of total for ban at O'Briens Crossing and some support calls for burn offs during the Fire Danger Period.

We had a joint session with CERT one Sunday going over a rescue and extraction of a couple involved in a motor vehicle accident just north of Blackwood recently which was very informative.

Often CERT and the Brigade work together during incidents that require a number of agencies including the police and SES. The CERT team is made up of volunteers that train alongside Ambulance Victoria to provide First Response emergency care. They are very dedicated and well trained.

Many thanks to Ross for the sterling effort done with fulfilling all the requirements and also to the CERT team for the work they do.

Keep an eye on the Fire Danger ratings for the Central region.

We would like to welcome the new members that 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

Do not use Facebook if you are reporting an emergency... Always ring 000 or 112 on a mobile

*Karl Church
Communication and Safety Liaison Officer
Blackwood Fire Brigade*

BLACKWOOD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It has been a busy last couple of months for the Society. We have applied for a grant to replace the roof covering the stables. The roof was leaking in many places and well past its use-by-date. Fingers crossed we are successful with the grant, as it really must be replaced!

A memorial plaque commemorating the contribution to the Society by Alan Hall has been installed in the garden area. He might be gone but will be never forgotten! Thanks to all those who donated funds for the purchase.

A working bee was held recently to re-paint the outside of the building. This was well covered in an article appearing in the Moorabool Times. You may say a slow news week! We say...champagne journalism! Se-riously though, thanks to all those who rolled up their sleeves and got covered in paint; the results speak for themselves. Looking to de-clutter our meeting room as the spike in new and returning members is making for a very cosy gathering indeed!

Our Easter fundraisers mirror what we successfully did last year. We ran the hot dog stall at the Carnival and arranged the Bingo on Sunday evening. Our stall at the Carnival was a resounding success with every hot dog and drink being sold, be assured we will put the proceeds to good use. The bingo will be held to-night (as I write this); and all indications are for a full house so our cup runneth over this weekend. Thanks to all those who donated prizes for the raffle and the bingo itself.

Special thanks to Christine for donating a beautiful handmade quilt for the major raffle; to the Post Office for helping sell tickets; and thanks to Marilyn; Keith and Karen. Also thanks to those who donated their time and efforts A shout o-ut to those at Crown Reserves and Progress also. We couldn't have done it without you guys!

It really is a good night appreciated by all who attend. Our visitors love the small town feel and inclusive-ness of the event; it is not to go by the wayside again!

Ray Castellin

BLACKWOOD MOTOR CYCLE CLUB



Finally a few of the Blackwood Motorcycle Club Members did a ride on Sunday 25 Feb 24. The three members took off from Blackwood Pub on a nice pleasant Sunday morning with the temperature around 25 deg....perfect for a ride on a bike! We rode through to Daylesford, Castlemaine and then onto Elphinstone Pub for lunch. If you ever travel near this place we recommend pulling in..... great meals and cold drinks. After lunch we extended the ride to go past Redesdale Pub for a quick drink and then home to Blackwood Pub for a final chat about the ride and where we are heading off next.

The next ride I am hoping to do is through to Tooborac Pub for lunch, going via some great mountain roads in that area.

Keep an eye on Blackwood Motorcycle Club Facebook page for future rides.

Brett Bond

THE LITERALLY BREATH-TAKING BIT



Hit the open road and into the loving embrace of Mother Nature. Hike, climb, crawl (or drive, we won't judge) your way to the top. The view will take your breath away in more ways than one.

Get lost in breathtaking places like Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.

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BLACKWOOD WOODCHOP AND EASTER CARNIVAL



Another cracker of a day at the Blackwood Woodchop and Easter Carnival, with over 4500 happy visitors. Blackwood really knows how to throw a party! Here are a few of their comments:

"Thank you Blackwood Woodchop for another amazing Easter carnival!"

My mum & I have been coming for the last 3yrs from Melbourne & continue to bring more friends & family with us each year to enjoy celebrating our Australian culture in gorgeous Blackwood!

The festival fills our hearts & makes us so happy each year to see (& experience) so many connections with the Australian culture & so many memories we both grew up with!

The music was incredible this year (as always), the woodchoppers are our heroes, the gumboots chuck & egg throwing comps were moments



of honour for the winners, loved seeing all the healthy kids games like running races, hula hoops & tug-o-war, loved how us adults got to play tug-o-war too (haha) & all the country jigs that brought us all together as a community for a beautiful Australian moment in time!

Well done again Blackwood Woodchop festival & all involved with a special mention to the best MCs a country fest could have for making the day so inclusive & keeping the good vibes & laughs flowing!

"Happy Easter Blackwood & thanks again for all many special memories this year!" CW

"Such an amazing event. Thanks so much for an amazing time. Our family has a home in Blackwood so my husband (39 years old) has gone to almost all of them and I have attended all that have been held since meeting him 17 years ago and honestly, this one was the best. The food options, free kids activities, increased toilets, wonderful music and wide drink selections made it just so much fun. Not to mention a full day of wood chopping! Thankyou so much!!! PS Our

Frankie won Best in Show....so that was all we were talking about all weekend!" "We could see how much effort and care had gone into making it such a successful family fun day. You should all be super proud of how wonderfully it was executed! X" KD

"It was a fabulous day. My granddaughter and her mum and dad had such great fun and so did I. Brilliant day." DS

"Thanks to the organising committee and all the volunteers for another amazing carnival! Loved it (missed the carnival King and Queen, though!)" JH

This event (in its 122nd year) does so much for the promotion of our little holiday town. It's also the community's biggest fundraiser for the year. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped us stage this great event and special thanks to the Midland Axemen, who put on another mighty show (number 72!) for us; you're such a big part of this town's history.

I would like to use this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the volunteers who worked tirelessly, not just over the 4 day long weekend, but for a long time in the lead up to the event. You make the carnival the success that it is and it would not be possible without you.

If you'd like to be part of the planning for next year's event, please contact blackwoodprogress@gmail.com or call me 0419 137 812. We'd love to have you on board.

Brendan Hehir

The Great Trentham
SPUDFEST
Celebrating our People, Produce & Region

— 4th & 5th May 2024 —

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

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- THANKS TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS -



THE GUMBOOT WRAP UP

Yet again I was left gob smacked at the amount of people who lined up at the Easter Carnival to throw a fairly gross old gumboot. I shouldn't be surprised as the free event is as fun as it is silly. For most people one turn is not enough with many heading straight to the back of the queue after having their 2 throws. I think this is because launching an old boot into a giant bucket is much harder than it looks. If I had a dollar for every competitor who says that after nearly landing it in a tree or skimming it only a couple of metres across the ground I would be able to buy a lot of gumboots!

This years event was made a lot easier due to the generous donation of many rank old boots. The gumboot drive over the last few months was a great success with throwers having a lot more choice in both size and colour. Thank you to all who have dropped a gumboot or 2 in our boot bin in the main street in recent weeks. Without further suspense, here are this years winners. Despite many coming close no one actually got it in to the "grown up" bucket this year but some of those making the closer bucket were particularly impressive. Seven year old Mike from Upway was a stand out and crowd favorite, getting his boot in the bucket twice in a row with his first 2 shots! Three year old Ivy from Kyneton managed to get her boot in, as did Rohan from Maddingly. Will from Bacchus Marsh, Evie from Melbourne, Ginelle from Ballarat and Narelle from Colac all made the winners list. Mother and son duo Harvey and Marthe from Woodend were terrific with only Dad stopping our first ever family trifecta. Travelling Whitney landed her boot and Elijah from Frankston was not leaving until he also got one in. This year also gave us an international champion with Sobah from Malaysia nailing her shot, as well as providing this years best victory dance. Well done everyone and thanks for making picking up stinky



old boots all day so much fun. Oh...and in case you were amongst the few people I didn't get around to telling on the day, Michael and I came second place in the egg throwing competition!!

By Kylie Richardson

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Victorian Labor



A special thanks to John Kemp and Peter Donnelly for these amazing photos.



FREE

Community document shredding & X-ray recycling day

Confidential documents accepted for on-site shredding:

- Financial information
- Bank statements
- Old legal documents
- Tax returns
- Cheque books
- Diaries
- Bills, invoices, receipts



Limit of 4 archive boxes per resident or business



Did you know?
X-rays contain precious silver - bring them along for recycling!

Scan QR code to register



Saturday 13 April
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JUST LISTED!!

Introducing Frogmore Gardens
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Contact Fran on 0425 766 799 to find out more.

We hope you enjoyed the Blackwood Woodchop and Easter Carnival.

Now celebrating 123 years of fun!

Such a great outing for locals and people who travel far and wide.

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Property Update

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A Sustainable Modern Take On Golden Old
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Brick home in the Heart of Blackwood!
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SOLD - \$1,200,000

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

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

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• COMMUNITY UPDATES •

WOMBAT BOOKCLUB

Hello and welcome sunny Autumn, nice days cooler nights. Our happy Bookclub meetings take place at the Blackwood Pub, usually around 3pm on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Here we chat about the book we just finished and receive the next one for perusal. We are an informal, friendly bunch. Venue and times are subject to change, if you are interested in joining our group please contact Jane Howat at jane.howat@gmail.com

The two novels read lately were - 'The Paper Palace' by Miranda Cowley Heller, and 'Jasper Jones' by Craig Silvey.

Sandy: Elle, a mother of three happily visits her childhood Summer place called the Paper Palace. She has secrets from her past which she has kept deep within her. That is not all, she reunites with a childhood sweetheart which rekindles her passion. She then has to decide who is more important to her, and should she reveal what she has deep in her soul to her husband. A dilemma she comes to resolve. This book is an easy read and you get to know the characters well.



Sandy: Set in an Australian mining town, Charlie is a thirteen year old whose bedroom is a sleep-out, separate from the house. One night a desperate Jasper Jones who is Aboriginal and is seen as an outcast, blamed for any mischief in the town, knocks on Charlie's window.



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Charlie climbs out the window and gingerly follows Jasper through the darkened bush. He reels in shock when it is revealed what Jasper leads him to. They suspect a murder has taken place of a young local girl, Laura Wishart. Jasper assumes he will be blamed for it if he didn't act. There are twists and turns in the novel, revealing Jaspers heritage and what really happened to this young girl. A real page turner.



Sandy

BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB



During the last cricket season we had 2 IBCs (big square storage containers) at the oval for can collection.

This all started prior to the season when Matt and Mel's car had broken down and I asked if we could do a fund raiser to help them. They rejected that idea. So I thought...stuff you two, we will raise money for Ollie.

For the past couple of years all cans had been going to land fill as there are no recycle bins at the oval.

Now they are worth money! 1 IBC holds roughly \$200 worth of recycled cans. Multiply that by 4, and young Ollie now has \$800 to spend on his wishes. It probably says we drink too much at cricket but there has been quite a few locals dropping off their cans as well, and thank you for that.

We also have 1 at the Blackwood Hotel and it's still there now, collecting cans. Thank you to Ebb and Bec.

So if anyone has cans lying around and wants to drop them off at the oval, please do. It is for a great cause. Ollie is getting a track made around the house and also building on his collection, the wiggles, plus a couple of lollies or more.

For the many years I have lived here, the Blackwood community has always looked after its own, it's not a charity but a feeling of helping your neighbours and friends. That is something we cannot lose in this town!

Regards, Brian
President Blackwood Cricket Club

• COMMUNITY UPDATES •

CERT UPDATE

Keen-eyed locals will have seen the CERT shed finally starting to rise. The official deadline for completion is still in April. We will keep everyone posted with updates and look forward to announcing the Official Opening Date soon.

Our next challenge, and goal as a Team of enthusiastic local volunteers, is to welcome new members.

This is a great opportunity for local residents from:

- Dales Creek;
- Blackwood;
- Barry' Reef;
- Newbury &
- Everywhere in between

To learn new skills:

- Medical (Certificate II Emergency Medical Services);
- CPR;
- Rescue;
- Communication; and
- Driving

Be part of Ambulance Victoria and receive:

- Camaraderie and friendship
- Free Ambulance cover for you and your family
- Free support services for you and your family
- Discounts on a range of products and services

We will be at the Blackwood Easter Carnival – so come on over for a chat – we'd love to tell you more.

Leonie Brasier

ST MARTIN'S HAS HAD A BUSY START TO THE YEAR



Rose's colourful, packed stall.
Photo: Jeanne Tahini

Our committee is happy to see the Chapel, our community space, being used for so many public and pri-vate events.

Thank you for the support you have shown us with our fundraising events. Our Trivia night was lots of fun with some healthy rivalry going on. Congratulations to the winners "That Mob" comprising: Dee, Jan, Jane, Ray, Edward and Wally. They may have been victorious on the night, however, we are planning a rematch later on in the year with some different categories included, so...no resting on your laurels.

Thanks to Corey who ran the evening and Matt who did the scoring.

A salute to Kath, Geoffrey and Scott, who graciously welcomed me to their table, even though I was such a dud. You were great company and you knew so much. Go the Luddites!

The Whole Town Garage Sale was a great success, even with the heat. So many participants and a great way to meet up and have a chat while snaffling a bargain. Thank you so much Jinny for organising this event and to everyone who helped on the day.

Our next fundraiser is on 12th of April at 6pm at St Martin's. We are time travelling to 1900 in Paris where famous chocolatier, Billy Bonka is murdered by an exploding Easter egg. It is up to the assembled dinner guests to identify the murderer. There will be a three-course meal, French themed of course (assurances that all frogs and snails will remain in the garden). The cost is \$50 for this extravaganza. A character sheet with suggestions for your attire will be provided. Do you fancy yourself as a member of the aristocracy, a pugilist, a magician, an artist, an archaeologist, a ventriloquist or the dummy? Please give me a ring on 53686792 to book.

Your participation in these events is greatly appreciated and needed as we are self-funding. St Martin's Committee of Management is responsible for the Chapel's maintenance, insurance, fire levies etc. Some people think that, as part of the Uniting Church of Australia, individual churches receive financial support from this body. This is actually not the case. St Martin's relies on fees from the hiring of the premises, fundraisers and grants to serve the community so it is wonderful when we can work together and support each other.

Another thing that has recently started at St Martin's is a group called "A Stitch in Time." This group provides the opportunity to come together with like-minded people who enjoy sewing, knitting, crafting of any description over a cuppa and a chat. We meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month between 2pm and 4pm. A donation of \$5 per session to cover costs is suggested.

We look forward to more special events as the year goes on. We are so happy to be able to offer the venue to others and share this wonderful space whether it is for birthdays, baby showers, weddings, high teas, health and well-being sessions, markets, fundraisers, displays, workshops or just when families come to-gether and everyone won't fit around the kitchen table any more.

Robyn Zanon

CURRAWONG RESOURCES UPDATE

Currawong Resources have conducted a follow up drilling program at its Comet prospect, near Blackwood, during February and March, 2024. With the use of a drilling contractor, we drilled 6 holes for a total of 864 meters. The program used both diamond drilling and percussion drilling techniques. Apart from one abandoned hole, the drilling program was completed as planned. Geological logging and assaying of prospective zones of mineralization within the drilled samples is ongoing. We are very pleased at the community support we are receiving from various interested parties, particularly in a community that has a significant gold mining history. Of course, these drilling programs are results dependent, as we carry out staged exploration drilling pro-grams to establish the potential of each prospect. We expect to be drilling again once we have collated all the information and interpreted what areas are important drilling targets. We hope to be drilling soon when the drilling contractor becomes available again, and as always this is weather dependent to minimise the envi-ronmental impact and carry out safe working practices in a forest environment.

Rex Motton
COO & Director
Currawong Resources



• COMMUNITY UPDATES •

THE SAGA: BOCCE OR PETANQUE (PE-TONK)



There was movement at the Oval
for the word had passed around
The balls from ole Bocce group
Had run away,
And had joined the wild Petanquers.....

The time has come to clear up what "that" group that meets on Sunday morning at

10 am actually is! We started a few years ago sponsored by Progress Association. At the time we thought we would be a Bocce Group. As time went on we realised that Bocce needed a formal pitch with standard measurements which wasn't possible.

So we researched and found Petanque! We didn't need a formal pitch. Petanque can be played on many surfaces and play can radiate out from a mid point. Less rules, less cost and more fun. If you'd like to join the wild Petanquers (pet-tonk-ers) Blackwood style, just come along any Sunday or call me on 0432406814.

Stephanie

BLACKWOOD CEMETERY TRUST

Hi all. The Cemetery Trust is currently in the process of obtaining quotes for a new Cremation Wall. The current one, under the gazebo, is nearly sold out! Through necessity, the new wall will be located near the rear of the cemetery, close to the lawn section. We plan to make this rather large to alleviate the need for another wall for quite some time.

We have contracted a local tradesman to begin repairing graves that are falling apart. We aren't obligated to do this, it is the responsibility of those who possess the right of interment for the plot. There is little to no chance of tracking down the ROI holders for many of these older graves (not to mention attempting to have them spend, in some cases, thousands of dollars!). As a Trust we have decided to allocate the funds to re-pair one grave per year in the interests of our history, and the general appearance of the cemetery.

This issue's joke: A woman takes her little boy to visit their dead relative's gravestones at a cemetery. The little boy has never been to a cemetery before. The woman first takes her son to her grandmother Annie's gravestone. The initials under Annie's name has R.I.P. The little boy asks, "Mummy, what does R.I.P. stand for?" His mother replies, "It stands for 'Rest in Peace.' That means we wish for Grandma Annie's spirit to find peace in the afterlife." Then, they come across the gravestone of the woman's uncle Joe. The little boy asks, "Mummy, what does R.I.H. stand for?", pointing to the initials printed under Uncle Joe's name. "We really didn't like Uncle Joe." Said his Mother.

Ray Castellan

COMMUNITY BANKING IN BLACKWOOD



Our sponsorship of the Blackwood Easter Carnival & Woodchop is a great example of how community banking works with up to 80% of bank profit reinvested back into Trentham & Districts communities through grants and sponsorships. We welcome all applications. Search Bendigo Bank Trentham and download our Sponsorship application form.

Board Director required

Do you have some time to invest into our board? We are seeking a community minded professional who can lend their business strengths to the team. Expressions of interest please forward to Board Support Anjee Anderson at aanderson@tccce.com.au or phone Brian Hood Director & Chair on 0411 139 004.

Ph: 5424 1608 Email: trenthammailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au
Branch: 37B High St, Trentham

Anjee Anderson

Community Banking with Trentham & Districts

Did you know you can book a local appointment with our Branch Manager Edyta Wyatt? Edyta is not only our man-ager but an experienced mobile lending specialist who can assist you with home loans, term deposits, insurance and other banking products.

Ph: 5424 1608 Email: trenthammailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au
Branch: 37B High St, Trentham

BLACKWOOD TENNIS CLUB



Photo by Peter Donnelly

On Friday 23rd February a band of locals descended on the tennis courts to show their support for a rejuvenated Blackwood Tennis Club. It was a great evening with a bbq and drinks enjoyed while community members, young and old, had a hit on our newly refreshed courts. Others took the opportunity to shoot some hoops and show off their basketball skills. Much work is required behind the scenes to get the Tennis Club up and running and our thanks go out to those chipping away so the rest of the town can enjoy some upgraded facilities.

Kylie Richardson

• MEDIA RELEASE •

EVENT PRESS RELEASE

Contact Information:
Blackwood Collaborative
Ben Sims
0409886898
ben@blackwood-collaborative.com

Release Date: 11/3/24

Blackwood Collaborative Announces Weekend Songwriting Retreat Series

Melbourne, 11/3/24 – Blackwood Collaborative is thrilled to announce the first in its inaugural weekend songwriting retreat series featuring renowned musician and songwriter, Charles Jenkins. The retreat will take place on May 18th and 19th, offering a unique opportunity for aspiring songwriters to hone their craft in an immersive and collaborative environment.

The retreat series, curated by Blackwood Collaborative, aims to foster creativity and camaraderie among songwriters of all levels. Participants will have the exclusive opportunity to engage with Charles Jenkins, drawing from his wealth of experience and expertise in the music industry. "We couldn't be more excited to be launching our Song Writing Retreats with the perfect host!", said Ben Sims, Creative Director at Blackwood Collaborative. "This retreat series is designed to inspire and empower songwriters to explore new avenues of creativity while building meaningful connections within the music community." Upcoming workshops for the 5 event series will be hosted by industry luminaries Charles Jenkins, Rebecca Barnard, Cam Butler, Jodi Phillis and Ashley Davies.

Throughout the weekend, attendees will participate in a variety of workshops, collaborative songwriting sessions, and one-on-one mentorship opportunities with Charles Jenkins. From lyric writing to melody composition, participants will receive guidance and feedback to help refine their songwriting skills.

The retreat series will be held at Blackwood Victoria, one hour west of Melbourne, providing a picturesque and tranquil setting conducive to artistic inspiration. Attendees can expect a balance of structured learning and free time for reflection and exploration. Meals and accommodation are included at the two-day event and the on-site recording studio is ready to capture your best ideas so you can leave the event with your songs in hand.

Registration for the Blackwood Collaborative songwriting retreat series with Charles Jenkins is now open. Spaces are limited, so early booking is encouraged to secure a place at this exclusive event. Tickets for the inaugural weekend event hosted by Charles Jenkins are available through [Humanitix](https://www.humanitix.com)

For more information and to join our mailing list, please visit www.blackwood-collaborative.com or contact ben@blackwood-collaborative.com.

About Blackwood Collaborative:
Blackwood Collaborative is a creative collective dedicated to fostering collaboration and innovation in the arts. Through workshops, events, and retreats, Blackwood Collaborative empowers artists to explore their craft, connect with peers, and bring their creative visions to life.

Review Quotes - Charles Jenkins

"Jenkins is an unheralded songwriting genius...The Last Polaroid, is another songwriting masterclass"
– Jeff Jenkins [themusic.com.au](https://www.themusic.com.au)

"Where there's a need for class, for quality pop music, Charles Jenkins and The Zhivagos are available"
– Bernard Zuel

"Gilt-edged song Australian tunesmithery" Simon Collins The West Australian 4 stars
"The Last Polaroid finds one of our finest songwriters at a fresh creative high"
– Noel Mengel – LoudMouth Music Trust E-Zine

"A mainstay on the Melbourne music scene, his songwriting among the best in the country" – Samuel J Fell

Blackwood Collaborative social media links:
Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553983418735>
Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/blackwood_collaborative/
Youtube- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSpMRyjo6iIUK2DzT8JURIA>



Charles Jenkins

Event Dates **18th and 19th May**

Techniques to help your songs make a more Powerful connection with the listener. How to find the right word for the right note for the right chord, and how to make the personal, universal.





• AROUND TOWN •

CRICKET CLUB UPDATE



This seasons award winners from left John, Brian, Brent, Wyatt and Benny

Hello all

The season is over and we didn't have a good run to the end, losing the last three games at home left us in 7th position.

But we all had a good time and i believe most players will be back next season. Bigger and better.

We will be having a couple of working bees at the oval to keep it looking as good as it does before next season.

A big thankyou to all volunteers, supporters and sponsors. Without you lot we would really be struggling.

Regards

Brian, President Blackwood cricket club

WHOSE TATT IS THAT?

My tattoo is my compass for guidance and a reminder of what's important to me in life. The three symbols of the anchor capture the essence of life to me - the cross for faith, the anchor for hope and the heart for love or charity. I also love the ocean and everything it represents and my husband's initial is on the left and mine is on the right - partners for life! I also plan to add my two children's initials somehow to the design. I got this tattoo around 12 years ago and I designed it myself.



~Miriam McWilliam



Diedre walks the dogs

Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

Police are out there to keep you safe. If you still choose to take risks while driving and break the road rules, chances are you will be caught.

TAC VICTORIA
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

• BEYOND BLACKWOOD •

TRENTHAM FASHION SWAP

Trentham Fashion Swap was conceived in 2023 as part of the Great Ideas in Sustainability for Trentham program. The Trentham Sustainability Group (TSG) invited the community to pitch sustainable ideas that would benefit our region and that TSG could support.

I had attended a few clothing swaps when I lived in Melbourne and was looking for ways to refresh my wardrobe and keep clothing items out of landfill. I was always a keen op shopper and have found some fabulous high quality garments in op shops. I imagined a regular community clothing swap event where women and girls could come and have some fun recycling their preloved garments and accessories, enjoy an arvo tea with the locals and find some great pieces to add to their wardrobes.

According to the Australian Fashion Council (2023 report), 227,000 tonnes of discarded clothing is sent to landfill each year in Australia. Only 7000 tonnes of clothing were recycled in 2023.

In 2023 I teamed up with four other women who were passionate about fashion and keeping clothing out of landfill. We ran two trial swap events in June and September. The Winter Swap saw 55 women come and have some fashion swapping fun, and in September we ran a Kid's Clothing Swap where 25 families attended. The positive feedback from the community prompted us to apply to Hepburn Shire Council for a funding grant for equipment, catering and a community sewing machine!

In 2024 we are running four fashion swaps in February, April, July & October in Trentham. Most of these will focus on women's clothing, with a kid's clothing swap in October. At our Summer swap 105 women and teens turned up and we had a blast! Everyone went home with some great gear and lots of happy faces.

In 2024, we will run repair & repurpose sewing workshops in May and October. For that we are teaming up with our friends at Daylesford Repair Café. They will bring Repair Café to Trentham and folks can bring items for repair and also learn simple sewing and mending skills to extend the life of garments.

No sewing machine at home? Anybody in the broader community can book in and use "Shirley" Singer at the Trentham Neighbourhood Centre.

Our next fashion swap is on at Trentham Neighbourhood Centre on Sun, April 28 at 1-3pm. Ladies, check out your wardrobes and freshen up those clothing items you are ready to pass on. Clothing, bags, accessories and shoes in clean, wearable condition are all welcome. If you don't have spares to swap, come along anyway and make a gold coin donation.

We are also looking for helpers to join our team on the day of swap events as we get bigger and busier. If you are interested, please get in touch: Trenthamfashswap@gmail.com.

See you at the Swap



People came from far and wide for the clothes swap.. Elizabeth Mother, and Elizabeth daughter from Gisborne, and Lynne from Bullarto. Photo: Jeanne Tahini



Volunteers working on the Fashion swap: Carol and Jennifer Photo: Jeanne Tahini

Susan Marryatt

THE GREAT TRENTHAM SPUDFEST—CELEBRATING PEOPLE, PRODUCE & CENTRAL VICTORIAN GOODNESS ACROSS TWO FUN-FILLED DAYS IN MAY

This year marks the 16th iteration of The Great Trentham Spudfest, a community festival bringing together local potato growers, artisans, music, food vendors, and local history to showcase the region's finest offerings and products across the weekend of 4-5 May 2024. The two-day festival is hosted throughout the historic town of Trentham and surrounding districts.

"Spudfest 2024 promises to be bigger and better than ever before, celebrating our region's potato culture and history, but most of all, our community," says festival coordinator Kye Theobald. "This year we are running across two days, and it's still a free event, thanks to the support of our sponsors and partners. We are also introducing curated events that will require a ticket."

On Saturday, Trentham comes alive with Spudfest's traditional carnival day, with four main precincts in town packed full of spud food, fresh regional produce, local artisan makers, live music, horse and cart rides, bus tours of the old Spud Huts, and loads of activities for kids and adults.

Saturday evening will see the inaugural Spudfest Cèilidh, a traditional celebration of Celtic music, food, and dancing, to mark the halfway point of the festival.

Sunday is dedicated to the discovery of food, produce, and region. Spudtastic dishes will be served at venues throughout the region. And a selection of local farms will conduct tours all day Sunday, inviting visitors behind the farm gate. The self-guided Farm Gate Trail will unearth local growers' fresh produce and hidden foodie secrets; take part in The Great Spud Scavenger Hunt; join a historic tour of the Trentham Cemetery and town's historic sites; or a behind-the-scenes tour of the Red Beard Historical Bakery.

For more information visit: <https://www.trenthamspudfest.org.au/>

PLUMBING SERVICES

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2024 ANZAC DAY SERVICES

BLACKWOOD DAWN SERVICE

BLACKWOOD WAR MEMORIAL
BLACKWOOD PARK
MARTIN STREET
0600 (6:00 AM)
Includes Wreath Laying

AFTERNOON SERVICE

BALLAN MARCH
ASSEMBLE RSL HALL
146 INGLIS STREET, BALLAN
1245 (12:45 PM)

CENOTAPH SERVICE
BALLAN CENOTAPH
125 INGLIS STREET, BALLAN
1300 (1:00 PM)
Includes Wreath Laying



LEST WE FORGET





• BEYOND BLACKWOOD •

SCOTTISH TERRIER



My name is Manda Appleyard. And I have lived in rural Australia for most of my life. I love my local community publications and always find something interesting to read in them. That is the reason I thought I would reach out to community publications like yours and hope that a little reminder article might inspire people to consider this blast from the past survivor, who is surely most relevant for modern lifestyles.

I am a Scottish Terrier fan and have had Scotties in my life since 1969. Scotties have brought me so much joy in my life, I struggle to understand why the Scottish Terrier has been listed as an endangered species. There has been a significant global decline in Scottish Terrier numbers. The Scottie was once very popular here in Australia. Everyone at least knew someone that had one of those funny little Scots with the big beard, big eyebrows and huge character.

Since the introduction of designer breeds developed by crossing smaller breeds together, it seems that everyone has forgotten what great family members and mates Scottish Terriers are.

The Scottish Terrier is a big dog in a little body. This compact, short legged, sturdily built terrier of good bone and substance is very intelligent and quite a sensible dog. They mature very quickly and are a lot less destructive than many other breeds. They are great guard dogs because they don't bark without reason. They have a deep bark which makes them sound like a much bigger dog. The Scottie is a robust breed requiring little or no veterinary intervention, and their versatility is unsurpassed. They adapt to any environment equally at home from the farmhouse to apartment living. They even make great travel companions and love caravan holidays. They are couch potatoes that suddenly spring to action whenever there is anything a foot.

The Scottish Terrier is loyal and does not suffer separation anxiety. When left alone they will just laze about and wait for your return.

The Scottish Terrier is Hypoallergenic as they do not shed hair. A medium level of grooming is required but a good brush once a week and a trip to the groomers every three months is all that is required. They are truly worthy of consideration when you are next considering a new addition to your family. I always say, "If it isn't a Scottie it is just a dog..."

Manda Appleyard

• GIG & EVENTS GUIDE •

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
APRIL		
Sun 12, 1 - 4	5 O'Clock Charlie	Greendale Pub
Sun 14, 10 - 4	Car, Food & Wine Festival #7	St Anne's Winery
Fri 19, 8	Line dancing	Greendale Pub
Thu 25, 1 - 4	Brian Sadler	Greendale Pub
Sun 28, 10 - 3	Trentham Vintage Tractor Pull	Railway Precinct, Victoria St, Trentham
Sat 27, 6 - 9	Beat Bros	Pig & Whistle
Sun 29: 12-3:30	Marty Luke	Greendale Pub

MAY		
Sat 4, 6 - 9	Cam & Dave	Pig & Whistle
Sat 4 & Sun 5	Spudfest	Trentham
Sat 11, 7 - 9	Marlee Grace	Pig & Whistle
Sun 12, 1 - 4	Brian Sadler	Greendale Pub
Fri 17, 8	Line dancing	Greendale Pub
Sat 18, 6 - 9	Cam & Dave	Pig & Whistle
Sat 25, 7 - 9	Marlee Grace & Sarah Jane	Pig & Whistle
Sun 26, 12:30 - 3:30	Marty Luke	Greendale Pub
Fri 31, 8	Kings Cross	Greendale Pub

REGULAR STUFF		
Mon from 5	Old Farts Night & meat tray raffle.	Blackwood Pub
Wed, 7 - 10	Taproom Trivia	The Taproom, Bacchus Marsh
Wed evenings	Locals night dinner specials	The Cosmo
Thu	Burger & Parma night	Blackwood Pub
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, 1pm	Live music	Hotel Trentham
Sun	Pizza Sundays with live music	St Anne's Winery
2nd/4th Sun: 2	Regular service	St Martin's Chapel

BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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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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