

August ~ September 2024 vol 16 ~ issue 17.2



Karen looking out over Blackwood celebrating The Map going to print. See The Blackwood Map item on page 5



Stephanie & Jeanne projecting.... See First Nations' Culture through Cinema item on page 9 & St Martin's Chapell item on page 21



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...

The good news is, it's warming up! This winter has been a bit bleak, but Blackwoodians don't totally hibernate as the centre pages illustrate. This issue is bigger than usual thanks to an increase in contributions, a trend we will encourage so that a wide variety of voices are heard. They are complementary to the 20 items in the Community Updates section, reflecting the extraordinary diversity & energy of folk in our town. The excellent 'Metalworker Maestro' article is a prime example of this.

Also, there are more photos: and how better to tell the story of the last 2 months in Blackwood. With this in mind we are running a 'photographic competition' for those of us under the age of 18 to win one of five \$20 Jindarup vouchers & possible printing in the Centre Pages of the next Issue. The competition will be judged by our most famous photographers Brendan Hehir & Peter Donnelly.

Then there are all the attractions. Take a look at the 'Blackwood Map'. There are markers on this that may even surprise old-time residents. Everybody should buy at least 2 of these as a way of supporting this initiative - one to keep & the other (always replenished) to give to visitors. A big plus for our tourist industry.

The 'Blackwood Special School' is dear to all of us, especially the many thousands in the diaspora. We haven't heard from them for a while, unsurprisingly as Tony Bellotte & team of 20 staff have been just a bit busy. The School has been steadily enhancing its reputation over the 25 years since inception in 1999 & recently hosted educators from 75 other such schools around the state.

Finally, please have a close read of the 'Progress Association' report. We have them to thank for the running of the world-renowned Blackwood Easter Carnival, through difficult times. Examples of their support for many other community initiatives are included in the article. Progress is well-placed to provide support funding for these and is looking for ideas.

Enjoy this Issue, and the spring- when it comes.

John ~ Editor for this Issue

Cover photos Brendan Hehir and John Kemp

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

The BLACKWOOD TIMES reserves the right to edit or refuse any article or advertising. The opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the Blackwood Times Team or the publishers. The BLACKWOOD TIMES is produced as a community service run and published by volunteers.

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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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

As the Times goes to print the roadworks in the Town Centre are nearly finished. These works are one outcome from a very comprehensive Town Improvement Program submitted to Moorabool Council by Progress Association some years ago. Not sure if it includes the path from Hotel to the Hall. Is it a 'big idea' to put up 1:1 funds & have the path done whilst all the machinery & material is here?



Related to this is hearsay that a bus shelter will be erected opposite the hotel, in spite of about 50 townfolk unanimously saying NO some weeks ago because it would ruin the town-scape that is much the same as it was in photos taken 100 years ago! Is it too late to stop it going ahead?

Not so long ago there were no rabbits in Blackwood. Now they are threatening to become a plague. Another 'big idea' is needed to stop this invasion before it gets out of hand. And then there's the feral cat problem. At least one Blackwoodian is trying to catch these killers of indigenous wildlife & take them to a veterinary clinic. Not all are totally feral & have to be euthanised but can be sold on as pets. Please, all of us must try to keep our loveable cat-pets in-doors.

We encourage Letters to the Editor on any of these matters.

John Kemp

NOTICE OF THE BLACKWOOD TIMES INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held on Thursday 29th August - from 6.30 pm - at the Blackwood Hall.

AGENDA

- Report on activities for the financial year to June 2024
- Financial report
- Election of Office Bearers'
- Plans for the future

All are welcome. Maybe you just want to find out how the BWT works. New members of the BWT team are welcome of course, but you don't need to be to attend.

Kylie Richardson ~ President

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)
May '24	58.7	90.1	-2.7	21.2	14.2	2.8	7.8
Jun '24	44.5	106.5	-5.5	12.2	9.1	1.4	5.1

The June rainfall was well below average whereas last June it was much higher. Also June temperatures have been lower than last year but the sunny days made up for the icy nights and mornings being quite different to last years dull and rainy but warmer days.

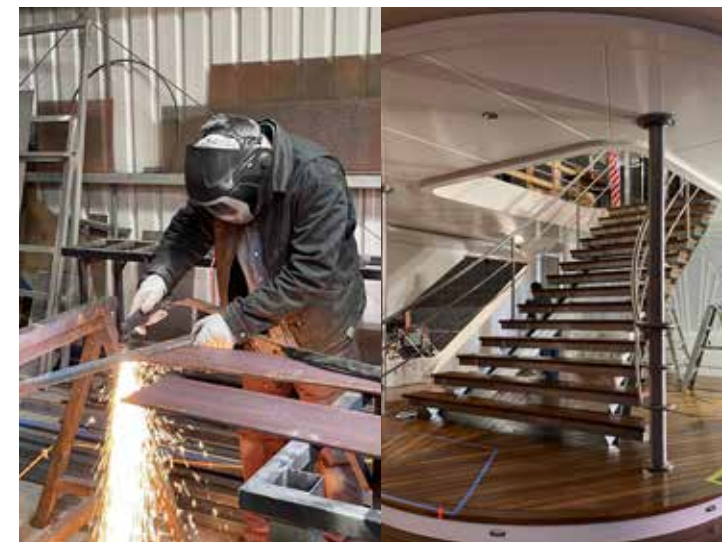
~ Don Owen

BLACKWOOD'S METALWORKING MAESTRO



In this issue of Blackwood Makers, we have a chat with Mick Thompson. Mick and Simone and their two girls Olive and Odette have been permanent residents of Blackwood for the past 12 years. Mick owns a metal fabrication factory located in Ballan. Mick shared his story behind this unique enterprise.

Mick is a seasoned veteran in the art of metal fabrication. He began his journey in the industry over two decades ago. "I've always been into metalwork," he explains. "I started back in New Zealand as a boilermaker, and then I moved on to blacksmithing, working with a big power hammer and even trying my hand at glass blowing." Mick's diverse background has allowed him to explore the boundless possibilities of metalwork: from architectural features like stairs and windows; to sculptural art pieces. "I've done a lot of work around Blackwood," he reveals, "from the door handles and rusty accents on the Merchant to the black window frames inside. I've even had a hand in the Post Office and multiple other local landmarks."



When asked about his favourite projects, Mick's face lights up with enthusiasm "I really enjoy putting together the big staircases. In fact, the first time I happened to be at Mick's workshop I saw tons of these amazing features and the incredible work that had gone into it. "There's something about watching this massive structure come together over the course of a week, that just fills me with pride." He also speaks fondly of his blacksmithing days, reminiscing about the joy of "tinkering around on the anvil" and creating intricate, tapered steel pieces (see photo).

The decision to move the factory to Blackwood was a deliberate one, driven by the need for more space and a desire to escape the hustle and bustle of the city. "When Olive was born, we knew we had to either stay in the city or get out. Blackwood just seemed like the perfect fit - it had the space we needed, and I already had a few friends up here." Mick's passion for his work is evident, and it's clear that the town of Blackwood has embraced his unique craft. From the iconic landmarks he's helped shape, to the serene natural surroundings that inspire his creations, this metalworking maestro has found his niche in our town. As our conversation draws to a close, I asked Mick about his favourite aspects of life in Blackwood. "The bush and the ability to ride motorbikes and have a beer afterwards with my mates- that's pretty much my idea of paradise." With a warm smile, he adds, "And of course, the coffee in the main street isn't too bad either!"

Story & photos ~ Paul Kukiel

CORRECTION

In the last Issue of the Times (June-July 2024), on page 6, Surrogacy in Blackwood, the first line of this article was missed in the collation process. We sincerely apologise for this error in such an important story. The first line should have been: "I want to preface this piece by thanking the wonderful Blackwood community..."

THE BLACKWOOD TIMES INC.



NOELLE RECEIVES AN OAM



Noelle on a bush walk by the river. Photo ~ Jeanne Tahini

In The King's Birthday Honours list this year, long-term resident Noelle Shader was awarded an OAM (Order of Australia Medal) for services to ballet.

Q: How did you feel on receiving the news that you had been awarded an OAM?

I was surprised, honoured and humbled. It was acknowledgement of the 40 years of experience I put into my chosen career.

Q: How did you decide that you wanted a career/life in ballet?

I grew up in a house filled with music as my Mother was a concert pianist. When we went to the movies I was the only child dancing up and down the aisles. I moved away from home when I was 11 years old, and studied at a professional school until I graduated and then I became a professional dancer in New York until I emigrated to Australia in 1981.

Q: Why did you emigrate?

My partner at the time had parents who lived in Australia and we came for a holiday to Perth and loved it. We went back to New York and within two weeks we made the decision to give up everything we had, and everything we knew, to make a fresh start in a new country. We saw Australia as a place in which we could grow. I don't know if I would do such a big move now!

Q: What position did you get when you first came to Australia?

Nothing! I had no job but after a short time I got a job working as a classical dance teacher at WAPA (The West Australian Academy of Performing Arts) in Perth. They had just opened. After this I was employed by the West Australian Ballet Company and began teaching there. Within 10 years I was asked to join the Australian Ballet Company and I moved east to Melbourne.

Q: What did this position entail?

The old term for it is ballet mistress. My job was to rehearse the works that were presented onstage. This means that you are in charge of all the roles - teaching classes, coaching the dancers and maintaining the standard of the performances. I also worked with injured dancers, retraining them through rehabilitation for their injury not to re-occur. It is now most frequently called rehearsal director. It was a job where I worked for 6 days a week and toured for seven months of the year. We had three major seasons in Australia and several overseas tours. It basically meant being away from home 7 to 8 months of the year. I also enjoyed working as a classical lecturer at universities and colleges - WAPA in Perth and The Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne. I did this for the first ten years I was living in Blackwood.

Q: Why did you move to Blackwood?

I love nature. I had moved away from the city and was commuting to Melbourne from the Dandenongs at the time, and saw in the Age classifieds, a lovely home that I came up to look at. It was only an hour's commute from the city and I fell in love with Blackwood. I didn't buy that house but bought another one, next to the forest.

Q How was it travelling Australia and the world and coming home to Blackwood ?

It was wonderful. I used to sit on my deck and listen to the birds, hear the owls at night and enjoy all the best that Blackwood has to offer. That is - the quiet, the history of the generations of families that have lived here, walks with my bluey dog in the forest and community life. The warmth of my Blackwoodian friends kept me going.

In October 2008, my house burnt down to the ground, due to an electrical fire. This was before Black Saturday, which took place in February 2009. The CFA did as much as they possibly could and people were very kind after the fire, as I lost everything. There was an auction, organised by Brendan and Jinny, and held at the Special School, to raise funds for me and many people also donated items and goods. This kept me going for a while. Linda and Laurie Byres, who was the Fire Chief at the time, took me in and I lived with them for nearly two years. With all the regulations and requirements that came in after Black Saturday I found it impossible to rebuild again, especially with a high BAL (Bushfire Attack Level) rating.

You can never predict what is going to happen. It was an event that changed and shaped my life. Fire has shaped the lives of many people who have gone through it, especially for many people in Victoria. The emotion from the event can still be triggered, but I have learnt to live with it.

We live here in a community that may be prone to fire at some point so that is always in the back of my mind. Having lost everything, except for my dog, and a few items that were in the shed, it does prioritise what is important in life. You either get on with it, or you don't, and I think that the people that stick through living here have to have a bit of a hard skin to survive well.

In 2011 I became involved with BAG (Blackwood Action Group) which was formed to focus on the inability to rebuild in Blackwood causing businesses to close and the town to suffer. Much lobbying was done with government agencies and the Council to fight to keep Blackwood going. This took place over several years and much of the outcome and the ability to be able to rebuild in Blackwood is a result of BAG's fight to keep the town alive. Over the years I continued to look after my ageing Father who also migrated after me. I continued to work part-time with the Company and began working in Ballarat. My main focus, however, was to rebuild on my property. Unable to do so, I eventually bought my current home and over the years have become more involved with community groups - Landcare and other groups. Being in Blackwood has helped me heal and I have connected with a large circle of friends, many of whom are quirky and talented and I feel fortunate to have them in my life. I call them my 'framily'.

Q: What else is special to you about living in Blackwood?

I walk every morning. Now I walk throughout the town but previously I walked in the forest with my dog. I discovered the wonderful history of the tracks around Blackwood and gained an appreciation of the First Nations people who lived around here. In about 2015/16 I met the Director of the Northern Territory Dance Company, Gary Lang who is an Indigenous man. Since meeting Gary I have been involved with his productions. Recently I returned from an 8 week tour of WA and NT with a production based on the Stolen Generations. I feel privileged to have been on this tour and have seen the beauty of some of the more remote parts of the country and experience first-hand the knowledge base of First Nations People. Returning home, I am happy sleeping in my own bed again, in the quiet of Blackwood and am thankful that I had 3 metres of wood delivered before I left, because I have returned to the cold! Wherever I travel makes me grateful to live in Blackwood, to return to be a part of the community in which I have good friends.

Since the notification of my OAM it has given me joy to have received acknowledgements and messages from people I haven't seen for many years. It has been good to hear from my old peers, dancers and colleagues who sent tributes to me for the work that I have done. It has made me feel that my contribution to the Australian Dance industry was worthwhile and I am very grateful.

Interviewed by Jeanne Tahini

THE BLACKWOOD MAP

Just over two years ago, Karen Bermingham decided to stop drawing her mud maps for visitors and create a professional map of Blackwood. For years prior, Karen had been hand drawing directional maps which highlighted local sights. She approached the makers of the Lerderberg Map and asked if they would be able to make a close-up map of Blackwood and surrounding areas. They agreed and the process began. "Simon from Meridian Maps has been great to work with and both of us have been undertaking something new," says Karen.

The aim of the Blackwood Map is to create a resource for visitors and locals alike. One that show-cased local sites of interest but also promoted community groups and businesses in the area. Initially Karen thought that she would need to offer advertising spots outside of Blackwood to cover the cost of creating The Map, but this turned out to be not the case. With so many new "micro businesses" operating in Blackwood now, it was easy to fill the spots. In total, 38 businesses and community groups agreed to advertise and make this valuable resource happen. Businesses and Community groups will be able to purchase the map wholesale and sell them for profit as fundraising.

Karen wanted to highlight our local trees and created a "significant tree walk" where people can walk or drive to see these beauties. And with the recent discovery of the Barry's Reef Avenue of Honour it made sense to pan the map out to include this also.

Another inclusion was a short walk with a beautiful view of Blackwood. Karen has called this the Powers Bend lookout (see photo on front page). From here you can see just what a mountainous town we live in. The Map also has interesting facts about Blackwood such as it being the 7th highest town in Victoria - Trentham is the second highest. Short, self-guided walks around town, including the cemetery, are highlighted. Originally there was a plan to have new photographs of the area but



with so many advertisers wanting to be involved, The Map ran out of room. However, the front cover features a fine picture of Wilbur the Weed with a stunning view over the valley. Unfortunately, Wilbur has lost his head but we hope he will be healed and 'in situ' for the release of the map.

Ideas for the next edition include a significant building walk (with owners' permission, of course) and some digging sites.

Karen has donated her time to the creation of this gem and the Blackwood Hat Shoppe has subsidised it. It is hoped that The Map will be released in September so look out for a copy.

John Kemp from chatting with Karen, photo-Karlee Litchfield



A BLACKWOOD PROFILE ~ MATILDA AND JONATHON IN YEAR 12



Matilda and brother Ned (pretending to be Jonathon) after getting off the school bus

Q: What makes year 12 different from the 11 years of schooling you have previously been through?

Matilda ~ There's a difference in the expectations and the workload put upon you. However, you also gain more freedom as the teachers have more trust in you.

Jonathon ~ I haven't found it too different. I've had to focus more time on my studies. I haven't been able to go for walks through the forest and have mostly been stuck inside. In doing this I've been able to allocate more time to my studies. At school, there's no punishment if you don't submit your work, it's just reflected in your grades.

Q: There are quite a few books written about surviving Year 12. There's discussion on such things as getting good sleep, eating well, studying with a friend, and not cramming at the last minute. Do you have any survival tips for others?

Matilda ~ I would say find a friend who works in a similar way to you, as you can work on projects together. Before this year we didn't have much study to do, so it can also be good to share ideas and motivate each other to get work done.

Jonathon ~ I don't have too many friends in my cohort and I am more of an independent learner anyway. Tips for focussing on study include- getting rid of distractions, keep the phone in the other room, and doing exercise before study also helps. I find that doing some jobs outside before studying and taking regular breaks to lift some weights throughout study helps my focus and retention while studying.

Matilda ~ I try to do what is considered the ideal thing - have a 5 minute break every 20 minutes, go outside and don't look at my phone.

Jonathon ~ It's a benefit being so close to nature which many suburban students may not have. I also often try to go to bed early. Every time before a big test I stop revision before 8.30pm, and go to bed.

Matilda ~ I never study in the morning or night before a test as your brain will only remember the most recent information that you have studied. We have many SAC tests (School Assessed Coursework) which prepare us for the big exams which happen in October.

Q: Do you think that there are any differences between your living in Blackwood and others living in a non-rural setting?

Matilda ~ We get ATAR boosts because we live in a rural setting and don't have great access to other resources. In going to University, we can also get grants because we live in a rural area. However, there are still some definite negatives in living so far away and having to travel so far to school each morning. The bus is something that most of us have to travel on.

Jonathon ~ I don't talk on the bus, I put in my ear pods and listen to music or a podcast and prepare for the day going to school and then unwind from the day, coming home.

Matilda ~ I wake up at 7am and catch the bus at 8am and I am at school at 8.40am. I think that when it comes to socialisation I really have to rely on my family, as most of my friends live in and around Daylesford. There's no access to public transport from Blackwood. It often comes down to good negotiation...if I do a job for you, will you drive me to there?

Jonathon ~ Other kids might have a lot more free time as they don't have to travel to school. They can spend more of their time socialising. There's more responsibilities and things to take care of living in Blackwood and less time to get things done due to long travel times. At home, I need to split wood and carry wood and look after animals. I have two sheep, 12 chickens, a dog, an axolotl, several fish and a thousand-strong colony of bull ants. You have to make some sacrifices to make sure that you can get everything done. I save the larger jobs for the weekend. I have to minimise socialising to be able to fit everything in. All my friends living in Ballarat have sport after school and part-time jobs. I haven't been able to do any of that.

Matilda ~ I am lucky enough to have a weekend job in Blackwood. Previously I had a weekend job in Daylesford. I had a seven-hour shift on a Sunday and it was hard to get there and back. I have jobs to do at home - clothes washing and cleaning. I am so looking forward to having my driving licence, and the freedom it will give me.

Q: What was the impact of Covid on your life?

Jonathon ~ It was OK for us, it was mostly positive as we were the right age, in years 8 and 9 and not in Year 12. We were able to stay in bed longer. I was able to multi-task when I was listening to lessons. We could attend classes in our pyjamas.

Matilda ~ I would do a lot of classes in bed as we didn't need to turn our cameras on. My school made it so we only had two or three classes a day.

Q: How do you think you would have survived lockdown in year 12?

Matilda ~ I don't know how people did it, home is so informal and I have less motivation to do school work. I don't have the same attention span at home as I do at school. I think I would struggle in not having my friends around me to offer support.

Jonathon ~ It would take a new level of discipline to perform year 12 at home in a lockdown situation. If you looked at the examiners' reports for those years they were shocking, in terms of students' progress.

Matilda ~ we experienced Covid in the best years. Year 7 is important and so are years 10, 11 and 12. Being in years 8 & 9 was all right to live through the pandemic.

Q: What are you thinking of doing next year?

Matilda ~ I want to go to University. I hope to study Psychological Science and Criminology. I have always had a love of psychology. I have friends who are hoping to go to the same Uni, so we may have a share house or live on campus. I am going to Bali with 8 friends once we finish year 12.

Jonathon ~ I'd like to get into Melbourne University to do Science. Hopefully I could find student accommodation or be accepted into a Melbourne Uni college. I would also like to visit Japan and travel across Europe.

Interviewed by Jeanne Tahini, photo~Jeanne Tahini

TOMMY JOHNSON & THE BARRY'S REEF POST OFFICE

In the last issue we ran a feature article, 'Nola Elizabeth (Coker) Whitehouse Reminisces'. Nola, then a young girl, animatedly recalled a character with one leg - one Tommy Johnson. On searching Margot Hitchcock & The Blackwood & District Historical Society archives we came across a piece Margot had written many years ago on this character that we thought worth reprinting. He must have been a most extraordinarily tough & fascinating character.

COMPILED BY MARGOT HITCHCOCK, HISTORIAN FOR THE BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY. AUGUST 2024.

There was a Post Office in Barry's Reef which opened in 1866. Records show that -

Extracts of Blackwood news from the Bacchus Marsh Express paper.

August 18, 1866 - The movement for a Post Office at Barry's Reef successful. Tenders called for conveying the mails daily from Golden Point. Mr. Shaw, we believe has accepted the office of Postmaster.

Tommy Johnson lived in Barry's Reef and lost his left leg in a gun-shot accident. The author was told Mr. Vigor the butcher, cut off Tommy's leg with a saw when his leg went gangrene.

In a newspaper article kept in a scrap book by the late Mrs. Maude Noble it said -

"The hurricane lamp is good enough for me," says Tommy Johnson of Barry's Reef age 88 yrs, one of Barry's Reef's three permanent residents. He is not impressed by the news that the ghost town will get electricity. "These electrical gadgets are a curse. They'll end up ruining the Aussie." Old Tom has lived at Barry's Reef for 70 years and remembers when it was a boom town. So if it's gold-mining yarns you are seeking old Tom is the man to spin them.

He said "Barry's Reef had 30 pubs in the 1880's not counting the sly grogs. There was a local brewery and a whisky distillery where they made a kind of mountain dew."

Old Tom went to the 'Reef' as a miner but soon decided there was more money in grog than gold. He bought the Commercial Hotel on main street and worked from 6am until past midnight each day for ten years serving liquor to thirsty miners each day.

"One of my favourite sports was beating the local copper, who was always trying to catch me serving after hours. The only time he caught me at 3am one day, I told him he had won at last and then offered him a drink to celebrate his success. He was so full at 6 o'clock that I threw him on a sofa and left him there the rest of the night with the rest of the drunks. He never checked on me again."

Digger - Death Index records show - Thomas Andrew Johnson, Father: Thomas Andre Johnson, mother: Mary Anne Burton, died at Ballarat in 1965, age 89 yrs.

Reg Number: 21596.



Tommy Johnson with John and Liz Murphy of Barry's Reef Post Office. C. 1950's.

Tommy is photographed here at Barry's Reef with John and Liz Murphy (nee Snell). The Murphy's had the Post Office at Barry's Reef. Tommy is holding a newspaper where his leg should be. He walked with the aid of crutches.

Below - Barry's Reef Post Office fallen down. By the author C.1980.



Researched by Margot Hitchcock from her forthcoming book 'The History and Pioneers of Blackwood', hopefully to be published soon. Other books published by Margot Hitchcock - "Aspects of Early Blackwood", "Some History of Simmons Reef, Blackwood" and "The Billy Pincombe Tragedy". See - www.blackwoodpublishing.com

For help with information on Blackwood ancestors contact Margot Hitchcock - email - margohitchcock@bigpond.com

Margot Hitchcock

A BLACKWOOD GARDEN



Such heavy frosts we've had but the best thing about that is, they're usually followed by glorious sunny days. Even if it's cold, a bit of hard work and you're soon warmed up. With lots of cutting back to encourage new growth, there's plenty to do at this time of year.

Usually Winter is the time when I see lots of Yellow Robins in my garden but this year there seems to be far fewer. In fact now that I think about it there are fewer of all the species who normally inhabit

my garden. As always I'm hoping to see a Flame Robin or Scarlet Robin. Over the years I've only seen 10 at most....I think they like more open ground than I have. It was such a thrill some years ago, to wake up and have 2 males just outside my bedroom window.

Being close to the river, on rainy days I also often get bitten by leeches. I'm used to it now and mostly feel them before they properly attach themselves. I try to remember to keep a lighter in my pocket or salt as these are the best ways to remove them. If you just pull them off, you risk leaving part of it in you which will soon get infected.

I picked my first Jonquils in mid July. I love having fresh flowers inside but there isn't much to choose from in July. Lots of Violets but they are a labour of love to pick. Even for a small bunch you need a lot and it's a long way to bend. If you do love them, they also drink through their faces so always dip the flowers in water before putting them in a vase. Wallflowers are there for picking and Hellebores are just starting to flower.

I'm looking forward to Spring with all that it brings. Enjoy whatever you get up to but be sure to get out there at least a little each day.

Jane Howat





TRIVIA NIGHT AT ST MARTIN'S CHAPEL



Annalice with Jeanne, Robyn & Stephanie

Trivia Night at St Martin's Chapel proceeded despite the brrrrr..... cold weather and steady rain on Saturday 20th July. The weather dampened our town folk's desire to venture out of their homes to come up the hill to the Chapel. We did not have a big turnout at this event; however, it became apparent that those that did come were soon in high spirit after drying off and warming up in the cosy, inviting space of St Martin's. Those present proved totally dedicated to the competition. There were three teams with the names - Geenius, Wombat Magic and The Breakaways. Annalice was the Trivia Master and went through eleven rounds of eight questions worth 10 points each as well as three True or False rounds and a Grand Finale item of "Who am I"?

St Martin's Chapel's new Projector was used for the first time in Annalice's presentation of the questions and had a successful first run. Each question was presented on screen, some with images or video which gave the participants added visual clues. The categories for questions were varied. One of categories that prompted more conversation and great interest was local knowledge about Blackwood. For example, how many post boxes are outside Blackwood Post Office? The closest guess got the point. Now this was a tricky question because the post box numbers are not in sequence as they have come from other post offices that have closed. Try guessing the answer yourself. After all, many of us go to the shop or post office several times a week. Are we paying attention?

Each category had some hard and interesting questions such as:

Question 1: "Earkeckers" is an outdated term for which part of the body?

Question 2: Which country in the world has a flag that is not rectangular. It is comprised of two triangles?

Question 3: which noted West Melbourne born military general, engineer and University Vice-Chancellor features on Australia's \$100 note?

Question 4: What bone are babies born without?

The "Who Am I" question provided some challenging and intriguing clues. We were told that the person is someone who lives in Blackwood today. Some of the clues to this last challenge sounded a bit like thismy five times grandmother's sister's brother-in-law was one of two brothers who came from Cornwall in England to Blackwood to mine gold. These intricate family webs were contained in many of these questions. The most tangible current clue to the Who am I? was...I have great hair. Can you figure out the answer?

There was an outwardly friendly bonhomie during the night but this was serious business. The prizes were generous with donations from Blackwood Skin & Beauty, The Blackwood General, The Post Office and Blackwood Hotel. The winning table collected a large blue bucket full of various prizes.

Thank you to all the people who organised and set up the event. A big thank you to our generous local Businesses who donated prizes. Thank you to Annalice for her contribution of work and time.

We thank all the Blackwood residents who attended the night and hope to see more of you at our next event.

Answer 1: Tonsils; Answer 2: Nepal; Answer 3: John Monash; Answer 4: Kneecap. Post office boxes in Blackwood = 156.

Stephanie Kondos, photos~Peter Donnelly

"THE PROMISE OF PLENTY, THE DELIVERANCE OF NOTHING."

"You may expect to hear from me in the course of a month".

Those famous words would haunt John Wightman and put a huge strain on his wife Anna Matilda, and their family. It would also permeate concern through the Wightman business and for their friends in Ballymeglaff, Comber, County Down, in Northern Ireland. A son's recent death, and a business that was clearly struggling, saw a leased house, a flax mill, and 18 acres of land he managed, struggling to keep afloat. A trip to Australia was the promised land of milk and honey, with buckets of gold lying in the streets.

Since his arrival, the years had already passed so quickly from 1854, with his establishment in the gold fields at Mount Blackwood in 1855, but it was already 1856. A long-awaited delivery of mail saw John struggling like a child with a new toy. He recognised the Derry Spoon 1856 stamp and the writing, nervously he opened the letter. It was from another John Wightman, his accountant and friend, with a note attached sent from his wife Anna.

It's tone, however, was not what he had expected and clearly described a woman's irritation. The message was brief and to the point. "Well, no one put a gun to your head John to go, you're there because you want to be, period". Anna Matilda was known for her lack of patience, and explained in no uncertain terms, her displeasure and talent in describing John's selfishness. It was clear, he needed to be home and quickly. His friend "John Wightman" was from Ballyalton next door to Ballymeglaff, had been helping to keep an eye on the family flax business, farm, and finances.

Stunned by Anna's words, he reflected on what had he previously written, looking over the handful of notes of his last letter. John was meticulous in keeping details of what he had said, so as not to repeat its contents. He read out loud to himself.

"My next letter will be a longer one and will give a description of this country. I have had no opportunity of knowing much about it, as I was so sick, I could not write to you. I feel the want of your care now, it's too late, but I expect to be home in the New Year. Write and give me all news and how you have got through. I am to blame; in not sending you more money when in Liverpool, but it took longer to fit me out than I expected and knowing that you were among friends that you would not want."

"I hope you got the letter I sent per ship before crossing the line (equator). I hope you are all in good health. I know you will have a good many troubles to get through but put full trust in providence and he will not desert you. I hope William is paying attention to you and the family as he promised to me. With me being so long bad (sick) it was out of my power to send you money. I have now good health and it will not be long until I send you some, you may expect to hear from me in the course of a month. Remember (me) to my father's family and all their friends, to Aunt and David."

"I hope John is getting strong. Tell him I will be home soon with lumps of gold for him. I am dear Ann, yours forever. John pondered his thoughts had he made a mistake? However, there was a more pressing issue. At the end of Anna's brief letter, stunned and in shock, he read the words Elizabeth wants to go to Victoria, Australia.

"I am arranging passage soon on the "Great Britian". John Wightman screamed, she's just seventeen. Slumping back into his old chair, John wondered if the day could get any worse, "Lord punish me for my sins."

Mr Glenn F. Wolter MBAI (Genealogist)

BLACKWOOD SPECIAL SCHOOLS OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

The Evolution of an Educational Facility



Established as a Church of England School and given the number 269, Golden Point School officially opened its doors in 1855 with an enrolment of 34 students under the Principalship of Mr Thomas Hay. As enrolments grew the school campaigned for more buildings which were allocated in November 1870 along with the new School number 1074.

In the 1910-11 financial year the Department of Education purchased land in Red Hill (Cann Street, Blackwood) the current location of Blackwood Special Schools. In 1914 the school was moved from Golden Point to Red Hill and officially opened on the new site at the beginning of the 1915 academic year. The Department also purchased the Police Quarters on Terrill Street as a Teacher Residence in 1915.

Due to enrolments falling to 9 students, the school was officially closed on the 4th February 1969 and the students were bused to Trentham Primary School.

It was during 1969 that a group of Special School Principals were searching for a location to establish a camp exclusively for students from Victorian Special Schools. After considering several locations Statewide, they focused on Blackwood with approval to develop their camp coming from the Department of Education on 11th December 1969.

In early 1970 classrooms were transformed into bedrooms, bathrooms, a kitchen, dining room & lounge room with students from Ballarat Special School arriving on Monday 8th June 1970 as the first students to attend Blackwood Camp for Intellectually Handicapped Children – later re-named Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre.

With the generous direct support of Special Schools, local residents and minimal Department of Education funding Blackwood Camp grew in popularity eventually opening the doors of Terrill Street as an accommodation site on Saturday 29th March 1980.

With everyone safely removed from the building, Monday 24th August 1981, School 1074 on Cann Street burnt down and the rebuild of a purpose-built accommodation facility begins, re-opening on Friday 12th August 1983.

On Monday 30th January 1989 the first staff allocated to Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre commence working at the school. While programs evolved and educational experiences improved, not a lot happened in the way of infrastructure development until the 21st Century when things started to change.

Through an annual golf charity day and the School starting to attract philanthropic funding, programs designed to extend the students comfort zones started to appear, including:-



- 2011 Wheelchair Accessible Archery
- 2015 Wheelchair Accessible Multi-level High Ropes Course
- 2017 Rockclimbing and Wheelchair Accessible Abseiling Tower

Then on Wednesday 5th October 2021 after 9 years of campaigning and after 50 year of existence the Department of Education finally acknowledged Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre as an official campus of Frankston Special Developmental School and allocated an appropriate budget to Blackwood Special Schools – now an Outdoor Residential School.

Since then, we have evolved from two staff members to nine, further developed an appropriate curriculum for students accessing Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre and the Department of Education has provided an office, classrooms, accessible toilet block, upgrade our ramps and continue to support our School.

What's next? We are currently working with the Department of Education to convert one of our classrooms into a kitchen and dining room to evolve from a non-catered to a fully catered facility as well as develop our student learning hub, an under-cover bush activities site and re-imagine our Tent Shelter Accommodation Site and strengthen our partnership with residential and special schools throughout Victoria - recently hosting the Residential Outdoor Schools Associations annual conference in June.

While we continue to evolve, we remain true to our core purpose and that is to deliver an experiential outdoor education curriculum exclusively to students from Victorian Special Schools.

Tony Bellette, Campus Principal

CELEBRATING FIRST NATIONS CULTURE THROUGH CINEMA:



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER AT BLACKWOOD HALL

On Friday 12th July, the community of Blackwood gathered at the Hall for a heart-warming celebration of First Nations culture through the magic of cinema. Kids got cosy up the front on bean bags and cushions, and others took their seats in the old wooden pews, we heard a beautiful acknowledgment of country by Arla (5yo).

The event kicked off with the premiere episode of Burrumbi Kids, a TV series based on the novels of the same name by Leonie Norrington. It has captivated hearts with its poignant storytelling and rich portrayal of Indigenous life. The kids were engaged and asked lots of questions during the screening.

The main feature was Bran Nue Dae written by Jimmy Chi and his band, The Kuckles. This beloved Australian musical-comedy, known for its infectious energy and humour, elicited uproarious laughter and applause from the audience.

The evening was more than just watching movies; it was about coming together as a community to celebrate and honour First Nations culture. The films not only entertained but also enlightened us, fostering a deeper appreciation for the richness and diversity of Indigenous stories.

Presented by Blackwood Reconciliation Collective, special thanks to Greenhills Sound for equipment and tech support.

Sarah Thomas, photo ~ Jeanne Tahini



• COMMUNITY UPDATES •

BLACKWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION AGM 2024 – PRESIDENT’S REPORT



Darren, Angelko (Fish), Deirdre & Louise - Progress Association Committee members thanking volunteers at the Pizza Night. Photo~Jeanne Tahini

Since the precarious days of the pandemic and two cancelled Easter Carnivals, Blackwood Progress has been assiduously rebuilding its financial as well as physical assets*. The carnival goes from strength to strength, consolidating itself this year as a major regional event, a showcase for the town of Blackwood and its visitor economy.

It remains, after 122 years, a major part of our community’s identity. And it’s a prime opportunity for community groups to recruit and fundraise. It allows our group to offer support throughout the year to local projects and initiatives, partnering with individuals, local groups and government.

The Carnival since Covid has taken on a growing musical aspect, one that complements the traditional headline event of the Woodchop Competition. Judging by attendee numbers and feedback, this new model for the event is popular.

Progress has carried this experiment with musical events into November with the welcome (and successful) return of the Blackwood Music Festival and throughout the year has supported numerous concerts at St. Martin’s Chapel.

Time, effort and funds have been allocated on other works such as The Street Library, Town Map, Bush Dance, Tennis Club, Anzac Day celebrations, the Storm Documentary and fundraising and support for infrastructure at the Chapel (including access road upgrade and cinema equipment). Movie nights are coming to Blackwood and I’m sure Progress will be there.

Over the years, Blackwood Progress has busied itself with a multitude of good works around the town, often reflecting the current interests and skills of the group and the community at large. Sometimes we are builders of playgrounds and monuments, other times we are the voice of the community, campaigning on important issues, at times we are a cashcow for others in the community to realise their own brilliant ideas. Right now you might say the group is in a showbiz phase. That’s no bad thing. I feel it reflects where the town is at this moment. We can get back to building monuments another day.

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard this year for the benefit of the community.

Outgoing president, Brendan Hehir

*Assets available for use (community use is free)

250 chairs	4 dining tables with chairs
40 tables and trestles	PA system
10 gazebos (some walled)	4 portable Eftpos terminals (Squares)
Stage	Bunting
2 portable gas heaters	

CROWN RESERVES COMMITTEE

On 2 July the new Blackwood Crown Reserves Committee of Management (BCR) was finally formally inducted by Ballarat representatives from the Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action (DEECA).

President: Peter Fowler

“Having had a direct attachment to Blackwood for the last 50 years and time working in state government in Tourism Victoria, Regional Development Victoria and Economic development agencies, I have gained an understanding of “how government works” and felt this background was aligned to what the committee needed when I joined 10 years ago. In addition to this I am able to keep in direct contact with local and state stakeholders to bring about improved outcomes for Blackwood and the reserves for which we are responsible”.



Secretary: Sarah Kukiel

Treasurer: Rosie Carrington

Committee members: Brian Suturs, John Kemp, Wendy Brown.

Motivation for joining the Committee ranges from a desire to contribute to the community; to utilise experience with the BCR over many years and particular interest in enhancing each of the 9 sites that the BCR is responsible for managing.

DEECA continues to consult with Moorabool on the sewer related issue at the caravan park however progress remains slow. For as long as the sewer problem remains unresolved the amenities will remain incomplete. In seeking a resolution to this ongoing issue, in March the noncompliance of the sewer was reported to the Victorian Ombudsman office however after formal consultation they advised they do not have any jurisdiction over the issue and referred the committee to the Victorian Building Authority. At this stage the committee is awaiting the outcome of discussions between the two stakeholders responsible for identifying a resolution - Moorabool and DEECA.

July/August at the caravan park is set to be very quiet with the winter weather now set in, however the river is looking nice and full with all this rain. New tables and seats are being installed at the Springs with the older ones being replaced. Older tables and chairs will be relocated and installed at the tennis court. The park has welcomed 2 new annuals, we have seen a higher demand in annual vans at the park this past 12 months.

The hall was recently host to a local’s movie night, the upcoming bush dance and weekly Over 55’s lunch. If anyone is looking at hiring the hall for any function they should contact the office at the caravan park.

Financially the BCR is in good shape but there are many demands. We are currently exploring costs for the playground to be moved from the Springs, where it is under-utilised, and installed at the oval for all to use as well as re-bituminising the road from the Caravan Park down to the Springs.

Peter Fowler

• COMMUNITY UPDATES •

THE BLACKWOOD TENNIS CLUB

Decades ago George Stockdale (the then owner of the Blackwood Hotel), joined with others to collect money for a lawn bowling green to be established across from the tennis courts. As all involved members have either passed on or moved on, prior to George’s passing he bequeathed substantial funds into 4 not for profit groups, CFA CERT, Cricket Club and the Tennis Club. The funds for the Tennis Club were deposited into a Commonwealth bank account along with the funds previously acquired by the members in the days gone by. The funds have remained in the Commonwealth account until a bit of searching was done. So, as the Tennis Club, maybe netball as well, have not been formed, the funds are now in a long term account under the management of the Cricket Club.

There have been attempts in the past to form a tennis club however, this should not deter us from having another go. Blackwood has a fantastic Cricket Club with games played on one of the best looking grounds in Australia and we are crazy if we don’t get more use out of the facilities by utilising the funds for the purpose for which they were bequeathed.

A meeting will take place at a later date, most likely in the next newsletter, however any inquiries in relation to the above can be emailed to blackwoodcricketclub@gmail.com ..

Brian Suturs, photo~John Kemp

BLACKWOOD COMMUNITY BUSH DANCE



Bushwahzee are back again this year for our fantastic event.

Cowboy Hats, Boot scooting and family fun.

There are lots of prizes to be won. Come join the Bush Dance!!

Price includes a two-course carvery meal.

BYO drinks, tea and coffee provided.

Please include children and adults in your booking - Adults \$45, children 15 and under free.

If you want to sit together, book early and book as a group,

Email any dietary requirements by 2nd August to deecronin@bigpond.com

DATE

Saturday 10 August 2024 5:30 PM - 11:30 PM

LOCATION

Blackwood Community Hall

Byres Road, Blackwood Vic 3458

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



DINNER CLUB

Dinner Club ‘gourmands’ at the Farmers Arms in Daylesford.



Kirsty, Marg, Kath, Janette, Brian, Ariana, Rose & Ray



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• COMMUNITY UPDATES •

BERG AGM



Back row from left: Richard, Kylie, Sophie & Michael
Front row from left: Deb, Blaire, Gaynor, Brett, & Terri

On Thursday 4th July the Blackwood Emergency Resilience Group (BERG) held its AGM at the pub.

With 2 key committee members moving on we weren't sure if we would be able to continue running the group, whose mission is to encourage the community to think about the risks of living in our beautiful part of the world and to become more prepared for future emergency events that may impact our area.

Things were looking positive as we continued to add extra tables and chairs for those who had come along with a group of 16 sitting down for dinner and a typically relaxed BERG meeting. Heartfelt thanks and flowers were given to our wonderful outgoing Secretary Gaynor and our fabulous President Sophie Guerin. The dreaded moment arrived where positions were spilled. The 2 remaining committee members were reelected, Michael Hotchin again as treasurer and Kylie Richardson as President. They looked around the long table with fingers crossed and then it happened....hands went up!! There may or may not have been some happy tears as a full committee was formed and all roles were filled.

A big welcome and thank you to our new co Vice Presidents Deb Shaddock and Richard Weld-Blundell and to our new Secretary Blaire McGowan. Happy travellers Brett Bond and Terri Simpson have also joined the committee and we are very happy to call everyone's favourite dynamo Sue Donnelly a friend of BERG. Special thanks also to Jeanne for helping out as returning officer.

All in all, it was a very successful night for the group and we look forward to getting together in the coming months to organise an event or 2. Your input is always welcome so please check out our Facebook page for upcoming meeting details or email us anytime at Blackwooderg@gmail.com

Kylie Richardson, Photo ~ Jeanne Tahini

BLACKWOOD & BARRY'S REEF LANDCARE GROUP

" No report this issue. See photo p16"

BLACKWOOD CERT – TEAM LEADER REPORT

Although not officially commissioned, Blackwood now has its very own volunteer-staffed Ambulance Station on the main road behind the CTA Refuge.

A few key facts:

- This is the first permanent home that Blackwood Community Emergency Team (CERT Volunteers) have had since starting to support the community in 2000.
- CERT's Emergency Response Vehicle will be housed in the new "station".
- CERT will continue to share the CFA Refuge facilities for training purposes.
- The station was planned and built by Ambulance Victoria on Crown land with the co-operation of the Department of Education and CFA.
- Over the years many community members have contributed to this project with their investigations into options and petitioning to build a fit-for-purpose facility.
- Over the years many individuals have raised funds which have contributed to the build.
- Over the last few years, we have been supported with shared accommodation by CFA.

On behalf of our current Team: Kathy Berrill, Deidre Cronin, Marie-Clare Blin, Zachary Harper, Kirsty Vella we thank our community for supporting CERT in reaching this milestone, which will help us to return that support during medical emergencies.

With our new home finally in place, we invite community members to drop by and inspect it.

Our first "Open House" will be in August when we will be running free CPR training for the community.

Details of the date and time will be posted on the Blackwood FB page.

The CPR training day will also be a great opportunity to find out more about what CERT does and to see for yourself if joining CERT is the volunteering opportunity you have been looking for.

We look forward to welcoming Blackwoodians old and new.

Jan and Leonie

CERT Co-Team Leaders

REMEMBER - IN A MEDICAL EMERGENCY CALL 000



• COMMUNITY UPDATES •

CFA REPORT

Halfway through Winter – Time to Plan

It's the middle of July which means only a few weeks left for Winter and we can look forward to the start of Spring. No matter the season, we should all be vigilant regarding the outbreak of a fire, especially this time of year when we are using heaters, fire places, clothes dryers and other means to make our life more comfortable. Look around the house and see if there are any places a fire could start, candles near curtains, clothes drying in front of the fire, gas heaters that may need a service, chimneys that may need a clean to prevent the build up of creosote.

In sheds where a lot of us work on projects that may require cleaning, painting or other work where flammable liquids such as paint thinners, grease, fuels and other types are stored. Are there loose rags laying around? Is there anything that may provide an ignition source such as welders, oxy/acetylene equipment, grinders, cutters etc?

There are also some chemicals that if accidentally mixed can produce a heat source.

Consider installing an appropriate class of fire extinguisher near the door and other easily reached locations.

The classes of fire

There are six classes of fire: Class A, Class B, Class C, Class D, Class E, and Class F.

- **Class A fires – combustible materials:** caused by flammable solids, such as wood, paper, and fabric
- **Class B fires – flammable liquids:** such as petrol, turpentine or paint
- **Class C fires – flammable gases:** like LPG, hydrogen, butane or methane
- **Class D fires – combustible metals:** chemicals such as magnesium, aluminium or potassium
- **Class E fires – electrical equipment:** once the electrical item is removed, the fire changes class
- **Class F fires – cooking oils:** typically a chip-pan fire

An easy way to determine which fire extinguisher to use is by the different coloured bands on the top of each cylinder.

This coloured band tells us what type of fire extinguisher it is therefore allowing us to recognise which fire to use it for.

Now is a good time to start your fire plan preparations. What do you need to take? Where do you go during an extreme fire danger day? Pets? Valuables?

Make a grab bag filled with items such as passports, any ID, title to the house and land, insurance papers, some clothes, phone chargers just

Date	Location	Type of Call	Role	Result	Other Brigades Attended
6 Jun	Golden Point Rd	Structure Fire	Primary Response	Extinguished with fire extinguisher	5
6 Jun	Byers Road	Chimney fire	Primary Response	Extinguished with jug of water	3
18 Jun	Greendale-Trentham Rd	Non Structure	Primary Response	Smoke Detector Malfunction	3
24 Jun	Greendale-Trentham Rd	Motor Vehicle Accident	Support Role Traffic Control	Victims Extricated	3
1 Jul	Blue Mt Rd Trentham	Structure fire	Support Trentham	Called off en route	2

	Class A Flammable Materials (eg: paper & wood)	Class B Flammable Liquids (eg: paint & petrol)	Class C Flammable Gases (eg: butane & methane)	Class D Flammable Metals (eg: lithium & potassium)	Class E Electrical Equipment (eg: computers & generators)	Class F Cooking Fats and Oils (eg: fryers & chip pans)
Water	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Dry Chemical Powder ABE	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Dry Chemical Powder BE	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Carbon Dioxide CO2	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
Foam	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
Wet Chemical	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓

to name a few.

From this issue we will run a column to follow up the Captain's posts in Facebook which will include basics of the event which we hope will raise awareness of incidents that may happen.

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
Communications and Community Safety Liaison Officer
Blackwood Fire Brigade*



• COMMUNITY UPDATES •



"Us Bushplay kids will be very disappointed if The Easter Carnival is cancelled!!"

BLACKWOOD WOODCHOP AND EASTER CARNIVAL – CANCELLED

If you don't like the heading, then YOU CAN do something about it. Blackwood Progress Committee as it currently stands is not organizing the carnival next year! We thank all the volunteers that help on the day but the core volunteer committee team have been over-worked and are taking a step back this year with the hope of some fresh community members to take over running Blackwood's largest community event. Current members will, of course, guide and assist.

Trentham Spudfest has 19 people organizing the event. I am looking for a similar number of people. I currently have 9 people who have committed to help organize the event.

Over recent years the event has been organized by Progress which consists of 6 – 7 people. Too few! I am looking for a team of around 20 to organize next year's carnival. With a number like this everyone's workload would be less, and team members would get a manageable job to do.

So, if you have questions or ideas on some aspect of the carnival then contact me and join the team. If you believe that it is a great event and would like to see it continue contact me to help keep the carnival going.

If you join your commitment would start late this year and go through to Easter.

You would need to complete a specific job in organizing something, and you would either need to attend team meetings or send a status report on how you are progressing. Perhaps 30 – 40 hours over 4 months.

TO ENSURE CONTINUATION OF THE BLACKWOOD WOODCHOP AND EASTER CARNIVAL PLEASE CONTACT ME, ANGELKO (FISH) JURSKO.

My contact details are: (M) 0425722613 (Email) angelkoj@gmail.com ANY assistance will be greatly appreciated.

A WOMBAT RESCUE

A big thankyou to our Blackwood wildlife rescuers Maureen, Dennis and Ross. Here is Maureen with a young wombat found alone recently. It was too young to be on its own and will be cared for until it can hopefully be reunited with its mother.



"STOP PRESS, at time of going to print the baby wombat is in good care but, unfortunately, not united with mum. If that doesn't occur within 24 hrs then there's very little chance. We tried but following morning at 6.30am this is all we saw in the paddock. Our next issue will follow-up on this item with a big feature on the rescuing of animals in our area."

"...this is all we saw. (See photo p17)"

Karen and Maeve

CICADA SAUDADE

The static hum of cicadas a blanket over leaf litter, I emerge from the same sheets my grandmother sewed the raw edges back together, patched planes worn thin by crooked feet and long nails. Stand, shedding sheets like skin, smelling faintly of dust and the small homes of native mice. Walking the beach hand in hand with a long line of my former selves, all of us crowding coastline, jostling toward the cliff-face hanging over the lip of the channel, plunging into deeper, darker waters, thirsting for salt. The weight of my body slumps against the swing of the pendulum clock if I could hold time still for even a minute maybe you could make your way back to us, unfurl from the earth again in new skin, a whole and imperfect thing.

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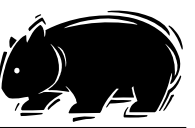


Blackwood Under 18's photo competition



The Blackwood times has 5 \$20 Post Office vouchers on offer. It's simple if you're under 18 take some photos around town, the bush or simply your backyard and send them to team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au Winner announced next issue.





BLACKWOOD WINTER FUN & FROLICS...



Blackwood Bushplay kids riding a log through the forest
Photo ~ Sarah Thomas



Blackwood Bushplay kids out of their burrows collecting sticks & getting the fire going. Photo ~ Sarah Thomas



Rylee & Tayla doing garden jobs
Photo~Jeanne Tahini



Landcare working bee on the Mineral Springs Track. Start 'em young we say - every hand makes a difference. Photo~Hannah Perkins



Veronica enjoying a walk beside the Lerderderg R with Peaches (& Cream)
Photo~John Kemp



We're all looking forward to the Bush Dance – always a hoot!
Photo~John Kemp



It might rain on our Parade, but.... Photo~ Kath Berrill



Trivial pursuits at St Martin's Chapel
Photos ~ (not) Peter Donnelly



Trivial pursuits at St Martin's Chapel
Photos ~ Peter Donnelly



Monday is Old Farts' night at the pub and a great chance to catch up with friends.
Photo~John Kemp



"Can you see Momma Wombat? We couldn't." Photo~ John Kemp



• COMMUNITY UPDATES •

A STITCH IN TIME



THE BLACKWOOD SEWING CIRCLE
Back row: Maeve, Jeanne & Jane. Seated: Jan, Robyn & Lynette

A cold and windy day in Blackwood. Grey skies, bare trees and rain on its way.

Imagine stepping from that wild wintery day into the welcoming warmth and comfort of St Martin's Chapel, finding a place round the large table covered with the assorted signs of the age-old craft of sewing, quilting, knitting and mending. You make a place for the project you have brought to work on and begin. You slowly become warmer and more relaxed, knowing that you are not going to be interrupted, you're in good company, chatting if you feel like it and of course with access to the well-stocked kitchen.

You have just entered into Blackwood's traditional Sewing Circle, begun earlier this year by Robyn Zanon and a small group of keen sewers and aptly named 'A Stitch in Time'

Sewing Circles have a long history. Typically, a group meeting regularly to sew for charitable, personal or specific purposes and made up of people who regard sewing as a creative and rewarding activity. In more difficult times during WW2, for example, sewing circles were formed to 'mend and make do'. A notable example of impromptu sewing circles occurred when Titanic survivor Emily Goldsmith, aboard the RMS Capathia rescue ship, organised sewing circles to make garments out of cloth and blankets for the surviving passengers dressed only in night attire when they entered the Life Boats!

The 'Stitch in Time' group is a mixed group of practised and expert sewers, quilters and knitters alongside those, like myself, who drop in for some advice on a special project or even simply to do some mending. The atmosphere is welcoming and friendly and as Jan observed, a great opportunity to be productive while sewing with friends old and new. Another regular, Jane enjoys the sense of team work and even though people mostly work independently there is always easy access to help and advice. Lyn comes from a family of sewers and quilters and has seen how beneficial and even therapeutic this group activity can be. All members agree that it is a good way to socialise while creating beautiful, colourful, useful and sometimes very innovative examples of the craft of sewing.



Robyn is keen for anyone interested to come along and explore whatever you're drawn to - it's a great way to learn new skills and finally finish one of those projects that have been tucked away in that cupboard for far too long. Enjoy shared learning, laughter and productive company. A very pleasant way to 'just be in the moment' 'A Stitch in Time' meets the First and Third Tuesday of each month, 2pm - 4 pm, St Martin's Chapel, Blackwood Suggested donation \$5.

Maeve McKeown, Photos~John Kemp



KIDS CORNER



WINTER WORDSEARCH

G	J	H	E	A	T	E	R
S	L	B	H	T	A	B	T
C	C	O	L	D	H	A	E
A	F	O	V	O	S	T	K
R	I	K	A	E	D		N
F	R	S	H	T	S	O	A
A	E	T		B	R	N	L
C	U	D	D	L	E	S	B

COLD
BLANKET
GLOVES
HEATER
BATH
CUDDLES
BOOKS
HAT
SNOW
FIRE
COAT
SCARF

Book a date with... Shirley Singer



Shirley our community sewing machine is available at TNC for those sewing projects!

Perfect for those repair jobs, hemming new pants / skirts, or making an entire garment. Easy to use, heavy duty and bookings are free!

Now available for use at:
Trentham Neighbourhood Centre
cnr Market and High Streets, Trentham
Sessions for Shirly are:

- Monday 2-6pm
- Wednesday 12-4pm
- Sunday 10-2pm

Book by the hour via TNC's website at:
www.trenthamnc.org.au
(under weekly classes)

Joint initiative of:



Available for residents of Trentham and surrounding areas who are 16 years plus. Children may use if supervised by an adult.

Mary-Anne Thomas MP

Labor Member
for Macedon

Delivering for Macedon

📧 mary-anne.thomas@parliament.vic.gov.au

✉ PO Box 39, Gisborne, 3437

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Gisborne VIC 3437

☎ 5428 2138

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



ADVERTISEMENT

Victorian
Labor



• COMMUNITY UPDATES •

WHOSE TATT IS THAT?

This Tatt perfectly expresses what I feel about myself. I couldn't show more of my arm as many people would then easily guess who I am!



Ebonnie Fenwick

VOTING RIGHTS

Did you know the electoral structures and ward boundaries of 49 local councils have changed? This means you might be voting in a new ward for the October local council elections.

Check your enrolment to see if you're in a new ward: <https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment/check-my-enrolment>.

Enrol or update your enrolment details (if you have moved home recently) by 4 pm Wednesday 7 August to ensure your voice is heard!

A BUSHPLAY SOLSTICE CELEBRATION



As the sun gradually set on the shortest day of the year, local bushplay kids and their families rugged up, burrowed out of their homes and gathered around a blazing fire at the Mineral Springs to mark the significance of the winter solstice.



We shared piping hot soup and home-made bread followed by mulled wine and grape juice as the kids huddled around candles and lanterns intently listening to A Waldorf Winter Solstice Story. Soon after, we made our way down to the river carrying beautiful ice lanterns the kids had made and sent little walnut shell candle boats down the stream carrying our wishes. "It's so exciting because I'm not usually out this late! The moon is spooky but that's my style!" Arla exclaimed.

This winter solstice was made even more special with a full strawberry moon (full moon in June) rising and casting bright moon shadows on our gathering. Apparently a full moon on a winter solstice is a once in two decades occurrence and this indeed made the night even more exciting.

What a lovely way to share in the solstice together and here's to some longer, warmer days in the not-too-distant future.

Georgia Jacobs, Photos~Jon Merlin

• COMMUNITY UPDATES •

OVER 55S SOCIAL CLUB

Hi everyone, we hope you are all staying warm and well. Our fantastic 3 course hot meal every Wednesday sure warms our belly, at \$10.00 for the 3 courses... you can't go wrong! There is free tea and coffee for all to enjoy. If you want, you may BYO alcohol.

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 4th September 2024. All are welcome to come along. Our membership fee is \$10.00 per person to help offset some of the incidentals we need to buy. There will be a bus trip in October 2024 with so many taking interest in going, I will provide more information in the near future. If you are a member your cost will be \$20.00 to help offset the cost of the meal and no charge for the bus fee. Non-members will have to pay a larger amount. We have a hairdresser that comes to us every 6 weeks and at \$20.00 for a haircut you can't get that anywhere! The Library bus is at the door at 1.30pm every Wednesday and the librarian is always eager to help with anything you need. The doors are open at 10.30am until 2.30pm. We hope to see you at the Blackwood Hall for some company, hot meal and a warm welcome.

Dianne Volpe, Treasurer



Photo Jane Howat

ST MARTIN'S CHAPEL

Being in the grips of Winter you would think things would be fairly quiet at St Martin's Chapel however, we are not in hibernation. Storytelling, parties, a book launch and poetry reading, our sewing group, meetings and a trivia night - it is all still happening.

We have more exciting news as well. We have been successful with our grant application to the Moorabool Council for a cinema quality projector. Thanks to Stephanie and her amazing talent with grant applications we will be able to have regular movie nights. Thanks too to the Moorabool Shire for recognising the value this will add to our space and the benefit it will be to our community. Thank you also to Blackwood Progress Association for its seeding grant for this project.

Some more concerts are on the horizon as and we plan to host a family barbecue before the end of the year.

Regular worship services haven't been happening for a while as we recognise that traditional services aren't what most people are seeking. Rev Matt Harry, a leader in change, has invited Blackwood and a few other churches across the Presbytery to be involved in developing other forms of worship. This collaboration will be a springboard for innovation and creativity. Watch this space!

Stay warm and enjoy the beauty of the mists, the sound of the rain and being able to warm our toes by the fire as we sip a hot chocolate or mulled wine. Winter in Blackwood at its best!

Robyn Zanon

BLACKWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION SAYS THANKS



Deidre and Fish. Photo: Jeanne Tahini

It was a particularly cold evening on Wednesday 26th June when Blackwood Progress Association said a formal thank you to people who had volunteered in some capacity to help make the Easter Carnival and Woodchop a huge success again this year. Approximately 30 volunteers joined the Progress committee for a fun evening of pizza & drinks.



Michael and Ross. Photo: Jeanne Tahini

The comparatively small Progress committee do the work of one 10 times its size in the months leading into the Carnival, this year allowing the town to have one hell of an Easter party. While it was fantastic that they thanked those who assisted, it is now time that we thank them. The current committee are unable to keep organizing the carnival on their own. They are needing more of us to come forward and assist in the lead up to the carnival. This doesn't mean that you need to join the committee or spend weeks working out the logistics. It could be something as simple as helping with putting up signs or making some phone calls. We need many hands to help share the load and allow the event that puts Blackwood on the map to continue into future years.

Progress is taking names now, so please email blackwoodprogress@gmail.com and keep the carnival alive!

Kylie Richardson



• COMMUNITY UPDATES •

WOMBAT BOOKCLUB

Hello, BRRRR cold isn't it? Never mind, a good excuse to curl up near the fire with a good book. Our happy and warm Bookclub meetings take place at the Blackwood Pub, near the fire. We meet at 3pm on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We are an informal, friendly bunch and enjoy exchanging views about the book and enjoy a nice social chat as well.

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 interesting novels read lately were - 'The Four Winds' by Kristin Hannah, and 'Iris', by Fiona Kelly McGregor.

Sandy: Set in Texas 1934, during the great depression, Elsa Wolcott discovers she is pregnant to the son of an Italian farming family, Rafe Martinelli. Her family enforce a marriage which his parents happily embrace Elsa into the family and her ensuing two children. She works hard for her family on the farm. when years of drought and hardship, reducing the land to a dust bowl, Ralf leaves the family in pursuit of work. Elsa makes the difficult decision to take her children to find work and take her sick son away from the constant dust. The inequality of people and starvation drives them to take farming jobs for little money. there is a rising up of unions and fighting for fairer pay for the workers. Elsa loses her life in this battle. A tragic story of hardship, love and humanity.



Louise: I loved The Four Winds - This is a great read about a very strong resilient woman set in the Great Depression time in the US. Elsa is deserted by husband and has to leave the family farm in Texas and travel alone with two kids for a supposed better life in California, not so. Easy read, keeps your attention the whole book



Sandy: Reviews are subjective. I found 'Iris' hard to read. It has information in the writing which is not conducive to the story. An interesting true story of Iris Eileen Mary Webber, set in Sydney in the underbelly world in the 1930's. Iris, the protagonist grew up impoverished, in a town in New South Wales. She survived being a servant girl, to going up the ranks in prostitution. She finds herself imprisoned for shooting her husband in the posterior and fraud. The story highlights the disempowerment of women, written in the vernacular of the time.



BLACKWOOD CEMETERY TRUST

It has been a relatively quiet couple of months at the Cemetery. The Trust had a scheduled meeting on June 22, the agenda mainly focussed on general administrative housekeeping. Quotes are still being gathered to erect another cremation wall and this process is in its final throes.

We recently had a visit from a handful of volunteers to spread gravel around uneven graves, as it was reasonably dangerous, given the slippery conditions. Thanks to all those involved, they also cleaned up a lot of those pesky pinecones that are easy to roll an ankle on! Our resident kangaroos certainly enjoy the sunny aspect of the cemetery grounds, much to the delight of our city visitors.

Here is a cemetery-themed joke: A woman was leaving a 7-11 with her morning coffee when she noticed a most unusual funeral procession approaching the nearby cemetery. A long black hearse followed by a second long black hearse about 50 feet behind. Behind the second hearse was a solitary woman walking a pit bull on a leash. Behind her were 200 women walking single file. The woman couldn't stand the curiosity. She respectfully approached the woman walking the dog and said, "I am so sorry for your loss, and I know now is a bad time to disturb you, but I've never seen a funeral like this...Whose funeral is it?" The woman replied, "Well, that first hearse is for my husband." "What happened to him?" The woman replied, "My dog attacked and killed him". She inquired further, "Well, who is in the second hearse?" The woman answered, "My mother-in-law. She was trying to help my husband when the dog turned on her." A poignant and thoughtful moment of silence passed between the two women. "Can I borrow the dog?" "Get in the line!"

Ray Castellin

THE BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Blackwood Historical Society met on 6th July and on this day, we also had a few visitors come through. The month prior we shifted the Open Hours to a different date but a few people contacted us via the website and Ray and I were able to pop down and provide an open day to those who had travelled a fair distance to pay us a visit.

Our new Website has been a real success and while it's very simple and still under development, we have had an influx of enquiries including one fantastic donation (more to come as we set this up but it's news worthy!). The society enjoyed a little outing in the bush to visit some historic sites and old mines. This was a lot of fun and although we all got wet socks, we enjoyed a small BBQ and a drink for lunch. The society also voted on the instalment of an Honour Board in recognition of members who have supported the Society over the years. We will be putting the list together and purchasing or making the honour board that will be on display. We look forward to your visit.

Paul Kukiel



"Historical miners cabin on Jack Cann Reserve". Photo~ John

• COMMUNITY UPDATES •

THE BLACKWOOD GO CLUB

The Blackwood Go Club is up & running with 4 of us at varying levels of (novice) ability having played a few games over the last few weeks. At the moment we are meeting in the Post Office on a Tuesday from 1 pm so if you're intrigued or would like to play, come along and have a look. We were fortunate to have 4 sets donated by the Australian Go Association to help kick-start the Club.



Kevin & John engrossed in a game. Photo-Karen Bermingham

BLACKWOOD CRICKET CLUB

Hello all,

The cricket club had its AGM on Saturday 13th, with all positions up for grabs.

President: Brian Suters

Vice-president: Ben Whitehouse

Secretary: John Hand

Treasurer: Steve O'Brien .

We are trying to organise a fund raiser for a playground at the oval as there are many kids in this town now, any ideas are welcomed.

Also, there is an article in this issue regarding the Tennis Club. The bank had closed the account due to inactivity but we have now secured the money for future use with the tennis/netball club when formed.

The cricket club is looking good but we still need a couple more players and anyone over 14 is more than welcomed to join.

We have a fantastic ground and great helpers with canteen and bar and others that put their efforts in and all is much appreciated.

Last year we were sitting 3rd at one stage but as we were getting closer to the finals, the other teams dropped their better players down a grade or 2 to beat us and kick us out of finals. That is 1 problem we have is not having enough players to fill gaps.

But we do have a great team and all enjoy playing together.

Although I haven't spoken to Kath yet and I believe we will be doing junior cricket at home games again. Last year Kath did a fantastic job and we may even look at playing in "Blast". Depending on numbers. More information to come.

President, Brian Suters

• AROUND TOWN •

BLACKWOOD BUSHPLAY: NATURE'S CLASSROOM FOR OUR KIDS.



In Blackwood, a great local program has been taking off. Since 2018, Sarah Taylor's been getting kids more connected with nature through Blackwood Bushplay. Her idea was pretty straightforward: to spend time together in our local environment, especially by the river.

"Knowing a place and its beings brings a sense of safety and security," Sarah said. "It starts with simple witnessing, the beginning of a relationship. And with relationships comes responsibility, which is a very special future to build. Blackwood children taking responsibility for their environment."

Every Wednesday, children ages 0-5 and their big people gather at rotating kid-safe bush locations for structured craft activities and free-form play. This winter, we've been making fires, building our tipi, going on short walks, getting muddy, having picnics by the river, and heaps more. No matter the day's agenda, the kids certainly sleep well!

Outdoor free play is great for kids in many ways. It encourages open-ended creativity, problem-solving, physical activity, and social interaction; while reducing stress and promoting a sense of belonging. For the local Blackwood kids it's a chance to explore, learn, and grow in a safe and nurturing environment

"Once outside, the birds fill the silences, the river washes away tension, and one can see how far away spring is from the species of wattle," Sarah added. "There are enough sticks for all the kiddies, and we can voice that this is Aboriginal land, on land."

Since Sarah Taylor moved away, the group has been led by May & Sarah Thomas It's free to join so come along with your kids any Wednesday morning. Join our chat via the QR code to find out where we'll be and what adventures we're getting up to.

Let's help our kids fall in love with the natural world together.

See Centre Pages for photos of Bushplay kids.

Kids names: Heidi, Ada, Vivian, Arla, Harper, Charlie, Russel, Jenni and Hugo, Kristin and Jasper.

Sarah Thomas. All bush-play photos~Sarah Thomas



BLACKWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Open August 3rd and September 7th 10:00am - 1:00pm Small Donation requested upon entry.

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



• AROUND TOWN •

CURRAWONG RESOURCES UPDATE

Currawong has continued to drill at the Comet Prospect, with our third round of drilling this year currently underway. We have completed 11 drill holes this year, plus two holes that were abandoned due to poor orientation. Drilling has almost all been diamond coring type, with the exception of two holes that used the percussion drilling technique. These holes range from 114 meters to 225 meters deep for a total of 1977 meters. Diamond drilling allows us to carry out measurements on the core that can be used to create 3D models of the geology. The drilling has intersected a geologically complex gold mineralised system, which has required some close spaced drilling to better understand the location of the high grade gold mineralization in certain parts of the zone of interest. The Comet prospect consists of a major west dipping auriferous fault zone, below which there are numerous flat lying, often high-grade (gold rich) narrow quartz veins. We expect to complete this round of drilling this month and following further assessment and interpretation we hope to continue drilling again next month. In terms of gold ore resources, nothing economic has been discovered so far, but we hope that with further drilling we can find something worthwhile. Further information can be found on our website: <https://www.greatpacificgoldcorp.com/>

Rex Motton

BUBBLE AND BLOOM

We are two primary school students selling terrariums and bath bombs for Trentham PS under the business name Bubble and Bloom on Friday 2nd August at the Trentham Winterfest.

Bath bombs will be sold on the night but our terrariums will need to be preordered at the stall.

The materials are locally made or found.

See you there!!

The terrariums include moss, ferns and mini trees, quartz, and dirt. All of these materials are found at one of Blackwood's beautiful creeks. And the bath bombs are fully natural.

100% of profits go to Wheelchairs For Kids, an Australian- based charity that provides wheelchairs to children.



By Aleks and Hunter

DAVE COMMINS REMEMBERED

It is 12 months since our dear friend left us. Dave was a member of the Blackwood Times team and established systems that we use to this day. Much more than that he was a friend & guide. We miss him!

"A riddle wrapped in an enigma".



CAITLIN & BOBBY NEW BORN:



Born Sunday July 21st at 8:57pm.
2988 grams.

JANETTE GRANCHILD



Janette welcomed her first grandchild at the end of May, born to her daughter Monica and partner Travis at Swan Hill hospital. She is Eloise Jane Myles - a heathy bonny girl weighing 3420 grams.

AUSTRALIA

Bob Ebdon 11 Feb 93

Australia. Your future's in our hands
We can make it if we try
So everybody can unite
To hold our heads up high
For it's only us Australians
On whom we can rely.

Australia, we make no more demands
Than to live our lives in peace.
We'll utilise our waking hours
And forbid our costs increase.
We'll learn to be more capable
To throw off the lender's leash.

Australia, we'll make you prosperous,
We'll live within our means
And watch the land beneath our hand
Become the thing we dream.
We'll work so that our self respect
And pride we can redeem.

Australia, you're such an ancient land
Now nation of us all.
We'll join our hands in harmony
And never let you fall.
We'll live with freedom and respect,
The spirit of your call.

• GIG & EVENTS GUIDE •

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
AUGUST		
Fri 2, 4 onwards	Winterfest	Trentham
Sat 3, 3-5	Izzy Summers	The Cosmo
Sat 3, 6-8:30	Beat Bros	Pig & Whistle
Sun 4, 12-3	Marty Luke	Greendale Pub
Sat 10, 7:30am	The Berry Long Run	Blackwood Mineral Springs
Sat 10, 3-5	Sean McConnell	The Cosmo
Sat 10, evening	Bushdance (ticketed)	Blackwood Hall
Sat 10, 7-9	Marlee Grace	Pig & Whistle
Sun 11, 12-3	Michelle Parsons	Greendale Pub
Sun 11, 2	Allen Caswell & Bobby Valentine	The Cosmo
Fri 16, 8:30	Line Dancing	Greendale Pub
Sat 17, 6-9	Complete Unknowns	Pig & Whistle
Sat 17, 3-5	Jeremy Beggs	The Cosmo
Sat 17, 5-9:30	Truffle & Cheese Dinner	The Cosmo
Sun 18, 10am	Health & Harmony Expo	St Anne's
Sun 18, 12-3	Brian Sadler	Greendale Pub
Sat 24, 3-5	Al Carr joined by Stephanie Duzel	The Cosmo
Sat 24, 6-8	Brett Franke	Pig & Whistle
Sun 25, 12-3	Bec Peel	Greendale Pub
Sat 31, 2:30	The Smith & Western Jury	The Cosmo
Sat 31, 6-8	Black and Blue	Pig & Whistle
Sat 31, 10 - Sun 1, 8	Jodi Phillips "Being in love with Music" songwriting retreat	Blackwood

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 evenings	Pizza and movie night	Radio Springs
Fri, 5 - 9	Meat tray raffle & cocktail night	Greendale Pub
Fri pm	Meat tray raffle	The Cosmo
Fri, 6-7	Meat tray raffle	Hotel Trentham
Fri pm	Raffle	Pig and Whistle
Last Fri monthly	Flashbank Friday with Ian Banks	The Taproom, Bacchus Marsh
2nd/4th Sun: 2	Regular service	St Martin's Chapel

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
SEPTEMBER		
Sun 1, 12-3	Marlee	Greendale Pub
Sat 7, 10-1	Babies & kids clothing swap (0-5)	215 Main Rd, Bacchus Marsh
Sat 7, 6-8:30	Beat Bros	Pig & Whistle
Sat 14, 7-9	Marlee Grace	Pig & Whistle
Sun 15, 12-3	Brian Sadler	Greendale Pub
Sat 21, 6-8	Brett Franke	Pig & Whistle
Sun 22, 12-3	Michelle Parsons	Greendale Pub
Sat 28, arvo	AFL Grand Final live	Greendale Pub

MARKETS WITHIN 30 MINUTES

Date	Market	Locatiuon
JULY		
Sat 1: 9-1	Woodend Farmers Market	Cnr Forest & High Streets
Sat 1: 9-1	Ballan Lions Market	Inglis Street
Sat 1: 8-2	Darley Community Market	Cnr Fitzroy & Grey Streets
Sat 8: 9-1	Ballan Farmers Market	96 Inglis Street
Sat 8: 8:30-1	Kyneton Farmers Market	35 Piper Street
Sat 15: 9-1	Trentham Farmers Market	Town Square
Sat 15: 9-1	Glenlyon Farmers Market	Glenlyon Hall
Sat 15: 8-2	Darley Community Market	Cnr Fitzroy & Grey Streets
Sat 22: 9-1	Daylesford Farmers Market	102 Vincent Street
Sun 23: am	Trentham Railway Market	Trentham Railway Station
Sun 30: am	Trentham Railway Market	Trentham Railway Station

AUGUST		
Sat 6: 9-1	Woodend Farmers Market	Cnr Forest & High Streets
Sat 6: 9-1	Ballan Lions Market	Inglis Street
Sat 6: 8-2	Darley Community Market	Cnr Fitzroy & Grey Streets
Sat 13: 9-1	Ballan Farmers Market	96 Inglis Street
Sat 13: 8:30-1	Kyneton Farmers Market	35 Piper Street
Sat 13: 8-2	Darley Community Market	Cnr Fitzroy & Grey Streets
Sat 20: 9-1	Trentham Farmers Market	Town Square
Sat 20: 9-1	Glenlyon Farmers Market	Glenlyon Hall
Sat 27: 9-1	Daylesford Farmers Market	102 Vincent Street
Sun 28: am	Trentham Railway Market	Trentham Railway Station



• BEYOND BLACKWOOD •

THE MECHANICS TRENTHAM OFFICIALLY OPEN



The Mechanics Trentham was officially opened on 21 June 2024. This state-of-the-art facility embraces the needs of the whole community, with playgroup space, a library and study nooks, workspaces, visitor information, a commercial-style kitchen, and a function space for 245 people standing or 180 seated.

The new space incorporates elements of the original building, which date to the late 1800s, and remain as an integral piece of the town's history. The respectfully restored former hall will serve as the new library, a fitting nod to the function of Mechanics buildings through the formative years of many communities. The extensive completed building achieves energy efficiency and draws its beautiful natural surrounds in through large picture windows. Ample on-site parking is at the rear of the building along with an electric vehicle charging station.

The opening ceremony featured the unveiling of a magnificent piece of Indigenous artwork, a series of purpose-made fish traps created by Aunty Marilyn Nicholls. In keeping with the water theme, the meeting rooms are named after local rivers and feature nameplates in both English and Dja Dja Wurrung languages.

The Mechanics Trentham will be available to hire via <https://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/venues>

Photo~Sandy Scheltema

Blackwood Times supports our community.

The Blackwood Times is a community newspaper, run by volunteers, that connects the community of Blackwood and its immediate surrounds by dispersing information, news and items of general interest. It aims to foster understanding, as well as provide a platform for locals to voice opinion, showcase their creative skills and provide a service directory through advertising.

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 and 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 average of 800 downloads per issue from our website: www.theblackwoodtimes.com.au

Your investment can be as small or as large as you would like as we offer various sizing and pricing options which are outlined on our website. For further information email team@theblackwoodtimes.com.au

Your advertising helps Blackwood directly.

SAM RAE MP

LABOR MEMBER FOR HAWKE

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Portrait used by Sam Rae MP, 100 McKenzie Street Melton VIC 3337

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