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CHINA NATIONAL TREASURES – 16 DAY TRIP A DEAL TOUR

Sharyn Harrison

Kevin & I, and our best mate Des Young from Brisbane, recently took a trip to China. We loved our holiday but we call it a trip as it was very busy and not really a holiday. China is amazing, a beautiful county and lovely people.

First a few travel tips. Don't go if you have the flu, try to book all flight connections with the same airline, and make sure you carry your medications and insurance in your hand luggage. Don't lose your passport or leave your cash in the safe at the hotel then fly off to the next city.

Our mate Des was an example what not to do. He did a lot of the above. He arrived very sick, missed his connecting flight, lost his passport therefore couldn't go to a doctor or hospital or fly home when he was ill, no insurance policy as it was in his case which was lost.

After the first week Des started to feel better. Trip a Deal, I must mention, were excellent and found his suitcase, passport and returned his money to him, (this took 5 days) and then we got into having fun on the trip (the 3 of us together again). We first met Des on tour in America where we travelled together for 23 days.

We flew from Melbourne to Shanghai (90 mins late leaving), then had to get our connecting flight to Xi'an. We would have missed it if not for the China Eastern staff fast tracking us though immigration and keeping the plane waiting on the tarmac for us to board. Thumbs up to China Eastern as we found them excellent on the 8 flights we had with them.

Xi'an is a city not to be missed. It has a city wall, which not only is the most complete city wall that has survived in China, but also one of the largest ancient military defence systems in the world. It still has a moat around part of it. It is beautiful with many willow trees and lit up at night with red lanterns. That night we went out to an Imperial Dump-





ling Banquet and traditional Tang Dynasty Show.

The main tourist reason to go to Xi'an is to see the Terracotta Warriors. This site is among the top archaeological excavations of the 20th century. It is huge and we saw every Warrior but after the first few thousand we had seen enough. I was really excited to meet the farmer that discovered this site. He was digging a well when he broke into the Tomb in the 70's. He was only 18 at the time and now signs souvenir Terracotta Warrior books for the tourists. As it is a communist country his family didn't own the land, just farmed it. He was only given a new bicycle from the Chinese government in appreciation and they took over the land.

Next flight was to Beijing. We missed seeing the Tiananmen Square in the morning (so exhausted as didn't get in to our hotel until 2.00am after the Warriors) but we caught up with the tour at

the Summer Palace which is just beautiful with a lake fringed with willows and beautiful English trees. The summer palace is a declared UNESCO world heritage site with the largest imperial garden in the world - a favourite retreat for many of the emperors during the Qing Dynasty. That evening we enjoyed a Peking duck dinner. The next day we were taken to the Great Wall which is China's single greatest attraction. We, of course, walked the wall which is very steep with lots of steps. Again our tour was great as they took us to a part of the wall that wasn't crowded. We were very lucky as it was a clear day with no pollution. That night another musical "The Golden Mask Dynasty".

The next highlight of Beijing was the Giant Pandas at the zoo. We saw 6 and they are so cute and cuddly that I just had to bring back a toy Panda for my future grandchild due next May.

After all this exercise and late nights, we were taken for a rejuvenating foot massage (everyone went as we all had sore feet and swollen ankles) and so learnt about traditional Chinese medicine. As we weren't feeling the best many of us were conned into buying Chinese medicine that will "fix everything". Now we are home and not keen to take the tablets as the ingredients are in Chinese. It was a hard sell - like time share - and very expensive. Not one of my better decisions. I have spoken to Trip A Deal and have noticed it is not on the next tour, as I think they got lots of complaints.

To be continued next month...

Tatong Community's Great BIG Garage Sale Sunday October 30 11am – 5pm Next door to Tatong Tavern Entry – Gold Coin donation Enquiries: Belinda 57672117

It's all go here – all the stalls are booked, the plans drawn up, the volunteers set to help – just a few final details left to take care of before the first Tatong Community Great BIG Garage Sale kicks off.

If you happen to be reading this article before the 30th October - please tell everyone – workmates, family and friends - to come over to Tatong on Sunday October 30, 11am -5pm (Gold coin donation on entry).

With around 20 separate Garage Sales, music, food and coffee/tea all on offer, along with seating in the spring-time garden of the Tavern, it's bound to be a great afternoon of bargain hunting for everyone, in a fun and friendly atmosphere.

Remember – if you can't wait til the next TCGBGS, take a photo of what you would like to sell, and advertise it on the For Sale Board at this event for a spare change donation.

The date of our next Great BIG Garage Sale will be announced at the upcoming event, so if you missed the boat this time, you will be able to book your spot soon.

Just please, please let the rain stop for a while!

Cheers, Belinda

A successful Dinner Party?

She wanted to serve her guests mushroom-smothered steak, but she had no mushrooms and no time to buy them. Her husband suggested, "Why don't you go and pick some of the mushrooms that are growing wild down by the creek? "No, some wild mushrooms are poisonous." she replied. "Well, I see the cows eating them sometimes and they're OK."

So she picked a saucepanful, washed, sliced and sautéed them for her dinner. Then, just as a precaution, she went out to the back porch and gave Spot, their dog, a double handful. Spot ate the lot.

All morning long, she watched the dog. The wild mushrooms hadn't affected him after a few hours, so she decided to use them in her dinner.

And the meal was a great success!

After everyone had finished, her daughter came in and whispered in her ear, "Mum, Spot's dead!"

Trying to keep her wits about her, she left the room as quickly as possible, called the doctor and told him what had happened.

The doctor said, "That's bad! But I think we can take care of it. I'll call for ambulances and paramedics, and I'll be there as quickly as I can. We'll give everyone enemas and we'll pump out their stomachs and everything will be just fine. Until we get there, above all, keep them calm!"

Before long the diners started to hear the sirens as the ambulances raced up the road. The paramedics and the doctor had their medical cases, syringes, and a stomach pump. One by one they took each person into the bathroom, gave them enemas, and pumped out their stomachs.

Well after midnight, after the last one was done the doctor came out and said, "Everything will be okay now." And with that he left.

The hosts and the guests were all weak and knackered and were sitting around in the living room in a semi-dazed state when the daughter came in and said to her mum, "I can't believe that guy!"

"What guy?" asked her mum.

"You know, the bastard who ran over Spot, he didn't even slow down.

Contributed by Sharyn Harrison.

Time for some humble pie

In the September Tattler I bemoaned the loss of the word 'each' and its replacement with 'either'. You will have heard the expression, 'when all else fails, read the instructions'. Well, I've now read the instructions and 'either' can be used to mean each of two:-

Ei"ther, a

1. One of two; the one or the other.

2. Each of two; the one and the other; both.

Will I be more careful when whinging about language in future? At this point in time – absolutely! Moving forward I might ponder why it seems necessary to add 'so' to the start of sentences these days, but then again I might not. Perhaps one last thought for now. Is 'you're not wrong' the same as 'you're correct'? John Knapper



Tatong Tavern



2581 Tatong Road Tatong Vic 3673 Phone 57672210

www.tatongtavern.com.au or visit us at our Facebook page

By now you should be able to see our Hay Bale Construction, which started out with an idea, then developed into a humorous theme. We thought the **"Tatong Beer Spa**", a great concept, and thought we had everything under control, until we read the actual entry conditions, rules and regulations, which stipulated that this year there would be a **THEME of Aviation**, **"The Sky Is the Limit".** Well that took us back slightly, and we had to go back to the Drawing Board and reconstruct our Tatong Beer Spa into an aviation theme. Well with a lot of banging the brain cells, Chris and I came up with Extreme Sky Diving, using our Original Tatong Beer Spa Theme. It all comes together involving a Gigantic Beer Mug, Sky Divers, Tatong Beer Massage Oils, and a huge Target. So if you want to know how it all looks, come and see it at the side of the Tatong Tavern. This year, we will also be posting a Picture on the **Benalla Festival website/Facebook** for everyone to click on **LIKE** to win the people's Choice award, from which if we come first will win the Tavern \$250.00 to give away to our choice of charity. {Royal Children's Hospital Appeal}. So we hope everyone joins in and votes for our Hay Bale Art, and gets to have a giggle or two.

By the time this Tattler is distributed the Biggest Garage Sale will have already passed. Up until the week before the event everything was going to plan with about 22 stall holders ready to bring all their once best ever thing they ever brought, until the next best ever thing they brought. So lots of bargains are up for grabs. Hope you all came to enjoy the day and took home that next best thing to sliced bread.

RATTLER is back on Sunday 6th November at 11.30a.m. Onwards at the Tavern. If you love Rock and Roll, Country or the Blues then this band is the one for you to hear. Rattler has been so popular in the past that we had to bring them back before Christmas as they are so busy. Bring the family or friends and enjoy a drink or two and settle in for an afternoon of great music and laughter.

DON'T FORGET

ART SHOW AT TATONG MEMORIAL HALL 29TH OCT-6TH NOVEMBER

Gala opening night Friday 28th October 7-9p.m.Light refreshments available.

SUNDAY 6TH NOVEMBER MUSIC WITH RATTLER 11.30A.M. ONWARDS

WEDNESDAY WALLET WATCHERS Special discounted meals

<u>THURSDAY POT AND PARMA NIGHT</u> Come in and enjoy a parma from the chefs selection and receive a complimentary beer.

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SUNDAY ROAST LUNCH Enjoy a Sunday Roast from 12p.m. to 2 p.m.

SUNDAY NIGHT DINNER Enjoy our new Sunday Night dinner available from 6pm to 8pm.

MEDIA RELEASE



Telstra CEO turns on Tatong Mobile Base Station

Friday 21 October, 2016: The first of more than 20 mobile base stations to be constructed in North East Victoria under the Federal Government's Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP) was switched-on today, providing 3G and 4G coverage to Tatong and its immediate surrounds for the first time.

Telstra Chief Executive Andrew Penn opened the Tatong base station, which was jointly funded by Telstra, the Federal Government and Victorian State Government. Tatong joins more than 60 locations across Australia benefiting from voice and high speed mobile broadband services under the MBSP.

"Expanding our coverage to Tatong means local residents can keep in contact with family and friends and run their businesses more effectively, whether it's chatting on the phone or using a range of online services over our fast mobile network," Mr Penn said.

"Today there is virtually no technology innovation that does not fundamentally rely on a network and collectively Telstra's networks are Australia's best.

"Every minute of every day our networks are connecting millions of Australians – connecting friends and families, businesses and enterprises, governments and essential services, across Australia and around the world and I am delighted that the people of Tatong are now very much part of that.

"Telstra's investment in regional and remote Australia remains unparalleled and we want to continue investing and innovating in new technology so more and more Australians can enjoy those benefits."

Mr Penn's visit to Tatong was part of a series of regular regional trips by Mr Penn to meet with stakeholders, customers and employees.

"The main message from these meetings has been the importance of fast, reliable mobile communications and the need for our continued investment in regional and remote Australia to expand coverage and upgrade technology," Mr Penn said.

Under Round 1 of the MBSP, Telstra is building 429 3G/4G mobile base stations over three years that will extend coverage to more than 400 communities across the nation.

In addition, Telstra is rolling out up to 250 4G small cells to a number of rural and regional communities, providing high speed mobile internet to locals.

The MBSP involves investment of more than \$340 million in regional Australia, with \$165 million from Telstra, \$94.8 million from the Federal Government and tens of millions in targeted additional funding from State and Local Governments.

Locals can keep track of Telstra's rollout of the MBSP via the user-friendly Mobile Black Spot Locator, which includes a map that lets people search for mobile base stations being rolled out in their area and provides information about expected timing.

The website can be accessed at: telstra.com/blackspots.

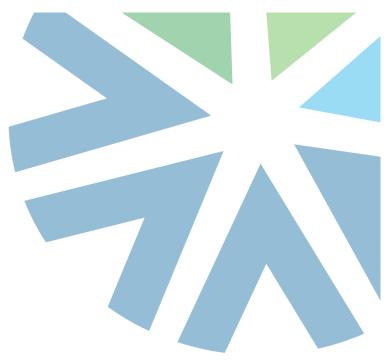
Media contact: James Kelly – 0455 079 295 Media number: 139/2016

Follow Telstra online:

*Rollout schedule to be determined in consultation with Federal and State Governments and subject to planning process.
**Location of Smalls Cells to be determined based on consultation with the Federal Government.

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MOORNGAG CEMETERY UNMARKED GRAVES PROJECT

Early in 2016 the Tatong Heritage Group in conjunction with the Moorngag Cemetery Trust and the Benalla Family Research Group embarked on a project to identify the unmarked graves in the Moorngag Cemetery. The main object of the research, as part of the Centenary of ANZAC, was to ensure that there were no ex-servicemen, or women, in unmarked graves.

The research was completed by Barry O'Connor from the Tatong Heritage Group along with Wendy Maxwell and Beverley Walker from the Benalla Family Research Group in consultation with Ted Exton from the Moorngag Cemetery Trust. Part of the work had already been completed by Wendy Maxwell during her research and digitising of the cemetery records. Further investigation was undertaken and three ex-servicemen were located in unmarked graves. Details of these have been referred to the Benalla RSL for submission to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The remaining fifty eight graves were further researched, and the tragic circumstances surrounding some of these deaths, was uncovered. There are sixteen, stillborn babies, infants, or children who died before the age of ten. Many unmarked graves were as a result of the last member of the family passing away and leaving nobody to consider memorials. One of the district's matriarchs had given assurances that funds were available to erect memorials on the graves of family members. Unfortunately she was in aged care for an extended period and upon her passing there were insufficient funds to cover the costs. Many in the unmarked graves were people who had made a significant contribution to the community during their lifetime and it is indeed sad to think that these people have been completely forgotten, until now.

The volunteers involved with this project are now looking for additional funding to complete the marking of these graves. The estimated cost of the individual grave markers is \$100 for materials alone. All installation work will be done by volunteers.

If you are a decedent of a long term district family, or believe that you may have a relative in an unmarked grave at the Moorngag Cemetery, please contact project researcher, Barry O'Connor on 5768 2400 between 5pm and 7pm weekdays or email <u>bjoconnor@activ8.net.au</u>

Donations towards the project can be lodged direct with Bendigo Bank, Benalla BSB 633-108 Account 123695371. Alternately, cheques can be made payable to Tatong Heritage Group - Cemetery Project, and posted to PO Box.200, Benalla. Vic. 3672.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS

There are a couple of AGM's (Annual General Meeting) on in the month of November for local Tatong organizations run by volunteers. *If you would like to experience the "helper's high", a powerful physical and emotional feeling resulting from helping others* in your community and if you are not already involved, then come along to one or both of the meetings. The italicised words are taken from the latest Senior's Card Magazine which encourages seniors to "meet new people, gain new friends, and volunteering provides a purpose and a reason to get out and about." Young people are also welcome; you can't start volunteering too soon!

The first AGM is for the replacement of our Village Market, the TGBGS, or **Tatong Great Big Garage Sale**, and it will be held at the Tavern at 6pm on Wednesday the 9th of November. This meeting will take place just over a week after the first Big Garage Sale, on the 30th of October, so the new committee will be able to assess its outcomes.

The second AGM will be for the **Tatong Memorial Hall**. The hall and the land reserve it stands upon is under the management of DELWP (Dept. of environment, land, water and planning). The position of the volunteer committee of management is taken seriously, with elections scrutinized by DELWP. This meeting will be publically advertised asking for volunteers and encouraging nominations from women. Because the current committee members have served many terms new members would be welcome. There is a maximum of 9 people required for the job which is for a three year term.

The Tatong hall committee elections are scheduled to be held on Wednesday the 16th of November 2016 at the Tatong hall at 7:30pm. Any potentially new volunteer could contact me, (hall hon. secretary,) on 57672323. You could even take my job!

I am what could be called a "chronic volunteer" and that is not necessarily a virtue. My dad did the same and so it's in the genes, but sometimes it gets too much because periodically, such as today, there is too little time for what I'd like to do for myself and family. Overall though it is worthwhile, not because of any accolades, but because of what I receive from the friendships and the powerful sense of belonging to a thriving and energetic community. Mike Larkin

PRODUCE SWAP

At the **TATONG GARAGE SALE** the Go Local Go Fresh project is running a **PRODUCE SWAP**

Date: Sunday 30th October

Time: 11am - 5pm

Venue: Next door to Tatong Tavern

Participants are encouraged to bring any excess home grown fruit and vegetables to swap.

There is no money exchanged, instead it is run on a "honesty system" where the 'swappers' decide for themselves what constitutes a fair trade.

Tatong Community Dinner & Produce Swap

SAVE THE DATE

Friday 18th November

Time: Starting from 6.30pm

Venue: Tatong Recreation Reserve

For more information on either events, contact Hannah (m): 0472 816 913

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Different times

Years ago Bob Dylan wrote a song called 'the times, they are a changing'. It became something of an anthem for a generation rebelling against the old ways. It told the older generation that they were in danger of being left behind if they didn't change too.

Well, guess what? I can really sympathise with those oldies.

A while ago, two of our grandchildren were staying with us during the school holidays. There was some talk about drying clothes and that they dry everything in a clothes dryer. I asked them if they wanted to see my clothes dryer as it is solar and wind powered. They said "yes" eagerly. The look on their faces was priceless when they saw my dryer – the Hills clothesline!

Another phenomenon that I have trouble keeping up with is 'apps'. It seems to me that these days we must have an app for everything, and that there probably is an app for everything. While Janette and I were driving back from Melbourne, listening to ABC radio, a woman came on air spruiking her new app. Her app is an organiser. It is a way of knowing what you have coming up ie, it makes a list. For heaven's sake! We call it a diary or a calendar.

On satellite TV there is an ad for a newsagency in Alice Springs. This shop sells all sorts besides newspapers – including coffee. The ad finishes by saying, "don't forget to get our app to order your coffee". Wow! – That might save a few precious minutes that you could give to your employer.

We are so dependent on technology now, and this was highlighted by two visitors recently. They phoned from Benalla and I confirmed directions that they had been given previously – turn at the roundabout at KFC / Maccas. Proceed for about 21kms on Kilfeera Road and turn right into O'Dea Road. Pretty straightforward you would think???

It probably was straightforward in the days before GPS. For some reason, some GPS systems want to direct people to us via Tatong. So when they arrived from the wrong direction, my first words to them were, "you followed the GPS, didn't you?" Of course they did! They trusted that ahead of me!

Increasing dependence on technology? Not able / not wanting to think for ourselves? I don't know – maybe there's an app that could answer that for me. John Knapper

24.11.2008 John Brogan As time goes by the emptiness grows. I miss you darl, more than anyone knows. Your Elaine and family

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White Gate Woof 🚳

White Gate Dinner @ the Tavern will be Wednesday November 2nd, 6:30ish

Breakfast (*a*) **Samaria Farm** will be on Saturday November 19th, at about 9am, or

whenever you get there.

Food for Thought

Conversation at the October White Gate Dinner brought up some intriguing terms. Without recourse to the Internet (*will this change on the 21st?*) the questions were postponed; they were, "demurrage", (a term that has been floating about recently); "pashmina" (my scarf was thought to be one; and claims to be 100% Pashmina, raising images of green tinselly beasts running round the paddock) and a conundrum; what is the difference between Cottage Pie and Shepherd's Pie?

Demurrage is a term from Old French 'demeurage', from demeurer, meaning to linger or tarry (*tarry being largely out of use itself.*).

In commercial ship chartering, demurrage is a cost representing liquidated damages for delays; when the vessel is prevented from loading or discharging cargo within the stipulated laytime. Massive amounts of demurrage are being charged currently as empty cattle ships wait off-shore up North.

Note that the reverse of demurrage is despatch.

(Can the word demurrage be applied to bogged tractors? I think it ought.)

Pashmina, often referring to an object such as a shawl; is defined as a fine type of cashmere wool. Obtained from several species of goat, it was first woven in Kashmir, and the name comes from Persian meaning "made from wool". Woollen shawls from Kashmir are mentioned in 3rd Century Afghan texts, but the Pashmina industry was started by the 15th century ruler of Kashmir, Zayn-ul-Abidin.

Pashmina fibres are thinner (~13 microns) than generic cashmere fibre (~16 microns), making fine light scarves. However, the word "Pashmina" has now been applied liberally to other fibres, including synthetic, and is losing its original meaning.

Given that "The exorbitant price of a Pashmina shawl is due to the quantum of expert craftsmanship that goes into creating each shawl and the rarity of the Pashmina wool" and that my scarf cost about \$20, I'm not convinced of its authenticity.

However, as a Merino sheep breeder, I'm impressed by the quality of Pashmina wool but not by the quantity. One Pashmina goat sheds approximately 80–170 gm of fibre. Our Merino ewes average 6.5 kilos per fleece; and the heaviest fleece weight I can find from one of our rams is 14kg. OK, the micron was nearly 24... But, suck on that, Pashmina!

White Gate Fire Truck Roster

Bill Sykes	23 Oct	Hamish McMillan	27 Nov
Bruce Burgess	6 Nov	Ross Runnalls	4 Dec
Brian Vial	13 Nov	David Elford	11 Dec
Alan Stafford	20 Nov	Leigh Humphries	18 Dec

Various Pies

The term cottage pie was in use by 1791, when the potato was being introduced as an edible crop affordable for the poor ("cottage" meaning a modest dwelling for rural workers).

The term "shepherd's pie" did not appear until 1877, and since then, the term "shepherd's pie" is used when the meat is lamb, and "cottage pie" when beef is used. Except in the United States where the terms are apparently used interchangeably, regardless of whether the principal ingredient was beef or mutton. This from Wikipedia; Note the references include several versions of the Oxford Dictionary, as well as Chambers Dictionary, Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management, and The Glutton's Glossary. My mother used to put in a layer of baked beans, between the minced roast lamb and the mashed potato. I was most affronted to find this was not generally in Shepherds pie - it was delicious!

Anyway, next time someone nearby says, "Carn the Pies!" be sure to ask them, Cottage, or Shepherds?

andistev@yahoo.com.au 5766 6486



Are hosting a Christmas get together/ BBQ for the people of Tatong and surrounding areas. We would love to see you there.

Sunday 18th December, from 5pm onwards

At the Tatong Community Centre & Recreation Reserve.

BBQ dinner provided.

BYO drinks, chairs and picnic rugs.

All welcome. There will be a special appearance from Santa.

Enquiries please phone Justine Nicholls: 0414 728 025



Computer Tat-Tap-Tips

Beware the Spoofers!

Some local email addresses are being spoofed again; sadly, this probably means that someone with an infected computer has received a genuine email. The spoofer malware takes the name, and the address list, and sends itself to every address it can pillage, appearing to come from that original sender. All this without hacking into the email account.

To our outrage, and concern, emails disguised as from the Tatong Tattler are among those being spoofed.

DO NOT CLICK ON ANY LINK unless you are SURE the email is legit.

Blocking Windows 10 Updates from Satellite ('Ethernet'; cable) Connection

WARNING! This is messing with your operating system. BE VERY CAREFUL. In sharing this information (which worked for me) neither I nor the Tattler take ANY RESPONSIBILITY WHATSOEVER if something goes wrong.

Note that in order to then get the updates, you may need to set it back to un-metred. (I maintain a System Image, thanks to Macrium Reflect; to do this I have my data on a separate partition; that is my safeguard.)

To set your computer's "Ethernet" connection to Metred, so Windows 10 won't automatically send you huge updates:

Run (either Right-Click Start Button, or press Win+R) and type in: regedit

Then navigate to

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\

SOFTWARE\

Microsoft\

Windows NT\

CurrentVersion\

NetworkList\

DefaultMediaCost

Right-click on DefaultMediaCost, and click Permissions.

Click Advanced

In the Advanced Security Settings for DefaultMediaCost, click Change next to the owner (TrustedInstaller).

In the text box labeled Enter the object name to select, type in

Administrators

and click Check Names.

You should see a name pop up (Desktop\Administration).

Click OK.

Check the box next to Replace owner on subcontainers and objects and click OK.

Back in the Permissions for DefaultMediaCost window, click

Administrators

and then under Permissions for Administrators make sure the Full Control Allow box is checked. (as well as Read)

Click OK to exit this window.

Right-click on Ethernet and click Modify. An Edit DWORD (32-bit) Value window will open.

To set the connection as metered, change the Value data to 2.

[To set the connection as non-metered (default), change the Value data to 1.]

Hit OK to confirm, exit the Registry Editor.

Restart computer to save the changes.

- offered warily by Andrea Stevenson. Search the World Wide Web for further information & support.

Kate's Kelpies

Up at Tatong, at the Smith's farm, 9 puppies were born. Their dad is a good dog and is very valuable. He lives with Kate in Orford where he helps round up hundreds of cows so early in the morning that the sun isn't even up yet. The puppies live in a chook pen and keep escaping. They climb the wire fence and squeeeeeeeze through a tiny hole. Dad firmly said "no" to me having one of the puppies.....I now have a kelpie puppy called Diego by Leni De Fazio



Page 13



Why is it important to pump my septic tank out regularly?

Over time scum and sludge layers build up in your septic tank, eventually limiting the amount of available liquid. This does not allow the septic tank to perform one of its basic functions - to allow for settling of solids below the outlet level. The waste will then flow directly on to the next part of the system untreated. If this situation persists, the scum and sludge will flow through to the distribution field, eventually causing blockages and malfunction - a messy, smelly and costly exercise to repair.

It is recommended that septic tanks are pumped out every 3 - 5 years



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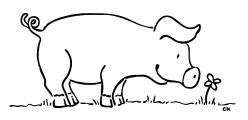
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Molyullah Musings – November 2016

On the Farm:

October's rain was a joy and a curse. We had quite a few visitors who enjoyed the creeks, falls, flowers and lovely green views. We also had visitors who managed to get badly bogged. Why is it that some people think they are invincible if they have a 4WD?

We thought the best idea was to get the tractor in a safe position to pull them out but this proved to be a disaster. Yes, down went the tractor too. It took all Saturday afternoon to get the 4WD out by which time everyone was too weary to start on the tractor.

It took most of Sunday to get the tractor out. The vehicles would still be slowly sinking to China had it not been for the kind assistance and amazing ex-

pertise of Campbell Griffin and Geoff Lee.

After we borrowed chains, straps, and cables from many of our neighbours Campbell set about working with the winch on the 4WD. Campbell's strap broke! More thinking, lengths of chain etc. With some slow winching and giving the winch lots of breaks to cool down, the 4WD was finally

The tractor was not so easy. Access to the site was limited as there was no guarantee that just driving to the site would not result in another "bogging". After much discussion it was decided not to go with Anthony's big

tractor (we would never get that out) and try the good old Fergie with the amazing winch attachment. Geoff Lee embarked on the long trip to the site (some 10 or 11 kms) and he and Campbell worked with the winch and pulleys to not only pull the tractor out but also to direct it away from the pool of mush (to which it had been headed).

John and I cannot thank Campbell and Geoff enough for all their efforts. We would also like to thank Anthony and Bryan for lending us much needed cable/ chain etc.

Hope we can now put our tow chains away for ever and our gumboots away for at least 6 months!

Final Exams:

Very best wishes to Cara Dosser (Upper Ryan's Creek) and Zeb Griffin (Molyullah) as they head into the exam period for their year twelve final exams. Good Luck to you both.

Open Garden - "Birchwood", 653 O'Dea Road, Molyullah October 29 @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

The private garden at "Birchwood" in Molyullah will be open to the community as part of the Open Gardens Festival event proudly presented by The Benalla Garden Club. "Birchwood" is a one acre garden with spreading lawns, roses, peonies, daylilies, salvias and colourful displays of liliums and perennials.

I am really looking forward to visiting Birchwood as I know Gary and Julie have been working hard to present another fantastic garden experience. For further details and information on other open gardens please refer to www.benallafestival.com.

Molyullah Dinner: The next dinner will be held at the Tavern on Thursday, 3 November. Hope to catch up with many neighbours after what looks like being a busy "Cup Week".

Cheers,

Janette

janknapper@optusnet.com.au

Page 16











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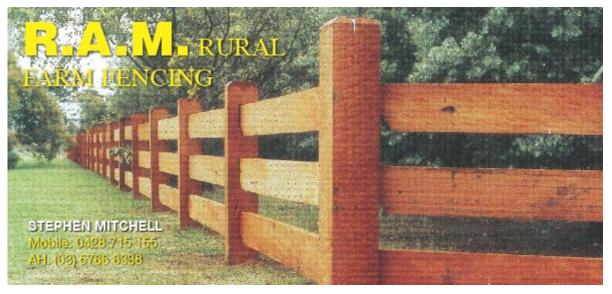
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The Sheep Shenanigans & Chookie News

It's only a short one from me this month – I missed the midnight deadline, but the wonderful Tattler people said they could squeeze this one in.

As you may have read last month, the sheep are back!!! Peach and Cherry have returned home and are doing their best to keep the grass down – I think I may need a few more sheepkins to keep the grass down during spring.

So, the loveable Peach was pregnant and gave birth to a little ewe lamb at 12:30pm on Saturday 15th. She's very sweet and we've named her Strawberry.



I learnt a great lesson a couple of weeks ago – don't look at the sheep while driving up the driveway! Especially when the driveway is slick with water. It's a great way to slide the car into our very steep gutter. Fortunately Tim was able to pull me out with the other car – the gutter needs a bit of repair work.



Have to say, it has been lovely having a few days of sunshine, things are attempting to unboggify around here – write you again next month.

Carla

Written by deSales Turner

The Tatong Memorial Hall is delighted to be taking part in a Regional Arts Victoria initiative titled "Home is where the Hall is" (see <u>www.homeiswherethehallis.com</u>) for our entry into this arts based initiative.

For this project we nominated that we are hosting the Tatong Art Show, running from Friday October 28th from 7-9pm and thereafter from 10am to 4pm until Saturday November 5th and from 10am to 2pm on Sunday November 6th.

Again this year we have been privileged to be sponsored by GMCU, who is our Major Sponsor, for which we are most grateful. Through their generosity we are able to award a \$1000 Best in Show Prize; the \$500 Honourable Mention Prize on opening night; and the \$500 People's Choice Prize, which will be announced around 12 noon on Saturday November 5th. The Benalla Art Gallery is also our major sponsor and without their help this show just would not go on!

Patrons of the Art Show include: Ruralco; Laurie and Lynn DeFazio; The Tatong Tattler; Peter Davis; Steph Ryan; Bendigo Bank and She's Arty. Their financial contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

Raffle Prize Sponsors include numerous local businesses, to whom we are indebted. They include:

Candi Fleur	Georgina's	Tatong Tavern
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Green and Grow	Hollywood Pizza	Rustik
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Sole Step	Salon Sarah's	Bouwmeesters Bakery
Benalla Party Hire	Lavish Skin Therapy Clinic	Hilltop Mosaics
Swanpool Cinema	Bottle O	Leading Edge Books
Mitre 10	Estancia Nursery	Rambling Rose
Coles	Stolz Homeware	Benalla Golf Club
Miller's	The Coffee Shop at Rambling Rose	Hides Bakery

We are especially grateful to the RCH Good Friday Appeal Team, for providing morning and afternoon tea for sale each day.

We give special thanks to the Curator of our show, Louise Carlisle from Art and Frames; and to the Tatong Tattler, who loaned us the PA system for opening night. And finally I would especially like to thank Joan Lewis for her tireless contribution to this community throughout many years, but most particularly for her hard work and support to make the Tatong Art Show 2016 a grand success.





Garden Daze The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago - the next best time is now

Have we had enough rain yet?

It isn't just the sloshing across the paddocks, or the slipping and (if one is lucky) saving oneself from a rather muddy landing . . it is the grass that has come up everywhere in the garden. And I'm not even going to mention the Cape weed.

One really silly thing I did a couple of weeks ago was - water, water everywhere and the only place I had to water was the hot house with its plastic cover. So . . what did I do - I forgot to turn off the hose and emptied the tank! And made even MORE WATER!





Gardening with banging baskets

can be a bit tricky but is also fun and adds another dimension of interest to a garden.

Last year my daughter gave me two hanging baskets planted with mauve petunias. We bought some brackets and hung the baskets of flowers to the heavy verandah posts at the front door

where they bloomed throughout the summer and looked very pretty.

When choosing a container for a hanging plant - weight is an important consideration. It will need to be lifted into position and maybe taken down for a good soaking if the going gets rough. Consider also the method of at-

tachment and the strength of "where".

Wire baskets using pre-formed coconut fibre liners are light. Plastic ones come in a range of colours and have a built-in drip tray/saucer. Terracotta pots can also hang or be wall mounted, but are heavy. In a farming community there is no limit to the imagination when all sort of ob-



jects can be used. I have a hanging "basket" that used to be a part of one of the old gas lights at the Carboor Hall (so I was told when I bought it as part of a box of plastic pots at a garage sale last year).

Coconut fibre liners come pre-formed or as loose material, tree bark gives a natural look, felt or even scrappy wool from the last shearing could be used.

Except for plastic pots it is advisable (especially in our dry



summers) to line the basket with black plastic or other waterproof (dog food bags are handy) to prevent drying out. Remember to put in some drainage holes at the bottom.

From simple pergola hooks that fit across overhead beams or tree branches, to fancy brackets that at-

tach to walls or posts - again there is quite a choice.

Where pots are going to be growing, is an important consideration and a reasonably sheltered situation is best. Under a roof can be hot, and if they are outside in the wind they can dry out very quickly. Eye level is the best height and away from where they won't be "walked into" or "head butted" if coming up from tying your shoe lace etc.

Hanging baskets need watering every day, which can cause loss of nutrients, so apply slow release fertiliser regularly, as well as liquid plant food.

Next ... What to plant ...

Fuchsias are made for hanging baskets, with their weeping habit and pendant flowers. They will tolerate quite a lot of shade and will flower for up to nine months.

Kalanchoe blossfeldiana is a very tough plant. They have succulent leaves, are sun loving, flower well, and can cope with an occasional drying out. Impa-



Kalanchoe blossfeldiana

tiens (will give masses of flowers in the shade), petunias, the spider plant with its hanging "babies" and fishbone fern (under cover) should all survive the rigours of "life in a basket".

Kokedama (Japanese Moss Balls)



I saw these demonstrated on Gardening Australia a while back and thought they looked interesting. So this morning. Armed with a plant, potting mix, some grass clippings that had dried into clumps and some moss, I managed to build a Moss Ball, which doesn't look too bad and in a month or so should look quite presentable.

How to Make Kokedama: Choose a hardy

plant - mondo grass, ivy, a fern or succulent. I used a long stringy succulent (Sedum Burrito). Remove a fair bit of the potting mix from around the roots.

Mix up potting mix and if you can find it (should be easy this year) some softish mud into a ball around the roots of the plant - something about the size of a large coconut. I twisted the long bits of the succulent around as I wrapped the



Sedum Burrito

clumps of dried grass clippings over the ball and kept on squeezing into shape/place. Then I took off my gloves (you are going to get dirty) and cut a long length of string and wrapped it around the ball to hold everything in place - this as it turned out, wasn't as difficult as I thought it would be. Then I scrounged around and dug up some moss from the floor of the shade house and did the wrapping/tying again leaving a length of string to hang the ball from a beam in the shade house.

With all the wrapping only bits of the succulent are showing, however these should start to grow and drape downwards. Moss Balls will dry out quickly in hot weather and then should be taken down and dunked into a bucket of water.

Kathy Z

Molyullah Rural Fire Brigade Sunday Driver - Radio Check Roster 6 Nov 2016 <u>Pat Horne</u> 57 666 204

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	Dirk Ring 57 622 891					
	John Ryan	57 666 348				
	Ashley Who	Ashley Wheelens 0418 597 353				
13 Nov	Bob Whytlaw	57 666 303				
20 Nov	Bill Willett	57 628 830				
27 Nov	Peter Zoethout	57 666 288				
4 Dec	Campbell Griffin	08 7600 0100				



At the new Tatong Mobile Phone tower. From left Rick Hann, Technician Carl, Steph Ryan and Mike Larkin.

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WEATHER WATCH

		~											
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2006	26.5	22.3	11.9	28.5	31	48.2	62.2	25.5	23.4	3.5	26.5	6.3	315.8
2007	30	35.1	62.5	31.3	108.6	30.2	92.4	25.5	30.3	34.3	88.6	69.8	638.6
2008	52.4	11.5	33.4	17.7	48.3	37	114.7	58.8	18.9	1.9	89.7	64.9	549.2
2009	3	5.4	38.7	80.7	30.6	107.9	77.5	65.5	76	48.6	72.3	18.9	625.1
2010	39	153.7	86.4	65.2	67.5	82.8	67.5	162.1	116.8	123.7	109.2	150.8	1224.7
2011	107	177.3	65.0	36.1	62.9	47.1	84.5	81.0	67.3	32.0	88.3	46.3	894.7
2012	82.5	94.0	184.9	18.1	35	57.6	115.8	92.1	35.5	34	28	30.1	773.6
2013	1.8	52.4	85.5	8.4	43.0	60.1	112.1	141.1	61.2	27.5	26.2	65.3	684.6
2014	33.9	16.4	86.4	89.6	82.8	146.5	98.8	9.8	68.5	20.4	58.5	64.2	775.8
2015	44.7	29.1	5.7	87.4	70	33.7	97.3	69.4	25.7	13.7	55.5	81.7	613.9
2016	69.7	11.9	36.9	38.5	117.2	110.5	142.8	108.4	172.1				808.0

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

The rain is still falling at an exceptional level with 17 days with some rain in September for a total for the month of 172.1mm. Up until the 15th of October we have had 10 days with some rain and what is normally a good monthly tally of 75.4 mm of rain. It is all "wearing a bit thin" especially for farmers, sports people and even those wanting to mow the swamp that used to be a lawn.

Mike Larkin

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

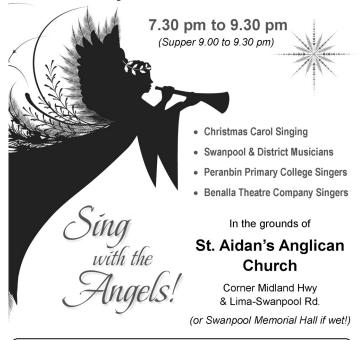
I saw and really enjoyed this film recently at the Swanpool Cinema. What I liked about this movie version from the well -known books by Lucy Maud Montgomery was the gratitude and happy nature exhibited by Anne. It is rare to find movies which contain an ongoing and affirmative outlook about life and living.

I did read recently that the fundamental story technique is to put the central character through a series of "up and downs/cliff-hangers" where the reader/audience is made to endure a drawn out period of stress and longing as they wait for the inevitable ending, happy mostly, but sometimes not. Human nature longs for happy endings and woe (I say) to the author who leaves their audience with nothing but a bleak existence without hope. Give me "feel-good" any day! I take issue with Voltaire's satire on Candide, the apparently dim-witted fool whose attitude was demonstrated by the statement: "*we live in the best of all possible worlds.*" The real target of Voltaire's spleen was his contemporary, the philosopher Leibniz, who promoted that optimistic viewpoint. From my observations Voltaire's pessimism is still a powerful influence in story-telling.

I am somewhat perplexed and even concerned that young people today seem impelled to watch films or play video games that involve lots of conflict, horror, bloodshed and stress. Is there a perception of impending doom for which the new generations must prepare? As a young teen I loved Westerns, the equivalent of today's video games I suppose, but then after a long period of reading about 5 Westerns per week I suddenly stopped. Mike Larkin 'Carols in Swanpool'

- A Christmas Celebration -

Sunday 11th December 2016



Free Admission

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B.Y.O. chair, rug, etc. Little angels welcome!

Tatong Tattler, November 2016

FEMININE FOOTBALL AT TATONG

"Benalla Ensign" - Friday 5th September 1947

Tatong can claim that it is well to the fore when it comes to the latest in sports. For instance last Sunday witnessed a thrilling football match between two ladies' teams. A team from Mansfield challenged the Tatongites, and a great crowd of spectators mostly arrived to cheer their fancies to victory, and to study the latest form. And what form it was! Short and thick, long and graceful, except where their dainty ankles disappeared under brother's No. 9 football boots. Nevertheless what these Tatong ladies' lacked in knowledge, as regards the finer points of the game, they made up in enthusiasm. From the very bounce of the pigskin it was on. Patiently the writer waited in the trembling fear that someone's guernsey or sox would be torn off, as is often the case, when two determined teams meet.

However, nothing along those lines happened, but we did learn that there were several slight arguments during the handing back of teeth. After the match, the stalwart player from Mansfield claims that she had been handed back a wrong set. Mansfield played with great effeminity and efficiency, and the outstanding players for that side were Val Hill, Joy Reardon, Denise Reardon, Peg Hill, Margo George and Betty Reardon.

Quite a number of others showed some form also, and definitely convinced us that you do not have to go to Hollywood for sweater girls. Tatong too, although hardly interested in scoring, their policy appeared to be more centred on trying to prevent Mansfield reaching the century in goals and behinds. And incidentally speaking of behinds one could not help noticing the fairly accurate way in which the goal kickers kicked goals.

Those whom we consider put up the best game for Tatong would be Joyce Smith (a little beaut!) Edna O'Connell, Doreen Griffin, Kath Griffin, Marge O'Connell and Muriel McFadzean. The final scores hardly matter. It is the spirit that counts in such matches and it is hoped that in the next game played by Tatong, we shall again see a fast thrilling match and a thing that should draw every bush lad from his usual Sunday pastime towards the local oval.

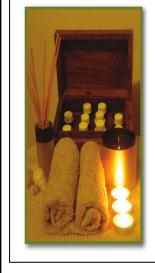
TELSTRA MOBILE PHONE TOWER IN TATONG

Tatong has struck it lucky being the first of a large rollout of local towers to be built in Victoria. It should be operational by the time of reading this article with the grand opening scheduled for Friday the 21st of October at 3pm. The tower may even operate before that day according to the technician who told us today, Wednesday the 19th. He told us this when on site to have the photo shoot with local State MP Steph Ryan.

The message to gather for this photo was relayed at short notice via the Tattler's Facebook page plus email but only Rick Hann and I turned up. This is a reminder to everyone that social media does have its uses, as will the mobile reception.

Unfortunately this tower won't service Optus users but apparently all you have to do is get a Telstra sim card – I think!

Mike Larkin





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What's on this month

November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Oct 30 Community Garage Sale 11am—5pm Next to Tatong Tavern. Tatong Art Show	Oct 31 Tatong Art Show	1 Tatong Art Show	2 Whitegate Community Din- ner at the Tav- ern Tatong Art Show	3 Play group, 9.30am, Rec Res Molyullah Com- munity Dinner at the Tavern. Tatong Art Show	4 Tatong Art Show	5 Tatong Art Show
6 Tatong Art Show	7	8	9	10 Play group, 9.30am, Rec Res	11 G irls Shed 10.30am at Hall.	12
13	14	15	16 Tatong Community Din- ner at the Tav- ern. Tatong Angler"s Club @ the Tavern	17 Play group, 9.30am, Rec Res	18 Tatong Commu- nity Dinner. 6.30pm. Rec Res.	19
20	21	22	23	24 Play group, 9.30, Rec Res	25 Girls Shed 10.30am at Hall.	26
27 Swanpool Swap Meet	28 Tatong Heritage Group Meeting at Hall 4pm	29	30	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3

TATONG MEMORIAL HALL Notice is given of a PUBLIC MEETING

To be held at the Tatong hall on Wednesday the 16th of November at 7:30pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to nominate no less than three (3) nor more than nine (9) persons as the Committee of Management for the Tatong Hall for a term of three years. The current committee's term will expire on 14th January 2017.

All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Nominations from women are encouraged.

Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting your local DELWP office or at the meeting. For further enquiries please contact the Secretary, Mike Larkin on 57672323.

JUST JOKING

A young man walks into a vet clinic with a pet duck. "The duck is dead," says the vet. The upset man begs the vet to check the duck more carefully, so he examines it and says: "Sorry, this is definitely a dead duck." The guy asks for another opinion, so the vet calls in the surgery's resident dog. The dog walks around the exam table sniffing at the duck, shakes his head and sits in the corner. The vet says: "Well the dog believes your duck is dead, so therefore..." but the young man asks for another opinion. The vet brings in the surgery's cat and places her on the exam table. The cat walks over the duck from head to foot, shakes her head and sits down next to the dog. The guy is finally satisfied and sadly goes to leave. The vet then produces a bill for \$250. "Why so much?" Asks the shocked young man. The vet says: "Because you had an exam, a lab report and a cat scan!" (Borrowed from trade mag and sent in by Graham Kerrv) Mike Larkin

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Enquires :Darcy Hogan, 5767 2187 or email darcyhogan@bigpond.com

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DEADLINE

The Tattler Deadline is end of the **20th of the month**. Not after the Editor has got busy laying out the Tattler. Submit via e-mail to tatongtattler@yahoo.com.au or post to: Darcy Hogan, 150 Mt Joy Rd, Tatong, 3673.

Format for Tattler Submissions

The Tatong Tattler is set up in Microsoft Publisher. **Text** can be submitted in the body of an email; or in file formats such as .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .txt.

Photos (as jpgs) can be attached, to be laid out by editor. If your layout is important, submitting your work in MS Publisher is ideal. (*The Editor may need to adjust your layout.*) If laid out in a **Word** document, the text & photos will need to be copied into Publisher; however the Editor will have an idea of your preferred layout. The content of a PDF file can be difficult to extract. Tattler Committee Thanks An expensive component of the Tatong Tattler is Toner, for the many of our readers who prefer or need the printed copy. The Tattler committee are very grateful to Terry Trounson of Wangaratta Cartridge World for good Service & Advice. Economical, effective, quality cartridges.

Have you considered donating to your community newsletter? Creating the Tattler costs money (despite being managed by a nonprofit group of volunteers). A donation of \$1 per Tattler helps cover costs. Donations can be; * given to Committee Members; * left the locked box by the Tavern; * or EFT'd to GMCU, BSB 803 078, A/C 135720, a/c Tatong Tattler

At the Tatong Garage Sale the Tattler Committee is planning to hold a Fund-Raising Stall.

Donations of Saleable Items would be Gratefully Received, all Proceeds going to the Tatong Tattler.

If you have something to donate, please ring

* Mike & Maeve 5767 2323 (Tatong) * Janette & John 5766 6268 (Molyullah) *Andi & Brian 5766 6486 (White Gate)

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(A donation of \$1 per issue is appreciated & helps cover costs.)