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CHINA NATIONAL TREASURES – 16 DAY TRIP A DEAL TOUR (continued)

Sharyn Harrison

Still in Beijing we went to a Tai Chi show and class, and then for a rickshaw ride along Old Beijing's Hutong's (narrow ancient alleys). We were introduced to the "Cricket Man". He was highly entertaining as he explained about the gambling on cricket fighting in China (which is illegal) but still continues (like the cock fighting in Bali). Some crickets he claims are sold for 10,000Y, about \$2000 AUD!

After Beijing a coach drive took us to Suzhou, known as the Venice of the East. We took a cruise along the Grand Canal to view life along China's ancient waterway.



We then visited the Linger-ing Garden. It is a renowned classical Chinese garden and also a UNESCO world heritage site. There were lots of Bonsai trees and a large pond. The garden was planned around the four seasons.

The house belonged to a rich family and had many rooms to house the concubines. One side was for the wife and on the other side were four bedrooms for the concubines.

The next night we went to Hangzhou, which was the site of the G20 that our politicians attended. This was the most crowded place we had been with lots of their local tourists there as well. It is a beautiful city like Melbourne with botanical gardens. We also went to the Hangzhou willow draped islands.

Shanghai was our next stop with a visit to the famous Bund. Shanghai is divided by the Huang Pu River into eastern and western sections.

Modern mega high rises are seen on the eastern side while traditional European style architecture is seen on the western side. The bund is a five block riverfront promenade. I took many photo's Chinese brides getting married with the beautiful backdrop of sea and modern high rises. We had a night cruise on the Huangpu River with all the tall buildings lit up with a light show. A sight not to miss, again I took heaps of photos.



We were also treated to a ride on the magnetic train which reached 432 kph in 7 minutes. It 'floats' above the rail. There are no more being built as it costs 5 million per km to build. All new tracks will be for the bullet trains which travel at 340 kph. Fast bullet trains are all over China. The Chinese people prefer trains to planes as they are quicker.

After Shanghai another we flew to Wuhan to join our 4 night cruise on the Yangtze River. I am so glad we did this as it was a great highlight of the trip, and also a rest before that dreaded flight home.

The ship sails through Xiling Gorge, the longest of the Three Gorges. We passed through the ship locks, a great experience. We disembarked to visit the massive Three Gorges Dam Project in the morning. The dam has two five stage locks to raise and lower ships to the different river levels. Each lock in the five stages is 65feet



Cont. Over >

high ,910 feet long. I was amazed not to see rubbish floating down the river. It was very clean and not what we expected.

We got off the boat at Chongqing city for our flight back to Melbourne via Shanghai. China is trying very hard to fix their pollution problem and it is working. For Example in Chongqing, a city of 33 million people, there are no petrol vehicles, only gas and electric. The motorbikes are all electric and silent. They drive around at night with their lights off, I guess to save power.

We had a wonderful holiday, but, as always, glad to get home. *Sharyn*



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Another slice of pie

I commiserated with Mr Knapper about the obfuscation of the English language when 'each' is replaced with 'either'. Being alerted to the acceptance of this dereliction of clarity, I have found that my lexicon agrees with his findings. To think of 'either' to be 'both' I need to use mental gymnastics to read 'each' as 'each in turn', thus taking 'either' out of the equation: which is not an equation at all.

I found it sensible to use 'either' (single) with 'or'; and 'neither' with 'nor', the consonance of both expressions being as useful as a mnemonic, confirming the concept that both 'each' and 'either' are singular in meaning. To allow 'either' to mean 'both' is, I think, to enter a linguistic area of uncertainty.

I know of a famous man who said, "Let your 'Yea' be yea, and your 'Nay' be nay." which I take to be good authority to avoid gray areas, particularly in communication. The development of a gray area can be subtle, as is demonstrated by the following anecdote.

Two friends, C and H, were out walking.

C said to H, I like to verb words."

H, surprised, said, "What?"

C replied, "I take nouns and adjectives and use them as verbs. Remember when 'access' was a thing? Now it's something you do. It got verbed."

H had no further question.

C then said, "Verbing weirds language."

H, after consideration of what he had heard, observed, "Maybe we can eventually make language a complete impediment to understanding."

It seems to me that is just what has happened wherever there is war; from domestic violence to pandemic terrorism.

John, may the pie be palatable to you; but please,

"Do not go gentle into that dark night,

Rage! Rage! Rage against the dying of the light."

Vin Masters.

TATONG MEMORIAL HALL

Due to illness and the absence of office bearers the AGM advertised in the November Tattler has been postponed to the new date shown below.

Notice is given of a
PUBLIC MEETING

To be held at the Tatong hall on **Wednesday the 7th of December 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

Christmas wishes to all and a fun, prosperous and contented New Year!!



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SUNDRIES: Flat-bar road bike; 2 x Tow bar bike carriers; School lockers; Electric Carpenters Saw Bench; Trestles; 4x Plastic rubbish bins; Jerry Cans.

Outside Entries: A/C Fred Kerr: 10X5 Tandem Trailer, Registered; Near new meat saw – used once; Dumpy level complete; 14" drop saw; Bench drill and grinder with Linisher; Gas set Oxy Bottle; Pipe bender & Formers; Fruit picking ladder; welding rods; Lincoln Mig Welder and Gas bottle; 6 trestles; MS261C Stihl Chainsaw 10hrs new 18" Bar and chain; 2 Load binders and chains 2x5m; Blacksmith vice; 2 boxes fencing gear (ex army ammo boxes); Fencing shovel long handle special; 2 crow bars; 15 HP Kohler Motor brand new never started. Contact: Fred Kerr 0488043912.

OUTSIDE VENDORS CONSIDERED:
Contact Bruce Biggs 0400 519 670.

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JOKES

An executive is interviewing a young apprentice for a position in his company. He wants to find out something about his personality so he asks: "If you could have a conversation with anyone, living or dead, who would that be?" The apprentice thinks for a moment then responds: "The living one."

Sincerity is everything. If you can fake that, you have got it made.


Abdicate (verb): To give up all hope of having a flat stomach.

Here is a joke that would have worked better **before** the USA presidential election.

The Pope and Donald Trump are standing side by side on the stage at the Yankee Stadium, New York. The Pope leans in and says: "Do you know, Donald, with one little wave of my hand I can make everyone in this stadium go wild? And not just for today, the joy will stay in their hearts forever." "I doubt that, Francis," says Trump. "But give it your best shot." So the Pope backhands him and knocks him off the stage.

And so the **Trump phenomenon is the current big news internationally!** The people of America spoke emphatically about their dissatisfaction with the political scene delivering a shock election outcome, especially for the political left. Time will now tell about the outcome of this election, the success or otherwise of Trump and there may be even more such surprises in store, both in the USA and here in Australia. Interesting times!

Mike Larkin



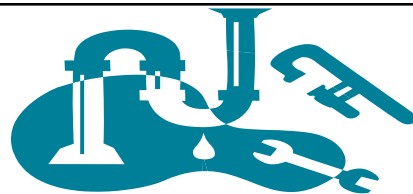
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White Gate Woof

White Gate Dinner @ the Tavern

will be on Wednesday December 7th - but Note! The Tavern is Brewing a District Christmas Feast. See Deb's "Tavern" page for more details.

Breakfast @ Samaria Farm will be on Saturday December 17th, at about 9am, or whenever you get there. Maybe on the lovely enclosed verandah, maybe out in the garden. NB: lemon butter is damn fine on the scones.

Tragedy in Purple

Act 1: A train pulls into Clifton Hill railway station. I grab the handle of my trolley-bag and step on board; the door closes, the train pulls away from the station, and I realise I have left my beloved purple knapsack on the seat. Can't jump off the train. Frantic, I consult my Smart Phone for a number to call, but find nothing helpful before we arrive at the next station. I leap onto Westgarth platform, and wait 15 minutes for the next city-bound train. Pass time listening to Metro Trains phone options. For Lost Property they reel off a different number. The city-bound train arrives and takes me back to Clifton Hill station. I leap out, race down the underpass and up to the out-bound station. My lovely bag is gone.

Back down along the underpass to the staffed side of Clifton Hill. I leave my details and a description of my bag. Trail back sadly in the underpass to the out-bound side, to get on the next train. Of course, I got on the wrong one. Got out at Rushall, walked (stomped) across to Westgarth. Got there just in time to miss the train.

Act 2: Arrive home 24 hours later, to a message on the machine, giving a mobile number, and saying she has my purple knapsack, will I ring or ought she give it to the station! Overjoyed, I ring the number, and am told, "*Optus advises that the mobile phone currently is not accepting incoming calls*". I send some texts.

Act 3: yet to unfold.

Moral; do not put your bag down at the station. - *Andi (Andrea) Stevenson*
andistev@yahoo.com.au

White Gate Fire Truck Roster

Hamish McMillan	27 Nov	Max Marriot	25 Dec
Ross Runnalls	4 Dec	Matthew Defazio	1 Jan
David Elford	11 Dec	Norton Grimwade	8 Jan
Leigh Humphries	18 Dec	Terry Ryan	15 Jan

A Final Wuff

This is the very last White Gate Woof.

I'll stay involved with the Tattler - don't break out the champagne yet. But, I will no longer have the honour of living at White Gate.

White Gate - the locality that doesn't officially exist, but officially has a fire shed, with a very large catchment. White Gate; named, it is said, for the white gate which once marked the entrance to Tatong Estate, near what is now known as Elm Tree Corner. I do wish someone had taken a photo of the white gate!

We bought our farm here 15 years ago last winter; June 2001, the same month my pup was born. We built a house, and moved in. Some of our sheep came over from the Riverina farm with us (but not in the house). The theory was, we'd run sheep a few years, then sell them off and look for a quieter lifestyle. I thought, but what's my dog going to do? Can't have a Kelpie, and no sheep! I'll have to keep a few wethers back.

Well; we sold all the sheep last month, on Auctions Plus, a bloodline of some 50 years. My dog had gone daffy a couple of years back, and deaf with it. She's been doing the retirement thing. Every now and then she remembers what sheep are, and does a few nice moves. Then she wanders off and stands in totally the wrong place, deaf to my entreaties that she get out of the flaming way.

My dog inspired the name for this column. I visited Ken & Di McKay, who then lived on the corner. They were grand-child-minding, and their grand-daughter came in looking mightily indignant, and announced that the Woof had Wet her. (ie, Jubi had licked her). Thus came about a name for a column. This identity can morph oddly. Someone, told I was the White Gate Woof, thought I was the White Gate Wolf.... Here endeth the era. An opening for someone else's column!



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM TATONG TAVERN

2581 Tatong Road Tatong Vic 3673 Phone 57672210



Christmas has crept upon me once again. One moment I was complaining about the cold and rain and seeing how far we could stretch our fire wood, then 'wham', it's hot and we're battling flies and mossies by the truck load, the weeds are out of control, seen a snake or two and the dogs coat needs to be shaven along with fifty other chores to fit in between, which all represent to me the mad, crazy and sometimes insane season leading up to Christmas. Saying all that I still jump in like the completely demented person that I am and start to prepare the soaking of fruit in a ton of booze for all the fruitcakes and plum puddings I will be baking of which I might add, if anyone wants to order any of the above please call me at the Tavern and this demented person will go up another notch in the crazy department and cook you her best fruit cake ever because I really love it. "Believe it or not".

Just backing up a little, to talk about the Biggest Garage Sale. We had a ball on the day selling the most ridiculous bits of rubbish, which I still can't quite believe people brought. But the whole day was brilliant, can't wait until next sale which I believe will be around March. I have already figured out the most useless pieces of what nots will sell the fastest, of which Chris has by the bucket loads in his sheds. I bet he puts double locks on his sheds so I can't get in.

I would also like to thank John Gregory for supplying us with a round bale for our Hay bale contest, at the eleventh hour. We are completely indebted to you John. The bale is still sitting next to the tavern in its entire glorious orange colour waiting for me to proceed to upgrading it to a Christmas theme, which will happen in-between cooking cakes, serving beer, waiting tables, and "god help me", shopping for presents which I haven't even begun yet. I'm sure counsellors must make a packet at this time of the year, with sorting out people's heads and the wild erratic behaviour that we present at this time.

Back to Christmas. We have once again arranged for all the local groups who come for our dinners at the Tavern {Whitegate, Tatong and Molyullah} to meet up together for a Christmas dinner on Wednesday 7th December 6.00p.m. Onwards. Last year we had a bit of a surprise with the flash mob singers who suddenly started to sing in the middle of dinner. This year no surprises, but we will still have Kristen Marriot and friends playing Christmas music for the get together and a special Christmas meal organised for the night, so come along and enjoy the last get together for the year of all the groups and meet up with friends you possibly haven't seen for a while. Call us at the Tavern ON 57672210 if you're not sure what's going on and hope to see you on the night. P.S. Kate Smith has returned to Tatong and the Tavern and will be officially waitressing for this particular night, so we hope every-one gives Kate a rousing welcome back cheer.

The Tavern will be open for Christmas Lunch only. Sunday 25th December so book early as last year we had a few disappointed people who couldn't get a booking at the last minute. We hate to say no to people but we can only fit so many into the Tavern. Call to book on 57672210 to Chris or Deb for a special Christmas luncheon.

TATONG OPEN SATURDAY NIGHT NEW YEARS EVE 31st DECEMBER.

CLOSED CHRISTMAS NIGHT SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER -CLOSED - NO MEALS AVAILABLE. STAFF GONE HOME FOR XMAS.

CLOSED NEWS YEARS DAY SUNDAY 1ST JANUARY 2017- CLOSED - DEB AND CHRIS GONE FISHING.

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Christmas Quiz



Children

- 1 Where does Santa live?
- 2 Who are Santa's helpers?
- 3 Beside Rudolph, name the other eight reindeer.
- 4 Who stole Christmas?
- 5 What is usually used for a snowman's nose?

- 6 What colour is Santa's hat?
- 7 What was Rudolph's punishment for having a red nose?
- 8 How many points does a snowflake have?
- 9 Does Rudolph have antlers?
- 10 What is the most popular ornament for the top of a Christmas tree?
- 11 How many kangaroos (boomers) pull Santa's sleigh over Australia?



- 12 Where was Jesus born?

- 13 What is the most common gift in a Christmas cracker?

- 14 What kind of vehicle does Santa ride in?

- 15 What might you find at the foot of your bed on Christmas morning?



Adults

- 1 In which modern country was St Nicholas born?
- 2 Name Scrooge's dead business partner.
- 3 Good King Wenceslas was the Duke of?
- 4 Which company is credited (?) with commercialising Christmas?
- 5 In the song, The Twelve Days of Christmas, my true love brought me nine?
- 6 What was Scrooge's first name?
- 7 What colour are the berries on the mistletoe plant?
- 8 Which ghost did Scrooge fear most?
- 9 Red and green are the colours most associated with Christmas. Which two colours are the next most popular?
- 10 In which country was eggnog created?
- 11 What gifts did the three wise men bring?
- 12 For which instrument was Silent Night written?
- 13 Who wrote 'A Christmas Carol'?
- 14 When does Santa visit children in Germany and Holland?
- 15 True or false—in Germany, the first child to find the pickled onion in the Christmas tree gets an extra present?



Molyullah Musings – December 2016

The Molyullah/Upper Ryan's Creek Community Christmas party:

The Christmas BBQ will be held on Thursday 22nd December at the Molyullah Recreation Reserve from 6.00pm. BYO everything (including the Aeroguard!) . Santa will make an appearance.

Tatong Tavern Combined Community Christmas Dinner:

This annual dinner will be held on Wednesday, 7 December from 6.00pm. The evening includes a Christmas Dinner, Dessert, plus Tea or Coffee for \$32.00. Small plate diners will pay \$25.00 per head. There will be entertainment so come along and enjoy some Christmas festivity with the Whitegate, Tatong and Molyullah Dinner Groups. All invited.

Games Night:

It is proposed to hold a regular games night at the Molyullah Hall to enable the community to fully utilize the facilities and catch up with friends and neighbours. The first of these nights will be held on Friday, 13 January from 6.30 pm. BYO food and beverages along with some enthusiasm for table tennis, pool, scrabble etc. or simply for a bit of a catch up with your friends and neighbours.

Museum:

There is a questionnaire out at the moment for feedback regarding the establishment of a Museum for preserving old local items of interest. It is important to make a decision regarding this before items are disposed of in the clearing out / decluttering process which is more prevalent in these times of plenty.

Whilst I think it is a great idea and have some items to contribute, it is hard to commit to being involved when there are already many demands on one's time. We all need to do our bit but it is important if you feel strongly about the establishment of a museum that you put your hand up. This will usually end up with the best result as it is hard to work at a project which is someone else's passion. It is also important that we don't overload those in the community already doing more than their bit. The community would welcome some new and/or younger locals participating – particularly if they have a bit of interest in the history of the area and would like to meet locals with a bit of knowledge.

In 2000 I was involved in the historical display at the Hall for the Centenary Sports and to this day I find useful the contacts and the history I learned.

Please contact Bill Willett or Bronwyn Forman if you need further details.

CFA – Molyullah

At a meeting on Monday, 14 November our CFA Captain, Campbell Griffin stepped down. Many thanks must be given to Campbell for his service over the last ten years and in particular during the recent difficult times for the CFA. Geoff Forman has stepped in to the Captain's position and is looking forward to working with members to ensure we have a well-trained and enthusiastic team. Many thanks for taking on this position Geoff.

For full details of changes to our CFA structure please refer to the "Burning Issues" which, at the time of writing, is in the process of being issued .



Highlight in November

Sarah Hill's 50th birthday was celebrated by her friends, colleagues, and neighbours at the Molyullah Hall on 5 November (not her birthday).

The entertainment was provided by "Couchgrass" and everyone enjoyed a lovely meal (and in particular the sausage rolls made by Thomas and Henry). What a great venue for such an event.

Seasons Greeting

Best wishes to everyone for the festive season. Hope all your fire prep is underway, your work is up to date and that you can look forward to a bit of rest and recreation in the coming weeks.

Until next year ...

Janette knapper@bordnet.com.au

The Sheep Shenanigans & Chookie News

So this year I didn't win the Benalla Festival Writing Competition, which made a nice change. So I don't have a story for the Tattler this year. However, if you want to check out my short stories, and a bunch of short stories from some amazingly talented writers, go to <http://needleinthehay.net/> and search under C.R. Gardner you'll find some of my pieces. Congratulations to the winner Glen Baker with an incredible poem and Ruth Schloss for her great story – they're still on display in the Benalla Library but not for much longer.

November is NaNoWriMo – National Novel Writing Month – the aim is to try and get the first draft of your novel written in 30 days. In this case, a novel is 50,000 words, which technically isn't a novel but a novella. Novels are generally around the 80,000 word mark. So, glutton for punishment that I am, I am participating. At this rate I will not get to 50,000 words by November 30, however, I am happy with my progress, 22,000 words done and dusted as of November 20, and when you're as time poor as I currently am, that's not bad.

Spring next year I will have three sheepskins attempting to keep the grass at acceptable levels. This year, not so much. Our place was so waterlogged that by the time it finally dried out enough to mow without getting bogged the grass was too long. And it's still growing!!! Walking out the back I feel like I'm in the movie "Children of the Corn". Whipper snipping is no longer an option with Tim's health and my elbow and shoulders, so we started investigating the scythe option, first as a bit of a joke, but then seriously.

I fell in love with the idea – scythe's are quiet, require no goggles or ear muffs and no petrol. They don't cover you head to foot in grass like whipper snippers, are a great way to exercise and meditate in the early morning – the best time to scythe is in the early morning when the grass is still wet with dew – and all the boys are interested in learning how too.

Our scythe and snaths arrived on Friday one for Tim and one for me and as they are adjustable they will also fit all the boys – they're now put together and ready to go, although we still need to watch the videos and practice the techniques. I'll be out there soon swinging away and harvesting the souls of a variety of grasses.

It's been interesting letting the grass grow – I went out and did a bit of a count of the variety of grasses and wildflowers growing at our place and counted 15+ different species!

The sheepskins are all doing well and there have been no dramas, thankfully, well, aside from Strawberry getting stuck under the house the other morning as she went under the veranda while Peach went over it. Which then meant I had to go commando crawling under the house to escort her out! She's now 5 weeks old and growing rapidly.

Tonight as I write this there is a gentle sound of rain falling on the garden outside the window and I'm happy for a little more rain. I am amazed at how quickly the ground has dried out. The back garden bed Brydon built is now planted out with lettuce, celery, capsicum, tomatoes, cucumbers and tomatoes and we have a large cool climate banana growing around the front too. The front garden bed is still in the process of being built, but getting there. I've had a really bad hatching year with the chooks so far, both lots of expensive fertilised eggs have been a gross

failure, sigh. Oh well, sometimes it happens. So far I've only had one chick hatch from 30 eggs! And that was my Araucana X. On the upside, all the chooks are healthy and doing well, and I'm now selling eggs at One Wild Apple – the cute little café in the Denny Street Carpark. If you haven't been there, then I suggest you do, Shannon makes fantastic food and hot chocolates.

Well, Christmas is fast approaching – the boys are continually reminding me – but first there is our 25th Wedding Anniversary at the end of November. We're pretty happy with making it to 25 years. A few days after Christmas the birthdays begin. This is a very busy time of year for us – it calms down again after April!

Wishing you and yours a happy and safe Christmas full of good cheer, great food, many blessings and lots of love and I'll write you again in 2017 if all goes to plan!

Carla



Baddaginnie/Swanpool School News

BADDAGINNIE/SWANPOOL CONCERT:

Our concert is on Thursday 8th of December at the Swanpool Hall. Everyone is invited to come along and enjoy the night with us. Starting time is 6.30pm.

Enrolments are always welcome:

Please contact for any enquiries: Swanpool
57 682392 Roz Davidson

Baddaginnie
57 63 2233 Eron Chapman

We thank the community for the support the school has received over the year, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. We look forward to bringing our news to you again next year.

Ten years ago already

On December 1st 2006 there were over 70 lightning strikes in North East Victoria. There were several fires in a line from Molyullah to Mount Buffalo. Bill Willett and Campbell Griffin roused us at something like 1.00am and we drove to a vantage point where we could see a strike in the hill above our top paddock. We took a rough bearing and agreed to come back at daybreak.

Next morning, do you think we could find it? There were people walking everywhere. The Molyullah Tanker went up Schultz Rd to our boundary. Nobody could find it. We eventually went home for breakfast.

Mid-morning, it's a bit warmer and a breeze has started, Janette and I went for another look. As soon as we drove up to the top we could see the smoke – it had flared up. Neighbour Paul Erskine came to help. Janette went home to call it in. There was no track access, so Paul and I set off up the hill with back pack and rake hoe. Reinforcements arrived and the fire was contained to about 15 acres.

Six weeks later, second week of January 2007, it's a lot hotter, the fuel's a lot drier and it's windy. We're about to find out that lightning can strike twice. Apparently the communication from the fire tower was something like, "lightning gone to ground – waiting for the smoke". Then that pager message again – 'Fire at Knappers'.

A CFA command post was set up in our top paddock with 'Killer' in command. There was no access on the ground. The aircraft reported spotting 500 metres ahead. I clearly remember Killer saying, "This will go to Bass Strait". It nearly did, but before that it impacted Watchbox, Ryans Creek, Toomballup, Tolmie and on from there

This sector of the fire was always referred to as the Tatong Fire even though it started in Molyullah and never really impacted Tatong. We all decided that the media couldn't work out how to spell or pronounce Molyullah, so settled for Tatong.

John Knapper



Tatong Heritage Group Meeting
Monday 28th November at 4.00pm
Tatong Memorial Hall

What a season

Wow! 735 millimetres of rain in six months. My rainfall records only go back to 1991. Since then there have been ten years (including last year) when there was less than that for the whole year.

The down side is closed roads, limited access to paddocks, bogged vehicles, flies and mozzies big enough to cart you away. The CFA are warning that there will be a lot of fuel once things dry out. This may be a good time to check your fire plan (hope you've got one) and to clean the block.

By far the worst thing for me is the proliferation of weeds, especially that blue flower – Patterson's Curse aka Salvation Jane. Increasing my disappointment is my observation that a lot of people seem to be doing absolutely nothing to try and stop its spread. The Government department responsible seems more concerned about changing its name than tackling the problem.

The up side is good soil moisture, good hay and silage yield, good stream flow, full dams and tanks. The trees in our hills look happy and healthy, but, for me, the best is the absolute mass of wildflowers this year. The orchids, lilies, ferns, herbs and grasses look spectacular. There are so many that some of our paddocks look more like meadows.

Complements of the season to all

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very happy and healthy holiday period. It is traditionally a time to eat, drink and be merry. I'll certainly give them all a try. Unfortunately, for some people, Christmas is a time of stress and anxiety for a variety of reasons. Many people find themselves on their own on Christmas Day. Perhaps, in the spirit of Christmas, there may be room for one or two more at the dinner table – there certainly is at ours. If you are on your own and fancy Christmas at the Knappers', call 5766 6268. Just asking and making sure people really are all right might make a difference.

My favourite comedian ever was Dave Allen. He always signed off his TV show with the same line. I'll pinch that line now - "Goodnight, thank you, and may your God go with you".

Shalom John Knapper

ABOUT SPEEDING CARS

Could the drivers who speed through the Tatong town-ship please consider the safety of locals and Tavern visitors plus the possibility of people including children crossing the street. It is a **60 KILOMETRE PER HOUR SPEED ZONE** and by excessive speeding you will take off less than a minute of time for your journey. Is it worth it when you risk the nightmare of hitting and possibly killing someone?

Mike Larkin



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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 bjconnor@activ8.net.au

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.



TATONG COMMUNITY GREAT BIG GARAGE SALE

The TCGBGS, which is now the replacement for the defunct Village Market has elected a committee of management at the meeting held at the Tavern on Wednesday the 9th of November. The Office Bearers are Chairperson: John Knapper, Secretary: Mike Larkin, Garage Sale Coordinator and Marketing: Belinda Franks, Treasurer: Larissa Montgomery and the committee of Sallie Hann, Andi Stephenson, Deb McCabe, Sue O'Brien and Adam Franks.

Following our first very successful Sale on Sunday the 31st of October a number of "housekeeping" items were dealt with and they are:

Car Parking will be better supervised and controlled to cater to safety concerns and to reduce congestion for stallholders.

The official start time will be from 10am and the stopping time is now 2pm. Patrons note that our sales rule is that there is to be **no haggling** before the official start time of 10am.

Expresso coffee and a wider variety of food choices will be available.

The infrastructure such as traffic management barriers, gazebos, tables and chairs for the Sale will be set up on the Saturday evening before the Sale to be held on Sunday the 19th of March 2017. Volunteer helpers appreciated.

A band will be present for the mid-section of the Sale and children's activities and entertainment will be supplied.

The Tattler and Heritage groups had a stall each at the garage sale and the Tattler made a tidy sum from the sale of items kindly donated by Karen of Cuballa Kennels and Terry and Sue O'Brien plus from donations by Tattler readers. While I am extending thanks, The Big Garage Sale is fortunate to have the use of the Tavern grounds which make for a perfect venue, thanks to Chris and Deb McCabe.

For general inquiries or to book a stall tel. Belinda at 57672117 and 0428225997 or Mike Larkin at 57672323 and 0428273613

Ps. Belinda has a separate article in this Tattler with more information and news.

Genealogy: Your Highs and Lows.

Genealogy, Family History, is making a determined comeback. But as usual, most people interested in this fascinating hobby, leave it to late to start. Then instead of asking an older relative about their history, they have to research, sometimes for hours looking for the data they are interested in.

The Benalla Family Research Group is a group of volunteers working from the Old St. Andrews Hall in Church Street, Benalla, who can assist you in knocking down your brick walls using our extensive resource collection.

So many new resources are now coming on line for you to access from your home computer, it is sometimes confusing to know where to go and what to try and access. We can help, and in fact show you where to find the material you are seeking, or if you would prefer, do the research for you at a very reasonable cost.

But a word of warning. Not everything on the internet is correct, particularly in the genealogy field. There is a tendency for some people to find a familiar name and add it to their history without researching if it correct or not. "ALWAYS" prove the data you find is the right data to add to your own history. Another trap is to not look for names with the same phonetic sounds. For example, we found one name while indexing the Benalla Rate Books that is spelt eight different ways, so beware you don't miss an important chance to extend your knowledge.

Remember to always trace names and connections back to a primary source. I personally know of a lady that researched a family name for thirty years, only to find at the end of her research that it wasn't her family at all. In fact it was mine. Thankfully she was kind enough to give me all her data, and a great friendship has grown because of a chance encounter.

Our group is currently producing framed Family Trees for display on your wall. The amount of research necessary and the time taken will determine the cost, so if you know your family history well, and we can prove it, the cost will be minimal. They look great and are a valuable addition to your assets when they need to be passed on to your children.

We are always interested in new members. Those that have joined the hunt have found it is just as interesting helping others solve their dilemmas as it is doing their own family history research, and sometimes more rewarding.

So come in and join in the fun, frivolity and camaraderie of our group, or just drop in and check us out before making any decision. The Group meet on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 10am and 4pm at Old St Andrews Hall Church Street, or by appointment at other times. Research requests can be emailed to :

research@benallafamilyresearchgroup.org or contact Bill Willett, Secretary on 0429 947 696. Website at www.benallafamilyresearchgroup.org

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Tatong Community's Great BIG Garage Sale

Sunday March 19 2017

10am – 2pm

Next door to Tatong Tavern

Entry – Gold Coin donation

Enquiries: Belinda 57672117

We're BACK – with even MORE!

Tatong Community's Great Big Garage Sale (TCGBGS) was a great success in October.

I know I've thanked everyone a lot, but I'm going to do it again, because the people who helped out beforehand and on the day are key to the success of this little community venture, so THANK YOU.

We will be back on Sunday 19th March, from 10am til 2pm. With additional stall spaces available, it will be even BIGGER and packed with more bargains!

So as you're clearing up before and after Christmas, please don't forget to keep a BIG box handy, to fill up with things you'd like to sell.

If you don't have enough for a full site (3 x 6 metres for \$10), you can buy a small site (3 x 3 metres for \$5).

Maybe you and a friend would like to team up and sell together? Remember – anything you would sell at your own Garage Sale at home, you are welcome to sell here. The difference is you don't pay for advertising, you will have more customers at this event, and you don't have us all wandering through your home.

It was great in October to see so many locals making a bit of extra pocket money for themselves or charities, and there were plenty of shoppers looking pleased with their bargains (my son actually did a "happy dance" over his purchases!)

We already have enquiries and bookings coming in for March 19 – so if you would like to secure your spot, please don't hesitate to call me now, on 57672117.

We raised nearly \$250 from the October TCGBGS to put back into the community – so everyone should see some benefits, one way or another, in supporting this little venture.

One of the best ways you can help is by spreading the word. We don't have an advertising budget, and while I'm happy to spend time online and pass the message on to various organisations, nothing beats word of mouth.

Please remind your friends, family, work colleagues, everyone from near and far.

Is there a local you didn't see at the last TCGBGS? Let's invite them to this one!

Tatong Community's Great BIG Garage Sale is on from 10am on Sunday March 19.

With music, food and coffee/tea and children's activities, along with seating in the beautiful gardens of the Tavern, it's bound to be a great day of bargain hunting for everyone, in a fun and friendly Tatong atmosphere.

Cheers, Belinda



TATONG YOUNGBLOODS

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



TOO MANY COMMUNICATION DEVICES

In order to cater for every communication contingency I now should carry four things around the yard! With the new mobile phone reception people are now able to ring me and then there is the portable house phone. I have a CFA pager which is beeping more frequently with the fire season approaching and finally, because Maeve is less mobile with her, soon to be replaced bung hip, I should carry the walkie talkie in case she can't find me by yelling!

Even with the brief time since the Telstra tower came on line I am starting to develop "SMS thumbs" which has eluded me previously due to lack of practice. I can now learn in the comfort and privacy of home with a consistent 3 bars of 3G reception, or should that be 3G of 3 bars!!?

The "jury is still out" for me as to whether it is better with constant mobile reception or without. It had been nice to be able to switch off once I was home due to nil reception, but now I do like to be able to be contacted, or to ring if no landline is available, in daylight hours.

Mike Larkin



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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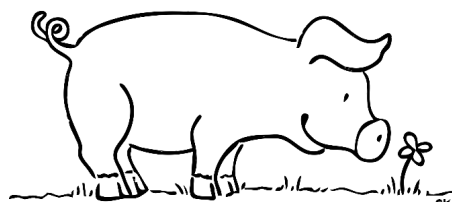
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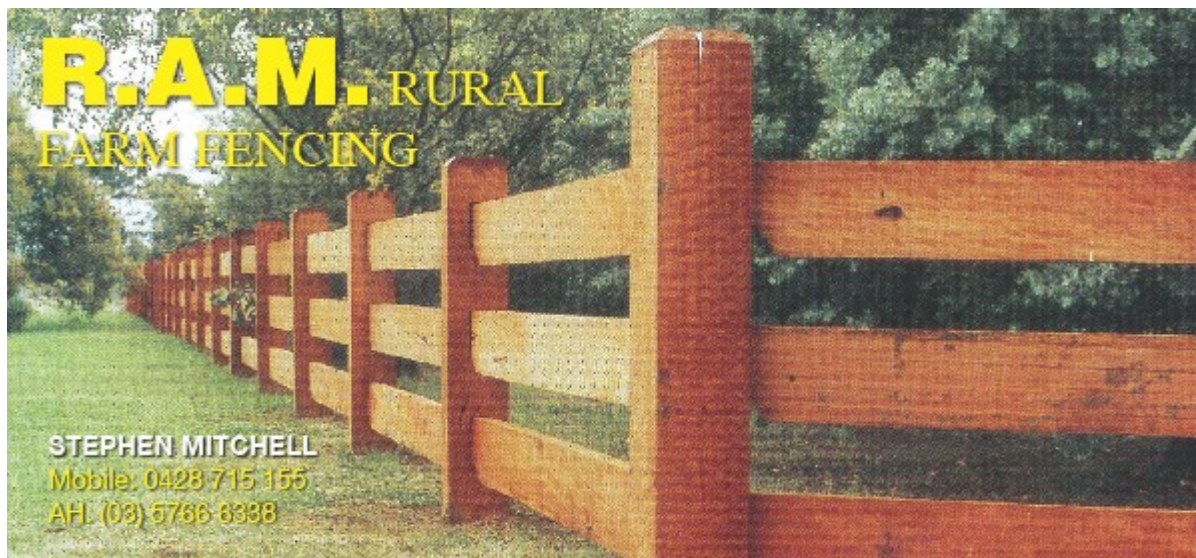
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Garden Daze

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



Well it was late, but as I write this - the warmer weather has finally arrived.

After a very wet spring the rain stopped falling. Poor old plants that had been happily growing away thinking they had been transported (or should that be transplanted?) into a rain-forest - found themselves sadly lacking that wet stuff that had been falling from above in abundance.

A drier spring would have had the plants growing more conservatively - not putting on lots of lush growth, and therefore being more prepared for the hot summer weather. The very wet spring may have made everything grow abundantly, but unfortunately, unprepared for what's to come, which can result in the loss of plants.

Keep an eye out for struggling plants - trim back if you see a struggle to survive and water sparingly - enough to keep them going but not keeping up the excessive growing.

As always - mulching will help save the day.

Sunflowers, Jerusalem Artichokes & Guinea Pigs

With their huge yellow heads, sunflowers look great in the summer garden. Native to South and Central America these tall plants whose heads follow the sun across the sky, are simple and fun to grow and are a great way to get children interested in growing things.



Seeds are sown double the depth of the seed in a fertile, well drained, sunny position. Water regularly, keep the weeds away and protect from birds and slugs/snails during the early weeks. Apply liquid fertiliser every two to three weeks to boost the height of the sunflowers.

There are variety of forms - the two shown at left are (top) *Teddy Bear* which has a great fluffy head. I have grown these in the past and they were easy to grow and looked spectacular. Below is *Autumn Beauty* a tall multiple.



The seed heads produced at the end of the season make good food for Chooks and other large pet birds.

Jerusalem Artichokes (*Helianthus tuberosus*)

are a form of perennial sunflower, flowering around April, coming up each year (just try and get rid of them) in spring to fill any spare corner you may have.

Eating them can cause problems in some people - they are composed of a carbohydrate called **inulin** (not to be confused with *insulin*) instead of the typical starch found in tubers. **Inulin** has a laxative effect on the human digestive system - we can't digest it naturally - so the gut bacteria go to town. If ingested in amounts greater than 20 grams per day, inulin may cause abdominal bloating, cramps or pain, excessive gas and diarrhoea, especially in individuals with fructose malabsorption or irritable bowel syndrome.

Jerusalem Artichokes also contain a small amount of protein, no oil and a surprising lack of starch. Many other vegetables contain **inulin** - leeks, asparagus, onions, garlic, wheat flour and bran being up the top of the list - however they contain considerably less than Jerusalem Artichokes.



Despite its name the Jerusalem Artichoke has no relationship with Jerusalem, and it is not even a type of artichoke, tho the two are distantly related as members of the daisy family.

Guinea Pigs (Do I hear you ask "Where is the connection"?)

Well I grow Jerusalem Artichokes so that I can use the green tops for a quick "I'm in a hurry" summer feed for my three guinea pigs, who live in my dog proof vegie garden.

Cutting the tops off the Jerusalem Artichokes will diminish the amount of tubers at the end of the season. However - this has never been a problem for me and each year they bounce back thicker than ever completely filling the bed allocated to them.

John Knapper recently asked me "What is the point of keeping Guinea Pigs?" As part of my answer I explained that if I put their large bottomless run over an overgrown vegie bed, they would have it all eaten out in a week or so, ready for digging over and replanting. John did ask if it wouldn't be just as easy (and quicker) to weed the bed. And yes I must concede he has a point there - so .. Why .. Guinea Pigs?

Well it all started 18 years ago when my grandchildren acquired a couple of Guinea Pigs. Eventually, to keep the population limited, they had the boys and I had the girls. With occasional "sleep overs" if numbers were down.

When the family went to live in Melbourne, I inherited "the boys", so I had two runs to look after.

Guinea Pigs are friendly little creatures, and to hear them squeak when they hear the veg garden gate opening is always a nice welcome.

Recently due to Guinea Pig aging - I found myself down to one male and one female in separate cages. So - the female went to live with another grandson, and incidentally her sister who had been a present a couple of years ago (family reunion) and I went in search of an adult male - to keep little *Ginger* (a "Tufted") company.



Tufted G. Pig

Enter Abbey of Swanpool to the rescue. Abbey is an experienced breeder of show quality Guinea Pigs and little *Sathra Snaptrap* (a "Himalayan") came with his genealogy all the way back to his Great Great Grandparents.



Himalayan

Whilst Guinea Pigs (as with humans) like to have company. adult males can be inclined to fight "intruders", so two runs were kept side by side while the boys got to know each other. Bedding was swapped - so that they would "smell the same" and then - to give them both an extra person to think about, I bought *Haircut* (a silkie - so called because I later found out that his coat will require a trim about every six weeks) Oh!



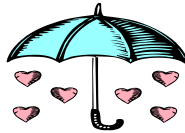
When first put together, there was a bit of fussing and Guinea Pig teeth chattering (a warning to keep away), but I put the run over a very overgrown bed (lots of three foot high parsley plants and grass) with bits of misc, shelter everywhere - but all new to the boys so that there were no territorial scuffles. One would emerge as "the boss" and I guess with a name like

"Snaptrap" it was a foregone conclusion that the little Himalayan would be the "leader of the pack".



Merry Christmas

Kathy Z



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	91.4			899.4

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

Just as we got used to steady rainfall in the six months from May till September it suddenly stopped for 19 days during the month of November and that is not good when everything is still growing, in the home garden anyway. After all those months of above 100mm rainfall, October dropped to a mere 91.4mm! We have had 22.4mm up until the 15th of November. Fortunately we have not had the excessive heat of last spring. According to the weather on ABC news it is 8 months since 30 degrees was reached in Melbourne and that suits me fine.
Mike Larkin

Benalla Community Health Service

"Boob Bus"



Your Festive Season Boob Bus to BreastScreen is scheduled for **Monday 5th December** Leaving Benalla Community Care Coster St. Benalla at **12.00 pm** Travel to Shepparton for your Mammogram.

Bring lunch with you, or have it early, then share afternoon tea, and more support than a bra can offer. Arrive back around 5.00 pm

Cost: Your time, and money for refreshments!!!

Bookings:

Please Book by **Monday 21st November**






Call Benalla Community Health Service on

5761 4500

Benalla
HEALTH

What's on this month

December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov 27 Swanpool Swap Meet	Nov 28 Tatong Heritage Group meeting 4pm at Hall	Nov 29 	Nov 30	1 Play group, 9.30am, Rec Res	2	3
4	5	6 	7 Whitegate Molyullah and Tatong Community Dinners at the Tavern Tatong Memorial Hall AGM 7.30pm @ Hall	8 Play group, 9.30am, Rec Res	9 Girls Shed 10.30am at Hall.	10
11	12	13	14 Tatong Angler's Club @ the Tavern 	15 Play group, 9.30am, Rec Res	16	17
18 Tatong Youngbloods Xmas Party. Rec Reserve 5.00pm	19	20	21 	22 Play group, 9.30, Rec Res	23 Girls Shed 10.30am at Hall.	24
25	26	27	28	29 	30	31

Answers

Children 1 North Pole 2 The elves 3 Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen (or Dunder and Blixen) 4 The Grinch 5 A carrot 6 Red and white 7 Not allowed to join in reindeer games 8 Six 9 Yes 10 Angel or star 11 Six 12 Bethlehem 13 A hat 14 A sleigh 15 A stocking

Adults 1 Turkey 2 Jacob Marley 3 Bohemia 4 Coca Cola 5 Ladies dancing 6 Ebenezer 7 White 8 The ghost of Christmas yet to come 9 Gold and silver 10 Britain 11 Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh 12 Guitar 13 Charles Dickens 14 The night of Dec 5th 15 True

Disclaimer

All correspondence regarding the answers should be addressed to: Mr S Claus, c/o North Pole.

John Knapper

Tattler Advertising Rates

Full Page:

Single Issue: \$32.00
Six Issues: \$180.00
Eleven Issues: \$320.00

Half Page:

Single Issue: \$16.00
Six Issues: \$85.00
Eleven Issues: \$160.00

Quarter Page or 2 x 1/8th Page:

Single Issue: \$8.00
Six Issues: \$45.00
Eleven Issues: \$80.00

General or public interest articles of at least 150 words (not a repeat of the ad.) may incorporate up to a 1/8 page ad. free. Advertorial style articles under this category must be labelled "Promotional Feature".

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

EFT: BSB 803078 A/C 135720 a/c name: Tatong Tattler
Goulburn Murray Credit Union, 30 Bridge Street, Benalla
Please identify your payment, & e-mail details to Tattler.

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS

For those who submit pre-formatted advertisements, the size of a half page area is 13.6 x 19 cm and a 1/4 page area is 13.6 x 9.3 cm. To avoid distortion to your image, please fit your advertisement to these sizes.

DEADLINE

The Tattler Deadline is end of the **20th of the month**.
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.

If you require help, contact one of the Tattler committee.

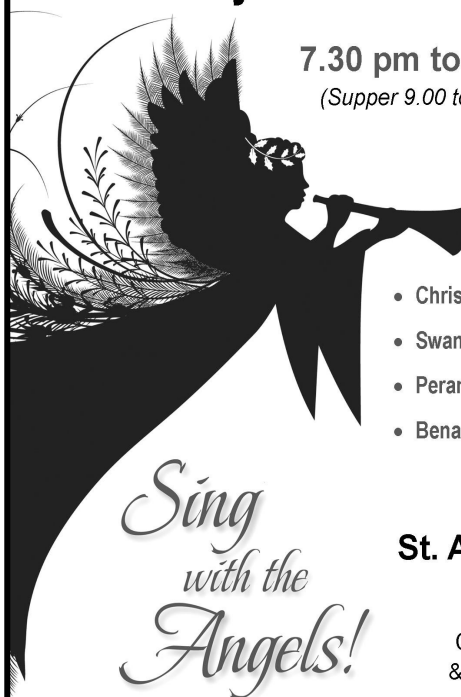
'Carols in Swanpool'

- A Christmas Celebration -

Sunday 11th December 2016

7.30 pm to 9.30 pm

(Supper 9.00 to 9.30 pm)



- Christmas Carol Singing
- Swanpool & District Musicians
- Peranbin Primary College Singers
- Benalla Theatre Company Singers

In the grounds of

St. Aidan's Anglican Church

Corner Midland Hwy
& Lima-Swanpool Rd.

(or Swanpool Memorial Hall if wet!)

Free Admission

Brought to you by St. Aidan's Anglican
and the Uniting Church of Swanpool

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

Have you considered donating to your community newsletter?

Creating the Tattler costs money (despite being managed by a non-profit 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

Obtain your Copy of the Tatong Tattler! Printed, Posted, or Downloaded in TechniColour

The Tattler is Delivered to Tatong & Surrounding Districts, for Free.

The PDF file (in Colour!) may be Downloaded by Anyone, Anywhere from our Website.

Postal Delivery for one year is \$25 (Australia only).

To arrange Tattler delivery, And/Or to be notified when the PDF is available (You can have Both), Or to Arrange Postal Tattler, contact us via tatongtattler@yahoo.com.au or:

The Secretary, Tatong Tattler, 150 Mt Joy Rd, Tatong, Vic, 3673.

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



Media Release

Media Release

Thursday 10 November 2016

Discover Chinese language, culture, and travel at the Sir Edward Weary Dunlop Learning Centre

What has ears as tall as a two-storey house and toes the size of a small car?

Answers to this question, and more, will be available at a free "China Q&A – An introduction to Chinese language, culture, and travel" session at the Sir Edward Weary Dunlop Learning Centre (Benalla Library) at 5pm on 7 December 2016.

This session will be interesting to those who maybe planning a trip to China, or who have always been interested in learning more about Chinese language and culture.

Yushan Luo will the session, sharing her vast Chinese travel and cultural knowledge, experience and passion with the community. Yushan is from mainland China, and speaks standard mandarin and local dialects. She has formal training in Chinese/English interpretation and as a tour guide.

The free session will include a vibrant and interactive presentation drawing from Yushan's work and travel experiences across China.

Cultural, historical and fun facts on modern day China will be included in the event, along with the chance to learn practical phrases.

'The introduction to China session is perfect for the budding traveller or anyone interested in learning more about Chinese culture and language' said Deb Saunders, Library Coordinator.

All are welcome to join the session. To register, or for further information please contact the Learning Centre on 03 5762 2069.



-ENDS-

Media contact:

Jilian Mulally
Manager Arts, Communications, Tourism and Events
Benalla Rural City Council
Mobile: 0408 573 864