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A Bloody Great Aussie Poem Author Unknown

The sun was hot already - it was only 8 o'clock
the cocky took off in his Ute, to go and check his stock.
He drove around the paddocks checking wethers, ewes and lambs,
the float valves in the water troughs, the windmills on the dams

He stopped and turned a windmill on to fill a water tank
and saw a ewe down in the dam, a few metres from the bank.
"Typical bloody sheep," he thought, "they have no common sense,
they won't go through a gateway but they'll jump a bloody fence."

The ewe was stuck down in the mud, he knew without a doubt
she'd stay there 'til she carked it if he didn't get her out.
But when he reached the water's edge, the startled ewe broke free

and in her haste to get away, began a swimming spree.

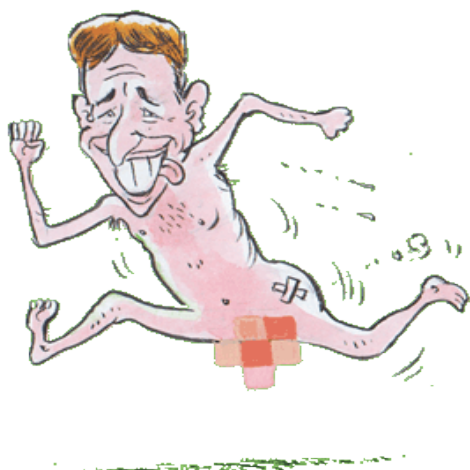
He reckoned once her fleece was wet, the weight would drag her down
if he didn't rescue her, the stupid sod would drown.
Her style was unimpressive, her survival chances slim,
he saw no other option, he would have to take a swim.

He peeled his shirt and singlet off, his trousers, boots and socks
and as he couldn't stand wet clothes, he also shed his jocks.
He jumped into the water and away that cocky swam
he caught up with her somewhere near the middle of the dam.



The ewe was quite evasive, she kept giving him the slip
he tried to grab her sodden fleece but couldn't get a grip.
At last he got her to the bank and stopped to catch his breath
she showed him little gratitude for saving her from death.

She took off like a Bondi tram around the other side
he swore next time he caught that ewe he'd hang her bloody hide.
Then round and round the dam they ran, although he felt quite puffed
he still thought he could run her down, she must be nearly stuffed.

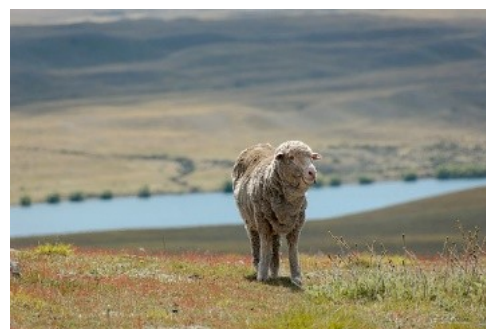


The local stock rep came
along, to pay a call that day,
he knew this bloke was on his own, his wife had gone away.
He didn't really think he'd get fresh scones for morning tea
but neither was he ready for what he was soon to see.

He rubbed his eyes in disbelief at what came into view
for running down the catchment came this frantic-looking ewe.
And on her heels in hot pursuit and wearing not a stitch
the farmer yelling wildly, "Come back here, you lousy bitch!"

The stock rep didn't hang around, he took off in his car
the cocky's reputation has been damaged near and far.
So bear in mind the Work Safe rule when next you check your flocks
spot the hazard, assess the risk and always wear your jocks!

Submitted by Sharyn Harrison



The Tatong Recreation Reserve Community Hub has recently been designated as a Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP) - Bushfire Place of Last Resort.



The NSP is located at the Hub building itself rather than the reserve and it is intended to be used as a place of last resort only. An NSP is not a fire refuge or shelter and doesn't replace the need to have a Bushfire Survival Plan.

Council has worked with the CFA to identify and designate this new NSP in recognition of the significant fire danger that exists for residents and visitors to Tatong and surrounds.

CFA advises that everyone should have a written Bushfire Survival Plan.

Neighbourhood Safer Places are municipal council designated buildings or spaces within the community that may afford some protection from radiant heat, the biggest killer during bushfire.

They are a place of last resort in bushfire emergencies only. They are a last resort shelter that may assist people when there is imminent threat of bushfire and they have no plan, or their planned options are not possible.

They are not locations to relocate to when leaving early. On days when there is advice to leave early people should relocate well away to an area of lower risk either the night before or early in the morning. The degree of safety afforded by Neighbourhood Safer Places will depend on a number of factors, including the intensity of the bushfire.

Please be aware of the following risks associated with Neighbourhood Safer Places:

- Travelling to a Neighbourhood Safer Place is inherently dangerous with traffic congestion, poor visibility, fire activity, heavy smoke and accidents or fallen trees that may block the route there.
- There is no guarantee that you will not be mentally traumatised, injured or killed when travelling to or sheltering at a Neighbourhood Safer Place.
- You are likely to experience extreme conditions such as; heat, high winds, fire noise, embers, radiant heat, smoke and ash sheltering at a Neighbourhood Safer Place.
- There is no guarantee that emergency services will be present.
- There will be no provision for pets.
- There will generally be limited parking. Large numbers of vehicles may further compromise what little protection the area affords.
- There will be limited capacity. No amenities (eg. food, drinks, toilets) will be provided.
- Neighbourhood Safer Places will not exist in all communities. In some instances there may not be a Neighbourhood Safer Place identified in your local area or close to your home.



If you have any questions about the NSP please contact Jamie McCaffrey (Emergency Management Coordinator) or Graeme Joyce (Municipal Fire Prevention Officer) at Benalla Rural City Council via 5760 2600 or council@benalla.vic.gov.au - Jamie McCaffrey

There is more information on "Neighbourhood safer places" at <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/neighbourhood-safer-places/>

Tatong Community's Great BIG Garage Sale is BACK!
Sunday March 19
10am – 2pm
Tatong Tavern Grounds
Gold Coin Entry

Imagine how many bargains you can find at one or two garage sales on any given weekend..... Now compare that to what you could find at over TWENTY Garage Sales, all conveniently gathered in one beautiful location!

A very BIG thank you to everyone who supported our first Great BIG Garage Sale last year. There were so many people on the day who were keen to book a stall at the next TCGBGS – and now your chance has come. Please be aware that we are filling up fast - only limited spaces are left, so jump in now with your booking.

Stalls start from \$5 for a 3m x 3m pitch, or \$10 for a 3m x 6m pitch.
Charity Fundraising Stalls and Community Group Stalls are 3m x 3m and free.
Commercial stalls requiring electricity are \$25.
If you have any queries, or to book your spot, please contact Belinda on 57672117.

Shoppers are asked for a gold coin donation on entry.
At this stage the money collected is going towards updating and maintaining our equipment, signage and kids' activity gear, to ensure we are running the event to a high standard. Everyone associated with running the event is kindly doing so on a voluntary basis.

Why not team up with a friend or neighbour to make one large stall – that way you can tag team looking after your pitch, while the other goes shopping, picks up a coffee, a bbq snack, or even sneaks off for a cheeky pot in the Tavern!

Tatong Tavern will be open for lunch and dinner, too – so why not book a table in advance – their number is 57672210.

Remember – anything you would sell at your own garage sale, you can sell here. If your hobby is knitting, painting or sewing, and you would sell your work at your own garage sale, book yourself a spot, and bring it on down!

If you have large items for sale we have the Great BIG For Sale Board at the event.
Bring along a poster or write your For Sale Poster on the day, and hang it on the board for a coin donation.

Word of mouth is absolutely vital to our success, so please let your friends, family and workmates from outside Tatong know about Tatong Community's Great BIG Garage Sale on March 19 – last event we had visitors from as far afield as Albury, Melbourne and Shepparton.

It could be a great meeting point for friends from Melbourne, who might be after some vintage farm paraphernalia, or just an awesome day out!

It's been fun planning the upcoming event with a great group of locals.
We'd really love to see you all on Sunday March 19 for another great BIG day out bargain hunting.

Cheers
Belinda



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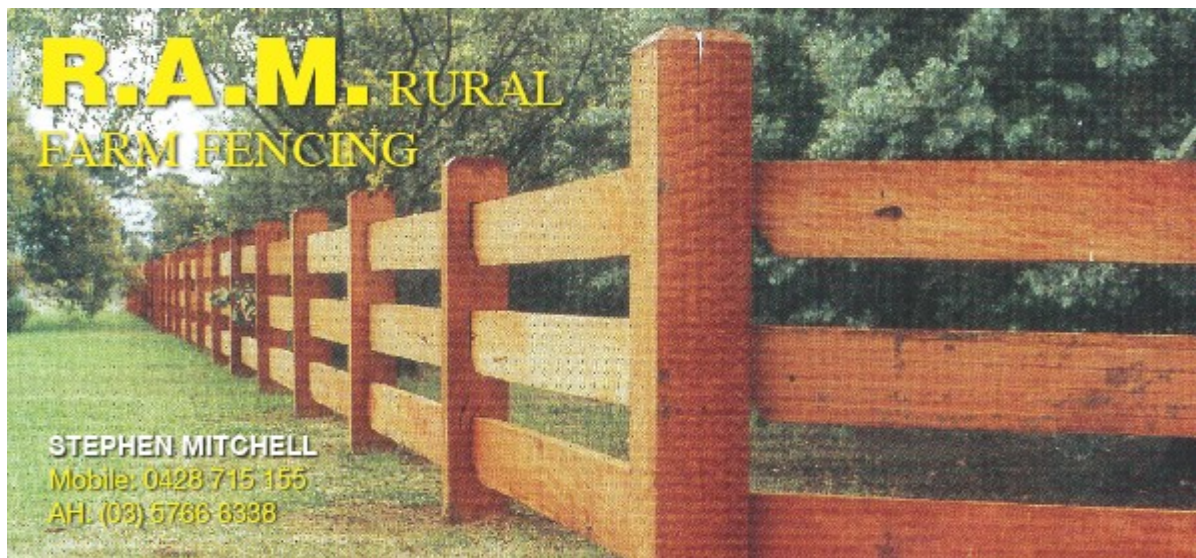
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Tatong Tavern

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AUTUMN FOOTBALL GARAGE SALE

As you can see our two main events for March are the official start of Footy season on the 23rd, and the Biggest Garage Sale on Sunday 19th. Our Footy Tipping's will once again be held at the Tavern, so come and join the team of footy fanatics who swear only their team is the best. I have always been a very below average footy fan, before going into the Tavern, but then I discovered that with Footy Tipping's, every-one at the Tavern has to be involved, so innocently, I thought why not, I probably won't do any good, but then within two weeks the competitiveness came out, and by the fourth week, little old me was right in there with the best of them. I found beating Johnny by one point last year very satisfying as he is a diehard Geelong supporter through and through, so out in the kitchen it gets very hot and heated with picking the right team to win each week, and being very secretive about who we have picked, but I have to say I have never known so much about football until I started Footy Tipping's especially with the radio in the Kitchen getting a real work out when the teams come out to play. So come and become a fanatic like myself even If you don't have any interest in Football, you can be guaranteed to be a one eyed supporter by the end of the season. Chris will have the Board set up in the Tavern for everyone to enter. Any enquiries please see Chris or myself at the Tavern or give us a call on 57672210.

Our next Biggest Garage Sale will begin on Sunday 19th March on the grounds of the Tavern. Once again there will be room for over 20-25 Stalls. If it was anything like the last Garage Sale you will be able to buy the most unusual, the most colourful, the trendiest, and the oldest or just plain outrageous. There will be food, drink and entertainment available on the day, so no one will be hungry while browsing. If you would like to have your own stall, give us a call at the Tavern on 57672210 and we will be able to put you onto Belinda the Coordinator. It's a great day to get out and about, so come down and see us with all the family and enjoy.

Friday March 17th is a day not to be forgotten, as not only is it St Patricks Day it is also Chris and Debs Wedding Anniversary. We purposely picked this day so that we would never forget it. Unfortunately with life's fast pace we have come close to overlooking it a couple of times. Oops. All was forgiven. St Patricks Day falls on a Friday this year, so everything will be green including the food and drink. See you all at Happy Hour.

Coming up next month is a reminder that the Good Friday Appeal Auction will be held at the Tavern grounds on Friday April 14th, which is a tremendously busy and active day for everyone. The Committee are once again gearing up for the day and are asking for donations of any kind for the day. The donations can be anything from bricks, soil, baskets of goodies, vegetables, business donations, hay, sports goods, donation of labour, or just any goods will be welcomed. All donations go to the Royal Children's Hospital, so give that they may grow. Any Volunteer help will be greatly appreciated as a few of the long standing Committee members will be retiring. Call us at the Tavern 57672210 and we will put you onto Jade and her hard working group.

Just a reminder Daylight Savings Finishes Sunday April 2nd, so every-one turns their clocks back 1 hour.

Our Chef Johnny will be also be creating a new Autumn Menu as of March, so keep a look out for something new and exciting to eat as we start to feel the cooler air both day and night.

WEDNESDAY WALLET WATCHERS Special discounted meals

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

FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR AND RAFFLE **HAPPY HOUR 5.30p.m.-7p.m.RCH Good Friday Appeal Raffle every Friday night.**
Come and support the Childrens hospital. \$1 per ticket - 1ST PRIZE MEAT TRAY 2ND PRIZE CHOOK

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

Overheard conversation

Daughter-in-law to mother-in-law

Don't tell me how to bring up my kids. I'm married to one of yours and he could certainly do with some improving.

Overheard by John Knapper

Not on the ABC???

The other night on the ABC news the writing at the top of the screen about a story referring to an island in Bass Strait was thus:

Bass Straight:

Honestly.

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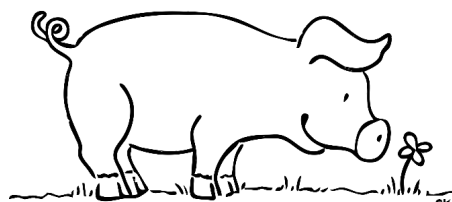
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Tatong Community's

Great BIG Garage Sale



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Bookings & Enquiries: Belinda 57672117



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Greta & Yea Football and Netball Clubs

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commencing at Midday***

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Molyullah Rural Fire Brigade - Sunday Driver - Radio Check Roster

5 Mar 2017 Stephen Brosig Welch 3rd Lieut. 0417 890 042

Minimum Skills Refresher Team 4 for 5 March Andrew Muller 57 666 408 Damien Nichols 0428 396 137

Justine Nichols 0428 396 137 Leigh Parker 0417 501 067

Dirk Ring 0419 529 830

12 Mar Bill Willett 57 628 830

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Murphy's (and others') Laws

The twentieth of each month is the deadline for submissions to the Tattler. Therefore this means that from publication and delivery to the next submission date is about three weeks. That should be plenty of time to prepare one's next item. Usually the reality is that the eighteenth and nineteenth of each month see some (often frantic) head scratching wondering what to write about.

There is a 'law' that covers this type of thing – **Edward's law of time and effort**. It says that time and effort are inversely proportional to each other – *The more time available to complete a task, the less the effort applied. As time decreases, effort increases. If it wasn't for the last minute, nothing would get done.*

Pareto's principle, or the 80 / 20 rule, is something that applies to many things in everyday life. It states that 80% of a job is done in 20% of the time taken and the last (fiddly) 20% of the job takes the remaining 80%. It also points out that often 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people.

Everyone refers to Murphy's Law, and there are many variations on the same theme - here are some thoughts.

Murphy's Original Law If there are two or more ways to do something, and one of those ways can result in a catastrophe, then someone will do it.

Murphy's Law If anything can go wrong -- it will.

Murphy's First Corollary Left to themselves, things tend to go from bad to worse.

Murphy's Second Corollary It is impossible to make anything foolproof because fools are so ingenious.

Quantised Revision of Murphy's Law Everything goes wrong all at once.

Murphy's Constant Matter will be damaged in direct proportion to its value.

The Murphy Philosophy Smile... tomorrow will be worse.

While **Murphy's Law** says that anything that can go wrong, will go wrong (eventually), **Sod's Law** requires that it always go wrong with the worst possible outcome.

'Murphy' was possibly one Edward Murphy. From 1948 to 1949, at what is now Edwards Airforce Base, tests were carried out to test human tolerance to g forces during rapid deceleration. Edward Murphy set up the tests which used a rocket sled mounted on a railway track with a series of hydraulic brakes at the end. Airforce Captain Stapp 'volunteered' and was covered with sensors to measure the strain on his body. When he staggered off the rig after the test he was told that all the sensors read zero – they had all been attached back to front!

How Mr. Murphy died: One dark evening (in the U.S.), Mr. Murphy's car ran out of petrol. As he hitchhiked to a petrol station, facing traffic and wearing white, he was struck from behind by a British tourist who was driving on the wrong side of the road.

Some other 'laws':-

Lee's Law – It takes less time to do something right than it takes to explain why you did it wrong

Campbell's Law – the less you do, the less can go wrong

Irene's Law – there is no right way to do the wrong thing

Anthony's Law of Force: Don't force it; get a larger hammer.

Knapper's Law – no matter what goes wrong – there will always be someone who knew it would.

Any similarities to any person, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

Reference source – Murphy's Laws, 26th edition

John Knapper





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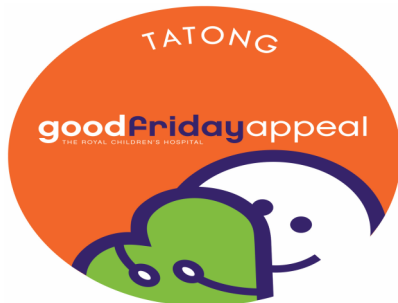
For further details contact:

Brett Neilson

Luke Marple

Mob: 0418626503

Mob: 0458 722 932



The Tatong RCH Good Friday Appeal Committee would like to congratulate Ashley Day on being the Tatong Community Achiever of the year Award for Australia Day 2017.



A big thank you to the Tatong Community for supporting the Good Friday Appeal on Australia Day, a special mention must go to the committee members who helped on the day and ALL those that helped with cleaning and packing up, the old saying many hands make light work is true. Another thanks must go to F.C Roddy and Dennis Hevey for cooking up a storm on the BBQ under the watchful eye of the men folk of Tatong. And to Jess & Elly Cavalot a HUGE THANK YOU, who were amazing little helpers in the kitchen and setting up. We hope you all enjoyed the musical talents of local identity Jessica Ritchie and Stacey Emms, their performance was very much appreciated by the committee and all those that attend.

A big thank you must go to the Tatong Tavern for their continued support of the appeal and allowing us to have our "FRIDAY NIGHT RAFFLES" at the Tavern.

On that note we must thank you our locals for continuing to support us and buying tickets each week, something we could not do without our amazing committee members who sell the tickets each week.

Are you interested in helping out with this year's appeal?

If so please contact Jade 0408197865 or email tatongrchappeal@yahoo.com.au

Tatong RCH Good Friday Appeal Family Fun Day & Auction

Friday April 14th

Grounds of the Tatong Tavern

11.30am onwards for Registration

1.00pm Auction

Follow us on Facebook – Tatong RCH Good Friday Appeal

More details in next months Tattler.

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Garden Daze

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



As Summer Draws to a Close - We are all Remarking that this one was "Different"

At the last "Molyullah at the Tatong Dinner" the perennial question "How are your Tomatoes?" was asked. Most of us said "slow", as the cool start to the season held them back.

It was nice to get some "Garden Saving Rain" from time to time, and to have a green lawn is something of a novelty when - if you are like me - you don't water the grass. Tho I must say that since I "bit the bullet" and planted some Buffalo Grass, the annual "browning of the grass" is being phased out.

Beating the Cabbage Moth

I was pleasantly surprised at the interest shown in last month's article on *Barbarea Vulgaris* and its ability to keep the cabbage moths away.

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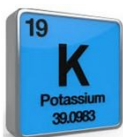
You can also phone and ask for a catalogue.

The Importance of Potassium

Potassium (Potash) is a standard ingredient in most fertilisers. It is also available on its own in a crystalline form, which is dissolved in water, a granular, slow release form which is sprinkled directly around plants and is sometimes available in liquid form.

Along with nitrogen and phosphorous, potassium is a macro-nutrient - plants need a lot of it. Fertilisers have displayed on the back of the pack - 'N' for nitrogen, 'P' for phosphorous and 'K' - just to be confusing - that's Latin for kalium which stands for potassium. *It was first isolated from potash* - the ashes of plants, from which its name derives.

How does K for potash work?



Firstly, potassium helps plants to move water and sugar inside themselves, so it makes fruit juicier and sweeter and it also improves the quality of flowers.

Secondly, potassium helps strengthen plants - it thickens their cell walls. Potassium is an essential nutrient for crop growth, being fundamental to many plant processes that impact on crop yield, quality and plant health. For example if a general purpose fertiliser, containing nitrogen, was to be applied to spring onions - it will produce a surge of growth, but the growth is soft and sappy and prone to rot. Applied on its own, potassium produces the same surge of growth, only that growth is strong and less susceptible to rot.

Thirdly, potassium helps defend plants against disease. Just as humans produce antibodies after infection, plants also have a similar defence mechanism when infected by a pathogen. The potassium status of a plant is important for both the production and the transport of these compounds to the site of infection. Shortages reduce the amount of natural antifungal compounds, increasing the plant's susceptibility to disease, once it has penetrated the cells.

The infection causes increased production of certain chemicals that form part of the plant's defence mechanism. By creating thicker cell walls, potassium makes it difficult for germinating fungal spores to punch a hole through the side of the cell wall and cause disease.

The importance of balanced nutrition is clearly evident with potassium, due to its close interactions with nitrogen, both in uptake through the roots and utilisation within the plant. A shortage of potash will not only result in lower nitrogen use efficiency, but will also lead to greater drought susceptibility, increased lodging, (lodging is the displacement of stems or roots from their vertical and proper placement) a reduction in photosynthesis and restricted movement of water, nutrients and sugars around the plant.

Frost Tolerance - Potassium promotes a high concentration of sugars in cells. This increase in sugar content in cells helps to lower the sap's freezing point, acting as antifreeze agents, and resulting in improved frost tolerance. This is particularly helpful for potatoes.

Water balance and Drought Tolerance

Plants also rely on potassium to regulate the opening and closing of the Stoma - tiny apertures on leaves, which allow the movement of carbon dioxide into the plant, as well as the release of oxygen and the loss of water vapour.

The plant regulates this opening and closing through the movement of potassium into or out of the guard cells which surround them.

When water supply is short, the cells close the stomata to prevent water loss to the atmosphere. If potassium levels within the plant are low the stomata become slow to respond and they do not close as quickly, resulting in the loss of water vapour. *As a result, plants with an insufficient potassium supply are more susceptible to drought.*

Now, how much potassium to use? It varies according to the brand, so check the back of the pack and remember that a little bit goes a long way. **You can overdo potassium and you can kill plants.**

That said, just for a few dollars, a kilo will do the whole of the garden for an entire year - fruit, vegetables, turf - everything, so it is as beneficial, as it is cheap. Use potassium and you'll get fresh flowers, strong plants and delicious fruit.



Happy Gardening

Kathy Z

LUCKY LOSER

In the last few months I have dropped/lost both my wallet and keys on the ground, the wallet in Shepparton and my keys in Benalla. Luckily I got both back due to honest people.

The lesson here, apart from being more careful, is to have your mobile or home phone number somewhere within your valuables. With the wallet, only my address was shown on my licence, so the finder very generously brought it all the way to Tatong and they lived in Cobram! I gave them a \$50 reward but the person who found my keys would not accept a \$10 reward.

With my keys, dropped just near the Subway shop, the finder rang me within 10 minutes, saving me so much stress and effort, because I had my mobile tel. number etched onto a metal plate among the keys. It is best not to have your address on your keys because a thief could find your home and use the keys to enter your property, steal valuables and possibly drive off in your vehicle.

Mike Larkin

Benalla Rural City Council invites Molyullah and surrounding communities to join them in an **open house session** to share their thoughts and ideas.

"Every four years councils across Victoria must develop a four year plan that identifies key priorities, projects and the best use of Council resources. Community input provides the foundation for this key strategic document and we want to hear from our community."

What can the Council do over the next four years to help achieve the objectives of the *Benalla Rural City Community Plan 2016-2036*

What health and well-being issues are of concern?

Where should our limited resources be targeted?

The purpose of this session differs from the conversations we had last year, in that it relates more specifically to the recently instated Council's plan for the next four years. Your input matters and is welcome, and Council hopes to share some ideas of their own too. Take this opportunity to hear and be heard.

Monday April 3rd between 7pm & 9 pm at the Molyullah Hall. Come and go when it suits. Cuppa and nibbles provided.

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Sabotage on the Farm

At our clearing sale, the only role I had to play was to start the Suzuki Stockman ute. No worries; happy to start up my pride & joy. When the auction got to the Suzi I was given the cue, and turned the key. She coughed, she gurgled, all the while a crowd looked on. I was aghast; the special moment of her moving to another life, was jinxed! Someone called out, one of you young blokes should give it a go. I was so humiliated I could have sunk through the floorwell; a silly old woman who couldn't even start a car.



The Suzuki had always run well, her little engine whirring boldly. Brian had found her at Seymour when we bought the Benalla farm, 15 years before. She had served us faultlessly ever since. In the early years she snoozed through most of the summers in the shed, called into action only when the ground got wet, when she skimmed over a surface that would have sunk big 4WD utes. Sometimes I used her to muster our Merino sheep, my dog leaping euphorically to and from the tray. As time passed my dog grew slow, then forgot how to muster sheep, and the Suzuki became the main tool for mustering. She went anywhere, with a batty old dog barking in the back.

The farm sold, and no use in our future life for the fine little steed, she was a popular listing in the clearing sale. Several people rang beforehand for details. The day before the clearing sale, some of our plant was set out in the paddock, but the Suzi stayed secure in the shed. Five minutes before the official start of the sale, I drove her down. She was running beautifully. I pulled up in the paddock to unload a couple of items, and immediately 3 guys materialised from various directions, to look in the cabin, under the bonnet, at the tray... It was ten minutes before I could take her up to her designated corner. I backed her in so that she looked stylish. Her bonnet went up, and for the next hour there seemed to always be someone having a look around her.

Then the bidding began. I moved along with the crowd, feeling the strange sensation of watching one's stuff get sold. Or not sold. Once the tractor was done, I got into the Suzuki. No qualms about starting her; she'd had a run less than two hours before. Just a touch on the accelerator and I knew she'd fire up.

But she didn't. She spluttered. Not wanting to flood her, I carefully gave some more fuel, then more; finally she gave a proper roar. So I gave the horn a peep and turned her off, then crept away, mortified. What had I done wrong? I'd been starting that car for 15 years!

Despite the unfortunate behaviour, the Suzuki sold well. Better still, she was bought by friends. When the sale was over young Mark began to drive her across the paddock; she coughed and spluttered and hiccupped. I ran over to pull him up, something had to be badly wrong. It was horrible to think we'd sold the car, at a good price and to friends, only to have it suddenly turn into a dud. I wondered if one of the blokes fiddling around under the bonnet had accidentally tweaked something to do with the fuel.

We pulled up the bonnet, a crowd gathered to look, but no one could spot a problem. Everything seemed fine. The choke was not on. She was not low on fuel. Finally a guy came over, who had seen her drive in earlier. He had a look and said, "The spark plugs are in the wrong order." Sure enough, the two middle spark plug leads were crossed. Once uncrossed, the Suzuki started up quickly, and ran as sweetly as ever.

Had some idiot checked the spark plugs and plug them back in the wrong order? Oh no, he said, it would have been deliberate. He'd seen it done before. A good trick with motorbikes, apparently; mess with the spark plugs, the vehicle won't run properly, buy it for a bargain.

So while the inspection part of the sale was going on; or maybe after the auction began; some creep took the opportunity to swap two of the spark plug leads, so that my Suzuki would run like a wreck. Sweet? Well, the piece of waste who did it is still out there. He might be at your clearing sale next. Gather your friends to guard your vehicles.

- Andi Stevenson

Where's your wheelie bin?

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Bin size	1-10 bins	11-20 bins	21 or more bins
360L	\$50	\$45	\$40
240L	\$40	\$36	\$32
140L or smaller			
\$30	\$27		\$24

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Changing face of Tatong and Molyullah

In recent years I was a bit worried that Molyullah was getting jaded. Old stalwarts were leaving and many residents were ageing and it seemed the vibrant community was about to struggle.

Well, lo and behold it now appears to have new energy with younger people moving into the area. I guess we will still struggle with committee volunteers etc. as these days young couples often both work and are busy raising their families. Tatong has seen this change much sooner than Molyullah but I think things are looking great for both communities.

I would like to include snippets of information about our residents, both new and old, but need a bit of assistance from readers as to those I can approach. Please let me know if you know of a new neighbour or a neighbour with some history to tell etc. so the community can become aware of the diverse and interesting range of people who make up our community. In the meantime I have become aware of three young families in the district:

Tatong



I became aware of Tom and Sarah Wallis moving to Tatong recently and was thrilled that such a lovely young family will be living nearby.

Tom and Sarah came to Tatong from Lima South. They loved Lima South but needed to upsize to accommodate their growing family and found it was closer to Benalla where Tom is the Agronomist at Peter Davis Rural Supplies. Sarah is trained in farm planning and works part-time with DEWLP. They have two children, Matilda aged three and Darcy is one. They love the community in Tatong – particularly the Tatong Playgroup – and they appreciate that there are other young families in the area raising their families in a similar manner.

Outside working they enjoy horse riding and Tom also enjoys a bit of hunting. They hope that the community events in the area keep going as they are looking forward to enjoying them. Tom has volunteered to assist on the

Spinning Wheel at the Molyullah Sports and we are really looking forward to having him on the team!

Where Tatong meets Molyullah

David, Charlotte (Charlie) and Archie Maconochie moved to Hillway Park in Tatong in 2016. Whilst Hillway Park is on the Tatong-Benalla Road, the back of their property backs onto the back of ours which is Molyullah! We are pleased to have some lovely new neighbours although the terrain being as it is means we rarely meet up with neighbours from Hillway Park.



They came from Dunkeld – a lovely part of the Western District – where their family cattle business is based. David is a cattle buyer and was finding he was away too many nights each week. The farm here gives the business an opportunity to have another base which is closer to many of the markets. This also means David is home a lot more to spend time with his wife Charlie and their son Archie aged one. Charlie loves cooking – in common with a lot of locals.

David said they like the attractive countryside, the fact that this area central to most places, they are near a lovely country pub (Tatong Tavern), and that Archie is able to attend a great playgroup.

David and Archie at Hillway Park

Cont. Over >

Molyullah



Jade and Brenden Humphrey moved to Molyullah from Tarnook early in 2015. They were looking for more land and loved the look of the land and soils around Molyullah. They have two children, Tahlia aged 5 who attends St Joseph's in Benalla and Jimmy who is 3 – and full of fun. Jade teaches at St Joseph's and Brenden installs swimming pools for Narellan Pools in Samaria.

Jade and Brenden are currently renovating (or more like re-building) and hope to have a lovely house with verandahs all around finished soon so they can focus on establishing a great garden. They enjoy the space and privacy as well as the lovely views they have.

Like many locals they have found their mobile reception has deteriorated since the Tatong tower went up but hope things improve when the Molyullah tower goes up later this year. Tahlia and Jimmy would love a playground nearby so I said I will put it up to the Hall Committee.

They appreciate the help and friendship they have received from neighbours and think it is a great community. Brenden has assisted at the Sports and I am sure he will be called on again this year.

Janette Knapper



Tatong Australia Day Awards

Photos with thanks to Emma Cavalot.

SOME OF 'THE KNOWLEDGE' ABOUT TATONG

Someone asked that the Tattler writers provide information about Tatong of a general nature so I'll pass on some from my, almost 20 years here. Prior to moving here we lived in Samaria for 8 years.

The block that we live on, next door to the Tavern, plus Champ's house on the corner was only occupied by houses for about the last 60 years. Originally the pub had gardens in the block next door and the others were empty, used for the annual Guy Fawkes bonfires. There was a butcher's shop behind Champ's place and a Police station and lockup in the third house from the crossroads heading for Moorngag.

At the 10k roadside post heading from the Tatong Township towards Tolmie is a track which leads down to a swimming hole in the river. There are rock pools there too and sometimes the water is almost warm, but mostly cold. The swimming hole has been formed because where the rocks stop, the water flow has gouged the river bed into a permanent hole. For people new to swimming in country pools and rivers, leeches can sometimes be found having dinner on your blood. Don't panic because you just have to add a pinch of salt to the leech's body and it will excuse itself and depart rapidly. So remember to take the salt! Not much further up Tatong-Tolmie Rd at a sharp bend in the road is a small plantation of exotic trees which were planted by the school teachers and students which stood just behind that site. The most famous is the beautiful example of a cork tree. This amazing tree's bark is made of cork. And to go even a little further and beside the river we have the Wrightly weather station which is sometimes referenced in TV weather reports.

I consider this road to the end of the bitumen at Ford's bridge to be a minor classic drive rivalling the Great Ocean Rd and other famous winding tarmacs of beauty and pleasure. While that is an exaggeration because it is short, it is beautiful and it's ours to enjoy. I have mentioned before that nobody needs to travel to Tuscany in Italy when here in the Northeast we have the various river valleys of the King, Ovens and Kiewa to enjoy along with their food and wine, winding roads and beautiful scenery from the rivers, lakes, forests and mountains.

Here are some population figures for Tatong and district based upon the number of Tattler deliveries. For Tatong we have, from north to south, (Whitegate up to Spring Creek Rd and Ford's Bridge) and east to west, (Tiger Hill Rd and across to Moorngag) there is a total of 134 households and you will have to guess how many people to each household.

Moorngag has 7 households, plus 9 from the cemetery down the Swanpool Rd to Warnocks Rd, but as with all districts there are blended areas around the edges. Karn has 25 deliveries.

Samaria has a total of 40 deliveries and Molyullah has 49. The final district of 44 deliveries is from Whitegate to near Benalla and the south side of Kilfeera Rd. (The north side may still get the Lurg newsletter which is why they don't get a Tattler). The Kilfeera Rd delivery extends from Emu Bridge Rd to the Myhrree turnoff.

349 Tattlers are currently printed and the 31 not counted above are for former district residents now living in Benalla, postal subscribers and the Tavern and Swanpool Store customers.

Mike Larkin

Tatong Telstra Tower Tributes & Tribulations

Since the Tatong Telstra Tower went up, has your Telstra reception been better or worse? It would be interesting to survey the effects throughout the district.

Those wishing to share their experience, please email the Tattler (tatongtattler@yahoo.com.au), or drop a note in the box by the Tavern, answering the following questions:

Roughly where is your home / business?

How far from Tatong (as the crow flies)?

Line of sight or hills in the way?

Is your Telstra reception

- (a) Much Better
- (b) a bit better
- (c) the same
- (d) a bit worse
- (e) a lot worse

Have you bought extra equipment, such as a booster?

At what sort of cost?

Did you need to buy a new device to utilise the new tower?

Any further observations you can contribute might further illuminate the true result of the tower.

You can remain anonymous, but for the purpose of the survey a rough guide to your location is necessary.

We might even be able to develop an interesting map.

- Andi Stevenson



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Letters sent to VicRoads and Steph Ryan (Local State Member)

From: Brendan Kennedy
[mailto:brendan1@bournet.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 10 February 2017 5:22 PM
To: (steph.ryan@parliament.vic.gov.au)
Subject: R Benalla Tatong road C512

Dear Steph

When I wrote this a week ago I was unaware that the Timber trucks specifically "B doubles" travel on this road under a permit which VICROADS are in the process of withdrawing. This would result in the use of Semi trailers and thus increasing the volume of traffic by in excess of 30%. This has been done without consultation with the community. This road has carried these "B doubles" since they were legalised by VicRoads whom had the intention of reducing the truck traffic volume this has been permitted for some 15 years. This operated under a reduced registration cost.

1. The road was rejuvenated in the 1960's using natural gravels which have a load carrying capacity in the order of 50% of Engineered pavements (FCR or deep lift asphalt)
2. The pavement width is in the order of 4.6m ie 2.3 per lane with unsealed shoulders of less than 0.5m The renovated Westgate bridge lane width is 3.1m for the unidirectional lanes
3. Currently between Benalla and Tatong crossroads Chainage 26,100 the horizontal and vertical geometry are generally satisfactory subject to 2
4. From the crossroads to Ford's bridge some 12,000m the geometry needs considerable improvement to conform to current standards for curve speed compliance and vertical sight distance recognition.
5. The narrow lane widths have by their nature increased the RAL (repetitive axle loadings) and a consequential increase in the speed of pavement and edge breakup

Clearly the Vicroads solution is not a solution the damage has already been done and increasing the number of vehicles does not decrease the total tonnage of timber removed. In fact the axle tonnage miles will increase due to the inefficient nature of semi trailers. ie the original reason the "B Doubles" were introduced

When the "B Doubles were introduced no exemptions were provided for roads that did not satisfy the required pavement conditions

Under separate cover please find my "CV"

Brendan J Kennedy

Re: Benalla Tatong Road C512

In September of 2012 your Mr X- (Project Surveillance Officer) and myself examined a depression at Chainage 21,900m .This had been known for some time as the "Lewis bump" after a famous Tatong footballer whom had dispensed many a vicious one with great regularity. Unfortunately the Tatong football club no longer fields a team.

Mr X- said inter alia that the underling drain was probably out of order blocked up and needed attention. I have observed a further inspection and some white paint in the ensuing period; however we have our regular reminder as we pass over.

With one sheet of paper with your orders can we please fix the problem using the KISS principle. Don't wait till the next election as we are on the third Premier since this was first reported, no more white paint, no more flashing lights on inspection vehicles it's not a major project requiring business case and multiple approvals up to the minister and then a media release with the Premier as the star for his daily prime time TV appearance.

Yours Sincerely

Brendan J Kennedy

PS While you're at it the whole length of road has lost its camber because the timber trucks straddle the white line this is noticeable when it rains and the centreline of the road acts as a creek. G- B- of Goulburn Broken catchment management authority says they are not responsible for this.

NB: Brendan suggests a sign might note the place with the name "Lewis Bump".

JOKES

My teenage son wants to be a "garbo" because he thinks that they only work on Mondays.

A mugger jumps out at a man leaving his office and hisses. "Give me your money!"

"You can't do that to me, says the man, I'm a politician!"

"Oh," says the mugger. "In that case give me my money."



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



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White Gate News

The next **White Gate dinner at the Tavern** will be Wed. March 1st; book yourself in; arrive 6:30/7pm.

White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Noel Hutchens 26 Mar Lewis Vallender 16 Apr

Terry Trounson 2 Apr Bill Sykes 23 Apr

Laurie Defazio 9 Apr Bruce Burgess 7 May

Breakfast at Samaria will be March Saturday 18th.

The enthusiasts arrive by 9am. Some get there later.

The food & the location are fantastic either way.

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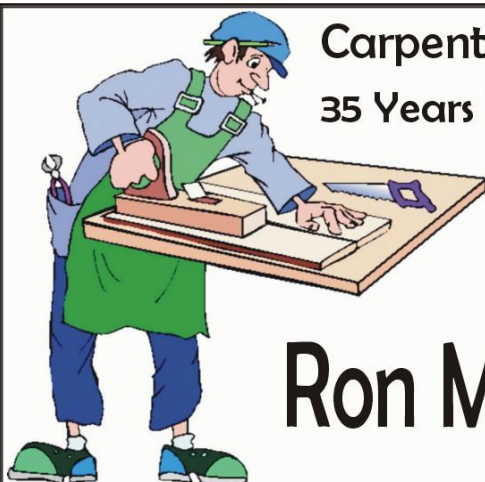
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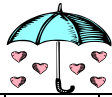
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WEATHER WATCH

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
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	50.1	101.3	1050.8
2017	67.6												67.6

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

The regular rain is continuing with 34.3mm in February up until the 15th. Our worst heat wave with a couple of days over 40 degrees only lasted about four days but it was intense. The grass and flies both think that it is spring – never had so much mowing in years!

The rainfall total for January was a respectable 67.6mm.

Mike Larkin

Molyullah Musings for March 2017

At the time of writing I am still feeling 20, no maybe 40 years younger having attended a rock concert – Day on the Green – with Russell Morris, Kate Cebrano, and John Farnham. Tickets were a Christmas gift and included a lovely dinner in the restaurant at Mitchelton Winery followed by reserved seating in the open air theatre. I hate to say it but it reminded me of the 1960's seeing Billy Thorpe at the Myer Music Bowl (which was minus the dinner and reserved seating)! The crowd was many thousands and the singers were amazing (if a bit loud) and to see thousands of grey heads bopping and dancing to old favourite numbers was a sight to behold. If you have ever driven up the Hume Highway on your own with a favourite tune on high volume and you singing louder than the CD, and then multiply it out by about five thousand fold, you will get the picture of everyone up on their feet singing with John Farnham to "You're the Voice". It was great fun and I suspect looked quite hilarious from above! You sure don't have to go to the city for a good time.

Another local experience which was lovely was a cuppa at "Chocolate Lane" at 4 Bridge Street, Benalla. I took a visitor and we really enjoyed the décor, coffee, and the lovely chocolates we brought home with us. Definitely worth a visit.

What a lovely summer we are having – we still have plenty of green feed in the back blocks of our higher country when it is often dry and dusty. I don't mind a relatively cool summer at all. We haven't had to feed out or water the garden so we have had time to do some home maintenance, painting and decorating and even some renovations. We decided to re-line a room in the old

cottage and were amazed to get a plasterer out to look at the job and have it finished in less than two weeks from when we had the first rush of blood and decided to do it. Turns out that our plasterer, Rodney (Chooka of "Two Dogs Plastering") is new to the district (Lurg) although his in-laws have lived in Lurg for many years. Rodney and his wife Lyn are enjoying life here and it is great to have them in our area. The job was difficult with old and not very straight walls but the room looks fantastic thanks to Chooka.

Dates to note: Molyullah Easter Sports – Monday, 17 April 2017. Meeting and working bee details will be out shortly.

Molyullah Dinner at the Tavern: Thursday 2nd March.

Cheers,

Janette

knapper@bordnet.com.au

What's Happening at Molly Rose, formerly "The Sheep Shenanigans & Chookie News"

Our regular correspondent Carla has been very busy and apologises for no article this month but has promised to have more exciting news next month.

What's on this month

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Feb 26	Feb 27	Feb 28	1 Whitegate Community Dinner at the Tavern	2 Play group, 9.30am, Rec Res Molyullah Community Dinner at the Tavern	3	4
5	6	7	8 Tatong Community Dinner at the Tavern	9 Play group, 9.30am, Rec Res	10 Girls Shed 10.30am at Hall.	11
12	13	14	15 Tatong Angler's Club @ the Tavern Tatong Community Dinner at the Tavern	16 Play group, 9.30am, Rec Res	17	18 Football and Netball at Tatong Rec Reserve 12 Noon
19 Tatong Garage Sale 10am-2pm at Tavern Grounds	20	21	22	23 Play group, 9.30, Rec Res	24 Girls Shed 10.30am at Hall.	25
26	27 Tatong Heritage Group meeting 4pm Tatong Hall	28	29	30	31	Apr 1

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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
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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.

STEPH RYAN MP

Member for Euroa

*Proudly supporting the
Tatong Tattler*



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PH: 03 5762 2100

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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**

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The Secretary, Tatong Tattler, 150 Mt Joy Rd, Tatong, Vic, 3673.
(A donation of \$1 per issue is appreciated & helps cover costs.)

Date Tuesday 7th March 2017
Venue Lakeside Community Centre
Time 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start
Cost \$30

International WOMEN'S DAY

BENALLA 2017 CELEBRATION

"Resilience and Inspiration"

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr Ann O'Neill

After being impacted by a serious crime herself, Ann returned to study in her 20's and will share her inspirational and resilient story.

Guest Interviewer - Gaye Pattison
ABC Goulburn Murray morning show presenter



Dr Ann O'Neill

ON THE NIGHT

Light supper provided
Drinks available at bar prices

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM

"Friends of Benalla Library - Redb4 Bookshop"
111 Bridge Street Benalla (next to Hides Bakery)
Mon to Fri 10am - 4pm Sat 9am - 12pm.
Cash only – no credit card facility is available.
Tickets may be purchased individually or a table of 10.



Gaye Pattison