

Circulation 350

February 2018 Donation \$1

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Edition 305

## Young Blood's Christmas BBQ

The Young Bloods put on a really good BBQ for the Tatong Community. Plenty to eat and all for a gold coin donation.



Paul Montgomery did a sterling job as chef supremo ably assisted by Ella and the accompanying salads were tasty and inviting.



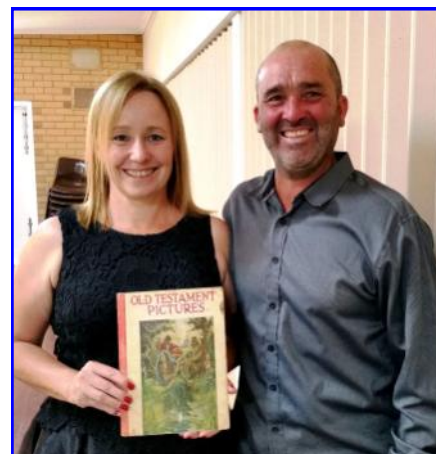
It was so nice to sit around in the shade of the trees on a warm summer evening chatting with old friends and meeting new comers to the district. It was a pity that a few more Tatongites didn't turn up but if the event is on again next year I can highly recommend it.

Sallie Hann

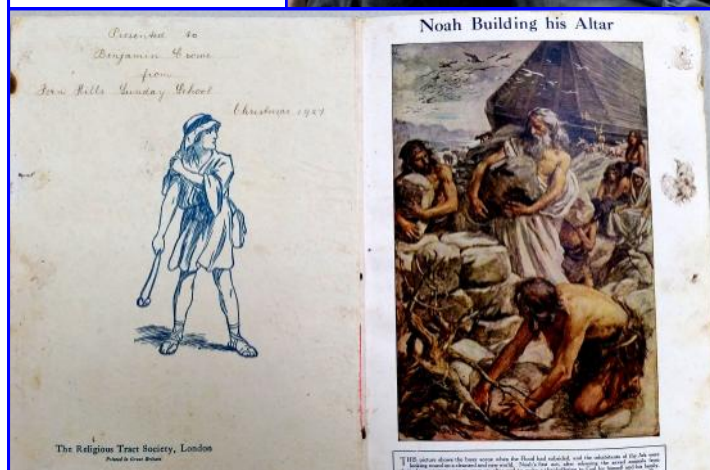


The Tatong Heritage Group is very grateful to Lindsay and Michelle Foster, who built at Fred Crowe's old property. Lindsay and Michelle called in to the November Heritage Group meeting, in

order to donate a book they found; "Old Testament Pictures". Inscribed on the flyleaf is, "Presented to Benjamin Crowe from Fern Hills Sunday School - Christmas 1927."



Santa arrived in his sleigh pulled by a magnificent Clydesdale much to the delight of the children who crowded around him and being rewarded with a bag of lollies.







Robert Keith Hughan was born on July 17th 1925. He died, aged 92, on December 17th 2017.

His grandparents had been gardeners at a castle of Galloway, in the North of Scotland. They came to Australia as free settlers, worked as gardeners in the Geelong district, and moved to Tatong over 130 years ago. According to Keith, when his grandfather was a young chap he got lost bird-nesting in the bush, and was rescued by Ned Kelly.

Keith grew up in the great depression. He recalled swagmen calling in for a cup of tea, and desperate for food. They were on their way to Toombullup to pick potatoes, for a couple of shillings a bag. The swaggies would often be found sleeping in the hayshed, where Keith feared their cigarettes might start a fire. In the 1930s the Tatong Primary School had up to 45 pupils. Keith's teacher, Alma McCauley, remembered him as a bright and intelligent student. In sorting Keith's effect for the memorial service, Steve Warne found an excellent reference which Alma wrote for Keith in 1948.

Keith never intended to be a farmer; he wanted to be a mechanical engineer. He hoped to go to Melbourne to continue his education. But with the depression, and his brother Kevin having a hole in his heart, he had to leave school after grade 8, and stay on the farm to work alongside his father.

When Keith was courting Fran, a Nurse at Benalla hospital, he once spent all day working underneath his car. When Fran asked what he was doing, he replied, getting it ready to go to Melbourne; Fran asked, what are we going to Melbourne for? Keith replied, to get the ring. That was his proposal, and it worked. He and Fran married, and had three children, Helen, Robyn and Bruce.



The farm became his focus, and he formed a vision for it, a one hundred year plan. His eldest daughter Helen recalls him teaching her that without vision and planning, little of consequence could be achieved. His greatest frustration with politicians and government was that their idea of a long-term plan was three to five years, or maybe ten. He told her that even a twenty year plan was not adequate, and he was concerned that our government did not have the long-term vision to take Australia into the future. He was patient and a great teacher, and concerned that his children have the education and opportunities they needed.

Keith's parents had farmed dairy cows, sheep and passionfruit, but his great love being cattle, he became a beef farmer. He was the first in the valley to breed Blonde d'Aquitaine, which he crossed with Herefords.

Bill Sykes first knew of Keith Hughan as being notorious for having survived hydatids. After 30 years as his neighbour, Bill observed that Keith was a "cattle whisperer"; he had a great understanding of animal behaviour, and could get the

big bullocks to go where he wanted them to. He planned to leave his farm as a going concern, and was very particular about the make of his fences. He liked red box posts, with wire spreaders (droppers) in the middle. Experience had taught him that if the fence gave a little, when the cattle came against it, they would feel unbalanced. But if it stood firm, the cattle would have good footing, and push harder. It was a grand theory but his neighbour found that red-box posts were damn hard to get. Keith introduced Bill to Blonde d'Aquitaine cattle.

Keith registered with the CFA in 1945, and was a very active member of the brigade. Jack Harrison describes how even as a teenager Keith was involved, for at a fire the younger ones were "runners"; they ran to the fire-fighters, carrying messages and instructions. Keith was a lieutenant in the Tatong Fire Brigade for many years, and a member for 72 years. Of all the fires he helped fight, he recalled the Lurg fire in 1952 as the worst.

Keith was involved with the Hall committee, and the Rec. Reserve, and the community generally. When escapees from French Island were in the Tatong district in 1957, Keith played an important part organising the search party through the bush.

His sporting passions were shooting and fishing, and he won many prizes. He was also very interesting in photography. He was a member of the Camera Club in Benalla, and often served as professional photographer at weddings. The front room of the house was his dark room and gun room.



He was a great horseman. He had a horse called Roger, an ex-racehorse, on which he could gallop, with no bridle, rolling himself under Roger and back up the other side. His son Bruce can also do this.

When Robyn and her partner Steve would visit, Keith introduced to their dogs the custom of bread and butter before bed, a habit to which they became extremely attached.

After the death of his wife Fran, Keith farmed on his own. Growing older, Tatong neighbours Dave & Amanda Smith helped keep the farm going & were good company. Ray Reed and wife June helped support him, as well as Joan Hawes & (late) Alan Hawes. Many other Tatong and district people went to great lengths to help him. Keith continued to drive his ute until near the end.



**Molyullah Notice Board:**

**Congratulations to Cath Ramage on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 21 January, 2018**

Very best wishes from all your friends in the community and at the Tattler!

**Thursday, 1 February – Molyullah & Upper Ryan's Creek Dinner**

The next Molyullah & Upper Ryan's Creek Dinner will be held on Thursday, 1 February at the Glenrowan Hotel, 46 Gladstone St, Glenrowan 03 5766 2255 from 6.00pm. This should enable some of our Upper Ryan's Creek neighbours the opportunity to attend at a closer venue. This will not be an ongoing change but rather a one night change. The March dinner will be back at the Tavern. We may hold a dinner in Benalla later in the year to accommodate those neighbours who moved to Benalla but drive out to Tatong for the dinner. Keep checking your Tattler and we will try to contact the regulars. Please call the Glenrowan Hotel directly (**5766 2255**) to add your names to the Molyullah & Upper Ryan's Creek Table!

**Friday, 9 February – Fish & Chip Night at the Hall**

The next Fish & Chip night will be held on Friday 9 February at the Molyullah Hall. \$5 per meal and cooking starts at 5.30pm. The cooker goes off at 6.45 to enable everyone the opportunity of hearing the guest speaker at approximately 7.00pm. BYO drinks & chair – all welcome.

**Monday, 2 April – Molyullah Easter Sports**

As the Sports are not far away, please keep a look out for the next Sports meeting.

To notify of upcoming events: Janette Knapper 5766 6268 [knapper@bordnet.com.au](mailto:knapper@bordnet.com.au)

**CUTTING LOWER BRANCHES ON THE PLANTATION AVENUE OF TREES**

Seeing the somewhat messy long grasses under the trees of our beautiful plantation along the western entrance into the Tatong Township I am wondering what others think about trimming the lower branches to allow the mowers/tractors to mow closer to the tree trunk?

The argument for cutting is mainly cosmetic whereas to leave the lower branches is the natural option allowing the branches to shade the tree roots in summer, if that is beneficial. It is meant to be good for citrus trees which have shallow roots.

I would like to make it easy for the mower people and the avenue looks so beautiful when first mowed, but at the same time I like the natural look as well. I'm not sure who decides about these things anyway; as it probably comes under some Council policy?

For any opinions email me at [mdlarx@activ8.net.au](mailto:mdlarx@activ8.net.au) or ring 0428273613 Mike Larkin



**First Fish & Chip Night a Great Success**

On Friday, 12 January the first Molyullah Fish & Chip night was held. This was a gem of an idea of Russell Byrne from Watchbox Creek (Russell is the President of the Recreation Reserve & Public Hall Committee of Management) and he certainly did a great job both of organising the evening, notifying locals, cooking the fish & chips, and organising a very interesting speaker. Thanks so much Russell.

The idea was to provide a setting for locals to get together and catch up, have an inexpensive meal provided, and to have a speaker to provide further interest for the evening. For \$5 the meal was the best fish & chips I have had in many years. It was cooked in the Sports food shed, and delivered in paper to those who purchased a meal. BYO drinks although tea & coffee was on offer after the meal. It was a great success with close to 60 meals sold. Everyone I spoke to thought it a great idea and enjoyed the evening immensely.

The meal was followed at 7.00pm by a talk in the Meeting Room for all those interested. Neil Gaudion was invited to speak on his work in reducing the wild dog numbers in our bush and on our farmlands. Neil talked on how dogs are currently monitored and managed via DWELP and also showed us the traps and bait stations that are used to control numbers. The bait stations are cleverly designed so that it is extremely unlikely that anything other than a dog will take the bait. It was a most interesting talk and relevant to many of us. (In the past we have had dogs captured on our property.)

**Please all note:** it is proposed to hold a Fish & Chip night on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month at the Hall. The fish & chips cost \$5 per serve and it is BYO everything else. When the weather is fine it is a good idea

to bring your own chair as it is nice to sit outside. Otherwise chairs and tables will be set up in the supper room. The dinner is from 5.30pm to 7.00pm with the cooker going off at 6.45pm. The speaker will start from 7-7.15 pm.

I am really looking forward to the next fish & chip night on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> February. Whilst I love catching up with everyone and enjoy hearing from interesting speakers, I am cringing as I say this but I am really, really, looking forward to such delicious fish & chips!

Janette

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## TWO 'OLDTIMERS' PASS AWAY

Keith Hughan and Walter Schafer both died in recent weeks and both were significant contributors to the community. Other articles are being written about Keith so I will mention some information about Wally, or Wal, as he was known.

Wally was born in Germany in 1931, trained in engineering, moving to Australia after the Second World War. He married Barbara and they had three children, Adam, Cathy and Quentin. Sadly Cathy died in early adulthood and Barbara died before Wal. The family lived in many places starting in Melbourne then moving to the Benalla district where Wal was a highly respected trade teacher at the Technical School. Before becoming a teacher he worked at various technical and engineering design jobs distinguishing himself with his innovation and thoroughness.

The family lived in Warrenbayne, Lurg, Benalla and Tatong where Wal built his 'Shangri La' at the high end of Mitchell Rd. including a huge and well equipped workshop. While in Tatong Wally and Barb were instrumental in starting the Progress Association with its various activities including The Tattler newsletter, Neighbourhood Watch and the avenue of trees between the town and river bridge. Wal also was a major figure in the establishment of the original "North East Credit Union" now a part of the Goulburn Murray Credit Union.

After daughter Cathy's death they moved back into Benalla where once again Wally built a workshop, and for Barb, a painting studio. Their final move was to Violet Town's nursing home when Barb's health declined. After Barb's death Wal stayed at the Home till his own passing on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

He was greatly respected and loved by many who knew him and there were many tributes given at his funeral service at the Moorngag cemetery where he was interred along with the ashes of Barbara and Cathy.

Mike Larkin

*Waiting for passengers – Vienna*



John Knapper

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



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## Garden Daze

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

Well - after the storm that swept through the area the week before Christmas, there was a lot of king-sized pruning to be done. And - need I say - in time - there will be quite a bit for the wood shed.

Everyone has their story to tell of "the day" and our goes like this....

There had been some rumbles of thunder in the distance and our power had gone off about five minutes previously, then we heard what seemed like a continuous roll of thunder, so curious - we went out onto the verandah to listen.

After a while it became apparent that this was no thunder-storm, but possibly a tornado (there have been a couple through since our arrival 27 years ago).

There is a high ridge behind the house which we planted with trees some 23 years ago. There are a couple of rows of Sugargums and these have now grown quite tall. As the roar grew louder we could see these trees starting to whip around, and then the wind picked up to the degree that we hurried inside. Calling Dino the Dynamic Doggie, who was inclined to linger, making us wonder if he was about to be whisked away like little Toto and Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz.

The roar descended upon us and we watched out the window as the driveway dirt raced past us down the hill; the nearby trees whished around and bent double and then the driveway dirt came racing back up again.

We watched in fascinated horror wondering what we would find when this was all over.

Well - the driveway which is lined with Lemon Gums was now strewn with branches and a couple of large trees had split in half, and the part of the (fortunately circular) driveway that goes behind the house was totally blocked by a large fallen tree.

Fortunately the two large trees that snapped off went along and not across the driveway, never the less we needed to stop at least seven times to drag large branches away, when we drove over to our daughter's place to see if all was well. At our front gate we joined another four cars and we were the first to attempt to pass along the road we all pitched in to drag tree bits off the road, and worked out how to drive through the gutter to get around the one that was too big to drag aside.



Tree tops torn from high up, have landed 20 metres away



Next day investigation showed we had five big trees down on fences and all three tracks up on the back ridge were blocked by fallen trees. Happily - two grandsons, up for Christmas, cleared these tracks for us.

The nature of the wind with its twisting has caused many trees to snap off up high and there are quite a few huge bits of tree top caught up in the high branches of neighbouring trees. Every time it has been windy since - more bits descend.

As with everyone around here - it has made a lot of extra work and the local firewood supplies will have been given an unexpected top up.

We hope that everyone is managing to get on top of it all.

*February brings - lovely ripe tomatoes straight from the garden, home grown fruit to enjoy, not to mention home-made pickles and jam - Yum!*

Hot Days are certainly with us, but cooler weather will eventually be on the way - time taken now to plan for an Autumn Garden will pay off later.

Save money by growing your own from seed. Now is the time to get out some seedling trays and seed raising mix ready to have your own seedlings to plant out in about four weeks time.



Some things to consider:

Brussel Sprouts

Broccoli

Kohlrabi \* (see below)

This next lot can go straight into the garden bed

Carrots

Silver Beet

Parsnips

Shallots

Beans

Swede

Beetroot

Leeks

Turnips

Onions

Parsley

Radish



Seeds planted directly into the soil will come out more evenly if the seed is mixed with sand. Punch a hole in the top of a jam jar, add seed and sand, give it a shake then pour along the drill.

*Kohl Rabi* has a taste and texture similar to those of a broccoli stem or cabbage heart, but milder and sweeter, with a higher ratio of flesh to skin. The young bulbous stem in particular can be as crisp and juicy as an apple, although much less sweet. These stems are surrounded by two distinct fibrous layers that do not soften appreciably when cooked. These layers are generally peeled away prior to cooking or serving raw.

The bulbous kohlrabi stem can be used raw in salads or slaws and will keep in the crisper for several weeks. The leaves are also edible and can be used interchangeably with cabbage and kale. Leaves wrapped in a damp paper towel and placed in a plastic bag will store for four or more days.

Kathy Z



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**Vale - Wally Schafer: 31 July 1930 – 14 January 2018**

It is with sadness we learn of the passing of Wally Schafer – an active community member in the local Benalla area including Tatong.



Wally spent his last few years at the Violet Town Bush Nursing Hospital

Wally and his wife Barbara were founding members when the Tatong Newsletter started back in 1990.

Wally was born in Wurzburg, Germany and arrived in Australia in 1953. Coincidentally I visited Wurzburg last year – it is a most beautiful part of the world. I thought it must have been difficult to leave such an area but it was after the war and Wurzburg had been bombed very heavily. Wally told me that as a young man they worked cleaning bricks to enable buildings to be rebuilt. As I visited Wurzburg in the summer I was not exposed to the harsh and cold weather. Wally's son Quentin tells the story that after arriving in Australia Wally hung his washing out and found it did not freeze. He then decided Australia was the place for him!

He came to Australia on an adventure, eventually meeting Barbara. They married and he was happy to stay in Australia. Wally worked for Turners (later Stanley Tools) as an engineer. He completed his HSC in English and then went on to teach Trades at Benalla Technical College. He was a gifted teacher who gained the respect of both students and colleagues.

Wally came to Benalla in 1968 and lived in Lurg, Molyullah and Warrenbayne before building in Tatong where they lived from the late 1980's to the year 2000. He built many homes and was quite an innovator when the need arose. He was known to "over-engineer" everything so if you live in a house Wally built I guess you have struck it lucky. He loved his Tatong home and workshop and also enjoyed the wildlife and abundant birdlife.

I met Wally in about 2006 when I worked at the Goulburn Murray Credit Union in Benalla. Wally was early director of the North East Credit Union (now GMCU). He would come in with his folder to pay accounts and was very organized. He was such a gentleman and had a lovely turn of phrase – we always had a laugh and all the staff enjoyed his visits. He was a great supporter of the credit union and the values it stood for. When he went to Violet Town he would visit the branch there on his motor scooter and he remained a favourite member with the staff at Violet Town also.

He will be missed – particularly by sons, Adam and Quentin and no doubt the many, many friends who attended his funeral. He was buried at the Moorngag Cemetery with his wife Barbara and daughter Cathy who both pre-deceased him.

Janette Knapper

## THE GARAGE SALE ADVENTURES

It only takes a couple of small excuses for me to travel into Benalla on a Saturday morning and one such excuse is to check the garage sales. Like most people I know I have most of the things that I really need, but it's the fun of finding stuff you 'forgot' that you needed which I enjoy. Not only that but you are privileged to have a glimpse into the lives of others by seeing the things that they own and no longer want.

On a recent expedition my first sale raised the question: "*I know your face; where would I have seen you before?*" After a bit of exploring it turned out to be the Swanpool Cinema or the Bald Archy exhibition where I volunteer. Then followed the rave about the amazing Bald Archy experience where some people were happy to visit more than once, especially with outside visitors and friends.

For the second garage sale that same day I drove up Thomas St looking for the usual wheelie bin sign only to see a very young boy holding the sale sign above his head as cars drove by. This was novel, and while I fussed he came and asked a parent to take a turn but they were reluctant telling him he was doing a good job. When paying for my goods I told him what a good job he had done and gave him ten cents, whereupon he raced back out hoisting the sign for more passing cars. He was a bit young to know the value of coins but it must have been the encouragement from an outsider that did the trick.

On the last sale for that day I found a pair of lurid gold framed reflector sunglasses in the Elvis style and putting them on jokingly asked the sellers if my grandkids would enjoy seeing them on me. When I was paying for my collection of goodies they said: "*You are taking these to give your grandkids a laugh!*" Giving me the sunnies for free.

I enjoy the sense of community and fun that can be had when visiting the sales where people are moving house, freshly divorced, someone has died or gone to a "Terminal Towers" or just making room for the new wave of "junk" that we can't live without!

Mike Larkin

## KANGAROOS STILL ON TATONG-MOORNGAG RD

Many years ago Maeve crashed into a big male kangaroo half way along the Tatong-Moorngag Rd and signs were put up to warn of their occasional crossing of the road. Since then I had not seen any roos for a number of years and assumed that they had gone elsewhere, but just at the beginning of 2018 Maeve and I saw a group of about 20 gathered near the old crossing site. One crossed the road and the others, after seeing our car, moved further up the hill obviously intending to cross. Maeve's car was only in her possession for about a month at the time when she whacked the roo and fortunately the damage meant only a new bonnet and rear view mirror but the roo came out of it badly with a broken spine, needing to be euthanized.

This message is a warning to watch out when driving on that stretch, especially near dusk, which was when we saw them recently.

Mike Larkin





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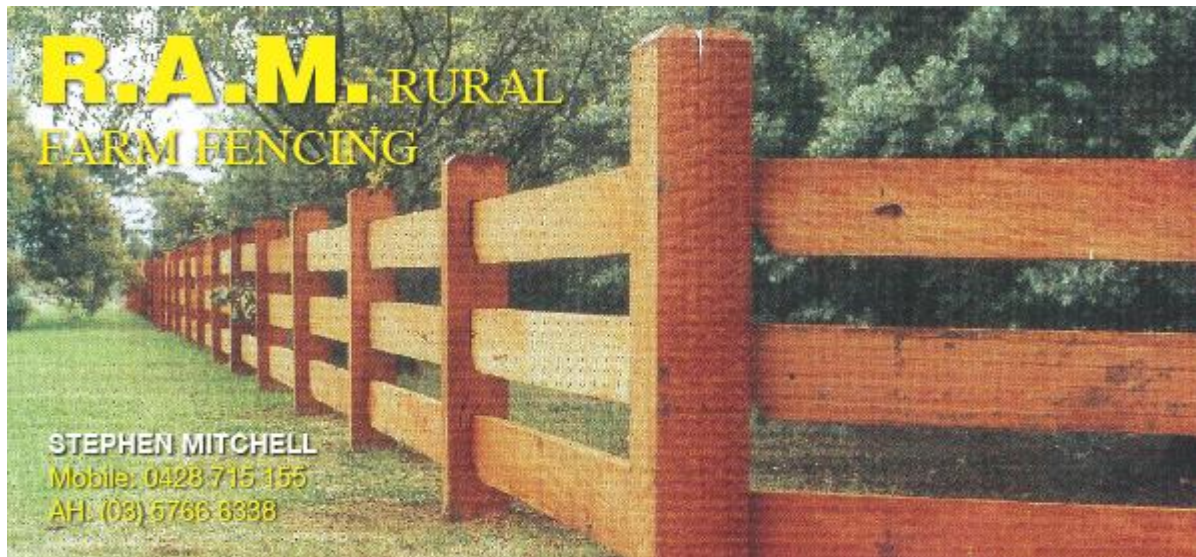
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### What's Happening at Molly Rose?

I hope everyone had lovely Christmas and New Year celebrations – we've squeezed in two birthdays already with another two coming up in February. So much to tell you about what's been happening at Molly Rose, but I'll attempt to keep it short.

The veggies that I managed to plant have been going well – the corn outside the computer room window grew to the roofline and provided the shade I was hoping for as well as some delicious corn. I'm considering the possibility of staggering a corn planting all along the front of the house next year for the amazing shade it's provided. And looking forward to the mulch it will provide once harvested. Finally got round to processing the roosters – what a learning experience! I tried not to get attached to all my boys, even so, I still had a little weep that morning while holding 'Brown Chick' in my arms after he'd tried to escape out the shed window. I also teared up when I killed my first boy, one of my older roosters with a lovely temperament who always looked after the little chickies if they got into the rooster pen. After using the axe I've decided that if I am processing my roosters it will not be with an axe but doing the cone method.

Make no mistake folks, chickens are omnivores! I've always known it to be true, watching them catch a variety of bugs with the occasional lizard or mouse, but it was brought home with force while we were processing the roosters. There were some mother hens and chickies hanging around – I thought they'd stay far away, but they didn't. They were all over our feet, looking for any juicy titbit they could find, even raiding the box where all the icky bits and feathers went. It didn't matter to them one iota that a couple of minutes ago the head they were pecking at had recently belonged to another living, breathing chicken!



A few other less gruesome highlights from the past few months are the return of our two sheep, Peach and Cherry. Strawberry was very glad to have them return, she'd been quite lonely for the last two months. The girls were delightfully easy to load into the trailer. We walked into the paddock, (which held a hundred or so sheep and lambs) I rattled the food bucket and called their names. They came running. Should have videoed it! We walked back to the trailer (about 500 metres) and they followed me onto it. I think both Cherry and Peach are "bagging up" but I can't say for certain yet. Looking forward to the lambykins. Hopefully next lambing season we will be getting our own black Wiltipoll ram lamb and breeding some Wiltipoll black and whities that we may offer for sale sometime down the track.

Master wood craftsman, Tim Schloss (he makes wooden swords and magic castles which you can find

at North East Artisans) and I have been working on the first of our new chook sheds. It's taking shape slowly. We're calling it "The Chook Pallets", the photos should answer the why. It will be magnificent when it is finished.

I have come to the conclusion that I pretty much despise Paper Wasps

having gotten stung twice in one week. Tim had been really good at knocking down the nests as they were building them, but we missed one and I was stung just above the elbow. A week and a half later and I still have episodes of burning and itching. I had a "large local reaction" with massive swelling half way up my arm, redness and burning heat (doctor was concerned it may have been infected) fortunately antihistamines helped. We then found a nest on the outside of our letterbox, but missed the one INSIDE! I found it the next day when sticking my hand in to collect the mail!! And we've just found a European Wasp nest inside a set of old drawers in the carport!!! Pest control are coming to visit on Monday – I already

know, from passed experience, that I do not respond well when stung by European Wasps so am avoiding using the carport as much as possible!

Write you again next month!

Carla







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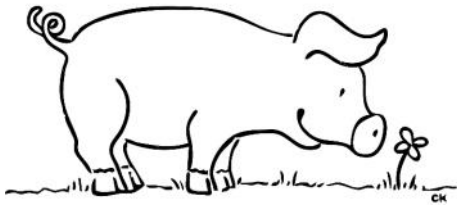
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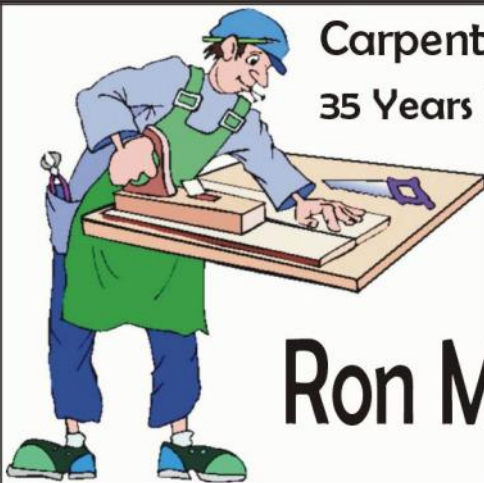
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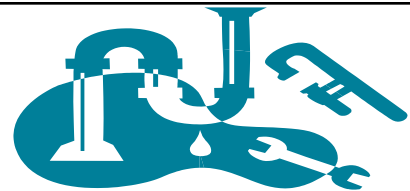
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#### Wildlife Visits in January

On 4<sup>th</sup> January I was surprised to find this goanna crossing our garden. I think he had been visiting in the previous few days as I kept finding broken bird eggshells on our driveway – no insides just bits of shell. I think he came in for dinner and was still eating as he walked down the driveway! I managed to get the camera before he disappeared. On looking at previous goanna photos I have taken I find they are all taken in January - must be their month to visit.

It is a Lace Goanna or Lace Monitor (*Varanus varius*) which is the second largest Australian goanna and it can grow to two metres. Its range is restricted to eastern Australia, where it is found from Melbourne in the far south all the way up to Cape York in the north. If a Lace Monitor feels threatened it will definitely race for the nearest tree. They generally spend a fair bit of their time in large trees, so much so that some people call them tree goannas. They are believed to eat more birds and eggs than other goannas. But they are good runners, burrowers, and swimmers and generally hunt for their food on the ground.

Despite his look the goanna was not as scary as an encounter I had a few days later. I was coming home and stopped at the gate to be confronted by a small tiger snake. It was similar in colour to the pale colour of the road surface and I must have disturbed it as it reared its biggish flat head and started to come towards me. Of course I called out in fright and ran back to the car to watch it head off the road and towards the creek. Sorry I didn't get a photo and, if I am unable to get a photo because I never see one again, it will be just fine with me. We see red belly black snakes and brown snakes but have never seen a tiger snake here before. I gather they are in the north-east as I worked with a lady once from Glenrowan who said they were quite common over there but it is the first I have seen here.

Janette Knapper



## What's this handsome brute doing?

John Knapper



He's fishing from the Charles Bridge in Prague. Nothing unusual in that except he's using a magnet, not a hook. It seems that this is not an unusual pastime in many parts of the world. A special, really strong magnet is best. All sorts of metal items can be 'caught', from rusty scrap to tools to weapons to coins. For some reason, people worldwide seem to like to throw coins into water. I can only suppose that they make a wish or think it will confer good luck upon them.

I hear you skeptics saying 'coins aren't magnetic'. True, Aus-

tralian coins aren't magnetic but many coins in other parts of the world are.

The Charles (or Stone) Bridge spans the Vltava River. Commissioned by King Charles IV in 1357, Prague's most stunning bridge



spans 16 arches and is lined with 30 Baroque statues of religious figures. The bridge is 1,700 ft. (520 m) long. Each afternoon, painters and hot-dog vendors fight for space and custom from the hordes of tourists who are themselves elbowing one another for the best views of the Vltava River. If you arrive at dawn, you'll beat the crowds and enjoy a glorious sunrise.

Along with the Astronomical Clock on the old Town Hall in the old Town Square, the Castle, St Vitus Cathedral and Wenceslas Square, the Charles Bridge is a

major attraction.

At one end of the bridge is a tower. If you take a close look at the top level, a protuberance can be seen. Closer inspection reveals that there is a hole in the bottom of the protuberance. This was, in fact, a loo and its products simply fell to the footpath at the base of the tower. This is what happened with waste back then, if not that way, it was thrown out of the windows.

Local legend has it that an unpopular mayor was thrown out of a meeting, not out the door but out of an upper window. He survived because of the very soft landing afforded by the thick layer of waste on the ground below.



**Do You have some Tatong News?**  
**Tatong Tales to Amaze, Advise, Amuse?**  
**Tales of Tatong days long gone?**  
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John Knap-per

At a market in Salzburg

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## Calling all Local Gardeners

It is with mixed emotion that I ask:

*"Is there anyone out there who would like a chance to  
take over the running of the  
Plant Stall at the Molyullah Easter Fair?"*

Mixed emotions because in one way or another I have been bringing my share of plants to sell for the past 19 or so years. (Golly!)



It is a great day, there is quite a bit of work entailed - however - we meet lots of people, give planting advice, search for the one plant that we think they would like, get to hear how last year's purchase has done well and get great satisfaction in handing our contribution to the treasurer at the end of the day. It is as well as work - a lot of fun!

Everyone brings their own creativity to a job and makes it into their version of what it can be.

Over the years "my" version has had a variety of Iris rhizomes, daffodil, jonquil and bluebell bulbs, garlic and pumpkins, plus plants grown from cuttings or divisions. Not to mention the home made flags that brighten our end of the marquee.

A new person to "run the show" will bring their version of The Plant Stall and give it a new life.

As well as your contribution of stock - there are a lot of great donations from local gardeners, and who could overlook Cath Ramage and her wonderfully popular relish, pickle and jams, as well as all the produce from the vegetable garden that Cath and Eric have nurtured over the years.



If you would like to "have a go" then call me on 57 666 288 and come along and be a part of the Plant Stall this year to give you a feel for being on our side of the counter.

Kathy Z

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*Willi and I were in the UK in December - NOT 34C!!!! (And that is not an outside dunny up the back yard!!!). Darcy*

Hello Tatong Tattler-ites

I found the August 2017 copy of your great paper on the internet just now while Googling Harry McVeigh. Congratulations on your long history. A wonderful achievement for you all.

It was great to see you honouring Harry.

I help run the newly-formed and very small Mansfield Bush Poets group. We are holding a meeting today and I was getting organised to present some of Harry's poems from the very book you show in said TT edition, when I Googled his name, hoping to find his birth and death times.

The group is very relaxed and welcome anyone who loves bush poetry and wants to enjoy, relax listen and share. There is no rule of having to perform a piece.

How can I advertise our MBP meetings in your paper, please?

We hold them on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Mansfield Library 3-5 pm, except in Winter.

Francis and I lived at Tolmie 1988-1999 and now are in the Big Smoke of Mansfield, though out of town a bit, on 20 flat acres in Howes Creek Road.

We knew Harry briefly. Such a fine man, with a wonderful talent.

I started the Tolmie Tattler back in 1988, tappy tap on a portable typewriter (we had no electricity), burning gallons of midnight oil, then getting a local who worked for the Mansfield Council to photocopy the paper (and bring it back home hidden under his suit jacket) and then delivered by the postie for free. A very low budget paper.

Look forward to hearing from you some time,

Keep up the good work.

Cheers

Liz Seaton



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The family of Robert 'Keith' Hughan would like to express their gratitude to the Ladies of Tatong and the the Swanpool CWA for their absolutely delicious and plentiful catering for the reception to celebrate Keith's life, following the graveside service at Moorngag. He would have loved this gesture and appreciated the sense of community in his much loved Tatong. We would also like to thank the Tatong CFA for their fabulous efforts to honour our father...Many, many thanks to all others who so generously gave their help and support.

Many thanks, Steve ( Robyn Hughan's partner )

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	36.2	49.1	61.7	52.5	6.5	92.1	112.4	23.9	100.1	29.3	118.9	760.3

#### WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

While December '17 had a very good rainfall of 118.9mm, January '18 has been just a dribble with only 6.5mm up until the 15<sup>th</sup>. This small amount of rain combined with some very hot days is leaving trees and shrubs wilting and dropping leaves in our garden. Fortunately our water well seems to be in good shape with good flows when needed. The well does usually slow down later in the summer.

We have already (till mid-January), had too many really hot days for my liking with the CFA needing a number of standby "strike teams" in Tatong. Fortunately so far though, only one serious fire in the Winton area.

Mike Larkin



**Thank you to**  
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I refer to the recent death of the technical Manager at your Company and hereby apply for the replacement of the deceased manager.

Each time i apply for a job, i get a reply that there is no vacancy but in this case i have caught you red-handed and you have no excuse because i even attended the funeral to be sure that he was truly dead and buried before applying.

Attached to my letter is a copy of my cv. and his death certificate.

What if my dog only brings back my ball because he thinks I like throwing it?

If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?

Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?

Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?

Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and it just takes 75-100 years to fully work.

Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.



# What's on this month

## February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Jan 28	Jan 29	Jan 30	Jan 31	1 Play group, 9.30,am Rec Res Molyullah Community Dinner at the Glenrowan Hotel 57662255 	2	3
4	5 Tatong Fire Brigade Training. 7pm Fire Shed.	6	7 Whitegate Community Dinner at the Tavern	8 Play group, 9.30am, Rec Res 	9 Fish & Chip Night. Molyullah Hall 5.30pm	10
11	12	13 Mansfield Bush Poets Meeting. Mansfield Library 3-5pm.	14	15 Play group, 9.30,am Tatong Rec Res .	16 Girls Shed 10.00am at Tatong Hall 	17
18	19 Tatong Fire Brigade Training. 7pm Fire Shed.	20	21 Tatong Community Dinner at the Tavern	22 Play group, 9.30,am Rec Res	23 	24
25	26	27	28	Mar 1 Play group, 9.30,am Rec Res	Mar 2 	Mar 3



Cheers to the kind person who left a bag of apricots and carrots on top of our rubbish bin on Boxing Day. I have no idea who you are as you left no note but a HUGE thank you.  
Sallie

If you attempt to rob a bank you won't have any trouble with rent/food bills for the next 10 years, whether or not you are successful.

Do twins ever realise that one of them is unplanned?



### McCall Say Dam Maintenance Work

North East Water is currently undertaking maintenance work to McCall Say Dam. This work will involve a number of truck and excavator movements within and to/from the site along Kilfeera Road and Upper Ryan's Creek Road.

Residents can expect some noise and dust from the increased traffic and we thank you for your patience. Work commenced mid-January and will take approximately 14 weeks.

For further information, please contact Project Manager Kai Han on 1300 361 633.

**Tattler Advertising Rates** Inc num: A0047895KFull Page:

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

Half Page:

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Quarter Page or 2 x 1/8th Page:

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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  
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 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.

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