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www.tatongtattler.com.au

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Merry Christmas from the Tattler Team

Tatong Art Show - Young Artist Award - Will Jones



Will's Winning Entry - "Mystic"

As a down hill bike rider Will has an affinity with Bright's "Mystic Mountain". The photo shows a part of the bike track that has been built over the years by the riders.



2018 - Katsura River

My favourite - taken while on a winter holiday in Japan with his family early in 2018.

Our Grandson Will was born in Lurg, and attended Greta Valley Primary School until (much to our regret) the family moved back to Melbourne where Will finished his education at De La Salle College in Malvern.

Taking Photography as a subject for his VCE, Will found a great interest and at the end of the year, won an award for his innovative work.

When we saw that the Tatong Art show was open to Photography - we encouraged Will to enter, and were all very excited when he won Best Young Artist.

We would like to congratulate the winners of the other categories, and thank Nikki and the volunteers for all their hard work - not to mention the yummy nibbles on opening night - and MC Andrew's dazzling jacket.

Kathy Z



Garden Daze

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

Surviving Summer

As we move into what has been predicted to be a hot dry Summer - a few simple measures put in place can help plants survive.

Avoid using too much fertiliser - as this will over stimulate drought-stressed plants. A foliar feed at half the recommended rate once a fortnight will produce robust growth at a steady rate and help plants to remain resistant to pests and diseases.

The best time to foliar feed is in the cool morning. Leaves can then dry out, reducing any risk of fungal disease. That's most important for vegetables, flowering annuals and roses.

Use seaweed and flower and fruit preparations for foliar feeding. Easy to use clip-on packs make it easy to cover a large area or a small tree. Wet the leaves of plants - avoid fences and paths as they can develop slime.

Summer is a good time to apply potash to fruit trees and roses. Two teaspoonfuls of sulphate of potash in 4.5 litres of water and applied to the roots will sweeten fruit and thicken cell walls, helping to protect leaves against fungal disease.

Seedlings are the most vulnerable plants in a summer garden. A thin veneer of chopped sugarcane over the surface, can help here. Placed just thick enough (approx 5 cm) to conserve moisture and keep the soil slightly cool, but not so thick that the seedlings can't come through. Check the bed twice a day to make sure the seedlings haven't dried out.



When planting nursery stock or home grown cuttings - use Shade cloth (50%) or old curtains on a frame of bamboo stakes to protect them from the hot sun. Keep the new plants in the shade for two weeks, then remove the shade cloth at sunset or on a cloudy day and all should be well.

It may be possible this year to keep a bit of green in the lawn....a monthly foliar feed of seaweed will provide all the necessary nutrients and keep the soil healthy. Mow the grass as high as the mower allows - the longer the blades of grass, the better they're able to keep the soil cool and moist, (we can only try) and thick grass helps to suppress lawn weeds.

Pot plants will benefit from some TLC. Put some sand into the saucer to keep the roots cool, boost the humidity around the plant and prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

Again - some sugarcane mulch placed around the potted plant can make all the difference. Protect the plants in pots by keeping them in semi-shade throughout the summer.



Yellow Breasted Robin Robin, as they would only move in if there was 40 acres of bush.

Birds in my Garden

Around 20 years ago we went to a Landcare Seminar held over two days in Seymour. One of the lectures was on attracting birds to your property. We were told that a good indicator of success was the Yellow Breasted Robin, as they would only move

Well - as we had moved into a rather bare 46 acres, which we were endeavouring to plant with wildlife corridors - to connect us with the roadside and the quite extensive area of bush adjoining our back corner - this bird became our bench mark.

Imagine our delight when we first saw one a few years back. And now this year a pair decided to build a nest in a potted tree that sits next to the front door!

The Robins were very early in the year and they and their brood had moved on when the pair of Grey Fantails who had been using this same tree for the past two years started making their little cobweb nest, right outside the kitchen window - a great vantage point for us to watch them take turns at sitting on the nest, and flying around catching tiny insects. Yesterday I saw one of the adults poking its beak into the nest - the babies had hatched!

Again the arrival of the Grey Fantails was a source of wonder for us. When we first arrived I had only heard them in the neighbouring bush at the back - their high pitched call echoing through the trees, when we went for a walk.

Gradually this high squeaky call came closer until ... they nested right next to the door!



Nesting in the Potted Ficus

A Request - Pip Rigby

has been helping to set up a Community Garden in the grounds of the Uniting Church in Benalla.

So far they have four wicking beds (which Pip feels are a wonderful innovation) and currently are OK for vegetable seedlings - However....

They are in need of tools and general gardening equipment. So if you are in a position to help out with any garden tools, stakes, bird netting etc. and of course - a wheelbarrow would be wonderful - they would be appreciated.

Pip can be contacted at 57 62 7332



Wishing you a Happy Christmas

Kathy Z

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Property Market Snapshot with Brett Neilson...



The national newspapers are full of potential doom and gloom with property prices weakening across Australia's two largest cities. Sydney values are down 7.4% over the past 12 months and Melbourne values are 4.7% lower over the same period. These cities are where investment buyers have been the most concentrated and recent changes to credit policy are really starting to bite. Tighter credit conditions & credit availability is acting as a drag across most areas of the country.

It's not all bad for us though as regional housing markets in Australia are returning a diverse performance with regional Tasmania standing out as the only broad region nationally where dwelling values are recording double digit growth. Regional Victoria is also showing strong growth conditions as demand continues to ripple outwards from Melbourne toward more affordable towns and cities peripheral to the metropolitan area.

As Melbourne continues to slow, expect our market to continue to strengthen providing of course that our Banks continue to lend money.... And borrowing money in the current environment I am told is getting tougher.



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Johns Jitterings

The next instalment in the wild dog saga is a positive one. Thanks, and a very BIG thanks to the wild dog control officer who managed to catch and destroy the dog that was dining out on Tatong Prime Lamb without paying the bill. It gives you great satisfaction to know that when this type of thing happens that if you go through the right channels that people spring into action. Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to the wild dog control officer that was so conscientious and quick to act. I hope that I don't have to write more on this topic.

On a lighter note I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Safe & Happy New Year!
xx



Merry Christmas

Parting Thought... from Andrew Muller

What a year it's been! If you looked at the year as a glass half full, we have finished the year quite well and hopefully set up for a ripper 2019. With more feed being harvested than expected, the value in livestock has only one way to go (up). Although it's hard to believe sheep and lambs could eclipse this year but come January and beyond there will not be the numbers about especially if the North starts to get a monsoon summer. The MLA have estimated that 5 million less lambs were born in 2018 than previous years. Think how many less weaner calves were not born due to cows being culled or split or tragically dying. Australia is a big paddock and it's very empty so get the glass half full approach and get ready for a ride!

From all our staff at Rodwells/Ruralco Property Benalla we would like to thank all our wonderful clients, suppliers & supporters for another great year. We wish you all a safe, happy and Merry Christmas and look forward to a jam packed 2019!



Christmas Ham Drive



The Tatong Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal has teamed up with Your Everyday Gourmet to bring you your Christmas ham's this year!

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THE GOOD LIFE IN NORTH EAST VICTORIA Carole Ruta

North East Victoria is an amazing food bowl and during the summer months, if you don't grow your own, we have access to stunning local stone fruits, tomatoes and summer vegetables grown on our doorstep.

Summer is the time of glut, as every home gardener knows, for tomatoes, cucumbers and zucchini, which seem to multiply over night. If you don't have stone fruit trees Shepparton is the place to go. Here apricots, peaches, nectarines and cherries are grown in abundance and can be bought by the box for a handful of dollars during December and January.

Cherry tomatoes, frozen, make the summer bounty last into the depths of winter. Simply wash or wipe, then freeze in snap lock bags. They tend not to stick together – tip out as many you want and add still frozen to winter casseroles and sauces. Peeled Roma tomatoes freeze well too and make a cold winters night sunny in a hearty tomato and vegetable soup. Passata and ketchup are easy to make and there are many recipes on the Internet.

Cucumbers are great in salads but also work well steamed. Simply top and tail and cut into 2-3 inch lengths. Take out the seeds with an apple corer, stuff with chicken or prawn mince, wrap in foil and steam for 10 minutes. Remove foil and serve with a butter or hollandaise sauce.

Zucchini become a tad boring by the end of the season so pep them up by grating, squeezing out excess liquid then toss in a pan with a little butter, cream and nutmeg. Delicious with BBQ chicken.

I can't wait to get my hands on a large box of apricots from Boris on the Benalla/Shepparton Road. These represent amazing value and are perfect for making jams, chutneys and apricot puree, which I freeze and serve when needed with a panacotta. – the golden tartness cuts the richness of this creamy dessert. Some I will freeze in half with the stone removed and use later in the year as apricot crumble or substitute for the oranges in Claudia Roden's Tuscan orange cake recipe.

So happy to have moved to this beautiful area and loving living in NE Victoria.



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Literary Luncheon

The Literary Lunch held on Saturday, 3 November, at the Tatong Recreation Centre was most enjoyable for all who attended.

The Tattler wanted to sponsor a literary event for the community benefit. It was also hoped to gain increased exposure for the Tattler and encourage new contributors - which would add variety of content in future editions.

That this was held during the Benalla Festival period proved to be beneficial. Most attendees went on to visit local open gardens and the Tatong Art Show. The Benalla Festival theme of "In Our Own Backyard" proved a happy coincidence to our having our local author, Carla Gardner, as the guest author. Carla is not only a local award winning author but also a regular Tattler contributor. Her monthly column about her life setting up a more sustainable lifestyle in Molyullah is quite different in style and content to that of her other writings. Carla spoke of her need to write and how a single idea or situation can start the process for a story. She received much applause after reading some of her work. Feedback has been warm and positive and all present really enjoyed the event. Apart from winning the Benalla Festival writing competition in 2013, 2014 and 2015, Carla was runner up in this year's Benalla Festival competition.

The luncheon followed Carla's interesting and inspiring presentation. Catering was done by Absolutely Delicious and generous quantities of sandwiches and fresh fruit platters were served. Local ladies provided delicious cakes to have with a cuppa whilst participants mingled and discussed writing related matters.

There was a raffle in aid of the Broken River Writing Group who are saving up to join "Writing Victoria" and \$80 was raised towards their joining fee.

Apart attending such an enjoyable event, I am looking forward to reading articles from some new contributors in in future Tattlers. *Janette Knapper.*

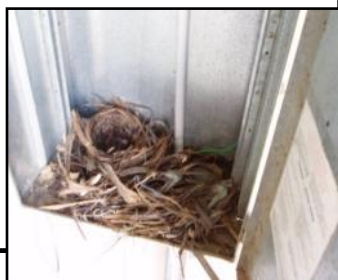


Knappers' nests

Back in the October Tattler, I told of the little finch (?) that took up residence in a straw hat, on a hat stand outside our back door.

Despite a fierce wind that blew the hat stand over, she managed to raise one chick.

I don't know what it is about our place. We've put up lots of nesting boxes but our birds are single minded about where to set up home.



Now there's one in the meter box on a shed. The wind moves the door from time to time, but it is always open at least 150mm, so Mum has access at all times.

In another shed, there are lots of bottle shaped mud nests. These are made by fairy martins.

These are the small birds you may have seen in flocks flying across dams, catching insects. They are a type of swallow. *John Knapper*



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TATONGYOUNGBLOODS

Tatong Young Bloods Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Will be held on Sunday 9th December at 5pm the Tatong Rec Reserve.

All new, present & old members welcome.

BYO BBQ to follow. Please bring a salad to share.

Unfortunately this year the Tatong Young Bloods will not be hosting a Christmas Concert or a Community Christmas BBQ as it has in previous years. We hope to look at organising another social event for the community sometime in 2019.

The Tatong Young Bloods wish you all a very Safe and Merry Christmas and wish you well in the New Year!

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**Tuesday
Pizza Night**

**Wallet Watcher's
Wednesday**

Open Tuesday – Sunday

(Tuesday's Pizza Only from 3pm)

Restaurant Menu

Bar Meals Menu

**\$20 Parma & Pot
Thursday**

**Monthly
Car Event**

G'day another month gone. The warm weather is now here and so are our new spring/summer and bar menus so jump onto our website www.tatongtavern.com.au to see some of the old favourites and delicious new additions. Don't forget we have started Tuesday pizza nights, Open from 3pm and Pizza's from 5pm. Wednesday is our Wallet Watcher's Bar Menu Meals and the trusty favourite Thursday Pot and Parma night is ever popular with 10 different choices all for \$20.

Why not come to our Friday night Happy Hour from 5.30-7pm. So grab your mates for a catch up and meet some of the locals.

Our beer garden is looking beautiful with the blooming spring roses and recent Tavern renovations including our new mural.

Back by popular demand is our "Show Us Your Wheels" event. This is a monthly event being held on the last Sunday of every month. Our first one was fantastic with 43 cars and 14 motorbikes turning up on the day. Bring your special vehicle along and be in the chance to win a \$40 gift voucher to the Tavern.

Finishing off we are coming up to Christmas Time, don't forget to book your Christmas parties and also a table for our Christmas Day lunch

Regards,
Pedro & Shirl

3rd Friday each month from
10am. \$5.00 BYO lunch

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Benalla Permaculture

Permie Ponderings

by Woz - www.benallapermaculture.org

Permaculture as a design system has been around for over 40 years now, a product of the collaboration between Bill Mollison and David Holmgren. In terms of strategies and techniques there was very little that was new, in fact Mollison himself is known to have said repeatedly, "There is nothing new in Permaculture!" Indeed these strategies and techniques have been around for a long time, often centuries or millennia.

What was and still is new about Permaculture is the bringing together of all these strategies and techniques into a Functional Design system. But even then, defining Permaculture is a nigh impossible task.

Some colleagues and I were asked the question, "How would you explain Permaculture to a non Permaculture type person?" It is often said that if you ask five Beekeepers the same question, you will get six different answers, possibly more, and sometimes the same is true for Permaculturists. Discussing this it became evident that there are many viewpoints as to the make up of Permaculture, each predicated on an individual's needs and experiences.

Permaculture is such a flexible design system that it presents what is needed to each situation and thus also presents differing experiences to individuals.

And therein lies the challenge - how to express such a versatile and powerful concept to those with no Permaculture knowledge or experience.

One of my colleagues then offered, "Its how you think." Hmmm, ponder, ...

And that is the key. Permaculture is a design system using Ethics and Principles to formulate a series of Tactics, Strategies and Techniques to achieve the desired result. BUT, it requires a different way of thinking. The world is still following one form of thinking; economy, fossil fuels, compartmentalisation, and so on. To change, we need to change our thinking.

Permaculture is often seen as a way of gardening, which is quite understandable as Permaculture started out primarily as an agricultural design system based on observing and using nature's processes. Life on earth is dependant on energy that ultimately comes from the sun, plants and gardening are a vital link in the chain of converting the sun's energy into a form that we can use - fruit, herbs, vegetables, and so on.

But the Permaculture Design System is capable of much more than that, it can also be used to design tangible structures such as houses, infrastructures such as transport and communications, and intangible structures such as communities and financial systems.

Permaculture! It's about design, and it changes the way you think!

Christmas in Tatong 1991 – 2004

Were you at our little school, as a student, for some of those years? If you were, what were your memories of the lead up to Christmas at Tatong Primary School or at Peranbin Primary College as we were later known? Let's see if a teacher's perspective is anything like that of a child?

I remember three main events that were a part of every December while I was at Tatong:

Christmas clubs.

The super exciting, colourful, Christmas concert.

The annual campout on the school oval by all children from preps to year 6.

Oh and one other thing (that was not necessarily specific to the end of the year), falling asleep at my desk or at one of the children's tables on the very last day of term, too tired to drive home before I had had a siesta!!

Many, many parents will remember lovingly preparing a craft activity to share with a group of children. Once a week for maybe four weeks, the children rotated through a variety wonderful new experiences. I remember mixing and boiling traditional Christmas puddings in cloths, with every child in the school, one year. I was paid for doing what I absolutely loved doing. The children's parents willingly responded when the call went out for volunteers for Christmas clubs. I was always so grateful for your support and the children were so proud to have their mum or dad helping in the school.

How can anyone in Tatong, who ever went to or participated in a School Christmas Concert, forget this amazing yearly event? The children and I had so much fun planning what we might do to entertain the community. We wrote skits, learnt lines, made costumes and sets, played music and chose Christmas carols and Christmas songs to sing. Community musicians often played for us so that we kept in tune. In all of this our parents never missed a beat. If Mrs E asked all of the preps to wear black pants, they all did! Our costumes and sets were always fantastic. The concert was a community event and the Tatong Hall was always so full that many men had to stand up. All the children had a right to feel proud and excitedly nervous as they played their part in a variety of items. Often the chosen night for a concert was also very hot and our wonderful parents' club provided cool drinks and ice-cream for all of the children. Santa, bearing gifts and a bag of lollies for each child, came on his magnificent sleigh, sparks flying on the bitumen of the road. Our country supper always weighed down several trestle tables! The school community helped to set up the hall for this special event and magically the hall was spotless before the last person went home.

The December campout was always an opportunity for the preps to show that they were ready to camp under the stars with the 'big' kids. Throughout the year the younger children had sleepovers in the school building especially when the older children went away on a school camps. When the whole school slept under canvas or in swags we had a huge amount of fun. A barbecue, games and activities designed to make children very tired generally resulted in a good night's sleep for all but the parents who kept one eye open 'just in case'. Merry Christmas, Irene Erskine (Mrs E)

A Passenger to India Part 4

July 3 to Varanasi (formerly known as Benares)

Another early beginning to an epic day of travel. We left Khajuraho early by car to drive to the nearest convenient railway station at Satna for our trip to Varanasi. Passing peacocks by the side of the road as we travelled through pleasantly wooded and undulating countryside, we made good time as we approached the less than prepossessing outskirts of the substantial and rather dusty and ugly industrial town of Satna, famous apparently for its concrete works(!). The earliness of our arrival was probably deliberately arranged so we could be ushered into a very grubby café and offered the less than attractive prospect of breakfast.

The Sarnath Express was but a few minutes late, an impressive achievement given that it and traveled nearly 600 km from its point of departure. Our compartment was not unacceptable, consisting of two bunks at either side, convertible to bench seats, and curtained from the corridor. I soon discovered that Indians, at least those on the Sarnath Express, seem to have less concern for the protocols of personal space, as part of the floor was taken up with a suitcase that we later discovered was the property of someone from another part of the carriage. To make matters worse our seat was occupied by a sleeping woman, covered with what turned out to be our blanket. The conductor soon ejected her, sending her back to the 3rd class carriage. G was pleased to discover that unlike the Shatabdi Express, ostensibly a more up-market train, our carriage was furnished with traditional Western style toilets.

The journey began promisingly as we made a stately progress across the North Central Plain, stopping occasionally at some rather remote and desolate places. At 1200 we reached a place called Naini Junction. At 1330 we finally left Naini Junction. As the journey progressed, the word Junction began to strike something like fear into my heart. I discovered that the Sarnath Express was not considered to ply a particularly important route, so it had to give way to more prestigious trains. The signaling systems on this part of the network were rather primitive, and although other trains passing through this junction were of greater prestige that did not prevent them from being delayed themselves (possibly through having to give way to trains of even greater prestige at other junctions). As a result, junctions can be a source of significant delays, as evidenced by the insouciance of my fellow passengers who took advantage of the delay to stretch their legs and partake of refreshments provided by sellers who swarm on to the platform, doubtless aware of the delays to the Sarnath Express that appeared to be a common occurrence.

Eventually we made glacial progress across the Yamuna river and its confluence with the holy Ganges and pulled into the city of Allahabad, yet another junction, where a new engine was placed at what was now the front of the train, as we were to partially retrace our tracks(!) before plunging off towards Varanasi Cantonment Station. After a brief delay of 45 minutes of so, we moved off. By now I was losing patience (never one of my strengths to honest) and a sense of time, as well as suffering somewhat from the oppressive heat, as the barely adequate air conditioning ceased to operate after longish stops at stations.

So off we lumbered (a word not often used in juxtaposition with express) back across the Yamuna to a small station called Prayag in the hinterlands of Allahabad. There we stopped and remained for some 30 minutes or so. As, together with many of the other passengers, I detrained to stretch my legs, I asked the conductor the reason for this delay, as Prayag was clearly not a junction. He explained that the next stretch of line was only single track and we had to wait for the down train, which, unsurprisingly, was:

More important than the Sarnath Express; and
Always late.

I thanked him for this information, and as I turned away from to look up towards the front of the line, I noticed that platform was now suddenly devoid of passengers. Although the signal still appeared to be red, the train began inexorably to move away, leaving me alone on the platform, clad only in T shirt, shorts and sandals, without money or passport. Fortunately, the Sarnath Express does not possess rapid acceleration, and I was able to clamber aboard in reasonably leisurely fashion.

We finally reached Varanasi Cantonment with any further incident of note, apart from a couple of unexplained stops in the middle of nowhere, about three hours or so late after a journey of 11^{1/2} hours. Our first impressions of Varanasi were of a noisy, dirty city, choked with traffic. The station itself was crowded, filthy and full of beggars: on the platforms, on the bridge over the tracks and in the ticket hall. The hotel is fine, apart from unreliable power supply, which is far from unusual in my experience, provides Kingfisher beer (but see later) and overlooks the Ganges from Assi Ghat.

Next: Varanasi and Home

Steve Ingram

A room with a view: from our hotel in Varanasi



A Slice of German Life**Hazel Wann**Thursday, 5th September – Pilsum & Greetsiel

Today, after breakfast up with Konrad & Petra, I do the laundry. This means a grand tour of the basement – a 6 room arrangement that includes a sauna, laundry, briquette and wood storage, 2 storage rooms, and a craft/maintenance room. What I like about 72 Fr.Ebertstr. is that there are 4 floors and 6 rooms on each floor. Six people live in this establishment and as the house was previously divided into flats, this arrangement has contributed to the ease of housing 2 families. As we are household members – the Hesses and Boomgaardens have made it clear that we are family members, - we can wander around as we choose. I leave John on the ground floor in Hajo's office, and go with Petra to the laundry. Later I find Konrad on the 1st floor kitchen making a sandwich so he can go off to his exhibition work. Bauke is home from school, playing on the 3rd floor – she comes home earlier than Take despite the fact that he is younger and in kindergarten. I run into Petra in the first floor drawing room. Hajo is in the hall downstairs leaving for the building in town to take down the scaffolding. Anna has gone to the hairdresser. Conversation everywhere.

The phone rings and it is Take's schuler. He has had a fall. Petra leaps into action, tearing down the stairs saying where's Anna, where's Hajo. I tell her. So she tears out to her car and leaves to collect Take and if needs be, take him to the krankenhaus (hospital). She called Anna who leaves her appointment. But it seems Take was ok.

Anna, Hajo, the kids and us pile into Anna's Mercedes and we take off for Oldersum, a small town on the River Ems, upstream from Emden. This is a stunning little town with beautiful buildings, one of which has been restored by Anna. It is a restaurant set in a tiny park on the river front, right in the town centre, and adjacent to the Rasthaus which is gorgeous too. We visit a number of shops, a gift shop with wonderful window ornaments – in northern Europe it is quite common to hang decorations in the windows;

a wine shop; we eat ice cream, more kartoffel (potato), and walk along the riverfront. We run into a friend of Hajo's, a family court judge, who is very expressive towards the children and charming to us. In Germany there is a 'system' of dinner clubs for men between the age of about 25 and 40. The idea is to give the career person an opportunity to meet other males, enabling them to make friends. A recognition that if you work away from home or are new in an area this is your opportunity to make friends – just as a mother will find friends through

their children's schooling. The club meets, in this case, once a month either in Emden or Leer. When Hajo turns 40 he will have to leave the group but presumably will retain friends.

Then we leave for Greetsiel, a fishing village on the coast. We are going to have a picnic lunch on the harbourside. There we buy Oestfriesian fish and chips, crabben (miniature shrimps) and more kartoffel (potato balls). We sit on the harbour's edge in 26° with a pale blue sky and sea, with very large, fat seagulls and eat our picnic lunch. All the time the fishing boats are docking and unloading their catch of crabben. Refrigerated vans are taking the catch away to the airport where the crabben are flown to Morocco where they are shelled, then flown back. Frieslanders no longer are willing to do this job.

Then we have ice creams and visit gift shops that are full of the most amazing things. I buy a hand-made glass bottle with a stopper for Eu12. Around \$18 at the time. We then leave for Pewsum (pron. Peevsum) where we walk amongst gorgeous houses, gardens, churches, taverns and cafes. We stop for coffee and apfeltorte mit cream. It is here we visit an old barn turned into a centre for The Waddensea, the World Heritage Site on the coast. I had always wanted to visit Waddensea – but thought there would be no time. So we decide that that on Saturday 8th, we would visit the nearest point, rather than explore Groningen in The Netherlands where we were to catch the train to Schipol at 5 p.m. With the children, Waddensea is much appealing than Groningen which is lovely, but just more trawling round architecture and shops.

We then drive to a goat farm and buy cheese, and honey for Petra. The goats were very friendly and chew my clothing. Many of the cheeses are filled with garlic or olives. We move on to what Hajo thinks is a farm shop but it is more a garden shop, interesting, but with odd additions like leather wallets. I bought a Eu25 wallet for Eu10. There is also a bit of wine and a huge collection of children's farm animals, along with brass tractor clips. We leave feeling rather confused.

Beginning to feel that we are eating too much carbohydrate. The variety of breads is enormous as is the variety of potato dishes and all are delicious. But we are eating masses of fish, cheese, ham, salami und wurst. Tomorrow we breakfast with Konrad and Petra for the last time and take the 0900 train to Bremen to have lunch with Anna's brother, Joss, returning on the 1505 to have the bbq the Hajo is creating. All the Hesses and Boomgaarden's are invited. I really cannot imagine leaving after all this.

Gawn to Town

On coming to live in the North East, we encountered a wondrous new plant: Blue Devil. At first we thought it was some terrible weed. It is, after all, blue; with spikes on. But a friend who is a botanist put me right as soon as I emailed her a photo; it is a native plant and is to be cherished, she said. I was happy to cherish it; it is beautiful and fantastical. My partner was always sure anything with that many spines had to be bad for Merino sheep. But no Blue Devil ever turned up in the fleece, and I never let on when I found it growing. Green when young, it didn't stand out in the pasture, but as the grasses around it died off to yellow, it turned purple. Outstanding. I tried to dig some up to get it to grow nearer the house, but never succeeded. Having moved into town, with a paddock to re-populate with native plants, I have put several Blue Devil in. They have taken, they grew, they were looking good...

It didn't occur to me to guard them. I mean, the cattle didn't eat them. The sheep didn't eat them. They are blue and spiky. Who is going to hassle a Blue Devil. Skippy, that's who. With a 5-foot self-sown crop of chaffing oats to enjoy, the little black wallabies would rather eat my Blue Devil. And also, having ignored them until they got to about a foot high, tucked into my buloke tree-letts as well. Those wallabies have a very nasty sense of humour.

(But still, I wonder - what does Blue Devil taste like? I'll have to have a few to spare before I try them.) Meanwhile, I'm off to make some more guards. I've used up all the old netting we brought from the farm; Bunnings is delighted. I suspect they are hand-in-paw with the wallabies.



Tatong is a little further away than it was, but no less worthy. I put in but one afternoon at the Art Show, and it was a rewarding time; good company and grand surroundings. I made a point of returning the next day, as a punter, to really concentrate on the presented works, without dashing back to the door to take people's money off them.

There is great pleasure to be had in first looking at a disparate series of artworks purely to take them in; and then to go back and try to judge them. To work out how to judge them. Execution, meaning, effort, medium, taste, beauty? Whilst looking at one section I heard someone in the Cafe area sum it up, "There are things that are clever, and there are things you want to hang on your wall." Spoken, most aptly, by Hazel Frankland. And then it still comes down to the size, colour and location of your wall...

- Andrea Stevenson

White Gate



Dates

The final White Gate Dinner @ the Tavern will be December Wednesday 5th. I understand there is a perfectly spiffing Summer Menu to explore. The January dinner, for those who have survived the Silly Season, will be Wednesday January 2nd, and will be the very first, brand new & shiny Wednesday ever to happen in 2019. Happy Xmas to all, and prepare to enjoy the last of the Teenage Two-Thousands. I'm sure it will rain...

- Andrea Stevenson, 5762 8445

White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Hamish McMillan	25 Nov	Max Marriott	23 Dec
Ross Runnalls	2 Dec	Matthew Defazio	6 Jan
David Elford	9 Dec	Ross Runnalls	13 Jan
Leigh Humphries	16 Dec	David Elford	20 Jan

Readers Contribution

Teacher: How old is your father?

Kid: He is 6 years.

Teacher: What? How is this possible?

Kid: He became father only when I was born.

(Logic!! Children are quick and always speak their minds.)

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now, Class, who discovered America?

CLASS: Maria.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile'?

GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'

TEACHER: No, that's wrong

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

(I love this child.)

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

CLYDE: No, sir; It's the same dog.

(I want to adopt this kid!!!)

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

HAROLD: A teacher.



Australia Day Breakfast

Tatong Recreation Reserve/ Community Centre

8am onwards

9am Flag Raising / Tatong Achiever of the Year Presentation

Gold Coin Donation for Breakfast – Proceeds to the Good Friday Appeal

Saturday January 26th 2019

Money Tree Raffle – Tree with 100 \$1 Scratchies attached



Nominations for the 2019 Benalla Rural City Australia Day Awards are now open.

There are four categories open for nominations:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year (16 - 25 years old)
- Community Group of the Year
- Community Event of the Year



District achiever categories will also be awarded.

Acting Mayor, Cr Peter Davis, said the awards are an important part of Benalla Rural City's festive calendar.

"The Australia Day Awards provide the opportunity to recognise the achievements and contributions of those who serve our local community,"

"I encourage everyone to consider the people they know who have made an exceptional contribution to their communities. We all know someone who has made life in Benalla Rural City better in some way," said Cr Davis.

"You can nominate a community member, group or event as a way of saying 'thank you' to those who give their time and effort into making our Rural City a great place to live."

Strong nominations will include as much information as possible about the nominee. Nominees should be either a role model or leader, have excelled in their field or have made a significant contribution over the year or over many years. Past nominees who did not win a major award in last year's awards can be renominated.

The Community Event of the Year will be awarded to the person or group who has staged the most outstanding and inclusive community event during 2018.

Nominations close Monday 3 December 2018.

The awards will be presented on Australia Day, Saturday 26 January 2019 at the Benalla Performing Arts and Convention Centre (BPACC) at 11.30am.

Nomination forms are available from the Council's Customer Service Centre, the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre and by visiting www.benalla.vic.gov.au.

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A NEW PAINTING STYLE EXPLAINED

I will be organizing my artwork for the next district art show early rather than like this year when I began to paint with just 3 weeks before the paintings were handed to the exhibition.

I have started to express some of my outlook and thinking within my paintings which is beyond the traditional, mainly landscapes, that I have painted for many years. An example is this year's Tatong art show painting "Josh the Chippie", shown in the accompanying photo. While it clearly depicts the figure of Jesus I did not want to offend or appear to ridicule Him so I used the name Josh (or Yeshua from Hebrew) from which the name Jesus is derived. It is easy to jump to conclusions with any mention of the name Jesus due to the amount of myth and legend surrounding Him including the "iconic" robes, gestures and the sacred halo.

Jesus was a "tradie" (carpenter/chippie) which is down to earth and that meant that He would be right at home with ordinary people, hence the barbeque, utes and truck set within an Aussie landscape. In order to demonstrate the contrast of the "man-made" Jesus with the actual I placed the icon version of Jesus within a modern setting of ordinary people doing everyday things just as a person like Jesus would have done in His own time.

While modern techno knowledge dismisses much of spiritual tradition there is treasure to be found if a person can see beyond the man-made myths and religious dogma. Jesus was a scientist of the mind way before His time and study will show that what He actually taught will stand the test of time; well beyond the life of the average "smart" phone!

Mike Larkin



Invitation to a Celebration of the Feet



**Need some exercise? Like to Dance?
Have we got an idea for you!**



The Lima South Dance is held on the second Saturday of the month in the Lime South Hall. People travel up to 100km, sometimes more, to partake in romantic old time dancing. The ladies dress up in all their finery, smart dresses and skirt & diamanté top combinations.

The steps take a little time to learn, but many of the dances cross over so mastering all the steps is not too difficult. And Dancing exercises the body and mind, and being good fun it boosts the spirit as well.

Thanks to a hard working committee, the music is all organised, notices are given to each dance, and a delicious supper is on hand to provide you with all the energy you need.

The Lima South Oldtime Dance needs your help.

Numbers are slowly dwindling, and there is the real possibility that the dance may not be able to continue. Times were there were dances in Molyullah, Warrenbayne, Tatong, Moorngag and other neighbouring localities. Lima South is the only Oldtime Dance still running, but to continue to do so it needs your help. And if it doesn't, then the future of the Lima South Hall will be in question.

So, come along, move those feet to the beat, improve your health, meet friends old and new, and create some wonderful memories.

In short, come along and have a good time!

Need more information? Contact Colin Gordon on 5768 2561.



The Tatong Garage Sale on Sunday, 4 November, was a great success for our household. Having disposed of lots of our treasures we can now start on the second layer and put things aside for next year! I managed to get a few photos of others who enjoyed the day. -

Janette Knapper



John Capewell with Committee member, Sallie Hann (both hail from Nottingham – too many years ago!).



Locals Lyn Lindsay and Deb McCabe



Happy times at the Tatong Great Big Garage Sale



Committee members, Andi Stevenson and John Knapper



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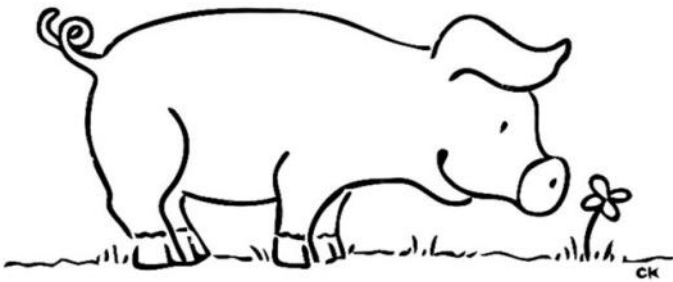


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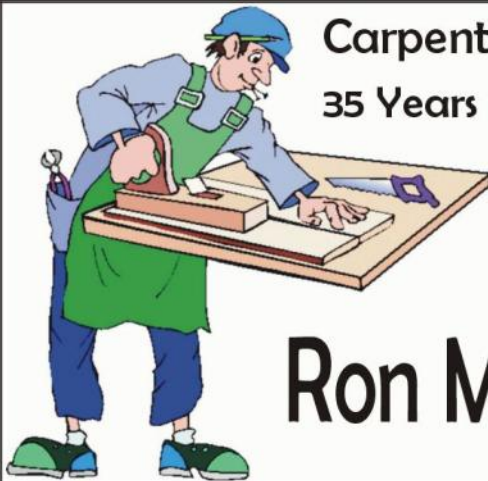
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2009	3	5.4	38.7	80.7	30.6	107.9	77.5	65.5	76	48.6	72.3	18.9	625.1
2010	39	153.7	86.4	65.2	67.5	82.8	67.5	162.1	116.8	123.7	109.2	150.8	1224.7
2011	107	177.3	65.0	36.1	62.9	47.1	84.5	81.0	67.3	32.0	88.3	46.3	894.7
2012	82.5	94.0	184.9	18.1	35	57.6	115.8	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
2018	34.3	6.4	24.9	13.7	49.8	67.2	52.8	81.2	25.1	22.3			387.7

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

We already had an improvement in rainfall this November with 35.2mm of rain up until the 15th of the month. This is better than the two previous month's total rainfall. October had a total of just 22.3mm. It seems that no "green drought" will stop the weeds though as they are just as prolific as ever.

Mike Larkin

'Carols in Swanpool'

- A Christmas Celebration -

Sunday, 9th December, 2018

7:30 - 9:30 pm at St. Aidan's Anglican Church Grounds

(or Swanpool Memorial Hall if wet!)

- Christmas Carol Singing
- Swanpool & District Musicians
- Peranbin College Singers
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What's on this month

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov 25	Nov 26	Nov 27	Nov 28	Nov 29	Nov 30 	1
2	3 Tatong Fire Brigade Training. 7pm Fire Shed.	4	5 Whitegate Community Dinner at the Tavern	6 Play group, 9.30, am Rec Res Molyullah Community Dinner at the Tavern	7 	8
9 Tatong Young Bloods AGM 5pm at Tatong Rec Reserve	10	11 Mansfield Bush Poets Mansfield Library 3-5pm	12	13 Play group, 9.30, am Tatong Rec Res .	14 Fish & Chip Night. Molyullah Hall 5.30pm	15 
16	17 Tatong Fire Brigade Training. 7pm Fire Shed.	18	19	20 Play group, 9.30, am Tatong Rec Res .	21 Girls Shed 10.00am at Tatong Hall	22
23 Molyullah Christmas Party Rec Reserve 6.30pm 	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27 Play group, 9.30, am Tatong Rec Res .	28	29 
30	31	Jan 1 New Year's Day	Jan 2	Jan 3 Play group, 9.30, am Tatong Rec Res .	Jan 4	Jan 5

BENALLA FESTIVAL MEMORIES

The Festival activities are over and after adding up the takings some of us are breathing a sigh of relief while others are already planning the next big thing. Tatong contributed to this annual district festival with the Art Show, Literary lunch and the Great Big Garage Sale and probably other ways unknown to me. All of the above Tatong events were successful and will probably be repeated next November. The Literary Lunch at the Rec Reserve was a first time thing and the art show was conducted by the hall committee for the first time. Janette and Maeve organized the lunch and it was sponsored by the Tattler which hopes to stimulate more writers for our newsletter. The hall committee continued the work of deSales Turner who established the art show some years ago. The sponsors were many and generous and made several artists happy with their sales or cash awards, or both.

Mike Larkin



Tattler Advertising Rates

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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".

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*A donation of \$1 per issue, or \$10 per year,
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Donations can be:

- ▲ Given to Committee Members
- ▲ Left in the Locked Box by the Tavern
- ▲ or EFT'd to GMCU, BSB 803 078, A/C
135720, Tatong Tattler.

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.