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New arrival in Molyullah



Toby (left) with Lewis and little Isaac

Congratulations to Damian and Justine Nicholls on the arrival of little **Isaac Andrew** who was born at Benalla Health on Wednesday, 22 April, at 8.30am. He weighed 3.86kg. His big brothers, Lewis aged 6 and Toby aged 4, are besotted with him.

A happy addition to the Molyullah community!

Janette Knapper

Vale Patrick Simon

I have written previously about the close links between Villers-Bretonneux, France, and Australia, particularly Victoria. Villers-Bretonneux was liberated by Australian troops at the end of WW1. The town was in ruins.

Victorian schoolchildren were asked to each donate a penny to build a school in V-B. The Victoria School was built. A sign above the school says, "Do not forget Australia."

After Black Saturday, French schoolchildren donated money to rebuild schools in Victoria.

V-B mayor for the last twelve years has been Patrick Simon. His determination to maintain this special bond with Australia earned him an honorary Order of Australia medal in 2015. Since last summer's devastating bushfires, he led his community in fundraising to help the Cobargo community.

As bushfires engulfed the Bega Valley, the people of Villiers-Bretonneux rallied to the Mayor's call to help Australia.

An online fundraising page received donations from more than 800 people, and more than 1000 people braved the winter chill for a solidarity march from the centre of the village to the Sir John Monash Centre Australian National Memorial, where a school choir sang a song specially written for the appeal entitled *Australia, Stop Burning*.

By late February, more than \$37,000 had been raised. The proceeds are being shared between the firefighters of Robinvale in Victoria – which has enjoyed a longstanding relationship with Villers-Bretonneux – and the Bega Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund.

At the request of the Villers-Bretonneux community, the Bega Valley funds will be used within the Cobargo area.

Very sadly, Mr. Simon succumbed to CoViD-19 on Wednesday, 13th May 2020.

Flags at the Australia embassy in Paris flew at half-mast in Mr Simon's honour.

John Knapper



One of Ned Kelly's Post-Office's at Tatong. 20m. from Benalla. Vic.
L. NEG. AND PRINT.

Hole in the Hill: One of Ned's PO Boxes

The State Library of Victoria (SLV) has a wonderful collection of historic documents and photos. And maps. It was maps I was chasing, when I happened across this photo, of "Ned Kelly's mailbox" (alleged), that was South of Tatong, until road-widening destroyed it. The story is that letters and goods were left there for Ned; as is said of many such holes and caves in the district.

This good photo was taken in 1934, by "Miss C. Collins", and is described as, "One of Ned Kelly's post offices."

Do any Collins still live in the Tatong district? I see there was a Collins listed as customer of the Tatong Butchers record of 1922. (The photo can be found online at [http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/primoeexplore/fulldisplay?](http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/primoeexplore/fulldisplay?vid=MAIN&docid=SLV_VOYAGER1806635)

[vid=MAIN&docid=SLV_VOYAGER1806635](http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/primoeexplore/fulldisplay?vid=MAIN&docid=SLV_VOYAGER1806635))

Next I went to Trove and sought any reference to Tatong & Collins, hoping to learn more of Miss C. What I found was "Personal Pars from Tatong District", in the Benalla Ensign from January 1942, including that "Miss Mena Collins and Mr Alan McCauley, of Melbourne, spent Christmas with Mr and Mrs T. McCauley, "Alandale," Tatong.

Who out there knows more of these people & places? The Tatong Tattler would very much value your recollections and knowledge.

– Andi Stevenson

<i>Instalment 2</i> <i>Greg Kirk</i>	TATONG A SHORT HISTORY 20th May 2015
<p>In 1957 electricity was connected to Tatong. The Victorian Police Department decided that Tatong needed an officer of the law stationed amongst the community and so on 31st October 1925 the department appointed Constable Norman Rupert Briggs as the town's first policeman.</p> <p>Constable Briggs would serve there until July 1928 when he would be transferred to the Bunyip Station.</p> <p>When he moved on Constable Maurice Healey, a Western Australian by birth took up the position. He, and his family, served the community until 19 July 1932 when the department made the position redundant and closed the station. Norm Briggs ended his police career as a Superintendent Grade 2, and Maurice Healey ended his as an Inspector Grade 1.</p> <p>There was a very active dramatic club for many years who performed in the Tatong Hall from the late 1930's through until the early 1940's. The admission price was 2/- with children half price and this included a dance following the play plus supper.</p> <p>In January 1939, the summer of the worst bush fires ever in South Eastern Australia when a total 71 lives were lost in Victoria, 50 of them on Friday 13th – still known as "Black Friday". The Tatong area also had it's share of fires although no lives were lost. The river stopped running on the 22nd of December 1938. On the 8th of January the hottest day since 1903 was recorded touching 109 degrees (43C).</p> <p>In 1948-51 there was a film "The Glenrowan Affair" made with many men from Tatong who were 'hired' to play parts of the "Kelly Gang". Alby Henderson played 'Joe Byrne' and Bill Crowe and others who played 'the gang'.</p> <p>The Benalla-Tatong Railway line was opened on the 30 June 1914, and served the community for a period of thirty-three years, the line being closed 1st July 1947.</p> <p>At the commencement of operations a tri-weekly service was provided transporting passengers to and from Benalla, produce from the farming section, sawn timber from the various sawmills in the district, fire-wood in one foot blocks, and during its operation a consignment of pigs (mostly bacon size) was trucked once a month to the Western and Murray Co-operative Bacon Company, Melbourne.</p> <p>The advent of better roads and motorised transport bought about a reduction of freight being carried and the tri-weekly service was reduced to a weekly service by steam train every Monday.</p> <p>A motorised trike brought mail from Benalla, Wednesday and Friday. This contraption carried small parcels and accommodation could be found for one or two passengers if their need was desperate.</p> <p>There were three Timber Tramlines in the Tatong area the first was built by McCashney and Harper who began milling in the Toombullup area eighteen miles from Tatong in 1918. Steam tractors were used to pull timber out of the bush to the mill. Cut timber was initially transported to Tatong on horse-drawn wagons.</p> <p>1920 saw the commencement of building a wooden tramline from the Toombullup mill to Tatong railway station. Both mill workers and outside contractors worked at build-</p>	

ing the line, which took four years to complete.

The tramline was made from 5in by 3in timber spiked to sleepers with 6 in nails. The gauge of the line was 4ft 6in. On very steep curves, iron strapping was nailed along the inside of the wooden rail to prevent it from "cutting out".

To bring cut timber from the mill to Tatong, two teams of horses worked along the tramline from the mill to the half-way point. Another two teams operated from the half-way to Tatong. Each "top team" was made up of seven horses, and the "bottom team" of five horses each.

At Toombullup mill some 30 workers lived in a regular community. Six or seven houses had been erected for married workers and an equal number of huts for single men. There was a store, tennis court and a community hall.

In 1930 the mill was shifted to Kelly Creek, four miles closer to Tatong. The number of horse teams was reduced by half. Later the mill was shifted again to Buttercup, nine miles from Tatong. The mill continued to operate at Buttercup until its closure in 1937.

The second mill was The Hollands Creek Sawmill. The Hollands Creek rises in the hills around Tolmie and flows in a north westerly direction for some 48 km until it joins the Broken River at Benalla.

George Bell operated a sawmill in the Noojee district, until burnt out by the 1926 fires. He shifted to Tatong and purchased a licence to log the upper reaches of Hollands Creek near Fern Hills from Don Stronick in 1930. George Bell established a sawmill and continued in the industry until his retirement in 1952. He sold his mill to Carter's and Company of Benalla in 1935. This company worked the area for another six months, before closing the mill and shifting the equipment to Merrijig.

The third timber tramline was from the Spring Creek Sawmill this mill was first owned by Thompson who had the mill on Spring Creek Road in 1916, later he started his mill on top of Mount Samaria. In 1918 the mill was burnt down and he was unable to raise the \$120 necessary to rebuild the plant. In 1921 the plant was sold to David J. McClelland, who set about expanding the enterprise as soon as he took possession. He put in the incline in 1922 that saved a lot of smashed timber, he also built the kilns in 1924. This was a huge undertaking and one that proved to be his demise. In 1926 the mill was closed and the Company was placed in liquidation. In 1928 the mill was sold to McClelland who resold it to Clarke and Pearce who dismantled the mill and moved it to Alexandra.

The Tatong General Store was first sited on the west of the bridge then it was moved to opposite the Tavern and then in the garage opposite then the final move was into the house opposite. The Post Office was located on the end of the Tavern, then it was moved to the General Store. The store closed in June 1983 and the Post Office in 1993. In 1899 a twice weekly mail service from Tatong via Rothersey, Moorngag, Samaria and then Swanpool.

Since these days of yore Tatong has been the subject of a lot of progress, whilst the number of people has ebbed and waned, the town has lost the General Store and Post Office and also the school, along with the demise of the football and netball club. It still has many vibrant clubs/groups. There is the Tatong Heritage Group, the fishing club, the Tatong Tattler, a book club and the list goes on.

Quantum Physics and Australia Post Parcel Delivery

I couldn't have imagined that these two things could have anything in common, until a recent experience caused me to reconsider.

I had ordered some books from an online bookstore for delivery by StarTrack for delivery to my house near Benalla. This service includes parcel tracking. Imagine my excitement when the parcel containing my books had left Botany in Sydney and made its way to Benalla. Even greater excitement occurred when I received a message to tell me the parcel had been delivered. However, my mailbox was devoid of books. Had they been delivered to a mailbox in another quantum reality? Was there another me in this other universe reading the same books I had ordered?

Sceptical of this explanation, I decided to try Australia Post's tracking service, which appeared to inhabit another reality altogether. In the Australia Post world, my parcel had left Greenacre in Sydney and had travelled to Melbourne, passing tantalisingly close to Benalla en route. It then left Melbourne for a place called Lemnos (thankfully the Victorian one - but perhaps another in yet another reality the parcel was sent to the Greek island called Lemnos) before ending up in an equally obscure location called Steventon – not the ones in Hampshire or Oxfordshire, except perhaps in yet more quantum realities. Discussions with StarTrack indicated that Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle was operating. They could tell me where my parcel was but not where it was going, or indeed why it was in Steventon at all.

Another example of quantum strangeness occurred the other morning. My parcel arrived. But of course, Heisenberg was operating. It was there but I was unable to discover how it had got there. I couldn't know both. And of course, it wasn't until I opened the parcel to discover some books that all the other possibilities of this saga resolved themselves into this single outcome. But were they the books I ordered?

PS I apologise in advance before any physicists out there express horror at my gross misrepresentation of Everett's Many World's Theory, Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle and the Copenhagen interpretation.
Steve Ingram

White Gate



Dates

White Gate Dinner @ The Tatong Tavern ... will the Tavern be open for dinner in June? How will patron numbers be decided? At the moment it is all unfolding. On a nice day, maybe we could have a picnic lunch somewhere. Making plans is challenging, which makes this whole situation so dream-like. Don't know about you, but I keep expecting to wake up.

I hope the grass is growing, along with the livestock.

White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Leigh Humphries	24 May	Andrew Marriott	28 Jun
Bill Ferguson	7 Jun	Terry Trounson	5 Jul
Norton Grimwade	14 Jun	Les MacLean	12 Jul
Terry Ryan	21 Jun	Lewis Vallender	19 Jul

- Andrea Stevenson, 5762 8445

Tatong Heritage Group



The Tatong Heritage Group will go into Recess,
at least until September.

Our scheduled meeting on Monday September 28th will be contemplated closer to the day. Wishing everyone good health,

& may September find us still Covid-free. -
Andrea Stevenson, for the Tatong Heritage Group.

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

THE GIRL'S SHED

Tatong Memorial Hall
ALL WELCOME



Garden Daze

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

The rain was very welcome - but discovering that our underground drain pipes were blocked with fine tree roots was not.

The first heavy rain for the season came down in buckets as the expression goes, and we saw that the roof gutter was overflowing all along the front verandah.



Next fine day an exploration with a garden hose to "see how far up it would go" came back with the answer of "only about two metres". So an SOS call went out to the plumber. Upon investigation it was announced that the pipes were completely blocked with very fine tree roots from the small Chinese Elm growing next to the verandah.

Repairs required the removal of the tree - both to stop future problems and because it was very much in the way.

So some extreme "gardening" later the tree had been cut down and an enthusiastic plumber wielding a back hoe, dug out the stump.



As heavy rain was predicted (this turned out to be 90ml over a day or so) temporary pipes were attached to direct the expected storm water over the driveway and across the front lawn.

In due course all has been repaired, except for one great gaping hole and lots of mud where a small tree and the corner of the verandah garden had been.

I'm currently waiting for inspiration, enthusiasm and a good old dose of energy and I'm sure it will be fine.

At least we didn't get flooded.

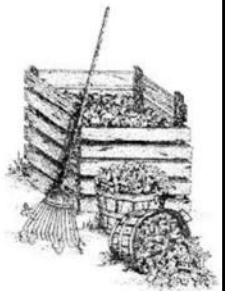


Require Raking or as I prefer these days mowing them up with the catcher on the mower. This gives a lovely mix of dry chopped up leaves and green grass - perfect for adding to the compost heap.

The catcher is emptied into a wheelbarrow and then when this is full it is taken to the compost heap and spread over the surface.

Then it's off to the chook house and a wheelbarrow load of the floor litter is collected for the next layer in the compost heap.

A few layers of this mix and some collected alpaca dung and the heap is nice and hot.



I have recently been using last year's collection which is now lovely black compost and when I did a soil test - the ph was a very satisfying 6.5 - ideal for growing vegies.

I have just added another wicking bed to the vegie garden. It takes a lot to fill one of these with first the layer of gravel, then I have used a combination of compost, bottom of the chook yard and very old mulch. All of which I have sieved before adding.

I have various methods of sieving. One of which is the fine wire base of an old babies cot. This type of mattress base, as anyone who has ever slept on one will tell you - tend to sag a bit. This fits over my biggest wheelbarrow and instead of shaking it back and forth - which is not good for



one's back - I have a similar idea for a sieve. rope

tied in the middle (here's where "the sag" comes in handy) and I give this some good old tugs, and the good stuff falls through into the waiting wheelbarrow and - then the left over "bits" are put into another container ready for disposal.

Happy Gardening

Kathy Z





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Tattler Committee meets 6 times a year.

Please contact a committee member if
you are interested.

- Andrea Stevenson (0429 439 336)

Dear Tatong Tattlers,

MTA- Mobile Travel Agent Violet Town - Hot Deals will be taking a break for a few months while all our travel plans are on hold. But we will be back with spectacular travel offers when the time is right.

The many changes, cancellations and refunds of recent months have been heartbreaking for both you my valued clients, as your travel dreams are put on hold, and for me as I share your disappointment. Everyone in the travel industry has been working relentlessly to help make sure the people who needed to get home did so safely - wherever their home is.

I've been overwhelmed by the messages of support and kindness I've been sent. I thank you for your continued support of my small business and the travel industry in general. We will survive this, but in the meantime keep dreaming of where your next travels will take you and when the time is right, I'd love to make your plans come to life!

Feel free to register for hot deals : www.mtatravel.com.au/toshea

Tess O'Shea
Travel Designer

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES, THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

Having recently enjoyed watching the modern day movie version of this story featuring Ella Ballentine as Anne, Sara Botsford and Martin Sheen as her foster parents. I was intrigued enough to do some research as to why and how the author Lucy Maud Montgomery created the character of Anne and what it is that people so love about it. Anne is an optimistic and happy person who is entranced by the beauty and magic of the natural world but at the same time she is practical and a willing worker around her foster parent's home. Her character and personality were undoubtedly affected by having lost her mother when young and spending years in an orphanage or with other foster parents learning to become 'good with children.' Anne possesses an indomitable spirit, for one so young, in spite of hardship and setbacks, as well she is a creative thinker and has a good sense of humour, not taking herself too seriously.

The character of Anne reminds me of Maria of the Sound of Music because both have similar backgrounds and outlook on life. Both have overcome adversity and have a deep love for the natural world. These qualities tap into a deeply held desire amongst many people to want to find and experience such inner qualities and lifestyle. So strong is this desire that both Anne and Maria's fame has not diminished over time and virtual shrines have resulted just so that people can look at or touch something connected to the adored figures. I have taken the Salzburg Sound of Music bus tour which, surprising to me, was the highlight of a two week tour of Austria/Germany 11 years ago.

For Anne of Green Gables it was Michael Portillo's Canadian train journey in eastern Canada when he visited a restored family cottage on Prince Edward Island that sparked my revisit to the movie. I had seen the movie some years ago and liked it enough to purchase the DVD. I am intrigued to think that maybe the creators of Sound of Music spliced the character of Anne into the biography written by the actual Maria Von Trapp creating the much admired role for the musical, even if that 'splicing' was subconscious. The original Maria's step children said that she was not like the version played by Julie Andrews, as she was a hard taskmaster and ironically it was their father, the Captain, who was the more kindly parent. Nevertheless it was Montgomery the author who created the original role of Anne and some of Lucy Maud's background may explain the choices about Anne's personality. It was Montgomery who lost her mother to TB when she was only 21 months old and in that era it was too difficult for the father to raise her so she grew up mainly with her grandparents while her father lived and worked not far from them.

There are two other clues, thanks to Wikipedia, that I found about Montgomery which may have affected the character of Anne, one being her own deep love of walking around the Island absorbed in the beauty of nature and sometimes experiencing what she called Flashes of great tranquillity and ecstasy. These 'flashes' are like what some saints and sages experience as they connect to something beyond the normal every-day world. This was illustrated by Anne in the movie with her sudden cries of appreciation for some natural phenomenon, as well as telling Matthew, her foster dad, that she would often fall into a 'daydream'. Montgomery said that: "amid the

commonplace of life, I was very near the kingdom of ideal beauty," and these 'flashes' sustained her throughout her life giving her assurance that beneath all travail there is a greater power at work.

The other clue was Montgomery's disgust that an early movie version of the Green Gables story depicted Anne threatening someone with a shotgun, something the author said that she would never do. This disrespect for another writer's values is not uncommon among movie producers. Canada's literary avant-garde rated her writing as "over glorified," mainly for children, and was not of a serious quality. They rated her beneath many other of the countries writers, but the ordinary readers are not concerned by what the apparently elite writers think as they bought her books by the millions. The story of Anne alone has been translated into 36 languages and has sold 50 million copies. The Sound of Music, probably the most loved and watched movie of all time, was similarly dismissed by many critics. This attitude toward what is considered sentimentalism and sweetness intrigues me as to why these 'cultural influencers' don't seem to want people to experience happiness and joy. To put it bluntly, maybe they are affected by too much blackness: in their coffee, their often black clothing and the dark, dystopian (pessimistic) literature and art which they feel impelled to promote and endure.

It surprised and saddened me to find that Montgomery suffered from depression, had a very unhappy marriage and became addicted to prescribed bromide and barbiturate drugs in her later years. The drugs were prescribed for mental illnesses like depression at a time when their addictive downside was not as well known. She attributed much of her unhappiness to the despair over her religious minister husband's sometimes disturbed and sad outlook. As well, she lived through the two world wars and the Spanish flu which nearly killed her, but did kill her best friend. She was born in 1874 and died in 1942 after writing scores of books and short stories, none of which I have read, but I loved the movie which goes onto my all-time best movie list. Any story, such as this one, which makes me both laugh and cry practically at the same time gets my vote.

I would like to at least read the first story about Anne, which I have booked with the library, because it is written in the words of Lucy Maud rather than an interpretation by script writers or movie directors. I am too lazy to read much except newspapers and periodicals, generally preferring movies and documentaries. I am a person who tries to squeeze 110% of activity out of every day meaning that I don't allow myself much time to sit and read!

Mike Larkin

There are five people in an aeroplane - Donald Trump, Boris Johnson, The Pope, Angela Merkel and a 12-year-old schoolboy. The 'plane gets into difficulties and there are only four parachutes. Trump says, 'I'm the cleverest man in the world and have a country to run so I need a parachute' - so he takes one and jumps out. Johnson says 'I have to get Brexit done so I need one' - and he jumps out; Angela Merkel says 'I must preserve the European Union' and jumps out. The Pope says, 'I have lived a full and active life, but you have your life ahead of you my boy, so you can have the parachute'. The boy replies 'It's ok, there are two parachutes, the world's cleverest man took my satchel'.

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GLOBAL SISTERS **BACK HER BRILLIANCE**

SOMEONE'S BIG CHANCE TO SERVE IN THE CFA

Due to my age, need for less stress and too many other commitments I am resigning from my position of Communications Officer with the Tatong brigade but I will continue to look after the fire danger rating arrow and other signs at the crossroads. This an opportunity for someone to fill the job and become part of this highly valued and important community institution. We all know that women are more than equal to men in so many ways and this is a perfect opportunity for a local person of the female persuasion to take on this role which is all about the thing women are definitely better at than men, communication! The job requires the officer to belong to the CFA and to liaise with ex Tatong resident Jack Harrison at the Benalla CFA about arranging strike teams of Tatong firefighters prior to Total Fire Ban days, as well as any other inter-brigade operations. It would suit best for the officer to be mostly at home or readily available during the fire danger period. The job has been made a lot easier with the arrival of the BART smart phone app which speeds up effective communication among the brigade's firefighters and members.

It would also be ok for a man to take on the role whether he is an active fighter or not. We saw just how important the local brigades are during last years' bushfires to the east and north of us. Sometimes we just have to put our hand up and do something for our community rather than assuming others will do it first. Please contact Captain Rod Lindsay at 57672306 or Denis Hevey at 57672238 for inquiries.
Mike Larkin

Gawn to Town

I miss the sheep. Not the work; not lamb-marking, nor skirting fleeces. I miss watching them live their lives, as I walked through their homes (aka paddocks). I'd choose to take the West Lane (aka sheep track) to the fence, and maybe return on the Great South Highway (ditto).

What is the difference between a nicely laid-out park, and a sheep paddock? The former may have park-benches, fountains and exotic trees, but consider the paths. The sheep will have narrow, almost-straight tracks (with the odd deviation where the leader walked around something, and everyone else followed, nose to tail). The City Park may have grand, tree-lined paths, artistically laid-out ... those are the sealed, designated paths, anyway. Given that people walk where they want, there will also be muddy tracks trodden into the grass. Like sheep-tracks. The sheep track is designed by the lead sheep. The park path is designed by a human architect. There are times when sheep truly seem more logical. I am told the architects do sometimes try to design paths for the good of people's transit, not just to amaze passing helicopter pilots. But most parks still have two networks of paths; the sealed ones, and short-cuts over the lawn and through the rose-beds. At least humans don't tend to eat the leaves and poo on the paths.



Architects aspire to the aesthetic. Pedestrians, like sheep, aspire to get from A to B. It takes a good architect to

apply logic, and astoundingly, a way has been found to lay down sealed paths where those who are to use them will actually want to walk.

Advanced psychology? Astute mapping? Time travel? No; reversal of order. Lay out your park, your shelters, trees, fountains. But don't put in the paths, yet.

It would need to be the right time of year. Writing in the "New Scientist" magazine, one correspondent said, "When I was an overseas volunteer at a school in the Pacific Islands, I was given the task of laying concrete footpaths between the buildings before the onset of the wet season. I ignored the headmaster's planned layout and waited for a few weeks to see where the pupils actually walked between buildings. Then I laid the footpaths along the clear tracks made in the grass. These paths worked perfectly when the rains came."

Another described how this method has been used for decades by planners of new universities and college campuses. "Michigan State University has paths designed this way: an aerial view shows paths at unusual angles that take efficient routes."

However, a third writer observed, "I suspect that architects will still strive to please their clients rather than the end users." I think sheep make good architects. - Andi Stevenson



BENALLA WATER CATCHMENT - *continued from May edition and submitted by Janette Knapper.*

The history of the Ryan's creek Dams – Loombah and McCall Say Reservoirs

(Excerpts taken from "*The History of the Molyullah and Upper Ryan's Creek District*" Norma Ryan, 1979.)

... All pipes had been taken over by the Defence Department. In August 1942, the pipe-line plans were approved, but by the end of 1945 the pipes had still not arrived. The cost, which pre-war had been estimated at 70,000 pounds, was now estimated to be 170,000 pounds.

With the prospect of severe water restrictions late in 1943 and early 1944, public agitation to have the works completed grew in intensity. The Minister and Chairman of the State Rivers were impressed. Towards the end of 1944 two power shovels were working and extra men had been provided.

Early in 1945 three working bees were held. The Trust provided food and petrol and volunteers gathered up and later burnt sword grass, wattles, thistles, bracken and other debris in order to clear the catchment area.

At last – works at the Weir were completed in April 1945. The storage basin with the capacity of 150,000,000 gallons was filled by August, but the auxiliary storage and pipe-line were not completed until 1948.

Reg and Ian Gray were contracted to keep the fence line clear at 10 pounds per year. Reg had the job of checking the gauge and the area was declared a Sanctuary.

In February 1946 the Dam was officially opened by the Minister of Water Supply, the Honourable L.W. Gulvin. It was officially named Loombah – aboriginal for "steep-sided".

Some interesting facts:-

Robert McBean, who sold Killeera Station in 1877, was said to be responsible for Benalla's first water service as Chairman of the first Trust.

In 1892 the Trust offered a 50 guineas reward for the best gravitational scheme. Ryan's Creek pioneer, John Vallender, had continually, over a long period of time, urged Benalla to concentrate on getting a supply from Ryan's Creek. Forty-eight years later, when the scheme was underway, Mr Vallender claimed his reward but requested it be paid to the Benalla Patriotic Fund. He used to live where Grays live now – just below Loombah.

The completion of the Loombah Weir was the direct result of foresight and planning by the Trust, led by Mr William McCall Say. For many years, Nillahcootie and Ryan's Creek schemes made rival claims. It was reported on 27/2/1939 that Mr Say favoured the suggested Ryan's Creek dam as there was another further site which, if required, could be dammed for another 100,000,000 gallons.

Although he did not live to see the day, the McCall Say Reservoir was commenced in January 1972 and completed in September 1973 with a capacity of 250,000,000 gallons. Chairman of the Trust at the time was Mr Frank Harrison and the Engineer who supervised the project, Mr K.L.D. Borley.

The naming of this second dam would have presented no problem – a great tribute to a great man.

Loombah Weir 2020



What's Happening at Molly Rose?

So how is everyone going with forced isolation, working from home and remote learning? It hasn't made a lot of difference to us seeing as the kids were already being home educated and due to their other issues only like socialising in small bites. Personally, I'm enjoying going less often, although I do miss getting together with our board game and role playing game friends. Online is okay, but it's so much more fun doing it face to face. And I miss the writer's group.

With all the things going down for us at the end of March and over April, with everyone in lockdown it's actually been good for us as times were interesting in April. I missed the Tattler deadline because our wonderful Henry dog was dying. Honestly, I thought he was going to die in our arms that night, but he rallied and refused to let go. I'd started writing my regular piece but I just couldn't finish it. Even writing these words is bringing tears to my eyes. We had to have him put down the next day.

Two weeks earlier on Good Friday we were putting up "fencing" down the front to stop a few of our very naughty ducks from stepping through the front fence and waddling off to visit the neighbour's. I had stomach pain which was only getting worse and worse until I was lying down while everyone else was fixing the fence, including our next door neighbour. Walking back up I was in so much pain I actually didn't think I'd make it back to the house. That's when we called the ambulance. Because of the mystery fever I was treated as possible Covid 19, despite having absolutely no other symptoms.

Ambulances are not very comfy, you notice every bump. Anyway, Wayne from Mansfield was one of the ambos and chicken keeper, so we talked chooks and sheep on the way to Wangaratta. He had some silver laced Barnevelder roosters going spare, and now I have one – I fell in love with silver laced Barnevelders a few years ago when I saw them, and although I like my blue laced and regular Barnevelders, now that I have a silver, they will be my Barnevelder focus.

Fortunately in hospital they did plenty of tests and nothing was whipped out extraneously. Which was good, as we went from gall bladder to appendix when it turned out to be an infection in my large intestine! Mystery fever explained! I'm booked in for more tests at the end of this month to see if they can figure out why. Recovery from the anaesthetic will be the hardest part – I haven't yet had one that hasn't wiped me out physically for a couple of weeks.

The upside to being in hospital was I didn't have to do anything and I had a wonderful bunch of ward mates and the nurses were pretty good too. We had some great conversations and laughed a lot. June was opposite me, at 80 something, she'd fallen while practising line dancing in her kitchen and broken her hip. She came in at midnight with her hair in curlers, her line dancing instructor had posted it on Facebook and her phone just kept ringing. It got to the point that every time it rang we'd laugh.

Richard was next to me, he'd come in with a twisted bowel! Until last year I only knew of horses twisting their bowel, but then a friend of mine was in hospital with it. Richard is an environmental scientist with a focus on ornithology and how water and soil health effect birdlife. We had some great conversations about birds and the work

he'd been involved in at Melbourne's Western Treatment Plant (Werribee wetlands). The link below is a great article about the wetlands <https://www.foreground.com.au/agriculture-environment/industrial-ecology-werribee-western-treatment-plant/>

And then there was Luke, covered in tats, piercings and rough like coarse sandpaper, but also one of the sweetest and thoughtful guys you could ever meet. He'd been in a motorbike accident, the kind where the car driver just pulls out in front of them, and broken both wrists, several ribs, his pelvis, right femur, knee and ankle! He'd been flown to Melbourne where he'd had six operations in seven days and is so full of metal he will most definitely set off metal detectors and had only been back in Wang a couple of days before I was admitted. Out of everybody I was the least damaged!

I finished Dracula while I was in – not an easy book to read when you're being pumped full of painkillers, antibiotics and anti-nausea meds but I am happy to have finally read it! So glad I wasn't a woman in those times! So with my brain mostly mush I fell back to my standard fair of fantasy novels, ploughing my way through the Book of Words trilogy by J.M. Jones and five of the Drenai Saga stand-alones by David Gemmell in the two weeks it took to mostly return to 'normal'. By then I was ready to start writing again and getting back to books that require a working brain.

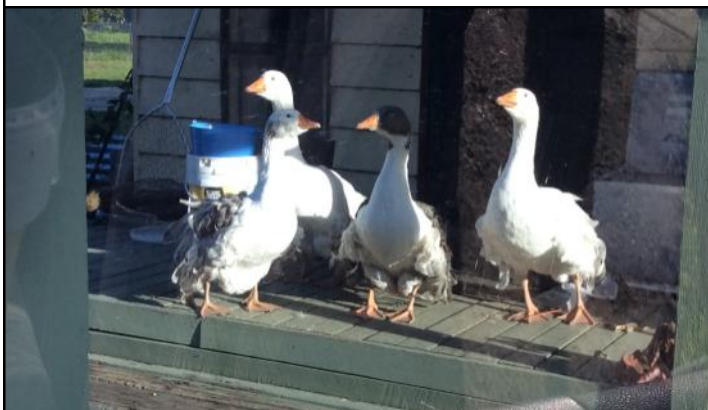
The ankle is still dicky, but I'm doing my exercises and it is slowly getting better. I have been warned by the osteopath to not do any running, jumping, sudden stops or twists and turns. So no chasing sheep or poultry! It also makes gardening tricky as I can't squat down and kneeling also strains it, but I am getting small things done. It also means I can't play tennis with the kids which is the only sport they want to do! So I'm gonna buy a lot of tennis balls and stand at one end of the court. They will have to hit the ball to me if they want me to hit it back!



At Molly Rose I am only now ready to get back into moving the paddocks around for rotational grazing but with more surgery coming up I'm putting it on hold and the poultry are still free ranging daily and pooping all over the veranda! Only the poultry are happy about that! The sheep are down the road and getting fat again. There are still four lambs that need processing which needs to happen in the next few months. We did have 3 ewes and 1 ram lamb done. I sorted it all out and two days later was in hospital! Lots of mince, which is great as bolognese sauce, chilli con carne & super nachos are on the menu fairly regularly.

Continued next page

Ziggy Stardust is doing much better outside with the other chickens, although he still thinks he's special and won't sleep with them, so every night he needs to be caught and locked up. He squawks rather indignantly every time. He has quite the magnificent tail, and I can tell it is him even if all I can see is the tail!



I had to put down a couple of my lovelies – Little Roo had developed three massive tumours, and though he was a terrible example of the Cream Legbar breed and was going to be soup, he endeared himself to us by following us everywhere and liking cuddles. Fortunately I picked up his replacement, Electric Boogaloo in November last year. Lovely old Skales also needed to be helped on her way. She was the last from our very first chickens. I buried them both under the new Crepe Myrtle I was given on mother's day. We mounted up the neck breaker and I shed a few tears as I helped them depart. I will never get used to having to kill my birds, but the neck breaker was by far the best way I've used to dispatch a chook.

I am trying to do stuff at Molly Rose using the resources available. One of the things we have lots of at the moment are branches. Lots and lots of branches, sticks and twigs. Lots and lots of them are already stacked upon last year's burn pile, but although I love a good bonfire, the ash is only great for the garden if you dig it in while it's still hot. An awful lot of work for not that much gain.

Some of them I can trim up and use to build frames for peas and beans to climb on, or hang fruit netting off to stop the chooks and other birds from destroying the gardens and plants. We have plenty of kindling and there's still so much of the smaller twiggy stuff. Over the years I've come across the concept of Hugelkultur which is effectively building no dig raised beds using logs and sticks as the basis. And I hope, a good way to rot out the numerous tree stumps we have. I'll let you know how it goes.

We were hoping to get a puppy before Henry died to help us deal and cope with the loss of our beloved dog but it just didn't work out. We are on the waiting list for a Brama Labrador pup and have been lucky enough to get some puppy therapy with lots of pats and cuddles from them while they get exposure to chooks, ducks and geese as part of their training. On the whole the chooks and ducks aren't phased by the puppies, the geese on the other hand are terrified of them! They hiss and carry on and are only brave enough to "attack" them when the puppies are walking away! Funny thing was, the pups didn't even notice!

Write you again next month!

Carla

Computer Tat-Tap-Tips

Retrieve from Memory: Clipboard

A basic meme of computer usage is "Cut and Paste"; or it's fellow, "Copy and Paste". You copy a selection of text (or a file etc) into the memory by pressing Cntl+C, or right-clicking on a selection and choosing "Copy". Then, at a chosen destination, press Cntl+V, or right-click to choose "Paste", and what was copied materialises from the Random Access Memory.

(If you have instead chosen "Cut" (Ctrl+X) the item ceases to exist in the original location, once pasted. In some instances, if NOT pasted somewhere, it is overwritten in the memory by the next copy. Beware.)

This saves a lot of typing, and typos. But with this universal method, only the last item is available; the memory holds one thing at a time (I know the feeling). If a long, tedious password is copied, ready to be pasted, but moving a file en route displaces it, well damn.

Windows 10 has a more capacious clipboard built in, for use copying text, and small images (not files).



First it needs to be enabled.

This can be done via Windows Settings; Start Button, "Settings" cog (or press the Windows button+I); choose System, then Clipboard from the left-

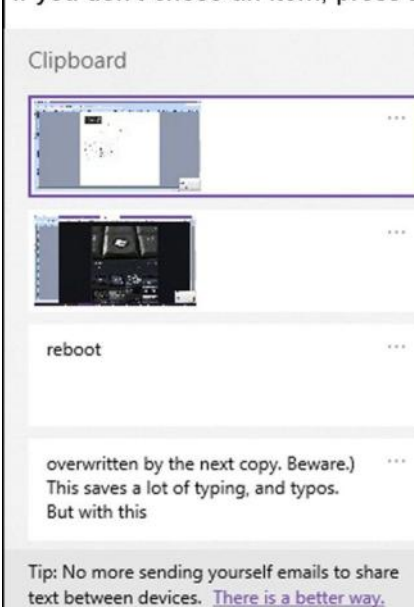
hand pane. Here "Clipboard History" can be turned on. Or, just press Windows Key + V, and a box will materialise telling you that function is turned off; and offering to turn it on.

Once enabled, you can access the last 25 items copied. In order to try it out, copy a few things. Select some text, right-click over it, & select "Copy". Then select another section, and copy.

Now, press the Windows Key + V, and a floating window will pop up. The latest items you have copied will be there, most recent at the top. Click on any item in the list to paste it into an open application or document.

You can remove items from Clipboard history, click the ellipsis (3 dots) and choose Delete. Or "Clear All" for a proper clean-out.

If you don't chose an item, press Esc to make it vanish.



If you Pin an item to the Clipboard history list, it will then remain in the Clipboard history list even if you reboot the computer, or click "Clear All."

So there you have a handy means to extend and access your computer's memory.

Now I just need to work out how to apply it to my own head.

- Andi Stevenson

Suck it Up

SEPTIC PUMP OUTS

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

Over time scum and sludge layers build up in your septic tank, eventually limiting the amount of available liquid. This does not allow the septic tank to perform one of its basic functions - to allow for settling of solids below the outlet level.

The waste will then flow directly on to the next part of the system untreated. If this situation persists, the scum and sludge will flow through to the distribution field, eventually causing blockages and malfunction - a messy, smelly and costly exercise to repair.

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



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Zucchini Pie Carole Ruta

This recipe I've adapted from Stephanie Alexander's The Cooks Companion, Anna-Maria's Zucchini Slice. It's great for lunch, on its own or with a green salad. Also good to freeze for lunch boxes or picnics.

Preheat the oven to 180 degrees and brush a 24cm glass or ceramic square dish or equivalent round dish with olive oil, approximately 2 litre capacity. You don't have to be precious with the zucchini amount, if you have slightly over 500g so be it, likewise if you have slightly less. I used 3 largish zucchini.

500g zucchini, coarsely grated - on a box grater about 3 large
 1 clove garlic, fine chopped - optional
 6 green shallots (whole spring onions, green as well) fine sliced
 180g grated cheese – I use a mix of cheddar, Parmesan and halloumi but any cheese will work
 150g self raising flour – sifted
 4 free range eggs, lightly beaten
 Salt and pepper to taste
 Tomatoes – a mix of Roma's cut in half and halved baby Roma tomatoes or 4-6 large ripe round tomatoes cut into thick slices – see photo
 100ml extra virgin olive oil
 Grated or shaved Parmesan extra



Mix the zucchini, garlic, shallots (spring onions), cheese and flour. Add the beaten eggs and mix well so that it is all evenly combined. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Smooth into the dish and place the tomatoes, which ever variety you are using, decoratively on top, poking down lightly on the tomatoes. Drizzle the olive oil on top. (This may seem like a lot of oil but it soaks into the contents and gives a wonderful flavour and texture to the cooked pie.) Sprinkle with extra grated or shaved Parmesan. Bake in the centre of the oven for 40-50 minutes until the centre is firm. Cool slightly before serving. Cut into slices or squares it reheats brilliantly either in a hot oven for 8-10 minutes or gently reheated in a pan on top of stove on a low to medium heat, turning so it doesn't catch or burn.

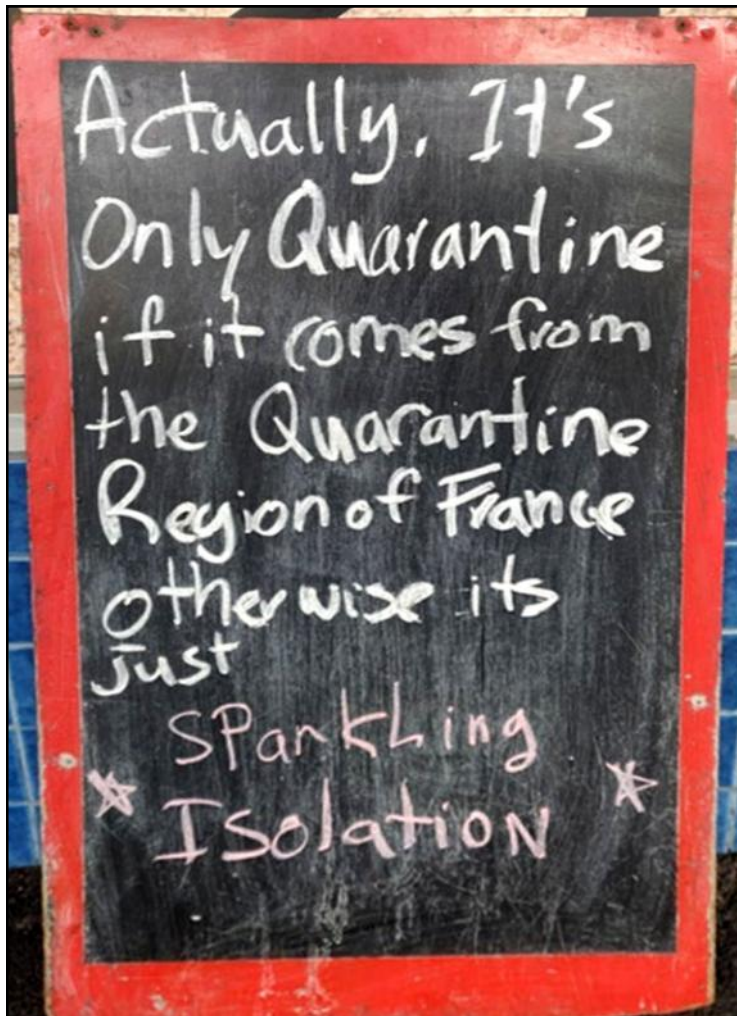
Fennel is coming into season now and is much more price friendly In season than out !!
 I love fennel, both raw and cooked. Here are some of my fennel ideas.

Fine shaved raw fennel makes a great salad mixed with baby rocket, blue cheese and walnuts.
 Pickled raw fennel is easy and adds crunch to a cold meat selection or picnic basket. Also brilliant with pates and terrines.
 Shaved fennel and artichokes make a mean combination and can be made with fresh or preserved artichokes.
 Baked fennel sliced and cooked with bacon, French shallots and olive oil lends itself to a roast chicken, seared lamb or the humble meat ball, meatloaf or rissoles.
 Thick sliced fennel, halved Roma tomatoes, sliced red onions and kipfler potatoes doused in olive oil and baked make a great vegetarian dish or accompaniment to a simple roast. Add broccolini stems half way through for a colourful and nourishing easy bake.
 Thick sliced fennel, onions and cabbage, half cooked then covered in a bechamel or cheese sauce and baked is a satisfying supper dish with a simple tomato salad.
 There are so many uses for fennel and the flavour is great with any meats, fish or poultry.



Hot Tip

I have recently discovered Tolpuddle Goat Cheese Farm Shop. I've been buying their cheese from farmers markets for awhile but with lockdown they have joined with a load of local producers and collate all products and deliver, at this stage, both locally and to Melbourne metro areas. One of the products they supply are Maison Renoux charcuterie, from Stanley near Beechworth. Wow, the pates, terrines, rillettes are amazing. Well worth looking into for that dinner, lunch, picnic party we all want to have now that restrictions are being eased. And the goats cheese from Tolpuddle is to die for !!!! Check out their web page and look out for their upcoming open farm days where you can meet the goats and try the brilliant cheeses.



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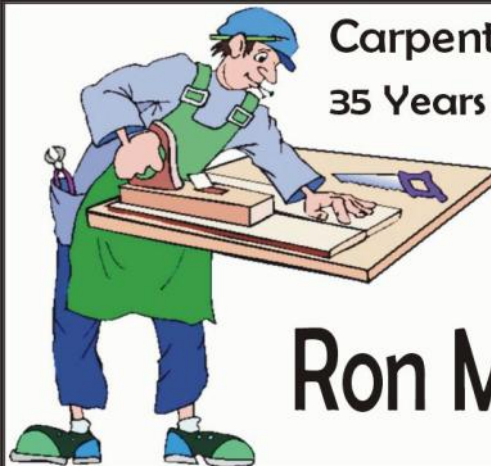


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2010	39	153.7	86.4	65.2	67.5	82.8	67.5	162.1	116.8	123.7	109.2	150.8	1224.7
2011	107	177.3	65.0	36.1	62.9	47.1	84.5	81.0	67.3	32.0	88.3	46.3	894.7
2012	82.5	94.0	184.9	18.1	35	57.6	115.8	92.1	35.5	34	28	30.1	773.6
2013	1.8	52.4	85.5	8.4	43.0	60.1	112.1	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	75	73.1	525.8
2019	27.7	13.2	23.8	22.7	105	72.9	83.7	49.4	51.3	34.9	37.9	40.8	563.3
2020	63.6	35.6	88.4	207.2									404.8

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

Rain has almost been a nuisance now that there is so much of it with 207.2mm falling for the month of April and already in May we have had 30.8 mm falling up until the 15th of the month.

A brief mention only of the COVID-19 virus this month and tomorrow, the 12th of May, is the first day of relaxing some distancing rules in Victoria. Grateful to still be ok and for the apparent good management by the powers that be. Can't wait, but still must, to enjoy the trips to town for garage sales, shopping, coffee and cake and just absorbing the atmosphere of pre-pandemic days. Also cuddling and watching grandkids as well as just everyday neighbourly face to face chats will be most enjoyable.

Mike Larkin



Storm damage Kilfeera rd near Brocks rd
Molyullah

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DEADLINE

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or post to: Darcy Hogan, 150 Mt Joy Rd, Tatong,
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The Tatong Tattler is set up in Microsoft
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Text can be submitted in the body of an email; or
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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
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If you require help, contact one of the Tattler
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