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TATONG AND DISTRICT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER.....NO.1

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TATONG AND DISTRICT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD ON 19th NOVEMBER 1990 AT THE TATONG HALL AT 8.00PM, TO DISCUSS WHAT OUR NEXT PROJECT WILL BE. IF YOU YOUR CLUB/GROUP HAVE ANY IDEAS, PLEASE BRING THEM ALONG TO THE MEETING.

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED AND SUPPORTED US THUS FAR BY SPONSERING A TREE IN THE AVENUE, HAVE YOU SEEN IT YET?

WE ARE HOLDING A RAFFLE TO RAISE FUNDS, TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR 20c EACH OR 6 FOR \$1 AT THE TATONG TAVERN OR THE POST OFFICE. 1ST PRIZE, A DRESSED LAMB, 2nd PRIZE A POT PLANT. TO BE DRAWN AS SOON AS ALL TICKETS ARE SOLD.

ADVERTISING SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN OUR NEWSLETTER WHICH WE HOPE TO PUT OUT MONTHLY, COMMUNITY SERVICE ADS WILL BE FREE, ALL OTHERS \$2.00 EACH. COPY TO THE POST OFFICE BY THE END OF EACH MONTH PLEASE.



TATONG TAVERN

THIS SATURDAY AT THE TAVERN.....

COME AND SUPPORT THE PIES...FOR ONLY \$1.00 AND THATS WITH SAUCE TOO!!!

OR THE BOMBERS AS YOU HD INTO YOUR HOT DOG.

.....
'DON'T FORGET TO BOOK EARLY FOR THIS YEARS XMAS PARTIES AND THE NEW YEARS EVE BASH

.....LIVE ENTERTAINMENT.

First Edition of the Tatong Tattler 30 years ago this month.

Thirty years ago, goodness I can hardly remember yesterday!!!

If I remember the Tattler was started to help the people keep on touch and to help the local sports clubs with news. The Tattler was typed up on my home computer and the school very kindly photocopied it for us.

Tatong was a bit different then with most of the people having lived there most of their lives and most of the families were involved in flourishing sporting clubs which are unfortunately all gone. *Maggie Kirk— One of the originals.*

The Tatong Heritage Group in normal times meets every other month, Monday afternoons in the Tatong Hall.

We discuss issues of local history, and work on projects such as:



Name-plates on un-named graves in the Moorngag cemetery, cleaning the Hume & Hovell monument, and sign-posting objects of historical interest.

Our next meeting, the AGM, is scheduled for October Monday 26th, 4pm at the Tatong Hall. We hope to have a real live meeting! All interested persons are very welcome to attend.



Walking with Cattle – a stroll through cattle literature

Hazel Wann

Instalment 1

Ten thousand years ago wild oxen arrived in Britain having made their way from India and North Africa as the Ice Age retreated. These were the Aurochs whose skulls and horns have been found and from which it has been estimated that a bull was around 6 feet (1.89m) at the shoulder and weighed several tonnes. The process of domesticating them started around 5,000 years ago and it cannot have been easy given their size. It is thought that the last Aurochs were shot in Poland in 1657.

In the 1920s there was an attempt to re-breed them by crossing French and Spanish fighting cattle with other breeds. Known as Heck cattle they lived in German zoos. Today there are 2000 in small herds in the UK, France, The Netherlands and Germany, mainly in zoos and nature reserves. They are very hardy and survive well on poor pasture. They are a recognised breed, resembling Aurochs but not having their size, and are very aggressive as you might expect with the fighting bull influence.

Far more interesting, I think, are the Wild Cattle of Chillingham in Northumberland. I visited this estate in 2013 with my sister and brother-in-law, who live in Edinburgh. They were none too excited about seeing some cattle. By the time the herd's manager had finished with us they were rapt. It is thought these cattle were first shut up in 365 acres on the Chillingham Estate in the 1300s and that they had been there long before. They were basically left to it, apart from feeding them in exceptionally hard winters. No culling, no castration and left to their own devices. It was Charles Darwin who persuaded the 6th Earl of Tankerville to take an interest in his herd and record accurate data on these animals, something that has developed into scientific studies, mainly under the auspices of Edinburgh University.

These are truly wild animals, the only wild cattle herd in the world, and on our visit we were not allowed too near them. White with red ears and a black nose, the herd is genetically uniform, having been inbred for centuries. Rather than that weakening the herd, for the weak just die, they are healthy and fertile. The cows have a life expectancy of 17 years and the bulls 13. There are roughly equal numbers of bulls to cows, and the King bull takes on challengers who retire to the edge of the herd when they lose. A fight to the death is very rare. Cows calve away from the herd and on rejoining the calf is inspected by the bull who will kill it if it is not 'right'.

The existence of this herd has been challenged from time to time with terrible winters and diseases. At its peak there were 80 but at one time they were reduced to 5 bulls and 8 cows with no progeny after the winter of 1947. And after the foot and mouth outbreak, which did not enter the herd, the Queen took a small number to her estate in Scotland as insurance. There was great fear that having been shut off from the real world these cattle would be vulnerable to disease. But as the manager told us, they had forgotten that birds, bats, small animals and insects still crossed the boundary. Small but enormously tough and with horns, it was interesting to observe that bulls' horns grew in a different direction to those of females. Bulls' horns are for fighting but fighting horns are dangerous for calves, so cows horns are turned back rather the

forward. These cattle can be seen at:

www.chillinghamwildcattle.com.

Cattle have always been regarded as a measure of wealth across the world. Used as dowry or traded, the treble purpose of meat, milk and hide was a mainstay of tribal success. Little concern was given to breeding for improvement. As civilisation grew and cities demanded more meat, cattle were often driven long distances to market. In Australia we can recall the drove roads from shifting stock to market such as the Long Paddock and others, and more recently used as a food source in times of drought. In Europe most large population centres drew on herds that grazed nearby on suitable land. But droving, according to Philip Walling, in his book *Till the Cows Come Home*, "was a peculiarly British activity, partly due to the topography and climate making it hard to fatten cattle in the north and west of our island...". Cattle were bred mainly in the hills, and as early as the 15th century cattle were driven down from the Scottish islands and the Highlands supplying meat to the more densely populated south. It was a seasonal operation and with the hardship of Scottish winters cattle were often weak and half starving. The summer to autumn journey south saw an improvement of pasture. Travelling at around 12 miles per day cattle were able to put on weight.

Cattle in Scotland had always been raided. Up until droving became part of the organised food chain across the country raiding was a Scottish obsession. In his book, *The Debatable Land*, Graham Robb provides evidence of the behaviour of the Border reivers who are famous for their cattle raiding, particularly in the Liddesdale and Esk river valleys. According to his research of official government records of England and Scotland most reivers took part in only one raid. It was a sort of rite of passage, an adventure of skill and cunning where the cattle and goods taken were noted down and on a day of truce the goods were returned or remuneration made. Reiving became violent and terrifying only after the English authorities manipulated the border clans against one another to serve their political purpose.

In A.R.B. Haldane's book, *The Drove Roads of Scotland*, the author describes the amazing network of drove roads crossing the land that enabled cattle to be brought down to the London meat market. Cattle were brought over the waves from the Isles of Skye and Mull, driven across moors and through mountain passes. A drover took the farmers' cattle on trust, knew the tracks, where the water was, the feed, the resting places. From the Highlands they came down to the trysts (markets) of Falkirk, Crieff and others. The cattle were sold on to cross the border and down to the Midlands and East Anglia for fattening. Handed over still with the drovers, still in trust for money was short in Scotland and payment methods were promissory notes and bills of exchange, passed from hand to hand.

Drovers were hardened and tough men. Many of them rarely lived in houses. They were skilled in negotiating treacherous terrain and weather, controlling the animals and maximising their wellbeing by not driving the cattle too hard and finding a nightly stance for safe rest. Their food was oats and oatcakes, onions, cheese and whisky. The black pudding has its origins in oatmeal mixed with blood drawn from young cattle.



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Escape in Progress

Since there are so many things that we are not allowed to do, thanks to the probably-new corona virus, should we take the opportunity to do more thinking, since there are no roses yet to stop and sample with our noses. Although the roses have been producing new shoots since they were pruned in June.

We could empathise with Col Curmudgeon reminiscing about the freedom he had in his youth to explore his neighbourhood, and remember the very different world of the days when we were young. There has been time to be thankful for the winter rain which turned the paddocks green, producing fatter animals, flushing the creeks and filling the dams. So there is less to worry about on that score, although there is talk about there being more fuel for the approaching fire season, which is a worry. The rain also helped the wattle trees to produce more foliage, so that the blossom was well framed among the gold, unlike a couple of years ago when a dry winter provoked the trees to produce less leaf and more blossom which almost covered them, and all within about a ten-day period for a spectacular display of glory.

Our rosemary is bigger and bluer than ever, the crocuses, if that's what they are, have prettified the lawn (a pity it has to be mown) and the fruit tree blossom is being variegated by the new green shoots.

And the weeds, which usually get a dose of Roundup in September are already huge. And it is September, so look out weeds!

The frogs are back in the lake and there are some ducks cruising the water, but no cormorants so far. Our ant nests, those bare patches covered with gravel from underground, have been plundered by our itinerant echidna, and maybe more than one of them since each nest has many craters resembling a miniature battlefield. And the ant tracks across the lawn, the result of the traffic of thousands of tiny feet, stand out as little canyons in the green.

Breakfast-time and tea-time are not dark anymore but lit palely as the day comes and goes and the equinox flashes past. The dawn chorus has maybe a lone magpie or thrush welcoming the new day, as though Rachel Carson's forecast of a Silent Spring, which reached the city a long time ago, has recently overcome the countryside. There is more birdsong later in the day instead of at the early hour heralding the time to rise for breakfast and get to work.

The lounge-room fire is still welcome most mornings and evenings, although keeping up the supply of firewood has become a bit tedious, despite the satisfaction of wreaking havoc with a chainsaw.

S'funny: I seem to be saying just about what I said last time, but life goes on and there are many little consolations despite the prohibition on visiting

friends, and other aspects of socialising. And having to wear those funny bits of facial covering, which I thought were only for use in the workshop. Another odd thing is that while there is more time for catching up with the chores around the place, there seems to be more of them than usual.

And with that thought comes the realisation that there will always be chores, each season with its changes and challenges; and the pleasures of each one offering an escape from the one before, while bringing its own circumscription by its nature, and by time and chance.

And that may have been the viewpoint of someone who wrote, nearly two thousand years ago, 'Whatsoever things are lovely, think on these things.'

Vin Masters



Congratulations to John Knapper He submitted the winning entry in our last month's competition for a caption for the above photo. It was "Cough Please". (that may need explanation to those who have not had this examination done) John has won a holiday for two on a luxury cruise ship of his choice which is moored off the coast of the Philippines with many others. (Subject to approval to leave the country)

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.

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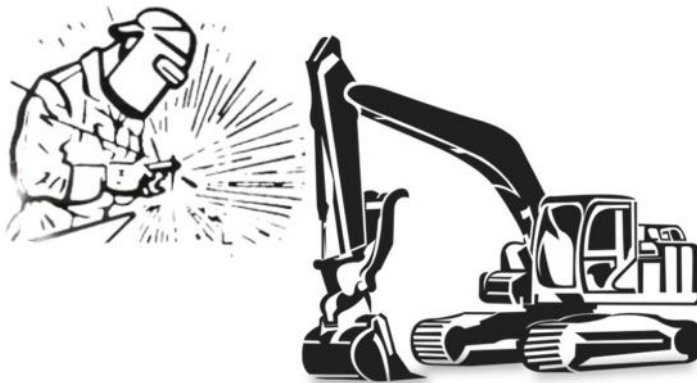
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Having been involved with food and wine all my life (my father was a wholesale grocer) one of the joys of life for me was cooking for others, to share and enjoy around a table.

Being suddenly thrust on my own and with virus lockdowns and lockouts I found food shopping and cooking for one quite difficult and joyless.

I have never been a fan of fast food, frozen meals or so called convenience food, finding them too salty, full of additives or preservatives.

Earlier in the year I found I was wasting food, throwing out limp vegetables and if nothing else creating a good compost bin, which was wasteful and expensive. So I tried to be like French housewives who shop daily and cook their purchases that night. This has meant going to butchers, bakers and veggie shops where I can pick up one zucchini, one eggplant etc and not rely on heavily plastic wrapped trays of vegetables that would probably end up in the compost bin at the end of the week. This took discipline and a lot of willpower. Like anyone I love a bargain and used to always seek out specials and special buys, but they are only good value if they get used !! At first I seemed to cook enough for 3 or 4 meals; that meant eating the same meal four nights in a row or freezing leftovers. That in itself became a problem. Some foods/meals just don't freeze well. This started me thinking of a "cooking for one" cookbook and I'm currently working on this. It also had me thinking of ways to use up small amounts of vegetables.

So I started experimenting with street food and Okonomiyaki – a Japanese savoury pancake, like a frittata has become my go to "clear out the fridge" dinner. Traditionally it's made with eggs, flour, shredded cabbage and a variety of other vegetables and added protein if you are not vegetarian. It's by no means the traditional recipe but it does serve as a very quick and easy way to use a variety of vegetables.

I haven't standardised the recipe because it really depends on what you have on hand and it can be spiced up, added to or dumbed down to ones liking. The basic quantities are for one but can easily be doubled using a larger pan. I use a 25cm non stick pan.

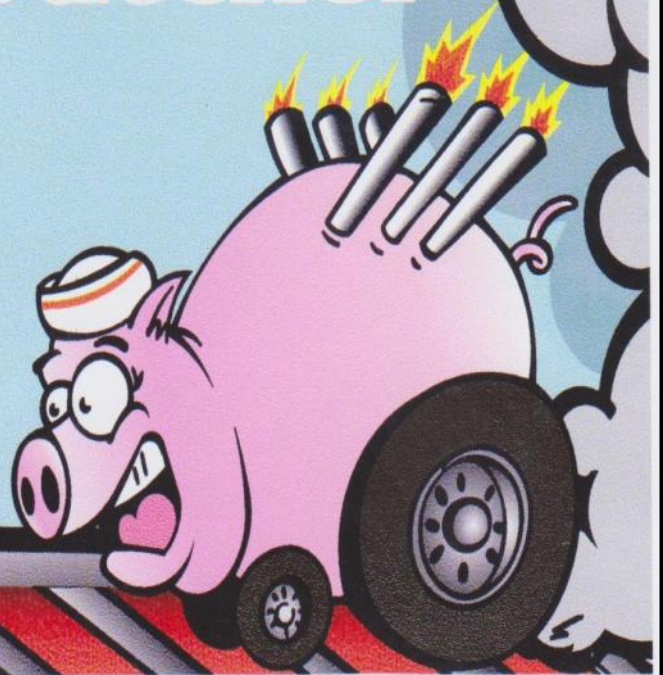
The basic ingredients are 3 eggs, whisked, half a cup of self raising flour or besan flour (chickpea flour) if you are gluten free. 3 tablespoons of light soy sauce, 1 teaspoon of chilli black bean sauce, some chopped garlic and shallots (spring onions). Mix well in a bowl. To this I add some grated cauliflower, some sliced mushrooms, chopped brocolini, grated carrot, fine chopped celery and if I have some, about 2 cups of fine sliced cabbage. Really you can use any vegetables it's just about having enough egg/flour mix to coat them. Don't worry if it looks a tad wet, it will firm up on cooking. Heat a frypan with a little vegetable oil mixed with a teaspoon of sesame oil. Pour in the egg/vegetable mixture and cook on a low to medium heat to set the bottom, this will take about 5 minutes. Slide the omelette onto a plate and tip it back, upside down into the frypan to cook the other side. Slide onto a serving plate and squiggle some Kewpie mayonnaise over the top. Trust me the addition of the mayonnaise is delicious.



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Notice of Application for an Exploration Licence (EL007374)

Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 – Section 15(5)

Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) (Mineral Industries) Regulations 2019 – Regulation 22(1) and Schedule 1

1. Name and address of applicant(s):

Ironbark Mining Pty Ltd
PO Box 98, Mt Clear, VIC. 3350

2. Contact details of applicant for map and other information requests:

Telephone Number: (03) 5327 2555 - Jason Fothergill

Email: jfothergill@cgt.net.au

3. Applicant's website

Further information about this application is available at the following website:

www.ballaratgoldmine.com.au/exploration

4. Details of the application:

Application Number: EL007374

Locality of the land to which the application relates: Tatong, Myrree, Whitfield, 32km Southeast of Benalla, 37km North of Mansfield

Approximate area of application (Graticular Sections): 500 Grats / 48,975.8 hectares

Date of the application: 30 June 2020

Outline of the proposed program of work:

Office based research and modelling, assessment of environment and communities, reconnaissance mapping, geo-chemical sampling, exploration drilling to identify economic gold mineralisation.

Term applied for: 5 years.

5. Objections:

Any person may object to a licence being granted by:

(a) putting the objection in writing; and

(b) including the grounds on which it is made.

Objections must be lodged within 21 days after the latest date on which the application was advertised and can be lodged online or posted to:

The Minister for Resources,

c/- Manager Licensing, Earth Resources Regulation,

GPO Box 2392,

MELBOURNE VIC 3001.

It is recommended that objections are lodged online to ensure timely consideration: [https://rram.force.com/](https://rram.force.com/ObjectionSubmission)

[ObjectionSubmission](#)

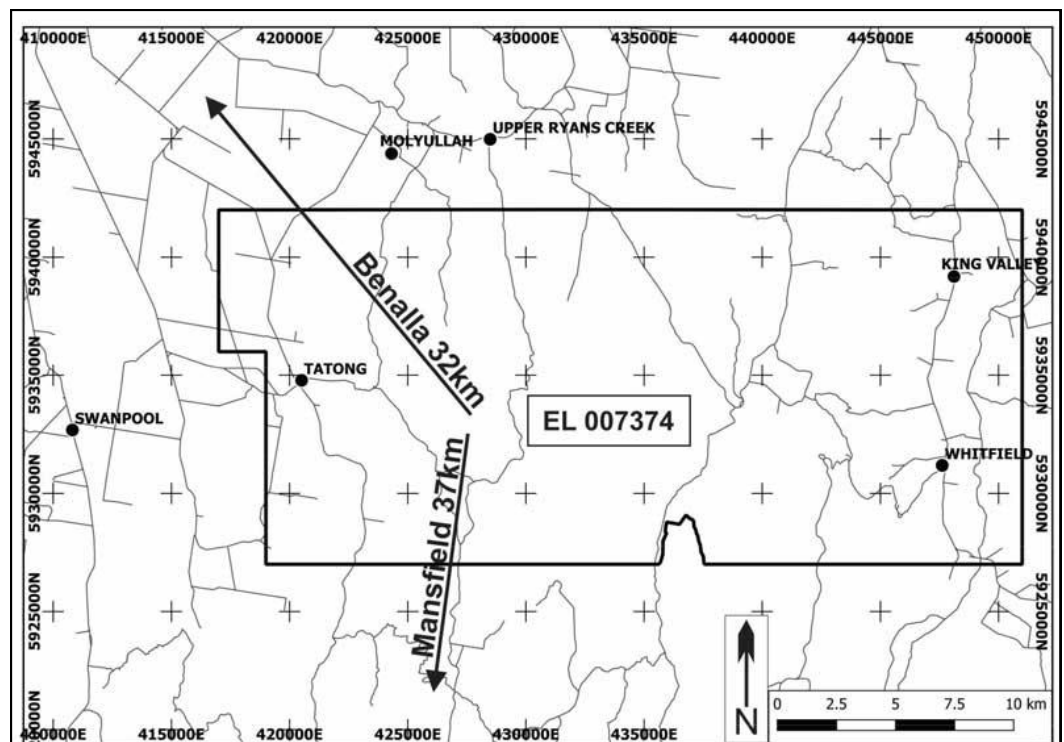
Enquiries can be made by writing to the Manager Licensing at the above address or by phoning the Earth Resources Information Centre on 1300 366 356.

6. Other Statutory Requirements:

(a) Subject to other requirements being satisfied, an exploration licence, if granted, entitles the holder of the licence to explore and search for minerals in the relevant land, but does not entitle the holder to undertake mining.

(b) Further information regarding the requirements that must be complied with prior to work being undertaken is available on the department's Community & Land Use page.

*This application has generated considerable interest within the Tattler readership area.
Ed.*



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SICK GRANDSON UPDATE

Grandson Mani is doing ok, relative to his situation of many rounds of chemotherapy and bone surgery on his legs. He has about 10 rounds to go and he will know the real meaning of what it is to have his freedom and health taken away for the duration of this onerous treatment. He had one recent brief fever encounter which was stopped quickly as well as occasional bouts of 'down days' but overall his outlook is good and admirable. He stays at his grandma Lynda's home in Mt Waverly when allowed out of hospital between chemo rounds at the RCH and this 'normalises' his situation somewhat but visitors must still be limited due to his vulnerability to infections. He has been able to move around on the floor like a baby doing a kind of bum shuffle. We got a video mid-September from Lynda showing him with physios learning to use to walker similar to those for the aged. His left leg holds his weight ok now after having some donor bone taken for the right leg but the right leg is still plastered and cannot take his weight. It was emotional stuff for me to see this skinny, bald young boy struggling to hop around,

which for him is a good sign of his determination to get back to normal.

Fortunately these days the digital media allows easy contact and so not being able to visit is not so difficult. Messages of support and prayers from people have been much appreciated.

Mike Larkin

TATONG CFA MURAL PROJECT

We are, as of Thursday the 17th of September, able to start flicking paint onto the road side wall of Tatong's fire shed, opposite the Tavern. By the time this Tattler is delivered there should be signs of a cream undercoat and grid lines to plot the various outlines of figures, landscape and fire trucks.

We will be one of the first brigade sheds to have a mural and while there is understandable hesitation among some within the CFA hierarchy, they are sure to be convinced once the scene is completed as it is largely a tribute to the ordinary folk who put in so much to prevent and extinguish the bushfires which are a part of country living.

This is a community project and any local can contribute in some way. If you are not able to apply paint, move trestles wash up brushes and rollers etc you could contribute financially. Because a lot of paint has been donated and my artist contribution as a CFA member is donated, there is not a large cost involved. Donations should be made to Tatong's brigade and any monies leftover will be used for ongoing brigade needs. By being involved you can have pride in your town/district as we 'cash in' on the silo art craze happening in the cropping country north of Benalla. Enquiries Mike Larkin 0428273613

Donations to Bendigo Bank to the name of - *Tatong Rural Fire Brigade*

Internet banking: BSB 633000, Account No 110773504. You can donate anonymously or register your name with the bank deposit, also, please state what the donation is for eg. *Fire shed mural*.

Or, donations can be made in person at the bank using the above details.

Church Ladies With Typewriters They're back ! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for the church ladies with typewriters.

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

'It would go away without the vaccine. With time it goes away. And you'll develop like a herd mentality. It's going to be herd developed, and that's going to happen. That will all happen.

Donald Trump

Short Story: Inside the Magic Gully

When he had picked all the daisies, and eaten three of them, Daniel jumped up and ran on. His momentary tiredness was gone. Round a tree, up over a rock, and next thing he was sliding down into a rocky gully, laughing with glee as he sped up, fell over and began to roll. Then he landed hard on a thistle, and the laughter stopped abruptly. He gazed at his blood-stained hands, embedded with prickles, took a deep breath, and wailed.

The sound echoed around the little gully, and a little distance away something moved. It was a strange, fluid movement. His attention caught, Daniel stopped mid-roar, elevated his backside, got to his feet, and trotted towards it. Gleaming in the sun, the creature watched him. Its body was beautifully coiled on the smooth red rocks, its scales shone, and little beady eyes were fixed on Daniel. He stopped just short of it, studying it. Not a dog, not a cat. Last time he had looked to play with one of these, he had been smacked. Forgetting his bruises, splinters and bleeding hands, he squatted down to puzzle his new situation.

A moment later a new noise impinged on the gully. A distant buzz; growing closer; growing louder. Eventually even his coiled companion heard it, and lifted its head higher, extending now as high as Daniel's. They both watched as a new beastie floated into view, a body with four arms sticking out, each suspended on a blurred rotor. Daniel sat down abruptly, sticking a finger in his mouth. He looked at the aircraft with trepidation. He had seen it before, and realisation was dawning on him that running away from home was a pastime not rejoiced in by the grown-ups. Meanwhile, his scaly friend moved its head back, its neck widening. The drone went up a little then did a sort of a jig. It tilted sideways, went to the back of gully, and hid behind a rock. Daniel laughed, scrambled up, and went towards where it had gone. The snake braced, ready to strike, but he was running away from it. The snake relaxed a little and watched intently as the child peered around the rock. The drone was hovering there; when Daniel found it, it lifted away, doing a jig again. Daniel laughed and clapped. Rapid footsteps sounded, running up the rough country to the mouth of the gully. A dusty, panting woman appeared over the edge. After a quick glance to take in the scene, she jumped onto the sloping rock and skidded down. The snake, now quite annoyed at the intrusions on its morning sun-bathe, gave one furious wave of its head then vanished under a rock ledge like oil pouring away. The woman strode over to Daniel. Daniel lifted up his arms towards her, in placid acceptance of being retrieved. She hugged him to her, wiped her damp eyes, and pulled her radio from a holster on her belt. "I've got him, mum, thanks." The drone gave a wiggle of acknowledgement, and went up, up and away. Daniel's mother looked to where the snake had vanished, shook her head, and carried her child up out of the gully.

- Andrea Stevenson

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Lost and Found

Lost: Purebred Pegasus.

I was exercising my Pegasus last month along Tiger Hill Road when a brief intense storm blew over Tatong. Unfortunately she got spooked and flew away. Her name is Sabra, but she responds to "Dave". She's pure white with silver hair on her wingtips. She was last seen flying over the footy ground. If you see her, all you need to do is call out "Dave! Go home!", and she'll return to her lair at the back of my shed. My apologies to those who have been finding manure on their cars, but it does make excellent fertiliser. Those living under her flight path may discover glitter coming from their taps next time it rains - you're welcome. Thanks, Ben Weatherhead

Found.

One black riding crop on Mitchell Rd.
Contact Laura if it is yours on
0427192719.



Tatong Heritage Group Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held on

***Monday October 26th 2020
at 4.00pm***

Tatong Memorial Hall

“Election of Office Bearer’s”

A warm welcome extended to all
interested persons.

Contact: Secretary - 0357666286

Happy 50th Birthday to the
Tatong Memorial Hall



Public Notice

Sadly the Committee of the TATONG COMMUNITY GREAT BIG GARAGE SALE announce that due to Covid 19 restrictions, the garage sale will be cancelled this year. Keep stockpiling all those goodies for a HUGE sale next year.
Sallie Hann Secretary TCGBGS



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Garden Daze

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



Planting tomatoes is one of the pleasures of life and an indication that the weather is getting warm.

Tomatoes would have to be the most popular vegetable grown in home gardens. Their ability to grow in a range of areas and conditions with a great choice of varieties (and the wonderful flavour of "home grown") all add to their popularity.

When selecting seedlings, choose short sturdy plants as they will grow better than longer "lanky" ones. Before planting, look at the root system - if the roots have completely occupied the pot that's good because it stimulates flower development and once the plant starts to flower - it will continue.



Don't add fertiliser to the planting hole because tomato plants have an extremely low need for most fertilisers, especially nitrogen. Too much and there will be masses of foliage at the expense of fruit. A pinch of sulphate of potash will make the leaves lovely and firm and disease resistant. But above all, potash induces early flowering, and if more is added as they are growing, it will improve the flavour.

When planting, give them room to spread - planting tomatoes closely, won't produce more fruit.



Early in the season a cold wind at night can blow the little plants around and check their growth. Plastic tree guards make excellent protection - with the plastic pulled tight it makes a little greenhouse with the top open and this protects the plant and keeps it warm.

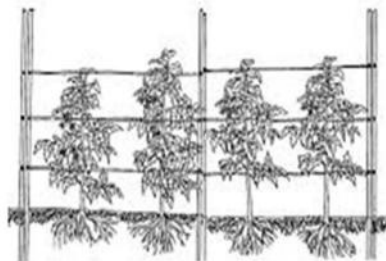
Tomatoes also like warm soil. Early in the season mulch on the soil, will make the soil cold - try using ordinary horticultural plastic, cut it and put it around the plants - this will warm the soil and gives the plants a good start. Remove when the weather hots up.

Seems there are as many ways to support growing tomatoes as there are varieties:

Here is an alternative idea to the *pinch out the laterals and have a single stem* from Peter Cundall.

Don't use one stake, use several. Try putting in three stakes and add more as the plant grows. Drive them in firmly and when the tomato plant starts to send out side shoots, tie these to a stake so that each stake has its own shoot and branch. If you have five branches, then have five stakes. Just tie them on as they grow to finish with the most amazing crop of magnificent tomatoes which are lovely and firm.

Another system is to weave the plants between a frame of posts and string. Once the frame has been made: No further tying is required.



AND . . .

Available at Garden Suppliers - a bit expensive, but last for years. Advantage is that the plants grow up inside the frame and require very little further attention.



Some suggestions of tomatoes that grow well:

'Money Maker' - which grows to about 1.5 metres and is covered, almost to the ground, with great trusses of beautiful tomatoes.

Cherry tomatoes such as 'Sweet Bite', which grows well, crops magnificently and is extraordinarily disease resistant.

Tomatoes perfect for pots are 'Patio Prize' or 'First Prize'.

A very popular variety with home gardeners in this area is Grosse Lisse with its "Big Red" (literal translation of its French name) fruit.

Wapsipinicon Peach - Creamy-yellow fruit is covered by a fine fuzzy skin, which is reputed to deter fruit fly. Available from Eden Seeds. www.edenseeds.com.au

Propagating Parsley



Parsley seed can be difficult to strike properly as it is very small.

A good trick to success is to use a large pot filled with potting mix. Top this with a surface layer of seed raising mixture.

Make a groove in the mix, all around the pot, then sprinkle the seed in quite thickly and cover with more seed raising mix

Water in with water that's just come off the boil and is still very hot - a thermos comes in handy here - the seeds will be very hot for a brief time then cool down almost straight away.



This hot water treatment should produce germination in around three weeks and in two months the pot should have a good thick crop of parsley.



Happy Gardening

Kathy Z

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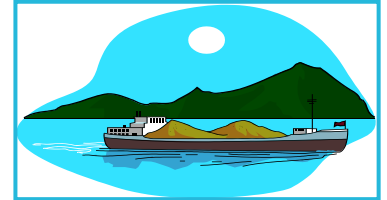
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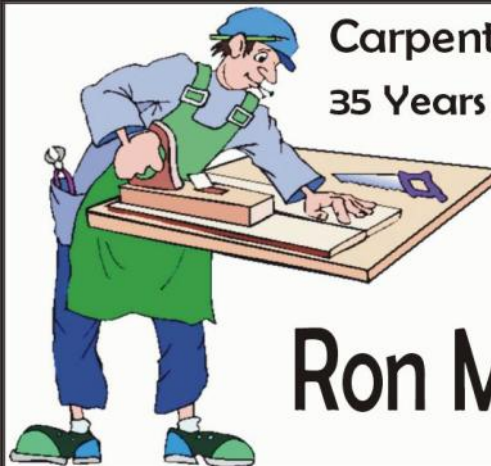


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CoViD-19 caused reminiscences.

Janette and I are very fortunate to have had some really nice holidays over the last few years. Our plan was to try to holiday every second year. Based on this, when we returned last year, we occasionally thought about our next one, always encouraged by promotional emails from APT.

As CoViD-19 hit, we started to think that next year's holiday might have to be put off till a little later. As we went into the first wave and isolation and the full potential of this virus began to dawn, rather reluctantly, we accepted that we will probably not have holidays, as we have known them, again.

We keep a blog of each holiday which people can follow while we travel. Once home, we have it made into a book. Even just a quick scan through a book brings that holiday back to life. Photos in particular are very evocative.

Of course, one takes so many photos, most don't make the blog and the book. These 'extra' photos also conjure up great memories.

For instance, a picture of a smaller version of the Statue of Liberty with the Eiffel Tower in the background, takes me straight back to a cruise on the River Seine.



A photo of the shop window dedicated to carnivorous plants takes me to Lyon, still one of my favourite places. There is a picture of the Roman Arena in Arles. In the arena were schoolchildren and several teachers. The teachers were dressed as gladiators or centurions. The children were sharing shields, swords and spears. I vividly remember thinking "what a marvellous way to learn history!"

The Barcelona Cathedral has a plaza around the outside of the building that has been rented to retailers. It seems that at some time in the past, this was a way for the cash strapped church to balance the budget.

In Austria, I took a picture of a wind-farm from our coach. No big deal you say? I remember the pride of our guide when he said "there are fifteen hundred wind turbines in this wind-farm." I thought then, and I think now, this is the scale on which we need to think also.

We are now focussing on holidaying in Australia when we finally get through all this, as I'm sure we will.
John Knapper



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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	53	77	43.5	66.8					635.1

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

For August we had a total of 66.8mm of rain and up until the 15th of September 10.7mm has fallen. What else can you say about spring but that it is usually sublime, inspiring, energizing and great to be alive! (Yes, according to the apparent scare campaign when the pandemic began, I was likely to be dead by now. Was it proper or not to show people dying in the streets?)

The COVID 19 restrictions have provided us with an almost unhealthy level of self-indulgent free time where disturbance and demands have been minimised. For those who love a simple and homely life, with even one person for company, it's like a heaven on earth. I/we have caught up with about 20 years of unfinished jobs plus some new and exciting creative efforts with our garden and other art interests. Admittedly we don't have schoolkids at home or earning a living to concern us.

Mike Larkin

What's Happening at Molly Rose?

Okay, so another month has passed and very little has been achieved on the Molly Rose front as I've managed to tear a hamstring chasing a goose, and also discovered that what I thought was a sore shoulder was actually compressed vertebrae in my lower neck squeezing the disc and pressing on my nerves causing constant pins and needles and numbness down my left arm. Hamstring needs rest and so does my neck so the doctor has put me in a neck brace for the next few weeks. As a result, a lot of things are on hold.

We are back to rotating the sheep and poultry around Molly Rose. The kids do a great job with me supervising. The sheep have been having some foot trouble due to the wet, so we're going to get a foot bath happening and run them all through that in the next couple of days. And it seems as though our pasture may be a little low in Vitamin A as the only lamb went from running and jumping to hobbling around on his toes. It looked like contracted tendons, which can be caused by a lack of vitamin A. The suggested treatment is oral administration of cod liver oil. He hasn't been too happy about that, but after four 20ml doses in the space of two weeks he is walking properly again. Now to make sure the sheep are getting access to a free choice mineral lick.

We have a variety of eggs in the incubator (barnevelder, araucana & muscovy), with a broody duck and two broody geese also sitting on eggs. I've discovered that I'd really benefit from having a second incubator as I've now got cream legbar eggs that can go in and no broody hens.

The egg stamp has been designed and sent off, now we are just waiting for the completed product to arrive. Tonight we pen for breeding the Welsh Harlequins, Andalusians and English Cuckoo Marans.

Despite the hamstring and the disc compression I've managed to plant seeds in punnets, had the kids broad-

forking garden beds and areas of ground that need regenerating and helping me build up the garden beds. With most of the chooks no longer roaming free, the garden is looking better, but the few naughty ones (and I let the permanent pens free range at different times) are still getting into the garden and digging things up, so I'm going to have to start netting things to stop them scratching stuff up.

Write you again next month!

Carla

White Gate



Dates

White Gate Dinner @ The Tatong Tavern: so, When shall we lot meet again, inside, outside, or on Zoom? - When the hurlyburly's done, when the battle's lost and won, when the Covid figures's down.

Where the place? Up in the bush? There to meet with ourselves! I come, friends, before Paddock calls for ploughing, anonymously. Fair is chicken and fish is nice too. Safe in sun and country air. (*Apologies to Will Shakespeare. Then again, what misogyny!*)

The Tavern is striving to keep up with the ever-changing rules. Daylight Saving begins on October 4th. A picnic could be planned at short notice, on the advent of Appropriate Weather...

White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Leigh Humphries	27 Sep	Andrew Marriott	25 Oct
Bill Ferguson	4 Oct	Terry Trounson	1 Nov
Norton Grimwade	11 Oct	Les MacLean	8 Nov
Terry Ryan	18 Oct	James Parton	15 Nov

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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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If your layout is important, submitting your work in
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If you require help, contact one of the Tattler
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