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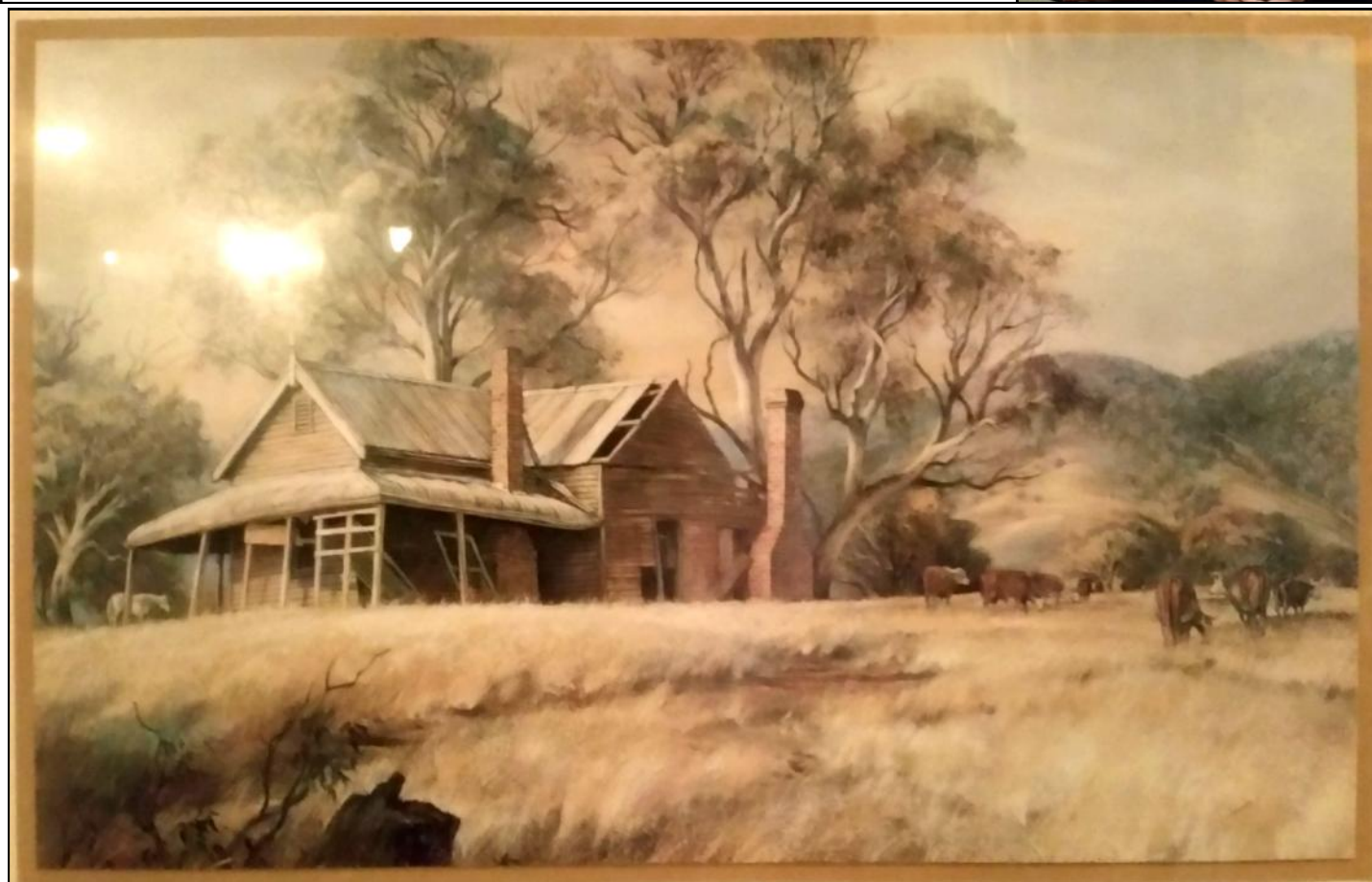
www.tatongtattler.com.au

Edition 337

MERRY CHRISTMAS 2020 FROM THE TATTLER TEAM



A visitor to the Tatong Tavern gave publican Pedro this picture titled "Dilapidated house-Tatong". Do you remember this house? Community feedback would be greatly appreciated to either the Tatong Heritage Group or the Tavern!



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Partial Escape

Perhaps more of a reprieve than an escape. However, once again we have been challenged by Mother Nature through one of her more malicious events, and despite the fraught circumstances in most other countries, we have come through to re-establish some sort of epidemiologically fragile equilibrium.

It would seem to be wise to accept that an equilibrium is the current state of medical affairs. A look at history shows that we have lived with infectious diseases for millennia, and we have learned to cope with their continuous and intermittent threats to our way of life by our very biological nature, by the intervention of medical science and by a modicum of common sense and social responsibility. With 2020 vision and some hindsight all those three aspects of the battle against Covid19 will be needed, and are actually in play, as individual immunity develops, vaccines are in preparation and social hygiene has been established throughout our communities.

Even although the virus has been banished, it is lurking, along with the raft of other microbes, in our midst. The argument that masks, hand sanitisation and 'social dis-

tancing' are no longer necessary is attractive, and may be sound in principle, but wearing masks when in crowded places should remind us that we are always under the hidden threat of further inconvenience, if not another disaster, medical and economic.

Among all the negative aspects of this pandemic a consequential benefit of the new social regime has been mentioned, and that is the effect of continued use of those methods for controlling the corona virus will also control other viruses, and bacteria, with the probable result of fewer coughs, colds and less flu as the seasons come and go. Less disease and better health, should give us more strength to cope with life's other problems.

As the threat recedes it is time for celebration, but the relief has been tempered by the necessity to catch up with the things that were foregone or neglected during lockdown. One could imagine that the easing of restrictions was prefaced by the burgeoning spring as everything green grew gleefully while we were under those restrictions.

More grass meant more mowing. Bigger shrubs meant more pruning. Wet ground and occasional strong winds brought down an occasional tree, which meant more chain-sawing; and more firewood for a winter ahead. And an extra bonfire of the leftovers. Actually our third bonfire this year.

The corona virus pandemic has changed our way of living and we have adapted accordingly, if rather reluctantly.

The changed circumstances diverted our attention to other activities, perhaps new experiences and a re-assessment of how we went about things before the lockdown. While there was a vague awareness that in some respects we were getting behind in our normal way of life, there must be some value in remembering the revised perspective which the pandemic imposed upon that 'normal way of life. Country communities have always been socially supportive of their members, and the events of this year have put a strain on that cohesiveness and the benefits of it. There must be some worth in regaining the pre-pandemic sense of community, while maintaining the new focus on the medical aspects of living which have brought us through another battle in the war against disease.

Surely the experience has given us a clearer appreciation that life is so precious. Plus the realisation that our freedoms, particularly the liberty to travel, both near home and overseas, is a privilege, even if we have to work for the funds to do so. On the other hand, by being obliged by restrictions to focus on our near environment we have come to recognise the enjoyment of things on a less grand scale, things which we have largely taken for granted. Should we not be grateful that we have been called upon to stop and smell the roses?

However, as usual challenges lie ahead. A wet winter boosted the greenery, particularly the weeds, but at this time a month before Xmas, dryness is a reminder that there is work to be done, so that our apparent victory over a microbe is not negated by the scourge of summer.

Thankfully the dams are full, giving us the means to fight another battle as the need arises.

Vin Masters

Wilfred Arthur Baird 1889 – 1954 – BENALLA'S FOURTH FAMOUS SON

Benalla has three famous sons. Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop, Captain Hector Waller and Michael Savage, a former Prime Minister of New Zealand. However, there is a fourth famous son, Wilfred Arthur Baird.

Arthur, as he preferred to be known, was born in Benalla on 6th November 1889. His parents were William Alexander and Mary Beard who owned 'Woodlands', the 710 acre property near the Benalla Cemetery. William was involved in a number of business activities in Benalla for over 35 years, including farming, mining, the butter factory and a butcher shop where Bouwmeester's Bakery is today.

Arthur attended school in Benalla until 1905 when he went to Melbourne to complete his secondary education. In 1909 Arthur completed his studies and gained an apprenticeship with W. Anderson & Sons in Richmond. He qualified as a fitter & turner in 1915. At this time he joined the Australian Flying Corps at Point Cook as an instrument fitter and air mechanic.

Arthur enlisted in the AIF in February 1916 and served his country with distinction during the First World War. He solved many problems associated with British built aircraft operating in the extreme conditions of the Middle East, for both the Australian and British forces. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his contribution. Arthur attained the rank of Flight Sergeant, and spent 40 months in the service.

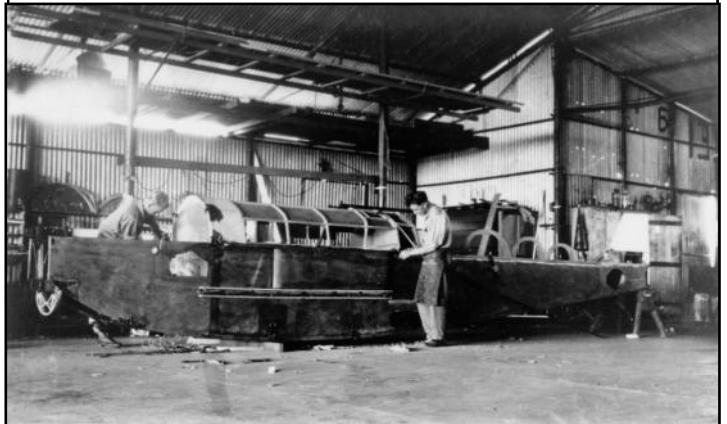
Arthur's father died in 1918 whilst he was still on active service in the Middle East. On returning to Melbourne in 1919, it is believed that Arthur may have been going through his late father's papers and discovered that he had actually been christened with the surname spelling of 'Baird', not Beard that he used. Arthur reverted to the original surname spelling of Baird, around this time. The birth of Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Service was announced on 16th November 1920. The key stake holders were Fergus McMaster a pastoralist and visionary, and Wilmot Hudson Fysh and Paul McGinness, who were both WW1 pilots. Arthur Baird was the Flight Sergeant for both Fysh and McGinness during the war. In January 1921 Arthur moved from Melbourne to Longreach, paid £50 of his own money, and became a shareholder. He, along with Fysh and McGinness were the first three employees, of the Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Service Ltd. Arthur was not only an engineer, but also an accomplished pilot for many of the early years. He is credited with having flown some thousands of hours on the mail flights for the fledgling company. As QANTAS Chief Engineer, and later Engineering Manager, he provided the support structure for the airline's operations for many years, and supervised the construction and operation of airport maintenance facilities in Longreach, Brisbane, Sydney, Singapore, Darwin, and by necessity, Perth during WWII.

He set a standard of engineering excellence that is still followed today.

In 1921 he assisted Longreach physician, Dr. Archibald Michod with patient transfer equipment and aircraft modifications to transport patients, to and from

Longreach for medical treatment. In 1928, he modified aircraft to serve the Australian Inland Mission Aerial Medical Service, for Rev. John. Flynn. In the first year, the AIMAMS service made 50 flights and treated 225 people. In 1942 the Flying Doctor Service took over the role, with the 'Royal' being added in 1955. Arthur was the pilot on some of the early Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade flights from Brisbane, and continued to do so into the 1930's.

He supervised the construction of the first eight commercial aircraft for QANTAS in Longreach from 1926 to 1929, and assembled aircraft at other QANTAS facilities up until 1936.



A de Havilland DH50 aircraft under construction in the Qantas hanger at Longreach circa. 1926-29.

Image courtesy of the State Library of Queensland.

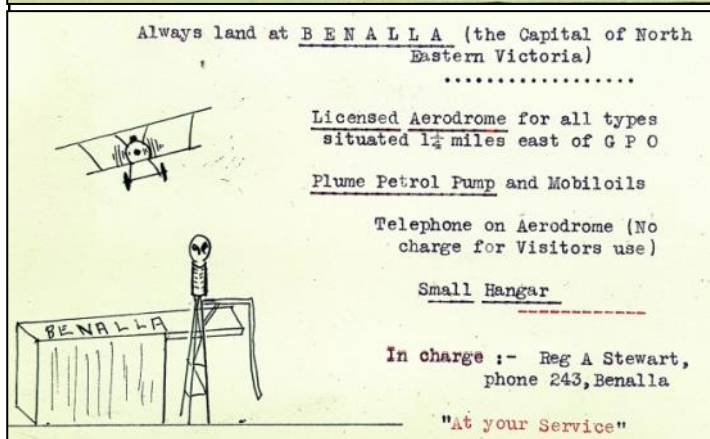
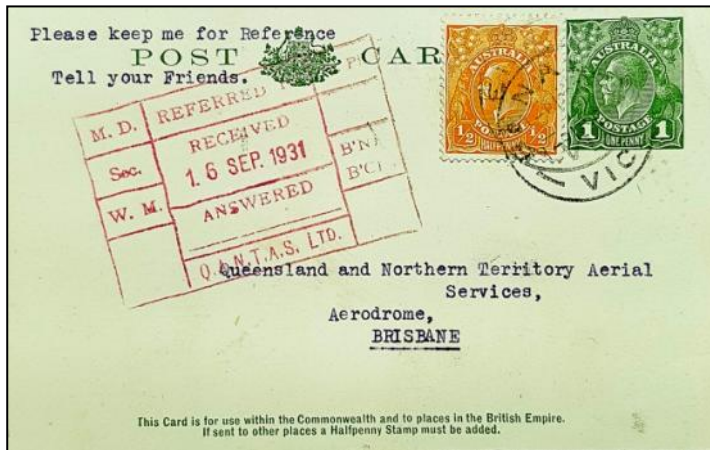
Following the fall of Singapore and the bombing of Darwin in February 1942, Arthur and his staff, modified five Catalina aircraft to fly non-stop over vast distances during WW II, thus ensuring that a vital mail link between Australia and England remained open. These planes set world records for flight duration, with the flights taking up to 32 hours non-stop. A record which still stands today. The flights were limited to three passengers, due to the huge fuel load and the weight of the mail. The passengers who did make the flight were given a certificate of the 'Secret Order Of The Double Sunrise', as the sun rose twice during the flight. Aviation History Australia credits Arthur with training over 400 apprentices during his 28 years with QANTAS. The airline's maintenance staff now numbers in excess of 3,300.

Arthur retired in June 1949, but continued as an adviser to the Rose Bay flying boat facility until his sudden death at his home in Darling Point on 7th May 1954.

Arthur Baird's philosophy "NEAR ENOUGH IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH".

Qantas were approached in September 2019 to participate in a memorial for Arthur, as part of the Centenary celebrations in 2020, however they declined to do so. The memorial project is now awaiting suitable grant funding and is with Benalla Rural City as a 'shovel ready project'.

Barry O'Connor,
July 2020.



Sir Wilmot Hudson Fysh was born on 7 January 1895 at Launceston, Tasmania. At the outbreak of WW1 he enlisted as a trooper in the 3rd Regiment of the 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade. Serving on Gallipoli and in Egypt and Palestine he was commissioned lieutenant in 1916 in the brigade's machine-gun squadron before transferring to the Australian Flying Corps as an observer. He won the Distinguished Flying Cross, and graduated as a scout pilot at Heliopolis on 28 February 1919.

After his return to Australia, Hudson Fysh with Paul McGinness, another ex-service airman, along with Arthur Baird, an engineer, became the first staff members of the Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Service in January 1921. Hudson Fysh being the General Manager and Managing Director. The airline operated out of Longreach until 1930 when Arthur Baird set up a new maintenance operation in Brisbane. Both Wilmot Hudson Fysh and Arthur Baird moved to Brisbane in 1931.

The above postcard was sent from the fuel agent in Benalla to the QANTAS head office in Brisbane and received on 16th September 1931. The original document was located amongst the papers of Sir Wilmot Hudson Fysh, held in the Queensland State Library, on 28th August 2020 by researcher and former QANTAS engineer Colin Lock.

What is interesting is that Sir Wilmot Hudson Fysh kept the postcard. It may have been because of his knowledge that Arthur Baird was born in Benalla?

Arthur Baird is very much underrated by some historians. He provided all of the support infrastructure and supervised the operation of all maintenance for the airline at a number of airfields until his passing in 1954. He was undoubtedly the 'backroom' person that kept the airline operational to a very high standard for many years.

Barry O'Connor

OTHER ONGOING MATTERS

Grandson Amani has recently (early November) had appendicitis on top of his cancer treatment which sounds cruel but the hospital staff were impressed by his stoic acceptance and positive attitude. Maybe after all he's going through he is attuned to his pain and lack of freedom, so what use is it to resist even further treatments. He's already had years of training from a first rate pain management educator, an older brother!

We finally were able to visit him once some restrictions were eased and he was able to leave the RCH between treatments. We all enjoyed seeing each other in the flesh and shared many awkward hugs (he is still stuck in a wheelchair, partly due to complications with wound healing). Admittedly we/he must be careful about infections due to chemo treatments which reduces his immunity, but it also feels that over-caution is just the last straw after so much isolation and deprivation from the extended families love and company over many months.

If anyone wants to send him a message of support address it to: Amani Kadima, c/o 2 Wilga St Mt Waverly, Vic, 3149.

This is his grandma's address where he and his Mum Anita are living, when out of hospital, for the treatment duration.

Tatong fire shed mural. Progress is being made with the help of three brigade members, Bob Mazurak, Terry O'Brien and Tim Butler. It will take at least till mid-December to complete, by my estimation, and it is fortunate that we don't have a deadline because hot weather and other matters could slow the project down. Thanks to various people giving verbal encouragement and praise because even that contributes to the final result.

Tennis competition. Tennis, that is Grade 4 (I think) Benalla and district competition, is happening on the courts at the Tatong Rec Reserve and that is pleasing to see.

Table tennis. The whole of the winter season was lost this year due to the pandemic but all being well next year, we will start up again in May. New or interested members welcome.

Tatong hall. A grant has been obtained to have the new storage shed with veranda erected by tradespeople rather than the men of the committee. This is a relief for the small town committees because the members get older and busier, as you do.

Tatong Tavern. It is good to see cheerful crowds back at the Tavern after the enforced break.

Otherwise, we have mostly survived the pandemic because of, and in spite of, our beloved State leader; the grass is tall and green; the first runaway fire happened mid-November at Lurg; the weather is tolerable to glorious and there are many vehicles rushing in either direction through Tatong with building goods, workers, campers and possibly haggard city folk looking for a slice of rural paradise.

Mike Larkin

TCGBGS AGM 2020

President's report

It was inevitable, when the Benalla Festival was cancelled, that the Garage Sale would have to be cancelled also. I think we waited as long as possible before making the decision.

I thank everyone for their patience and support with this decision.

With the easing of restrictions – travel, crowd numbers etc – and the continued success at keeping covid infection rates low, we should be able to run the Sale in 2021.

The date will be Sunday, 31st October, 2021.

John Knapper



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Do We Know Enough About Fire Instalment 1

A long time ago I lived on the lower North Shore in Sydney. The back of our house faced Fuller's Road as it plunged into the Lane Cove River Valley. On the sloping block there was a lemon scented gum, the crown of which sat right beside the large glass windows of our kitchen. In January 1994 bush fires came down this river valley right into Lane Cove which, if you don't know, is regarded as an inner Sydney suburb. We lived for days in a smoke pall and my sister, who lived at the top of the escarpment where the Pacific Highway runs, in Lindfield, came to live with us because the smoke was so bad. We spent a week-end making sandwiches and feeding firemen.

Then one day the wind changed from northwest to south west and we knew we were in trouble. I had visions of the gum crown exploding into our kitchen as we watched the crown fire exploding up the escarpment towards Chatswood shopping centre. Our car was packed as we had been advised but fortunately for us there was another wind switch and we were safe. That is my only experience of fire and scary though it was it was nothing in comparison to what goes on in the major fires.

So I don't know much about bushfires, or grass-fires. Any knowledge I have has been gained from watching the ABC in January. And I am well aware that many people who read the Tatong Tattler will know a great deal more than me, some of you being experienced fire fighters. But I am sure I am not the only person who doesn't know much about this complex subject, and that for many people the information needed has to be shoved right under their noses. So perhaps what I have written here is at least food for thought.

One of my Level 3 Covid-19 activities was to undertake a course on bushfires. This course was devised by the University of Newcastle and made accessible on-line through FutureLearn, an organisation that offers free 3 to 6 week courses on all manner of subjects. The courses are written and designed by some of the most prestigious universities in Europe, the UK and Australia. You have a choice of just reading the material or reading and engaging with the other students. This course was 3 weeks long.

It became apparent through the course that many people had not done enough to prepare their property for bushfire, or were not fully aware of proper

bushfire preparation techniques. This resulted in insufficient bushfire survival plans, inappropriate choices for sheltering – like the bathroom (often no window for escape), evacuating at the last minute, and if staying – inappropriate defence tools like plastic hoses. These problems, the university says, serve only to exacerbate the impact of fire.

The absence of preparedness has been confirmed again in Craig Reucassel's show Big Weather shown in October on the ABC. In episode 1 he visited families in an outer suburb of Brisbane surrounded by bush. No one really had a fire plan. And in this show, we learn that not only people do not have fire plans but that the nature of the fires in 2019-2020 were such, that traditional methods of fighting them didn't work including water bombing. Temperature + wind were the major drivers. So it is madness not to be prepared.

In week 1 of the course we gained an understanding of the essential components required for a fire to burn, that is fuel, heat and oxygen and that denying one of these puts the fire out. Pretty obvious but then there are the other contributing factors: Source of ignition, wind speed, temperature, humidity and slope of landscape.

Sources and mechanisms of bushfire attack which often result in the loss of life and damage to property and infrastructure are:

- Ember attack
- Direct flame contact
- Heat attack
- Wind and smoke attack
- Leaving too late

Wind speed is really important as it increases the amount of oxygen required for bushfires to spread and can spread fire in 3 different ways. Not only can wind cause an ember attack but wind passing over a fire is heated and moving in front of the fire will heat combustible fuel. This is why fire moves faster uphill. On a 20 degree slope fire spreads 4 times faster than a fire on flat land, for example 100kph on flat land becomes 400kph on the 20 degree slope.

Sufficient heat can allow a fire system to develop its own weather system - pyro-cumulus clouds, with the likelihood of lightning

Hazel Wann

Continued next edition.

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



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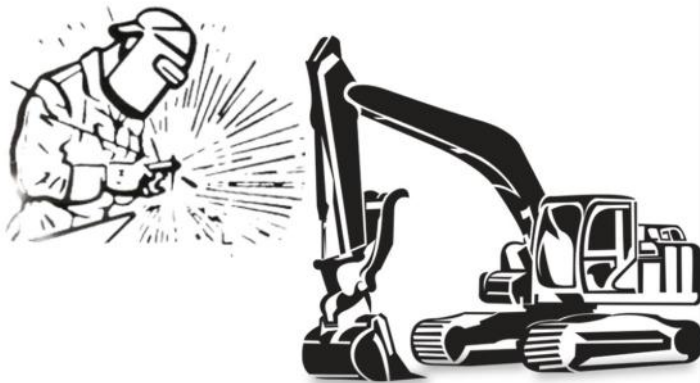
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What's Happening at Molly Rose?

Too much stuff and not enough time! And we have just entered my least favourite season.

We're still hatching babies with some successes and some failures - only 2 out of 8 English Cuckoo Marans hatched, most of the eggs were infertile. So we'll try again (maybe) but with a different rooster. Of the Cream Legbars most were boys and we have the last lot of Cream Legbar eggs in the 'bator due to hatch in about a week. Hopefully there will be more girls this time.

The last of the Welsh Harlequin duck eggs are hatching this week, most seem to be fertile, but ducks are difficult in the 'bator and I have yet to have great success. Still waiting to see if the two broody Muscovy ducks have success. If not I've got a few eggs set aside to put in the 'bator. Currently in the breeding pens are our Andalusians and Frizzles and I've got some eggs ready to pop in soon.

Earlier this year we lost a Smoke and Duckles One two of our Muscovy ducks to something. There was a big feral cat hanging around back then. Recently we lost Tuffet & Polly, an Araucana and an Olive Egg layer. Polly was taken by a fox outside our bedroom window at 3am and died in my arms. I'm guessing the same happened to Tuffet, but all we found were feathers.

Wonky and the ducklings are doing well. I've been cleaning out the Rabbit Box (the pen the rabbits used to be in) which was a breeding pen until recently and will now become the Growing Out pen for all the little chickies, duckies and Wonky, and free up my laundry again! Well, parts of it anyway. The younger ones will stay inside until they are at least 6 weeks before they get moved out.

Eggs have been down and we finally discovered the reason was ravens. With the geese back in the main pen the ravens have been less frequent visitors. Unfortunately egg breakages caused by the ravens has taught a few of our girls the joys of eating eggs. I know who one culprit is. I'm still trying to work out if there are any others. Before processing I will attempt to retrain by using a roll-away nest box and leaving hard fake eggs around. We also need to make alterations to the roll-away mechanism on the Funky Fowl Wagons so chickens can't reach their heads into the egg collection point and peck at the eggs.

The goslings are big enough to go to new homes now. So if anyone wants some geese, let me know. The flock close to the house is relatively tame and most of the gozzies will eat out of my hands, although they scream like banshees if you try and pick them up. The up-the-back flock are less tame. Although at 6-7 weeks old they are still young enough to tame, they also make good flock guards and great lawnmowers. Aside from Wonky, any gozzies that don't sell will become table birds.

So six sheep and their lambs are not enough to easily keep the grass down during spring, but ten sheep are too many during summer. Hopefully we'll find a balance in the near future! I need to be up early to move them again tomorrow. And now I'd best go or there won't be any updates of what's happening at Molly Rose until 2021!

Here's hoping 2021 will be less of disaster than 2020. Have a safe and wonderful Christmas / Solstice & New Year and we'll write you again next year!

Carla

Benalla Standard, Friday 23 November 1923, page 6
WHITE GATE BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

The annual meeting of the White Gate bush fire brigade was held at the old creamery. The president (Mr. W. T. Kemp) was in the chair, and there were also present Messrs. P. Connolly, G. Chivers, J. B. Ginnivan, J. Gray, T. W. Knight, N. M. Millan, W. Newman, sen., J. Newtman, and the secretary (Mr. J. W. Wallace).

The president's report and balance-sheet were adopted. The balance-sheet showed a small credit balance.

The election of officers resulted as follows: — President, Mr. Kemp; captain, Mr. Knight; vice-captain, Mr. Kemp; lieutenants, Messrs. Wallace, J. Newman, Bunworth, and G. Chivers; scouts, Messrs. Connolly, Archibald, A. G. Webster, and W. J. Ginnivan; collectors, Messrs. Kemp, Jas. Newman, G. Chivers, N. M. Millan, and Wallace; auditor, Mr. M. Millan; secretary, Mr. J. W. Wallace. After discussion, it was decided to fix the member's subscription at 2/6. Authority was given to purchase a new delivery hose, also wire cutters and trace chains.

The president mentioned the action of Mr. Patterson on the occasion of the fire at the house of Mr. Bunworth, and the secretary was instructed to send Mr. Patterson a letter of thanks for his valuable assistance on that occasion. At the time of the fire the fire cart stationed at Mr. Kemp's was in action five minutes from the alarm being given, and prevented what might have been a big fire.

Benalla Standard, Tuesday 26 November 1929, page 5
WHITE GATE.

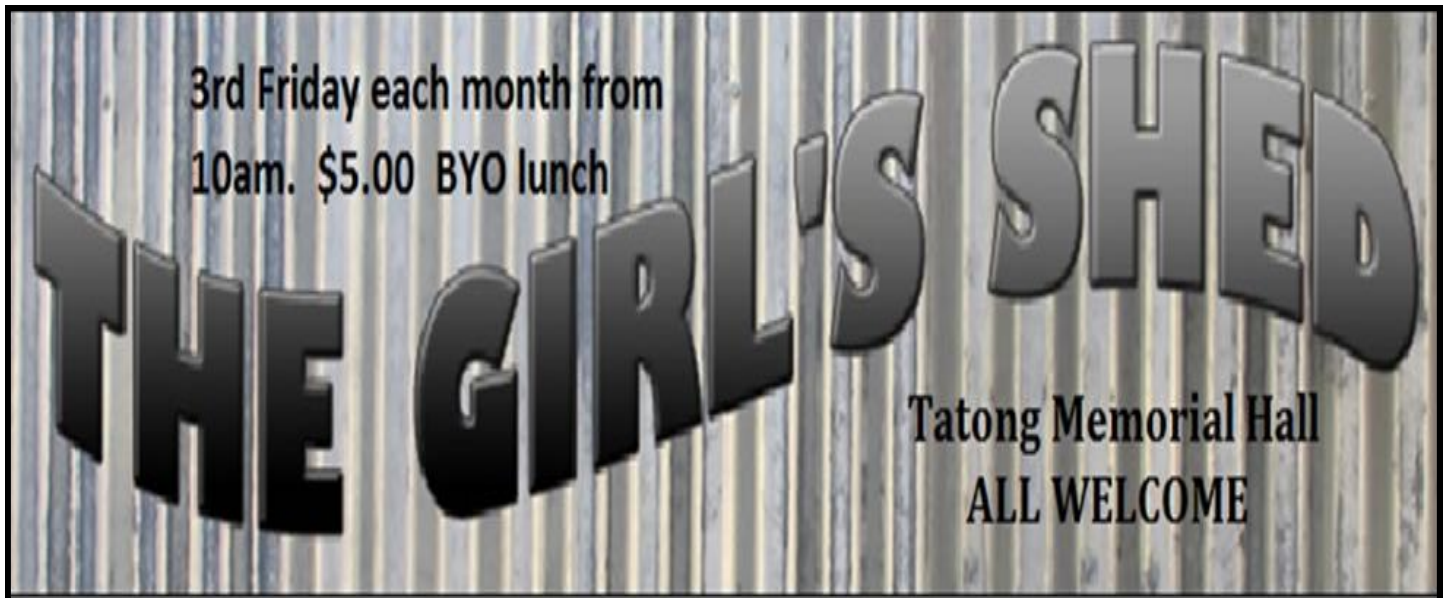
Drying grass and warmer days are reminders that the fire-danger period is close at hand. The White Gate Bush Fire Brigade will make preparations for the coming season at its annual meeting, which will be held at the Emu Bridge school next Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

The Molyullah fish'n'chip nights have re-commenced.

It is held the second Friday each month and runs from 5.30pm which will be on 11th December at the Molyullah Hall



Recent Whitegate dinner at the Tavern



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SOUTH

VALE BRENDAN KENNEDY

Brendan lived in Echo Hills the farmlet beside the river about two kms from the Tatong township along the Tatong-Benalla road. He died recently not long after moving to Euroa.

He lived in Tatong for many years with his wife Marie, a cheery and very patient person because Brendan was sometimes tempestuous, getting himself banned from the Tavern more than once. Prior to moving away he told me he needed a town with two pubs so that if he got chucked out of one he could go to the other! He had a sense of 'old fashioned' chivalry because one time he bopped someone at the bar for swearing too loudly in front of the women-folk. Then again it may just have been because he was sufficiently 'lubricated' to free his inner Irishman.

Brendan was very 'cluey' and he continued his work which entailed scrutiny and recommendations for huge engineering projects such as the underground tunnels in Melbourne. He liked to tell of his little triumphs over lawyers when his work required him to prove engineering debacles in court. He got a great laugh from watching me try to work out how to get his new stove hotplates to heat. It was because they were the new induction type, which I had never struck before, and they only work with an iron pot sitting on top.

Brendan fulfilled his lifetime wish to build his dream home at Echo Hills even though it was never quite finished or entirely to his satisfaction. Maybe perfection is always just out of reach for the engineering mind. He was a somewhat private but generous person who took a keen interest in politics and the state of society. Apart from losing Marie to dementia, who died a few years before him, he also suffered the loss a son to brain cancer.

AND SPEAKING OF ECHO HILLS. It is a good opportunity, albeit belatedly, to welcome to Tatong Sophie Baker who now lives in Echo Hills, Brendan's former home. Mike Larkin

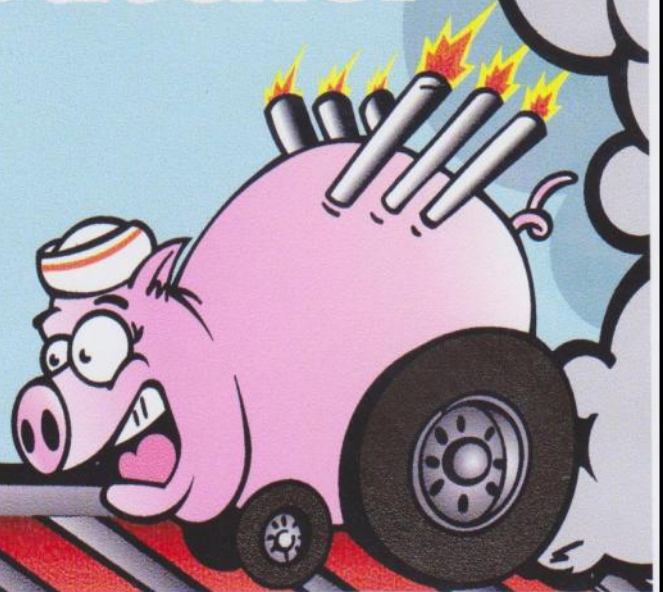
Santa is coming to the Tatong Tavern 6pm 18th December. Bring your kids for a good night. There will be a lucky dip and prizes. Please ring so we know numbers. Thank you everyone for supporting us for the last 6 months during Covid. Keep it up so we can stay open for you.

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Garden Daze

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



My How the Grass (and everything else) has Grown this Season.

Hot summer weather can make watering hanging baskets or pot plants that have dried out difficult as the water can run off and not soak into the soil.

Placing ice cubes onto the soil of the container will make a slow-release watering system as the ice slowly melts.

This works especially well for Birdnest Ferns and Stag-horns which can be difficult when it comes to runoff.



Kinks in the hose while watering is a frustrating experience. How the hose is rolled up makes a big difference to how it unrolls.

If the hose is put away laid out in the shape of a figure eight with the nozzle at the top end - the next time you use it, the hose will pull out without any kinks.



Bird Baths - If you wish to attract birds to your garden - provide water for them.

Birds need to bathe to keep their feathers in good condition, and a birdbath is the easiest and cheapest way to provide water for them in your garden.

Ensure the birdbath you choose has a stable base and is no more than 50mm deep. Add stones to the bath so the birds can perch to drink and that small birds do not drown.

Position the birdbath out of the reach of cats, and in dappled shade so the water stays cool. Choose a spot close to shrubs and trees to give protective cover and perches for visiting birds.



Change the water regularly, as algae, leaves and bird droppings will contaminate it. A small dish wash brush is handy to give the bath a scrub before adding fresh water. This will also take care of any mosquito larva.

Hot weather means hot and thirsty birds - the birds will come to rely on your birdbath so keep an eye on the birdbath in extreme heat and top up when it gets down. This can be a couple of times a day in mid summer.

Weed Tea

Making weed tea is a great way of using the nutrients from plants that you either don't want in your garden or do not want to put in your compost.

Weeds with deep roots such as comfrey, dandelion & nettle are great for weed tea as they leach minerals from the topsoil but you can use many others.

To make weed tea place your weeds in a bucket & cover them with water (you may need to weigh the weeds down). Add some brown sugar or molasses to the weeds & water to start the process off by providing the microbes easy access. Use a stick to stir the mixture several times a day for 10 days.



In between stirring cover the bucket loosely so that air can enter. After the 10 days your tea should be used straight away otherwise it can become smelly & the microbes die.

To use your tea strain it through some shade cloth or fine material (make sure you wear gloves). The solid material can be put in your compost where it will safely break down further.

Apply to your garden either early morning or after dusk as the sun and heat can kill the living organisms.

The best time to use weed tea is early Spring through to the end of Autumn which will enable the organisms to work in the soil over Winter.

When using the tea - take care to ensure that you don't apply the tea directly to vegetable leaves that will be eaten.



Wishing you a very Merry Christmas

and A Safe

2021



Kathy Z

White Gate Dates



White Gate Dinner @ The Tatong Tavern, being the final one for this very strange year, will take place on Wednesday December 2nd. Unless we've gone back into Lock Down. No no no, may that NOT happen.

Also, no fires, no grass-seeds going anywhere they oughtn't, and no snakes biting anything apart from their own legitimate dinner.

Best wishes for the Festive Season to all; may general Happiness & Peace preside. And may 2021 be a really nice year, where neither viruses nor world leaders mis-behave. Cheers!

White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Hamish McMillan	6 Dec	Matthew Defazio	3 Jan
Laurie Defazio	13 Dec	Ross Runnalls	10 Jan
Alan Stafford	20 Dec	David Elford	17 Jan
Bill Sykes	27 Dec	Leigh Humphries	24 Jan

- Andrea Stevenson, 0429 439 336

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Article by Sue O'Brien

Just wanted to share with you one of the really interesting things we have done during what has been a very trying & difficult time for some.

On the 5th of August we received the following note through our Family Messenger. 'So starting this Saturday our house is going to choose a different country and cook that cuisine. We thought we would pick the country out of the hat Thursday night and make the meal on Saturday. It's not a competition, your household can decide how many courses, if you want to add a drink or even a movie to match the theme. Feel free to join in with us if you would like, you can do it every week or just sporadically. We can share what we chose to make with pictures on here. I will post the first country tonight. We are going to put lots of countries into the hat so we will really be surprised. If you want a particular country added just let me know.'

I just want to let you know that there are some amazing cooks in my family but I am not one of them, my food is very basic but I thought I would give it a go. It has been so much fun and I have really enjoyed the challenge. Drawing a country was changed from the Thursday before the cook to the day after to give everyone time to think about what they might make & have time to purchase the necessary ingredient, mind you as soon as we find out what country we are cooking from I Google easy meals from that particular country. The following are the countries and the meals we cooked.

Mexico - Picadillo.

Germany - German goulash with speckbohnenn & bread dumplings followed by German apple cake.

China - Honey chicken with garlic & ginger bok choy followed by toffee & sesame bananas.

Morocco - Moroccan vegetable & chickpea tagine followed by Moroccan Orange cake.

USA - Hamburger & fries from the Swanpool store, yes we supported the locals & then I made Pancakes & maple syrup.

Scandinavia - Laxpudding with a tossed salad, followed by No bake Chokladbollar.

Italy - Lasagne stack I made the tortillas as well, followed by tiramisu.

Malaysia - We were away that weekend.

Japan - Chicken teriyaki followed by Japanese banana rice pudding.

UK - Banger & mash with onion gravy followed by scones, strawberry jam & cream.

Greece - Greek style beef skillet followed by dark chocolate Greek yoghurt cheesecake.

India - Enjoyed a meal at the Tandoori Hut in Benalla, great to be able to support a local business.

France - Our take on a French meal, not a pastry in sight. We had a crustless vegetable quiche & a variation on an apple turnover.

Vietnam - Vietnam chicken stir fry.

I'm sure that some of you will have other things you've been doing during this lock down that you might be able to share with everyone. Maybe it's been sorting out photos, a garden project, a book you might have read, some sort of exercise. Why not share it, if I can write something I'm sure your able to as well.

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LANDMARK



Australia Day Award nominations

The 2021 Benalla Rural City Australia Day Awards will include a COVID-19 Most Helpful Citizen of the Year category, recognising the contribution of local residents during the 2020 pandemic.

Nominations are now open for the 2021 awards, with other categories being Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Group of the Year.

Nominations for the district achiever categories are also open.

Benalla Rural City Council Chief Executive Officer Dom Testoni said the Australia Day Awards are something positive to look forward to after what's been a challenging year.

"I encourage everyone to consider the people and groups they know who have significantly contributed to improving and enriching the lives of others in our community," said Mr Testoni.

"The way we present the Awards in January next year may be a little different, depending on the restrictions. Having said that, recognising people who have made a contribution is just as important as ever and we look forward doing that in a safe and meaningful way."

The awards will be announced on Australia Day, being Tuesday 26 January 2021.

There are two ways to nominate a person or community group:

online: <https://www.benalla.vic.gov.au/Your-Council/News-Media-Publications/News-Announcements/Australia-Day-Awards-2021-nominations-open>

pick up a hard copy of the nomination form/guidelines from the Customer Service Centre (Mon-Fri 10am-2pm).

Nominations close on Wednesday 2 December 2020.

THANK YOU to all those that have been supporting our Facebook/online Friday night raffles during these crazy times. A special thanks must go to Paul from Rettkes Carrier Street Meats, Rick & Di from Fruits n' Fare, Caryn at the Early Bird and Mandy and Trav from Blooms on Bridge for their support. Please stay tuned to our social media pages for changes and plans for the 2021 Good Friday Appeal as we are continually guided by government guidelines.

Is there something wrong here?



Multiple choice

select one of the following

- a. The meat shrunk
- b. The contents settled
- c. Someone stole half my meat
- d. Coles ran out of small trays
- e. Other

John Knapper

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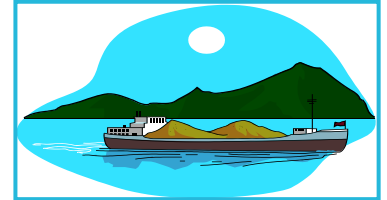
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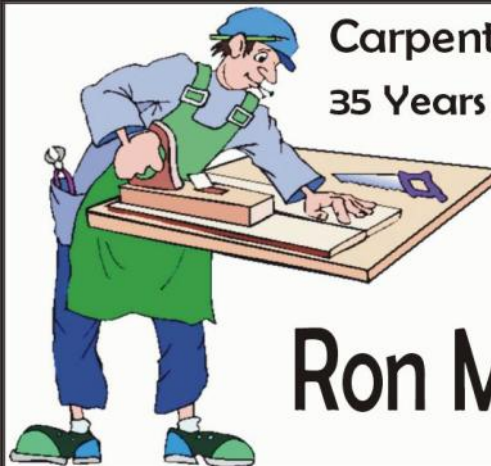


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Correspondence festival

Grignan is a village in Provence, France. Like so many historic places, there is a hill with a castle at the top. It is a very old, very picturesque village which is well known for its roses. There are 400 rose bushes, representing 150 rose varieties, in the village.

In 1669, Francoise Marguerite de Sevigne married Count de Grignan and moved to Provence with him.



Her mother, the Marquise de Sevigne, missed her so much that she wrote letters to her. Her letters told of current news and events in the fashionable social circles of Paris. They describe prominent persons and comment on contemporary topics.



The letters also provide details of her life from day to day – her household, her acquaintances, her visits and her taste in reading. She wrote 1,700 letters. They are witty and absorbing and provide a glimpse into French society at that time.

If you can remember 1996, you will know that it was an era when communication was changing rapidly. Microsoft had launched Windows 96 late in 1995. Smart phones were being introduced. Email and SMS were becoming routine.

So, in 1996, how would Grignan celebrate the 300th anniversary of Mme de Sevigne's death?

The Grignan Letters Festival was started. It celebrates an unusual literary genre – letter writing. It has been held annually ever since except for this year because of covid-19.

In a square in the village is a statue of Mme de Sevigne. She is depicted holding a quill which is the 'pen' she would have used to write all those letters.

I must admit, in this day and age, it is really nice to receive a card or letter by 'snail mail' that someone has taken the trouble to write by hand.



John Knapper.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
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	49.4	132			816.5

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

A practically perfect month of rain was recorded for October with regular falls, not so big as to cause the predicted floods, and totalling 132mm. The rainfall till the 15th of November was only 4.5mm.

So far this spring I only remember one warm spell at night which disturbed my sleep. This seems to be a part of aging because when younger the hot nights did not bother me so much. The solution is to install a small split system air conditioner and set it on low/cold an hour or two before bed then leave it on till a trip to the toilet confirms that the atmosphere outside of the bedroom is cool enough to turn it off. Otherwise, in heatwave conditions leave the cooling on till get-up time.

A split system where the compressor unit is installed outside of the room is best for night time use because it is so quiet. If you think that an air conditioner in the bedroom is an extravagance then consider the benefit gained from a good night's sleep especially when an aging body's energy supply runs out in seemingly no time. What else should an older person spend spare money upon than basic, daily life enhancing needs?

Mike Larkin

A Homonymous Tail

Sallie Hann October

It was a beautiful day. The sun shone brightly in a clear blue sky. Petunia looked over the fought walls to the green valley below. The path wound its way through fields towards the would.

She wasn't supposed to go out on her own but today the outside world looked so enticing that she skipped down the stairs, ran across the drawbridge which spanned the mote and out into the grate outdoors.

Happily picking flowers Petunia was unaware of the danger she was in as she wondered further into the would. There was a bluebell, there a daffodil and there a wild rose.

She stopped for a moment and glanced around, sniffing the sweet air. Then in the distance, **the tall figure emerged from the shadows**. She could see it was a hare, it had furry ears, a mane of dark hair and pause with long sharp looking claws. Her heart skipped a beat. She wanted to run but it was as if her feet had taken root to the ground. Suddenly the buoy appeared beside her.

"Run", he cried but she just stood there shaking. He took her by her arms, galvanising her into action. She dropped the flowers so lovingly pick and together they ran towards the fought where the soldiers had seen the danger and, unaware that Petunia was outside, were just starting to raze the drawbridge.

"Hurry", cried the buoy and they made it just in time. "How did you know that eye was outside?" asked Petunia of the buoy.

"I've been keeping an eye on you", he replied. "Eye knew that there was a hare in the would and she would be dangerous because she has cubs".

"Thank you so much for coming after me", she said, "eye don't know what eye would have done if you hadn't come. Eye was so scared".

"Well you made me what eye am when you took pity on

the poor towed that eye was and kissed me, how could eye ever forget that", replied the buoy.

"I couldn't forget that", said Petunia. "It was quite a while ago though. You looked so sad sitting on the well wall. You looked at me and gave a pitiful sort of croak and eye felt sorry for you, so eye kissed you".

"Pity it was a few years too early", said the buoy. "We were supposed to fall in love and marry".

"Really", said Petunia. "If eye had been older, I probably wouldn't have kissed you, in fact I would not do it now but back then eye was just a child and very young children think differently".

"Well you did and eye am here to look after you", replied the buoy.

"Well maybe if you stick around we will fall in love", said Petunia. "Let's just give it some time and we could live happily ever after, as is supposed to happen in all good fairytails, right".

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Format for Tattler Submissions

The Tatong Tattler is set up in Microsoft Publisher.

Text can be submitted in the body of an email; or in file formats such as .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .txt.

Photos (as jpgs) can be attached, to be laid out by editor.

If your layout is important, submitting your work in MS Publisher is ideal. (*The Editor may need to adjust your layout.*) If laid out in a **Word** document, the text & photos will need to be copied into Publisher; however the Editor will have an idea of your preferred layout.

The content of a PDF file can be difficult to extract.

If you require help, contact one of the Tattler committee.

DEADLINE

The Tattler Deadline is end of the **20th of the month.**

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or post to: Darcy Hogan,
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