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Edition 346



An article on Mr D H Coghill, in the July edition of the Tatong Tattler, caught the attention of a Melbourne researcher.

"... my family also have a Mr Coghill who was a farmer in the district at Tolmie and had married Grace Sophie Mackay of Mansfield - if any one of your readers may have any

information on Donald J Coghill

as to what has happened to his farm at Tolmie, I spent a lot of time on the farm in the 1950's as a kid which I think was called 'Table Top?? Also Donald John Coghill may have been involved in the shire possibly as president and was also involved with the development of Lake Eildon. If any one can assist that would be appreciated. Best regards, Clive Moore, Melbourne, 0419 367 058"

Tatong's Mr Coghill secured the land for the recreation reserve, with Mr Worrell. Outstandingly, he was Secretary for 50 years.

If you have any information on any of the Coghills of Tatong, or of Tolmie - or indeed any snippets of local history - please contact the Tatong Heritage Group via [tatongheritage@yahoo.com.au](mailto:tatongheritage@yahoo.com.au) - or write a little on the matter for the Tatong Tattler. - Andi Stevenson

Given the appreciation many Tatler Deliverers have for their cloth bags, use of these bags will continue as before. Return your bag to the Tattler area by the Tatong Tavern. Many thanks to all deliverers!

The Tattler Team



#### WHAT'S IN A NAME? By Sue O'Brien

Take for example the name Tatong Girl's Shed. I must admit that for me it conjures up notions of small motors, woodwork, bicycle repairs etc. I know women do these things yet the name Girl's Shed didn't sound like somewhere you'd knit, sew, patchwork etc. If it had had the word Cave instead of Shed I may have thought of

CAVE: C - Craft, Creative, Crochet

A - Artistic, Awesome, Amazing

V - Variety, Vibrant, Valued

E - Exquisite, Enterprising, Enjoying, Encouraging.

Stopping to think about the name made me think that it's really not about the name at all, but it's about the function of the group. It made me think of the Men's shed organization, the following description is taken from an article that I read. 'Men's sheds provide a place where men can safely work at their own pace, in their own time, making friends, sharing experiences and working together'.

They welcome any men wanting to find a friendly place to meet and work together on either community projects or their own projects. Of course the Shed is not just about doing things. Some members require a place to just meet, talk and discuss important things with other men.

In today's environment the opportunity for men to provide support to each other through activities, conversations, individual projects and group work can contribute to physical functioning, wellbeing and wellness for all. Each of these activities is important.'

This is exactly the same as what the Tatong Girl's Shed offers. So if you're free on the third Friday of the month why not join us in the supper room at the Tatong hall anytime between 10am & 3pm, or if you'd like more information contact Pat on 03 57672287 or Gerry on 03 57672238

For you guys there are two Men's Shed groups in Benalla.

Benalla Men's shed at the showground's, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Phone 03 57627516.

Benalla Aviation Museum Inc. and Men's Shed, at the Aerodrome, Sunday and Wednesday 10am to 3pm. Phone 0429 629 415.





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## Community Development Team

The Community Development Team from Benalla Rural City Council want to work together with the Tatong community to develop a rural township plan. The consultations will be an opportunity to voice your thoughts, suggestions and ideas on the priorities and projects you would like to see happen within Tatong. To achieve this Council need to update their community contact lists for each of the rural towns. This is in an effort to engage and hear from as many people as possible during upcoming community consultations.

If you would like to be notified of when the meetings in Tatong will take place, or to stay updated on Council projects and plans in the area, please send your details to [courtney.o'brien@benalla.vic.gov.au](mailto:courtney.o'brien@benalla.vic.gov.au). Please note the timing of meetings are dependent on easing covid restrictions and dates will be organised and communicated accordingly.

### Snake Tails

At the end of August, on a lovely end of winter's day, we had a phone call from our daughter Kate to say that our grandson Dustin, had had an encounter with a 5 foot brown snake. The photos that then came through were very, very disturbing.

Whilst cycling down the path, with his 6 year old twin sister Gemma & Kate nearby, somehow the snake had become entangled in Dustin's bike. The bike was abandoned in terror & screams & Kate couldn't believe her eyes when she saw what had happened. Fortunately everyone, except for the injured snake, walked away unscathed. There's been lots of speculation as to how the incident unfolded, but Dustin was one very lucky little boy!

- Beth Gregory



## Gawn to Town

Computers and farming came together in a slow courtship ritual. Then they got married and had children. In the 1980s, farmers looked at computers with either horror or delight; now a farm is considered at a disadvantage if it can't utilize high-speed internet.

There was the mapping program we bought for the Riverina farm, in the early 90s. It wasn't cheap, and it was complicated to set up, measuring paddocks and entering in their history... if anyone could agree on their history. Was that barley or oats sown on Albert's Hill in 1984? Come the turn of the century, being able to get a digital copy of an aerial map was just, wow! Now we take Google Earth for granted; a friend selling a property South of Tatong some 12 years ago was taken aback by an enquirer in Melbourne saying, "I'm just looking at your place now, how large is that dam behind the house?"

The first computer I met was a TRS-80. It could take two floppy disks! One had the program on it and the other held input data. I learnt the hard way to not to fill up the data disk... which I did using the word processor (astounding!). It also had a database program, on that machine we got all the farm vehicles tallied up. Once we upgraded to an 'IBM Compatible' and the wonderful "dBase" program, every ram got recorded. One year we found 3 rams who had each lost their main tags, and I was quite chuffed to identify them by various distinguishing features, and re-unite them with their previous fleece weights and progeny notes. (The ewes were not recorded individually but by flock, but none of them never complained to me about that.)

Computers touched other aspects of farming. Rice was sown by an ag-plane, and two people had to 'mark' for the pilot. That is, each take a colourful bag, pace out the width of the plane, and then move across the rice layout by the width of the plane each time it passed overhead. Waving the bag madly, then holding it up as an umbrella to avoid a rain of rice grains. Then came the year the pilot said, I don't need markers, I've got GPS. We all peered into the cabin, at the dinky little screen recently fixed to the instrument panel, and said, wow, what next?

When I was driving tractors in the 1980s and 90s, to have a radio was good – air conditioning better – actually, having a cabin was a good start. Now the interior of the modern tractor looks like something out of Dr Who.

That TRS-80 had no hard drive. It's successor, the IBM compatible, did, it was huge, it could hold 20mb! I couldn't

imagine ever filling it up. We transitioned from 5¼" floppy to a smaller hard disks that were still called floppies. I kept the last box as a memento. Technology, once upon a time. What will they think of next? - Andi Stevenson







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### Death from any cause.

There has been much publicity and discussion regarding the misinformation being peddled by, so-called, anti-vaxxers. In particular, my attention was drawn to the claim of the covid vaccines causing many deaths.

I was taken back to my previous occupation in the pharmaceutical industry. Since SARS2-CoViD19 reared its ugly head, many people are now aware of Australia's drug approval process through the TGA (Therapeutic Goods Administration).

The role of the TGA is to control the quality, supply and dosage of therapeutical products in Australia. The approval process relies heavily on clinical trials.

In the case of a medication in a new therapeutic class, the trial might be set up to assess efficacy versus placebo. The placebo effect can be very strong so the medication would need to show a much higher efficacy than the placebo.

When a new medication is entering an established therapeutic class, it might be trialled against the medication considered to be the 'gold standard' in that class.

Besides efficacy, there are many important considerations eg tolerability (adverse events), interactions with other medications, precautions (eg patients with renal or hepatic impairment), contra indications (eg patients with diabetes). Along with indications for use, dosing etc, these are listed on the product information.

Many clinical trials involve thousands of patients and take many years. A common form of trial is referred to as a randomised, double-blind trial. Randomised indicates that the participants are assigned to their arm of the trial randomly. Double-blind means that both participants and the people enrolling and monitoring them are unaware what they are taking. This reduces the chances of bias by anyone involved. Which arm of the trial they are in is only uncovered at the end by the researchers.

A very important role of the participants is recording adverse events. They have to record everything they experience.

Consider this – hundreds, maybe thousands of people are in a trial for many years. Normally in this time these people would experience all sorts of upsets and aches and pains just as we all do. The difference is, as a clinical

trial participant everything has to be recorded.

Whenever a new trial was due for publication, we would speculate on the side-effect profile – headache, nausea, diarrhoea, constipation, flatulence, vomiting, abdominal pain, urinary tract infection, influenza, insomnia, nightmares, back pain, neck pain, rash... One could place bets on these being there.

These ills are all recorded on the product information as possible side effects. Once a medication is approved and being prescribed, the recording of adverse events (AEs) continues. GPs, pharmacists and people associated with the pharmaceutical industry have a responsibility to report any AEs they are told of.

Some trials are 'intention to treat'. This means that even if a participant is enrolled and only takes one dose, they are counted in the results. The reasons for those not finishing the trial are listed. They range from side-effects to death.

'Death from any cause' documents all those not completing the trial due to death. As with adverse events, a number of people would ordinarily die during the years of the trial. They may have died of natural causes, cancer, traffic incident, shot by a jealous lover at age ninety – anything really. It all gets recorded as having happened during the trial.

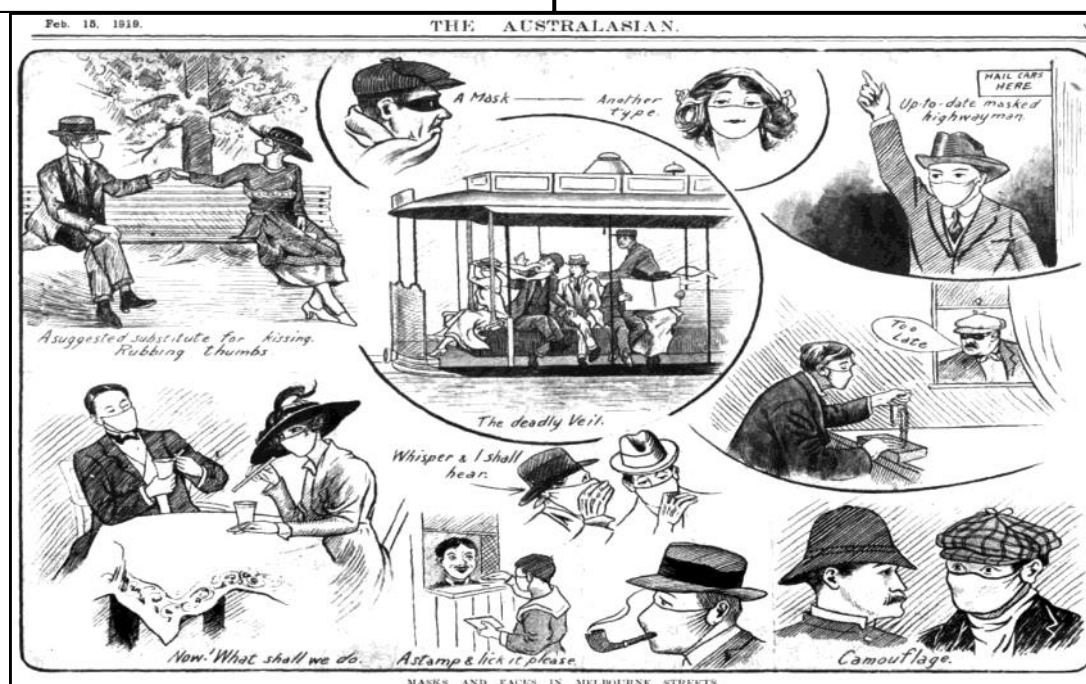
The insert shows part of a chart from a published clinical (cardiovascular medication) trial showing an example of the things investigated.

As would be expected, all AEs associated with covid vaccinations are being recorded. This will build the knowledge base of the vaccines. As a part of this process, all deaths of people occurring after a covid vaccination are recorded, regardless of the cause.

It seems that these are the numbers some are implying are due to the vaccine – not true.

John Knapper.

|  |
|--|
| Major coronary event†                        |
| Cerebrovascular event‡                       |
| Hospitalization for congestive heart failure |
| Peripheral-artery disease§                   |
| Death from any cause                         |
| Any cardiovascular event                     |
| Any coronary event¶                          |



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## GardenDaze

*Fruit Trees in Blossom and driveways lined with Manchurian Pear looking like Bridesmaids all in a Row.*



Well my trusty computer has finally died and while I'm waiting for a replacement John and Janette Knapper have generously let me use theirs (Cuppa and cake included).

I have recently been asked which animal manures are the best to add when planting potatoes. This led me to some research on the net and here are the results.

Sulphate of Potash is beneficial for potato and tomato plants.

Cow: (3-2-1) N-P-K  
Sheep—Llama: (0.4-0.3-0.8)  
Alpaca: (1.7-.69-1.2)  
Chicken: (1.1-1.4-0.6)  
Blood and Bone: (8-1.5-1)  
Dynamic Lifter: (3.6-1.1-1.7)

Alpaca is good to put straight onto the garden as it does not burn the plants.

And has the advantage for those who keep Alpacas of being left in tidy piles out in the paddock.



Guinea Pig (high in nitrogen and phosphorus) is another for putting straight onto the garden—to be useful tho it depends on how many Guineas you have. Also because of their tiny pellets—handy for pot plants.



Nitrogen Lovers can be fed with :

Chook—needs to be aged—good for leafy vegetables—lettuce, cabbage, pak choi, rhubarb, spinach,

Brussels sprouts and silver beet.

Bit less—for Leeks, celery and potatoes.

Do not use manure in the soil for root crops.

Carrots and parsnips need to be grown from seed—they are available in punnets from garden suppliers, but these will go to seed very quickly.

Parsnips use little space in the garden and can be grown with another crop such as lettuce or radish between their rows.

Parsnip seed needs to be fresh. A good idea is to let one go to seed each year and then take the ripe seed and sprinkle onto the ground.

I was given some fresh seed at the beginning of last summer, and then I forgot to plant it. This seed stayed in the shed over a hot summer and I was doubtful if it would sprout. So I sprinkled it lavishly over the bed.

Now I have parsnip seedlings as thick as a lawn and lots of thinning will be required.

Now to see if I can have the same success with carrots. Well success—not a carrot lawn.

A good idea when planting parsnip or carrot seeds is to add radish seeds to the mix. These will come up very quickly and will give an early crop, however remove any radish remaining after five or six weeks.

Beetroot grows in poor soils, even those extremely saline. Tho it is hoped that your veg garden is in a better condition than this.

What to do with some of the crop

### Green Cheese Pie

2-3 onions—chopped

Garlic

Butter

500 g cottage cheese

Silverbeet, chopped

Grated tasty cheese

1 large or 2 small eggs

1/2 cup milk or cream

Pastry (your usual recipe)

Soften chopped onions and garlic in butter.

Mix with cottage cheese and silverbeet or spinach

Add tasty cheese, beaten egg and milk/cream.

Line pie plate with pastry—pack the filling in firmly and cover with more pastry.

Cook 10 mins in hot oven, then reduce to moderate to prevent cheese from becoming "gritty".

Bake further 40 mins—serve warm or cold with salad.

Kathy Z



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## White Gate



## Dates

**White Gate Dinner @ The Tatong Tavern** ought to be on Wednesday October 6th. But in these uncertain times, I suggest you toss two coins, check a crystal ball, then consult your tea-leaves. The September dinner didn't happen until the 15th, and then only 10 of us were able to attend. Deepest apologies to those of you who missed out! It was a wonderful dinner, prepared by Sue. Such a parma! And she brought out samples of crispy fried whiting.

Happy spring, may you have a Goldilocks amount of rain. 5 years ago (to the day that I sit here typing), the "Yogi-metre" in Wangaratta's Rotary park had only its head above water. May we all achieve at least that.

## White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

|                 |        |                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| Leigh Humphries | 26 Sep | Andrew Marriott | 24 Oct |
| Bill Ferguson   | 3 Oct  | Noel Hutchens   | 31 Oct |
| Norton Grimwade | 10 Oct | Terry Trounson  | 7 Nov  |
| Terry Ryan      | 17 Oct | Les MacLean     | 14 Nov |

- Andrea Stevenson, 0429 439 336

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**TATONG DISTRICT ASSOCIATION**  
from Benalla Standard Friday 13 March 1931

The Association matches having finished, a challenge match for a dinner between Toombullup and Tatong was played at Tatong on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>. The weather was ideal, the wicket in good order, and a very pleasant afternoon was spent. The game as played showed the glorious uncertainty of cricket. Toombullup, the winning team in the association, and the challengers put a strong team into the field, and everybody expected them to win easily. At one time the odds were greatly in their favor, but after a topping game Tatong managed to secure a win by 22 runs. At the conclusion of the game the players adjourned to the Tatong Hotel for dinner which proved a very pleasant function indeed, everyone being loud in their praise of the culinary efforts of Mrs Aird and staff. Cr A Harrison presided, and his opening remarks emphasised the sportsmanship shown by the visitors, and congratulated them on winning the pennant in the association matches. Several toasts were enthusiastically honored. Altogether the whole function was delightfully successful, an enjoyable afternoon's sport topped up by an excellent repast. The Tatong Cricket Club staged a dance which was well attended- a fitting wind-up to an excellent afternoon's sport.



## Jump aboard The Train

Our first year on the farm. FENCING

The dictionary's Fencing definition: The act of attack or defence

It goes without saying that fences are an integral part of farming. There seems to be a battle to keep them up and equally a battle to get them up.

So when we started to investigate the details of fencing, I didn't initially think it would be too hard. I mean every farm has them, be that in various conditions, formats and materials, and the fences seem to go on for kilometres. So surely this is one of those farm tasks that can be done quickly.

With a bit of trial and error, a near leg amputation and the use of multiple creative versions of the word duck we commenced and finished our first fence. What I discovered is that there is actually no enjoyment in fencing, none what so ever, zip, zero nil. In fact the very mention of the word starts a frightening outpour of emotions. Best described as a 2 year old not getting the lolly. But unlike a 2 year old I have managed to negotiate.

1. No fencing in temperatures over 30 degrees. Attempting to drive a star picket into soil that is like concrete is just madness.
2. No fencing when it is sleeting. Twitching is hard enough try doing it when your hands are numb.
3. No fencing unless there is quality equipment available. (I'm sure everyone has experienced poor quality wire and star pickets before, it's a waste of time and it is morale killing when you have to start again)
4. NO OCD allowed on site. None what so ever. (This should be rule #1)
5. The crew need to be fed and watered regularly
6. Flat straight ground - no rocks, blackberries, trees, hills...just flat and straight. (Impossible but I keep it on the negotiation list just in case)
7. Only start a section that we can finish or at least make safe in a day. A near decapitation of a cow's head as she ran through the top and bottom wires, was enough of a wake-up call to get the job finished on the day.

Do a section of fencing every second day. This is purely a selfish wish so I am not crewing for days on end and I have something to look forward to for the next day. It never happens, but it's nice to dream.

I will admit that once the fence is finished there is an amazing sense of achievement. A bit like having a baby, the process of delivery is painful but the outcome is awesome. And I have even stopped getting annoyed at our resident wombat who feels compelled to test the fence's durability, by digging multiple entry and exit points.

Unfortunately over time I have come to the grim realisation that not only is there a lot of fencing to do but thanks to mother nature, rogue animals and the occasional oblivious hound hunter, fencing will always be a never ending task. (This was not in the job description, which I regularly point out) So with this in mind I have come up with my own definitions

### The Definition of

- Fencing - torture
- Star picket – inflexible object that is heavy, but can have multiple purposes in life
- Star picket driver – a human powered bone jarring jack hammer
- Star picket remover –gymnastic high bar
- Old Barbed wire – blackberry in disguise and I might add whoever invented such a hideous piece of equipment should be ashamed.
- Wire tensioner –IQ tester
- Gripple – a what? Sounds like nipple. Giggling now
- Twitcher – an instrument used to inflict immeasurable pain to the hands, usually the knuckles
- Insulator- seemingly a harmless object
- Isolator – Thumb bruiser
- Mesh – a millipede on steroids
- Winch – a super hero with unimaginable strength
- Snips – a ninja warrior training device
- Aviary clips- slippery little suckers that need to be coaxed into attaching to the wire
- Summer - hot
- Winter - wet

Stay safe and enjoy the small things in life. Until next time Pedr, Madi and Jenny



# Suck it Up

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



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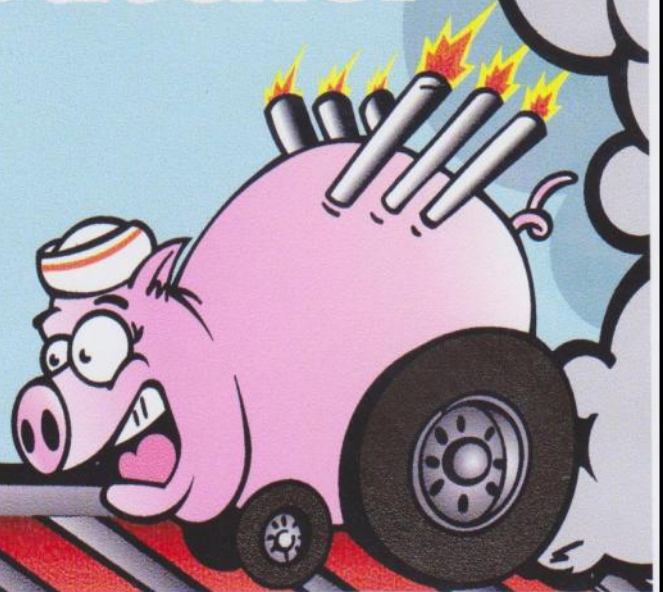
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## What's Happening at Molly Rose?

So this one's gonna be short update. Not a lot has changed since last month, no major injuries or other excitements. Well, if there were, I've forgotten them! Time is flying by way too fast for my liking. We're already near the end of September, dare I say, 3 months to Xmas?! Freak me out!

After some lovely spring weather with the sun shining and warm enough to not light the fire, it is cold again. It hailed this afternoon!!

The woodchips arrived just as lockdown snapped its jaws shut on us again, but at least this lockdown I was able to start moving wheelbarrows of woodchips to the pens that needed it. I'm not finished but I am getting there.

If you want to have yourself some free range/rotational grazing Rainbow Heritage Eggs (*rainbow* because there are blue, green, olive, brown, pale pink, white and terracotta coloured eggs; *heritage* because the majority of our flock consists of heritage breeds) you can find them in at Fruits N Fare or contact me. They sell for \$8 a carton.

The geese and the goslings are laying. Gabriella has gone broody and won't be laying any more, but she won't be hatching anything this year either. Lovin' my goose eggs. Not loving collecting them though – goose bites hurt! Goose eggs sell for \$2 a piece or \$5 for three

Our geese are a cross between the Aussie Settler and the Sebastopol. With the Aussie Settler breed, the females are grey and white and the males are white. With Sebastopols both the male and female are white and they have frizzly feathers. Turns out, that because they are crossbreeds, not all of my white goslings are male! There is at least one, possibly two white female goslings. I do think all the grey and whites are girls, but I'm not entirely certain yet, there most definitely could be a couple of boy grey and whites.

We've a new ram, courtesy of Russell. He's quite the looker, and from a distance looks like a shaggy Shetland pony. As long as he doesn't turn into another ButtHead we'll be fine. I introduced Pudding to the sheep the other day – they were not impressed at all.

I'll write you again next month

Carla





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Ought one write "1920's" or "1920s"? Getting some proof-reading on an item for the Tatong Heritage Group raised this question, so I went looking.

Via Google I found one site stating, "Although decades used to be written using the apostrophe ( the 1920's), currently the correct practice is to omit the apostrophe: the 1920s."

I wanted to check it against a known authority, but more modern than my Fowlers. So checked the references in Wikipedia (which says: "For groups of years, most style guides prefer 1960s to 1960's[63] and 90s or '90s to 90's or '90's.[64][65]")

One of those references, from an authoritative site, said, "For instance, writing "the 1960's" when referring to that entire decade is incorrect; instead, one should write "the 1960s."

It would appear the rules have changed over the years. At least with a Heritage Group, we should be ok with modern or ancient rules.

It is a living language, as Mr Johnson said, when he found some of the words in his Dictionary had changed since he started writing it.

If you have knowledge, or an opinion, on this or any other writing matter, please share it with the Tattler. Either we'll learn something, or we'll have something to think about. - Andrea Stevenson

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|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|--------|
| 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   | 34.1 | 40.7  | 891.3  |
| 2021  | 76.6 | 47.8  | 39.6  | 8.2   | 66.5  | 99.3  | 154.9 | 51.5  |       |       |      |       | 544.4  |

### WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

The total rainfall for August was a reasonable 51.5mm and the total up until the 15<sup>th</sup> of September was a solid 53mm. This September amount was mainly due to heavy rain over the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of September which caused minor flooding in Benalla.

The beloved spring weather is here again with profuse blossoms and leaves everywhere following good winter rains that have soaked well into the soils.

Mike Larkin

### Reply to Flint letter in September Tattler.

Brandon Flint, while I found your letter under 'Cheers and Jeers' in the September edition of the Tattler blunt and unkind I am nevertheless slightly apologetic, but only because the truth can hurt! It would help everyone if you provided factual evidence about why my leaflet contained "junk and misinformation, but, (as I explain below, that provision of evidence is unlikely). The junk mail that you referred to, for those unaware, was a leaflet which I wrote and delivered personally when a similar article to it was previously rejected for publication by the Tattler, and in which I described my outlook about the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am fully aware of the fact that many people will not like what I speak about and that is not something I necessarily enjoy. So why do I bother, knowing that it may be upsetting? I did say last month that I would not write about this subject too often but I think that Brandon's comments should be answered.

There are very good reasons for acting in ways that go against some mainstream beliefs and opinions and those reasons are mostly to do with our spiritual life, that place in which our highest values about other people and the wondrous world of nature resides. Just because a person stands against the mainstream viewpoint does not mean that they are selfish or uncaring. On the contrary it is because they care enough to risk the wrath of the mainstream and speak out for what is a greater good than mere conformity.

A humorous cliché from the movies is about the naive beauty queen contestants whose greatest wish is for world peace. There can be no doubt that every person wants peace, while at the same time knowing that it is always out of reach. The fundamental reason for all war and conflict is because humanity is a victim of its own herd mentality. This herd thinking is at its worst when we are forced, under pain of ostracism or worse, to choose between our natural caring impulses toward others, as well as using rational and factual information - or whatever it is that the herd decides we must do or think.

It is practically a waste of time to look for factual or transparent information in the case of the vaccine because it is far more about mass conformity than critical or enlightened thinking. This potentially destructive herd instinct is no longer so vital to survival because we no longer live in the stone-age where death by violence was probably a constant threat, and where unity within the tribe gave the greatest strength and protection.

I chose to write that letterbox leaflet because of its relevance and importance for every citizen's freedom and lifestyle. Because there has been, in the last 20 or so years, a continuous stream of fear inducing campaigns about things like terrorism, overpopulation, peak oil, environmental extinction and now the plague, the stressed and fearful populations are choosing to be confined within a tightly controlled cocoon of apparent safety. As with world peace, the hope of being safe is just another illusion when there will always be the standard '10,000' different ways of being harmed during a lifetime.

It should be clear from both history and current events that humanities quest for freedom, peace and universal love will long remain a naïve hope or a distant dream.

Mike Larkin



### Hats off to Vic Roads.

Since expressing my concerns regarding the prickly pear growing by the Hume Highway at Glenrowan, I have received an email from Vic Roads. They assured me that the cactus has been poisoned.

John Knapper



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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.**

Submit via e-mail to tatongtattler@yahoo.com.au

or post to: Darcy Hogan,  
 PO Box 2038 Benalla West 3672.

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