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**Tatong Community Christmas BBQ –
Sunday 15th December 5pm**

The Tatong Community Christmas BBQ will once again be held on Sunday 15th of December at the Tatong Community Centre and Recreation Reserve. After a hugely successful event last year, we are hoping this year's event will be no different. This is a wonderful opportunity for new members of the Tatong and district community to come along and meet others who live in the area. It would be great if the longer-term Tatong residents could please make an effort to reach out and personally invite someone who is new to the area, and obviously make sure all of your neighbours are coming along too.

This evening is made extra special by the long-held tradition of Santa arriving behind the Marriot's magnificent Clydesdale horses, this is a truly magical experience that dates back decades to when the Tatong Primary School held an annual Christmas concert at the hall. The experience of seeing Santa arrive behind the Clydesdales creates childhood memories that will be cherished forever.

The evening will commence at 5pm with Santa arriving at 6pm. A delicious barbecue and salad dinner will be provided along with some sweet treats and icy-poles for the kids. Please BYO drinks and a few dollars to donate towards the meal - unfortunately with the crowd we get and cost of food we just can't cover the full amount to put on the night with the grant we receive so any donation is appreciated. For any enquiries or if you would like to help out with the event, please give Larissa a call (0409 963 267).

**We hope to see you all on the 15th
December for a lovely community
evening!!**





THE TATONG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY IS
WARMLY INVITED TO THE

TATONG Christmas BBQ

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER @5PM
TATONG COMMUNITY CENTRE & RECREATION RESERVE

**SANTA WILL BE ARRIVING ON HIS
HORSE DRAWN SLEIGH AT 6PM!!**

BBQ DINNER PROVIDED (DONATION APPRECIATED)
BYO DRINKS

Thank you to the Benalla Rural City Council
for supporting this event

Any queries contact Larissa on 0409 963 267

Remembrance Day Reflection, by Zoe Warne (daughter of Steve)

I had an unexpected experience today I thought I'd share.

I was the classroom helper for my son's Prep class excursion today.

Initially it was to be an exploration of the Shrine of Remembrance gardens, then over to the Botanic Gardens for some educational sessions in the Children's Food Garden.

Instead, we ended up arriving a few minutes before the official Remembrance Service started.

The teachers hadn't planned it. They had no idea. They were actually a little flustered as their lesson plan went out the window.

But, on this warm day, with not a cloud in the sky, the children could hear the band, and were drawn to the music, the large flags of Australia, France and Great Britain flapping out in full in the breeze.

And so, we went. We took all 55 children across the road. In hushed voices they quietly, respectfully found space. And were seated on the grass.

There were only a few hundred people there. The usual dignitaries - GG, Premier etc etc. In Flanders Fields was read. The Last Post was played. The mournful notes hung heavy in the air. The Roulettes flew over. Once straight over, and again from the side. The roar of their engines was powerful and menacing. The cannons were fired. And the children all jumped out of their skins.

Some cried.

Some were too shocked to make a sound.

It was all so peaceful and respectful.

Until the sound of those explosions.

Seeing the way the children's bodies recoiled. How they folded in on themselves. And once they uncurled, their little faces looking to us for reassurance, my heart just dropped.

I think of the collective trauma we have witnessed in the news and on social media, of the devastating pain being inflicted on the innocent, especially in places like Gaza, and those children and families there.

It echoes what you were saying, about members of our family who served in the wars. Their faces. What they had to recoil from. At just 18/19 years of age.

Who did they look to for reassurance. Was there any? I suspect very little, if any. As more explosions would've just rained around them.

It's incomprehensible.

I don't know how to feel about it or even process it. I just don't know.

I had a visceral reaction to the explosions today. I felt my own body recoil. But then also stand strong. Because I had a little hand in mine. My son's.

So I breathed in. Deeply. The freshly cut grass smell, the feeling of my son's other hand around my leg. His body pushed into me as far as it would go, and I returned to the present moment.

I was truly, deeply grateful for those who gave their lives.

I felt humbled. And small.

But I also felt like I was something solid for someone today. For my son and those children.

I wish they never know more than that moment of fleeting, passing terror.

Their next moments instead filled with calm, perhaps moving swiftly on to wonder at where the ants are coming from that are biting their legs, when they can open their Kinder Surprise to find out what toy it is this time, what's for lunch, who they are sitting next to on the bus ride home.

And I am left thinking about what more I can do in my lifetime, to make it so they are never faced with the decisions that our family members and others were, and are. To fight. To have to serve in that way. To sacrifice.

Lest We Forget. *(Zoe's son is 5 years old)*

JEAN CELEBRATES 103 YEARS

On 7th November Jean Fuleky nee Beard celebrated her 103rd birthday with family at Cooina. We had a lovely morning tea after which Jean cut her birthday cake. Two members of Jean's family provided entertainment. Garnet played the ukulele and sang along with Sharon and family and residents joined in which was most enjoyable. Family members travelled from Adelaide, Caboolture, Wagga, Griffith, Shepparton and Benalla and district to celebrate with Jean. Jean was the second youngest of her family of 8 who grew up in Tatong. Jean attended school in Tatong for 1 day in 1925, where the teacher was Mr Adamson. The family left Tatong in 1926. Joan Lewis.



TATONG TOPICS – DECEMBER 1924**Benalla Standard 5th December 1924:****COMPLIMENTARY SOCIAL** (*abridged*)

On Friday evening last, a complimentary social was tendered to Mrs. D. H. Coghill in the Tatong Hall. There was a very large local gathering, as well as friends from Swanpool and Samaria. The chair was occupied by Mr. A. Ritchie. Interspersed with the dancing, were musical items by Mrs. J. L. Wilson, Mrs. Merrigan and Mrs Walter Lewis, while Miss Spencer and Mr. Geo. Sullivan (who were dressed as swagmen) gave a character song which was much appreciated. Mr. A. Harrison sang, and Master A. Jope was encored for a recitation. Miss Alay Newton and Mr. Maher gave several dances, and Mr. Moon a comic song, which was encored. The music was supplied by the Swanpool orchestra (Mr and Mrs. J. Gawley and Mrs. Jope) along with Mr. J. Ginnivan, Miss F. Orphett, Mrs. Coghill, Mr J. Merrigan, Miss. Spencer and Miss Sullivan.

Just before supper the Chairman explained that they had met to recognise the assistance and willing work that Mrs. Coghill had done for the district for 25 years. He was glad to see that they were recognising her efforts instead of waiting, as often happened, until it was too late to do so. Messrs Ginnivan and W. Drummond (Samaria), M. O'Callaghan (Swanpool), Maher (Tatong) endorsed the chairman's remarks Cr. A. Harrison was next called on to make the presentation, consisting of a very beautiful tea and coffee service, suitably inscribed. He stated that he thought he was the one who knew the recipient longer than anyone in the room, with the exception of her brother (Cr. A. Heaney). He referred to the high esteem in which her late parents were held, and to the great assistance she had been at all public functions, whether it was for hospital, church, sport, or any other object. He had much pleasure in presenting the service as a token of good wishes from the district.

The North Eastern Ensign 19th December 1924:

Tatong Riding.

..From Secretary Tolmie District Progress Association, stating that two delegates would wait on the council at their next meeting to discuss matters dealing with the council's portion of Toombullup developmental road....Received from F. C. Hamilton, drawing attention to the bad state of the Ryan's Creek Road and from T. Sumner's property to Blackburn's corner, and asking for early attention to the matter. Referred to engineer.

The Argus Melbourne 20th December 1924:**PUBLIC NOTICES:**

AGENTS, Please Note -That the Tatong Hotel, Tatong, is withdrawn from private sale; the same to be auctioned by JOHN McGEE, and MILLER early in January, with possession.

C. W. CLARKE, C. GARDINER.

The Age Melbourne 20th December 1924:

TATONG HOTEL— Few vacancies for Xmas, beautiful mountain scenery, good motor roads, billiards, fishing, tennis. shooting, excellent accommodation. Moderate tariff. Tel. Tatong. P.O. Mrs. Gardiner, Proprietress.

The Age Melbourne 26th December 1924:**WARRNAMBOOL.** (*abridged*)

In view of the large amount of money wasted on Warrnambool harbor in the past, the city council regards with much dissatisfaction the information received through Mr. Deany, M.L.A. that the tender of Mr. McConnell, of Tatong, at £10,541 has been accepted by the Public Works department for depositing rubble outside the breakwater to reinforce the defective portion of that structure. Cr. Swan said it was absolutely throwing money away and was not providing any of the urgently needed extra shipping accommodation. The mayor said it was only a job, and combined with dredging would probably be all that Warrnambool would get. The engineer said it was a waste of money to pay £2 a yard for stone from Port Fairy to dump into the sea.

Benalla Standard 26th December 1924:**CHRISTMAS TREAT AT TATONG**

A very enjoyable evening was spent at Tatong Hall on Saturday evening. 20th inst. The teacher, Mr. Mason, had made arrangements for the school "break-up" in good style. The hall was very prettily decorated by the teacher and children. Prizes were given for fancy costumes, and were won by the following: Boys fancy dress, Colin Coghill (Ship's Purser); Girls, Evie Archer (Bryant and May matches); Boys' fancy dress and best sustained character, - Allan Beard (Monkey); Girls' fancy dress and best sustained character, Jessie Wilson (Grannie). Special prizes' were also given to Allan Lewis (Sundowner), and May Newton (Night). There were many very neat and pretty dresses, and the judges (Mrs. Ritchie. Miss Taylor and Mrs. Sims) had some difficulty in making the award. The evening was considered the best of its kind seen at Tatong. Old and young enjoyed to the full the efforts of Father Christmas (Mr Ritchie), who kept all in roars of laughter as he presented each child with the same gift from the Xmas Tree. When every child present had received their gift, the floor was cleared, and dancing indulged in, interspersed with songs and step dances, until midnight. The Ladies served supper in their usual sumptuous style. The evening concluded by the usual vote of thanks to all who assisted, special mention being made of the teacher's efforts, also Mr. Ritchie's, who worked hard to make the occasion a great success, and was a very real Father Christmas.



Compiled by Barry O'Connor. Tatong Heritage Group.



The pleasure (?) and pain of clamshell packaging

We've all been there

We've bought a gadget, appliance, screws – all manner of things – and invariably, these days, they are in clamshell packaging. You know the stuff – hard plastic that seems to have been poured around our purchase and then hardened.

Plastic packaging was the topic of discussion recently on ABC talkback. A man phoned in and told of his trip into town to buy something. A visit to one of the large stores turned up what he needed and he returned home triumphant.

His purchase was in clamshell packaging (of course) and, after several failed attempts, he decided scissors would be the way to open it.

Do you think he could find a pair of scissors – of course not!

So, back into town to purchase scissors. Scissors secured, he drove home again and eagerly went to open his first purchase.

Only one problem – the scissors were in clamshell packaging...

John Knapper

Molly (Margaret) Beard's daughters at the Cairn at Tatong Friday 8th November 2024.

Bern, Anne and Ronnie.

Molly unveiled the plaque on the Cairn 100 years ago on 27th November 1924



White Gate News



The last **White Gate dinner @ the Tavern** for 2024 (!) will be on **Wednesday December 4th**. There we can toast a year almost gone, recall the highlights, and try to remember which year is coming up next. Predictions welcome, to be noted down & un-corked in a year (anyone like to take bets?) - *Andi*

Meanwhile on the De Fazio Dairyfarm

The Whitegate Mafia on guard.

Unfortunately the guard didn't appear to notice one very distressed gosling unable to climb out of their pond.

After being rescued by Nonna, going for a drive in the car to warm up and dry out the gosling was able to return to his gaggle with quite a tale to tell.

- *Linda De Fazio*



White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Angus McMillan	24 Nov	Bill Sykes	22 Dec
Hamish McMillan	1 Dec	TBA	29 Dec
Laurie De Fazio	8 Dec	Matthew DeFazio	5 Jan
Alan Stafford	15 Dec	Ross Runnalls	12 Jan

REMINISCENCES OF A DREAMER & HISTORY AND THE US ELECTION

The very surprising US election has provided much food for thought. The more I read about the US election the more clearly it is revealing the feelings of the people in 'the land of the free.' The election has been seen as a shocking result for around half of the US population but a very satisfying victory for the majority of voters because of what they saw as a creeping loss of many traditional and cherished values. The average person does not like being forced into lifestyle changes or to be treated like second class citizens. It has taken a democratic election for the less-active voices to be heard, meaning that the loudest and most active will not necessarily win the day.

The 'despicable Trump' has had a huge number of legal indictments against him due both to his personal failings as well as the 'law-fare' engaged in by his political enemies.

Many great 'saviour leaders' of history carried a similar mix of charisma and personally dubious attributes: eg JFK, Churchill and others. Strangely, the population forgives personal faults and blunders if other currently desirable political characteristics come to the fore.

I have seen what is like a sine wave (the positive/negative wavy line) portrayal of the history of civilizations where they rise to a peak then the inevitable fall follows. Clearly, western civilization is in the latter part of its sine wave.

Something which outlasts the 'sine wave' is the fables and timeless stories about how to live, prosper, find love and happiness mainly by overcoming conditioned traditional, religious and cultural hatreds. Such stories are ignored by those in power and designated as suitable only for dreamers and children.

Do you know that so called fairy stories have more truth in them than most of the standard stories and movies ever made? Fairy tales speak directly to the true and heartfelt inner person that we are rather than with the usual appeal to the intellect. When we cry over so called 'sad' movies we are really remembering the deepest dreams and longings of every human's heart and soul. Dreams that are stolen, albeit innocently, from us by tradition, rationalism and the ruthless demands of mass conformity. Re-watch, or re-read, the great stories like Cinderella (or an excellent modern version called Ever After) and the Sound of Music and so on to find the true inspiration for a good life.

Mike Larkin

The Tatong Market and More went well, with stallholders reporting good custom, and market-goers having a good time.

The weather cleared to a lovely day, the littlies had a lot of fun, and there was plenty of coffee & food. A great variety of stalls saw happy shoppers.

The small committee which runs the market were pleased to have a smooth-running event.

New Blood Needed

John Knapper has led the committee in organising the event for several years now, and says he will do one more year.

The committee does need some more members, and a new President/Coordinator if it is to continue beyond the next market, which is scheduled for November 2nd 2025.

If you are interested, please contact the committee on mar-ketandmore@outlook.com

Andi

Gawn South

One November, a group of horse-riding tourists camped south of Tatong. They didn't have permission from the landowners. This probably happens a lot.

The November in question was 200 years ago - 1824. A group of eight was led by 'native born' Hamilton Hume, along with Captain William Hovell of Norfolk. They were commissioned by the Governor of New South Wales to look for grazing lands to the south, despite Surveyor-General John Oxley declaring the area '*uninhabitable and useless for all purposes of civilised men*'.

So Billy Hovell and... Hammy? Hume, packed lunch, and set off from Appin (a bit north of Wollongong). Their adventures took them through rich landscapes inhabited by healthy populations of people. Their report set off a stampede of settlers with their stock.

Those settlers came to better themselves. From those who had been starving, transported to Australia for trying to cope, to those who could scrape together enough to get to Australia and hope to make their fortune with land grants, hard work or maybe a scam, to people already quite well off, but wanting to be better off. That the land being handed out had a pre-existing population was not relevant to white British christians. They swarmed along the path Hume and Hovell had broken, taking up land left, right and centre. They worked hard; very hard, by today's standards; and a lot of them prospered.

And so, one hundred years later, thriving farming communities rejoiced to celebrate Hume and Hovell, the bold explorers who had delivered unto them the excellent existence that having a bit of land could provide. Nearly 40 monuments were erected to state that Hume and Hovell camped, or passed by, near there, or near-ish. A cavalcade of newly-invented motor cars travelled to the celebrations. Politicians gave speeches. Women cooked glorious food. Parades depicted the excitement of Hume and Hovell's excursion, the strange animals they found, and caricatured the "miserable wretches" displaced. (Nb; Hovell disputed that description.)

Another hundred years on, and the world has changed again. Owning land in Australia is no longer the key to comfort, security, wealth, and status. The vast majority of Australia's population live in cities, and if wealthy enough to own a big block, it rarely has veggies, cows and horses on it. Food comes from shops, and it got there from large farms. The expedition of Hume and Hovell is no longer glorified.

While now there is far more awareness that the British took land from a people already here, there is less awareness of the need for arable land to grow food. As for the physical feat of travelling hundreds of kilometres on bush tracks by horseback; well that's a hobby sport. It's cheaper to go to the gym.

For the 2024 anniversary, cyclists are visiting the monuments, and William Hovell's g-g-g-granddaughter is travelling the path. Small communities like Tatong are recalling both the original event and the celebrations a century ago. But schools are unlikely to break class for a procession, and politicians have other fish to fry. Motor cars will zoom along the great highway named for Hume, passing monuments now pushed aside.

The world has changed greatly since Hamilton Hume and William Hovell camped at Fern Hills. What it will be like in 2124 is anybody's guess.

- Andi Stevenson

Daze Past - from 2018 . As Kathy is unwell we are publishing some of her past articles. Ed



Garden Daze

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



Surviving Summer

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



Birds in my Garden

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

in if there was 40 acres of bush.

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

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

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

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

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



Nesting in the Potted Ficus

A Request - Pip Rigby

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

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

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

Pip can be contacted at 57 62 7332



Wishing you a Happy Christmas

Kathy Z

CFA Brigade News December 2024.

The Tatong brigade is happy to announce that we have been successful in obtaining a grant to replace the ultralight tanker. Yes, I was wrong! It is not yet known when we can expect delivery but the brigade will need to contribute about \$26000 towards it. This will be partly funded by the sale of the old vehicle, but I would ask everyone in the community to consider making a donation to the brigade. This is a community asset, and its sole purpose is to assist in keeping the community safe.

Donations can be made via: <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/about-us/fundraising-and-partnerships/donate-to-cfa> Make sure you specify Tatong as the brigade.

In other news we have seen the commencement of fire restrictions on November 18. The brigade has already turned out to several fires.

I would like to thank all those who helped out at the Garage Sale on 3 November. We raised approximately \$600 from the breakfast. I would also like to acknowledge and thank HVP Plantations for their generous donation to the brigade.

A reminder to all firefighters to attend a training session either on a Tuesday night or Sunday mornings to complete entrapment drills in readiness for the season. Even if you don't usually turn out in time for the initial response it is likely that with larger or more complex fires there will need to be several crews able to relieve the initial responders. Up to date training ensures everybody's safety.

Stay safe,

Jason Nichols

Captain Tatong CFA



The White Gate crowd got off to a good start in November. There was good food and wine, and plenty of cheer, at the monthly dinner at the Tatong Tavern.

Then on Cup Day, rather than gallop down Smiths Road on the De Fazio dairy cows, they gathered at Samaria Farm for "High Tea", and a glorious view over the roses and the hills.



President's Report: Tatong Market and More 2024

This year's booking details are:-

- 39 siteholder bookings
- 54 sites booked
- 4 late cancellations – CWA – Cooper Leather – Brenda Sonnberg (books) - mental health
- 2 no-shows – Bruce (plants) – landcare

Therefore on the day we had:-

- 33 stallholders occupying 48 sites.

Set up: This year the oval had been well prepared by Rod Lindsay and his volunteers plus a crew from Odyssey House on the Thursday prior. The Exton's semi-trailer (Rattler's stage) came in on Friday afternoon. Saturday set up seemed to go smoothly

Market day: Despite the threat of a bit of bad weather, siteholders started to arrive well before 7am, as usual. With parking assistants in both 'laneways', getting siteholders onto sites appeared to go smoothly. I certainly didn't receive any complaints this year.

The weather did try to disrupt the morning with several squalls moving over the oval. The wind caused most problems with some of the flimsier gazebos not coping.

There was a long queue for coffee every time I looked but this year we also had Kalari Kafe. The CFA sausage sizzle went OK with their rolls and snags being hawked around the stalls – don't think they had much left over. Not sure how sandwich sales went.

Rattler – there was a lot positive feedback again!!!

The children's area looked to be well used and many children had painted faces.

Hopefully the Art Show was popular and successful.

The defib demonstration was not well attended unfortunately. I'm not sure the market is the best venue for such a long presentation.

Most stallholders seemed to do OK from the feedback I got. From the feel and the feedback, I think it went quite well – that is to be discussed more during the meeting.

Pack up: Pack up was very quick thanks to the many people helping. Larissa and family stayed to re-organise the shed.

- John Knapper



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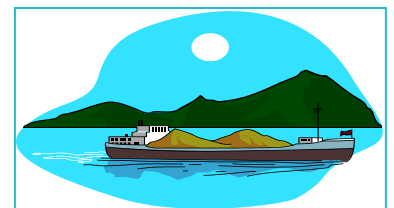


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Christmas Fare with Carole

“Christmas is coming the geese are getting fat please put a penny in the old man’s hat. If you haven’t got a penny a h’penny will do and if you haven’t got a h’penny; well god bless you “

This a Christmas rhyme we used to sing, growing up in the UK, many moons ago and I do remember having goose and other game birds during the English festive season. Goose isn’t something you see often in Victorian butcher or poultry shops although I feel it probably has a more prominent place in the Barossa and parts of South Australia. Duck however is readily available as whole birds, leg and thigh joints (Marylands) or breasts and is far better suited than long roasted turkey to our Christmas climate. Roasted/barbecued duck; be it whole birds, breast or Marylands are quicker and easier to cook than the big bird and I personally think duck has a much better flavour. Duck goes magnificently with cherries which are in season, marries well with peaches, plums and blackberries and of course is perfect with oranges (duck a l’orange).

Anything pickled is a perfect foil for the fat content of duck. To make a simple pickling liquid mix 1 cup of rice wine vinegar and 1 cup of sugar, boil until the sugar has dissolved. Add 2 cups water, 4 cloves, a cinnamon stick, 10 crushed juniper berries, 1 star anise and 6 allspice berries, simmer until reduced by a third. Place chosen fruit – blackberries, or cherries, or red grapes, or orange slices etc in a warmed, clean glass jar. Pour over hot pickling liquid and spices to cover – cool and refrigerate covered until needed. The pickled fruit will be ready to use after 24 hrs but will keep refrigerated and mature for many days. You may well have excess pickling liquid, this can be cooled and refrigerated for further use – just bring back to the boil before pouring over fruits or thinly sliced/shaved carrots, daikon, cucumber or zucchini for a quick pickle to go with cold meats and terrines.

Pre roasting whole ducks can be done ahead by a couple of days and is the first step in creating deliciously tender and fat reduced duck dishes. Rub 2 whole ducks with 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil, a teaspoon of soy sauce and half a teaspoon salt, massaging well into the skin. Set oven at hot, 220 degrees and heat half a cup of vegetable oil in a roasting pan until smoking hot. Add the ducks breast side up to the roasting pan and roast, basting every 10 minutes, for 30 minutes. Remove ducks from the oven and place on a clean plate to cool. Discard the oil. Cover and refrigerate ducks when cool for 2 to 3 days. The ducks are then ready to be double roasted. To double roast ducks, pre heat the oven to 200 degrees, place ducks skin side up in a baking dish, pour 1 cup chicken stock laced with half a cup of white wine or champagne around the ducks and roast again for 30 minutes until the skin is well burnished. For a crispy skin place under a hot grill for a minute or two. Reduce the cooking liquid by half to a syrupy consistency and remove any fat. Add a tablespoon of cumquat marmalade and a tablespoon of redcurrant jelly and serve with the duck.

Two ducks will feed six to eight people.

Stone fruits season is upon us and how lucky are we to be so close to such magnificent local produce. Boris’s shed on the way into Shepparton is open and by all accounts selling “the best cherries ever”. They are famous for their value boxes of apricots, peaches, plums, nectarines and of course in January/February magnificent full flavour tomatoes. Get jamming – my rule of thumb for a soft set conserve is 1 kg cleaned fruit to 800 g sugar. You can double this recipe if you have a large enough jam pan but I never use more than 2 kgs of fruit per batch as it takes too long to cook and results in an inferior product. I steep the fruit in the sugar overnight then boil to setting point. If you have a jam or sugar thermometer it needs to be at 105 degrees to set. Adding fresh lemon juice from 1-2 lemons will help to set fruits with a low pectin content and if all else fails jam-setter – pectin and sugar, readily available near the spice section in supermarkets, will be your saviour! Just reboil the jam, add the jam setter and continue to boil for 5 minutes. Remove any scum before potting. Important rules for jam making are use large, wide open stainless steel cooking pans filled to no more than half capacity. Never walk away from jam on the heat, it expands and can boil over if not watched and stirred. Make sure jars are clean and sterilised in a 140 degree oven for 20 minutes. Fill hot, sterilised jars to 1cm below the brim and immediately secure with clean, tight fitting lids. Turn potted jars upside down, onto a tea towel - this creates a vacuum and lessens the risk of spoilage. Leave for 30 minutes before turning the right way up, cool before storing in a dark, cool place. Great for homemade Christmas gifts.

Swanpool News

Our small but competitive Bowls Club continues to welcome new members, and enjoy social as well as competition bowls. Come and join us on Thursday evenings, and see for yourselves!

Meanwhile the Cinema continues to screen a range of great films. We have two matinees coming up, with a family friendly Christmas special on Sunday 8th December at 1.30pm, “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”, a yet to be released sure fire hit. The Herdmans are six siblings who have a reputation for being the worst kids in the world. However, when they take over the local church pageant during the holidays, they just might teach a shocked community the true meaning of Christmas.

Our second matinee on Friday 13th December is the popular new Aussie film “Runt”, screening at 10.30 am on Friday 13th December, lucky for some!

As usual, we are holding our legendary New Year’s Eve Gala double screening on 31st December from 7.30 pm, featuring favourites “Brassed Off” and “The Full Monty”, followed by a festive supper to see in the New Year. All tickets \$30 , which must be booked through Trybooking, www.trybooking.com/CWBKX.

We look forward to celebrating with patrons and volunteers, hoping we’ll see some of you there! Deb

WHATS ON IN THE AREA DECEMBER 2024

Sun 1st Archery at the rec reserve 1.30 pm
 Sun 1st Movie Swanpool 6 pm
 Tues 3rd Rec reserve meeting 7.30 pm
 Wed 4th White gate dinner 6.30 pm at the Tavern
 Sat 7th Movie Swanpool 6 pm
 Sat 7th Movie 8.15 pm
 Sun 8th Matinee Swanpool 'The best Christmas pageant ever' 1.30 pm
 Sun 8th Movie Swanpool 6 pm
 Sun 8th Movie Swanpool 8.15 pm
 Wed 11th Tatong dinner 6.30 pm at the Tavern
 Fri 13th Molyullah fish & chip night 6 pm
 Fri 13th Movie special event Swanpool 10.30 am
 Sat 14th Movie Swanpool 6 pm
 Sun 15th Archery at the rec reserve 1.30 pm
 Sun 15th Tatong community Christmas party rec reserve 5 pm
 Sun 15th Movie Swanpool 6 pm
 Sun 20th Girls shed at the hall.
 Sat 21st Movie Swanpool 6 pm
 Sat 21st Movie Swanpool 8.15 pm
 Sun 22nd Movie Swanpool 6 pm
 Sun 22nd Movie Swanpool 8.15 pm
 Sat 28th Movie Swanpool 6 pm
 Sun 29th Movie Swanpool 6 pm
 Tues 31st Movie Swanpool 7.30 pm
 Tues 31st Movie Swanpool 9.45 pm

CHRISTMAS. I know December is a busy month & there are lots of things on, however if you can come along to the Tatong community dinner on Wednesday 11th at the Tatong tavern at 6.30pm, please come.

As the Tavern is busy at this time of the year, please ring them Ph 57672210 to make a booking.

If it's anything like last year it will be a really enjoyable night out.

This Christmas most of us will get to celebrate with family & friends, have a roof over our heads, more than likely receive some gifts & have plenty of food to eat. However, as we all know not everyone is as fortunate. Last year owing to your generosity we were able to distribute three Christmas hampers to local Tatong families. This year we'd like to support 'The Benalla Homeless Response group' Suitable items would be Small shampoo, deodorant, face washer in a clip lock bag, that sort of thing, but NO sanitary items, toothbrushes or toothpaste. Food items - a little bit Christmassy - biscuits, chips, juices, small packets of cereal would be great. If you can help, please bring along an item or two.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and trust 2025 will be an amazing year for you all.

Sue O'Brien

If you have an activity, meeting date, market, sports event or anything else you would like people to know about that's on in February please send the details to tattler.whatson@gmail.com by the 19th of January



TATONG FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER

Date	Truck	Ultra light
1st	Chris Wylie	Lynda Wylie
8th	Steve Clarkson	Mick Gaudion
15th	Rob Erskine	Max Jones
22nd	Jason Nichols	Chis McGee
29th	Terry O'Brien	Joe Hakkeness



Tatong Heritage Group

invite you to commemorate the

200th Anniversary of

Hume and Hovell Expedition

When: Wednesday 27th November 2024 at 11.00am

Where: Hume & Hovell Cairn

Located: 7 kms Tatong-Tolmie Road, Tatong



Photo courtesy of the Harrison Family

After the proceedings, a light luncheon will be available at the Tatong Memorial Hall. For catering purposes, it would be appreciated if you could notify of your attendance by Monday 25th November 2024.



Email: tatongheritage@yahoo.com.au

Phone: Andrea 0429 439 336 or Bev 03 57 672324

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

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

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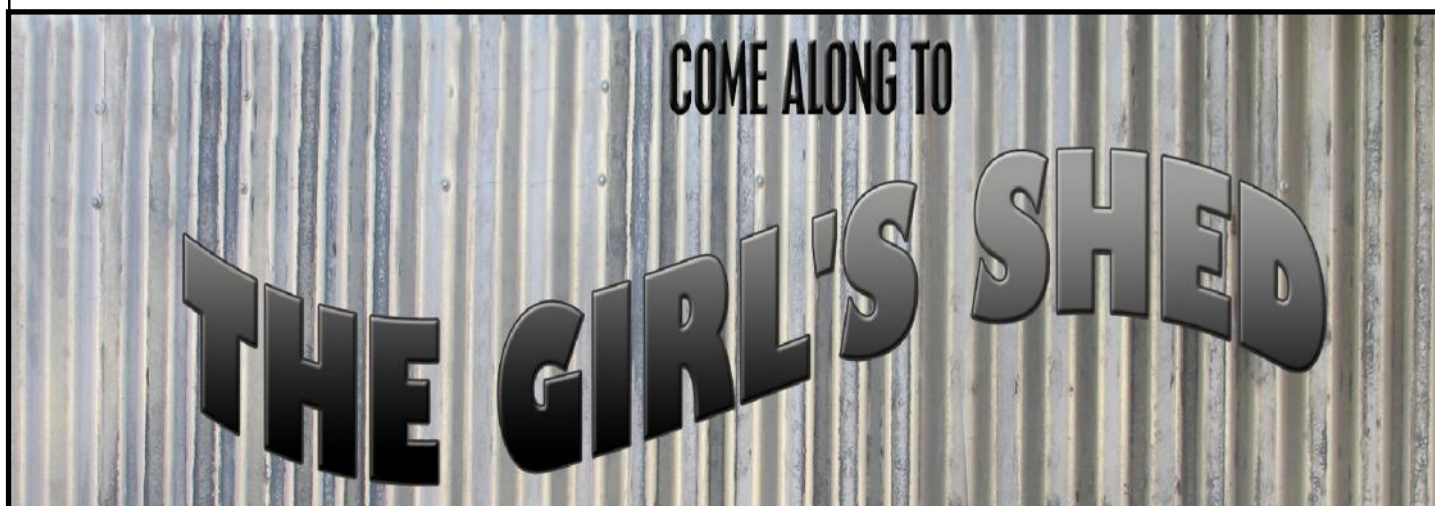
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Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2014	33.9	16.4	86.4	89.6	82.8	146.5	98.8	9.8	68.5	20.4	58.5	64.2	775.8
2015	44.7	29.1	5.7	87.4	70	33.7	97.3	69.4	25.7	13.7	55.5	81.7	613.9
2016	69.7	11.9	36.9	38.5	117.2	110.5	142.8	108.4	172.1	91.4	50.1	101.3	1050.
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.	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	92.6	66.5	111	40.5	855
2022	219.3	4.8	72.7	81.4	42.5	102.5	49.7	126.6	111.9	232.2	139.2	25	1217
2023	25	18.7	61.1	62.8	59.2	197.6	51.1	67.2	25.2	120.8	57.1	98.2	846
2024	156.4	17.6	14.7	26.9	73.8	53.1	76.7	47	42.2	46.4			554.8

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

I am altering the usual pattern of rainfall reporting due to having not much to report. We experienced a mini drought, just when rain was needed, from the 19th of October to the 17th of November when only 4.5mm of rain fell. That 'drought' broke on the 17th of November when 44.1mm of rain pelted down in brief but heavy showers along with strong wind and scary lightening. I found many new roofing leaks in sheds and while the thunder cracks were prodigious no damage has so far been found. October rainfall was 46.4mm.

Mike Larkin



Come along, bring your lunch and some goodies to share, do some craft or just have a chat. Hope to see at the Tatong Memorial Hall. Patricia 57672287

Next Girl's Shed. 20th December 9am—5pm



Tattler Advertising Rates Inc num:

Full Page	Half Page	Quarter (or 2x1/8th):
Single Issue: \$32	\$16	\$8
Six Issues: \$180	\$85	\$45
Eleven Issues: \$320	\$160	\$80

PAYMENT

EFT: BSB 803078 A/C 135720 a/c name: Tatong Tattler Goulburn Murray Credit Union, 30 Bridge Street, Benalla Please identify your payment, & e-mail details to Tattler.

Is it an ad? Publicity for an event with an entry fee is classed as advertising and charged accordingly. Local community events may be excepted.

FORMAT (ATTENTION ADVERTISERS!)

For pre-formatted advertisements, the size of a "half page" is 13.6cm x 19cm, and "quarter page" 13.6cm x 9.3cm.

To avoid distortion to your image, please fit your advertisement to these sizes.

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 (i.e. JPGs) can be attached, to be laid out by editor.

If layout is important, submit your work as an image, or in MS Publisher. If laid out in a **Word** document, contents will 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 a Tattler committee-member.

DEADLINE

The Tattler Deadline is end of the 20th of the month, January-November. Non-digitised items which need scanning or typing, by the 15th.

SUBMISSIONS / CONTACT

Submit via e-mail to tatongtattler@yahoo.com.au, leave in the Tattler Mailbox beside the Tavern, or send by post to the Secretary.

Secretary: Linda De Fazio, PO Box 588 Benalla 3671, 03 5766 6375 linda.defazio6@gmail.com

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DONATIONS

A donation of \$1 per issue, or \$10 per year, is appreciated & helps cover costs. The Tattler is managed, produced and distributed entirely by volunteers.

Donations can be given to committee members, left in the locked Box by the Tavern, or sent by EFT (see above).

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