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Dennis and Gail Scott held an Open Garden at Prospect Hill on two weekends in November - the garden was so wonderful I went twice. The second time I took friends from Melbourne and they believed that it was the best open garden they have ever been to.

The animal nursery at the Open Garden was well supervised by the grandchildren pictured below caring for some new chicks:



Ella Montgomery, Tom Osborne, and Joshua Montgomery

Janette Knapper

Dennis greets Jim and Sandra Barry from Tatong

GARDEN TREASURE

Dennis and Gail Scott's glorious garden, open during the Benalla Festival, was seen and admired by many visitors during the festival period. They have shown what can be done in our locality with skill knowledge and hard work. The food and drinks were also excellent and undoubtedly ample funds were raised for their chosen causes.

Mike Larkin

Scenes from two of the very successful events held at Tatong recently.



Rick Hann, Brian Vial and Andi Stevenson selling their wares at the Garage Sale held on 5 November.

ROTHENBURG

Where it's Christmas all year long.



Winter in Europe means long, very cold nights and short cold days. The good news is that in Germany this means it is Christmas market time. Picturesque medieval towns and villages are transformed into something out of a winter's fairytale. To keep body and soul together you can enjoy mulled wine, grilled sausage and roasted chestnuts.

The market at Rothenburg dates back to the 15th century – over 500 years of tradition.

Rothenburg is also world famous for its

Christmas Shop – the Kathe Wohlfahrt Christmas Store. It's as big as Bunnings, and is dedicated to Christmas paraphernalia. If you can think of anything Christmas - tree ornaments, house ornaments, music boxes etc, - you'll find it here. It is a wonderland for children and adults alike.



The beginning of the business is described as 'the gift that blessed the giver'. Wilhelm and Kathe Wohlfahrt had a music box that fascinated a friend, an American officer, who was visiting them for Christmas 1963. Wilhelm thought that a music box would be a good gift for his friend. After Christmas, he went looking for one. The shops had all put their Christmas stock into storage. It was February when he found a wholesaler who would sell to him, but, he had to buy ten.

One was given as the present. The other nine were sold at a weekend bazaar. From then on they attended every weekend bazaar with an ever expanding range. Rothenburg was the original store. It became head office and then also the manufacturing centre. These days there are seven other shops in Germany and four in other countries - Riquewihir (France), Brugge (Belgium), York (England) and Stillwater (USA).

Janette and I visited Rothenburg in June. The town and especially the shop were packed with summer tourists. Janette spent most of our time there in the shop (no surprise really) while I went sightseeing. To my delight (short lived) she came out empty handed – everything she purchased was shipped home. It arrived home before we did.

Of course, if you can't get to one of their shops, you can buy online.....

John Knapper



THE TATONG COMMUNITY GREAT BIG GARAGE SALE

Not sure if others are reporting on this event but on we go! This year's sale was another big success and thanks are due especially to its core committee people, John Knapper, Sallie Hann and Larissa Montgomery. The Tavern venue insurance cover was a 'nail biter' with the change of Tavern lessees occurring just prior to the sale, but in the end Pedro and Shirley saved the day for us. Tatong is blessed with a unique venue for such events due to the treed parkland in the centre of town beside the Tavern and its seasonal creek. Such ambience cannot just be manufactured and it is possible that much of what was lost with the original market may be rediscovered, even if for only one day of the year.

The committee will decide about the variety of stalls to give it a market-like feel because we have already realized that coffee, snacks and brekky are important to attendees and this should apply to locals who are looking for an opportunity to 'catch up'. I found that the Big Garage Sale was an opportunity for catch ups, making it hard to visit and rummage with all the stalls as well as stopping for chats.

Mike Larkin



TATONG YOUNGBLOODS



Are hosting a Christmas get together/ BBQ for the people of Tatong and surrounding areas. We would love to see you there.

Sunday 10th December, from 5pm onwards

Gold Coin Donation Please

At the Tatong Community Centre & Recreation Reserve.

BBQ dinner provided.

BYO drinks, chairs and picnic rugs.

All welcome. There will be a special appearance from Santa.

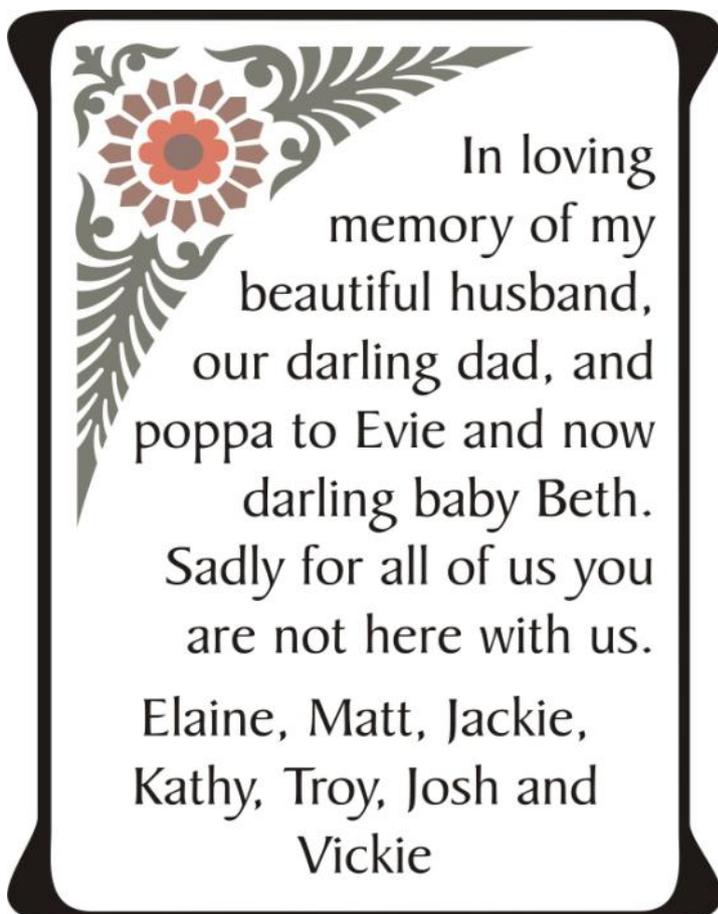
Enquiries please phone Justine Nicholls: 0414 728 025



Samaria Sun named All Australian.

The Samaria Suns Masters football club recently sent three of their players to attend the National Masters carnival in Geelong. The carnival consisted of teams from around the country with players aging from 35 years to over 60 years of age. The games were played in great spirit although the level of competition was a lot higher than first expected. Rivalries between states ran hot as the Suns players battled hard over the 6 day tournament to ensure that they showed the rest of the country that Victorian Masters football is alive and well in the north east of the state. Alister Crook (35 division one), Damiun Cassidy (40 division two) and Kyle Pugh (45 division one and two) all played hard for their Victoria Country representative sides. Pugh showed his strength and determination to play for two teams throughout the tournament racking up plenty of possessions. His unwavering ability to find the ball ensured that he was in high demand throughout the week. Cassidy came into the competition with some great form and with his high marking and ruthless aggression he was selected in the All-Australian side for the tournament. Cassidy was a standout in every game as the General for the Vic Country backline. Crook was a solid contributor throughout the competition once he settled into the 35 division one backline. All of the Suns players were given the chance to play a game on Simmons stadium in Geelong which provided the boys with quite a thrill. The Samaria Suns president Felicity Munroe also made the trip down to Geelong and

served as the team manager for the Vic Country over 40's side. The carnival was a fantastic event with all player's agreeing that it was a fantastic opportunity to represent not only their state but their home town team in the Samaria Suns. Next year the Carnival moves to Coffs Harbour giving the Samaria Suns players another great opportunity to represent Vic Country at a national level. The Samaria Suns are continually looking to add players to their list for the upcoming Masters season in 2018. If you are inter-





The International Mountain Trail Clinic at Molyullah

On Monday 13 November, I went to the **Molyullah Mountain Trail** to participate in the **Introduction to Cattlework clinic**. I took my pony, Buster, and I was the only kid in the group but it didn't matter because anyone can go. First we learnt the basics with Steve Halfpenny – turning, backing and movements, Then Steve taught us how to draft cattle. We went out into the valley where we were allowed to work the cattle in the paddock. Everyone had a turn at cutting and splitting a cow out of the herd. Buster had no difficulty in cutting out a cow and keeping a mob together because I practice on our farm a lot. He loves cattle work! And he loves to show off in front of the big stock horses. After a hot day in the sun and a go on the awesome obstacle course, we took the horses into the water to wash off the dust and sweat. I loved being out with the cattle, and learnt some new skills to use at campdrafts, and on our farm. I love these clinics and can't wait for the next one in January 2018. Thanks Brenda, Chris and Kate Millott, and Steve Halfpenny.

By Leni De Fazio





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

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

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

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



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Nicha Restaurant

is a newcomer to Benalla, yet in a Benalla heritage setting. The Victoria Hotel building has a most glorious dining room, and last March it re-opened as Nicha Restaurant, serving Vietnamese and Chinese cuisine.



Nicha is open for lunch and dinner (Tuesday to Sunday, closed Mondays). We sampled some lunch dishes, and they were very delicious; a generous serve of chosen meat & sauce on rice, or a variety of other dishes. Lunch can be prepared within 15 minutes to accommodate workers, take-away or dine in.

An excellent evening meal can give particular pleasure in that lovely dining room, now with additional railway-esque art. Amongst dishes tried so far, the Lemon Chicken is delicious, excellent meat, a light batter & really lovely sauce; not too sweet but nice and lemony.



The Beef In Coconut Sauce is beautiful, a mild spice and a goodly dose of coconut, but not overpowering. Many other dishes on offer include Rice Paper Rolls, Vietnamese Beef Noodles soup, Roast Duck with Plum, and Diced beef. I am told, and can well believe, the chef has 40 years experience.

Nicha is run by Nini Bui and John Nguyen. Nini has been in restaurant management 10 years, and wishes to bring Vietnamese food of the best quality to each customer. The service is attentive and adds to the pleasure of the meal. Nicha is licensed, BYO wine only.

Check out www.facebook.com/NichaRestaurant/

- Andrea Stevenson

Gawn to Town

Wherever you live, distance to help is an issue. In the Riverina we were about 45 minutes from the Swan Hill hospital. Well, a little less when stressed. Out the back of Tatong there will be homes as far, or further; where in sickness, or with impending childbirth, that distance starts getting paced out in one's mind.

City folk might feel smug at this point, knowing their hospital is only a few kilometres away. But given an average day's traffic, it can take them every bit as long to cover 10 kilometres, as a speeding Holden ute has often taken to cover 50km out in the sticks.

Living at White Gate we greatly appreciated knowing there were only 15km between us and Benalla, all of it sealed. And now we are only a couple of kilometres from the hospital. I could walk there. I nearly did, at 2am the other morning, with extraordinary upper-back pain, so bad that I could not lie in bed, but instead staggered round the house, complaining to the walls. I'd had so many over-the-counter painkillers, out of a packet years past its use-by, that I was getting worried I'd poisoned myself, and wondered what I was going to die of first. Wished it would hurry up and happen. I could just set off down the road, I told myself, walk to the hospital. But it's only back pain, I told myself, what kind of a wimp are you?

Once driven to hospital they gave me serious pain-killers. Hallelujah for modern drugs. I went home, managed to doze, and later noticed a little bit of a rash on my ribs. A small alarm-bell went off in my mind.

Years before, my partner got excruciating pain in his shoulder. He did the 45 minute drive to Swan Hill, where his usual doctor told him he'd strained his shoulder; despite objections that shoulder had been strained plenty of times before, never with such pain. But all he got were painkillers, and advice to come back if it didn't get better. It didn't, and a rash began to form on his shoulder. He went back, on the weekend, and saw a Young doctor... who told him he'd strained his shoulder, have some more painkillers. The pain got worse, as did the rash. When he went back to his usual doctor the following week, he was told he had shingles, and that it was too late to treat them.

The treatment for Shingles needs to be administered within 3 days of the rash first appearing.

Rush That Rash

I felt a bit foolish; upper back pain where it often hurt before, just 10 times worse; and a bit of a rash, no doubt insect bites. But I managed to get an appointment, even on a Saturday morning. By then the rash was spreading out, along the rib that had been hellishly painful. Maybe the pain caused the rash, I thought, as I said to the doctor, "I just want to be sure I haven't got shingles." One look and she said flatly, "You've got shingles."

After a week of anti-viral tablets, and painkillers, and anti-inflammatories, it looks like I'll live after all. I had to cancel so damn many event to which I'd been really looking forward; but I am so, so grateful that I got onto the treatment quickly. And for good pain-killers.

Then I heard a friend also came down with shingles, at much the same time. And the poor lass has a business to run – she hasn't 'gawn to town'. I just hope she got onto those tablets in time.

Merry Festive Season to all; do stay healthy.

- Andrea Stevenson

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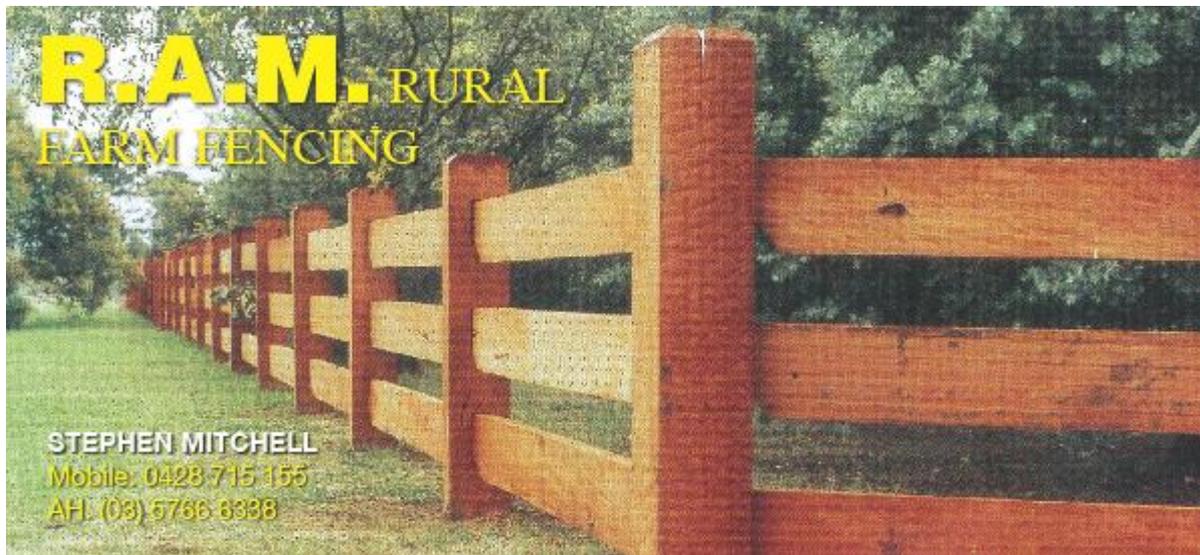


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Molyullah Musings – December 2017

The Molyullah/Upper Ryan's Creek Community Christmas party:

The Christmas BBQ will be held on Friday, 22nd December at the Molyullah Recreation Reserve. BYO everything (including the Aeroguard!) from 6.00pm. Santa will make an appearance.

Molyullah Dinner at the Tavern

This dinner will be held on Thursday, 7 December from 6.00pm. As it is the last for the year it is a great way to catch up with your friends and neighbours to celebrate the festive season. Please ring the Tavern directly on 5767 2210 to add your booking to the table. There is a new menu which comes with the return of Chef "Scottie" to the Tavern.

CFA – Molyullah

One of the items from the meeting held on Monday, 13 November which is worth noting is the training date in December. All firefighters need to complete the **Burnover Drill** and the **Hazardous Trees Drill** as the two annual compulsory components for CFA Training. This training will be held at the Sports Ground on Sunday, 3 December at 10.30am. There will be a sausage sizzle to follow.

Mobile Telephone Reception

Much of Molyullah is now receiving improved mobile reception since the Upper Ryan's Creek tower was switched on. We still don't get reception at the house but are hopeful when the Molyullah tower is operational in 2018 we will enjoy the benefits that others are now getting.

Highlights in November

It was a busy month locally in November. A "Calf Day" was held at Anthony and Sarah Hill's property to teach some of our very young farmers how to care for and lead calves etc. An article on the day is to follow.

Christian De Fazio celebrated his fortieth birthday at the Molyullah Hall on 18 November – word is a great time was had by all.

John and Marie De Fazio's daughter Monika was married on Saturday 25 November. The marriage took place in the garden at home on O'Dea Road followed by a reception at the Molyullah Hall. The Hall is of special significance to this De Fazio family as it is where John and Marie met.

Seasons Greeting

Best wishes to everyone for the festive season. Hope all your fire prep is underway, your work is up to date and that you can look forward to a bit of rest and recreation in the coming weeks.

Until next year ... *Janette*

5766 6268 knapper@bordernet.com.au

VIN MASTERS – MYSTERY MAN

My thanks to our mystery correspondent, *Vin Masters*, for his generous comments (November '17 Tattler) about my mural at Cooina Village. For anyone wishing to have a look, the Village is ok with visitors so long as they are not carrying infectious disease. Just enter via the office facing Kilfeera Rd and ask directions.

Also Vin, I appreciate your subtle references to spirituality in past articles. We humans, with our 'superior' intelligence, rampage through nature, try to control everything and then realize, probably too late, that it was all "*much ado about nothing*."

Further to your comments Vin and I agree about the onerous management rules about roadside vegetation (Also Nov. Tattler). For me the current rules have gone too far, as usually happens with pendulum swings, in instigating a virtual "no touch" attitude to most roadside vegetation. This implies that the people who live within and love their natural habitat cannot be trusted to care about it. The few who

do misbehave are the problem and everyone else should not have to 'pay' for their misdeeds.

The ugly and fire-hazard piles of windfall branches and trees littering many roadsides were once kept reasonably tidy by people wanting firewood, (which is my particular 'beef'). Admittedly a permit can be obtained, at cost, to collect from some "low value" roadsides. Even the "high value" roadside vegetation cannot be too damaged by a person walking within it, collecting firewood and walking out. The bush that we now have has been trampled, uprooted, chopped and debarked etc for thousands of years and it shouldn't surprise anyone that nature has an unstoppable power of regeneration after damage, from whatever cause!

Nature will outgrow and outlast all human endeavour; I practically need a machete to get around my own garden!
Mike Larkin



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'Carols in Swanpool'

~ A Christmas Celebration ~

Sunday 10th December 2017

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
(Supper 9:00 - 9:30 pm)

- Christmas Carol Singing
- Swanpool & District Musicians
- Peranbin Primary College Singers
- Vocal Dimension



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Tatong Art Show Thunders Ahead!

Everywhere I go the most oft question question I am asked about the Tatong Art Show is "So who won the People's Choice Award"? This prestigious prize was won by Kate Jenvey for her work titled Thundering Hooves. It was a very deserving piece which showed great talent and stirred up the public, who arguably are certain that they know best what piece should have won Best in Show. Well done Kate! This award was graciously sponsored by LS Quarry.

Speaking of the Best in Show prize, this was won by Noel Bruzzese, who submitted a stirring Banksy style social commentary piece, titled John Brack's Aussie Countryside. This painting was sold on opening night. Well done To Noel.

Our Honourable Mention prize went to Wendy Webster for her work titled Dancing on Blue Poles. Wendy is no stranger to the Tatong Art Show, having won the Best in Show prize a number of years ago. Congratulations again to Wendy.

Our Best Local Artist prize was awarded to Tim Bowtell, another thought provoking social commentary piece which was titled Internal Dialogue Externalised in Green Barrels. You may recall that last year Tim won the Best in Show award for his work titled Chinese New Era. This piece has been bequeathed to the Community centre, so stop by if you want to have another look!

And for the first time this year, the Best Young Artist prize was awarded to Julia Longmuir, whose work showed incredible passion and talent! Her work, titled 'Sliced Up' was intense and arresting. We offer our sincere congratulations to Julia, as well all of these artists, and thank GMCU for their incredible generosity for providing the prize money awarded to these artists.

But that's not all folks! For the first time ever this year the judges requested that we award 2 prizes for the Best Medium Other than painting - one for the Best Photography piece; and one for an exquisite woodblock print. Amanda Swaney won the Photograph Award, for her work titled Shades of Orange Still Life. The composition of this photograph was exquisite and if you missed it - well, that's a shame. Kerry Amery won the second Best Other Medium prize for her work called Coneflower, which showed great skill and delicacy in the production of her piece.

Annie Longmuir produced an exquisite felted portrait in shades of black, white and gray, which took tremendous skill to produce. Annie won an encouragement award. Also, Dick Ashby, who is no stranger to winning awards at our show, scooped an encouragement award for producing an exceptional oil painting called Farm Track Numurkah. And if that's not enough, for the first time the curator of our show, Louise Carlisle, sponsored a Hanger's Choice award, won by local artist Jennifer Paull for her exquisite reclining nude. Although seldom told, Jennifer was the runner up for the People's Choice Award. The Encouragement Awards were sponsored by Ruralco; the Tatong Art Show; Carlisle Art; and Jim from She's Arty. The Best Medium Other than Painting Prizes were sponsored by Laurie and Lunda deFazio; and John Gregory from Ruralco.

On opening night the catering, which offered mouth-watering tidbits, was sponsored by D&H Henderson. And finally, the raffle prizes for the show were donated by: Samaria Farms - dining voucher + basket of house made organic products (won by Shirley Swallow); Georgina's - dining voucher (won by Marina Heus); Tatong Art Show - Mixed Dozen bottles of wine (won by the Roche family); Lucy Lu - Boutique Clothing voucher (won by Kylie Pitt); and deSales Turner - Queen size quilt with 4 pillow slips (won by Gayle Ritchie).

The final piece of information to report for now is the exciting news that the Tatong Memorial Hall has accepted the Art Show COM's offer to run the Show from 2018 and beyond! This is great news for all of us, because it means that the show will continue to be staged at the Hall, and will be a significant fund raising event for them in the future. I am confident they will do a fabulous job and that the show will continue to grow from strength to strength!

In the first edition of the Tattler for 2018 I will provide a full financial report on how the show fared during my stewardship. It has been an honour for me to at the helm of this important community fund raising and cultural event for our community. I am deeply grateful for all those who supported this event over the last 5 years - our Sponsors; Patrons; Volunteers; Committee members; Artists; and especially those who have attended each year. It has been my privilege to serve.

Gratefully

deSales Turner
Former Chair, Tatong Art Show



Thundering Hooves. Winner of the 2018 Tatong Art Show “People’s Choice Award”

Ebenezer Scrooge’s Grave



As Christmas is approaching, I thought it fitting to show the final resting place of Ebenezer Scrooge. His gravestone is to be found in the now disused churchyard of St Chad’s in Shrewsbury, UK.

What’s that you say? Scrooge wasn’t a real person! He was a fictional character created by Charles Dickens! Correct. So what about the gravestone?

The gravestone was a prop used in the 1984 film *A Christmas Carol* in which Scrooge was played by George C. Scott. According to the Shrewsbury Town Crier, Martin Wood, the headstone is not a "prop" but an actual period headstone, on which the original inscription had deteriorated to the point that the movie production people asked the church if they could use it and inscribe the "Ebenezer Scrooge" words on it. You can still see some of the original inscription on the bottom part of the stone

John Knapper

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Our part in Tatong's Great Big Garage Sale

The Saturday morning entertainment of checking through the Ensign, and making a list of "where the Garage Sales are today" - has taken its toll. A look around the house and surrounds indicated that participation in Tatong's Great Big Garage Sale would be a good idea. So long as it didn't turn into the "Great Big Chance to Purchase" of which I am so fond!

So .. Time to pass on some of the "very useful items". Now this sounds easy when it is said, and there are countless books giving advice - all of which boils down to:

Get three boxes.....



And start going through cupboards, drawers, sheds, behind the sheds and maybe even the dog's kennel!

Finding the boxes wasn't a problem - seems I like to collect them also! Overcoming some of the emotional attachments proved a bit more difficult. However, with time and determination and dare I say it, more room in the cupboards, a collection for a stall was gathered and stashed in the shed, awaiting "The BIG Day"!

Watching the weather forecast (are the 14 day forecasts accurate?), bags, change, pens, price tags and anything else that was thought to be useful were ready.

Finally it's the Sunday in question and we are up at dawn, the trailer is at the door, and we are lugging out boxes and stashing them ready for the drive to Tatong. The car is filled with boxes of plants. It is 20 km to Tatong and plants in the trailer would not be in any fit state to sell after a ride in the breeze.

A quick dash after breakfast to feed the chooks and guinea pigs and then we are on our way.

On arrival at the Tatong Tavern, a busy but smiling John Knapper directs us to our stall and advises of the parking arrangements. (This information was emailed to all stall holders prior to the day - but a thunderstorm the previous Sunday had meant no internet or phone for us for the week.) The "stalls" were neatly and systematically marked out in white on the grass and were easy to find.

The weather which had been a bit on the "where is Spring" side has turned out to be sunny and just warm enough for comfort. Surrounded and shaded by beautiful old trees the Tatong Tavern grounds are the perfect location.

We are early - but so are a lot of others and we join the throng of stall holders engaged in setting up tables and unpacking boxes.

There is a great turn out of stall holders with a variety of interests. Farm tools, some huge metal wheels and hoops (*I rather fancied these - but how to get them home!*), glassware, toys, outdoor settings - indeed everything from crutches to a mini motor bike were to be found. Wow!

There are some very early customers - usually dealers who are out in search of bargains and soon the Tavern Grounds are busy with chatter as more customers arrive. People search for the collectable (*it is amazing how many grown men are after toy cars*) - trash, treasure or just plain "useful", greet friends, buy a coffee, walk their dogs, enjoy the displays.

A chap already loaded with goods, stopped to buy the badminton net and bats we had for sale. As he was already loaded up, we offered to mind them while he finished his shopping, however, he said he was OK and somehow tucked the net and poles under one arm and managed to carry the case of bats as well as everything else he had, as he was "off to the car". Imagine my surprise when I saw him fifteen minutes later - still with the badminton outfit AND a huge plastic bag added to the load, still checking out the goods on offer around him and the badminton poles presenting a poking hazard to anyone who got close.

We had agreed to sell some Plane trees grown by a neighbour who was donating the money to the Children's Hospital appeal. When these arrived half way through the morning, they went like the proverbial hot cakes and were sold in no time.

We caught up with people we knew, admired various dogs, discussed the merits of our wares, were surprised at which books sold and which didn't and were puzzled by the amount of interest shown in a small teapot (\$3) by various people - without anyone ever actually buying it.

The tables became emptier, we sold quite a few plants, those who had come to buy, started going home with their finds, we had a cuppa, then it was time to pack up and head for home.

Congratulations and Thank You - to the committee who had more work to do organizing the event than most of us will ever realise.

When's the next one John?

Kathy Z





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01.11.17

Dear Barry,

I was touched to read in the Benalla Ensign recently of your work to find and acknowledge those lying in unmarked graves at Moorngag Cemetery. This is a warm and generous undertaking, particularly for those whose relatives are still alive and for whom a marked grave has not existed before.

Thank you for adding dignity, recognition and respect to our community.

Warm regards,

Cathy McGowan AO MP
Federal Member for Indi

The Tatong Heritage Group and all other parties involved in the marking of un-marked burial sites in Moorngag Cemetery can take pleasure in this note of appreciation from the Federal Member for Indi.

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From Ian's "White Gate Snapshot" interview, 2007:

Ian Cuming was born in Ballarat in 1940. He left after 3 days and never went back (too cold and wet). His parents had a sheep farm at Beaufort. When they separated, Ian lived with his mother and step-father at Somers; which was then smaller than Tatong, and had no pub. The Peninsula then was so quiet that cattle could be driven from Somers to the Bittern railway without meeting a car. Ian's family had sheep until the local dogs killed them off, then they farmed cattle. Ian wasn't involved in theatre at this stage, but believes he was "performance orientated" without knowing it. An only child, he later acquired 2 half brothers, both born in the same month and named Tony.

Ian first met Annie at a school dance. They met again in Edinburgh and went travelling in a mini-panel-van.

Graduating from RMIT as a woolclasser, he became a wool buyer for John Sanderson & Co. When he and Annie married, they lived in a flat in South Yarra, then moved 9 times in the next 5 years. As a wool traveller for Goldsborough Mort, Ian drove along the Murray from Berrigan to Pinnaroo, talking a lot.

Ian's first dog was a black retriever named Kim. Ian trained her, and came third in a novice competition. This was when he was working for a shearing contractor, out of Jerilderie. When he worked in a re-classing store in Finley, he and Annie lived in a caravan behind the woolstore. They built a house in Finley, then moved to Benalla and bought the Benalla Wool Classing Depot (later Techwool). Ian and Annie and the baby moved into the office, in the middle of June. (They put woolpacks under the bed to stop the cold coming up.)

In 1968 they bought "Hollands Creek" and fell in love with farming. In 1982 Ian became president of the local VFF and decided to give the grass-roots some clout by being the best branch. His group made a great contribution to the 85 march, at which Ian gave an address. He was chairman of the Victorian arm of the Australian Farmers Fighting Fund, which under Ian McLaughlin raised \$3 million in 2 weeks. Then he got even angrier. In order to face up to the union, he founded the North Eastern Task Force, which took on Wally Curren at the Seymour Abattoirs.

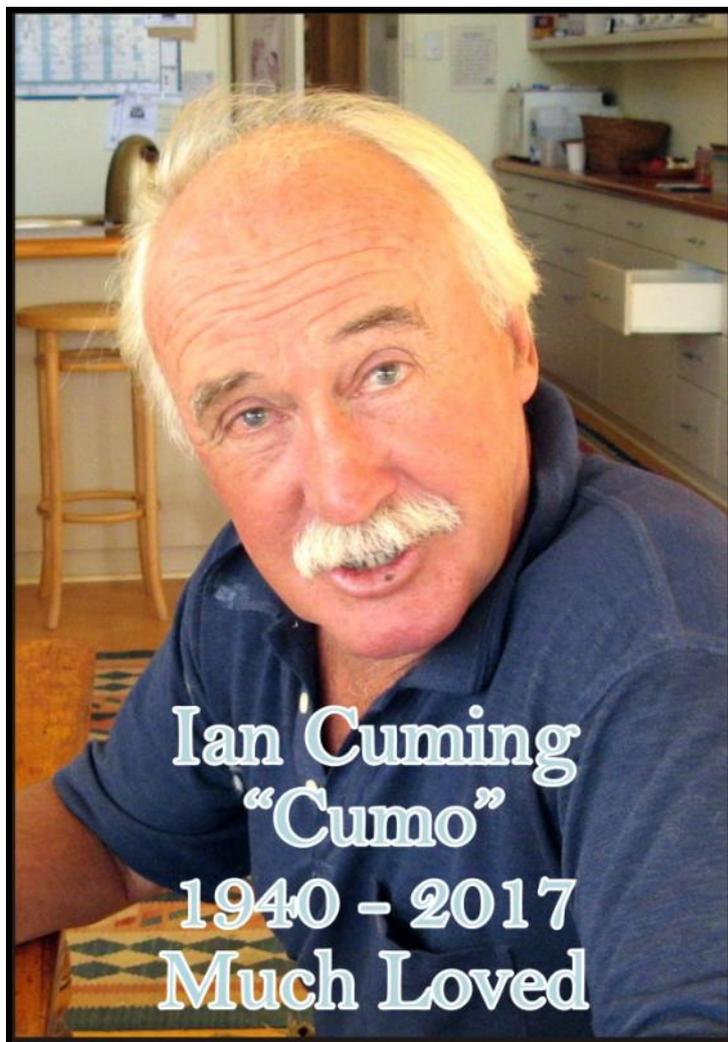
He won a Churchill Fellowship for Agriculture in 1987, which gave him connections in France – which he utilised as he moved towards the arts.

Annie had first encouraged him into theatre, in the chorus of *Carousel*. He became involved in plays put on by "The Blue Door", including Spike Milligan's "You'll come to love your sperm test." Then he got work in commercials and the likes of "Cop Shop", "The Sullivans", and "I Can Jump Puddles". He became chairman of The Blue Door, and was pivotal in the creation of the Benalla Theatre Company. In 1993 he was involved in "Hanrahan Be Dammed".

For one play he grew a moustache, which he liked but Annie didn't. He was chairman of the Art Gallery from 2000 to 2003, and then chairman of BPACC.

The landmarks of his life so far are getting married, having 4 children and 11 grandchildren.

His philosophy on getting through life is to have a passion for what he does – if he doesn't have a passion for it he won't do it.



Tributes

"So sad. I thought he would go for years yet. He was such a top bloke. We were privileged to have dinner with him only a few weeks ago."

Rick Hann

Such a warm, splendid character, our world was his stage; he delivered his speeches with vehemence and wit. So much larger than life, I can't believe life had the audacity to leave him. We are all poorer without him. - Andrea Stevenson

Cumo was such a vibrant, larger than life man & he will be sadly missed." - Beth Gregory



Garden Daze

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



Hot Days and Santa headed our Way - hope you are prepared for both.

So far our wicking beds are proving to be a success. When getting the garden together at the end of winter there always seems to be lots of room between the beds. Come the summer, everything grows and what was a wide path becomes a narrow "how do I get the wheelbarrow through that" track.

At the moment there are a couple of patches of red mustard that have flowered. These attract beneficial insects, but are currently taking up a lot of room and now after the recent heavy rain, have fallen across the path awaiting a tidy up.

Guinea Pigs don't eat "hot" plants, but the chooks will enjoy a spicy peck.

One wicking bed is bursting with celery and cabbages (my daughter is going to turn some of these into sauerkraut) and looks very productive. Strawberry plants in another have been producing well and the flavour is getting better as the weather warms up.

Nets over every thing is keeping the white cabbage moth and the bower birds - who love vegetables - at a safe distance.

Fruit Fly - Now is the time to be getting ready to repel these little nasties... a reminder for you.

When the fruit is formed and about half size - cover the tree in fine netting - making sure it is tied around the trunk.

For trees that are too big for this - hang traps - either with bought bait which is readily available these days, or make your own.



Start by making some holes half-way up a plastic drink bottle. They should be about 10 millimetres wide and evenly spaced. Use fruit juice for the lure with a pinch of sugar and a sprinkle of brewers' yeast to make a fermenting sweet syrup that Fruit flies find irresistible.

Please note that this mixture may also attract other insects.

Hang two or three traps per tree and change the lure weekly when the pests are active.

Pick up any fallen fruit and kill the maggots. Put the affected fruit and vegetables in a sealed plastic bag and leave it in the sun for three or four days, or you can immerse it in a sealed bucket of water for a few of days.

A small amount can be micro waved or if you have chooks, they will appreciate them!

It is possible to buy bags to cover fruit to prevent the female from getting to the fruit to lay her eggs.



Use these 'exclusion' bags to keep fruit safe. There are numerous sized bags available depending on the type of fruit you want to protect, and most are re-usable. The bags also keep birds out as well as protect the fruit from sunburn.

Again - it is most important to collect all fallen and damaged fruit as soon as it is noticed to prevent a major infestation.

We all need to be vigilant to keep fruit fly under control because neglected trees become a neighbourhood problem.

Fruit fly can be spread by travellers carrying infested fruit into or between horticultural regions of Victoria if you have a problem - keep your fruit to yourself, no matter how much you may like to share - you are not being selfish - you are being vigilante.

Those "other" flies .. These days I buy the flour that comes in a pet jar with a wide lid and save the empty jars through the year.

It is easy to drill three or four holes in the lid - just the right size for "Louie" to crawl in. A few chicken wings make good bait - one per trap - cover with water and wait a couple of days. For the price of a few dollars - you have a fly trap every bit as effective as the "ready" made ones with powdered bait.

When it is full - dig a hole somewhere the dog can't get to - empty the jar and start again.



Open Garden ... We went to visit Gayle and Dennis Scott's garden at Prospect Hill in Tatong after a phone call from Janette Knapper advising that it was "not to be missed".

Janette was certainly right and we were in for a lovely afternoon's stroll through three acres of beauty. From the neat lawns to native areas, stands of spotted gums and masses of salvias, roses, foxgloves and sweet peas..to name just a few. All to be found via winding walks and enhancing rock work.

On the practical side we found piglets, chooks and vegetable gardens.

Then we found the afternoon tea - which finished off our delightful afternoon perfectly.

Thank you for sharing your wonderful garden.



Grain Silo For Sale - Tatong

I don't know how big it is, I don't know how much it weighs, I don't know how much you can put in it... But I do know... I want \$800 for it.



Contact: Troy Radbone 0414512725
troy.radbone@defence.gov.au

We have two Dorper Rams we would like to swap for this years lambing very soon, or if not buy locally two more. They are 4 years old not bad shedders, white, fit and healthy. Any enquiries please contact as below.
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TATONG HALL PAINTED

A complete re-paint of the hall has almost been completed by local, Brian Ritchie. Some rotten wood has been discovered and replaced also, keeping our beautiful asset in good shape for many more years.
Mike Larkin

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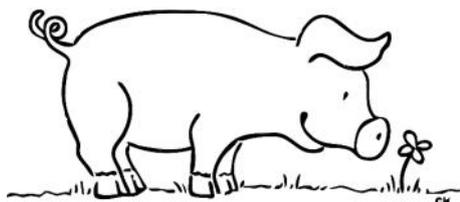
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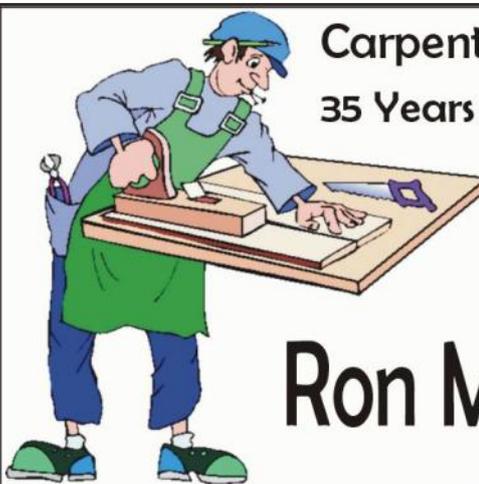
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Some happy people enjoying the hospitality of Pedro the new publican of the Tatong Tavern. Photo. Greg Kirk.



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White Gate



Dates

White Gate Dinner @ the Tavern

The December "White Gate" Dinner @ the Tavern will be on Wednesday 6th, 6:30/7-ish.

Book yourselves in for a Pre-Christmas work-out.

Arriving via the chimney is optional.

Breakfast @ Samaria

Saturday 16th December is the date to make tracks for Samaria Farm. The café opens at 8, should any early birds want first-breakfast before their day kicks in. However others might not be out there until nearer 10; morning tea / brunch by then.

No matter, it's all delicious.

White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Hamish McMillan	26 Nov	Max Marriot	24 Dec
Ross Runnalls	3 Dec	Matthew Defazio	7 Jan
David Elford	10 Dec	Norton Grimwade	14 Jan
Leigh Humphries	17 Dec	Terry Ryan	21 Jan

And wishing a happy, prosperous, fire-free, low-snake Festive Season to all who rollick in these parts. If you go off to rollick elsewhere, safe travel.



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Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2007	30	35.1	62.5	31.3	108.6	30.2	92.4	25.5	30.3	34.3	88.6	69.8	638.6
2008	52.4	11.5	33.4	17.7	48.3	37	114.7	58.8	18.9	1.9	89.7	64.9	549.2
2009	3	5.4	38.7	80.7	30.6	107.9	77.5	65.5	76	48.6	72.3	18.9	625.1
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			612.1

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

There has been no rain in the township up until the 15th of November, but as I am writing today, on the 16th, steady rain is falling. We had just begun to seriously water the garden so this rain is very good timing for us. It's a reminder of just how little control we have of the weather, which is a really good thing!

October had good and mostly consistent rain with a monthly total of 100.1mm.

Mike Larkin

**Tatong
Heritage
Group**



*Thanks to the
Tatong Young Bloods
for their Donation towards
the Moorngag Cemetery
Unmarked Graves Project.*

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John Knapper



What's on this month

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov 26	Nov 27	Nov 28	Nov 29	Nov 30 Play group, 9.30,am Rec Res	1	2
						
3	4 Tatong Fire Brigade Training. 7pm Fire Shed.	5	6 Whitegate Community Dinner at the Tavern	7 Play group, 9.30am, Rec Res Molyullah Community Dinner at	8 Girls Shed 10.30am at Hall	9
						
10 Tatong Young Bloods Christmas celebration 5pm Community Centre	11	12	13	14 Play group, 9.30,am Tatong Rec Res . Christmas Breakup	15	16
						
17	18 Tatong Fire Brigade Training. 7pm Fire Shed.	19	20 Tatong Community Dinner at the Tavern	21 Play group, 9.30,am Rec Res	22 Girls Shed 10.30am at Hall	23
						
24	25	26	27	28 Play group, 9.30,am Rec Res	29	30
						
31	Jan 1	Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4 Play group, 9.30,am Rec Res	Jan 5	Jan 6



Cheers go to the Benalla Art Gallery where Richard and I had a delicious lunch. Chicken Tostada which we ate on the balcony overlooking the lake.
Sallie Hann

A big thank you to Kathy Z for her alert re Nellie Kelly passionfruit. We've pulled out two very unproductive plants.
The Knappers

Jeers and more to the people who drive far too fast on dirt roads covering everything in sight with dust – including people who walk.
Sallie Hann

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Enquires :Darcy Hogan, 5767 2187 or email darcyhogan@bigpond.com

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 or post to: Darcy Hogan, 150 Mt Joy Rd, Tatong, 3673.

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.

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(A donation of \$1 per issue is appreciated & helps cover costs.)