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www.tatongtattler.com.au

Edition 306

Tatong's 2018 Australia Day Celebrations were held at the Tatong Community Centre with lots of familiar faces and some new faces attending the breakfast. We were fortunate to have council representative Councillor Danny Claridge in attendance.

Tatong had 2 nominations for Achiever of the Year in Keith Hughan (posthumous nomination) and deSales Turner.

deSales was awarded for her commitment to the Tatong Community during the 11 years that she has called Tatong home. Some of the projects she has been involved with include The Girl's Shed, Tatong Lighthouse Committee, Tatong Art Show, Tatong Recreation Reserve/Community Centre, Tatong Village Market, Tatong RCH Good Friday Appeal, Tatong CFA & Benalla Rural City Community Plan Committee. (just to name a few!)

We also awarded "special" Tatong Young Achievers to three inspiring young ladies. Ella Montgomery for her strong support of the McGrath Foundation, Good Friday Appeal, Greta Valley Primary School and Tatong Young Bloods. As well as Elly and Jessica Cavalot for their strong passion for raising money for the Good Friday Appeal. As always the Tatong RCH Good Friday Appeal raffled off a "Money Tree" – this year a lemon tree with 100 Scratchies attached to it, continuing her winning streak deSales Turner was the lucky winner.

The Tatong Art Show was also nominated for Community Event of the Year and was lucky enough to come away with the "silverware".

The Tatong RCH Good Friday Appeal committee would like to thank all those who helped on the day especially those lovely people who helped with dishes. We would also like to thank the Benalla Rural City, Sharon Greer, Rettkes Carrier Street Meats and Fruits and Fare.

deSales Turner, Ella Montgomery & Councillor Danny Claridge

Elly and Jessica Cavalot with their Australia Day awards.



SWANPOOL AUTUMN FESTIVAL

FRIDAY 16TH MARCH

Double Feature at the Swanpool Cinema
2386 Midland Hwy

"Cinema as it used to be – TWO FILMS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!!"

Adults \$13-50, \$11 Concession, Children under 12 \$8-00

Candy Bar open 6.30pm Screening 7.00pm.

For full programme details go to www.swanpoolcinema.com.au

SATURDAY 17TH MARCH

No Cinema tonight because the Hall will be Rocking!!

ROCK 'N ROLL NIGHT

Live 5 Piece Band 'Rattler' playing all your favourites from 7.30pm.

Admission \$20 including dance and supper.

Prepaid dance bookings recommended – call Judy 0418 223 240

SUNDAY 18TH MARCH

Swanpool Swap Meet & Village Market

Incorporating all vehicle Show & Shine

Albert Heaney Oval - 2426 Midland Highway (B300)

Stall Holders from 6.30am – Public from 8.30am

Local Produce.....Live Music.....Food Stalls

Market & Swap sites 5768 2219, Show & Shine enquiries 0425 746 447

Or email us at swanpoolswapmeet@gmail.com

DOUBLE FEATURE AT THE CINEMA TONIGHT

Candy Bar 5.30pm....Screening at 6.00pm

For details of 'What's On' and dining/accommodation options go to www.swanpoolanddistrict.com.au

Cattle Dog Trials for Charity

Are you looking for something different in the way of entertainment or restful Saturday sitting in your most comfortable camp chair.... then we may have something for you. The Kelly Country Cattle Dog Trial series is upon us with four cattle dog trials being run throughout March, April and May. These trials have been running for a few years now thanks to Victorian Cattle Dog Trial Association President Steve Arbuthnot and a small committee of dog trial enthusiasts.

Our first trial is on Saturday 24th of March, at Karn Station, Benalla via Karn Road, hosted by Peter and Jill Lloyd. This year sees a few changes with our focus on fundraising for 'Beyondblue' and the 'Jane McGrath Foundation', so we are holding a 'Blue Day' trial at Erindale, Molyullah on the 14th of April, hosted by Ross and Judy Davis. Then we have our 'Pink Day' trial at River Glen, Edi on the 6th of May, Hosted by Bill and Georgia Wilson. The final trial for the series is held on the 19th & 20th of May at Colehurst, Tatong hosted by the Marriott Family. Each trial will run an encouragement, novice and open trial. The Encouragement Series will be held with the top five from each Encouragement trial run going through to the Encouragement Final at Colehurst, Tatong on the 19th May.

There will be a gold coin donation entry fee for spectators with the **Brews Bus** providing food and refreshments at all events. Pink and blue caps and vests for the judges and competitors have been kindly donated and sponsored by **Project Clothing** for our fundraising events. Entries for the first Kelly Country Cattle Dog Trial open on the 5th of March via Keren Stokes, 0488 340 555 or email k-stokes01@outlook.com For any further inquiries about the dog trial events please contact Steve Arbuthnot on 0429 666 354 or check out our Kelly Country Cattle Dog Trials or the Victorian Cattle Dog Trial Association Facebook pages. A massive thank you to all of our Major Sponsors of our trials including – **Kelly Angus, Elders, Rodwells, Teys, Peter Davis Rural, Southern Stock Feeds, McKenzie Ag Services, Elders Insurance Benalla, Paringa Livestock** and the farm hosts of each event for use of their cattle and venue.

This year, KCCDT are hosting the **Kelly Angus - 'Beyond the Farm Gate' Charity Auction/Dinner** at the Tatong Community Centre and Rec Reserve on the Saturday 19th May to help 'beyondblue' support people and families living with mental health issues/suicide and isolation in rural farming communities and the Jane McGrath Foundation who support women and their families through breast cancer via the Breast Care Nurses in our community. We have many sponsors to thank for their donations including Benalla Toyota, Benalla Bulk Fertilisers, Paringa Livestock, Burls Transport, Landmark Normac Rural to name a few. If anyone would like to donate goods for this Charity/Auction please contact Keren Stokes on 0488340555 or email

k-stokes01@outlook.com.

Dinner tickets to this event will be limited and will be on sale soon.

A training day will be held at Edi on March 3rd, please contact Steve on the above number for further details.





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Quote of the Month

"If only wire twiddling was the answer, the world would be a better place."

- remark from Michael Plex, computer repair-er, on equipment that has to be thrown out instead of fixed.

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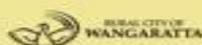
Tatong Tavern is excited to announce their part in "A Hitch To The Sticks Festival" on March 17th from 11am – 4pm with an incredible musical line up that will take place in the beer garden! Local promoter Ellen James from The Musical Garden has curated a spectacular line up of homegrown artists sure to be a very special day.

For those who haven't heard of A Hitch To The Sticks Music Festival. It is a World-First started by ex-Wangaratta musician Dallas Frasca and her good buddy Renee Delahunty. The adventure starts on a coach that leaves from Melbourne on Friday evening and takes the audience on the road to a mixture of 10 private & public events across North East Victoria over the weekend .

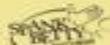
Join the bus in the beer garden of the Tatong Tavern on March 17th at 11am – 4pm.

Benny Williams || Whiskey Dram || Mandy Connell
Time Robb & The Stealing Hours Band || Sara Flint

Tickets are available behind the bar (discounted price for the locals) or at www.ahitchtothesticks.com



Eventbrite



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SWANPOOL FAREWELLS SUMMER

The inaugural Swanpool Autumn Festival will be held over the weekend of 16th – 18th March 2018. The festivities commence with the screening of a double feature on Friday night at the community owned, and volunteer operated, Swanpool Cinema. Now an iconic cinematic facility, Swanpool can screen all film formats from reel to reel, right up to the latest digital releases. Candy Bar opens from 6.30pm with screening commencing at 7.00pm. This is cinema as it used to be...two films for the price of one. Adults \$13-50, Concession \$11, and children under 12, \$8-00. Full details of the programme can be found on the website www.swanpoolcinema.com.au

Visitors will be free to explore one of the most picturesque regions in North East Victoria on Saturday 17th. Dining options include the Swanpool Store, or Samaria Farm. Why not grab a nice bottle of wine from Kooyonga Creek winery and take a picnic lunch to Lake Nillahcootie, or one of the two state parks in the area. Mount Samaria State Park and Reef Hills State Park are both available to explore. But be sure to conserve your energy, because the Swanpool Hall will be rocking on Saturday night. Live five piece band 'Rattler' will be playing all of your favourites from 7.30pm. Admission \$20, which includes dance entry and a scrumptious country supper, prepared by our legendary catering volunteers. Pre-booking is advised as these events are very popular. All bookings and enquires 0418 223 240.

Sunday 18th March sees the annual Swap Meet and Village Market, which incorporates an all vehicle Show and Shine, held on the Albert Heaney Oval – 2426 Midland Highway. Local produce, live music and food stalls all add to the enjoyment of this very popular event. Stall holders from 6.30am and public from 8.30am. Entry is by gold coin donation which goes to support our local volunteer fire brigades. Site booking enquiries to the Event Secretary 5768 2219, Show and Shine enquires to 0425 746 447 or email swanpoolswapmeet@gmail.com

Don't forget that the Cinema will be screening a double feature again on Sunday night, with the Candy Bar opening at 5.30pm and screening at 6.00pm.

All of these events are run by volunteers with all nett proceeds going to not-for-profit community groups and projects. For full details of all events and attractions in Swanpool and the surrounding districts go to www.swanpoolanddistrict.com.au

De Fiasco in de Fjords

- Part 1 of 3, by Linda De Fazio

In 2017 the De Fazio and Squires travellers started another of our overseas adventures. Fortunately this time we had a few less un-scheduled adventures but managed to squeeze in an impressive amount of touring.



Things don't begin all that well when Laurie and Trevor attempting to help a disabled man in a wheelchair get onto the train, manage to tip him out of his chair almost between the train and the platform. Luckily, he thinks it a great joke, while Terese and I try to distance ourselves from the hapless helpers.

We leave Melbourne in freezing conditions in late July and arrive in tropical Singapore for an overnight stay. Having always wished to see the memorial at Changi Prison, I had 3 uncles imprisoned as POW's during WW II, we head off to Changi. It is an amazing place, the displays and audio guides give us an authentic idea of life in Changi but I also find some aspects quite disturbing. I search for details of my family members but can't find any. The staff give me the detail for a website to check, which I carry in my wallet for the entire trip, and then manage to lose when we arrive home!

Next flight is to Copenhagen. What a beautiful city, but watch out for cyclists, there are many, many of them. Then we board the Regal Princess for a Baltic Cruise. I have to admit I love cruising, unpacking for the duration, you can do as much or as little as you like. We always like to see everything possible. First stop is Oslo, then to Warnemunde in Germany. From Warnemunde we take a train to Berlin, it is really, really hot and a day trip doesn't do justice to Berlin. The Brandenburg Gate, Reichstags Building, Checkpoint Charlie (just a mock -up, with Italian actors), and remnants of the Berlin Wall are all interesting. At the Berlin Wall we come across a segment painted by Salvadore De Fazio, incredibly, a distant cousin from Argentina.



The next port is Tallinn in Estonia, a gorgeous medieval city, absolutely packed with tourists. Then to St Petersburg in Russia. In most ports we just have to swipe out from the ship, but in St Petersburg we have to go through customs and it is quite the performance. We have been told not to

speak to or smile at the customs agent but we do get through and start an awesome 2 days. The first day is quite wet and cold, disappointing for the canal cruise where we can't really see anything but we are offered vodka (to warm us up, I think), at 8am. Then over the next days we see the Hermitage Museum, Peter & Paul Fortress and Cathedral, Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood, site of the assassination of Tsar Alexander II, St Isaac's Cathedral, Peterhof Palace and Yusupov Palace, where Rasputin was killed. The churches are incredible, the amount of gilt decoration and ornamentation is unbelievable. The Hermitage Museum has to be seen to be believed. Covering a whole city block with many floors it would take a lifetime to experience properly. My favourite piece is the Peacock Clock, a large automaton featuring 3 life-size mechanical birds. Manufactured in the second half of the 18th century and acquired by Catherine the Great in 1781.

Much of St Petersburg, or Leningrad as it was then called, was destroyed during WWII so probably all of these museums, palaces and churches have been restored. The siege of Leningrad was one of the longest and most destructive sieges in history.

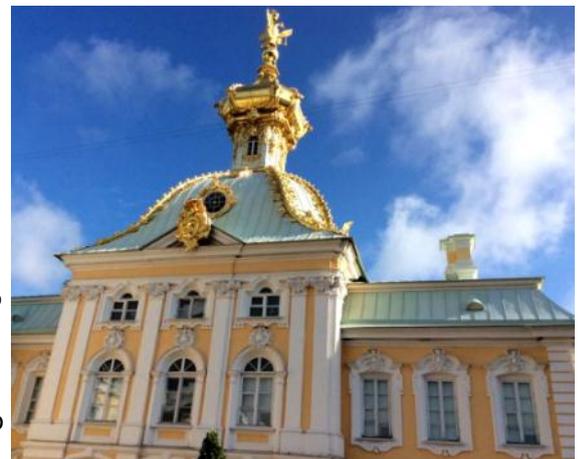


Peacock Clock

We also see a lot of concrete apartment buildings, street after street, suburb after suburb, from the communist era, but no graffiti and all is neat and tidy. It is an amazing place to visit. Before leaving we visit a shop making and selling Russian Nesting dolls, or Matryoshkas, again we are offered vodka at the door, but decline the vodka and still spend a lot on dolls for our grand-kids. We manage to get back on board without incident after a fabulous visit to this extraordinary place.

Next we are off to Helsinki in Finland, it's very wet again so we just take a taxi around the city. The taxi driver is great, speaks wonderful English and gives us a good overall view of the city. Next stop is Nynashamn in Sweden, most of the tourists are taking a train to Stockholm but we decide to just walk around the village and do some shopping for basics, toothpaste and soap etc. I always love to suss out local supermarkets and shops to compare with our own.

The last stop is back to Copenhagen where we leave the ship to start our land tour of Scandinavia, the real fiasco in de fjords.



St Petersburg



**Tatong 2018
Royal Childrens Hospital
Good Friday Appeal**

Open your hearts and wallets at our...

FAMILY FUN DAY & AUCTION

GOOD FRIDAY 30th March, 2018

**Registration from 11.30am - Auction 1.00pm
at the **NEW LOCATION** - TATONG COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Featuring Jumping Castle, Auscamp Climbing Wall, Plaster Painting, Kid's Corner, Petting Zoo, Easter Egg Hunt, Chair-o-plane, Pony Rides, Classic Car Display PLUS Music from Geoff McClure

- Food and drinks available all day
- Cash & cheque only. Eftpos for Auction Items Only

**No cash out facilities
STRICTLY NO BYO ALCOHOL**

*After auction, celebrations back at Tatong Tavern
Dinner bookings recommended*

Easter Egg Hunt at 12.00 noon

For more information, contact (03) 5767 2306 or email tatongrhappeal@yahoo.com.au

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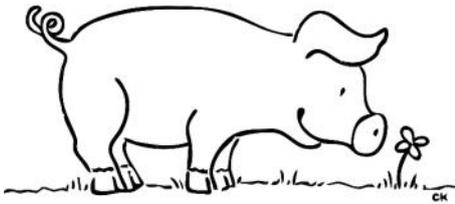
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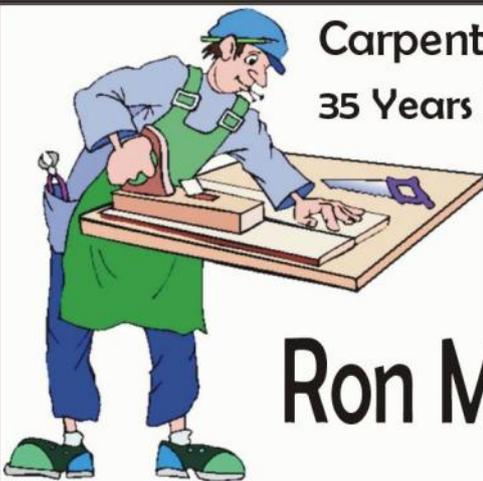
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90th Celebrations in Molyullah

The Molyullah and Upper Ryans Creek connections of the Ramage and Nicholas families all gathered at the Molyullah Hall on 12th Feb to celebrate the 90th birthday of one of the districts most loved residents, Mrs Cath Ramage.

Unfortunately, Gloria, Cath's daughter couldn't attend as she was tending her own daughter's new born baby in England.

Cath's other daughter, Shirley, daughter-in-law Michele, son Ian and son-in-law Max put on a spectacular spread for the celebrations. Cath's husband Eric and sister Hazel joined in the frivolities having taken a day off from Estia.

The Hall was decorated with numerous pictures and articles connected with Cath's life at Upper Ryans Creek. It was noted during the afternoon that Cath has only moved three kilometres in her entire life, having lived in Upper Ryans Creek all her life.

Many congratulatory messages were received and well wishes from far and wide. Son Ian delivered a speech outlining Cath's great loves, her family, her community, the Hall, the farm, and her combustion stove amongst them. After this surprising speech from Ian during the official part of the afternoon, Cath had no option but to make a heartfelt speech of her own thanking family, and all in attendance for their thoughts and best wishes.

Bill Willett

No matter the language – The message on this gate is clear



John Knapper

THE MIGHTY AND MENACING INTERNET

Email, Facebook, Twitter, You Tube; this is part of the plethora of words and images that spring to mind about the internet. It is literally a 'juggernaut' of both usefulness and danger all at once. The speed of its evolution is earth shattering and even governments cannot keep up with developments. Criminals and political opportunists are able to quickly adapt and take advantage of the system well before the authorities 'catch on.' The latest American election being an example where Russian IT (Information Technology) workers allegedly used the internet to try and disrupt the democratic systems and influence the outcome.

As with life we learn mostly from harsh experience and most users of computers connected to the worldwide web have learned to be a lot less trusting of their fellow man. An interesting aspect of digital tech' is that it does not have feelings but it encourages/forces computer users toward logical thinking, which is not a bad thing. It does though require that we are careful about how we express ourselves. I have found for instance that when dealing with some overseas tech people that understanding can be lost when there is an absence of language subtlety. When people talk there is far more than just words being exchanged, there is a whole lifetime of meaning in every nuance of every word, phrase and sound. For example I recently made a small mistake with an address while arranging tech details by phone and email to offshore workers. This led to weeks of delay with the project because as the address was imperfect no amount of 'real world' explanation would fix it. Only after many phone calls, emails and paperwork re-issues was agreement finally reached. In an earlier era one phone call would have fixed it!

Precision is a virtue of computers but eventually they will need to ask us "... *how are you feeling today?*" And then to really hear and understand our reply!

As we experience the internet our knowledge and understanding expands with regard to some of the new terminology and behaviours. It takes a while for some of the evolving 'labels' to arise and for people to cotton on to them. An example of this is the term "*virtue signalling*" which typically describes the Facebook post, or a demonstrator's slogan, in which a person points out the wrongdoing or thinking of others, especially in the area of politics and the environment. There are plenty of examples of such global scale social movements, for both good and bad, in today's world. Such movements can deliver unpredictable results, as we have learned from Brexit and the Trump election. These posts and slogan 'signal' to observers that the messenger is a 'virtuous' person who is on the right side of that particular issue. Little wonder that this kind of action is popular because it doesn't require much in the way of commitment, cost or effort, so there seems to be a big return for little investment. The downside to such movements is that they depend more, for their authority, upon a human weakness for being part of the 'in crowd,' than it does upon a person's own judgement.

Virtue signalling, according to psychology, is largely due to a person's unmet need for self-approval.

A warning from Kofi Annan, former Sec. General of the UN. "*Technology does not stand still and neither should democracy. We have to act fast, because digital advances could be just the start of a slippery slope leading to an Orwellian world controlled by Big Brother ...*"

Mike Larkin

NO ROOM IN THE GARAGE?



CAN'T GET THE GARDEN SHED DOOR CLOSED?

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SWANPOOL & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ANNUAL
SWANPOOL SWAP MEET & VILLAGE MARKET

SUNDAY 18th MARCH 2018

Albert Heaney Oval, 2426 Midland Hwy (B300)

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SHOW & SHINE ENQUIRIES 0425 746 447.

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Wallaby Visit in February

We had a visit from the goanna in January and in February a wallaby decided that the feed in the garden was a lot better than on the other side of the fence.

About two years ago we had some wild dog problems and noticed the wallabies were seen less and, when they were seen, they were in small groups which is generally unusual as they seem to be a more solitary animal. I'm pleased to report that we have about four who visit regularly the paddock adjoining the house block and I'm not so pleased to report that I think they party in our garden in the late hours! ... Janette



Laurie and Linda dancing in the street.
Estonia



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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What's Happening at Molly Rose?

So Feb's birthdays are done and dusted, no more til April. Phew! Although April is looking rather busy with Easter, a Benalla Permaculture wicking bed workshop at the Benalla Library, Geek Con at Wangaratta (Tabletop Games at NEA & Wangaratta Board Gamers will be there), Kael's birthday and Benalla Permaculture at the Off-Grid Living Festival!!! Anyway, back to the present. I've decided to try out the paper towel method for saving tomato seeds – smear the tomato pulp across the paper towel. Write what tomato variety it is on the top and leave to dry for a couple of weeks. Once dry I'll fold them up and put them in little envelopes for planting next spring. I've heard good results from a few different people so we'll see how it goes.



Tim has been doing a Permaculture Design Course at Murrnong in Violet Town and we arranged that if he is too unwell I would go in his place. On the third weekend of the course he was not well enough – we are slowly building up a permaculture plan for Molly Rose. On the Sunday we went out to Katamatite Garlic founded on the principles of permaculture for a tour.

Unfortunately it was on that Sunday while I was at Katamatite Garlic that the falcon or hawk came back and managed to kill three of our chickies – one in the pen by the house and the others in the main pen. It's horrible losing livestock to anything, but I much preferred losing them to a native bird of prey than a fox or feral cat. One of the ones it took was one we'd nursed back to health after it had been stepped on. I am wondering if this may fall under the category of ironic? The other two were from Miss Muffet's surprise fourteen. Although I was

saddened at their loss I was also extremely grateful that it hadn't taken any of our rare Frizzle or Araucana chickies also in the same pens.

Also saw my first snake this summer in the chook pen. We scared each other. I walked in with a bucket of water and snakey freaked out in the corner. I moved away from the open door and watched what I am fairly sure was a brown snake slither out of the pen. I followed at a distance to see where it was going and watched it disappear into the tiniest of holes under the nesting boxes. The chooks all watched, but none of them were interested in having a go at it, for which I was thankful, and whenever one got a little too interested it would stop, raise its head and give them a look. They'd do a quick reassess and stop looking interested. Snakey would get back to slithering and within a matter of minutes it was gone. Needless to say, we've been a bit more watchful when we're in the pens.

At the moment we have five broody hens and one broody duck, but we've hatched out more than enough chickies this season, although I am still waiting on a delivery of rare breed fertilised Welsh Harlequin Duck eggs. Queen Emerald is our broody duck and she has developed a distinct squeaky noise that she makes instead of her gentle peep. Her tail also wags like crazy when we check under her for eggs. For cute videos and more photos check out

<https://www.facebook.com/MollyRoseHeritageHarvest/>

Chook Pallets has come along a little further. Geoff Foreman came over with his hole drilling equipment and drilled out 18 post holes. We've started structure for the roof and put the poles in, although we still need to set them in properly. We were going to be building some doors but haven't been able to start with the European asp nest in the carport. I responded pretty badly when I was stung by one many years ago and after the paper wasp stings I wasn't taking any chances. I'll do some measuring in the next couple of days to work out how much wire we need.

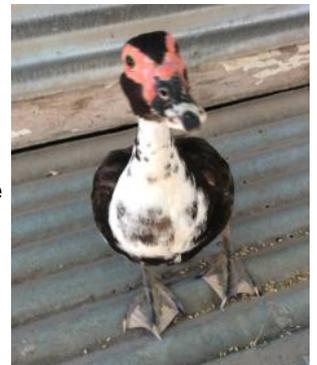
Well I'm pleased to say that I think our wasp saga is finally over. In the end we dealt with four paper wasp nests on and in our letterbox. We've been talking about getting a new letterbox and now we definitely need a new one having successfully knocked a piece of wood out of it giving it a big old lean! So, if anyone has any old milk tins or small metal drums suitable for a letterbox let us know.

And we found two European wasp nests, one in the ground not far from the washing line (I'll dig it up sometime coz I'm curious and it's at the base of a dead tree that needs removing) the other was in the carport in an empty chest of drawers. It took three attempts to kill the nest in the carport and it only succeeded because Tim and Leigh from Benalla Pest Control managed to pull the bottom draw out with Tim's 4m long "pokey stick", as it was there they had built their nest. I watched from inside, only coming out as Leigh drowned them in poison. I hate using poisons, however, I have come to the conclusion that there is a time and a place where the judicial application of poison is truly the only option. The nest was amazing, reminiscent of a bee hive but without the honey, and we had a good look once we were assured that all the wasps were dead.

And then just yesterday (Feb 19) one of our Plane trees decided to drop a rather large branch on our neighbour's car. We had already decided that the Plane trees were going to go, but this just sealed their fate. Instead of a tree that does little except drop leaves we will replant with a mixed variety of macadamias, honey locusts, maybe avocado and a range of other edibles. But before we rush off and do that we'll finish the PDC just to be sure we've chosen the right trees for the space.

Write you again next month!

Carla



Molyullah Notice Board:

Dates to note:

Thursday, 1 March – Molyullah & Upper Ryan's Creek Dinner at the Tavern

Sunday, 4 March – Working Bee at the Hall – 9.00am start – general clean-up

Friday, 9 March – Fish & Chip Night at the Molyullah Hall – 5.30pm start

Saturday 10th March 10am-4pm – 'Come and Try Day' - Molyullah Mountain Trail*

Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st, and Thursday 22nd March 9am-4pm - International Instructor, Steve Halfpenny - clinics and lessons at Molyullah Mountain Trail*

Good Friday, 30 March at 9.00am Sports working bee at the Hall

Easter Sunday, 1 April from 1.30pm Sports working bee at the Hall

Monday, 2 April – Molyullah Easter Sports

Sunday, 8 April 9am-5pm – IMTCA Australia Challenge at Molyullah Mountain Trail*

**For details of Molyullah Mountain Trail see full page advert in this edition or call Brenda on 7566 6459 or email: brenda.millott@bigpond.com.*

Facebook:

Russell Byrne has started a community noticeboard on Facebook. The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/Molyullah-community-notice-board-1546635875415034/>. This is a great tool when you need to know what is happening in the community. Thanks Russell.

Janette knapper@bordnet.com.au 5766 6268

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molyullah mountain trail



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Mountain Trail Clinics and Challenges are fun social events where good horsemanship is practiced. Horses are challenged to navigate through obstacles and riders are challenged to trust their horses in the process. A true partnership between horse and rider is realized, and every person participating or watching enjoys the journey. Clinic participants come from every walk of life, yet when everyone comes together they are one in their passion to learn and in their love for the horse.



Horse Professionals, Clubs and Groups are welcome.

Contact Brenda - ph: 5766 6459 | e: brenda.millott@bigpond.com

check us out on social media at Molyullah Mountain Trail



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Murder on the Puffing Billy Express

For a night out with a difference, last September we attended a dinner and a play. On Puffing Billy, the iconic steam-train that runs the old Belgrave line.

At the Puffing Billy station at Belgrave, we found the steam engine puffing happily. The carriages were not those old ones with rails instead of windows, which as a child I hung arms, legs and head out of (my sister got a smut in her eye, but I was lucky). These were old, original, but comfortably enclosed dining carriages. We were shown to our table, white-clothed, with a lovely selection of nibbles and dips. The train pulled out, and although it was dark we could see the lights of some houses through the trees, and when the train went round a bend the light lit the rail track up magnificently.

We were served hot soup as we travelled; and as the waiters moved about, so too did the actors. One at a time they came through each carriage, to tell us of the excitement ahead; we were off to see the launch of Pat Fleming's wonderful new Puffing Billy Express! After a very pleasant three quarter hour train ride, we arrived at the Nobelius Packing shed, within Emerald Lake Park. In 1904 a Swiss entrepreneur, Carl Axel Nobelius, set up a nursery in these parts, eventually encompassing most of what is now Emerald. The Packing Shed has survived and is now used for dining and entertainment on Puffing Billy excursions.

As the patrons climbed down (those old carriages would never get past OH&S today) the extent of the dressing up became clear. The play is set in the 1930s, and the audience were encouraged to clothe themselves accordingly.



And my word they had.

We were shown to our tables in the shed, to the shocking news that acclaimed inventor Pat Fleming had been murdered! And it was up to us, the audience, to deduce who dun it! Something to mull over as we visited a buffet for a positively gorgeous selection of dishes. And the drama began.

The characters (wife of Pat Fleming, apprentice to Pat Fleming, business partners to Pat Fleming, and a reporter) were brought forward; and each table was to have a question for each character. The MC presented these magnificently, the actors protested their innocence, and the audience enjoyed a sumptuous meal. Eventually the audience each put in a vote as to who they thought committed the murder.



(I have a sneaking suspicion that once the votes were counted, only then was it decided who did the murder.)

The actors waved us off as the train took the audience away. We were served tea and coffee, and even a lovely snifter of port, as we chugged back to Belgrave. Such a good night. Highly recommended to anyone who likes a good meal, old trains, and enthusiastic amateur theatricals. And perhaps doing a bit of frocking up in 1930's theme gear.

Andrea Stevenson





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Gawn to Town

She has gone; my beloved Kelpie-dog has left the planet. Sixteen and a half years is a good age for a working dog, and towards the end she was increasingly deaf, and mad; and her eyesight wasn't great either. It was the dementia that finally led on a stroll into the sunshine on the hottest day of January; and the consequent heat-stroke that took out her back legs, and the last few working neurons. But my memories are of the beautiful, happy dog, leaping and running and dancing through the day. She barked, she sang, she howled with the wood-plane (and if I went off without her). And her chatter... I wish I had recorded more.

The move to town brought the bewilderment of change, and the challenge of stairs. But she was already confused, and inclined to lose me, and losing me in a 50 acre paddock had meant I got in a lot of running; for she could not hear me call, and couldn't see past 50 metres. But in a five-acre paddock I'd just let her do a few rounds, and collect her on the way out. She never looked too worried, as she trotted past, 10 metres away, with her nose to the ground.

Walking her along the road meant either having her on the leash, or being ready to run after her if she wandered down someone's driveway, or set off in the wrong direction. And when a car came I had to grab her, she seemed inclined to wander in front of them. I had a doggie-fleuro for her, with "DEAF" written on it very blackly.

Reminders tug at me every day. But I am sure her ghost is happily chasing bunyips in the paddock.

To own a Kelpie, and direct a mob of sheep around a paddock, is a privilege I will never have again, now I live in town. To those of you about to don your boots, and whistle up your dog; enjoy, and keep hold of the memory.

For over 12 years I wrote a column for the Tattler called the "Whitegate Woof", and the name was inspired by Jubi. A neighbour's grandchild, when licked, exclaimed in outrage, "The woof wet me!"

The woof wet me many times, and now wets my eyes when I look for her, and she isn't there.



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Garden Daze

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



Can it be March (Autumn?) already! Tho at this stage the Bureau of Meteorology is promising warmer days well into April.

This is the time of year to be planting bulbs to be ready for a winter/spring display of flowers.

Each year, a neighbouring garden, has a lovely display of jonquils and daffodils in drifts spread out under some very large old apple trees. A most effective planting with these two old favourites are bluebells.

The bluebells have been planted alongside the clumps of jonquils and daffodils and as bluebells start flowering just as the others finish, they hide the others as their flowering finishes. This keeps the garden alive with colour for another few weeks.

Bluebells - Botanical name: *Scilla hispanica*

Family: Liliaceae Plant/bulb type: True bulb

Planting time: Late Summer to Autumn



Height: 20cm tall.

Depth & spacing: 6cm deep & 5-10cm apart.

Bluebells will grow in full sun to half shade, with filtered light being well tolerated.

They like a well drained situation and rich soil is ideal if you are going to allow

the bulbs to naturalise.

Start watering when growth appears and keep soil slightly moist until foliage dies off after flowering. Whilst it is ideal to keep bulbs relatively dry during their dormancy - something not too difficult to achieve in our climate - they will cope with summer irrigation.

Top dress with a complete fertiliser each Autumn. Blood & Bone with 10% sulphate of potash added would be ideal.

Also known as the "wood hyacinth" bluebell bulbs are white in colour and are not a uniform shape, varying from round to elongated.

Bluebells are tough and forgiving and will tolerate root competition and naturalise well.

The English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) grows to 30cm high with delicate stems of blue, soft pink or white flowers that have a faint scent.

Spanish bluebell (*Hyacinthoides hispanica*) is a lot sturdier with larger, more robust flowers, but unfortunately has no scent. They are available in blue, lavender-blue, white or pale pink.



Going Potty - This is the time of year when I am to be found out in the shade house, getting the plants ready for the Molyullah Easter Fair.

Most are in need of re-potting, and I usually make my own potting mix.

There are a few different recipes depending on what is being re-potted.

I am lucky in that I have some old mulch heaps that have just about returned to a fine humus rich soil - thanks to the busy worms to be found within.

Together with some of the oldest compost heap on hand, some sand or small gravel and (wait for it) a couple of handfuls of polystyrene balls. (Yes that's right! The type from old bean bags). This last assists with water retention, drainage and most important of all - given that we will be handling them a fair bit when it come to show time - keeps the mix from being too heavy.

All that is needed then is some of Peter Cundall's favourite fertilizer - Blood and Bone with 10% sulphate of potash added and some water retaining crystals.

For succulents, a higher percentage of gravel to allow sufficient drainage, and if re-potting orchids, the mix contains larger woody bits of old mulch and small stones to allow the water to drain through as these plants in their natural habitat grow on the bark of trees.

To make sieving easier (and to save my back) I have a large sieve suspended from an old swing frame at just the right height to fit a wheelbarrow underneath.



I also have a couple of these old beauties, with different size mesh, which are great for stones - of which we have lots - and for getting some nice chunky bits of old wood mulch for the orchids.



Many thanks to all those generous people who bring along their plants and produce each year to make the Plant Stall at the Molyullah Easter Fair a success. We couldn't do it without you!

Happy Gardening

Kathy Z

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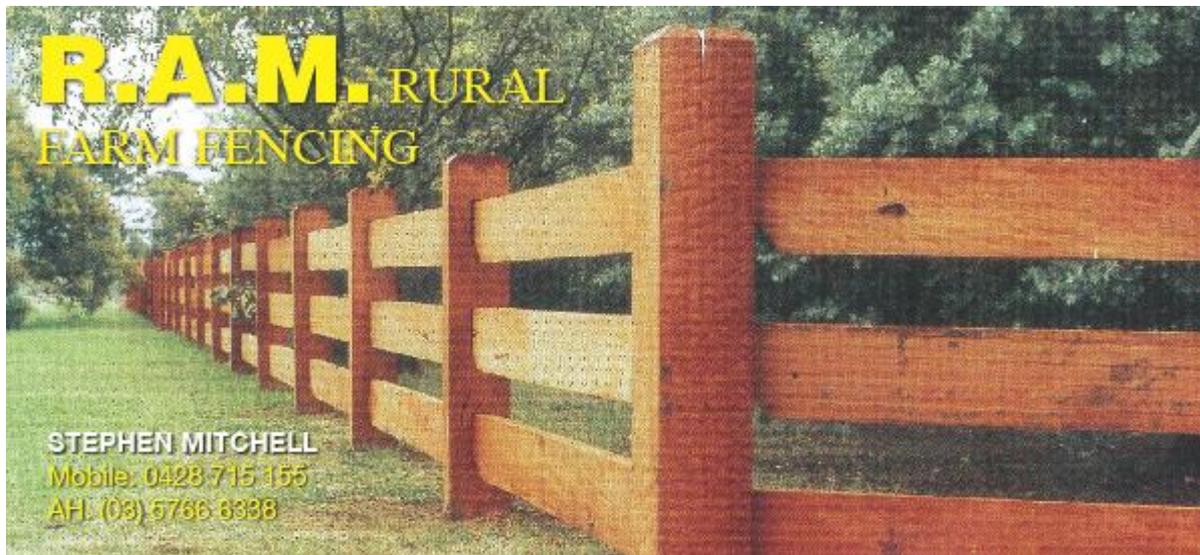


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Fish and Chip Night

Friday 9th February saw us at the Molyullah fish and chip night and what a night it was. We sat in the shade of trees on a balmy summer's night with friends and feasted on fish and chips. Then out of the blue we were offered juicy watermelon and to top it off an icy pole.

A short but very interesting talk by Brenda from Molyullah Mountain Trail Rides followed. I believe the idea is to have a different guest speaker each month. We are definitely looking forward to the next dinner which will be on the second Friday in March. Sallie



Darcy and Matilda Wallis from Tatong enjoying their dinner at the Fish & Chip night.

100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.

If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them



Missing Memories Found

The Moorngag Cemetery project, of marking the un-marked graves, has been completed. The idea was the brain-child of Barry O'Connor, who initially set out to find any un-marked graves of ex-servicemen. There were three of these discovered from the records however nearly 60 other persons were found in the register without a grave marker. The project to mark all these grave sites was wonderfully supported,

with community groups and individuals pitching in. Great research was done, funds were provided from various sources, and then came the physical work of placing the concrete plinths with their plaques.

Thanks to all who donated. Some of the donations were substantial.

Barry has compiled a booklet with a brief history of the cemetery, listing those whose graves sites were marked, and some of the information discovered about them. The booklet, "Missing Memories", can be downloaded for free from the Tatong Heritage Group website (www.vicnet.net.au/~tathg).

- Andrea Stevenson



Cheers to the good fairy who left apples, nectaries and plums along with a note but no name. Please let me know who you are as I would love to thank you in person. Sallie

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
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	29.3	118.9	760.3
2018	34.3												

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

January 2018 had only 34.3mm of rain for the whole month and for this February we have only had 1.1mm up until the 15th of the month. Everything is dry and wilting but at least we have had a “good” fire season with few bad fires so far. January, for those who don’t like high heat was an unremitting torment of mid to high 30 degree temperatures, including many hot nights. Now it is mid-February and it feels like autumn, my favourite season.

Mike Larkin

ROAD MAINTENANCE

The Benalla-Tatong Rd is being upgraded, it seems, or is it just routine maintenance? Hardly a week goes by without an interruption to the journey to or from town by ever more widening, drainage or something else.

There has been many concerns and complaints over the years about the road and its ability to accommodate log and other large trucks and most of us drivers would have experienced trepidation when confronting huge tonnages of speeding metal and wood, especially rounding corners. It is a pleasant drive between Tatong and Benalla with a reasonably good bitumen surface and enough curves and hills to maintain interest and variety. Compared to a similar distance in the city with traffic lights and roads filled with stressed commuters it is like taking a pleasant meditative tour through scenes of rural beauty and calm. This is ‘wind down’ time where one can anticipate the lovingly cooked hot meal and happy children waiting to greet one with open arms and a cold beer waiting in the fridge – we wish! Maybe that is just how it is for the lucky few in today’s ‘pressure cooker’ world.

It is becoming clear that a driver must not hold up traffic these days as the days of leisurely driving are a thing of the past. Even if you are not in a hurry everyone else probably is and so we are pressed to drive to the limit of the speed zone, (except through the 60k zone in the Tatong town-ship, where it is apparently ok for many drivers to go much faster!) I guess we have to experience the worst of times in order to appreciate the best and each era has its strengths and weaknesses. The vehicles of today are a marvel of technological brilliance compared to the cars of only 60 years ago when you were lucky to make it to a long destination, eg Melbourne, without a breakdown.

Mike Larkin

Would be funny if it weren’t true...

Joke of the day, Herald Sun, Jan 31st 2018.

Submitted by Ron Pescarini, Whittlesea.

Usurped by John Knapper.

HELLO, is this Gordon’s Pizza?

No sir, it’s Google Pizza. Do you want your usual?

My usual? You know me?

According to our caller ID data, the last twelve times you called you ordered an extra-large pizza with three cheeses, salami and meatballs.

OK! That’s what I want.

May I suggest that this time you order a vegetarian pizza?

WHAT? I detest vegetables.

Your cholesterol is not good sir.

How do you know?

We cross- referenced your home phone number with your medical records.

OK, but I don’t want your rotten vegetable pizza, and I take medication for my cholesterol.

But you haven’t taken your medication regularly. According to our database, you haven’t purchased your cholesterol tablets in four months.

ENOUGH! I’m going to an island without internet or phone service where there’s no one to spy on me.

I understand sir, but you need to renew your passport first – it expired six weeks ago.

What's on this month

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 27	Feb 28	1 Play group, 9.30,am Rec Res Molyullah Community Dinner at the Tavern	2	3
4	5 Tatong Fire Brigade Training. 7pm Fire Shed.	6	7 Whitegate Community Dinner at the Tavern	8 Play group, 9.30am, Rec Res	9 Fish & Chip Night. Molyullah Hall 5.30pm	10
11	12	13 Mansfield Bush Poets Meeting. Mansfield Library 3-5pm.	14	15 Play group, 9.30,am Tatong Rec Res .	16 Girls Shed 10.00am at Tatong Hall	17
18	19 Tatong Fire Brigade Training. 7pm Fire Shed.	20	21 Tatong Community Dinner at the Tavern	22 Play group, 9.30,am Rec Res	23	24
25	26 Tatong Heritage Group meeting Tatong Hall 4pm	27	28	29 Play group, 9.30,am Rec Res	30	31

RESPONSE TO TATONG TREE PLANTATION ARTICLE

Elaine Brogan formerly from the Old Tolmie Rd near Dodd's Bridge replied to my article and was concerned especially for the memorial plaque to her deceased husband John, which her children had placed under her tree which is on the south side of the plantation near the bridge. This plaque was damaged by a tractor slasher and she is grateful to Joe and Bev Hakkennes for mowing it by hand to save further damage.

It has occurred to me that some newer residents might like to donate and plant their own tree and look after it till maturity. Otherwise volunteers and existing tree donors could take it upon themselves to clean up around their tree or adopt a tree needing TLC. If anyone wishes to plant a new tree where there is a gap, feel free to go ahead because there is no longer a group that is in charge. If in doubt contact me at 57672323, mob. 0428273613, email

mdlarx@activ8.net.au

Mike Larkin

LOOK HOW RICH I AM

Once upon a time, in Regensburg, Bavaria, the merchants were very, very rich. To demonstrate just how rich and successful they were, they tried to build bigger and better houses than the other merchants. This had the obvious limitation of availability of space for expansion. Not to be defeated by this, they started to add towers to their houses to show their wealth.

The one in my picture looks to have ten storeys. Only the floors at the same level as the house were actually habitable. The top six are just a shell – just for show.

This was the merchants' way of saying, "I'm so rich, I can build a tower that I don't even use!"

John Knapper



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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, 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.

STEPH RYAN MP

Member for Euroa

Deputy Leader of The Nationals

*Proudly supporting the
Tatong Tattler*



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Have you considered donating to your community newsletter?

Creating the Tattler costs money (despite being managed by a non-profit group of volunteers).

A donation of \$1 per Tattler helps cover costs. Donations can be;

- * given to Committee Members;**
- * left the locked box by the Tavern;**
- * or EFT'd to GMCU, BSB 803 078, A/C 135720, a/c Tatong Tattler**

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The Secretary, Tatong Tattler, 150 Mt Joy Rd, Tatong, Vic, 3673.

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