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INTERESTING SNIPPETS ABOUT THE STATE OF THE DIGITAL WORLD

While many older people are sceptical of the value of the digital era there is an upside which is well worth learning about. I am aware of the many downsides, for instance, mobile phone usage among the young and the subsequent isolation, bullying and addictions that can occur. Interestingly, gaming among the young includes the creation of "fully immersive virtual worlds," which is not unlike the daytime TV "soaps," or reading a "fully immersive" book!

The speed of digital internet change is almost beyond comprehension but it is here to stay, for better and worse and I am confident that humanity will learn to control and benefit from it.

The Times economics editor, Philip Aldrick, wrote about the value of free social media in times of stagnant wages growth. Firstly, he explained the term "consumer surplus" which is the value we place on something when it is greater than the price paid for the component parts of that thing. Photos are an example where the album of photos is worth far more to a person than the price paid in taking, printing and storing the photos.

We can now get free access to such things as social media, maps, apps, music, calculators, clocks and encyclopaedias in exchange for our personal data which is then used in advertising, (where the actual money changes hands). This is like getting paid for your work/occupation plus an additional amount in free services. Aldrick says that even though wages remain steady, official figures on personal wellbeing are higher in 2017 than they were in 2014 when wages were rising. (*Consumer surplus* does not figure in national GDP calculations.)

What is the value of these free services? Professor Erik Brynjolfsson of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology devised an experiment where his team offered people payments between \$US1 and \$US1000 to give up Facebook for one month. The 200 participants lost their money if they logged on just once. The researchers established an average "reservation price" for Facebook of \$US42 a month. The study was repeated in The Netherlands for a variety of free apps. Whatsapp was most valuable for the Dutch who would not part with it for less than 535.73 Euros per month and Facebook was second at 96.80 Euro. This research proved that there is a big *consumer surplus* or unrecorded value (in GDP terms) in these free products.

Google's chief economist Hal Varian offered these figures: In the year 2000, 80 billion photos were taken on non-digital cameras and printed. At a cost of 50cents each this amounts to \$US40 billion. In today's digital photography

that same number of photos translates to \$US40 billion of *consumer surplus* because there is very little cost in producing digital photos. The difference now though is that it is estimated that 1.6 trillion photos are taken annually! The more prices tend toward zero, the bigger the *consumer surplus* becomes.

"Welfare is a measure of consumption not production," Varian said. On that measure, for most people life may be a whole lot better than the data (GDP) tells us. Mike Larkin, with thanks to The Australian Newspaper.

Fallen Tree on Tatong- Benalla Rd

These are the photos of the fallen tree, according to Vicroads it was 3 hundred years old.

It fell between Emu Bridge Rd and Smith Rd and required 2 huge excavators to remove, and caused quite a disruption to the school bus. Ross Davis is standing in front.

[How I would love to see what the landscape looked like when that tree was a sapling!]

Andrea Stevenson





Tatong Tavern

*Wallet Watcher's
Wednesday*

**Parma and Pot
Thursday**

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Restaurant Menu

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Thanks and we hope to see you all soon.

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Welcome to the team... **81-83 Nunn Street, Benalla VIC 3672**

The Benalla Market

Rodwells & Ruralco Property welcome to the team Louise Mackey. Joining us at the end of March Louise comes on board as our Residential Sales Agent as well as Livestock Administration Manager.

Originally from Central Western Queensland Louise & her hubby now own a small property in Greta that is home to cattle, horses, chooks & dogs.

We look forward to the expertise Louise brings with her having come across from Ray White.

Please don't hesitate to drop into the office to say hi or contact her with any property enquiries.

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Real Estate sales have lifted in the shire over the past 12 months with the total number of properties changing hands being 529 at a total dollar value of \$167mil.

Rural/Rural lifestyle properties only made up 54 of these at a total of \$39mil.

Rural property sale numbers have dropped in the last 12 months, however the overall price per acre achieved has increased reflecting continued demand with limited supply available.

The Benalla residential market is showing increased levels of activity.

In the Yards with Justin Way

Fat cattle for the month of June. Heavy kill steers trending dearer, getting towards \$3.00 live.

Feedlot cattle gathering momentum at \$3.20 liveweight and climbing.

Store cattle have bottomed but should start rising following early June rain.



Parting Thought:

Just imagine, if you had bought \$1,000 worth of Qantas shares one year ago, you would have made \$49.00 today. If you had bought \$1,000 worth of AIG shares one year ago, you would have made \$33 today. If you had bought \$1,000 worth of Lehman Brothers Shares one year ago, you would have made \$0.00 today. BUT... If you purchased \$1,000 worth of beer one year ago and drank all the beer then returned the cans for recycling, you would have made \$214 today. So, based on above, the best current investment plan is to drink heavily and recycle!! And did you know... A recent study found that the average Australian walks 900 miles a year. Another study found the average Australian consumes 22 gallons of alcohol a year. That means on average AUSSIES get 41 miles to the gallon.

Makes you proud to be an Aussie doesn't it!

SCRAP FOR SWANPOOL

Recycling is very much at the forefront of conversations around the world. The issue of mounting rubbish is causing people to focus on recycling, and the replacement of products and packaging with more sustainable recyclable, and short term biodegradable products, in an effort to reduce the mounting quantity of waste.

Whilst the figures, both worldwide and in Australia are alarming, there are creative solutions we can implement to tackle the overall problem. All in all, we have plenty of options for dealing with our recycling, and we have an opportunity to make positive and long-lasting change. One such solution has been developed by the community volunteers from the small rural hamlet of Swanpool in North East Victoria. The Swanpool and district community have come up with a very creative solution for recycling, albeit in a very small way. After attracting record breaking crowds to a controversial art exhibition over the past five years, Swanpool has decided to play its small part in the recycling battle and focus community attention on the issue of waste reduction.

2018 will see the launch of the annual Swanpool Creative Recycled Art Prize, or SCRAP. Whilst the format is very big in Europe and America, scrap art is very much in its formative stages in Australia, with the only exhibitions generally being in regional areas of the country, with some focussing on recycled farm scrap. The SCRAP competition and exhibition is believed to be the only one of its type in Victoria for 2018. Entries of wearable and functional items, along with artistic creations using recycled, salvaged or repurposed materials, will be accepted. The \$3,500 major SCRAP award is combined with seven other prizes of \$500 each, offering both professional and amateur artisans, an attractive incentive to enter. Entry forms can be downloaded from www.swanpoolanddistrict.com.au Entries close 5pm on 13th July.

The 2018 SCRAP exhibition finalists will be on display in the Swanpool and District Memorial Hall, 2386 Midland Highway, Swanpool from 4th to the 19th August, open 10am to 4pm each day. Admission is \$5 adults and \$2 for students. The dining room which has developed a well-earned reputation for fine food and service, will be open each day, offering morning and afternoon teas for \$6 and lunches at \$12 or \$17. All meals come with unlimited self-serve tea and coffee. Meals are created fresh on-site using locally sourced produce where possible. Bookings for the dining room can be made on 0422 370 389 or email swanpoolartsfestival@gmail.com

If you missed the Swanpool Arts Festival last year, don't miss it this year.

Key bottle image courtesy of Michael Moerkerk. <https://www.etsy.com/au/shop/Moerkey>

Queries or further details from, Barry O'Connor, 0407 266 688 or email bjocannon@activ8.net.au



SWANPOOL SCRAP ART COMPETITION

This art show/competition which replaces the annual Bald Archy is now in full swing with entries being taken via the internet at www.swanpoolanddistrict.com.au. Do not delay because the exhibition is not far off, so make sure to get the forms and read them carefully due to the new nature of this art form. Entries can be of wearable and functional items as well as all kinds of used and recycled materials to make your creations. The entry forms describe the size, cost of entry and other requirements which apply.

With an emphasis on "reducing and reusing", which is good for the environment, this is a great chance to show one's appreciation of original and pre-used goods which can be found in sheds and other dusty and cobwebbed places, or even at garage sales and op shops.

This art is inclined toward the practical handy person who has even the smallest bit of art running in their veins. You don't need to go to college in order to make these creations, and it is art, no matter what the 'experts' might say! All that is required is the passion and sufficient skill to make your thing of beauty and innovation.

Time is of the essence because entries close by the 13th of July 2018 and works accepted for exhibition must be delivered by the 30th of July 2018.

I am in the process of creating my own piece, mainly from an ancient Albert Nobel Company gellignite box, the gellignite was most likely used to remove tree stumps. I cannot remember where I collected the pieces (from somewhere in the Swanpool district) which made up 2 or 3 boxes, some of which are partly rotted. What most appealed to me about the box pieces was the mortise and tenon joints. The explosives maker, Albert Nobel, is the same Nobel of the famous Swedish "Nobel Prizes"! He made his fortune inventing and manufacturing explosives.

Mike Larkin



This is Laurie DeFazio getting all the info on Collingwood from the horse's (or magpie's) mouth



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SAMARIA SUNS

On Sunday 3rd June the Samaria Suns travelled down the highway to Clarke Oval in Sunbury to face the Sunbury Lions, the undermanned Suns would be boosted with numbers thanks to Melton and the Woodend Heskett. The first quarter would see the Lions get the early jump on the Suns who struggled to get the ball into the forward line. It wasn't until midway through the second that the Suns would be able to get a major, however by this time the Lions had a commanding lead. Coach Kyle Pugh was happy with how the team started working together and this was evident with the third term being a much closer contest between the two sides. This was in part to the great run from Darby Morrison who was certainly leading by example, creating plenty of pressure and movement forward. In the end the Lions would run away to win by 79 points.

Sunbury 16 . 11 . 107

Samaria Suns 4 . 4 . 28

Goals: P. Symes 3, K. Pugh 1

Awards: Fruits n Fare – Kyle Pugh, Benalla Bowls Club – Darby Morrison, Hollywood's Pizza – Gareth Ryan, The Pink Shop – Allan Crumb, One Wild Apple – Shane Richardson. Tool of the Week – Dirk Ring



through the middle and creating plenty of opportunities for the Suns as was Matt Dawson who was working hard in the forward line.

With the rain and sleet settling in for the third quarter it made the conditions extremely hard but seemed to suit the Suns as they matched the Hawks, the hard work of Jeremy Mansfield paid off with a goal in the tough conditions. The last quarter saw the game slow down, however there was a great moment when 500 gamer 'Razor' would kick truly much to the crowd and players delight. While not coming away with the win coach Kyle Pugh was happy with his charges effort- "everyone put in 100% despite the testing conditions". The game was played in great spirit, it is always good to play the Hawks".

The Suns are looking forward to hosting Melton at home on July 1st. Details are still to be confirmed – please check the Samaria Suns Facebook Page for further details.

Woodend 9 . 3 . 57

[Samaria](#) 3 . 2 . 20

Awards: BOG Jeremy Mansfield (Awarded by Woodend)

Cellarbrations Benalla Awards: Ray Tadd & Simon

Fruits n Fare: Wes Stafford, Benalla Bowls Club: Paul Wellard,

Hollywood's Pizza Café: Matt Dawson, Pink Shop: Jeremy

Mansfield, One Wild Café: Justin Triffitt



The Suns travelled to the Gilbert Gordon Oval in Woodend on Sunday 17th June in near freezing conditions to play the Woodend Hawks. The home team were fired up to win for their big man Ray Tadd playing his 500th career game. The Suns started well, controlling much of the play but were unable to convert in front, thanks to strong defence from the Hawks and the blustery conditions. The Hawks would be first to convert and buoyed by scoring the first major would kick another 3 straight, going into the first break with a 16 point lead.

Wayne Butler left the ground injured, leaving the Suns without a bench. With the wind picking up the low scoring game would see both teams struggling in front of goals with plenty of turn-overs however it would see the Suns finally able to register a major. President Wes Stafford was getting plenty of the ball

Gawn to Town

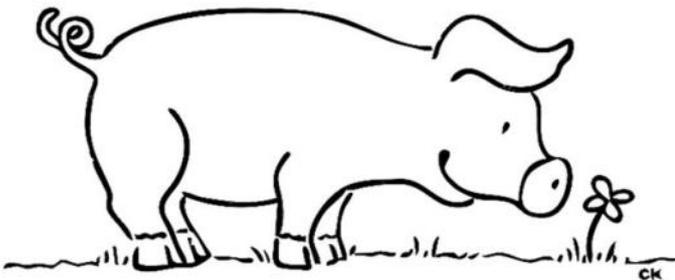
We've left the hard farm slog behind
It's a good 20 months since I last drafted sheep
And in new our kitchen I can now mostly find
Wherever it is that my gadgets I keep.

We no longer cook on a slow-combustion stove
I don't need to hover by firebox and flue
It's no consequence which way the wind blows
But oh, how I miss that bubbling pot of soup!

Our new home is sewerred and the tap water runs
Without our concern as to which tanks are full
So we turn the tap and let them do the sums
And hope no disaster leaves us longing for control.

I look forward to waking with nothing to do
Though I seem to have enough on to leave me
rather tired

And I think of the words my mother once said:
"You think you're busy! Just wait till you're retired."



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

Winter is definitely here!

As I write this it is the weekend that the Snow Fields actually got their snow. And it is difficult to realize that it is time to get my hot box ready to wake up some summer vegetable seeds.

When I first started using my hot box, as it is necessary to dig a hole about 18 inches deep, it was my intention to dig a new hole for it each year in the veg garden and so gradually have a deeper layer of organic soil throughout the garden. Well that idea went out the door a few years back - for a couple of reasons. First being my declining enthusiasm for digging holes as I get older and the second being a lack of sunny places in the veg garden as the trees we planted - so far away that it didn't matter 25 years ago, are now throwing their shade over a lot of the veg the garden in winter.

So - it is much easier to dig out last years compost from the hot box hole - and very handy it is to spread around this seasons cauliflower and broccoli bed - and then start filling the hole with grass clippings and chook poo.



A previous year's Garden in a Box showing some welcome green shoots.

This mix will soon warm up and get the seeds sprouting. Once the little plants have come up - they will keep on growing, so long as I protect them - first in the hot box and later in the hot house.

A recent Gardening Australia program featured a young couple who had a niche market vegetable garden in NSW. They had a seed raising mix for getting their seeds off to a good start - certainly the tray of lettuce they were showing as "a couple of weeks old" looked pretty impressive to me. So I thought I'd try their mix for my veg seeds this year.

Home-made Seed Raising Mix

- 3 buckets of moist coir
- 2 ½ buckets of perlite
- 1 bucket of compost
- 1 cup of blood and bone
- 1 cup of rock dust
- ½ cup of dolomite
- ½ cup of worm castings

Mix thoroughly and it's ready to use.

The amounts given here will make quite a lot of mix - I have bought one coir block for \$3.50 which when I added warm water became 4 1/2 litres. Adjusting the other ingredients should give me plenty for my needs.

This is finer than regular potting mix which is important as it will give closer contact between the soil and the seed which will give a better chance of germination.

I have written about using a hot box before - but just in case you would like to give it a try and need some :

"How To.." When it comes to most warm season crops, it's actually the soil temperature that counts. It is too cold out in the garden beds for summer favourites, but the warm, sheltered environment of a hot box will get them growing.

First dig a hole about 1 1/2 feet deep x 2 feet long x 1 1/2 feet wide in a nice sunny spot. Fill the hole with layers of grass clippings and animal manure - horse is ideal - chook is next best, and "what you've got" will be fine and pack it down - have it damp but not wet, a thin layer of sawdust will finish it off nicely and discourage any slugs that may find their way inside.

This is covered with a wooden frame with a sloping front and topped off with a glass lid. A good alternative is four bales of old hay or a large polystyrene box with the bottom cut out, with glass or plastic to form a cover.

The contents of the hole will heat up in a day or so to provide the bottom heat required to encourage seed germination, then all is ready to put some seeds into seed trays.

Tomatoes, Capsicums, Eggplant, Cucumber, Chillies, Basil, Pumpkin and some Corn will be useful residents for the Hot Box.

As the plants grow, allow some fresh air into the box during the day so that the little plants do not become cooked.

Transplant into little pots (forestry tubes are ideal for this) when big enough (around four weeks) and put them into a "hot house" - again bales of hay and plastic will make a warm shelter. However, any protected environment will keep them safe and growing once they have sprouted.

One year before PZ built the hot house I put them in my laundry trolley and brought them inside each evening.

To get a step ahead of the season....try this....

When your seedlings are ready to be potted on - dig a hole as for the Hot Box and fill as above with manure, grass, old hay etc. Then plant five or six of your little tomato plants in this - choose an early variety. Make a frame - using your imagination to the full. In the photo I have used the remains of an old clothes horse, with fencing wire in hoops over the top. Bale twine is indispensable when making such a structure. Large plastic bags opened out (labels optional) and a stapler will help finish the job.

Remember to mulch well to suppress weeds as it will be difficult to get in to weed and sprinkle some slug killer to protect your plants.

A space to the side will allow for watering and to let out excess heat.

Happy Gardening

Kathy Z



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Goroka Revisited

Goroka is the capital of the Eastern Highlands Province, in the Papua New Guinea Highlands. This year was my fifth visit to the Goroka Grammar School, where my family funds Memorial Education Scholarships. Students in Years 10, 11 or 12, whose families are struggling, can apply for help to stay at school and complete Year 12.

This year, my program included some different activities; observing a Grade 5 lesson, and then a Year 10 English and Literature class. The school day starts at 8:15, and finishes at 2:30, except for Years 9 to 12, which go to 3:15. Classes run for 60 minutes, and even the Primary



students work silently on the White-Board lessons and questions, without losing concentration. Their work is then handed in for marking. The single afternoon period is likely to include drawing, singing or watching a video.

The Year 10 lesson was on poetry, and the use of similes and metaphors. A hand-out contained three different styles of poetry using these. A list of 10 questions on the poems was to be answered, and then each student had to write a two-stanza poem about their home village or town, incorporating similes and metaphors.

Their homework was to complete their poems; additionally, as this

lesson was the day after the Queen's Birthday Holiday, they were to use the Internet to find the actual date of Queen Elizabeth's birthday.

Mobile phones are banned, and if found are confiscated until the end of the day. A second-time offender loses their phone until the end of the week. Messages between Students and home can be sent through the school office.

My visit occurred 10 or 12 weeks after the massive earthquakes in the Southern Highlands. Many villagers would still believe the earthquake was due to the spirits of their ancestors showing their displeasure with their descendant's behaviour, or lack of respect.



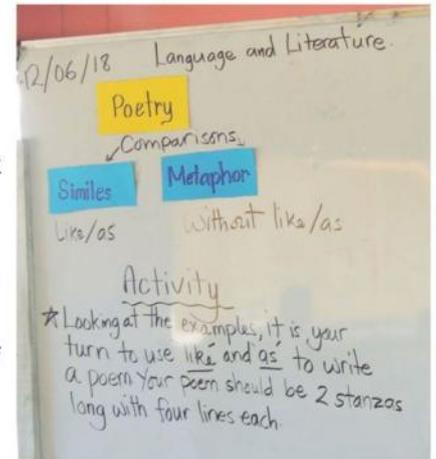
The Grade 5 class had just finished a large project on Planet Earth, with its large molten core, and relatively thin mantle, on which the continents, islands and oceans sit, with the atmosphere above.

On the classroom walls, diagrams and student drawings of volcanoes, landslides and earthquakes, surrounded the main theme, which was the movement of the Earth's continental plates. The island of New Guinea sits on the Northern Edge of the Australasian Continental Plate, which for countless thousands of years has been very slowly moving North. This has caused a collision with the Pacific Continental Plate, resulting in relatively recent tall and rugged series of East-West mountain ranges, still experiencing

huge land-slides and Earth-movements. Along the Northern edge of these massive ranges, smoking volcanoes and boiling mud-pools with geysers are common. Occasional massive eruptions have been experiences which are similar to the Mt Vesuvius eruption which buried Pompeii.

By comparison, Australian mountains are very old and worn down, and our numerous old volcanoes are dormant or extinct. The many high mountains in PNG are twice the height of the tallest mountain in Australia. Note that the relief for communities devastated by the recent earthquakes in PNG did not have the media profile in Australia generated by the recent cyclones further afield in Fiji and Vanuatu.

- Brian Vial



Tribute to Contributors

Please excuse the cryptic tautology.

Thanks to the Tattler's travellers. Their notes are all too brief, I'm sure all would agree. Since my touring days are over my favourite travel now is a walk around our block, which means about a mile checking the fences, crunching through the stubble in summer, and wading through the paspalum in gumboots during winter. With some decent rain there could also be some wading through the creek.

Thanks to Mrs Knapper for the alert about emus. One would expect that with each property in the district having dogs or horses or sheep or cattle or alpacas (what have I missed?) the big birds will keep to the bush. However, it is nice to know that someone else has a family of Choughs, and a bigger family than ours. Chatterboxes! One wonders what they are saying. Probably telling us not to get too close.

With the report of the Choughs another avian story comes to mind. A couple of years ago our willie wagtail pair built a nest on the handle-bar of my mountain bike. So, no more cycling for a few weeks I thought. From three eggs two fledglings were soon copying the aerobatics of their parents. When going to reclaim the bicycle I found that the nest was occupied by another trio of eggs. That spring and early summer was more humid than usual so there were plenty of insects about and the willie wags thrived, although both sets of youngsters had to move away and find their own patch of scrub.

That Summer was too hot for cycling and being un-exercised for its duration Winter was too cold. By Spring there was another nest on the handle-bars and another clutch of eggs. As the chicks grew their feathers a couple of itinerant crows discovered the nest and destroyed it. Our willie wags have kept their distance ever since.

While Mother Nature can appear to be unkind to its many member families, we also could be labelled as unkind, although unwittingly so. The kangaroos which grazed our pasture were replaced by a family that would appear at dusk, down by the lake. Dad would settle down beside the track and watch Mum and the kids pick at the grass nearby. Occasionally one of the youngsters would bound over to Dad for a nose-to-nose, then return to grazing. They left sometime during the darkness, then returned the next evening. A few days after their appearance one of the little ones was killed on the road nearby. The family did not return and we have not seen them since.

There has been some evidence of wombat visits, but the culprit has not been sighted so far. And our echidna is also keeping a low profile.

At breakfast time recently there was a flash of white on the driveway identifying the cause of the little scrapings appearing in different places in the garden, although our rabbits have been quite sparse in number for a couple of years.

And now that Winter has set in there have been no squadrons of pelicans using the lake as a way-station. There are always plovers. How can they fly in the dark?

It would be nice to have a koala or possum make another visit, sometime.

Vin Masters

Missing Sheep

Would anybody who lost, or anybody who knows anybody who lost a couple of sheep in the Mitchell Road area over the past couple of weeks please 'phone 0419996557

Thanks

Sacher torte – John Knapper.

Vienna is well known for music - musicians born there include Franz Schubert, Johann Strauss I and Johann Strauss II. Musicians who have worked there include Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Joseph Haydn, Ludwig van Beethoven, Johannes Brahms and Gustav Mahler.

Vienna is sometimes referred to as 'The City of Dreams' because it was home to the world's first psycho-therapist – Sigmund Freud.

There are high quality shops and laneways full of outdoor cafes and coffee shops. In the main street (a mall) there are food stalls with tables and chairs. Off this mall are numerous laneways with boutique shops and cafes with tables and chairs outside. It is truly a café culture.

Everywhere in Vienna it is possible to get excellent coffee with a choice of lovely cakes and pastries. World famous amongst these cafes is Café Sacher in the Hotel Sacher. The reason for its fame is its Sacher Torte. It's a specific type of chocolate cake,

or torte, invented by Austrian Franz Sacher in 1832. December 5th is National Sachertorte Day.

As if we hadn't already eaten far too many cakes, I was assured that you can't visit Vienna without having a Sacher torte experience – so who am I to argue? People were lining up to get in and everyone had the torte. I can recommend you do the same if you find yourself in Vienna.





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EOI PROCESS FOR 2018 COMMUNITY EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

COMMUNITY AWARENESS RAISING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The Age Friendly Benalla Project has \$10,000 for Community Events and Information Sessions across Benalla Rural City. Funding of \$500-\$1000 per event is available.

These funds can cover guest speakers, venue hire, catering, publicity, travel costs for participants and other relevant costs.

PURPOSE OF EVENTS

- Build the capacity of older people living in Benalla Rural City to develop age-friendly communities by:
 - planning and delivering events that raise awareness of positive ageing
 - increasing access to social activities available in rural areas and the township of Benalla
- To provide information about local resources to support Age Friendly Benalla in rural areas and the township of Benalla

REQUIREMENTS

Funds must be expended by 16 December 2018. Events will be externally evaluated by the Age Friendly Benalla Project.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

EOI forms will be reviewed by the Project Coordinator and a panel of steering committee members. You will be contacted if successful.

Please submit your EOI Form by 31 July 2018 to:

Project Coordinator Age Friendly Benalla, 56 Samaria Road, Benalla or email to agefriendlybenalla@gmail.com

EOI forms and information are available from:

Benalla Rural City Council

Visit www.benalla.vic.gov.au or get a hardcopy from the Customer Service Centre, 1 Bridge St East, Benalla

Cooinda Village

Visit www.cooinda.org.au or as a hardcopy from Cooinda reception at 1 – 35 Kilfeera Road, Benalla

For more information please contact the Age Friendly Benalla Project Coordinator on 0488 330 383 or email agefriendlybenalla@gmail.com





AGE FRIENDLY BENALLA

Older People - An Asset for Benalla Rural City

A partnership between Coinda, the Central Hume Primary Care Partnership and the Benalla Rural City successfully obtained a grant from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services to find out what older people think would make Benalla and its surrounding rural communities more 'age friendly'. An age friendly community offers older people greater opportunities to live active and fulfilling lives, enjoy positive physical and mental health and be valued members of the community.

Parminder Raina, the Scientific Director for the McMaster Institute for Research on Ageing at McMaster University, Ontario, Canada says 'If we stop looking at ageing only in terms of loss and dependency, we can learn to capitalize on its promise by investing in age-friendly communities with integrated services. It's time to re-imagine ageing as an asset, rather than a burden, for our communities'.

This is the core value that Age Friendly Benalla wishes to promote. As The Agenda for Ageing in Victoria says, 'As civic leaders, citizens and voters, older people make a significant and productive contribution to Victoria through community and business leadership, work, volunteering, caring and financially supporting the younger generation... All Victorians should have confidence that by living longer, they will also live well. What is needed is that we transform our attitudes and support modern ageing'.

A snapshot of Ageing in Victoria reveals that:

31% of people in regional and rural Victoria are aged over 60 years, in Benalla Rural City, this figure jumps to 34.2% (2016 ABS data).

35% of people aged 65 – 74 do voluntary and community work.

Only 5% of older people live in residential aged care facilities.

The Age Friendly Benalla Project aims to fund small community-based projects that will support the growth of an Age Friendly Benalla. We are encouraging older people living in Benalla and surrounding communities to:

Plan and deliver events that raise awareness of positive ageing.

Increase access to social activities available in rural parts of & the township of Benalla, and

Provide information about local resources to support Age Friendly Benalla

The Age Friendly Benalla project is seeking expressions of interest from people in the community to run Age Friendly events or initiatives that meet these objectives. Funding is available to up to \$1,000/event and the event is to occur by December 2018.

Application forms & information are available from:

Benalla Rural City Council Website at www.benalla.vic.gov.au or as a hardcopy from the Customer Service Centre, 1 Bridge Street East, Benalla

Coinda Village website at www.coinda.org.au or as a hardcopy from reception at 1 – 35 Kilfeera Road, Benalla.

For further information please contact Fiona MacPhee, Age Friendly Benalla Project Coordinator.

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A Chance Meeting with a Bush Poet

*THE flood was down in the Wilga swamps,
three feet over the mud,
And the teamsters camped on the Wilga
range and swore at the rising flood;
For one by one they had tried the trip, double
and treble teams,
And one after one each desert-ship had
dropped to her axle-beams;
So begins Will Ogilvie's bush poem:*

*How the Fire Queen Crossed the Swamp -
the story of Dareaway Dan, his wagon loaded
with seventy bags of flour and his team of
sixteen big roans - Broad-hipped beauties
that nothing can stop, defying the odds.*

Ogilvie's poem of the pioneer bushmen who travelled the harsh Australian Outback is a stirring tale of determination and courage of both man and beasts mixed with a dash of bushman's mystic folklore.

Bush poet and Benalla resident Roderick Williams is no stranger to the outback, having worked and travelled "out bush" as a shearer and stockman for most of his life travelling from Queensland to Victoria. However, there was also a time when he travelled the world working on Scandinavian freighters, he also worked on a fishing boat in Scotland and managed an overland trip from London to Colombo, via the Middle-East.

There was a dramatic change when he became an actor! From 1971 to the end of 1979, Roderick worked as a professional actor on stage, T.V. and film. (also working as a fitter, builder's labourer, truck driver and sugar refinery worker to make ends meet). He was nominated for "Male Actor in a Leading Role" in the prestigious "Victorian Greenroom Awards" with the other nominees being Paul Eddington, Frank Gallagher, Bruce Myles, and Geoffrey Rush.

A car smash turned life upside down for 18 months of treatment, recovery and hibernation, after which, until 1994, Roderick split his work between acting and shearing - mainly based around Ivanhoe -Wilcannia but also sheds around Euroa and Benalla.

In 1998 Roderick began to write seriously and has published books of his verse which reflect his love of the beauty of Outback Australia as well as writing books of poetry for children.

I met Roderick a few weeks ago in Benalla, when I stopped to admire his trusty companion Dusty, a German Koolie Border Collie cross, who had been waiting patiently for his master to reappear from the depths of a nearby shop.

Whilst chatting to Roderick he said he was a bush poet and was looking for someone to mind Dusty, while he was off to Gulgong in NSW to participate in the Henry Lawson Poetry Competition held each Queen's Birthday weekend.

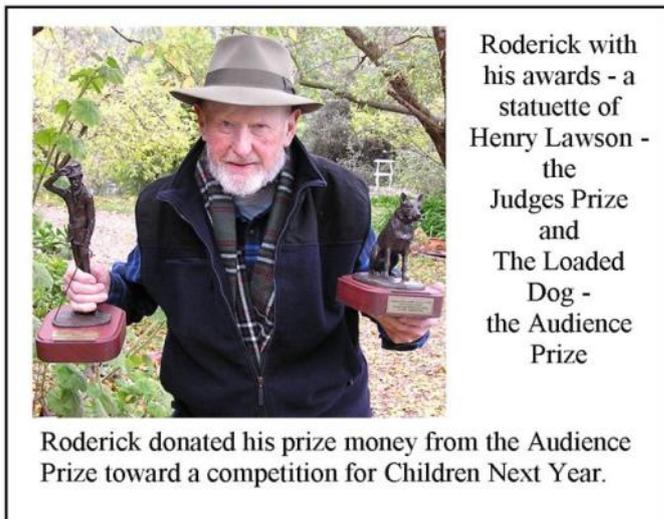
We offered to have Dusty while

Roderick was away on his trip, and a few days later, the duo appeared. After a chat and a cuppa we were treated to some of the Bush Poet's spirited delivery and thought - "he'll be hard to beat!"

Sure enough - a phone call on Sunday to ask "How's the boy?" also delivered the news that Roderick had won - both the Judges Prize and the Audience Vote!

With his battered bushman's hat on his head, and gnarled walking stick in his hand, his years on the stage coming to the fore as Roderick thrilled his audience with Dareaway Dan's mighty feat of crossing the flooded swamp - through the mud that had stopped all others:

*I've sixteen horses collared and chained, the pick of the
whole wide West,
And I'll cut their throats and leave them here to rot if they
haven't the power
To carry me through to the gates of Hell -- with seventy
bags of flour!
The light of the stars is light enough; they have nothing to
do but plough!
There's never a swamp has held them yet, and a swamp
won't stop them now.
They're waiting for flour at the Swagman's Bend; I'll steer
for the lifting light;
There's nothing to fear with a team like mine, and -- I
camp in the bend tonight!" **



Roderick with his awards - a statuette of Henry Lawson - the Judges Prize and The Loaded Dog - the Audience Prize

Roderick donated his prize money from the Audience Prize toward a competition for Children Next Year.

Congratulations. Well Done Roderick!

*Read the Poem in full at <http://www.thepoetsgarret.com/2005/051022.html>



Five awards in 2015 At the Man from Snowy River Poetry Competition held at Corryong.



Kathy Z



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What's Happening at Molly Rose?

Oh my goodness, it's June and it's almost over!!! We've finally had some decent rain – I was beginning to wonder if we were ever going to get any. A small upside to that is that the grass hasn't been growing and the sheep have been keeping it well under control so we haven't had to mow since Geoff slashed for us in November 2017! And we've had a couple of decent frosts – on Tuesday it was still less than 2 degrees by 9am. Brrr. Even had my woolly hat on!

So apparently the Off-Grid Living Festival was a resounding success in April. And while Benalla Permaculture were Off-Gridding, I was having a super-fantastic time at the Speculative Fiction Festival and novel writing workshop with Alison Goodman. For those of you not into writing, spec fic covers fantasy, science fiction and horror (books like Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, Game of Thrones, Star Wars, Enders Game, Twilight, and pretty much everything by Stephen King fall under spec. fic.) Anyway, it was absolutely brilliant!!! I learnt heaps, am even more inspired, and came away with some wonderful writing gems and some new authors to read.

The Permaculture Design Course is done and dusted, and while we have lots and lots of plans, the most pressing one is to finish the first of our permanent chook pens – I am planning on at least one more structure of another 4 pens. These permanent pens are where I separate out birds for breeding, where the broodies go, where the chickies grow out and those roosters not with the flock live out their lives until next breeding season, go to new homes or rooster heaven.

Tim Schloss <http://www.schloss.com.au/> has turned my vague plans of what to do with pallets into the amazing Chook Pallets. Geoff Foreman has done the fencing. Between the two of them and my help as assistant (mostly running around and passing tools up – I did draw the line at getting on the roof tho!) two out of four pens are almost ready. Just need to put on the netting roof (keeping chooks in and predators out), the aviary wire over the wire of each run and gate (so little fluffball chickies can't get out), the veggie beds along the sides (part of the fox-proofing and summer shade/autumn mulch – grapevines to grow up the side and across the pens [under the netting]), extra wood under the gates (keep chickies in and predators out). Other than that they're ready to go! Installing watering systems and misting sprinklers for summer can be done later when all the pens are finished. Can't thank Geoff Foreman and Tim Schloss enough for all their help. When we eventually run permaculture tours their names will be displayed on plaques at the Chook Pallets.

I went to the Men's Shed today to show them the Chickshaw plans. They're going to work it all out, costings etc and, if they can handle having a woman around, actually teach me how to do this woodwork stuff. And then maybe I can build the second Chickshaw myself! I don't have a passion for working with wood at all, but I want to be able to do it so I can do things like fix the front step which Tim would love to do, but health wise has not been able to.

We've been investigating the portable electric fence options for the rotational grazing system of our sheep and the flock that won't be living in the permanent pens and are almost ready to move on this. It should mean the sheep can no longer escape – in their current pen, Cherry sticks her nose in the wire, lifts and pushes and manages to move their pen a significant amount and sometimes this also undoes a clip or two. Once there's a gap of any kind the girls will find it. And it will keep foxes out. Won't stop aerial predators though.

Earlier I mentioned rehoming Roosters. I have a number of mixed and some pure-breds available for sale, sometimes even giving them away. There's 3 Gold Legbars (definitely not show quality, but pretty), 1 Light Sussex, 1 Barnevelder and 1 Rhode Island Red, several Frizzle boys who are smooth feather, a couple of Araucanas (definitely not show quality), a few Araucana Xs and 3 unknowns – and will have photos up on facebook soon. Those that don't sell will end up in the pot as I need to make room for the breeders.

I have decided to focus on rare breeds and egg colour. So will be breeding Araucanas, Andalusians, Barnevelders, Gold Legbars, Gold Laced Wyandottes, and Frizzles. I'm looking at hatching out other rare breeds like Cream Legbars, Lakenvelders, White Faced Spanish, Marans, Sumatras and Welsh Harlequin Ducks to the flock. With the sheep I have put in an order for a black Wiltipoll ram lamb from a lady in the Dandenongs, so hopefully one of the ewes will deliver!

Wasp Nest update – so far this year we have found 4 nests on our property! There might be one more somewhere as there's still a few around, although maybe they're not on our property. I can always hope! The pest man has been pretty gobsmacked about that! So have we! Wild bee hives would have been nicer.

Anyway, gotta go, time is running away on me – still gotta finish getting ready to go to Melbs for our nephew's wedding. Write you again next month!

Carla



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10am. \$5.00 BYO lunch

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LANDMARK

Fundraising Night a Success

The Kelly Country Cattle Dog Trial Inc. held a Charity and Auction and Dinner at Tatong recently to raise money for *beyondblue* and the McGrath Foundation. For a bit of fun the night started with a Doggie Dash, Jack Russell Terriers and Dachshunds in the spotlight on the footy oval in a 100m dash followed by a spectacular whip cracking demonstration from young Tyler Randell and Stuart Bryant on his horse. The dinner was served by Goldhammer Catering and guest speakers from the McGrath Foundation, *beyondblue* and Lindsay Park Racing followed. The MC for the evening was Noel Wiltshire and the Auction was conducted by auctioneer Stuart Bryant. The Charity Auction raised \$9891.00 which was a fantastic effort for all involved. We would like to thank all of our major sponsors who helped with the charity auction including **Kelly Angus, Elders, Rodwells, Teys Australia, Peter Davis Rural, Elders Insurance Benalla, Paringa Livestock, McKenzie Ag Services, Southern Stockfeeds, Tatong Rec. Reserve Committee** and everyone who donated items for the Auction.

Keren Stokes



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The following is the first instalment of Hazel Wann's diary account of her trip to Europe in 2013. There will be 5 more instalments of her trip which was mainly in Germany; Her next one is called a "Slice of German life".

Hazel was kindly referred to the Tattler by two of our other correspondents— Janette Knapper and Kathy Zoethout.
Ed.

Europe 2013 – An Account
Getting There

The Virgin bus to Tullamarine is \$17 each whereas the train journey from Benalla is \$22 each. What a rip-off! Emirates is certainly well organized but the food is awful. They also have a nasty tendency to play things like Frank Sinatra and ads for their duty free whether you like it or not. But the tv and sound system is excellent and tracking one's route on the electronic map quite addictive. Our window seat to Singapore is at night, as is the flight to Dubai but in both cases the cities' lights are both revealing and stunning. In Singapore we get off so they can clean the plane and officials take the opportunity to re-scan our cabin baggage. John practically has to get undressed! Brass and silver are a nuisance.

The giant American woman gets off in Singapore thank god. She sat in front of John and must have been about 6'9" and fat. Even her head was big. When she got up and moved about the entire area came to a halt. Behind me an Australian woman laughs hysterically the whole time. Louder than one's earphones. But she helps when I drop my specs down the side of my seat. The seat is approximately 15cm from the wall. I remove my handbag, coat and washbag – nothing. The woman behind feels under my seat. I feel under the next seat. At this point we are disembarking and a French woman offers me her son who is about 9. He slips on to floor and half under the seats – nothing. Purple framed spectacle lost to the fuselage in perpetuity!

In Dubai we board an Airbus 380 and our seats are beneath the electronic screen- so lots of room. The laughter machine has disappeared. The 2 Filipino girls next to me throw the plastic bags from the ear-phones on the floor. I remark that this is quite dangerous because there is so much space that people pass in front of us. No response so I pick them up. Yet they are willing enough to show me how to work the table and screen now stored in the seats.

Even the food improves slightly. Mezze for breakfast. And the sound system improves. On the Boeing 747 the plane is louder than the earphones. I found this quite stressful. The noise on the Airbus is like a quiet air conditioning system.

After watching the last episode of Broadchurch, I saturate my brain with Beethoven's concerti and track our way across Arabia to Europe. We are 6 hours from Schipol and flying at 40,000 feet. We have no window so I track on the electronic map. We enter from the Levant – Yalta – where Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt met; Odessa, near the Danube Delta; Lvov; Krakow in Poland. It is -60C outside. We are flying at 900 kms per hour, head-

wind 48km per hour. Brno to the left and flying towards Dresden. It is now 7.50 p.m. AEST which means we have been travelling for around 26 hours. Leipzig, 36,000 ft, 850 kph. We fly between Bremen and Kassel – 385 miles to go. Beethoven's Triple Piano Concerto playing. Descent has commenced 40 minutes out. Gutersloh in direct line to Amsterdam. They seemed to have abandoned the statistics in English. Groningen on the right and straight over Munster where Ellie stayed. 26,000 feet, 112 miles, 22 minutes; we're tipping, turning NW. 25,000 feet, temperature -28C, 18 minutes. Turning due West. I switch to the tail camera. We swing south and I have to put the screen away but that's ok because the pilot will switch on the front camera on the big screen.

101 km; 13 minutes; 666 kph; -14C; 12,000 feet.
41 miles; 7 minutes; -4C; turning SW again; seatbelts
7 km; 492kph; +10C

Vibration

Front camera switches on and a green and pleasant land is exposed

North Sea to right

Approaching a river

Runway alignment (night is better)

Cross freeway

First markers

Second markers

Thud!

Brakes reverse and we have to brace ourselves having no seats in front of us

Fastest pull up I've ever experienced and: Schipol!

It is 1.20 in the afternoon; the temperature is 20 degrees; the rate of disembarkation is impressive.

Here we are 2 hours later on a Dutch commuter train clacking through the countryside. We left Schipol an hour earlier than expected, frantically Skyping Anna to meet us in Groningen in 2 hours as we struggled into the lift that took us down to the train. Everything is green and out in the farmlands stock are grazing and the silage has been made. All that remains is the coming corn crop. The wind mills (the modern ones) abound and each farm house is an island of trees in this flat landscape. And all the narrow poplars you see in 18th Century landscapes.

Bikes abound in the villages and many have canals at the back of the houses.

I see also birch, alder, beech, plane, Lombardy, silver and grey poplar, rowan, willow, ash and many others. The train pulls into Groningen and there is Anna with her silver Mercedes.

Hazel Wann

Used cows???



Anyone know what makes a cow 'used'?



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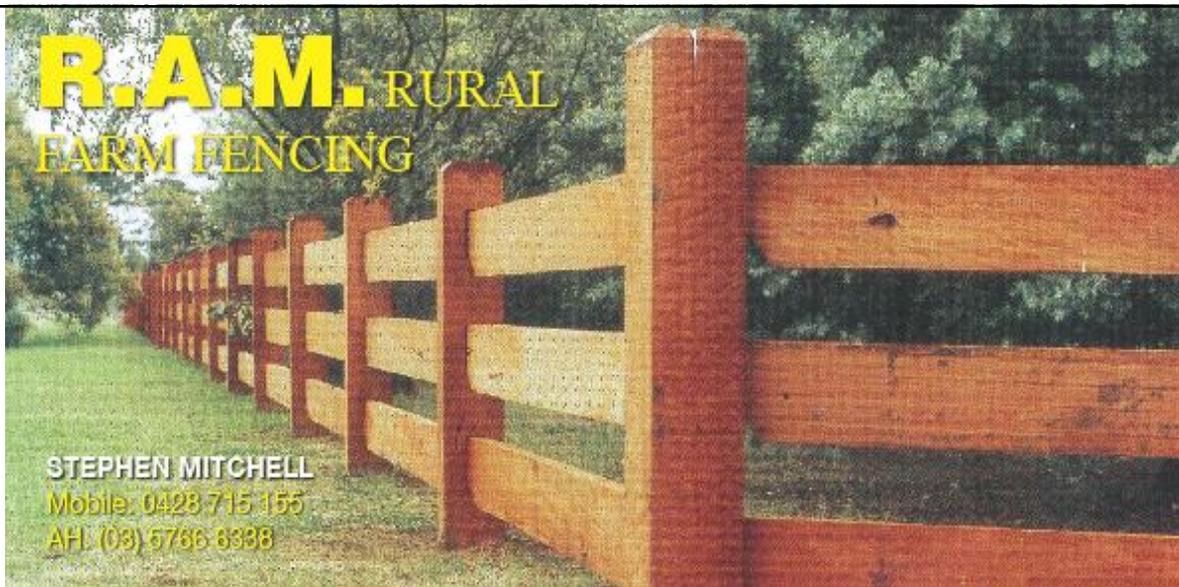
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2009	3	5.4	38.7	80.7	30.6	107.9	77.5	65.5	76	48.6	72.3	18.9	625.1
2010	39	153.7	86.4	65.2	67.5	82.8	67.5	162.1	116.8	123.7	109.2	150.8	1224.7
2011	107	177.3	65.0	36.1	62.9	47.1	84.5	81.0	67.3	32.0	88.3	46.3	894.7
2012	82.5	94.0	184.9	18.1	35	57.6	115.8	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	6.4	24.9	13.7	49.8								129.1

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

50.6 mm! And that's only for half of the month of June. Finally a long soaking amount of rain into the landscape after the previous meagre amounts for this year. The bleak six days of showers and drizzle around the middle of June were accompanied by very cold winds and temperatures, but it is worth it so long as people are able to keep warm. The total rainfall for the month of May was a reasonable 49.8mm.

Mike Larkin

Bills Horse Troughs

From Elaine Brogan

Do you know the whereabouts of Bills Concrete horse troughs? Philanthropists, George and Annis Bills donated thousands of concrete horse troughs to communities across Victoria and other states. These troughs were for animal welfare. I have made a few enquiries to see if Tatong had such a trough. These troughs were usually placed outside hotels, railway stations and grain stores where horses would likely require a drink after a thirsty day's work. To date no one can enlighten me. Thanking you in anticipation.

A Bills Horse Trough at Newtown Victoria



Birthing synonyms

It seems to me that when mammals, including humans, have a baby it is called giving birth. There are, of course, exceptions to every rule and this one is no exception. We (humankind) have invented names for the birthing process in animals that we have domesticated. We refer to cattle calving, sheep lambing, pigs farrowing, dogs whelping, cats queening, goats kidding and horses foaling. There are, no doubt, many other examples that I haven't thought of.

So, what is the alpaca birthing process called?

Alpacas have only one offspring, called a cria, per annum after a gestation period of 11.5 months. Twins do occur but only with a frequency of one in 50,000 births and it is rare for both or even one to survive. Giving birth is called unpacking.



That poses the question – is an alpaca breeder an alpaca unpacker?
The idea for this topic was unashamedly taken from ABC local radio —John Knapper.

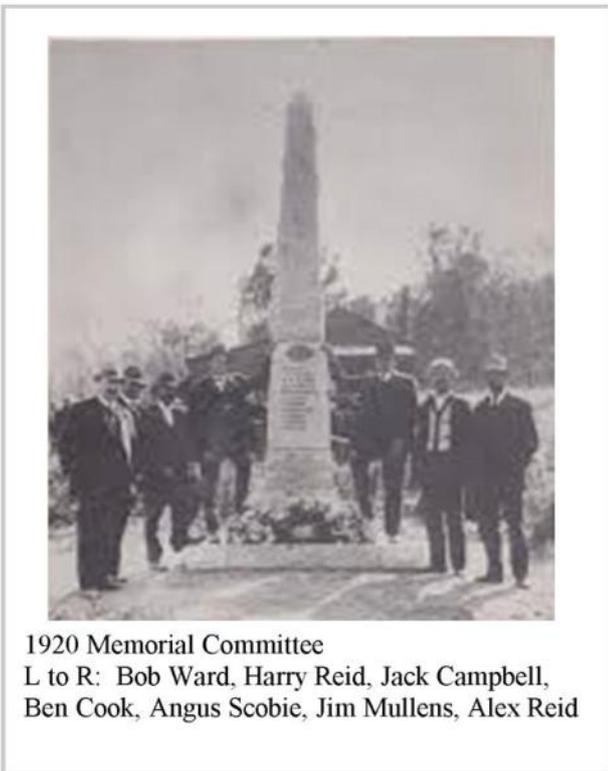
A trip to the Tallangatta Valley

Our adventure started when Janette Knapper heard the local seven am news on Saturday May 26.

Tallangatta Valley were re-dedicating their recently relocated War Memorial the following day, and had managed to get descendants of all the original Memorial Committee to attend, except Angus Scobie. This had Janette's ears pricking up as she knew I was a Scobie.

Angus Scobie was my father's Great Uncle, and Dad had often talked of holidays spent with his mother at Uncle Angus's farm in Tallangatta, so we were very interested in a trip to Tallangatta Valley.

A call to the President of the Tallangatta Valley Progress Association brought the news that they were delighted to "have a Scobie" and we were to be "most welcome" at the following day's ceremony.



1920 Memorial Committee
L to R: Bob Ward, Harry Reid, Jack Campbell,
Ben Cook, Angus Scobie, Jim Mullens, Alex Reid

After the First World War, the Tallangatta Valley Community raised the money to erect a memorial to those locals who had fought and died in the war, and in 1920 the Memorial was duly erected in the grounds of the school.

Unfortunately by December 2016, with only three pupils remaining, the school was closed. The government were selling the school and the Memorial had to be removed.

Naturally enough the community were up in arms and after a tussle with the authorities, the community was given a grant for the relocation of the 20 foot high granite Memorial, and a site was chosen opposite the Tallangatta Valley Hall in front of the Sports Ground.

All was now complete, and the ceremony organised to mark the occasion. A nice touch was to be the presence of relatives of the original committee.

With the Knappers we set off early the next morning John was driving, as PZ was still recovering from his recent

knee replacement. The day began with a look at some special trees growing in Beechworth that Janette wanted us to see, together with a drive around the old Asylum - which was very interesting - tho the tourist "Night-time Ghost Walks" are not on my "wish list of things to do"!

Arriving in Tallangatta we enjoyed lunch at the bakery, then after a brief call at the police station for directions, we were on our way another 17 km to the Tallangatta Valley.

As this visit was before our area had received any rain, we were all impressed with the lovely green paddocks we were passing through.

Just as we were starting to worry that we may be late for the ceremony, we turned a corner and rows of chairs and groups of people signalled our arrival at the memorial site.

The proceedings began with the laying of wreaths, the Memorial was rededicated and blessed, we sang the National Anthem then a very moving playing of *The Last Post* by a most accomplished bugler had a tear in most eyes.

A short speech on why and how it was all accomplished, had us both impressed and amused. We were told that after the foundations were laid, the Memorial was moved by the locals - picked up by a crane and placed on a truck for transport, whereby the crane carefully put the Memorial in its new home.

It sounded so smooth and easy in the telling, but when I remarked to one of the "moving party" that he must have had his heart in his mouth that morning - the reply was a heart felt "Oh Yes!"

The flagpole from the school was also moved to be next to the memorial, and a nice touch was the old school gate, now incorporated into the new fence which surrounds the relocated Memorial.

Then we were all invited over to the Hall for a lovely country style afternoon tea and a chat to the locals - and - as it turned out a couple of my (very) distant relatives.



Kathy Z - standing where Angus Scobie stood 98 Years Ago.

What's on this month

July 2018

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

JUST A WEE BOY



I love the expression on this lad's face.

Joke of the month

The mother-in-law arrives home from shopping to find her son-in-law, in a steaming rage and hurriedly packing his suitcase. "What happened?" she asks anxiously.

"What happened? I'll tell you what happened! I sent an email to my wife telling her I was coming home today from my fishing trip.

I get home... and guess what I found? Your daughter, my wife, Jean, naked with Joe in our marital bed! This is unforgivable! The end of our marriage. I'm done!. I'm leaving forever!"

"Ah now, calm down, calm down!" says his mother-in-law. "There is something very odd going on here. Jean would never do such a thing! There must be a simple explanation. I'll go speak to her immediately and find out what happened."

Moments later, the mother-in-law comes back with a big smile. "There, there, I told you it must be a simple explanation... She never got your email!"

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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
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Text can be submitted in the body of an email; or
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Photos (as jpgs) can be attached, to be laid out
by editor.

If your layout is important, submitting your work in
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