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www.tatongtattler.com.au

Edition 316

Who's been eating my tomatoes?

Janette and I had been wondering why our tomato crop was poor and the plants knocked about. The culprit revealed itself on one of our recent really hot days, mid-afternoon.

The picture was taken from the kitchen door. - John Knapper



Tattler Update from Clare Pryor

Dear Editor,

I am a former resident of Molyullah and indeed grew up there. I and my family were involved with the community and had a lot of ties with various people and with the Tattler, and fifteen years of residence left us all with very fond memories. I was recently encouraged to put together a brief update on my life since leaving Molyullah, and have accordingly done so. Kind regards and many thanks,

Clare Pryor

The years since we moved from Molyullah (to Bowral, in the Southern Highlands of NSW) have seen a lot of change. I finished up at school in Melbourne at the end of 2015 and took a gap year, during which I mainly worked as a waitress at the local pub and worked towards my AMusA in piano (which I didn't end up getting, though it was a good learning experience).

I'm now going into my third year of a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Sydney. I'm mainly majoring in Latin and English (which has allowed me to study Old and medieval English, and European myths), though I've dabbled in Ancient History, philosophy, German and Ancient Greek along the way. I moved into a small (40-person) Anglican-run girls' college right near the university at the start of my first year, although next year I will be moving into a share-house with three other girls. I've kept the pub job on and off, so I'll be back in green and leafy Bowral most weekends to catch up with friends and family, to work a shift or two, and to try to avoid running over any ducks – there are flocks of them in the Highlands, and they think they own the roads. It's been fun finding new haunts in Sydney – Glebe is a very interesting place. There was an archway in the Quadrangle with a high curved ceiling which had better acoustic than an opera house. It would give even the thinnest voice richness and depth. My friend and I used to go there in our spare time and sing. But then for some reason they decided to put plaster on the ceiling. It changed the shape and the acoustic was ruined.

Another favourite place is Sappho's – second hand bookshop, café and bar. It has a resident cat. It's a five minute walk from where I've been living, so you can guess I've spent a lot of time there. Also Domino's Pizza, where you can purchase a box of emotional support for \$5.

I'm still writing, and playing music. I took up organ in my gap year, learning from Dr. Allan Beavis, the Music Director and organist at the church in Bowral. I've also been involved with the church choir there. It's been some time since I took formal piano lessons, but I still return to the keys during the holidays and try to pick up some new repertoire. As to the writing – I'm attaching a recent poem of mine to the end of this, which I hope you'll enjoy!

A new thing for me in the past couple of years has been a program organised by my local church up in Sydney, in which young students volunteer as a kind of teachers' aide in the local primary schools. So far, I have been working with prep-grade students on the basics of reading and writing, and a lot of fun games and activities too! It's easy to fit into my schedule – only a couple of hours a week – and the chance to build a rapport with teachers, parents and students has been a great privilege.

I'm not quite sure what the next few years will bring – more study, almost certainly; maybe study overseas; a good long visit back in Victoria, I hope (maybe a road trip?). For now I'm just going along for the ride.

*God, I have loved, and been too young to know
Love slips like sand through hands inept to hold.
God, I have prisoned shadows in my palm
And clung, hands bleeding, to a cliff of air.*

*And God, I've feared that You'd abandon me
In wilderness uncharted by a pen,
My mouth parched dry of ink, my heart unsown
While my flesh thrives, a garden overgrown.*

*Yet, God of the truest Book, who long ago
Etched out a path through endless sand,
Brought forth a mountain spring from desert stones
And took the poet David by the hand –*

*I saw the gentleness of pierced hands
On that dear brow, now seamed and scarred with grief.
So, setting free my shadows, still I know
You will not leave me wordless at the last.*

(December 2017) - Clare Pryor

DEVICE DELIGHT

As with any new skill or machine the more you use it the more there is to be gained and learned. Having just now sent a text via the smart phone to a friend, I find that my phone and I are becoming quite a team. The phone has uncanny skills at remembering the names of family and friends and that is apart from its amazing skill at knowing sentence patterns. I am speaking as a relative newcomer to the smart phone because my previous 'not very smart' phone was too old and inadequate for the internet.

Because the predictive texting improves with use I now find that to type a message of say 200 words I may only type a third of the letters because the 'smart-alec' phone is jumping to conclusions almost before the first letter is typed. The best and most accurate prediction is my "sign off" because it comes up with the three latest sign offs I have used recently, eg, Mike, Dad or any 'nickname' etc. Someone recently told me that they were not able to text and that it is a real disadvantage for any smart phone user because of texting's convenience and because it is less of a nuisance than a phone call.

Possibly one of the great virtues of such machinery, including cars, is that they forgive our ignorance and mistakes without complaint. Nevertheless it could be very funny to have a selection button for your cars Bluetooth allowing it to respond to mistakes with a blistering tirade of swearing, knowing that it would also apologise profusely before continuing in its normal professional manner. (I am an artist, I can't help such thinking!) The 'blue' language would of course only be the naughty words and phrases it has learned (like a parrot) from you! In my twisted way I find most mimicry irresistibly funny, so long as nobody is hurt. Did anyone else out there get the hilarious delight, when young and first using a tape recorder, from mimicking others – neighbours, teachers, priests and even parents? Mike Larkin

LOST AND NOT FOUND

I made a billy cart with the grandsons during December and when next they visited it had disappeared. It is made with a tube steel body and old mower wheels steered by a rope. The red seat is flash because it was formerly a padded stool.

If anyone sees it around please let me know at 57672323, thanks Mike Larkin

What Am I?

Seen at the Tatong Garage Sale. If you can describe it's use, please write to the Tattler, and be in the draw to win a hearty round of applause.

White Gate Dates



Next White Gate Dinner @ the Tavern is slated for February Wednesday 6th. Several current & ex White-Gate folk have just had birthdays, or will do so quite shortly. And at least one is quite having quite a Significant Birthday. However, despite the ongoing heat, I am not suggesting everyone ought turn up in their birthday suit. Mind you, the chap having the Significant Birthday is remember to have played football for Tatong whilst wearing gumboots. Here's hoping that before 2019 gets too far gone, we are all wearing gumboots (of necessity, not for playing football).

- Andrea Stevenson, 5762 8445

White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| Leigh Humphries | 27 Jan | Andrew Marriot | 24 Feb |
| Bill Ferguson | 3 Feb | Terry Trounson | 3 Mar |
| Norton Grimwade | 10 Feb | Les MacLean | 10 Mar |
| Terry Ryan | 17 Feb | Lewis Vallender | 17 Mar |

Swanpool Cinema

brings you preview screenings of "Happy Sad Man",

featuring Benalla Rural City's very own Rural Outreach Worker Ivan Lister. A disarmingly honest documentary drawing back the curtain on the inner worlds of men from across Australian life, from Bondi Beach, to farmers to war photographers, and challenges the way we think about masculinity today. Swanpool Cinema is hosting two screenings of the film, to be followed by a Q&A with Film maker Genevieve Bailey, and Ivan Lister.

Thursday 31st January , 1.30pm, followed by afternoon tea

Friday 1st February, 7.30pm, followed by supper

Tickets: \$10, which includes a donation to the Rural Outreach Program. Brought to you by Swanpool LandCare Group, Benalla Rural City Council, Benalla Health, and "Looking Over The Farm Gate".

**Do You have some Tatong News?
Tatong Tales to Amaze, Advise, Amuse?
Tales of Tatong days long gone?
Tell your Tattler what goes on!**



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Johns Jitterings

Hot, Hot, Hot!! Is it getting hotter than a normal summer or is it that we are getting a little older and just can't cope? My wife and I went to our next door neighbours on Saturday night along with 4 or 5 other couples and most of the conversation revolved around how dry and hot it was!

I don't think it is any worse or hotter than any other year but because of the lack of garden water our little patch of heaven is no longer looking as green. We have resigned ourselves to keeping our trees and garden going letting the pond fend for itself. One of the great things about this country of ours, however, is that in a short few months we will be cutting wood to stay warm and whinging about how wet it's getting (hopefully). Cheers John



Joke of the Month...

There's an old priest who got sick of all the people in his parish who kept confessing to adultery. One Sunday, in the pulpit, he said, "If I hear one more person confess to adultery, I'll quit!" Well, everyone liked him, so they came up with a code word. Someone who had committed adultery would say they had "fallen."

This seemed to satisfy the old priest and things went well, until the priest died at a ripe old age.

About a week after the new priest arrived, he visited the mayor of the town and seemed very concerned. The priest said, "You have to do something about the sidewalks in town. When people come into the confessional, they keep talking about having fallen." The mayor started to laugh, realizing that no one had told the new priest about the code word. Before the mayor could explain, the priest shook an accusing finger at the mayor and said, "I don't know what you're laughing about, your wife fell three times this week."

My Impression of Australia

By Gita-Kristie Korimbo, 4th Year Mechanical engineering student, Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea. Gita has recently visited Benalla and Tatong.

When I first visited Australia in December 2015 I had just finished year twelve and had no idea Australia would be as multicultural and BIG as it turned out to be. The small town I grew up in lies in the heart of Papua New Guinea in the Eastern Highlands Province about 1600m above sea level with a growing population of 19-20,000 people. The only biggest city I ever visited before Melbourne was Port Moresby, the capital of PNG. Of course I watched movies and I could easily get online and get a glimpse of what other places were like but it's a very different experience actually visiting. Back then, I could only expect as much as my thinking capacity could take me.

I was very impressed at the international terminal in Port Moresby at first, it was prestigious compared to the Domestic terminals, and the security checks made me so nervous I could've easily been apprehended for sweating in a highly air-conditioned area. I realized when I got to Brisbane airport my home's Jacksons International Airport had "big brothers". Anyway, I got on the plane to fly to Brisbane, now during the 2-3 hours of flying I was too scared to walk to the lavatory and I couldn't be rude to the hostess so I had to eat and drink everything that was offered to me. By the time I arrived in Brisbane the only thing I could think of was where I could find a toilet.

But of course, we had to wait for first class to get off, then the front rows, some of them had to remove luggage from overhead lockers. We finally got off and after relieving myself I got to border security. We were given the orange cards to fill out in the plane and I had to be entirely honest so I may have put a cross in one of the "yes" box that sent me straight to quarantine. All of a sudden I had a full bladder again. The guy there had a huge dog almost 3-quarters my size, I was scared as ever. I remembered back home whenever we were passing a house with a dog, my cousins and I always reminded ourselves not to look the dog in the eye and not to be scared because dogs could smell fear. This thought was not helpful at all. Thankfully my fear was not illegal enough to score me a dog bite so I got past and was received by Brian Vial and his partner Andrea Stevenson (my sponsors for the trip) at the arrivals.

I learned a whole lot of new things and gaped at almost everything from high rises to flyovers to bridges. I was particularly amazed at the fact that there were road links to all parts of Australia whereas back home there were a few main highways but they didn't link all parts of PNG. Another thing was how flat Australia was. Back home, you couldn't move a kilometre without seeing or climbing a mountain or hill at least, but in Australia, you could leave a car without handbrake and it would stay parked.

I found a few things different like the dress code, some funny like how avocado was eaten out of a container and how we had to bring our drinks or food sometimes to a party even though we were *invited*. I familiarized myself with the Australian accent and the ways in which certain things were said and done. I did have a bit of difficulty understanding people at times though, and I got homesick and stressed



because I was not used to speaking English full-time. We usually use a bit of both, English and pidgin, so whenever we confused English, pidgin helped out and vice versa. I also discovered that not everyone was Christian and that half-naked people at the beach was a normal sight.

But what saddened me the most, something I could hardly accept probably owing to the fact that I grew up in a lifestyle that was three-quarters custom-oriented, was the fact that families in Australia don't have as strong a ties as the ones we have in PNG. For example, I could hardly live too far away from my grandparents to leave them even lifting stuff by themselves, let alone think about putting them in a home for other people to take care of them. This was very different, but then I realized that Australians would find aspects of my culture unacceptable as I would find some of theirs. I realized how small my little town was, how limited my view of the world was and how curled up I was on the big island—yes island. My home, as I came to accept, was indeed an ISLAND compared to the rest of the world. Things were done differently everywhere and I had to start cultivating an open mind.

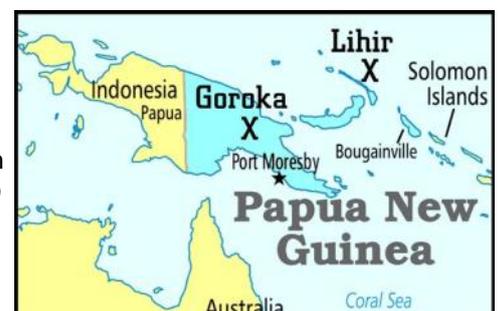
When I left in January 2016, I knew I wanted to visit Australia again, and so I did. I promised myself I would be 'ready' this time. I glided through security checkpoints, used lavatories as much as I needed (sometimes only just to take 'selfies' in the mirrors), had no trouble with quarantine and had a wonderful time interacting and meeting old as well as new friends. Most of the friends I met were Brian and Andrea's friends which means they were aged folks but I was never bored, as in order to become wise I had to keep company with the wise.

On my second visit I travelled with a friend, Vivian Kiyo. We both had an exciting time visiting Melbourne, meeting friends, visiting Brian's daughter Robyn and his granddaughters Evelyn and Claire in Bendigo, we also visited Brian's son Leigh and his wife Sue with their two boys Digby and Rory in Swan Hill, and we managed to find our way through the Southern Cross Station and back to Benalla. I thought finding our way home was the exciting part because it tested our skills of reading tickets and signs and it also gave us time to sight see the streets of Melbourne a bit without getting lost.

It was indeed a great experience for me and I am truly grateful towards the Leigh Grant Vial scholarship that sponsored my years 11 and 12 at boarding school in Goroka and also Brian and Andrea doing the unthinkable of bringing two Papua New Guinean girls with no exposure whatsoever of the world to Australia not once but twice and giving us experiences of a lifetime. These experiences have added values beyond words to our lives and have broadened so much of our understanding.

I am currently in Lihir, an island in the New Ireland Province of Papua New Guinea doing my industrial training with New Crest Gold Mine. I will be doing my final year this year at the Papua New Guinea University of Technology in Lae, Morobe Province and will be graduating next year (if all goes well).

I didn't leave Melbourne with a heavy heart, I know I want to return and hopefully this time with a degree and two visits of experience.





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Preserving the Harvest – Fruit Conserve

General comments

Try to pick fruit early in the morning when it is not too hot and try to use/infuse the fruit as soon after picking as possible, preferably on the same day. If I have a glut of fruit I will wash and dry the fruit then freeze it in snaplock bags remembering to remove any stems or stalks before freezing. In the case of stone fruits I always halve and remove the pits before freezing. Most fruits tend to IQF (individually quick freeze) making them perfect for making preserves later in the year. Always use clean and dry jars with no chips. If possible use new lids for each batch, this ensures a good seal. Fletchers and A Slice of Life in Wangaratta sell loose twist top lids as well as good preserving jars. Sterilise clean and dry jars in a 110 degree oven for 10 minutes before potting. Using clean, hot jars with new lids will ensure a good seal and protect and extend the life of the product.

Generally jam making recipes call for equal parts fruit to sugar but I prefer to make the fruit the main hero and use 1 kg of fruit to

800 grams of white sugar. This gives a more luscious and fruitier finish – it is also lighter on the calories !! If you prefer even less sugar use half the amount of sugar to fruit but these low sugar conserves must be kept refrigerated and eaten within 4 weeks. Some fruits are low in pectin, especially strawberries and adding fresh lemon juice will ensure a better set – approximately 2 small lemons or 1 large juiced and strained for each kilo of low pectin fruit. If you want a firmer set Fowlers jam setter can be added after the initial cooking. I always macerate the fruit with sugar overnight be it fresh or frozen fruit, this tends to keep the fruit whole.

There is nothing nicer than whole conserved strawberries sitting on fresh bread atop lashings of good butter – sunshine on a plate !!

Use stainless steel or a copper preserving pan that is wide necked and shallow. Aluminum pans are not suitable for making preserves, either sweet or savoury. Make sure the pan is large enough to cope with expanding content when boiling. Small saucepans are not suitable, use a pan that will hold at least 6 to 8 litres. If using 2 kg of fruit I would suggest an 8 to 10 litre pan.



Basic Strawberry Conserve

Always wash strawberries with the hull still in place, removing the hull before washing will give mushy fruit.

Dry gently with a clean tea towel and remove hulls. Place strawberries in a glass or ceramic bowl and cover with the

The First Boob Bus for 2019 will depart on Monday 4th March, save the date!

Calling all Benalla women aged 50-74 who are eligible to attend BreastScreen! Remember that New Year's Resolution to take care of your health? Here's a chance to follow up in 2019! Leaving Benalla Community Care, Coster St. Benalla at 12.Noon

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amount of sugar you wish to use – see above ratios. Leave overnight covered with a cloth or cling film. In very hot weather I refrigerate the fruit and sugar overnight.

The next day tip fruit and sugar and lemon juice if using into the preserving pan, place over high heat and bring to a rolling boil. Always watch the pot! The contents will rise considerably. Boil for 5 mins or until all sugar has dissolved and reaches 105 degrees on a sugar thermometer. Don't worry if you don't have a thermometer, do a saucer test. Place a clean saucer in the freezer to get really cold. Dollop a small amount of conserve onto the saucer – it should start to set and have a wrinkle on the surface when lightly pushed with a finger. Cook for a little longer if not setting. Jam Setter can be added at this stage if you are worried about the set, but it will change the taste and consistency. When set turn off the heat and rest for a couple of minutes to settle.

Strawberry conserve produces quite a heavy scum, which must be removed before potting. Use a fine sieve strainer or stainless steel spoon. Stir again to evenly distribute the fruit before potting. Fill hot jars with conserve leaving only a small space at the top and immediately add the lid. At this stage I usually turn the jar upside down. This helps distribute the contents evenly but also ensures a good seal and vacuum, preventing spoilage. Turn the right way up after approximately 20 minutes. Label with contents and date. If cooked and sealed properly conserves have at least a years life stored in a cool larder.

I would advise against using more than 2 kilos of fruit in each batch when making fruit preserves. Large quantities take too long to come to the boil, the fruit tends to break down and it is harder to get even fruit distribution when potting.

This method can be used for any berry and stone fruits. Variations – add a dash of Cointreau before potting. The seeds from a vanilla bean give it a French twist. A mixture of strawberry, blackberry and raspberry works well. Strawberry and rhubarb is delicious together as is a mix of strawberry and white peach.

Happy jamming !!!!! - Carole Ruta

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With my first litter of puppies on ground in May this year, as well as all the young dogs that stay at the kennels, I thought the timing might be right to talk about some puppy raising issues.

With pups it's very tempting to consider that everything they do is cute. I have to admit they sometimes do something that is so naughty & funny it's hard to remember discipline. However, remember it we must!

Consistency is the key. Give the pup consistent directions. When teaching them basic commands like sit & stay, offer a treat to encourage them to sit. They will soon realise that the command equals treats & you're on your way.

Toilet training is another area that requires consistency. Of course take the puppy outside after eating and drinking. But it's important to remind them constantly to toilet. With my puppies I'd take them outside every 15-20 mins for a wee. When they wee I make a big fuss (clapping & pats etc). It does not take long for the association. If using a doggy door I start treating them when I see them make the decision to go out the door to wee. When they come back inside they get a treat immediately.

With all my dogs they are basically toilet trained within a couple of weeks, with very minimal accidents.

I also use puppy play pens. In there they have their food, water, bed and puppy potty. They go into the pen when I'm outside. This becomes a positive experience & I'll normally give them a small treat. When I come back in I won't let them out if they are squealing and barking. If they are I simply ignore them until they're calm and then I let them straight out. Puppy pens are so positive for my guys that they still sleep in them every night.

It's important to get your puppy used to being handled. Get them used to you checking their teeth and bathing and drying them. If you have a breed that requires constant grooming get them used to clippers ASAP. Nail trimming can be a mine-field so handle their feet & tap their nails with a spoon so they get used to the metallic & feel of something on their nails.

Get them used to collars & jackets. Remember distraction is the key. They often go crazy with a jacket on, so play ball or grab their favourite toy; they will soon forget the jacket. If you're holding onto them in your arms & they wriggle and go crazy to get down, hold them until they stop struggling. They'll soon learn they get what they want being calm.

An important thing to remember is puppies go through a fear response between 8-12 weeks. So it's important to expose them to new experiences and situations, but don't overdo it, or you could create future issues.



Take them into the vets often, even for just a weight check. It will teach them that a vet visit does not always mean a jab or something up their bottom. A side note is the importance of a 3rd vaccination at 16 weeks. Recent studies have shown that 16wks is the time that the mother's immunity has almost

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gone from the puppies.

Food is another big item. Expose them to a range of food. Obviously not all at once. However expose them to different types of meat, bones, pigs ears, sardines etc. Even different sized kibble. Remember dogs aren't normally fussy. Give them a fixed time to eat their food, if they don't eat it, take it away. Remember to get them used to you taking the food away so they don't start resource guarding.

One of biggest pieces of advice is be careful of when you are patting and comforting your dog. Behavioural issues can stem directly from our reactions. For example if your dog is barking at another dog & acting anxious, don't pat them and reassure them. You think you are reassuring them but what you are actually doing is telling them this is the way you want them to behave. Remember to reward with affection when they are displaying the behaviour you want (calm & submissive).

Also with interaction with other dogs. The worst thing you can do if your dog is displaying unwanted behaviour to another dog it to pick them up. This makes your dog bigger & in their eyes more powerful. This is often why I see dogs with 'napoleon' complexes. The chihuahua who thinks they're a Rottweiler. This is normally because the wrong state has been encouraged.

Remember the key to all of this is consistency. Consistency of your expectations, consistency of your actions & consistent commands & rewards.

- Karen Walker, Cuballa Kennels & Cattery



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2019 BENALLA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION THURSDAY THE 7TH MARCH 2019 AT LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE COMMENCING AT 6:30PM.

The theme for IWD this year is #BalanceforBetter a focus on Gender Equality.

Our Guest Speaker is **Christine Nixon**, former Victorian Police Commissioner, who during her life may have experienced gender inequality especially in male dominated management sectors of the workforce and community in which she was and is involved.

However her story is much more than just this, so come along and hear it for yourself.

Our moderator for the evening is Gaye Pattison, the ABC's Goulburn Murray morning presenter.

A light supper will be provided and drinks can be purchased at bar prices from the Staff at Lakeside.

Tickets are \$40.00 each and are available from the REDb4 Bookshop or Step Ryan's Office both in Bridge Street, Benalla – Payment by **CASH ONLY**.

Or ring our IWD Committee Members to buy Tickets and arrange payment directly into the IWD Bank Account.

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Wallet Watcher's
Wednesday

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Restaurant Menu

Bar Meals Menu

\$20 Parma & Pot
Thursday

Monthly
Car Event

Hello to all the locals out there. Well summer is certainly here and we have the air conditioner's going around the clock offering you all a cool reprieve from the heat. We hope you all had a good Christmas and new year and are looking forward to a prosperous 2019.

Sunday 27th of January we will have local talented musician **Jeff Cabalar** performing from 12pm-3pm during our monthly car and bike show "Show Us Your Wheels" It would be great to see the local out there for some lunch and drinks. If you haven't heard of Jeff jump on his facebook page or youtube channel, he is definitely a musician worth coming to see live.

Thursday 14th of February brings a bit of romance to the Tavern for our **Valentine's Day dinner**. Limited seats so book in advance to secure your table.

Friday 15th of March we will be having Comedy Duo "**On the Road Comedy**" performing at the Tavern. These guys are popular in the Melbourne Comedy Scene, extremely funny and will make for a great Friday night. Bookings Essential.

Don't forget we are still doing our regular **Tuesday Pizza night, Wednesday Wallet Watchers, Thursday \$20 Pot & Parma** and **Friday Happy Hour from 5.30-7.30pm**

We hope to see you all soon at your local pub the Tatong Tavern.

2019 will bring big things for the Tavern so watch this space.

- Shirley & Pedro

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Quoted from research not cited, <http://www.walterreeves.com/gardening-q-and-a/roundup-breakdown-in-tap-water/>

This information on glyphosate was found when looking for something else entirely. I have long mixed RoundUp ahead of time, left it sit, and have not noticed it being less effectual at killing plant-life. But I should hate for a Caltrop plant or Bathurst Burr to survive my attentions.

Have you been worried by the recent bad press on RoundUp? The science continues to show it is very safe. Best not to drink it, or get it on your skin; but worry more about abuse of power by the big companies... and the media.

- Andrea Stevenson

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*Where oh where has the Editor gone?
Where oh where can he be?
Where it's not too cold and it's not too warm
(lucky so and so!)
Where the beer is cold
And the Elephant roam
Where oh where can he be...*

This Edition of the Tatong Tattler is brought to you by a Stand-In Editor, as Geoff has fled the country. Must have known we'd have end-to-end days of 40 Celcius. He emails that he would have sent a story of his travels for us, but the hotels no longer have computers available with SD readers. What is the world coming to? - Andi Stevenson

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A Passenger to India:

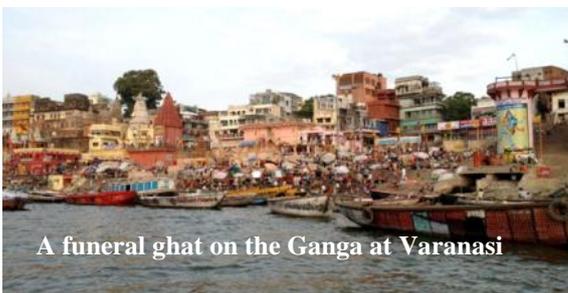
The End of The Longest Journey

Varanasi July 4

Another early start, as we took a rowboat down the Ganga (Ganges) at dawn, making a leisurely progress past row upon row of ghats, some dedicated to laundry—wallahs, other more commonly to the rituals of ablution – washing, swimming, cleaning teeth; others to the performance of religious observance. Further down the river, ghats are dedicated to the conduct of funeral rites. As is well-known, Hindus believe that to be cremated on the banks of this holy river and to have their ashes cast into it at this place is to hasten the achievement of moksha and liberation from the wheel of existence. We passed two cremation ghats, where crowds were gathering around a funeral pyre, and declined our guide's rather prurient offer to approach more closely out of respect to the ritual being conducted.

Rather than exhaust our boatman by an upstream row against the rather strong current, we disembarked, ascended the vertiginously steep steps of the ghat and plunged into a cramped and crowded Hindu temple, where I got the sense that our presence as gawkers rather than

worshippers was not altogether welcomed. We then embarked on a wander through the narrow



A funeral ghat on the Ganga at Varanasi

streets and alleys of the city. I believe Varanasi to be the most confronting of all the cities we visited on this trip: it is as well that we approached it via more agreeable places. The narrow streets and alleys are, almost without exception, filthy and odorous, full of cows (and cowshit), dogs (and dogshit), the occasional rat – both dead and alive – and piles of mouldy, smelly, indescribably unpleasant rubbish: decomposing fruit, food, plastic bags and paper. The thoroughfares are dank and humid, untouched by the breeze that comes across the Ganga from the East. In these streets and alleys, one finds beggars, sadhus, rickshaw-wallahs touting for business and, in stark contrast to this scene, children dressed in 1950's style English school uniforms being escorted to school by their fathers. We passed street after street of ashrams, small temples, some no bigger than a niche in the wall, occupied by bearded men in dhotis. We came across a deep hole in the ground, with steps leading down to the bottom of it, where men could be seen bathing in a stream fed from the holy river. To this subterranean temple, women wishing to bear children would come at certain propitious times of the year: this brought similar rituals in Italy to mind: the display of the Holy Girdle of the Madonna at Prato cathedral and the legend associated with Piero della Francesca's Madonna del Parto at Monterchi.

As we returned to our hotel, we came across a young Muslim boy and his companion. They appeared to be begging, but in a rather unusual fashion. They were playing what I assumed to be devotional music through a small and very tinny loudspeaker fixed rather precariously to the handlebars of an ancient and rather rusty

bicycle, which was being pushed laboriously along by one of the two boys. A large green sheet, edged in a golden yellow, was tied to the handlebars, while the other end was held by the other boy, dressed rather more formally in white topi and a long robe, the sheet thereby forming an impromptu receptacle for the contributions they sought. As he walked backwards through the streets, he maintained an air of rather detached indifference, ignoring the few offerings, including mine, that were received.

After a period of rest, we travelled to Sarnath, where the Buddha gained enlightenment and first preached the Dharma. Here one finds the bo-dhi tree under which the Buddha meditated and consists of a number of ruined stupas, one of which was said to have contained relics of the Buddha himself, as well as several temples, con-

The Bodhi Tree at Sarnath under which the Buddha gained enlightenment



structed by countries which have significant Buddhist populations such as Sri Lanka, Thailand and Japan. The original stupas, meditation halls and temples were largely destroyed by the Mughals, or in one case inadvertently by a Hindu king who dismantled one temple for its bricks only to discover too late that it was said to have contained relics of the Buddha himself. There is a very well-maintained museum, contained some building fragments and statuary, including one magnificent intact Buddha in the teaching position.

Returning to our hotel, anticipating a refreshingly cold Kingfisher or two, we were rather dismayed to discover that the hotel was out of beer.

July 5

An uneventful trip to the Airport and an equally uneventful flight to Delhi for an overnight stop before a very early departure tomorrow morning.

I am looking forward to going home. Travelling in India is exhausting, but our stay has been a transformative one despite constant car horns, power cuts, noise, dust, dirt, poverty and deprivation. That last sentence sounds callous, but that is far from what I mean to say. Every experience of poverty, despair and deprivation I encounter: children begging, old people lying in alleyways, crippled people makes me feel helpless, and acts as stark reminder of the privileged life I lead. For all that, almost everyone we met was gracious, friendly and helpful and there also have been moments of great beauty: the Taj Mahal; the Red Fort at Agra; the Amber Fort; the Pink City of Jaipur; Fatehpur Sikri; the temples at Khajuraho; the beautiful fort, temples, chhatris and the Hindu service in Orchha; Sarnath and dawn breaking over the Ganga as we made our way down river.

Home

The hotel kindly provided us with vegetarian salad sandwiches as the time of our departure was before the breakfast hour at the hotel. I had managed to avoid any gastric issues throughout our trip until I foolishly consumed those sandwiches. When I arrived home, I was diagnosed with campylobacteriosis with its symptoms of severe intestinal pain, diarrhoea, sweating, shaking and shivering. Such discomfort was but a small price to pay for one of the experiences of a lifetime. - Steve Ingram

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REGENSBURG, BAVARIA

Regensburg is a perfectly preserved medieval city on the banks of the River Danube. It is so well preserved because it escaped being bombed in WW2. The town is dominated by the spires of its huge cathedral. Its charm lies in its narrow alleys and quaint squares.

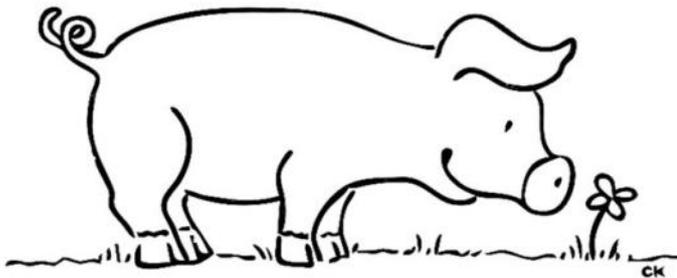
There's a bridge across the river called 'the old stone bridge' claimed to be the oldest stone bridge in Europe.



Right next to the bridge on the river bank is Germany's oldest sausage kitchen, dating back to 1135. It sells 6,000 sausages a day. Even though we were eating far too much, we had to try one - a roll, mustard, sauerkraut and two sausages - WOW!!!

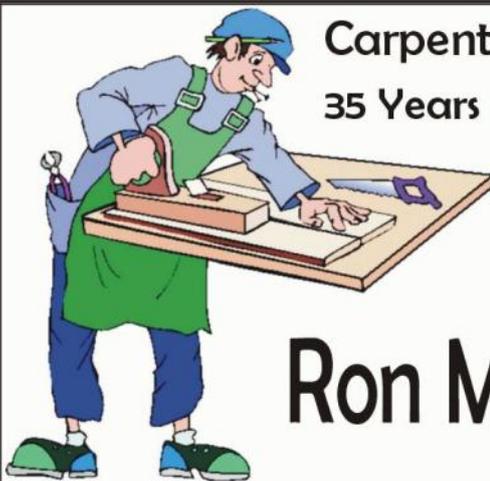


Just across from here, at the 'entrance' to the city, is Goliathhaus. A 'city castle', it was built in 1260 on the site of an old Roman Fort. The mural of David and Goliath was painted in 1573 and was believed to ward off invaders. It has become a famous landmark for Regensburg.



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The remains of a Roman Town Gate has been dated to AD200. It was absorbed into a later building.



The cathedral took hundreds of years to build. It was begun as a church dedicated to St. Peter in AD700. The cathedral we see today was finished in 1520.

Perhaps because it took so long to build, it has some distinctive features. At first glance it looks like any other Cathedral, but, take a closer look. Some of the stone is white and some darker in colour. White stone was dearer than the dark, so when things were tight they bought the cheaper dark stone to at least keep on building.

The right hand side was built first, up to the bottom of the steeple then the left side was built. Interestingly, for whatever reason, the left side doesn't match the right

My photo isn't the best, but the more you look, the more differences you can see between left and right. If I didn't know better, I would say that this could be a Cathedral designed by a Committee.

John Knapper.



Benalla Business Network: Coming Events

Swanpool Motor Festival

Sun 3rd Feb 8:00am to 2:00pm

Wall to Wall Festival

Fri 5th Apr at 8:00am to Sun 7th Apr at 5:00pm

Historic Winton

Fri 17th May at 8:30am to Sun 19th May at 5:30pm

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| 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 | 6.4 | 24.9 | 13.7 | 49.8 | 67.2 | 52.8 | 81.2 | 25.1 | 22.3 | 75 | 73.1 | 525.8 |

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

The total rainfall for November '18 was a good 75mm and for December it was another solid amount at 73.1mm. The total for the year (525mm) of 2018 was the lowest for 11 years but was on par with the district which endured lower than average falls. For example Benalla's average annual fall is 599.7 and they received 400.6 for 2018 (As read in the Country News supplement to the Ensign).

For this year, 2019, we have received a total of 5.5mm up until the 15th of January. This amount fell on the 31st of December but because the gauge is read the following day, at 8am, the reading stands for January the first. That's weather science for ya!

The main weather topic for mid-January is the scorching heat we are experiencing with over 40deg being recorded over several days. With the continuous hot spell houses heat up and stay hot overnight which only adds to the torment. From speaking to others in the district it is probably the hottest and longest 'heatwave' in living memory.

Mike Larkin

A Slice of German Life

Friday, 7th - Bremen

The train to Bremen goes via Leer and Oldenburg – so more Lower Saxony countryside. Bremen is a city state within Niedersaxon. Jossip is there to meet us – looking fit and relaxed. He has taken the day off work (he works in Essen), so we can have lunch. But first we go to his house to meet Nicole, his wife, as she cannot come to lunch. Like Anna, she has children who go to school at 7.30 a.m. One in kindergarten, 2 in primary school and a girl in a private school. At 1 p.m. she starts her rounds, brings the children home and supervises extra-scholastic activities. Nicole and Jossip are clearly doing very well and have all the appearances of the wealthy – smooth uniform skins, gold jewellery, expensive clothes. I love Jossip's apple green suede sneakers. Jossip takes us to his favourite Italian restaurant, and whilst I would have liked to have eaten on the banks of the River Weser, the food was excellent. The Weser curls through Bremen in a series of parks. After lunch we cross it and I notice a magnificent bronze horse. German statues are very modern and very elegant. There is a total lack of pomposity. In the famous medieval square in the town centre there is a statue of the 'Bremen Town Musicians: A cockerel sitting on a cat sitting on a dog sitting on a donkey! Further along in the mall there is a collection of bronze pigs and a swineherd. There is a domestic quality like the statue of a girl serving tea in Leer.

We leave on the 15.05 as it is a 2 hour 15 minute journey back to Emden and I refuse to be late for Hajo's bbq. The train is packed and I find myself opposite a woman who goes on about John's spectacles. "Wir sprechen keine Deutche" I say. She looks rattled and gets out her phone. "American: she says. "Nein, Australien" I reply. She goes on and on. People around her are smiling and Anna attempts to translate but says she cannot understand her. She rattles off her birth date, address, parents, family members. John gets out his book. I have nothing to read. Anna hands me a catalogue of toys for pets which is, in fact, very amusing. The woman touches me on the knee and says something more about my being American. "Nein American", I say, "Ich bin Australien". She doesn't seem to get it and repeats herself. Suddenly the carriage empties somewhat and Anna moves us to several seats away. The

Hazel Wann

woman continues to carry on. Then she gets off in Leer.

It is very hot – 29°, and Hajo picks us up. He has been working all day on the building and is pretty grubby. Now we go home and relax for an hour before the final preparations for the bbq. Heiko, Hajo's brother comes round. He is Downs' Syndrome and really funny. "Sprechen Sie Englische?" I ask. "No" he says. We carry on conversation where we answer each other in the opposite language to what has been used. He has a very fast mind and is a lot of fun.

We sit outside. The salads are just divine, as usual. Sebastian and Ilsa have decided not to come – they want to go to Ikea. I am not impressed with this. Hajo has worked so hard, as has Petra. As we eat the predicted thunderstorm arrives so we gather up the table and return to the ground floor dining room. After a while Georg und Inge arrive. They have been to the service in the Grossekirche, commemorating the bombing of Emden. They sit with us and eat and then Georg presents me with a packet of Friesland tea. Not tea grown in Friesland but blended in Ceylon to Frieslander taste. I tell him he shouldn't do this because it should be us who presents a present. I resolve to send a thank you card from England via Friedrich-Ebertstr.

Then we pore over maps of the coast and Georg advises Hajo on the best of the nearest places on the coast to visit The Waddensea. The Waddensea (the English name) is a World Heritage Site. From Niederland (The Netherlands) to almost Denmark, the coast is building itself. That is to say it is forming. This involves a rich wildlife both on land and sea. Huge bird life, plant species and creatures of the sea. When the tide is out you can walk on the mud flats, ankle to knee deep black mud filled with mud dwelling simple creatures. Georg says if we go there early enough we can walk out before the tide turns.

Notice! - From Feb 2nd to 10th, the Benalla-Yarrowonga Road between the railway line and Sydney Road will be closed, due to roadworks.

What's Happening at Molly Rose?

Wow, time just flies by! I do wish it would be a tad slower, on the other hand, I am well and truly wishing summer would end!! You may have noticed I missed the last Tattler for 2018 and it's time now for the January one, which means, as usual, doing this on deadline day!!!

You might have gathered I'm not overly thrilled with summer heat, sadly I just wilt in this weather and suffer from heat headaches if I'm outside and doing too much physical i.e. doing anything more than walking around and turning on various sprinklers to keep chickens alive can do it and even just doing the sprinklers out in the heat can do it too. Once it gets above 30° C, I'm not much use outside.

So what's been happening at Molly Rose? Many, many things... in fact, too many to write about them all here – it would be pages and possibly pages. I've been thinking about starting a Molly Rose Heritage Harvest blog and doing weekly updates.

I guess I'm gonna have to be picky about what I share, so let me tell you about our hatching sagas. As you remember we hatched out five goslings from friends' goose eggs and five Muscovy ducklings. The three mostly white gozzies are all young ganders, the grey and white are geese. Of the ducklings we have one white drake and one black and white and I think they're going to be massive. Two of the gozzies are going back to the friends, but the third gander and the two young drakes will have to find new homes or end up in the pot.



We also hatched out some rare breed Welsh Harlequin ducks, Lakenvelders (both on the critical list of Australian poultry), Cream Legbars (on the endangered list) and some English Cuckoo Marans chickens. The Legbars lay a beautiful large blue egg and the Marans a beautiful glossy dark brown egg. Some hatches went well, some didn't...

Out of a dozen Welsh Harlequin eggs (posted), only seven were viable. Six hatched, but two died within 24 hours! The seventh egg pipped but died in shell and the last duckling to hatch was not a Welsh Harlequin at all and had no eyes!!! Physically it had a few other problems as well, like a head on side-ways and bent back (maybe wry neck) and it ran around in circles with the other ducklings attacking it. I'd hoped it would die overnight like the others had, but it didn't. Unfortunately disposing of it didn't quite go to plan – it didn't work the way I was told it would. Plan B was unpleasant for me, but at least it was quick.

Out of the three Welsh Harlequins we got two drakes and a duck. You can tell when they first hatch because the boys have a much darker blue bill than the girls. After talking with Kael we have decided to name the two drakes Batman and Joker, the girl we have named Harley. When we get another girl she will be named Quinn. Can you pick the theme?

The first dozen Lakenvelder eggs (posted) were placed under a reliable broody hen. I never did get around to candling those eggs so I don't know how many were actually viable, and in the end only two hatched, one of which died. Happily the surviving chick is growing into a beautiful pullet. We named her One Eighty and she is the most expensive chook I have ever owned!!! The place where we got them from offered me another dozen for a significantly cheaper price which were picked

An advertisement for R.A.M. Rural Farm Fencing. The top part features the text "R.A.M. RURAL FARM FENCING" in large, bold, yellow letters. Below this is a photograph of a long, well-maintained wooden fence with three horizontal rails, set against a background of green trees and a grassy field. In the bottom left corner of the advertisement, the name "STEPHEN MITCHELL" is written in white, followed by "Mobile: 0428 715 155" and "AH: (03) 5766 6338" in yellow text.

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up by my mum and sister when they came up for a visit. The Cream Legbar eggs also arrived at the same time (posted) so Laken-

velder and Cream Legbar eggs went into the incubator together. After candling we had ten viable Lakenvelder eggs and ten viable Cream Legbar. These Cream Legbars are the recreated Aussie lines so some selective breeding on my part will need to occur to keep working on improving this breed. Eventually I hope to get a trio of the imported line of Cream Legbars some time in the future. Anyway, five out of ten Lakenvelders and seven out of ten Cream Legbars hatched. Unfortunately one Lakenvelder chick was severely crippled and passed away a day later, which leaves us with two cockerels and two pullets, plus One Eighty. And it turns out I have one Lakenvelder pullet and one Cream Legbar cockerel with dicky legs. He'll be a pot rooster and she'll only be kept for laying, not breeding. Fortunately I had two Cream Legbar cockerels hatch, so I have one good 'un to work with. Like the Welsh Harlequin ducklings you can tell what the sex is after hatch – boys have a white dot on their head and their down is a lighter brown, while the girls are much darker and a chipmunk pattern. The Lakenvelders don't start getting obvious until their

a few weeks old as the boy's comb gets significantly bigger and redder.

Two weeks later seven out of eleven English Cuckoo Marans hatched. I couldn't candle these eggs because they are very dark brown and the light can't penetrate the shell pigment so I had no idea how many eggs were viable. They look like little fluffy dumpings and at this stage I have no idea of the sexes.

Believe it or not, I won't be buying in any more fertilised eggs for a while, instead I will be concentrating on breeding the various breeds we do have now at Molly Rose and preserving those endangered breeds. With the addition of the Cream Legbars and the English Cuckoo Marans I now have all the egg colours I was after. There are still others I'd like – Silver Laced Barnevelders, Sumatras, Blue Swedish ducks, and Kael would like us to have some Brahmas or Jersey Giants and some Japanese Bantams so we can have both the largest breeds and the smallest!

I shall finish up with a quick thank you to Maeve Larkin and Janette Knapper for trusting me enough to ask me to be the guest speaker at the Tatong Tattler Literary Lunch. I had a great time sharing my writing journey and have been pleased to hear that at least two of those who came have now joined the writing group at U3A. I bumped into one of them a couple of weeks ago and he thanked me again for inspiring him! Time to go. Write you again next month!

Carla





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What's on this month

February 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------|---|---|--|---|---|--------------|
| Jan 27 | Jan 28  | Jan 29 | Jan 30 | Jan 31 P lay group, 9.30,am Tatong Rec Res . | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 T atong Heritage Group 4pm @ Hall <i>(Temporary change of date)</i> T atong Fire Brigade Training. 7pm Fire Shed. | 5  | 6 W hitegate Community Dinner at the Tavern | 7 P lay group, 9.30,am Tatong Rec Res . M olyullah Community Dinner at the Tavern | 8 F ish & Chip Night. Molyullah Hall 5.30pm | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 M ansfield Bush Poets Mansfield Library 3-5pm | 13  | 14 P lay group, 9.30,am Tatong Rec Res . | 15 G irls Shed 10.00am at Tatong Hall | 16 |
| 17 | 18 T atong Fire Brigade Training. 7pm Fire Shed. | 19 | 20  | 21 P lay group, 9.30,am Tatong Rec Res . | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26  | 27 | 28 P lay group, 9.30,am Tatong Rec Res . | Mar 1 | Mar 2 |

Cut your stroke risk in 2019

A recent study has found one in four people will have a stroke in their lifetime.

Yes, one in four people will have their lives turned upside down by a disease that attacks the brain – the vital organ responsible for our thoughts, movements and feelings.

Stroke does not discriminate. It can strike anyone, at any age and any time. It impacts everyday people - mums, dads, brothers, friends, colleagues or even you.

There will be more than 56,000 strokes in Australia this year.

But there is hope - around 80 percent of strokes can be prevented, and we can all take simple steps to reduce our risk.

1. Get your blood pressure checked regularly. Blood pressure is the key risk factor for stroke, but it can be managed. The number of strokes would be practically cut in half (48 percent) if high blood pressure alone was eliminated.
2. Manage your cholesterol – high cholesterol contributes to blood vessel disease, which can lead to stroke.
3. Eat a healthy balanced diet – avoid sugary drinks and cut the salt.
4. Exercise regularly – inactivity causes weight gain and contributes to high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
5. Quit smoking - smokers have twice the risk of having a stroke than non-smokers.
6. Only drink alcohol in moderation - drinking large amounts of alcohol increases your stroke risk through increased blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, obesity and irregular heart beat (atrial fibrillation).

Remember this list, and take your first steps towards reducing your stroke risk in 2019. It could save your life.

By Associate Professor Seana Gall, Stroke Foundation Clinical Council member media@strokefoundation.org.au

EVOOT Syndrome

“Enthusiastic Volunteers Offering Overspent Time”

Observed at Committee Meetings, when Committee Members suffer a sudden influx of Ideas, but fail to recall that they no longer have any excess time or energy with which to carry out the said ideas.

The full extent of this syndrome is often not exposed until the minutes are read at the following meeting.

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Single Issue: \$16.00
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Quarter Page or 2 x 1/8th Page:

Single Issue: \$8.00
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General or public interest articles of at least 150 words (not a repeat of the ad.) may incorporate up to a 1/8 page ad. free. Advertorial style articles under this category must be labelled "Promotional Feature".

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

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

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

Donations can be:

- ▲ Given to Committee Members
- ▲ Left in the Locked Box by the Tavern
- ▲ or EFT'd to GMCU, BSB 803 078, A/C
135720, Tatong Tattler.

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.