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A Winter Walk

One of the great pleasures of a winter visit to Southern England is a long country walk along familiar paths, especially when, after a day of grey, damp cold under lowering skies, the day dawns sunny, bright, cold and crisp under a sky of the palest blue, dotted with cloud and criss-crossed with vapour trails.

This walk begins in woodland. The well-trodden path opens up into a vista of farmland – fields of cabbages, Brussel sprouts, onions and some sort of root vegetable – turnip or radish perhaps. One feature of these sort of country walks is that one is never far from the imprint of man upon the landscape, unlike those in the wilder and more challenging moors hills and uplands of the North and of Scotland. This landscape is tamed, but no less pleasing for that. Its charms are different, and the aspect a mixture of woodland, fields and the built environment.

Recent rain has made the farm track deeply puddled and rather heavy going: the mud glutinous and adhesive. The track takes one past farm outbuildings with their seemingly unorganised clutter of broken pallets, piles of unidentifiable detritus and machinery both new and rustily abandoned. A path away to the left plunges between fallow fields before descending into a sun-flecked coppice of ivy-covered oak, beech and catkin-covered hazel. The coppice is traversed by means of a rather greasy boardwalk that crosses a stream, which is making its way down to the sea. Emerging from the patch of dense woodland takes one on to another path slippery from mud, hedged with hawthorn and strewn with seemingly abandoned badger setts. Here one passes the occasional sturdily shod, warmly dressed walker, usually accompanied by a Labrador intent on examining the interesting olfactory landscape. Brief greetings are exchanged, and the unexpected clemency of the weather favourably remarked upon.

At last the path leads to open fields and a first glimpse of the Solent, busy with ferries, shipping

and yachts, with the misty outline of the Isle of Wight beyond. Approaching the crumbling red sandstone clifftop, the hazy outline of Queen Victoria's favourite retreat, Osborne House, can be made out on the edge of the island. Away to the right the vast bulk of Fawley Power Station and its neighbouring oil refinery, both long shuttered, dominate the entrance to the long arm of Southampton Water. To the east, one or two island forts can be made out, built as part of the extensive defences that protected the important naval seaport of Portsmouth against 19th century fears of French invasion. Now one or two of them are given over to the pursuit of pleasure: spas, hotels and the like. There are other, more recent vestiges of military structures along the clifftop: foundations of gun emplacements and observation posts from World War II. Indeed, this coastline saw the massive military build-up and departure of Allied forces to Normandy in June 1944, with Eisenhower's headquarters established a few miles to the east in a small village in the hills behind Portsmouth.

The return path from the pebble beach climbs steadily, and muddily – now slick and treacherous underfoot, past clumps of budding daffodils into the rather tenebrous embrace of some overgrown woodland. A deep pool, dotted with ducks who seem to be paying reverent homage to a solitary regal swan, is surprisingly fringed with rhododendron. A possibly Georgian manor house, largely hidden by a high wall and cedars, but glimpsed through an open gate, leads back along a paved track through the well-trodden woodland where the walk began, to the car, and home.

Steve Ingram

AUSTRALIA DAY ACHIEVER AWARD

My thanks to all responsible for the Tatong Achiever Award at this year's Australia Day ceremonies. While I hoped in past years that I would not be noticed because I don't much like the spotlight, I must admit another part of me really loves to be acknowledged and appreciated. I have learned another of life's lessons about the importance of community and the way that only by experiencing such an award did its full significance dawn upon me.

Mike Larkin

Dialling Triple Zero – What to do when you need an ambulance.

Ambulance call-taker, Chris Chatham

Calling for an ambulance can be a scary thought proposition for many. Thousands of calls are received each day and many callers are making that call for the first time. It is a call often made during a stressful period when emotions may be running high and callers are often scared.

All of these emotions are understandable. No one ever wants to call an ambulance – it means something is wrong with a friend, family member or someone else we know or have come across. It's something we don't like to think about so when the time comes to call an ambulance, callers often don't know what to do.

So how does it work? When you call triple zero, you are firstly connected to Telstra who will ask what service you require (police / fire / ambulance) and they will also want to know the town and state where that service needs to attend.

If you require emergency services in Victoria, Telstra will connect the triple zero call through to the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA), which looks after call-taking and dispatch for ambulance, fire and police services in Victoria. Depending on the service you need, , Telstra will then connect you to the relevant agency to get that service within ESTA, organised for you. For the purposes of this article, we will refer to the Ambulance service line, but much of what is written below also applies to Police and Fire services.

ESTA has three state emergency communications centres, located in Ballarat, Burwood East and Docklands where call-takers and dispatchers are based. After you have spoken to Telstra they will connect you to an Ambulance call taker who is based in either Ballarat or Burwood. You aren't connected to the nearest a Ambulance station. Calls will be answered almost immediately and regardless of where the call- taker is based, the person you speak to will be highly skilled at finding your location and getting an appropriate Ambulance response for you. However, there are things you can do to help and I have provided these in dot point form at the end.

The call- taker will firstly want to know your address. At the start of the call, this is more important to tell your call-taker than the problem – if we don't know where you are, we can't send someone to help you. It's always good to be aware of your location and in rural areas this can be tricky. The call- taker may ask for your nearest cross street, and often they may not be known. We highly recommend that everyone downloads the Emergency+ app to their smartphone as it will show your exact address and even provide GPS coordinates should they be required.

After we have verified your address the call- taker will ask "ok, tell me exactly what happened". It's at this question that we want to know your main concern for calling an ambulance. Don't worry about the surgery the patient had last year, or what they were doing yesterday – the best thing to tell the call- taker is what's happening right now. Depending on your answer, the call- taker will then ask you a series of questions – this will not delay an emergency response. These questions are all designed to get the patient the most appropriate level of care. At the end of the call, the call- taker might transfer you to a paramedic for further triaging, or they may disconnect after advising you to call back if anything changes. Sometimes the call-taker will stay on the phone to monitor the patient and, in other situations, we may need to give CPR instructions or help you deliver a baby.

In each and every emergency case however, help has always been arranged.

While I hope you never have to call triple zero for an ambulance, should the need arise here are my tips:

- Keep your Ambulance membership up to date
- Download the Emergency+ app
- If you think you need an ambulance don't delay in calling triple zero. Ambulances to rural areas can take longer to arrive.
- Know your address / location
- Stay as calm as possible and listen to the call- taker. The calmer you are, the quicker we can get help for you.
- Answer the call-taker's questions succinctly and follow their instructions this will not delay an emergency response.

Chris is an Ambulance call-taker and trainer based at the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) in Ballarat.



Chris is the son of Marg and Brian Chatham of Molyullah.- Ed

I call these Italian Pickles - a bit tongue in cheek - but they are the colours of the Italian Flag - Red, White and Green!!



Makes 4 x 650ml jars.

So easy to make and they last for months unopened. Store in fridge once opened. As with all preserves make sure jars are clean and heat sterilised and that lids are clean and vinegar proof.

2kg small/slim Lebanese cucumbers
 120g preserving salt, floss or un-iodized (cooking salt is fine)
 3 onions
 2 red peppers or long sweet chillis
 750ml spiced vinegar –see below or white wine vinegar
 3 Tblspns yellow mustard seeds
 1 teaspn turmeric
 ¾ teaspn cayenne pepper (optional)
 1 teaspn chilli flakes
 500g white sugar.

Wash cucumbers and slice into half centimeter rounds , discarding the ends. Place in a large non metallic bowl, china or plastic, large enough to be able to toss the cucumbers etc.. Peel and cut onions in half , slice into thin rounds. Wash, deseed peppers, cut into thin slices about the same size as the cucumbers. Sprinkle over the salt and thoroughly toss and turn over to coat all ingredients. This may seem like an excessive amount of salt but a lot will rinse away later and it helps to remove moisture, it also helps in preserving the pickles. Cover and leave overnight. The following day drain well and rinse thoroughly to remove excess salt. Drain well again, shaking the colander to remove as much water as possible. Bring the vinegar, spices and sugar to the boil in a non-reactive large pot. I use a 10litre stainless steel stock-pot. Boil for 2 minutes. Remove from stove and tip in the vegetables. Mix well so that the contents are well coated in the vinegar mix. Drain again **BUT** reserve the vinegar mix. Re boil the vinegar mix (minus the cucumbers etc.) Boil for 5 minutes. In the meantime place the vegetables into your jars, pushing down slightly to fully fill jars. (I wear disposable gloves for this as the turmeric tends to stain and the mix is still quite hot.) Remove the pickling liquid from the heat and pour into a large non reactive jug.

Gently pour this liquid over the vegetables in the jars. Remove air bubbles from jars with a long wooden skewer down the sides of the jars. It is important to get rid of all the air bubbles as these can cause contamination. The amount of liquid should be just right or a little over what you need to fill the jars. Gently press the vegetables down so that they are sitting flush or under the pickling solution. Seal tightly with lids. Can be eaten when cool but will improve being left for a couple of weeks.

Delicious with terrines, cold meats and on a cheese platter.

Spiced Vinegar. I usually have a 2litre plastic container in the pantry so that it is ready when making any pickles, chutneys or ketchups. You don't have to use this, white wine vinegar will suffice but it will give a more complex flavor and is so simple to make and hide away.

2 litres white wine vinegar in a plastic or glass bottle. Spices can either be a packet of pickling spices – most super-markets stock these in the spice section ready mixed – or 3 cinnamon sticks, a teaspn of juniper berries, mace, coriander seeds, mustard seeds, all spice and 2 or three star anise. Bring the vinegar to the boil in a non reactive pan, add spices and remove from heat. Cool completely. Place back in container, lid and store away in the pantry. Et Voila ready for a pickle session whenever you need it.





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A look at the Real Estate Market with Brett Neilson...



Australia's rural property sector continues to rise. The slide in the metropolitan residential property market is not expected to drag rural prices down. Volume of deals is however tighter due to drier than average conditions and much slower financing from Banks. Locally we are seeing enquiry from our northern neighbours looking for grazing land in higher rainfall areas.

Some of the sales in the Ovens and King River Valleys over recent months have been at levels never seen before. The market is really determined by the level of support received from the banks. The value of farmland across Australia has experienced a long run growing at an average of nearly 6% each year since 1998.

This average has been inflated by the city fringe squeeze with many highly productive agricultural area's under competition for purposes other than farming.



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For Wool Enquiries Contact:
- Dale Buitenhuis: 0428 378 825
- Jarrod Demarco: 0428 325 543

Johns Jitterings

I have just been driving through the Benalla District for the first time in 6 weeks and I am unable to remember the district looking as devoid of grass. Very hungry stock and even a shortage of water in many places doesn't look very good if we go very far into the year without a break and good run off for farm dams. I have one client in the Devenish area with around 20 dams dry and a further 3 or 4 nearly dry out of 28. They do say it's a country of droughts and flooding rains.

The one conciliation about all of this is you get to inspect your stock very closely, very often and if you are feeding close to your next door neighbours stock you see them too. You just need to keep your chin up and hope for the best scenario.



Parting Thought...

The professor started the class by telling them, "In Veterinary medicine it is necessary to have two important qualities as a doctor. The first is that you not be disgusted by anything involving an animal's body." For an example, the professor pulled back the sheet, stuck his finger into the butt of the cow, withdrew it, and stuck his finger in his mouth. "Go ahead and do the same thing," he told his students. The students freaked out, hesitated for several minutes, but eventually took turns sticking a finger in the butt of the dead cow and, sucked on it... followed by assorted gagging, retching and spitting, etc. When everyone had finished wiping their faces, the Professor looked at them and said, "The second most important quality is observation. I stuck in my middle finger and sucked on my index finger. Now learn to pay attention. Moral of the story... "Life is tough but it's even tougher if you're stupid."



**Tatong RCH Good Friday App
Australia Day**

Australia Day breakfast was held on Saturday January 26th 2019 at the Tatong Recreation/Community Centre. The 80 plus crowd dined on cooked breakfast and cold options, with “real” coffee available for purchase thanks to Caryn DeFazio & the Early Bird Coffee Van. A big thank you to Michael & de Sales Turner and Rod Lindsay for their help setting up, selling raffle tickets and cooking on the morning. A special thanks to all those who helped clean up – the old saying “many hands make light work” was so very true.

Tatong had two nominees for Achiever of the Year Jack Harrison and Mike Larkin. Councillor Don Firth was on hand to present Mike the Tatong Achiever of the Year Award. Mike was nominated for his real sense of community as testified by his involvement within the Tatong Community for many years.

Jack Harrison was presented with Citizen of the Year for his dedication of volunteering for 60 years plus of service to the Benalla and District Community. Jack who has lived his whole life in the Benalla Area and has spent an enormous amount of his volunteering clubs and organisations in the area.

Sallie Hann was the lucky winner of the Money Tree Raffle (A Lime Tree covered in 100 scratchies), a great thank-you to Mitre 10 Benalla for their help.

Our Family Day and Auction was nominated and lucky enough to win Community Event of the Year. We were delighted and honoured to have been nominated alongside other amazing events across the Rural City. We are proud to share it with each and every one of our supporters as without you it would not have been such a successful event.

– Save the Date Friday April 19th

Tatong RCH Good Friday Appeal Family Fun Day & Auction
Tatong Recreation Reserve / Community Centre

Are you wanting to help out on the day?

Would you like to help organise the event?

Have you got something to offer us on the day?

We would LOVE to hear from you!! Contact: tatongrchappeal@yahoo.com.au or Jade 0408197865



Mike Larkin, Jack Harrison, Councillor Don Firth, Sally Hann and Leroy Wards

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White Gate Dates

White Gate Dinner @ the Tavern in March is Wednesday 6th. Recovery time for all who had birthdays recently, including Max, Jasper & Laurie; for the latter, Couchgrass had the Tatong Hall romping round the hill.

And congratulations to everyone who survived the heat wave. - *Andrea Stevenson, 5762 8445*

White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Andrew Marriot	24 Feb	Angus McMillan	24 Mar
Terry Trounson	3 Mar	Noel Hutchens	31 Mar
Les MacLean	10 Mar	Bruce Burgess	7 Apr
Lewis Vallender	17 Mar	Laurie Defazio	14 Apr

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What's Happening at Molly Rose?

It's already Feb 20! Deadline Day again!!! How did that happen?

So what's been happening at Molly Rose?

Four out of five birthdays are done and dusted – all but mine was a milestone birthday. Brydon turned 18, Xavier 13 and Tim 50! And Kael will be turning 16 but we've got another coupla months before that happens.

Looks like we're keeping the gozzies, for now anyway. They're lovely but oh my goodness they are so noisy!! Which is why I won't let them out before 7am as they greet me in excitement and deafen me at the same time. At least they're friendly though. I am very pleased that we named one of our Welsh Harlequins Joker because sometimes when they quack they sound just like him!

Like everyone else in the area, we have precious little grass left and what is left is brown and crackly underfoot. So I visited Smyth Seeds in Benalla and got a customised pasture mix for our little 2 acres. I'm also going to purchase lots of straw. Then we shall plant the seeds where the chickens have been, sprinkle some dirt over them, water and cover with straw and then spend a lot of time chasing cockies away. I wonder if spreading fruit netting or shade cloth over the straw would stop the cockies...

All the hatchlings are growing out well. I also know now that we have 3 pullets and 4 cockerels from the English Cuckoo Marans hatch. These, along with the Lakenvelders and the Cream Legbars are growing out in the orchard in the company of 3 muscovy ducks and the drake Snowy, all who have had leg problems and been limping around. Two are better now, but have decided they like living in the orchard rather than with everyone else. I wonder if that will change now there is a drake with them. Interestingly, all of them are white...no idea if that has anything to do with anything, but I shall file it away.

Okay, so sometimes I'm left wondering whose stupid idea was it to get sheep. Peach, Cherry & Strawberry are fine, but this new lot of seven are doing my head in. Well some of them are, two in particular – Butthead and Nameless.

I'll start with Nameless – she's the one that will find the hole in the fence and turns out, isn't afraid of the electric tape either. She keeps either jumping over (I've made it higher now) or pushing her way between the tapes. So I am going to have to somehow physically force her nose onto a tape so she gets a jolt and becomes terrified of it (hopefully), or sell her or turn her into roasts. Right now I am seriously considering the roast option. She is the main reason I didn't turn up to the Molyullah Sports meeting on Tuesday night.

[And now for the Butthead Saga. That boy is only still with us by the skin of his teeth. Having been headbutted and threatened every time I went outside I was ready to sell him. I was going to offer him for sale a bit like the lady with her 'a*@* geese' – here's the link if you haven't heard about them and want to know more](https://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/2018/11/21/geese-turn-queensland-womans-farm-fairy-tale-into-a-living-nightmare_a_23596457/)

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However, that was not to happen. Within a couple of days of making that decision Butthead went down big time. Like Nameless (and her mate Marcelle Marceau – named for the black teardrops on her white face), Butthead would find any hole in the fence and get out. The back fence has always been in bad shape and the cows over the back have forced their way through it a few times so we have now added a new bottom wire and attached chicken wire to it. It stopped those naughty sheep in their tracks, and I suspect it will do the same for the cows.

So anyway, I found Butthead out again in Julie's place and walked him back to our place. He moaned and he groaned and walked like an old man, complaining all the way. When I checked him out again a few hours later I thought he was dead. He wasn't, but he wasn't right either.

We wondered if he'd been bitten by a snake. I'd read that vitamin C injections can help animals (and people) recover from snakebite, so over the next few days he was given a few shots of vitamin C. He recovered enough to be able to crawl around but his back legs were no longer working properly and he couldn't get up. He didn't appear to be in any pain, was pooping, weeing, drinking and eating.

I showed a video of him to some sheep farming friends and they told me that sometimes sheep just do that and nobody knows why and they need to be put down. But, sometimes, a dose of antibiotics helps. He got one dose, and a few days later he actually managed to get up and walk a few steps, thus delaying his addition to the compost heap, especially as it was only about two weeks til Christmas.

For a while Strawberry joined him as I was treating her lame foot. About a month after Butthead went down I let Strawbs out of the confinement pen and he tried desperately to follow. Boy he could move fast, even crawling and he was desperate to follow! I felt sorry for him and let him out. He followed me to the feed shed on his knees.

Two hours after letting him out he was staggering around on all fours. Tim suggested we called him Johnny Walker as he swayed and rolled from side to side like he was drunk. That was mid January. He's walking a lot better now, but his back legs are still unstable and I think they always will be. I don't think he'll be any use as a ram now – I doubt any of the girls will stand still long enough for him to do his thing, not that I want him to.

We were hoping that his tendency to headbutt had gone, but we were wrong. As he's got better and more co-ordinated he's also become more demanding of scratches and when you don't he gets stroppy. We have discovered that he's terrified of plastic bags so that generally keeps him in line, and it's pretty easy to knock him over.

Personally I'd still be mostly fine turning him into blood and bone (we won't eat him considering we have no idea why he is like this) but Brydon really likes him and considering the fact that every time Brydon liked an animal (except for Henry) it has upped and died on him. He liked Butthead and within a month of expressing his like for him, Butthead ended up on death's door, but unlike every other animal, Butthead has recovered. He's one helluva lucky ram because now that he is back to trying to headbutt, breaking "Brydon's Curse" is the only reason he is still alive.

Time to go. Write you again next month!

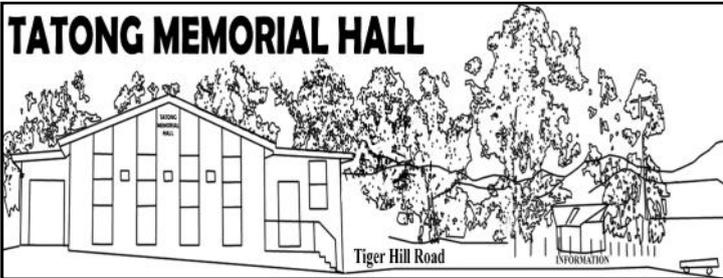
Carla

See photo next page



Butthead N Cherry waiting for breakfast.

TATONG MEMORIAL HALL



The 2018 TATONG ART SHOW was a success and raised much needed funds for the Hall. The Committee would like to thank all those community members who volunteered to help during the Show and all those who came to view the art work. The funds will be used to maintain and make improvements to the Hall.

The TATONG ART SHOW will again be held during the 2019 Benalla Festival.

To all artists

Please keep our Art Show in mind and start on your entries now.

There is over \$2000.00 worth of prizes over many categories to be won.

As a way to advertise the Tatong Art Show locally I would like to paint some old bikes to use as stands for advertising. Any bike that looks like a bike with wheels handlebars and a seat to be totally covered in paint will do. Bikes of any size can be left at the Tatong Hall or contact me for pickup.

Patricia 57672287

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Garden DAZE

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With Gardens Resembling Dried Arrangements - we are all hoping to see some lovely rain headed our way soon.

Back in December I gave advice on how to survive Summer. Well good luck to all those who tried - it was the hardest to survive that I've seen in the 27 years we have been up here.

During the daily early morning dog walk on the ridge at the back of our place - it has been disheartening to see the bush that we have planted suffering from lack of rain. Many new volunteer acacias are turning yellow and some of the older ones have died. The ground is bare and everything has a shrivelled appearance as the trees "close down" to conserve what moisture they have.

I'm looking forward to seeing it all come to life again (??) after a good old drink when we finally get some rain.

On a brighter note....

A bit about Insect Hotels

An **Insect Hotel**, or **Insect House**, as the name implies, is a manmade structure created to provide shelter for insects. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes depending on the specific purpose, specific insect or desire of the creator/builder. Most consist of several different sections to offer variously - shelter, refuge and nesting opportunities for a diverse range of insects.

Many Insect Hotels are used as nest sites by insects including solitary bees and solitary wasps. These drag their prey to the nest where - having provided a meal for their future offspring - they deposit their eggs. Other Insect Hotels are specifically designed to allow the insects to hibernate, notable examples include Ladybirds and butterflies.



Insect Hotels are popular amongst gardeners and fruit and vegetable growers due to their role of encouraging pollinator insects. Whilst others are designed to be a garden attraction in their own right.

Different materials are recommended for a wide range and diversity of insect life - logs, bark, bound reeds and bamboo, stones - even roof tiles - can be used. The various components or sizes of holes to use as entry, attract different species.

An easy DIY Bee Hotel is created from a sawn wooden log or portion of a cut tree trunk. Holes - tilted slightly to keep the rain out - are drilled in different sizes (e.g. 2, 4, 6 and 8 mm), about a few centimetres apart. The holes are drilled quite a way into the material but not right through. The entrances must be smooth enough so that the delicate bodies of the insects are not damaged. Often, the exterior is sanded.



The best location for a hotel is a warm and sheltered place, such as a north facing wall or hedge. The first insects will already be active towards the end of winter and would be searching for such a place to settle. Some like to furnish their nests with clay, stone and sand, while others are more at home in-between bricks.

And Now. . .Introducing Rex

Rex and his wife live in Benalla. Their beautiful shady garden has lots of lovely trees, shrubs, flowers and ground covers. While throughout the garden, are to be found Rex's creations: framed "pictures" made from succulents, interesting plant hangers, garden planters, garden mirrors and many other creative handiworks.

Last Year at the Molyullah Easter Fair, we were fortunate to receive donated goodies from Rex - a stand for displaying Hanging Baskets - together with a range of planted baskets - lots of pots of lilies and various shrubs and grasses, all carefully packed into wooden carry boxes with handles all "made by Rex".

So...the call went out to Rex for some Insect Hotels for this year's Fair. Rising to the challenge Rex has produced some lovely little Hotels. I have a small one - and on my arrival home from collecting it - put it on a small table at the back door with the intention of placing it in its proper place later. Well "later" was a few days later - and already my Insect Hotel had some of the holes closed over by enthusiastic wasps. And I hadn't even put up a "Vacancy" sign.



Easter and the Molyullah Fair will soon be with us and once again many thanks to everyone who helped make the Plants and Produce Stall a success in the past and hope that you can help again this year.

If anyone has any Iris rhizomes they are willing to donate these will be most welcome. No need to pot them up, just cut the tops into a fan shape which will help them survive out of the ground. An indication as to their colour would be very helpful.

Happy Gardening

Kathy Z





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Car Event**

“ G'day” to all the locals and visitors. Well we're well into February and about to farewell summer and welcome some cooler autumn weather.

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. \$50 per person for dinner and the show. A choice between four delicious meals. Bookings Essential.

Sunday 17th of March is St Patrick's Day and Chef Scotty will be offering some Irish specials for the occasion. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information.

Sunday 31st of March will see our monthly Show Us Your Wheels Event. Drag out your cars, bikes and yourselves for a delicious lunch, afternoon out and catch up with friends.

If you haven't already, come and check out some of the new work talented local artist Mike Larkin is creating for us in the car park.

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. “

Pedro and Shirley



Worrall Descendant to attend Tatong Heritage Group

Peter Sawyer, descendant of the first licensee of the original hotel, will attend the THG meeting on Monday March 25th, 4pm at the Tatong Hall, and give a presentation.

He has been researching his ancestry and will share the Tatong information he has recorded. Peter Sawyer is Great-Grandson of William and Catherine Worrall, the first owners of the Tatong Hotel. He now lives in Queensland, and the last time he visited was round 1950, when he stayed at 'the pub' while on a driving holiday with his grandfather, William & Kate's son.

Peter has a cut glass sugar bowl with "TATONG 1907" etched on the side, which has been passed down through the family, along with family lore that a pair of these graced the dining room tables in 'The Pub'.

He was keen see the photo of the original owners which still hangs in the Tavern, for the only pictures of William and Catherine he had were from later in life.

As well as being licensee, Catherine had 8 children between 1880 and 1901. This will be an fascinating insight into Tatong's history, and life in a different age.

Guests will be very welcome at the March meeting of the Tatong Heritage Group. Indication of interest would be appreciated for catering purposes; ring Heather on 5766 6286, or email tatongheritage@yahoo.com.au.

- Andrea Stevenson

Below: the Tatong Hotel in 1911.

This, the original hotel, was built in the 1880's and was destroyed by fire in 1923.

It was situated on the present hotel site.

The photo was taken as a pictorial record of the first motor-cars in the district.

Some of those pictured are:

2nd from left, Mrs Catherine Worrall, who was the first licensee of the original hotel.

3rd from left, Vern Worrall, son of Mrs Worrall.

Bearded gentleman in centre, Mr William Worrall.

2nd standing from right, Ted Brown, builder of the original hotel and original hall.

4th standing from right, Vera Worrall, daughter of the Worralls, sister to Frank.



3rd Friday each month from
10am. \$5.00 BYO lunch

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Learn skills and gain confidence to assist young people experiencing mental health problems.

Mental illnesses often start in adolescence or early adulthood. It is important to detect problems early to ensure the young person is properly treated and supported. The YMHFA course teaches adults who have frequent contact with young people how to detect and assist adolescents who are developing a mental health problem or are in a mental health crisis.

WHEN:

Wednesday 6 March 5.30-9.30pm
Wednesday 13 March 5.30-9.30pm
Wednesday 20 March 5.30-9.30pm
Wednesday 27 March 5.30-9.30pm

WHERE:

Benalla Community Care
Ray Sweeney Centre
45 Coster St, Benalla
(Activity Room 1)

Cost:

\$20 (to cover manual) Light supper provided.

COURSE INFORMATION: A comprehensive 14 hour Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) course over four sessions. Participants will learn about adolescent development and the signs and symptoms of mental health problems, how and where to get help and what sort of help has been shown by research to be effective.

RSVP by 5pm Tuesday 26 February
Benalla Rural City Council
Ph: 03 5760 2600
Email: council@benalla.vic.gov.au

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THANK YOU

Just want to say a very big Thank You to the CFA crews from Tatong, Samaria, Molyullah, Swanpool, Benalla, Whitegate, Lurg and DELWP (and others) following a hay fire at our property on New Years Eve. As a community, we are very lucky to have such great volunteers and resources available , with just phone call. The fire started after such unprecedented rain the previous month ran under the rolls of hay—who would have thought! Unfortunately the fire reignited a few days later with all hands on deck again, including the helicopter , and the decision was made to bury the smouldering hay. Mission accomplished!! Thank you and stay safe this fire season

Stuart & Melisse Robinson



HARMONY DAY

EVERYONE BELONGS



Celebrate Australia's cultural diversity

Lake Foreshore, Benalla near Library

16th March 2019 12:00 – 4:00pm



- Cultural Dancers
- Schools participation
- Scots School Pipe Band



- Finska
- Bocce
- Coffee/Food vans



- CFA
- SES – water rescue
- Vic Police
- Custom cars



This is an alcohol-free family event.

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Interested in playing Table Tennis?

Have you ever glanced through the sports pages of the local paper and had the feeling that you should do more than be an arm chair critic?

Perhaps you have felt like playing a sport that would help tune up the brain and make it more agile.

Have you ever thought that you should participate in a good non-contact sport with your children?

Have you ever felt like joining in a local sport that doesn't take too much of your time but gives you the opportunity to meet likeminded others in the local community.

Well here's your chance, the local Table Tennis Association holds competition matches every Wednesday night from May to September, in the local halls of Tatong, Molyullah and Moorngag, as well as in the Swanpool FC rooms and the Lima School.

Play starts at 7.30pm and finishes between 9.30 and 10.00pm. Teams consist of 2 players, each playing 2 singles and a doubles per night. Teams can be made up of 2 adults, an adult and a child, or 2 children. Players do need to be tall enough to easily hit the ball over the table.

We currently have 2 Septuagenarians, a sprinkling of Sexagenarians and a range of players down to 10 years of age, so come along to one of our open nights at 7.30pm on the 3rd 10th 17th and 24th of April in the Tatong Hall. Bring your own partner or team up with someone when you arrive. We even have a robot to test your skills and to practise with.

We'd love to you to join us.

For further information please contact Rob Erskine on 0457672248 or Shaun Murphy on 57682432

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A Slice of German Life**Hazel Wann**Saturday, our last day

Hajo comes to collect us at 8.30 with our luggage. We breakfast at Friedrich-Ebertstr on the ground floor but with the children it is hard to leave on time and Bauke is being really difficult and refusing to dress for the coast, preferring a fairy dress. We take a 20 minute drive to the Norddeich near a lighthouse. We park and climb the dyke and there it is – the palest of blue skies, palest of calm blue seas, and in front of it all thick black mud from ankle to knee. How the children love it. Off we go – bare feet or thongs depending on how you feel about what you are walking on. But alas we can only go out about 20m because we are a little late and the tide is already turning and we need to get back before the water is over us. We can actually catch up the front of the tide and walk faster than it, but it is a bit unnerving.

We wash ourselves down and set off to look at the lighthouse, to see the farmhouse that Anna thinks might make a good purchase as a family home – needing her restoring hand.

Then off to a large supermarket to look at food. Lamb is Eu31 per kg – say \$45-50.00 Beef and veal are Eu22 per kg. Pork is Eu12 per kg. Seventeen types of wurst, 12 different types of ham. Mounds of unheard of cheeses. Masses of bread made from every thing you can think of except white flour, and that too.

Then we go to Hafenhaus – a chic restaurant on the Emden waterfront. John and I have schnitzel and sweet pickled cabbage, superior onion jam and yes, kartoffel. Perfect!

We leave for No. 72 to refresh and say goodbye. Petra first, because she has to visit a prospective tenant in one of her properties. Bauke (“when are they leaving so you stop speaking English?”), Take, and Anna who has to write a paper for the open day. Inge comes to take the children. Konrad helps us to the car. I will miss the breakfasts mit die Wörterbuch (dictionary). Hajo takes us to the station in Groningen. I make it clear we don't want to arrive at the station as the train is about to leave. I know he is a risk taker and Anna says he is inwardly stressed because he takes on too much in a day.

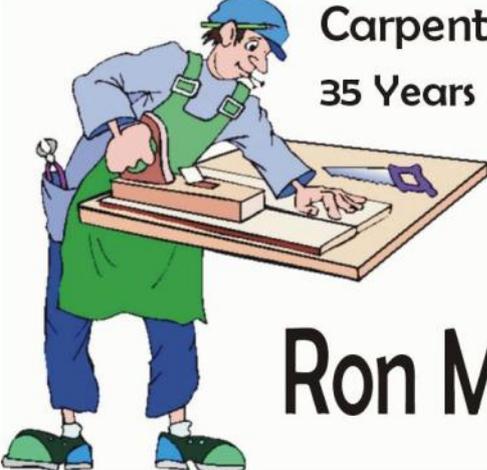
So we leave. Hajo says there are track works so we must go to Amsterdam Zentrum and change trains rather than going direct to the airport. He directs us to the front of the train past the carriage where no one is allowed to speak – so people can read and work!

We race across the Nederland plain towards Amsterdam. The day is grey but made glorious by the poplars, the cattle, prancing horses, black and white sheep, ploughing the stubble, the dairy cattle waiting to be milked, the water, the maize waiting to be harvested, the glimpses of laneways of cyclists disappearing round corners, the gaggles of geese on the canal banks and in lanes, the unloading of hay and silage in the barnyards, reed beds, ponds, windmills, factories and office blocks being built – little or no economic stress here.

To leave our exchange daughter, Anna, is hard. Hajo is a very successful academic. He is 35 and the University of Vienna have offered him a professorship. So has a lesser university near to home. He wants to use this to pressure Amsterdam to give him more money and promotion. Vienna is a huge step. It would be 8 years in Austria. That would mean Anna giving up her business and they would have to start again. They would like to buy this farmhouse we saw, but Anna would alone there all week with Hajo in Amsterdam or even the more local university. So they have huge decisions to make. And they need to move out of No. 72. Konrad has not charged them any rent and they were only supposed to be there for a short while. Hajo has huge energy and likes to be in charge and he gets very frustrated by Konrad's rules about the house and garden. He is very critical and vents his frustration to me. What can I say – it is Konrad's house and he can do as he likes especially as he isn't charging rent. They know they really need to move out – they have been there over 5 years.

In Amsterdam we find some rail chaos caused by the closed airport line from Groningen. But we finally stagger into the terminal – the train comes in below – stagger out for an airport bus servicing the hotels. The bus stops at the doors of all hotels except ours which is set some 100m back from the bus stop. We haul our luggage and walk through the doors of Park Inn by Radisson to an electronic check-in machine which, of course, refused to accept our paperwork. But saved by an attendant, we stagger up to our room and fall asleep.

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Soapbox Soliloquy

“Come on now, we polliies aren’t that out of touch! We get that all Aussies just want their fair swig of the sauce jar! That’s important to people! You know, life is tough for those battlers out there! You know, the Everyman, scraping away with a combined household income of \$150,000 a year! That’s tough sledding, maaaaate! To those lower income earners, it’s really important to commemorate the cultural figures with who they identify. I mean, what figure speaks more to the diversity of Australia than Christopher Columbus? I mean, the guy baked the first Anzac biscuits. Did you know that? Probably not, because Lefties don’t know that sort of real Aussie culture. The Anzac Biscuit Battle Of Botany Bay is the cornerstone on which this country was built. If those brave settlers hadn’t been able to survive Emu Fever and singlehandedly fight back the Spanish Fleet, we’d all be speaking German now! Now, if you’ll excuse me, I’ve got a cabinet meeting to attend. There’s a pay increase to vote on. You know, to help out the everyday Australian working in Canberra”

Jacob Bowtell

THE GOOD PLACE

I am really loving the TV show *The Good Place* which is being shown on ABC channel 22 Comedy on Monday nights at 9:15pm and is currently up to episode 15, at mid-February. This storyline explores the concepts of good and bad people and does so in complex and hilarious ways. The main characters are people who have died and have found themselves in, apparently, “The Good Place,” with a twist or two! There is of course also “The Bad Place” and the question is, who should be in which place and why? The story is intriguing and unpredictable as we wait to find out what outrageous twists come next. The main cast of victims experience many re-incarnations as they struggle with Michael, the Architect of their tortures, who can delete their memories after his many design failures. For me this series indicates a rise in the level of ‘respect for the intelligence of the viewer’ in TV land and the cast of the show are just brilliant. I am sure they must love going to work for such an outstanding production.

The Good Place does remind me of the Larkin family in the BBC series of *The Darling Buds of May* written originally by H.E. Bates and adapted for TV. In the show the family turn upside down the usual standards about living a ‘proper’ life. The Bate’s stories were very popular, as is the TV version, because it portrays a family whose life-style is practically free from the stifling elitism and conformity of English society.

If, like me, you like a brain teaser of the philosophic kind you should enjoy this new American “Sit Com”. Sit Coms being something I usually don’t watch as they tend toward cliché and repetition and especially when they include ‘canned laughter’. It seems we need to be reminded when to laugh, presumably one’s own sense of humour is not up to scratch! The people who contrived this bizarre form of manipulation definitely belong in The Bad Place!

The Good Place, with its challenges to convention, reminds me also of a quote from Shakespeare’s Hamlet, and it’s not that I read his plays or poems but because the quote is used in certain circles frequented by me. It is

while two travelling players, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, are outdoors (In Scotland) with Hamlet and discussing the (I’m guessing fermenting fish) stink coming over the waves from Denmark or Norway that Hamlet says: “*There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so.*” If you never remember any of Shakespeare’s writing I recommend remembering this one statement which contains profound ‘food for thought’. I guess the ‘appetizing’ smell of fermenting fish is not everybody’s cuppa tea, but fermented food such as sauerkraut is rising in popularity due to its gut health benefits. Maeve makes it and we eat it as a compliment to most main meals. I do sometimes wonder what’s ‘gone off’ in the cupboard when the cabbage is in the pre-fridge stage of fermenting.

Mike Larkin

Save the Date

Benalla Clydesdale and Heavy Horse Driving Day will be held again at the Benalla Equestrian Centre on Saturday 4th of May.

More details forthcoming in the next two Tattler’s.

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



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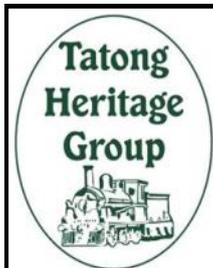
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Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2008	52.4	11.5	33.4	17.7	48.3	37	114.7	58.8	18.9	1.9	89.7	64.9	549.2
2009	3	5.4	38.7	80.7	30.6	107.9	77.5	65.5	76	48.6	72.3	18.9	625.1
2010	39	153.7	86.4	65.2	67.5	82.8	67.5	162.1	116.8	123.7	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
2019	27.7												27.7

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

Not much rain to report up to the 15th of February, being just 13.2mm, barely enough to keep things alive. The total rainfall for January was 27.7mm. Fortunately our well and tanks are still ok, but with less capacity. The best thing about the weather at the moment is the coolness after the "furnace" of heat we endured for most of January. It even got down to only 8 degrees one night which is doona weather in February and so far no serious fires locally.

Mike Larkin



Proposal To Name Easement

The Tatong Heritage Group proposes to recommend to the Benalla Council that a name be given to the easement passing the CFA shed.

This easement runs West off the Benalla-Tatong road, past the CFA shed, then turns South and terminates at the Tatong-Swanpool road. In the past Indian Hawkers would camp in this laneway, hence the suggested name "Mola Dad Lane", for he camped in this spot.

Hawkers played an important role in the countryside, before everyone had a motor-car to give easy access to shops in town.

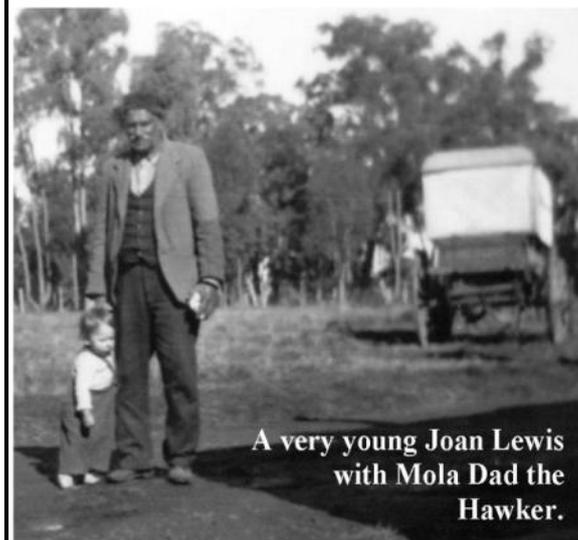
Please advise the Tatong Heritage Group of any response to this proposal. Also, any further information on the Indian Hawkiers who used to be known in this area would be very welcome.

You can write to Tatong Heritage Group, C/o PO Box 634,



Benalla 3671, or ring Heather on 5766 6286, or email tatongheritage@yahoo.com.au.

- Andrea Stevenson



A very young Joan Lewis with Mola Dad the Hawker.



An Indian Hawker displays his wares (Harrison Collection)



Season 2019

AFL MASTERS

The Samaria Suns are looking forward to Season 2019, Coach Kyle Pugh will once again lead the Suns. There is a new President with Alister Crook taking over from Wes Stafford standing down for family reasons. Crook is excited about the new role within the club, Crook has been involved the club since its inception.

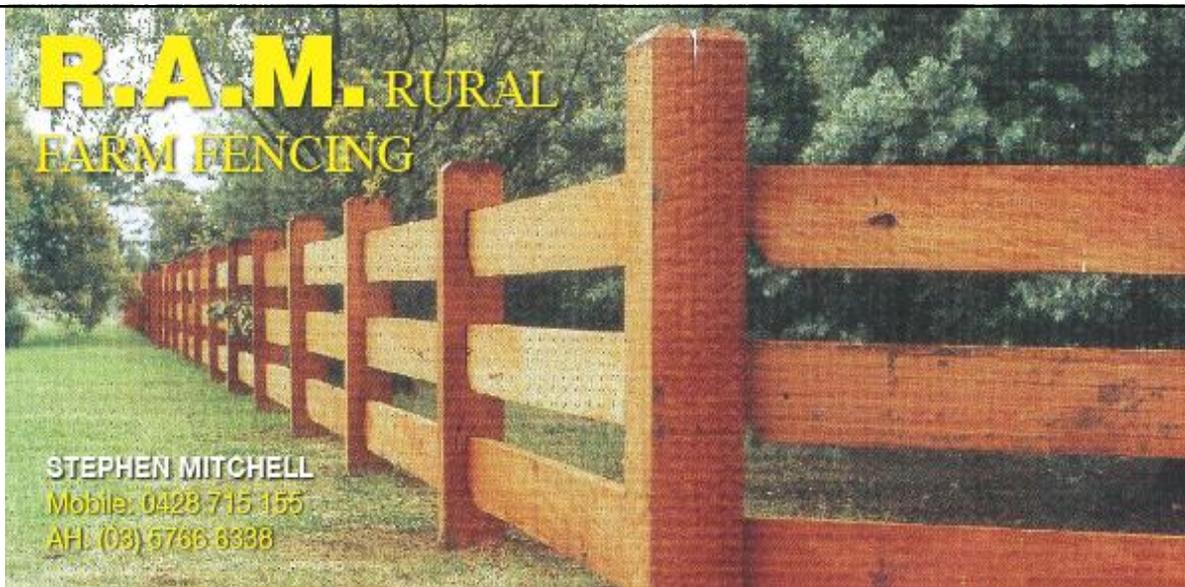
"We are looking forward to a great year, we are going to have a great social media presence this year, and we would encourage everyone to follow our Facebook Page and or Instagram" Crook stated.

The Samaria Suns are particularly excited about playing at Tatong for their inaugural Indigenous

Round on Sunday April 28 at the Tatong Recreation Reserve against the GV Giants. This will be subject to the grounds condition, the Suns hoping the weather gods are kind. If the ground is not able to be played on the game will be moved to the Friendlies Ground in Benalla. The Samaria Suns will run out in the Tatong FNC Indigenous Jumpers, not seen since the demise of the TFNC. Crook said "this was a great initiative of the TFNC and the Suns are delighted to carrying on the event."

If you are interested in playing or showing the Suns support in another form they would love to have you on board. There is always the opportunity for people who may have not played before to take it up and for those out there who may still have some footy left in those mature legs. The Samaria Suns play fortnightly and travel all around Country Victoria. Season 2019 officially kicks off on March 31st in Echuca against the Echuca Emus

#samariasuns #neafmasters



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What's on this month

March 2019

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

The Awful Slander of being designated Spam for email you Didn't Send Anyway...

Once the February Tattler was uploaded, the notification email was sent out. Shortly thereafter, several Mailer-Daemon emails arrived (mail-server talk for "Return to Sender").

The first check through revealed that 21 had not been delivered; 13 because "Message content rejected due to suspected spam", 6 because the user "has exceeded the max emails per hour" (?!), and and 2 because "User unknown in virtual mailbox table". Most of these were Bigpond users.

It is a pain when an email address is identified as Spam. The Tattler notification email is 'Bulk' sent, BCC'd to a list. Just like any newsletter that arrives by email. Finding to whom to appeal the decision is challenging, as anyone who has had their email account hacked has found.

BUT then things got weird. Another check through

revealed that **8 of the 'rejected' email addresses were not on the list sent.** They had been once - years ago. So I checked the email sent against the list of rejected emails. It didn't match.

So: the Tattler Reminder was sent to the current list, and then the Mailer-Daemon software reported that it would not deliver many of them to addresses not sent to anyway.

If anyone out there can explain this, do please get in touch. Is ASIO getting clumsy? Do email addresses hang around forever? Is there a Ghost in the Server?

Also; If you know of anyone receiving the Tattler reminder email who doesn't want it anymore, get them to Reply, and they will be removed from the list.

Please, do not mark it as spam, as that is one way email is identified as spam. - Andrea Stevenson

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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.