



Circulation 357

July 2019 Donation \$1

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Edition 321

Serge, Amy, truffles and wisdom.



These are black truffles – black gold!

Recently, Janette and I visited a truffle farm just outside Viviers in Provence. Provence is the main truffle growing area in France with 80% of the crop grown here. Black truffles are the most valuable, selling for as much as 2000 euros/kg. The farm is owned and run by Serge, ably assisted by his dog Amy.

Before going out and 'hunting' for truffles, we got a crash course in truffle growing. Serge speaks no English. Apart from asking for two white coffees, the members of our tour group spoke no French. Our guide acted as interpreter.

Serge was charming and witty and espoused the qualities of black truffles – sometimes using mime. At one point he smelt a truffle, let out a big sigh and struck a very macho, body builder

type pose. He was implying truffles are better than Viagra. Our guide merely said that she 'refused to interpret that last bit!'

We learnt that Serge uses white and evergreen oaks, but linden, hazelnut and poplar trees are also used in the area.

Dogs are used to sniff out the truffles. For a long time, Labradors were the dogs of choice, but now it's an Italian breed, the Lagotto Romagnolo. The Lagotto's traditional role was as a hunting dog, specifically a water retriever.

Then it was Amy's turn to star. A short walk past lavender crops, with wild poppies among the crop, and we were in an oak woodland. Amy was immediately busy, here, there and everywhere with 'head down and bum up'.

Amy's M O is to sniff out a truffle, dig it up, take it to Serge (truffle in mouth) and receive a reward.

Much to the delight of us onlookers, Amy decided she was going to eat the first one. These dogs are trained from tiny puppies by feeding them truffles and rubbing truffles around the mother's nipples, so the dogs get the taste from birth. Their working life is about eight years.

The largest black truffle that Serge has found is 750 gms. The biggest one ever found is 1.5kg and it was found in North East Victoria, Australia.

Time from acorn to truffle is 15 years. Serge adds ground truffle to compost and plants the acorns, the idea being that the roots are inoculated. Not all the trees will grow truffles – perhaps a handful from each batch.

"Why is it so?" asked Serge, "They can put a man on the moon, but they can't help us grow truffles!"

"It shows that nature is mightier than man!!!"

John Knapper





## REAL ESTATE WITH BRETT



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### Where have all the sellers gone?

Across Australia the numbers of properties hitting the market continues to fall, with our area being no different. It all seems to be a little bizarre that our market locally would just stop the way it has. Prices for rural land have not dropped like our city cousins have experienced. Buyers have not disappeared but are instead frustrated by lack of choice.

I know we all want our properties to look their best to hopefully get the best result...but. The time to sell is actually now, when the market has more buyers than sellers and there is little competition for your property.



If you would like to discuss your individual situation then please do not hesitate in giving me a call - 0418 626 503

### For Sale

## LIVESTOCK

**03 5762 7855**

From the Cattle Market

With: *Adam Roberts*



Limited numbers of quality stock in Prime Markets throughout the region have seen prices for well finished trade and export cattle lift over the past month with prices as high as 325c/Kg achieved for heavy bullocks by Rodwells clients in both Bamawartha and Shepparton yards

(this is considered the equivalent of \$6kg dressed which is now available at some abattoirs). A fantastic effort by vendors to have cattle in that condition off the back of a tough season. With good general rainfall in our district and much of the local country now at least painted green re-stocker confidence has returned to store markets throughout the North East in the past fortnight. The standout being Euroa's End of Financial Year sale with lines of Angus weaner steers being quoted up to 350c/Kg and Heifers to 285c/Kg or \$150 per head dearer than the previous month. The kick in the market was then felt along the highway with Bamawartha, Wangaratta, and Yea all having solid sales in the following days as well as very strong results on AuctionsPlus for cattle from our region. There are however still areas of the country without feed in paddocks and a long cold winter in front of them. Hence bargains to be had! Please contact your preferred Rodwells agent if you are looking to secure cattle to fatten, background or future breeders.

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- 2) Angus steers 200-260kg. - On Farm price
- 3) Land to lease or sheep or cattle agistment. Please quote any size block Dale Buitenhuis - 0428378825

### 10 Interesting facts about Australia that may just surprise you...



1) The Australian Alps get more snow than the Swiss Alps	2) 90% of Australians live on the Coast
3) Tasmania has the cleanest air in the world	4) The Great Barrier Reef is the largest eco-system in the world
5) The first Police Force in Australia was made up of the most well-behaved convicts	6) Fraser Island is the largest sand island in the world
7) The Indian Pacific Train has the longest straight section of train track in the world	8) The Great Ocean Road is the world's largest war memorial
9) The largest cattle station in the world is in Australia and is bigger than Israel	10) 2.5Kms of Uluru is underground



### Vegetable Tart

Cold and dreary days do not have to mean dull and dreary food. I love adding a splash of colour with frozen or oven dried tomatoes saved from the summer crop. Adding a splodge of home made plum sauce to oven roasted chicken or lamb brings back memories of summer days gone by. Vegetable tarts are healthy and wholesome and I love using just picked Tuscan kale, leeks, or spinach/silverbeet with free range, pastured eggs and encasing them in a light and fluffy fillo pastry case. If you don't have your own chickens, Kilmuir Farm, Eldorado sell beautiful eggs at local farmers markets and selected food outlets. For a 25cm or 10 inch pie dish you need:



1 tablespoon olive oil  
200g kale, washed, leaves stripped and chopped into 2cm pieces  
1 clove garlic, finely chopped  
2 spring onions chopped into fine slices  
3 free range large eggs  
200 ml cream (I use a UHT 200ml tetra pack)  
100ml milk  
200g crumbled haloumi or feta  
2-3 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese  
Salt and pepper to taste  
Good pinch nutmeg  
6 sheets fillo pastry  
Melted butter

Heat oven to 180 degrees fan forced.

Heat olive oil in a large fry pan or wok and cook the kale and garlic and spring onions until wilted and fairly soft- approx. 3-4 minutes on high heat. You may need to add a little water to fully soften the kale. Remove from heat and cool.

Whisk eggs, cream and milk, add haloumi, Parmesan, salt and pepper and nutmeg. Stir in the kale mix.

Brush pie dish with a little melted butter. Brush each sheet of fillo with a little melted butter and lay into the pie dish at different angles

with each sheet – making a star pattern so that all 6 layers are across the bottom of the dish but the overlay is at a different angle to the preceding sheet. Fill dish with the kale filling and scrunch up the overlay around the pie dish so that a border of fillo is formed. Brush the fillo border with melted butter. Bake for 40 – 50 mins until center is set and golden on top. Serve with oven roasted or warmed cherry tomatoes. Substitute spinach, silverbeet or leeks for the kale.

One pan bakes are a favourite in our household and I use whatever vegetables I have to hand. Try to chop into sizes that will cook evenly. Potatoes will for example take longer than fennel or cauliflower, so I cut them into smaller chunks. One of my favourite veggie bakes is sliced leeks or red onions, fennel sliced into long wedges, cauliflower florets, diced potatoes and frozen cherry tomatoes (which I don't defrost before adding to the pan). Just add all chopped veg to a sturdy baking pan, toss in good quality olive oil, about 2 tablespoons, and season with sea salt and ground black pepper. I sometimes add a few chilli flakes depending on the mood.

Sometimes I add carrot and parsnip chunks and chopped speck or bacon which adds another dimension. Bake in a hot oven until all veg done – approx. 30-40 mins. These can be served as is or with any grilled, baked fish, poultry or meat.

With winter sprouts I like to slice them into very thin slices and bake with a rasher or two of chopped bacon and a clove or two of finely sliced garlic. Finely sliced Brussels sprouts are equally good raw, tossed, in a blue cheese dressing, with chopped roasted walnuts and crispy pancetta. They take on a very different flavour to the boiled Brussels sprouts of my youth!!

Cheers Carole

### Catching Up

That life wasn't meant to be easy is shown pretty well by trying to keep up with the necessities of each day as the days and weeks shuffle off into the past, leaving behind sundry unfinished tasks and dreams. Catching up with family and friends is important, so maybe some other things have to be sorted into the 'later' basket, either temporarily or otherwise.

I could copy my last report with respect to the wildlife around the place, as nothing seems to have changed. Well, at first glance at any rate. The difference, and who has not noticed that every year is different from those gone by, may also be significant.

Firstly, we have had less rain. Although the occasional early Summer rain kept the grass green until Xmas, the lack of it since has allowed the grass to become more sparse, and the paddocks have patches of bare ground amongst the green. And if your place is an exception I am pleased for you.

Secondly, many of our trees have either died of thirst or shed branches when the wind blew hard enough. I had not expected to out-live any tree which I had planted upon our arrival. To confound the situation further, we almost drained the dam by keeping most of the trees watered, and they responded as hoped for, and kept on growing. Many of them are now too big to cope with another dry year.

When the heat of Summer had abated the fallen branches and dead wood was harvested as firewood, and the realisation grew slowly that some trees had to be trimmed for their own sake, based on the assumption of continuing dryness. Having expended some effort to plant many of them and had the satisfaction of watching them grow, the decision to decimate (reduce by a tenth) them was engaged reluctantly. There was some consolation gained from the accumulation of more firewood for next winter.

Apart from providing firewood the need for trimming the trees brought home the realisation that all of the trees which were here when we arrived, and have survived the dry spells, have also grown. The outlook from our lounge-room is now much more like a forest than savannah. While they have enhanced the view they must have soaked up tons of carbon dioxide in doing so. The powers that be seem to be unwilling and / or unable to do anything about the greenhouse gas problem, but we can, and do so by planting trees.

If only they had deepened the reservoirs when they were nearly empty, just by following our example of de-silting when an opportunity came along

But to catch up with some animal stories. In my last report I mentioned the saga of Houdini, our multi-escapee antichinus, who (which) was captured and transported to a distant pine forest. However, Houdini had a friend, so the big game hunters had to take on another big-game safari. Having sorted out the best hunting techniques, the safari was a success, and the two house-invaders now share the forest.

Our resident echidna continued to plough the landscape until recently when it jammed itself into a corner of the garage, twice. Was it looking for a place to hibernate? Perhaps not, because we have seen it, or its spiny friends during all the months of the year. Anyway it was allowed to escape and has been out of sight since.

As the lake diminished there were fewer ducks, fewer cormorants and fewer pelicans, although we now seem to have a lone pelican who (which) cruises the shallows on most days off the week.

The sparrows which have breakfast with us decreased in number through the Summer, but there are more of them returning to start the day with a handout, as the days draw in towards the

winter solstice. Still lots of wrens, though.

The plovers are still here but they do not do much night-flying these days. Oops! I mean these nights. The mopokes have gone silent, but not the possum who is sometimes heard but not seen. We did have a koala call in for one night recently. And the rabbits have taken over the pot-holing activity from the echidna.

Like Carla, and I expect all Tattlers everywhere, we love our wildlife and it is a shock to hear the news that some can be dangerous. The roos, foxes and wild dogs that visit us keep their distance, and hopefully the deer will stay in the forest.

All of us bird-watchers are pleased that Andrea has qualified for membership, although I am sure that happened when she first came to White Gate.

The June Tattler included a Reader Survey, and instead of ticking every box (rating 4) I felt that the most important comment to make is to 'keep it going'. May I give voice to the silent thanks from all of us to the volunteers who have 'kept it going' so far, and especially to Mr. Hogan who has fought a war with printers and such foes and won, on our behalf.

By wise editing the Tattler is essentially free of political contamination, and the restraint shown by Mr. Larkin in his comments is laudable. I agree with his comment that there is a correlation between the lack of moral standards, in parliaments all around the world, and the 'loss of relevance of religion' as he expressed it. Recently many letters to The Age have repeated the call to 'love thy neighbour', an understanding that is exemplified by those of us who are fortunate to live in Tattler country.

Mr. Larkin also pointed out that we will support people, polities sometimes, but more importantly, those of our neighbourhood, not because of what they promise us, but what we know about them, and how they behave. I well remember the time when one could have a chat about things with Bill and Sally Sykes. May our new representative emulate that approach to her responsibilities.  
Vin Masters

## White Gate



## Dates

The July **White Gate Dinner @ The Tatong Tavern** will occur on Wednesday July 3rd. It may be a little chilly; Pedro, might we have a ripper fire? Wander in between 6:30 and 7pm and begin to shed scarves, gloves, etc. But not too close to the fire; so many clothes are made of plastic these days...

- Andrea Stevenson, 5762 8445

### White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Andrew Marriot	23 Jun	Lewis Vallender	21 Jul
Noel Hutchens	30 Jun	Angus McMillan	28 Jul
Terry Trounson	7 Jul	Bruce Burgess	4 Aug
Les MacLean	14 Jul	Laurie Defazio	11 Aug

## Two Gentlemen in Verona (and elsewhere)

*In the footsteps of Shakespeare* Steve Ingram

*Act I, Scene II*

*Venice (continued)*

I have experienced the wonder of the Basilica San Marco before, but the wonder remains undimmed. The magnificent Byzantine architecture, surmounted by giant domed cupolas lined with golden mosaics; the vast echoing nave; the rood screen behind which are entombed the relics of Saint Mark, allegedly stolen from Alexandria by a couple of enterprising Venetian merchants; the massive four bronze horses that stand proudly on the balcony, with its views over the piazza and Venice itself: all stay long in the memory. The four horses themselves were plundered from Constantinople during the sack of that city by the Fourth Crusade, which had set off, blessed by Pope Innocent III, to recapture Jerusalem from its Muslim rulers. Instead they were persuaded that attacking the capital of the Orthodox Christian Byzantine Empire was not only less challenging, it would provide richer material reward. Not unsurprisingly, this unprovoked episode of rape, pillage and plunder led to a distinct cooling of the relationship between the Eastern Orthodox and Western Catholic churches.

Visiting the Doge's Palace was a new and captivating experience. Not only was the art awe-inspiring – the place is bursting with Titian's, Tintoretto's and Veronese's, of which perhaps Tintoretto's epic *Paradiso* is the most impressive, crowded as it is with cherubim, seraphim, angels, archangels and all manner of heavenly beings. However, it must be said that it gives the impression that paradise is about as busy as Bourke St on a Saturday afternoon – hardly the place for serene contemplation. The general splendour of the palace with its vast ceremonial rooms and its Venetian Gothic architecture, standing in harmonious contrast with its Byzantine neighbour, gives physical presence to the administrative order and structure that ensured Venice's stability in an era of war and pestilence.

The next day dawned bright, sunny and cold; yet not cold enough to dissuade us from eating *al fresco*. The sunshine was tempting enough to make the gondolas plump with tourists. A brief visit to the architecturally unusual hexagonal Santa Maria della Salute, perched on a promontory opposite the Piazza San Marco was followed by a more thorough examination of the Accademia. While the internal layout of the museum is not especially well signposted, the art on display is astonishing: an almost overwhelming collection of paintings of the Venetian High Renaissance and Mannerist periods. It houses what is perhaps one of my favourite works of all time: Veronese's *Feast in the House of Levi*. It is a massive work of panoramic scope, detail and wit, measuring 550 cm high by 1280 cm wide. It repays detailed, lengthy and repeated scrutiny. Originally commissioned to hang in the refectory of the Basilica di Santa Maria e Paolo, it depicts the Last Supper in what is clearly a

Venetian location of considerable revelry and turmoil. It contains a group of German soldiers, drunks, entertainers, dwarfs, and sightseers hanging over balconies to get a better view of the goings-on below. Not surprisingly Veronese was hauled before the Inquisition to explain himself. He must have been as talented with his tongue as he was with a brush, as his only punishment was to repaint the work within three months. Instead, he just changed its name.

On an adjacent wall of the same gallery is his painting of the Crucifixion. Rather than place Christ crucified as the central feature of the painting, He is relegated to the top right of the picture, and Veronese fills the rest with the disordered chaos of the mob, all pushing and shoving to get a better view. In the bottom left hand corner is a soldier, dressed, not in Roman garb, but as a Venetian soldier of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. My tedious and prolonged pontification to my long-suffering brother on the revolutionary nature of Veronese's work led an eavesdropping American tourist to ask whether I was an art historian! No, I replied, just an (art) bore.

Exhausted by all this exposure to great art, we wandered off in search of drinks, *cicchetti* and dinner. Having successfully discovered all three, we repaired to our hotel in anticipation of the next morning's departure for Verona on the next stage of our wandering about in the steps of Shakespeare.



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### **CALLING ALL ARTISTS**

The Tatong Art Show as part of the Benalla Festival, will be held again this year at the Tatong Memorial Hall.

The dates are 1<sup>st</sup> November (opening night) to 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Entry forms will be available from early July and located at Goulburn Murray Credit Union, Bridge Street Benalla, Benalla Council, Benalla Art Gallery and on their website and various shops and galleries throughout the region. You can also contact me via email at

[nicknackmac90@gmail.com](mailto:nicknackmac90@gmail.com) or call on 0428 696 408.

There have been some slight changes to the entry form this year and we now have five Sections. These are listed on the form. It will be important that you indicate which Section you wish to enter. Some of the Conditions of Entry have also changed, so please read carefully.

Goulburn Murray Credit Union is again generously sponsoring our Best in Show Prize of \$1000, along with the Tatong Tavern Art Prize and LS Quarries' People's Choice.

Nicole McFarlane

### **FEEDBACK FOR CAROLE AND CARLA'S TATTLER ARTICLES**

**Carole**, I enjoy your cooking articles and wish I had your knack for cooking quick and healthy meals. I did make the steamed pudding from last Tattler's recipe, first time ever, and loved it. It is a good way to use up spare jams and marmalades and simple enough even I could remember the recipe, so long as I repeat it often enough!

**Carla**, we had an interesting surprise with our hens recently which, like yours, had stopped laying once the cooler weather started. I should say that we have 6 extra 'teenage' hens from the last season's hatching and were probably never giving them enough food. We decided to give the flock cooked rice every 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> day, as well as the normal rations of wheat, scraps and pellets, and a small amount of raw mincemeat every day. Suddenly one day I found 13 eggs in a corner of the chook shed and they have been laying one per day since then. It seems we did not see what we did not expect to see; the eggs were in plain sight near the shed door!

It is hard to know whether you are giving the chooks enough, and of the right quality, if you don't leave automatic feeders for them. I did also gather it was not enough food because of the "we want more" noises (as I interpreted them) when they had gobbled their morning or evening rations.

Mike Larkin

### **GRANDCHILDREN AND THE MODERN HOSPITAL**

Our second granddaughter, following four grandsons and one granddaughter, was born at Shepparton hospital on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June to son Paul and his wife Courtney Fahey. Daisy Paige was born about four weeks premature but has a shock of black hair and was able to leave hospital after one week. Naturally she is tiny and sleeps most of the time. She was 5lb 3oz at birth. Her dad Paul who was also 'prem' weighed 3lb. 13oz at birth.

Between my ex - wife and Maeve I have six kids and now six grandkids, four boys and two girls. It is a great pleasure and privilege to have offspring and see the new generations starting out in life. We try not to preach because we all have to learn parenting the hard way, and of course every generation knows better than the last - till experience teaches otherwise!

When a baby is born today it is a bit like it's the first birth in the history of the world, such is the apparent significance and intensity of it all. That is from the viewpoint of a different era when babies came when 'nature' decided, not like today when the whole process is stage managed to the 'nth' degree.

I was only allowed into the birthing room at my first daughter's birth, when told by the midwives. After that things loosened up a tad, ending with me sharing 'midwife' duties at home with our neighbour, Janet, when third child, Johnny, arrived in a hurry. He took one hour from water's breaking to slithering across the floor in his rush to escape, and the real midwife took another hour after that to arrive. By the time she arrived there wasn't much left to do and I thought Maeve should get back to her work, like the women of old who seemed to take it all in their stride! (Stop screaming lady readers, I'm only half serious.)

A nurse recently told me that they used to work 80% of the time in the ward and 20% at paperwork, now the numbers are reversed! At the Shepparton hospital it reminded me of a prison in the way that some visiting is managed. This is understandable in light of the abuse now suffered by staff. Such abuse was unheard of not so long ago. On a recent visit at Shepp' we witnessed a man being "helped" away from the hospital by the police.

Thinking back upon raising six children and while very imperfect at the job, I can be a little bit proud, because it has to be among the hardest jobs any person can have. Most other jobs can be stopped or delayed if too hard, but not raising 'little tackers' into big people; and it never really stops.

Mike Larkin

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### What's Happening at Molly Rose?

So I realised on the weekend that the 20<sup>th</sup> was coming, and all of sudden the weekend is long gone and the 20<sup>th</sup> is almost over!!! But I'm here, typing away at the keyboard, a blanket on my lap and wishing I had fingerless gloves because my hands are cold!

So, what's been happening at Molly Rose?

I was struck down with another bout of bronchitis. There was also an infection and maybe a touch of flu with the aches and pains and fever. I was warned by the doctor that it would take me weeks to recover, and he wasn't wrong. It's really only been in the last ten days that I've really improved, and I still have an occasional tickly cough and I have to time my physical activity in short bursts.

I'm only just well enough now to start considering travelling into NSW to pick up the black ram lamb, who's no longer a lamb. Butthead's still looking for a home if anyone wants a non-functioning ram who loves scratches and is a good lawnmower, is easy to push over with his wonky legs and with a great big bell he can't sneak up behind you 😊 He's so lucky my kids don't want me to kill him – I'm still seriously considering turning him into blood and bone. I'm pretty sure we have too many sheep, so I'm gonna start figuring out who stays and who goes into the freezer.

One of the few good things about being sick was I got to lay on the couch and binge watch Netflix, so I caught up on a few shows and watched lots of movies while I could do nothing else. Once I was well enough I started writing again, although editing my short story collection was beyond me, so I went back to working on book one of a series. I'll be looking for beta readers soon, so, if you like fantasy with a touch of romance, a dash of science fiction and a twist of horror and like the idea of being a beta reader, let me know.

Veggie garden is still unplanted, but I have started preparing a little bit. Should be ready by spring!

Barney, the first of my Barnevelder roosters passed away last week. He was a gentleman and didn't mind too much when we picked him up. I buried him in the orchard. And a few days ago one of our Cream Legbar girls got out and we haven't seen her since. Still wanting a maremma to deal with foxes and aerial predators, but it's gonna have to wait until we have some other things sorted!

Feeding the birds of prey hasn't seemed to have worked – the local cats and kookaburras have decided the feeding station is for them and the aerial predators seem to prefer swooping in for the freshly killed variety.

They've been taking the neighbour's bantams on a regular basis. I think they've been ignoring mine because they're a bit further away, bigger and share a pen with four territorial geese.

Doing the rotational grazing of sheep and poultry has been more difficult this last month with me being able to do very little. Recently when we moved the hen pen and chook run we just let them all out while we did it. They enjoyed a good run, and the geese terrorised the dog!

In other news, we've been involved in starting up Benalla Wizards which consists of Benalla Costuming Wizards for the social sewing of clothes and costumes – our theme for the rest of the year is capes and cloaks to be worn in the Benalla Festival Parade, Benalla Boardgame Wizards for once a month social boardgaming and Benalla D&D Wizards for the roleplaying of Dungeons & Dragons and the playing of trading card games like Magic the Gathering, Yu-Gi-Oh!, Pokemon and the like. You can find most of the groups on facebook.

This month's 'Chicken Funny':

*My owner finally has some regular egg customers. Time to moult!*

Yup, that happened. Moulting and winter. Out of 13 ducks we have 3 laying and are getting on average 2 eggs a day. 40 plus chickens and not a single egg. Last year's hatchings should start laying soon, I can only hope!!!

Anyway, it is passed my bedtime, time to go. Write you again next month!

Carla





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Samaria Suns V Murray Crays

Travelling up the highway to face the ultracompetitive Murray Crays at Martin Park in Wodonga, the Samaria Suns knew they would have their hands full.



Starting straight after the Wodonga Bulldogs and Corowa Rutherglen game in the twilight the Suns were still waiting on players to arrive with some having played in the earlier All Blacks vs Greta game. However, the Murray Crays were quick to “lend” some players so the game could start. Scott Nicholson was strong in defence, as the Crays created plenty of play and scoring opportunities. Alistair Crook who was dominating came off with a cramp. The Crays controlled the play, but they failed to convert, kicking 4 straight points. Brian Rhodes in his first game back was keeping the Suns in touch, kicking two goals in the first quarter. At the first break the Crays had a 9 point lead.

The second quarter was more even with the Suns having plenty of the ball in their forward line resulting in another major from the boot of Rhodes. Rick Willett was marking strongly and making his presence felt across the ground, however an injury to Coughlan and Pearce left the Suns with no-one on the bench.

As the light faded the third quarter saw the Crays keep the Suns scoreless who were kicking towards the darker end of the ground.

The final quarter was better for the Suns with the work rate picking up and kicking to the end with the better light saw them able to get back into the game by keeping the Crays scoreless. However time was not on their side and at the final siren the Suns were 13 points down. Coach Pugh thanked his charges for their hard work and praised the Crays for playing the game in true Masters Spirit, especially for the loan of players.

**Samaria Suns 5 . 5 35 Murray Crays 6 . 12 48**

Awards:

Anna Little Mythotherapy Award: Brian Rhodes. Fruits N

Fare Award: Scott Nicholson

Two Dogs Racing Award: A-Aron Stevens. The Pink

Shop Award: Shannon Tharratt

The Hollywood Cafe Benalla (Australia) Award: Jarrad

Thwaites

Benalla Laserwash Award: Rick Willett. The Early

Bird Award: Jan Bast

Murray Crays Football Club. BOG for Samaria Suns : Brian Rhodes

Also the Suns took part in the 24 hr treadmill challenge to raise awareness for mental health and to start a conversation for suicide prevention. This took place at Anytime Fitness in Benalla. The AFL Masters and the Samaria Suns are proud supporters of Men’s Mental Health especially in over 35’s



Please Note

The Suns will be playing at Tatong on Sunday July 21st against Kerang.



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Robert & Elspeth - Tolmie



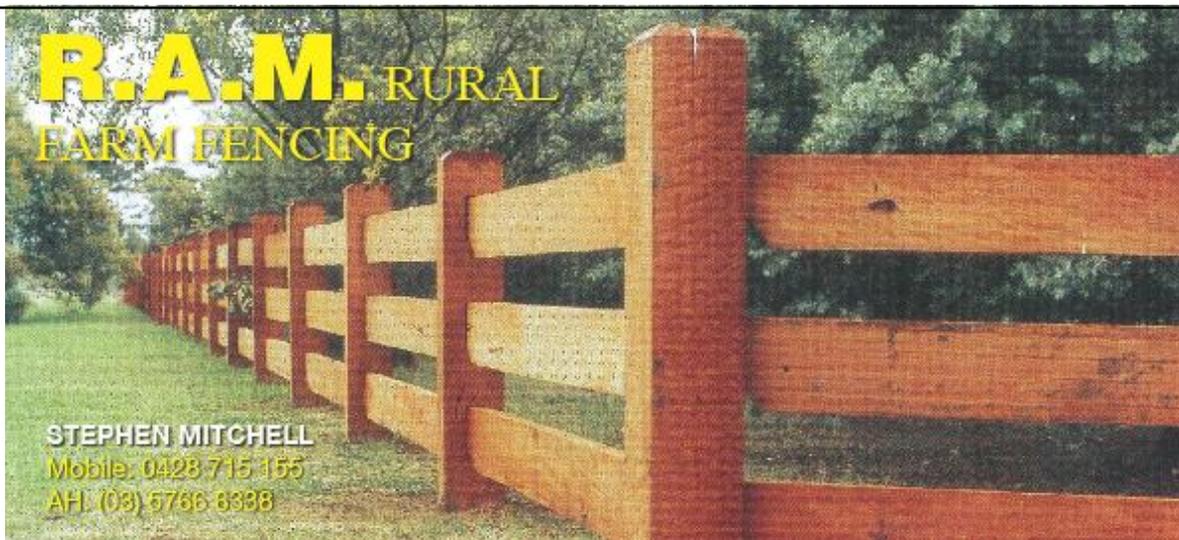
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# Garden DAZE The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago - the next best time is now



## A Bit About the Molyullah Easter Fair, Dahlias, Stag Ferns and Pumpkins

While watching the Grand Parade around the arena, last Easter Fair there was a great sight - first came all the old cars from the Wangaratta Car Club slowly sa-shaying around - followed by the chugging of vintage tractors trundling along - then to top it all off - we were highly amused to see Peter and his passengers playing



"Tail End Charlie" to the parade - with all the young passengers thoroughly enjoying the amused attention of the onlooking crowd. "Yay - Go Peter!"

Once again at this year's Fair, we were very pleased to have a great range of plants to offer our customers. This is thanks to all the locals from Molyullah and surrounds, who bring us so many great donations from their own gardens.

A very welcome donation was from Julie and Gary Campbell who had been out in their beautiful garden picking and sorting flowers for hours to bring us three buckets filled with bunches of some of the most wonderful dahlias we had ever seen.

These were most popular - indeed one customer had followed Julie and Gary from the car park to our Plant Stall and promptly bought three bunches.

The variety of the flowers was incredible - testimony to the beauty of Julie and Gary's garden. My favourite bunch (and it was hard to choose) was the most spectacular:



*Show and Tell.*

My first impression was that the name of large "Dinner Plate" Dahlia should have been *Firecracker* or *Blaze of Glory*. However on reflection and wishing to write about how impressive these flowers are - it would appear that my desire to "Show and Tell" - indicates that the

name fits perfectly.

If you are not reading this over the internet - I suggest you may like to see some examples of *Show and Tell* on Google Images.



John Knapper once again showed his creative prowess with some great Stag Horn creations.

At John's request, we had all been on the lookout for interesting pieces of timber to be used for mounting the Ferns. The result of our search was a couple of pieces of River Red Gum from where a large branch had torn from one of

our trees along Kilfeera Road which made a great back drop and so did another couple of old pieces that had been cut from a long dead stump. These interesting bits along with a couple of others and John's artistic prowess meant that the Mounted Stag Horn Ferns were snapped up by enthusiastic gardeners looking for something different.

Hazel Wann - a long time supporter of the Easter Fair - having packed, carried to the Ute, carted to the Fair Grounds, then un-



packed - countless potted plants over the years, this year supplied us with most of her Iris Bed, which came neatly packed into carry bags - all ready to "build your own Iris bed". Which going by the sales - many

of our customers thought was a pretty good idea.

Neville the Pumpkin Grower, despite the less than perfect gardening summer we were presented with this year, still came to the party with a trailer load of his best.

We drove over to collect his very generous donation a couple of days before Easter and it will be a long time before we forget the sight of him staggering out from his huge pumpkin patch with a pumpkin the size of a small house tucked under each arm.



Those that we picked and carried were somewhat smaller - just as well for those customers who may have parked toward the rear of the car park!

Well that was it for another year.

Hope you and your garden get to enjoy some rain over winter, and that the dams continue to fill.



Happy Gardening

Kathy Z

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## Taking Account

### Change of Prime Minister in PNG:

Unrest in our nearest neighbour has been building for 2 or 3 years, as more and more development has been occurring in Port Moresby, with little elsewhere, where over 90% of the population live, largely a subsistence life. The few developments that have occurred have often been grand, but totally inappropriate. This came to a head last year with APEC and the Maserarties, and then this March, with PM O'Neil centre stage with 31 other world leaders at the Belt and Road extravaganza in Beijing.

On 1st April James Malartae, the deputy PM and Treasurer, resigned and joined the opposition party. Over the next 3 weeks 19 other Government Ministers and members followed. O'Neil closed Parliament for 3 weeks, and put forward various compromises without success, and before Parliament returned he resigned from office. Parliament resumed and James Malartae was elected unanimously by all members of both parties, except for 8 members of the old guard. The change took 7 weeks, but was almost without demonstrations, and the PNG army stayed in their barracks. That afternoon there was dancing in the streets.

PM Malartae was a toddler at the time of independence, is University trained and has business experience. He has wasted no time in setting out his vision for PNG. He wants the undoubted wealth of their country, to be shared by all people, and within 10 years he wants PNG to be the richest Black Christian Country in the World. Time will tell.

### Economists

Is a recession probable? Some economists predict so, but it is less certain according to others. Back in the 1950s there were only 6 or 7 economists employed in Australia. The bigger banks had one, Canberra had another and perhaps NSW. In those times if you locked them in a room for long enough maybe they would reach consensus.

- Brian Vial

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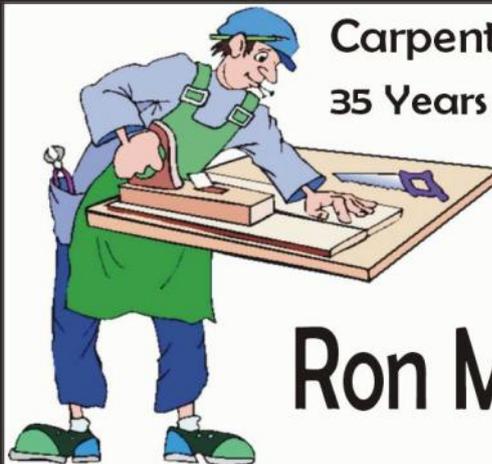


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Wednesday

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**Restaurant Menu**

**Bar Meals Menu**

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Thursday

Monthly  
Car Event

Sorry, it's been a while since I last wrote, no good reason just bad memory and we have been busy. It's been really good here for the last 4 months, lots happening, Functions, Birthday Parties, people camping and staying in our accommodation. We raised over \$650 for the Royal Children's Hospital from the money customers put on our ceiling. Why not come down to our Friday night Meat and Chook Raffle for the Royal Children's Hospital, it is a great community get together. Starting in July we will have \$6 Schooners for Happy Hour-5.30 to 7pm plus nibbles, so come on down and have some fun. The requests keep coming in for our winter menu; it is back, including Beef Cheeks and Scotties Legendary Lamb Shank pie. That's it for now and don't forget we have the wood fires & heaters burning away to keep you all warm.

See you all soon

Pedro, Shirl, Stew, Ninga, Chef Scotty and staff

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	13.2	23.8	22.7	105								202.4

**WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP**

Another good tally of rain for June with 38.9mm up until the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Also, the really good total for May was 105mm. Let's hope such strong falls continue.

While the dryness over summer and autumn meant hardly any mowing had to be done, it seems that most of the kikuyu grass in our main lawns has disappeared. This could be due to the chooks eating what there was of it, because in areas where the chooks are not allowed to go the kikuyu is still good, too good, because it's in the vegie garden area where we don't particularly want it.

Mike Larkin

**Bat Flattery**

One Saturday, late evening last May Willi and I had just sat down to the ABC news when we heard a knock on the door. Now that is very unusual especially as we had not heard a car come up the driveway. On my way to the door I note that a tallish man is standing there and when I see him he is around mid-twenties and dressed in that stupid camouflage clothing.

He introduces himself as Bloke A and asks for help. "OK", I say, what is the problem? He and his brother are stuck on the track behind our place (on the track that some Government department put in years ago as a fire access track which is only ever used by really loud and annoying motor bikes on a Sunday) with a flat battery. "Do I have a jumper lead and some spanners?" He says that they have a spare battery for fridges and things and can jump off that. So off we go to the shed and gather the goods. He asks for our address so he can drop the gear back when they get mobile then heads of up the hill in the fading light. Problem solved!!

Back inside for a beer and start on dinner but after a while we see a flashlight and there is another knock on the door and our man is back. No luck jumping with the leads so after some discussion A and I head off in our 1998 Navara ute. Out of Mt Joy Rd and he is directing via an app on his phone, something which I had never seen before, not being very high tech!!

Left into Mitchell and manage three closed gates, past the dairy and left onto Sawyer Rd. All is good but in the dark we missed the turn off and soon have

to back track – good on the GPS!! So we start onto a rough track and into 4WD then into low range. Now I have never done much 4WD and I have now totally sworn off it – painfully slow, goes nowhere, rough ride. Why bother?

After maybe thirty minutes we see a light and soon I am talking to older brother, Bloke B, and discussing the issues we have – electrically that is! The cars are connected and after a few false tries the big flash five year old Ford Ranger (I think that is what it was, definitely had a Ford badge) finally starts up. We have to leave the batteries connected for three minutes then we can start back. About an hour later I am home, having stayed on the bitumen from Samaria, and Willi has dinner ready and some vino started.

So that is me as a Good Samaritan. Bloke B gave me a \$50 note as thanks and promised to drop of a bottle of Shiraz on their next trip. I preferred Bloke A as he promised some venison, which was the purpose of their trip up from Melbourne.

But why was the battery flat? Because they had accidentally left one of the car doors ajar when they walked into the scrub which caused the parking lights to come on and soon – no power in the battery. Could have rolled it down the hill? No. An anti-theft feature prevents you doing that!!

So the big flash ute with enormous additional driving lights and fridges and lots of other stuff in the back was of little use till me and a twenty year, non flash, but working, ute came by!!

Darcy



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# LANDMARK

# What's on this month

## July 2019

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

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