

Circulation 360

February 2020 Donation \$1

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Edition 327

**THE IAN SNEDDON TWO RIVERS RUN TRACTOR EVENT**

May 2019 saw this very successful event run for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, 2014 and 2017 being the other two years. This event is held bi-annually with all profits going to a cause associated with men's health. 2019's event was for Motor Neurone disease, as sadly Ian passed away from this a few weeks prior. The tractor trek has been held beginning and finishing at somewhere along the Murray River, but travelling to the Murrumbidgee River during the week.

A collective group of tractor drivers and support crew, drove over 550km in the 7 days. Our youngest participant Matthew, was 9 years old. 37 tractors of all types, Grey Fergy's, Massey Ferguson's, David Brown, Internationals, a Lanz Bulldog, Chambelain's, Fordson Dexta, Ford 2000 and Duetz making up the contingent; with drivers from as far away as Tasmania and as close as Corowa. 16 support vehicles and a tail-end Charlie truck made up the rest of the tractor crew. A support crew of 15 vehicles travelled sometimes with the group, but mostly on a different road in order to set up for morning tea or lunch, as it was this group that organised day time meals of sausage sizzle's, salad rolls, hot dogs, or pies/sausage rolls. This group drove motor homes, towed caravans or had campers on their vehicles.

The group left Corowa on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May, travelling to Berrigan via Savernake Station woolshed for lunch and a tour in a well preserved old wool shed. Monday saw us move via Yooroobla Station on to Jerilderie. This was the night of our first auction which raised over \$6000. Tuesday we travelled through some very scenic creek areas to Colleambally Golf Club grounds. Wednesday the group first visited Yarrow Park winery and olive farm, enjoying morning tea and buying olives and wine for a tippie later on. We then travelled to camp beside the Murrumbidgee River at Billenbah reserve overnight. A lovely spot despite the fact one of our crew had a close encounter with a falling tree branch. Thursday was via Yanco Weir for smoko beside the water, a BBQ in a paddock, then on to an amazing dinner at Morundah Pub. Friday we moved through Urana to Oaklands where we were fed delicious soup followed by a roast. Saturday the group visited a very interesting museum of all sorts of memorabilia, from army gear to sewing machines, returning to Corowa for our farewell dinner and 2<sup>nd</sup> auction.

This auction raised in excess of \$4000. Plus the funniest money raiser. Bob the Builder, a member of the group had decided he would donate his beard and hair to charity, this he had been growing for 2 years. The final night was shave night. Bob had announced on day 1 if \$1000 was raised for the shave, the ladies could clean shave him. However if \$2000 was raised, they could only do half. This set up a challenge. On the last night, a bidding frenzy was held for Bob's whiskers. Around \$2400 was the total figure, so off came half. Bob drove home on Sunday minus ½ his beard and hair. He was warned not to stop for fuel in Goulburn as he might be mistaken for a gaol escapee.

It was a wonderful week renewing and making friends. Many local football, netball, school, machinery clubs and business houses catered for meals. Our meals were amazing, always 2 course (or 3) and delicious with no dishes. Each participant paid a set price for the 28 meals for the week, so no cooking. Generous sponsors also donated substantial amounts of money. Others donated their time and expertise in many areas. Ian's wife Robyn, and his 2 adult children joined us during the trek, enjoying the journey, albeit an emotional one for them. A final figure exceeding \$31000.00 was donated to Motor Neurone Australia. A wonderful effort by all involved; and a wonderful trek strengthening existing, and creating new friendships. All looking forward to 2021 trek now.

Maxine Gardiner



# Tatong Tavern

**\$20 Parma and Pot  
Thursday**

**Wallet Watcher's  
Wednesday**

**Tuesday  
Pizza Night**

**Monthly  
Car Event**



**Best Beer on Sale in the Tatong Valley since 1886.**

## **Picnic time.**

This photo shows an excavated Roman cemetery. Each tombstone has a quite large hole – any idea what it's for?

This excavation is in the centre of a busy road intersection in Barcelona, forming a roundabout with a difference. It has a footpath and handrails around the site to allow viewing.

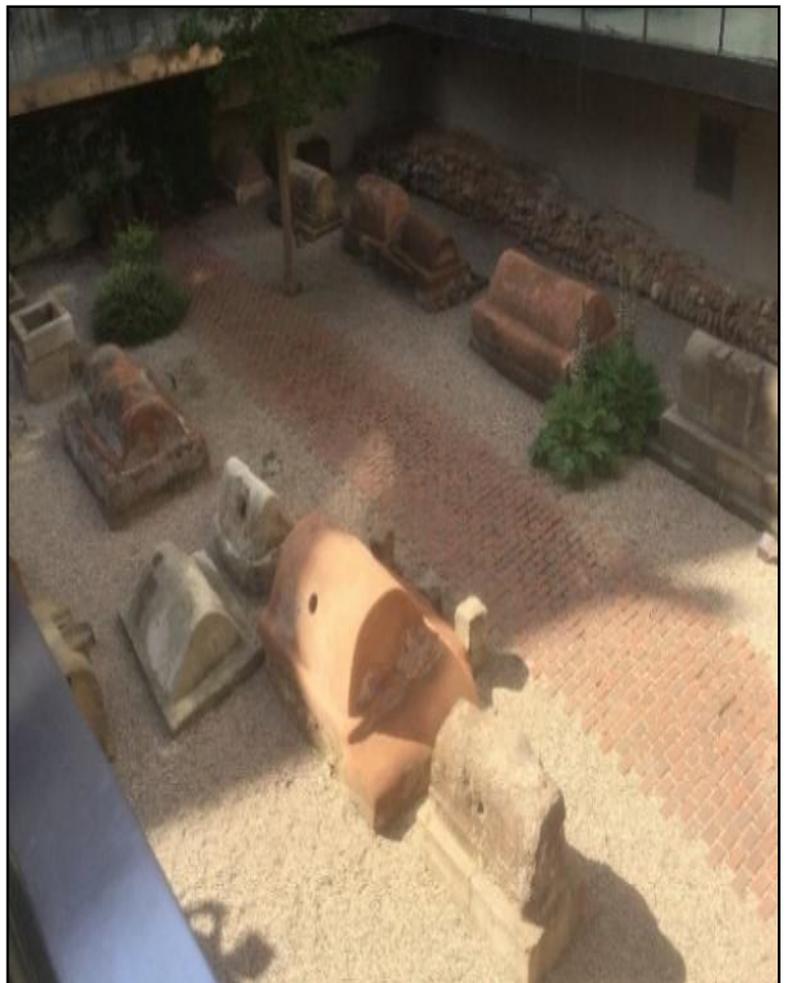
At the top left of the photo, the excavation continues for a little way under the road. Archaeologists believe that the cemetery is so big that it would be impractical to keep digging.

Now, I have it on very good authority, Romans believed that the dead could hear amongst other things. Because of this, their idea of a Sunday arvo picnic wasn't to go to the park, but to go to the cemetery and tell their long lost all the latest gossip.

If you've worked out by now the purpose of the hole was so the dead could hear their friends and rels better, you're partly there.

It seems that, as well as wanting to catch up on the goss, the dead also got hungry. The hole meant the corpse could share the picnic food passed in through the hole.

John Knapper





# Garden Daze

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



## Halfway Thru Summer and Looking Forward to Cooler, Wetter Times.

I remember coming across a phrase in some article I was reading (must have been a study book) where the author suggested that the words "Summer Afternoon" were very evocative and to think of the images that were brought to mind on those words.



No doubt, long warm golden days, green trees, possibly overhanging a stretch of river, perhaps a picnic to be enjoyed - were to come to mind.

Images which unfortunately are not representative of our current "Summer Afternoons".

### How are your plants surviving?

We have lost a few large trees - a couple of Acacia Floribunda that we planted in the garden when we first arrived here 26 years ago, have died providing us with a tricky tree removal job to contemplate which when finished will leave quite a gap. While the rest of the garden is looking dry and tired.

### The tomato plants are sulking and not flowering,

something which other people have told me is their problem also. It would seem that a Mild, Mediterranean climate is ideal for growing tomatoes. (Hmm maybe missed out in that area this summer!)

Tomato plants like full sun, rich soil, and a stake or cage to keep them upright, and they will soon bloom and produce tomatoes.

However - If they are given lots of high-nitrogen fertilizer, they will produce bushy plants with dark green foliage at the expense of flowers.

Flowers but no fruit . . High temperatures can sometimes play havoc with pollination. Hot spells, when daytime temperatures remain above 30°C and, crucially, night time temperatures fail to dip below 24°C , have the undesirable effect of **turning pollen sterile**. Tomatoes like it hot – but not too hot!

The only thing you can do during a heat wave is bide your time. In the meantime keep plants well watered and healthy, so that when temperatures finally subside they'll be in an excellent position to ramp up production.



An added complication is humidity, or lack of it. Very high humidity can clog the pollen, so it's unable to drop, **while in very dry climates** flowers may become so parched that pollen fails to stick and simply rolls straight off. In this instance regular watering may help to raise the humidity around the plants just enough to improve conditions.

### Hard to Imagine but its time to be Planning for a Winter Garden

Vegetables that are good for a winter garden grow slowly once those cold and frosty days start, so it is important to be getting them well on their way before then. Some planning and planting in February, will see a good supply underway by the time the winter gets here.

These plants are small early on and can be slotted in between summer crops as they finish. Many (not carrots and parsnips) could also be started in punnets now for when space is available from late March.

**Plant** - Beetroot, Broccoli, Cabbage, Chinese Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Kohl Rabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Parsley, Parsnips, Silverbeet, Spinach, Turnip.

### Easter and the Molyullah Fair Monday 13 April

The Plant and Produce Stall is always very grateful for donations of plants, bulbs or produce. If you have any spare cuttings you may have grown or something that could be dug up from the garden - every bit contributes to a successful day.



Happy Gardening

Kathy Z

## TATONG CFA BRIGADE, BUSHFIRES, PROPERTY AND SMOKE

Tatong's brigade has begun using of the BART (Brigade Alert Response Turnout) system of communication which is like an email setup that also receives alerts and messages from CFA management. In order to be able to use the system a smart phone with a touch screen as well as an email account is required. All of the messages and alerts sent by the CFA paging system appear on a user's phone which saves carrying the pager. The members of the Tatong BART system, which is exclusive to our own brigade, can message one another as well as listing their availability for firefighting duty. This service must be paid for, per user, and so at this stage only the most regular firefighters are registered.

There has been a surge in donations in aid of brigades and bushfire victims worldwide after the massive bushfires currently happening in the three south eastern states. Coles Supermarkets is donating \$500 in gift cards to every brigade, including Tatong, and another donation to our brigade has been from the Wangaratta Rotary Club which dropped off parcels of replacement water supplies for firefighters plus towels, juice and some food items. These were dropped to the Tatong fire shed by Beth and Jess and for which the brigade is thankful. We can partly thank the intense media hype for what has become a kind of "who can give the biggest donation" among the rich and famous, but then again is anybody complaining?

Our brigade has been active with a fire in paddocks and the nature strip along Samaria Rd in the Moorngag area. This fire damaged or destroyed fences and hay bales for local owners but fortunately not houses. Unfortunately for Tatong's Smith family their tractor went up in flames Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> January. The fire was contained and doused quickly and let's hope a replacement tractor is forthcoming just as quickly for Pete and family. Apart from smaller fires in Stanhope and in the pine plantations Tatong firefighters have travelled to Walwa, Corryong, Tallangatta and the NSW south coast as part of the massive fire prevention and clean-up operations. A major hazard from so many large fires is the smoke haze which is even affecting Sydney and Melbourne and, depending upon the wind, everywhere else.

The current fires have occurred at a good time so far as volunteer availability goes. Because it is holiday season there are more firefighters at home when usually it is difficult to find people during the weekday work hours. Now is a good time to recommend that local people join the CFA as a volunteer and that applies especially to women. It is clear from the fires of this summer just how important it is to have an effective brigade in your town and district. On a personal note we received an urgent telephone call from the Emergency system saying it was too late to leave just after the Moorngag fire started. As it happened the fire did not threaten Tatong due mainly to the work of brigades. What the phone call did was to wake us up to the reality of bushfire danger and so a big litter and branch removal program plus water storage and availability is currently happening at the 'Tatong ranch'.

On the day of the Moorngag fire I loaded my van with precious stuff plus my bike ready to drive to the Tatong oval, (Tatong's 'Place of Last Resort') where I would get my bike out and ride back home to either defend the property best I could or evacuate in our sedan cars to either the Rec Reserve or the safest route to Benalla. Although we

have done many 'fire plans' over the years it seems that we need to be faced with imminent danger before a 'real' plan can be made.

There are many preparations that can be done apart from packing the 'essentials' bags and making evacuation plans. I have concluded that owning property which is vulnerable to bushfire is like swimming in surf known for shark attacks. If you choose to live in a bushfire prone area and don't take preventative measures then be prepared to live with the consequences.

It takes 3 things for fire to burn; heat, oxygen and fuel, remove any one of these and there will be no fire. We live within a 'paradise garden' which has lots of fuel in the way of shrubs and mature trees, many being eucalypts. I am prepared to take a certain level of risk by keeping most of our big trees which are mainly along the back fence area, but also am resolved to reduce the fuel near the house and in my first tip load so far I crammed 100kg of leaves, twigs and ground litter onto the trailer. I am onto the second load and there will be many more.

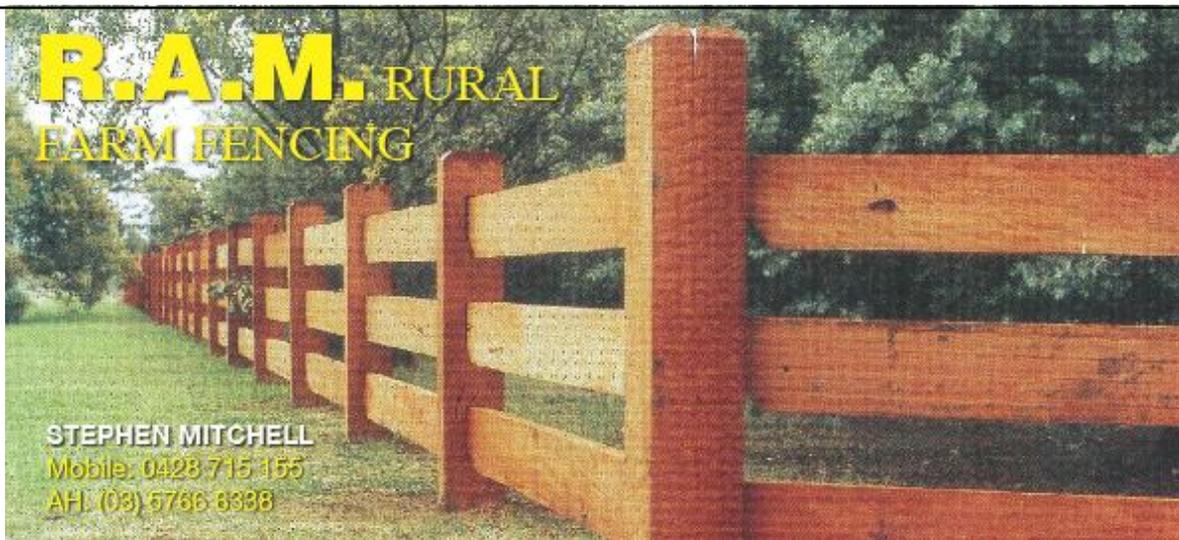
A strong memory that I have from one of the major fires of the last thirty years was a man who said organic mulch was a real problem once caught alight because it smouldered and became very hard to extinguish. Best not to have it near buildings so I am planning to remove some of ours as well as placing flat rocks, large tiles and pavers on top other mulched beds near the buildings to reduce flammability.

Another ingredient for creating fire is heat, and the usual way we remove it is with water so I have installed two new taps to ensure water is available, from both our well and tanks, all around the house plus filled many large and medium barrels and buckets of water placed near every tap for when the well runs dry or the tanks are empty. Every tap has a hose or a hose/tap connector fitting. We also have a generator which is on a wheeled trolley, serviced and working in case of power loss.

My latest 'toy' firefighting weapon is the Aldi battery driven pressure spray washer. The washer, which is a last resort implement if there is no power has a 5 meter long hose to clip into a bucket or a barrel or rubbish bin of water tied to a trolley. A wheelie bin partly filled with water is another way to get water nearer to the fire for dousing with the pressure spray or buckets. Pressure washers and water pistols which have a good length of spray can reach hard to access fires such as under the house or inside the ceiling space. If you have never experienced dense smoke from a fire be prepared for stinging eyes, smoke inhalation, low visibility as well as the obvious heat. Have face masks, a torch, gloves and goggles handy plus protective clothing, boots and a helmet or wide brimmed hat. Other handy items are a battery radio, first aid kit, plenty of drinking water and a ladder or steps. A problem with bushfire preparations is that there is usually a number of years between the major fires so of course we forget to do the preparing things until the last minute which could be too late. We are now being told that such big fires will be more frequent so BE PREPARED! As may be gathered from this article I am of the mind to stay and defend property in case of a bushfire if it seems reasonably safe to do so.

The suggestions and ideas written here are my own and not the responsibility of the Tattler newsletter.

Mike Larkin



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# FIREWOOD



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# Gawn to Town

Now that we live on the edge of town, fear of fire is less; on our own behalf, anyway. We adjoin the acres of concrete and bitumen of Benalla-town, which won't succour a fire nearly so well as a paddock of dry grass. Let alone untended forest, piled up with dried-out debris. And we have town water.

But even though we are "in" Benalla, we have only one access road; one kilometre thereof, which if blocked, would leave us on shanks pony through the overgrowth by the creek. Which we also adjoin; our paddock runs beside Willis Little Parkland, which involves stands of 2-metre high phalaris and thistles, and great lurking mounds of cleavers. On the far side of the Parkland is the freeway. One bit of burning debris...

But we ought be safe. I'm hoping. Fires of the past faced less good armaments. We are close by the airfield, where Elvis Impersonators hover. Two mighty red mechanical mosquitoes stopped by recently, just visible through the smoke; Marty and Delilah, just over Kilfeera Rd.

In February 1901 a fire started somewhere in Kilfeera. The Argus blared, "**The Bush Fires. Computing The Damage. Miles Of Country Devastated**" - The fire that swept over the Boggy Creek settlement on Thursday night is believed to have originated at Kilfeera, 30 miles away, on Tuesday, and it is reported that the cause of the outbreak was phosphorus dropped by two men whose fingers were burnt in the process of making rabbit poison." That's taking pest eradication a bit far; I wonder if the bunnies got roasted as well?

In her memoir "*Mirtako Memories; An Account of Growing Up at White Gate, Tatong, in the 1920's-40's*" (available from the Tatong Heritage Group) Shirley Earll née Simonds writes, "...the sheep farming venture was successful until early 1927, when a fire started by a railway engine near Benalla swept through the White Gate district and burnt out the Simonds farm as well as neighbouring ones. Local farmers took the Railways to court, and won the case for damages, but the Railways

appealed and the verdict was overturned. The affected farmers took the case further at great cost, and lost."

Trove has the account by the Benalla Standard, for Friday 4 March 1927; "**The Fire Fiend. House Destroyed. Miles Of Fencing Burnt. Still Raging In Greta And Molyullah Districts**" The first blaze "...commenced near Glenrowan, said to have originated from a steam roller. Once alight there was no stopping the progress of the fire... through the properties of C. and L. Pritchard, Collies, the Lees, M. Kenneally and J Kelly, the damage being chiefly confined to fencing and grass, of which many thousand acres were devastated.

"...The second outbreak ... at Sherwill's paddock, in close proximity to the North-Eastern railway line, ... almost immediately after the Albury train had passed at 11.25. ... The high rate of the wind held it to a narrow strip until well into the afternoon .... Mrs W. Clark's property was swept, and an unoccupied house here went up in the flames. The seriousness of the outbreak was now fully realised, and word was sent to Benalla, the result being the ringing of the firebell... The fire had crossed both the Lurg roads and the Kilfeera road ... forced its way to the Emu Bridge State school, encircling the building, but doing no damage, and here it was held and extinguished.

"Another line of fire branched across the road and travelled through Simmonds' and M'Donald's into W M'Gregor's Tatong Estate, the veering of the wind changing the line of danger into more wooded country, and endangering the Molyullah district.

"...Miles of fencing are down; trees are burning like beacons, and there is danger lurking there to travellers by car: telephone communication is dislocated in almost every centre which the conflagration has visited and the whole countryside looks desolated in its blackened mantle."

(<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/255563275>)

I am relieved to have retired from farming with only a few smallish grass fires to have contended. They seemed big enough at the time. May caring spirits save us all from the inferno (and from highly flammable rabbit poisons.)

- Andrea Stevenson



In the Czech Republic, falling water levels have exposed "hunger stones" in the river Elbe, where people recorded earlier droughts. Inscribed on one stone is the message: "If you see me, weep"



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# Computer Tat-Tap-Tips

## Pause Windows Updates

Windows 10 is notorious for providing compulsory Updates, which the makers feel is Good. Users, scuppered part way through a presentation, or told "Do Not Turn Off Your Computer" when about to catch a plane, or in Regional areas and finding their data is gobbled up by Updates, are not so admiring.

Initially only the more expensive "Pro" version gave the ability to Pause Updates. Since build 1903 came out last May, Windows 10 "Home" also offers this. (To see what build you have, right-click on the Start Button, click on "System", then scroll down to "Windows Specifications".)

To Pause your Updates, click on the Start button, click Settings (the cog above the power symbol), and navigate down to Update & Security.

You can just "Pause for 7 days", or scroll down to Advanced and find the "Pause Updates" option. You can then nominate up to a month ahead.

-  Pause updates for 7 days  
Get the latest updates to pause again
-  Change active hours  
Currently 10:00 to 11:00
-  View update history  
See what updates are installed on your device
-  Advanced options  
Additional update controls and settings

Do make a note of the date you chose. Before then, at your leisure, overnight if you are on restricted download, go back to Update & Security and tell it to Resume Updates. Keep an eye on it; depending on when your "Active Hours" are set, your system might sit waiting for permission to Re-Start instead of being useful.

Once updated, set it to Pause once more; and again make note of by when to pay attention. For once that date comes around, Microsoft will update your PC regardless.

Note: After the pause limit is reached, you have to install the latest updates before you can Pause Updates again.

Also: Updates are paused unless Microsoft thinks there is one you really truly need. Even then, the bulk will be waiting until Updates are Resumed.

- Andi Stevenson

### Pause updates

Temporarily pause updates from being installed on this device for up to 35 days. When you reach the pause limit, your device will need to get new updates before you can pause again.

### Pause until

Saturday, 22 February, 2020

## TATONG MEMORIAL HALL TRIANNUAL MEETING

### Notice is given of a PUBLIC MEETING

To be held at the Tatong Memorial Hall on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2020 commencing at 7:30pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to nominate no less than three nor more than nine (the exception being extra members for our art show sub-committee) as the committee of management for the Tatong Memorial Hall for a term of three years.

The current committee's term has expired as of January 14<sup>th</sup> 2020. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Nominations from women are encouraged.

Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting your local DELWP office or at the meeting. For further enquiries please contact the Secretary, Mike Larkin on 0428273613

# White Gate



# Dates

**White Gate Dinner @ The Tatong Tavern** will arrive Wednesday Feb 5th. By then may the dams have a nice bit of water in them, the grass be thinking about growing, and not an ash in sight.

Wishing a really boring summer to all of you in the various Fire Brigades. May 2020 be a year of good pasture, fine healthy stock - and really good prices. Is that so much to ask?

## White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Leigh Humphries	26 Jan	Andrew Marriott	23 Feb
Bill Ferguson	2 Feb	Terry Trounson	1 Mar
Norton Grimwade	9 Feb	Les MacLean	8 Mar
Terry Ryan	16 Feb	Lewis Vallender	15 Mar

- Andrea Stevenson, 5762 8445



Next Meeting;  
Monday  
January 27th  
4pm  
in the

Tatong Memorial Hall

All welcome

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# SUCK it UP

SEPTIC PUMP OUTS

## Why is it important to pump my septic tank out regularly?

Over time scum and sludge layers build up in your septic tank, eventually limiting the amount of available liquid. This does not allow the septic tank to perform one of its basic functions - to allow for settling of solids below the outlet level.

The waste will then flow directly on to the next part of the system untreated. If this situation persists, the scum and sludge will flow through to the distribution field, eventually causing blockages and malfunction - a messy, smelly and costly exercise to repair.

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



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# Community Public Address System

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\$25 towards the amplifier's maintenance would be appreciated.

For bookings contact Mike Larkin, on 5767 2323.

### AUSTRALIA DAY

This edition of the Tattler will be too late for many readers but in case you read it before the 26<sup>th</sup> January, Tatong's celebration will be held at the Recreation Reserve hall starting at 8am with a Community breakfast. All welcome.

### FUNNIES

The brain is the most outstanding organ. It works 24 hours, 365 days, right from your birth until you fall in love.

You drop something when you were younger, you just pick it up. When you're older and you drop something, you stare at it for a bit contemplating if you actually need it anymore.

One way to find out if you are old is to fall down in front of a lot of people. If they laugh, you're still young. If they panic and start running to you, you are old.

Mike Larkin



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# LANDMARK

### What's Happening at Molly Rose?

Happy New Year everyone! May your 2020 be one of clear vision on the path you're travelling.

You may remember last year I injured my back... it is mostly better but still not quite right. Today has been one of my worse days. That said, I'm still mobile, just in constant low level pain. A goal for 2020 is to strengthen those weak areas – lower back, feet, shoulders & wrists – so I will be talking with the osteo about an exercise program... sigh, exercise has never been something I've enjoyed, still, I would prefer exercise to continually injuring myself.

Butthead was a very lucky boy. Instead of being turned into mincemeat he went to a new home with lots of girls! I hope he is as active there as he was here. Rusty processed two of his offspring this week and I got to "help".

It has always been part of our plan to raise our poultry and sheep for the table as well as for eggs, milk, lawn mowing and fertilising. I have always believed that if we are going to eat meat then we (our family) need to be as involved in the process as possible. So last week the Molyullah Mobile Butcher came and dispatched two of our larger ram lambs. It was as quick and stress free as possible for the two boys.

With feed scarce we are having to act upon this plan a little sooner than we'd intended 4 months instead of 6, 9 or 12 months. They were beautiful boys and I was left feeling a mix of satisfaction that we gave them the best life we could give them, gratefulness that they will be feeding our family and sadness because we have killed two of our beautiful ram lambs.

A few days later Rusty came round with his butchering truck and I watched him cut up the boys into forequarter roasts & chops, leg roasts, loin roasts. He showed me where to cut the carcass for different cuts of meat. A week later and I can only remember one! It was fascinating to watch the boys get broken down into the various cuts of meat and the speed with which Rusty did it.

We are coping with the smoke haze, mostly, but wearing P2 masks outside on the bad days as it has been triggering sore throats, headaches and mild asthma. And on those days we can't run the swampy for the same reason and the house stays shut up. Not very enjoyable, but when it comes down to it, I prefer smoky to fire.

Very, very grateful for the rain we got tonight. I thought it was going to miss us again. We had 6.5mls this morning plus another 4.5mls tonight, and who knows, maybe even some more before tomorrow morning. It was lovely listening to the rain falling on the roof tonight.

Breeding season for the geese is over and they are no longer in-your-face-aggressive and have settled down, although they are still not keen for cuddles! We had a couple of older chooks pass away, due to illness and the heat and also have a few new additions.

We have the young cockerel Electric Boogaloo, an imported line Cotswold Cream Legbar. Six weeks of quarantine have shown that Electric Boogaloo loves to play with water, strangely duck-like for a chicken. Rozalba, an Aussie Line Cream Legbar X Araucana. She lays a lovely big blue egg and screams like a banshee when you catch her. We have also added two bantams to the flock. We caught them for a friend, who didn't have a place for them any more. They are Una and Foofah, named by her kids.

And last, but certainly not least is Ziggy Stardust.

Duckles has been sitting on eggs for close to two months now under the house where she cannot be reached. They are definitely not going to hatch! However there was one fertile chook egg. Duckles didn't want Ziggy and after a few days, Ziggy didn't want to stay with Duckles either, so we now have a "house" chicken. She spends a lot of time with me. Ziggy loves my keyboard and spends a lot of time sitting on my wrist or arm as I'm typing. She particularly loves the dots. This is a piece she tapped out for our Molly Rose Heritage Harvest Facebook page.

*.....still want 2 eet thees dots..... thay look so tastee.....like mum's i's.....I tryd won.....it woz disappointing.....mum dusn't let me neer her fase any mor..... but I can still sit on her sholda.....*

On Christmas Eve, just before closing we rushed into Specsavers Benalla to have my eye attended to. Can't thank the optometrist enough for waiting for me to arrive and doctoring me up even though she was meant to be leaving. She put a lense bandage on my eye, told me to use chlorsig four times a day and keep Ziggy away from my face!

Christmas Day was fairly miserable as my eye wept constantly and I needed to wear my sunglasses inside even with the blinds drawn! I think I spent half the day with my eyes closed! Fortunately there is no permanent damage. Lesson learned, keep the cute fluffy puffball away from my face! Not that she's fluffy any more.

Anyway, that about wraps up the last few months at Molly Rose. Write you again next month!

Carla



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pekington tales by ziggy stardust  
 mama sed i shood put sumthing in the tatong tattler.  
 my name is ziggy. i woz hatched just b4 xmas by  
 a duk. she had a nest unda the hous. she didn't  
 want me so i went 2 liv with the big peeppl. they r  
 my family now.  
 i sleep in a box at nite with a heet lamp 2 keep  
 me worm. in the day i hang with big peeppl but  
 mostlee with mama.  
 mama luvz me. i luv mama. i follo her evry... orl  
 the time. Sumtimes i haf 2 run an flap my wings 2  
 keep up. i sit btween her feet on the floor, on her  
 nee, on her rist, even on her hed, but she neva  
 lets me stay long. At nite i sit on her sholda an  
 snuggl unda her hair.  
 i luv mama. i luv food. mama gives me speshal  
 food but i like the dog food best. henree dusn't  
 like me eeting from his bole an sumtimes chases  
 me an trys 2 eet me but i am farst like a ninja an i  
 take the food. i luv the food.  
 i luv mamas food 2 but she poots me in the bos  
 wen she has the food. sumtimes she 4gets an i  
 am farst like the ninja an take the food, sumtimes  
 even from her spoon b4 it gets 2 her mowth.  
 this is a foto of me on the kees.



Courtesy of Carla



Presents

**MICHAEL VERDE  
MEMORY BRIDGE &  
Dementia Without Loneliness  
March 16th-19th 2020**

The principal source of suffering for those with dementia is emotional and social isolation. For family members, carers or well meaning friends it is not always easy to know what to do, what to say, or how to reach out and perhaps cross that bridge into the world of someone with dementia.

Michael Verde, world acclaimed Memory Bridge founder is coming to North East Victoria for 4 days of workshops, lectures and the NE Premiere of his documentary "Love Is Listening: Dementia without Loneliness".

He is already pre booked for in house staff training workshops in Benalla, Beechworth and Wangaratta. You are invited to attend his public sessions during his 4 day visit.

The public launch of Dementia Without Loneliness is hosted by ESTIA Health at Benalla Performing Arts Centre (BPACC) on Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm. Michael will present his vision of how we can better support the emotional needs of people with dementia. This will be a free event but bookings will be essential. For more information call Lindy on 0439 863 248 or email [benalla@estiahealth.com.au](mailto:benalla@estiahealth.com.au)

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 10am to 12noon Michael Verde will present a family carers workshop at the Swanpool Cinema. A limited number of places are available so early bookings for the workshop are definitely required. Contact Bridging Spaces, details below.

Michael Verde's award winning documentary "LOVE IS LISTENING – Dementia Without Loneliness" is on Tuesday March 17 at Swanpool Cinema, 1.30pm. You will have the opportunity to ask Michael questions after viewing the documentary. A small \$10 admission fee is required. Afternoon tea will be available in the dining room.

This 4 day event is being sponsored by Age Friendly Benalla, Coinda Benalla, Estia Health, GMCU, Illoura Wangaratta, Indigo Shire, St Catherine's Wangaratta. The event is also being supported by individual generous donations which are always welcome- contact Bridging Spaces.

**BRIDGING SPACES**

Presents **DEMENTIA WITHOUT LONELINESS** – 4 day tour of North East Victoria is brought to you by non profit Bridging Spaces, Benalla. For further information contact Maeve 0405 564 985 or Kaye 0429 682 454 or email : [bridgingspaces2020@gmail.com](mailto:bridgingspaces2020@gmail.com).

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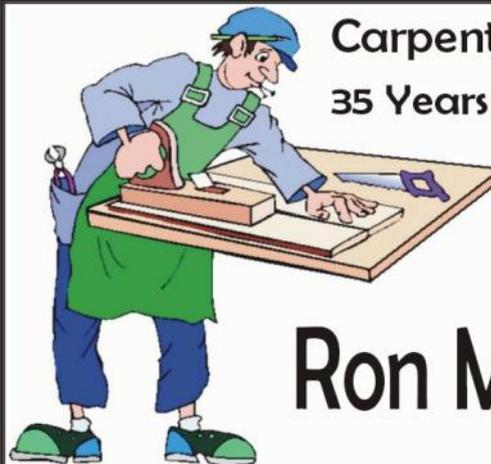


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Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2010	39	153.7	86.4	65.2	67.5	82.8	67.5	162.1	116.8	123.7	109.2	150.8	1224.7
2011	107	177.3	65.0	36.1	62.9	47.1	84.5	81.0	67.3	32.0	88.3	46.3	894.7
2012	82.5	94.0	184.9	18.1	35	57.6	115.8	92.1	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	72.9	83.7	49.4	51.3	34.9	37.9	40.8	563.3

### WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

Up until the 15<sup>th</sup> of January we have had only 5.7mm of rain which is disheartening. (Ps. later in the day that I starting writing this article we had a torrential downpour of 30mm of rain) December was not too bad for rainfall with 40.8mm for the whole month. Also I may have missed entering the last November total which was 37.9mm. This plus December's total gave an annual total for 2019 of 563.3mm.

Two family friends who live within a radius of about 50km of Tatong have said that their annual rainfall has halved in recent years so, doing a 'fact check,' I tallied the average of Tatong's rainfall according to my readings listed in the Tattler for the 12 years since 2008. I believe that Tatong's expected average is around 700mm and the actual for the last 12 years, according to my readings, is 753.4mm. For the last 5 years the average is 702.1mm and for the last two years the average has dipped to 544.3mm, still well above half of the expected average.

Mike Larkin

### A Continent Under Fire

Where I live, people take notice of the weather. They notice when it rains, and when it doesn't. They know which direction the wind blows. Most conversations are about the daily temperature forecasts and when we can expect rain. The locals know what it means when the gums begin losing their leaves, or the natives flower early. Their noses can detect the smell of smoke on the delicate summer breezes.

The isolation that was once coveted by city-dwellers is now feared, as the searing sun cracks the earth and deadens the lush paddocks. The homes that were sanctuaries during the winter become tenuous shelters that may need to be evacuated in minutes.

Come 'bushfire season', tempers flare like the flames that lick through our tinder-dry bushland. 'Climate change' and Greta Thunberg have been talked about more than Santa and Test scores. But underneath the rage, our hearts are breaking as our deep-rooted anxieties and fears are realised once again. And I deliberately write 'once again'. Fire is a recurring phenomenon. Our early immigrants wrote of bushfires that raged on their brittle, burnished land. Or triumphantly conquering them time and time again, and the celebration of the endurance of farmers and bush-dwellers. Australian's musings on the topic of bushfires has shifted from a lamenting acceptance that the fires will inevitably return, to a seething hostility towards the perceived causes of change in our climate; the dangers imposed by deforestation; and the fears that haunt those living in vulnerable areas.

With heavy hearts, we watched at the tail-end of December 2019 as our creeks were reduced to delicate slivers of water. We held our breath as we waited for the infernos to erupt across our countryside. Impenetrable walls of flames furiously swept bushland, consuming untouched native pyres. The charred remains of precious, vulnerable wildlife are scattered amongst the blackened trees planted by early settlers who saw the same, decades ago. Trees that triumphantly bear the scars of many fires in the years before. Scorched sheep and cattle hang their heads low, the smell of scalded flesh and singed wool heavy in the air. Full, aching udders are oblivious to the immediate crisis, and languid tongues stretch out, seeking relief.

Perhaps it *is* true that fires are more prolific and less predictable now than ever before. However, the seasonal tribulations of farmers, landowners and firefighters is constant and persistent. The danger remains even after the embers are doused. The fear of bushfires haunts us year after year. For some it is peripheral – images that flood our newsfeed and stories from returning holidaymakers, who momentarily tasted fear when advised to turn around and return home. For others it is consuming – flames engulfing precious homesteads and histories. Blackened memories, charred dreams.

Bushfires will always be our story. They will always be the stories of our friends, family and neighbours. They are the stories, and legacy, of our sunburnt country.

Caryn

# What's on this month

## February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>T</b> atong Fire Brigade Training. 7pm Fire Shed. ( Check with brigade if still on)	<b>4.</b>	<b>5</b> <b>W</b> hitegate Community Din- ner. Tatong Tav- ern.	<b>6</b> <b>P</b> lay group, 9.30,am Tatong Rec Res .	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>M</b> ansfield Bush Poets. Mansfield Library 3-5pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>P</b> lay group, 9.30,am Tatong Rec Res .	<b>14</b> <b>F</b> ish & Chip Night. Mo- lyullah Hall 5.30pm	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>T</b> atong Fire Brigade Training. 7pm Fire Shed.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>P</b> lay group, 9.30,am Tatong Rec Res .	<b>21</b> <b>G</b> irls Shed 10.00am at Tatong Hall	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>P</b> lay group, 9.30,am Tatong Rec Res .	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

### Some personal observations

It's amazing how the smell of bushfire smoke hastened my fire prep.

I'm in mourning over the closure of the Apostrophe Protection Society on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019. Founder, John Richards, announced "ignorance and laziness present in modern times have won."

So many women these days speak with a 'little girl' voice.

For some, the more Christian they profess to be, the less Christian their behaviour.

It seems that, these days, answers to questions must begin with "So..."

Some people seem to think that if they shout at you loud enough for long enough, you'll change your point of view to theirs.

I planted a walking onion and now I can't find it.

I'm fed up with hearing things like, "now is not the time to talk about this "as a way to avoid discussing important issues. The other delaying ploy is to announce a royal commission – even if we've had many previously.

Words such as anything and something do not end with the letter K.

New Year's Eve – exhausted fires, towns burning, people dying, people huddled together on beaches in blackness caused by smoke - and fireworks - ???

John Knapper.

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**DEADLINE**

The Tattler Deadline is end of the **20th of the month.**

Submit via e-mail to [tatongtattler@yahoo.com.au](mailto: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.