

Circulation 360

March 2021

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Edition 339

### What's Happening at Molly Rose?

Still really enjoying the cooler summer temperatures and lack of bushfires, and I've decided to stop hatching babies, for now.

So, I made a bit of a miscalculation with a couple of Muscovy eggs and had one duckling hatch about two weeks sooner than everyone else, so I've been hand-raising a little cutie named Nibbler, who, just like their name, nibbles on everything. They have companions now, who they weren't too thrilled about for the first few days. Nibbler and I are still spending time together, but when we do, I have a double thick towel on my lap. It's amazing how many times they poop and Muscovy ducks are known for their ability to projectile poop!

When Nibbler and companions are big enough, I'm going to pen them with Wonky, because although Wonky is doing much better, he is almost completely blind and I think it would be good if he had a friend. At this stage I don't know if Nibbler is male or female – I'm guessing male, but hoping I'm wrong.

I don't need any more Muscovy drakes (I already have three handsome boys and I will also be keeping the laced male from this year's breeding project), but the other three (that I know of) will either be moving on or becoming dinner.

However, if Nibbler is a drake he won't be dinner – I'm not allowed to process the ones we hand-raise – so I'm introducing him to Wonky in the hopes that they'll become friends and Nibbler can become Wonky's companion animal.

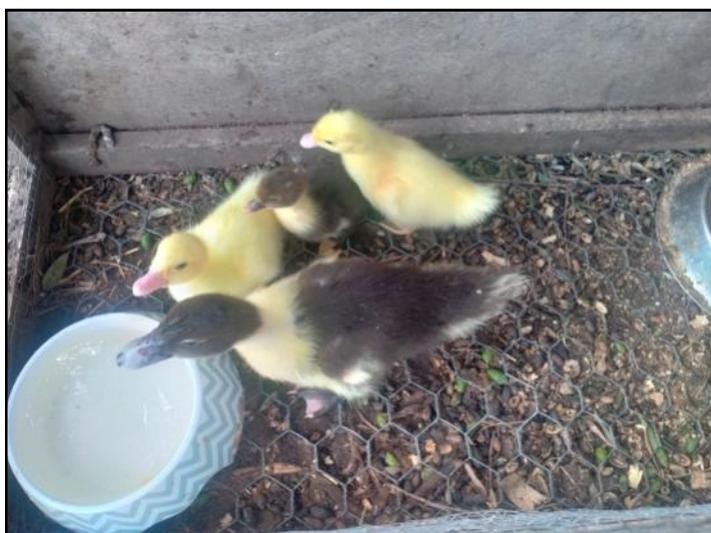
We're preparing the goslings for processing, but first we need to pen them and get them used to us handling them so they're not completely panicking every time you look in their direction. If we do this again, we'll be ensuring the goslings are handled lots so that when it comes to selling or processing it is not too much of a stressful experience for them.

Also got most of the roosters we're processing or selling in one pen, except for lavender Araucana who's so pretty that all the grown up roosters were trying to mate him and killer is in a pen by himself. He attacked and killed Big Red, but when he was put in the not-keep rooster pen Zoom beat him up. Karma. I'll also have a few Welsh Harlequin drakes that will need to go, happily I hatched out a few girls, so Harley is no longer the only female Welsh Harlequin.

The sheep, well their story is for another month, because I only realised it was the 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30pm on the day!

Write you again next month!

Carla



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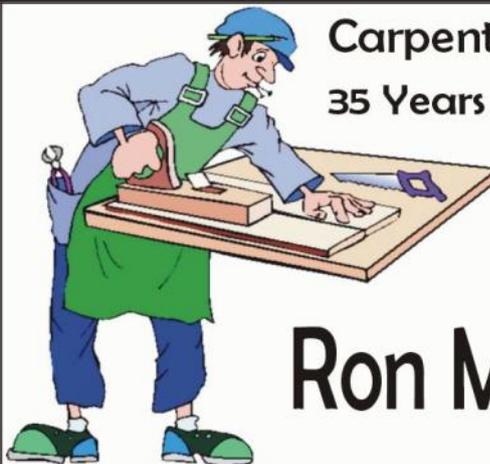
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# Gawn to Town

The bunnies are back. Hopping about with those little white tails that ought be cute; except they're on rabbits. I trapped rabbits once, in another life. Yes, with those horrible now-illegal steel-jawed traps. I learnt to skin them, but I wasn't interested in using the skins. Found I didn't much care for the meat any way I could work out to cook it (cooking was an art I was yet to learn). Then I began getting hay-fever when skinning rabbits. Gave up trapping rabbits.

It wasn't as though I was hungry, or struggling for a quid, like those who: *"-skinned and scalped and scalped and skinned, till my back was nearly broke,"* and *"- slaved all day for half a crown for the Sydney market bloke."*

"The Rabbit's Song" by Stan Wakefield recalls the 1930s, when the govt encouraged young men to earn a living this way rather than apply for the dole. No doubt the govt made rabbiting sound like the Army ads of today; a sporting, roving life. Travel to new lands, pit your wits against the rabbits, get ripped off by market forces.

*"I thought I'd get a sniffer cheque for skins I sent from Bourke, But the broker rogues in Sydney Town, they weigh them short and they grade them down, And they sent me back three lousy pound, for a month of slavin' work."* It is a raucous, cheery song, and probably much more fun to listen to than to experience.

The rabbits numbers were building up hereabouts barely a year ago. Bunnies were burrowing under my plants, and managed to kill two nicely established shrubs. I cursed them soundly, which I might regret if I'm every reincarnated as a rabbit. And they can point out that it wasn't their idea to come to this land.

Then one of the viruses arrived, and went through the rabbits like... Covid19. Which at least enabled Gertie the Labrador to catch her first bunny. The rabbit wasn't so much running as staggering, but Gertie was pretty pleased with herself. She was still trying to work out how to unwrap it, when I offered her a dog biscuit in exchange, and her bunny supper vanished.

"Rabbits boiled, rabbits fried," - There was a grace; a recital of all the ways one might prepare a rabbit, and no doubt the writer had tried every one. It finishes

begging the lord to spare them from having to eat more rabbit. I thought it was in my old Weekly Times Pioneer Cookery book, but if it was, it's dug a hole and got out.

A regular bushwhacker told me in the 1980s, that KFC regularly used rabbit instead of chicken, which I took with a grain of salt. But maybe we ought to have Kaniva Fried Rabbit. When the entire nation turns into a massive rabbit production farm, we'll have something to do with them. After all, it is no longer politically correct to use skins; one ought use plastic instead. Perhaps the Anti-Meat movement, while preferring a concoction of ground red kidney beans made to look like a bunny leg (would it bring good luck?) might accept 'wild-caught' rabbit.

Then we could go back to eating boiled rabbit for breakfast. I believe I have a recipe.

- Andrea Stevenson

## BAKED RABBIT IN MILK

Two rabbits  
Breadcrumbs  
Parsley, thyme, pepper,  
salt

Slices of bacon  
One and a half pints  
of milk (to a pair of  
rabbits)

Cut and joint rabbit  
and put in casserole  
cover with breadcrumb  
thyme, pepper and salt  
Bake for two hours  
half an hour before it  
cover with slices of ba  
to oven and brown.

—Miss Roslyn Smith, Ten

## TATONG FIRE SHED MURAL UPDATE

The most asked question I get is: "Is it finished yet." I am now at the 99.999999 % finished, but even that is just a guess and I say that because the overall scene will appear to be complete to most eyes other than mine.

This leads to the next step which is when will it officially be declared finished and where and when is the opening event? We had thought that it may be in March but there were some devils in the detail so we must wait for other related matters to be completed. For instance it will be a suitable occasion for brigade awards as well as an information plaque (not plague) for the mural and the renewal of the fencing beside the shed wall. This all means that the opening will not occur in March but we will notify via the Tattler when all is ready and a date set.

For anyone interested in getting a photo of the whole wall it would pay to have a zoom lens and photograph it from beside the Benalla road. Otherwise you can sneak into Pete Smith's paddock, remembering to shut the gate, and frame it to suit your camera. The best time of day is the morning at around 10am at the moment because various shadows happen, one at the east end early and at the west end later in the morning. The ripples in the shed cladding are in direct sun around 10am so that there is no dark shadow down the side of every ripple. The shadows all change as the seasonal arc of the sun change so you just have to keep watching it. In the afternoon when the sun is behind the fire shed wall it is not conducive to a good photo without a zoom or camera which can cope with the stark contrast between the bright sky and the dark wall.

Mike Larkin

White  
Gate



Dates

White Gate Dinner @ The Tatong Tavern for the Merry Month of March is due on Wednesday 3rd.

So long as the people running Hotel Quarantine in Victoria have worked out which way up to hold the instruction manual, we ought be at liberty to book ourselves in, turn up somewhere round 6:30pm, & indulge in a nice meal. If anyone has been offered a vaccine by then, do bring it along.

## White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Andrew Marriott	28 Feb	Angus McMillan	28 Mar
Terry Trounson	7 Mar	Hamish McMillan	4 Apr
Les MacLean	14 Mar	Laurie Defazio	11 Apr
James Parton	21 Mar	Alan Stafford	18 Apr

- Andrea Stevenson, 0429 439 336



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# Garden DAZE

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



Heading into Autumn after a cooler Summer than usual.

Although the tomatoes, eggplant and capsicum are still producing - it is getting to be time to start thinking about preparing for autumn planting.



**Weeding** is a great start to getting ready.

Cut down the competition between vegetables and unwanted invaders and have a good old tidy up and reap the benefits of your efforts.

### Mulching and Planning Ahead

Preparing beds now means the garden will be ready and waiting for the Autumn planting.

Top up the mulch on vegetable beds, herb gardens and ornamental beds. Mulch after watering, to a depth of about 7cm. Keep mulch clear of plant stems, especially young seedlings. Choose a mulch that will enrich the soil as it breaks down - a rake, some good organic compost and a sustainable mulch is the perfect recipe for a productive garden.



### Watering

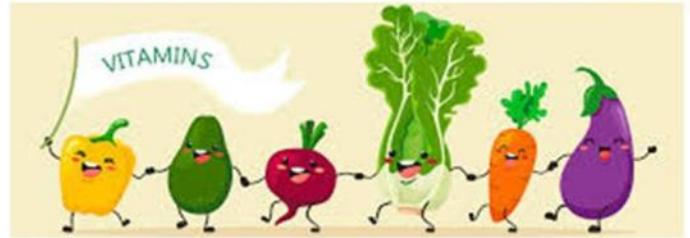
At this time of the year water first thing in the morning. A good soaking a couple of times a week is far more beneficial than frequent, short watering.

### Green Manure for Soil Improvement

If you have vacant beds - get ready for the next crop with some green manure. Try sowing cow pea, mung bean, soy bean or millet. When about 30 cm high smash down and dig in the greenery. This will improve the soil, and be well worth the effort.



Plants benefit from seaweed tea or low environmental impact liquid fertiliser at this time of the year, especially for any late plantings. Apply to the soil early in the morning, and in the concentrations mentioned on the packet.



**Crops to plant** - there are a number of plants that can be planted as the weather becomes cooler in March:

Try:

**PLANT:** Garlic cloves - when the weather cools a bit.  
Seedlings of: celery, kale, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, winter lettuce, silverbeet, spring and salad onion, chives and leeks.

**SOW:** Beetroot, carrot and parsnip early in March only. Then turnip, English spinach, broad beans, Asian leaf and root vegetables, spring and salad onions, lettuce and into vacant beds, green manure crops.

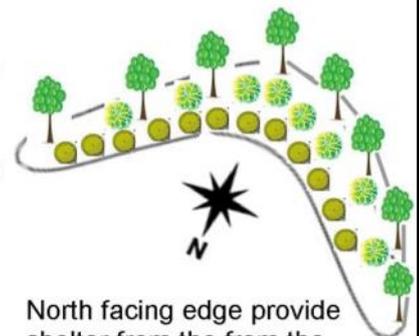
To add some colour and movement: Plant stock, dianthus, viola, pansy, verbena and ageratum.



Now is a good time to start thinking about getting some more trees into the ground.

We have planted a couple of "boomerangs" in the middle of the paddocks over the years and plan another for this year.

A "boomerang" (my word for it) is a plantation which provides shade in the summer from the tall Eucalypts on the far side while in the winter, the shorter thicker shrubs in the centre and



North facing edge provide shelter from the from the cold wind.

Happy Gardening (and Planting)



Kathy Z

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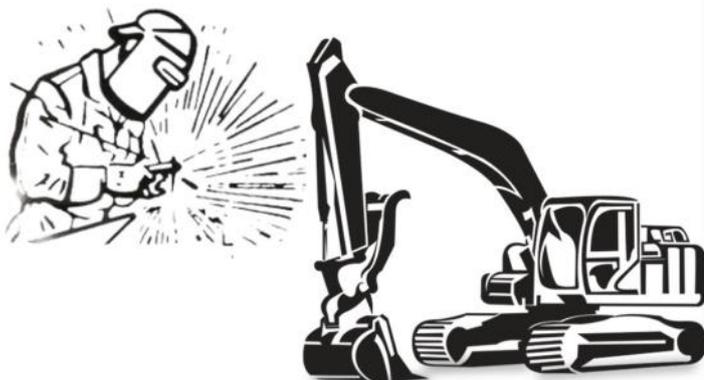
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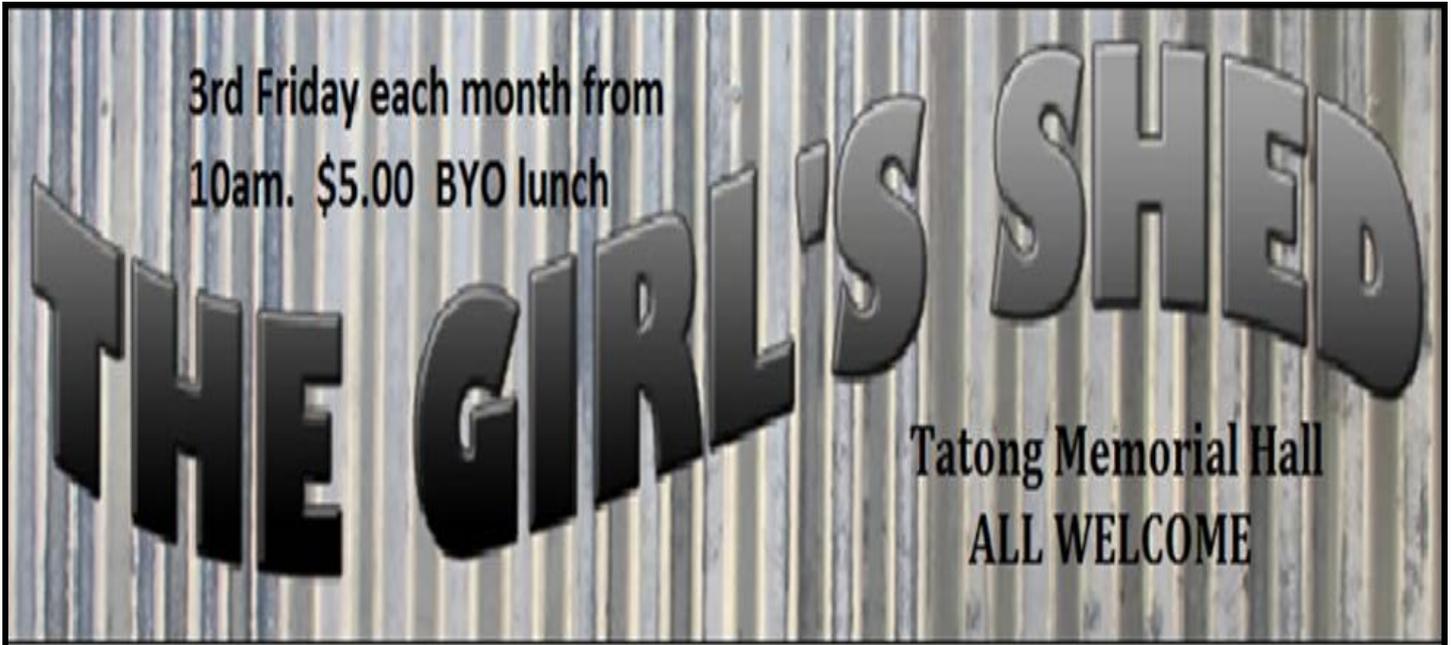
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GENERAL MEETING*

will be held on

*Monday March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021  
at 4.00pm*

Tatong Memorial Hall

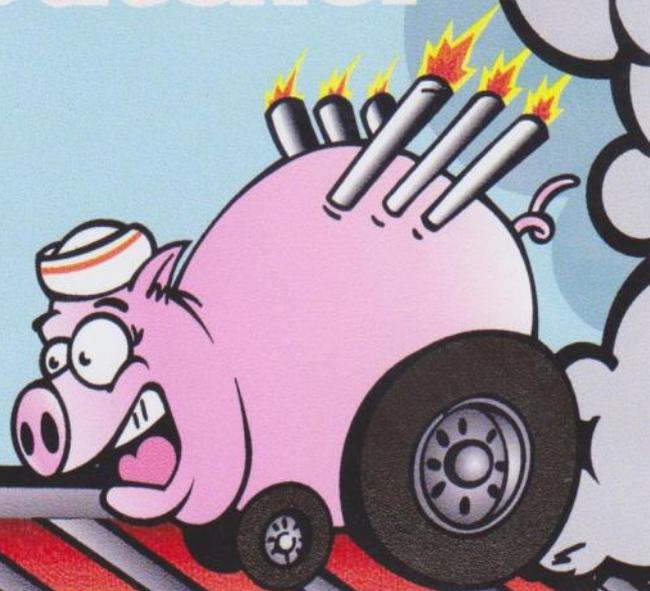
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## Can you guess what this protuberance is?



This is a photo of a tower near the Charles Bridge in Prague.

It has a strange sticky-out bit on one side.

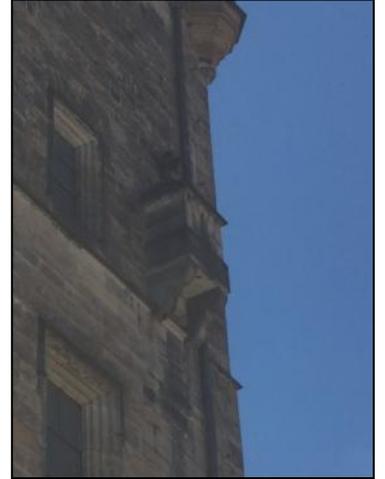
Any thoughts on what it might be?

My photo doesn't show it clearly, but there is a hole on its underside. That might tell you what it is.

If you said it's a loo, go to the top of the class

It seems that, back in the day, one 'went' and the result fell to the footpath below.

Local lore has it that a poor soul, tired of this world, jumped from the tower to end it all. Unfortunately for him, the accumulation of excrement was such that it broke his fall and he survived.



John Knapper.





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### Cycle Dindi 2021

Cycle Dindi is on again along the scenic Great Victorian Rail Trail, through the Shires of Murrindindi and Mansfield on Saturday 17th April – the last weekend of the school holidays. Organised by the Rotary Clubs of Yea and Alexandra, with assistance from Friends of the GVRT, the ride is a fully supported family friendly event for adults (seniors discount available) and children. A variety of distances (long or short). Starting places (Yea, Alexandra or Bonnie Doon) and starting times (8am – 11am) are available. Lunch is beside the Goulburn River at Cremona and the historic John Monash designed bridge and is a beautiful location to relax, enjoy some food, coffee (by mobile Café Amore) and be entertained by a local musician. The shearing shed at Nutfield, continues to be a popular place to stop for home- made Devonshire tea and watch working dogs demonstrate their amazing sheep yarding skills and is included in the entry cost. CycleDindi21 is a major fundraiser to support Rotary youth projects, such as Rotary Youth Leadership courses, Youth Exchange and School Bursaries. Entry forms available at Rotary web-sites [www.yearotary.org.au](http://www.yearotary.org.au) or [www.rotaryalexandra.org.au](http://www.rotaryalexandra.org.au) and follow CycleDindi21 updates on Facebook. Queries to [cycledindi21@gmail.com](mailto:cycledindi21@gmail.com) and bookings via direct deposit or through Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/BNWEE>.



**ANOTHER THANK YOU, FOR THE STREET LIBRARY**

The library beside the Tavern is sporting a new cabinet to hold the books and it is most impressive.

This upgrade was completed by Terry and Sue O'Brien from Tolmie Rd, beside the telephone exchange. Sue said the upgrade was needed due to the library's popularity. This is a great community gesture which is much appreciated.

I have not been a big reader in my dotage because I probably used up all my reading enthusiasm when young. As we lived 3 miles out of Yallourn I would, for instance, get 5 Westerns at a time, read them in a week and get another 5 for the next week. One day I just got tired of them and went onto biography and other non-fiction. I did really like the author Neville Shute and there is a book of his in this Tatong library.

**AND AN ADDENDUM**

I still occasionally read books and biography is still the favourite. I just completed the bio of Aussie Dr Claire Weekes, borrowed from the Benalla Library. She was the originator of revolutionary treatments for what she called "Nervous Illness." Her book "Self Help for Your Nerves" is a classic and I for one had my life changed because of it. In this era of awareness raising about mental illness I have no hesitation in promoting this small miracle of a book to anyone who suffers from such things as panic attacks, agoraphobia or any similar fear based problems. Such nervous problems can be excruciating and are made so much worse by feelings of embarrassment, helplessness and shame. The truly brilliant aspect of this small book is that it is SELF HELP and that means that it is within your own power to heal yourself as, probably by now, millions of people have done, and worldwide. (This is to say that such self-help can be successful for the less severe forms of mental ill health.)

I know for certain that it is possible to understand, learn and gradually become liberated from what is fundamentally the 'fear of fear'. Weekes herself needed great inner conviction in order to be heard amongst the tide of prevailing psychiatric conventions and in the long run her work has prevailed and is deeply appreciated by the vast numbers of recovered sufferers. She persevered in part because she herself suffered two years of nervous illness, from which she recovered due in part to timely help, study and determination.

I would like to encourage anyone interested in nervous illness by repeating the outlook Weekes had about the nervous sufferer. She found that it is 'the good ones' who mostly suffer because of characteristics such as their sensitivity, conscientiousness and honesty etc. While a common perception of nervous suffering indicates failure and weakness many such people go on to great success and happiness in part because of the depth of courage and perseverance they have needed in overcoming their 'demons.'

**NOTE: I am not a professional and this is not medical advice. It is plain-speak from one mental health sufferer to any others. I am not intending to diminish the work of any medical professionals because before I knew about Weeke's book I was greatly assisted by a psychiatrist after experiencing a severe and terrifying panic attack.**

Mike Larkin

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### An empty promise.



Seen in Bunnings recently. I was ready to buy all they had until I realised things were not quite as they first appeared. Note also that it is cheaper to buy two half barrels than one full one. John Knapper.

### Bill Knight

Residents of Tatong and district on Wednesday night took the opportunity of saying farewell to Private Bill Knight, the function taking the form of dancing, for which music was provided by local musicians.

Cr. A. Harrison, during the supper interval, presented Private Knight with a money belt, and wished him good luck and a safe return. With the money belt, he said, went the sincere good wishes of the residents of the district.

Mr. T. Sullivan also congratulated the guest on the step he had taken.

In response, Private Knight thanked everyone for the gift and their good wishes. He added that he hoped to be back with his friends before very long.

The ladies then served a tasty supper, and before the evening closed all joined in singing Auld Lang Syne.

*By Jan 21 (1915)?*

### 1915

In the examinations following the agricultural classes at Tatong, Mr. G. McKean secured the highest number of marks, and will be eligible to compete at an examination for the A.N.A. gold medal to be held in Melbourne. A Harrison was second and C. Hughan third.

### Tatong Heritage Group



Newspaper cuttings of district news held by the Tatong Heritage Group, donated by Chick Walker

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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
2020	63.6	35.6	88.4	207.2	53	77	43.5	66.8	49.4	132	34.1	40.7	891.3
2021	76.6												76.6

**WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP**

The total rainfall for January '21 was an excellent 76.6mm and the rain up until the 15<sup>th</sup> of February was also excellent at 46.3mm.

Apart from a couple of brief heatwaves this summer has suited me very nicely with its mild temperatures and coolish nights. The fire danger rating has rarely been above high and with only one Total Fire Ban day so far and summer is almost ended.

Mike Larkin

**THANK YOU FROM THE TATTLER TEAM**

On behalf of the Tattler thanks to all the deliverers who took the trouble to fill in the address and name details of the homes to which they deliver the newsletter. This exercise was initiated by Janette Knapper and it will help if and when a substitute deliverer is needed at some time.

The Tattler is delivered over most of the area south east of Benalla except Lurg and in the west the Swanpool, Lima areas. We have 16 different areas of delivery with the number delivered in each zone ranging from 8 up to 40.

The trend with small town newsletters is to become digital-only due to the amount of work involved with printing paper copies and delivering them. It remains to be seen how long the Tattler retains the present format but the team is still happy to keep it that way for the foreseeable future.

Mike Larkin

**World day of prayer 2021**

Host country Vanuatu

Theme 'Build on a strong foundation'

**When** Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March

**Where** Swanpool theatre supper room

**Time** 10am.

Guest speaker Loretta Lilford

co founder of Smiling Hearts

a not for profit organization

providing accommodation, education

and vocational training for children and youth in Uganda

with special needs.

**The Molyullah fish'n'chip nights have re-commenced.**

**It is held the second Friday each month and runs from 5.30pm at the Molyullah Hall**

**Warning! Warning!**

The Table Tennis season is fast approaching; and rain, hail or COVID-19, come May, those little white balls will be bouncing on the tables of our local halls.

Are you ready to renew old friendships or create new ones? Are you keen for some fun and exercise? Would you like to be challenged? Join us for practise nights in either the Tatong Hall or the at the Swanpool Rec Reserve, in April. You will be advised of the dates in the next Tattler.

New, young and not so young players are welcome. Teams can be made up of two or three players. Come as a family or come by yourself. Ladies, let hubby look after the children and have a night out. Gents leave the comfort of the couch and join us.

Matches have previously been held on Wednesday nights but be aware they may be on Thursdays this year. This will be decided at the Annual meeting, which you are most welcome to attend. The date for this will also be in the next Tattler.

Play starts at 7.30 with most matches finishing by 9.30. Then we share some supper.

Do come along in April and support one of the few remaining sports still being played in our local area. We are a friendly, inclusive group. We support each other and are more than happy to support new players.

Any queries or early entries please feel free to give me, Rob, a call on 0457 672 248. If I don't answer leave a message with your name and a suitable time to return your call.

Yours in Table Tennis,

Rob Erskine

**Tattler Advertising Rates** Inc num: A0047895K

Full Page:

Single Issue: \$32.00  
 Six Issues: \$180.00  
 Eleven Issues: \$320.00

Half Page:

Single Issue: \$16.00  
 Six Issues: \$85.00  
 Eleven Issues: \$160.00

Quarter Page or 2 x 1/8th Page:

Single Issue: \$8.00  
 Six Issues: \$45.00  
 Eleven Issues: \$80.00

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

Enquires :Darcy Hogan, 0409167908 or email darcyhogan@bigpond.com

EFT: BSB 803078 A/C 135720 a/c name: Tatong Tattler Goulburn Murray Credit Union, 30 Bridge Street, Benalla Please identify your payment, & e-mail details to Tattler.

**ATTENTION ADVERTISERS**

For those who submit pre-formatted advertisements, the size of a half page area is 13.6 x 19 cm and a 1/4 page area is 13.6 x 9.3 cm. To avoid distortion to your image, please fit your advertisement to these sizes.

**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.

**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, PO Box 2038 Benalla West 3672.

PROUD SUBSCRIBER OF  
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**Steph Ryan MP**

Member for  
**Ennroa**  
 Deputy Leader of The Nationals  
**StephRyan.com.au**

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 contact us via [tatongtattler@yahoo.com.au](mailto:tatongtattler@yahoo.com.au)  
 or: The Secretary, Tatong Tattler,  
 150 Mt Joy Rd, Tatong, Vic, 3673.

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

*Donations can be:*

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