

Scouts Victoria Jamboree

My sister Mia, and I belong to a scout group in Melbourne. We went on a 10 day camp to Elmore to the Scout Vic Jamboree. There were 7,000 scouts, leaders and volunteers from all over Victoria. After leaving Clayton by bus we were really excited for what was to come. Arriving at the site we set up camp. There were scouts from 3 other groups that made up our unit. We went to the on-site supermarket with our list for food for our unit. Then we helped other patrols setup their tents. For dinner we had meatball subs with corn then waffles with cream and berries. It was our patrol's duty to cook and cleanup. We got to the opening ceremony late, but saw Shane Jacobson talking about his journey of being in scouts. Trapeze artists and BMX stunt riders performed and there were awesome fireworks.

Day 2, we headed to Tech world and did a bit of radio scavenger hunt, 3D printing, flew drones, made a hologram and virtual reality. Chicken and avocado sandwiches for lunch then off to Vertical world, we did abseiling where I got stuck. Rock climbing where the handles were boiling, a cave crawling and a ladder climb.

Sadly, it was too hot for the flying fox because of the friction.

At night there was a fake ABBA, on stage that called themselves Gabba. A movie was on every night.

Day 3. We hopped on the bus for about one hour to go to Lake Nagambie, where we did the activity, Wet Wild and Windy. First we got our life jackets on, did sailing first and we got to steer and work the sail, then we had lunch. Next we went to a giant inflatable obstacle course on water and did some swimming in the lake. From there we went on this giant waterslide which was great fun except for waiting in queue. Then we went canoeing and stand up paddle boarding, I fell off twice. Back at camp we went in the pool and then to the arena where there was a DJ, everyone was hyped up. Fireworks were at 9pm, a fire started from the fireworks, I captured it on camera. Then back to camp for card games before the midnight fireworks to bring in the New Year, with a concert. We were all exhausted and tired.

Day 4, we woke up pretty late, went to the shop for eggs and bacon that we cooked. Grandma and Opa visited as it was Festival and Visitors Day. We showed them around all the displays. It was really hot 41 degrees. We bought a bunch of tattoos that we put on, and sat around the pool after the visitors went home.

Day 5. Active world was our next activity where we played splat ball that was pretty fun. Laser tag was boring as it was out in the open so we skipped that and played at camp. Then to Our World, after lunch, there we played Aboriginal music on sticks. We made badges of our unit name which is Sandy starfish and painted rocks. We had chocolate bananas for dessert and off to the comedy show at the main arena which was really good.

Day 6. We were in a bit of a rush as we woke up late so we had juice for breakfast got our lunch and caught the bus for biking and hiking. We were taught how to ride the mountain bikes made especially for the jamboree. We came back to Koolmurt Scout Group to do orienteering, had an icy pole as it was so hot and caught the bus back to camp. I will continue with the events in the next Tattler. If you want to see the action visit Scouts Victoria Facebook page.

Written by Chloe Hakkennes, aged 14 Scouts Victoria Jamboree.



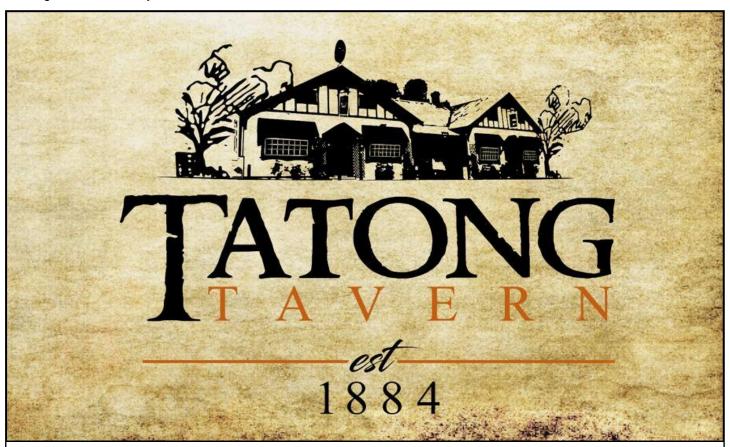
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Hello Fellow Tatongans! Well you have heard the rumours and yes they are true. We have bought the pub - lock, stock and barrel. We felt it was time that the old girl got tarted up, so to speak, so what else do you do in the middle of a pandemic..... buy your local. Who are we you ask? Well we are local cattle/sheep/hay farmers with a business background, that have been in the Tatong district for the past 14 years, but Stuart is fifth generation local from the Warrenbayne area and I am a ring-in that has been around for about 40 years, so I'm sort of local.

Our goal is to create a community hub that serves quality food and beverage with a few entertainment events planned. In this crazy new world, LOCAL is the buzz word and with many people choosing to limit their travel, we hope to offer a happy place to chill. The plan is to expand the outdoor area to cater for more patrons in a safe manner, and generally put a coat of paint on everything.

We are running a "Renovation Menu" as we are rebuilding the kitchen, so ask for your patience and understanding if things aren't quite right yet. We would really appreciate meal bookings please 0357 672210, so we can plan for your needs and comply with COVID density rules:

There are a number of new faces as well as familiar ones serving you, and would welcome any enquiries if you want to do a few hours at the pub.

As per government mandate, all patrons will be required to check in with the QR code and need to show proof of vaccination. We ask that you be kind to our staff as they are following our instructions. Rude or bad behaviour will not be tolerated. Our ears are open and your feedback is important, so if you have any suggestions/comments please email me at

melisse@tatongtavern.com.au

Like us on Facebook to keep up to date with what's happening at the pub and what's on the menu!! We aim to use local produce as much as we can and mix it up a bit.

Thank you for the fantastic support and kind words we have received thus far.

Look forward to seeing you!

Stuart and Melisse Robinson

Opening Hours

Meals - Lunch 12 - 2 Dinner 6 - 8

 Wednesday
 11 - 9

 Thursday
 11 - 11

 Friday
 11 - 11

 Saturday
 11 - 11

 Sunday
 11 - 4

Coming Events

Sunday 13th February – Valentines Day Lunch (yes a day early...... blokes this is your reminder)

Friday 4th March – On the Road Comedy Show – dinner followed by show, details later





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The Hume & Hovell Tablet at the Warrenbayne West School

In the 1990s Don McQueen created the "Hume and Hovell Cricket Ground" at Strath Creek, and ran it for 20 years. During that time he acquired a wooden tablet commemorating the 1924 centennial of Hume & Hovell's trek. The tablet had no provenance, but the date placed it south-west of Benalla (Hume & Hovell's return trip). Subsequent research found the tablet to be one of several made in the Benalla Sloyd Centre, for local schools and locations. These were unveiled along with the commemorative cairns as part of the 1924 celebrations.



The wording on Don McQueen's tablet places it at Warrenbayne West School, which once stood east of Violet Town, south of Baddaginnie and south-west of Benalla.

The Benalla Standard of Nov. 25 1924 describes

the Warrenbayne West ceremony: '...the tablet; which bears the following inscription:— "The explorers Hume and Hovell passed this spot December 29, 1824. Erected by residents, November 20, 1924."

The first Warrenbayne West school, #2787, opened 1886 when Mr George Ward provided a two roomed timber building with a shingle roof, on Crown Allotment 80C. It was open intermittently, then closed by 1900.

Warrenbayne West Primary School #3661 opened in 1910 when Mrs Wilkinson donated one acre from Crown Allotment 58 on Welshs rd . The building was enlarged in 1925, and was in use intermittently until 1965, when it was closed, and the building was removed to Benalla.

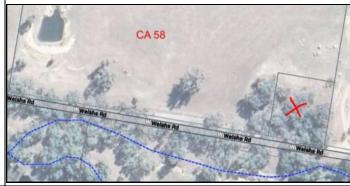
The school's acre can still be seen on Google Earth, and the site is marked with a road-side sign.



How the Warrenbayne West tablet ended up on EBay is yet unknown. As of January 2022 the tablet is still at the former "Hume and Hovell Cricket Ground", now "The Village Green".

- Compiled by Andrea Stevenson, of the Tatong Heritage Group, with research & contributions from various talented people.







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



Summertime, with its bot days and gardens full of vegies, fruit and birds.

This is the time when with a bit of care we can enjoy the fruits of our labour - home grown tomatoes, plums, apricots and nectarines are all ripe now, and the apples are not far behind.

The Fruit Fly traps are out and many of the trees are covered with Fruit Fly netting, which also protects the fruit from birds.

A friend of ours has a lovely lumpy straw filled scare crow sitting out in the middle of her garden to warn off the birds and add interest to the garden.



Art by Heather Wiegmink

Over the years we have put in quite a few tree plantations. Some of these are "wild life corridors" linking our plantings to the roadside and the bush in the property adjoining ours. And yes - the wild life took advantage of these "corridors" and came in their numbers to enjoy the shelter that we have provided - and the fruit!

Birds that at first we only heard as singing from the depths of the bush at the back of our property were now coming to our trees and very close to home.

Indeed the little fan tails are once again nesting in the



ornamental fig in the large pot just outside the front door. The little mum bird barely fitting in the nest, her tiny head watching our comings and goings and her tail sitting up over the back of the nest.

We have quite a few bird baths around the garden and one very popular one just outside the kitchen window. This is very handy for the fantails - their nest has all one could want - shelter - it is next to the wall of the house, under the verandah and water a few feet away. With the pay off for us of their love of catching mozzies.

February is a transition month in the Vegie

Garden On the

one hand, there is produce from summer bearing crops in the prime of life. But paradoxically, it is time to be planning for winter. That's right, winter. In the midst of sum-



mer weather it is easy to forget that the first frost is barely three months away, which sadly will finish off the summer crops. It is important to plan now for the dramatic slowing down of growth as autumn dissolves into winter. Plants that have a long growing season need to be planted now in order to be ready for harvest in July.

Top of the list for February planting in cool and warm temperate climates are brassicas, especially the slow growing types such as Purple Sprouting broccoli, Romanesco broccoli, cauliflower and Brussells sprouts.

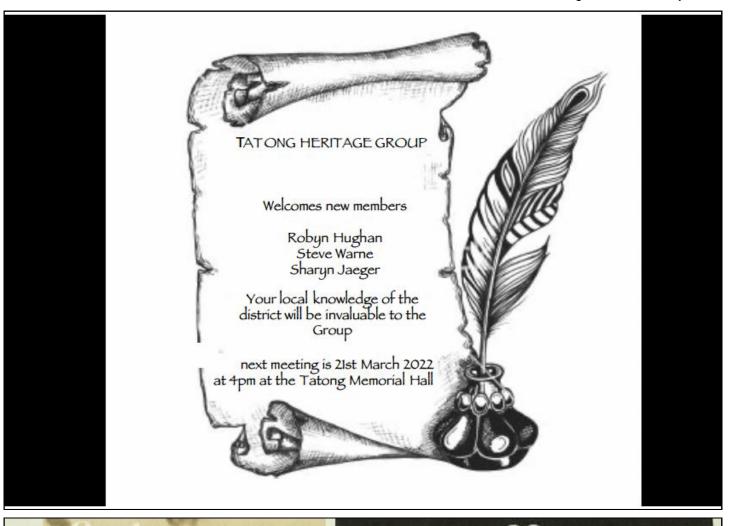
All brassicas prefer a slightly alkaline soil and will benefit from an application of lime. As these crops are heavy feeders - enrich the soil with rotted manure or chook pellets a week or so before planting. Sow seed either direct into the garden or into punnets for transplanting.

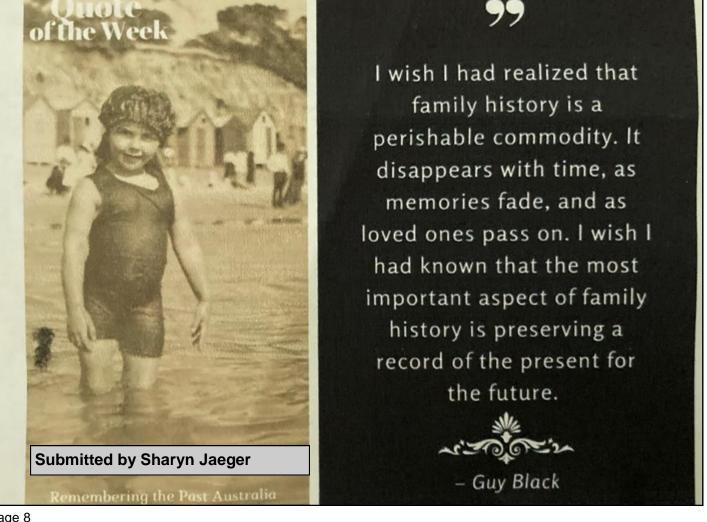
It's also a good month to plant leeks, beetroot and peas, as well as members of the carrot family. These seeds are notoriously slow to germinate, but in the warm February soil seedlings should emerge within a fortnight. Try carrots, parsnips, Florence (bulb) fennel, and parsley. Wait for next month to plant coriander and celery.

A thought for the chooks - Mould can be toxic to chooks. Avoid feeding them rotting food scraps and take

care with the material used to create litter on the floor of chicken runs. Use dry hay or straw, rather than silage or sugarcane, which can become excessively mouldy during wet spells.

Kathy Z





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...and the worst / most dangerous road in Benalla Rural City is... The stand out for this award has to be O'Dea Road, Molyullah!

I am more than happy to be challenged on this if you know somewhere worse.

As did many people locally, we experienced a severe thunderstorm on the evening of Friday 14th January 2022. As well as a direct hit across at the cottage that blew the fuse on the power pole and fried the microwave and air conditioner, it dropped 62mm of rain.

Anyone who knows this country well would realise the torrents of water this much rain would create across the paddocks and down the track euphemistically called a road. There was a river down the road (as usual) and the creeks were running a banker immediately. If someone were to



look now they might not believe this because the water goes down almost as quickly as it rises once the rain stops.



Between neglect from the council and some people driving as if they want to cause damage to the road or their vehicles, the road was in urgent need of help before this month's rain events. To be fair to the council, work was promised a long time ago, but we have been misled before. Also to be fair; just before that last rain event, three council workers came out with a truckload of very small screenings and tried to fill in some of the ruts.

95% of it is now down in my paddock along with everything else that's washed off the road over the years. The council could save some money by recycling this material from my paddock.

It's very difficult to get anyone to even come out and have a look. We have, on a couple of occasions, invited the councillors (directly by email) to come out and have a coffee. To the best of our knowledge, none have managed to find a little time to have a look at the areas they represent.

While discussing the state of the road with a councillor recently, I was told there are worse roads than ours as if it was something to be proud of. I believe this statement was made despite the councillor probably never having tried to navigate O'Dea Rd, O'Dea Rd Sth and Tiger Hill Rd down into Tatong.

It would be quite possible for someone in a small (non 4WD) car to become stranded, with a wheel in a rut, with little or no mobile coverage.



Because of having to slalom to dodge these hazards, one has to drive perilously close to the edge of the road with a long,

steep drop to the creek below. A safety barrier is needed along this section.

We would like to have a safety audit carried out on the road. The problem here is that it looks like the body responsible for this process is the council... If anyone has any thoughts on who might

be able to do this, give me a call.

I did send the photos to the Ensign suggesting they might run a story or a competition...

The photos were also sent to the council and the councilors were copied in. So far there have been standard "thanks for contacting..." replies from a few.

John Knapper





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Christmas Donation to the Salvation Army

Covid has resulted in the cancellation of the Molyullah Sports for the last two years. It has become pretty obvious that we will need to social distance for some time to come. As a result the Spinning Wheel, which has been a great attraction at the Sports, will need to be presented in a new format. So the Committee decided to donate the remaining prizes to the Salvation Army Christmas appeal rather than store them for an uncertain future.

On December 6th, 2021 the items were taken to the Salvation Army in Benalla and presented to Ben Anderson who expressed his gratitude for the approximately 75 gifts which were to be given to needy families at Christmas. Janette Knapper presented them on behalf of the Molyullah Sports Committee.

We look forward to seeing the Spinning Wheel in action in some new safe format in the future.

Janette Knapper



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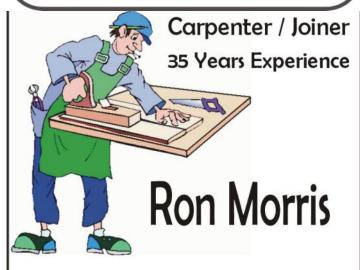
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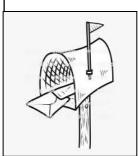
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Do you remember RMB numbers?

I recently had some timber delivered. The truck driver said he'd had difficulty locating our address. I realised he was unaware of the connection between our location and our address, in particular, the street number.

This made me realise that there are probably many people who don't know how the house numbering system works.

Remember when, not too long ago, our mail was delivered to a mailbox with our personal RMB number.



Wikipedia says:-

A Roadside Mail Box or RMB is an artificial address that is created by Australia Post to deliver mail to a rural or remote location. The RMB address allows a sender or recipient of mail to succinctly specify the mail's destination.

The RMB address functions similarly to a post office box in that it

describes an intended addressee with a unique number, but it is different in that it aliases a real physical address rather than a container at a post office.

Location: - RMBs are usually located on the main road, and not on the farm. Several RMBs might be grouped together.

An RMB really was like having a post office box somewhere near your house rather than at the post office.

Unfortunately, RMB2371 O'Dea Road, Molyullah had no way of indicating where you actually lived. Janette's uncle once received mail simply addressed to "Lex Devitt, Molyullah". Try that these days!

Emergency services sometimes had a very difficult time trying to locate premises from sometimes obscure directions eg. "The third house on the left after the black stump" isn't at all useful on a dark stormy night.

Clearly, a better system was needed. RRNs (rural road numbers) were the answer. RRNs allocate a street number to a property to signify its distance from a major intersection, with even numbers on the right and odd numbers on the left.

I live on O'Dea Road. It is a good example of the system introduction. I'm at number 933 and that says that I am on the left side and 9.33kms from the intersection with Kilfeera Road. At the same time the RRNs were introduced, Benalla Council changed the name of the southern end of O'Dea Road (the section in Tatong) to O'Dea Road South. The numbers on this road are measured from Tiger Hill Road.

Makes it a lot easier if you need an ambo or a firey!

When I explained this to my timber deliverer, he said this will make his job a lot easier too.

John Knapper

Gawn to Town

Mobile phones have made a big difference on farms; where the farms have reception. Many a UHF radio now gathers dust, which must leave some communities less aware of what is going on. With only 40 UHF channels to share about, one usually knew how some neighbours' harvests were progressing, or who had got bogged. Then there was the odd neighbour who didn't care if others could hear them airing personal matters over the ether. Or those who would broadcast a strident telling-off to an employee or workmate, while distant neighbours winced and shook their heads.

And the drovers; woe betide anyone stuck in a small space with a UHF radio, while 'Bill' and 'Dave' crawled the length of the reception area, discussing the crops, and did that one look just like one grown back in '74? At least the mobile phone (given reception) is direct, private, and more likely to be in your pocket. But you do need the phone number. On UHF you just say, "I'm in a spot of bother... Can anyone hear me?"

I once picked up a message from a local SES some 25km across country; "This is the SES; can anyone hear this message? Please reply if you can." Heart racing, imagining fires, collisions and plane crashes, I rushed to the radio and answered. The guy at the other end was quite pleased to hear of my location. They'd got a new transmitter and wanted to see how far it reached. Our very first mobile phone was 'analog'. Not that we thought of it as that, it was, wow, a mobile phone! (I wonder why Australia didn't call them 'cell phones'?) For most of my time in the Riverina we had no mobile reception on the farm. Telstra had a cute trick, that if anyone tried to ring our mobile when it was out of range, they were told that the phone was disconnected. Friends would demand, what's your new phone number? Telstra dismissed the odd complaint, but sometimes if I rang our mobile number myself, I'd hear, "the number you have called is no longer connected ... "

Until recently, mobile phone conversations were very short, at least for the money-conscious. Now! We talk, we text, we surf the internet.

I know someone who doesn't want a Smart Phone. He got a Nokia flip-phone, quite well reviewed... and true, it does flip, and it is loud. But. The SMS button, placed on the side of the phone where it is grasped when taken out of a pocket, means HELP messages are sent so often they are ignored. The navigation buttons are too small and tightly clustered for large fingers, and navigating the text messages would puzzle Magellan. Whoever wrote the software ought have considered going on the dole instead. Two decades into the 21st century, how is it that second-rate software still proliferates?

I've just upgraded my mobile phone. It was a traumatic experience. I had the old one set up just as I wanted; so had to spend an entire day convincing the new one to NOT do things I really didn't want it to. I'm still working out how to get it to do what I do want, not what Google wants.



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Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
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
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	47.8	39.6	8.2	66.5	99.3	154.9	51.5	92.6	66.5	111	40.5	855

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

The weather of recent times is dominated by the prodigious rainfall of last year and especially the first month of 2022 with one of the highest daily totals that I recall at 82.6mm on Friday the 14th of January. The full amount for January up until the 15th is 152mm.

The total for the month of November 2021 is 111mm and the total for the whole of December 2021 was a mere 40.5mm. I try to use common sense about dire weather predictions which have been a part of a human caused cycle of anxiety now for decades. The main causes of our weather, or rain extremes, is what happens in the Southern Pacific and Indian Ocean which has had 2 years of La Nina cycle producing cooler weather and plenty of rain. Fortunately nature is forgiving of the bizarre behaviours of humanity.

Mike Larkin

Molyullah Dates to note - Covid permitting but it is looking promising:

Friday, 11 February—Fish & Chip night from 5.30pm.



The Tatong Heritage Group seeks a copy of the VHS taken at the "Switch on Ball" held in 2007 to commemorate the arrival of electricity in the Tatong valley. The video amongst other items includes interviews with locals on this event. The Heritage Group would like

to make a digital version for preservation. Contact any committee member or call Andrea Stevenson on 0429439336 with any information.

Swanpool News

After the challenges of 2021, it was lovely to see in the New Year with the usual Gala Double Bill at the Cinema, a well attended and fun night for all. Now the various clubs and organisations are starting up again, ranging from a special Targa Show and Shine at the Oval, which was a preview of our up and coming Motor Festival, scheduled for Sunday 13th March, as well as local tennis and bowls. The Cinema is looking forward to hosting the Benalla Shorts festival here on Saturday 19th February as well as matinees of "Julia" and "West Side Story". You can pick up a programme from the Swanpool Store, Cinema, or at various outlets in Benalla, as well as online www.swanpoolcinema.com.au.



The second **White Gate Dinner** for 2022 will be held in a freshly dusted **Tatong Tavern** on Wednesday February 2nd. Remember to be polite to the Tavern's new owners, no dancing on the tables, or gargling of champagne. Well, not until they've got used to us.

The White Gate crowd (which isn't so much White-Gate-centric, as a blob that encompasses from round Tatong, to Benalla) send sincere best wishes to Shirley and Pedro on their new adventures. And we welcome Melisse and Stuart and their team, and we promise to be good. (Don't we??!!)

Book yourselves in for Feb 2nd, and strive to arrive between 6:30 and 7. Or at least phone your order in before the kitchen closes.

White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Wishing you no nasty fires, and also hoping the truck doesn't get bogged.

Leigh Humphries	23 Jan	Terry Ryan	20 Feb
Noel Hutchens	30 Jan	Andrew Marriott	27 Feb
Bill Ferguson	6 Feb	Terry Trounson	6 Mar
Norton Grimwade	13 Feb	Les Maclean	13 Mar

- Andrea Stevenson, 0429 439 336



What comes first? The egg or the chicken or the rooster!

After cunning Mr Fox (and possibly Mrs Fox and Jnr Fox) cleaned out all but three of our 17 chooks last year we decided we wanted to start a new flock of purebred chooks. We researched and decided on Barnevelders and Wyandottes. In early October we headed off to Heathcote to pick up 12 chickens – 6 Barnevelders, 4 Wyandottes and 2 silkies. We got them all home safely but after about 3 weeks we lost one of our little Barnevelders to an unknown cause. We were now down to 11. After a few weeks the oldest Barnevelders started to get some colouring and larger combs and wattles and after another couple of weeks it was clear that we had 2 roosters. We had already decided that we only wanted 1 rooster. So GG and Poppy (Gayle and Dennis) took one of them. Our three old chooks had





already been rehomed to GG's retirement village. We were now down to 10. Another few weeks past and another two roosters reared their combs. We managed to give away one via Gumtree. We are now down 9. BUT it is now clear that three out of the four Wyandottes are also roosters. AND both of the silkies are roosters too!! So out of the 12 chickens we originally got, we only have two hens. So much for starting our new flock.

We now have a dozen Barnevelder eggs in the new incubator so are hoping that we don't get another 10 roosters!! If anyone would like a beautiful Barnevelder or Wyandotte rooster, please get in touch. (contact Larissa on 0409 963 267). They are very handsome and friendly.

Ella & Josh

Tatong Community Christmas BBQ a great success

The Tatong Community Christmas BBQ was a huge success with more than 60 adults and 25 kids turning up despite the threat of bad weather in the lead up. It was wonderful to see so many people back at the Rec Reserve enjoying catching up with neighbours and friends. There were also families who have moved to the Tatong area more recently, so the night provided the perfect way for them to meet other locals.

A big thank you to Gayle, Beth and Joan for organising and running the event and for everyone that helped out on the night.

We would love to organise more community events throughout the year to enable the community to connect again. If you have any great ideas or would like to help with organising or running an event, please get in touch with Larissa by email rissascott@hotmail.com or phone 0409 963 267.

Thank you to the Benalla Rural City Council and the Australian Government who funded the event.



Tattlet At	Inc num: A004/895K		
Full Page		Half Page	Quarter (or 2x1/8th):
Single Issue:	\$32	\$16	\$8
Six Issues:	\$180	\$85	\$45
Eleven Issues:	\$320	\$160	\$80

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The content of a PDF file can be difficult to extract. If you require help, contact a Tattler committee-member.

DEADLINE

The Tattler Deadline is end of the 20th of the month, January-November.

SUBMISSIONS / CONTACT

Submit via e-mail to tatongtattler@yahoo.com.au, leave in the Tattler Mailbox beside the Tavern, or send by post to the Secretary.

Secretary: Linda De Fazio, PO Box 588 Benalla 3671, 03 5766 6375 linda.defazio6@gmail.com

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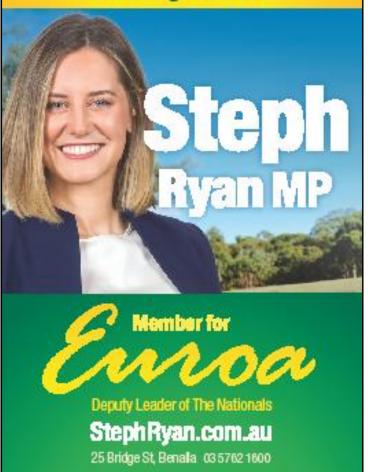
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DONATIONS

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

Donations can be given to committee members, left in the locked Box by the Tavern, or sent by EFT (see above).

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Tatong Heritage Group

What is it? A skillet that had a fright? The Tatong Heritage Group have received a few suggestions, from roast-drainer to meat tenderiser. If anyone actually knows what it is,

