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www.tatongtattler.org.au

Edition 392

The poster is decorated with festive elements. At the top, there's a green holly border with red berries and a large red bow in the center. On the sides, there are illustrations of golden bells with red ribbons. At the bottom, there are two decorated Christmas trees with yellow and red ornaments, and a cartoon reindeer with a red nose and antlers in the center. The background is white with some faint, scattered star and snowflake patterns.

THE TATONG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY IS
WARMLY INVITED TO THE

TATONG *Christmas* **BBQ**

SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER @5PM
TATONG COMMUNITY CENTRE & RECREATION RESERVE

**SANTA WILL BE ARRIVING ON HIS
HORSE DRAWN SLEIGH AT 6PM!!**

BBQ DINNER PROVIDED (DONATION APPRECIATED)
BYO DRINKS

Thank you to the Benalla Rural City Council
for supporting this event

Any queries contact Larissa on 0409 963 267



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MILESTONES IN 2025

At the AFL Border Umpires Group Dinner and Presentation night at the Commercial Club in Albury early in October, Barry Lewis was acknowledged for having umpired his 300th game of football earlier in the season as a Goal Umpire. He was also acknowledged for his 100th game umpiring the Ovens and Murray Seniors earlier in the season. He umpired the Ovens and King League Seniors Grand Final and the Tallangatta Preliminary Final this year. He was the Reserve Goal Umpire for the Ovens and Murray Seniors Grand Final in 2024 and umpired the Tallangatta League Grand Final in 2024. All up Barry has received 14 Grand Final medals with Ovens & Murray League, Tallangatta League, Ovens & King League and an Under 17 Wangaratta & District Juniors. He also umpired an interleague game.

Barry joined this group in 2013 after Benalla & District League Clubs joined the Ovens and King Football Netball League. A great disappointment for Barry in 2015 was the demise of Tatong due to a decision made by the AFL representative of the North East Border. Barry has always been passionate about football and wanted to still be involved.

His love for the game started at Tatong when as a young boy he was in the scoreboard then came boundary umpiring for Tatong. In 1963 at just 15 Barry began his playing career where he was awarded Best 1st Year player. In 1966 at Tatong against Bonnie Doon he broke his leg, the trainer came out and as Barry was prone to cramps he was going to massage Barry's leg. He was told where to go as Barry said "I don't cramp in the 1st 2 minutes of a game". In 1968 at the Gardens Oval in Benalla against the Benalla All Blacks he broke his other leg. After playing 143 games and many more injuries Barry retired. He took on many roles with Tatong, as a goal umpire, runner, Chairman of selectors, then President in 1994, 1995 and 1996. In 1993 The Benalla and District League started up an A Grade Netball, in 1995 B Grade and in 1998 B Reserve. Netball was a great asset to the League at this time. During these years Tatong was very successful. Tatong Seniors were Premiers each year, the Reserves 2 Premierships, A Grade Netball won 2 Premierships and a runner-up, B Grade Premiers and runner-up. During these years Barry's children all played football and netball. This success was due to appointing a great coach and having a dedicated committee who had the club at heart.

Barry took on President again in 2005 and 2006. The centenary of the Club in 2008 was a great weekend of celebration with many footballers, netballers and supporters in attendance. The time capsule was lifted and great interest was shown in seeing the items in the capsule.

Barry was awarded a Life Member certificate of the Club for his ongoing contribution and dedication to the game over many years.

A thrill for Barry was to umpire with 3 of his grandsons who were boundary umpires. Flynn and Archie with the AFL North East Border Umpires Group and Mitchell with the AFL Riverina Umpires.

Barry has registered to umpire again next year. It's not just the umpiring that he loves it's the camaraderie at training each week and the players and clubs on Saturdays.

Joan Lewis



Barry and Flynn

Swanpool News

After a busy November, several of our groups will be taking a short break, but we are hoping that the Bowls Club will be hosting some social bowls events over the holidays. Our ladies' and men's groups, craft group and Pizza nights will resume next year, just watch this space!

Meanwhile, the Cinema will be busy, with lots of lovely offerings to come. If you are looking to raise the roof between Christmas and New Year, the Cinema is screening the amazing Bruce Springsteen biopic "Springsteen: Deliver Me From Nowhere" first on the Double Bill on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th December at 6.00pm followed by the latest Olivia Colman /Benedict Cumberbatch black comedy "The Roses".

Patrons are already making bookings for the New Year's Eve Gala Double Bill, screening from 7.30pm on Wednesday 31st December, and featuring fabulous Aussie comedies "The Dish" and "The Castle", followed by a delicious festive supper with champagne. Bookings are essential for this event, on www.trybooking.com/DGNOF. For \$30 a head, patrons can enjoy two classic films, supper and drinks, as well as great company. This event usually sells out, and tickets are already going fast, so don't miss out!

Having seen in the New Year with great Aussie films, patrons can enjoy a lovely Aussie matinee for all the family on Friday 2nd January at 10.30 am, when we are screening "Kangaroo", set in the Outback. Adult tickets are \$10, which includes a free morning tea before the film, and cordial for the kids. Tickets for children under 12 are \$8. No need to book, but make sure you arrive in enough time to grab a cuppa and your preferred seat.

"Kangaroo" also screens first on that weekend's Double Bill, 6.00pm on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th January.

All details of our programmes can be found on hard copies at the Cinema and Swanpool Store, and at various outlets in Benalla and Mansfield. Patrons who are happy to go online can find us on www.swanpoolcinema.com.au, and on Facebook and Instagram.

Wishing all our patrons and supporters a very happy festive season, we look forward to welcoming you at the Cinema!

Deb

It's Bernie (Bernadette) Young here from Adelaide and I am Jean Fuleky's niece. At Aunt Jean's funeral two weeks ago, I was asked if the family would be happy for an article about Jean to be in the 'Tatong Tattler' given Aunt Jean and her family's strong links to Tatong early last century. The family lived 3 houses from the oval and like all families in that era were closely knit and strongly involved in community life. Some of the photos in the Tatong Tavern have many of Aunt Jean's family, including her father, brothers, cousins and older sister Molly who with Howie Lewis, laid a laurel wreath at the Hume and Hovell Cairn on its 100th anniversary in 1924.

Frances Jean Fuleky

Born: 07/11/1921 Died: 21/10/2025

Excerpts from Jean Fuleky's Eulogy

Born in Benalla on the 7th November 1921, Jean was the 7th child of George and Mary Beard of Tatong. Like her siblings, Jean was known by her second name and was raised for her first 5 years in Tatong, where her father operated a timber saw mill and loaded timber onto rail wagons at the Tatong Station. In 1921, horse drawn transport was the only means of travel for most people in rural areas.

Jean wanted to go to the local school with her siblings and nearing the end of 1926 she spent a short time at the Tatong School. It was at this time that the mill became unviable and her parents sold and moved to Balmattum and undertook share cropping. The children then went to the Violet Town School, riding "four and a half miles" and leaving their ponies at Uncle John Beard's home, opposite the school. Two years later (1928) the family moved to "Woodleigh" at Caniambo, again riding the "two and a half miles" to school. The family remained at Caniambo until Jean left home.

Jean completed school in 1936 attaining her Merit Certificate and as there was always much to do on the farm she helped her mother with the many tasks of farm life. Her mother had many health problems so Jean was kept very busy. When she was old enough, Jean successfully completed her nurse training and returned to "Woodleigh" to care for her mother and continue helping with farm life. After her mother's death in 1954, Jean stayed on to help her aging father. Following her father's death in 1960, Jean moved to Melbourne where she worked in various hospitals including the Eye and Ear, the Royal Children's and Prince Henry Hospitals as well as community nursing in suburban Melbourne.

During the 1960's Jean moved to Adelaide to spend time with her sister Margaret and brother Ray and their families and worked at the Women's and Children's Hospital and in community support services for country families. Those of us lucky enough to have Aunt Jean stay with them have fond memories of freshly baked biscuits (always good after school) and special trips to the city with her, for lunch, or a concert. On returning to Victoria and looking for a change, Jean undertook the housekeeper's role at Alexandra Presbytery. She eventually returned to Melbourne

where spent the next few years nursing, as well as visiting relatives and friends in country Victoria and South Australia.

In 1981 Jean moved to Dookie to live with her brother Kevin who was having some health issues and it was in Dookie that she again became involved with the local community, again living in the country environment that she so loved. It was here that she met Steven Fuleky. She and Steve were married in Dookie in 1984, residing in Dookie until they moved to Benalla where they built a new home in Ackerley Ave. Again, wanting to be part of her new community, Jean joined the CWL, Benalla Hospital Auxillary where it was well known that she was "the best raffle ticket seller" they had had. She supported the community groups attached to St Joseph's parish and was always involved in community fetes. After 13 years together, Steve died in 1997. To keep herself busy, Jean spent more of her time engaging in the community involvement she so loved.

Jean loved to travel, visiting family interstate catching up often with Adelaide family, some trips with her cousin Lola Leahy, a few winters in Queensland and a trip to Longreach to visit the Qantas Founders' Museum where she saw the exhibit of her uncle, Arthur Baird. During these years she also enjoyed lasting friendships with two very good friends in Melbourne, Peggy and Joan and she would often travel by train to visit them. In her later years Aunt Jean loved to be taken on drives to those places she held dear including Tatong, Violet Town, Balmattum, Caniambo, Dookie and Wangaratta to name a few. During these drives, it was always a good time to learn more of her life and the families' life story. Her sense of direction guiding us through the tiny tiny towns remained crystal clear and the distances (in miles) were always accurate.

After a short stay in hospital, Jean moved to Cooinda in December 2018, where she found her new home. She was encouraged to do all the activities she was interested in, which were many and varied. Jean's family are so very grateful for the care she received from all the staff at Cooinda these past 8 years. You made Cooinda her home, thank you!

On October 21st 2025 Jean's nearly 104 years ended calmly, gently and peacefully. She was aware of her surroundings, even flickering her eyes and squeezing her fingers as she listened to the last words being spoken to her. Her busy life now quiet!

When Jean was 84 years old and was reflecting on her life, she wrote, that as a young person she always thought she "was never going to grow old" (her quote) That was 20 years ago!!!

We have all been blessed to have Aunt Jean's kindness and love and amazed at her endless curiosity and willingness to try new things.

You will be missed Aunt Jean but you have left us with so much and we are so grateful!

So.....Thank you, dear Jean, Aunt Jean, Aunt Jeannie, God Bless and Rest Peacefully with your loved ones. Love You!!

TATONG TOPICS –DECEMBER 1925

Benalla Standard 8th December 1925;

SWANPOOL ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Swanpool and District Tennis Association was held at the Swanpool hall on Saturday night last, delegates being present from Swanpool, Tatong, Samaria, Lima East, Benalla Methodist and Lima clubs. It was decided to reform the association again this year, and the Benalla Methodist club was admitted. Mr. Branigan Swanpool was elected president; Mr. C Stolz (Benalla) vice-president, Mr. Drummond (Samaria) secretary and treasurer. The draw resulted as follows, the first mentioned team being the home team for that day. The first match will take place on the second Saturday in January, 1926,—
Lima East v Methodists. Lima v Tatong; Samaria v Swanpool.

Berrigan Advocate 10th December 1925;

Spring Creek Saw Mills and Timber Seasoning Company, Ltd.,

Are now supplying from own seasoning kilns at Tatong: DRESSER SEASONED HARDWOOD of the best quality, in Weather boards, Flooring-boards and Lining-board. Seasoned Weather boards. Lining-boards require only to be oiled, and the Flooring boards polished, thus reducing considerably the annual cost of upkeep, furnishings and labour, and it is also more hygienic. Enquire of your local timber merchant for samples and supplies.

Support Australian Industry by using Australian Timber handled by Australian Workmen,
Registered office, 31 Queen St., Melbourne.

Benalla Standard 11th December 1925;

GRAZING LAND

TENDERS will be received until Thursday, 31st December, 1925, for the right to Graze on undermentioned land from the 1st January, 1926, to the 80th September, 1926, The fee for the above period and fee for licence must accompany each tender. Tender forms and full particulars may be obtained at the local Land Office. —

-Lot 50 (Block 11251) .-Area, 618 acres, parish of Myrrhee being Allotment 1a, of section B and Allotment 37, formerly hold by J. Kennedy.

-Lot 07 (Block 12366) -Area, 370 acres parish of Myrrhee, being allotment 41, formerly held by A., Evans. Existing improvements to be maintained in good order and condition. *(continued over)*

-Lot 58 (Block 12367).— Area, 350 acres, parish of Mokoan, being Allotment 54 e, formerly held by H. S. Bain. Existing improvements to be maintained in good order and condition.

-Lot 02 (Block 12286).— Area, 263 acres, Parish of Tatong, being allotment 17, formerly held by F. J. Wallace. Existing improvement to be maintained in good order and condition.

-Lot 90 (Block 12376)— Area 662 acres, parish of Mokoan, being allotment 25c, 26c, and 27c, formerly hold by R. Goudle.

-Lot 102 (Block 12294).— Area, 360 acres, Parish of Toombullup North, being allotment 28, formerly held by W. Ryan.

A. Downward, Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey.

Benalla Standard 18th December 1925;

DON'T FORGET! DON'T FORGET

HERBERT CARROLL;

FAMOUS "DRY" COMEDIAN

SHIRE HALL, BENALLA, MONDAY, 21st DECEMBER.

GOORAMBAT - HALL, TUESDAY, 22nd DECEMBER,

TATONG HALL, WEDNESDAY, 23rd DECEMBER.

A RARE TREAT FOR ALL. FREE COLLECTION.

Benalla Standard 22nd December 1925:

Council News - Tatong Riding.

From J. P Wallace, asking permission to remove timber overhanging the west and, north lines of Block 10 a, parish of Moorngag, where he is erecting a new fence.— No objection offered.



Compiled by Barry O'Connor. Tatong Heritage Group.

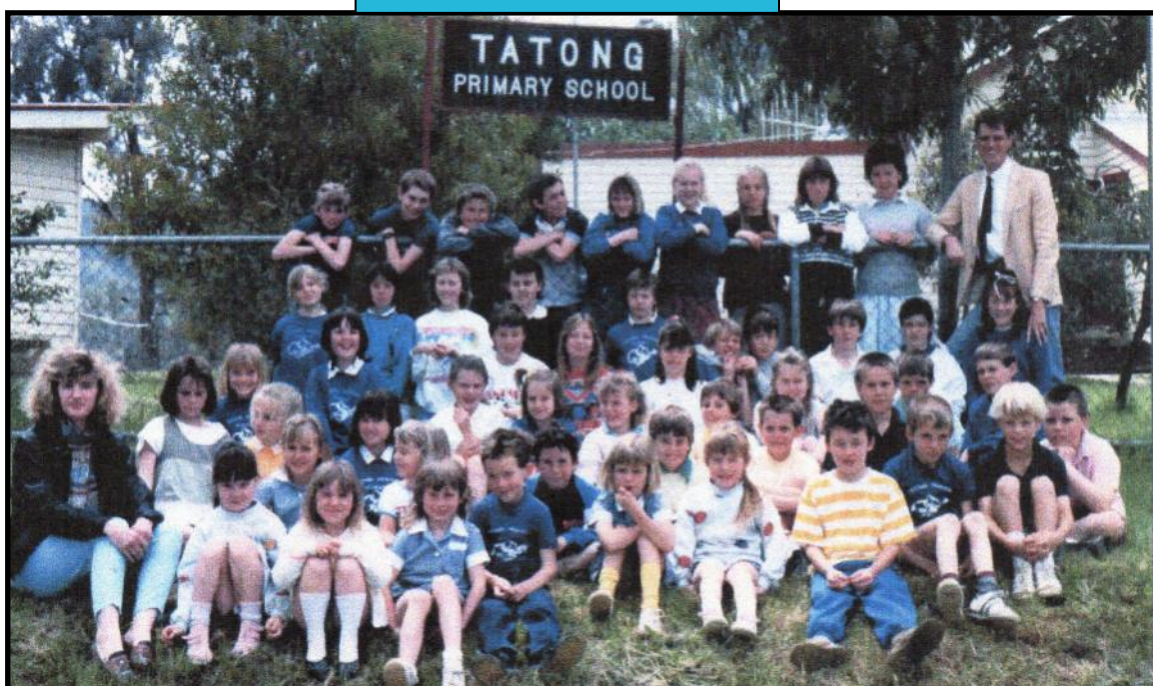
A fun time was had by all at generational Fern Hills farmer, Greg Crowe's 80th on Thursday October 23rd. Organised by Robyn Hughan and held at her Tatong farm, it attracted a lively cross section of people from the valley. A significant milestone for Greg, who is such a cherished helper to so many and a true-blue master of the work-around. Without him, many of us would be between a rock and a hard place! Robyn, Steve and Leonie being most especially thankful!

Highlights of the day were the wonderful food plates brought by all, including Kellie Keen's stunning Birthday cake, in vibrant blue, provided by his sister, Fay. Not to mention the arrival of Greg's Grandson, Jamie, and Great Grandson, Ragnar, who are in the process of moving to his farm. The presence of the latter bringing a smile to Greg's face which says it all!

Photos and text courtesy of Steve Warne.



Tatong School 1986



Tatong Market & More - President's Report, 2025 AGM

This year we had 27 stallholders occupying 37 sites. This was well down on 2024 – 33 on 48 sites and 2023 – 44 on 61 sites.

A noticeable difference this year was the lack of last minute bookings in the last week.

As we have discussed previously, Cup weekend has many events and we have to compete with them for both stallholders and visitors.

The weather was warm for set up and pack up but both seemed to go well.

Brodie brought the Rattler 'stage' on Friday afternoon and we positioned it more East-West to give better shade for the band while playing.

The oval looked really good on Saturday evening.

Our expression of interest for the Benalla Festival was submitted on June 25th and we officially became a Festival event, being notified of this on August 19th.

We were fortunate with the weather on the day. Visitor numbers seemed down (hard to know accurately) but, as a couple of people pointed out, most of them were spenders, not tyre kickers.

Feedback from the stallholders has been very positive.

We applied for, and were successful in gaining a Council grant, to pay for the band, Rattler.

Our rules of incorporation state our purpose is to provide a venue for and to hold the TM&M – we did that.

I thank all committee members for their contributions to this year's TM&M.

I also thank them for their contributions over the last ten or so years. I do believe we have got things decided and done. It has been enjoyable, challenging at times, but enjoyable. I will certainly miss being involved.

I wish TM&M every success. John Knapper



Tatong Community Christmas BBQ – Sunday 14th December 5pm

The Tatong Community Christmas BBQ will once again be held on Sunday 14th of December at the Tatong Community Centre and Recreation Reserve. After hugely successful events over the past few years, we are hoping this year's event will be no different. This is a wonderful opportunity for new members of the Tatong and district community to come along and meet others who live in the area. It would be great if the longer-term Tatong residents could please make an effort to reach out and personally invite someone who is new to the area, and obviously make sure all of your neighbours are coming along too!

This evening is made extra special by the long-held tradition of Santa arriving behind the Marriot's magnificent Clydesdale horses, this is a truly magical experience that dates back decades to when the Tatong Primary School held an annual Christmas concert at the hall. The experience of seeing Santa arrive behind the Clydesdales creates childhood memories that will be cherished forever.

The evening will commence at 5pm with Santa arriving at 6pm. A delicious barbeque and salad dinner will be provided along with some sweet treats and icy-poles for the kids. BYO drinks and a few dollars if you would like to make a donation towards the night and future community events.

For any enquiries or if you would like to help out with the event, please give Larissa a call (0409 963 267).

We hope to see you all on the 14th December for a lovely community evening!!



TATONG TAVERN



**Bopple - Order Online Pick-up at
Tatong Tavern**

Gawn to Town

On moving further into town, we had Fibre-To-The-Curb (FTTC). An NBN device sits emanating blue light, plenty of heat, and enough internet to feed the computers, the tv, the smart phone, and possibly some passing aliens. We've been encouraged to upgrade to Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP), which has apparently superseded "Fibre to the Node" (FTTN) as Nodes have gone out of fashion. Should we accept FTTP (are you keeping up with the acronyms?) we would have cinema-quality streaming, ten gigabyte files whooshing past, and excellent gaming capability. But I avoid sending 10GB files, and the gaming I prefer is Scrabble. The streaming we have works just fine, unless a power outage re-boots the router, in which case everything goes to hell in a handbasket.

The FTTC should be a bit faster than the system we left, not that I've noticed. That was NBN Fixed Wireless, which tragically lacks an acronym. When we first came to town, the house we bought was equipped with ADSL, but no one wanted to sign us up for a new ADSL contract, they all pushed us to NBN. So we got Fixed Wireless. It worked fine, worked better than did the cabinet which the young fellow who installed the NBN Wall Unit had to move. He said he knew just how to take the cabinet apart and put it back together, but not so that the drawers were happy. Such is the price of modern technology.

That house had a copper landline (which worked ok except when it rained) and the ADSL (which the previous owners were very happy with) and then we added Fixed Wireless to it's hardware. It was quite an advance on the Satellite we'd left behind at the farm.

I worship the memory of that Satellite. Once it came and sat on our roof it changed our lives; I didn't swear as much. It brought interconnectivity happiness. The internet it trickled in wasn't up to streaming, and seemed a little slow whenever I came home from Melbourne, but my god it beat the dial-up modem.

All who lived through the dial-up era will retain the trauma of those beeps and buzzes... Will it connect? Or will the phone ring just as you get started?

When we came to the White Gate district, and built a home, we wanted a telephone connected. The guys from Telstra made it clear that this was unreasonable. I wanted an internet-connectable line - that was outrageous! Indeed, I was told that if I wanted to connect to the internet, we ought not have bought where we did. They extended a line which came 18km from Molyullah, by the time it got to our place (they are meant to go no further than 15km). We heard every electric fence the line passed, as did the modem. The smart Telstra lad from Swanpool put a 'Harmoniser?' on to help, but oh my the arrival of the Satellite Dish was a great day.

I ought not disparage Dial-Up, for simply being connected to the internet was pretty amazing. We were living near Moulamein then, and that phone line had a long wander too, alongside the electric fence. Back in the days when connection was charged by time, once I was up at 2am to tend a puppy, realised it was cheap time online, so booted up the PC. I checked my email once a week. Ah yes - the modem in one corner, the fax machine in another; and the UHF radio out in the kitchen. It was all exciting technology in it's day.

Way further back, bells and drums and smoke transmitted long-distance information. It sounds simple, but you had to know how to operate it. Well, may you be spared smoke this summer, and listen only to cool drums - and may the christmas bells ring out messages of happiness for you & yours, and may they ring in the very best possible 2026.

- Andi Stevenson



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Miscellaneous Announcements

Tatong CFA Driving and Training Roster Nov 2025 to Jan 2026

Date	Truck	Ultralight
2-11-2025	Garage sale	
9-11-2025	D Hevey	D Gaudion
16-11-2025	C McGee	D Keen
23-11-2025	J Hakkennes	P Karis
30-11-2025	J Nichols	L Wylie
7-12-2025	C Gaudion	M Gaudion
14-12-2025	T Hatley	T Butler
21-12-2025	L O'Gorman	C O'Gorman
28-12-2025	D Hevey	B Mazurak
4-01-2026	J Nichols	JJ Nichols
11-01-2026	P Smith	S Clarkson
18-01-2026	R Lindsay	B Mazurak
25-01-2026	T O'Brien	C McGee

Please advise if unable to attend by contacting Jason Nichols on 0400 198 012 or by email: jasonnichols@mac.com.

Date for Tatong Dinner at the Tavern will be Wednesday 10th December

Date for December Girls Shed will be Friday 19th

Molyullah-Tatong Landcare Group CHANGE OF DATE

Please note an important update regarding our upcoming meeting for the Molyullah-Tatong Tree and Land Protection Group.

Our next meeting will now be held on:

****Tuesday, 25th November 2025****

Please note the change from our previously advertised Monday meeting date.

It will start at 7:15pm at the Molyullah Weather Station - [58 Centre Road, Molyullah](#) (near Anthony Hill's dairy) (Park on roadside and we will walk into the paddock to view the weather station)

Followed by our meeting and discussion and the Molyullah Hall, [115 Centre Road, Molyullah](#).

This will be our first meeting for the 2025–2026 year, and we hope you can join us.

We are pleased to welcome guest speaker Damien Gerrans, who will present on how to access and interpret data from the Molyullah Weather Station and Moisture Probe. This will be a great opportunity to learn how to make the most of this valuable local tool.

Following Damien's presentation, we will introduce the committee for 2025–2026 and open the floor for a group discussion on ideas for events and projects for the year ahead.

We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your thoughts.

Kind regards,
Molyullah Tatong Tree and Land Protection Group

Wanted!

Co-Ordinator for the Tatong Market & More!

Job description:

- Recruit stallholders
- Take bookings
- Allocate sites
- Plan site layout



This event has run over nine years, first as the "Tatong Community Great Big Garage Sale" then the "Tatong Market and More". Initially started by Belinda Franks, in 2017 John Knapper took over as President / Coordinator. John has now reluctantly stepped back from the role, and none of the current committee members look to take it on.

To continue, a new co-ordinator is needed. Might it be you?

Recycled in memory of Kathy Z



Garden Daze

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



My How the Grass (and everything else) has Grown this Season.

Hot summer weather can make watering hanging baskets or pot plants that have dried out difficult as the water can run off and not soak into the soil.

Placing ice cubes onto the soil of the container will make a slow-release watering system as the ice slowly melts.



This works especially well for Birdnest Ferns and Stag-horns which can be difficult when it comes to runoff.

Kinks in the hose while watering is a frustrating experience. How the hose is rolled up makes a big difference to how it unrolls.

If the hose is put away laid out in the shape of a figure eight with the nozzle at the top end - the next time you use it, the hose will pull out without any kinks.



Bird Baths - If you wish to attract birds to your garden - provide water for them.

Birds need to bathe to keep their feathers in good condition, and a birdbath is the easiest and cheapest way to provide water for them in your garden.

Ensure the birdbath you choose has a stable base and is no more than 50mm deep. Add stones to the bath so the birds can perch to drink and that small birds do not drown.

Position the birdbath out of the reach of cats, and in dappled shade so the water stays cool. Choose a spot close to shrubs and trees to give protective cover and perches for visiting birds.



Change the water regularly, as algae, leaves and bird droppings will contaminate it. A small dish wash brush is handy to give the bath a scrub before adding fresh water. This will also take care of any mosquito larva.

Hot weather means hot and thirsty birds - the birds will come to rely on your birdbath so keep an eye on the birdbath in extreme heat and top up when it gets down. This can be a couple of times a day in mid summer.

Weed Tea

Making weed tea is a great way of using the nutrients from plants that you either don't want in your garden or do not want to put in your compost.

Weeds with deep roots such as comfrey, dandelion & nettle are great for weed tea as they leach minerals from the topsoil but you can use many others.

To make weed tea place your weeds in a bucket & cover them with water (you may need to weigh the weeds down). Add some brown sugar or molasses to the weeds & water to start the process off by providing the microbes easy access. Use a stick to stir the mixture several times a day for 10 days.



In between stirring cover the bucket loosely so that air can enter. After the 10 days your tea should be used straight away otherwise it can become smelly & the microbes die.

To use your tea strain it through some shade cloth or fine material (make sure you wear gloves). The solid material can be put in your compost where it will safely break down further.

Apply to your garden either early morning or after dusk as the sun and heat can kill the living organisms.

The best time to use weed tea is early Spring through to the end of Autumn which will enable the organisms to work in the soil over Winter.

When using the tea - take care to ensure that you don't apply the tea directly to vegetable leaves that will be eaten.



Wishing you a very Merry Christmas

and A Safe

2021



Kathy Z

December 2020

Recipes by Sue



With Christmas only a few weeks away, you might like to try some of these Christmas treats.

PEPPERMINT LOG

125g melted butter or margarine
½ tin condensed milk
125g glace cherries (chopped)
250g morning coffee biscuits (crushed)
30 plus peppermint creams (chopped)
coconut

METHOD: Mix all together & form into 4 logs.
Roll in coconut. Refrigerate. Cut into slices as required.

CHOCOLATE CHRISTMAS SLICE

185g copha
1¼ cups chocolate melts
3 cups rice bubbles
1 cup coconut
2 cups mixed dried fruit. (Use any combination)
1 cup pure icing sugar
1 cup full cream powdered milk
Small amount of extra icing sugar

Melt copha & choc melts in a heatproof bowl over a saucepan of boiling water.
Place rice bubbles, coconut, dried fruit, icing sugar & powdered milk in a bowl.
Add copha mixture & mix well.
Press into a lined slice tray. Refrigerate till firm.
Dust with icing sugar before cutting to serve.

CHRISTMAS MINI PLUM PUDDINGS

200g dark chocolate, melted
700g Home brand dark fruit cake
60g butter, melted
½ cup brandy, sherry or orange juice
½ cup icing sugar, sifted
250g white chocolate melts
Red glace cherries

Crumble fruit cake & with the butter & brandy & mix to a holding consistency.
Roll into balls (small Tablespoon size) then refrigerate for ½ hour.
Drizzle with white chocolate & top with a piece of glace cherry.

FESTIVE SLICE

125g butter
3 Tablespoons honey
2 Tablespoons lemon juice
½ cup coconut
250g Marie biscuits, crushed
100g each crystallised pineapple, glace cherries, dried banana chips & pecan nuts. Chopped.
125g chocolate
30g copha

Melt butter & honey. Add all other ingredients
Mix well & press into a lined slice tin. Chill.
ICING: Melt chocolate & copha over a low heat.
Spread over slice. Store in refrigerator.

CHOCOLATE CHERRY BLISS BALLS

1 cup raw almonds
1 cup shredded coconut
¼ cup coconut sugar
⅓ cup cacao or cocoa powder
¼ cup dried cherries
⅓ cup dark chocolate buttons
Pinch salt

1 large orange, zest & juice
METHOD: Place all the dry ingredients into a powerful blender & blend well until all ingredients are finely mixed. Next use a grater & zest the orange & place this into the mixture. Juice the orange, add to mixture & blend together,
Roll into balls, about small Tablespoon size
Sieve some extra cacao powder over the balls.
Store in the refrigerator.

FROZEN CHRISTMAS PUDDING

½ cup each sultanas & chopped raisins
¼ cup brandy
150g dark chocolate (melted)
600ml thickened cream (whipped)
200g condensed milk
100g mixed glace fruit eg; Pineapple, ginger, cherries
¼ teaspoon each cinnamon, nutmeg & mixed spice
50g flaked almonds (toasted)
METHOD: Soak sultanas & raisins in brandy overnight.
Melt chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a saucepan of boiling water.
In a bowl lightly whip the cream then add condensed milk & chocolate. Stir thoroughly.
Stir in the fruit, spices & nuts.
Pour into a freezer safe container & freeze for a minimum of 8 hours.

May you all have a wonderful Christmas.

But let's not forget

Jesus is the reason for the season

Sue O'Brien

SUFFERING IS OPTIONAL

I may have written about this subject previously but, for me, it is important enough to repeat.

The idea that we can actually choose to suffer or not sounds ridiculous but I will explain as best that I can. Firstly, suffering is torment mainly of the mind and not of the physical body, as it is with the experience of pain. Essentially, this means that it is our response to unfavourable situations which determines our level of suffering. It is the way that we understand and act upon what is called the Laws of Nature which largely controls the level of acceptance or rejection of what is seen as terrifying and unbearable.

*Natural Law is the most essential knowledge for understanding reality and achieving personal and societal transformation. This Law is a set of immutable and universal principles that govern the consequences of human behaviour. These principles operate independently of human beliefs, ensuring that actions have consequences that are predictable and avoidable. Certain secretive people and large institutions will go to great lengths to obtain and preserve power deliberately concealing this knowledge in order to maintain dominance over the uninformed. Many people lack confidence in asserting their own intelligence preferring the beliefs of family, authorities and society. Natural Law is benign and reliable whereas the humans who want to be a substitute for it are interested only in control and power and not in your welfare. Natural Law is a non-religious description of whatever it is which creates and controls all of the workings of nature and the physical world. How can this knowledge help to alleviate suffering? Bluntly, to resist or reject the cause of your suffering is the futile resistance or rejection of the consequences of your actions, education and lifestyle choices or destiny, such as an inherited health disposition. This does not mean to simply resign yourself to the situation because while you have the means and the will to overcome a problem – go for it, and good luck! (The peace prayer associated with St Francis reinforces Natural Law principles.)

The standard upbringing for members of our culture has evolved to, wishfully, place humans in charge of practically everything so we expect that trained experts can resolve all of our problems. Natural Law on the other hand operates via the objective and immutable laws of the universe and these laws, no human can alter or influence. The outcome of refusing to acknowledge and live within this power will result in inevitable consequences. For instance defying gravity or eating unhealthy food will invite unwanted results. We know in our deeper self that this is true but prefer to believe the prevailing constructs because of obedience to authority or falling into line with the majority beliefs. There is a feeling of safety in numbers.

Hopefully readers of this will get the impression that what I am saying is truthful and liberating because it is about what any person with the ability to think rationally can understand. Unfortunately the respect for, and use of intelligence and objective fact has been reduced in value as politics, beliefs and ideology increase their dominance in society.

One of the greatest fears for humans is to be shunned or ignored by one's community and the outcome of this fear is behind so many tragic events due mainly to people desperately wanting to belong. ("Fear is more pain than the pain it fears.") On the other hand the person who risks rejection and isolation can overcome such fear, in spite of their hurt, by living in accordance with their own true nature enabling the full development of harmony and peace in their life.

Mike Larkin

*Extract from writings of Mark Passio, American philosopher, found at <thedukereport@substack.com/p/the-forbidden-knowledge-of-natural-law>

White Gate



News & Dates

The Last and Final White Gate dinner @ the Tavern for the year 2025 falls next on Wednesday the 3rd of December. What celebration for our throng - silly hats, christmas songs? Some of us now know how to sing, so maybe carols we should bring...

2026 is galloping towards us. As there is no January issue of the Tattler, do heed that the **Very First Ever White Gate Dinner @ the Tavern for 2026** will be held upon Wednesday January 7th. We ought have got the hang of 2026 by then. (*Amongst the reasons I'm pleased cheques are being phased out, is not spending the first two months of the year writing the wrong year on the cheque.*)

Wishing a happy festive season to everyone, with just enough rain, no flies, no fires, no storms, well-behaved stock, and a nice dram of whatever is your tippie.

- Andi Stevenson



Just a reminder to Whitegate residents (and former residents) that the Fire Brigade Christmas get together will be held on Saturday, Dec 6th at 'Yarrabuk', 1376 Tatong Rd. Festivities to start at 6.00pm.



Please RSVP to Captain James on 0458 641 377 by Nov 28th.

Who can believe that Christmas is almost upon us again.

We have seen quite a lot of snakes on the move in the past week, both brown and blacks. Snakes are one of the things that I really don't like about Summer, a family member was unlucky enough to be bitten by a brown and survived, despite doing all the wrong things. So having an immobilizing bandage in the first aid kit in the ute is a must but calling triple O immediately even better. - Linda De Fazio

White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Angus McMillan	23 Nov	Alan Stafford	21 Dec
Noel Hutchens	30 Nov	Bill Sykes	28 Dec
Hamish McMillan	7 Dec	Matthew De Fazio	4 Jan
Laurie De Fazio	14 Dec	Ross Runnalls	11 Jan

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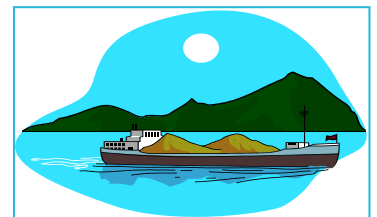
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Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2015	44.7	29.1	5.7	87.4	70	33.7	97.3	69.4	25.7	13.7	55.5	81.7	613.9
2016	69.7	11.9	36.9	38.5	117.2	110.5	142.8	108.4	172.1	91.4	50.1	101.3	1050.
2017	67.6	36.2	49.1	61.7	52.5	6.5	92.1	112.4	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.	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
2022	219.3	4.8	72.7	81.4	42.5	102.5	49.7	126.6	111.9	232.2	139.2	25	1217
2023	25	18.7	61.1	62.8	59.2	197.6	51.1	67.2	25.2	120.8	57.1	98.2	846
2024	156.4	17.6	14.7	26.9	73.8	53.1	76.7	47	42.2	46.4	167.7	48	770.5
2025	22.5	13.5	66.5	8.9	20.9	81.8	118.2	51.9	34.4	49.7			478.3

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

The rainfall for all of October was 49.7mm and in November the total rain up until the 15th of the month is a solid 45mm. The beauty and abundance of Spring brings much pleasure as well as the need to try and limit the growth to manageable levels, eg – mowing, pruning and weeding. It is an especially good year for the roses in our garden. They are so beautiful in appearance and perfume.
Mike Larkin



Come along, bring your lunch and some goodies to share, do some craft or just have a chat. Hope to see at the Tatong Memorial Hall. Cathy 0488 377 243
Next Girl's Shed Friday 19th December 9am to 4.30pm.

FREE STUFF

Please stop and check the free to take items on our front nature strip (next door to Tavern). A friend and I are regular collectors of pre-loved stuff but even we have a limit. The free items are probably things we already have a version of, or we just want to make space for the inevitable next arrivals. Don't be embarrassed by having a scrounge

because the negative ideas about collecting other people's leftover or unwanted things is an outmoded leftover attitude from the days of status sensitivity. Prove that you aren't status conscious and get your fill of 'hunter/gathering' for very modest prices at garage sales, or no price at all for nature strip stuff.
Mike Larkin

Tattler Advertising Rates

Inc num:

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

PAYMENT

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.

Is it an ad? Publicity for an event with an entry fee is classed as advertising and charged accordingly. Local community events may be excepted.

FORMAT (ATTENTION ADVERTISERS!)

For pre-formatted advertisements, the size of a "half page" is 13.6cm x 19cm, and "quarter page" 13.6cm x 9.3cm.

To avoid distortion to your image, please fit your advertisement to these sizes.

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 (i.e. JPGs) can be attached, to be laid out by editor.

If layout is important, submit your work as an image, or in MS Publisher. If laid out in a **Word** document, contents will 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 a Tattler committee-member.

DEADLINE

The Tattler Deadline is end of the 20th of the month, January-November. Non-digitised items which need scanning or typing, by the 15th.

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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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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