

TATONG TATTLER and District

400th Edition



Maggi Kirk
First Editor

From Humble Beginnings

I had the good fortune to catch up with Maggi Kirk the other day. Maggi and her then husband Greg ran the Tatong Post Office for some years during the eighties and early nineties before the Post Office was closed. She was happy to give me her recollections about the origins of The Tatong Tattler, now proudly issuing its 300th edition.

Maggi and Greg were part of a group of local people who instigated *The Tatong And District Progress Association Newsletter*. In August 1991 it became known as The Tatong Tattler when a competition was run to establish a masthead which was won by Larissa Scott, now Larissa Montgomery. Maggi told me the newsletter was started to inform the community about local events ie. school news, tennis and football club fixtures and results. The first edition was October 1990 (see centre pages) and held such information as a raffle to raise funds, the avenue of trees, each of which was sponsored by a local family and notice of a Progress association meeting.

Maggi would type the newsletter, which was then photocopied at the school and approximately 100 copies were printed. These were placed in the pigeon holes in the Post Office, the outlying copies being delivered by the Post Office Contractor who delivered up the hill towards Tolmie three days a week.



The masthead changed to its present format in October 2000.

After many years of organising the Tatong Tattler, Maggi felt that it needed new input and handed over the reigns to Bev Hakkennes in August 1996.

Sallie Hann

Mike and Maeve Larkin

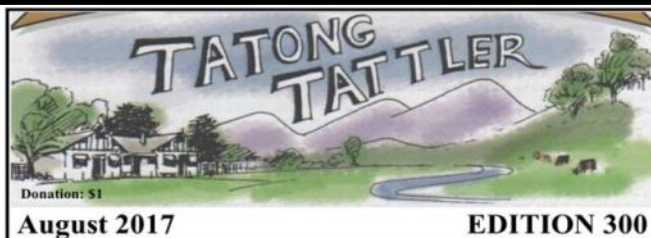
Mike and Maeve produced the Tattler from mid 2000 on their own—no mean feat. In 2004, the job became too much for them so they called for volunteers. A committee was formed in July of that year and Rick Hann took over as editor.

Until 2005, the printing was done at the Tatong Primary School and by Benalla Printers. When the school closed the committee bought a printer and Michael Turner donated the computer to

run it. Printing moved in-house. A dedicated team of locals helped with the printing. Mike Larkin now does the printing all on his own. Thank you Mike.

Rick Hann edited the Tattler until August 2014. Geoff Rintala is the current editor. Geoff is on holidays at the moment so I am pleased to stand in for him with the honour of editing this, the 300th edition.

Rick Hann



It all started with ...

TATONG AND DISTRICT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER.....NO.1

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TATONG AND DISTRICT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1990 AT THE TATONG HALL AT 8.00PM. TO DISCUSS WHAT OUR NEXT PROJECT WILL BE. IF YOU YOUR CLUB/GROUP HAVE ANY IDEAS,PLEASE BRING THEM ALONG TO THE MEETING.

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED AND SUPPORTED US THUS FAR BY SPONSORING A TREE IN THE AVENUE, HAVE YOU SEEN IT YET? WE ARE HOLDING A RAFFLE TO RAISE FUNDS. TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR 20c EACH OR 4 FOR \$1 AT THE TATONG TAVERN OR THE POST OFFICE. 1ST PRIZE, A DRESSED LAMP, 2ND PRIZE A POT PLANT, TO BE DRAWN AS SOON AS ALL TICKETS ARE SOLD.

ADVERTISING SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN OUR NEWSLETTER WHEN WE HAVE TO PUT OUT MONTHLY. COMMUNITY SERVICE ADS WILL BE FREE, ALL OTHERS \$2.00 EACH COPY TO THE POST OFFICE BY THE END OF EACH MONTH PLEASE.



TATONG TAVERN

THIS SATURDAY AT THE TAVERN.....
CARE AND SUPPORT THE PILES...FOR ONLY \$1.00 AND THAT'S WITH SHOTS TOO!!
BY THE BOMBERS AS YOU GO INTO YOUR HOT DEC.

DON'T FORGET TO BOOK EARLY FOR THIS YEARS XMAS PARTIES AND THE NEW YEARS EVE BASH.....LIVE ENTERTAINMENT.

Forerunner of the Tatong Tattler -
Tatong and District Progress Association Newsletter
October 1990

The first edition of the Tattler was just one page. 300 editions and 27 years later the Tattler now averages twenty-four pages, has dozens of advertisers, has a committee and set of helpers numbering around 35 people and has a distribution of 350 copies each month, read by over 1000 people.



Greg Kirk
Founder

Wally & Barbara Schafer

(founding members of Tatong newsletter)

I visited Wally who now lives at the Violet Town Bush Nursing Hospital. Sadly, his wife Barbara died in 2015.

Wally and Barbara were founding members when the Tatong Newsletter started back in 1990. He is surprised to hear the Tattler is still going some 27 years later - particularly as he said there were some ups and downs in the early stages. Wally said he was involved in the administrative side of things and that the credit should go to the hard working volunteers for the success of the Tattler.



Wally was born in Wurzburg, Germany and arrived in Australia in 1953 aged about 23. He was a fitter and turner but after the bombardment of Wurzburg during World War II (90% of this town was bombed) he had to do such things as cleaning bricks so buildings and infrastructure could be rebuilt.

He came to Australia on an adventure hoping to work on the Snowy Hydro Scheme. When this did not work out he went to Tasmania to work in the copper mines. He eventually went to Melbourne where he met Barbara. They married and he was happy to stay in Australia. Wally worked for Turners (later Stanley Tools) as an engineer. He completed his HSC in English and then went on to teach Trades at Benalla Technical College. He was also an early director of the North East Credit Union (now GMLU).

They originally came to Benalla in 1968 and lived in many local areas (Lurg/Molyullah/ Warrenbayne) before building in Tatong where they lived from the late 1980's to the year 2000. Wally "owner built" many homes - something that still pleases him as building was not his background. He loved his Tatong home and workshop (the envy of many who still recall his amazing workshop). He remembers the natural beauty of Tatong, as well as the wonderful wildlife and abundant birdlife.

Thanks go to Wally and Barbara for their contribution to the Tatong Community.

Janette Knapper

Thank You
To **everyone** who has contributed to the Tatong Tattler, over the past 300 issues, in **any** way.



This clock was recently donated to the Tatong Heritage Group by Joan Lewis. See story below.



This clock was presented to Edward Clement Cordner (Clem) when he won the Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria Tournament in 1919. Joan Lewis's Great Aunt Ellen was married to Clem. Ellen was born 22/10/1887 and passed away 27/10/1962. Clem passed away 13/9/1943. There was no family. The clock is very heavy! Unfortunately it no longer works.

More Memorabilia that The Tatong Heritage Group hold in trust for the future.

BENALLA LAWN TENNIS CLUB

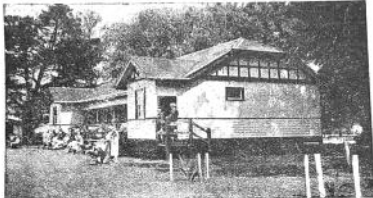
20th ANNUAL

NEW YEAR TOURNAMENT, 1940

Central North-Eastern Championships

(SANCTIONED BY THE L.T.A.V.)

Saturday
to
Monday



Dec. 30 '39
Jan. 1 '40
Jan. 2 '40

On the Club's

SIXTEEN EXCELLENT LAWN COURTS

CLOSING
DATE
15:12:39

OFFICIALS:
PRESIDENT: MR. L. J. CRAWFORD
VICE-PRESIDENT: MR. W. N. M'NICOL
HON. TREASURER: MR. F. LATCH
HON. REFEREE: MR. F. G. TUCKER
COMMITTEE:
Messrs L. GUNN, L. H. LEDGER, H. W. LINDSEY, S. THOMAS and C. WEBSTER

CLOSING
DATE
15:12:39

SATURDAY AND MONDAY NIGHTS--DANCING AT
THE CLUB HOUSE

JACK RYAN'S DANCE BAND

ENTRIES CLOSE FRIDAY, 15th DECEMBER, 1939, with TOURNAMENT SECRETARY
BENALLA LAWN TENNIS CLUB, Box 68, BENALLA

BENALLA BOWLING CLUB'S ANNUAL NEW YEAR TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, 30th DECEMBER--SINGLES. MONDAY, 1st JANUARY--RINKS AND PAIRS. Entries Invited
Beautiful Greens, Ideal Surroundings. T. J. BERRY, Hon. Sec. Phone Benalla 479.
"Benalla Standard" Print.

Poster from Benalla Lawn Tennis Club

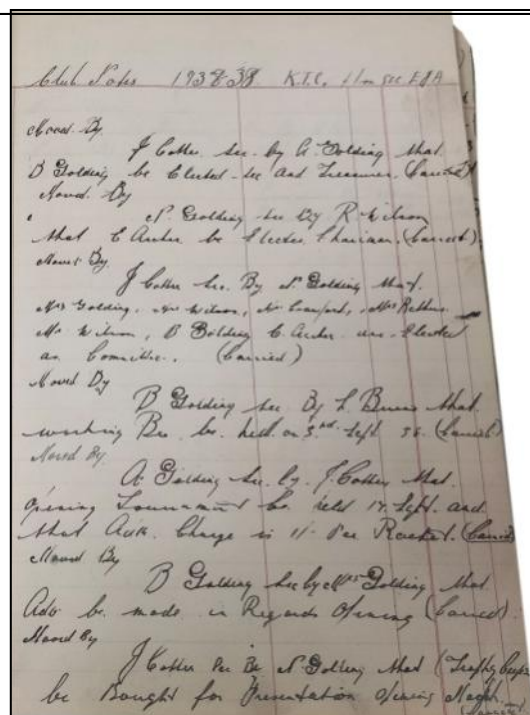


Photo of Minute Book of Karn Tennis Club



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1. Royal Children's Hospital Appeal 8pm-Tavern	2. Good Friday	3. Trevor Hourigan Tavern
Easter	5. High Country Library	6. N.H. Watch A.G.M. 8pm Tatong Hall	7. T.F. & N. Club Ladies Comm' A.G.M. 8pm	8. SCHOOL	9.	10.
	12.	13. T.A.G. Meeting-8pm Tatong Tavern Tatong Recreation Reserve Meeting	14.	15. HOLIDAYS	16.	17. Tatong v Devanish
	19. High Country Library	20.	21. A.G.M. Table Tennis Association	22.	23.	24. Longwood v Tatong
25. Day	26.	27.	28.	29. Fire Brigade Meeting -8pm		



Benalla
VETERINARY CLINIC
Take advantage of our regular visits to the Tatong area!
Plan ahead for your routine vet work and minimise your travel costs.
Planned dates for 1999 are:
Feb 9,17,25, March 9,17,25, April 6,22, May 4,12,20.
16 Church St, Benalla Quality Service
5762 2181 or 5762 2788 Quality Care

Free to decide?

The other day, a survey from my local Federal MP landed in my inbox, asking for my thoughts on crime, climate change, and immigration. But as I started reading, I noticed something clever. The wording and the ordering of the questions felt they were designed to nudge me into agreeing with his party's policies.

It got me thinking about behavioural economics. Now, I know that sounds incredibly dry, but bear with me. It is essentially the study of how humans are not the rational, logical creatures we think we are. We don't sit down with a neat little pros-and-cons list for every choice; instead, we rely on intuition, shortcuts, and emotion. Lest you think this is all psycho-babble, behavioural economics is serious science. One of its pioneers, Daniel Kahneman, won the Nobel Prize for it in 2002. He died in 2024, but his work on how our brains make decisions completely changed how businesses and politicians seek to influence us.

We are constantly being "nudged" by how a question is framed, or even the order in which options are handed to us. Sometimes, logic doesn't even enter the room.

Take "framing" for example. As humans, we hate losing things - a trait scientists call loss aversion. Because of this, we react totally differently to the exact same situation depending on whether it's presented as a win or a loss:

- **Investing:** Would you invest in a product with a 90% chance of a positive return, or one with a 10% chance of

losing your money? It's the same statistical outcome, but most of us instinctively jump at the 90% win.

- **Surgery:** Studies show patients are much more likely to agree to a risky operation if the doctor cites an 80% survival rate rather than a 20% mortality rate.

Gym Memberships: On a lighter note, why do gyms advertise memberships for "\$1.37 a day" instead of "\$500 a year"? It's the exact same amount of money, but the daily figure feels painless.

Then there's the order of things, which influences us far more than we realise.

Think of the classic "donkey vote" in politics, where voters simply number the ballot paper from top to bottom. Or cast your mind back to the old Yellow Pages days, when businesses named themselves *AA1 Plumbing* just to be first in line. This is the "primacy effect" - our tendency to favour the first thing we see.

Conversely, online survey designers and telemarketers exploit "recency bias"—the fact that when given a massive list, we usually remember and pick the very last thing we heard. Fortunately, I no longer have to worry about job interviews, but for those who do, these twin forces mean that candidates placed in the middle of the interview list are statistically disadvantaged. Interviewers remember the early applicants because they were fresh, and the final applicants because they are the most recent.

Order also dictates how we perceive value, a trick known as "anchoring". Have you noticed how high-end restaurants often put their most expensive dish at the very top of the menu? Even if you don't buy that \$60 steak, it acts as an anchor. When you see it first, the \$32 pasta further down suddenly looks like a bargain.

We've all been sucked in by this trick when chasing a bargain - like seeing a jacket marked down from \$200 to \$70. That original \$200 price tag anchors your mind, making \$70 look like a steal, even if the jacket is only worth \$50. It's this exact tactic that got Coles and Woolworths into hot water with the ACCC recently. Their "Down Down" and "Price Dropped" campaigns allegedly used deceptive pricing to make shoppers think they were getting a massive discount when they really weren't.

We run into these digital nudges every day. Companies spend fortunes on Search Engine Optimisation just to sit at the top of your Google search. And now, with AI tracking our online habits, brands are getting exceptionally good at guiding us directly to what they want us to buy. It feels convenient, but it quietly narrows our choices without us even noticing.

Which brings me back to my MP's survey.

While it didn't use price anchoring, it was a masterclass in the art of the nudge. Questions like, *"Do you think schools should get back to basics with a focus on literacy and numeracy?"* or *"Do you think working people should have more control over their livelihoods?"* are practically impossible to say no to. The ordering was equally deliberate, pushing hot-button issues like tax cuts and crime to the top of the page while burying climate change toward the bottom. Mind you, a survey from the opposite side of politics would do the exact same thing, just in reverse.

So, why does any of this matter?

I just think it's worth keeping our eyes open. When you realize how many subtle little traps are set up to guide your thinking, you can finally step back, spot the bias, and make a choice that's actually your own.

Steve Ingram

TATONG TOPICS – SEPTEMBER 1926;

Albury Banner 3rd September 1926:

BENALLA. (From a Correspondent.)

At the Court of Petty Sessions, before Mr. T. M. Williams, P.M., landholders were fined as follows for having failed to destroy rabbits on their properties: — J. L. Martin, Mokoan, £3 and 2/8 costs; T. Collis, Mokoan, £4 and 3/8 costs; T. M. Griffiths, Mokoan, £2 and 3/7 costs; J. A. Mc Monigle, Mokoan, and H. J. Green, Tatong, each fined £2, with 3/7 costs.

The Argus 3rd September 1926: (abridged)

Benalla - There is very little change to record in the district in the last three weeks. The weather continued unsettled in August, when 404 points of rain was registered, bringing the total for 1926 to 2396. Towards the end of the month no rain fell for about 10 days. The roads improved considerably, and the district took on a spring like appearance. Then 104 points fell, and the roads and lands seemed wetter than at any period of the winter. The river rose rapidly, but did not overflow. The community of a large part of Benalla town to be saved from being flooded, depends on the time of the arrival of the flood waters from the creeks from Lima, Tatong and Molyullah. Should the flood waters from these creeks reach Benalla at the same time when the river is high overflowing is almost certain.

Benalla Standard 7th September 1926:

Non-paying. Railway Lines. Included in the railway lines showing a loss on the year's working are the Benalla-Tatong, £2,596; Tallangatta-Cudgewa, £13,938; and Wangaratta-Whitfield, £5,082.

The Argus 11th September 1926:

Notice to Creditors - Re GEORGE FORBES McINTOSH, Late of Tatong in the State of Victoria Farmer, Deceased, Intestate Pursuant to the Trusts Act 1915 notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against the estate of George Forbes McIntosh late of Tatong, farmer, deceased, who died on the twenty-third day of October, 1901. (*That's what is stated*). Letters of Administration to whose unadministered estate were granted to THE UNION TRUSTEE COMPANY, of No 333 Collins Street Melbourne, are hereby required to forthwith send particulars in writing of such CLAIMS on or before the first day of November, 1926, to the said company, at its above address, and notice is hereby given that after the said date the said administrator will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased which shall have come to its hands or possession amongst the persons entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which it shall then have had notice, and will not be liable for the assets or any part thereof so distributed to any person of whose claim it shall not then have had notice.

Benalla Standard 17th September 1926:

TATONG.

Last week the annual meeting of the Tatong Cricket Club took place in the local hall. Cr. A. Harrison (president) occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance. The assistant secretary Mr. J. Maher; read the balance-sheet, which showed the receipts to be over £11 and the expenditure £2/5/- greater; but as the club had good material on hand it was considered satisfactory.

It was resolved to re-form the club, and the following officers were elected, President. Mr. A. Harrison; vice-president, Mr. D. H. Coghill; hon. Secretary and treasurer, Mr. J. Maher; assistant secretary, Mr. M. O'Halloran; committee, Messrs T. Ritchie, N. Briggs and F. Sims. In order to clear off the liability and get a fresh start for the season, it was decided to hold a dance on 17th inst.

Albury Banner 24th September 1926:

There passed away at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, a one-time resident of Tatong, who will be remembered by old residents, Mr. Henry John Bickerton, at the age of 63 years. Deceased leaves a widow, five sons and three daughters.

The death occurred recently of Mr. James Knox, aged 80 years, who had been secretary to Benalla Shire Council for the past forty-eight years. He is survived by four sons and four daughters.

The North Eastern Ensign 24th September 1926.

TENDERS are invited for the supply of 2,400 tons of firewood at any station with accommodation within 60 miles of Benalla., Particulars at Benalla station and Loco. depot; Chiltern, Lima, Tatong and Euroa stations.

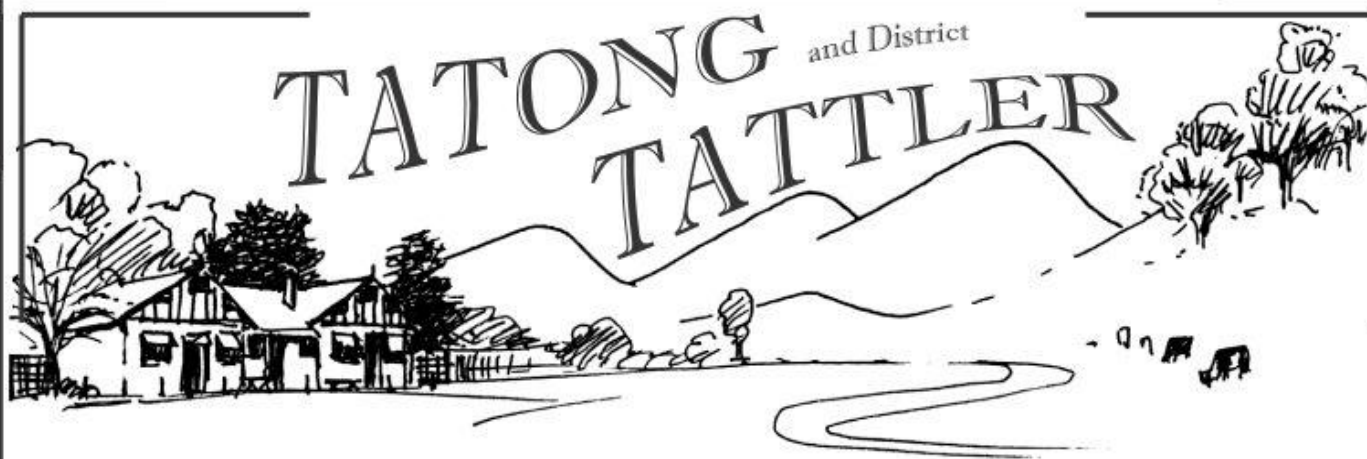
Benalla Standard 28th September 1926:

(abridged)

PRESENTATION TO MISS SAY

The congregation of St. Andrew's Church met yesterday afternoon at the Kindergarten Hall, their guest being Miss C. Say, who has been closely identified with church work for a number of years—in fact, her lifetime—as a choir member and leader of the kindergarten. The object was to bid farewell, offer good wishes and congratulations, and make a presentation of a silver entree dish, suitably inscribed, Miss Say being about to leave the realms of spinsterhood, which will necessitate her residing at Williamstown. The presentation was made by Mr. D. H. McKenzie, on behalf of the church, and his eulogistic remarks were endorsed by Mr. W. H. Carter for the Sunday School. Mr. L. B. Garson for the choir, and Messrs D. Mc Lennan, H. J. Guppy and Husband for the congregation.

Compiled by Barry O'Connor. Tatong Heritage Group.



**The 2026
Annual General Meeting
of the
Tatong Tattler Committee
will be held on
September Thursday 17th,
@ the Tatong Tavern.**



*General Meeting at 11:00
AGM noon-ish,
lunch to follow.*

All Tattler associates welcome to join us
for the AGM & lunch!

Distributors, Writers, Advertisers, and
of course Readers.

Nominations for committee welcome.

Self-Book & Pay Event

30 years serving Tatong & District



TatongTavern.com

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7 DAYS**

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Kitchen 11am to 7:30pm

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Kitchen 11am to 8:30pm

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For Sale

Tradie Trailer Top to suit 6 x 4 trailer

Ph 0419 321 630

This Tradie Trailer Top has seen very little use, and was used by the group to transport display items to markets etc. TOP only, trailer NOT included \$550 ONO



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

Our September Girls Shed will be on Friday 18th September, Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September at the usual time.

Recipes by Sue**PIZZA PINWHEELS**

- 1 sheet ready rolled puff pastry, thawed
- 1 tablespoon cream cheese spread
- 2 tablespoons pizza sauce
- 1 tablespoon grated dry parmesan sauce
- 2 tablespoons lean bacon, finely diced
- 1 egg for glazing

Method: Preheat oven to 210°C. Spread cream cheese over pastry, then pizza sauce, parmesan & bacon. Roll pastry loosely. Cut into 1 to 1½ cm slices. Will make about 15. Glaze outer circle with egg. Place on lined baking tray, **cook 15-20 minutes until puffed & golden.** These freeze well. Bake from frozen when required

LEMON CHICKEN

- 1 kg chicken thighs
- 1 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1 cup flour
- Salt & freshly ground pepper
- 2 teaspoons paprika
- ½ cup oil
- 2 tablespoons grated lemon zest
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup chicken stock
- 1 lemon thinly sliced

Method: Place chicken in single layer in glass dish, pour lemon juice over. **Cover & refrigerate overnight, turning occasionally.** Drain chicken thoroughly & pat dry. Fill plastic bag with flour, salt, pepper & paprika. Shake well to mix. Add chicken & shake to coat. Heat oil in frying pan & fry chicken, a few pieces at a time, until brown & crisp. (About 10 minutes per batch). Arrange browned chicken in shallow baking dish, sprinkle evenly with lemon zest & brown sugar. Pour stock around the chicken pieces. Place thin slice of lemon on each piece. Bake 35-40 minutes in 175°C preheat oven until tender. Can serve hot or cold.

BACON OR CHICKEN FETTUCINI

- 500g bacon or chicken, chopped
 - Shallots, chopped
 - ½ capsicum, chopped
 - Chopped parsley
 - Large bottle cream
 - Good cup grated cheese
 - Pepper to taste
 - 750g packet fettucine, cooked & drained
- Method:** Gently sauté bacon, shallots & capsicum. Combine with fettucine, cream & cheese. Season with pepper & a little parsley. Serve with Italian bread & green salad made with lettuce, parsley, sprouts, cucumber etc. Serves 6-8.

BLUEBERRY & LEMON MUFFINS

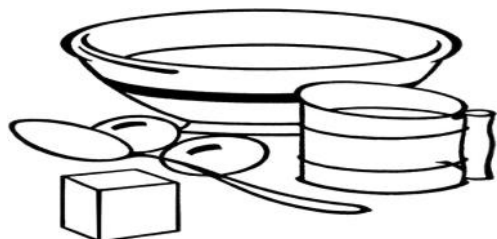
- 2 cups SR flour
- Rind of one lemon, finely grated
- 1 egg
- ½ cup melted butter
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries (I prefer frozen)

Method: Mix flour, salt & lemon rind in a large bowl. Beat egg in a medium bowl. Add milk & butter to egg. Add egg mixture to dry ingredients and stir until JUST mixed (batter will be lumpy). Lightly spray muffin pan with olive oil spray. Fill muffin pan ¾ full & bake for 20 minutes at 230°C/425°F. Makes 12. Can be frozen.

EASY BANANA CAKE

- 2-3 very ripe bananas, mashed
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1½ cups SR flour
- 125g butter or margarine

Method: Cream butter & sugar. Add egg & mix in, add bananas & flour & mix (if too dry add a little milk) Grease a loaf tin & bake at 180°C for 45 minutes.



Samaria Rose Farm SEWING WORKSHOP

MACHINE SEWING

THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER 2026

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITY

MORNING BEGINNER CLASS

🕒 9:00am–12:00pm

🏷 Ages 10–17 \$80
Adults \$110

👥 6–8 participants

- Materials provided
- Sewing machines provided
- You are welcome to bring your own machine
- Homemade morning tea & drinks included
- Make a cosmetic bag, tote bag, apron and more



AFTERNOON INTERMEDIATE SEWING WORKSHOP

ADULTS & INTERMEDIATE TEENS WELCOME

🕒 1:00pm–4:00pm

🏷 Ages 10–17 \$120
Adults \$150

👥 6–8 participants

- Repurpose or redesign something special you already have
- Create or alter a garment or sewing project
- Sewing machines provided
- You are welcome to bring your own machine
- Homemade afternoon tea & drinks included



LEARN BY SUZANNE DOWD

Suzanne brings together her experience in fashion, teaching, sustainability and repurposing. After teaching sewing in Nepal, she is passionate about helping people of all skill levels feel confident and self-sufficient with sewing, while seeing new possibilities in fabrics and garments they already own.



SAMARIA ROSE FARM

SCAN TO BOOK



TATONG TAVERN



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Tatong Tavern

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Gawn to Town

The Mysterious Parcel

Ah, the utilities. No, not vehicles; the postal and phone services. Can't live without them, can't shoot them.

When I went to the Riverina over 40 years ago, one of the last party lines was being phased out. The Post Office guy reckoned automation would be ok, he was tired of people leaving the phone off the hook while they were out and asking him to keep an ear on the kids.

Our phone line trekked for miles alongside the electric fence. If it failed, you got a message to the guy in town, and he had it fixed by lunchtime. The mail arrived 3 times a week, in the 44-gallon-drum 10km from the house.

Amazing mobile phones eventually filtered down to us commoners. We got one in the 90s, although there was no reception on the farm. UHF reigned supreme. By the time the UHF radio fell into disuse, we had a mobile phone each. Happy commoners! Farming out of Benalla, the mail arrived 5 times a week, and the mail-drum was only 300 metres from the house. Things were looking up.

Our mobiles were with Southern Phone for years. Then they switched me to Optus. I had to change provider in order to have my phone work in other than Benalla CBD. Recently, Australia Post emailed my partner that Southern Phone were sending him a package... they'd labelled it! They'd sent it! It was getting closer! (Just as well email doesn't waste trees.) It had arrived! But not in our home mailbox, nor our PO Box. The next day I went to the Post Office. The staffer looked up our address, and said, "oh yes, that parcel was delivered 8 minutes ago! Here's a photo of it sitting on your freezer!" So I went home, only to find no package on our freezer.

The package from Southern Phone had gone to where we used to live. It was an Optus SIM; Southern Phone have given Telstra the flick. On activation, it produced such appalling service that I had to organise a Telstra SIM. Ordering one online meant repeatedly filling in data and credit card details, and repeatedly being told something had gone wrong, try again later. At least one can buy the beggar at the supermarket. Once activated, transferring someone else's account, when my phone has it's own Boost account, and wrong protocol on how the prior phone company's name is set out, proved positively migraine inducing. After more sessions of filling in data and credit card details, and failing... finally the bloody thing worked.

But what of that mysterious parcel on the freezer? We didn't know what it was, who sent it, or what had become of it. The Post Office couldn't tell me much, and Aust Post email is answered by the cognitively challenged. I rang AustPost, and when the machine said there was a long wait, let them ring me back. When they did, the machine said, "Press one to receive this call, press 2 to cancel". I pressed 1, and was told, "Your call has been cancelled".

So I rang back, declined their offer to ring me back, listened to a lot of bad music, and finally got to speak to... a human! A fantastic, competent guy! who hunted down the data, sent me the photos of the mysterious package, and established that actually it was from a month before. The computer tracking system had decided to attach the photo to the recent delivery, and had helpfully even put the wrong date on it.

Won't things be marvellous when AI is in charge?

- Andi Stevenson, older & greyer

White Gate



News & Dates

The September White Gate dinner @ the Tavern falls on Wednesday 2nd. White-Gations past & present can discuss the latest Big Rain, as compared with past Great Rains, Long Rains, Decidedly Wet rains, and the time Les MacLean bogged his horse.

Speaking of equines, looking through some photos from 2006 I found these of an Aarunga foal born in August, 20 years ago. Still cute. - Andi Stevenson



White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Bill Sykes	23 Aug	David Elford	20 Sep
Noel Hutchens	30 Aug	Leigh Humphries	27 Sep
Matthew De Fazio	6 Sep	Jason Humphries	4 Oct
Ross Runnalls	13 Sep	Norton Grimwade	11 Oct

Miscellaneous Announcements

The next Girls Shed will be on Friday 18th September, Saturday 19th and Sunday 19th September at the Tatong Memorial Hall.

The next Tatong Dinner will be on Wednesday 9th September at 6.30pm at the Tatong Tavern.

The next Whitegate Dinner will be on Wednesday 2nd September at the Tatong Tavern

Swanpool News

We have been enjoying the recent rains, good to see our dams and waterways restored.

Our little community has had a busy winter, hosting a very successful Trivia Night to benefit Swanpool CFA, which thanks to the generosity of patrons and donors raised \$5000. Our Bowls Club casserole nights have been very enjoyable, now our players are looking forward to recommencing their competitive bowls season, starting in mid October,

Swanpool Crafters are hosting their next Crafters' Day on Sunday 30 August, at the Oval Pavilion. For \$10 a head, participants will be provided with tea, coffee, cakes, slices, and creative camaraderie. Lunch is BYO. Any queries, please contact Shirley on 0407 682 575.

Volunteers at the Albert Heaney Oval have been working hard behind the scenes doing major renovations in the kitchen. The Oval Pizzeria will once again be in full swing on Friday 25 September, from 5.00pm, with takeaway available. Payment is by cash or card, BYO drinks. Enquiries and orders to Marg, 0438 295 060

Swanpool Cinema is back with a bang, starting its new season with a matinee on Friday 4 September at 10.30 am, screening a new black comedy "The Christophers", starring Ian McKellen. The children of a once famous and irascible artist hire a forger to complete some of his unfinished and abandoned works to ensure they will have an inheritance, with foreseeable results. The same film will also feature on the Double Bill for that weekend. We pay tribute to the late great Sam Neill with a special Double Bill over the weekend of 19 and 20 September, featuring the beloved "Hunt For the Wilderpeople", which was also one of Sam's favourites, and a very early film he made with Judy Davis, "My Brilliant Career".

A privately arranged matinee is scheduled for Saturday 19 September at 1.30pm, as a fundraiser for the Mansfield chapter of Rural Australians for Refugees, screening a special documentary made by Muzafar Ali, who escaped the Taliban with his wife ten years ago. This is the only film on our programme for which bookings are essential, via Humanitix, https://events.humanitix.com/mansfieldrar_wearenotpowerless, or swanpool-cinema.com.aun

Due to the rising cost of everything, we have had to slightly increase our ticket prices to \$15 full price/\$13 concession for our Double Bills, and \$12 for our matinees, but we still offer the most affordable all round Cinema experience in the region!

We look forward to welcoming our patrons old and new to another fabulous season!

Deb

TATONG ARCHERY CLUB NEWS

We are still active in spite of the wet and cold weather. I have been unable to hold the bow properly since my wrist fracture happened three months ago but finally during this recent weekend of our usual shooting Sunday, the 16th August, I managed to shoot with a beginners bow albeit not very accurately. It's always nice to have progress after an injury because while the body does the internal healing I/we must rebuild strength and flexibility through appropriate exercise and practice.

Everyone is welcome to participate with us in this sport for all ages, genders and even political stance. We shoot on the Tatong recreation reserve fortnightly starting at 1:30pm. The only fee is a \$5 donation per individual, or family group, each day of shooting which is for club equipment and oval upkeep. We have spare bows and arrows and provide some instructions for beginners.

Mike Larkin

All aboard the AI roundabout.

Recently I wanted to check a claim with my medical insurer. I typed the insurer's name into the search engine on my computer and in one of the results was the option to 'login'.

I clicked on this and followed the prompts to enter my details and my account details – easy! – so far so good.

Up popped a message saying I was to be sent a verification code to the mobile phone attached to this account.

Now, I suspect the last time I logged in (if I have ever logged in) to this account was when Methuselah was a mere lad. It was certainly before two step verification was ever dreamt of.

There was no mobile phone attached to this account, therefore no verification code, therefore no entry.

Easy thinks I – I will add my mobile phone number to my account. Not easy thinks my insurer because to do this I would need to access my account.

I needed help. I noticed on the task bar a HELP option. I duly clicked this and started an interaction with a virtual something or other.

I explained my problem of needing to add my mobile phone number to my account.

I typed in all my details and answered all the AI questions and in the end was told I need a mobile phone number attached to my account.

At this point I yelled something unrepeatable at my computer screen. My insurer must have heard me because another 'assistant' came online, this time purporting to be human and asking for ID.

I answered all kinds of personal questions – OK so far. She then wanted me to send scans of photo IDs and a photo of me holding my photo ID next to my face.

I suggested she must be joking and 'bid her farewell'.

I lodged a complaint. I have received an email saying they can help me – hopefully it's from a human and they can help me (if I'm not beyond help?).

John Knapper

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



Looking forward to a couple of months of mild (mostly) sunny weather.

After a rather wet cloudy winter - it is good to be able to look forward to some sunny days, just right for getting out in the garden.

Out in the vegie garden it is possible to start planting leeks, onions, parsley, parsnips, cauliflower, peas, radish, silverbeet, lettuce, swedes and turnips.

It is too early for tomatoes, eggplant, basil and capsicums just yet. However, if you have a hot box or heated growing pad in a protected place - this is a good way to grow your own favourites from seed.

Spring is finally here.
... I think ... Maybe
... Hopefully.



I have written before about the value of a hot box in the garden.

Start off by making the frame - screwing together some pieces of external plywood. The dimensions for the box will be based on the glass that you will have available for the lid - a salvaged window frame is good for this.

A generous coat of linseed oil will help preserve the plywood.

Next dig a hole slightly larger than the hot box and roughly 18 inches (45 cm) deep. Fill this with fresh grass clippings and any animal manure you have to hand. Or if you are the owner of a horse - skip the grass bit and just use "horse". Pack it all down - cover with a layer of sawdust or fine mulch - weed matting will also make a snug base and the hot box is ready to go.

Sowing in the Hot Box



It is best to use a proper seed raising mix as this is finer than regular potting mix and allows closer contact between the soil and the seed thus improving the chance of germination.

The lid goes back on top, but once the seedlings have appeared, on sunny days, open the lid to allow some ventilation and prevent "cooking" the new little plants.

After around 4 weeks the seedlings will be strong enough to be planted out.

September 2021

A large plastic storage box with lid can also be used - this can be put out in the sun and even brought indoors on frosty nights if you wish.

Some bottles of water around the outside of the storage box, will provide some thermal mass which will help stabilise the temperature.



In the herb garden plant these after the frost risk has passed.

Chamomile, dill, coriander, Echinacea, parsley, catnip and thyme. Also try lemon balm but keep it in a pot, as it has a tendency to take over!

Green manure crops: broad beans, barley, lupin, wheat or field peas are good to go now. When around 1 foot (30 cm) high, these are dug in to improve the soil.

Crop Rotation something to consider when getting ready to plant out the Vegie garden for Summer.

Why rotate? Well different vegetables prefer different soil conditions. The soil needs to be treated to suit the new vegetable and this is much easier to achieve if the recommended rotation is followed. A four crop rotation works well but six is even better: For example, onions like alkaline soil, whereas tomatoes like it acidic.



Year 1



Year 2



Year 3



Year 4

Therefore, when planting onions in a bed that was previously occupied by tomatoes, the soil needs to be limed. The old onion bed will be occupied by legumes (peas and beans) next year, because they also love sweet soil. The legumes will fill the soil with nitrogen so they can be followed by leaf vegies such as cabbages, cauliflower, broccoli, lettuces and silver beet. Following that will be the root crops (carrots, parsnips and beetroot) that don't need much manure.

In the following season the bed will be planted with tender vegies

such as sweet corn, pumpkin, cucumber and zucchini, which live happily together in one bed. After these have had their turn, the soil will have started to turn acidic again so it will be back to the tomatoes and capsicums again.

Happy Gardening



Kathy Z

Tatong Football Netball Club Reunion

Tatong Recreation Reserve

FRIDAY 2PM
25TH SEPT

AFL Grand Final Public Holiday



Celebrations

- Memorabilia, Displays and old video footage
- Premiership Wins, Achievements & Memories
- Kids! Wear your Team Footy Jersey for AFL Parade & fun activities
- 2:30PM Tatong's Famous Bon Fire & afternoon tea in the club rooms
- Tatong Talk Back - Reminisce on the old times
- Roast Dinner - Goldhammer Catering
- **Ticket Purchase Essential for Catering, please purchase before 18/09/2026**

Tickets QR Code for Eventbrite ticket (Incur fees)



- \$10 Adults General
- \$40 Adults including Meal
- Kids Free or \$15 for Meal (12 and Under)
- Purchase via Eventbrite or Contact below
- BYO Drinks - No Glass - 10c collection for Reunion Fund

Contact tatongfncreunion@gmail.com

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Al Riley - 0428 438 237 | • Anthony Putt - 0417 300 942 |
| • Jade Kirk - 0408 197 865 | • Jess Ritchie - 043 903 6678 |



Wordsearch 'Fancy a Bickie...'

A cuppa isn't the same without one.

Puzzle Tip: Words can overlap and be horizontal, vertical, diagonal and/ or reversed.

S	C	P	A	N	S	T	U	N	R	E	T	T	U	B
S	H	D	E	L	T	A	C	R	E	A	M	N	R	E
N	O	O	I	C	E	D	V	O	V	O	R	A	E	T
W	C	D	R	H	T	U	N	R	E	G	N	I	G	O
O	O	H	G	T	G	A	S	U	A	V	P	T	N	O
R	L	M	O	I	B	O	N	I	E	S	O	E	I	R
C	A	R	K	C	B	R	E	Z	I	Z	T	N	F	W
L	T	O	E	T	R	T	E	R	A	M	O	E	H	O
E	E	I	R	O	Y	I	C	A	O	C	C	V	C	R
M	M	A	M	C	L	N	P	I	D	Y	I	E	T	R
A	O	U	O	T	O	I	E	P	T	C	A	P	O	A
R	N	R	R	M	A	V	E	C	L	H	R	L	C	K
A	T	I	E	S	B	M	U	S	I	E	K	E	S	L
C	E	L	O	L	R	A	C	E	T	N	O	M	A	I
W	A	G	O	N	W	H	E	E	L	S	C	M	A	M

ANZAC	SHORTBREAD CREAM
BUTTERNUT SNAP	TIC TOC
CHOC RIPPLE	TIM TAM
CHOCOLATE MONTE	VENETIAN
DELTA CREAM	WAGON WHEELS
CARAMEL CROWNS	
GAIETY	
GINGER NUT	
ICED VOVO	
LEMON CRISP	
MILK ARROWROOT	
MONTE CARLO	
NICE	
OREO	
ROYALS	
SCOTCH FINGER	

The Tattler welcomes another puzzle from contributor Amanda Greene.



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Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
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.
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	74	70	622.3
2026	0.5	52.8	50.3	40.4	54.5	153.7	126.6						478.8

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

We have had another month with substantial rainfall with 85.5mm so far received for the first half of this month of August. July got a total of 126.6mm for the whole month. From comparing notes with the rainfall figures of others who are only a small distance from the township, and usually in the hills, and I have found that they can get considerably more rain, so trust your gauge because while it may differ from my figures the rain gauge is the arbiter.

It is the time of looking forward to warmer and dryer weather because for us at least we are satisfied with the rainfall. Spring and autumn are the times of moderation and beauty for our part of the world.

Mike Larkin

De Fazio Concreting

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decorative
concrete

Laurie - 0407 099 930
Matt - 0410 514 192
Christian - 0415 422 942

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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

PAYMENT by EFT:

BSB 803078 A/C 100036313 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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