TATONG and District TATTLER

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THE TATONG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY IS WARMLY INVITED TO THE

TATONG Christmas BBQ

SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER @5PM

TATONG COMMUNITY CENTRE & RECREATION RESERVE

Santa will be arriving at 6pm

BBQ DINNER PROVIDED - BYO DRINKS



Queries: Bek 0414 527 795

TATONG DISTRICT

FIRE READY BREAKFAST

Sunday Nov 29 @9am
Tatong Recreation Reserve

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Understanding Tatong's fire risk
- When to leave and where to go
- Preparing homes and properties
- Livestock, horses and pets
- Water, pumps and power failure
- Communications when everything fails
- Fire trucks and emergency access
- Looking after vulnerable neighbours
- Emergency kits and documents
- What to do if fire catches you unexpectedly
- What happens after a fire
- Developing a Tatong community response network

Tatong Acting Captian: Leigh O'Gorman **0430 047 766**



CFA Brigade News

Hello All,

The Tatong Brigade held a general meeting on the 18th of October at which the winning tender for the superseded ultralight was announced. Congratulations to Leigh O'Gorman who put in the winning tender.

The coming fire season is expected to be eventful. Everyone should be well into their fire preparations as it is likely fire restrictions will be imposed in early November. Keep an eye on the fire danger rating for each day. The rating should act as a trigger for your plan.



Training for brigade members has resumed on selected Tuesday evenings. Keep an eye out for messages from our training officer advising of the dates. We have had a good turnout for the combined brigades training days held with Molyullah and Lurg in the past two months. Thanks go to Dennis Hevey, Trish Curtis and Geoff Rowe for organising the days.

And finally, I would like to thank all of the brigade members who have assisted me over the past five years with the running of the brigade. It has been an honour to have served as Captain of the Tatong CFA. Unfortunately, due to health reasons, I have had to stand aside from active duties and have decided to resign as Captain. Leigh O'Gorman will step into the Captain's role until brigade elections are held next year. I wish him well and will continue to provide whatever support I can. Hopefully I can return to active duty at some point in the future.

All the best,

Jason Nichols

Captain Tatong CFA

THE ODYSSEY - AGAIN

According to the oracle (Google) the Christopher Nolan movie, THE ODYSSEY DVD'S will be released for public sale on November the 17th this year. I did consider purchasing the movie DVD in the Blue Ray version but one must also use a blue ray player, probably high speed HDMI connection cables and so on. And then what if the movie is a big disappointment! On the movies star rating score I am fairly confident that it will be high due to my respect for the reviewer who fully convinced me that we should be grateful to Nolan for his "masterpiece" - so fingers crossed!

Mike Larkin



You may not be familiar with the name Rachel Blekic, however some may remember Rachel Humphries (her maiden name) who played for Tatong Football Netball club in her youth.

Rachel played for Tatong for a long time before moving away for her career. Now married and living in Tallygaroopna with her husband, Shane Blekic and two children, she is a much-valued player for Tallygaroopna in the Katandra and District league.

2026 has proven to be an extremely successful year for both Tallygaroopna and Rachel.

Tallygaroopna C grade netball won the 2026 League Grand Final. For her part in it, Rachel was awarded 2026 Grand Final Best Player on Ground. She was also the runner up for the Best and Fairest award for the league. She won her club's Best and Fairest award for the second time in 2026, also receiving this award in 2025.

However, that's not where the story ends for Rachel. She is the very proud mother of Jimmy and Charlotte. Like her mother, Charlotte plays netball for Tallygaroopna in the Under 15's. She helped her team to win the 2026 League Grand Final.

Jimmy, not satisfied with playing Football for Tallygaroopna Under 18's, also plays for the Seniors, regularly smashing out two games on the one day. At only 16 years old, Jimmy stands at 6 foot, 4 inches. In 2026, Jimmy was awarded Tallygaroopna's Best and Fairest in the Under 18 division. He was also awarded the League's Under 18's Best and Fairest and came second in the goal kicking in the league. It's no wonder he has been offered (and accepted) a place in the AFL Academy.

Who knew, when Rachel played for Tatong all those years ago, that she and her children would achieve such heights?

- Krys Evgenidis











Girls shed three-day crafting event.
Once again, the three-day workshop produced some extraordinary creations.
Sewing, quilting, knitting, crocheting, mosaics, embroidery, cross-stitch.
There was also some very yummy homemade treats to eat with our tea and coffee.
Thank you to all the women who attended, and to those who intended to come, but life just got in the way. We will see you soon.
Please call me if you have any questions about our monthly Friday craft days or the next three-day event.
Cathy Karis 0488 377 243

TATONG TOPICS – NOVEMBER 1926;

Benalla Standard 2nd November 1926:
RIFLE SHOOTING.
A triangular rifle match was fired at Tatong on Saturday, the range being 500 yards, 10 shots, with 8 men aside. The teams comprised Tatong. Molyullah and Swanpool. Afternoon tea was provided by the Tatong club.
The day was anything but suitable for good shooting. The Tatong team, which was composed mostly of recruits, made a good showing for their first match. The following are the scores —
MOLYULLAH.—V. Gardiner 47, G. McFadzean 42, F. Wallace 30. W. Clarke 38. S. McFadzean 42. S. Hammond 42, J. S. Westwood 40. M. Westwood 30; total, 326.
SWANPOOL.—C. Burns 41, W. Dennis 45, H. Payne 45, R. Newman 40, Price 44, P. Evans 38. W. Dennis 45, J. Wright 37: total, 335.
TATONG.—P. Pusley 30. A. Harrison 15, H. Doherty 41..T. Spencer 38. W. Wilson 36
T. McCauley 38 J. Drummond 20, W. Briggs 38; total. 301.

Benalla Standard 5th November 1926:
Bitten by Snake.—Dorothy Briggs. the 17-months old daughter of Constable and Mrs. Briggs. of Tatong, was playing on the back veranda of her home on Monday evening at about 6.45. when she was bitten on the leg between the knee and the thigh by a snake. First aid was rendered by her father, and the little tot then brought into Rossmore Private Hospital. Being out of danger on Tuesday she was permitted to return home.

Benalla Standard 9th November 1926:
Council News. Engineers Report.
Tatong Riding.
I am informed by the C.R.B. that Tatong-Toombullup road will be declared a main road, and Mr. Clements' tender for the supply of spalls has therefore been accepted, and he has been instructed to proceed with the work.
Contractor Pearson is proceeding with road machine work on Samaria road.
Good work has been done with the small grader on Tatong road, and this is a particularly cheap method of making a summer running track, costing less than half the larger machine to work.

Benalla Standard 9th November 1926:
Herbert Ledger. Having been favoured with instructions from MRS. C. ASBURY, who is leaving the district, will sell (through his auctioneer) as follows: 11 ACRES of good land in Tatong township, on which is erected a comfortable house of 4 rooms and kitchen; large galvanised iron barn and skillion; windmill and piping (erected at a cost of £100); water laid on; underground tank; dam; small orchard (orange, lemon and mixed fruit trees); vegetable garden, etc.

Benalla Standard 16th November 1926:
TATONG V. KARN.
'On Saturday last Tatong Tennis Club journeyed to Karn to play the first game in their association and proved victorious. A. very pleasant afternoon was spent. Afternoon tea was provided by the Karn ladies.
Following are the scores, Tatong being first-mentioned:—-
A. Wallace and T. McCauley a M. Seymour and L. Connolly, 0—3; lost to S. Weston and E. Peak, 6—0; d T. Knight and C. Cattell, 6—0. T. Daly and T. Gardiner lost, to M. Seymour and L. Connolly, 2—6: d S Weston and E. Peak, 6—1; d Knight; and Cattell, 6—4. T. Maher and B. Beard lost to M. Seymour and L. Connolly, 2—6; lost to Weston, and Peak, 6—0; d Knight and Cattell, 6—2.
Misses McCauley and E. Mongan d. Misses R. Little and G. Knight, 0-6; d J. and D. Crawford, 6—1: Mrs. Archer and Miss Thompson lost to Misses R. Little and G. Knight 2—6; lost, to Misses .T. and D. Crawford, 5—6.
Tatong. 60 games; Karn, 53 games.

Benalla Standard 16th November 1926: (abridged)
RED POLL STUD SALE. Stock Realise up to 100 Gns.
On Friday last, 12th inst., one of the largest Red Poll stud sales ever held in Victoria was conducted by the Victorian Producers' Co-Op. Co. Ltd., on the property, "Flowing Vale," Lima East, and was most, successful from all standpoints. At the outset, reference was made to the experience and judgment of Mr. P. E. Evans, owner of "Flowing Vale" stud, and this was exemplified in the appearance and quality of the stock catalogued and brought forward for sale.
There was a splendid attendance of buyers from the surrounding districts and outsiders were present from Bathurst (N.S.W.), Flinders Island. Werribee State Research Farm, Cudgewa. Kyneton, Yarrawonga, Tallangatta, Wangaratta, Tarrawingie, Toolamba, Tatura, Kyabram, Shepparton, St. James, Devenish, Thoona and Tatong. Bidding was brisk from the outset, and a lively interest was maintained throughout the sale. In addition to a number of local purchases, consignments were acquired by buyers from each of the places above-mentioned. The top price of the day for females was 70 guineas, paid for Merven (133AA), born 6th June, 1920, sire Dinkum Astrologer (29 AA), dam Mignonette (135AA). The bull Dinkum Astrologer (29AA), born 10th February, 1917; sire Honingham Astrologer (imp. 49AA); dam, Dinkum (45AA), and bred by Major Phillip Charley, realised 100 guineas.
It was agreed on all sides that the sale was the best ever conducted in the Benalla district.

Compiled by Barry O'Connor. Tatong Heritage Group.

Back Through the Top Gate: Tatong FNC Reunites Generations

It was almost as though traditional grassroots footy was back at the Tatong Recreation Reserve, reuniting the much-loved local sporting club that was once the heartbeat of the Tatong community. Past players, members, supporters and volunteers were a welcome sight, enjoying the company and social atmosphere, sharing a love of sport, reminiscing about old times and sharing tales as they came together through their shared bond with the Tatong Football Netball Club.

Long before the reigning AFL premiers, the Brisbane Lions, and their predecessors, made their mark with three premierships in a row, Tatong had already done it — not just once, not twice, but three times!

While Brisbane's achievement has captured the attention of the football world, Tatong has its own proud three-in-a-row history — achieved on three separate occasions across the club's history, including one remarkable run by the Reserves Team.

1960, 1961 and 1962 were three years of gruelling success for Tatong. What makes those consecutive premierships even more special to remember today is the three teammates who shared those victories and, more than 60 years later, would reunite at the very home ground where they once played.

The 2026 Tatong Football Netball Club Reunion had been in the making for months. Scheduled for the AFL Long Weekend, it was game day on Friday at the Tatong Recreation Reserve. From the moment you entered through the top gate, the scene was set for reflection and nostalgia.

For many, it was once a familiar Saturday morning ritual — coming through the gates, purchasing the weekly *On the Ball*, making your way towards the oval and looking out across the green playing field before heading towards the netball court. For some, it was a walk taken well over a hundred times, through years of football and netball seasons.

This time, though, it was a little different.

It was a walk back through history.

Over afternoon tea in the clubhouse, with homemade triangle sandwiches, slices and plenty of conversation, memories of past days began to come alive.

And there they were — Merv Smith, 89, John Mitchell, 88, and Geoff Green, 92.

Three teammates who had all played in those three consecutive premierships.

The trio sat together on the old steel-frame bench, a fitting place to reflect before gathering for the 1960s team photograph.

The bench itself seemed to belong to another era, its weathered and rusty frame carrying a little piece of the 1960s with it.

They had once pulled on the black-and-white striped collared woollen jumpers, battled it out on the same oval and celebrated premiership victories together.

Now, more than six decades later, they were sitting side by side once again.

The 1960s team photograph was followed by photographs from the 70s, 80s, 90s and into the 2000s, each bringing another generation of players together — both football and netball players.

The black-and-white jumper eventually made way for teal, but the faces, friendships and stories continued.

And it wasn't just the players who brought those memories flooding back. There were the ladies who once sat on the Ladies Committee, rostered for canteen duty, washed jumpers, prepared afternoon teas and supported the club in countless ways, watching on from the verandah of the clubrooms as the games unfolded on the oval and netball court.

For many of those women and families, Saturday was more than just game day. It was a day of volunteering, catching up, cheering from the sidelines and being part of the club — traditions passed down through generations.

There were also the members who once sat on the General Committee, attended League meetings on the club's behalf, marked the lines on the oval, offered a welcome and familiar smile at the gate, and took on the many jobs behind the scenes that simply had to be done to keep the club going.

Older now — perhaps a little fairer with less hair here and there, and a few more rounded than in their playing days — but still recognisable faces.

And the humour?

That hadn't changed.

Neither had the banter between teammates.

As each photograph was taken, old faces became living memories again, and stories from years gone by were shared as though the final siren had only sounded yesterday.

The Reserves side also enjoyed its own successful era, recording three premierships in a row in the early 1980s. There were seasons that came agonisingly close as well, leaving plenty of room for those familiar football conversations about *what might have been*.

Then came another golden era for the club.

1994, 1995 and 1996 saw Tatong's Senior side claim three consecutive premierships — another remarkable three-in-a-row achievement for the club.

With netball having been introduced to the league in 1993, the club was entering another important chapter. The girls were achieving success on the court with premierships of their own, while football, netball, families and the wider Tatong community were becoming even more intertwined.

Anthony Putt would lead the Senior side through those three premiership victories, and in his address to the reunion crowd, he took everyone back through the club's history — back to its beginnings in 1908, and through the generations of families, players, supporters and volunteers who have helped shape Tatong Football Netball Club.

While it has now been 30 years since the Senior side's last premiership in 1996, there have been plenty of close contests and near misses over the years.

But through the highs and lows, the pride in the club has remained.

So too has the sense of family — gathering around the famous fire, sharing stories, having a laugh and continuing the traditions that have been passed down through generations.

With more than 100 years of history behind the club, it was fitting that the club's Centenary year, 1908–2008, would bring another special Grand Final victory. *Jess Ritchie* ***Photos will be in the December Tattler***



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HOWLONG DUO TAKES 1ST PLACE IN MYRTLEFORD

Howlong dancers Lila, (youngest granddaughter of Joan & Barry Lewis) on left and Alexa achieved 1st place in the Under 16 Lyrical Duo at the recent Front and Centre Dance Competition in Myrtleford.

Performing to Hold My Hand by Lady Gaga, the adjudicator praised them for being beautifully in sync, highlighting their strong connection and timing.

Both girls train at Empower Dance Academy in Howlong, where they've been dancing for six years – a wonderful achievement for two dedicated young performers.

Joan Lewis



Tatong Heritage Group members. Heather, Barry, Chick, Joan, Bev, Janet, Andi and Joe



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

White Gate News & Dates

The November White Gate dinner @ the Tavern comes forth on the fourth, it being the first Wednesday, at last. It is 10 years since I stopped being a genuine White-Gatian. So I revisited memory lane, otherwise known as Knight Rd, and was rewarded with a thick chunk of wire in the tyre. Never happened in the 15 years we lived there. An act to ward off artificial White-Gatians, or to belabour me for leaving? Many thanks to Murray, who very kindly changed the sorry looking tyre. - *Andi Stevenson*

On the De Fazio Dairy Farm:

What a year it's been. Grass up to the top of the fence, cattle looking fat and happy everywhere.

Our girls are milking so much we need twice daily pickups. Unfortunately, we were charged an extra $1000 for the month of twice daily pickups!!

Silage everywhere, lots of hay to come. If this is the super El Nino, bring it on. - *Linda De Fazio*



White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Andrew Marriott	25 Oct	Murray Parton	22 Nov
Terry Trounson	1 Nov	Angus/Hamish McMillan	6 Dec
Dave Sweatman	8 Nov	Laurie De Fazio	13 Dec
James Parton	15 Nov	Tom/Elise/Adam/Mark	20 Dec

An artistic shot from Caryn De Fazio, entitled, "Salami 2027; Dolly Parton, Wade & Shrek."



Whitegate residents did a sterling job at the Benalla Show!

There were several wins and places, including:

- Marriots with the Clydesdales
- Claire with her stock horse.
- James & Theona Parton: Long wool, oats
- Murray Parton: Comeback Wool & Lucerne
- Alex Parton: Eggs and flowers
- Andrew Parton: Flowers
- Arthur Parton: Chickens
- Elly Thorne: Shetland pony classes, Cooking - fruit cake; Pasture and clover classes
- Elise Lang: Cooking; Slices, sweets and chutneys
- Harriet Lang: Best Fairy Garden
- Henry Lang: Decorated garden.
- Fiona & Myra Hauptmann: Art, Photography, Cooking, Diorama, Farm Produce
- Jennifer Sparke: Flowers
- The Hauptman Girls: Dog



Harriet and Henry Lang with the fairy gardens



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Recipes by Sue



As Christmas is fast approaching, I thought you might like to make something from here as gifts for family or friends.

SHORTBREAD
500g butter 3 cups plain flour
1 cup castor sugar 1 cup rice flour
2 teaspoons vanilla pinch of salt
Method: Preheat oven to 180˚ C
Beat butter & sugar till creamy & add vanilla.
Fold in the combined sifted flours & salt.
Roll out & cut into shapes.
Grease an oven tray. Bake 10-15 minutes.

PEPPERMINT LOG
125g melted butter or margarine
½ tin sweetened condensed milk
125g glace cherries
250g morning coffee biscuits
30 plus peppermint creams, chopped
Method: Mix all together & form into logs.
Roll in coconut, then refrigerate.

PUMPKIN FRUIT CAKE
125 g margarine
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1 Tablespoon golden syrup
1 cup HOT pumpkin, mashed
2 cups SR flour
Pinch salt
Method: Cream butter & sugar, add eggs & beat well. Add golden syrup & pumpkin.
Sift in flour & salt. Mix lightly. Add mixed fruit.
Bake in a lined cake tin for 1 hour.
Ice with lemon icing.

YO-YO BISCUITS
170g butter
½ cup icing sugar
½ cup custard powder
170g plain flour
Method: Cream butter & sugar, add custard powder & flour.
Roll into small balls & then press with a fork.
Bake in a moderate oven for 20 minutes.

ALMOND BREAD
4 egg whites
142g caster sugar
142g plain flour
4.8g whole almonds with brown skins left on.
Method: Beat egg whites until stiff. Add sugar a little at a time, then sifted flour & almonds.
Pour into a greased or lined log shape tin & bake in a slow oven 150˚ C. When cold wrap in a tea towel & keep for 1 week, then slice into thin slices & put into a slow oven until pale golden colour. Approximately 10 minutes.

FRUIT SLICE
114 g margarine 1 cup cold milk
¾ cup sugar 1 teaspoon carb soda
1 teaspoon mixed spice 1¾ cups SR flour
1 cup mixed fruit or sultanas
Method: Warm margarine, sugar, fruit & spice in a saucepan. Remove from heat & add milk to which carb soda has been mixed. Sift flour.
Pour into a greased slice tin & bake for 20 minutes.
Either ice with butter or lemon icing & sprinkle with nuts. If making for yourself serve with this ice cream, which is very yummy.
Ice cream: ½ litre vanilla ice cream
Cream De Menthe liquer to colour & flavour

RUM BALLS
21 plain milk biscuits
1 cup coconut
2 Tablespoons cocoa
1 tin sweetened condensed milk
1 teaspoon or a little more of vanilla or rum
Method: Mix all ingredients together. Roll into small balls then roll in coconut. Store in refrigerator.

CHILLI SPICED MIXED NUTS
1 Tablespoon coconut oil, melted
1 Tablespoon honey
1 teaspoon smoked paprika
¼ - ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper, depending how hot you want them to be.
1 teaspoon salt
3 cups mixed nuts.
Method: Preheat oven to 150˚C.
Combine everything except the nuts in a large bowl. Add nuts & toss until nuts are coated & mixture is well combined.
Pour onto a baking tray lined with baking paper & bake 15-20 minutes until fragrant & just lightly browned. Cool on a wire rack.

Miscellaneous Announcements

The next Girls Shed will be on Friday 20th November at the Tatong Memorial Hall.

The next Tatong Dinner will be on Wednesday 11th November at 6.30pm at the Tatong Tavern.

The next Whitegate Dinner will be on Wednesday 4th November at the Tatong Tavern

More from Mike
I am anticipating taking a lot of green waste to the tip during the weekend of the 24/25th of October when, for those who do not know, dumping the weeds and offcuts are free.

Also an Australia wide garage sale is to be held on both the 7th and 8th of November as well as the 14th and 15th of November. There is no fee for this either. I will probably be holding a sale on the 7th. Garage Sales under this plan get free publicity and advice. (I am having trouble registering my sale. I will keep an eye on FB local noticeboards for further information.) Mike Larkin



Swanpool News

All our groups are busy as ever, with our informal Men's Shed blokes assisting professional tradies to install a new battery system on the Hall, thanks to a major grant from Ausnet.

This will ensure that the Hall's many functions as focal gathering place, Place of Greater Safety, and Cinema will be optimally supported , and continue to run even when faced with major outages.

The Bowls season has officially started, with our individual players and teams young and old acquitting themselves well.

Our local Pizzeria will not be running this November, as the Albert Heaney Pavilion will be in use as a Voting Centre for the State Election. Instead, the next Pizza Night is scheduled for Friday 4 December, from 5.00pm.
The usual range of delicious pizzas will be available, and takeaway orders can be placed as well. Contact Marg on 0438295060

The Swanpool Crafters will be hosting their next get together on Sunday 29 November at the Swanpool Pavilion. For a small cost of $10 per head, participants are treated to a range of home-made cakes and slices and hot drinks. They are asked to supply their own lunches.
These days are always very popular with lots of laughs and crafts!

Swanpool Hall will be buzzing during the Benalla Festival, with a popular movie matinee, a multimedia event celebrating migrants who arrived in Australia via the Bonegilla Migrant Camp, and a fantastic concert by the Australian Welsh Male Voice Choir.

The film matinee sees the welcome return of the delightful film "The Sheep Detectives", starring Hugh Jackman, Emma Thompson, and a group of clever woolly detectives. It will screen on Sunday 1st November at 1.30pm, and is followed by a free afternoon tea of scones, jam and cream! No need to book, but arrive in plenty of time to secure your sear, doors open at 1.00pm.

Musician, composer and film maker Simon Reich is bringing his much applauded multimedia show "Bonegilla: The Migrants Journey" including stories from Bonegilla Migrant Camp to Swanpool for just one night, Friday 6th November, 7.30pm. This show has sold out in much bigger venues around Australia, so book your tickets now, search Trybooking Bonegilla The Migrants Journey Swanpool .

On Sunday 8th November at 1.30pm, we are honoured to host the Australian Welsh Male Voice Choir, whose fabulous concert sold out when they last visited several years ago. Bookings essential, www.trybooking.com/DOQUL.
During the break, young musicians from Benalla P12 will be playing live for us on stage, with the support of their teacher Edwin!

The Cinema will also be screening a special programme from the St Kllda Film Festival on Friday 13 November from 7.00pm- no need to book, but arrive in enough time to order a pastry to be heated up at interval, and secure your favourite seat!

And there's more! Check out the Cinema website, www.swanpoolcinema.com.au for more information, or pick up a hard copy of our programme from outlets in Swanpool, Benalla or Mansfield. We look forward to welcoming you!

Deb

Recycled in memory of Kathy Z

GardenDaze

With a wetter Spring than usual the grass is growing at a great rate and the same can be said for the weeds in my garden.

Alstroemeria, also known as Peruvian Lilies, are native to South America where they occur mostly in the Andes. They have lush foliage and produce an abundance of colourful blooms from late spring through to early autumn. With contrasting shades (and whiskers), the flowers will last in a vase for two weeks, making them an excellent choice for cut flowers. Suitable for partial sunny conditions they grow well in garden beds, borders, or containers.



Alstroemeria – seen at their best naturalized under trees or on sloping banks - are planted from seed or root divisions in Autumn and enjoy plenty of water until the leaves yellow. They grow well in sun or light shade in a well enriched, well drained acidic soil. They soon form large clumps bearing dozens of flowerheads.

Whilst they are frost hardy it is advisable to protect the dormant tubers with mulch. They are best left undisturbed when established, but one year old seedlings will transplant well.

Orange was the basic colour of these flowers, but modern hybrids now produce colours of white, pink. Yellow and brick red. Atroemeria pulchella is sometimes known as the New Zealand Christmas Bell although the plant has its origins in Brazil.

Alstromeria are prominent in the cut flower trade, the blooms being bred commercially under glass to protect the flowers.

When you wish to cut the flowers of Alstroemeria to bring inside for a vase. "Cutting" is not the right expression. The blooms need to be pulled from the base (similar to picking rhubarb). This will stimulate the roots of the plant and produce more small tubers.



Once "pulled" the stem can be cut to the length desired.

Spring in the Garden

This is the time of the year when just about anything you fancy in the Summer Vegie range can be planted. It is also the time that I find it is not a good idea to get too carried away with a seed catalogue in front of me.

As most of my Veg Garden is now in Wicking Beds, I thought that having tomatoes that did not grow too tall would be a good idea and to that end I purchased *Silvery Fir Tree* – Red fruit, slightly flattened shape, compact plant to 60 cm - silvery grey foliage with a carrot shape - eye catching in hanging baskets or on patios. (I am presuming that the "carrot like shape" is the foliage and not the tomato!)



Scoresby - Round red fruit, excellent flavour, 4 – 6 cm great for preserves and sauce, disease resistant and could be used for rootstock. (This last sounds a bit too advanced for me!)

Wapsipinicon Peach – originated in 1890 under the name *White* Peach and is named after the Wapsipinicon river in north east Iowa USA - Yellow round fruit to 40 cm, tough fuzzy skin, excellent taste smooth texture. The reason for this purchase was that the "tough fuzzy skin" is reputed to deter the dreaded Fruit Fly. Time will tell.







Happy Gardening

Kathy Z

Gawn to Town

This time I planted my Yam Daisies in the veggie patch. After all, not only is a tuber a vegetable, a flower is a vegetable. According to a dictionary I long since threw away, a fruit is a vegetable to be eaten, and vegetable is a fruit to be cooked. (Do not rely on that dodgy definition.) Also, a chef told me that most flowers can be eaten. So I'll have pretty colours when I go foraging in the vegetable garden.

When I had more land, I enjoyed planting local native flora. After sacrificing half a dozen or so Yam Daisies, I realised it was just too depressing to find them dead or eaten. They may once have thrived in copious quantities, but here they've thrown in the towel.

The word "Daisy" is a very old English word, originally "Day's Eye". Could the bright pink flower of the Pig's Face then be called a daisy? They too laugh up at the sun, and fold up in the night-time.

Yam Daisies - or Murnong - or mayila to use the local term - were an important part of dinner hereabouts for millenia. Marvellous what a change a couple of hundred years of farming, sheep, traffic, rabbits etc has made. To enjoy a golden array of Yam Daisies, head out to Reef Hills, where currently they are mingling with a carpet of purple Chocolate Lilies. So beautiful, and a veritable picnic! if only chocolate lilies actually tasted like chocolate. Preferably 80% cocoa.

It wasn't actually the Yam Daisy flower that was eaten, but it's tuber, which could grow quite large. With changed land management practises, the larger ones have become scarce (except maybe, eventually, in my veggie bed...) The tuber is described as parsnip-like, but whether because it *looks* like a parsnip (it does) or *tastes* like a parsnip, I know not. Yet.

A multitude of dandelions now populates our countryside and urban areas, and while they look pretty like the Yam Daisy / Murnong / mayila, they belong to a different clan. Roasted dandelion roots have been ground up and used as a substitute for coffee, but I can't say I'm yearning to try that one.

Inland Pigs Faces also once carpeted the landscape, and Curr describes snacking on them in the 1840s.

Recent generations still foraged for food, down the paddock, or on the roadside. But it was too often felt to be a sign of poverty. Modern generations are flat out identifying vegetables in the supermarket, let alone in the wilds. In Europe foraging for a great variety of fungi has a proud history, but in Australia I fear Erin Pattison has cruelled that for a plan.

The plains of the past would have looked very pretty, thick with bright yellow Yam Daisies, and bright pink Pigs Faces. Now we have a similar colour scheme with Capeweed and Paterson's Curse.

Still pretty, but not so good for foraging.

- Andi Stevenson



VOTING AT THE TATONG HALL FOR THE November 2026 STATE ELECTIONS

As usually happens the State election voting will take place at the Tatong hall on Saturday the 28th of November 2026. The hall committee is planning to hold a BBQ/ sausage sizzle so bring some physical notes and coins to boost hall funds and enjoy a hearty brekky.
Mike Larkin

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Ken Spirilize.$45
6 litre Ambiano pressure cooker $48
Panasonic radio/cd RV.du 10 mains & battery… $50
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Kogan food processor $295
Plastic filing box with files $15
Contact Sue O'Brien

Help needed...

Seeking a reliable person to help with lawn mowing and basic gardening maintenance (approx. 2 hrs per fortnight – more frequently during springtime).

The garden is located in the Swanpool area.

If you are interested and wish to discuss further, please call Jane.

PH: 0427 781 724

Wordsearch 'On the Wing...'

Birds of Tatong

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

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

AUSTRALIAN RAVEN
BUNDJIL
CORELLA
GALAH
IBIS
KESTREL
KING PARROT
KOOKABURRA
MAGPIE
MAGPIE LARK
RED BROWED FINCH
ROBIN
ROSELLA
SATIN BOWERBIRD
SILVEREYE
SPINEBILL
SUPERB FAIRY WREN
SWALLOW
THORNBILL
TREECREEPER
WILLIE WAGTAIL
WOOD DUCK

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	130.7	35.3				*644.8*

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

While September's rainfall was a modest 35.3mm for the whole month. The rainfall for October, up until the 15th of the month is a solid 55.6mm. October's first three days of rain started from the second and totalled 48.8mm and we have had a follow up 6.8mm on the 13th.

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

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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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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).



