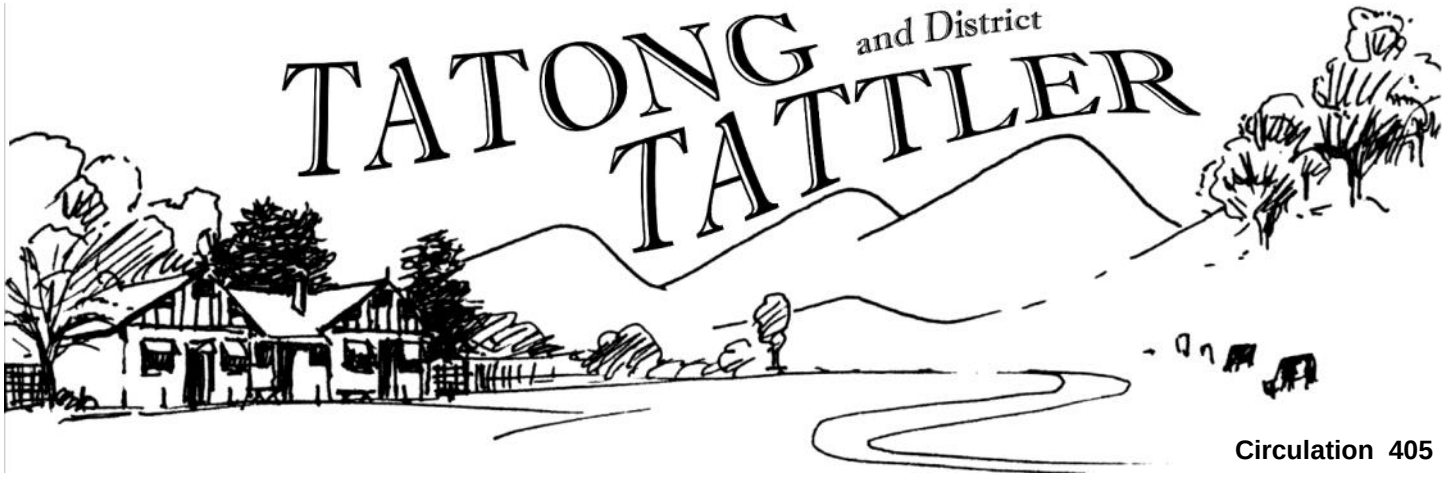


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The European Odyssey Part One

We have recently returned from a long European holiday—a grand itinerary that took us from Melbourne to Sicily, Barcelona, Paris, and eventually back to familiar haunts across the United Kingdom.

Our ambitious plan—flying non-stop from Melbourne to Sicily via Singapore and Rome, then recovering from the ordeal once we arrived—seemed to be working brilliantly. In fact, as we sat in the ITA lounge at Fiumicino waiting for our connecting flight to Catania, we were smugly congratulating ourselves on our own wisdom, while quietly pooh-poohing those cautious friends who had warned us against such a marathon journey.

We should perhaps have taken warning from the boarding process itself, a sheer free-for-all of surging crowds and thoroughly harassed staff that stood as an unheeded portent of the administrative unravelling to come. Once through the gate, we were herded onto a suffocatingly overcrowded tarmac bus that proceeded to take us on an interminable, winding journey to the far reaches of the airfield, where our plane sat waiting.

Nevertheless, our flight to Catania was only slightly delayed, and we still had every reason to believe that we would soon be unwinding at our hotel in Taormina.

We should have realised something was amiss when Gail, gazing out the window, pointed out vast plumes of red smoke and dust enveloping what we assumed to be Sicily. It also occurred to me that we were banking along the western side of the island, rather than the eastern coast where Catania actually sits.

Things were indeed going wrong—and on a fairly grand scale.

We eventually touched down in a distinctly rural landscape for an airport supposedly serving a major metropolitan hub. Switching on my phone, I discovered we were not in Catania at all, but at Comiso—a former USAF airbase tucked away in the far south of the island. As I voiced my growing bewilderment, a fellow passenger enlightened us: Catania Airport was closed due to major volcanic activity from Mount Etna. That, at least, explained the smoke and dust.

We disembarked with virtually no idea how we were going to reach Taormina (some 70 kilometres north of Catania). Joining the throng in a cramped baggage hall, we waited for our luggage. Naturally, ours was among the very last off the carousel—a timing quirk that did nothing to elevate our spirits.

By the time we emerged, crowds of weary travellers were attempting to shove themselves and their baggage onto a hopelessly inadequate fleet of buses bound for parts unknown. Now, anyone who knows me is aware of my deep affection for all things Italian—the art, the architecture, the food, the wine, the opera; however, one of the country's less endearing traits is a total allergy to organisation, a characteristic on full display amidst the unfolding chaos of Comiso Airport.

Several of us abandoned the immediate rugby scrum for the main buses. Fortunately, another vehicle pulled up nearby, and we moved toward it with all possible dispatch. We clambered aboard—and then waited. And waited.

I am not, by nature, a patient man. By this point, I was rapidly losing the will to live. Ignoring Gail’s gentle entreaties to stay put, I disembarked to engage a small group of men who appeared to be potential drivers. It transpired that there were neither enough passengers on board to justify departing, nor any clear consensus on where we were actually heading.

After some reasonably direct conversation—and the sudden arrival of a handful of stray passengers (their origin a mystery, as no other flights had landed)—one of the men abruptly announced that he was, in fact, our driver, and that he would be taking us to Catania Airport.

Finally, we crawled out of Comiso in the gathering gloom. We made slow progress through a bleak landscape of solar farms, endless polytunnels, and crumbling, abandoned farmhouses, trailing behind slow-moving traffic on narrow backroads.

Two hours later, we were deposited at Catania Airport and effectively abandoned to our fate.

We had originally arranged for a private car to take us from Catania to Taormina. Unsurprisingly—given that we were now five hours late—the driver had given up and gone home. I set off on a reconnaissance mission to find the taxi rank. Despite the airport still being officially shut, a few taxis were lingering. I commandeered one, and roughly an hour and 150 euros later, we arrived at our hotel in Taormina: exhausted, famished, and having been in transit for nearly 40 continuous hours.

In the next instalment, I’ll get to the holiday itself. It does get better.

Steve and Gail Ingram

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

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TATONG DISTRICT

FIRE READY BREAKFAST

Sunday Nov 29 @9am
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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



White Gate News & Dates

The final White Gate dinner @ the Tavern for 2026 arrives on December 2nd. All connected with White Gate are welcome to book themselves in, especially those still actually living there. Except for the mosquitos. And the cows. Gotta draw the line somewhere.
- Andi Stevenson



On the De Fazio Dairy Farm This Month:
The Dairyfarmer and I have been on a road trip to Brisbane inland via the Newell Highway with some side trips. While we saw many, many hectares of fabulous crops ready to harvest, dairy farms were very few and far between.
Our grandson has started an Instagram site called defaziofarm on which he shows some of the day to day business of a dairy farm taken by drone. The milk tanker, cows being rounded up, making hay, wrapping silage all taken from above.
His first reel has some interesting facts, called The Changing Face of Dairy Farms in Victoria.
In 1950 there were 27,975 dairy farms in Vic. As at 2025 only 2476 remain., a loss of 6 per week averaged over the time.
Meanwhile, here other family members helping out with the milking. *- Linda De Fazio*





Australian Milk Quality Awards - Recognises dairy farms across Australia with an annual average bulk milk cell count (BMCC) in the lowest five per cent during the previous financial year.
Gold! to L De Fazio & LG De Fazio

White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Murray Parton	22 Nov	Balfour/ Sykes	27 Dec
Angus/Hamish McMillan	6 Dec	Matthew De Fazio	3 Jan
Laurie De Fazio	13 Dec	Ross Runnalls	10 Jan
Tom/Elise/Adam/Mark	20 Dec	David Elford	17 Jan

TATONG TOPICS – DECEMBER 1926;

Benalla Standard 3rd December 1926:
TRAIN LESS FOR TATONG
To the Editor.
Sir,—Soon, if we read the writing on the wall, we may take it, that instead of two trains a week to Tatong. it will be a case of "Trainless Tatong." As one who has had a good deal of experience in country life, I fail to see how now. or in the future, ever so distant, with fast-moving motor cars and a cheapening of that method of transport, the Tatong line can ever, under the present system of working, be made to pay. The train runs out from Benalla in the morning and returns in the evening, giving a few hours at the other end. Very few people have necessity to use It for passenger purposes. The general trend of passenger traffic is always from the sparsely-settled districts to the nearest commercial centre - in this case Benalla - and I am firmly convinced that if the order of running was reversed, i.e. leave Tatong early in the morning, and arrive at Benalla to connect with Sydney to Melbourne trains, and return to Tatong after the arrival of the evening train, a decided improvement would be noticeable.
This would allow people along that line to come to Benalla and remain for the day. The question of mails and goods is a secondary consideration, for no hardship would be imposed. The Commissioners would be well advised to give the system a trial.— Yours, TATONGITE.

The North Eastern Ensign 3rd December 1926:
SUMMER TIMETABLE.
The summer timetable of the Victorian Railway Commissioners for country and suburban lines, to come into operation, commencing on Monday next. The usual custom will be observed on the Tatong line by the cancellation of the Wednesday train, thus leaving, only two trains - per week - Monday and Friday. A motorcycle will however, be running on Wednesday for mails, etc.

Benalla Standard 7th December 1926:
In response to the advertisement in Friday's "Standard," about 30 district residents attended the meeting at the Swanpool Butter Factory on Saturday afternoon to protest against the cancellation of Wednesday's train. Cr. A. Harrison, .J.P., was voted to the chair.
The opinion of speakers generally was a strong opposition to the proposal. Mr. Mc Cashney, of the Toombullup Sawmills, said it would prove most inconvenient to him. while others pointed out that it would mean practically cutting off the district for the Melbourne cow market on Thursdays.
It was considered a most retrograde step. Eventually it was decided to send a letter of protest to the Minister of Railways (Mr. Mackrell). and also Mr. J. J. Carlisle MLA. be asked to arrange a deputation in the course of a few days.

Benalla Standard 14th December 1926:
TATONG BUSH FIRE BRIGADE
The annual meeting of the Tatong Bush Fire Brigade was held on Thursday evening, 9th December, the President, (Cr. A. Harrison) occupying the chair.
The secretary read the minutes of last annual meeting, and also presented the financial statement. There was a cash balance of £3/3/2, which, with outstanding accounts to come in makes a credit balance of' 10/2.
The secretary reported that the fire cart was now in satisfactory condition, a wooden channelling having been put in to carry the hosing safely without it nibbing on the wheels. The cart had been painted, and a new suction hose put on.
The following officers were appointed:—President, Cr. A. Harrison; Mr. E. Lewis, captain; Messrs J. V. Harrison and N. Briggs, vice-presidents; Mr. D. H. Coghill hon. Secretary and caretaker; Messrs A. Wallace and S. Evans scouts. The above will also act as a committee.
The President thanked all those who had come to assist at the recent fire at his property, the assistance having come from this side principally, as the fire was not noticeable from the Samaria side.

Benalla Standard 14th December 1926:
TATONG V. METHODIST "B"
Benalla Methodist 'B' team visited Tatong on Saturday to play the locals in the district association competition. The visitors, won by a good margin of eighteen games, although this does not really indicate the standard of play, which was very even throughout. Methodists being just a little better. Following are the details, Methodists being first-mentioned:
Payne and Gordon d Mc Cauley and Wallace, 6—5; Maher and Spencer. 6 -2 ; d Gardner and Haig. 6—4.
Anderson and Davis d Gardner and Haig, 6—0; lost to Mc Cauley and Wallace, 0—6; d Maher and Spencer, 6—4.
Scammell and Westacott d Gardner and Haig, 6—5; d Maher and Spencer, 6—5: d Mc Cauley and Wallace.6—1.
Misses F. Curry and Anderson lost, to Misses Mongan and Mc Cauley, 0—6; d Miss Thompson and Mrs. Archer, 6—0.
Misses Justice and Tobe d Miss Thompson and Mrs Archer, 6—0: lost to Misses Mangan and Mc Cauley. 3—6.
Totals:—Methodists, 10 sets; 63 games; Tatong, 3 sets, 45 games.

Compiled by Barry O'Connor. Tatong Heritage Group.

Never a dull moment at the OK Corral!

At our last meeting Tattler Committee President, Andrea Stevenson drew our attention to the mystery of *iambic pentameter,* due to the poetic wording of her, as always, highly creative report. Editor, Geoff Rintala, shedding light on this by way of his schoolboy memory of a teacher explaining how poetry utilising this grammatical structure resembles the *ups and downs* of horse riding. Which brings us to the ups and downs of *farming* and our calving season, in particular!

First up we had a set of twins. Unusual in itself, and regrettably both still born.
Even more unusual, our next birth featured twins too! This time, both survived, but
the mother rejected the second born, who we then had to hand feed, three times a day. Next, we had a full breech birth where a calf, the size of a 2 month old, was pulled dead from the mum thanks to the creative use of a fencing strainer. Such a harrowing experience!

And then a wonderful upside: the same mother ending up fostering the rejected twin!

A few days later, we hear another distraught cow, bellowing out of its mind with grief, at the back of our dam paddock. There, we discover her almost unresponsive calf. The mother tries to charge us, so we leap into the Ute for safety, call for help and subsequently protect ourselves by creating a little enclosure around the calf by strategically parking our Ute and a friend's old Prado in a V formation against the fence. Then follows a difficult manouvre to get the calf to a safe place so we can treat it while ensuring that the mother comes with us. Critically ill, we thought there was no chance of survival, but survive it has and its attentive mum is now so happy!

Further to this, four out of the five cows that we AI'd from one of Robyn's father's Blondie Acquitane bulls from the 90's didn't birth. Surprisingly, the one cow that did calve did so 298 days later - the normal gestation being 283 days!

Two takeaways: Farming is not for the faint hearted and we are not alone in having feelings. Be they nurturing, or stressed, cows share more in common with us than they are given credit for.

A big thank you to our local stock agent Shawn Spooner, from Benalla Rural Supplies, for his unrelenting support and attendance in such dire circumstances this calving season - one of the most challenging ever! As well, to our dear friend, Tim Butler and chief farm helper, Greg Crowe.

By Robyn Hughan & Steve Warne







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TATONG MEN'S WELLBEING



SAVE THE DATE

TATONG MEN'S WELLBEING EVENT WITH GUEST SPEAKER

FRIDAY 19TH MARCH 2027

6:00 PM

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Back Through the Top Gate: Tatong FNC Reunites Generations (Continued from last month)

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.

This time, it was the Reserves Team who would add another premiership chapter to the club's history in such a significant year — 100 years after Tatong won its first premiership in its inaugural year, led by Captain/ Coach Tom McCauley in 1908.
And then there was the reunion.
Success on the field was measured by the number of premiership flags hung around the oval fence — 30 Football and Netball premierships over the years. But the success of the club was also measured by the attendance.
More than 170 past players, supporters, families and children came together for the day.
Kids kicked the footy on the oval. Old teammates caught up. Stories were shared. Memories were brought back to life.
For a few hours, the years between premierships, seasons and generations seemed to disappear.
As the afternoon moved into evening, everyone gathered in the clubrooms for dinner and the traditional club raffle, surrounded by the hanging team photographs — teammates from generations past and present, some still with us and others remembered through the photographs, stories and friendships they left behind.
As the crowd slowly dwindled into the evening, the circle around the fire became closer and warmer.
And, of course, there was time for one more can for old times' sake.
For a club that has been part of the Tatong community since 1908, this was more than simply a reunion.
It was a reminder of grassroots footy, its traditions and the simple things that bring people together at a country sporting club.
It was a celebration of the people.
The players who pulled on the jumper.
The netballers who took to the court.
The families who stood behind them.
The ladies who worked behind the scenes.
The committee members who kept things moving.
The volunteers who gave their time.
The supporters who turned up week after week.
And the friendships that have lasted long after the final siren.
Thank you to everyone who came along, travelled great distances and helped make the Tatong FNC Reunion such a memorable day.
A very special thank you to all our volunteers and sponsors, whose time, effort and support helped bring the day together.
While the clubhouse may now sit dormant, the picture frames on its walls continue to hold the memories of teammates, families and generations gone by.
The late-night coals have faded and the oval and netball court may be quiet, but the stories remain.
And when the top gates open again, those memories will still be there.
May the traditions continue. **Jess Ritchie**



Football Players present on the day from the 1960's - 2013



Netball Players present on the day who played from 1993 - 2013.



FIRST XVIII 1960 PREMIERS

Back Row: J. Carter, E. Lewis, D. Beaton, J. Webster, N. Farrell, K. Ritchie, G. Share, J. Mitchell, M. Smith, Graeme Green, G. Keen (Trainer)
Front Row: G. Gillan, J. Mozuras, K. Beattie, Geoff Green (Vice Capt.), W. Luck (Capt. & Coach), E. Sellars, K. McFarlane, G. Tuckett, K. Smith
Mascot: G. Keen.



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
The December Girls Shed will be on the 18th from 11am - 2pm.at the Tatong Hall.
It will be a Christmas luncheon with wine. Bring something to share.

Miscellaneous Announcements

The December Girls Shed will be on the 18th from 11am - 2pm.at the Tatong Hall.
It will be a Christmas luncheon with wine. Bring something to share.

The January Girls shed will be on the 15th at the usual time of 10am until 4pm.

The next Tatong Dinner will be on the 9th December at the Tatong Tavern at 6.30pm

The January Tatong Dinner will be on the 13th January at the Tatong Tavern at 6.30pm.

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

Recipes by Sue
Unfortunately my laptop is being repaired so there will be no recipes this month.
To anyone who thought about making the pumpkin fruit cake in the November edition. I apologise as I omitted one of the main ingredients, namely the dried fruit. The recipe calls for 500g mixed dried fruit, but using less is suitable.
CHRISTMAS MESSAGE
May grace, peace and joy be yours this Christmas.
Such a special time to enjoy with family & friends.
Wishing you all a very happy Christmas.
Sue

THE ODYSSEY REVIEW

Maeve and I watched the movie at the Swanpool Cinema with its surround sound and I would give it a score of 4 stars out of 5. For me it was clichéd in parts and unnecessarily highlighted King Odysseus' Hollywood style of hero status. It missed opportunities for greater and deeper relationship portrayals. Admittedly there was a lot of ground to cover in the original story. It was not a movie that I connected with much and that was probably due to the fantastical elements like the Cyclops, Sirens and other exaggerations which nevertheless were well portrayed.
The reviewer that I relied upon saw more in it than I did but as a university lecturer he did have a greater knowledge about the history and cultures of the times and his high praise meant that it must be an accurate depiction of Homer's original story and intent.
While it's a bit of a stretch I would like to draw attention to a similarity in the Odyssey movie to Christianity and AI. All three have a connection of a sort to the principle of truth but as I ran out of time to properly write about the truth connection I hope to finish it for the January '27 Tattler edition.
Mike Larkin

Swanpool News

Our community is recovering from a very busy Benalla Festival program, with no fewer than three events held at the Hall and Cinema, including the return of popular favourite film "The Sheep Detectives", and Simon Reich's moving documentary catching the voices of those whose Australian stories started at Bonegilla Migrant Camp near Albury, as well as a concert by the Australian Male Welsh Choir, which also showcased the talents of young people from Benalla schools, who were supported by teacher Edwin Manono.

As we look towards the Festive season, many regular groups and activities will be looking forward to a short break.
The Oval Pizzeria will be in full swing on Friday 4 December, opening at 5.00pm, and cooking up the usual delicious range of pizzas and desserts. Takeaway is available, and can be ordered by calling 0438 295 060 from 5.00pm. BYO deinks.

Swanpool Crafters will be holding their final event for the year on Sunday 29 November at the Albert Heaney Oval. Crafters are asked to pay $10 to attend, which entitles them to enjoy a range of cakes and cuppas, and great creative companionship. Please direct any enquiries t Shirley on 0407 682 575

Many in Tatong will be aware that our Bowls Club suffered a terrible tragedy in October, when respected President Robbie Mathieson died as the result of an industrial accident. The Committee continue to support players, friends and relatives, and field Pennant teams. Please contact Shayne on 0429 682 577 to enquire about Social Bowls over the summer.

Meanwhile the Cinema powers on, with an interesting mix of foreign language and recent popular films, including "The Social Reckoning", based on a true story about the ways in which Social Media works, and films starring audience favourites such as Bill Nighy and Jodie Foster. As usual, the Cinema will be hosting its Gala Double Bill on New Years' Eve, featuring two Australian thoroughbred favourites, "A Horse Named Winx" and "Ride Like a Girl", which tells the story of jockey Michelle Payne, who won the Melbourne Cup in 2015. Tickets must be booked in advance, on www.trybooking.com/DQRRR. The cost of $30 includes a delicious festive supper after the films, and bubbles to see in the New Year

Anyone wanting more details about the Cinema programmes can check online at www.swanpoolcinema.com.au, or grab a hard copy at the Hall, Swanpool Store, or from various outlets in Benalla, Mansfield or Violet Town.

Wishing everyone a peaceful festive season and New Year.
Deb

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



A very wet ending to Spring has the grass growing and growing . . .



Phalaenopsis (Moth) orchid care:

With its long stems, dainty wing-like flowers, deep green foliage and a long-lasting nature Phalaenopsis Orchids are a very popular present. If you find yourself the lucky recipient of one of these on Christmas morning – here is how to keep it healthy and flowering for up to 6 months.



Don't water it too much: Orchid roots are very susceptible to rot if they are constantly moist. Water - then leave it to almost dry out before watering again.

Keep the crown dry: The crown (or centre), where new leaves emerge – also doesn't like to get wet. If water is trapped in the crown, it can lead to rot. Water carefully and blot the crown with a paper towel if necessary.

Keep warm, but out of direct sunlight: Phalaenopsis Orchids do well in temperatures, between 24°C and 29°C. and 15 - 18 at night. Keep out of direct sunlight to avoid burning the plant and beware of leaving the orchid near a window at night, as the temperature can drop below the "comfort zone" which can prove fatal.



Humidity: While not watering too much, a humid atmosphere will keep the plant hydrated without being wet.

Position away from air conditioning, as this can dry it out and hot, dry conditions can cause unopened buds to drop.

To give the plant the humidity it needs, stand the pot on a tray of pebbles and fill the tray with water. The pebbles will prevent the roots from sitting in the water and will provide a humid zone where the plant needs it most.

Feed well: Apply a dilute high-potassium liquid orchid food every two weeks to encourage flowering.

Keep bugs away: Mealy bug is the most common pest found on the plant - spray or wipe some white oil onto both sides of the leaves to suffocate the bugs.



Cut the stem *correctly* to get flowers again:

When the orchid finally finishes flowering, new flowers can be encouraged.

If the flower stem is left as it is: there may be a repeat flush of flowers, however they are generally smaller than the first blooms. Also if left - the stems can become somewhat inelegant and gangly.

Pruning the flower spike back to a node will almost always result in another bunch of lovely blooms, often within 8 to 12 weeks. To do this, cut the stem, leaving just two nodes remaining – the little brown lines below where the flowers were. One of these nodes will become a new flower spike.



If the spike becomes withered, yellow or brown - it should be removed (by cutting off at the base of the plant) as this will not produce any more flowers. Removing the spent spikes allows the plant to put energy into root development and growth - which should result in a lovely new flower spike.

When to repot: Being epiphytic or saprophytic, the Phalaenopsis Orchid grows on trees or rocks—hence their thick, fleshy climbing roots and the need for a loose, chunky potting mix.

When it comes time to repot, either every 12 – 18 months or once there is no growing media remaining, it is best to use a bark-based commercially available Orchid Mix blend suitable for epiphytic orchids.

Select a new pot: that is around 5cm wider than the previous pot. It doesn't need to be any deeper, orchids prefer shallow pots as the roots tend to spread out rather than down. When selecting a new pot, there are two real options either a terracotta orchid pot with holes for roots around the outside, or the clear plastic pots they are often sold in. The clear plastic pots are said to allow the roots to absorb sunlight, and these pots also allow for easy inspection of the roots for any sign of rot or pests. Whichever container you choose - make sure there are sufficient drainage holes.



Gawn to Town

Last month a farmer died in a farm accident. This happens far too often. I was told that one question, that came up frequently after his tragic death, was; “what was a 74 year old doing, still working?”

Nice that we have options, these days. One of my great-great-grandfathers was growing potatoes and living alone in his tiny cottage, up until dying aged 76. Another was plastering until dying aged 74.

There has ever been a divide between city people and country people. Rural people are more interested in the weather than their town cousins. Rural people know that food doesn’t magically materialise on supermarket shelves.

When it comes to those who work in an office block vs those who work on the land, this often also boils down to: those who work for the love of doing their own thing, vs those who work nine-to-five for the pay, and can’t wait to get out of the office.

Rural folk rarely just work for the pay... Honestly, do you know any dairy farmers who are only in it for the money? And the nine-to-five, Monday-to-Friday bit generally doesn’t tally in the country either.

So - when should anyone choose to retire? Some dwell on getting to retirement. Some resent being forced to retire. Some wish that Donald Trump had retired at 65.

The concept of “work” and “retirement” has until recently been about men. Women don’t ‘work’. Traditionally, women clean, cook, tend children, wash clothes, mend clothes, do the tax return, and paint the ceilings, but that’s ‘housework’ not real work and there was never, ever a prospect of retirement. Today one has the option of retiring from household chores by going on a never-ending cruise, eating buffet banquets every day and sun baking. Until the cruise ship runs out of fuel and is docked somewhere inconvenient, all because Donald Trump didn’t retire at 65.

Maybe the problem is the concept of ‘work’. Until a few thousand years ago, all of our kind gathered and hunted their food. Both of these occupations could be defined as ‘work’. An indigenous Australian parable tells of a very lazy man who got someone else to do all his gathering, hunting, cooking etc. He got turned into a crow. Move forward to agricultural societies with elitist structures, and the idea that a few people get to swan about wearing pretty clothes, and doing nothing but starting wars, while the peasants do all the work and never retire. The “Protestant Work Ethic” is the cute argument that you work really hard in this life in order to be rewarded in the next, but no one has yet offered a guarantee on the next life.

If you love doing it, is it work? I wonder if anyone loves cleaning toilets... Well, 40 years ago there was a guy going round the countryside cleaning out septic tanks. He said he’d had a well-paid job in Canberra but hated it, and he looked really happy while he cleaned out the septic tank. Did a good job, too.

Then there are those who retire and promptly die of boredom. Very sad, for rather a lot of folk retire and find themselves busier than ever.

The Western Australian Kondinin farming group shared farmer’s experience with Woolshed design.

One farm described a shed with pens that didn’t flow well and needed someone up the back; but they said it was ok as it kept Dad out of the way. Evidently, Dad wasn’t looking to retire.

So I hope you are following your dream, and spending your life doing things you enjoy doing. Take pride in your arts, for you thereby benefit your community. Better still, I hope you get paid to do what you love. Also, be careful. -

Andi Stevenson

(PS - if you have just retired, and are bored, do get in touch, for there are community groups in the district who would just love to have some new executive members!)

Hauptmann girls from Whitegate with their prize winning dog at the Benalla Show last month.



Wordsearch 'Beetles of Tatong'

"The creatures that fascinate our inner 12-year-olds..."

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

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

CHRISTMAS
CICADA
CLICK
DUNG
FIDDLER
GLOSSY
GROUND
HARLEQUIN
JEWEL
LADYBIRD
ROSECHAFER
SOLDIER
SPINED
STAG
WEEVIL

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	67.2			*712*

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

The total rainfall for October was 67.2mm and the rain for November up until the 15th was 15.6mm. It seems that the good rain from spring is sustaining vegetation but more is needed. It certainly is good for the fly and mosquito populations.

Mike Larkin



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Six Issues:	$180	$85	$45
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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).

