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Edition 297

The Separator Room

It's a long held, 'freeze frame' sort of memory – my usually loving aunt chasing me across the paddock from the dairy to the farmhouse in Frankston Road, Dandenong, hitting me gently yet firmly on the bottom as we ran. I remember being confused, not really understanding what I'd done.

It was my first holiday away from home and my first experience of farm life. I loved going to the dairy each morning and evening to watch my aunt and uncle as they milked their herd of cows. The machinery was fascinating, I became absorbed, watching the little oval glass containers above each set of milkers as they filled with milk and rolled it around, ready to be siphoned off into tubes which led to the separator room. It was all very new to me and I initially kept fairly close to my aunt. They tried to encourage me to try milking by hand – it was difficult, though, as I was only seven or eight.

This particular day, I must have taken the chance to explore a little further afield. I can remember being in the separator room or cream room, can picture the little window on the far wall. In the corner, near the door, was the most wonderful collection of pipes, tanks and taps which made up the separator. I looked at it, then ventured to stroke it, amazed at the way it separated the butter milk from the skim milk, watched as it poured the milk into the large steel urns.

At some stage during my explorations – you may have guessed what I'm going to say – I fiddled with, and turned on, some taps.

Becoming bored, I returned to find out what was happening in the milking area.

Not long afterwards, I heard my aunt, who had entered the separator room to find beautiful butter milk all over the floor, scream! She realized what had happened, and before I understood what I'd done, was chasing me across the paddock.

I had to go to my room! I can't remember the detail, but, having ventilated, my aunt eventually calmed down and resumed her usual loving behaviour.

I learnt a very large lesson or two – I learnt how important each day, each milking event, is to dairy farmers struggling, as my uncle and aunt were, to make an income from the land. I've always had respect and empathy for dairy farmers and engaged fully with Beth Smith's talk about the dairy farmers' life and the milk price crisis at U3A's Meet and Mingle last year.

I also learnt to steer clear of functioning machinery of any sort – that such machinery is to be respected and not interfered with. I developed a grudging respect for the role of taps.

On reflection, I realize that I rarely went into the separator room when my uncle began milking a Jersey herd in Molyullah some years later.

The 'freeze frame' memory of my aunt chasing me across the paddock from the dairy to the house still influences me, so much so that I would almost certainly steer clear of the room containing the modern equivalent of the separator if I visited the Smith family's dairy farm in Tatong today.

Bev Lee



(Originally written in March 2017 for U3A Benalla's Writing Workshop class - theme 'Stock and Land')

Molyullah Musings – May 2017

Hall Committee

The Annual General Meeting of the Hall Committee was held on Monday, 27 March 2016. We are required to appoint a new committee every three years and a new committee was appointed at this meeting. Councillor Peter Davis presided over the election and the following people were elected: Chairman: Russell Byrne; Secretary: Bronwyn Forman; Treasurer: Geoff Hill; and the following people were all elected as Committee members: Anthony Hill, Arlene Van Der Merwe, Geoff Lee, Bill Willett, Brett Glazebrook, and Janette Knapper.

Thanks was conveyed to Bill Willett who stepped down as Chairman after many, many years. Bill's input into the Molyullah Community has been outstanding over the last 30 plus years.

Easter Sports

Another successful Easter Sports was held on Monday, 17 April. The weather was kind – a perfect autumn day. Early feedback was that takings were very close to last year – certainly for the Gate takings, Plant Stall, and Spinning Wheel.

The big clean-up on Tuesday was completed despite low numbers due to it being a working day. A big thanks to all who helped prior to, on the day, and after the event. It is a really big event and would not be possible without the help of so many. Bronwyn Forman has kindly forwarded some snapshots of the day:



Cath Ramage on Kitchen Duties



Peter & Kathy Zoethout enjoying the day.



Steph Ryan met up with Bill Willett

Molyullah Dinner

The next Molyullah Dinner will be held at the Tavern at 6.30pm, Thursday, 4 May 2017. We have cattle going to market that evening but hopefully we won't be too late. Please book ahead on 5767 2210.

Cheers, Janette knapper@bordernet.com.au

Molyullah Rural Fire Brigade - Sunday Driver - Radio Check Roster

7 May 2017 Geoff Forman Capt. 57 666 238 0419753 426 Team 1

Minimum Skills Refresher Team 1 for 9 April

*Andrew Barry 57 666 420,
Diane Brossig 57 666 250
John Defazio 57 666 367
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The **300TH**
is coming!

Notice to Contributors!

The August 2017 Edition of the Tattler will be number 300. We plan to make this a Special Edition, and invite our Contributors, & Readers, to submit relevant articles, photos, etc.

The Tattler has proved itself a community newsletter of quality. To celebrate its ongoing life, input of memories, observations, judgments, philosophies etc, would be an excellent thing.

The August Edition will be compiled at the end of July (and July will be here before you know it.) Dust off your thinking caps!

- Andi Stevenson, Tatong Tattler Committee



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TABLE TENNIS STARTING AGAIN

The local Swanpool and District competition is starting on the 3rd of May in the halls of Lima, Moorngag, Molyullah and Tatong. Swanpool Rec Reserve hall may also host matches this year. Table tennis is far more energetic than many people may imagine and we never use heaters in the halls no matter how cold! This makes it an excellent exercise for all ages and the weather is always good.

Fortunately table tennis has not so far been affected, except by steep insurances, by the onerous compliance laws mentioned in my article *The Decline of Community Events* in this issue of the Tattler. We continue the rural traditions by having a supertime after the matches so that the sport is social as well as a fun competition. If you are interested in playing contact Shaun Murphy on 57682432 or me at 57672323 Mike Larkin

The Tatong Tattler Telstra Tower Survey

Netted 3 responses, two of them positive:

1. Hi Andi,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the survey about the Telstra Tower. I have heard some very negative feedback and received some personal animosity as I am the Secretary of the Recreation Reserve and some of the community lay blame on the Rec Reserve Committee for their lack of phone and television services

I live on Larkin Road which is approximately 5kms from the Tower.

There is no line of sight between our home and the Tower, in fact there are trees and a small hill between us.

Although we only have 1 or 2 bars on the mobile I have excellent reception and as I type this response I have 3 bars on my iPad, so we are pleased that we have another area of communication. We have not needed to purchase any further equipment except purchase another mobile so we have good communication when we are not together.

I would like to suggest that those who are experiencing concern should contact Telstra.

This Tower is providing benefits to the community which should always be appreciated.

Kind regards,

David

2. Hi Andi (the Andi across the road I met last weekend?)

Been having a look at the Tatong tattler. Who writes it?(**) I think I only met the females of Tatong at the pink stumps. Anyway, it's great! Where do we drop in donations? (***)

We had terrible reception here at 24 when we were dropping in and out organising the reno towards the end of last year. We both have Telstra phones and are very happy with the tower - 4/5 bars of reception on my phone as I sit in the kitchen, compared to none last year! No booster needed.

Cheers, Carli and Ben (and Sophie, and Buffy)

----- Reply:

*Thanks Carli! this is a different Andi; (**) The Tattler is written by a variety of people; we welcome the input of experiences, thoughts and ideas of all of our wonderful community (thank you for yours). The Tattler is entirely created by volunteers. (***) Donation envelopes went out on (most) of the April edition of the Tattler; those that missed will get their envelope this month. Otherwise, donations can be given to any of the committee. Cheers, Andi Stevenson*

3. We have no mobile coverage at home, so I can't give a first hand opinion. Anecdotally, soon after the Tower was

turned on, I bumped into an acquaintance at the Tavern. He was standing next to his car using his mobile phone. I commented that it's great to have the tower in Tatong. He said that his coverage at home had deteriorated since the tower was turned on. What he had heard was that, although there was another tower, there was no additional capacity provided meaning the available capacity was now being tapped by more customers.

I don't know if there is any connection, but at the same time as the tower was activated, our poor TV reception got even poorer.

Cheers John

Neologismia

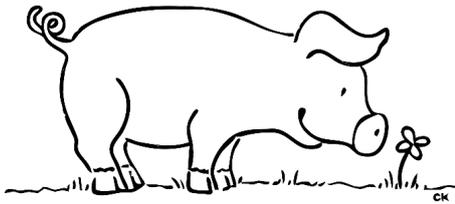
In the March Tattler Mr. Knapper reminded us of deadlines, one of those editorial conventions by which most, but not all, publications are managed. Being somehow distracted, a distraction at my age having been identified as a senior moment, I allowed to pass by the opportunity to thank John, on behalf of the linguistic aficionados among the Tattler's readers, for two new words, viz. 'equivalate' and 'invisible-ise'. Like the Knappers I appreciated the meanings of these neologisms immediately, and was amused as well as educated (actually I mean updated) by reading them. To exercise the propensity of our language to be amenable to the introduction of new words, which is what I intend to convey with the heading above, one supposes one may accept the invite (OOOhhh' invitation) to derive something new to meet any situation, that is, mete for the circumstances. (And if anyone thinks that is a meaty sentence they may consider themselves ex-cused.)

I found one such example in the AGE newspaper where the writer was discussing housing finance, and appeared to claim that there is a new factor involved, called 'securitisation'; which I assume means that the house is security against the bank loan taken out to buy it. (Thursday 9. Who else noticed it?).

We must also thank Mr. Knapper for a revisionary course of some of the laws of social, and personal calamity. I am pleased to see that there is a Knapper's Law', and I am wondering if John is challenging us to keep away from those mis-fortunates who have inspired it. After all; who would want to claim to be a friend of Murphy?

Applying Murphy's Law to housing finance in the note above, one must consequentialise the situation that if you fail to pay the mortgage the bank gets the house. We may accept new words, whether justifiable or otherwise, but the recent spate of murder and mayhem in the news bulletins prompts the question, Does anyone know if it has been proposed to delete 'justice' from the dictionary?

Vin Masters.



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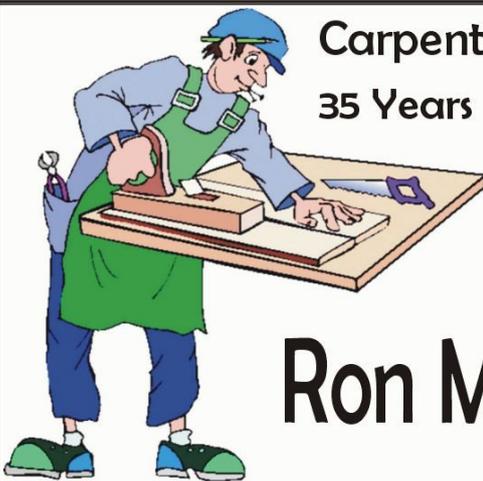
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DATE





Garden Daze

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



Countdown to the Molyullah Easter Fair

Well - here we are again - getting ready for the big event. By the time this *Tattler* goes out - it will all be over, but right now - there are 10 days to go.

The plants have all been repotted and trimmed - this was started a few months back, with watering high on the priority list throughout the hot months.

Bulbs have been dug up, not an easy task in the hard ground, now to make up some mesh bags and pack and label them. This year I managed to find some elusive Bluebells in my daughter's garden. These are a good bulb to plant next to daffodils or jonquils, as they come into bloom just as the others are finishing, extending the spring display for a few more weeks.

Seven days to go: time to get the poly boxes from the shed and start putting in labels and price tags before packing the pots for transport.

Not to mention clear up the disaster area in front of the Shade House, where big pots, little pots and inbetween pots, wheelbarrows full of potting mix, tubs of "stuff for the compost heap", sieves and work benches, seem to have gathered, (will I ever learn to be tidy??) so that we can load up without mishap.

Three days to go: Our Pumpkin supplier Neville has grown some beautiful bright orange specimens this year and a sample proved great for cooking - giving firm dry flesh - very yummy baked. Also provided was a great variety of Garlic. (More mesh bags and labels on the way.)

So it is into the car and off we go to collect the pumpkins. There awaiting us are a collection of pumpkins of all colours, shapes and sizes. These will be great for the stall. A cuppa and a chat with Neville and his brother follow.

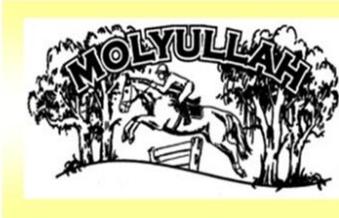
Two days to go: Over to Hilary's who has once again very kindly donated Iris plants - to spend the afternoon with Barb & Peter McPhee digging up, trimming and wrapping Iris - then we all had dinner together afterwards.

Easter Sunday - One day to go: Get out the Iris pictures, home made flags, baskets for display, check list and all the bits and pieces needed for the day.

1 PM: John and Hazel to the rescue with their Ute and big trailer. As we pack box after box into their vehicle and our car and trailer, ready for the very slow - very, very! Keep the leaves on!! Slow drive to the Molyullah Hall.

Others have also been busy growing and potting and it is lovely to see that there are more plants waiting for us.

Cloths on the trestle tables - extra plant stands in place then



its all hands to work unloading, unpacking and setting up to best display our wares. Sort out the Iris pictures and attach them to the front of the stall, put the Iris into the buckets in front - make sure they match up with the pictures!

We are invited back to Hazel and John's for dinner - "as you will be too busy to cook" - how thoughtful (and yummy)

Easter Monday - this is it!! Up early, and we arrive at the Sports Grounds at 8 am. Lee Johnson who has grown plants for the Tatong Good Friday Appeal has also kindly donated a car load of plants to us. These need to be moved over from along the side of the Hall to our Stall. Our home made flags have been tied along the ropes that anchor the marquee in front of us and we are looking pretty shipshape.

Some early morning regulars have already visited us - there is Gary from the wood chop to buy some trees - "to replace what I chop down". Mums from the kids horse events, and wives from "the tractors".

We are delighted when a couple of boxes of Kath Ramage's Relish, Sauce and assorted Jams arrives.

These go like hot cakes and - opps - I miss out on my yearly purchase.

This year we have some lovely donated hanging baskets to sell, John Knapper has once again made up Elk Horns on display boards all ready to hang in their new homes and there is a box of butter-nut pumpkins to add to our collection.

The day passes in a whirl of plant advice, packing plants into bags, handing out change, tying name tags onto purchases that we are minding for people, catching up with regulars, friends and neighbours.

One of our boys and his daughter (and dog) call in on their way home from a camping trip to Wandiligong. After getting us a cuppa and some cakes from the Hall, He is soon off "I'd better go and drive the train" and Taylor is off to lend a hand at the Spinning Wheel for a while (we mind Bella the dog).

Our day is a success - I've worn my really comfy gardening shoes this year and my feet have survived well. We've had our "End of Fair Specials" and people are happy with their bargains. We've sold all but one pumpkin. Soon we are packing up, Peter Z and Bob Whytlaw make a couple of trips home, Peter McPhee, Barb, Heather and I roll up the table cloths, bring in the flags - one final check around and then its sighs of relief all round as we all sit down with a well earned drink and wait for our most enjoyable Post Fair Community Dinner.

Once again - many thanks for all who have made this possible, your plants were most welcome and much appreciated. Thanks to Barb McPhee who together with her husband Peter come up from Melbourne every year to lend a hand. Barb is the quiet efficient "manager" who keeps the "stall machinery" successfully ticking away throughout the day.

The Molyullah Easter Fair is a lot of work for all who get involved, however - as can be seen there has been a lot of socializing going on. Our part is a just small example of how it draws a community together. There is much chatting and laughing together during the various activities involved in "getting ready" - And to top it off - there's been a few cuppas and meals along the way - with the final "workers get together dinner" on Easter Monday night.

Kathy Z

May there be many more "hurrahs" in the offing.



A couple of years back - all ready to go.

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What's Happening at Molly Rose?

So for those who missed it – I prostrated myself before the chooken gods on Sat 8th April (tripped over a stick in front of the chook pens) and fractured my elbow on the morning of the Wall to Wall Festival and NEA's Street Art Fringe, so I wasn't up for much at the Molyullah Easter Sports. I know I said 'I'll need a holiday when it's all over!' but this isn't what I meant!!

This will be a short one from me as typing with my non-dominant is slow and tiring out my good arm, and I don't want to wear it out too. I have another 5 weeks of sling plus however many weeks it takes to rehabilitate. The boys and Tim are picking up the slack – not easy for any of them with Tim's illness and the boys' autism – but they are all doing their best and that's what counts, even if it isn't the way I'd do it. Have to say, the boys will be good cooks by the end of it.

As to what's happening at Molly Rose, well, we now know that Lord DarkBar is a drake – he has started hissing.

I lost a chook – at first I thought she was egg bound, so did a bit of internal exploratory (before I knew I had fractured my elbow – which was why it hurt so much), but no egg. All of the other conditions she might have had were terminal and she was dead 2 days later.

I am going to have to get someone else in to process my 10+ roosters and I have some cool climate bananas to plant, along with a lot of garlic and seeds to raise for winter – hopefully, with a lot of help, we will get it done.

Write you again next month, maybe with 2 hands,

Carla





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THE DECLINE OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

Without wanting to blame anyone, it is ironic that our social evolution is contributing to a decline in community events such as fairs, fetes, sports, fund raisers and other traditions which enabled people to interact, have fun and raise funds for the benefit of their own village or locality. The first time I felt the brunt of the **safety compliance curse** was when "little old ladies" were no longer able to sell their home made cakes and preserves at the Violet Town market. The health inspector sympathised but was forced by the higher powers to enforce the rules. This type of rule still amazes me when we all know from experience that when a traditional country supper is put on the most ignored items are those that are shop/factory/packet made!

This current shift toward individualism, safety compliance and away from the masculine to the feminine is like rearranging the furniture because, like government departments who change their title with every election, the appearance is different but has anything really changed for the better? Kids were free to roam and be adventurous in my childhood and communities were generally united and ready to look out for one another and their neighbourhood kids and it was probably just considered "bad luck" when misfortune struck. After all, no reasonable person would allow others, especially children, to suffer or act dangerously if they could help it. These modern changes, which are supposed to make us safe and happy, seems to be driving people further into their shell of isolation and individualism. Individualism does benefit people in particular ways but a balance is needed with family, friends and community activity.

To add to the "destruction" there is also NIMBY (**not in my back yard**), **be careful of what you wish for, unintended consequences** and **the knock on effect**. For instance when a person uses compliance laws to settle a neighbourhood dispute it may cause the wounded party to then force the regulators to apply onerous and expensive rules to other innocent and once thriving community, non-profit events. And so the circus continues! What is to be done? Short answer; have a well-deserved winge then adapt and live with it. Whatever happened to **if it ain't broke don't fix it?**

While the "big picture" situation is out of the control of individuals and small communities, motivated people can and will **fly under the radar**, form small groups and carry on regardless – won't they? And there is always the Cyber space of Google and social media where vast new global communities are forming – but that's another story!
Mike Larkin

HARVEST TIME AND CIDER MAKING

Probably due to the good rain in the last 12 months our garden is highly productive with a good fruit and vegetable crops. Last year we no pumpkins and this year 7 appeared and of good size. Our quinces and apples were also prolific and while Maeve poaches then freezes the quinces I am juicing enough apples to make about 25 litres of cider which will leave some apples to eat and about 9 jars to preserve for a favourite dessert, apple slice.

The cider is simple to make but not so simple to obtain the juice. I use a standard beer fermenter with an air lock to make the cider. The air lock allows the gas produced by

the "worker bacteria" to escape as they beaver away gorging on the sugars, producing alcohol plus the bio gas. The air lock prevents unwanted bacteria or other contaminants entering the mixture.

We have an apple crusher and press which first turns the apples to pulp then the press squeezes out the juice. This is the labour intensive part of the job and it will take about 2 days work to produce the 25 litres of juice. Naturally I try to only operate the crusher which is motor driven when our solar panels are generating power.

When the temperature of the juice is ok for fermenting, approximately between 20 to 30 degrees, I put in some bread yeast and a small amount of sugar. It then needs to be kept around the 25deg to maintain fermentation. I may use bread yeast, only because I don't have wine yeast to give the process a kick start but the juice will ferment on its own due to natural yeasts on the fruit. The fermentation continues till the brew stops "talking" which is the soft popping sound of bubbles rising to the top.

In the same method as beer making I use screw top stubbies which means that I add a half teaspoon of sugar to each stubby before capping so that fermentation in the stubbie creates the fizz which is what I prefer. The filled stubbies also have to be kept warm for a time to ensure fermentation is completed in the bottle.

Mike Larkin



Storm on the Mekong River. Golden Triangle,
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Molyullah Sports Winners:

Winners of Raffles and Competitions drawn
Molyullah Sports, 17th April, 2017

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\$200.00 Food Voucher:	Caroline Osborne, Benalla.
3rd Prize, Half Dressed Lamb:	Keath Family, Katamatite.
4th Prize, Half Dressed Lamb:	S Baugarten, Benalla.
Lucky Gate prize:	Jud Kubiel, Benalla.
Weight of Haybale: (330kg):	John Nolan, Benalla
Height of Pole: (6.5m):	Paul Webster and Justin Daw, Benalla
Weight of Sheep: (69.5kg):	Alistair Jacka, Benalla

Correspondence from Steph Ryan MP
Member for Euroa to Brendan Kennedy
regarding the Benalla-Tatong Rd.

From: Rachel Tharratt
[mailto:Rachel.Tharratt@parliament.vic.gov.au] **On Behalf**
Of Steph Ryan
Sent: Tuesday, 11 April 2017 1:15 PM
To: 'brendan1@bordnet.com.au'
Subject: Re: Benalla Tatong road

Hi Brendan

Further to my email of 30 March, my understanding of the situation with Benalla-Tatong Road is as follows:

- The road from Benalla to Tatong is gazetted by VicRoads for B-doubles and will remain so.
- VicRoads did look to remove existing permits which are in place for B-doubles beyond Tatong

only. These permits enable B-doubles to travel from the plantation to the gazetted road. Such permits with VicRoads only occur on roads in their control.

- Shire controlled roads that lead to gazetted sections remain controlled by the council. Councils generally enable B-double use if all residents agree and any damaged caused is repaired by the logging company.
- I understand VicRoads have 'shelved' plans to remove permits for B-doubles. They are conducting slip testing which will take over 12 months to complete. Permits usually stand for three years and in this case they have issued permits for one year from now. The general feeling is that the slip testing will be fine and permits will return to three year intervals once the testing is complete.

Hope this helps!

Kind regards

Music and Art in the Garden at Birchwood Near Benalla 7th – 8th October

653 ODea Rd, Molyullah birchwoodnearbenalla.com.au  Birchwood Near Benalla

Open 10:00 am – 5:00 pm Entry \$6. 18 & Under Free. Directions on website. Ph. 03576 66275

- North East Artisans exhibition & sales in the garden with Benalla Senior Music Students performing.
- Crafts & plant sales. Morning & Afternoon Tea and sandwiches. Children's activities. Spend the day with us!
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- Garden sculptures & features and shaded spaces with views of rolling hills.

All Proceeds to: Benalla & Wangaratta Hospitals & Cancer Council 



Relax to the sounds of Benalla Music students performing on the lawn.



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Award winning botanic artist whose lifelong appreciation of flowers has inspired her breathtakingly beautiful drawings and paintings.

Cathy Pianta Wall Art: Striking & individual for indoor or outdoor.
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NEA North East Artisans

Garth Hughes, sculptor, is inspired by the harsh beauty & colours of the outback in creating his unique pieces of metal sculpture.



Deb Dodd – Hilltop Mosaics
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MY HERO !!!

'Banksy of punctuation' puts full stop to bad grammar in Bristol
BBC tracks down self-styled 'grammar vigilante' on mission to rid city of rogue apostrophes



The owners of Cambridge Motors in Bristol thanked the grammar vigilante for removing the erroneous apostrophe from 'motor's'. Photograph: BBC News

He has been branded "the Banksy of punctuation" and describes himself as a "grammar vigilante".

For more than a decade, an unknown corrector of poor English has been venturing out in the dead of night and tidying up the punctuation on Bristol's shop fronts and street signs.

The identity of the man remains unknown but on Monday the BBC announced it had tracked him down and had accompanied him on one of his night-time missions.

He told the BBC he was a family man who worked in engineering. "I'm a grammar vigilante," he said. "I do think it's a cause worth pursuing."

The man said he began by scratching out an extraneous apostrophe on a sign but had since become more sophisticated and has built an "apostrophiser" – a long-handled piece of kit that allows him to reach up to shop signs to add in, or cover up, offending punctuation marks. "This is a device that enables you to plant an apostrophe quite high up and get over any obstacles," he said.

He also has a specially made stepladder that means he does not have to lean a conventional ladder against shop windows and carries a set square and scalpel to make sure his work is neat and precise.

The first sign he tackled, he said, was in 2003. "It was a council sign – Mondays to Fridays – and had these ridiculous apostrophes. I was able to



scratch those off."

Among the signs he has corrected in and around Bristol – the home town of the street artist Banksy – is a nail shop that used to bear the "gross" sign "Amys Nail's". "It was so loud and in your face. I just couldn't abide it. It grates."

When it was put to him that what he was doing was probably illegal, his defence was staunch. "I'm sticking on a bit of sticky-back plastic. It's more of a crime to have the apostrophes wrong."



A picture of frustration?



English Oddities

By Adam Schmidt

The English language is quite odd.
It must've been a different sort of sod,
Who thought this mess all out.
He really didn't know what talking was all about!

After all more than one mouse is mice,
But on my block we have houses not hice!
A goose can fly with a bunch of geese,
But in Canada I have not seen a herd of meese.

One man and a male friend make men,
Then you know as well as I that pan ain't ever pen.
I put a foot down and stand on both feet,
But I wear some boots and definitely not beet!

I pull a tooth and have a gap in my teeth,
But at the fair they have booths not beeth.
This is one and two or more are these,

And I get one kiss but I don't get several kесе!

How about a brother or a group of brethren?
Whereas a lovely mother won't meet methren.
Then there's pronouns he, his, and him,
But you shan't say she, shis, and shim!

As you know it's tough with words like bough,
Whooping cough, and cookie dough,
And another thing you can start to hate,
Is how people take boats straight down the strait!

And why doesn't nose sound like lose?
Why, tell me, is it goose and moose, then choose?
I still haven't got a single, solitary clue,
And they tell me I've been talking since two!

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A quick thank you to EVERYONE that supported the 2017 Royal Children's Hospital Appeal, we are always in awe of just how much the Tatong Community contributes towards this amazing cause.

We will have a full report and final tally in the June Tattler.

Jade

White Gate Dates



White Gate Dinner @ the Tavern

Dinner at the Tatong Tavern will be Wednesday May 3rd; book yourself in for a good meal in good company.

Breakfast @ Samaria

The morning outing to Samaria Farm will be May Saturday 20th. The hungriest will be there by 9am, but for those who follow there will still be plenty of delicious food, beautifully presented. And coffee. Don't forget the coffee.

White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Bruce Burgess	7 May	Hamish McMillan	28 May
—Brian Vial	14 May	Ross Runnalls	4 Jun
Alan Stafford	21 May	David Elford	11 Jun

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Oh My God! It's the eleventh hour and I haven't Emailed our newsletter for the Tattler. Not only that, I haven't even thought about it let alone typed it. I can see John Knapper drumming his fingers on his desk with impatience saying I told her last night not to forget the deadline for the Tattler, and what do I do, FORGET!.

Well down to brass tacks. Head down Bum up. Glass Half full and all that Jazz.

MOTHERS DAY is upon us, on Sunday 14th May. The Tavern will be putting on a Roast most magnificent with all the trimmings and a Dessert worthy of the Queen herself. So come along and have a wonderful day with your mother and friends next to or near the open fireplaces, which I might add, will by that time be ablaze with warmth. Bookings for the day would be great as it will be a busy day for most families, and we don't want you to miss out.

Well done to everybody who attended the Good Friday Auction and donated some of their hard earned cash towards the Children's Hospital Appeal. I am still not sure of the final tally, but I believe it's somewhere near the \$50,000 dollar mark. Jade and her committee members are still finalising all the donations to this point. We will keep everyone in the loop and hopefully have a final total by mid-May.

Well done also to Molyullah for another successful sports day, with the help of many volunteers the day was not only beautifully sunny and warm it was humming like a bee in a hive of activity and fun. I think both Tatong and Molyullah should be very proud of their communities, as they have such a strong backing and support with their locals which we hope continues through to the next generation of families.

So if you are like me and prone to FORGET, please write down the most important date of the year "14th MAY", MOTHER DAY. And have a wonderful day.

THINGS TO REMEMBER.

MOTHERS DAY 14th May. {See not only do I need to write things down, I may be slightly prone to forgetfulness. Have I written this down before? Maybe.}.

WALLET WATCHERS - Every Wednesday night. Reduced Meals on Menu.

POT AND PARMA - Every Thursday night Order a Parma and receive a free Pot.

HAPPY HOUR - Every Friday come and join us between 5.30 and 7 p.m. for Happy hour in the bar.

SUNDAY LUNCH AND DINNER - Every week we will be open for Sunday Lunch and Dinner.



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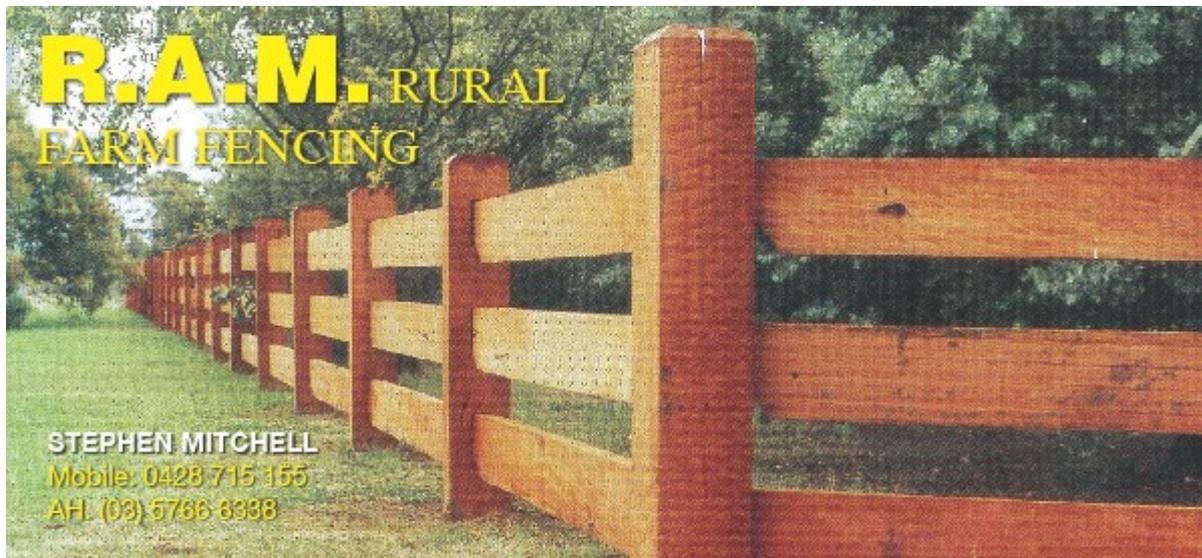
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It is recommended that septic tanks are pumped out every 3 - 5 years



Call us today to get your septic tank cleaned out

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WEATHER WATCH

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2007	30	35.1	62.5	31.3	108.6	30.2	92.4	25.5	30.3	34.3	88.6	69.8	638.6
2008	52.4	11.5	33.4	17.7	48.3	37	114.7	58.8	18.9	1.9	89.7	64.9	549.2
2009	3	5.4	38.7	80.7	30.6	107.9	77.5	65.5	76	48.6	72.3	18.9	625.1
2010	39	153.7	86.4	65.2	67.5	82.8	67.5	162.1	116.8	123.7	109.2	150.8	1224.7
2011	107	177.3	65.0	36.1	62.9	47.1	84.5	81.0	67.3	32.0	88.3	46.3	894.7
2012	82.5	94.0	184.9	18.1	35	57.6	115.8	92.1	35.5	34	28	30.1	773.6
2013	1.8	52.4	85.5	8.4	43.0	60.1	112.1	141.1	61.2	27.5	26.2	65.3	684.6
2014	33.9	16.4	86.4	89.6	82.8	146.5	98.8	9.8	68.5	20.4	58.5	64.2	775.8
2015	44.7	29.1	5.7	87.4	70	33.7	97.3	69.4	25.7	13.7	55.5	81.7	613.9
2016	69.7	11.9	36.9	38.5	117.2	110.5	142.8	108.4	172.1	91.4	50.1	101.3	1050.8
2017	67.6	36.2	49.1										152.9

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

Writing on the Easter Saturday and I'm loving the gorgeous spring weather of cool mornings and sunny days. Our rain is sporadic but still keeping the grass green. Up until the 15th of April we have had just one reasonable rainfall of 13.5mm and for the whole of March 49.1mm.

Mike Larkin



Local Footy at Tatong.

The Samaria Suns will take on the Woodend Heskett Hawks on Sunday May

21st at the Tatong Community Centre.

Canteen and Bar from 12noon

Full Game Details to come will be on the

Samaria Suns Facebook Page.

We invite everyone to catch watch our local AFL Masters play and then stay on after the game in the comfort of the Community Centre.

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Your Garage Sale needs YOU!

I'm stepping back from duties on TCGBGS for the upcoming event later this year, as I've got a few other commitments on the horizon. If you're interested in helping our committee, please contact the people below to discuss.

We will need someone willing to take bookings, plan and mark out the site, co-ordinate with the Tavern on site preparation, think laterally about free publicity and act on it, update the Facebook page, email stallholders info, and attend a few committee

meetings...all for free.

It's rewarding work - I've made a lot of new friends, and of course it's great on the day to see so many locals out having fun.

If you think you can do even a couple of these jobs, please get in touch.

BIG thanks to everyone for the support and enthusiasm in getting this event up and running so far - let's keep it going!

Contact Sallie Hann 57672132, John Knapper 57666268 or Mike Larkin 57672323

Bel

The fruits of patience

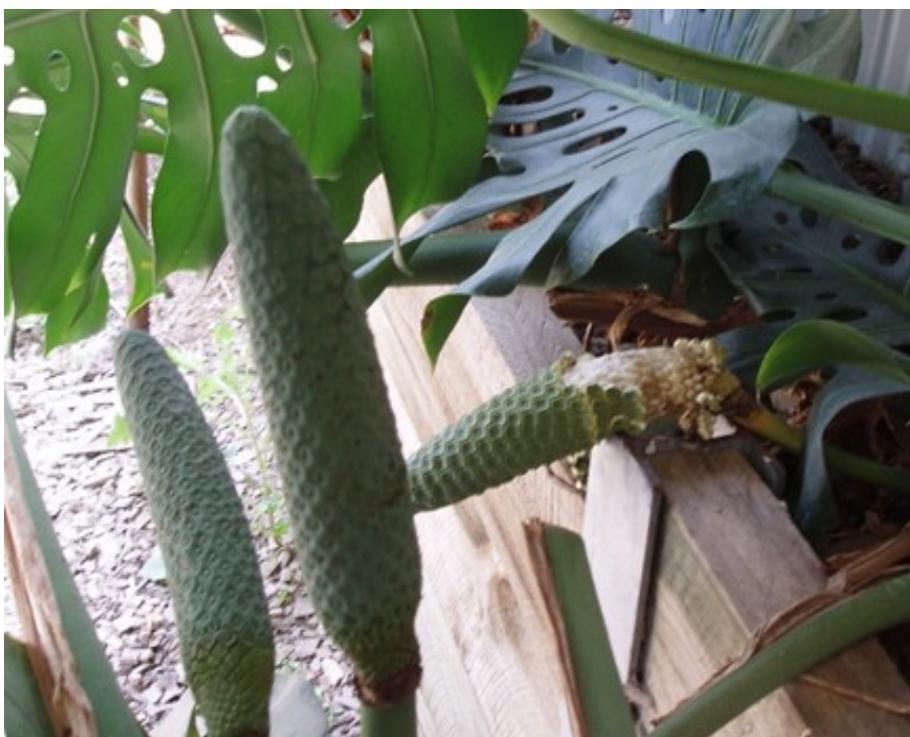
In the October 2015 edition of The Tattler, I wrote that my Monstera Deliciosa had at last decided to fruit. I did point out that it would take a long time to ripen. I realise that you've all been on the edge of your seats for the last eighteen months waiting for the big day. Well, it finally arrived!

The scales started to fall off, so that part was ripe. They ripen from the bottom up so should be eaten in stages. They are fiddly to eat but they really do live up to their name – they are delicious. The taste is banana / pineapple ish.

Fearing it would ripen before we could share the experience, we looked for some suckers, guinea pigs – make that volunteers. The Tattler's esteemed garden writer, Kathy, and her husband, Peter, were invited around. By then most of the scales had dropped off. The degree of ripeness varied from extremely ripe at the base to just ripe at the tip. The texture at the base was similar to a very ripe banana and certainly had a banana / pineapple taste and was very sweet. Towards the tip, there was also a definite lime taste.

The Monstera Deliciosa certainly deserves the name 'the fruit salad plant'. The good news for me is that there are several new fruits on the plant. I guess that means I'll have to be very patient again.

John Knapper



What's on this month

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Apr 30	1	2	3 Whitegate Community Dinner at the Tavern 	4 Play group, 9.30am, Rec Res Molyullah Community Dinner at the Tavern	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Play group, 9.30am, Rec Res 	12 Girls Shed 10.30am at Hall.	13
14	15	16	17 Tatong Community Dinner at the Tavern Tatong Angler's Club @ the Tavern	18 Play group, 9.30am, Rec Res	19 	20
21	22 Tatong Heritage Group meeting 4pm Tatong Hall	23	24	25 Play group, 9.30, Rec Res	26 Girls Shed 10.30am at Hall. 	27
28	29	30	31	June 1 	June 2	June 3

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Enquires :Darcy Hogan, 5767 2187 or email darcyhogan@bigpond.com

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DEADLINE

The Tattler Deadline is end of the **20th of the month**.
Submit via e-mail to tatongtattler@yahoo.com.au
or post to: Darcy Hogan, 150 Mt Joy Rd, Tatong, 3673.

Format for Tattler Submissions

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 (as jpgs) can be attached, to be laid out by editor. If your layout is important, submitting your work in MS Publisher is ideal. (*The Editor may need to adjust your layout.*) If laid out in a **Word** document, the text & photos will need to 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 one of the Tattler committee.

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