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De Fiasco in de Fjords

- Part 2 of 3, by Linda De Fazio

We begin the next stage of our trip, on land this time, in Copenhagen again. Our hotel is really nice and we spend a couple of days checking out Copenhagen and surrounds. The little mermaid, Christiansborg, Amalienborg and Rosenborg palaces, Copenhagen Cathedral, a visit to a fishing village nearby and Viking Roskilde. Laurie and Trev climb the baroque tower of the Church of Our Saviour, famous for its helix spire, 1000 steps, the last section on the outside of the spire. The last night in Copenhagen we have a traditional Danish Dinner, which turns out to be a Xmas meal, in August, complete with Santa!!



We then set off for Sweden, over the Oresund Bridge, made famous in TV shows Wallender and The Bridge. It's a long trip through mainly farmland, lots of crops being grown. It's all very interesting especially to a group of farmers from Ouyen who are part of our tour. It's a pretty mixed group of people, Australians, Canadians, Americans and two Chinese Malays who live in Auckland.

We become good friends with the Chinese couple Patrick and Belinda who are just lovely. Patrick was the CEO of Stihl in China for many years, but Belinda lives in Auckland, and raised their 3 children there; they only saw each other a few times a year for many years. Our tour guide is a young English woman who lives in Greece, called Amanda, and our driver is from Hungary, Franck.

Over the next few days we visit Stockholm, another beautiful city. I would like to post some things home but can't find a post office, our guide for the day tells me they don't have post offices any more. There are boxes for local mail and if you receive a parcel, you will get a text message telling you where to collect the parcel, probably a 7/11. Probably need to find a parcel service, but it all seems too difficult. On our last night we cruise around some of the many islands of Stockholm.

Then it's off to more of the Swedish countryside, to Nusnas where we check out the Dala horses, wooden horses, painted in very bright colours, most often red, then it's off to Norway.

Norway would have to be the most picturesque country. Like New Zealand on steroids. Beautiful snow capped mountains, incredible lakes and everywhere those gorgeous 'Falun Brown' houses.

Norwegian citizens are well cared for, free education, free medical and dental care, but a GST of 27% makes it expensive for tourists. Our first stop is Lillehammer, then onto Geirangerfjord along incredible winding roads, built into the sides of mountains. Next day we travel along the Troll's Road. The Squires are in the front seat of the coach, the coach appears to be actually going out over the edge as we round the corners and we can see the tiny little road with its ant like vehicles way down below us. The next day we drive up Dalsnibba, at 1500m elevation, and we are in the front seat. It's freezing cold with a gale force wind blowing



Oslo Lighthouse decorated with flotsam

Cont. Page 2



but what a view! All the way down to Geirangerfjord, 21 kms away to the south. The next night is at Leikanger on Sognefjord the most beautiful, peaceful place and a wonderful boutique hotel. That night we have a bit of a party with the other guests and Trevor playing the piano, reliving his days of playing in the band. From Leikanger we're off to Bergen, but first we will be travelling on The Flam Railway. Our plans come unstuck at this point when the coach is stopped at a weigh station and is overweight. (Really, overweight, who would have thought?). We have to do a lappy and back onto the weigh station, but still no go. Some of us suggest hiding in the bushes, until a very grumpy official comes onto the coach and tells us, "and don't anyone even think about getting off and hiding in the bushes". Next the driver empties the supplementary water tank, then the luggage is reorganised and weighed again but still no good. Then the grumpy official suggests reorganising the passengers, the 'bigger, heavier', (he didn't

say Fat) people moving to the front and smaller passengers to the back. This has the desired effect, apparently the weight was unevenly distributed! The tour director is very stressed about the whole incident and now we are 2 hours late for the Flam but she organises for us to come the opposite way and it's all good.

Now we are off to Bergen, it's raining cats and dogs, but apparently it rains for 300 days a year in Bergen. Again it's an impressive place, a fabulous fish market, a funicular to the top of Mt Floyen, a visit to Edvard Grieg's home with piano recital. Next day we leave for Oslo, crossing the snow covered plateau along central Norway, a very long trip, and we are ready to hit the sack when we arrive. Oslo is yet another interesting place, a lot of Viking history at the Viking Longship Museum and the Fram Polar Ship Museum. A visit to Frogner Park to see the Vigeland sculptures is a highlight. Gustav Vigeland's life work with more than 200 sculptures representing all stages of life and mostly completed from 1939-1949.



The Royal Palace sits at the top of Slottsplassen in Oslo and is completely accessible to citizens and tourists.



Beware of Trolls

In our time in Norway we have been through 153 tunnels. One of these is 40 kms long and has 2 roundabouts in the centre, with vision of the northern lights to keep drivers awake.

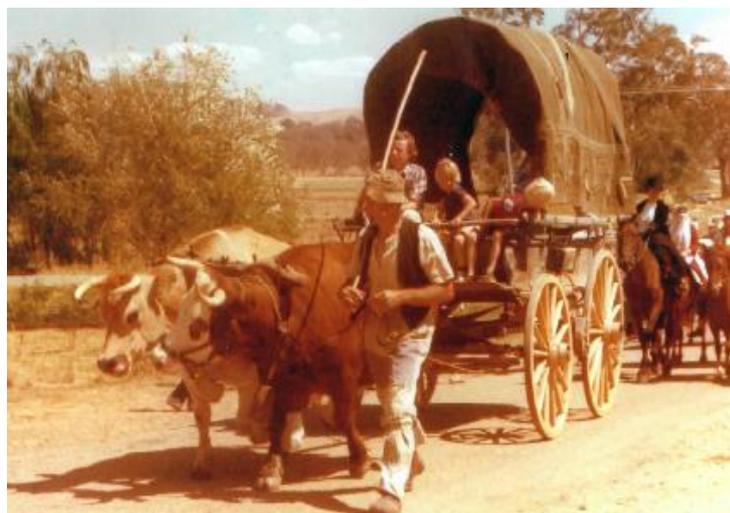
That night we have our farewell dinner and Laurie is awarded the 'NO-BELL' prize for making movies. Obviously they haven't heard me saying "get that camera out of my face!!". Next we're flying to Amsterdam for a restful sail along the Rhine.

Fjord 110km from the sea.

**40 YEARS AGO IN TATONG
BACK TO TATONG 1978**

Due to many requests from ex residents of the district a 'Back to Tatong' took place on the weekend of 4th & 5th March. The celebrations commenced with a procession from the bridge with floats, bands and Marching Girls. The Official Opening took place at the Hall by Mr T. C. Trewin followed by afternoon tea. Saturday night a 'Back to Dance' was held at the Tatong Hall. On Sunday there was a b.y.o. picnic lunch and general get together at the Recreation Reserve rounding off a great weekend of celebrations.

Joan Lewis



SHINY BRASS MEANS GOOD LUCK (?)

It doesn't matter where you travel, many people are superstitious. If you notice something made of brass and it has a particularly shiny spot, it usually means just one thing – if you touch / rub / pat that spot the belief is that it will confer good luck upon you.

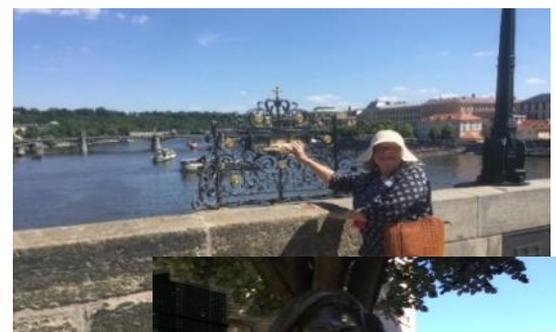


As with many old German towns, Nuremberg has a market square in its centre. The square has a fountain called the beautiful

fountain. In the wrought iron around the fountain, a loose brass ring, about 75mm diameter, is hidden. Superstition says that anyone who turns the ring seven times receives good luck.

The Charles (aka the Stone) Bridge in Prague spans the Vitava River. Halfway across is a wrought iron and brass feature. The brass is very shiny. Our guide assured us that if you touch the centre piece and the cross on the top with your

other hand at the same time, you will have good luck.



Other 'bits' that always seem to be shiny are the boobs on bronze statues.



These two examples are Molly Malone in Dublin and Dalida in Montmartre, Paris. I say with some confidence that this type of polishing has nothing to do with superstitions, rather it shows the admiration of teenage boys.

John Knapper



Back to Tatong 1978



Words of wisdom

The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".

Intentionally losing a game of rock, paper, scissors is just as hard as trying to win.

Your future self is watching you right now through memories.

Many animals probably need glasses, but nobody knows it.

If you rip a hole in a net, there are actually fewer holes in it than there were before.

If 2/2/2222 falls on a Tuesday, we'll just call it "2's Day".



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TABLE TENNIS, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FUN AND FITNESS

The Swanpool and District Table Tennis Association season competition will begin in the first Wednesday (2nd) in May. This competition is preceded by a month of practice sessions which will be held in the Tatong Hall each Wednesday night beginning at 7:30pm. These practice sessions will begin on April the 4th.

This year we have a new Practice Robot machine which is attached to a table and fires balls at a variety of consistent angles and speeds enabling players to improve their ball hitting skills. This machine has been purchased mainly by funds raised by the Association's volunteers working at the Swanpool Bald Archy exhibition. The funds raised by the exhibition are allocated according to the number of hours worked by the various Swanpool clubs and committees who work at the event.

People interested in playing this year need to come along to the practice nights and have a tryout and either join an existing team or form a new one. Only two players are needed to form a team of either sex and we have A and B grade competitions. The best age for young people to begin playing is at late primary or early secondary school.

Table tennis is an ideal family sport, it helps us to stay fit and agile, it encourages social connections and it is played indoors so the weather is not a problem. Matches are played in most of the halls of the villages and districts south of Benalla and the cost of equipment, insurance and membership are kept to a minimum.

For further information contact Shaun Murphy at 57682432 or Rob Erskine at 57672248

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What a hot and dry dry dry beginning to Autumn !

How is your garden bearing up under this spell of dry dry dry? My lot is looking rather dreary and even giving something that appears to be suffering more than the others, a soak with the hose - this only seems to help for about 24 hours.

The past few months have certainly had a few ups and downs. The storm in December tearing at everything and leaving a trail of destruction, the run of hot and humid in January that had us all "going troppo" not to mention the downpour that washed out all our driveway and tracks and now the dry. Australia "doing its thing".

A Bit About A Wasp....While working out in the shade house (yes still getting plants ready) one of these iridescent blue black wasps started flying around inside.

A little while later I found it struggling in a bucket of water. When I fished it out with a small stick - it started trying to sting its "saviour". I hadn't seen one of these insects before, so when I got back inside I looked it up and discovered that it was a *Black Flower Wasp*.



With iridescent blue wings and a black body, Black Flower Wasps are natives and great to have about in the garden. The adults enjoy feasting on nectar and help pollinate native plants, while the larvae prey on curl grubs which live under the ground and eat the roots of plants.

Black Flower Wasps are solitary creatures and don't build communal nests. However, in the summer months, occasionally a number can cluster together in an area that takes their fancy.

Sometimes a female wasps can be seen crawling into the mulch to lay her eggs. She will dig through soil or mulch to locate beetle larva and other soil insects. When a grub is located she will lay her eggs in it and the developing larva will eat the grub.

Whilst they are usually passive and not likely to sting - nevertheless, Female Flower Wasps are capable of stinging when disturbed, fortunately - as they are solitary insects - they do not pose the same level of threat as social insects such as other wasps, ants or bees.

However - wasps are capable of multiple stings and do not die after stinging. The sting causes a burning pain and swelling.



Usually a cold pack to alleviate the pain and swelling is all that is necessary. However - people who are allergic to Wasp and Bee stings - especially if there are multiple stings - should seek medical attention.

Now a bit About the White Cedar Caterpillar...

If you have a White Cedar or Cape Lilac Tree - you will have come across these hairy creatures.

Living in communities and hiding in crevices on or near the ground by day, they swarm out at night - dozens or even hundreds silently flowing up the trunk heading for the leaves, which they eat voraciously before descending again at dawn to their daytime shelter.



When they have consumed all the leaves, they wander again looking for another tree to feast upon - a search which will take them into houses, garages, sheds even cars.

Fortunately all this eating and wandering only goes on for a couple of weeks after which most will have found some nice hidey hole in which to pupate.

The caterpillar is dark brown, with orange feet, and a dim yellow line along the back. It grows to a length of about 4 cms. It has two small brown knobs on abdominal segments six and seven, which are dorsal glands. It is covered in bristles, to which some people are allergic giving them hives.

Not only do humans suffer from irritation from the hairs. The hairs have also been implicated in causing abortions in horses.

Wrapping a rag soaked in sump oil around the trunk of the tree *before* their dusk ascent, will deter them and cause them to starve. But probably cause them to wander into all sorts of places where you really don't want them!

*Arabella Miller-Miller
Had a Hairy Caterpillar
First she put it on her Mother
Then upon her baby brother
Arabella Miller-Miller
Had a Hairy Caterpillar!*

The main cause of mortality seems to be starvation. Every year, many caterpillars may be found in winter in ground debris and crevices near a tree, and only a few make it to pupation. Whether the over wintering caterpillars survive long enough to take advantage of the new foliage in the following spring is unknown.



Pupation occurs in a large oval cocoon in the leaf litter. The pupa is brown and hairy too. The discarded hairy skin of the Caterpillar is usually alongside the pupa in the cocoon. The hairs in the cocoon can also cause hives in susceptible people.

The moths are remarkably efficient at locating White Cedar trees and the caterpillars are found all over Australia, wherever White Cedar trees grow.



See you at the Molyullah Easter Fair - do call in to the Plant Stall and say Hello (and buy some plants!)

Kathy Z

Who are the Buskers of Tatong and District? Do we have car-ollers in Karn, wailers in White Gate? Ok, seriously, the Tatong Community Great Big Garage Sale Committee were thinking of inviting a Busker to join the mix, hence the Tattler is thinking it would be good to know who is out there. If you would like to Busk, we could List you in the next Tattler (tell us what you play, and a bit about yourself) or if you fancy performing at the the next Tatong Garage Sale, you could contact the TCGBGS Secretary, Sallie Hann, on 5767 2132, or sallie@hann.name

The irony of life

The lawyer hopes you get into trouble.
 The doctor hopes you get sick.
 The landlord hopes you don't buy a house.
 The dentist hopes your teeth decay.
 The mechanic hopes your car breaks down.
 Only a thief hopes you are prosperous in life –
 And enjoy a sound sleep.



John Knapper

“Nessie at the Northo”

As most readers know, we have a couple of members of the North Eastern Scottish Strings (Nessie) in our community – Kristin Marriott and Bob Whytlaw. Last Saturday was St. Pat’s day and the North Eastern Hotel in Benalla invited Nessie to play some Irish music for their customers to enjoy. Peter and Kathy Z invited us to join them for lunch followed by an afternoon of music and it was fantastic. Nessie don’t just play Scottish numbers but have quite a repertoire of Irish music also. As the day went on customers joined in and it was a most enjoyable and entertaining afternoon. As a result of the success of the day, the publican has agreed to have Nessie play on the second Sunday of every month between 12.00noon and 4.00pm. You can be entertained over a leisurely luncheon or just pop in for a drink and the listen to the live music. Note the dates in your diary – next one – 8th April.



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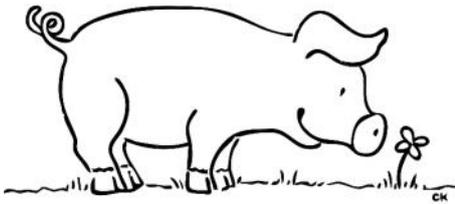
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Kristin & Bob playing Irish Music at ‘The Northo’ on St. Pat’s day.



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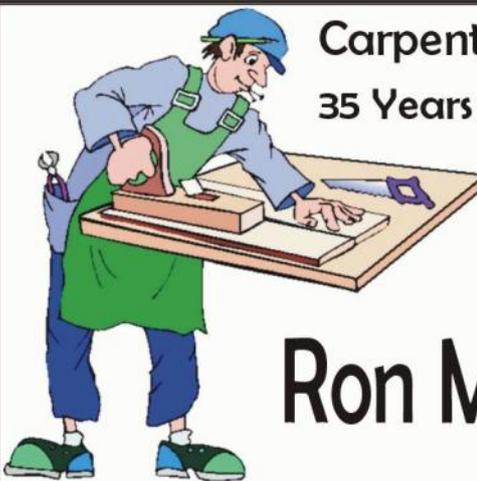
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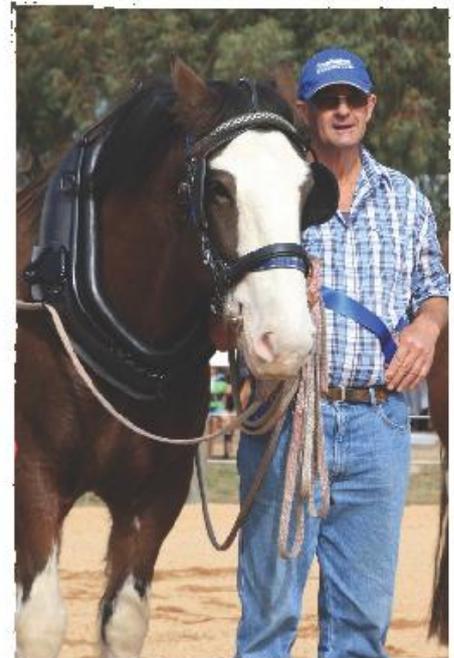
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- Registration from 8am
- Casual day insurance \$20 (adult) \$11 (under 18 years) no charge if member of CCHS or Registered Breed Society
- Yards available at no charge however bookings essential
- Judges: Mrs B Jackson, Mr B Jackson, Mr M Marriott, Mr F Broso
- Trade village and stalls as well as great food available all day

Tribute to Nature

Please excuse me re-cycling my sub-heading.

Since it was used last the Tattler has provided pretty much the same diet of news, some good and cheerful, some a little sad, but together rich with the nature and worth of our community. The staple contributions would be greatly missed, and I am sure that we are all grateful for the consistent efforts of the several people whose names appear regularly as Tattlers.

Another aspect of Tattling is the mention of our local fauna which further enriches our country lifestyle.

I have mentioned our resident echidna, which thought reminds me of the Spring afternoon a few years ago when there were three of them. We went down to take some photos and they waddled up to sniff at our footwear, then sauntered away, each in its own direction, so confident of their right (not rite) of passage.

It would seem that Janette's wallabies are welcome, perhaps tentatively, and while the roo which traverses our house paddock down by the lake is a pleasure to watch as it (he or she?) crosses to next-door with an effortless bound, the mob of roos that are eating the sheep pasture across the road are not welcome.

A few cockies pruning the wattle trees are welcome as amusing clowns in the swaying branches, but the flocks that infest the skies with their raucous din are not.

Before the drought we had a squadron of magpies. During recent years their number has been down to about one vic of an RAAF flying formation. They are usually the ones to begin the dawn chorus, and throughout the day can be heard warbling their gossip and jokes in that amusing musical manner of their own.

And who could not smile at the laughter (what else could you call it?) of the kookas, even though they don't let us in on their jokes.

I saw a goanna on the road at the height of summer, and my reptile count since the first sighting before Xmas is three blacks, which stay to listen to my chatting, and one brown that was on the move and accelerated when I hove into its awareness. Did it see me, or only hear me?

Plus, occasionally, a blue-tongue or stumpy-tailed lizard.

The sparrows, wrens and a pair of crested pigeons aka our house birds often eat when we eat, an activity which is enchanting in their pertness. Sometimes the king parrots, which came for our over-abundance of apples, will perch on the outdoor furniture and watch us through the window. Why do they occasionally fly into the window panes, giving themselves and us, quite a shock?

And in the hawthorns, when the berries are ripening, the gang-gangs which croak their hellos as one wanders past, assuming that we grew the fruit just for them.

Another band of feathered friends to which I chat, usually when shifting the garden hoses, is / are the occasional wandering group of Choughs, (Apostle birds to some). As I approach they flit up into some nearby branches, stop their chatter, then descend and resume talking as I leave the scene.

Our other house birds, the honeyeaters and thrushes are more shy, their presence usually revealed by scabbling (sorry, scratching) in the leaf litter, although a couple of times recently I noticed some honeyeaters making quite a din, for honeyeaters, that is, in one of our lilly-pilly trees. By careful inspection I was able to see a barking owl perched in the midst of a throng of annoyed little birds. When it took its leave the din died down.

There are other owls, the mo-pokes (there must be several in the district, as I think that the repeat calls I can hear are not all echoes) mournfully and quietly disturbing the silence of the pre-dawn hours. And once I was only just able to dodge a snowy- white owl when I went out to watch the moonrise one autumn evening.

The most recent inclusion to our incidental (or should that be accidental?) zoo has been a couple of antechinus, which entertain us as they scramble up and down the walls and fly screens, and hop, kangaroo-style along the patio, usually during the morning. Their most surprising manouver is to squeeze through a gap suitable, one would think, only for a huntsman spider, into the roof space, where their scufflings dispelled the possibility that the house is haunted.

We watch the waterbirds on and near the lake, although the trees around the house have screened off most of the view. Pruning will have to be resumed as Autumn cools.

The philosopher who advised those who are caught in the social frenzy to slow down and smell the roses, could have alerted us to appreciate the many activities of the small creatures with which we share our own little corner of the world.

Vin Masters.



Why is it important to pump my septic tank out regularly?

Over time scum and sludge layers build up in your septic tank, eventually limiting the amount of available liquid. This does not allow the septic tank to perform one of its basic functions - to allow for settling of solids below the outlet level.

The waste will then flow directly on to the next part of the system untreated. If this situation persists, the scum and sludge will flow through to the distribution field, eventually causing blockages and malfunction - a messy, smelly and costly exercise to repair.

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



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**Molyullah Rural Fire Brigade
2018 Sunday Driver Roster & Crew Protection Check Team**

1 April	Stephen Brosig-Welch	3rd Lieut.	0417 890 042	Team 4
8 April	Bob Whytlaw	57 666 303		
15 April	Bill Willett	57 62 8830		
22 April	Peter Zoethout	57 666 288		
29 April	Andrew Barry	57 666 420		
6 May	Dion Stevenson	4th Lieut.	57 666 111 0417 879 500	Team 5
13 May	Russell Byrne	57 666 250		
20 May	Alastair Cameron	57 666 103		
27 May	Anthony Hill	57 666 410		
3 June	Geoff Forman	Captain	0419 753 426	Team 1
10 June	John Jordan	57 666 381		
17 June	Andrew Muller	57 666 408		
24 June	John Ryan	57 666 348		
1 July	Kevin Ryan	1st Lieut.	0428 573 518	Team 2
8 July	Andrew Wheelens	0417 303 623		
15 July	Bob Whytlaw	57 666 303		
22 July	Bill Willett	57 62 8830		
29 July	Peter Zoethout	57 666 288		
5 August	Pat Horne	2nd Lieut	0438 626 187	Team 3
12 August	Andrew Barry	57 666 420		
19 August	Russell Byrne	57 666 250		
26 August	Alastair Cameron	57 666 103		
2 September	Stephen Brosig-Welch	3rd Lieut.	0417 890 042	Team 4
9 September	Anthony Hill	57 666 410		
16 September	John Jordan	57 666 381		
23 September	Andrew Muller	57 666 408		
30 September	John Ryan	57 666 348		
7 October	Dion Stevenson	4th Lieut.	57 666 111 0417 879 500	Team 5
14 October	Andrew Wheelens	0417 303 623		
21 October	Bob Whytlaw	57 666 303		
28 October	Bill Willett	57 62 8830		
4 November	Geoff Forman	Captain.	0419 753 426	Team 1
11 November	Peter Zoethout	57 666 288		
18 November	Andrew Barry	57 666 420		
25 November	Russell Byrne	57 666 250		
2 December	Kevin Ryan	1st Lieut.	0428 573 518	Team 2
9 December	Alastair Cameron	57 666 103		
16 December	Anthony Hill	57 666 410		
23 December	John Jordan	57 666 381		
30 December	Andrew Muller	57 666 408		

Note: Bill Willett is available for back up Sunday driver if you can't do your turn, or swap with someone else.

Minimum Skill Refresher Teams

Team 1 Geoff Forman – Andrew Barry 57 666 420, Diane Brosig 57 666 250, John Defazio 57 666 367, Alastair Cameron 57 666 103

Team 2 Kevin Ryan – Trish Curtis 57 666 111, Russell Byrne 57 666 250, Chris Dosser 57 666 305, Josh Every 57 666 126, Frank Fisher 57 666 319

Team 3 Pat Horne – John Collins 57 666 104, Anthony Hill 57 666 410, Geoffrey Hill 57 666 211, John Jordan 57 666 381, Brett Glazebrook 0437 770 249.

Team 4 Stephen Brosig- Welch – Andrew Muller 0427 500 912, Damian Nicholls 0428 396 137, Justine Nicholls 0414 728 025, Leigh Parker 0417 501 067, Dirk Ring 0419 529 830

Team 5 Dion Stevenson - Malcolm Burnside 0499 830 444, Andrew Wheelens 0427 303 623, Bob Whytlaw 57 666 303, Bill Willett 57 62 8830

Gawn to Town

A friend said to me the other day, "there were two gates to come through, and one was a drag-gate." She mimicked the dragging, and my neck twinged in appreciation. Oh, I do miss the lovely trees on the farm, I miss the view... but gee, this driving from one's garage onto bitumen has got it all over opening a succession of gates. Especially when it's raining.

On the White Gate farm, there were never many gates to open. If it got to 3 then we cut through the paddock instead. And all the gates swung. Once you've lived with a few "drag" gates, or those contraptions we called "wire gaps" (they went by other names also, some of them unprintable) then you really enjoy a gate that swings. Swings-open AND swings-shut.

On the Moulamein farm, there could be half a dozen gates to go through. And that was just going up the 9km driveway when sheep were being moved. One shearing, we had a few mobs on the way down the drive, and all the gates were shut. So, first thing in the morning, my niece (who was working on the board) was sent down to open every gate, so that the shearers wouldn't have to open and shut them.

The shearers arrived a little late. All those gates, they said. Turned out, that after every gate had been carefully set open, a visiting fisherman had driven out. Having driven in through shut gates the night before, he thought he ought to shut them again. Thick as a brick and a downright nuisance, that fellow.

Throughout the paddocks we had a great variety of gates and wire-gaps. As my spinal fortitude deteriorated, I would sometimes make long detours; a longer drive, though bumpy, was better than trying to lever a cantankerous wire-gap back into place.

Driving over to a neighbouring station, Liewah, it was customary to take a gate-opener. There were 8 gates on the Liewah road, and not all of them were light. I once drove over there with my new pup, Jubi. She wasn't up to opening gates so I had to do it. The weather was a bit spitty so I let her stay in the cabin. After shutting one gate, as I walked back past the passenger door I heard that "click" as the pup put her paws on the door-sill and locked it. Oh, but I crept round to the driver's door, desperately tapping to distract her. Had she locked the driver's door, I would have had a good 10km walk either back home or on to the Liewah homestead.

And years ago, a friend in Swan Hill said that as a child she would accompany her dad out to Moulamein. Way back when there were fences and gates along the way. 43 miles, she said, and 44 gates. I tell you, town folk today just don't know how good they've got it.

- Andi Stevenson



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Vale: Eric Ramage 4.3.1926 – 26.2.2018

The Molyullah and Upper Ryan's Creek communities were recently saddened to hear of the passing of one of the district stalwarts, Eric Ramage.

Eric was born at Mokoan Park on 4 March 1926 to Ruby and Fred Ramage. He was younger brother to Eunice (Lee) and Gwen (Phillips). The family moved to "Samaria Farm" where Eric really enjoyed farming life.

The Upper Ryan's Creek farm "Willow Glen", at the foothills of Sugarloaf with Ryan's Creek flowing through, was purchased in 1938. Eric attended the Upper Ryan's Creek School. Due to his father's ill health, Eric became manager of the farm at the early age of 14. He received special permission to drive the truck to the feed store, the pig sale, and the general store well before the legal driving age.

On March 27th, 1948 Eric literally married the girl next door, Cath who grew up at Somerset Farm, and they went on to have three children, Shirl, Gloria and Ian. They were married for 69 years and 11 months. They worked hard on the farm, milking cows, selling cream, raising pigs. The farm later became a mixed farm producing vealers, fat lambs and fine Merino wool. Eric liked nothing better than to be able to top the market at the local fat sale! His farm was a testament to the quality farmer that Eric was – neat as a pin, fences maintained, and stock in very good order.



Eric is renowned for helping others – the Upper Ryan's Creek tennis courts were even built on his land. He recently received a 60 year service medal from the CFA. He was a tireless member of the Molyullah Sports Committee and attended working bees, sold raffle tickets, and promoted the sports encouraging many people to attend. He helped to organize the fortnightly cards night at the Hall and was always one of the first locals to welcome new people into the community.

These notes are taken from the Eulogy delivered by his family at a memorial service held at the Benalla Bowls Club on Friday, 2nd March. On a personal note, I always found Eric the perfect gentleman and I very much admired his persistence at the working bees to clean up to a very high standard. He and Cath were friends to my uncle for which our family were grateful and in the early days I remember his annual visits to collect the "Wild Dog League" membership subscription. He collected from many farmers in the district who were affected by wild dog issues but were not always able to go to the meetings – especially when they were (and still are) held in Cheshunt every second year.

Eric, the community salutes you.

Janette Knapper



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Pugh to take over the reins.

Samaria Suns will be led by newly appointed coach Kyle Pugh as they embark on the 2018 season alongside new club President Wes Stafford. Pugh is keen to keep the games fun and encourages anyone wishing to attend training without the commitment of playing to come along and "keep the 'aging' bodies moving".

Pugh has played for the Suns for the last 2 seasons representing the Suns at the AFL Masters at the AFL Masters National Carnival Championship in Geelong. Pugh is a popular member of the Suns team and has taken on the role of acting coach a number of times before so the step up into roll full time after taking over the reins from Richard Bull who has stood down. The Samaria Suns formed after the closure of the Tatong Football Netball Club and the Swanpool Football Netball Club, with Pugh taking the field for Swanpool before their closure.



The Samaria Suns will start their season on April 8th in Mooroopna at the Mini Carnival before starting the home and away season on April 22nd in Kerang against the Kerang Rams.

The Samaria Suns play in the AFL Masters competition. The most important aspect of the game is that "football is for fun". It is for that reason there is no ladder, finals or best & fairest awards in Victoria Country. Egos are to be left at home. Criticism of other player's performance, abilities etc, is not on. The teams and their players are encouraged to do their best and have fun. Training takes place on Wednesday nights from 6pm at the Gardens Ground in Benalla with everyone most welcome to attend.



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Someone on O'Dea Road seems to be wishing everyone a Happy Easter!



Picture courtesy Sharyn Jaeger!

Molyullah and Tatong on the "Seismic" Map

The Geological Survey of Victoria, in collaboration with Geoscience Australia, AuSCOPE, and Geological Survey of NSW is studying our region (amongst others in North East Victoria) to a depth of 50 kilometres below the Earth's surface to endeavour to understand how the area evolved from an ocean 500 million years ago.

We became aware some months ago that this was about to happen as although it did not travel through or along our property, our neighbours were advised their property would be surveyed from the Tatong side through to O'Dea Road, Molyullah. The survey took place there on Thursday, 8 March and went from their property along O'Dea Road and then right at Kilfeera Road on the way to Tom Groggin – some 280 kilometres east travelling via a cross country route. The process seemed to involve a lot of measuring and placing of distance pegs, followed by the placement of geophones approximately every 40 metres along the survey route. Once all the geophones were in place, three Vibroseis trucks drove slowly in a convoy along the route. These trucks stopped at frequent intervals in a line to generate the seismic signal by synchronously vibrating the ground beneath them for 10 to 15 seconds. The size and noise of these trucks was similar to a garbage truck. In fact I kept hearing the noises and went down the road to investigate. They certainly raised the dust when the measurements were being taken (see picture):



I spoke with Ross Cayley, the Senior Geologist conducting the survey, and found what he had to say very most interesting and informative. He and another geologist who spoke to me were both clearly excited by the project and explained the processes involved in layman's terms. They also gave me information brochures should anyone be interested in reading up more about the survey. It was quite a privilege to hear all about it and see it happening.

After the trucks were well gone a team of men in utilities came back to remove all the marking pegs and geophones. Whilst the set up took many days, the actual surveying seemed to be over very quickly.

A note of appreciation to the Seismic team: The Survey was to go through Sharyn Harrison's property on Saturday, 10 March. They very kindly worked hard to shift the date forward to the Thursday after hearing Sharyn and Kevin were to be married at home on "Saturday, 10 March". I guess this leads to a "Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs Jaeger on their marriage." Wow! The earth really did move!!!

"Who says nothing ever happens in the country!"



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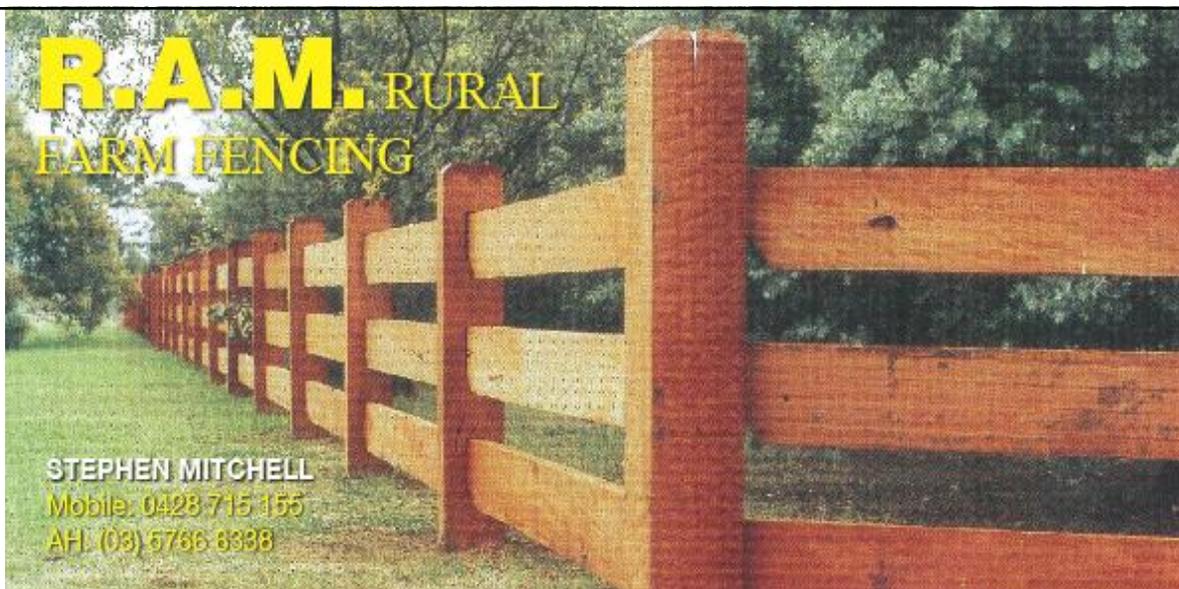
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2008	52.4	11.5	33.4	17.7	48.3	37	114.7	58.8	18.9	1.9	89.7	64.9	549.2
2009	3	5.4	38.7	80.7	30.6	107.9	77.5	65.5	76	48.6	72.3	18.9	625.1
2010	39	153.7	86.4	65.2	67.5	82.8	67.5	162.1	116.8	123.7	109.2	150.8	1224.7
2011	107	177.3	65.0	36.1	62.9	47.1	84.5	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	61.7	52.5	6.5	92.1	112.4	23.9	100.1	29.3	118.9	760.3
2018	34.3	6.4											40.7

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

It's not the weather that most of us want with no rain to report up until the 15th of March. Today, the 18th I found 1.2mm in the gauge after a sprinkle last night. For the whole of February there was only 6.4mm of rain. I guess at this stage it can only get better?

Mike Larkin

"Buda" the pest

On 20 February one of our cows had twins. Unfortunately, after tending the first she went on to have the second and then forgot the first born. By the time we got to her she was at the far side of the paddock with the new little one and as the first one was quite dehydrated we decided to bring it home – after all Easter is looming and it is always nice to have a calf for the grandchildren to feed.

He has turned out to be the strongest, hungriest calf we have ever had to feed. At a few days old he could almost knock you over in his hurry for the bottle. Our calf pen had recently disappeared when an old hay shed was demolished – it had quite a lean. The calf pen was on the side of the leaning hayshed so it went too. So, this lucky calf lives in the carport at home. We let him out during the day and encourage him to mix with the Bull and a cow in the house paddock and have even let him out with the herd. Cattle are ok for a short while but then he prefers to come back to the house and play with the dog or shadow us in the garden. He can be a real pest – thus the name Buda.

Buda joins us for morning tea on the grass at the front veranda. However, he has recently decided that the dog mat outside our bedroom window is far more comfortable!



Janette Knapper

What's on this month

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Easter Monday. Molyullah Easter Sports. Tatong Fire Brigade Training. 7pm Fire Shed.	3	4 Whitegate Community Dinner at the Tavern	5 Play group, 9.30am Rec Res Molyullah Community Dinner at the Tavern	6	7
8 	9	10 Mansfield Bush Poets Meeting. Mansfield Library 3-5pm.	11	12 Play group, 9.30am, Rec Res	13 Fish & Chip Night. Molyullah Hall 5.30pm	14
15	16 Tatong Fire Brigade Training. 7pm Fire Shed. 	17	18 Tatong Community Dinner at the Tavern	19 Play group, 9.30am Tatong Rec Res .	20 Girls Shed 10.00am at Tatong Hall	21
22	23 	24	25 Anzac Day.	26 Play group, 9.30am Rec Res	27	28
29	30 	May 1	May 2	May 3 Play group, 9.30am Rec Res	May 4	May 5

Molyullah Notice Board:

Dates to note:

Good Friday, 30 March at 9.00am Sports working bee at the Hall

Easter Sunday, 1 April from 1.30pm Sports working bee at the Hall

Monday, 2 April – Molyullah Easter Sports

Thursday, 5 April – Molyullah Dinner at the Tatong Tavern

Sunday, 8 April 12noon-4.00pm - Nessie playing at the Northo (North Eastern Hotel)

Sunday, 8 April 9am-5pm – IMTCA Australia Challenge at Molyullah Mountain Trail*

Friday, 13th April – Fish & Chip Night at the Molyullah Sports Ground – 5.30pm start

Saturday, 5th May- - Fundraising catering job at the Hall – Morning Tea for 150 members of a Shepparton car club. *Offers of assistance very welcome (either to assist on the day or by providing a plate of fare suitable for morning tea). Please call Kathy Zoethout: 5766 6288.*

*For details of Molyullah Mountain Trail call Brenda on 7566 6459 or email: brenda.millott@bigpond.com.

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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.

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If you require help, contact one of the Tattler committee.

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