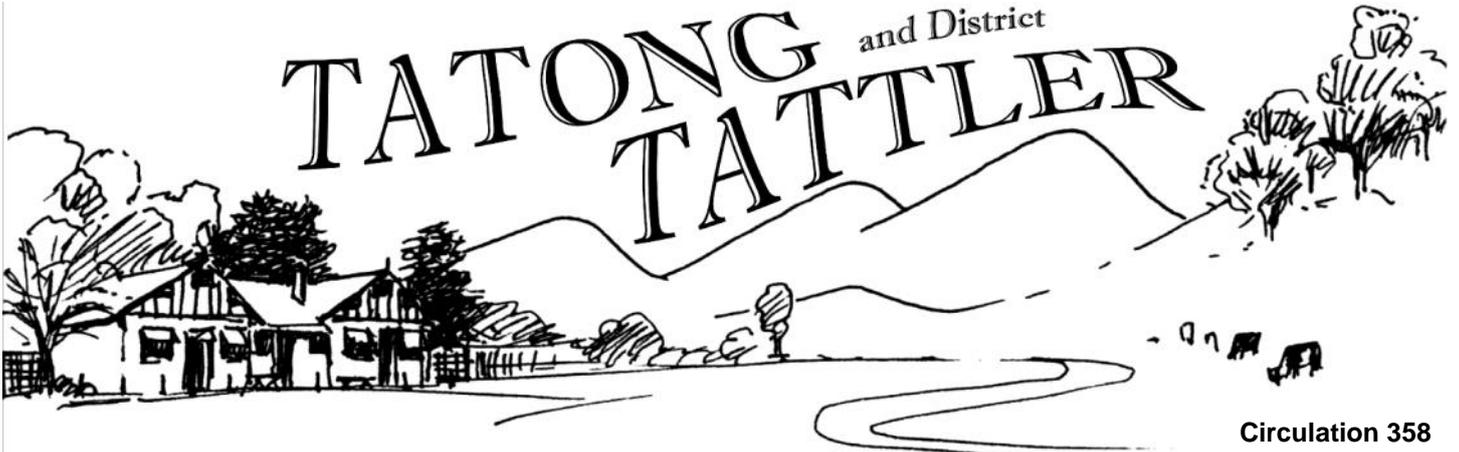


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FOLLOWING CAPTAIN COOK by Linda De Fazio



This year our adventurous little group of four set off on a cruise through the Pacific Ocean, from Sydney to Hawaii. Whilst not our intention, we really only went because of a great deal advertised in the Sunday paper, we soon found we were visiting many of the places 'discovered' by that amazing navigator Captain James Cook.



Cook landed at Botany Bay on April 29, 1770. We left Sydney Harbour in rather more comfort aboard the Carnival Legend, 'I Am Australian' blaring from the ships' speakers as we sailed past the Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge. Of course we nearly didn't make it aboard when 'TOH' (the other half) with video camera firmly attached to his hand, despite many signs declaring no photography, was almost detained by border security.

The Carnival Legend is a sight to behold, Greek themed, it is a riot of colour, with Greek urns everywhere. I loved it! There are 65 deaf passengers on board,

with 10 deaf interpreters. How wonderful are they and interpreting the Rated comedy shows is a show in itself. We have tears of laughter running down our cheeks watching



the interpreter.

After 3 days of sailing we reach New Caledonia and the capital, Noumea. James Cook wasn't very impressed by New Caledonia and left it for the French. I thought it beautiful. A further 2 days brings us to Tonga, formerly known as the Friendly Isles. Captain Cook was here too, there is a memorial on the landing site. The people we met were delightful but I would describe Tonga as rustic. Tonga is very proud of its Royal Family and especially their one and only Queen, Salote Tupou III, who died in 1965. She was known for her statuesque build, 6ft 3in. She brought Tonga to international attention when she attended the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953.

In Tonga we collect more than souvenirs, Influenza. Within a few days half the ship is sick and the queues have all but disappeared. We managed to get a flu vaccine just before leaving home, but still get a milder version. Sore throat, fever, nausea and cough. I feel for those not vaccinated, the ship's little sick bay is overflowing and many people are confined to their cabins. 'TOH' gets a runny nose for 2 days and complains endlessly. Next night we cross the International Dateline and are reliving the previous day. 'TOH' insists he took a photo of the dateline, we all pooh pooh the very idea until we see his photo of a line between glass panels on the balcony. Trick photography, who knows?

On June 3, 1769 James Cook recorded the transit of Venus across the Sun, on Tahiti.

Those transit observations, along with many others taken around the world were used to calculate the size of the solar system to assist in nautical navigation. To find Tahiti, a speck in the Pacific Ocean, Cook used hourglasses and knotted ropes to measure the ship's speed and a sextant and an almanac to estimate his position by the stars. We visit the site of his observatory on Tahiti and discover



details of another amazing navigator, William Bligh, Master of the Bounty.

In 1789 the Bounty was sailing from Tahiti bound for the West Indies when the crew mutinied. Captain Bligh and 18 loyal crewmen

were set adrift in the ship's cutter. Bligh managed to sail this tiny vessel to Timor 6000 kms away. Fletcher Christian and his fellow mutineers sailed to Pitcairn Island and burnt the Bounty. Descendants of the mutineers live on Pitcairn still today. (To be Continued...)

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Wednesday**

**Tuesday
Pizza Night**

**Monthly
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MURALS, WALL AND SCRAP ART

With my article last month about mural or wall art in Tatong I have had some feedback with offers of paint and some people willing to put paint on walls. I will try to arrange either a meeting or an email conversation now that the Scrap Art Exhibition at the Swanpool Hall is finished.

To diverge from the Tatong wall art and a mention that the Swanpool Scrap Art event held in August has been another huge success both for the Swanpool and District Community Association and for your humble scribe who sold his Ned Kelly trilogy sculpture. The piece was made from three BBQ gas burners along with metal plate armour tied with leather strap, a small tree stump and decorative bits such as the green sash, his Winchester rifle and the scales of justice. An interesting coincidence for me was recently seeing the same type of rifle as Ned's held by Annie Oakley in a Facebook 'colourised' photo. I have a book about the Channel 7 production of the Kelly series, *The Last Outlaw*, and the book illustrates the various guns, both actual or replicas, used by the Kelly gang.

Oakley was the most famous and highly paid American female sharpshooter of her era, she was just five foot tall, born in Ohio in 1860 and was five years younger than Ned. She had a rather harsh childhood after her father died young, but she learned to trap wild game before 7 years of age and how to shoot straight from 8 years old. She provided food for the

family and even paid off the family house mortgage before her 15th birthday. She earned good money by supplying the game to local businesses and in adult life, as a famous sharpshooter, it was very rare that she missed when aiming at something, even a moving target.

I would encourage anyone, who like me, has a pile of used things, which are too good to throw away, to have a go at Scrap Art. It is like the hay-bale art or some of the letterboxes we see from creative farmers and country people. Don't be intimidated by the word 'art' because it can be off putting when considering aspects of the 'real' art world where so much 'weirdness' happens. Art is an innate part of being human and it finds expression in many ways, ways that ordinary people might not think of as art. Any activity that inspires passion and perseverance may be art because it is largely driven by feelings. With increased prosperity our culture is slowly emerging from the attitude that we should always be spending our time doing something 'useful.'

My phone numbers and email address is at the bottom of this article so please, email, ring or text me if interested in participating in the Tatong wall paintings. I'll try to make it as uncomplicated as possible for anyone who wants to be involved in planning, designing and painting our own local wall art.

Mike Larkin

mikelarkin.md@gmail.com Home tel. 57672323, Mobile tel. 0428273613

Two Gentlemen in Verona (and elsewhere)

Steve Ingram

In the footsteps of Shakespeare

*Act III, Scene I
Mantua*

We made a side trip to Mantua (Romeo and Juliet, Love's Labour's Lost), which required a briefish and rather dull train ride away through a flat post-industrial landscape of nondescript small towns and abandoned, derelict factories and warehouses. We had hoped to examine the Palazzo Ducale, ancestral home of the medieval rulers of the city, the Gonzaga, but once again Fortuna was against us as it was shut for the day, although its splendid courtyard and gardens provided a welcome diversion. Mantua itself is an attractive World Heritage city, with a large cobbled piazza leading up to the palazzo, which is approached via a series of colonnaded streets. The town doesn't just have Shakespearean connections, however, being the location of Verdi's masterpiece Rigoletto, and its central character the Duke of Mantua, seducer of young women, all round bad egg (and singer of the famous aria Donna è Mobile, roughly translated as 'Women are flighty').

*Act III, Scene II
Milan*

After our final night in Verona, we departed for Milan (Two Gentlemen of Verona, but tenuously) on the efficient, rapid and comfortable Frecciarossa. We passed through the Lombardy plain, the track fringed with farms, vineyards with views of hilltop villages under a blueish-grey sky and a pale white sun. Having settled in to our luxurious and rather expensive accommodation, we made our way down elegant tree-fringed boulevards towards the Duomo, by all accounts the largest Gothic cathedral in Europe. However, our purpose in travelling to Milan was not to examine yet another religious edifice, but to fulfil our long-held dream of seeing opera, any opera, in one of the world's greatest opera houses, La Scala.

The Duomo is both massive, and massively overwrought, and dominates the adjoining piazza. It took several hundred years to complete, having been started by the Visconti in the 14th century. As a consequence of this protracted period of construction, it underwent several stylistic adjustments, each one of which making the overall effect yet more ornate. The famous Galleria shopping centre, home to some of the more famous names in fashion, lies to the right of the Duomo and leads through to a small piazza which stands in front of the Teatro La Scala.

The theatre itself is rather small, with terraced galleries rising above the more expensive stalls on three sides. We perched on one of the lower galleries, where the seats are so cramped it is easier, and more common, to stand. Such discomfort could in no way detract from our enjoyment of the spectacle. The opera, a less well-known Verdi, I Due Foscari (coincidentally about a Doge of Ven-

ice) was beautifully and expressively sung and inventively staged. Even an unwanted conversation with a Midwestern American schoolteacher, whose extensive travels had been spectacularly unsuccessful in broadening her mind, could not temper our happiness. I had demurred, I thought with some subtlety, at her request to express an opinion on the then upcoming US Presidential Election. Undeterred by what I thought was this subtle, yet clear desire not discuss such matters on what was intended to be an evening of pleasurable entertainment, she then proceeded to praise Trump and excoriate what she ludicrously described as the 'socialist' Obama, both Clintons, Hispanic people, migrants, Muslims and just about anybody who wasn't a white conservative American. At this point, my tact deserted me (a not uncommon occurrence it must be admitted), and both my brother and I made our feelings known about Trump in particular (demagogue, racist and misogynist may have been words we used) and her bigotry in general. Of course, it made no difference at all. She remained convinced: a true believer (and teacher of the next generation of Americans).

After that exchange, we needed a drink. So, on our gentle stroll back to our lodgings through a light drizzle, we paused in a bar for a restorative grappa or two. After a good night's sleep, we returned, uneventfully to Venice and boarded our flight back to England.

[Players exeunt, stage left]

THE END



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Garden Daze

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



Warmer days on the way - time to get the Summer Vegie Garden underway.

What's in a name?

About 12 year's ago a chap by the name of Ray gave some seeds of a very tasty beefsteak tomato to a friend of ours, who in turn shared them with us. We have grown them ever since, calling them naturally enough - *Ray's Tomatoes* - passing them on over the years to family and friends. Our son Bruce, an avid gardener, in turn gave some seedlings of *Ray's tomato* to his friend Tim, where the seeds are saved and have become *Bruce's Mum*.

Late last summer, we were browsing at the almost closing hour of the Wangaratta Community Market, when we came across a stall with some very ripe, huge lobed tomatoes. As we bought a couple of kilos, we asked the elderly Italian stall holder what was the variety. We were told they were *Sandwich* tomatoes.

"Put a big thick slice on a similar size piece of bread - drizzle olive oil - salt/pepper - delicious. And ... any further



questioning as to the possible botanical name proved fruitless. Yes they were delicious - lots of flesh and few seeds. Needless to say we saved some of the seeds.

A few weeks later we were visiting a friend who has grown up in the area and we mentioned the *Sandwich* tomatoes. She immediately collapsed with laughter and muttered something that sounded like "*Donkey's Balls*". "Hmmm?" we said, wondering if we had heard correctly - but between laughs we were told - "they are called *Donkey's Balls*!"

So .into Google we typed "*Tomato Variety Donkey's Balls*" and found . .

A Canberra primary producer is determined to propagate a tomato which has links to Turkey and the Dardanelles Peninsula.



Dr Joyce Wilkie who farms heritage pigs and heirloom vegetables was given the tomato seed by a neighbour who had migrated from Turkey many years ago. Many Turkish people know the tomato as a *Canakkale*, which is the

seaport town where it grows.

Given the history of the region Dr Joyce has christened it a *Gallipoli* as *Canakkale* is just across the water between the peninsula and the mainland.

In a tomato you are looking for that balance between salty, sweet and acid. It is one of those tomatoes that is a combination of all three.

So if you fancy growing a *Sandwich/Donkey's Balls/Gallipoli/Canakkale*:

[The Climbing Fig.com.au](http://TheClimbingFig.com.au) has seeds for sale.

And (?) They call them *Canakkale Ozel Domates*.

There were other references to *Donkey's Balls* tomatoes on the internet, and it seems to us that a few very large "lumpy" tomatoes have earned themselves the name. The similarity that all these stories have is of a neighbour/friend who had gone to the trouble of bringing the seeds with them (back when it was allowed) when immigrating. So regardless of whether they are the same tomato or similar - at some time in the past someone felt they were an essential ingredient in their "new" life and wasn't going to leave them behind.



Nature's Planting Calendar

From *the Organic Gardener's Companion*

Compiled by Anne Heazlewood

The Organic Gardening and Farming Society of Tasmania Inc.

The following signs are consistently more reliable than man's calendar of dates. They apply to any area, in either hemisphere - wherever these common plants grow.

Spring bulbs
And forsythia
Begin to show
colour



Sow peas, spinach, lettuce
Radish
Plant out garlic, onions
Raspberries, strawberries,
grapevines, rhubarb, asparagus

Plum and
peach trees
bloom



Sow endive. Lettuce, second
sowing of peas
Plant second onion sets

Apple, quince,
cherry, straw-
berry and
grapevine in
bloom



It is safe to sow and plant out
all frost-tender plants, tomatoes
cucumber and pumpkin

Well - September can be fine, wet and windy by turns - all in the one day. However overall it is getting warmer

(at last) and the soil should be starting to warm up. To give the soil a chance to warm up more quickly - it is a good idea to pull back any unrotted mulch where you intend to start planting.



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

Kathy Z

Neighbours rescue damsels in distress

Several weeks ago, my elder daughter and a group of her friends decided to use our place on the Tatong-Tolmie Road as a base for a weekend of skiing and general sky-larking. While one group managed to arrive lateish on Friday evening without incident or alarm, the final member of the party fared less well. She had never been to our house before, and being detained by the press of professional responsibilities, drove up alone in her small red sedan. Despite reasonably clear directions, a GPS, and the welcome lights of our house and that of our immediate neighbour, the estimable Don Firth, she decided to take the rough 4WD dirt track immediately before his house that leads down to a swimming hole on Holland Creek. Oblivious to her mistake, she ploughed on (literally!). Given that it had been raining heavily for some time, and was continuing to do so with some force, the car became bogged as she approached the creek. Immediately afterwards it was stuck on one of the large rocks that fringe the creek. These events, though troubling, may well have been a blessing in disguise. Had she not been brought to a halt by a fortuitous combination of mud and rock, the car may well have plunged into the creek's turbulent waters with potentially dire consequences.

I got to hear of this crisis as I was comfortably ensconced in front of my TV watching the Cricket World Cup at home in Melbourne. They had apparently already called the RACV, who declined to assist – hardly surprising given that none of them were members of that organisation. I suggested that they see whether Don was at home. Fortunately, he was, and despite the lateness of the hour, not yet abed. In true neighbourly fashion, he immediately came to their aid, carrying out emergency triage by wedging the wheels to prevent the car from slipping into the creek. The next morning, he called on the local cavalry, who responded with some alacrity to the need to come to the aid of a group of damsels in distress. Rod Cuthbert duly arrived equipped with 4WD and chains. Unfortunately, the 4WD was unable to extricate the firmly wedged Holden. Reinforcements arrived in the shape of the Conti's with their tractor (described later by my rather urban daughter as 'really cool'). So, with the help of the Conti's, Rod and Don, the vehicle was slowly extracted from its muddy prison, miraculously undamaged, despite its precarious position and troubled night.

My self-effacing neighbour and his friends downplayed their invaluable contribution to the rescue operation. But, on behalf of Lucy and her friends, I would like to publicly express my profound thanks to Don, Rod and the Conti's. Just goes to remind us urban types that country people really are the salt of the earth.
Steve Ingram

Does anyone have some rough/rocky hilly acres they would like grazed by a few fat ponies who need more exercise.

We have a few here that are currently living the lazy life on our very flat land, not the most suitable for them. Adequate fencing, water and shade obviously a requirement

Anywhere in Tatong, Samaria, Swanpool, Lima areas OK.

Contact Greg msg or call 0409 925 869.

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Tatong Heritage Group Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
will be held on

Monday September 23rd, 2019
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Tatong Memorial Hall

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persons

SUCK it UP

SEPTIC PUMP OUTS



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



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Councillors visit Molyullah Fish & Chip Night

On Friday, 9 August – one of the coldest nights during this pretty cold winter – Benalla Councillors, Barbara Alexander, Danny Claridge, Don Firth, and Mayor Scott Upston braved the elements to join in with locals and partake of some delicious fish and chips.

Jane Archbold, Manager – Community, also attended along with our new CEO, Dom Testoni, who visited Molyullah for the first time. Dom volunteered that he was an “ex farmer”. Numbers were a little down due to the bitterly cold evening but those who attended appreciated the opportunity to meet our new CEO.



Pictured herewith are Bill Willett, Secretary to the Molyullah Sports Committee (a post he has held for the last 33 years), Scott Upston, Mayor of Benalla Rural City, and Russell Byrne, President of the Molyullah Hall Committee and chef extraordinaire – specializing in fantastic fish & chips. (jk)

Fish & Chip customers - please note: The next Molyullah Fish & Chip night is to be held on Friday, 13 September. This is the day before the Wangaratta Car Club luncheon which is for some 150 guests. As a result, only the supper room will be available for inside seating at the Fish & Chip night. It would be helpful if you could bring your own chairs, particularly if the weather is ok and some of us can sit outside. Thanks for your cooperation with this – Janette.

Bushwalking Locals!

Some of our Tattler volunteers enjoyed a walk in Molyullah recently. Pictured here are Brian Vial (Committee), Pip Rigby (Deliveries), Janette Knapper (Committee), and Andi Stevenson (President) enjoying a bit of bushwalking. (jk)



Gawn to Town

I don't eat meat pies so often these days. With all that pastry, a meat pie is a substantial thing. The multitude of calories needs to be occupied... and the devil makes work for idle calories.

A Winter Thing, once upon a time, was for one of us to duck home mid-morning, put some wood on the stove, and put pies in the bottom oven. Whenever lunch time eventuated, hot pies in crispy pastry waited to be smothered in tomato sauce. For a down-the-paddock event like lamb-marking, hot pies were collected, in a warm pan from above the stove, and brought out to the hungry and deserving workers.

While I might rejoice that I'll never again spend a cold windy day marking lambs, the truth is that self-induced exercise can decrease in the cold grey winter days. Without a Kelpie at the door, insisting it is time to go and march the sheep thrice around the paddock... Sigh. Once I could eat pies and get away with it.

Apart from a shirtload of calories, and a shirtload of salt, just what is in the Australian Meat Pie? If you are dining as you read this, you might like to move onto Garden Daze, or maybe Carole Ruta's page.

A few years back, Consumer group Choice investigated just what was in a Meat Pie. They found the term “Meat” pies was misleading. Just as with Impossible Burgers today, the argument is over the meaning of “meat”. At the time of their 2006 study, “meat” could include snouts, ears, tongue roots, and tendons. Since then, the code was changed; “Meat” can include muscle, animal rind, fat, connective tissue, nerve, blood and blood vessels. A meat pie must contain at least 25% of... that stuff. Most pies conformed to this, as well as could be ascertained (by measuring protein, and excluding soy protein, for a best guess as to meat content.)

“Meat” is not meant to include “offal”, but some bits of lung did pop up (so to speak) in the 2006 pie test. The pies performed better in 2010 (the makers having realised someone was watching.)

In an early test, the Choice tester had to invent some new terms for what she was finding in the pies. But why be fussy? If a beast has to die, we ought to use all of it.

I could move on to the issue of Trans-fats in the pastry; they are not banned in this country, indeed they don't have to be listed; instead the govt asks nicely that manufacturers don't use too much of them.

People have been eating meat pies for a very long time, and (apart from the obesity epidemic) no harm as occurred yet. If you are wondering how long people have been eating meat cooked in a flour and water concoction, try the best part of 10,000 years. But did the Egyptians have tomato sauce?

The less healthy aspects of the Meat Pie might be offset by eating it with legumes. I find early records in South Australia allege that Port Pirie saw the birth of pie floater; “conceived by one Ern “Shorty” Bradley in 1890's, but no one really knows how. Did he inadvertently drop a pie into a bowl of soup?” - Andi Stevenson. Enjoy your pie.



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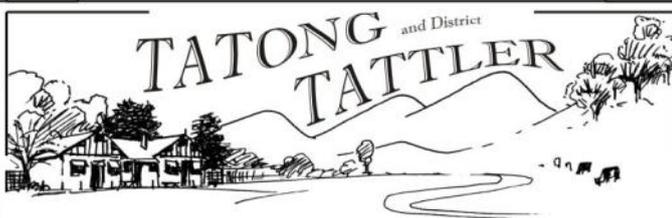
Reno reference – John Knapper

Have you ever been tackling a renovation or restoration and wished you had an old photograph as a guide?

Arles is a town in Provence, Southern France. Arles is well known for its many Roman remains. It was once the centre of the Catholic Church. Vincent Van Gogh spent a year here – 1888 to 1889 – at the end of his life.



During this time he produced over 300 paintings, many of which were of town scenes. This made it easy to restore a courtyard garden. Open to visitors, it features a sign showing Van Gogh's painting they had used as a reference. Similarly, the restoration of a street café was made easier by having another of his paintings. There could be no argument about what colour was to be used as can be seen by the painting on show outside the café.



The Annual General Meeting

of the
Tatong Tattler Committee
will be held on:

Wednesday September 18th
At the Tatong Tavern.

- Committee Meeting 5pm
- AGM 6pm
- Dinner! 6:30

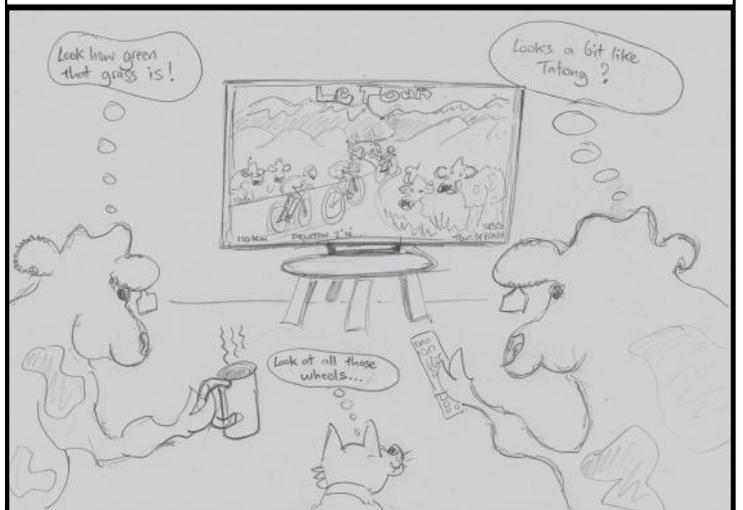


Tattler Distributors / Contributors / Readers etc.
are most welcome to the AGM &/or the Dinner.

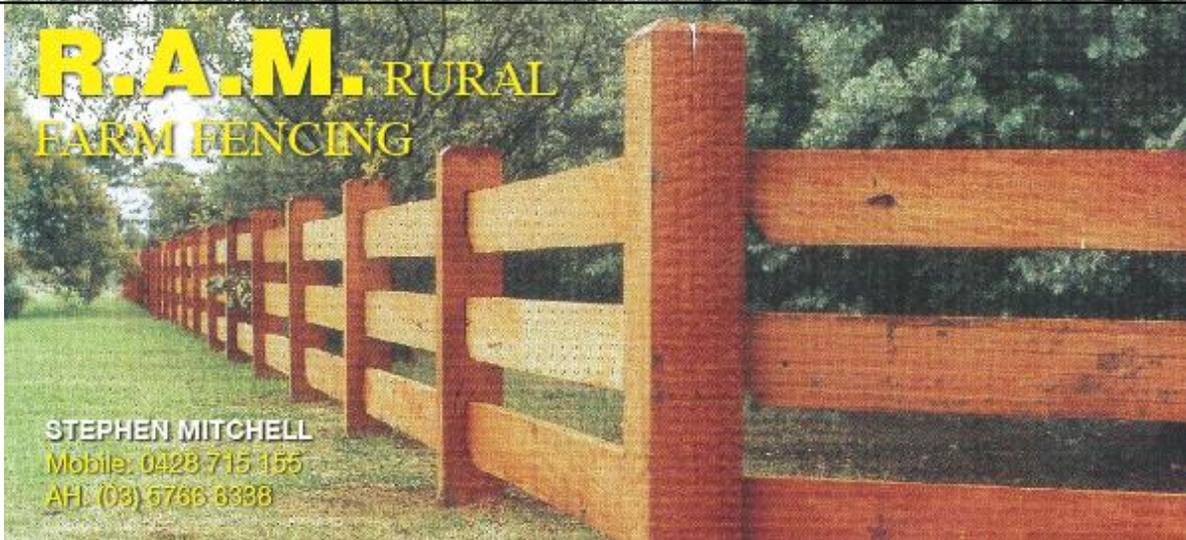
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What's Happening at Molly Rose?

So last month I remembered the 20th was coming – it came, and went and I didn't even notice until the 22nd, or maybe it was the 24th. I blame it on all the extra things taking up my time and brain space in July.

So, what's been happening at Molly Rose?

Did you know I have a love hate relationship with our electric poultry netting? I love it! It is so fantastically awesome, and mostly it works keeping the chickens in (although I do have a couple of very naughty hens who like getting out, and the ducks all need their wings clipped otherwise they fly out). And it definitely appears to be working at keeping the predators out. And as long as you remember to turn the energiser off, everything is grand. Have only made that mistake once!

I love the portability and how easy it is to move it, but that's when I hate it too. Firstly I hate it because it's like working with coat-hangers – it catches on everything, sometimes even on those little bits of sticky uppy grass! And when you untangle it, it gets stuck again, if not on the exact same tuft of grass, on the next little stick!

Trees and electric netting are natural born foes. I'm afraid my language has not been known to be the most pleasant when I am having to negotiate around trees and roses – you probably won't hear anything as I keep it under my breath, but the air might look a little blue. Electric poultry netting also seems to pick up every stick it touches as well as those it just glances at, and more often than not those sticks get wrapped and looped around then bunches up and needs me to stop, put down this massive bundle of orange stakes and netting and go back to the snarl and untangle it.

And then there's my lack of big hands! I have petite hands, unlike everyone else in my family who now tower above me, even the 13 year old. Electric poultry netting is not designed for those of us with small hands – and to be honest, I don't think it can be. To move the netting I'm meant to pull out and carry about twenty odd stakes and drag it along to the next place without tripping over it (it's very easy to stick your boot into one of those stupid little squares and fall on your face – at least I have avoided doing that so far!)

By the time the next Tatong Tattler comes out I will have my black ram. For a short while I seriously considered doing Positive Reinforcement Training with Butthead – I figure if you can do it with hippos, you can do it with a ram who behaves like a dog. But PRT requires a lot of time, patience and energy, all of which I don't have excessive amounts of at the moment, besides I never really wanted him, just his girls...

So if anyone's looking for a friendly ram who loves scratches and would be a great candidate for PRT, Butthead's looking for a home. Any takers? Oh, and turns out he is productive after all - he's managed to get at least four of the girls pregnant, I have my suspicions that it's at least six of them. It will be a fairly staggered lambing I think, which is good, considering how knew I am to this, not to mention the fact that I'll be wanting to milk them – that's gonna be a massive learning curve. Cherry is looking fit to pop, but I think she's got a couple of weeks yet.

We finally decided it was time to name our geese. Nothing as yet had presented itself so we made it easier - each name would start with G. Introducing Galen, Gabriella, Gawain & Guinevere. Galen is the friendliest and always coming over for a chat and pat. Gawain is currently in the bachelor pens as he was getting too domineering and chasing the drakes & ducks, and Galen. Unfortunately any poor chicken in the way was getting trampled by those big webbed feet! Needless to say, the gozzy geese have been voicing their displeasure!

Tim Schloss from Schloss Good ol' Toys and Collectibles is designing and building the Molly Rose version of the Chickshaw. Ours will look more like stylised mini gypsy caravans (this photo is just to compare the difference between a Chickshaw & a gypsy caravan) – I'm thinking of calling them 'Funky Fowl Wagons' lol, and they will come with roll-away nest boxes, which will be great and stop a lot of dirt getting on the eggs, which is currently one of my biggest problems. Looking forward to it, especially as the eggs have gone from famine to feast, but most are too dirty to sell! This month's 'Chicken Funny':

My owner built the perfect nest boxes. Better go lay my eggs in a cardboard box!

We don't have the perfect nest boxes yet, but I have had a chook lay her eggs in a cardboard box!

Write you again next month!

Carla



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I've been a bit obsessed with chocolate lately. Not sure if it is the cold weather or because I have been trying really hard to cut down on processed sugars. Anyway I've had great fun playing with recipes that fill the kitchen with aromas of spicy chocolate warmth!!

Adding to last month's chocolate brownie recipe I tried substituting different ingredients rather than the cooked beetroot in the original recipe. I also tried substituting it with uncooked beetroot well munched up in a high speed blender – or you could use a nutri bullet or Thermomix for the same result. Anyway I discovered what I think is a better result with the same amount (400g) of blitzed, peeled and cored, granny smith apples (new season Shepparton or locally grown apples are full of flavour at the moment). As the mix was slightly wetter I added a tablespoon of coconut flour, which seemed to hold the extra moisture well in the cooked product. I also tried with boiled oranges, (400g) cut and pips removed. In this case I substituted Brazil nuts for the almonds and again added a tablespoon of coconut flour. Both of these changed ingredients needed 10 minutes more in the oven.

I'm experimenting at present with monk fruit powder. Its great for sugar free devotees, is 150-250 times sweeter than white sugar, has no calories and no known side effects. (I say 150-250 times as it varies depending on if it is pure monk fruit powder or if it has been blended with xylitol or erythritol). It is also less bitter than saccharin and heat stable. It's been used for hundreds of years in Chinese medicine and is a sugar substitute rather than an artificial sweetener that I really detest the taste of. Anyhow I'll keep experimenting and keep you in the loop as to the results.

Back to chocolate - one recipe that I really love which is pretty good for you and pretty guilt free is chocolate, avocado mousse and as avocados are pretty well priced at present I've been indulging in this easy recipe.



Chocolate Avocado Mousse

NOTE – I used coconut sugar but you can also use rapadura sugar. Both these sugars are unrefined so better for you than white sugar but they do carry the same amount of calories !!

Whey protein powder is available at health stores or some supermarkets. If you want this recipe to be gluten free ensure there is no added gluten in the ingredients list.

In a high speed blender or similar place

- 100g sifted Dutch cocoa powder
- 1 level teaspoon cinnamon powder (optional)
- 75g rapadura or coconut sugar
- 100g Vanilla or chocolate whey protein powder
- 800g avocado pulp (skinned and pit removed weight)



Blend at high speed until completely amalgamated and smooth. Place in a glass or ceramic bowl until needed. Tip into a piping bag with a star nozzle and pipe into glasses. I used small cocktail glasses but any small glass will do. This mix keeps for up to five days in a refrigerator. I have tried peeling and removing the flesh of avocados when they are in abundance and they keep well frozen in an airtight container or snap lock bag. You will lose a bit of colour on the avocados but with the amount of cocoa used it really doesn't affect the colour of the final product, just defrost before using. It's a great dinner party make ahead of time, dessert and great fun getting guests to guess the main ingredient!!

Carole



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LANDMARK



Locals catch up at Mount Buller

Molyullah residents met up by chance at Mt Buller recently. Pictured here are Bob Whytlaw, Sharyn and Kevin Jaeger, and Janette Knapper at the shuttle bus stop at Mt. Buller. Bob and Sharyn are members of the Benalla Ski Club which has been running for about 60 years. Bob, who will turn 80 at the end of the year, has been a member since 1964 and still enjoys very much his time skiing down the slopes.

The Benalla Ski Club was first discussed at a meeting in 1958 and it was not until about 1961 that the building was completed enough to stay in. Bob says there were about 14 beds and it was very, very cold. A far cry from the present 50 bed lodge (all bedrooms en suite), with amazing kitchen, storage rooms, relaxing areas, and wonderful views to enjoy. This lodge was designed in around 1982/3 and seems to cover every need a snow enthusiast could want.

At the time of writing (19 August) reports are that there is plenty of snow on the mountain which is just as well as Bob is off to ski again this week! (jk)



White Gate



Dates

Important Notice! Details of the September **White Gate Dinner @ The Tatong Tavern**, which usually occurs on the 1st Wednesday of the month, currently hover in cyberspace like nervous quantum particles. On September 4th, The Tatong Table Tennis players will be holding siege in the Tavern. So the September White Gate dinner may take place on Thursday 5th, in Tatong. Or on Wednesday 4th, in Benalla. Or on Thursday, 5th in Benalla.

The one place the White Gate dinner won't be held is in White Gate, unless some kind person quickly builds a restaurant there. Re-build the Mt Pleasant Pub? But then it would be in Karn... which would make the dinner a some-White-Gate-folk plus some-Benalla-Ex-White-Gate-folk plus some-Tatong-folk dinner-at-Karn. But what's in a name? Besides, we'd miss the Tavern. The Mt Pleasant cacti are safe in their peace. (I wonder what the meals were like at the Mt Pleasant Public House, back in the day?)

For news on the location and date of the September White Gate dinner... contact Andi or Beth.

- Andrea Stevenson, 5762 8445

White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| Matthew Defazio | 1 Sep | Noel Hutchens | 29 Sep |
| Ross Runnalls | 8 Sep | Bill Ferguson | 6 Oct |
| David Elford | 15 Sep | Norton Grimwade | 13 Oct |
| Leigh Humphries | 22 Sep | Terry Ryan | 20 Oct |

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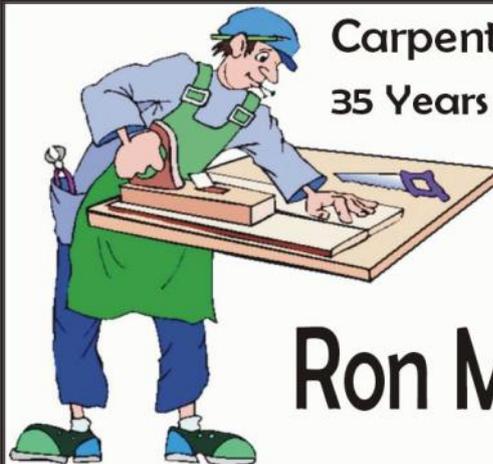


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|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 2008 | 52.4 | 11.5 | 33.4 | 17.7 | 48.3 | 37 | 114.7 | 58.8 | 18.9 | 1.9 | 89.7 | 64.9 | 549.2 |
| 2009 | 3 | 5.4 | 38.7 | 80.7 | 30.6 | 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 | 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 | | | | | | 369.0 |

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

The reasonably good rains continue to fall with 35.8mm up until the 15th of August. For July the monthly total was an excellent 83.7mm. It is nice to see a good amount of grass growing in the farm paddocks, many dams filling up and the world not collapsing into "catastrophe" just yet!

Mike Larkin

Laurie Explains How To Grow Lavender



Birchmore News

Gary and Julie Campbell, from Birchmore Gardens in Molyullah, took some time out for a local bush-walk recently.



Julie has advised that their next Charity Open Garden Day will not be held until October 2020. They are doing extensive re-designing and landscaping and will have plantings of Peonies, Liliiums, Bearded Iris and, of course, her amazing collection of salvias will still be included. They also hope to have an outside washroom/toilet facility constructed along with some extra undercover area. In the past, Anthony Hill of Delatite Steel has provided a portable toilet and both Julie and Gary thank Anthony for his help with this.

Many readers will have visited Birchmore and we will no doubt all look forward to something new in October 2020.

(jk)

Breaking News

Molyullah Easter Sports to end?

Hard as it may be to comprehend, the Molyullah Easter Sports are facing a crisis.

The Sports are the main fundraiser for the Molyullah Hall maintenance.

As with many things in life these days, there is a problem with succession. There aren't enough people to take over the reins. The oldies are getting older and, for whatever reasons, no-one is stepping up.

There's never a shortage of helpers on the day. What's needed are people to do the administration work throughout the year.

If you read this in time and are keen to step up, there is a meeting to decide what the future holds, Monday Sept 2nd, 7.30 pm at the Molyullah Hall.

This really is D-Day for the Sports!

Brandon Flint

What's on this month

September 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------|---|---|--|---|---|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 <i>W</i> hitegate Community Dinner. See page 17 of the Tattler | 5 <i>P</i> lay group, 9.30,am Tatong Rec Res . | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 <i>M</i> ansfield Bush Poets. Mansfield Library 3-5pm. | 11 | 12 <i>P</i> lay group, 9.30,am Tatong Rec Res . | 13 <i>F</i> ish & Chip Night. Mo- lyullah Hall 5.30pm | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 <i>T</i> atong Tattler AGM 6pm Tatong Tavern | 19 <i>P</i> lay group, 9.30,am Tatong Rec Res . | 20 <i>G</i> irls Shed 10.00am at Tatong Hall | 21 |
| 22 | 23 <i>T</i> atong Heritage Group AGM. Tatong Hall 4pm | 24 | 25 | 26 <i>P</i> lay group, 9.30,am Tatong Rec Res . | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

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Donations can be:

- ▲ Given to Committee Members
- ▲ Left in the Locked Box by the Tavern
- ▲ or EFT'd to GMCU, BSB 803 078, A/C 135720, Tatong Tattler.

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.