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Gita Korimbo, who grew up in the small village of Goroke in the Papua New Guinea highlands, was the first recipient of a Leigh Vial Memorial Scholarship. That scholarship program is funded by Mr Vial's nephew Brian Vial from Benalla. To say she has taken that assistance and made a great life for herself would be somewhat of an understatement. With the help of the scholarship, Ms Korimbo finished secondary school and then completed an engineering degree at the PNG University of Technology in Lae. Ms Korimbo now works with Oceaneering, a contractor to Exxonmobil, the oil and gas giant. Last week she visited Benalla to find out more about the town, and the people who helped her.



**Thankful: Gita Korimbo catching up with Benalla locals Alex Hazeldene, Brian Vial, Val and Allan Stafford, Geraldine McCorkel and Austin Hazledene.**

"Learning English is critical to getting a good education and as I know, an education provides opportunities not otherwise available," Ms Korimbo said. "Unfortunately, whilst education is free in PNG, we still lack fundamental resources such as books. The books sent from Benalla have been distributed to many isolated villages and the gratitude of the locals is overwhelming."

Bill Sykes, who assists Brian Vial with the project, said it was very rewarding. "Gita is a glowing example of the success of the scholarship project," Dr Sykes said. Having enjoyed the benefit of a good education, Ms Korimbo wanted to thank the people of Benalla and District who have sent several pallets of books to the Highlands of PNG. People in Benalla involved with the book project include book suppliers Salvos, Vinnies, Red Cross, the Baptist Church and Yooralla Op Shops. Geraldine McCorkell, Rob McLean and Katrina Bailey sort and pack books in boxes provided by Kristy at Treasure Hunter. Neil Chanter from ACF Seeds packs and wraps the pallets for transport. Ms Korimbo also caught up with Allan and Val Stafford and Austin Hazeldene, who along with others, support a micro loan project for women in the Southern Highlands and Enga province, who have struggled since the Porgera Mine closed, leaving them with a heavily contaminated environment and no income. She also has a strong interest in politics and took the opportunity to accompany Nationals candidate for Euroa, Annabelle Cleeland, on a street walk. Ms Korimbo said Australian elections were much different from what she experienced back home. "This is so different to electioneering in PNG where unfortunately violence and corruption occur too often," she said "I enjoyed being with Annabelle as she engaged comfortably with people and listened to their concerns". Dr Sykes said he looked forward to following Ms Korimbo's journey. "I believe she would make an excellent politician should she choose to do so," Dr Sykes said. Leigh Vial was a coast watcher during World War II and local people protected him from the Japanese, which motivated Brian to set up the scholarship program. More than 50 scholarships have since been awarded.

- by Simon Ruppert, in the Benalla Ensign, October 5th 2022

*The Tattler would like to thank the Benalla Ensign for allowing us to publish this article.*

**One of Many Coast-Watchers**

In the 1930 depression Leigh Vial saw a Position Vacant for Cadet Patrol Officers in New Guinea. There were 1,600 applications, and he was one of the ten selected. In 1932, the ten started training in the Lae district. Over the next ten years Leigh served in many parts of the country. By 1937 he was Officer In Charge of the Central Highlands Province.

After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour, Leigh was posted to Rabaul as an Assistant District Commissioner, to prepare the natives for the expected Japanese invasion and bombing. As the bombing became heavier, Leigh was asked to take the RAAF Ground Crew, and the remaining pilots, over the central ranges to the South Coast. They were able to trade with the inland tribes for food.

On reaching the South Coast, he contacted Townsville and an ex-Qantas sea-plane picked them up at dusk and safely returned them to Australia.

Leigh returned to Port Moresby only to learn that the Melbourne code-breakers knew that the Japanese were about to invade Lae, from where their army and air force could at last capture Port Moresby.

Leigh volunteered to set up an observation post in the foothills of the Owen Stanley Range overlooking Lae.

Two days ahead of the Japanese, Leigh was dropped on the airfield at Lae with radio, battery charger, fuel and four months rations. The local people quickly took the all the supplies in to the forests looking for a good observation post. The next day Leigh and two reliable natives he knew from the past set up a base well away from existing tracks in amongst the tall trees overlooking Lae. Leigh was able to radio headquarters with the number of bombers, and Zero escorts, flying towards Port Moresby. The strong U.S. fighter squadrons had an hour to get up high and attack the Japanese planes short of their targets.

After six months, he was suffering from scurvy and requested to be relieved. A replacement walked down from Wau airfield to which Leigh walked and was flown to Port Moresby.

Unfortunately Leigh was killed in an air crash in 1943 while guiding a US plane dropping supplies to an Australian commando patrol behind the Japanese lines.

- Brian Vial

**MALaise AND MIASMA**

A general lack of workers, disruption to supply chains for dubious and convoluted reasons, a lack of enthusiasm and interest in community events such as Tatong's Big Garage Sale, which has been cancelled due to insufficient bookings, as has the Art Show. This current state of torpor could be due to 'effete matter rioting in the efficacious systems.' (An old fashioned diagnosis for illness which the doctor had no clue about). This diagnosis is as good a reason as any for the current situation because, probably, we are sensing large scale change in the offing; change which you can't put your finger on but just know that it is out there. History shows the rise and fall of both good and not so good seasons, events and disasters which are mostly out of our control, no matter what we try to do to assert control.

The impression I have is that many people either stopped doing things by choice or force during the pandemic eruption and this has led to a re-assessment about what to do now that new opportunities have arisen, such as WFM, (working from home). The pandemic has had both good and not so good outcomes in that one can see life with a broader vision, learn about some of the extremes of human behaviour, including our own, and re-evaluate what it is that really matters.

Mike Larkin

**Evan Robert 'Toby' Lewis**

28.11.1939 – 1.10.2022

The Tatong Heritage Group is deeply saddened by the passing of esteemed member Toby Lewis.

One of Toby's many skills was storytelling. He held an audience captive at our meetings as he shared a wealth of local knowledge giving us an insight to life in Tatong from a bygone era.

Toby will be greatly missed by his family and the community that he dedicated his life to.

Toby has been a mentor to us all, and to strive for a caring and strong community will be to follow in Toby's footsteps.

Sincere condolences to Judy, David, Kerri, Jane and families.

Rest In Peace Toby.

**NEWS FLASH**

The Tatong night at the tavern is being reintroduced on the second Wednesday of the month. Great opportunity to catch up with friends and possibly make some new ones. Whether your new to Tatong or have been here for years, why not come along and enjoy the evening. That's Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm Please phone the tavern 57672210 & make a booking on the Tatong table.  
*(Maybe this is more a suggestion)*

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY -NOVEMBER**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> White gate dinner at Tavern
- 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Swanpool theatre screening Nowhere Special & To Olivia
- 9<sup>th</sup> Tatong dinner at Tavern
- 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day
- 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Swanpool theatre screening Falling for Figaro & Quartet
- 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Girls Shed at Tatong Hall
- 20<sup>th</sup> Tatong tavern, free event. Music by Dave Poultrier

Fire brigade have 2 training nights a month, check with Denis Hevey for dates.

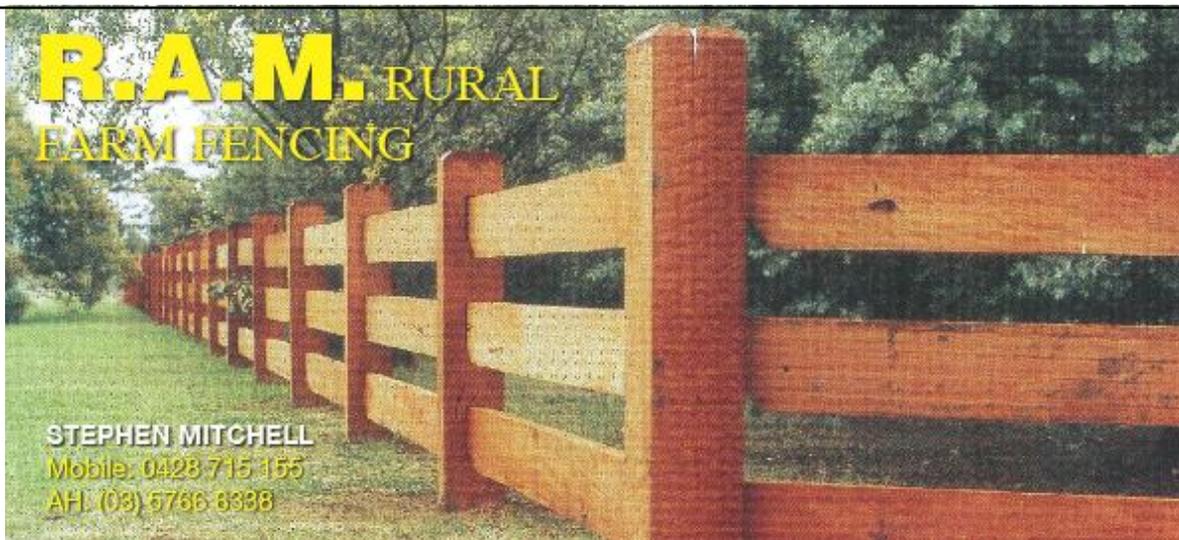
Heritage Group Meeting 21st 4pm at Hall  
Maybe a Hall Committee meeting

Perhaps readers could send in their events for December.

**OUR CHOOK CHOIR**

Others with chooks at home may enjoy the singing choir of these birds when they all cackle and cry out in unison. The usual brief cackle happens after a hen lays an egg but with the big choir the rooster joins in with everyone else to enjoy a longer rendition of what to me is the fowl version of Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> symphony. While the hens play the main tune, chiming in with individual voices, so does the rooster with deeper counterpoint at exactly the right interval. The joys of country living!

Mike Larkin



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### Vale Toby Lewis

I first met Toby nearly 50 years ago when I came to Tatong in 1973 as head teacher at the school. David, Toby and Judy's eldest son, started school later that year and so started his long association with the school as a council member and many years as president. Toby immediately impressed with his articulate views, his outward thinking, and his service to the school and to the overall community. This impression has not changed to this day as Toby continued his community service for the rest of his life. I have been told that Toby was one of the quieter of the 6 wild Lewis boys, but he definitely wasn't an angel. As like most kids, Toby got up to his fair share of mischief. Like the day he climbed out of the back window of the school bus and onto the roof – bus driver Joe McGill was not impressed. Toby has always been thoughtful of others, he was a thinker and had an academic streak. His interest in farming channeled him into studying and becoming a herd tester, practicing his A.I. skills on the dairy herds in the upper Murray around Tallangatta. Then came his passion for flying, eventually gaining his pilots licence. Combining his A.I. skills with his flying, his mates quickly nick named him the 'Flying Bull', a title I hadn't heard until a recent conversation with Barry Lewis.

Toby was always meticulous in his precise description of flying or of anything else for that matter. After a few beers on a Saturday night, one didn't want to get him talking about flying as you knew you would be in for a late one. His preciseness wasn't limited to flying. Working for Gil Jones as a dozer driver in the mid 70's, Toby was putting a dam in for me when he hit a large gravel seam. His expansive explanation on how he worked the gravel away and plugged the hole with clay, gave me a far better picture than any engineer's drawing. I now know every cubic metre of earth in that dam wall. Likewise, his cattle agent Justin Way was with Toby in the upper Murray looking for stock. This of course was Toby's old A.I. territory. Justin said as they passed farms that Toby once serviced, he was able to precisely recall all details of the farm including the number of cows serviced. On passing through Chiltern, he recalled how he often stopped in the ironbark hills to shoot rabbits on his way back to Tatong.

Toby has been a long serving community leader and his style of leadership was unique. He didn't have a dominating style. His approach was always softly softly, but had his firm views on many issues, and never wavered from his overriding principles of fairness and for the good of the community. He led by example. Throughout his life Toby provided a service to most organisations in Tatong.

Football Club – Toby was a was a life member of the football club. As well as playing 79 games and being a member of the grand final team, he served on the committee for most of his adult life. He had three separate terms as secretary 68-70, 80-82 and 85-87. Toby's first term as secretary in the late 60s saw the club at fairly low ebb. Apart from his role as secretary Toby filled many holes just to keep the club running - ground marking, boundary umpiring, goal umpiring and time-keeping were just a few of his jobs. Toby was also at every working bee with his trusty old Fergie 135. He enjoyed working and participating in all club functions. Whether it was killing and scolding a pig for the spit, or bottling wine, Toby was always there. At one infamous wine bottling function at Ken Jardines new shearing shed, Toby like many of us, drank a little too much port and later in the night disappeared into the dark determined to walk home. No one could find him. Apparently, he was seen going from tree to tree avoiding headlights. He did get home safe, but I am sure like the rest of us that day, earned the wrath of his wife Judy.

Fire Brigade – Toby had a lifetime of service to the fire brigade, an incredible 65 years. He took over as captain, serving 15 years in the role from 1989. His pet hate was fire fighters squirting from the back of the truck and not getting off to properly extinguish dry cow pats, logs etc. He insisted that people get off the trucks turning everything over – do it once – do it properly. As a footnote, Toby did have the need to call the fire brigade to his own place on a number of occasions. Apparently the Lewis boys were quite handy with a box of matches.

Rec Reserve – Toby served on the committee of the rec reserve from 1975-2005. This was a time of many improvements and as usual Toby was very active. In later years I only had to call and Toby would be down to slash the ground.

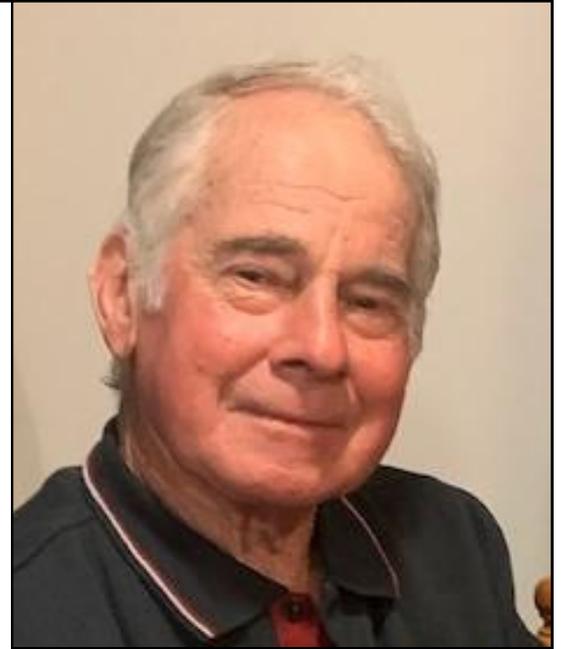
School Council – As mentioned earlier Toby served for many years on the school council, with a long term as president. As president he was instrumental in 1984 in the building of the library extension, funded by school fund raising and many working bees carting hay, Toby was the pivotal driver of the project.

Toby was also a member of the Tatong Heritage Group, Molyullah Tatong Landcare Group and Moorngag Cemetery Trust as chairman for a period and gravedigger. Toby also notably served his community for 10 years as a Benalla Shire Councillor and as President in 1995.

Apart from his contribution to community organisations, Toby also played the role as a community mentor and helper to many. If anyone needed a roll of hay Toby was the first port of all. He had a wide range of farming skills, and he personally gave me much assistance such as putting an edge on a crowbar, fixing my old plough, or cutting posts for the cattle yards. He freely gave advice on all things farming which was greatly appreciated by people like myself who knew very little when starting out.

Toby was greatly respected throughout the community and everyone who knew him was much richer for the experience. We benefitted from his wide-ranging knowledge and his lifelong service to the Tatong district. Most of all we cherished his sincere friendship. He will be greatly missed.

Dennis Scott





**TATONG MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2022  
WITH PARTNERS**

**RECOGNITION AWARD MORNING TEA**

**L to R Andrew McFarlane, John Manser, Irene Erskine, Rob Erskine (Committee), Mike Larkin (Secretary), Joe Hakkennes (Committee), Bev Hakkennes (Committee), Gerry Hevey (Committee), Dennis Hevey, Pat Manser (President), Nicole McFarlane (Treasurer), Barry Lewis, Joan Lewis (Committee).**

**Photo taken Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at the Recognition Award morning tea and presentation of certificate by Brian Thompson who was the key speaker. Sandra Cowton, on behalf of (DELWP) provided the delicious morning tea which we all enjoyed in a very relaxed and enjoyable environment.**

**Brian Thompson – Hume Regional Manager, Community & Partnership Programs, attended on behalf of the Hume Regional Leadership Team to recognise the wonderful work of the Tatong Memorial Hall Committee of Management.**

**Sandra Cowton's role is within Brian's Community & Partnerships Programs as one of a team who coordinate the Recognition events for the Committees of Management across Hume. They have delivered this program on behalf of the Land and Built Environment Program (The team who oversee Crown Land and Committees of Management matters.)**



Rod Lindsay and Lachie Osborne recently celebrated their birthdays at the Tatong Tavern. The neighbours didn't realise they shared the same birthday until they both chose the Tavern for this year's birthday dinner.

### What is the oldest building in Tatong?

If you have a suggestion, and any knowledge of the history, please share it with the Heritage Group and/or the Tattler.



tatongtattler@yahoo.com.au  
tatongheritage@yahoo.com.au

Recently I attended the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Tatong Tattler at the local Tavern. It was pleasing to sit in on the meetings and to see the community still very involved in the production of this wonderful local newspaper. I should congratulate the committee for their continued efforts in promoting the district's news and articles in the Tattler, and for their ongoing voluntary commitment. It was lovely to catch up with the committee after the meeting and have a beaut meal at the recently renovated tavern. My late husband John and I and our extended family spent many hours at the tavern during our few years in the district. Many happy times! Again, I congratulate the Tattler team and wish them successful years ahead.

My kind regards  
Elaine BroganOAM

### RECIPES

With the weather wanning up it's time to fire up the BBQ so here's a couple of salad recipes to try. Plus as rhubarbs plentiful thought I'd include my stewed rhubarb recipe. Sue O'Brien

#### Curried Pasta Salad

2 ½ cups pasta shells - uncooked  
1 teaspoon oil  
250gm baby mushrooms - halved  
1 green pepper - chopped or strips  
3 green shallots - chopped  
2 sticks celery - sliced  
Dressing: - ½ cup oil  
                  ½ cup white vinegar  
                  2 tablespoons sugar  
                  1 ½ tablespoons curry powder

Combine these four ingredients in a jar & shake well

Method: Cook pasta in boiling water for 10 minutes or until tender, drain, rinse under cold water. Mix oil through pasta using your hands. Combine pasta in a bowl with the remaining ingredients & the dressing.  
Refrigerate overnight

#### Baby Spinach Salad

500 gm baby spinach  
2 tablespoons toasted sesame seeds  
Handful cashews  
Jar mango chutney  
Combine first three ingredients & add chutney just before serving.

#### Stewed Rhubarb

500 gm rhubarb  
1 orange  
½ cup castor sugar  
2 tablespoons water  
Method: Cut rhubarb into 2.5cm pieces & place in saucepan, add the grated rind & juice of the orange, the castor sugar & water.  
Cook over medium heat for approximately 8 minutes.

### WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING BY DELIA OWEN BOOK AND FILM REVIEW

I loved this film then decided to read the book which to me was the better order because the book details some of the more mysterious and ambiguous areas of the film. Its main character is a young girl nick named Kya, who's left to raise herself in the marshes of North Carolina when her family abandons her. There's a lot to this story. Romance, mystery and murder, all set in a beautiful background of Southern USA. Kya becomes an accomplished naturalist after being taught to read and write by a young boy who also frequents the swamps. Her understanding of the natural world highlighted with her exquisite drawings lead to the publishing of several books about the marshes but little change in people's attitude to 'The Marsh Girl'. A film and book well worth the effort, I noticed that the film is now available on streaming.

Linda De Fazio



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## Missing Moorngag Memories Updated

"Missing Memories", the Moorngag Cemetery Project booklet listing previously un-marked burial places within the Moorngag Cemetery, has been updated with new research.

In 2017, this project was initiated by Barry O'Connor with the Tatong Heritage Group. In conjunction with the Moorngag Cemetery Trust, and the Benalla Family Research Group,

plaques were placed on burial places, and information on those burials had been researched, then compiled by Barry into a booklet.

The September 2022 update has additions including an entry on Stanley Wiles, thanks to research by Beverley "Chick" Walker.

The Wiles entry is below; the Moorngag Memories booklet can be downloaded from the Tatong Heritage Group website, or ask a member of the group about obtaining a printed version. - *Andi Stevenson*



### Stanley Kilroy WILES

*(based on the memories of Brian McElroy)*

Stanley Kilroy WILES was born 1900 in Bunyip South, Victoria to Thomas WILES (1841 —1915) and Rose Ann KILROY (1867 — 1908). When he was 12 or 13 years old he ran away from home as his father was very hard on him. His father was in hospital for a while and Stan had to do the chores at home. When Stan's father was released from hospital his father wasn't happy with what Stan was told to do (his sister said her dad always picked on Stan for some unknown reason), so Stan packed his bags and left, never to return.

The first 9 or 10 years of his life is unknown. According to the 1922 Census he was working on a property at Mansfield called "Kilbride" on the Delatite River. He stayed there until 1925, and in 1926 he was working at Jack Merrigan's property at Swanpool as a labourer. He lived in a hut behind the Merrigan house.

A local identity at Swanpool said he was told Stan came across from Mansfield employed on a chaff cutter, as in those days chaff cutters moved around the district a lot. Stan never held a car license. He rode a bike around, and the locals often gave him a ride into Benalla for supplies. The 1936 Benalla Ensign had an article detailing how Stan was charged with riding a bicycle in Arundel Street without lights. He did not appear in court and was fined 10/- (\$1) in default of two days imprisonment.

All of Stan's friends thought he had no family until one day Bernie McElroy, who took over Merrigan's property, received a phone call from a lady who was Stan's sister. She had been looking for Stan for some time. Bernie told her she was quite welcome to come up on the train and stay the night, which she did. The next day Stan's sister took him back to Melbourne to meet some members of his family. Another story told by a Swanpool local was when her husband and herself, being pregnant, and with two kids and Stan on board were going into Benalla. The two kids were in the front seat with their dad, and because she was pregnant she sat in the back seat with Stan. The two little kids hung over the front seat staring at Stan all the way to Benalla. They wouldn't turn around and sit on the seat properly. When they got to Benalla old Stan gave the kids 2/- (20 cents) each. They were probably staring at him because he only had one top tooth and one at the bottom. It would have been embarrassing for the parents.

He liked a drink and would often ride his bike to the Tatong Pub for supplies or get a ride with one of the locals. Brian McElroy said when he was burning stumps on the property years later he would find wine bottles in the stumps, so obviously Stan had a sip when down in the paddock working. Stan was well looked after at Merrigans. They cooked his meals, and when the McElroys took over the property they did the same.

Stan passed away 12 June 1977, and is buried in the Moorngag Cemetery. His sister and her son were in attendance at the service and she was left with what money Stan had. When his hut was cleaned out, a death notice for his father was found in one of Stan's wallets. It mentioned all the children except Stan.  
*Recorded by Beverley 'Chick' Walker. Benalla Family Research Group. September 2022.*



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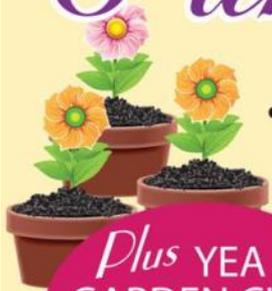
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## **Michael Savage, Prime Minister of New Zealand 1933-40, was born in the Tatong district 1872.**

*The following is abridged from Barry Gustafson's biography "From the Cradle to the Grave", with his kind permission. Some details are from other sources. This text can be found on [www.vicnet.net.au/~tathg](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~tathg).*

### **Part 7**

Local legend associated Mick with Kate Kelly, younger sister of Ned. Savage recalled often serving Kate and her mother in the store, Kate being about the same age as Rose Savage and Sarah Ann Brown. The legend goes that Kate later left the district to live with Michael Savage in New Zealand. There is no truth in it; each moved independently to sheep stations in New South Wales, and Kate, who had married William Foster in 1888, had a family and was drowned in Lake Forbes in 1898.

### **First Politics**

In 1890 Tony Ball contested the Benalla Shire elections. He accused the incumbent councillors, mostly wealthy land-owners, of having formed a ring 'to plunder the Central Riding' using shire funds to build bridges and improve roads near their farms. He and the Ensign wanted those funds used in the town itself to improve the unsanitary drainage, provide a good water supply, erect street lamps and build a decent crossing of the river. The whole town had open drains into which people deposited sewage. In a poll restricted to rate payers, Ball was sixth out of six candidates for three positions, obtaining only 79 votes.

In 1891 Michael Savage joined the Fire Brigade, and becoming very active as a fireman and in the brigade's gymnasium. The Benalla fire brigade consisted of twenty-five men and practised three nights a week, training including jumps from a height of six metres into canvas escape sheets. Firemen received 2 shillings for the first hour at a fire, then 1s. 6d. for each hour thereafter, and for the official monthly practice. In July 1892 Michael Savage was elected secretary of the fire brigade. He organised the novelty sports in September, incidentally winning the firemen's race. He also arranged the purchase of a new fire-engine, which arrived in January 1893.

In October 1892, representing the Fire Brigade, he was elected as treasurer to the ten-person committee raising funds for the Wangaratta hospital and the Beechworth Benevolent Asylum. The charity function attracted over 1000 people and raised a net profit of £27.

Savage was horrified by the problems faced by hospitals and asylum in a society in which there was no government-funded social welfare.

Many of those incarcerated in the Beechworth Asylum at that time were not lunatics, but people with no one to look after them and nowhere else to go – the ill, deformed, bedridden, or alcoholic. In the 1880s and 1890s Benalla removed undesirables from its streets by charging them with lunacy and getting them committed to the Beechworth Asylum.

### **Meanwhile back on the Selection**

At the start of the 1890s, Rose, young Richard, William, Hugh and Joe all applied successfully for selections of land near their father's farm. In 1891 Rose married Edward Cain and started farming Kilfeera Swamp near Benalla.

Young Richard won the contracts to deliver mail to and from Benalla and Tatong via Rothesay, and to and from Tatong and Lima East via Moorngag, Samaria and Swanpool, for a total of £8 per annum.

Rowland, unsuccessful in getting a selection, took his earnings of 8-10s. a day as a rabbitier and with a partner bought the large Cobb and Co. livery stables at the back of the prestigious Benalla Hotel. He serviced coaches travelling along the Sydney-Melbourne road, hired out horses and buggies, broke in wild horses on contract, and offered stallions for stud. Subsequently he sold out to his partner, bought a hotel and established small brewery at Yackandandah, further north.

### **Swanpool News**

After a soggy start to the season, the Bowls Club is busy, with many members helping out at working bees to upgrade facilities, and intrepid members enjoying social bowls when competition is interrupted by local floods.

We are looking forward to participating in this year's Benalla Festival, with a special matinee screening at the Cinema of "Downton Abbey: A New Era" on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 1.30pm. All tickets are \$10, which includes afternoon tea. The new Cinema programme for November/December will be out soon, with some great matinees, and our usual Double Bills at weekends. All weekend screenings start at 6.00pm from November onwards, to ensure that all our patrons and volunteers get home in good time. Programmes will be available at our usual outlets, and online at [www.swanpoolcinema.com.au](http://www.swanpoolcinema.com.au)

**TATONG**  
**CHRISTMAS PARTY/BBQ**  
**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Tatong Community Sports & Recreation Centre**  
**from 5PM**

**BYO - Drinks & Chairs**  
**BBQ & salad supplied**  
**Icy poles & treats for children & maybe even a surprise visitor.**  
**All welcome, come & unite with your community**



Enquiries: Gayle 5767-2342, Beth 5767-2250, Joan 5767-2251



The 2022 Tatong Community Great Big Garage Sale is Cancelled

After the rip-roaring success of the 2021 Garage Sale, the committee set to with passion to plan the 2022 event. We were confident of a grand sale, until we faced the astonishing realisation that we had very few stall-holder bookings.

We re-doubled our efforts, putting advertisements everywhere we could think of. Consequently, three weeks before the event date, stall bookings went up, but we still had less than 10.

With advertising and other commitments about to commence, we had to decide if to hope & keep going, or to cancel.

After much careful debate, we found we did not have a basis to run the event.

We were very disappointed, and the cancellation caused some negative reaction, but as a volunteer committee we had to be responsible.

# SUCK it UP

SEPTIC PUMP OUTS



## 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



Call us today to get your septic tank cleaned out

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# Garden Daze

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



November - So Far This Year has been Cooler and Certainly Wetter than Usual.

It's been hard to mow the grass when the mower gets bogged!



As I write this Benalla has just recently seen another flood and Shepparton is disappearing under a torrent of floodwater.

If there is one thing that this wet year has shown me it is that in general, my garden does not get as much water as it would like (or that I have available). The Iris have put on quite a show this year and indeed some have flowered for the first time since they were planted. (Usually left overs from the Molyullah Fair). The

apple and pear trees are covered in blossoms, but I can't help but wonder with all the wet weather - will the bees have been able to visit them enough. Time will tell.

A few trees out in the paddocks have fallen over due to waterlogging, and all the dams are overflowing. Indeed so are the paddocks.

I had bought some Vorwerk chickens recently as I thought the hens particularly striking. I had timed the purchase to coincide with having a broody hen.



Happily Mum chook had taken to her family well and was ensconced in a portable run in the veg garden.

Mum chook (a large Australorp) has been named "The Excavator" due to her continuous scratching, which in turn had removed all the grass and turned the ground into a "fine tilth" in a matter of days.



Then along came the continuous rain which caused water to run across the garden and into the run. This mix of lots of water and very fine earth soon became a quagmire and unsuitable for habitation.

Resisting all attempts to get her family to walk into a carry cage, it became necessary to arm myself with a large fishing net. I was able to catch mum without too much trouble and put her safely in a small shed. Next for the chickens - two were caught quite easily, but numbers three and four decided to try out their new wings and took off. After numerous circuits of the nearest garden beds and the now empty run, slipping in the mud - trying to "head them off" I decided that help was

needed and called in a second pair of hands. This made all the difference and finally the family was back together again in a nice dry shed filled with mulch. Which has since been extensively "excavated".

Vorwerk are an old German breed developed in Hamburg, Germany by Oskar Vorwerk. In 1902 he set out to create a fowl for smallholders for utility - a bird that would provide a good number of eggs with a good feed to egg ratio as well as meat for the table when required. They can be expected to lay around 170 small cream coloured eggs a year.

Vorwerks are also known to be flighty. They can fly up to 6.5 feet. (No wonder the chickens took off!)

## What's in a name? - Tomatoes

This year as usual I set up the hot box and got out my collection of seeds.

Having saved the seeds from particularly nice tomatoes last year, I had a few varieties to grow:

Gross Lisse (from Bob)

Black Russian (from Neville)

Sandwich (from Wang Market)

Ray (from Hilary)

Brandywine (from last year's crop)

Silvery Fir Tree, Wapsipinicon Peach and Scoresby Dwarf (from Eden Seeds for their various qualities).

**Sandwich** is our name for this tomato - having bought a Kilo from of this huge uneven fruit from an Italian family. Asking the name of the variety - we were told they make great sandwiches - being big enough that one thick slice sprinkled with salt and basil would make a sandwich. As asking again got us no further - we call them "Sandwich"!

**Wapsipinicon Peach** has a fine fuzzy skin similar to peaches and reputed to deter fruit fly.

**Silvery Fir Tree** has fine "carrot like leaves" - looks good in a pot or hanging basket and together with **Scoresby Dwarf** are low growing determinate varieties suitable for planting in the high Wicking beds.

**Ray** - naturally enough comes from a friend of a friend called Ray and is another where the original name has been lost in time, but is a very tasty beefsteak variety.

**Brandywine** - similar to "Ray" and "Sandwich" is as tasty as a cherry tomato but again another beefsteak variety. Known to our son's friend Tim as "Bruce's Mum".

Hoping that you have not been washed away this wet season and that you can get planting when the mud dries out.

Happy Gardening.



Kathy Z

## You and Your Brain Part 3 Final Instalment

Hazel Wann

### Brain HQ

Michael Merzenich is one of brain plasticity's pioneers. In his book *Soft Wired*, he describes the ageing brain and how most people do not see it until it is "too late" attracting the label 'mild cognitive impairment'. As the brain slows, the brain's attention system creates fuzzy encoding of what we observe and the neurons picking up the information hand on the fuzzy encoding to neurons downstream. Thus encoding can be incorrect and poor registration means you don't remember the information well. The fuzziness or 'noisy' brain competes with the incoming signals to be laid down in memory. Attention muddies. Priorities become jumbled.

Merzenich says the brain doesn't just learn, it is always learning how to learn, not just a mind we fill but a living organism with an appetite for growth when we nourish and energise it. He and his team of scientists researched brain plasticity in order to help retrain those with brain trauma, addictions, stroke victims, attention disorders and learning-disabled children. What came of it was the realisation that retraining had benefit for other areas, including the aged, and so he developed brain exercises for aged related cognitive decline. Loss of brain speed narrows the window on the world with multiple consequences. Focused learning restarts the plasticity required to maintain brain health.

At [www.brainhq.com](http://www.brainhq.com) you can undertake this training. The site covers brain speed, attention, navigation, memory, people skills and intelligence – this last one enhancing and sharpening the working memory. The games have different levels as you improve and your progress is measured against your age group. Each game adjusts to your speed level at the start so that you are not overcome by the speed. If you wish, you can use their personal trainer to guide you. I have used these games and was amazed at the increase in attention to detail I developed – I have not been a detail person in my earlier life. My daughter, who was diagnosed schizophrenic in her 20s, developed a self-awareness through these games that enabled her to control the undesirable processes in her brain.

BrainHQ games are designed to work through brain plasticity. Every BrainHQ exercises challenge the brain's speed and accuracy of information processing. Each exercise ensures that the challenge stays at a level just right for driving brain change—not too easy, but not too hard. The result is that BrainHQ exercises rewire the brain, improving brain

**activation, timing, and connectivity** between different brain regions. They are also designed to improve the quality of information that reaches the brain's memory, attention and thinking centres. In this way, BrainHQ sharpens cognitive function, helping people **think faster, focus better and remember more**.

One of the most important goals of BrainHQ training is to speed up your brain's processing because this enables the brain to keep up with information coming in through the senses, and improves memory and problem solving. Dozens of scientific papers have shown BrainHQ exercises improve brain speed.

The ability to focus your attention on what matters—and equally important, to ignore what doesn't, is the thing that allows accurate prioritisation. What's more, focusing your attention helps your brain pump chemicals that improve learning and memory. Memory lapse is one that feels particularly important to many of us. Having a sharp, effective memory makes people more confident—having memory lapses can leave them feeling insecure.

When people have better brain fitness, they can notice the difference in their health-related quality of life. That may be because having a sharper, faster brain can help a person be more engaged in the world. As your brain speeds up the world slows down and your tasks appear more manageable, so you are less overwhelmed and more motivated. Because the brain controls the body—and everything a person does—a better brain can lead to people feeling—and being—more in control of their lives. And as long as the brain is making new cells you can harness them for training the weaker areas of your brain to do better as well as maintaining what you have. And this is where Michael Merzenich has stepped into the breach.

Several studies have looked at whether benefits from using BrainHQ last, or if they fade away as soon as you finish training. The longest follow-up study so far showed that people still experienced a benefit even ten years after training.

---

*Soft Wired: How the New Science of Brain Plasticity can Change Your Life, Dr Michael Merzenich, Parnassus Publishing, San Francisco, 2013.*

*The Brain that Changes Itself, Norman Doidge, M.D., Penguin, New York, 2007*

*The Brain's Way of Healing: Remarkable Discoveries & Recoveries from the Frontiers of Neuroplasticity, Norman Doidge, M.D., Scribe, Melbourne, 2015*

To everyone in Molyullah and at the *Tattler*,

Some of you will remember me and my family--the Pryors--from our years in Molyullah from 2000-2015, when I was a little girl who liked writing.

I'm writing to you from Cambridge, England, where I'm starting a PhD in late antique Latin poetry (my focus being c. 300-500 AD). The tentative topic for my thesis is the sublime in late antique Christian Latin--an under-explored topic, and one which may need some explaining! Broadly, the sublime is definable--I quote the ever-useful Oxford English Dictionary--as

- a) The grand and elevated style in discourse and writing, esp. when used to express noble ideas.
- b) That quality in nature or art which inspires awe, reverence, or other high emotion; the great beauty of grandeur of an object, place, etc
- c) That which is grand or noble in human nature or life; moral or spiritual essence

Given this definition, it's no surprise that the sublime is an incredibly interesting concept to apply to the passionate and bizarre religious writing of the fourth and fifth centuries, where the human experience of God can be likened to a metaphorical ascent beyond the confines of the world. I'm currently looking at Augustine of Hippo's *Confessions*, but I will certainly branch out into a range of other texts.

I am also the junior organ scholar at Christ's College. This is a three year appointment (and I will eventually become the senior organ scholar, when in two years the current senior leaves!). My duties, which are shared with the other organ scholar, are to accompany the chapel evensongs, which are twice a week, as well as sundry other events during the year.

Arriving here has felt at once surreal and shockingly normal. 48 hours of sleeplessness on two consecutive flights and the subsequent full day in Cambridge (during which I had to obtain bed linens, cutlery, and sundry other necessities) left me rather dazed, and I tumbled into bed at 6pm and rose at 6am the next morning feeling not at all as though I had arrived in a different country, and frankly although I have been here since the 24th of September I don't think that I have quite processed yet that I'm on the other side of the world. There's been some confusion with my accent--some people have thought I'm American, but most have been able to narrow it down to Australia or New Zealand.

Amusingly (in hindsight) I was given the wrong room at first. Having hauled my suitcases up two narrow and perilous flights of stairs--helped by a kind bystander--and standing panting at the top, I fully took in for the first time (although I had seen it before beginning my ascent) that the name on the door was not mine. Further investigations showed that my name was on the door of a room in the neighbouring corridor. It was of course impossible to get the larger of the suitcases back down the stairs without unpacking it entirely.

Cambridge is a very comfortable place to live, I'm finding, although I'm told that will change when winter sets in. My room is lovely, and everything necessary is close by--shops and churches within a 5 minute walk, the Faculty within 15.

I will enclose some photos of the view from my room, of the gardens, and of myself at matriculation (which is the official commencement at the start of the year that made me an official member of the university), and sundry other things. Also a poem which I did *not* write in the UK, but in October of 2021--I will have to write the UK version sometime!

Warm wishes to all,  
Clare Pryor

...yet this year's gift is beauty in strange places—  
pied currawongs, ever wary, on the lawn:  
black beak too long; bright, nervous eye a splotch  
of yellow ochre, fur of honey-bee—  
hopping away as soon as I approach...  
...or shadow of a spread-winged cockatoo  
running like rabbit through the rippling grass...  
...or baffled magpie chick, pushed from its nest  
ready to fly, yet gripping still the earth.  
And, just as death in life, there's life in death—  
the broken branch becomes a magpie's nest.  
Damage is strange, and often beautiful  
like black rot nestled in a capsicum—  
evil-smelling, furry-soft to touch...



# White Gate



# Dates

White Gate dinner at the Tavern will paddle into view on November Wednesday 2nd.

Hoping all have survived the deluge without too much damage, inconvenience, or cleaning required.

News from White Gate:

The dairy in Smiths Road almost flooded but did not reach 1993 levels; and we have been inundated with not only rain, but baby ducks! We are no longer dodging potholes, but scores of duck families waddling themselves from one aqua paradise to another. - Caryn De Fazio

Linda De Fazio simply asks:

**“Rain, rain go away!”**

Which is pretty drastic coming from a farmer. Her photos accompany this epistle.

## White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Andrew Marriott	23 Oct	James Parton	20 Nov
Noel Hutchens	30 Oct	Angus Mcmillan	27 Nov
Terry Trounson	6 Nov	Hamish Mcmillan	4 Dec
Les Maclean	13 Nov	Laurie Defazio	11 Dec

- Andrea Stevenson, 0429 439 336

# Gawn to Town

## ...And Flooding Rains

As a child in suburban Mt Waverley, the nearest thing to a flood happened in our lounge room. During a particularly heavy downpour, I was climbing on the settee, as you do, and noticed water was running down the inside of the window. Amazing! Just like at the Arts Centre in the city. I shouted out this exciting news, and was promptly pushed aside as my elders rushed in with towels, and tried to stem the deluge. My poor mother, struggling to bring up a pack of kids on her own, was caught out by the gutters.

Come to think of it, there were some more regular floods in that house; the washing machine was inclined to incontinence. (“Mo-ther! Laundry!” - that poor woman.)

The first real floods I explored were in Burramine, south of Yarrowonga, in the early '70s. My aunty's farm was flat as a pancake, and quietly went under a layer of water. I constructed fish-traps out of mud in the yard by the woolshed (but never caught any fish). Being a sweet little girl, sugar & spice etc, I went hunting mice on the hills round the dam. They had fled there for shelter, then a bloodthirsty child turned up with the sheepdogs.

On the Moulamein farm there was still the odd memento of the great floods of 1956. We were on the Edward River, and several time in the decades I lived there the Edward over-flowed its banks. It flowed into the billagongs, and sometimes over old ox-bow 'river flat' below the house, a section of riverbed long since abandoned by the river, but occasionally re-visited.

Sometimes we had a go at keeping the river out, with much shovelling; and sometimes it worked. Other times we had to canoe over to check the pump.

One year, a mob of ewes were cut off by flood water; they were fine, but we had to deliver their rams to them by boat. I hope that added spice to the romance.

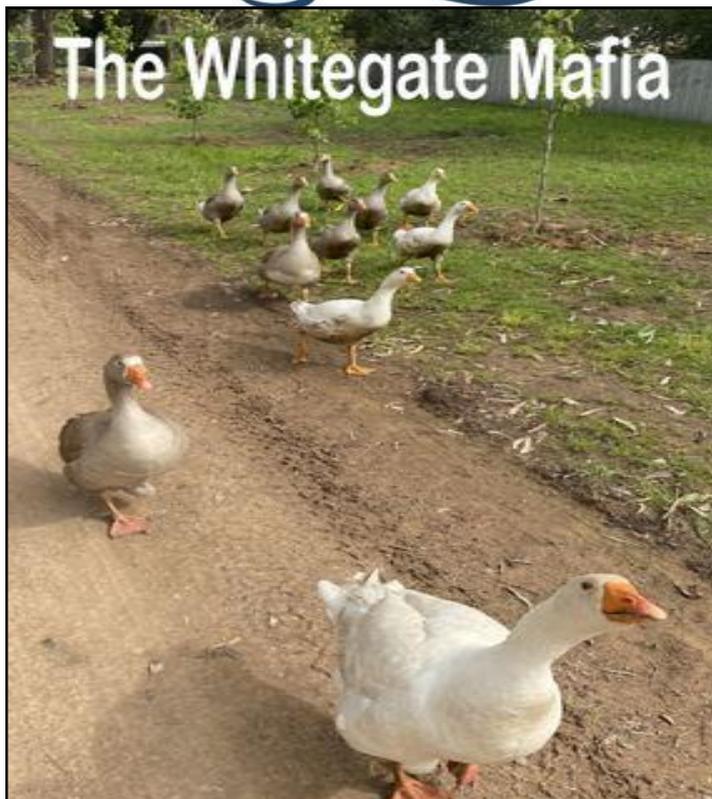
I was intrigued to observe how different each flood was, in the bends of the river. One flood would inundate some areas, depending on where the water was coming in from, and the current vegetation. Then another flood would spare those areas and delve into others.

The Moulamein shire engineer had come from Sydney, and he was intrigued by how slowly the flooding happened; we had weeks of warning. Our main concern was if the Wakool flooded and cut off our access to Swan Hill; but we were used to infrequent visits to town.

When we came to the Benalla district, and bought the block at White Gate, the locals said, “Ooooooh, that's a wet block.” But we bought at the start of a drought, and it was nearly a decade before we watched it go under water. Being a good 20 or so metres above Benalla, our main concern was whether to go to town via Emu Bridge road, or risk finding just as we reached town that the Hollands had flooded, and having to turn around and come all the way back to Emu Bridge road.

In 1993 we saw footage of the Benalla floods. The thought of one's home being inundated is horrible. I am fortunate that the closest I've been was watching water course down the inside of the lounge-room windows. Oh, and the laundry floor, of course. (Oh, my poor mother.)

- Andrea Stevenson



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ENTRY \$5.00

**THREE DAYS OF CRAFT AT THE TATONG MEMORIAL HALL**

8 TIGER HILL ROAD TATONG

**NOVEMBER 18TH 19TH & 20TH**

FROM 9:30 TO 5:00 EACH DAY

\$15 per day covers the cost of electricity, tea/coffee/milk with a small profit for the hall.

Children from 8 years up are welcome to come and create at no extra cost, but must be supervised by you at all times.

BYO lunch, a plate to share for morning/afternoon tea, a power board plus extension cord if you think you may require one.

**THESE ARE FUN DAYS TO DO AS MUCH OR AS LITTLE AS YOU LIKE.**

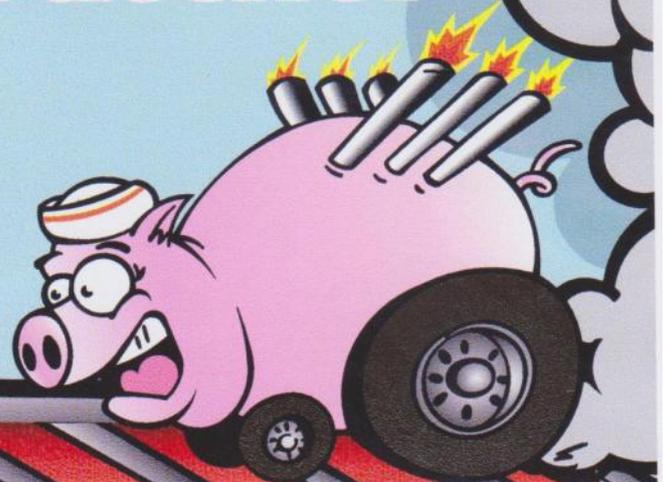
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2012	82.5	94.0	184.9	18.1	35	57.6	115.8	92.1	35.5	34	28	30.1	773.6
2013	1.8	52.4	85.5	8.4	43.0	60.1	112.1	141.1	61.2	27.5	26.2	65.3	684.6
2014	33.9	16.4	86.4	89.6	82.8	146.5	98.8	9.8	68.5	20.4	58.5	64.2	775.8
2015	44.7	29.1	5.7	87.4	70	33.7	97.3	69.4	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	49.4	51.3	34.9	37.9	40.8	563.3
2020	63.6	35.6	88.4	207.2	53	77	43.5	66.8	49.4	132	34.1	40.7	891.3
2021	76.6	47.8	39.6	8.2	66.5	99.3	154.9	51.5	92.6	66.5	111	40.5	855
2022	219.3	4.8	72.7	81.4	42.5	102.5	49.7	126.6	111.9				821.4

**WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP**

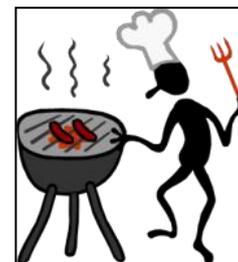
Flooding rain and disaster for some unlucky folk in low lying areas is the outcome of recent massive downpours. While September had a large 111.9mm total, this month of October has already had 157.9mm at the 15<sup>th</sup>, the halfway mark. Benalla was partially flooded but not so much as in 1993.

My daughter in Shepparton had flood water over most of her house block but it was shallow and did not enter the house or sleepout.

Mike Larkin



**VOTE AT TATONG  
ELECTION DAY AND ENJOY A  
SAUSAGE SIZZLE.  
BRING THE FAMILY AND  
SOME CASH TO SUPPORT THE  
TATONG MEMORIAL HALL.**



**TATONG HALL LOOKING FOR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Like so many small town committees the hall members are mostly getting kind of ancient and new blood is needed. The three year tenure for the current committee members expires next January the 14<sup>th</sup>. Current member are eligible to re-apply but new people would be appreciated. There is not a huge amount to be done now that the hall has been upgraded, modified, improved and made user friendly. It is mainly used by Table Tennis for the winter months, the Girls Shed where craft work, chat and probably many cups of tea happens, occasional events such as memorials, weddings and parties, and as a voting venue for elections. If interested please contact either Pat Manser President, 0488 988 927 or Mike Larkin Secretary, 0428 273 613.

Mike Larkin



Floods make history, and they take history.

Memories and experiences and records. Old places revealed.

History itself lost when a museum or its records are lost.

That is a prompt to keep our heritage safe, and to duplicate records where we can.

To lose an old photograph is a tragedy, but if it had been copied at least it can be appreciated still.

from our President, Andrea

Come and join us for the next Heritage meeting, followed by a cuppa

**Monday 21st November, 4pm at the Tatong Memorial Hall.**

**New members and visitors are most welcome**

Contact us at [tatongheritage@yahoo.com.au](mailto:tatongheritage@yahoo.com.au) or phone 57672324

**Tattler Advertising Rates** Inc num: A0047895K

Full Page	Half Page	Quarter (or 2x1/8th):
Single Issue: \$32	\$16	\$8
Six Issues: \$180	\$85	\$45
Eleven Issues: \$320	\$160	\$80

**PAYMENT**

EFT: BSB 803078 A/C 135720 a/c name: Tatong Tattler  
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Please identify your payment, & e-mail details to Tattler.

*General or public interest* articles of at least 150 words (not a repeat of the ad.) may incorporate up to a 1/8 page ad. free. Advertorial style articles under this category must be labelled "Promotional Feature".

**FORMAT (ATTENTION ADVERTISERS!)**

For pre-formatted advertisements, the size of a "half page" is 13.6cm x 19cm, and "quarter page" 13.6cm x 9.3cm.

**To avoid distortion** to your image, please fit your advertisement to these sizes.

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 (i.e. JPGs) can be attached, to be laid out by editor.

If layout is important, submit your work as an image, or in MS Publisher. If laid out in a **Word** document, contents will be copied into Publisher. However, the Editor will have an idea of your preferred layout.

**The content of a PDF file can be difficult to extract.**

If you require help, contact a Tattler committee-member.

**DEADLINE**

The Tattler Deadline is end of the 20th of the month, January-November.

**SUBMISSIONS / CONTACT**

Submit via e-mail to [tatongtattler@yahoo.com.au](mailto:tatongtattler@yahoo.com.au), leave in the Tattler Mailbox beside the Tavern, or send by post to the Secretary.

Secretary: Linda De Fazio, PO Box 588 Benalla 3671,  
03 5766 6375 [linda.defazio6@gmail.com](mailto:linda.defazio6@gmail.com)

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**DONATIONS**

A donation of \$1 per issue, or \$10 per year, is appreciated & helps cover costs. The Tattler is managed, produced and distributed entirely by volunteers.

Donations can be given to committee members, left in the locked Box by the Tavern, or sent by EFT (see above).

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*The Tatong Tattler thanks Steph Ryan and her office for their wonderful support over the years and wish her and her family all the very best for the future*

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