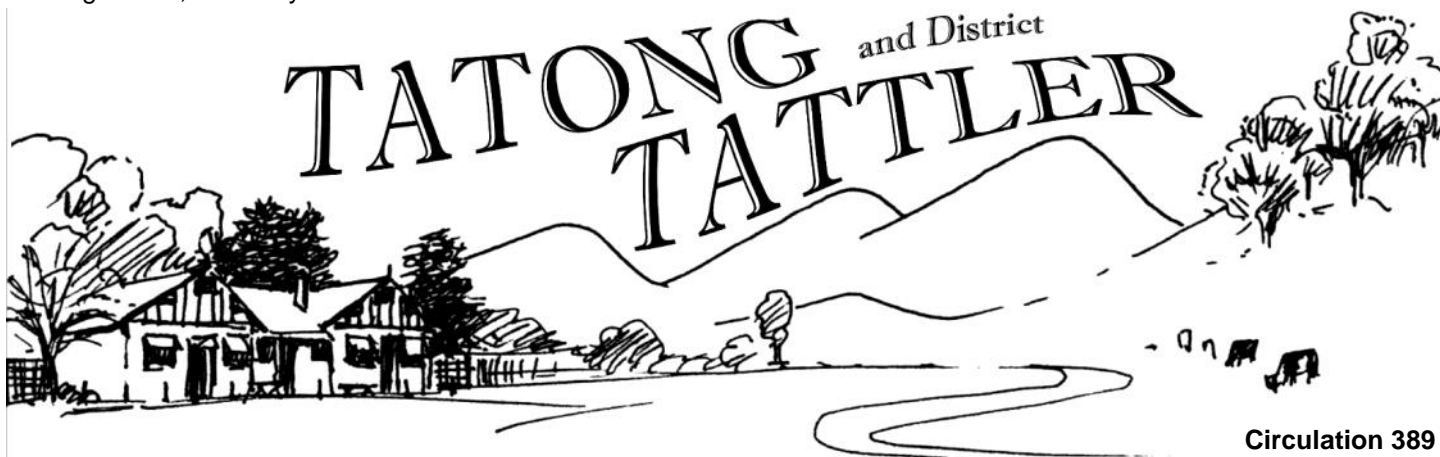


# TATONG and District TATTLER



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Edition 360

Paul Karis is one of those ready to lend a hand. The pilot of an Airbus AS350 helicopter water bomber, Mr Karis is one of several pilots based at Shepparton Airport as part of a contract between Microflite and the Victorian Government. Mr Karis and his colleagues are based in Shepparton on a 12- to 14-week contract and rotate in on a 10-day roster.

Their zone of responsibility includes the area between Cobram in the north, Echuca and Rochester to the west, Dookie to the east and near Euroa in the south.

Should a fire break out, Mr Karis will be up in the air and responding within 15 minutes.

He and his fellow pilots work a pre-determined despatch system in which they fly straight to the fire and make contact with the fire crew, who then decide if the water bomber is needed. So far this season Mr Karis has been called to three fires, including one at Barmah that was caused by lightning.

His helicopter can carry 1000 litres of water. Asked where he would source water, Mr Karis said basically anywhere.

“Any suitable access point as close to the fire as possible,” he said.

“A lot of the channels in the area we can access quite comfortably. Alternatively, we can possibly access private or public dams.”

Despite the tumultuous weather the region has been experiencing, Mr Karis is cautiously optimistic that this fire season might not be too bad. (It’s) Pretty quiet, the forecast is for a mild season,” he said.

“However, with the 40-degree heat we had last week and the 40-degree heat that we are set to get on Monday, the ground can dry out quickly. The higher risk is for grass fires.”

During winter Mr Karis’s helicopter is based at Moorabbin Airport.

**Gab Garcia Shepparton News**



Photo Megan Fisher

Paul and Cathy Karis bought land in Mitchell Road in 2020. They were both keen to get back to rural living as Cathy was born in Gippsland and Paul’s teenage years were spent in the North East. They are currently in the design stage of creating their forever home here in Tatong.

Cathy and Paul’s adult children, Oden an apprentice electrician and Alysia a student nurse are also happy to have a country property to escape to when they want to get away from the city.

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## Mr Talochino, Sculptor

Chick Walker provides this photo of a handsome gravestone at Moorngag Cemetery, and these articles on the stonemason, Secondo Talochino. The Benalla Standard, Tuesday June 2nd 1914, extols the virtues of Mr. Talochino's monumental works in Carrier St. Mr. Talochino, we are told, "has lately imported a large quantity of splendid Scotch and Swedish granite and Italian marble,

some of which he has already converted into truly artistic and handsome headstones, work that could not be excelled in any part of Victoria."

"One that has been ordered for the Moorngag cemetery is a handsome monument of Swedish granite, surmounted with a cross, and the inscription in gold lettering. When erected it will be mounted on a grey granite pedestal 2ft. 6in. square."

Supplying Benalla and surrounds, as well as Wangaratta and the Goulburn Valley, he also worked Aberdeen red granite, and one product described as, "a blue pearl monument, surmounted by two angels, one on each side of a rustic cross on a pedestal."

The monument of Aberdeen red granite would stand 14 foot in height when erected - I wonder what it weighed.



### A SUCCESSFUL LOCAL INDUSTRY

#### MR. TALOCHINO'S MONUMENTAL WORKS.

Some excellent specimens of the monumental mason's art are now to be seen at Mr. Talochino's monumental works in Carrier-street. Mr. Talochino, whose fame as a sculptor extends far beyond Benalla, has lately imported a large quantity of splendid Scotch and Swedish granite and Italian marble, some of which he has already converted into truly artistic and handsome headstones, work that could not be excelled in any part of Victoria. One that has been ordered for the Moorngag cemetery is a handsome monument of Swedish granite, surmounted with a cross, and the inscription in gold lettering. When erected it will be mounted on a grey granite pedestal 2ft. 6in. square. Mr. Talochino's order are not confined to this district, however, as two stones are in the yard awaiting removal to Wangaratta. One is an excellent specimen of Aberdeen red granite, and will stand 14 feet in height when erected. The other is beautifully fashioned from Italian marble, with a Celtic cross. This is also mounted on a granite base. A marble headstone to be erected in the Benalla cemetery, and another which is destined for the Goulburn Valley, are also fine samples of the sculptor's art. Two splendid specimens of column monuments, one of grey Aberdeen granite and the other of Swedish granite, with bases to match, also claim attention. Another is a tablet in grey stone, with an Aberdeen granite school for the lettering, all of which is Mr. Talochino's own work. Another monument is of Aberdeen red granite, with grey stone pillars on each side. A really fine piece of statuary is a pedestal of Italian marble, surmounted by an angel scattering flowers. This work is beautifully finished. Alongside is another beautiful piece of art—a blue pearl monument, surmounted by two angels, one on each side of a rustic cross on a pedestal. The workmanship is very fine, and is a great credit to the artist. Mr. Talochino has also on hand a large stock of raw material including some splendid blocks of granite kerbing, bases, etc. A visit to the works will be well repaid.

Further Trove entries tell the story of Secondo Talochino. From January 1908, under "New Residences", "On the opposite side of Carrier-street to Mr. F. Scholes, Mr. S. Talochino has just opened his monumental works." Shortly

after, in December 1908 Secondo Talochino applied for a wine license. Talochino was Italian born, and had grown grapes at Nagambie until phylloxera arrived. After some discussion the license was refused; "If people get drunk they might make a disturbance."

His work was much admired. The soldier's monument at Baddaginnie, made by Mr Talochino, was unveiled in February 1923. "It is erected at the intersection of the principal street and the Sydney road, and will be seen by all who pass through." Since the Hume Bypass there are less, but at least they pass at a speed to admire.

Mr Talochino died in 1928, aged 63, at his Carrier St residence. "Deceased was born at Brusnengo, in Northern Italy, and as a young man became highly proficient as a monumental mason and sculptor. He was much travelled, and in his time had visited nearly every country on the Continent, eventually landing at Melbourne when 23 years of age." He made the Soldiers' Memorials at Baddaginnie, Swanpool,

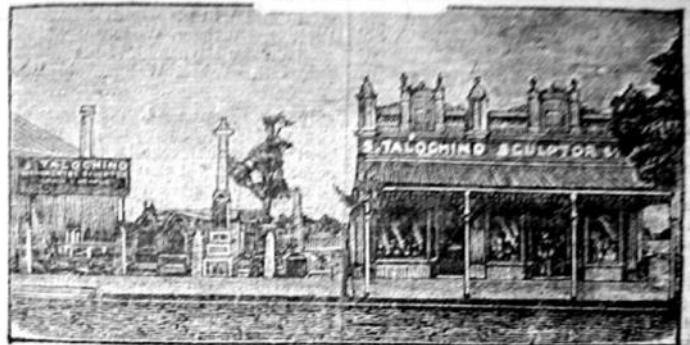
Warrenbayne, Strathbogie, Thoona, Yarrowonga, and other neighbouring centres. However the soldier's memorial at Benalla was made by Mr Daws of Carlton.

"Deceased lived rather a quiet and retired life, yet was most charitably inclined, and few there were that he received with a deaf ear."

- Andrea Stevenson & Chick Walker, for the Tatong Heritage Group.

## S. TALOCHINO, Sculptor & Direct Importer

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BS June 2 1914

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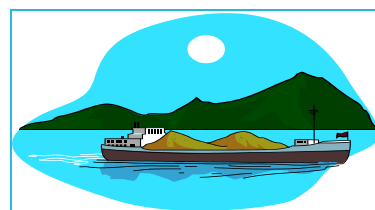
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## 2022 Tassie Tour - 1

Friends of ours, Trish and Paul, needed to be in Hobart in early November last year because the 2022 Barbershop Harmony Festival was held there. Paul's love in life, after Trish, is singing. He sings in a quartet (barbershop) and chorus, all a cappella.

Janette and I have always said how much we love Tassie, to the extent that, if not for the farm, we would have been living there. We didn't need much convincing that this would be a good opportunity to build a holiday around Paul singing in Hobart.

Janette started planning the itinerary some twelve months ahead of time – just as well as many people were looking to travel after covid restrictions eased. Bookings were secured on the Spirit of Tasmania ferry for two cars and two cabins. That locked us in to the start and finish dates. Even that far ahead, places, accommodation and restaurants, were booking up. The itinerary was to rival anything issued by a tour company. Accommodation was a mix of hotels, B&Bs and self-catering.

We boarded the ferry at their new Geelong terminal. We were the third car on board and thought that bode well for an early

disembarkation the next day. We were to be the second last car off. Even so, we were on shore by 8am.

The plan was to disembark the ferry in Devonport and travel anti-clockwise around Tassie.

We headed west and breakfasted in Penguin (between Devonport and Burnie). Continuing west, we headed towards our first night's accommodation, a B&B in Stanley called 'The Ark'.

Along the way, we detoured to visit the first of many spectacular waterfalls we were to see, Guide Falls near Burnie. With all the recent rain, Tasmania's rivers were swollen and raging and the waterfalls were all at their best.

Stanley is in the northwest and is nestled at the base of a volcanic plug known as 'The Nut'. It is 143 metres high. It is possible to get to the top by either a rugged track or by chairlift. Even though it was quite windy, we decided to have a ride on the chairlift. Unfortunately (?) for us it was closed for repairs.

At lunch in Stanley we experienced our first, of what was to be many, scallop pies. We decided that scallop pies are a Tasmanian speciality.

Night two was booked at Cradle Mountain Lodge. With plenty of time to get there, we drove to Dip Falls and the nearby Big Tree. Dip Falls were even more spectacular than Guide Falls.

The 220 steps down to the bottom of the falls were slightly easier to negotiate than the same 220 steps back up to the car park. In fact, the walkways, steps and handrails were typical of the top quality facilities we were to find at all the tourist venues during our holiday.

Big Tree is a little further along the road from Dip Falls. It is a 65 metre tall stringybark with a 16 metre circumference. It is thought to be 400 years old.

The walk in to Big Tree is through beautiful old rainforest.



Continued next page





On to Cradle Mountain and after checking in to our accommodation, we went for a walk to the nearby Pencil Pine Falls. Three waterfalls in two days! The weather was quite bleak making us a little concerned for tomorrow's visit to Dove Lake and Cradle Mountain where clear conditions would mean we would see the mountain. Dawn revealed a cool, clear day.

Access to the lake is via bus from the tourist information centre. There are many walks at Cradle Mountain ranging from quite short to several days.

A ranger told us of two, ten minute walks (each way) from the car park at Dove Lake. One is to the western side of the lake and round to the old boatshed. The other track to the eastern side took us to Glacier Rock, so called because its surface shows signs of glacial movement. This is yet another of the many photo taking spots with views across the lake to the boatshed. In fact, everywhere offered great photo opportunities of Cradle Mountain.

ing spots with views across the lake to the boatshed. In fact, everywhere offered great photo opportunities of Cradle Mountain.

Let history record – the ranger could probably do each walk in ten minutes...

John Knapper



Mountain Lake.North East Victoria  
Submitted by Ari from Fern Hills



More photos from Clare Pryor's window at Cambridge University. ( See article in November 2022 Tattler)





## Howlong Public School – excursion to Canberra

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 the year 5 & 6 students at Howlong Public School travelled to Canberra for our school excursion.

### Day 1

We had an early start as we had to be at school by 6.30am as the bus was leaving at 7.00am. On our arrival in Canberra we visited the National Capital Exhibition where we got to see a model of Canberra. After lunch we went to the Australian War Memorial. We were split into 4 groups and we had our own guide. I had a print out of the location on the Roll of Honour of my great great great uncle, Robert William Daly. Our guide was able to show us where Robert Daly's name was and she gave me a poppy to place next to his name. One of my teachers took a photo of me.

Corporal Robert William Daly was born in Toombullup in 1895 and he attended Tatong Primary School. He was one of seven children of which three brothers served in WWI. Corporal Daly died on 25/4/1918 after being shot in the stomach. He thought "he would get over it". He is buried at Vignacourt British Cemetery in France. He received the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

At the National Museum of Australia we had our group photo taken in a giant excavator bucket. Our last visit for the day was to the Australian Institute of Sport where we got to go into a room full of sporting simulators. My favourite was basketball.

### Day 2

At the CSIRO we were split into groups of 3. We had to scan a QR code and then find the answer within the room. I was captain of team Aeroguard and we came 4<sup>th</sup>.

Onto Old Parliament House where we went into the library which showed photos and information boards of our former and current Prime Ministers. We also went into the House of Representatives where we sat and learnt that some seats hadn't been sat in since 1977 (including the Prime Minister and Speaker).

After lunch we went to the National Gallery of Australia and we looked at paintings, sculptures and other art works. We then went to Parliament House and we got to see the Senate and House of Representatives. We did a role play in the parliamentary office.

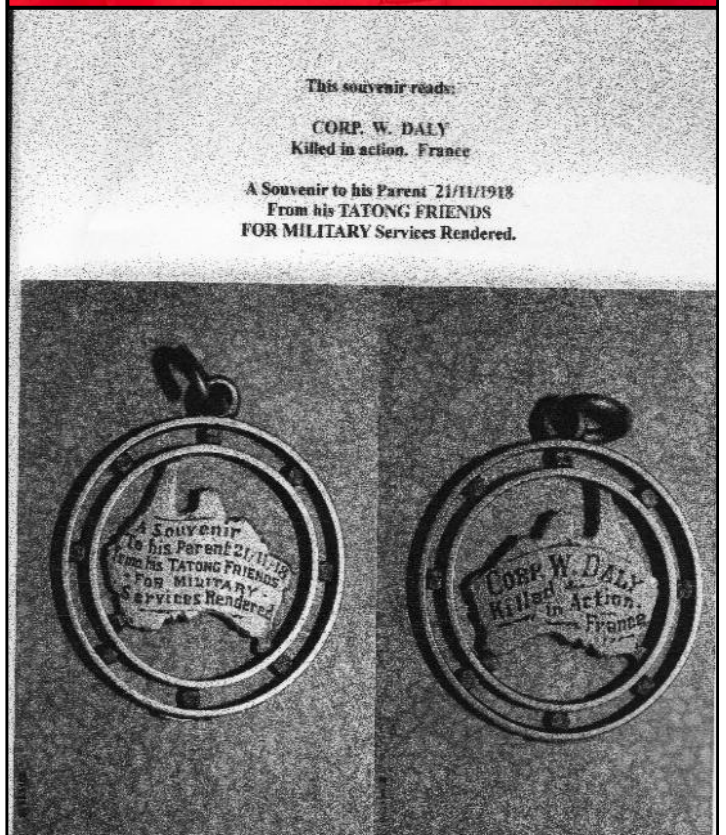
We drove down Embassy Drive and found out that the American Embassy is the largest in Canberra. We finished our day off by going ten pin bowling.

### Day 3

Our last place to visit during our time in Canberra was Questacon. We got to experience an earthquake, lightning strike and the drop (which is a giant slide and you get to wear a special jumpsuit). It was the best part of Questacon.

We arrived back in Howlong on time at 5pm. I really enjoyed the Australian War Memorial, Old Parliament House, Parliament House and Questacon. I was happy to be home as I was very tired.

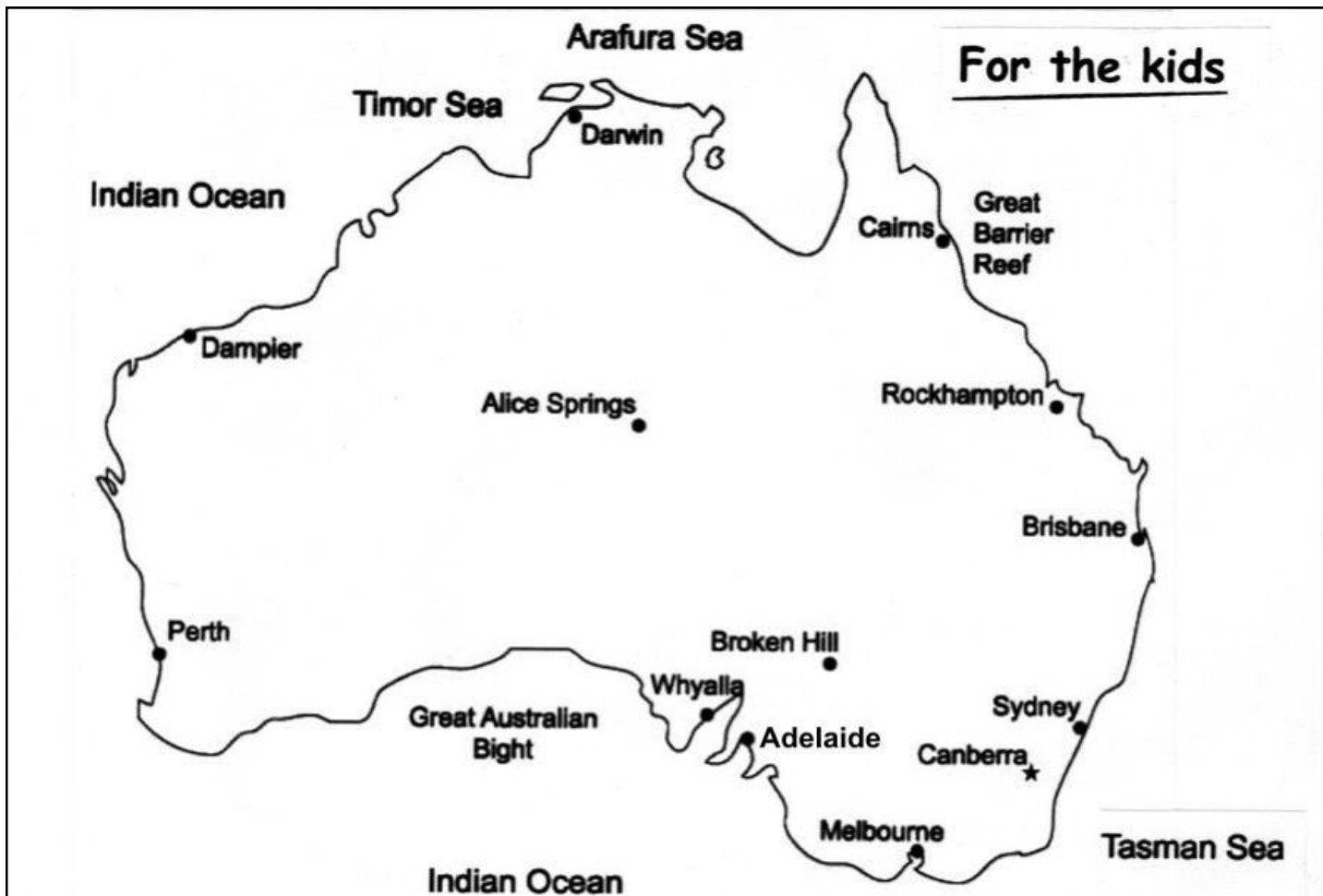
Written by Isaac Smith – Year 6 2022  
(Isaac is the grandson of Joan & Barry Lewis)



Corporal Robert William Daly, 60<sup>th</sup> Battalion embarked from Melbourne on 2 October 1916.

He died of wounds on 25 April 1918, aged 23, and is buried in Vignacourt cemetery, France





Australia is a beautiful country. It is a continent surrounded by seas and oceans. Can you add the state and territory borders to this map? ( Tasmania has no land border with mainland Australia)  
Contributed by Irene Erskine, former teacher at Tatong School.



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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.**  
No need to book, just turn up



## Santa Comes to Tatong

For those in the know, Santa was a truly *Rich* addition to this year's Tatong Rec Reserve Christmas celebration (Sunday December 11th). And for those who weren't, who cares, as we have such fun greeting him! Arriving in a wonderful horse-drawn carriage, courtesy of the Marriotts, we were all overwhelmed by the sheer number of children and younger folk who turned up on this terrific day. A major talking point, as so many new families with youngsters have recently made Tatong their home. What a great opportunity it was for us to meet and greet. *Let's hope they stay and help re-energise our gorgeous community*, was frequent comment on the day. Others were: *What fabulous food and: This is by far the biggest turn-out we've ever had!* Huge congratulations to the organisers, who really did us proud.  
Steve Warne



Christmas has come & gone & I hope it was enjoyable for everyone. I cannot pass up the opportunity to congratulate & thank those involved in putting on the amazing & very successful Tatong Christmas party/BBQ. Well done. Santa & elves arrived on a carriage drawn by two magnificent Clydesdale horses, to the delight of both children and adults alike.  
Sue O'Brien

## Gawn to Town

### To Pen, or Not to Pen?

Late the other Saturday, some storms and showers started brewing. Thinks I, shall I take Gertie (the Labrador) down to her pen, as usual, or let her sleep on the verandah? – this is mainly in self-interest; if it is raining, do I really want to walk down to the dog pen?

At dusk, from my seat by the office window, I saw lightning in our paddock, barely 300m away – a huge mass of white light. Then.... CRAAACCK went the thunder. Gertie, who was inside at the time, shot under the dining table. That decided me. I watched the radar for when the shower would pass, with a good break before the next (innocuous looking) shower, to take her down to her pen. Gertie is well behaved when left to sleep on the verandah. She doesn't wander off, she doesn't climb through the fence, and she doesn't join a neighbourhood dog pack seeking adventures. She just stays nobly by our door, and sheds hair. And sheds more hair. Lots and lots of black hair.

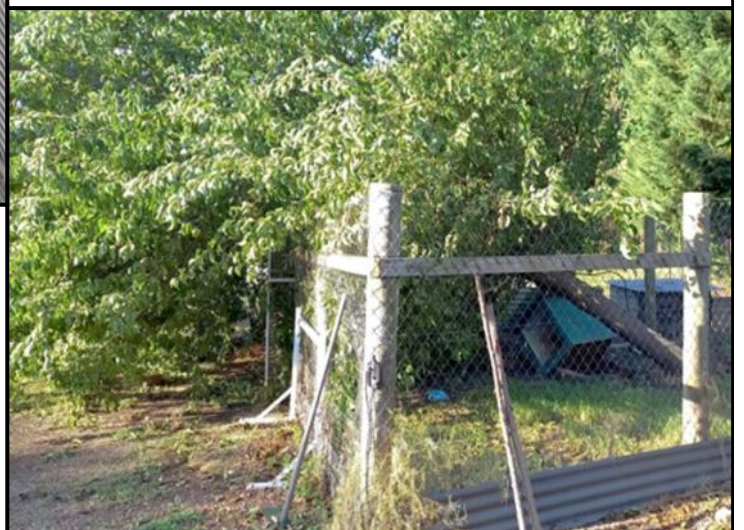
Some dogs get seriously anxious when loud bangs and fireworks and thunder occur. On our Moulamein farm, a lovely red kelpie named Sarah vanished after a particularly nasty (and loud) storm went close by. We imagined her hung up on a fence, or staked, and searched the farm, looking and calling. Days later, we had a call from a farm on the other side of Moulamein – about 30km away as the crow flies, or the dog runs, and on the other side of the Edward River. Sarah was footsore and tired and extremely pleased when the familiar ute turned up to take her home.

Bearing Sarah's adventure in mind, I took Gertie down to her pen, served her dinner, and left her safely sheltered by a lovely big ornamental pear tree.

Arising in the morning, I could see through the window some damage in the paddock. Surprisingly, Gertie was outside on the verandah, looking a bit wet, and wide awake. Possibly even a little anxious.

Once I got outside I saw why. The storm that I soon learned had upturned trees all over Benalla, throwing limbs about like confetti, and ripping off rooves, had also pushed over the tree in Gertie's yard. Onto the kennel. I am very glad to be spared finding a squashed dog in a squashed kennel.

- Andrea Stevenson







# Garden Daze

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



## Happy New Year

Last March I was visiting a friend and having our usual tour around her beautiful garden. Upon reaching a clump of plants, my friend decided she no longer wanted them and started pulling them out. They had long stems which opened out into an umbrella-like clump of leaves. Noticing that each stem had a tuber attached, I decided to take one home.

The plant survived its uprooting and replanting in a large pot and a few weeks later - just as I was congratulating myself on the successful transplant - it started to wilt and within a week or so had collapsed.

After the initial disappointment I thought that as it had a tuber attached - it may well sprout again - the pot was put into the hot house for the winter. With a large label so it didn't forget and throw it out!

Then one day watching old *Gardening Australia* programs via iView - there was Jerry Colby Williams with his giant Elephant Yams **and** a smaller, related plant *looking just like my mystery plant*. Which is most likely an *Amorphophallus Konjac*.



Giant Specimen in Kew Gardens

*Amorphophallus* produce either a leaf or a flower each year. There is a giant specimen in the Kew Gardens in London and its flowering is quite an event, producing a giant specimen.

However . . . the genus is pollinated by flies and as such produces a smell akin to rotting flesh.

So - now we are quite interested - will ours sprout again?

Come the spring - nothing happened for some time - finally - a careful "dig" and Yes! There was a thick shoot just under the surface. Taking another week to appear the shoot grew slowly and was quite thick. Then around mid December, it started to shoot upwards quite quickly and soon was about 20 cm high when the cover broke away and a sheaf of potential leaves appeared.



At this stage it was moved to the shade house, where during January it gradually unfolded and was once again the plant I had brought home last Autumn.

After searching the Internet for information - I found I had quite accidentally done all the right things for it to over winter in a warmer sheltered place with no water.

- Needs warm conditions to grow
- Tolerates most conditions from full shade to full sun,
- Needs consistent moisture when growing.
- Fertilize regularly through the growing season with diluted liquid seaweed.
- The growing medium should be allowed to dry completely and no more fertilizer provided in the late summer when the leaf begins to wither.
- Leaf should not be cut off until completely brown.

## Blue Banded Bees

In the past few weeks I have been pleased to see some Blue Banded bees in the garden.



There are 11 species of blue-banded bees (also known as long-tongued bees or buzz pollinators) in Australia ranging in size from 8-14 mm. They are found in all states of Australia except Tasmania. They have thick, reddish-brown fur on their thorax and a black abdomen with iridescent blue, whitish, green or reddish furry stripes. The colours are caused by microscopic diagonal stripes engraved on each hair which reflect light causing these glittering colours. Males have five stripes and females have four. Their faces have yellow, cream or white markings. They have a sting but are not aggressive.

Blue Banded Bees are solitary bees. Each female bee mates and then builds a solitary nest in a shallow burrow in clay soil, often close to other neighbouring nests.

Blue Banded Bees can perform a special type of "buzz" pollination. Some flowers hide their pollen inside tiny capsules. A Blue Banded Bee can grasp a flower of this type and shiver her flight muscles, causing the pollen to shoot out of the capsule. She can then collect the pollen for her nest and carry it from flower to flower, pollinating the flowers. Quite a few native Australian flowers require buzz pollination.

Blue-banded bees forage on a variety of exotic and native flowers - as well as tomato, chilli, basil, buddleia, lavender, abelias, *Leucophyllum* and cigar plants (*Cuphea*).



Research has shown that blue-banded bees could be valuable pollinators of greenhouse tomatoes as tomato flowers are also pollinated better when visited by a buzz pollinating bee.

Kathy Z



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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

# 0447 521 981



## **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 9**

#### **Michael Savage Sets Out**

The loss of his job was a bitter experience for Michael, who had just celebrated his 21st birthday. By 1893, nearly 30% of Victorian bread-winners were out of work. Those in work found their wages cut.

In mid-April 1893, Mick packed his few possessions into a swag and set out in search of work. When Rowland asked him what was going to do, his young brother replied, 'Anything from pitch and toss to manslaughter'. ('Pitch and Toss' was the old name for 'Two-Up')

There was no point going to Melbourne, where two fifths of the Victorian population lived. Deep in depression, the city that a few years before had been 'Marvellous Melbourne' was by 1893 a hell-hole.

Children were abandoned and babies killed by distraught parents. The people were emaciated, destitute, and hopeless.

Mick headed north across the Murray River to the Riverina district of New South Wales. He caught rabbits, brewed his billy, slept in hollow trees, and tramped in search of work. In later years Michael Joseph Savage looked back on these experiences and said they provided education for understanding men and women and the real meaning of life.

#### **North Yanco**

Michael walked to North Yanco Station, North of Narrandera, and laboured there for the next seven years. Labourers were at the very bottom of the social hierarchy. In 1896 an overseer at North Yanco was charged with assaulting an elderly labourer who had complained about the food. The overseer was acquitted by the local Justices of the Peace, on the grounds that 'a little violence was necessary to preserve law and order'. Michael joined the new Australian Workers Union. Samuel McCaughey, who disliked employees who were Catholic or unionists, bought North

Yanco in 1898. Michael Savage left in 1900.

#### **Rutherglen Mines**

He returned to Victoria and became a miner at Rutherglen on the Murray River. Often up to the waist in icy water, with only candle light in the dark and putrid air, men who refused to stay underground for nine hours were dismissed. The miner's health and safety were of little importance to the owners. One manager was removed allegedly because he placed the lives of his men before the shareholders money.

Savage decided he would rather be on the ground pumping out the water than underground working in it. With mechanical experience from 'tumbling tommies' (revolving earth-scoops) and water pumps at North Yanco, he studied for a certificate as a mining and factory engineer. He received a first class certificate without qualification or condition, and found work with better pay and conditions. However he was sacked for refusing to work a pump with badly frayed ropes, which endangered the miners. He became increasingly involved in the Political Labour Party and he organised a co-operative bakery in Rutherglen.



A. C. Watsford bought Antonio Ball's first shop, on the corner of Bridge and Carrier Streets





## Garden Daze

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



# Christmas Eye

You may have read a recent news report regarding recent incidences of *Christmas Eye*.



On New Year's Eve - we were at the Opticians in Wangaratta, when a man came in with acute eye pain, having been sent from the hospital for treatment.

Seems he had "Christmas Eye" also known as seasonal corneal ulcer, Albury-Wodonga syndrome, harvester's eye, and harvester's keratitis.

Christmas eye is essentially a nasty cornea ulcer that happens at the front of the eye caused by a tiny beetle. Once the beetle gets inside the eye, it "essentially melts the surface layers of the cornea" causing abject misery to the victim.

The pain level is said to be an 8 or 9 out of 10.

Optometry Australia reports that, as its name suggests, 'Christmas eye' usually comes around during the holiday season in the hot, dry summer in South Eastern Australia between mid-November and late-February.

Patients typically present the day after some kind of outdoor activity such as mowing the lawn or gardening, which is where they meet this tiny ocular saboteur.

Usually only one eye is affected. The origin of the problem, was a mystery – until eventually it was discovered that it is caused by a minuscule group of native Australian *Orthoperus* beetles.

At less than one millimetre in size - very tiny indeed - the victim may not notice coming contact with the beetle and then transfer the beetle and its irritating excretions by rubbing their eye.

The irritation comes in response to chemicals released by the beetles when disturbed or crushed.

The offending irritant is thought to be *Pederin*, a powerful blistering agent that has a dramatic effect on the corneal epithelium (the tissue that covers the eye).

*Orthoperus* are what's known as vesicating beetles meaning they are associated with vesicles (tiny sacs that transport material within (or outside) the cell) and blisters. Some beetle species cause this kind of irritation on the skin, but *Orthoperus* has been linked specifically to itching and burning in the eyes.

The result is intense pain.

Victims of Christmas Eye often wake early in the morning with acute pain and after being unable to remedy it at home, head for medical help in a considerable state. (As was the man who came into the Optometrist while we were there - it was hard to miss the problem as there was quite a "fuss" going on.)

Symptoms include excessive tears, an unpleasant response to natural light, like burning, itching and redness of the eye as well as headache and nausea.

Fortunately, while its symptoms may be severe, the treatment for Christmas Eye is fairly simple.

Anaesthetic eye drops can ease the pain, and a contact lens can help protect, while the epithelium recovers - which takes around seven to ten days.

Patients will generally be given anti-inflammatories, a bandage with a silicone hydrogel contact lens, eye drops and encouraged to rest for a few days.

According to Optometry Australia, Because of the damage done to the eye, treatment is simply about "managing the pain and preventing infections" until the "surface of the cornea grows back again,"

For those of us who live in south eastern Australia, the good news is that Christmas Eye although on the rise - is relatively uncommon – but if you wake up with excruciating eye pain, it's worth getting checked out by an optometrist.

It would seem that lawn mowing is one of the main "at risk" occupations. So wearing glasses - sun or otherwise is a good protective measure against these little nasties.

Take Care



Kathy Z





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Patricia 57672287

### Next Girl's Shed. 17th February 9am—5pm

#### RAW CHOCOLATE MINT TRUFFLES

1 cup medjool dates (approx 12)  
1 cup cashews  
1 cup desiccated coconut  
½ cup raw cacao powder or cocoa powder, extra for coating  
¼ teaspoon sea salt  
2 tablespoons virgin coconut oil  
1 teaspoon natural peppermint essence  
1 tablespoon cacao nibs  
Method: Remove stones & chop dates roughly. In a food blender blend cashews into fine meal, add cacao & salt & process until combined. Add coconut oil, peppermint essence & dates. Blitz for 1 minute until the mixture comes together. Stir through the cacao nibs. Roll into small walnut size balls & chill for at least 1 hour to set. Coat with a dusting of cacao powder to serve.  
Store in a sealed container in fridge for up to a week

#### NUTS & BOLTS

2½ cups Nutri-grain cereal  
2½ cups unsalted mixed nuts  
35gm pkt French onion soup  
1 tablespoon lemon pepper  
1/3 cup olive oil  
  
Method: Preheat oven to 180 C.  
Line large baking tray with baking paper.  
In a large bowl combine cereal, nuts, soup mix, lemon pepper & oil, toss well to coat.  
Spread mixture over prepared tray.  
Bake for 15 minutes, stirring every few minutes until hot & crispy.  
Store in an air tight jar.

*Sue O'Brien*



### PRINCE CHARMING LOOKING FOR WORK

I am hoping to explain and clarify aspects of the confusion and conflict over the so called pandemic which most people accepted but which I vehemently reject. Rather than try and prove a particular point I will generalise about my life outlook. I am a person with a problem in that I have a different life understanding to the majority (and I consider myself to be mildly autistic).

For a start I am not talking about politics which, while necessary, perpetuates some of the worst characteristics of humanity. My outlook is more to do with spirituality or philosophy and it is utterly paramount to the way that I live and it cannot be pretended away for the convenience of others. Such apparent 'pig-headedness' can create unintended conflict and there is no easy solution.

It's not easy saving people who don't want to be saved and there seems to be a general shortage of 'long-asleep fair maidens' awaiting 'true love's kiss' (to misquote the standard fairy story theme.)

The inherited and largely mistaken conditioning of humanity tells us that a major part of our life's role is to dominate and control everything, including the natural world and everyone around us. To live according to man-made rules, laws and morals arising from this traditional outlook is to endure an endless cycle of destruction, suffering and confusion. Virtually every belief system contrived by humanity allows and even encourages certain twisted people to acquire power, privilege and fortune, usually at the expense of the general populace.

Whenever a new version of the endless cycles of tyranny surfaces, expect to be treated in the same way that our pets and other animals are treated now; tattooed, dipped, micro-chipped and micromanaged by every means at the tyrant's disposal. The common folk easily have the numbers to stop any dictator in their tracks but centuries of pacification and conditioning have led the populations to believe that some people are "born to rule." Vast numbers of books and stories about heroes overcoming brutality and enslavement have made little difference to this conditioning.

Last year we saw much of this contrived fear, intimidation and social divisiveness happening worldwide and currently there is a lull while we await the next stage of what is likely to be more lies, coercion and ultimately force along the attempted and deluded path to complete control of our lives.

For me the primacy of God and truth is the utmost priority and a refuge. I am not talking about a God of any religion but an unknowable creator for which love is central. This God is utterly beyond any human input or influence because no human is of any more importance than the tiniest creature or any other part of creation. We innately have all that we need in order to live contentedly in the same way that all of the creatures, other than humans, already do; it is just that as a species we have not, in the main, realized it yet.

To live according to God's law would eliminate all of the petty, moralistic, controlling and unnecessary rules and beliefs continually invented since the beginning of human thought. No animal ever committed a crime and neither does any human because so called bad behaviour is only an outcome of the loss of connection with our true nature, the subsequently poor conditioning and traumatic experiences.

It is only when all human untruths are eliminated from our lives that we may be able to rediscover our true, loving and natural selves in this 'Garden of Eden.'

Mike Larkin



### Puddings

Just read the TATTLER article on "the pudding". This brought back many memories but two in particular.

One is the steak and kidney pudding which mum used to make using suet crust pastry, and it was delicious. I

tried to replicate it when we were first married but the lid leaked, and water got into the pudding. The pastry swelled up and we spent dinner time playing "find the meat".

Luckily newly-weds can laugh.

The second was my first attempt at Christmas pudding in a bag. No fail recipe from New Idea, which years ago contained knitting patterns, recipes and all sorts of interesting stuff. Anyway I followed the recipe to the letter. It was to be cooked up to a few weeks ahead and hung which I duly did. A lovely looking pudding in a bag emerged. Very proud of my achievement. On Christmas Day, it was to be heated up by boiling for a couple of hours. Unfortunately the recipe failed to mention that the pudding cloth had to be floured to prevent water seeping into the pudding. What emerged when I opened the bag after heating on Christmas Day was a soggy mess with a tiny hard bit in the middle. Luckily that was just enough for the two of us but I have never again tried to make a Christmas pudding in a bag.

Again, luckily newly-weds can laugh.

- Sallie Hann



The next meeting of the Tatong Heritage Group, and the un-veiling of the Cork Tree / Hollands Branch School sign, will take place on Monday March 20th.



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**Swanpool News**

January has been a busy month in Swanpool with a team from BlazeAid camping on the Oval, hoping to assist any flood affected local farmers, and a successful Targa Show and Shine. The Tennis and Bowls Clubs are back in full swing, and the Cinema saw in the New Year with a very successful Gala, and a busy January Programme. The February programme has more treats in store, including Oscar nominated "The Banshees of Inisherin", screening February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at 6.00pm, and three great matinees, to delight you, including "The Road Dance" on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am, set and filmed on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides, and "Emily" on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am, a fictionalised story about Emily Bronte, author of "Wuthering Heights". Our third matinee will be "Everybody's Oma", Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 1.30pm, a deeply personal story about the director's family's unexpected dementia journey, made in NSW. There will be time to discuss issues arising from the film after the session, and donations can be made to the Melbourne Dementia Research Centre, working with the Florey Institute of Neuroscience in Melbourne.

The Cinema has excellent air conditioning, and a range of homemade choc tops to help manage any further heat waves, and we offer the best priced seats in town! Anyone wanting more information can check our website, [www.swanpoolcinema.com.au](http://www.swanpoolcinema.com.au), or pick up a programme at one of the friendly businesses that are happy to support us in Swanpool, Benalla, Tatong or Mansfield. We look forward to welcoming you! Deb Smith

**Tatong Events**

The Tatong community's next dinner at the Tavern will be Wednesday February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm. Come along for an enjoyable night, catch up with friends or make new ones plus enjoy a tasty meal. This get-together is held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

**TATONG MEMORIAL HALL**

Notice is given of a **PUBLIC MEETING**

To be held at the Tatong Hall on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February at 7:30pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to nominate no more than nine persons as the Committee of Management for the Hall for a term of three years. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior or on the night.

Nominations from women are encouraged.

Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting your local Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action office or at the meeting. For further enquiries please contact the Secretary, Mike Larkin on 0428273613

**Thank You**

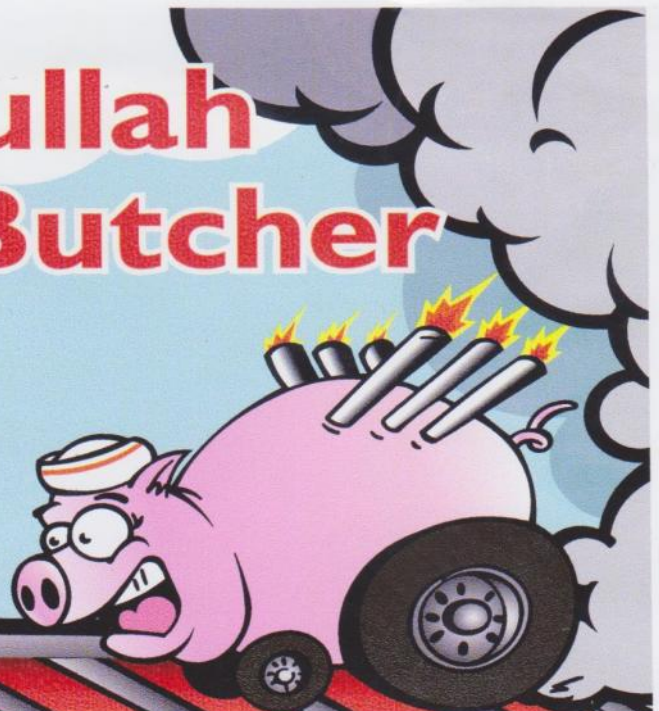
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Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2012	82.5	94.0	184.9	18.1	35	57.6	115.8	92.1	35.5	34	28	30.1	773.6
2013	1.8	52.4	85.5	8.4	43.0	60.1	112.1	141.1	61.2	27.5	26.2	65.3	684.6
2014	33.9	16.4	86.4	89.6	82.8	146.5	98.8	9.8	68.5	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	232.2	139.2	25	1217.8

**WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP**

Today, 17<sup>th</sup> January '23 is finally cooler after heat wave conditions for what seems too long to me. Thankfully we have air con in bedroom – a life saver and sleep enabler.

We have also had unexpected rain with a lovely 11.4mm last night to bring a close to the heat wave. The Total till the 15<sup>th</sup> of January is only 11.5 and the total for the whole month of December is 25mm. Due to not having a January Tattler I also have the total for the month of November which is a huge 139.2mm.

The growth among the larger shrubs and trees at home is beyond my current capacity to trim or remove so we are living in a virtual jungle, but better than a desert I suppose.

Mike Larkin

**White Gate**



**Dates**

The **White Gate dinner @ the Tavern** for February rocks in early on the very 1st day. Book yourselves in & arrive 6:30-7.

Report from the De Fazio Dairy Farm: "Happy New Year! After the last few years of fire, flood and pestilence may this be just a normal one.

On the De Fazio dairyfarm we are gearing up for 'drying off'. Most of our ladies will get a little break from their milking routine until calving in April.

And the dairyfarmer may get a little break in routine as well." - Linda De Fazio

And from the chronicler further west; "Smith Rd residents are bemoaning that the Benalla tornado did not migrate to Whitegate and clean up the stubborn, ratty trees & shrubs that never seem to cop any storm damage." - Caryn De Fazio

**White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:**

Leigh Humphries	22 Jan	Terry Ryan	19 Feb
Noel Hutchens	29 Jan	Andrew Marriott	26 Feb
Bill Ferguson	5 Feb	Terry Trounson	5 Mar
Norton Grimwade	12 Feb	Les Maclean	12 Mar

- Andrea Stevenson, 0429 439 336



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

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

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

**DEADLINE**

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

**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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