

March 2023

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Edition 361

A car crash on January 20th has taken the lives of both Kristin and Max Marriott. Tatong and communities near and far are left grieving at this devastating tragedy.

Kristin was a respected veterinary surgeon, a talented musician, interested in and concerned for other peoples. She was beloved of her family and friends, for her loving and lively personality. She died a few days short of her 67th birthday.

Max was a great presence in the driven Clydesdale world, a competitor and an international judge. In the Tatong district he was valued as a farmer and a member of the CFA.

A gentle and wise man, he died a week short of his 83rd birthday. Their unselfish hospitality was valued by scores of friends, students and visitors.

They travelled throughout Australia and the world, and supported their own local community, by which they will be terribly missed.

- Andrea Stevenson





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I just wanted to share a memory of Kristin Marriott with our friends and neighbours that always makes me smile, and hopefully makes you smile too.

Recently, my daughter Leni's horse became lame whilst we were holidaying in Queensland. Naturally, we called our neighbour and good friend Kristin for advice. We have always had great faith in Kristin's ability to both heal and give us the raw truth about Leni's horses. So on a hot and humid Sunday evening, tiny and capable, Kristin arrived at our stables to assess the injured horse, Mr Big. After administering treatment, she called us with the news that things were not looking good and she would return daily to care for the horse in our absence. A few days later, Kristin arrived back at the stables to meet us to discuss Mr Big's treatment with Leni. Pulling up in Max's big, dusty LC, sprite and youthfully nimble, Kristin slid from the cab with her trusty tools, straight down to business. Since Matthew was there too, she curtly instructed him to grab the leg of the towering 17 hand gelding and hold it tight so she could clean his wound, reapply the poultice and rebandage, all whilst teaching Leni. Matthew, tall, strong and robust, wrestled with the leg, dropping the hoof back into the mud frequently. He wiped sweat from his eyes and grunted with exertion and frustration. Kristin rolled her eyes in exasperation, asking him sternly to "just hold it steady Matthew". I held my breath, believing this would be the first time I would witness Kristin become ornery and cantankerous. Nope. In a typical show of patience, class and manners, (but with a hearty sigh and eyeroll) Kristin nudged Matthew aside and said "you just stand there and hold the scissors". Diminutive yet fierce, Kristin bent, backed up against Mr Big, straddled his leg and bent it between her knees, swiftly rendering him prone. She snatched the scissors and bandage from the sheepish Matthew, and quickly bandaged the hoof of the equally stunned and chastised horse.

Like the Boss Lady she was. With a smug grin in Matthew's direction, and a sly 'girlpower' wink at Leni, she disappeared off in a cloud of dust.

It was only a few days later that her gentle and sensitive side shone through as she lovingly broke the news to Leni that Mr Big needed to be put down. And this was Kristin – fierce, loving, strong yet gentle, brilliant, capable, generous and humble. Her biggest gift was teaching us that family is everything, and her devotion to her family was her superpower.

My memories of Kristin are of offering – of advice; of a shared coffee; of a story from when she was a girl; of food at a local gathering; of vet advice; of patience in teaching my daughter how to 'drive' her tiny little pony amongst the giant Clydies. She had so much to offer, and she did. Kristin, I hope the love you gave to your friends, family (and Mr Big), will guide you home.

Big life, big love. Xoxo
Caryn De Fazio

The Tatong community get together at the Tavern on the 2nd Wednesday of the month has been a great success with the numbers continuing to grow, there were 16 at the February gathering & we hope that that number continues to grow. We'd love to see you there. Tatong Tavern. 6.30pm. 2nd Wednesday of every month.
Sue O'Brien

Tatong Community Historical Display 1905-2022 and Tatong Hall 50th Anniversary Citation
The Tatong Community Historical Display and Hall 50th Anniversary Celebrations were held as a community event to reminisce the bygone days in Tatong by showcasing memorabilia and displays from the many groups, organisations and sporting clubs over the decades. It was also a chance to welcome and meet new residents in the Tatong district for a special afternoon.

Members of the Sonnets band who provided the music for the opening of the new hall in August 1970 attended. Des McNulty from Ryan and McNulty who donated the red gum timber for the floor of the hall and supper room was in attendance as were members of the Crowe family who donated timber for the stage and kitchen.

A delicious high tea was served with many compliments such as "what a celebration and the food for the high tea was sensational!"

Past members of the Hall Committee back in 1970 returned for the celebrations. It was a great event to reminisce with the past and current locals about the great occasions and fun times held at Tatong.

It certainly was an occasion to remember.

White Gate



Dates

The **White Gate dinner @ the Tavern** for March is down for the very first day of the month. Book yourselves in & arrive 6:30-7ish.

On the De Fazio Dairyfarm things have come to a head with the sheep (and a goat that thinks it's a sheep). Whoever said sheep have no brains hasn't met ours.

There is not a fence, gate, cattle grid even an electric fence that hinders their escape plans and their wish to eat my garden. The Dairyfarmer would like to put them all in the freezer but I fear some would make shoe leather appear edible. - *Linda De Fazio*

Meanwhile at Whitegate...

the February invasion of praying mantis', Christmas beetles, crickets and thrips has made us realise why there were dozens of empty cans of insect spray in Nan & Pop Faz's shed. Next to the cocky and snake 'deterrents'. And Rat Sak. #farmlife

#smithroadparadise - *Caryn De Fazio*

White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Andrew Marriott	26 Feb	Alan Stafford	20 Mar
Terry Trounson	5 Mar	Angus Mcmillan	26 Mar
Les Maclean	12 Mar	Hamish Mcmillan	2 Apr
James Parton	19 Mar	Laurie Defazio	9 Apr

- *Andrea Stevenson, 0429 439 336*



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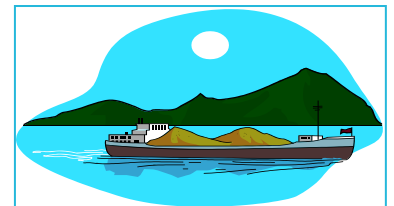
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Garden Daze

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



Construction

1. Cut PVC lengths of pipe at least 15 cm long.
2. Pulverize the clay with a hammer and sift it to remove any rough bits.
3. Mix 7 parts of sand to 1 part of clay
4. Gradually add water, while stirring, until the mix is a wet, thick paste, but not sodden.
5. Fill the container frames; stand the frame on something solid while the clay dries a little.
6. After some drying, but while the clay is still soft, use a pencil, poker or stick to poke holes that are 6-7mm in diameter and about 6-10cm long.
7. Drying time will depend on the temperature. You may be able to slide the block out of the casing, but you can also leave it in permanently.



More About Blue Banded Bees

There are over 1,600 native bee species in Australia and Blue Banded Bees are one of the most beautiful.

Found in every state except Tasmania, they are a solitary species. They have a furry red-brown thorax (mid segment) and iridescent blue stripes on a glossy black abdomen (hind segment).

Blue Banded Bees are good pollinators in the garden and can pollinate crops such as tomatoes, egg-plants and kiwifruit, as well as native plants such as *Hibbertia*, *Senna* and *Solanum*.



Blue Banded Bees are not at all aggressive but can give a mild sting if grabbed or stepped upon.

The adult Blue Banded Bees usually fly only in warm months of the year and die as the cold weather begins, leaving the young, immature Blue Banded Bees dormant inside their nests where they will stay until spring.

As Blue Banded Bees improve productivity in a garden it pays to encourage them with pollen rich plants and somewhere to live and produce their young. In the wild, Blue Banded Bees nest in soft sandstone cliffs. However, in towns and cities Blue Banded Bees may nest in mudbrick walls, the soft mortar of old brick buildings, or soft earthen banks underneath houses.

Here is how to provide shelter and nesting chambers for these beautiful little natives.

Materials for the job

Brickie sand

Garden clay (or clay powder)

Hammer (optional)

Sieve

Stick for stirring or if you are being fancy - use an electric paint stirrer.

Frames - can be 90mm square PVC pipe, earthen pipes, extruded bricks, round pipes, or a wooden frame.



8. Position blocks in a protected dry location with morning sun, at a low level. It's good to group a few together. They can be placed beside buildings, fences, in existing stonewalls, and out of the way of heavy rain.

9. You can also secure a long trailing stem down from one of the blocks, such as a piece of grass or vine. If you are lucky, the blue-banded bees will roost here at night.

Plan now for Autumn - time taken now to plan for an Autumn Garden will pay off later.

Now is the time to get out some seedling trays and seed raising mix ready to have your own seedlings to plant out in about four weeks time.

Some things to consider: Brussels Sprouts, Broccoli, Kohlrabi, Cauliflower, Cabbage

This next lot can go straight into the garden bed

Carrots	Silver Beet	Onions
Parsnips	Shallots	Parsley
Beans	Swede	Raddish
Beetroot	Leeks	Turnips



Seeds planted directly into the soil will come out more evenly if the seed is mixed with sand. Punch a hole in the top of a jam jar, add seed and sand, give it a shake then pour along the drill.

Happy Gardening

Kathy Z

Montage of Australia Day Photos Courtesy of Steve Warne & Andrea



Don & Jade



The Cook



Larissa serving breakfasts



Tatong Folk



Raffle winners Laurie and Linda (photo Andrea Stevenson)

ANZAC DAY

25 April 2023

#AnzacDay



Lest we forget

The Tatong Memorial Hall committee is proud to extend an invitation to the community to commemorate ANZAC DAY at the Tatong hall.

As part of the ceremony representatives from the Benalla RSL will attend to unveil the new soldier's memorial plaque and lay a wreath.

All members of the community are invited to honour our soldiers with the laying of flowers or wreath.

The ceremony will begin at 5.00pm

Light refreshment will be provided after the ceremony

**We would appreciate a RSVP by text or phone to
Patricia 0488 988 927**

CRYPTIC /TANGLED TOWNS

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. Before noon and a heavy weight | MORNINGTON |
| 2. I'm between one debt and another | ----- |
| 3. Chasing Valley | ----- |
| 4. New h2o small inlet | ----- |
| | ----- |
| 5. Going to exist | ----- |
| 6. John Pascoe | ----- |
| 7. Very fat moggie | ----- |
| 8. Repeat wager | ----- |
| 9. Victorian river / | ----- |
| 10. His chair was at the round table | ----- |
| 11. Essay with a different direction | ----- |
| 12. Where drinks are served, your mother | ----- |
| 13. Larger than a village | ----- |
| 14. English tree, value | ----- |
| 15. Call till they come home | ----- |
| 16. Mend your socks | ----- |
| 17. Happy dance | ----- |
| 18. Scrambled lemons | ----- |
| 19. Cultivated ground, largest town | ----- |
| 20. To hasten | ----- |
| 21. Below window, covered wagon | ----- |

Cryptic / Tangled towns.
The first one has been done as an example.
Answers in next month's newsletter.

Sue O'Brien



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The advertisement features a cartoon pig wearing a white sailor's cap with a red stripe, driving a pink tank. The tank has four cannons on top, each firing a shell with a flame. The background is a light blue sky with a large, stylized grey cloud on the right side. The ground is a red and white striped pattern.

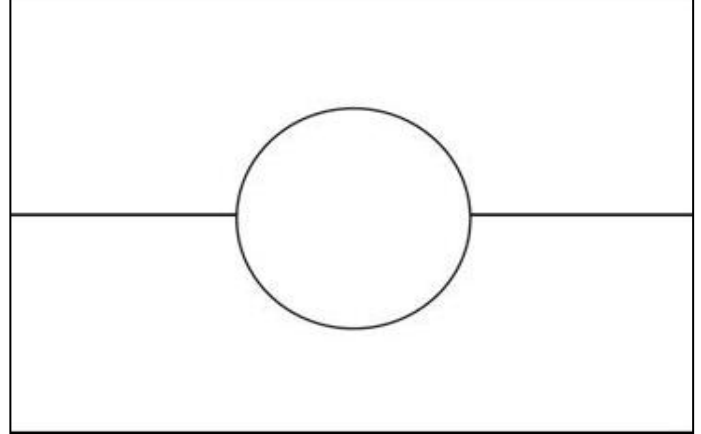
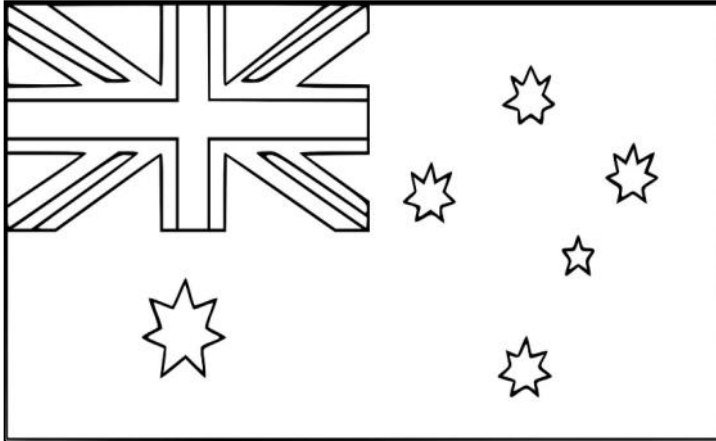
For The Kids

Have you noticed the two flagpoles in front of the Tatong Memorial Hall? The Australia flag and the Aboriginal flag are often flown from these poles.

The flag of Australia is also known as the Australia Blue Ensign. It is blue and has a Union Jack in the top left-hand corner with a 7-pointed Commonwealth star beneath it. On the right-hand side of the flag is a representation of the Southern Cross, made up of 5 white stars.

Aboriginal people, our indigenous first Australians have lived on this continent for over 65,000 years. On their flag, the black symbolises the Aboriginal people, the red represents the earth and the colour of ochre used in Aboriginal ceremonies, and the circle of yellow represents the sun, the constant renewer of life. The flag is flown or displayed permanently at Aboriginal centres throughout Australia.

You may like to colour these flags in.



Did you know:

1. Australia is the 6th largest country in the world by area.
2. Australia is the smallest continent in the world. It is also the flattest, the lowest and the driest inhabited.
3. Australia is made up of the mainland of the Australian continent, the island of Tasmania, and numerous smaller islands. In last month's Tattler Tasmania was left off the map!!
4. 90% of Australians live on the coast.
5. The Australian Alps get more snow than the Swiss Alps.
6. Kangaroos and Wallabies are only found naturally in Australia. Some tree kangaroos are found in New Guinea.

In last month's Tattler I did indeed leave Tasmania off the map of Australia which was asking for the state borders to be drawn in, as I thought that Tasmania didn't share a border with mainland Australia. I have been shown to be wrong by "Gwennyth Baker, Box Hill, an aunt of Neale Heaney." She sent in the following article. Tasmania–Victoria land border

Boundary Islet is divided in the east–west direction at the latitude 39°12' S, with the northern portion belonging to Victoria and the southern portion belonging to Tasmania. This is Tasmania's only land border, and at 85 metres (279 ft) long, it is the shortest land border between any two Australian states or territories.

This situation is accidental, and arose as a result of an error made by Captain [John Black](#), who surveyed the position of the islet in 1801 and determined its latitude to be slightly further north than it truly is. The boundary between Victoria and Tasmania was later set along the latitude of 39°12' S, which was then thought to be completely south of Boundary Islet and not to traverse any land in Bass Strait.^{[3][4]} This would have made the islet completely within the jurisdiction of Victoria. However, when Boundary Islet's correct latitude was later determined it was found to straddle the border. It is for this reason that what was once known as North East Islet (being situated in the north-east of the Hogan Group) came to be known as Boundary Islet. *Ed.*

"Ain't Nothin' But a Hound Dog"

The Smith Road Zoo has grown to include guinea pigs. Which serve absolutely no purpose in life. Their existence is as equally bewildering to Tucker, the harrier hound. It took a few days for him to discover the large cage with its furry inhabitants, but once he did, life as he knew it came to a jarring halt. I don't think he has blinked since laying eyes on them. Are they rats? Toys? Are they edible? Can I chase them, bite them, lick them? Are they friends or foe? And what is that noise they are making? Is that the song of their people? Poor Tucker has worn a track around the cage inspecting these tittering creatures. He is not sure whether to crouch in stealth mode or to stick his nose in the mesh to play. And why are they chewing all that green stuff? Eeewwww. Tucker is threatened by their presence, not convinced of their cuteness, confused by their role in The Zoo, and mildly insulted that they will not come out to wrestle and chase a ball with him. But what fun the family has had naming them (still not finalised). This seems to be the number one reason why we adopt animals – the delight in choosing names. Farmer Wife's suggestion of Lucy Fur was firmly rejected.... Caryn De Fazio

Tatong Filmmaker to Screen at Benalla Art Gallery

Local Tatong filmmaker and sometime resident **Robyn Hughan** is pleased to announce that the **Benalla Art Gallery** will screen her feature documentary film, **Journey Beyond Fear** and her short music video clip featuring the song, **Someone's Daughter** (written and performed by Alyce Platt) during March, coinciding with **International Womens Day** and **Harmony Week**.

Harmony Week celebrates Australian multiculturalism, based on the successful integration of migrants into our community. It is an opportunity for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common.

Someone's Daughter, the opening song from **Journey Beyond Fear** will be projected on the external video screen of the gallery for the entire month of March. **Journey Beyond Fear** will screen on **Sunday March 26th** in the **Ledger Gallery at 6pm**. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with **Robyn Hughan** (Writer/Director/Producer) and **Steve Warne** (Producer), moderated by **Bill Sykes**.

Filmed over seven years, **Journey Beyond Fear** is an emotional rollercoaster taking us from despair to joy through hope, humor and love. A character driven film, featuring three magnetic daughters, it focuses on the experience of those who join the queue to resettle in Australia, making it clear that this is no easy option. It shatters prevailing stereotypes and highlights that becoming part of Australian society without losing one's cultural identity is achievable. The film has been made with deep passion and commitment to the subject matter, the narrative is lyrical and the visuals are strong, speaking volumes about the family's situation.

'Journey Beyond Fear is an excellent documentary and a genuinely moving experience. This is a journey well worth taking – 4/5 Stars' – David Stratton, The Australian

Cost: \$15 including drink on arrival
Registration essential: T 03 5760 2619 or
gallery@benalla.vic.gov.au



*Above: Robyn & Alyce with Zainab from Journey Beyond Fear
Right: Sakina - the youngest daughter from the film*

Continued next page

Further to this, **Alyce Platt** will perform at a special concert celebrating **International Womens Day** at the gallery on **March 11th at 6pm**. Alyce will present songs from **Journey Beyond Fear**, including the enigmatic **Someone's Daughter**, mixed with her unique interpretations of songs from her latest album **Bain Douche**. Alyce will be joined by fellow musicians **Stephen Hadley** on bass and **Clare Moore** on vibes.

Cost: \$25 Members / \$35 non-Members including drink on arrival

Registration and payment essential: T 03 5760 2619 or

gallery@benalla.vic.gov.au



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

Call us today to get your septic tank cleaned out



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.



Final Election for the Seat of Indi

In 1906 there was an election for the federal seat of Indi, encompassing Rutherglen, Wangaratta, Benalla and Beechworth. Since federation it had been represented by Isaac Isaacs. He resigned from politics in order to accept appointment to the High Court, throwing the seat open. Nomination for the Political Labour Party was a contest between Michael Savage and Daniel Turnbull, a Talgarno farmer. Older and wealthier than Savage, Turnbull was chairman of the local mining board, and long-time councillor and president of the Beechworth shire. Each addressed the meeting for 20 minutes before voting took place. Turnbull beat Savage by one vote.

Savage worked hard for Turnbull, canvassing door to door and organising meetings. When Turnbull failed to turn up at Wahgunyah, Savage spoke for him. In the event only half the electors on the roll voted and Turnbull didn't get in. It was said that Turnbull was a weak candidate, and a good labour man would have got in; in 1910 Labour did take the seat of Indi.

Savage and his colleagues turned their attention to the state electorate of Wangaratta and Rutherglen. Savage was looked on as certain for candidate. Organisation was well under way when the Premier, Thomas Bent, moved the election date from June to mid-March, with nominations to close in a fortnight. The money to cope with this could not be found, and Savage had to stand down.

Savage Goes to New Zealand

In 1907, aged 35, Michael Savage set off for New Zealand, yielding to the entreaties of a good friend who had gone there. He found work at a brewery which had just acquired a steam-engine, and needed a mechanic and engineer.

He quickly became involved in the labour party, and in time became a city councillor, MP for Auckland West, deputy leader of the labour party, leader of the opposition, and from the 1935 till his death in 1940 was Prime Minister of New Zealand.

He visited Australia only once, in 1926, as representative for an Empire Parliamentary Conference. Over three months he toured the country, and found time to visit family and friends at Griffith, Wahgunyah and Benalla.

He never married. Political rivals claimed that Savage had deserted a wife and from 5 to 7 children back in Australia. When told of this Savage laughed and said, "I hope she turns up with all the kids – I'd love them all." In 1938 it was said that rivals paid women to go from door to door stating that Savage was a non-naturalised Czechoslovakian.

Towards the end of his life he knew he was suffering from bowel cancer, but refused to be operated upon as the time taken for recovery would have destroyed his political work. He chose certain death.

Revered by many New Zealanders, some have made the trek back to his birthplace... where he is barely known.

But for one vote, he might have won the seat of Indi in 1906, and become a revered politician of Australia instead of New Zealand.





Get your Groove on at the Tavern

Sat March 18 The Troubadour - 8-11 pm
Sat April 8 Intensity Duo—8-11 pm
Sun May 14 Mother’s Day - live music 12-3

Don’t forget Happy Hour Fridays 5.30—6.30 pm
Footy Tipping starts Thursday 16th March—Gotta be in to Win It!!

Like us on Facebook for the latest news!
Phone 0357 672210 or email info@tatongtavern.com.au

Bill Sykes made the mistake of putting cattle fodder in the front seat of the ute.
 One member of the bovine persuasion thought it was self serve.
 What kind a ute manufacturer doesn't make bullock-proof windows?



TRI-ANNUAL ELECTIONS AND MEETING FOR TATONG HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
 Committees of management for reserves, such as rural halls and recreation reserves, which come under the control of the newly named Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, (formerly DELWP) and overseen by the state minister, require that committee members undergo a public election for their three year term.
 The Tatong hall elections for the next three year term were held on February the 7th with Councillor Don Firth officiating. The re-elected committee comprises, main office bearers, Joe Hakkennes as president, Nicole McFarlane as treasurer and Mike Larkin as secretary.

The other 6 committee members, who are former committee members, Pat Manser, Rob Erskine, Joan Lewis, Gerry Hevey and newly appointed Steve Warne and Faye Crowe. With such a strong committee the hall is in good hands. All members are to be congratulated for volunteering in an era where community is to some degree disintegrating. The whole committee is in the ‘not so young age’ category which begs the question: What is the future of small hamlets? Are they just a satellite of a satellite of a satellite?
 Mike Larkin

ANZAC DAY IN TATONG

The Tatong Memorial hall committee is holding a ceremony at the front of the hall starting at 5pm on Anzac Day, the 25th of April. This is partly in order to officially open the newly erected flagpoles as well as the front of hall plaque and mural. It will also give locals a chance to remember the sacrifice of those who defended our lifestyle freedoms in all past wars.
 The committee is arranging for RSL officials to attend and ex-military personal will be invited and welcomed. Wreaths will be laid and a light refreshments served for all those attending. This free event is being held later on Anzac Day than the traditional early morning services so that it does not compete with Benalla’s ceremonies and it allows time for those going to Benalla to ‘recover’ from the early start.
 Mike Larkin (Hall Secretary Mobile 0428273613)

Swanpool News

As ever, life is busy! The Bowls Club is moving into the finals phase of the summer competitions, Land-Care is reconvening, and community members are gearing up for the Swanpool Motor Show on 12th March at the Albert Heaney Oval. Gates open at 8am to Swap Meet and Market stalls, display vehicles (cars, bikes, trucks, tractors or anything with an engine), food & coffee vans, live band "Rattler" all held on the Swanpool Oval situated at 2426 Midland Highway, Swanpool.

For the Cinema, March brings some special programming events, including an encore screening of award winning films from the Benalla Shorts Program, first screened in Benalla in November, and brought to you through the generosity of Festival Director Anna Smith, and her sponsors. 7 exciting new short films by emerging film makers will be showcased, with an interval. Please note, the programme commences at 4.00pm. The Friday morning matinee on Friday 24th March at 10.30 am features the ever popular Tom Hanks in "A Man Called Otto", about a grumpy old man whose world is turned upside down when a young family moves in next door, leading to unexpected new friendships. Other highlights of the March programme include the Oscar nominated "Tar" starring Cate Blanchett, and "Triangle of Sadness". Both films are long, so we are screening them as single features, with the opportunity for patrons to enjoy refreshments in our Candy Bar after the film.

Details of the full programme are available online, at www.swanpoolcinema.com.au, via our Facebook Page, or on our printed programmes, which are available at our usual outlets in Swanpool, Tatong, Benalla and Mansfield. We look forward to seeing you there!



The next meeting of the Tatong Heritage Group will follow the un-veiling of the Cork Tree / Hollands Branch School sign, Monday March 20th, 3pm.

Gawn to Town

When the sheep don't need mustering, because there aren't any, and the fence isn't shorting out; indeed, when you've gone to town... then you get to follow up on old photos, like an old Sea Lake streetscape which prompts someone to ask, 'how did "Sea Lake" get that name?' Several hypothetical answers are on offer. One has a surveyor with bad spelling, annotating "See Lake" when the town was gazetted in 1895. But the Sea Lake was already mentioned by name in 1893.

Another is that Lake Tyrell, north of Sea Lake, is sort of "C" shaped. Another, that an aboriginal guide said, "See, lake, boss, see, lake." And then there was the story of a bullocky who drove his team into the lake and declared it was deep as the sea.

The earliest proper reference I could find via Trove was from the Bendigo Advertiser of 1893, in a report from the proposed Wycheproof to Mildura railway: "Near Lake Tyrell there were two permanent lakes, known as the Green and Sea Lakes, affording an assured and ample water supply."

Then reports, as the town came into being, of the Sea Lake, holding enough water for two years. Until it ran dry in 1896, and again in 1912.

"The lake is a very pretty sheet of clear, fresh water, which is the household supply, and contains two year's store." But where was this Sea Lake? I studied Google Earth and several maps I had. Baulked, I logged into the Vic. LandData site and downloaded the Sea Lake Parish Township map. And there it is! A round-ish body of water, north-west of the town, marked, "Sea Lake (fresh)" and below that, crossed out, "Water Supply Reserve".



Newer maps show this area is now the golf course. Other Trove entries describe how, as this "assured" water source failed to keep up with the demands of townsfolk and farmers, an alternative water supply was organised. The Sea Lake became redundant.

We may never know why that body was named "Sea Lake"; I was more intrigued that the waterhole seemed to have strayed from the histories. (And have entered my data and references into Wikipedia, should anyone else go looking for the lost Sea Lake.) - Andi Stevenson

Remembering such a talented and accomplished musician, vet, caterer, horsewoman, traveller; and more still a loving, caring, giving, lively, laughing friend and companion. Kristin I will be missing you forever. Max, a wise and kind friend, you have left a remarkable legacy. Neither of you will be forgotten.

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2022 Tassie Tour – 2

From Cradle Mountain it was off to the west coast and the town of Strahan. Along the way is the tiny town of Tullah with its tiny railway with an equally tiny steam engine called Wee Georgie Wood, once used to haul ore (silver lead ore). It is maintained and run by four very enthusiastic enthusiasts. It is open to the public for rides on the fourth Sunday of every month. Today just happened to be the fourth Sunday.



It's not the longest or fastest trip but we feel we 'did our bit' to support them. If you're there with kids – give them a treat.



Once in Strahan, we found our digs and moved in. We're here for two nights and the unit has a washer and drier, so washing so far will be up to date. At 3.30 we went to have a look around before dinner. Guess what? There are some nearby waterfalls! The Hogarth Falls are accessed through a park on the edge of town.

From the carpark there is a 1.2km walk to the falls. The path followed alongside the stream. The falls are really nice, but the stream, to us, was the main attraction. Because it meandered through rainforest and was full of tannins, the colours in the water are really spectacular.

Down to dockside next morning to board the catamaran, 'Spirit of the Wild' (uniquely, powered by a hybrid motor) for a cruise around Macquarie Harbour and the Gordon River. The weather was back to fairly ordinary.

First, Macquarie Harbour. It is 315 sq.km. and contains 6 times the volume of Sydney Harbour. Although so large, the entry / exit is very narrow and, apparently, aptly named Hell's Gate. When possible, our Captain navigates Hell's Gate out into the Indian Ocean – not today though – we had to stay within the harbour due to the bad weather conditions.



Heading to the other end of the harbour, we passed huge salmon farms. Our Captain's only comments were: "they are quite controversial" and "all Tassie salmon farms are foreign owned". He didn't elaborate, but I believe that because of the narrow entrance, the harbour doesn't get flushed out so waste builds up beneath the farm cages. I believe Tassal is Canadian owned and Huon is Brazilian owned.



Once at the far end of the harbour, we could see the mouth of the Gordon River. To reduce the possibility of river bank erosion, the speed limit on the river is five knots. The significance of our catamaran having electric motors was suddenly apparent – we were 'gliding' up the river in absolute silence (what they call whisper mode).

Our turnaround point was heritage landing where we docked and disembarked for a walk through the dense forest with a very knowledgeable guide. It was right in the wilderness yet walking on the top quality boardwalks we were becoming accustomed to in Tassie made it very easy.



Back on board we enjoyed lunch while cruising back to Macquarie Harbour and Sarah Island.

Sarah Island, like Norfolk Island, was used as a secondary penal colony. This meant that convicts who offended again got sent to these harsher places. We had a tour with a ranger and learnt that the convicts, as those at Port Arthur, were taught shipbuilding. They were taught by Scottish shipwright, David Hoy and used the locally sourced Huon pine.

The last ship built there was 'borrowed' by the remaining convicts in 1834. It was to have relocated these last convicts to Port Arthur, but they had other ideas.

This meant they were now wanted for mutiny and treason, both punishable by hanging.

Our ranger guide said he would be in the play 'The Ship That Never Was' tonight. He suggested that if we wanted to know what happened to the convicts and how they escaped the noose, see the show.

We saw the play. It was a hoot – more like a pantomime with lots of audience participation.

Take away fish'n'chips finished off a really good day.

Want to know what happened to the convicts? – You'll have to see the play.

Early start tomorrow – have to be in Queenstown by 8.30 to catch the West Coast Wilderness Steam Train.

John Knapper



Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
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
2023	25												25

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

At the time of writing, 16th February, we have had 12 days without rain and it shows in the garden and lawns. During the summer heat the plants, except the deeply rooted like eucalypts, wilt without regular water. February's rain total to the 15th of the month was 15.2mm and the total for the whole of January was only 25mm.

**Tatong Achiever of the Year
Robert Erskine**

Rob is recognised for his dedication and commitment to the Tatong and district community over many years.

Rob is an inspiration in the community and has been very generous in giving his time to various community causes.

Rob has been an active member of the Tatong CFA for 54 years and attends training nights to keep up with requirements that are mandatory to enable him to access the tanker and ultralight to attend all fires and strike teams.

As an active member of the Tatong Memorial Hall Committee of Management he is always available for working bees to set up for an event, maintenance work and upgrades to equipment and the building.

Rob has been playing table tennis for Tatong in the Swanpool and District Table Tennis Association for 54 years. Rob was acknowledged for 25 years as President in 1993 and was then elected Secretary and still holds that position today. Rob co-ordinates the Tatong teams as well assisting all teams in the Association.

Rob is a wonderful example of someone who works tirelessly in his community for the benefit and enjoyment of the locals.



Rob and Cr. Don Firth

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Full Page	Half Page	Quarter (or 2x1/8th):
Single Issue: \$32	\$16	\$8
Six Issues: \$180	\$85	\$45
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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, leave in the Tattler Mailbox beside the Tavern, or send by post to the Secretary.

Secretary: Linda De Fazio, PO Box 588 Benalla 3671,
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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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