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Edition 370

### **Tatong Community Christmas BBQ – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 5pm**

The Tatong Community Christmas BBQ will once again be held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> of December at the Tatong Community Centre and Recreation Reserve. After a very successful event last year, we are hoping to get even more along to this year's event. This is a wonderful opportunity for new members of the Tatong and district community to come along and meet others who live in the area. It would be great if the longer-term Tatong residents could please make an effort to personally invite someone who is new to the area, and make sure all of your neighbours are coming along too.

This evening is made extra special by the long-held tradition of Santa arriving behind the Marriot's magnificent Clydesdale horses. This is a truly magical experience, and this year will hold extra significance with the recent tragic passing of Max and Kirstin. Their contribution to this event, and previously the Tatong Community Christmas Concert, over many decades has made childhood memories that will be cherished forever.

The evening will commence at 5pm with Santa arriving at 6pm. A delicious barbeque and salad dinner will be provided along with some sweet treats and icy-poles for the kids. Please BYO drinks, and a chair if you would like to sit outside and enjoy the shade of the trees.

RSVP would be appreciated, as would a gold coin donation towards the meal - but be assured that these are not essential. To RSVP simply text the number of people coming in your group to 0409 963 267 (note there will be a Facebook event created too so just RSVP to one).

For any enquiries or if you would like to help out with the event, please give Beth (57672250), Gayle (57672342) or Joan (57672251) a call.

**We hope to see you all on the 17<sup>th</sup> December for a lovely community evening!!**



Huge shout out to the Tatong Young Bloods and volunteers who gave up their Sunday and put in a big day at the working bee on 29<sup>th</sup> October. The picnic area at the Bridge looks a treat ready to be enjoyed by visitors and locals alike. The Avenue of Trees also had a trim and a tidy up. Well done to you all.

Unfortunately, there are some in the community who continue to use this area as their local rubbish tip. A few days after the working bee the recycle bin was stuffed with large pieces of cardboard, there was a pile of cardboard and rubbish on the ground beside the bins and rubbish was already being scattered around the picnic table. We all know that broken furniture and other junk doesn't go in either the rubbish or recycle bin but all too often it's dumped and left for someone else to clean up.

The reserves around Tatong including the Bridge picnic area, the Recreation Reserve and it's surrounds and the Railway reserve on the corner of Mitchell Road are all maintained by people in our community, not by Council or anyone else. It's a thankless job at the best of times so it's pretty poor that some among us are so sadly lacking in respect or common courtesy.

Dawn Brettoner

There is an update to this post ... both the recycle and rubbish bins have been removed from the reserve so no rubbish will be collected from now on. **Ed**

#### Remember when?

Way back when, and I mean way back when, back to before you paid by waving a card, a phone, a watch or even a wrist with a chip in it (the only chip I've got is probably on my shoulder), it was normal to pay by cash.

If you were known or had appropriate ID, you might pay by cheque. Both cash and cheque seem to be dying a natural (?) death, but as far as I know they are both still legal tender.

We do have a generation now who have never used a cheque or, perhaps, never even heard of or seen one. A recent experience really brought this home to me.

I wanted to buy a gift voucher and needed to pay by cheque. The vendor was quite happy to provide the voucher but wasn't happy when I handed over a cheque for \$50. Even though I am known at that business and the cheque was drawn on an obviously acceptable account, I heard,

"We don't take those!"

I tried to explain that this cheque is as good as a \$50 note in the cash register – just pay it into the bank when you pay in the cash. A phone call to the owner of the establishment resulted in an equally dumbfounding reply relayed back to me,

"We'll take it if we have to, but we'd rather not".

I decided not to buy the voucher and took back the cheque.

I know times have changed, are still changing and will keep changing, but I thought \$50 in the till is \$50 in the till (?).

Front of house staff need to be better trained. My \$50 voucher is now for another establishment...

John Knapper

#### Swanpool News

Our lively little bowls club welcomes new members, whether for social bowls, or competition. Drop us an email at [swanneebowls@gmail.com](mailto:swanneebowls@gmail.com) to register your interest.

The Cinema is offering a busy December programme, including Martin Scorsese's new epic "Killers of the Flower Moon", well suited to our big screen and great sound, screening on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 6.00pm. Bring a picnic to enjoy beforehand, as there is no interval! Kenneth Branagh's latest Agatha Christie adaptation "A Haunting In Venice" screens first on our Double Bill on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> December, and our fabulous New Year's Eve Gala features two Aussie favourites, "Bran Nu Dae" and "Strictly Ballroom" As well as two films, the price of admission covers a lovely festive supper for patrons, including champagne, making it a very affordable celebratory night out at \$25 a head!. Bookings are essential on Trybooking, [www.trybooking.com/CMKQM](http://www.trybooking.com/CMKQM).

All details of our programmes can be found on our website, [www.swanpoolcinema.com.au](http://www.swanpoolcinema.com.au), or on the printed programmes available at the Tavern, and various outlets in Benalla and Mansfield. We look forward to welcoming you soon!

Deb

I omitted to put the oven temperature for the Delicious shortbread recipe in last month's Tattler. It should have read "First preheat the oven to 180C". Sue



The howling hound, Tucker, has been keeping the residents of Smith Road awake at night. The cacophony has been relentless, and his keeper is hoarse from the midnight beratings. But maybe she should have paid attention.....

After a morning of barking, the discovery of a big fat brown snake near the back door (alive and on the move!) unveiled the reason for all the trouble. The dogs were furiously trying to alert us to the danger, with the same ferocity and pitch that they also alert us to the 'danger' of frogs, lizards, grasshoppers and moths. It was a true case of "the boy who cried wolf" but we were grateful for the heads up, and that no person or dog was maimed in the "relocation" process (well done Miss 16 and Papa Faz).

Unfortunately, the incessant barking continued the following day. And night. And day. And night. More shouting, less sleep. Then the discovery of the culprit. Dawn light revealed the contents of the rubbish bin strewn all down Smith Road. A cheeky possum had gluttonously been feasting on trash right outside the hound's pen. It ignited Tucker's innate bloodthirst and he was a frothing mess by morning when the possum disappeared, leaving in its wake a rotten mess. When released from his confines, he bee-lined straight for the bin, seemingly to search for the possum, but was quickly placated by an empty can of condensed milk, which he happily licked for hours, possum forgotten.

Ain't nuthin' like a hound dog with a sweet tooth.

- Caryn De Fazio



**SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 5PM**



THE TATONG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY IS  
WARMLY INVITED TO THE

# **Tatong Christmas BBQ**

SANTA WILL BE ARRIVING ON HIS  
HORSE DRAWN SLEIGH AT 6PM!!

**Tatong Recreation Reserve  
BBQ Dinner Provided  
(Gold coin donation appreciated)  
BYO drinks and chair**

*Thank you to the Benalla Rural City Council for supporting this event*



What's on at the Tavern

Sun Dec 10

Neale Williams Blues Guitarist from 12-3

Wed Dec 27

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Sat Jan 13

Snow Road Troopers Pub Rock

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**You're invited to come along and join the celebrations at the Tatong dinner 6.30pm Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at the tavern.**

Theme for the night is Colours of Christmas. Red, Green, Silver & Gold. If possible, please wear something in one or more of these colours, anything from a hat to your socks., some jewellery or a ribbon in your hair.

Topic of conversation will be Christmas memories. Some suggestions to get you thinking are; Decorating the tree. A gift you may have received. Baking with the children. Recalling a family tradition. Maybe even asking for a second helping of pudding in the hope of getting a sixpenny bit. Maybe a song or a film.

We have a few surprises up our sleeve on the night.

We all know that a lot of families are doing it really tough. If you'd like to bring along an item or two of non-perishable goods so that we can put together a hamper for a family in need. (No alcohol please). Hopefully getting a hamper will make Christmas more enjoyable & bring some joy to them this Christmas.

If possible, I'm asking that everyone intending to come along to please phone the Tavern on 57672210 & book to be on the Tatong table, as being close to Christmas they are likely to be busy. Don't let having not booked stop you from coming, you'll be more than welcome.

*Merry Christmas to you all.*

*May God Shower Your Life with Unlimited Blessings on This Day.*

**Sue O'Brien**



Tatong CFA News

With fire restrictions coming into effect on 27th November the brigade is getting prepared for the coming fire season. Firefighters who have not yet completed the required pre-season training are encouraged to attend one of the Tuesday night training sessions or to come down to the station on a Sunday morning. The training is focussed on safety and the recent death of a firefighter in NSW should be a reminder to all that we need to be ever vigilant.

On another topic I would like to thank the members who helped out with the BBQ at the Tatong Market. I think we all had an enjoyable, if busy, morning and the money raised will go toward the eventual replacement of our ultralight tanker.

Regards,

Jason Nichols Tatong Captain

### **BIG CROWDS FOR FIRST WEEKEND OF BENALLA FESTIVAL**

When do you get too many people at a Festival event? That question would normally never be asked for country happenings but it could have applied to the Moorngag Balloon demonstration held at the Moorngag hall. We attended out of curiosity and to get a 'cooking-free' meal.

It soon became clear that a big crowd was coming and we luckily got our sausages early followed a while later with ice creams. I estimate that the pizza van queue was 30 meters long at the time we got dessert and we heard later that it became cash-only for food payments when the card payments stopped working. (May have been caused due to Optus meltdown).

Nevertheless it was a great weekend of hamlet activities and attendances. My garage sale at home also had excellent attendances with a good amount of unwanted items disposed of. I was unable to attend the Market and More on the Tatong Rec Reserve but again heard that plenty of people attended.

Mike Larkin

## TATONG TOPICS—DECEMBER 1923

**Benalla Standard 4<sup>th</sup> December 1923:**  
CONCERT AT TATONG.

On Friday evening the concert and dance held in aid of the Tatong Public Hall turned out a great success. The Chairman of the hall committee Mr.

D. H. Coghill, in a short speech complimented the public on the manner in which they had come forward, and enabled the improvements to be made. The Recreation Reserve had been completed, and money also raised towards the improvements just finished at the hall. These cost over £150, £75 of which was raised by a guarantee from the hall committee to the National Bank. There were a few outstanding accounts to be paid, but with the assistance given that night the committee's debt will be under the guarantee.

The programme was as follows: Overture, Miss Stewart; song, School children; song, Mrs. Wilson; song, Mr Harrison; duet, Mrs. Merrigan and Mrs. Waugh, accompanied by Mrs. Jope (violin) and Miss Heaney (piano); song, Miss Burns; song. Tall Top Hat, School-boys (encored); song, Miss Stolz; recitation, Master A. Jope, who brought down the house, and again pleased the audience with an encore; song, Mrs. Merrigan; song, Mr. C. Burns (encored); song; Jingle Bells, School-girls; song, Mr. G. Sullivan (encored); song, Mrs. Waugh; step dance, Miss Orford; song, Miss. Ginnivan; song, Miss Stolz. After a short interval Mr. W. Prayle, assisted by Mrs. Coghill, Misses M. Sullivan, B. Waters, and E. Ritchie, and Messrs J, Riggall and Geo. Sullivan, staged a farce entitled "Lodgings to Let." Their efforts were highly appreciated, and the able manner in which they played their parts brought that, portion of the programme to a very satisfactory conclusion. After supper, dancing was indulged in to an early hour.

**Benalla Standard 14<sup>th</sup> December 1923:**  
TATONG RAILWAY TRUST,  
DEPUTATION TO MINISTER.

As a result of an application - by the Tatong Taxpayers' Association and the resolution of the Trust at their last meeting on the 19th ult., Messrs: D. H. Coghill and- A. Harrison (representing the taxpayers), and Cr. Geo. Walker (of the Trust) word introduced to the Minister of Railways (Mr. Old) on Wednesday last by Mr. Carlisle, M.L.A. The deputation set forth their desires (as previously reported in the "Standard"), particularly stressing the point that it was desired to utilize the money lying at 3 per cent., to buy up debentures. They pointed out that a great many of the landowners were prepared to take up the liability as far as debentures were concerned, providing that the Government found the necessary security. Mr. Old, who listened attentively to the deputation, discussed the matter from various viewpoints. He did not consider there was any legal objection, and was sympa-

thetic with the movement, which commended itself. It would be necessary to obtain legal advice, and submit the proposal to Cabinet, when he would do the best he could to further its interests. In reply to a question if the matter would receive his support, provided there was no legal objection, Mr. Old replied, "Decidedly." The Trust have now to put in their appeal in writing, and this will be attended to at their next meeting. The deputationists were well pleased with the result of their mission, and hope for favourable consideration.

**The Age Melbourne 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1923:**  
EXTERMINATION OF RABBITS.

Support for government scheme wire netting condemned.

EUROA. — At the meeting of Euroa district council of V.F.U. a deputation composed of representatives from Benalla, Tatong and Greta South urged the council to support the, new scheme for the extermination of rabbits suggested by the Government, by which it would sell the skins at a good price. The Euroa branch of the, V.F.U. had previously vetoed the proposal.

Mr. Elliott Benalla said the present scheme of wire netting was of no use, and it was time a better scheme was devised. Hundreds of thousands of pounds' were spent yearly on the extermination of rabbits with little result. Wire netting did a certain amount of good, but in Benalla district the life of netting was only about seven years on account of the mineral springs rotting it. All they asked was for a three year trial of the new scheme. Mr. Harris (Tatong) said that after fighting the pest all his life he was convinced that the present scheme was an absolute failure. Wire netting was practically useless. He had spent more than £500 on it, but as soon as food got scarce, rabbits from adjoining Crown lands came into his property, both under and over the netting. Another objection to the present scheme was that it was wiping out the birds. Poison trails were laid in cool shady spots for rabbits where birds sought grubs etc., They ate the poisoned apples, and were killed in large numbers. The new scheme would be a great benefit to producers and would not seriously affect anybody. Millions of acres of Crown lands were at present, unfit to keep a goat on. The new scheme, they claimed, would pay its way. The remarks were corroborated by Messrs Booth and Beattie (Greta South). Mr. Wallace (Strathbogie) said there was no proof that if the Government paid 5 shillings for skins it would be a payable proposition. Such proof was needed before the scheme was inaugurated. Mr. Robertson (Euroa) spoke strongly in favour of the scheme. The lower number of sheep at present shorn yearly showed the devastation the rabbit plague had wrought.

Compiled by Barry O'Connor. Tatong Heritage Group.





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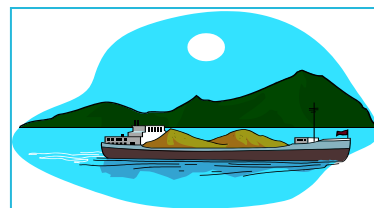
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# Gawn to Town

The year is winding down, like a bathtub emptying - indeed I fancy I can hear the distant gurgling sound of the last weeks of the year, swirling down the plughole. And fancying that, even though I haven't had a bath in years. ...So you hold your nose and back away... Reminiscent of an 1884 take-off of a Pears Soap advertisement, featuring a roughly clad gentleman who declares,

"Two years ago I used your Soap, since when I have used no other"

There will be a fair amount of younger people who have never heard a bathtub emptying. Which is probably a good thing, in an arid land, as the official view is that taking a bath uses more water than does taking a shower. Though I do recall once entering a camping ground toilet block to find a young woman chatting with a friend, leaning against the shower door, behind which her shower was pouring out hot water. She had no idea that either the water or the heat might be finite commodities, and looked mightily miffed at a gentle suggestion that she either turn the steaming waterfall off, or get in under it.

My mother, who grew up near Talbot, recalled from her childhood of an old goldminer who had been admitted to the hospital, after living in the bush for decades. In trying to clean him, the nurses had to peel layer after layer of worn cloth from his body. It seems that each time his clothes began wearing out, he just put another set over the top. So he hadn't been wasting water - not on himself, anyway. The damage done to waterways in panning, diverting water, applying cyanide, extracting and discarding arsenic, and digging up and dredging vast areas of land, would probably rather outweigh taking six showers daily.

To the city folk, water comes out of a tap. Infinitely. As towns get smaller there may be a correlating understanding of the source of the stuff, and its value - probably going by the flavour. When we lived on tank water I generally noticed, when visiting Benalla, the taste of the water, and assumed that I'd need a water filter if I lived here. But either I've got used to it, or I'm yet to encounter the dregs of a low reservoir.

In all the years on tank water, we had a number of means rigged up to indicate the level of the tank. Most worked well, hardly any got stuck. Now in Trewins I see there is a tank level monitor that will send you an SMS up to four times a day.

Maybe that is what city folk need. A monitor on Yan Yean reservoir which sends users a SMS as the water level drops. This would probably lead to panic water use, as people had multiple showers and washed all their clothes and dishes before the water ran out.

At least they wouldn't have to worry about drinking water. That comes in plastic bottles.

Which takes me back to a long-ago memory, mustering sheep by motorbike through the river frontage on a hot hot day, stopping to jump into the river, submerge, and having a deep drink of water while under. I didn't care what the fish had been doing in there. - *Andi Stevenson*

Pears' Soap



"Two years ago I used your Soap, since when I have used no other."

Parade, April 26th, 1884.

## DUMB LUCK PLUS LOVE AND JOY

When youngish I was interested in hearing the truth but I found that such thinking was not always appreciated. We lived in Moe until I was 8, in the street behind a hotel, and one day a man who was passing near our house gave me a two shilling coin. Knowing as I did about not taking money from strangers I waited till he was gone and threw it into the grassy gutter. The lesson I learned from this was that when I told mum, she told dad, and they both had a laugh at my childish innocence. I have never forgotten that because it revealed the strange things that children are sometimes taught. The most money I ever got at that age would be a sixpence coin! (5 cents).

A similar lesson in overkill was when bored and sitting beside the road outside our house, I decided to throw a small stone at the next vehicle that passed by. It was a food truck and my stone hit the target but the driver decided that I needed to be taught a lesson by taking me home. I ended up hiding under the kitchen table while mum, dad, a policeman and the truck driver discussed my crime. It had the desired affect alright because even though I already knew that what I did was wrong I have never forgotten it. The main source of truth which excited me when more grown up was what I heard in the words from the Bible's gospels. I wondered why the men of the church did not live up to the message of these teachings (for some reason it was not the women that mattered here - don't know why.) It was a big puzzle to me why the religion that mattered so much in our family with its life dominating rules showed so little interest in examining the background of its origins. I eventually became interested in Eastern religions, especially Zen Buddhism and Taoism, which appealed because, as with Jesus, of their accessibility and practical sense making. The religion of Christianity on the other hand had too many inconsistencies and contradictions which I now understand came about due to the interference of people like St Paul as well as other self-appointed experts whose goal is more about establishing a system of control rather than teaching about the individual's path to liberation.

For me, a person wanting very much to belong in my community, I was somewhat alienated as I got older due to being pulled in two equally desirable directions, one direction for social inclusion and the other toward truth and authenticity and they seemed mutually exclusive.

(Fortunately they are not)

Paradoxically while we hear a lot about the 'heaven' of Jesus or 'enlightenment' from gurus, we cannot truly know about it till awakening happens. It is truth which leads to the discovery of our original and authentic self and because we are now living in the "post truth" era it could spur the individual to seek clarity in a world becoming ever more disconnected from reality.

This quest is not for the faint hearted due to the deeply entrenched conditioning of our upbringing and success is probably sheer dumb luck rather than choice. I was impelled to follow this path and tried everything I could find that might lead to success, (and that involved giving up the quest many times.) This is not about hate for your culture and close ones, rather it is the transcendence of mistaken beliefs which when no longer in charge brings peace and clarity of mind, allowing love and joy to flow abundantly. I will continue with some more growing up stories, and revelations, in later Tattlers.

Mike Larkin



*Tatong Heritage Group wish you a joyous  
Christmas and a Happy New Year*



*An invitation is extended to all to join us for a cuppa as  
we delve into the past of Tatong and District  
The next meeting will be held on 15th January 2024  
at the Tatong Memorial Hall at 4pm*

*Contact us at.*

*Bev 5767 2324 or*

*tatongheritage@yahoo.com.au*





Ten years ago, in June 2013, the Tatong Heritage Group were offered a red-gum sapling - a clone of the 'Hovell Tree'.

189 years earlier, in 1824, Hamilton Hume and Captain William Hovell had set off on their way from NSW to Port Phillip.

On November 16th they arrived at what Hovell described as 'a very fine river, at least two hundred feet wide'. He pronounced 'This I named Hume's River, he being the first that saw it.' (As he was well aware of the local natives, I assume he meant, "the first of our group"). He also noted, 'In the solid wood of a healthy tree I cut my name, "Hovell, Novr. 17/24."' The "Hume" river became named the "Murray", and the town of Albury grew up where they crossed. Hamilton Hume had also cut his name into a tree, but sadly his was burnt down in the 1840s.

Hovell's tree lives on, but has declined in health.

In the 1930s concern led to the then-recommended treatment of filling it with concrete. More recently, Albury City Council had 100 clones grown. One of these was offered to Benalla Shire, who entrusted it to the Tatong Heritage Group.

The tree is a Blakely's Red Gum, and ten years ago it was planted not far from the Hume and Hovell monument at Wrightly, south of Tatong.



This monument is one of many that were erected in 1924, 100 hundred years after the trek. Next year, being 200 years after the original event, the monument and the tree can reflect together upon their shared history. They will also get to pose for quite a few visitors, for already there are people planning to seek out the Hume and Hovell moments along the trail. Since being planted, Joe Hakkennes has taken care of it, and thanks to his work the handsome young tree is going strong. - Andrea Stevenson, photos by Joe Hakkennes





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## Something to Chew On

Masticatory Muscle Myositis, otherwise known as MMM. Never heard of it? Good.

You, oh fellow human reading this, are unlikely to ever suffer from this particular autoimmune condition. It is brought about by an individual's immune system setting its own antibodies onto a particular protein fibre; one which occurs only in the masticatory muscles most obviously seen on dog's head.

The masticatory muscles of a dog (think masticate, chew, chomp) are fastened to a bone ridge on the skull, and serve to operate the jaws. So while a dog's skull has a ridge sticking up like a bony Mohawk, this is usually hidden by a strong roll of muscle on either side, giving the top of a dog's head a more bun-like appearance.

Masticatory Muscle Myositis is an autoimmune disease where these muscles are destroyed by the dog's immune own system. In the acute form this is extremely painful, and the dog cannot open its mouth. The chronic form can be accompanied by little or no suffering.

We only learnt that our dog has this autoimmune condition when her head changed shape. It was as though a ridge



came up, but what had happened was the muscles had slowly vanished from on top of her head. Luckily she remained quite comfortable, a happy and active dog, eating as a Labrador loves to. The only probable symptom was that earlier she had begun drooling in a truly excessive fashion. But Labradors are good at that too. Alas, she will never grow those muscles back, for the condition is chronic; her immune system will forever attack any formation of her masticatory muscles. Cortisone treatment might help, but it would bring some quite unpleasant side-effects, so as she is very happy & otherwise healthy, she'll stay that way.

- Andrea Stevenson





As I suspected, the RBA didn't pay any attention to my article in the Tattler on the causes of inflation (neither did they listen to Mathias Cormann for that matter) and decided to celebrate Cup Day with an interest rate rise of 0.25% (or 25 basis points, as finance folks like to call it, just to add to the air of mystique that surrounds the subject).

While an interest rate of 4.35% is small beer compared to the rates that obtained in the 1980s, the fact remains that the rate of increase has caused high levels of mortgage stress as banks (struggling to deliver record profits) wring their hands as they enthusiastically increase their mortgage rates.

But I digress. I was very interested to read what Michele Bullock, the newly minted Governor of the RBA, had to say to the Estimates Committee on 26 October before the rate rise (I know - I need to get out more). After the unctuous congratulations on her new job from Senator Jane Hume, Ms Bullock proceeded to tell us that when it comes to managing inflation, the RBA only has one tool - I'll resist the old hammer/nail analogy. However, as I've said before, the Government has more than one tool, but they don't seem to be using them to address structural issues such as excessive profit taking, reduced competition and insecure employment.

What really interested me though was Bullock's comments that the main driver of inflation was services. In response to a Dorothy Dix from Senator Hume Ms Bullock proceeded to tell us that "There are a few things in there. Rents are obviously part of that". Now, I'm clearly not as smart as the economists on the RBA Board, but Ms Bullock's answer led me to another question (which none of the esteemed members of the committee seemed to think worth asking) which was 'Why are rents rising?'. I reckon there a number of reasons. Let's put aside profit taking for now. Investors who own rental properties often take out loans to fund their negatively geared properties. Now, given that their loan costs have increased, they are likely to pass on those increases in higher rents. So, the interest rate rises fuel rent increases that fuel inflation that lead to interest rate rises and so on..... But there's more. First time buyers are being priced out of the market due to interest rates and a lack of housing supply caused by high levels of investment properties funded by negative gearing. These people are being forced into private rentals, given the lack of public housing stock. Increased demand drives up prices when supply is constrained, which leads, as readers of my earlier column may recall, to inflation. So, higher interest rates lead to higher rents, which lead to higher inflation, which leads to higher interest rates and so on.... Or am I missing something?

At the same time, even Bullock admits that "Real wages have been declining", but then hedges her bets by saying that compensation is going up because people are changing jobs to a higher salary. That may be true in the salary receiving circles in which she moves, but I wonder whether that is the case for wage earners, particularly those in the health sector, education and insecure employment?

So, we are now in a position where house owners in Australia has some of the highest debt levels in the world, with a household debt-to-income ratio of 211%, more than double the 101% in the US and far higher than the UK's 148% and Japan's 115%. Despite interest rate rises, house prices remain stubbornly high, disposable household income is falling due to wage depression, and poverty levels are rising as more and more people rely on food banks and overstretched charities. The response of the RBA is to use their one tool - the interest rate hammer - to hit harder and harder, while the Government wrings its hands in Canberra as it sympathises with people doing it tough. Albanese fiddles while Bullock adds fuel to the fire.....

Dr Quirkonomics

# White Gate Dates



The next **White Gate dinner @ the Tavern** will be **Wednesday 6th of December**. There will be a prize for the best Personal Christmas Decoration, as judged by those there assembled. Do ring the Tavern on 5767 2210 & book yourselves in for 6:30-ish.

In this the last Tattler for 2023, wishing everyone a very merry silly season, and a nice rest. Also, may the White Gate Fire Truck have only the occasional uneventful outing, and may all the pasture and hay be kept for fat & happy livestock. - *Andi Stevenson*



Report from Linda of the De Fazio farm:  
Silage, silage everywhere.  
Such a great year for silage and hay.

**B**

Meanwhile at Whitegate, the daughter-in-law and her new baby piglets are gleefully proving Papa Faz wrong by NOT escaping their pen, by NOT being pungent, and by NOT being noisy. Thus, as promised, these little piggies will NOT be eaten #poppiandbeyonce #curvyproudblackgirls - Caryn De Fazio



**This is Beyonce**

## White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Angus McMillan	26 Nov	Bill Sykes	24 Dec
Hamish McMillan	3 Dec	TBA	31 Dec
Laurie De Fazio	10 Dec	Matthew De Fazio	7 Jan
Alan Stafford	17 Dec	Ross Runnalls	14 Jan





### Tatong Working Bee

It was all systems go, and hands on tools for a warm (very warm) Sunday morning Community Working Bee!

Community Members and Local Groups came together to tidy areas of the Tatong Township.

### The Avenue of Trees

It has been long overdue for some attention. But, the Avenue of Trees have now had a make-over! With some shaping and removal of dead limbs and trimming of lower branches, the Council slasher can now mow around the trees making a lovely entry driving into the township.



The limbs have not gone to waste! All branches were dragged to the edge of the road where council went along and put through the mulcher. This mulch will be used for areas at the Tatong Picnic Reserve. So, if you happen to be down there with a shovel, feel free to start spreading around!

### The Tatong Picnic Reserve

With Mowers, Whipper Snippers and picking up sticks and rubbish, the area down at the Reserve is beginning to look like an inviting space for locals and visitors to enjoy the tranquil picturesque views of Tatong and the Holland Creek. As part of the Tatong Community Revitalisation Project, high on the agenda was a new picnic table and general maintenance.

A new Replas Table has been erected besides the now cleaned fire pit to toast your marshmallows or perhaps that Rainbow trout... that got away!

While the concrete dried, the working crew could relax after their hard work with a BBQ Lunch and a much-earned cold drink!

In conjunction with the Tatong Community Revitalisation Project, Tatong Heritage Group and Tatong Young Bloods – Thank you to everyone who attended the working bee and volunteered their time and tools!

Tatong, all though a quiet little town, there is always plenty to do and many ideas that can be shared for the pleasure and safety of the Tatong Community. There are some exciting developments happening and a second working bee will be arranged to spread the mulch and plant shrubs around the Reserve in the cooler months of next year – please watch this space for dates!







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

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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	18.7	61.1	62.8	59.2	197.6	51.1	67.2	25.2	120.8			690.7

**WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP**

There was a very welcome 120.8mm of rainfall in the township for the whole month of October and just 8.7mm for the month of November, up until the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.  
 We are seeing massive greenery in the home garden due probably to the amounts of rain in recent times. The Hollands creek is still flowing strongly at the town's bridge.  
 Mike Larkin



Come along, bring your lunch and some goodies to share, do some craft or just have a chat. Hope to see at the Tatong Memorial Hall.  
 Patricia 57672287

**Next Girl's Shed. 15th December 9am—5pm**



**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 Goulburn Murray Credit Union, 30 Bridge Street, Benalla Please identify your payment, & e-mail details to Tattler.

**Is it an ad?** Publicity for an event with an entry fee is classed as advertising and charged accordingly. Local community events may be excepted.

**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. Non-digitised items which need scanning or typing, by the 15th.

**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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