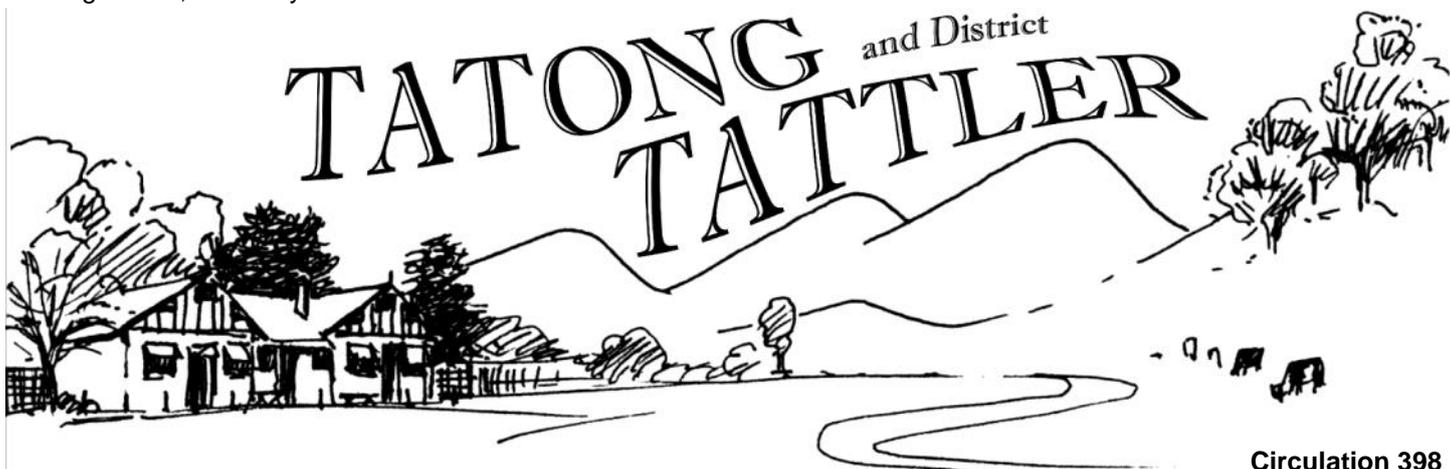


TATONG and District TATTLER



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The Log Cabin was written in 2021 by Stacy Allen.

This story is a work of fiction, inspired by the memories of my Dad Robert Allen and his trip to the Log Cabin in 1967.

The characters and dialogue in the story are all fictional.

The five boys were on the verge of becoming men when they saw something in the hills outside Tatong that they've never forgotten.

Year 12 classes had finished for the year and - while they probably should have been studying for the upcoming exams - the boys had decided to go camping.

It was late November, a time of changeable weather in north-east Victoria, but the forecast for the week was for clear skies.

Bobby took charge of the plans for the trip. As they sat in

a booth at the local café, slurping malted milkshakes from stainless-steel cups, he delegated the gathering of supplies.

'Charlie, has your old man got an axe you can bring?'

'Yeah, I reckon he does.'

'Great, bring that and a packet of matches so we can have a fire to cook on.'

'Dave, have you got an old frying pan at your place?'

'Yeah, for sure. I can bring a couple of dozen eggs from our chooks too. Although - thinking how many eggs I've seen you eat for breakie Bobby - maybe I should bring some chooks too, so we've got a constant supply.'

'Will, do you reckon your old man would give us a few of loaves of bread from his bakery?'

'Yeah I should be able to swing that. I'll see if I can snag a few Boston buns too.'

'Great, I'll get my old man to pick us up some bacon and sausages when he's at the butcher's shop and we'll be set,' Bobby added. 'I'll bring his esky for the meat and see if I can borrow his 22 shotty and fishing rod.'

'Tom, do you reckon your old man would let you take one of his shottys from the farm?'

'Yeah probably.'

'Right, we'll meet at my place tomorrow morning at 11 and my old man will drive us out to the log cabin,' said Bobby as they jumped on their pushbikes.

The next morning, they all rocked up to Bobby's place and chucked their gear into the boot of his old man Jim's green Ford Fairlane. The boys piled into the car, filling the back seat with a tangle of teenage limbs, and talked over each other as Jim sped out the road towards Tatong.

'Well, here we are boys' said Jim as he pulled up next to the log cabin.

'Geez it's a bit creepy looking' said Tom, peering out at the dark wooden cabin flanked by towering Cyprus pines.

They tumbled out of the car and waved a hasty goodbye as Jim told them all to behave themselves and said he would be back to pick them up later in the week.

After dumping their gear in the cabin, the boys set out to explore their new surrounds.

'Right, we better find some wood so we can get a fire going for our lunch', said Bobby as he flicked his black hair out of his eyes.

'

Continued next page

Charlie have you got the axe and matches?' 'Awwwww shit, I forgot the matches,' replied Charlie. 'But I bought the axe'.

'There's matches in here,' came a muffled call from Dave as he rummaged around near the fireplace in the cabin. The boys gathered and chopped wood, got a fire going and soon the bacon, eggs and sausages were sizzling in the frying pan.

'Now this is living' said Will as they sat around the fire sandwiching sausages, eggs and bacon in fluffy white bread from his Dad's bakery.

The boys settled into a rhythm as the days passed...laying around in their swags on the cabin floor till mid-morning, trying to catch a fish in the creek in the afternoon and heading out with the shotguns and spotlight on sunset to try and snag a rabbit or roo.

Every meal was a similar combination of eggs, bacon and sausages - except the rather disastrous dinner when they tried to cook up the fresh meat of a kangaroo they'd shot.

'This is like trying to eat sponge rubber,' complained Bobby as he spat out an over-chewed piece of roo meat. After dinner each night, they'd sit up late around the fire - debating the best Beatles songs, pouring over what had happened in that week's episode of Bonanza and discussing which girls filled out their school uniforms the best.

The nights would end with a competition to see who could tell the scariest stories, and after that no one wanted to go out in the dark for a pee.

One night on dusk the group headed with the guns as usual, hunting for rabbits.

They crossed over the creek, floating their spotlight and battery in an old truck tube, and walked through the thick bush as the sun disappeared for the day. It was a moonless night and by 10 pm it was pitch black.

Suddenly a bright light lit up the bush around them...

'Bloody hell that spotlight's bright,' said Tom.

'Ahhh the spotlight isn't on,' said Bobby with a crack in his usually confident voice.

The boys watched with their mouths agape as a light as bright as the spotlight on a helicopter lit up the bush.

There was not a sound as they all held their breath and listened. Whatever was providing the light was completely silent and seemed to be hovering above them.

Without a word, they all turned and ran...

Stumbling over rocks and branches, they made it back to the creek and splashed through at top speed.

Bobby reached the cabin door first and they all tumbled into the cabin, slamming the door shut behind them.

'What the f#@k was that?' said Dave.

'I don't know' said Bobby.

'Do you think it was a UFO?' said Tom with a gulp.

'Bloody hell,' said Will. 'What if it was?'

'I don't think I want to stay here another night' said Charlie.

'Well, we have to,' said Bobby. 'My old man isn't picking us up for another two days and we've got no way to get onto him from up here'.

'We'll be right, we'll just take it in turns keeping a look out with the shotty. I'll take the first watch'

No one slept that night as they talked through every possibility of what could have lit up the bush like that. But the

next morning they still couldn't come to a logical conclusion about what the source of the light could have been.

The last night of their trip was another restless one, as they took turns sitting at the cabin entry in pairs with the shotguns - keeping a look out for whatever was out in the sky. Their last night passed uneventfully though, and there was no sign of the mysterious light.

When the car pulled up on that last morning they'd never been so happy to see a familiar face and couldn't get in fast enough. The trip back into town was spent in exhausted silence, with no one game to own up to just how much they wanted a hug from their Mum.

It's been more than 50 years since that camping trip to the log cabin, and if you ask Bobby about it the hairs on the back of his neck will still stand up.

But he, Dave, Will, Tom & Charlie are still no closer to answering the question of what lit up the hills outside Tatong that night.

Swanpool News

Our active Bowls Club has returned from its summer break, and always welcomes new members. The popular social bowls program runs on Thursday evenings, and offers fun for everyone!

The Cinema saw in the New Year with a very successful Gala Double Bill and festive supper, attended by 140 very happy patrons, and has had a busy January.

In February, we look forward to bringing you a fabulous mixture of films, including a film based on the amazing true story of Nicholas Winton, who saved the lives of hundreds of children from Central Europe and Nazi persecution on the eve of WW2, by arranging transport to England and safety. The older Nicholas Winton is played movingly by film veteran Anthony Hopkins, and the film has been hailed as a moving tribute to human kindness.

Our matinee this month is the delightful "Two Tickets To Greece", described as a tender and gorgeous crowd pleaser from France, enjoying its Australian premier season. Matinee screening, Friday 23rd February, 10.30 am, your \$10 tickets also buys you a cuppa and a biscuit before the film. It will also screen as part of our weekend Double Bill 6.00pm on Saturday and Sunday.

And we also have some exceptional French films forming the rest of our programme, please check your hard copy programmes, available at the Tavern, or online at www.swanpoolcinema.com.au.

We look forward to welcoming you in air conditioned comfort!
Deb

Street Library Update. For those who use the street library you will have noticed that we now have two four draw filing cabinets. Thanks to Pat Manser who spotted one in the Salvos & when talking to the staff about the Tatong street library, they kindly donated it. Well done Pat. Also thanks to Mike Larkin for picking it up. We have also had a donation of children's books from Yooralla Op shop.

For any one new to the area, or if you haven't checked it out before, it's well worth a look. The library is located next to the Tavern.
Sue O'Brien



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The Tatong Heritage Group met in January with a good turn-out of members. One of the few absent was Greg Crowe, and the group sends him sympathies, and best wishes for a quick recovery.

Matters of the past were discussed included the small local schools, their locations and travels. Barry O'Connor spoke of the Samaria school being moved short distances, and memories were exchanged of a "Fern Hills" school building; trying to establish where it had been, what became of it, and just which school it was? One building was used as a polling station, and later fell over.

Hopefully Chick Walker will be able to attend the March meeting, with her research of the little schools. It is a challenge, for the same school might be referred to by different names, the one name might be used for different buildings, and they were all moved far and wide around the countryside as needed.

Information Boards

Three more Story-boards have been prepared, to be placed at various locations around Tatong.

The Tatong Heritage Group is planning a celebratory unveiling event, with afternoon tea, for

March Friday 22nd, at 2pm

All welcome; mark it in your diary.

Hume & Hovell

November 2024 marks 200 years since Hamilton Hume, Captain William Hovell, and party, set off from NSW to Corio Bay. They spent the night of November 27th 1824 at Fern Hills. On Wednesday November 27th 2024 there will be a memorial event to acknowledge their trek, and the cairn that was placed by the community 100 years ago.

Twenty Years of the THG

Heather observed that this year is the 20th birthday of the group, which was formed in July 2004. Celebrations will be planned!

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the THG will be Monday March 18th, 4pm at the Tatong Hall. All welcome.

Thanks to the Tattler Deliverers



Geoff, Pip,
Caryn,
Georgina,
Heather, Chris,
Jan, Terry, Janette, Jill,
Katrina, Irene, Bev, Joe,
Kerryn, Nicole, Sue,
Helen, Colin,
Marlene, and Trudi.





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TATONG TOPICS— JAN/FEB 1924

North Eastern Ensign 18th January 1924:

(Letter to the Editor) FERN HILLS, TATONG.

A correspondent writes: I am writing to bring before your notice matters discussed at a recent meeting held in this locality. You, being a land-holder in this part will, no doubt, be interested, and we will be very glad if you will support us in the movement.

A meeting was held in Fern Hills State School; on the evening of the 10th inst., for the purpose of discussing proposed telephone and tri-weekly mail services from Tatong Saw Mill, and Holland's Creek Saw Mill; to serve residents on, and adjacent to, the route. Mr. D. J. McClelland was appointed chairman, and motions embodying these proposals were carried. A motion was also passed to get a petition signed and forwarded to Mr Cook, M.H.R.

Benalla Standard 18th January 1924:

TATONG BUSH FIRE BRIGADE,

The Tatong Bush Fire Brigade held their annual meeting on Saturday, night last Mr. H. J. Wallace (president) occupied the chair. The President stated that they had no fires in the district last season. The secretary (Mr. D. H. Coghill) read the minutes of the last annual meeting, and presented the balance-sheet, which showed a credit balance

of £6/8/10, brought forward from the previous year, which, with accounts, due for hire of cart, amounted to £11/3/10. The expenses, including new suction and delivery hoses, amounted to £4/18/3, leaving a credit balance of £6/5/7. It was decided to reduce the charge for the use of the fire cart to 1/- per day, the charge of 2/6 for the first day being abolished.

The following were elected officers: H. J. Wallace, President; A. Harrison, J. V. Harrison, and E. Lewis, vice-presidents; D. H. Coghill, hon. secretary; L. R. Wallace, G. Sullivan and Neil Coghill, scouts.

It was decided that the secretary write to the Forest Department in appreciation of the efforts that had been made during the last few years to protect the forests from the danger of fires, the firebreak from the Watchbox Creek out to the Ryan's Creek having been of great service last year; also their efforts to burn trails through strips of country as late in the season as possible, to prevent fires travelling through the forest and doing damage to timber and burning the farmers out.

Benalla Standard 18th January 1924:

TENNIS. Swanpool, Tatong, Samaria, Lima East, Lima and Waverley have formed a tennis association, and started their matches on Saturday. Tatong beat

Samaria by one game. St. Andrew's Tennis Club have arranged to hold a tournament on Saturday, 26th, and Monday, 28th January.

Benalla Standard 1st February 1924:

TATONG. On Saturday evening Mr, and Mrs. J. H. Sullivan were tendered a farewell in the Tatong Public Hall. A very representative gathering of the district was present. Mr. A. Harrison made them the presentation of a substantial cheque. He referred to the good qualities of Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan, and wished Mr. Sullivan every success in his new occupation as a policeman. Messrs Prayle, T. McCauley, J. Gardiner, and H. J. Wallace, also spoke. Regret being expressed at their leaving, also at the approaching departure of Mrs. W. Archer who is being given a farewell next Saturday evening. As usual dancing was indulged in and a nice supper provided.

Benalla Standard 8th February 1924:

TATONG. On Saturday evening the Tatong Public Hall was crowded with representatives from all over the district to wish Mrs. W. Archer farewell. Just before supper, Mr. D. H. Coghill presented Mrs. Archer with a cheque. In a short speech he regretted the loss that they (*the community*) would sustain in her leaving the district. In this he was supported by Messrs A. Harrison, T. McCauley, and J. Ginnivan. Mr. W. Drummond, of Samaria, responded on behalf of his aunt, and expressed keen appreciation of their gift and kindly wishes. Mrs. Archer and family leave very shortly for Shepparton.

Benalla Standard 29th February 1924:

BRAWL AT TATONG. FINES IMPOSED.(abridged)

The Tatong railway Station, at 1 pm. on February 15th, 1924; was the scene of a pugilistic encounter, as a result of which, at the Benalla court on Tuesday, before Messrs C, Turnbull and R. Bourke, JP's. William Spencer was arraigned to answer charges of having unlawfully assaulted James Henry Gardner, and of having used insulting words in a public place. Mr. Clark appeared for complainant whilst Mr. R. P. Lewers conducted the defence. Quite a number of interested parties were present when Mr. Clarke outlined the substance of the charge. He stated that the informant was the

licensee of the Tatong Hotel, and about 1 p.m. in the afternoon of the 15th February he was seated on the parcels platform at the Tatong railway station, and was talking to a man named Evan Lewis, who resides nearby. The defendant walked on to the platform, and brushing between Lewis and Gardiner said to Gardiner, "What have you been saying about my mother?" and proceeded to remove his coat. Gardiner, whilst seated, or just in the act of rising, received a' blow on the bridge of the nose, and fell on his back on the platform. They closed, with Spencer on top. Spencer struck and called Gardiner a 'x&/?#' and said he would murder him. He repeatedly made use of a certain oath— a most insulting and reflective epithet. *Spencer was fined a total of £5/11/- including costs.*

Compiled by Barry O'Connor, Tatong Heritage Group.

Michael Savage, 1872-1940**N.Z. Prime Minister, 1933-1940.****Born Tatong, N.E. Victoria.**

From May 2022 to March 2023, The Tattler published the story of Michael Savage in ten episodes. It was abridged from Barry Gustafson's biography, 'From the Cradle to the Grave'.

Savage was New Zealand's first Labour Prime Minister.

On a recent visit to Auckland, N.Z. we went to Bastion Point where there is a memorial to him.

And what a memorial it is! He was very clearly well loved and respected - that breed of politician that is becoming an endangered species.

"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".

John Knapper

WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA – FEBRUARY 2024		
Sat 3 rd	Movies - Lie with me and EO at Swanpool theatre	6pm
Sun 4 th	Movies – Lie with me and EO at Swanpool theatre	6pm
Thurs 7 th	Whitegate dinner at the Tavern	
Fri 9 th	Molyullah fish & chip night at Molyullah sports ground	From 5.30pm
Sat 10 th	Movies – The crime is mine and Everybody loves Jeanne	6pm
Sun 11 th	Movies – The crime is mine and Everybody loves Jeanne	6pm
Wed 14 th	Tatong community dinner at the Tavern	6.30pm
Fri 16 th	Girls shed at the hall	From 10am
Sat 17 th	Movies – One life and The master gardener	6pm
Sun 18 th	Movies – One life and The master gardener	6pm
Fri 23 rd	Movie Matinee – Two tickets to Greece	10am
Sat 24 th	Movies – Two tickets to Greece and Alcarras	6pm
Sun 25 th	Movies – Two tickets to Greece and Alcarras	6pm

This is a new information board for WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA. It will appear each month in the Tattler. Please send your activity, meeting date, market, sports event or anything else that you would like people to know about to: -

tattler.whatson@gmail.com

Things like dates for Fire brigade training. Events at the Tavern. Archery Markets at Swanpool, Moyhu, Benalla etc. Heritage group events & meetings. Tattler meetings. Table tennis. Girls shed.

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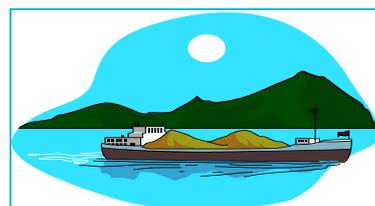
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Molyullah Farmer's Night

Friday 26 November

Last November Ivan Lister gave a talk on mental health, in an event hosted by the Hill family. Caryn De Fazio sent in these photos of Murray Parton with his sons Arthur, Alexander & Andrew (the A-team!) and of Caryn, Linda and Laurie De Fazio.



The Tatong Community Christmas BBQ

Our special 25th year.

To all the people who made this a wonderful event, a big **thank you**. To Larissa Scott who did a lot of the organising. To Dennis Scott for all his running around making sure everything was in order. To the 3 amigos, Beth Gregory, Gayle Scott and Joan Lewis who made sure that everyone was well fed. Great job girls and their helpers. Well done John Gregory for the kind words and excellent presentation. Thanks also to Janelle, Mark, Paul and their helpers.

Thank you to the Marriott family for your special efforts and Ellie and Henry. Lets not forget those beautiful Clydesdales and the amazing wagon.

Have a safe and happy 2024. Santa and Mrs Claus

Christmas has been and gone, but I think everyone will agree that the two Tatong Christmas functions were both a huge success. I know Mike Larkin had something special for the archery group as well.

A big thankyou to the small group who organized the Christmas party at the recreation reserve on Sunday 17th December. It was a fantastic event & there was a huge crowd. The BBQ meat & the salads were delicious, along with the yummy cakes & slices & the icy poles for the children. Santa arrived to the delight of both adults & children alike. Thanks to Andrew Marriott who once again showcased the magnificent Clydesdales that were pulling Santa's carriage, with Santa on board along with some of Santa's helpers. The Tatong Christmas dinner at the Tavern was cancelled on Wednesday 13th because of the power blackout, but was rescheduled for Wednesday 20th. It was attended by 26 people, which included three new families to the area. Through the generosity of those attending we were able to put together three generous food hampers. The local recipients of these were very grateful.

A reminder than anyone in the Tatong area is invited to come along to the Tavern on the second Wednesday of each month at 6.30pm. Please give the Tavern a ring to make a booking to be on the Tatong table. Sue O'Brien



2024 Tatong Tattler Writing Competition

During 2024 the Tattler Committee may at times award a prize of a voucher towards a meal at the Tatong Tavern.

We will be assessing submissions received by the Tattler, of original work up to 1,000 words, of fiction, biography, comedy, poetry, etc.

Entries might be published in the Tatong Tattler, at the discretion of the committee.

Judgment will be by the Tatong Tattler Committee; any judgement will be final and not open to argument, threats, or bribery.

The judges may change the rules at their discretion.

A Tattler reader has sent in these photos of a juvenile Nankeen Night Heron which has taken up residence in his garden. It arrived from a neighbouring property and is right at home even landing on the edge of his swimming pool as if to say 'what are you doing in there'. He also has a mature Heron living in his dam.. Apparently Bardi, as he is called has a more varied diet than listed in bird books but he hasn't tried to sample the property owner's beer, yet.

Ed.



Gawn to Town

Hues of Hughie

This is a weird season; the colours are all wrong. January ought to be tufts of yellow grass on dusty, cracking soil. Instead we have lush green growth, verdant grasses with weeds of every description; and more - including those pretty purple ones.

I was waiting until the grass died off to clear some fallen timber in our paddock, and now it is vanishing under a forest of bright green paspalum.

With a warming climate the standard El Nino has flown out the window. We've have had wet summers before; indeed, my first summer on a rice farm saw about 5 inches of rain fall overnight. The semi-arid clays and red sandhills of the NSW Riverina don't like that sort of deluge, and neither does a rice layout. Rice seedlings want 3 to 6 inches of water. Adding nearly that much again makes for cascades, and requires lots of sand-bags. The local mosquito population (and, I suspect, their friends and relations) dined well that night. I still looked like Strawberry-Pops the next morning.

Who remembers Strawberry Pops? There was a brief phenomenon, thank god. Cocoa Pops were a treat, so Kelloggs dreamt up a Strawberry version; bright pink, and reeking of artificial strawberry-flavour. Smelt as bad as the woolshed did during the shearing after the shearers' strike, when the sheep hadn't been crutched.

In a summer like this I am relieved at not having Merino sheep, and I offer my heart-felt sympathies to everyone who does. It's not just fly-strike, where in hot humid weather, grease-rich wool (with, round the sheep's bottom, other residue) becomes absolute bliss for *Lucilia cuprina*. The sheep blowfly was introduced to Australia in the late 1800s, to join those riding on the sheep's back. (And this isn't just a rural lament; a friend's sheep-skin rug got flyblown, and she was living in Brighton at the time. I put KFM on it.)

Green sheep. That's what I was getting to. Merino sheep are designed for arid climates, and cope extraordinarily well with droughts. Give them a warm wet summer, and if the poor blighters don't get fly-struck, they get dermatitis. I may have a green paddock in January, but at least there are no green sheep in it.

If the sheep did all turn green, the city folk probably wouldn't notice. Generations have lived in the concrete suburbs and never seen a live sheep, let alone know what colour they might be. Back in the 1980s we returned



from smoko to find the shearers made free with the spray-raddle. I took a photo and sent a copy down to Brian's daughter in Melbourne; her school-friends wanted to know if sheep's feet were all that colour. If it keeps raining, they might be.

- Andi Stevenson

Tatong Reunion

Last year, a group of friends that grew up in Tatong (Tony Ellis, Kellie Cairncross, Marita Clayton, Simon James and Lisa Harrison) thought it was time to arrange a Tatong Reunion for those that grew up in the Tatong district in the 70's, 80's & 90's – something that was long overdue. They decided the perfect time would be just after Christmas to maximise attendance with those that were home visiting family at the time.

The reunion was held at the Tatong Tavern, late in the afternoon on Wednesday, 27 December 2023. The weather was perfect, the Tavern felt like home, as it always did, and people flowed through its doors and immediately reconnected with old friends, sharing hugs, kisses, a drink or two (or maybe more) and shared stories from times past.

The attendance was wonderful, and well and truly exceeded the expected numbers that had rsvp'd to attend. Approximately 80 people attended over the course of the evening, and everyone seemed genuinely excited and happy to be there.

Many well-known Tatong families from that time were represented including the entire James family (Evan, Edna, Sue & husband, Bruce, Peter & wife Kelley, Chris, Simon & wife, Janea), the Scott family (Dennis, Gayle, Larissa & husband, Paul, Janelle & husband, Mark and children), multiple Lewis families including Barry, Joan, Nicole, Shane & wife Janene, Donna, Cameron & wife, Nina and many grand-children; Tony, Claire & Marita; Wayne, Carol, Kellie & husband, Anthony; and David & Jo Lewis and children, the Ellis family (Kathy, Sue & husband, Gavin, Tony & partner, Janique), the Mitchell family (John, Dulcie, Helen, Kate & Andrew), the Peck family (Faye, Jason & wife, Kellie and Tanya), the Evans family (Bernie, Claire, Leanne & husband, James, Terry & wife, Stacey), the McCauley family (Colin & Stuart), the Quinton family (Craig & Anthony), the Harrison family (Jack, Lisa, Sarah & her husband Shane De Fazio and their children), the Grimma family (Danny and children), the Ritchie girls (Jess & Nicole), as well as Phil Hauptmann, Leanne Jardine and Kerrie Leask.

Some travelled long distances to attend – Bruce & Sue Watkins (nee James) and Andrew Mitchell travelled all the way from Perth, Tanya Stephan (nee Peck) from Sydney, Donna Lewis and kids from Darwin, and many travelled from Melbourne, and from all over North-East Victoria and the surrounding district.

It was wonderful to see two past owners of the Tatong Tavern in attendance - Dennis & Gayle Scott who owned and transformed the Tavern in the 80's, as well as Craig & Anthony Quinton, whose parents, Bill & Maureen were owners for a number of years in the 70's.

The atmosphere was electric; it was obvious that all who attended were thrilled to be reunited with the special people that were a part of the community during those times.

What a very special place it was to live, and of course, it is no doubt still that same special place to live today.

Tatong – “God's country”, as Tony Ellis calls it.

It will always be home to me.

By Lisa Harrison



Grandkid Bragging, or Not

We are currently graced by the two boys from Shepparton who are mainly here to earn dollars for themselves. The fourteen year old, Kazadi, is now able to work almost like an adult. Did I mention, brag, that he is the Victorian all schools, 3km track racing champion? His 12 year old brother is still dealing with the fallout from his leg sarcoma but he gets about as if the leg is normal, almost.

Nature planned it well so that when I weaken with age they strengthen and so I'm really happy to pay them for the huge amount of garden work lopping, mowing and so on and barrowing all the prodigious shrub and tree overgrowth to the eventual bonfire.

Interrupting this bulletin with a "de-brag". I was called to help get a new garden bed of Maeve's square so that the gate mesh would make an untwisted arc over it. Men know these things as you will all agree, and especially 14yr olds. He was talking algebra in desperation when all they had to do was get one corner square and then use diagonal measurements to establish the opposite corners. Once it was established he insisted that it was his thinking that made it all good, but I knew better, haha.

As the young people's screen time battle is mostly lost they find it hard to work long sessions without a break but the lure of money helps. Admittedly I was obsessed with comic books as a lad. Mum would buy weekly comics which were devoured with great relish.

Mike Larkin

TATONG OVAL ARCHERY

We are still shooting arrows at targets fortnightly with a small group, even smaller, with school holidays. For anyone interested we have spare bows and arrows that can be borrowed for a practice tryout.

Archery is somewhat meditative in that you get the instant feedback of hitting or missing the target. It also tells you when you are in good trim or not because your current mood or fitness is reflected in the accuracy of your shooting. This means that it can be a group or private sport, like yoga where improving your technique is a never ending exercise.

Mike Larkin



Dennis the MC at the Tatong Christmas Party 2023

White Gate



Dates

The next **White Gate dinner @ the Tavern** for 2024 will be on **Wednesday February 7th**. Do ring the Tavern on 5767 2210 & book yourselves in for 6:30-ish.

At the December dinner, by popular vote, the Best Christmas Dress award went to Ank Bailey. Katrina was a close runner-up (and note, Katrina dressed Ank!) - *Andi Stevenson*



This month on the De Fazio Dairy farm has felt more like Queensland than Victoria. Perhaps our grandson Jasper bought Cyclone Jasper home with him whilst on leave from Lavarack Barracks in Townsville. Lots of humidity, wild storms with wind and teeming rain. Could do with a little El Nino now! The brassica (and the weeds) are growing as we watch but the paddock is too wet to feed out.

Power failure has not helped. In December our poor milkers missed 2 complete milkings due to power failure then decided it was holiday time. Getting them back into routine has been an effort, not to mention the effects on their health and milk quality.

A generator able to run the many electrical machines involved in a milking shed is now the top priority. - *Linda De Fazio*



White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Leigh Humphries	28 Jan	Andrew Marriott	25 Feb
Bill Ferguson	4 Feb	Terry Trounson	3 Mar
Norton Grimwade	11 Feb	Les MacLean	10 Mar
Henry Thorne	18 Feb	James Parton	17 Mar

TATONG COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

What a fantastic turn up for our 2023 get together. It was estimated that there were over 200 people in attendance to enjoy the barbeque and salad dinner. Santa arrived on the Marriott's wagon, which was pulled by their magnificent Clydesdales. Children enjoyed meeting him and receiving bags of lollies and icy poles. Hopefully they didn't go home on too much of a sugar high. Special thanks to all the workers who got the collapsed Recreation Reserve floor finished before the event. Due to the great weather though, most people mingled outside. Thank you also to the people who made slices etc for dessert. They were a great hit! This is the third time we have run this event since Covid and I think we have got a handle on it now, even though it's very hard to estimate numbers. Thank you for supporting our hard work and we look forward to having your attendance again in 2024.



Whitegate Fire Brigade Christmas Party



Tasman Glacier Terminal Lake



Janette and I recently holidayed in New Zealand, some of which was with a tour group. Most days we had a choice of activity. At Mount Cook we elected to go to the Tasman Glacier Terminal Lake.

All we knew was that this experience involved boarding a zodiac, being taken out on the lake, seeing and being informed about the glacier and its icebergs.

A pre-requirement was that each person must be able to walk the 1.5kms in to the lake in 20 minutes on uneven ground and out again in 20 minutes.

The tour company bussed us in as far as a car park and then we walked in. The weather was bad. We kept our fingers crossed that it wouldn't be called off. Our zodiac driver, Toby, reckoned that, had the weather been a bit worse, it would have been.

Toby alternated between drifting quietly on the water while educating us about the glacier, the formation of the lake and the icebergs, and using the zodiac as a jet-boat. The speed



really was necessary as the lake is seven kilometres long and the toe of the glacier is at the other end.

After an hour on the water, we returned to land, freezing cold, soaking wet and very happy that we'd done it.

As was the case in so many places we visited, the local guides here pointed out how things are changing. This lake has only existed since 1990. The wall at the bottom end of the lake is the moraine, where the glacier once ended. The moraine is the debris that is pushed along by the glacier.

The toe of the glacier is now at the top end of the lake,

some seven kilometres away. The surface of the glacier is black due to the large amount of rock and debris picked up along the way.

Ice dropping off a glacier is referred to as calving. The bluer the ice at the toe of the glacier, the more recent the calving.

A large calving event coincided with the Christchurch earthquake in 2011. So much ice dropped from the terminal face, it caused tsunami waves of 3.5 metres on the lake.

Opinion is that the glacier will continue to recede...

John Knapper





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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	57.1	98.2	846
2024													

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

The main feature of our recent weather is the amount of rainfall. Starting with November and the total was a modest 57.1mm followed by December with 98.2mm and for the first month of 2024 and we have had 101.8mm and that is just up until the 15th of January.

For those interested in so called conspiracy theories and in relation to rainfall, some people are connecting what are called "chem-trails" from planes to changes in weather patterns. Look it up on internet if interested. We are at the stage now where almost nothing surprises anymore!

Whatever the causes the growth of foliage and lawn grass is exceptional and creating work for gardeners.

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. 16th February 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

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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.

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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, 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

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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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Member for
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