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[www.tatongtattler.org.au](http://www.tatongtattler.org.au)

Edition 373

### Two Years in Yeppoon

I find it hard to believe that it is two years since we left Tatong to take up residence in Yeppoon, Qld. We love it up here. Being just above the Tropic of Capricorn the weather is ideal. Most unusually, this summer had very high humidity but, having put airconditioning in every room, we have been very comfortable. One of the first things we did was put solar panels on the roof. They feed back so much power that we haven't had an electricity bill for about twenty-two months. The panels have paid for themselves already.

Life is good here and very convenient. The doctor and chemist are only about a kilometre away and the main shopping centre is four k's. We have joined the local U3A and are making quite a few new friends. Sallie has joined two walking groups and goes on an hours walk four times a week. The walks are at about 6am as it gets too hot later in the day. Sallie took this photo at Farnborough beach on one of her walks last year. Unfortunately, there is a lot of crime in Qld so we have to keep the doors locked and there are security grids on every window and external door. However, the good outweighs the bad. There are dozens of cafes and restaurants here and we go out for dinner a lot. We also go out for breakfast about twice a month. We had to get used to having neighbours very close, like five meters away rather than the five hundred meters we enjoyed in Tatong.



We love our house. Bought it sight unseen, over the Internet. All good. This is a picture of our al fresco area and back yard, all 11 by 9 metres of it.

To finish my little story, Sallie and I will be paying a short visit to Benalla and Tatong in April and we have booked a table at the Tatong Tavern for dinner (6:15pm) on the 18th. We would love to see you. So, if you would like to join us, please call the Tavern (5767 2210) and book yourselves on the table in the name of "Richard".

Best regards,  
Sallie and Rick Hann



## TATONG TOPICS – APRIL 1924

**Benalla Standard 11<sup>th</sup> April 1924:**

## TATONG BRANCH V.F.U.

On Saturday evening last, the Tatong branch of the V.F.U. held their monthly meeting. The President (Mr. A. Harrison) occupied the chair, and gave a lengthy report of the annual conference at Bendigo. He stated that the arguments became very heated over the Composite Ministry, he voted in favour of the admission of the Press during the debate thereon, as he considered, the influence of the Press was necessary, but the majority favoured exclusion. For a day and a half the question was discussed. Eventually a compromise suggested by the Hon. P. G. Stewart (Federal Minister for Railways), limiting the present argument to the existing State Parliament, was carried, the feeling being that the Victorian Farmers' Union should thoroughly safeguard its identity as a union. He also dwelt on the favourable reception that was accorded to the scheme of pooling the rabbit skins, as already outlined in the "Standard." He was also fortunate in seeing the Hon. Mr. Old (Minister for Railways), and asked him what had been done in connection with the deputation's request last December, from the Benalla to Tatong Railway Trust, the shire president (Cr. Walker), and the Taxpayers' Association (Messrs Coghill and A. Harrison). The Minister informed Mr. Harrison that he could tell him nothing, as the file had not come to hand from the Benalla to Tatong Railway Trust. This matter was then fully discussed. Messrs Coghill and Harrison could not explain the delay, as the chairman of the Trust, (Comr. Walker) had promised the Minister that the request would be put in writing and forwarded. The meeting, instructed the secretary to write to the Trust, and endeavour to find out the reason for the delay. On the motion of Messrs Gardiner and T. McCauley, Mr. A. Harrison was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for the lengthy report. The shire secretary (Mr. Knox) states that the report by Cr. Walker, who attended the deputation, was as follows: "The association was requested by the Minister to put their request in writing and forward it to him, giving full particulars, when the matter would be considered". This they agreed to do. —Ed. S. J

**The Argus Melbourne 12<sup>th</sup> April 1924:**

## TATONG ESTATE, BENALLA. (abridged)

The sale is reported on account of Mr G. L. Lane, of the Tatong estate. It comprises 1,732 acres of rich, heavy carrying, fattening and agricultural land all highly improved with a double frontage to the Hollands branch of the Broken River, which runs through the property The estate, which is considered to be the best property in that favoured district, comprises the homestead portion and the pick of the original Tatong Station and it has always been noted for best quality export limbs and heavy yields from agriculture.

**Benalla Standard 15<sup>th</sup> April 1924:**

## QUEEN OF RAILWAYS.

A very enjoyable concert and dance was held at Tatong on Friday night, when over 80 were present. A strong contingent arrived from Benalla, and the various items were rendered by Mrs, Maunders, Misses Goulding, Youngman, V, Egan and M, Egan, Messrs Richardson, McIntyre, McNamara, Darcy, and H. Williams. Messrs L. Ogden (piano) and Barry (violin) supplied excellent accompaniments, and dancing was indulged until after midnight. The local ladies' committee provided a splendid supper.

**Benalla Standard 18<sup>th</sup> April 1924:**

## TENNIS.

At the conclusion of the round of home and away matches of the Swanpool District Tennis Association, the competing clubs were placed in the following order — Lima, Samaria, Lima East, Swanpool, Tatong, and Waverley. In the semi-final matches Swanpool defeated Samaria by 61 games to 49, and Lima defeated Lima East by 60 games to 49. In the final match, which was played on the Waverley court on 5th April, Lima defeated Swanpool by 70 games to 41, thereby winning the premiership.

**Benalla Standard 29<sup>th</sup> April 1924:**

## FAREWELL AT TATONG.(abridged)

On Thursday evening a farewell evening was; tendered to Mr. J. W. Riggall, the head teacher of the Tatong State School. Dancing, interspersed with songs by Master and Miss Newton, Master Geo. and Miss M. Thompson, Mrs. T. Wilson. Mrs. Moon (encored), and Mr. Newton (encored) filled the evening's entertainment. The Chairman of the school committee (Mr. T. McCauley), in a short speech said that the committee, parents and residents were there to wish Mr. Riggall farewell and their good wishes. He had been Tatong close on four years, and during that time had done his best for the school, and had also helped in sport and other things for the district. Mr. D. H. Coghill also spoke on the progress that had been made in the school since Mr. Riggall's arrival. Thanks to the school committee, with his assistance, they had now a school thoroughly up-to-date, and able to accommodate 50 children. Mr. Coghill was well satisfied with the manner and the conscientiousness with which he trained his child. Mr. J. Monaghan supported the remarks of the previous speakers, and referred to Mr. Riggall's assistance in public matters. The Chairman then presented the guest with a nice travelling rug. Master Roy Beard, the senior student, in a very nice speech, presented a leather collar box on behalf of the children. Riggall thanked them all for their very nice presents and their good wishes.

Compiled by Barry O'Connor, Tatong Heritage Group.

### \$10 Donation for your Tattler

Created by and for the communities of Tatong District, the "Tatong Tattler" is produced with great love by a committee of volunteers, and distributed over hill and dale by more diligent local volunteers.

Advertising covers much of the cost of production (printer, toner, paper etc) however we ask for a donation of \$10 per year. That is a dollar per issue and you get one free!

Donations can be (a) given to committee members; (b) left in the locked box by the Tavern; or (c) EFT'd to GMCU BSB 803078 A/c 135720 Tatong Tattler.

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## Tatong Community Centre and Recreation Reserve Up-grades

### Floor Replaced

After the Tatong Market and More event in early November, a member of the public put a foot through the floor in the function room. An emergency meeting was held by the Rec Reserve committee in which it was decided to replace a number of the flooring panels. However, upon further investigations of the floor, it was found that the white ant infestation was so bad that the whole floor needed to be replaced. A quick meeting decided to replace the previous timber sub-structure with steel making the job much more comprehensive than first thought.

In stepped local engineer Dennis Hevey, who agreed to project manage the job with the support of Ron Morris to install the new panels. We were very lucky in gaining the help of another local engineer Chris Gaudion, who not only donated his valuable time, but also sourced steel at rock bottom price from North East Steel.

Time was of the essence as we had the Christmas function and a local reunion already booked for December. A couple of well attended working bees were held to get rid of the sub-structure and the flooring (what the white ants hadn't already taken).

Along with our normal volunteers we were able to gain technical help from Mick Gaudion and Joe Hakkeness on the timber structure while Dennis Hevey and Chris Gaudion looked after the steel structure. Steve Clarkson was able to get the MDF flooring sheets donated from D&R Henderson. Mike Larkin and Leigh O'Gorman also completed all of the electrical work in relocating the air conditioning units. The job proceeded at lightning speed and was completed in time for the Christmas BBQ. A very big thank you to everyone involved who gave their time willingly. A special thanks to Dennis Hevey for his huge effort enabling us to complete the job on time.

Dennis Scott on behalf of the Tatong Community Centre and Recreation Reserve Committee.



### Tatong Community Investment Fund - Community Meeting Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April @7:30pm

A Community Meeting for the sub-committee of the Tatong Community Centre and Recreation Reserve is being held to review and formulate policy to manage the community investment account. This meeting will be held at the Tatong Community Centre and Recreation Reserve on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm. Representatives of all community groups and interested locals are cordially welcome and encouraged to attend.

After the closure of the Tatong Primary School, the management of the former school pine plantation was passed to the Tatong Community Centre and Recreation Reserve. Since then, the mature pines were harvested, and the plantation site prepped and planted again with new pine. HVP Victorian Plantations completed this work as well as weed and wattle control. This work has been authorised by the Committee of Management of the Tatong Community Centre and Recreation Reserve. Their role in the management of the pine plantation and its financials is ongoing. Money from the sale of the original pines was placed in a community investment account under the custodianship of the Recreation Reserve Committee of Management. To date, some of the funds from this community investment account have been allocated to the Recreation Reserve and the Tatong Memorial Hall to

assist with capital works projects.

If you would like a say on how this community fund is managed into the future, please attend the meeting. For enquiries, please contact Dennis Scott on 5767 2342.

### Tatong Community Event – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April

A free community evening will be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April at the Tatong Community Centre and Recreation Reserve from 5:30pm.

Come along and mingle beside the bonfire while listening to the tunes of local band Dallas Alice. A roast meat and salad dinner will be provided along with some delicious desserts. BYO drinks and a chair.

This is a great opportunity for the community to get together and continue building the great spirit felt at the Christmas BBQ.

If you would like to get involved in organising the event or have any questions, please get in touch with Larissa 0409 963 267.

### TITANIC MUSEUM EXHIBITION

My friend and I travelled down to Melbourne recently to visit the Titanic exhibition at the Melbourne Museum.

Fortunately for us it was the day before Vline decided to go on strike, so our train journey from Seymour & return was uneventful. I could go on about how frustrating our Victorian rail services are, but that is for another story.

We travelled by tram to the Museum in Carlton & found a quiet spot within the building to eat some lunch & have a coffee. Our viewing time was 12.30 and as they obviously stagger these times there was no queue to negotiate. What a change!

On showing our admission details, we were both given a Boarding Pass to enter the exhibition. Each of these passes has different details on the back featuring passengers and their details.

Mine was for a Miss Marie Grice Young, 36 and travelling from New York to Washington DC as a First Class passenger. She was travelling back to Washington, where she was a music instructor to President Theodore Roosevelt's daughter. Unfortunately it doesn't say whether or not she was a survivor, but I'm presuming not.

The exhibition took us from the building of the Titanic in Belfast, through the beautiful interior and a glimpse of what life onboard was like, to the events leading up to the hitting of the iceberg and subsequent rescue efforts. It ended with a detailed outline of the quite remarkable salvage operation.

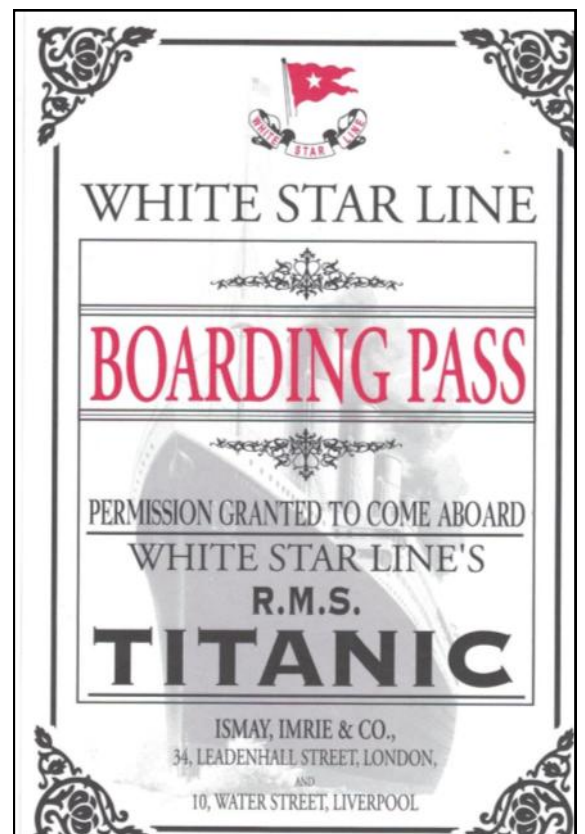
The different rooms showcase artefacts and large poster boards giving details of the ship and how events unfolded. One of the most interesting was the cross-section of the ship. It was certainly state of the art with a gym, sauna, smoking rooms, cafes and many other fascinating features. There were mock displays of 1<sup>st</sup> class and 3<sup>rd</sup> class cabins and even a real iceberg.

Our tour took about an hour and half, but we were glad to get back on our return train with a cuppa and rest our weary feet. We both thoroughly enjoyed the exhibition and would highly recommend it to anyone who has an interest in history.

Beth Gregory



The RMS *Titanic* was lost at 2:20 a.m. on April 15, 1912, and discovered on September 1, 1985. For 73 years she lay lost and alone over 2.5 miles (4 kilometres) beneath the surface of the North Atlantic, in freezing waters where the pressure exceeds 6,000 pounds per square inch.





# TATONG TAVERN

*est 1884*

Phone 0357 672210 [info@tatongtavern.com.au](mailto:info@tatongtavern.com.au) Find us on Facebook

The Tattler welcomes new owners of the Tatong Tavern, Clayton and Natasha Arnold.

In today's digital age, the ability to navigate online resources effectively is crucial for both individuals and businesses. Startup Shakeup's latest digital program is set to empower local small businesses and community organizations in our area.

With the support of the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal, Startup Shakeup is launching a comprehensive fully funded program across Benalla, Indigo, and Wangaratta Shires, with a focus on areas vulnerable to drought. This tailored program aims to equip participants with the skills and confidence to thrive online, particularly during challenging times.

Digital literacy goes beyond mere knowledge; it's about building confidence and providing ongoing support. Startup Shakeup's commitment to strengthening social resilience is evident in their range of strategies, including personalized coaching and an in-person pop-up hub.

This program starts this month and offers you an opportunity. Whether you're a small business owner or a community organizer, embracing digital literacy can unlock new opportunities and strengthen connections.

Let's embrace this digital journey together. For more information or to get involved, contact Startup Shakeup's Program Manager, Bree Nightingale. Together, let's empower our community for a brighter, more digitally inclusive future.  
Bree Nightingale

## 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.



## Join us for a **Community Gathering**

Bring your family and friends for an evening filled with good food, fun activities, entertainment and laughter.

# Tatong Autumn Vibes

Music, food, community connection

5.30pm – 9pm

Tatong Community Centre  
and Recreation Reserve  
43 Tiger Hill Road, Tatong

JOIN US  
Thursday  
11 April

This free event will be a great opportunity for the Tatong and district community to get together and connect around the bonfire while listening to the tunes of local band Dallas Alice. Dinner will be provided. BYO drinks and a chair.

For more information, contact Larissa Montgomery on 0409 963 267.

Come along to find out about the new mental health and wellbeing local, community funding opportunities and programs, all while strengthening community connections.



## Invasion of Panic Andi Stevenson

"Hairy Panic" is a great name for a grass. Indeed, it would be a splendid name for a dog. (But not for a baby.)

We've seen a fair bit of 'panic' since we came to live downwind of the airport. On the right day, the stuff begins to drop out of the sky. I had understood it to be a native, and so felt a little forgiving of it's messy habits.

*Panicum effusum* is indeed native to this land. But recently I learnt that what I thought of as native panic might be any of the introduced forms.

There is witchgrass (*Panicum capillare*) and Hillman's panic grass (*Panicum hillmanii*).

Hillman's panic grass is a noxious weed introduced from the US to South Australia and Victoria in the 1900s. "It is distinguished by slightly stiffer panicles," which is easy for them to say. A NSW report reckoned that 95% of the panic-grass in the Riverina was identified as Hillman's, and only 5% as native. *P. hillmanii* as been linked to kangaroo blindness and poisoning.



A GRDC publication states: "*Panicum capillare*, *Panicum hillmanii*, and *Panicum effusum* are very difficult to distinguish in the field." Great.

When a larger head began blowing overhead a few

years back, I was told that was "African Love Grass" (which sounds like an aphrodisiac, but I suspect it isn't.)

Trying to garner more knowledge online, I am told: "African lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*): The mature seed head looks similar to that of many native panic grasses, such as Hairy panic or Blowaway grass, but typically only half the size." So the big heads are not African Love grass. However, the imported noxious Hillman's panic is described as: "Very similar in appearance to the local hairy panic (*P. effusum*) but is bigger, almost like it is on steroids. It's leaf blades are always wider than 5mm and frequently over 1cm while those of *P. effusum* are usually less than 5mm wide. The seed head is also fairly densely packed in comparison to the more open seed head of *P. effusum*."

To add to the conundrum, 'Charles Sturt University (CSU) Professor Leslie Weston said, "There are 38 species of panic grasses in Australia, including nine exotic species."

So what is the situation here in the North East? Who to ask? The last time I took a plant in to the Dept. of Frequent Name Changes, the youth I spoke to didn't realise he'd waded through swathes of it in the car-park.

A Queensland document adds to the panic with, "*E. paniculmis* also appears to hybridise with members of the complex [African Love Grass], but this species is not yet recorded in Australia." So... mutant panic is on the horizon? Note that the seeds of these grasses are easily spread by mowers, and in hay. There is nowhere to hide. If some mechanically-minded entrepreneur could turn an old tanker into a Very Large Vacuum Cleaner, there could be a business opening for sucking the suckers up.

## Miscellaneous Announcements

Molyullah fish & chip night on Good Friday  
29th March from 5.30pm. Single serve fish & chips \$8. BYO drinks. Sue O'Brien

Congratulations to long-time Tattler supporter  
Brian Vial for his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on February 29<sup>th</sup>.

Some of you will remember the Bald Archy Prize  
being held in Swanpool for a few years. This year  
it's being held in Mansfield from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March  
till Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April.  
Sue O'Brien

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Sue O'Brien

"Where has the Old Station Bridge sign from  
the western side of the bridge gone?"

### TABLE TENNIS

The 2024 season of Swanpool and District Table Tennis is about to erupt!

Preseason practice sessions will begin the first week of April at two venues, Swanpool Albert Heaney reserve and Tatong Hall starting on Wednesday April 3rd at 7.30pm.

For new players, bats will be available to lend. Once we have an idea of player's abilities and numbers, teams will be put together for the start of social competition on May 1st.

We are very keen to introduce Table Tennis to as many new participants as possible, young and old. If you are new to the district it is a great way to meet some of the locals in your local area.

The Swanpool and District table tennis association was established nearly 70 years ago and initially was played in local shearing sheds and halls. So let's keep the tradition going and participate.

For more information contact;  
Shaun Murphy



### IN MY SECOND CHILDHOOD, IT'S A THRILL TO ANNOUNCE A MAJOR BIRTHDAY

Happy to announce my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March. Thrilled to have made it this far and celebrating at daughter Meg's home in Frankston South with extended family.

I won't be drinking or eating too much, like when young, because being stuffed and tipsy is no longer amusing. Also I've requested that presents, if any, to come from an op shop or roadside collections. Always ready to save the planet!

I've had the best life a person could wish for, except I never won Tattsлото, (probably because I never buy tickets) or a Mercedes car in a raffle. I can recall so many changes since the end of the Second World War when I was born, and this makes me a certified and apparently very dodgy (so I'm told), 'boomer.'

I did get two wives, not at the same time, who refined my personhood, as only a dearly beloved can do. I love living in Tatong next to the Tavern with its occasional free music wafting over the fence. Talking of music and every time the fire siren goes off so does our rooster.

And speaking of the fire siren and it didn't get much work this fire season, no total fire bans yet, and it seems now that we'll have to find something else to get anxious about!

Mike Larkin



## “Davy Falls”, Tatong (c1890)

Trawling Trove (<http://trove.nla.gov.au>, National Library of Australia) in a moment of leisure, turned up this aged travel snap. The details are “Davy Falls, Tatong”, published in 1890 by W. H. Ferguson, “negative : glass ; 12.1 x 16.6 cm. (half plate)”. The original is of extraordinarily high resolution; one can zoom in and see that the valley floor is covered in fallen trees.

This photo, taken from a hill on one side of the valley, is surely a hill with a creek to get the name "Davy Falls" (*Unless W.H.'s mate Davy fell over just here.*)

Does anyone know of Davy Falls? A property owned by any Davy's?

Would anyone recognise the layout?

Below is a cropped section of the hill line. W.H. Ferguson travelled this area as a part of his collection, “Gippsland and the Victorian high country”, and there are other gems, including one of “Sams Falls”, now known as Lex's Falls, on Knapper's place.

Links are on the Tatong Heritage Group web page, [www.vicnet.net.au/~tathg](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~tathg)

- Andrea Stevenson, for the Tatong Heritage Group.



*The multi-layered horizon. It may be that the negative is reversed, and this is a mirror-image of the actual view.*



**What's on in the area in April 2024**

- Wed 3rd Whitegate dinner at the Tavern 6.30pm
- Sat 6th Movies Swanpool 6pm
- Sun 7th Movies Swanpool 5pm
- Sun 7th Archery at Tatong recreation reserve 1.30pm
- Wed 10th Tatong dinner at the Tavern 6.30pm
- Thurs 11th Free community event at Rec reserve. Food & Music 5.30pm
- Fri 12th Fish & chip night Molyullah sports ground. From 5.30pm
- Fri 12th Movie Swanpool 10.30 & 7pm
- Sat 13th Movie Swanpool 6pm
- Sun 14th Movie Swanpool 5pm
- Fri 19th 20th & 21st Girls shed weekend at Tatong hall From 9am
- Fri 19th Movies Swanpool 10.30am
- Sat 20th Movies Swanpool 6pm
- Sun 21st Movie s Swanpool 5pm
- Sun 21st Archery at Tatong recreation reserve 1.30pm
- Sat 20th Service at War Graves Benalla 10am
- Thurs 25th Anzac Day services Benalla Dawn service 6am
- Thurs 25th Anzac Day March to Cenotaph Benalla 10am

If you have an activity, meeting date, market, sports event or anything else you would like people to know about that's on in May, please send the details to [tattler.whatson@gmail.com](mailto:tattler.whatson@gmail.com) by the 19<sup>th</sup> of April.

*Ain't Nothin' But a Hound Dog* 

**Ain't Nothin' But a Hound Dog**  
 Tucker's favourite visitor to the farm is hands down, the vet, Stacey of Goorambat Livestock Vet Services. Otherwise known as "Tracey" (by Laurie only), the farm vet is adored by the hound for being the bearer of delicious treats and drama. Stacey usually arrives at a time perfectly suited to Tucker – dusk, when he is free from his dog yard and prowling for food and adventure. As soon as he spies her vehicle tearing down the dusty road, he heads for the gate and sets at a full pace beside the driver door. His tongue flaps from his lax hound lips, eating Stacey's dust the entire way to the dairy – his utopia. A quick slurp of the morning's curdled milk rinses the dust from his dry mouth. Tucker boisterously bounds over to the cattle crush to inspect Stacey's latest veterinary challenge. How he froths at a good, fresh after-birth or organ removal. It is birthday, Christmas and Easter all at once for Tucker! The dairy cat knows its boundaries – never get between the hound and his offal. Tucker is blissfully oblivious to the looks of disgust from the farmer and vet. Considering the high content of natural opioids in the afterbirth, it is understandable why Tucker is on such a high after his meal. It also accounts for the glossy coat (and frequent bowel movements). It also explains his love for Stacey, and his unwavering dedication to following her and 'assisting' her birthing practices and surgeries. Their bond is unfortunately one-sided. With his tummy bulging and his gratitude shown in enthusiastic 'kisses' for Stacey, Tucker abandons his love for a snooze in the sun. Ain't nothin' like a placenta-nourished hound. Caryn De Fazio



Tom Arnold of Benalla Council gave a run-down on community grants, at the Tatong Heritage Group bi-monthly meeting on March 18th. The quick-response grant is available all year, and the larger annual Community Grant closes in late April. Tom described the range in challenges for correct applications, but was

enthusiastic for this form of community support to be well utilized. In local history, Chick Walker explained that 'Fern Hills', 'Toombullup' and 'Hollands Creek' were different names for the same school, State School #2891. The tennis courts were opened in 1912, and in 1941 the school was moved to Boggy Creek. The old building which Faye & Greg Crowe recall from their childhood had been called "The Old School," but could not have been a registered state school. Further investigation needed there. Chick also observed that funds were raised for a Fern Hills hall, which was never built. The group sorted final plans for the unveiling of 3 more story-boards (information panels) this coming Friday March 22nd. Benalla Mayor Danny Claridge will be the guest of honour. The Tatong Heritage Group will participate in Benalla's Heritage week in early May. The next meeting, on May 20th, will begin at 3:30pm to allow for the shorter days of winter. - Andrea Stevenson

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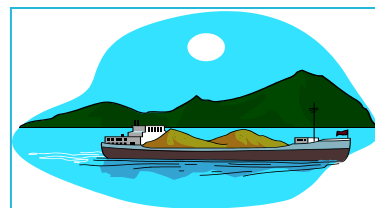


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Many years ago in the area of Kilfeera lived two little girls, born in the 1930s their names were Helen and her younger sister Joan. They lived an idyllic life on a lovely farm called Braebank, with an immaculately kept house in a beautiful garden along the Ryans Creek and each day made their way down the creek along the Kilfeera Road towards Benalla to go to school at Emu Bridge (10 kms or 6 miles) either by riding their bikes or ponies depending on the weather or sometimes in the jig driven by their father.

Their father Jack Bunworth had grown up at a property called Heatherlea on the Holland Creek, closer to Benalla, where he lived with his mother and his stepfather Mr Kemp. Mr Kemp who adopted Jack, then left him this property when he died.

Jack was a hard working young man and by the time he was in his mid twenties he had purchased a very productive block of land near Tatong in the Rothestay district. He sold this block when he was 27 and purchased the more substantial property of Braebank in 1924 and then married his wife Lorna and they settled for a life of farming there.

He also purchased a bare block of some 200 acres along the Holland Creek on the corner of the Emu Bridge and Kilfeera Road shortly after this time and used this paddock to finish fattening bullocks before they were walked the 10kms into Benalla to be put on rail vans to be sold at Newmarket.

It was opposite the front gate of Holland Park, where Jack's grandson, David (Jex) Elford, now lives that the Emu Bridge School was located. Here Jack would drop off Helen and Joan for school in the jig and work the day at the block (then called Rob's) then collect them at the end of the day and take them home.

When Jack's eldest daughter Helen married she was gifted Heatherlea with her sister Joan. Helen and her new husband Tom Elford moved there after the birth of their second child, David. Tom a city boy from Melbourne had purchased a farming property at Meadow Creek near Moyhu several years earlier as a single man when he completed his farming diploma at Dookie Ag College. Being quite a remote location, it made sense to move closer to Helen's family and be closer to a larger town being Benalla.

After major renovations were completed at the Heatherlea homestead in 1958 the family moved there and farmed there until the year 2000.

Last year we refenced sections of the property at Holland Park and removed strainer posts that were put in 100 years ago, sawn by hand and other parts of the fence line put in over 60 years ago when Jex was a small boy.

Jex recalls stories from his grandmother and mother that when a stock sale went well in Benalla, Jack would send his horse home and he would stay the night in town to celebrate. Lorna would know when she saw the horse arrive home with stirrup irons up and reins threaded through, that he had not fallen off and that it had been a good sale!

It seems incredible that in the year of 2024 it marks the 100<sup>th</sup> year of 3 generations of one family working this block of land here at Holland Park and being the custodians of a very special part of our district. This story is not an isolated one and I would love to hear the history of many other properties in our district especially through stories in the Tatong Tattler. Certainly up and down the Holland and Ryan Creek there are many well held properties and parcels of land and I am sure each has their own unique story to tell.

Georgina Burston  
Holland Park, Emu Bridge Road

**Swanpool News**

The Swanpool Bowls Club Pennant Players are delighted that they won a back to back championships this year; congratulations to all! Those of you who enjoyed the Good Friday Appeal Social Bowls night on 21<sup>st</sup> March will have experienced the friendliness of this little club first hand, and are welcome to join us next season!

The Cinema is hosting no less than three matinees in April, including one not included on the published programme, as it has only just been finalised, "The Trust Fall: Julian Assange" on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 1.30pm. This film examines the meaning and significance of the insights that WikiLeaks shared with the world, the resulting behaviour of the governments involved, the extraordinary personal risk taken by Assange, and the wider fundamental issues around press freedom that affect all of us and our right to know.

Our two other matinees include "Wonka", screening on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am, and again as a single feature at 7.00pm on the same day, all tickets only \$10 for adults, \$8 for children 4-12! Our final matinee for the month is "Priscilla", Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am, also screening first on that weekend's Double Bill. The subject is Priscilla Presley, who endorsed this film.

If this isn't enough, we have the sprawling epic of "Napoleon" screening on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> at 6.00pm and 5.00pm on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>, and Oscar nominated "Anatomy of a Fall" on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 6.00pm and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 5.00pm. Since there is no interval in our longer films, we suggest you have a late lunch beforehand at the Tatong Tavern, or enjoy a BBQ at the fabulous BBQ area next to the Cinema, or have a roadhouse meal at the Store, or bring snacks to share. Another option is to order a pastry from the Candy Bar to be heated up for you to eat after the screening.

Don't forget that EDST ends on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April, and our evening screenings will start at 5.00pm, unless otherwise advertised.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Deb

**TATONG ARCHERY**

The day we shoot will be changed from our regular fortnightly shoot so that it's easier for someone who cannot attend on our present routine. This means there will be no archery on Easter Sunday, the 31<sup>st</sup> of March and we will then shoot on the Sunday after Easter, the 7<sup>th</sup> of April. The start time is unchanged at 1:30pm.

Mike Larkin

# MOLYULLAH



## Easter Sports

### Easter Monday 1 April 2024

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- ✓ Caricature Artist
- ✓ Crash The Rat & Nail Drive
- ✓ Farm Yard Fun
- ✓ Market Stalls
- ✓ Trash & Treasure
- ✓ Fergie Tractor Display
- ✓ Spinning Wheel

*\*Please enter online*



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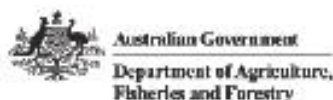
- one-on-one digital coaching
- short online business tips
- informative email series
- pop up digital hub

These services have been funded to encourage local communities and small business in Benalla, Wangaratta & Indigo Shires to have the opportunity to adapt and prepare for the impacts of drought, for example, better access to online resources and assisting with digital tools.

All the services above are free, and you can opt out at any time.

If you would like to participate please contact our Program Manager or scan the QR code and fill out the form.

Bree Nightingale - Program Manager  
 bree@startupshakeup.org  
 0404 530 561 (Monday to Thursday)



This project is supported by FRRR, through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

# Gawn to Town

I've sent off my dog crate to Molyullah fair. I'll never need it any more, and that is hard to bear. No more Kelpies, no more motorbikes. :( (No more lamb-marking, yipee!)

I had my dog-box fastened to the rack of my Honda 125. My first red kelpie, Bernadette, used to start off with her chin leaning on my shoulder, then gradually move forward until she was climbing up my back.

She only abandoned ship once; we were moving cattle to a further paddock, in the autumn, and on the way we passed an irrigation layout with some pasture still in it. Well, the theory was that we would pass by, but that wasn't the way the cattle saw it.

I did my diagonal zooms back and forth over the large irrigation banks, yelling, beeping the horn, and getting progressively more annoyed. Then the balance of the bike changed, and I realised Bernadette was no longer behind me; the expression on her face said excitement was one thing, but this time I'd gone too far.

I never used Det to shift cattle. A mighty sheep dog; with cows she was very loud and brave in the dog box, or behind a fence. But when faced with a ton of angry Hereford, she felt discretion was the better part of valour.

The dog crate was an old steel milk crate, and came from a clearing sale in Swan Hill. I lined it with a gentleman's jacket from the op-shop, sewn into place with a bagging needle and baler twine. This made the crate comfy for the dog, and the pockets came in handy too. Every few



years the jacket needed replacing, but there was never any lack of old-fashioned jackets.

I had to put a small partition across the back of the crate. This was handy for carrying electric fence tools etc, but was mainly to stop the dog (or dogs) from sitting right down the back, and unbalancing the bike.

The dog crate held 9 lambs. I know that from when a mob of ewes crossed over the Yarrein creek bed, getting into the neighbours just before dropping their lambs. Det and I gently brought them back, but every now and then a lamb would fold up it's little legs and go bolshie on us. By the time there were 9 of them in the dog box, I couldn't let go of the bike, or put it on its stand, and had to come back later for rest.

Once we left the semi-arid of the Riverina, and came to a smaller and more lush farm, the motorbike didn't get as much use. I didn't like riding it through knee-high pasture, and mostly worked on foot. A few years before we left the farm, the 125 was replaced with a four-wheeler - a quadcycle, I called it. ("Bike" implies "bicycle" implies 2 wheels, so I insist that "Quad-Bike" is a contradiction in terms.) Neither Jubi (my last Kelpie) nor I really warmed to the 4-wheeler.

I hung onto my crate until now, sure it would be valuable for something... Ah well, maybe someone else will value it. It's waiting at the Molyullah Jumble Sale, to find out.

- Andi Stevenson

# White Gate



# Dates

The April **White Gate dinner @ the Tavern** will be on **Wednesday 3rd**. Do ring the Tavern on 5767 2210 & book yourselves in for 6:30-ish. The Tavern will have changed hands by then, so please don't frighten the new owners. - Andi Stevenson

## This month on the De Fazio Dairyfarm

preparations are underway for the next milking season. The calf pens have been cleaned and sterilised. Lots of



gravel has been delivered and spread on laneways and road (in preparation for the wet winter we have been told to expect).

No 'Sizzle', the dairy cat, to treat this year. Poor Sizzle has gone to cat heaven and is probably letting the heavenly mice escape as we speak.



The new generator is installed and enclosed in its own little shed. What a pity the concreters took so long to lay the concrete slab, isn't there a saying about tradies and their own jobs? \*

We've had 2 premature deliveries, 2 normal deliveries and 3 visits from the vet, sadly only 2 calves survived, but all too soon there will be many little black and white treasures running riot. - Linda De Fazio

\*"Shoemakers' children go barefoot and doctors' wives die young"

## Meanwhile at Whitegate.... the fight continues



about whether or not the 2 piglets, Beyonce and Poppy, will be salamis or pets. It is a devious and passionate feud involving multiple family members.

- Caryn De Fazio

## White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Noel Hutchens	31 Mar	Bill Sykes	28 Apr
Hamish McMillan	7 Apr	Matthew De Fazio	5 May
Laurie De Fazio	14 Apr	Ross Runnalls	12 May
Alan Stafford	21 Apr	David Elford	19 May

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**Take a punt**

Next time you find yourself in Christchurch, New Zealand, I can highly recommend a visit to the beautiful Botanic Gardens. The gardens are very 'English' for want of a better description with majestic European trees that would have been planted at settlement.



To add to this feel, the River Avon meanders its way through the gardens.

Take a stroll along the riverbank and, more than likely, you'll come across the Antigua Boat



Sheds, established in 1882.

Inside the boatshed, it looks like it hasn't changed since 1882 – except, perhaps, for the



computer screen.

We booked in for a punt. We were given a pre-punt briefing about the dos and do nots of our 'cruise':-

- # do keep hands inboard
- # don't dangle fingers in the water - the eels will bite them off
- # don't stand up
- # don't rock the boat - the punter might fall in
- # don't fall in
- # if you do fall in, the water is only waist deep



The punt lasted about half an hour. We went upstream through the Botanic Gardens admiring the very large, old trees, and waving to all the people ashore who wished they were us. It was actually hard to resist giving 'the royal wave'.



The return trip was a bit easier on the punter as we were now going downstream. Both ways we had to dodge some rather incompetent canoeists.

The hardest part was trying to get out and at the same time retain some dignity.  
John Knapper



**MOLYULLAH FIRE BRIGADE UPDATE AND SUNDAY DRIVER ROSTER**

Thanks to our brigade members who make sure the truck and ultralight are in working order by taking them for a weekly Sunday drive.

Sunday Drive includes:

- Take the truck for a short drive
- If fuel is approaching ½ full or less, take the truck to Benalla and refuel
- Walk around truck to ensure everything is OK – lights etc working
- Run the pump
- Participate in radio schedule with Benalla Group (starts 10am Ch #365)
- Take ultralight tanker for a short drive
- Run pump on ultralight
- Fill in log book/s

07-Apr-24	Dion Stevenson
14-Apr-24	Bob Whytlaw
21-Apr-24	Peg Halbwidl
28-Apr-24	Andrew Barry
05-May-24	Damian Nicholls
12-May-24	Russell Byrne

If you are unable to do the Sunday drive, please let Dion Stevenson know on 0417 879500.

**MEETING OF MOLYULLAH FIRE FIGHTERS**

A meeting of the Molyullah Fire Brigade firefighters was held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March to get everyone's input into the functioning of the brigade and how to keep members engaged. "The main reason people in our brigade volunteer as fire fighters is to help protect their neighbours and the local community from fires," said Moly Captain, Dion Stevenson. "We need the brigade to have enough active members so we can continue to effectively keep our community safe.

"It was really heartening that so many of our members showed their support for the brigade by coming to the meeting or putting in an apology – I really thank them for that.

"They shared their views on what's important to them and where there might be barriers and challenges to them turning out. The Brigade Management Team has taken all this on board, and it gives us plenty of information to work with.

"We've also got some broader CFA-related feedback to take to the VFBV District Council on behalf of our members."

**LIFE'S TO SHORT TO BE SERIOUS**

A blond girl enters a store that sells curtains. She tells the salesman, 'I would like to buy a pink curtain in the size of my computer screen.'

The surprised salesman replies, 'But, madam, computers do not have curtains!!'

And the blond said, 'Helloooo...I've got windows.'

Growing old is mandatory, growing up is optional.

Why do fathers take an extra pair of socks to golf?

In case they get a hole in one

Sue O'Brien

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The waste will then flow directly on to the next part of the system untreated. If this situation persists, the scum and sludge will flow through to the distribution field, eventually causing blockages and malfunction - a messy, smelly and costly exercise to repair.

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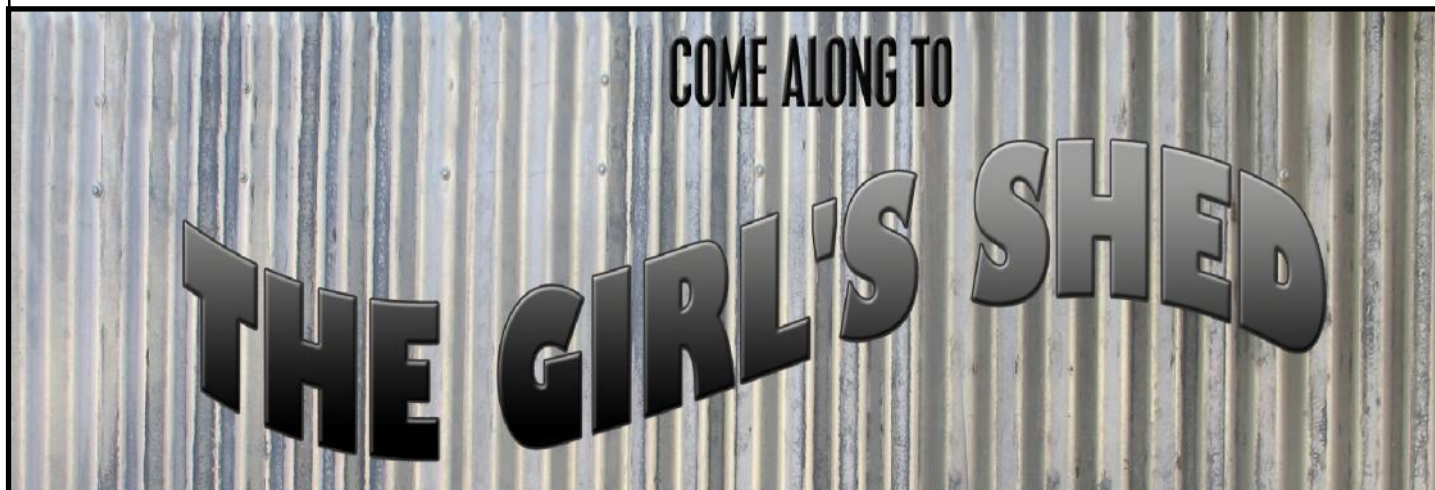
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2014	33.9	16.4	86.4	89.6	82.8	146.5	98.8	9.8	68.5	20.4	58.5	64.2	775.8
2015	44.7	29.1	5.7	87.4	70	33.7	97.3	69.4	25.7	13.7	55.5	81.7	613.9
2016	69.7	11.9	36.9	38.5	117.2	110.5	142.8	108.4	172.1	91.4	50.1	101.3	1050.8
2017	67.6	36.2	49.1	61.7	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	156.4	17.6											174.

**WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP**

When it comes to rainfall there is none to report up until the 15th of the month of March. This means we have had no rain for 21 days and the garden and dusty dirt roads are showing it. February did not fare much better with a total rainfall for the month of only 17.6mm

We are getting smoke from the DEECA planned burns up in the hills above Tatong. Pays to keep windows shut when smoke is thick.

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. 19th 20th 21st April 9am—5pm \$15 per day for a fun weekend



One of many projects being worked on at The Girls Shed, look for it on a bollard in town.

Many skills worked on the day include, crocheting, drawing, quilting, knitting and embroidery or just come along for a chat over a cuppa, whilst making new friends.

**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.

**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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