

Circulation 400

August 2024 Donation \$1

www.tatongtattler.org.au

Edition 377

Speech given by the Tatong Heritage Group President Andrea Stevenson at their 20th birthday celebration at the Tavern.

The Tatong Heritage Group was formed 20 years ago this month, in July 2004.

So our own formation is now a historical item.

Elaine Brogan got the group up and running, and organised all the bureaucratic niceties such as incorporation.

At that first meeting on July 5th 2004, the Committee elected were:

Elaine Brogan as President,

Greg Kirk as Vice President,

Pat Manser as Secretary,

Kevin Smith as Treasurer,

and Geoff Rintala as Public Officer.

In the 20 years since, the group has achieved plenty for Tatong and the surrounding districts.

There was the creation of Rail Precinct, in memory of that railway line out to Tatong and the station and turntable.

It was a wonderful launch ceremony, with guests including Tim Fischer.

There was the retrieval of the Tatong State School Honour Board, it having been taken elsewhere after the closure of the school.

The Hume & Hovell monument was not only scrubbed clean, it was also repaired. Someone had swiped the arrow on top, and the very talented Joe Hakkennes made a replacement.

That monument is 100 years old this year, and the event it commemorates was 200 years ago.

Beside the monument, the Hovell Tree was planted and cared for, again by Joe. It is growing nicely.

Barry O'Connor organised the making of plaques to identify the many un-marked graves in the Moorngag Cemetery.

Research done by Chick Walker and others into those buried there un-earthed more local history.

The kiln was cleaned up & fenced off. Signs were put up, made by Les MacLean, marking sites of the past. Numerous storyboards have been placed - work in progress.

The group has published local histories, and had displays at local markets and fairs, contributing time and knowledge from volunteers.

That isn't all but I shall wind up before the lunch gets lost in history. Long live the Tatong Heritage Group.



John and I moved to live in Tatong in 2004, a tree change. We were having lunch at the Tavern with friends from Melbourne and it was here I noticed a framed photo of a train. I couldn't believe there was a train station here in Tatong. It was not long after Greg Kirk, through his daughter Jade, who was working at the Tavern at this time, told me the story of the train. The rest of course is history. A group of interested locals met here at the Tavern and formed the Tatong Heritage Group (THG) with a train as part of the logo. I later learned, that Robert Colclough, who had huge acreage in Tatong also had a beautiful city home in Essendon.

I will touch on a few items, some Andrea has already covered.

The cleaning of the Hume and Hovell Monument: a group of local ladies made and embroidered bonnets for convict women and I believe these are still on display in Tasmania: Moved and re-established the information hut to its current site: Local member, Mr Bill Sykes planted a memorial tree outside the hall to commemorate 150 years of state parliament: celebrated two centenaries, one for the Football club and the second for the recreation reserve: We also held a ball to commemorate fifty years since electricity was switched on in Tatong, with Mrs Bev Hakkeness being the queen of the ball: Signage at the beautiful and rare cork tree at the school site: the restoration and rededication of the school World War One honour board: Four historical railway stations signage which was officially unveiled by the late Mr Tim Fischer MP, a serious train enthusiast: A Walk in historical costume in the Benalla Gardens to celebrate history week: a plague on the historic police house in Tatong. A couple of other items of interest were the Australia Day cricket match, for those aged eight to eighty, followed by a movie under the stars on the lawn at the back of the Tavern: I supported the Benalla Tourism committee, we also had a Tour De Tatong, a big trophy was made for the occasion, not sure where it ended up: In more recent times, I was proud to be in attendance for the official unveiling of four new heritage boards.

I would like to congratulate Andrea, the current President for her work and dedication to the THG over the last thirteen years. Finally, after living in this community, all be it for a short time, one cannot believe the history and heritage that is here in this small community here in the beautiful Tatong valley. Who would have thought?

Elaine Brogan OAM
Inaugural President THG



Tatong Heritage Group
20th Anniversary Birthday Cake

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.

Monkey business at the Monkey Park.

Jigokudani Yaen-Koen is home to the Japanese Macaques, also known as snow monkeys. Jigokudani literally translates as 'hell's valley' because of the steam and boiling water that bubbles out of small crevices in the ground.

In the late 1950s, a local hiker and nature lover named Sogo Hara noticed that the displaced macaques from the nearby mountains started raiding the nearby farms. Their troublesome behaviour left the farmers no choice, but to hunt them. In an effort to protect the monkeys, Hara and the owner of the Korakukan ryokan (traditional Japanese inn) began luring the monkeys away from the farm towards the inn in Jigokudani Valley.

There, the local story goes, some apples fell into the outdoor hot spring pool and one of the monkeys went in after it. He must have enjoyed the warm water, because he stayed. Monkey see, monkey do, and the other monkeys began testing the waters for themselves. The pair had inadvertently observed and discovered a way to keep the monkeys safe – by feeding them apples and barley and allowing them to bathe in the hot springs. The first photograph of the monkeys bathing was taken by Tomio Yamada in 1962, attracting broader interest from the scientific community.

The rest, as they say, is history.

It's quite a climb to get to the monkey park but well worth the effort. The distance from the car park to the ticket office is 1.6km. The first and last bits are very steep. The middle section, the majority, is a steady incline. Depending on one's ability, the walk in takes 30 – 45 minutes.

Once inside, visitors mingle with the residents sometimes having to be careful not to trip over youngsters playing on the pathways.

They are known as snow monkeys because they live in such a cold climate. They are the northern-most dwelling primates and are endemic to Japan. In fact, snow blankets the ground for months of the year.

Snow monkeys don't hibernate. They have thick fur that helps keep them warm. Primates are usually averse to entering water but the snow monkeys have learnt that soaking in the thermal springs is a good way to keep warm.

You don't need to go all the way to Japan - there is a troop of snow monkeys in City Park, Launceston, Tasmania. Launceston's sister city, Ikeda, Japan, gifted the city with 10 macaques. In turn, Launceston gifted Ikeda with 10 wallabies.



John Knapper

THE STATE OF THE WORLD?

I can't resist making some comments about the state of humanity and the global dysfunction caused solely by humans. Did nature or the fauna ever create havoc wilfully as humans have always done? We do get all sorts of disasters including deaths as a result of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, or because we got in the way of a predators teeth, but there is no intention by the violent weather or animals to hurt us.

These comments don't mean that I hate people and blame them for their own suffering because we are literally the 'victims' of our cultures inherited ways of thinking and behaving. For instance parents should raise their kids with a mixture of the innate love that we are born with as well as training in hard headed logic, meaning the use of our intelligence. Cultural traditions needs to be intelligently analysed in order to sieve out the rubbish but our innate and authentic feelings which arise out of love can always be relied upon.

There is a lot to absorb in what I am saying here but I am attempting to explain what is behind so much of humanities dysfunction and suffering and how to both understand and avoid it. Here is just one example of resolving conflict and the key phrase is "Don't take anything personally." When you operate from an impersonal and rational aspect (for example - professionally) it is so much easier to deal just with the issues raised. When you operate from the personal, judgements are made and feelings get hurt. We need to treat people similarly to the way we treat animals and the weather. We do not say the weather or an animal deliberately harmed me. Look at the background of what has happened between you and an assailant and there will be a reason for all behaviours, if we care to look. With so many of the current global upheavals it can be harder to understand and forgive those we think are causing so much death and conflict. Until humanity learns to place its innate and objective intelligence before beliefs, politics, and hurt feelings in order to resolve conflict, there will never be peace on earth.

(Ps Just as I finished this item for sending to our editor for the August Tattler news came of a massive global cyber meltdown or hack attack on Microsoft.)

Mike Larkin



Back row: Ponds Veerhaar, Tony Lewis, John Mitchell, Geoff Ansell, Colin Exton, Geoff Green, Darryl Horsburgh; enetre row, Neil Richardson, Johnny Lewis, Norm Heywood, Ray Goodman, Jim Wallace, Graham Green, Kevin Grey, trainer Jack Wright; front row, Johnny De Fazio, Garry Keen, captain-coach, Max Newell, Jack Wallace, vice-captain Graham Smith.

Tatong football team c1960's

Gawn to Town

Putin-the-Raven

I always loved crows. Ravens. Whatever. The black ones with the sarcastic, drawn-out caawwww. Part of the Australian countryside, blacker than soot.

Their behaviour brings them into disrepute; but unlike humans, they don't make moral or ethical choices about inflicting pain. They just eat their dinner.

Early April, a raven began launching itself into the windows along the south of our home. Those window must be tough, for none have broken yet. They now bear imprints of wings, and also footprints, which hit the window expecting to encounter the enemy's feet. It isn't fun hearing that THUMP then a minute later, THUMP. Ravens might be clever, but not clever enough to pass the mirror-test, and understand their own reflection.

The raven took to pecking at the windows. Loudly. While we were away he mounted an attack on the area outside the back door, smashing everything on the table, and adorning the area with raven poo.

He sits on the fence beside the house ready to launch, or walks into the alcove, cawing in a very loud, very sarcastic tone. I call him Putin-the-Raven, and I'm beginning to get twitchy when I hear him.

Suggestions for discouraging him include buying a motion-detecting owl from Bunnings, with a moving head and flashing eyes. But we've got a motion-detecting Labrador, and if she chases Putin off, he's back in a few minutes. If Putin isn't bothered by a real Labrador, I am not forking out for an artificial owl... not that the Labrador has flashing eyes.

The most frequent suggestion is to paint over the windows; all the windows; with a slurry that can be washed off later, until the raven returns next year. As this house has rather a lot of windows, with beautiful views, I haven't convinced myself to do that yet.

Benalla Council say that as it is a native bird there is nothing they can do. The Dept of Frequent Name Changes emailed that "Trapping and relocation is not an option. Poisoning is not an option." So if the remorseless thumping, tapping & smashing of Putin-the-Raven drives me to suicide, I will die in the sad knowledge that my life was worth less than that of a raven.

Now, there may be some confusion, if not outrage, as to whether this bird be called a "crow" or a "raven".

A raven is a passerine corvid, technically named "Corvus coronoides". Coronoides means "crow-shaped", and corvid is a member of the crow genus Corvus, of the family Corvidae. So raven is a large type of crow.

The five species of Corvids native to Australia; the Australian Raven, Little Raven, Little Crow, Forest Raven, and the Torresian Crow. The only 'crow' to be found in Victoria is the Little Crow, and only in the far north-west.

The really important thing is to never, ever, call a crow a raven, or refer to a raven as a crow.

Both 'raven' and 'crow' are old English terms. I have been using some other old Saxon terms.

Putin doesn't care.

- Andi Stevenson



Not An Angel's Wing



Age Well in Benalla Info Hub
Benalla Senior Citizens Community Centre – U3A Room 2

March 27	10am – 12noon
April 10	10am – 12noon
April 24	10am – 12noon
May 8	10am – 12noon
May 22	10am – 12noon
June 5	10am – 12noon
June 19	10am – 12noon
July 3	10am – 12noon
July 17	10am – 12noon
July 31	10am – 12noon
August 14	10am – 12noon
August 28	10am – 12noon
September 11	10am – 12noon
September 25	10am – 12noon
October 9	10am – 12noon
October 23	10am – 12noon
November 6	10am – 12noon
November 20	10am – 12noon
December 4	10am – 12noon
December 18	10am – 12noon

Supported by
Benalla Rural City Council



ARCHERY CLUB NEWS

The three replacement bows we obtained via a Council grant have arrived and will be ready for beginners and young archers to use at our next shooting session on the Tatong oval on Sunday the 28th of July starting at 1:30pm – all welcome.

We have had four archery sessions (approximately 2 months) in a row of partly cloudy but bitterly cold wind every shooting Sunday. We have moved our range further toward the centre of the oval to get away from the shadows of trees. In warmer weather we will move back to the shade again.

I have had a lucky find in that the bow loaned to our club by Arron, from across the road to me, enables me to shoot more accurately than my treasured old Hoyt recurve. This realisation led to a Google search to find such a bow and fortunately I got lucky. The bows are a Yamaha take down, meaning that the limbs detach if needed. While the centre part of the bow is rigid the limbs have evolved beyond a wooden stick to be a composite of fibreglass and wood giving the perfect springiness and strength. Not only did I get the bow but arrows to match and various attachments all within the original carry box. By comparison to the cost of modern bows it was an excellent price. A slight drawback being that it is located in SA and has cost more to transport to Shepparton (the local depot for Pack Sell) than the bow itself.

This might be the first item I have purchased on eBay, going by my old memory, and what a saga it was. eBay has developed a sophisticated system to ensure that buyers and sellers obtain a high degree of protection from scammers, but scammers will find a way if there is one, to take advantage of the unwary.

Mike Larkin

TATONG and District TATTLER

Would you be interested in contributing to the management of your local community newsletter?

We have Vacancies on the

Tatong Tattler Committee

and are hoping to balance out the age range of the current committee (ie field some less aged locals.)

We meet once every two months, to review the content, creation, distribution & expedience of the Tattler, and to consider how well it serves our community.

If interested, please make contact;

tatongtattler@yahoo.com

any Tattler committee member

ring Andi on 0429 439 336.

Notice!

Tatong
Heritage
Group



The
Tatong Heritage Group
has changed it's meeting day to

the **4th Monday**
of every other month,

and the meeting time to
a **3:30pm** start.

The July meeting will be on Monday
22nd July,
and the September meeting on
Monday 23rd September.

A TRIP TO CANADA AND NEW ENGLAND**HOMEWARD BOUND****Linda De Fazio**

Our Holland America Cruise ship is the 'Zuiderdam'. We are on the seventh floor; some of our fellow travellers are quite concerned about where our cabin is in relation to theirs considering our history with 'Fire Alarms'.

The first stop is Bar Harbour but we decide to have a day to rest and recover. Our overnight passage into Canada is very simple.

Next day we arrive in Halifax the capital of Nova Scotia. It is a very pretty coastal town with an interesting history. Many of the survivors of the Titanic were brought to Halifax and many of the people who didn't survive are buried in the Halifax Cemetery, still unidentified. It is a lovely cemetery and interesting to read some of the stories associated with both the Titanic and the horror explosion which occurred in the harbour on December 6th, 1917.

On that morning the French cargo ship SS Mont-Blanc collided with the Norwegian vessel SS Imo. Mont-Blanc was loaded with explosives, caught fire and exploded devastating Halifax. At least 1780 people died from the blast, debris, fires and collapsed buildings and an estimated 9000 were injured. Nearly all structures within an 800 metre area were obliterated. A pressure wave snapped trees and the ensuing Tsunami caused widespread damage.

Next stop is Sydney, Cape Breton Island. We are met on the dock with Gaelic music, song and dance and a giant fiddle. Sydney is a gorgeous town, population about 30,000, with Scottish, Irish and English ancestry. Also home to the First Nations Mi'kmaq peoples. We decide to take a taxi to see some of old Sydney's historic churches and houses dating back to the 1700 and 1800's then to a drive to Low Point Lighthouse.

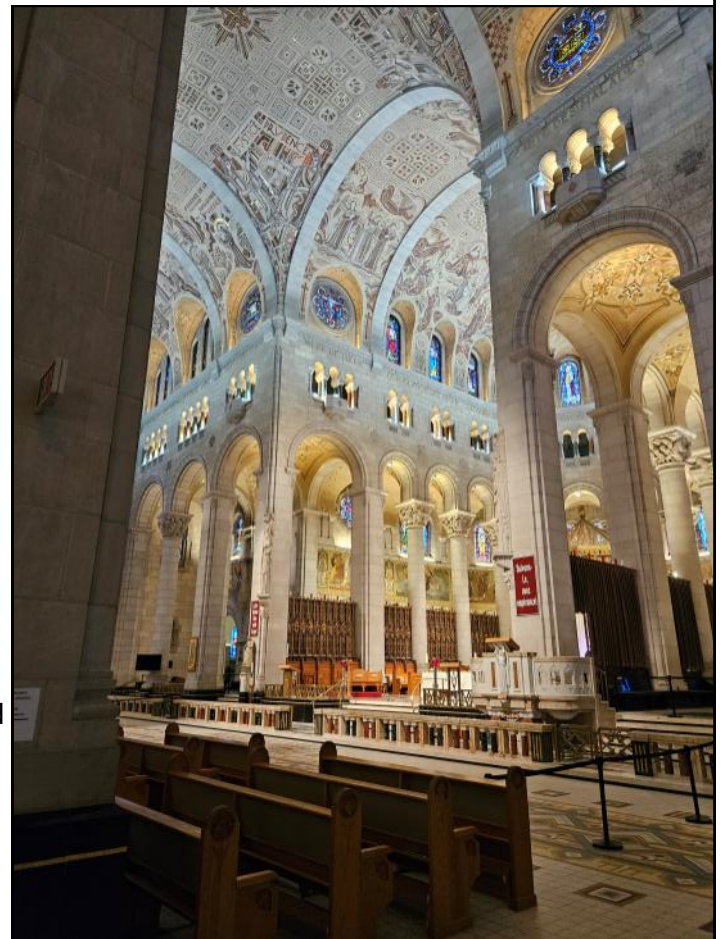
Next is Prince Edward Island, pretty much known as PEI by Canadians. I have been looking forward to this day, PEI is the setting for the Anne of Green Gables books written in the late 19th century by Lucy Maud Montgomery. It is wet, coming down in buckets but we do a tour to 'Green Gables'. Green Gables looks just as I imagined when reading the book. The house is not where Lucy Maud lived but she visited often and used the farm as the setting for her books. We then do a coach tour of Charlottetown, a memorable day, despite the rain.

After cruising the Gulf of St Lawrence for the next day and night we arrive back in Quebec City and spend the day exploring some more before disembarking and transferring back to the beautiful Chateau le Frontenac. We have a 'Tower' room. It is stunning with a decent sized bathroom and a spectacular view. Getting there is another thing entirely. Two different lifts, a long walk down corridors that all look the same. I can't work out how to use the shower but they send a 12 year old to show me how. I think this must be what he does, teaches guests how to use their taps, televisions, the lifts. Maybe he was a bit older than 12, and he speaks very good English.

Laurie gets up early the next morning to climb up to the Citadelle to see the Changing of the Guard, then we join another tour to see some of Quebec Province. The highlight is a visit to Sainte Anne of Beaupre Basilica. It is exquisite, definitely one of the most beautiful churches I have seen. It still receives about half a million pilgrims every year, there is even a train line outside to accommodate travellers.

The next morning is an early start on our trip home. We fly to Vancouver then spend many hours in the airport waiting and using up my last Canadian dollars. I get a text from Qantas telling me our connecting flight is cancelled. Our flight from Vancouver is delayed, when we get on board we are moved to accommodate a mother and baby. Arriving in Sydney is a nightmare, not only because it feels like we haven't slept for days; only half the Smart Gate kiosks are working and the queues are a mile long. One of our bags is missing. After sorting the missing bag we miss our new flight to Melbourne and can't get another for hours, so we have a cup, or two, of the best coffee in the world and a laugh about all the mishaps.

Unfortunately that isn't quite the end. Just to top everything Laurie and I both come down with Covid the next day, an altogether memorable trip to Eastern Canada and New England.



TATONG TOPICS – AUGUST 1924

Benalla Standard 1st August 1924:

Municipal Elections. — There appears to be no great enthusiasm in this shire concerning the coming municipal elections. Despite the fact that in almost every riding such problems as road construction and maintenance, reticulation and other features have presented themselves, the lack of interest on the part of ratepayers continues, except in ridings where councillors have come in for special criticism. Elsewhere, Mr. A. Harrison announces he is a candidate for the Tatong riding.

North Eastern Ensign 1st August 1924:

CHEAP EXCURSIONS - TATONG LINE

Friday, 22nd August.-To Melbourne from Tatong and Karn stations. Tickets issued up to time of departure of train. Same date Melbourne to those stations. Booking closes noon, 21st August. Particulars at stations. E. C. EYRES, Secretary.

Benalla Standard 5th August 1924:

Tatong - Archerton Mail Service.

Mr. R. Cook, M.P., is in receipt of information from the Deputy P.M.G, that it is intended to run the mail from Tatong to Archerton three times a week, instead of twice as formerly. The information is contained in the following letter, dated 25th July: With reference to your representation in connection with a communication from Messrs. McCashney and Harper, Toombullup, via Tatong, covering a petition from the residents in favour of the frequency of the Tatong - Archerton mail service being increased from twice to thrice weekly the additional trip to be made on Wednesdays, I beg to inform you the matter has been investigated, and as action in the direction indicated is considered to be warranted in the public interest, I have approved of the request. The necessary instructions have been issued accordingly.

Benalla Standard 8th August 1924:

A very enjoyable game was played last Saturday on the Goorambat oval between teams representing the Goorambat and Tatong State Schools. The visitors were in charge of Mr. Mason, while Mr. Smith acted in a similar capacity for the locals. After a very interesting game, the Goorambat boys ran out winners with the final scores — Goorambat. 6.3; Tatong. 1.4. Very fine form indeed was shown by many of the Goorambat boys, notably Roy, Bill and Ron Saunders. Mick Brady, Bob Hall, Bill Flanagan and A. Spinks. After the match lunch was served to the visitors by the lady helpers and Mr. Mason, on behalf of the Tatong boys, cordially thanked all those who had helped for the very fine way in which they had been received. Mr. Smith, head teacher of the Goorambat State school, suitably replied. A return match is to be played at Tatong in about three weeks' time.

Benalla Standard 12th August 1924: **ROAD MAINTENANCE.**

At yesterday's meeting of the Benalla Shire Council the following communication was received from D. H. Coghill, secretary Tatong branch V.F.U., asking the council to take into consideration the question of appointing a man to maintain the developmental roads from the Tatong railway station, such employment to be continuous, and the man to be equipped with the necessary labour saving implements for one horse, on light work. Cr. Harrison moved that the letter be held over till next meeting and the engineer and riding members go into the matter. He favoured calling tenders for the work. Cr. Cleary considered that the question went further than the Tatong riding alone. The present system of maintenance was rotten. The time of maintaining is wrong and the system was wrong, and should be gone into with the Country Roads Board in a thorough manner. He thought the suggested idea was better than the present method. He was pleased that the matter had come up for discussion and thought the President and engineer should consult the Country Roads Board. It was realised that money on construction was wasted if there was not a proper system of road maintenance. Cr. Mitchell agreed that it was time a systematised policy of maintenance was adopted in the shire. It was a vital matter, and it was up to the council to try and improve the present system without further delay. Cr. Cleary moved an amendment that a conference be held with the C.R.B. with a view of endeavouring to rectify the system of road maintenance. This was seconded by Cr. Mitchell, and suggested the deputation consist of the President, Cr. Cleary and the engineer. Cr. Harrison resented other councillors interfering with motions affecting the riding he represented. He would not withdraw his motion, Cr. Cleary disagreed with Cr. Harrison's contention. He did not believe in interfering. He thought, however, the letter opened up a far bigger question. Cr. Harrison had every opportunity of withdrawing his motion, and he had therefore moved the amendment. Cr. Cook suggested the matter be dealt with as two different questions. This was done, and both motions were carried.

Benalla Standard 19th August 1924:

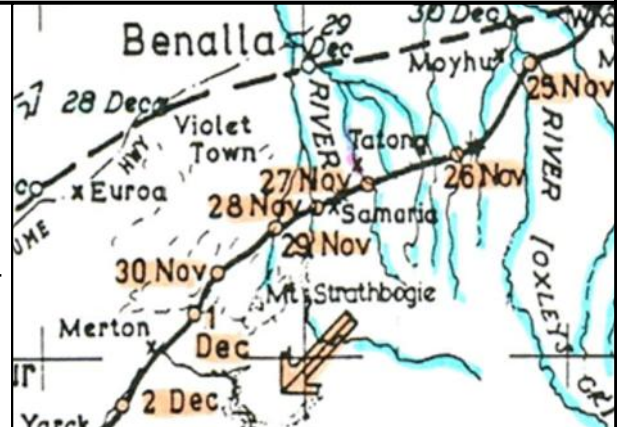
The marriage of Mr. Christopher Spencer, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. James Spencer, Tatong and Miss Beryl Thomas, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred. Thomas, Whitfield, was celebrated quietly at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church by Very Rev. Father Byrne, on Tuesday last. Miss Rosie Pennie was bridesmaid, and Mr. C. Thomas best man. The happy couple left by the afternoon train for Melbourne. Their future home will be at Whitfield.

Compiled by Barry O'Connor, Tatong Heritage Group.

The 1824 Hume and Hovell Expedition in our local area. From abridged information supplied by Peter Harper organiser of "The Explorer's Bike Ride 2024". (See July Tattler for details)

Expedition Route

The Hume and Hovell expedition route has been plotted many times with the earliest maps of Skeen 1902 and Hansford 1924 and these show the campsites of November 24 to 29 as the Ovens River, Meadow Creek, Mt Bellevue (Fifteen Mile Creek), Fern Hills (Hollands Creek), Samaria and Moonee Creek at Lima South. This map above shows the location of these campsites and the monuments. Interestingly the campsites for November 29 and 30th seem to match Hovell's notes but not the Barjarg monument whose inscription reads, 'They camped near this spot' and has the date Nov 29



Interpreting the Route

Many researchers have tried to interpret Hovell's journal and plot the explorers' route. The route over the Mt Sunday range needs further attention. The map from the book 'Tatong - Just off the Track (2010)', suggests the route across the range into Samaria, has a northerly loop and is different to the more or less straight route shown in the maps of Hansford (1924) and AEJ Andrews (1981). The map shown on the Tatong Heritage Group website when enlarged shows the route following the suggested southwest course. It clearly shows the campsite on Nov 29 is west of the Broken River and presumably Moonie Creek.

The Samaria monument is nearly two miles away from this campsite plot in bushland and is difficult to locate by the riders. Successive rider groups have added stones to mark the off-track to the monument. A question remains about the monument's position should the route above have merit. There is no water nearby yet the plaque reads they "camped on this spot Dec 28". Hovell's journal mentions this campsite is only a mile south of Norton's Mount. Perhaps the monument was built on public land and close to the Samaria settlement at the southern end of Norton Meadow.

Centenary Committee

At the centenary in 1924 a Centenary committee under the chairmanship of Dr James Barratt of Melbourne encouraged all town communities along the route to build monuments to commemorate the expedition.



Bushland setting for Samaria Monument

The Benalla Shire council offered 20 pounds towards the building of a monument with the initial location at Swanpool. The location approximates the halfway point of the downward and homeward crossings of the Broken River. The proposal caused much discussion within the shire and a public meeting was held in Tatong on Saturday 19th September 1924. The meeting resolved:

"That the Benalla Shire Council be notified that this meeting considers the camping places on the Holland's Creek, above Clements', and Mrs. Drummond's, in Samaria, are the only places where public money should be spent, and that the council be asked to receive a deputation re same."

Prior to the resolution, the meeting was told:

The line of the route was then known as one drawn from Howes old mill site on Ryans Creek Rd to Fern Hills on the Tolmie Road to Drummonds at Samaria.

From the plan of the route through Moorngag which is in the possession of the Samaria school teacher, conclusive evidence shows that Hume and Hovell never put a foot in the Warrenbayne Riding on the downward route to Melbourne. Their return trip may place their route mid-way between Benalla and Swanpool.

The outcome from the resolution of the meeting was the Benalla Council withdrew the 20 Pounds funding and the communities funded and erected monuments at Fern Hills (Tatong), Samaria, Barjarg and Swanpool whilst Samaria West (Yin Barun) and Warrenbayne West Schools were to receive a plaque, made by the Benalla Sloyd School, for their celebrations. These schools have closed, and the plaques are located now at the Benalla Museum and the Hume and Hovell Cricket Ground, Strath Creek. The Hansonville School unveiled a plaque but after the school was burnt and closed it is now housed privately. Lima South School also had a plaque unveiling ceremony. The whereabouts of this plaque is unknown.

On 30 November 1924 a large crowd gathered at the monument to celebrate the occasion and witness the unveiling of the Tatong monument. The monument has a steel arrow on top pointing in the SW direction of travel. There are /were similar arrows on the monuments at Back Creek, Stanley, Samaria, Barjarg, Woodfield whilst the Lake Hume monument has an arrow inlaid on its base pointing across the Lake to the Bellbridge monument. Everton and Whorouly have a pole only and maybe there was an arrow.

Peter Harper Albury June 2024

Daze Past - from 2018 . As Kathy is unwell we are publishing some of her past articles. Ed



Garden Daze

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



Ok No!! - Not More About Fruit Fly?

Seems that while it may take a village to rear a child - it takes a neighbourhood to eradicate Fruit Fly!

This evening - 20 July - and also the deadline for the Tattler - we attended a meeting organised by the **Lurg and District Fruit Fly Awareness Group** and presented by members of the **Albury Wodonga Fight the Fruit Fly Association**.

This presentation has increased our knowledge of the dreaded Fruit Fly, and changed our thinking on some of the tactics previously learnt on how to manage this pest.

The life cycle of the Fruit Fly and how it is going to appear during the fruiting season - is weather dependent. Fruit Fly do not disappear - but remain active throughout the year - however:

- Extreme High Heat with Low Humidity
- Very Low Temperatures over Winter will result in the Fruit Fly being less active. While:
- A milder winter, with a more humid summer will have them active throughout the year.



In extremely cold periods the females reabsorb their eggs - and wait.

Fruit Flies lay eggs in fruit and vegetables, turning produce into a brown mushy useless mess.

Host produce of Fruit Fly includes: avocados, citrus (oranges, mandarins, tangelos, limes, grapefruit), figs, persimmons, pome fruit (apples, pears), table grapes, wine grapes, eggplants, tomatoes, capsicums, chillies, stone fruit (cherries, peaches, plums, nectarines, apricots) strawberries and passionfruit.

Fruit fly trouble begins as the weather warms in August.

Yes August - The female flies lay their eggs under the skin of ripening fruit, the maggots hatch and feed, spoiling the fruit, causing it to rot and drop.

If you have fruit trees and are not interested in maintaining them or harvesting the fruit - then the best course of action is to remove them so as not to be harbouring Fruit Fly which will infect the neighbourhood.

Consider also - Fruit trees - usually plum and apple which are on your roadside - these will be harbouring Fruit Fly and spreading the pest and should be removed.

For those of us who do harvest and use the fruit from our trees - the best advice there is to prune the trees to a manageable size. Preferably a size that can be covered with a special Fruit Fly Exclusion Net. Ordinary fly netting is not good enough as Fruit Flies are very small and will find their way through - also ordinary fly netting is not UV safe and will quickly rot.

The first and most important step when attempting to prevent fruit fly attack is good hygiene. Mature maggots pupate in the soil to remerge as adult flies.

Signs that eggs have been laid in fruit are dimples or weeping clear sap on the fruit. Pick these fruit off as well as any damaged and rotting fruit. It is also very important to pick up fallen fruit as soon as it drops so that maggots do not have a chance to escape from the fruit and burrow into the ground to pupate.

It seems that advice to put the affected fruit and vegetables in a sealed plastic bag and leave it in the sun for three or four days, is not going to work - unless the weather is 40 degrees or over. And as for giving the fruit to the chooks (or your cattle) - this won't be 100% effective - some will escape and you only need one female escapee who will then go on to lay 1,000 eggs in the next few days.

Best way to kill Fruit Flies in Fruit is to Microwave or Freeze the fruit - then give the fruit to the chooks.

Trapping adult flies helps limit the breeding population. There are

numerous variations of traps and lures.

A bait that was recommended was **NATLAV 5000**

- **NATFLAV® '500'** (the bait) is a protein based attractant registered for the control of Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF). It is used in combination with an insecticide (Malathion) to actually kill the Fruit Fly.
- **NATFLAV® '500'** in itself is not harmful. Used according to the directions will mean that other beneficial insects will not be killed whilst baiting for Queensland Fruit Fly.
- Fight the Fruit Fly Association Inc DOES NOT SUPPLY MALATHION. You must purchase this from your nursery or produce store.
- The aim of using the bait, mixed with Malathion, is to attract and kill, as many fruit flies as possible at a single site.
- **NATFLAV® '500'** is not applied directly to the fruit. The underside of foliage can be used, or paint the mixture directly onto a branch, avoiding contact with fruit. Alternatively, the bait can be sprayed on a cloth inside a shelter (see methods of applying bait) and hung from a branch or on a stake amongst your vegetables.
- Control of fruit fly is an ongoing task during the fruit/vegetable growing season. Baits should be placed in your garden before the onset of warm weather. This means having your baits set and ready to go by mid August. Baiting must continue until cold weather returns. This can be as late as May/June.
- Baiting must be done every 7 days to be effective.
- If there has been at least 5ml of rain following a baiting, **NATFLAV® '500'** must be re-applied as its effectiveness will be reduced.

Once a bait mixture has been made, it must be used immediately. Do not store unused mixture until next application as its effectiveness will have diminished significantly.

Check out the **Albury Wodonga Fight the Fruit Fly Association** website for further information.

<http://fightthefruitfly.org/baiting.html>

CERA Traps and bait are available at **Bunnings and Mitre 10 and Green Harvest in Queensland** have "kits" available.

Home made traps will work - however - they are not as effective and it seems that only a small percentage of what is trapped in the DIY traps are Fruit Fly - as these traps attract a wide range of insects - some of which will be beneficial to your garden and it is a pity to kill these.

It is possible to buy nets or bags to cover fruit to prevent the female from getting to the fruit to lay her eggs.

Use these 'exclusion' nets to keep fruit safe. There are nets suitable for vegetables and stronger ones for trees. These will last several years if used carefully.

Poultry scratching around under the trees may help to keep the hatching pupae numbers down.

Again - it is most important to collect all fallen and damaged fruit as soon as it is noticed to prevent a major infestation.

We all need to be vigilant to keep fruit fly under control because neglected trees become a neighbourhood problem.

Fruit fly can be spread by travellers carrying infested fruit into or between horticultural regions of Victoria. If you have a problem - keep your fruit to yourself, unless it has been cooked - no matter how much you may like to share. You are not being selfish - you are being vigilant and responsible.



Happy Trapping

Kathy Z

WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA – AUGUST 2024

- Wed 7th Whitegate dinner at Tavern 6.30pm
- Fri 9th Molyullah fish & chips at Molyullah Rec Reserve 6 pm
- Sun 11th Archery at Tatong Rec Reserve 1.30pm
- Wed 14th Tatong dinner at Tavern 6.30pm
- Fri 16th Girls shed at Tatong hall from 9.30 am
- Thurs 22nd Tatong Tattler meeting at Tavern 4pm
- Sun 25th Archery at Tatong Rec reserve 1.30pm

FIRE BRIGADE ROSTER – AUGUST 2024 □

Date	Truck	Ultra light
Sun 4 th	Chris Wylie	Lynda Wylie
Sun 11 th	Steve Clarkson	Mick Gaudion
Sun 18 th	Rob Erskine	Max Jones
Sun 25 th	Jason Nichols	Chris McGee

If you have an activity, meeting date, market, sports event or anything else you would like people to know about that's on in July please send the details to tattler.whatson@gmail.com by the 19th of August

Sue O'Brien

White Gate News



The next **White Gate dinner @ the Tavern** will be **Wednesday August 7th**. Maybe by then the ground will be wet, the grass will be growing, and Hanrahan will complain about getting bogged. - *Andi Stevenson*

On the De Fazio Dairy farm Winter is not our favourite time of the year. Milking on frosty mornings, chilblains from wearing gumboots and the constant need for extra feed for the hungry bovine mouths is taxing, not to mention the drop in farmgate milk prices from July 1st.

Milk prices are calculated on milk solids, the ratio of fat and protein, your production curve and productivity incentives. Dairy Australia ran 2 seminars in Gippsland in May to help farmers understand the pricing structure. I've heard that the reduction in payment is about 15-20%, I wonder if we will see a reduction in dairy product prices at the supermarket? - *Linda De Fazio*

White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

James Parton	21 Jul	Alan Stafford	18 Aug
Angus McMillan	28 Jul	Bill Sykes	25 Aug
Hamish McMillan	4 Aug	Matthew De Fazio	1 Sep
Laurie De Fazio	11 Aug	Ross Runnalls	8 Sep

Executive Needed

The Tatong Heritage Group is an active group, meeting 6 times a year. We have many members, who pitch in and contribute to our various activities.

However, current members are not keen on taking an executive position. At the September AGM the President will step down, after 13 years. So far, no one has volunteered to take the job on. The Treasurer & Secretary would really love to step back also. Anyone interested in joining a local group, especially if happy to take on light committee duties, please consider sharing your skills with the THG.

tatongheritage@yahoo.com.au



For about 35 years now I have been collecting and collating information for the "History of Tatong's Buildings Past & Present". I started off with one book on the subject but now have three and I was wondering if, due to the influx of many 'new' people into the area, I could get the following from them; Name/s of who purchased/rents the house, when it was purchased and the construction of the building plus the address of same. I can be contacted on 0429682219.

Thank you.
Greg Kirk

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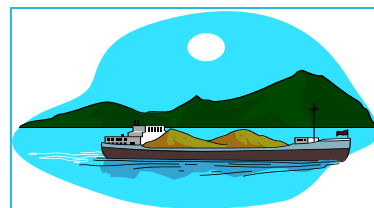


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Tatong Community Centre & Recreation Reserve

Notice of Tri-annual Meeting

Tuesday 3rd September 2024, 7:30pm

@ Tatong Community Centre & Recreation Reserve

Election of office bearers and committee members for the next 3 years.

Annual report on the Tatong Community Plantation Fund.

New members encouraged and most welcome.



De Fazio Family salami making day.

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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.
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.	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
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	14.7	26.9	73.8	53.1							342.5

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

So far in July, to the 15th, we have had 28.8mm of rain, and for the whole of June 53.1mm. This rain and the many frosts are to be expected midwinter but we have not reached boggy garden level yet.

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 August 9am—5pm



Tattler Advertising Rates Inc num:

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.

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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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