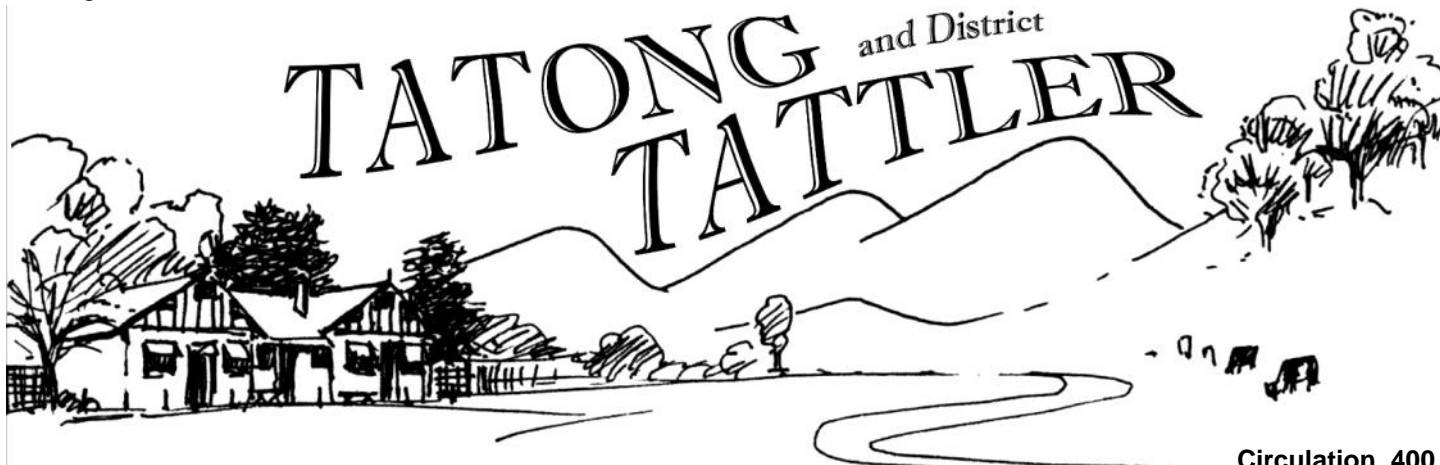


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AN ITALIAN MIGRATION EXPERIENCE

2025 WILL BE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA OF THE DE GRAZIA AND IVONE MEN FROM ITALY. JOSIE DE FAZIO, FORMERLY OF WHITEGATE, WAS THE DAUGHTER OF MICHELE (MICHAEL) IVONE AND SAVERUZZA (SARAH) DE GRAZIA.

Between 1876 and 1976, around 25 million people left Italy in search of work, fortune and a better future. 430,000 of these men women and children came to Australia.

In Italy in 1924, the year Giuseppina (Josie) Ivone was born there was much political unrest. Italy was governed by a fascist regime, led by Benito Mussolini with the fascists defeating socialism and communism by force.

The volume of arrivals and the establishment of foreign households in every community was cause for alarm in some Australians eyes.

Josie was born in Decollatura, Calabria where she spent her first 5 years. She was the 4th child of Michele and Saveruzza and would eventually become one of nine.

Calabria is a region in southern Italy, the toe of the Italian boot. Although very picturesque, this tiny region lacked industry and offered few opportunities making it difficult for families to envisage a bright future.

Australia was seen as the land of opportunity, so many people braved the unknown to face the challenges migration to Australia would present. Josie, with her mother and 4 of her siblings landed in Melbourne in 1929 after 42 days at sea. Her mother had suffered horrendous sea sickness and the care for Josie and her siblings fell to her oldest sister, Vicenza. They had not seen their Father for 4 ½ years.

Like many Italian migrants they bought farming knowledge and practices with them. Josie's husband Emanuele De Fazio had a similar migrant experience when his family came to Australia in 1937. Emanuele was reunited in Australia with his father, also Michele, at the age of 17. Michele had spent many years travelling and labouring in America, Canada and Colombia before settling in Australia into a life growing tobacco.

Like the Ivones. Emanuele too hailed from Decollatura. After marrying in 1944 they became well established in the Myrtleford community before the mass emigration of Italians to the Myrtleford area in the 1950's. Although Italians are well represented in every Australian town there is a disproportionate concentration in Victoria. Their culture dominated small towns such as Myrtleford, where they found familiarity and comfort with other families that had migrated from the same region. This solidarity has made it easier for their cultural traditions to continue.

The De Fazio, De Grazia and Ivone families have continued many of these cultural traditions, teaching their children, grandchildren and now great grandchildren.

Josie and Emanuele proudly became Australian citizens in 1967 after the family moved to the Benalla area in 1959.

Linda De Fazio



Michele Ivone in WW1



Medical certificate issued for Josie's visa

For the love of our horses ☐

After the historic launch of my book, and the unveiling of the Sandy statue in Tallangatta, interest swelled.

The Chauvel Foundation is currently organising an historic event to recognise our Australian General, Sir Harry Chauvel. This event will take place in March this year to commemorate his death, 80 years on. The Shepparton people will commemorate this at the Lieutenant Colonel Boucher statue, Nixon and Welsford Streets, Shepparton.

This statue shows the commander of the 4th Light Horse Regiment galloping during the famous charge at Beer-sheba on the 31st October 1917. The 12th Light Horse Regiment charged beside them. This unexpected charge climaxed the battle by General Sir Harry Chauvel's desert mounted corp capturing the town and its precious water wells, finally breaking the Ottomans defence line in the Middle East.

Murray Bouchier was a local farmer from Strathmerton, who returned post war. He became a state politician and leader of the Country Party.

The Chauvel Border Light Horse Trail ride will commence in Shepparton, riding up over the great divide to places like Albury, Wagga Wagga, Harden and back down to Gundagai, Batlow to Corryong and end at Tallangatta in April.

This ride will stop and commemorate this Australian story, and share it with communities along the way. Sir Harry Chauvel grew up in Tabulam, in northern New South Wales.

His granddaughter, Honor, is part of this commemorative trail ride, The Chauvel Border Light Horse Trail.

The Chauvel Foundation is a not for profit Charity, it's purpose is to promote, support and inspire service to community by building public awareness of the attributes dedication and accomplishments of the Australian Light Horse and their greatest commander, General Sir Harry Chauvel.

The ongoing plans are to continue a Light Horse Trail throughout Victoria, perhaps eventually Australia. As we know, men and their horses travelled all over to join the Light Horses and fight for our country alongside the British and New Zealanders.

You will be aware of the many Light Horse organisations that participate at our annual Anzac Day services. These men and women continue to keep the story of our famous Light Horses at this and on other occasions.

I know many of you will have Light Horsemen in your family history.

I believe this trail could and should be enhanced, especially around small farming communities and railway sidings, unfortunately many do not exist these days. A trail could open up these historic places once again.

The Chauvel Foundation are to be commended for their vision.

I am pleased to be involved in this wonderful event. It's our history, our heritage.

Elaine Brogan OAM

White Gate News



Hear ye! The next **White Gate dinner @ the Tavern** is to be Wednesday March 5th, 6:30/7pm-ish.

Found some photos from early 2005 - 20years ago! - of Jenny Lacey and her dog Buckley, in their cottage by the windmill, 1 kilometre south of Knight Rd. Now only the windmill remains.

Jenny was a fun, outrageous character, enjoying an outdoor horse-riding sort of life, until multiple sclerosis dragged her into a wheelchair. Buckley was a wonder dog, another great character. Together again now, in the great gig in the sky. - Andi



Meanwhile, at Whitegate....

Smith Rd has a newly minted P-plater, who managed to snare her probationary licence WITHOUT the enthusiastic and constant offers of driving lessons by her Papa Faz.....who holds the trophy for being most reckless hoon driver on Smith Rd. - Caryn De Fazio

Surely anyone who can ride, can drive...



GRIP WILL IMPROVE WITH EXPERIENCE

Thelwell cartoon re-used with kind permission from <https://www.facebook.com/TheIwellNorman>

White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Andrew Marriott	23 Feb	Angus McMillan	23 Mar
Terry Trounson	2 Mar	Noel Hutchens	30 Mar
Dave Sweatman	9 Mar	Hamish McMillan	6 Apr
James Parton	16 Mar	Laurie DeFazio	13 Apr

Remembering an iconic moment from 1998....

I arrived in Melbourne in 1998 to begin a university degree, straight out of a tiny remote Gippsland town, and plunged into the cacophony of city living. Startled by the chaos and intrigued by all the opportunities and experiences being offered, I spent my days racing between uni lectures, my barista and waitressing jobs, and lurking in bookstores and the state library. It was at one of these bookstores that I heard that Bryce Courtenay was doing a press tour promoting the release of his latest novel, Jessica. Whilst not necessarily my favourite author, Bryce Courtenay was by far my most revered storyteller. I had forgone groceries and tram fares to purchase a hardcopy of Jessica on the day of its release. I had routinely missed my tram stop from being so engrossed in reading this epic tale. Thrilled at the idea of seeing my idol at a book signing at Dymocks in the city on Friday evening, I didn't immediately process that I was rostered on to work that day in Flemington, probably not finishing until the evening.

I was devastated - it felt like Sophie's Choice. Turning down a shift in hospitality is a surefire way to NOT get offered more shifts. And work was essential to pay for rent, food and tuition. I stewed over it, finally convincing myself that I could work my waitressing shift, catch a train into the city, then leg it to the bookstore to just lay eyes on Bryce Courtenay - IN THE FLESH! But life had other plans. My shift ran late, as did the train, and I skidded into the central shopping area only to find no crowd, no one lining up for book signings, no one at all except for security personnel idly lingering around whilst the press team packing up their paraphernalia. I was winded from running, but more painfully, heartbroken for missing my opportunity. I sat at the bottom of the sleeping escalator, as the lights began to dim, and all that could be heard was the dull hum of the floor sweeper. I am not too proud to admit I cried. I was so disappointed. I was homesick, tired, overwrought with the stress of adulating in a strange city with no family nearby, and just needed a little crack of sunshine in the concrete jungle.

I could hear and feel the vibrations of footsteps descending the unmoving stairs behind me and scooted over to let them pass. They did not. The footfalls halted directly behind me and I heard the cracking of old knees as someone bent to sit on the steps directly behind me. A silver fox in a soft cornflower blue knit and well-worn brown lace-ups. You know who it was. Bryce Courtenay (I still cannot refer to him as 'Bryce' - it's sacrilegious) rested his elbows on his knees, steeped his fingers and smiled kindly. I still to this day cannot recall the exact dialogue of our conversation, but can admit that it was very one-sided. I was the ultimate fangirl - slack jawed, monosyllabic responses, dry eyes from staring so hard at the talented and magnificent Mr Courtenay. We (and by WE I really mean HE) spoke about my schooling, his plane ride to Melbourne, how cold it was in the city that evening, the eras of literature I was currently studying, and his favourite muses. He was gentle, thoughtful and a skilled conversationalist. Bryce Courtenay reached for my copy of Jessica that I was still gripping, signed it with a dramatic flourish and a pat on the shoulder, then was gone. It was only a moment time for one man, but it branded my soul forever. That one act of grace and kindness was one of the most impactful moments of my life. And yes, I still have that copy of Jessica.

Caryn De Fazio

OBSERVATIONS AND EXCENTRICITIES

As we get older it is more likely that our eccentricities become more pronounced and that is partly because we no longer worry too much about what others think. It's natural when young to want to belong and fit in with the 'in-crowd' but as with many aspects of our lives things change. For instance I have observed both in myself and others that after the almost universal idealism of youth there is a gradual acceptance of the way of things are - called conservatism (to conserve, save, keep). You have finally learned that you will never change the course of things in the bigger picture, but there is always opportunity to change your mind and yourself - called maturity (a mixture of experience most of which is suffering, disappointment and many doses of reality). Dr Quirkonomics revealed in last month's Tattler that he/she has a lucid and experienced understanding of social and political subjects, but I found the political comments about the right wing of politics dismissive and negative. I personally found that the Voice Referendum and Trump's re-election to be a restoration back to a moderate place, a pendulum swing after the extended period of idealism from the so called Woke/Green/Left of politics.

Here is my version about how some of the seemingly authoritative people maintain power and control over the common folk. Posing as experts they choose an area steeped in dense layers of complex science or the profoundly complex theology of religion and build a picture of dire consequences unless the folk pay homage to their authority by sending money and subservience to those who know better. Could this possibly be the never-ending situation with the state of the world or am I just an ignorant and uneducated septic?

My guide to living a fulfilled and contented life is to put truth before all other facets of a situation. For many in the present day truth is a dilemma because it originates from the actual power-over-all, some call it God or nature, but it must ultimately be acknowledged as - The Boss! Truth is also merciless and scary in the way that it reveals the fakery and machinations of humanity.

So long as people from every political persuasion and belief have the best interests of all at heart it is possible to learn from, appreciate and even love one another.

Mike Larkin



White Gate Dinner Christmas 2024 - so many thanks to the lovely person who left us chocolates

March is sort of in between seasons with nothing really new in season. Stone fruits, tomatoes cucumbers, zucchini etc are still producing as we wait for autumn and cooler weather so I thought I'd play with adapting a couple of my favourite recipes for a friend who is a celiac, making them with gluten free substitutes. Both were a hit!

I love tabbouleh, a Mediterranean salad using lots of fresh herbs, mainly parsley and mint but you can add chopped basil, coriander or dill if you like. The original recipe calls for bulgur wheat which obviously has gluten, so I swapped it out for gluten free couscous which is made from corn. I bought this at Woolworths and am pretty sure most supermarkets will have stock. It's more expensive than normal couscous but I think I like the flavour and texture are better!! And it is a perfect substitute for the wheat. You could of course use quinoa making sure it is marked as gluten free.

250 g gluten free couscous

300 ml boiling water

1 tablespoon of extra virgin olive oil

Salad

1 bunch continental (flat leaf) parsley

1 bunch mint

1 punnet cherry tomatoes chopped in half if small or quartered

3 Lebanese cucumbers cut into quarters lengthwise then cut to approx the same size as the tomatoes

1 red onion finely chopped or, I like, 4-5 green shallots finely chopped

Dressing

3 Tblspns lemon juice

5 Tblspns good olive oil

1 clove garlic crushed or grated

Half a teaspoon of Dijon mustard

Half a teaspoon sea salt flakes

Good grinding of black pepper

Place couscous in a medium heat proof bowl, pour over boiling water, drizzle with the tablespoon of olive oil. Cover with gladwrap and leave for 5 minutes. Fluff up with a fork.

Wash, dry and pick the leaves from the parsley and mint – you should have about 60-80 g, more is better!

Roughly chop herbs and fork thoroughly through the cooled couscous. Mix through the chopped tomatoes, cucumber and onions. Place all dressing ingredients in a jar and shake well, pour over salad and mix well. Check seasoning and add more salt and pepper to your preference.

Left overs will keep covered in the fridge for 2 days, mix again before serving.

Sometimes I omit the cucumber and add more chopped tomatoes – any leftovers I then microwave until warm and serve with slow cooked lamb shanks. Another variation is to use half couscous and add, at the end, a can of drained and rinsed cannellini beans or indeed chickpeas, making it high in protein for a vegetarian meal option.

Lemon Yogurt Cake

This is my go to, bung in the oven cake when I am in a hurry as there is very little prep required - just whisk the wet ingredients, add flour and pop into the oven. It lasts well and freezes beautifully.

Normally I'd use self-raising flour but I wanted to see how it would turn out with gluten free SR flour.

I didn't like the result with a straight swap. After mixing I felt the mixture was a little too wet so I changed the amount of gluten free flour and added some almond meal – very finely chopped almonds, which of course are gluten free. There is quite a lot of sugar in this recipe but it is counter balanced with the lemon. I have tried halving the sugar and it didn't work, the texture was totally wrong. So it's a sweet treat with a vitamin C hit from the lemons! If you can only get supermarket lemons wash and rub them well with hot water to remove the wax citrus fruit is subjected to commercially.

I find this recipe works best if all the ingredients are at room temperature before mixing. I have happily substituted limes for lemons when they are readily available.

385g caster sugar

Zest of 1 organic or home grown lemon

180 mlS vegetable oil

2 large free range eggs

60 ml lemon juice – about 2-3 lemons

280g Greek style thick unflavoured yogurt

1 teaspoon vanilla extract – optional but I like the added flavour

250g gluten free self raising flour

100g almond meal

Mix the lemon zest into the sugar by hand making sure there are no lumps of zest. Add the oil, eggs, lemon juice, yogurt and vanilla. Whisk with an electric beater until well mixed. Add the flour and almond meal, whisk again until well mixed. Pour into 2 oiled pans and bake at 350 fan forced for 45-50 minutes, until a fine skewer comes out clean. This will depend on your oven so cook a little longer if necessary. If getting too brown loosely cover with foil for final cooking. I mention this as I have a gas oven with no thermostat so I constantly battle with getting the temperature right, Grrrr !!!

The cake can be iced with lemon drizzle icing whilst still hot for extra zing! Cool before cutting. As mentioned I usually freeze one cake.

Carole

Reading a "Pages" document

A Pages file generally cannot be opened on a Windows operating system, because it has been created on an Apple/Mac device. Pages is an exclusively Apple App, and files are saved by default as ".pgs". These files are not normally readable by Windows PC's.

Apple Mac users wanting to share a file they have written in Pages, with a Windows / MS Word user (Like the Tatong Tattler), need to Save the file as a .docx Word file before submitting.

Pages does enable you to do this by going to Save As or Export and selecting .docx

Andi Stevenson and Steve Warne

CFA Brigade News

Hello All,

As I write this (Mid Feb) the fire season appears to be winding down. However, I don't want to tempt fate so I'll say no more.

Like many volunteer organisations the CFA is struggling with the challenge posed by an ageing demographic. This is the result of a reduction in the number of new, younger members joining the organisation. There are several factors that have led to this. One is a disinclination of younger people to see the benefit of volunteering their time for the greater good of the community, sad but I think true. There is also the fact that the rural population in general is ageing, resulting in fewer young people being available for the volunteer 'pool'. Another factor is the increase in bureaucracy that we have seen in relation to becoming a member.

Despite these challenges the Tatong brigade is in a fairly strong position with a number of new volunteers coming online and more in the pipeline. Many brigades would like to be in our position. It is possible that over the next ten years we could see a reduction across the state of up to 20% of CFA brigades as their declining membership renders them unviable. This is the result, some would say, of recent government neglect of the CFA in favour of FRV (Fire Rescue Victoria). Despite the systemic challenges, Tatong fire brigade will continue to grow and prosper with the support of the Tatong community. I would also like to thank those anonymous donors who have responded to the request for donations towards the new ultralight tanker. Much appreciated.

If you or someone you know would like to become a CFA volunteer you can register your interest via the CFA website or call in one Sunday morning at the fire station (opposite the Pub).

All the best,

Jason Nichols

Captain Tatong CFA



Tatong CFA Driving Roster March 2025

Date	Truck	Ultralight
2-03-2025	Jason Nichols	Jamieson Nichols
9-03-2025	Joe Hakkennes	Chris McGee
16-03-2025	Rob Erskine	Mark Osborne
23-03-2025	Leigh O'Gorman	Tim Butler
30-03-2025	Jason Nichols	Jamieson Nichols

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS TO MICHELE RAMAGE

The Molyullah Community were really pleased to announce Michele Ramage as their Community Achiever of the Year. They were absolutely thrilled when she also took out the Award for Citizen of the Year in the Benalla Rural City Australia Day Awards. Well earned congratulations to Michele.

The Molyullah Community has benefited greatly from Michele's enthusiastic approach to making improvements to the Hall and surrounds by completing many grant applications on behalf of the community. In the last few years there have been many improvements – new children's playground, outside seating, new stove for the kitchen, the massive undercover area attached to the Hall to name a few. There have been several community dinners which contribute much to the well-being of many community members – particularly those living on their own. There is no doubt that we also owe to many others our appreciation in seeing these things achieved, but without Michele's skills and enthusiasm they may not have eventuated.

The Benalla Citizen of the Year Award was given to Michele for her inspiring legacy of service and leadership. Whilst these are attributes often displayed at our local level, they were no doubt also important factors in her role as Principal of The Flexible Learning Centre in Benalla. Her great work there would also have been taken into account in her nomination for the award.

Personally, I love Michele's fierce sense of fair play, her willingness to 'have a go', and her capacity to put in the hours to get things done. I can't help feeling that Cath and Eric (Michele's late in-laws) would be thrilled to bits both with all her efforts and her winning these awards.

Big congratulations Michele!

Janette Knapper



Continued next page



Australia Day at Molyullah 2025

Ramage Family members at Molyullah - Australia Day 2025

EVENTS, EATS & ENJOYMENT By Sue O'Brien

- Sat 1st Movie Swanpool 6 pm
- Sun 2nd Wangaratta community market Mason st 8am - 1pm
- Sun 2nd Movie Swanpool 6 pm Wed 5th Whitegate dinner at Tavern 6.30 pm
- Wed 5th Whitegate dinner at the Tavern 6.30 pm
- Sat 8th Wangaratta farmers market Mason st 8am - 1 pm
- Sat 8th Movie Swanpool 6 pm
- Sun 9th Wangaratta community market Mason st 8am - 1pm
- Sun 9th Archery at rec reserve 1.30pm - See note below re weather
- Sun 9th Movie Swanpool 6 pm
- Mon 10th Movie Swanpool 1pm. 'A Complete Unknown' Fundraiser for Dr Helen Haines, Member for Indi. Tickets are \$25 & include afternoon tea. A silent auction will also be held.
- Thurs 13th Tatong dinner at the Goorambat hotel. Meet at the Tatong fire shed at 6 pm.
- Sat 15th Moyhu market 8.30 - 12.00 pm
- Sat 15th Movie Swanpool 6 pm
- Sun 15th Wangaratta community market Mason st 8am - 1 pm
- Sun 16th Movie Swanpool 6 pm
- Fri 21st Girls shed at the hall from 9.30 am
- Sat 22nd Movie Swanpool 6 pm
- Sun 22nd Wangaratta community market Mason st 8am - 1pm
- Sun 23rd Benalla Lakeside market 9 - 1pm
- Sun 23rd Archery at rec reserve 1.30 pm - See note below re weather
- Sun 23rd Movie Swanpool 6 pm

PLEASE NOTE; Archery will be cancelled if weather is above 35 degrees.

Also the Tatong dinner will be held at the Goorambat hotel on Thursday 13th March at 6.30pm, were meeting at the Tatong fire shed at 6 pm.

Everyone's welcome to attend. Please ring the hotel on 57641206 to book on the Tatong table. If you have an activity, meeting date, market, sports event or anything else you would like people to know about that's taking place in March, please send the details to tattler.whatson@gmail.com by 16th of the month please.

TATONG TOPICS – MARCH 1925

Benalla Standard 6th March 1925:

TATONG. The annual meeting of Tatong branch of the V.P.U. was held on Monday evening the 23rd, and took the form of a social evening, which was well attended. The ladies of the district, as usual, provided a sumptuous, supper. Mr. James, district organiser, was present, and gave an address which was attentively listened to. The retiring officers were re-elected, viz. President, Mr. A. Harrison; Vice- Presidents Messrs S Evans and E. Lewis. Secretary, Mr. D. H. Coghill. Mr. H. Wallace was appointed delegate to the annual conference.

A return cricket match between Tatong and Molyullah was played at Tatong on Saturday, 21st. Tatong winning by an innings and seven runs. A feature of the match was the unusual bowling feat by A. Ritchie; Tatong, who took 6 wickets with 6 consecutive balls, which is a record for this district, if not for the State.

The Benalla Standard 10th March 1925:

TATONG RAILWAY TRUST,— A meeting of the Tatong railway trust was held at the Municipal Chambers yesterday. Com. T. P. Harrison occupied the chair, and Coms A. and J. Harrison, Dallas, Green, Tames, P. Cook, Day, T. a'B. Cook, Roe, and Cowan were in attendance. An account for £3/7/6 for printing was passed for payment and the Trust account stood at a credit of £739/13/3. Com, T. P. Harrison suggested that it might be advisable to place, some of this balance in a bank at fixed deposit, where it could be earning interest. He asked members to consider this idea. In reference to rates outstanding, the amount now stood at over £500, and many delinquents were well able to pay their arrears- He thought the position unsatisfactory to the trust, and it was just about time some action was taken to collect these arrears, which, in some cases, extended over periods of one to five years. Com. A, Harrison also thought it was most unfair, and moved, "That where no notice was taken of application for rates, action should be taken by the trust." After further discussion, the secretary was instructed to insert the necessary advertisement in the paper.

The Age 11th March 1925:

BENALLA.

At a meeting of the Tatong-Benalla Railway Trust further reference was made to the immense arrears of rates owing, and as many of these amounts extend over a period up to five years the trust decided to issues final notices. The amount involved is £500, or 50 per cent, of the rates due.

The proposed water supply system at Devenish is proceeding apace, and many contracts have already been let. (*continued over*)

The State Rivers and Water Supply Commission will not make available, any portion of the grant until all works have been let consequently there is a little delay occasioned. The scheme will be in operation next season.

Though nothing further has been heard officially concerning the contemplated alterations to the police quarters, it is understood that the contract is not being proceeded with, and that a new building will be erected instead.

Reference to the poisoning of opossums was made at Benalla shire council by Cr. E. Cleary who commented on the present method of issuing licences to people other than owners of property. Many deaths of stock had been reported through the practice usually adopted by poachers. It was decided to offer a reward of £10 for information leading to a conviction.

Mr. W. Webb, of Goomalibee, who is leaving for South Australia, was presented by residents with a travelling bag, rug and wallet of notes.

Ovens & Murray Advertiser 18th March 1925:

Arthur Vicary had a marvellous escape on Wednesday last. Driving a pair of horses attached to a covered wagon he was approaching Benalla and did not see the Tatong train till too late. The horses' heads were scratched by the engine and trucks. The pole was broken, but there were no obstructions near the crossing and Vicary was unhurt.

The North Eastern Ensign 20th March 1925:

TENDERS will be received by the Deputy. Postmaster-General, Melbourne, until 3 p.m., on 31st March, 1925, for the erection of a telephone line from Tatong to Archerton, as per schedule V554.

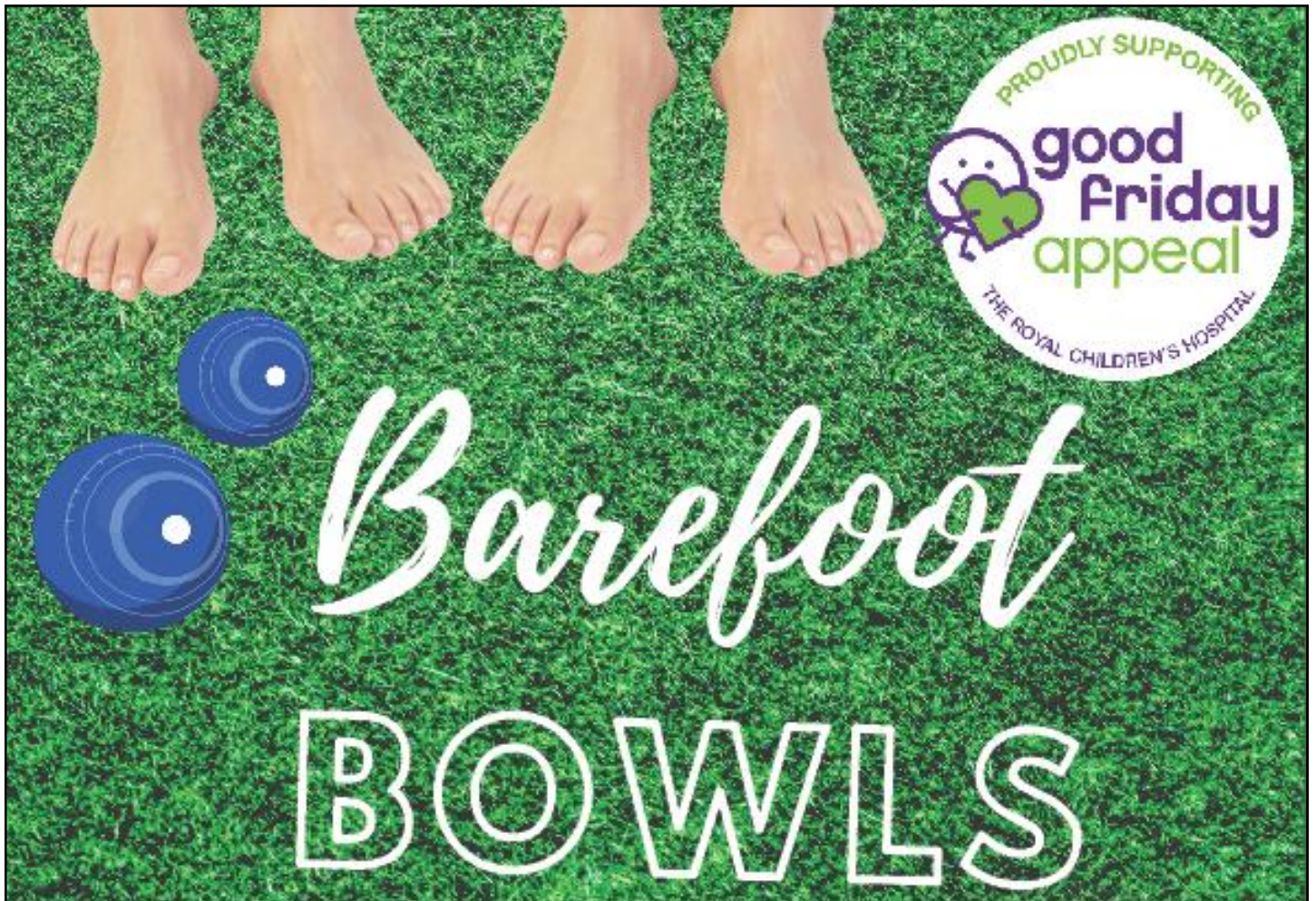
Full particulars are obtainable at Post Offices Benalla and Mansfield, at G.P.O. Melbourne. W. G. GIBSON, Postmaster-General.

The Benalla Standard 31st March 1925:

TATONG.

At a public meeting in the Tatong Hall on Saturday evening, convened by Messrs Maher and Spencer, it was decided to hold a euchre party and plain and fancy dress ball on April 17, in aid of the local cricket club. Prizes of 10/6 each for the best fancy dress and sustained character were donated in the hall; also the prizes for the euchre tournament. A strong committee was formed, with Mr. Maher as chairman and Mr. J. Spencer Jnr. as secretary. The (secretary was instructed to get tickets printed and arrange for music.

Compiled by Barry O'Connor. Tatong Heritage Group.



Help raise money for those in need

TATONG GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL

BBQ

Thursday 3rd April 2025 | 6PM
Location | Swanpool Bowls Club

Bowls & BBQ \$20 | Bowls only \$10

Drinks at bar prices

Contact Jade 0408 197 865 or Shara 0408 150 066



Proudly supported by Swanpool Bowls Club

Swanpool News

It's all happening in Swanpool in March! The Bowls Club continues to boast social bowls on Thursday evenings, with bowls available for those who don't have their own, and a sausage sizzle before the game, all for only \$6 a head.

Our local crafters invite fellow quilters, knitters, craft and art enthusiasts to join them at the Swanpool Pavilion, Albert Heaney Recreation Reserve, on Saturday 29th March for crafting and conversation, as well as tea, coffee and home baked cakes and slices. BYO lunch, and the cost to attend is \$10. Contact Shirley on 0407 682 575 for more information.

The Pavilion is also hosting a pop up pizzeria on Friday 28th March from 6.00pm, with experienced pizza chefs using the new pizza oven installed there. BYO drinks, all enquiries to Marg on 0438 295 060

And the Long Weekend will see the return of the Swanpool Motor Festival, 8.30am-3.00pm, Sunday 9th March, at the Albert Heaney Oval. Tickets \$5, children under 16 free, check out the website, <https://swanpoolmotorfestival.com.au/>

Meanwhile, the Cinema is offering 3 matinees this month. The first is the new biopic about Bob Dylan, "A Complete Unknown", screening from 1.00pm, Monday 10th March, as part of a fundraiser for Independent MP for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, and including lots of activities, such as a silent auction. Bookings essential, <https://cinema-fundraiser.raiselysite.com> The film also heads up our special Long Weekend Double Bill at 6.00pm Saturday and Sunday.

The next matinee is on Friday 14th March at 10.30am, and features Angelina Jolie as famed opera diva Maria Callas in a much lauded performance. The final March matinee is "Widow Clicquot" on Friday 28th March at 10.30am, telling the story of the woman behind the famous French champagne Veuve Clicquot, in an English language film, so no subtitles! For \$10 a head, our regular matinees include a cuppa and a biscuit on arrival, but no need to book.

The March programme also includes our regular Double Bills, including all the above mentioned films, as well as a fantastic romantic weepy "We Live In Tine", and a fantastic new film from India, "All We Imagine As Light". Pick up a hard copy of the programme from various outlets in Swanpool and Benalla, or check out our website, www.swanpoolcinema.com.au. All are welcome at our volunteer run community cinema!

Deb

Gawn to Town

It rattled and screamed and had the power to destroy the house, if not the universe. I can't actually recall my mother saying that, but small family members were strongly discouraged from going into the kitchen when the pressure cooker was in use. The "jigger" would dance about on the pipe where steam came out (which was also where the contents of the pot were not supposed to come out). I guess I was the sort of kid who might have lifted it off just to see what happened next, had I not been made terrified of the thing.

The pressure cooker my mother used was "First generation" - quite advanced on what M. Papin had invented in 1769, but still capable of blowing it's top.



A pressure cooker works not by great heat, but by taking boiling temperature above 100C to about 120C. In the pre-microwave days it must have been splendid. For my mum, coming home from work to a pack of ravenous children, the ability to produce a meal quickly would have been wonderful.

She produced great food, but didn't want children underfoot while she did it, so I learnt little from her at that time. Thoroughly traumatised by the pressure cooker, when I left home I bonded instead with a slow combustion stove. Put the baked beans in the bottom oven at night, and by the next day, voila. Who needed anything else?

Except in summer. Heaven help my great-grandmothers, having nothing but the hot wood stove to cook on in summer. Gas stove, slow cooker, anything that puts out hot steam in summer isn't fun. And one hot summer I found a Kambrook electric pressure cooker on sale.

The Pressure Cooker purists look down their noses at electric pressure cookers. A "proper" P.C. is a heavy saucepan with a heavy lid, sat over a gas ring, then held under the kitchen tap if the temperature wants dropping rapidly. Not appealing for someone who has already wrecked their neck. The electric one came with a timer, automatically turning off when done. That was jolly good, while it worked. Once it died, after a gasp of, oh goodness I'll need to get a new pc, I just used my own timer and carried on as before.

My Kambrook is a baby P.C. Nowhere do they confess it's pressure rating, and I need to add a bit of time to any standard pc recipe. But it still cooks legumes & such, much, much faster than other means.

As my sisters have pressure cookers, I had plenty of advisers. Having grown up eating meals made in one, I knew what the thing was and what to expect. It must be formidable for a newbie to take on. I've had one guest get very nervous as the pressure shriek rose up the scale (it stops once it reaches pressure).

These days the "Instant Pot" is the new improved Pressure Cooker. Combination devices will Pressure Cook, Slow Cook, cook rice, set yogurt, and probably also juggle and lead planetary invasions. They have digital read-outs and flashing LEDs all over.

But none of them know how to do Braised Chops like my mum did, and I never got round to asking her. - Andi

Recycled in memory of Kathy Z



Garden Daze

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



Oh My—What a Summer!

From wondering whether we would be needing to pack up and evacuate, to trying to keep the garden alive, to regrading the driveway after a deluge gouged large ruts down its length. And should I have mentioned the storm and fallen trees?

All things considered - we have been lucky - it hasn't been necessary (fingers crossed) to evacuate, some of the garden is still OK, only three trees landed on the fences (this time) and Peter Z has been busy with his grader blade on the driveway.

We bought two carry cages for the Guinea Pigs—should it become necessary to leave. Tho it really doesn't bear thinking about a car trip with four dogs (we are minding one for our son) and a Guinea Pig contingent!



Wider Open Spaces

It was with regret that we watched two 6 meter Acacia Floribunda trees in the garden die. We had planted these over 25 years ago and they shed some nice shade. Removal was quite a job and there is now a wide open space where they once resided.

We seem to have two different cultivars of this tree. The ones that I brought with us when we moved up here are much larger and more of a tree, and have lived for at least 25 years than the ones that we have bought since, which are more of a multi trunked large shrub and more inclined to "call it at day" around 15 years.

It has been sad to see so many of the smaller trees/shrubs in our plantations dying. Up on the hill at the back—three years ago it was really beautiful—now only the larger eucalypt seem to be surviving, and many of the smaller acacias which were "self sown" are bunches of dead sticks. Let's hope that some more benign weather over the next few years gets a few more sprouting and filling the gaps.

New Tree Plantations . . . Not Good News

A while back I was talking to Geoff Brennan just before he retired from the Goulburn Broken CMA. We were discussing tree planting and Geoff remarked that



these days the biggest problem they had when it came to getting new plantings established was the destruction caused by deer.



March 2020

Feeding the Wildlife

A small wallaby has decided that our place is his home and has eaten all the leaves that he can reach in our small orchard and any flowers that I was trying to grow either in the ground or in ornamental pots. This is during the night and sets the dogs off barking.



There is a family of possums living behind a wooden wall in one of the sheds. Either for the view or ventilation they have gnawed holes in the panels and will change position to watch us through these holes when they hear us on "our" side.

These nocturnal marsupials find rose buds and various other garden shoots quite delicious.

The King Parrots like the geraniums and can shred a small bush in no time. They also like apples, pears and nectarines.



The large goanna that has been hanging around for the past month, was suspected of getting more eggs from the chooks than we were, causing the chooks to be moved to a completely enclosed area. Likewise the guinea pigs were rapidly relocated to the "maximum security runs", when I surprised the goanna (actually this was a mutual feeling) when I came across it in the veggie garden right next to the more open runs.



The goanna is also number one suspect in the sudden disappearance of one of the guinea fowl, especially since it has been seen high up in the Chinese Elm tree where the pair of guinea fowl used to sleep at night, and immediately after the

disappearance of its mate the remaining guinea fowl went into the shed with the bantam chooks to sleep.

Time to Plant - Beetroot, Broccoli, Cabbage, Chinese Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Kohl Rabi, Leeks, Lettuce, Parsley, Parsnips, Silverbeet, Spinach, Turnip.

Easter and the Molyullah Fair Monday 13 April

If you have any spare cuttings you may have grown or something that could be dug up from the garden - (daffodil bulbs are a good seller) your donations are most welcome and help make the Stall a success.



Happy Gardening Kathy Z

Happy New Year Part II

Let us now turn to the problematic issue of refugees and asylum seekers. It is likely that refugees who enter Australia on a humanitarian visa may have an initial negative economic impact as their admission addresses broader social obligations as part of Australia's role as a global citizen. Nevertheless, once settled, they make a significant contribution to the economy, particularly in areas of shortage. Refugees resettled in regional Australia contribute to economic growth and become part of the community – the story of the Biloela family is a case in point. However, the Right will have us believe we are being 'flooded' with refugees and asylum seekers – note the emotive use of language to describe the issue. Once again, let us examine the facts. According to UNHCR data, Australia hosts almost 60,000 refugees and 80,000 asylum seekers - this latter group often has very few rights.¹ This compares to over 3 million in both Iran and Turkey, 2.5 million in Germany and over 2 million in Pakistan. Asylum seekers often come from war-torn countries such as Syria, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Sudan and Somalia. It is beyond the scope of this article to unpick the genesis of the wars in those countries, but suffice it to say they all bear the hallmarks of Western interference, and/or big power geopolitical machinations.

But we should not look at this issue in purely economic terms. Putting aside for a moment the argument that admitting migrants, refugees and asylum seekers discharges our responsibilities as global citizens, they have changed the social landscape of the communities in which they live. Just as post-war Italian, Greek, Lebanese, Vietnamese and other migrations have transformed our culture, and improved our eating and drinking habits immeasurably, so have more recent immigrants. For example, go to Flemington for Somali and Sudanese food, to Dandenong for Afghani food, and to Glenroy for food and provisions from Nepal. Without migrants of all types, our supermarkets would only be stocked with Western food to the detriment of our palates.

I will conclude this article with some statistics about crime and the issue of African gangs. But I will begin with a quote from a county court judge on the issue:

"If you are an African offender, and certainly if you're an African youth of South Sudanese background from the western suburbs of Melbourne, rest assured your case will be reported upon. The media choose to report upon those cases. That creates an impression that we, that our work, a very significant proportion of our work is taken up with African youths from the western suburbs of Melbourne. That's a false impression."²

Let's now turn to the statistics. According to the Victorian Crime Statistics Agency, people born in Australia accounted for 64.90% of the Victorian population, and 72.57% of unique alleged offenders while people born in Sudan or South Sudan accounted for 0.14% of the Victorian population, and 1% of unique alleged offenders (a unique offender rate to population share of 7)³ So, the media is right? Let's unpick the data a little more. The media and political coverage of the issue of African gangs would have us believe that they are the major source of crime – but they're most represented in robbery at 8.5 % and burglary at 3.8% of the total. The CSA suggests that the age profile of the group influences the crime rate – younger people tend to be over-represented in crime statistics, perhaps due to the fact that they, and their criminal activities, are less sophisticated. Over 40% of the Sudanese population is under 25, compared to 1/3 of the overall population, and Sudanese and South Sudanese offenders are younger than their Australian counterparts. So, we have a high number of young people who come from war-ravaged failed states with no functioning institutions, have witnessed civil war, displacement, family separation and extreme violence.⁴ Understandably they have a deep-rooted suspicion of authority. When ADF personnel return from service overseas suffering from PTSD, we quite properly regard them as needed treatment and support. Young Sudanese people, often suffering from the same ailment, are demonised by the media and politicians in search of votes. Do we really think demonisation is the way to solve the problem?

Dr Quirkonomics

1. Rather than describe the complex issue of asylum seeker rights, for those of you interested in the facts, see <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/asylum-policies/7/>
2. The Conversation, 5 November 2018
3. Victorian Crime Statistics Agency (CSA)
4. Mental Health – Submission to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System

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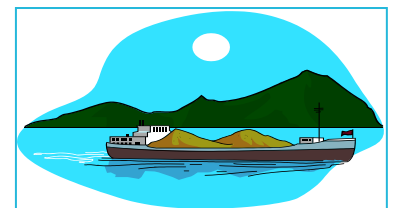


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RECIPES by Sue O'Brien

Apology about the bean recipe in last month's issue. It should have read 400g of

Cannellini beans, drained.

MEXICAN RICE

400g chicken or beef
300g frozen broccoli
150g frozen corn
100g frozen beans
1 red onion
1 carrot
200g rice
2 Tablespoons Mexican seasoning.

Dice chicken. Put into a bowl & add the seasoning to coat. Heat a small amount of oil in a large pan & add the meat. Cook chicken until brown or cook beef quickly until seared. Peel & chop onion. Add onion to the pan & cook until softened. Defrost frozen vegies & cut broccoli into small pieces & add to the meat mixture. Grate carrot & add. Mix to combine & turn off the heat. Meanwhile in a large saucepan bring 3 cups of water to the boil, add rice & cook until tender - approx 10 - 12 minutes. Drain well. Dish the rice onto plates, or put into bowls. Spoon meat & vegie mixture over the rice.

PIQUANT FRUIT CREAM SALAD

1 apple, chopped Small carton sour cream
2 bananas, sliced 4 lettuce cups
1 orange, chopped nuts

Mix apple, banana, orange & sour cream. Just before serving, pile the mixture into crisp lettuce cups. Garnish with nuts.

A Response to the “Quirks” of Dr. Quirkonomics’ February Article “Happy New Year? Is There Anything to Be Happy About?”

In the February article, Dr. Quirkonomics presents a distorted story filled with reasoning mistakes (logical fallacies) and personal attacks (ad hominem – see definitions below). For the sake of brevity this response aims to address only a few of the issues and offer a more balanced perspective, when too much of today’s discourse is so inflammatory and all too often opinion is dressed up as fact.

Logical Fallacies (Mistakes in Reasoning):

Strawman Argument:

The author simplifies the reasons people support populist movements—like Trump’s base, the UK’s Reform Party, or France’s National Rally—to just cultural or economic complaints. This ignores the broader picture: voters may align with the ideas, distrust traditional parties, or seek new ways of governing. Dr. Quirkonomics labels these groups “extreme right-wing,” but that’s not always accurate. For example, wanting tighter borders or less EU control (as in Britain or France) can be about practical priorities, like jobs or local decision-making, not extremism. (As just one example see my other article, *Trump’s Inauguration and Voter Base: Detailed Demographics*, for the facts.) Personally—and this is my view, but I’m fed up with Australia’s uni-party system, they’re a bunch of entrenched do nothings hell bent on retaining the status quo.

False Dichotomy (Fake Either/Or Choice):

The article suggests you must either accept the “elite” stance on issues like climate change or fall for populist arguments. This isn’t true. There’s space for varied opinions—like questioning asymmetrical and penalising climate policies without rejecting science altogether. Think China, they’ve approximately 25-29 nuclear reactors and 90-95 coal-fired power plants currently under construction, sure they’ve got more people, but does that sound fair?

Appeal to Emotion:

Using words like “clownish” to describe leaders like Nigel Farage, the author tries to stir emotions instead of focusing on their policies. This shifts attention away from real issues and onto personal jabs.

Ad Hominem Attacks (Personal Attacks):

The author tags supporters of some politicians as “climate deniers” or “anti-vaxxers” without exploring what they actually believe. Just watch RfKjr’s welcoming remarks to HHS staff and tell me he is anti-science or an anti-vaxxer, what a great vision he has put forward. Similarly, parties like Germany’s AfD or Italy’s Giorgia Meloni are called “extreme right-wing” or tied to “neo-fascism,” but these labels oversimplify. AfD, for instance, focuses on immigration limits and German sovereignty, not Nazi ideals, and Meloni emphasizes national identity, not fascist revival. Doubting specific climate plans doesn’t mean denying climate change, and opposing vaccine mandates isn’t the same as rejecting all vaccines. These terms dismiss and label people rather than address their points.

As an aside (my personal opinion and experience): After the past five years, if you don’t know or haven’t heard of someone who’s vaccine injured, you might be overlooking reality.

The article also describes leaders as a “loose affiliation of millionaires and billionaires” to spark dislike, instead of discussing their policies or leadership. Here’s a question: Why do we trust politicians that miraculously become millionaires on a public funded salary, yet we distrust a billionaire with nothing to gain except character assassination and the threat of actual assassination?

Propaganda Elements (Tricks to Push a View):

Selective Truth:

The author picks facts that fit the story—like claiming immigration doesn’t affect jobs or wages—while ignoring studies (even from the OECD) showing it can lower wages in some sectors. Dr. Quirkonomics downplays the international student impact on housing, but Matt Barrie argues that industry’s benefits are greatly exaggerated—watch his presentations for the numbers. The immigration numbers also speak for themselves according to the ABS a conservative estimate of net overseas migration to Australia from July 2021 to July 2024 totalled 1.15 Million people. Which is 4.35% of our total population and this figure does not include foreign born residents (which is much higher, around 30%, per ABS historical data). Almost 5% of the population are new to Australia...alarm bells anyone!! Again, watch some of Matt Barrie’s presentations to see this and other data collated into a potentially bleak outlook if we don’t bring these levels down.

Emotional Manipulation:

The piece portrays voters as misled by populist leaders due to fear or lack of understanding, suggesting they’re easily fooled. This aims to make readers feel pity or superiority, nudging them to agree with the author rather than think critically. It’s as if the message is: “I don’t want to be seen as uninformed or labelled a ‘radical right-winger’ or ‘climate denier,’ anti-vaxxer or an ‘ist’ of some kind, I must think what you think...”

Dehumanisation:

Harsh terms for opponents—like “racist,” “Islamophobic,” or “conspiracy theorists”—try to make them seem less human, so their views can be ignored. Calling nationalists “extreme right-wing” does the same, skipping over why they support border control or less EU influence. At this point though the term conspiracy theorist might be a compliment given they seem to be up 30-0 at this point and still going strong.

Polarisation (Us vs. Them):

The article creates a divide: the “enlightened” versus the “misled.” It paints nationalists as “anti-everything” (anti-immigrant, anti-EU, anti-woke), but some just want practical solutions—like protecting jobs or avoiding overreaching rules—not an extreme agenda. This “us vs. them” approach blocks real discussion. While we’re arguing, governments worldwide jail people for their opinions (just look at recent cases the UK and Germany), echoing Orwell’s 1984, Soviet gulags, or Nazi tactics.

In Conclusion:

The article, while attempting to critique the rise of populism, falls into the trap of using the very tactics (“quirks”) it might accuse others of employing. For better discussion, we should avoid personal attacks, understand why voters make their choices, and focus on policies and their effects—not oversimplified labels like “extreme right-wing.” Only a fair approach can tackle today’s significant challenges.

Definitions:

Logical Fallacy:

An error in reasoning where weak arguments or unrelated points are used without evidence. It’s a way to persuade without facts.

Ad Hominem:

Attacking a person instead of their ideas or position.

Simon Francis Tatong

Article 2

Trump's Inauguration and Voter Base: Detailed Demographics

Overview

The narrative around Donald Trump's voter base, particularly in his 2024 inauguration scenario, often narrows down to stereotypical labels like "white working-class" or "climate deniers." However, a closer look at exit polls, surveys, and demographic analyses reveals a more diverse and complex support base, whatever we might think of Donald Trump or what the media says about him the facts about his supporter base are below:

Demographic Breakdown:

Race and Ethnicity:

White Voters: While Trump did indeed gain significant support from white voters, the narrative that this was his sole demographic base is misleading.

2024 Election Data: According to AP VoteCast, about 59% of white voters supported Trump, but this was not uniform across all white demographics. Notably, Trump's support among white men was at 59%, while it was 53% among white women.

Minority Support: Trump also made inroads with minority voters. For instance, he received around 16% of the Black vote, up from 8% in 2020, and his support among Hispanic voters increased to 42% from 35% in 2020 (PBS.Org).

Education:

Non-College Educated: Trump's base included a significant portion of voters without a college degree, particularly white voters without degrees. In 2024, he won this group by 14 percentage points (Washington Post).

College-Educated: However, Trump also retained or slightly increased support among some college-educated voters, particularly among white men, where his support held steady or slightly increased compared to previous elections (CNN).

Age:

Older Voters: Trump's support was strongest among older voters. In 2024, voters over 65 split their vote about evenly with Kamala Harris, showing a slight gain for Trump in this demographic from previous elections (AARP.Org).

Younger Voters: While Biden won the youth vote in 2020, Trump made significant gains among young voters in 2024, with 46% of voters aged 18-29 supporting him, up from 36% in 2020 (GBH.Org).

Income and Class:

Working-Class: The narrative of Trump being supported by the "white working-class" holds some truth. However, his support wasn't limited to this group. He also gained votes from middle and upper-middle-class voters, particularly in suburban areas (Forbes).

Business Owners: Trump's policies resonated with many small business owners and those in industries where deregulation was beneficial, broadening his economic support base.

Gender:

Men: Trump's support among men was significant, with a 13-point lead over Harris in 2024, at 55% driven by gains among younger men and men of colour (Washington Post/ CNN).

Women: While Trump did not win the majority of women, he narrowed the gender gap from previous elections, with

his support among white women remaining strong at 53% (Independent UK / CNN).

Income Levels:

Trump's appeal was not limited to lower income brackets. He received 54% of the vote from those with household incomes over \$100,000, showing his support was broad across economic classes (CNN).

Geographical Spread:

Rural and Small Town: Trump's strongest support came from rural areas, with 54% support, but he also made inroads in suburban areas, traditionally a battleground (CNN).

Urban Areas: While less dominant, Trump's vote share in urban areas increased, indicating his appeal was not exclusively tied to rural discontent.

Motivations Beyond Labels:

Economic Policies: Many supporters were drawn by Trump's economic policies, including tax cuts, deregulation, and protectionist trade stances.

Judicial Appointments: His influence on the judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court, was a significant motivator for some voters.

National Security and Immigration: Trump's hard stance on immigration and national security resonated with those who felt these issues were inadequately addressed by other candidates.

Cultural and Identity Politics: His appeal to a sense of cultural identity and nationalism also played a role in his voter base.

By examining these demographic details, it becomes clear that Trump's voter base in 2024 was more diverse and driven by a mix of economic, cultural, and security concerns rather than just a singular narrative of blame or denial.

Simon Francis - Tatong

We have owned Vicky and Foxy for around 18 months. We enjoyed making cheese, yoghurt and getting fresh milk daily. I am looking for a like-minded person who might also like to make their own goats' cheese without the hassle of actually owning goats themselves. I am hoping to find someone local who would be interested in milking Vicky and Foxy when we go away on holidays. Please contact Leonie 0416475922 if you are interested.



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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	76.7	47	42.2	46.4	167.7	48	770.5
2025	22.5												

WEATHER IN THE TATONG TOWNSHIP

Heat is the word for January when the temperature just would not drop below 30 degrees, and much higher, day after boiling day, as was my experience. There was a total of only 22.5mm of rain for the month of January. For February up until the 15th it has been a disappointing 7.2mm of rain. As I write on the 16th of February we are having a shock cold spell after weeks of high temperatures. Clearly the weather has a mind of its own!

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. 21st March 9am—5pm



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