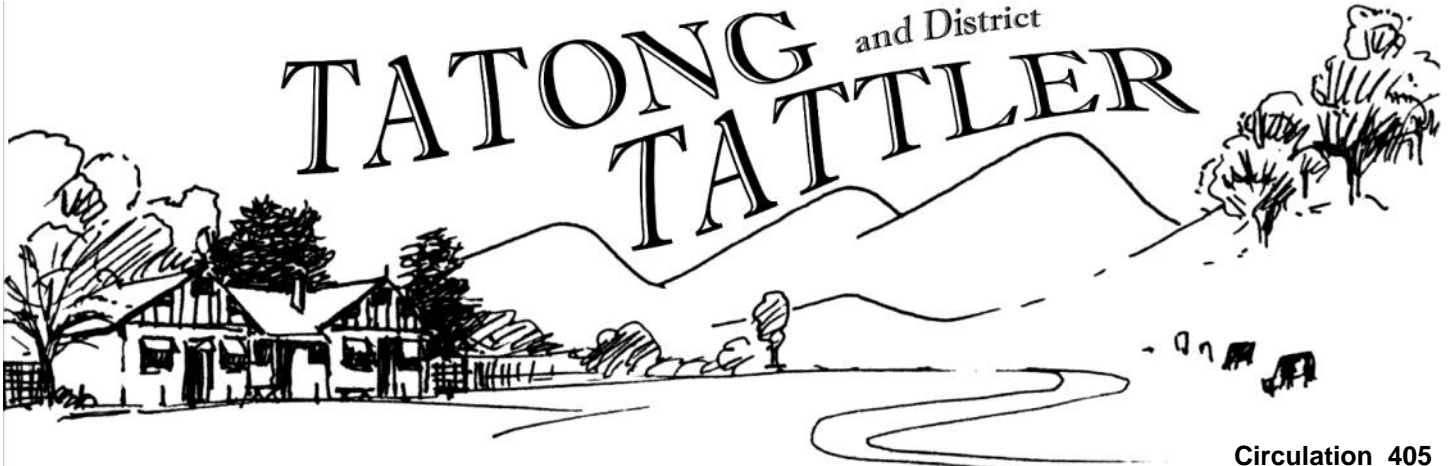


# TATONG and District TATTLER



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

Edition 397



The Tatong Heritage Group did us all proud for Saturday's event. The contributions, organisation and effort were exemplary.

The "Missing Memories" project has been completed, thanks to the resources and abilities pooled by the group.

Barry O'Connor initiated this in 2016. I find in the minutes of January 2016, "Names for unmarked graves at Moorngag Cemetery – When the weather is more suitable, Barry will meet up with Ted Exton and /or Wendy Maxwell to locate and record where the unmarked graves are." He did, and they did, and it was done.

Such good research was done by Barry O'Connor, Chick Walker, Wendy Maxwell, Greg Kirk, and many others besides. Then there were the hard yards to carry out the marking of the graves.

Adding to Saturday's contribution were the Benalla RSL, and to top it off afternoon tea, with water heated on the BBQ, all kinds of slices and cakes and best of all, Anzac biscuits. Bravo.

- Andi Stevenson, report for the Tatong Heritage Group



Benalla Ensign (Vic. : 1938 - 1954), Friday 1 July 1949, page 5

### Mr and Mrs Bob Hunter Farewelled at Tatong

Ten Years Of Residence In That Town

Mr and Mrs Bob Hunter, who are leaving Tatong to come to Benalla to go into business, were farewelled at the Tatong Hall which was packed to the doors on Saturday evening last. They were the recipients of good wishes and a parting gift of an inscribed chiming clock and a cheque. The first portion of the evening was spent in dancing to excellent music supplied by Mesdames O'Connell, Coghill, Harrison, Miss Ailsa Smith and Messrs L. Solly, D. Swainston, J. Chamberlain (drums). Sullivan brothers acted as M.C.

At midnight, Cr. A. Harrison said it was with regret that they were bidding farewell to Mr and Mrs Hunter. He had found them really good citizens, and Bob was a conscientious man in the Tatong store. He wished them all the best in their new home in Benalla. His remarks were endorsed by Messrs T. McCauley Snr., T. Sullivan, and J. Crowe. Mr Jack Stewart spoke on behalf of the Tatong Football Club, his remarks being endorsed by Mr Percy Smith, of Benalla. Mr J. Mitchell spoke for the Tennis Club. All wished Bob and Marj the very best of good health, wealth and prosperity in their new venture.

Cr. A. W. Grubb (Benalla) said Bob had been on the staff of Miller's for 15 years, 10 of which had been spent as their manager. It came as a great shock to him five weeks ago, when

Bob told him he would be leaving the firm to go into business with a friend. While Bob was in the Tatong store he had no worries, and was more than satisfied with the job he had done. He hoped he would be successful, and if at any time he could be of assistance to him, he hoped Bob would call on him. He had tried very hard to get a man to take his place, but had failed. A few days ago the business was purchased by Mr Murdock, of Rosebud. Cr. Grubb then took the opportunity of introducing Mr Murdock.

#### The Presentation

Cr. Harrison then made the presentation of a beautiful inscribed chiming clock, and a substantial cheque. All joined in singing "For They Are Jolly Good Fellows." Amidst deafening applause, Bob thanked everyone for their very nice remarks and the beautiful clock and cheque. He thanked all the people who had helped him while in Tatong, and said all he had done for them was a pleasure.

Marj, who was applauded on rising to respond, said she could not let the opportunity pass without thanking everyone for being so thoughtful during her stay in Tatong. She had made many friends, and would always look back on the happy times spent there. The singing of Auld Lang Syne brought a memorable evening to a close. The ladies served a delicious supper which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

### Shopping

The mailman also facilitated shopping for families, bringing orders from the families living in the hills, to the store and collecting the orders on the return journey.

Myra Wallace remembered some people only being able to get to Benalla once a year usually for Christmas or the Benalla Show. For them groceries were delivered to the home. For those who could get to Benalla the trip by horse and buggy was infrequent.

Nita McCauley remembers her dad always came home with a bundle of sausages which was a great treat, and a bag of boiled lollies, which was an even greater treat. Her first visit to Benalla occurred when she was about five years old and she had her photograph taken at Smith's Studio in Carrier Street.



Tatong store 1950. Photo courtesy of Bob Hunter

ways when you could leave an order at the Miller's Benalla grocery section. If you had late appointments or for some other reason were late collecting your box or bags (brown paper) of groceries, you would be assured you wouldn't go home without, as the groceries could be collected from "Garden of Roses" Café run by Cochie'.

The Tatong store was finally closed when improved road transport and competition from stores in Benalla, made it no longer a viable proposition.

Bob Hunter was the manager of the Tatong store in the 1930s and then it was sold to Ashton's.

The store fulfilled a great need for people living in the district supplying many basic products for the home and farm.

Wilma Lewis maintained two shopping lists for some time—small items from Tatong and larger orders for the weekly trip to Benalla.

Wilma found shopping in Benalla convenient in some

Tatong  
Heritage  
Group





Interview with Bob Hunter  
 Interviewed aged 86, Bob spent about 12 years in Tatong. He was born in Prahran. I spent about 12 years at Tatong. In the late 30's I was appointed as Manager of Millers store at Tatong.

The Store was opposite the Tatong Hotel and was owned by Millers Department Store in Benalla. To the best of my knowledge the Hotel was owned by a Mr Christoferson when I went to Tatong. During my stay, there were 3 different owners. Mr Stewart, Mr Claringbold and Mr Urquhart. Hotel closing time was 6 p.m.

The Tatong Post Office and telephone exchange were next to the Hotel, and looked after by the Hotel owner. If you wanted to make a phone call after hours, you had to pay an opening fee. There was no electricity during my stay, and lighting was kerosene lamps, candles and gas lamps.

The school had quite a large number of pupils, and I can remember there were 5 teachers over the year. Mr Ryan, Mr McColl, Miss J Stanton, Mr P Brady and Miss V Bartholomew.

Sporting clubs – I do not know when the clubs began, but I know that the history of Tatong Football Club goes back to 1908. Over the years Tatong played against teams from Tolmie, Molyullah, Swanpool, Winton, Violet Town, Benalla All Blacks, Mansfield, North Wangaratta, Dookie College, Glenrowan, Thoona, Devenish, Goorambat. I played for Tatong for about 12 years.

Tennis Club - Over the years we played against teams from Swanpool, Moorngag, Lurg, Molyullah, Karn, Ryans Creek. After every home football match, we would run a dance in the Tatong Hall. The ladies always provided a beautiful supper, and the men paid 2/- (20cents). The takings for 5 dances in 1946 amounted to £12 19 shillings and threepence halfpennie. In today's money almost \$26. MCs for the dances were Alby Henderson from Fern Hills, and George Sullivan from Tatong. Music was played by Mrs O'Connell and Mrs Coghil and ?? mostly old time dances. The Football Club paid £5/0/0 to the Recreation Reserve for the season.

The mailman came down from Toombullup Archerton area 3 days each week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The Mailman collected mail at Tatong and then went on to Benalla, and return. During my stay, the mailmen were Tim Brond and Bill Cross.

There was a movie made in Tatong about Ned Kelly. I think it was called the Glenrowan Affair?. Some of the locals got a part.

Rabbits were very plentiful in those days. Thousands of them everywhere. Trappers made their living from trapping. Trout and Black fish abounded in the creek.

An Indian hawker called Mola Dad used to travel the area in a large covered wagon drawn by horses. He sold all kinds of drapery and clothing etc. On each visit to Tatong he lived in an old rainwater tank, turned on its side. In the evenings he sat there smoking his peace pipe. The pipe was about 30 or more inches long. He always brought his accounts into me to check them over before he paid them. The Train came to Tatong each week. The mailman brought orders from the families living in the hills, to the store and collected the orders on the return journey. Tatong – Benalla road was not sealed during my stay.

When Miller's store in Tatong closed, the building became Kirk's garage.

# Gawn to Town

One way to water a plant gently, is to place beside it a bucket that has a hole in it. You can fill the bucket as quickly as you like, walk away and leave the gradual watering to take place. But eventually the hole might block up... so then you just poke it with a bit of fencing wire.

That is, if you can lay your hand on some fencing wire. On a farm, generally at least one shed is packed with half-used rolls of wire. New wire, old wire carefully rolled up, high tensile wire, low tensile wire, ringlock, barbed wire, heavy gauge, light gauge, and some that has rusted a bit but no-one is quite ready to pitch it.

The day may come when you have to leave the farm. If your next home has a big shed, you can take a lot of wire with you. But the day may come when you no longer have a shed and no longer have leftover rolls of fencing wire. Cos really, why do you need wire when you no longer have paddocks, cows, sheep, and crops to contain?

When you have a hole in a bucket, that's when. Or, when you want to make a tool shaped just so, and a foot of 8-gauge could be worked to do just nicely.

Or, when a gate latch fails and you could make a very handy shutting device, if only... But now all you have is a pathetic roll of tie-wire that buckles if you so much as look at it.

Worse still, I'm now told 8-gauge no longer exists. One needs to learn an entirely new language in order to describe wire. But learning new measurements doesn't help clear the blocked hole in the bucket.

"Use a skewer", said someone. But the water in the bucket was deeper than any skewer I had, and was also rather cold.

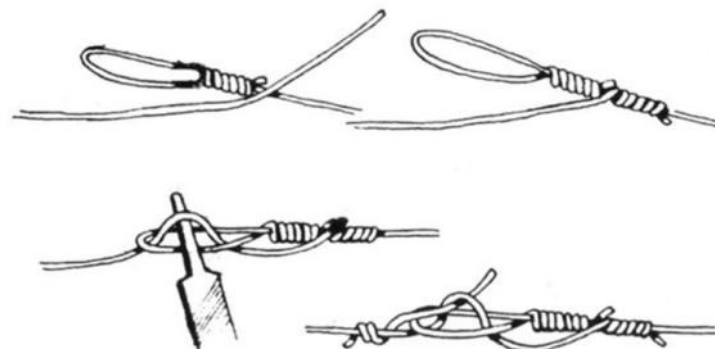
One can get very inventive with a length of wire. But then, these days the outlook is different. The done thing is to go instead to the local two dollar shop (which may by now have become a five dollar shop) and there seek tools of all kinds, imported from China. Why spend half an hour with a pair of pliers and a bit of old wire, when you can purchase a thingy made in a factory in Shenzhen, wrapped in layers of plastic, put in a container and shipped all the way to Australia? Or to be really ingenious and modern, buy a 3D printer and design the thingy on your computer then print it out.

I could have designed a dooverlacky for poking holes through 10 inches of cold water, and clearing a 1mm hole in a bucket, 3D printed it in the most beautiful pastel colours, then shared my plan online. Then it would have been pirated by a Chinese manufacturer who would set a huge factory in Guangdong to make millions of little thingummies and sell them all over the world.

Instead, I botted a bit of fencing wire off a friend, and cleared the hole in the bucket. Handy stuff, wire.

Happy watering... Oh, winter is coming! The bucket can go back in the shed. Alright, under the veranda, then.

- Andi Stevenson



4. PIN AND LOOP

**BENALLA & DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE REUNION**

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April The Benalla Saints and Past Players & Officials Association acknowledged the Football Clubs who competed in the Benalla & District Football League. Formed in 1933 the District League teams competed at various points across the League's history. Teams were Baddaginnie, Benalla All Blacks, Benalla Rovers, Benalla Thirds, Bonnie Doon, Devenish, Dookie Collegians, Glenrowan, Goorambat, Greta, Longwood, Molyullah, North Wangaratta, Swanpool, Strathbogie, Tatong, Thoona, Thornton/Eildon, Tolmie. Violet Town, Winton.

Each Club set up a display of memorabilia of their club over the years, newspaper cuttings, photos, premierships flags. Benalla had a display of District League footy jumpers. About 150 players from 1960 to 2009 returned to catch up and reminisce about the by-gone era.

Benalla and Euroa wore commemorative jumpers with the names of all BDFL clubs listed. It was a great day for Benalla Saints as all 3 footy teams recorded wins. The day was a great initiative of the Benalla Saints Past Players and Officials Association. Those past players who returned had a most enjoyable day and evening.

The League went into recess in 2009, a decision made by the VCFL This was a huge blow to the 5 remaining teams, Tatong, Swanpool, Longwood, Goorambat and Bonnie Doon who each had 2 football teams and 4 netball teams. Four of these teams joined the Ovens and King Football Netball League in 2010.

At the end of 2013 the VCFL North East Area Manager gave Tatong, Swanpool and Goorambat an ultimatum to merge with most games to be played at Goorambat. How would this work? Tatong and Swanpool were forced into recess when their request to merge and play half their games at Tatong and half at Swanpool. This was not in the VCFL's plan as they wanted 2 less teams in the Ovens and King Football Netball League.

Reserves Grade Football was introduced in 1984 where Tatong was defeated in the preliminary final. The seniors won their 8<sup>th</sup> premierships flag defeating Bonnie Doon by 63 points.

A Grade Netball was introduced in 1993, B Grade in 1995, B Reserve in 1998 and C Grade in 2000. The netballers were premiers in 1994, 1995, 1996 and 2005 but played in many Grand Finals.

Tatong played in the Mount Pleasant District Football Association winning their 1<sup>st</sup> premiership in 1908 the year of their inception, and then the Tatong/Thoona League until the Benalla & District League commenced.

There were interruptions during the war years.

In 1992 the Club celebrated the achievements of the Club's 84 year history. "Magpie Memories" "The Tradition Continues" History of the Tatong Football Club 1908 – 1992 was written. The Club was indebted to Brian (Pal) Muller and John Mitchell and their wives Dot and Dulcie on their research to produce this magnificent booklet.

In 2008 The Club celebrated the centenary and produced another book "Centenary 1908 – 2008" written by John Brogan. More research and recording of history of this great Club. Many thanks John

They may have taken our club but "They can't take away the Memories".

**PREMIERSHIP FLAG FOUND AT THE BENALLA TIP**

The 1961 premiership flag, pictured with Barry Lewis, President went missing during the 1990's. This was a mystery but in 2005 a local young guy who was working at the Benalla tip spotted this flag dumped at the tip and returned it to its rightful place. This was of great delight to the committee. Tatong scored a convincing win over Swanpool by 25 points. It was stated in the Benalla Standard that the Tatong team proved themselves not only the best side for 1961, but one of the best teams ever to win a District League Flag. Tatong also were premiers in 1960 and 1962. Making it "3 in a row" for the Pies.



The Tatong Heritage Group at their last meeting decided to investigate the possibility of a new storyboard. The storyboard would be in the form of a four sided pillar featuring stories relating to generations of local families and their contribution to the Tatong community.

Information may include family history of settlement, farming, sawmilling or other relevant activities. Ideally photographs to illustrate the information would be great.

We envisage that two stories on each side of the pillar would allow eight family stories. If you would like to contribute a story to this project please contact Les MacLean phone 0429 133 223



## **TATONG TOPICS – JUNE 1926;**

### **The North Eastern Ensign 4<sup>th</sup> June 1926:**

Vermin Destruction. At the Benalla Court on Tuesday last, before Mr T. Willman. P.M., Michael Maher (senior.) was charged by Inspector Tully, with having failed to destroy all vermin on 493 acres of land in the Parish of Rothesay.

Inspector Tully conducted the case for the department, whilst Mr. Maher conducted his own case.

Inspector Tully gave evidence 'that the land in question comprised Allotments 172, 13, and 81A, in the Parish of .Samaria, had been altered and were now :different on the plan. The land, 493 acres was all in the Tatong Riding was held by Mr. M. Maher, senior. He inspected the property on 27th February of this year when he found rabbits and burrows. He posted a notice of warning on 1st March, and made another inspection on 19th' March, when he counted 87 rabbits in 264 burrows. He saw no evidence of accused having 'complied with the proclamation'. He made a third inspection on 5th May and found that nothing had been done.

Michel Mahr the accused, said that the land he held was of poor quality. He had secured it 10 years ago, and had battled with it ever since. During 6 or 8 months of the dry season there was no water on it; and the only part that the rabbits were on, was the end the inspector came in. They had been there, but were few of them. He thought 87 rabbits and 264 burrows a very small quota on 493 acres of land; There were 20 acres held near him which was owned, by the .Benalla Shire Council and nothing had been done on this. The PM. fined Maher. £1 with 8/3d costs.

### **Benalla Standard 8<sup>th</sup> June 1926;**

Watts Turnbull & Co;

Wednesday, June 30.—Clearing sale on a/c Mrs. S. A. Sullivan, Tatong.

Monday. June 21.—Sale of Devenish property, a/c Mrs. C Smallwood.

Thursday. June 24.—Clearing sale at Goorambat, on account Mr. J. R. Meikle.

### **Benalla Standard 11<sup>th</sup> June 1926;**

ESTATE OF L. A. M. Ritchie.

The estate of Lawrence Austin Miles Ritchie, sawmiller, of Tatong has been voluntarily sequestrated. Mr Tweed, of: Wangaratta, being appointed official assignee.

The schedule, which was filed on June 3rd gives the amount of debts, of unsecured creditors, was £1785, and the assets £772/12/8.

The causes of insolvency were given as the lack of sufficient capital to start in business, inability to collect outstanding accounts, sickness, and death . in the family and pressure of creditors.

### **The Age 11<sup>th</sup> June 1926; (abridged);**

Benalla has an average rainfall of 23 inches well distributed throughout the year and has a very healthy climate. Its progress has been marked, already it is an important railway centre, with a large up to date workshop. and engine sheds, and is the junction for the Yarrawonga and the Tatong line. With the possibility of a railway connection from Dookie to a point on the Yarrawonga line south of Devenish, and the ultimate construction of the Oaklands railway, it will facilitate traffic and transport from the Goulburn Valley, and turn the greater part of the Riverina grain through Benalla, to the seaboard. Benalla is now the headquarters in the north-east for the police superintendent, the postal inspector, and the State Electricity Commission's offices.

### **Benalla Standard 18<sup>th</sup> June 1926:**

A presentation was made to Miss Mc Laughlin.. the junior teacher at Tatong State School, on her departure to take up duty al St. James. .Miss. Mary Evans. the senior girl of the school, presented her with a xylonite tray and a gold mounted fountain pen, at the same time wishing her success in her now school. Miss Mc Laughlin in a short speech, thanked the parents and children for their gift and good wishes.

The Tatong Rifle Club range has been passed by the inspector, who was well pleased with it and the manner in which the work was carried out. He complimented the Captain, (Mr. J. Spence) and hon, secretary (Mr. J. Hay) very highly on their work, and was explicit in bestowing thanks for courtesies shown him on his visit. The committee is very anxious that all members should complete their musketry course this month, in order that each member may be classed as efficient for the ensuing twelve months.

A largely well attended meeting was held in the Tatong Hall last Friday evening to consider what steps should be taken to mark the approaching departure of Mrs. Sullivan and family. A strong committee was formed, and a farewell evening will be tendered on Friday, 20th inst.

### **Benalla Standard 18<sup>th</sup> June 1926 (abridged);**

VFU. TATONG BRANCH MEETING.

On Saturday evening the monthly meeting of the Tatong branch of the Victorian Farmers' Union was held, presided over by .Mr. A. Harrison (president). correspondence was received from Mr. Robert Cook. M.P.. stating that should the metallic circuit from Tatong to Swanpool for the telephone be unsatisfactory, he was to be informed. -It was decided that the telephone line was now satisfactory with the effects of the electricity high tension line on the Mansfield road having been overcome.

Compiled by Barry O'Connor. Tatong Heritage Group.



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For use, contact a Tatong Tattler Committee member, or email [tatongtattler@yahoo.com.au](mailto:tatongtattler@yahoo.com.au)

*Donation to the amplifier's maintenance is appreciated.*

### EMBARASSING AND DEBILITATING ACCIDENT

My lifestyle tumbled out of control last Wednesday (13<sup>th</sup>) when I lost balance while standing on the soft cushions on our front veranda and as my leg was also somehow tangled in a nearby chair I crashed headlong to the floor taking all bodyweight with my left hand/wrist. I felt something snap or give and when I looked at it the wrist was strangely bent, at which point the shock struck and I walked quickly to get inside lie down with feet up before I fainted.

As it happened the knuckle bones at the ends of radius and ulna bone broke apart making the left arm a painful 'passenger'. Then came the realisation that I could barely operate a zip let alone drive a car or do many other even harder tasks. This humbling reality meant that I became almost fully dependent upon my wife Maeve and she was scheduled, within two days, to help mind two granddaughters at Philip Island for a week. There was no other option but to go with her and so here I am typing my Tattler contributions by a single finger at Zoe's in PI.

Naturally I am hopeful of a smooth and timely recovery, not the situation for a man I met in a Cowes Op Shop. I swapped stories with him when I noticed him wearing a similar arm support strap to me which he said he had been using for over 6 months because his collar bone injury needed an operation leading to an infection!

Mike Larkin

COME ALONG TO

# THE GIRL'S SHED

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. Cathy 0488 377 243  
Our June Girls Shed will be on Friday 19th June.

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## TATONG PICNIC SPORTS MEETING

To be held on

**SATURDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 1935**

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HORSE EVENTS  
KICKING FOR GOAL  
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STEPPING THE CHAIN  
GUESSING THE HEIGHT OF POLE  
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THROWING AT WICKET

Publican's Booth, Refreshment  
Stalls, etc, on the ground. Hot water provided

Admission 1/6, Children under 14 free.

**GRAND DANCE AT NIGHT.**

**Gents, 3/; Ladies, 1/.**

**CR HARRISON, Pres.**

**GEO. ROBERTSON,  
Hon. Secretary, Tatong.**

\*from Mansfield Courier, ? March, 1935.



# TATONG TAVERN



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## Miscellaneous Announcements

The next Girls Shed will be from Friday 19th June at the Tatong Memorial Hall.

The next Tatong Dinner will be on Wednesday 10th June at 6.30pm at the Tatong Tavern.

The next Whitegate Dinner will be on Wednesday 3rd June at the Tatong Tavern

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Breville Kitchen Wizz\* 8. Complete with jug, blender & all attachments. \$250 ONO. Phone Sue 0417418136



An update to the Victorian School Swimming State finals held in Melbourne on April 23rd. Benalla's FCJ College achieved some outstanding results. Tilly De Fazio Bronze Medal in 50m butterfly and Silver in 50m freestyle. Chloe, Sophie, Olivia and Tilly, Bronze in 50m medley relay. Chloe, Tilly J, Sophie and Tilly D Gold, STATE CHAMPIONS, in freestyle relay. An amazing achievement for a small, country swimming club reflecting the dedication of the swimmers and their coaching team.



Do You have some Tatong News?  
Tatong Tales to Amaze, Advise, Amuse?  
Tales of Tatong days long gone?  
Tell your Tattler what goes on!

## Swanpool News

Wishing our table tennis teams all the best, one way to keep warm over winter!

Our Oval Pizzeria continues to draw the crowds, with the next Pizza night scheduled for Friday 26 June, from 5.00pm. Takeaway is available, and payment can be made by cash or card, BYO drinks. A completely volunteer run event, all proceeds go towards upkeep of the Oval facilities. All enquiries to Marg, 0438 295 060.

Anyone grieving a loved one is invited to join The Butterflies Bereavement Support Group, next meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June. For more details, call Lesley Hupe on 0412 111 397 or Debra Huby on 0429 193 564.

The Cinema begins June with a matinee and Double Bill screenings of a new blockbuster, "The Devil Wears Prada 2", featuring the same stars who were in the original wildly successful film in 2006. The rivalry between legendary fashion editor Miranda Priesley (Meryl Streep) and her former assistant Emily Charlton (Emily Blunt) has intensified as print media is losing the battle with digital platforms, and Miranda is nearing retirement. Every bit as stylish and entertaining as the original, this is not to be missed!

Our second matinee is more sobering, being a fundraiser organised by a group of patrons to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and featuring a harrowing but powerful film, "The Voice Of Hind Rajab". January 29, 2024. Red Crescent volunteers receive an emergency call. A 5-year-old girl is trapped in a car under fire in Gaza, pleading for rescue. While trying to keep her on the line, they do everything they can to get an ambulance to her. As complications continue to arise, the situation becomes increasingly more difficult, and responders are forced to juggle protocol, panic, and moral urgency while trying to comfort Hind amongst negotiating an impossible reality. Unlike the rest of our programme, bookings are essential for this event, and can be made through Humanitix Events.humanitix.com/the-voice-of-hind-rajab-r2j2je7b

We finish our season over the last weekend of June with an entertaining new film starring Hugh Jackman and an unlikely group of sheep detectives, "The Sheep Detectives", screening with a popular new film starring Ryan Gosling, "Project Hail Mary", sure to please a range of patrons! And we will also be screening some great foreign language films as well as the Oscar winning new documentary "Mr Nobody Against Putin".

Following this fun Double Bill, we will close for our annual winter break, but in a departure from previous years, we hope to screen this year's iconic Swanpool Environmental Film Festival on 11 July, watch this space for more details! All details are on our webpage,

[www.swanpoolcinema.com.au](http://www.swanpoolcinema.com.au), and on our printed programmes, available at our usual outlets in Swanpool, Benalla and Mansfield. We look forward to seeing you!

*Deb*

## White Gate News & Dates



The next White Gate dinner @ the Tavern is slated to happen on June Wednesday 3rd. Book yourselves in & arrive 6:30/7-ish. Recently we had a few more 'genuine' White Gate people, quite a treat. Too many of us have retreated from the countryside to the decadence of town, or are sort of honorary White-gations, by grace of living not too many kilometres away from that geographical spot.

We're talking Winter, and may the nicest aspects of winter come to you. Thinking Golden Syrup Dumplings, and steaming pasta dishes; sunlit frosty mornings when you can enjoy the sparkling world (and haven't had to get up at 5am and forgotten your gloves) - *Andi Stevenson*

### This month on the De Fazio Dairy farm

We have a new chook house near our place. It is movable, on wheels, at present it is near us. The chook house is pretty ingenious, Matthew has put in place a timer to open automatically and close at a set time.



Watching the chooks has become a rather soothing pastime. The way they chatter together, clucking away, almost as if discussing the latest episode of MAFS. Whenever a car drives past they race to the fence expecting kitchen scraps.

There is of course a 'pecking order' with King Rooster at the top. Farm chooks are the ultimate multi taskers, natural pest control, soil tillers and endless entertainment with the addition



of fresh eggs. Happily turning yesterday's pasta into high quality fertilizer.

*- Linda De Fazio*



### White Gate Fire Brigade Roster:

Noel Hutchens	31 May	Andrew Marriott	28 Jun
Jason Humphries	7 Jun	Terry Trounson	5 Jul
Norton Grimwade	14 Jun	Dave Sweatman	12 Jul
Henry Thorne	21 Jun	James Parton	19 Jul

# 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



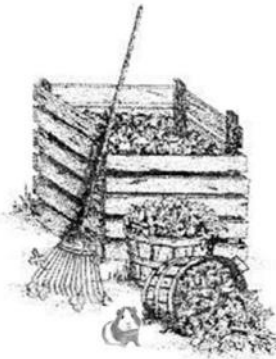
Winter arrived with some very cold

mornings - let's hope that it also brings some very welcome and much needed rain to fill the water tanks and dams.

Catching up with some garden jobs should help to keep us warm.

**Autumn** means falling leaves, and we have a lovely carpet of coloured leaves covering most of the garden.

I find that my small battery operated mower with its catcher is an ideal way to collect not only the leaves, but a mix of leaves and grass - which makes a great addition to the compost heap. Layered with collected, chook, cow, alpaca and even guinea pig poo - the heap heats up nicely - which will kill any unwanted seeds.



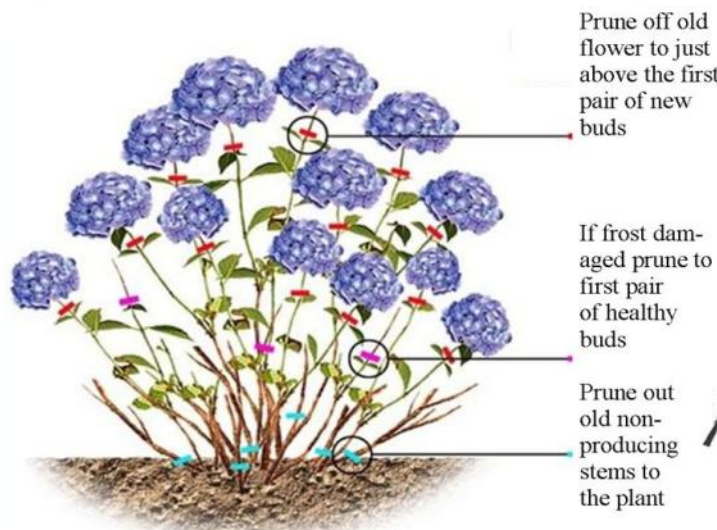
With rain (ever the optimist) come the weeds - this is the time to remove weeds before they mature and set seed.

Be careful to remove roots and all, and use a garden hoe or tiller for larger areas.

### Fruit trees can be pruned now.

We have been cutting ours back to be able to cover them with fruit fly netting when they have formed the fruit in Spring. This year the trees that were covered completely had no fruit fly damage. Winter is also a good time to prune for structure on young deciduous trees. Because these trees are without leaves, the form of the tree can be seen easily, so crossing wood, double leaders and a plethora of other problems can be picked up early.

Hydrangea pruning can also be done now the flower buds have set. The old wood can be pruned out and the shrubs pruned back to those healthy fat flower buds for a good display next year.



The saying is to "Take time to smell the roses" - well no flowers in winter so "Take time to prune the roses" - any time from June - July onwards is fine.

When the job is finished, an application of a seaweed-based product will condition the soil and help the plant with drought tolerance, resistance to frost and attack from pests and disease.



**Tidy up the Vegie Garden.** Enrich the soil with compost and start planning next season's crops. It's also a great time for planting brassicas (such as broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower), lettuce and Chinese vegetables.

**Consider starting something new.** A while back a segment on *Gardening Australia* featured the garden of an interior designer.

Here the designs were for garden rooms not interior rooms, but the gardener had used the same principles as he used for his interiors. I liked the effect and thought that I'd try to make a couple of our areas where we have tables and chairs more "room like".

See: *Gardening Australia Series 32 Ep 12 "Tropical Barossa"*

**A few more natives** added to the garden will help feed the birds, bees and butterflies. This will also do wonders for pollinating the vegies and fruit trees and reduce the number of pest insects. A couple to consider:



Sweet Bursaria



Leptospermum continentale (Prickly Tea-tree)

### Good Tip:

(again from Jane on *Gardening Australia*)

If you use liquid fertiliser, you will know that this can be quite messy and awkward to pour.

Replacing the cap with one from a plastic sauce bottle will fix the problem and can be sealed off with a twist.



Happy Gardening

Kathy Z

### Wordsearch 'Nothing Paltry about Poultry...'

#### Backyard Chooks

P	X	E	W	E	I	K	L	I	S	U	N	N	B	M
E	P	R	O	L	A	R	T	S	U	A	K	O	A	A
K	U	A	P	M	X	E	U	A	D	N	H	T	R	N
I	B	W	H	Z	T	S	S	U	P	U	N	G	N	C
N	Z	A	C	W	S	B	O	I	E	A	O	N	E	O
A	R	N	I	E	E	H	U	V	B	C	F	I	V	N
B	E	E	X	Q	B	L	N	E	R	A	R	P	E	A
I	N	T	W	U	G	O	S	W	U	R	I	R	L	H
X	I	T	E	K	A	E	N	U	I	A	Z	O	D	N
V	L	O	I	B	N	P	X	R	M	E	Z	A	E	I
T	Y	D	E	A	T	U	Z	A	O	M	L	Q	R	H
C	H	N	P	O	L	I	S	H	U	H	E	G	A	C
D	N	A	L	S	I	E	D	O	H	R	G	R	I	O
I	J	Y	D	O	R	K	I	N	G	U	I	E	O	C
E	X	W	K	C	O	R	H	T	U	O	M	Y	L	P

ANCONA	PLYMOUTH ROCK
ARACAUNA	RHODE ISLAND
AUSTRALORP	SILKIE
BARNEVELDER	SUSSEX
BRAHMA	WELSUMMER
COCHIN	WYANDOTTE
DORKING	
FRIZZLE	
HOUDAN	
HYLINE	
JAPANESE BANTAM	
LEGHORN	
ORPINGTON	
PEKIN	
POLISH	

The Tattler welcomes another puzzle from contributor Amanda Greene.



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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	13.5	66.5	8.9	20.9	81.8	118.2	51.9	34.4	49.7	74	70	622.3
2026	0.5	52.8	50.3										103.1

Weather for the Tatong Township

Unfortunately I can't report any rainfall details because I left them at home and I am at daughter Zoe's home on Philip Island, see story on page 7.

Mike Larkin

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**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.

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Submit via e-mail to [tatongtattler@yahoo.com.au](mailto:tatongtattler@yahoo.com.au), leave in the Tattler Mailbox beside the Tavern, or send by post to the Secretary.

Secretary: Linda De Fazio, PO Box 588 Benalla 3671,  
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