

VOL 4 EDITION 5  
JUNE/JULY 2014

# North

by NORTH-EAST

COUNTRY LIFE IN NORTH-EAST VICTORIA

*Kim Stoney*

Mansfield's go-getter

*Strathbogie Beer*

Brewing in the hills

*Bob Gale*

Old style timber man

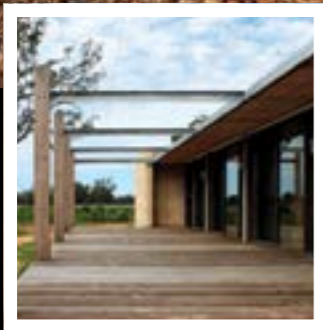
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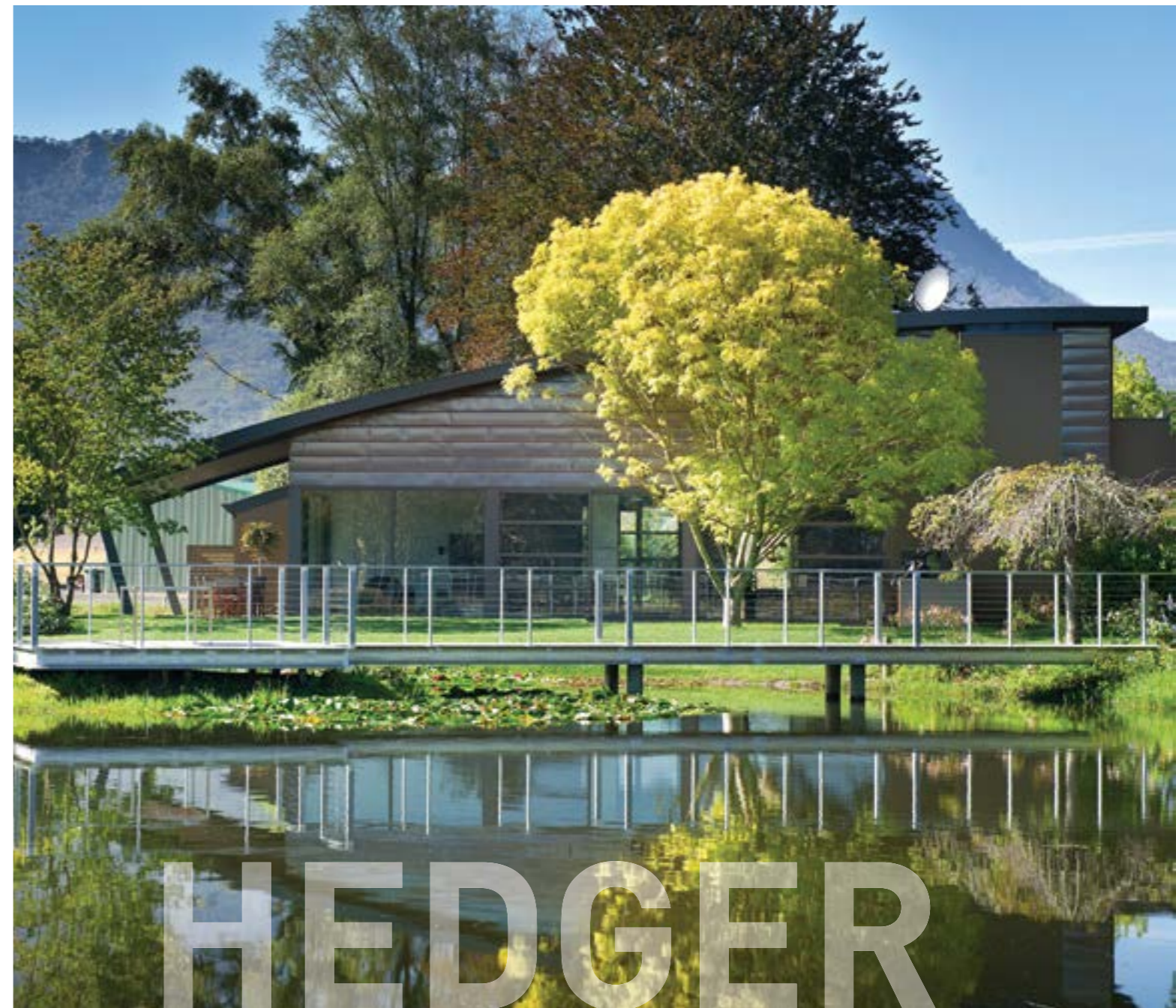


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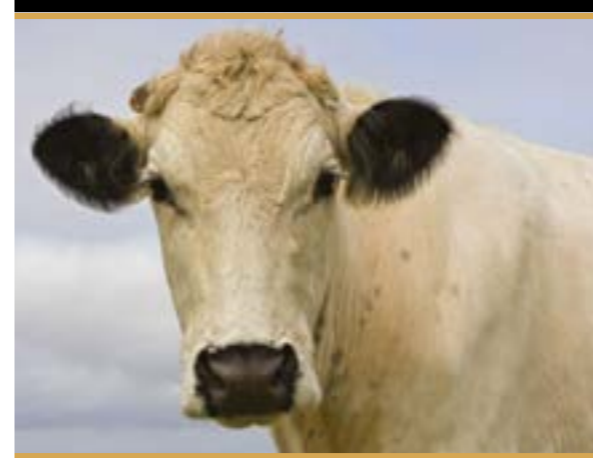
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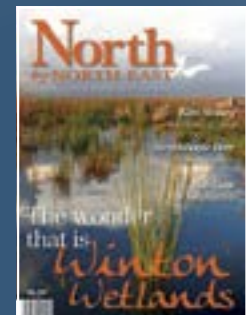
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ON THE COVER  
 The Winton Wetlands occupy about 3000 hectares between Benalla and Wangaratta and is recognised as the biggest restoration of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.  
 Picture: Courtesy Chris Tzaros and the Winton Wetlands Committee of Management

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Go to the NNE Guide pages to find that person or business you need to design, fix, maintain or build.

# Welcome to the bi-monthly editions

**W**e have a few changes we should tell you about with this edition of North by North-East.

For a start, we have a change of frequency. This edition is the June and July edition, meaning we have gone bi-monthly rather than monthly. There are a number of reasons for this, but importantly for advertisers, it means their message is "alive" for two months, rather than one.

And the area covered by the magazine is virtually doubling. For the past few months, we have published a separate edition for the area north-east of Benalla, but have been continually asked by many for the "other version" (Murrindindi, Strathbogie and Mansfield) as well. It has become clear that NNE should really be covering the whole of North-East Victoria with one issue as there are so many similarities between the various communities.

From this issue, the retail price of the magazine has also risen from \$4.95 to \$5.95 due to ever-increasing production costs. We hope it stops there for some time. Existing subscribers will not see an increase until their next subscription is due and new subscribers will find they can keep the price at \$4.95 by subscribing for a year or more.

With this edition of NNE we cover the broad area between Marysville to Bright, from Wangaratta to Nagambie. It gives lots more scope to cover issues of broader appeal while still looking at the



Rory Martin from Bridgestone Service Centre in Mansfield, takes a well earned break with a copy of NNE. Clearly, this picture was staged, but Rory does assure us that he very much enjoys reading the magazine. Picture: NICOLA TILBURY

people and events we should be proud of – regardless of which township they come from.

Fitting the qualification of broad appeal in this issue is the story on the redevelopment of the Winton Wetlands. As John Larkin reports, this project has been the largest restoration of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere with the water area alone taking up some 3000 hectares. John's feature starts on page 34.

In Mansfield, there's many a person rightly proud of what one person has

done for childcare in that town. We're talking about the remarkable Kim Stoney, the brains behind The Farmhouse on the edge of town. Her story starts on page 19.

The early history of Victoria saw a number of timber mills around our then heavily forested areas. Bob Gale grew up in a mill town before the Second World War and some of his memories are worth bottling. See Julia Foletta's story on Bob starting on page 28.

There's the women learning polocrosse at Bright (page 12), the centenary celebrations at Acheron (page 14), the Bright Autumn Festival (page 24) and the soon to be opened water discovery centre at Yea (page 42).

Weddings are covered from page 52, the gardening section starts on page 56 and the animal section starts on page 60. In the Food and Wine section (starting page 64), we look at a brewery in the Strathbogies, an unusual dinner at Taggerty, eat out in Yea and have high tea at Strath Creek, and Ian Dunn recommends some wine from near Glenburn.

The arts section starts on page 86 and Property on page 96.

We hope you enjoy this wintry June and July edition and look forward to receiving your feedback.



Glen Rohan  
Publisher and Editor

# Let the snow season begin



**W**hether your choice is Mt Buller, Falls Creek, Mt Stirling, Lake Mountain, Mt Hotham, Mt Buffalo or Dinner Plain – it's time to 'head for the hills' or, for those of us who live in this beautiful region, it's 'the mountains' time.

The 2014 snow season officially commences on Saturday, June 7, the first day of the Queen's Birthday holiday weekend.

Skis and snowboards are being waxed and the fittings checked; last year's stored snow gear is scrutinised for holes or if your trend is to wear the latest in ski gear, the local fashion ski suppliers are being inundated.

It is a matter of choosing your destination and the choice is lofty to say the least. This is where the dilemma lies; which one of the various slopes at our finger tips do you choose on any particular day.

The mountains are part of us in the North-East. We live in and around them, be it on their slopes, in their foothills or in some of the splendid valleys; and it is wonderful to listen to the locals speak of the great day they have just had on the slopes. Unlike our family and friends who have to travel, we who live here have all

of the snow adventure options available to us literally at our door steps. Snow capped mountains greet us daily on the horizon as we go about our livelihoods.

Snowboarding, cross-country skiing, down-hill skiing or just to play and sightsee, we have it all.

How lucky to be able to bundle the kids in the car and head to the mountains for the day. And, of course, there is always the opportunity to decide to stay for a night of two or just to head back down the mountain and be at home in no time.

There is even the option for the local school children to spend part of their school term on the mountains where learning takes on a whole range of new experiences.

For us in the NNE region, the snow season is not only a time for preparing ourselves to enjoy the snow but also clearing spare rooms to make way for the visitors who come to stay, briefly, on their way to delights that await them in the snow. NNE

Picture courtesy of Hotham Alpine Resort

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# Learning the fine art of *polocrosse*



**F**our splendid looking horses with four fine young women astride their mounts surround their coach Sheree Webster from Mudgegonga who is standing, holding a wad of papers while explaining the rules of polocrosse. The group is in the centre of the fenced arena of the Bright Pony Club grounds.

The looks on the girls' faces are earnest while the horses stand patiently awaiting their riders' instructions. Each girl holds a polocrosse racket and Sheree carries the ball. The girls all appear a bit perplexed, but all are anxious to have a go.

Polocrosse is a combination of polo and lacrosse and the women were having their first lesson on how to play the game, albeit at a much, much, slower pace.

Once the ball was released, the girls and their horses and Sheree had a lot of fun putting into practice the newly learnt rules of Polocrosse.

They may not yet be a part of the Victorian team for 2014, but they are working at it. **NNE**

Pictures: LYNNDA HEARD

Pictured left are members of the Bright Pony Club at their first Polocrosse lesson.

Bottom picture from left to right: Matilda Hutton on Isabelle from Towonga. Bridie Armstrong is almost hidden on Exulting from Bright. Taylor Farmer on Lonnie from Bright. Sheree Webster (standing) is coach and life time member of Bright Pony Club, from Mudgegonga. Lauren O'Callagher (far right) on Joker from Mudgegonga.



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# Acheron's history to be celebrated



The community of Acheron is preparing for major celebrations to commemorate 100 years of its Mechanics' Institute Hall. JULIA FOLETTA and JOHN THORP report

**I**t's been 100 years getting here, but now the community of Acheron is preparing for its big weekend in mid-June.

The Acheron community will celebrate the centenary of the Acheron Mechanics' Institute Hall in McColl Lane and the launch of its history book on Sunday June 15 from 2pm until 4pm.

Restoration and renovations have increased the hall's functionality, while its delightful old world character has been retained. Despite progress, the unique nature of this rural locality continues and some original families are still farming there. Anyone with past associations or an interest in Acheron is welcome to help celebrate the hall's 100 year history at the centenary ceremony.

The day will include a presentation of a plaque by the Mechanics' Institute of Victoria and the launch of a full colour book, 'Acheron: a history of the district', written and produced especially for the centenary. The book will be on sale on the day – soft cover version \$50 and hard cover version \$70.

The ceremony will also include the drawing of the Acheron Hall raffle with the winner receiving an oil painting of Acheron Valley by Wykeham Perry. Afternoon tea will be provided and there will be a planting of a centenary tree.

Also planned is a bus tour of Acheron historical sites, at no cost to participants, on the Saturday and Sunday mornings (June 14 and 15). The bus departs each morning at 9.30 from Rennies Restaurant in Breakaway Road, Acheron and returns to the restaurant at 11.00am when a light morning tea will be served.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Contact: Gwen or Mary on 5772 2143 or 0429 028 661 or email: mafandgmd@virtual.net.au

For further information see details on Acheron Hall website: [www.acheronhall.com](http://www.acheronhall.com). **NNE**

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# Alexandra's day to shine



There must be hours, days and in some cases, weeks of work put in by the owners of the trucks and utes to bring them up to the amazing standard for them to enter the annual Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show on Sunday, June 8 (Queen's Birthday weekend).

These are working trucks, out there on the road hauling all manner of cargo across the country, but on this Sunday in June it is their turn to shine, and wow, do they ever shine. Then there are the utes and hot rods in all their glory and displaying definite individuality.

Thirty vehicles entered in the 2014 Variety Club Truck Bash will also conclude in Alexandra after having travelled as far as Nyngan in central west NSW before returning through north-east Victoria. Those vehicles will also be on show in Alexandra's Rotary Park.

Alexandra has embraced the show and created a day full of family events and displays featuring vehicles for all. Then there are children's amusements, general retail shopping opportunities and, in a quieter contrast, there is the local quilting group display held in the Alexandra town hall.

On the stage is live music, this year including Jetty Road and Greg Champion of ABC radio Coodabeen Champions fame.

All up it is a truly great day and all happening in the main street of Alexandra. Be prepared to spend the day as there is so much to see and partake in.

For more information go to the website: [www.alexandratruckshow.com.au](http://www.alexandratruckshow.com.au). **NNE**

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Kim Stoney is the woman whose determination to move quickly on providing a much-needed child-care centre in Mansfield saw her win huge community support. PAT O'BRYAN reports

Kim with her own children in the playground of The Farmhouse. From Left to right; Jack, Bella, Kim, Tilly and Sam

# Kim Stoney: Mansfield's go-getter

Heading out of Mansfield on the highway towards Melbourne, one can't help but notice the 100kmh zone starts directly outside The Farmhouse, the country style childcare facility started by Kim Stoney late in 2011.

With the farmhouse built well back from the road on about five hectares, the speed limit is of no concern to the safety of the children, but in many ways it seems apt for Kim Stoney – for this is one go-getter of a person who seems to be forever running, almost incapable of being limited by lesser speeds – or people.

Back in 2008, Kim Stoney was one of many who could see the need for more childcare facilities in Mansfield. She was then pregnant with her third child and the waiting list for childcare in the area was two years. Council had plans to do something about it, but the delays seemed to drag on and on.

Kim set out to rectify the problem. As she says, "It was all about responding to what the community was after."

Kim's can-do attitude came into play and she set about making The Farmhouse happen. There were no grants or other support forthcoming from council or other levels of government, so it was all independently funded by Kim.

From the start, Kim wanted the place to be different from the usual concrete and high-walled structure. She wanted a childcare centre that reflected the fact that its users lived in the country.

"Our kids were being brought up on a farm and I wanted the place to reflect that, to have the same experiences we have on the farm."

And so in October 2011, Kim, then with four children under five, opened the centre with room for 70 children where they learn everything from growing plants to looking after sheep.

While it was private Stoney money that paid the bills, the construction of The Farmhouse was from using local people. "We insisted on using local

tradies; the people who dug the holes, built the walls and fences were all local."

Kim had come to Mansfield after a high-flying type of life where she had many important positions in marketing and tourism.

Raised on the Mornington Peninsula, the then Kim Osbourne went to Toorak College at Mt Eliza before deferring university for a year while she travelled.

At school, Kim had always been active in sport and dancing and when the money started to run out in Scotland, she ▶



The Farmhouse animals delight young and old



Kim with Larnie one of the dedicated staff



Inside one of the kinder playrooms

found a job in a preparatory school at Crieff as a teacher's assistant and sports coach.

At home, Kim had excelled in performing Highland and Irish dancing since she was a kid. "I loved it so much," she says.

Ironically in Scotland, her dancing talent was appreciated as, in Australia, she hadn't been constrained to a strict formula of dancing. They liked what the young Aussie girl was doing with their dance.

"They were amazed at my steps – more flamboyant – they wanted me to teach them," she says. "So they included teaching dance at Crieff."

Back home 12 months later, Kim studied for her Bachelor of Business at Victoria University in Melbourne.

But her days at Victoria University were short-lived. "I'm an impatient Aries, so went to work as marketing coordinator at Cathay Pacific Airways and studied full-time by correspondence through Monash Uni."

Loving her days in marketing and tourism, Kim found herself at Contiki, a sister company of AAT Kings in Sydney, before becoming sales manager for Hamilton Island, where she spent every second week.

As sales manager, Kim travelled far and wide. "My territory covered Australia, New Zealand and Asia." It was a role she loved. "It was fabulous – great times," she remembers.

She also dallied in the rapidly growing web business and with three others established the successful flights and hotel accommodation booking site, lastminute.com

After experiencing the Olympics in Sydney in 2000 ("another great time"),

*"So when I got back from Africa I moved to Goughs Bay"*

Kim's travel bug became insistent and she took off to Africa.

She worked with the international hotel group Raddison, where she took over the conversion of a major Capetown hotel to the Raddison branding.

Kim then travelled through Africa for about four months before coming to the conclusion she missed Australia and wanted to move back.

"I realised when in Tanzania that I wanted to live in Australia – and I wanted to live in Victoria," she says. "However, I knew I didn't want to live in the city."

Fortunately for Kim and for Mansfield, Kim's family had long had a holiday place at Goughs Bay, where Kim had been waterskiing since she was about four.

"So when I got back from Africa I moved to Goughs Bay."

From here, we can see how the vivacious and vibrant Kim Osbourne met and married the handsome farmer Chris Stony.

Kim found herself at home in an area it seems she was always looking for.

"And once we had kids, I felt more attuned to the needs of the area."

"Mansfield is an amazing town; we were bringing up our kids on the farm and the obvious thought was why can't we have something like this (for childcare).

"To create a 'childhood' house is what we wanted to achieve," and the support shown by parents in the area has demonstrated to Kim that her efforts are appreciated.

Around the time that building of The Farmhouse was in progress, there was a strong push around Mansfield for a heated, under-roof pool that could be used any time of the year. Kim identified with that and said, "Mansfield is better than this; let's offer swimming lessons and hydrotherapy."

And so the pool at the centre came about. And like the childcare operation, it has proven to be popular. Kim proudly tells the story of a man who has made very good use of the pool.

"He came to me the other day and thanked me," she says. "He's been attending for hydrotherapy for a couple of years. He couldn't walk; now he's walking every day."

Recently, there has been talk of Kim wanting to set up a school. "Yes," she says. "We have been exploring the school option." ▶

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Lara runs through the tunnel in the playground

*"We were bringing up our kids on the farm and the obvious thought was why can't we have something like this?"*



The miniature pig with her piglets are all part of The Farmhouse

The idea apparently came about as a result of parents saying, "This (The Farmhouse) is wonderful, but now my kids have to go to school – so where now?"

As Kim says, the current school options are mainly concrete, "We may as well be in Melbourne."

If the school idea gets off the ground, Kim is adamant that the project would have to be a community effort. Today there isn't even a site for the school in mind, but a number of people are getting behind the idea already.

"There are a lot of people verbally supportive of sending their kids to the school and others have expressed interest to teach there," Kim says.

"We're talking prep to year 12," says Kim. "We've been to Melbourne for couple of meetings with Independent Schools Victoria and the Department of Education.

"And so far, they have been very supportive," Kim says.

"There are no independent schools near here apart from Steiner. But it will require an enormous amount of financial support from the community to get it off the ground.

"If I can be someone who helps facilitate that (the school) for the community, then maybe that's my role."

It would be a brave person to predict that Kim's school idea will not get off the ground. After fighting her way through the roadblocks that sprang up before she could build The Farmhouse, Kim managed to gather a highly skilled team of professionals and opened The Farmhouse as a 70-place childcare centre in 2011, Two years later, Kim has added another section and the centre is now a 107-place facility with immense community and staff support.

A betting person would be asking when, not if, in reference to the school. **NNE**

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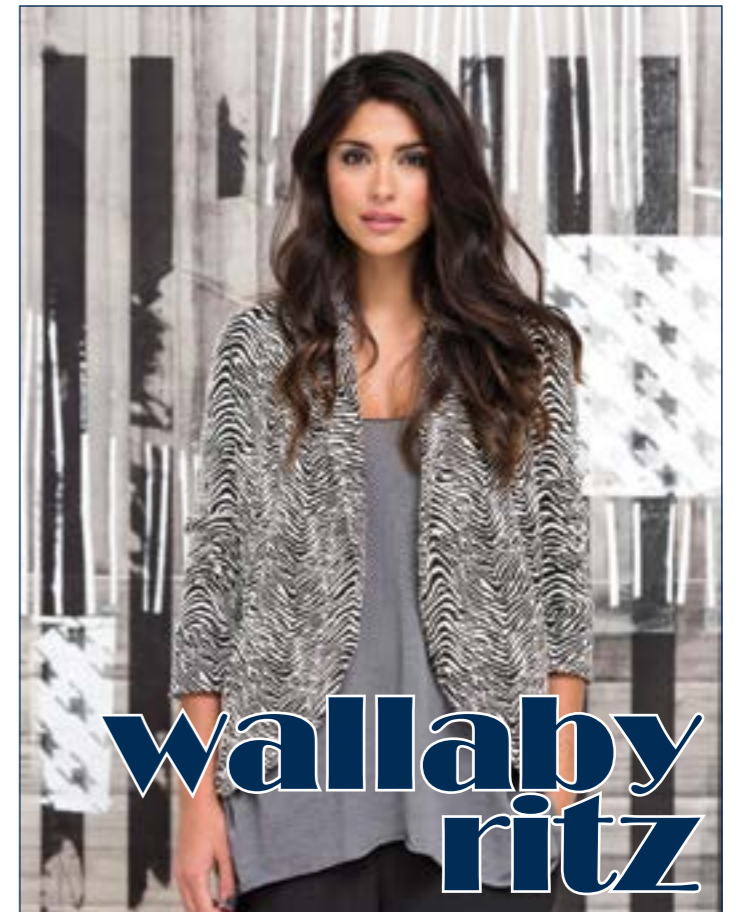
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How the locals like it™



# Another great Autumn Festival in Bright

We all know April and May means autumn, but to residents and visitors to the beautiful town of Bright, it also means the Bright Autumn Festival. A large part of the festival was the Gala Day on Saturday, May 3, when crowds packed the town for the market, the classic car exhibition, the afternoon concert and, of course, the Grand Parade. The parade was the event where the vivid autumn colours of Bright's magnificent trees were outdone by the costumes, especially those worn by the children on the floats. No doubt, the smiles on the kids' faces was reward enough for the parents who had put in the long hours making the outfits. **NNE**

Pictures: STEPHANIE MURRAY



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NNECOUNTRY

# Anzac Day for a Yank

Two young Americans came to Australia for a working holiday and found themselves in the delightful historic town of Jamieson at Anzac Day. KELLEY WILLIS tells how the day brought back fond memories from home

Smiles and shouts of celebration, money flying and coins flipping, VB's in hand and warm sunshine – it's two-up. This April, I was enthusiastically introduced to the Anzac Day tradition that brings Australians together to celebrate and commemorate their late veterans and those who still serve.

The combination of laughter, beer and patriotism brings me back to warm Vermont summers dressed in red, white and blue, drinking Budlight and playing corn hole with friends and family on the 4th of July. Much like two-up, games associated with important commemorating holidays help to bring smiles to the faces of those who have lost someone and play in their honour. Two-up was a true highlight of the day, but that was definitely not all.

The morning began on a much more crisp and sombre note. The familiar chill of autumn air greeted us in Jamieson at 6am. The silence was full of magnetic energy, emotion and patriotism. Town members and visitors huddled together in the first appearance of winter mittens, hats and scarves. Even the children were quiet; either fully aware of the significance of this day or possibly bribed by their parents with chocolates.

My boyfriend and I watched from the back not wanting to intrude on such an important event that we didn't quite feel a part of. We found out later that we would be welcomed warmly by the locals in the celebration of their late veterans.

The sweet sounds of young ladies voices echoed through Gerran's Reserve as everyone proudly looked on. The Gunfire Breakfast followed after at the town hall, a true wakeup call with Bundaberg rum in the coffee line and beef stew on toast at 7 o'clock. Everyone retreated to warm up and rejuvenate before the 11am Anzac Day march.



*"Our fear of being the awkward Americans in the corner soon diminished"*

Watching the march brings back memories from my own home town in Woodstock, Vermont. With a small population of about 3,000 (12 times the population of Jamieson), Woodstock has the same sense of small town pride that arises on Veterans' Day. Each year I proudly watch my father and grandmother march around our local green representing their time in the navy.

A local spoke at the town hall during a ceremony following the march about his grandfather's experiences in the war and children from the Jamieson school sang a few patriotic tunes. And then we waited patiently outside the Courthouse Hotel for the doors to open.

At 12.30 on the dot families flocked in with homemade Anzac cookies and meat pies. The dishes covered the pool table as a potluck for everyone to enjoy. Yummy puff pastries with cream, Anzac cookies still warm, quiches and sandwiches created a gorgeous spread. Beers were free until money ran out from the admittance fee (ladies were free with a dish). Laughter filled the pub as old friends reminisced and new friends swapped stories.

Soon the footy game came on and the locals roared with Australian pride rooting for their team, while two-up began outside on the iconic blue tarp. Our fear of being the awkward Americans in the corner soon diminished when several of the locals introduced themselves and warmly welcomed us to take part in the celebrations. We didn't end up leaving the bar until late that evening, content with laughter, homemade Australian treats and Carlton Draught; not to mention being quite a few dollars poorer from a few games of two-up.

But the money loss didn't matter because our memories of Anzac Day will always be some of our best. **NNE**

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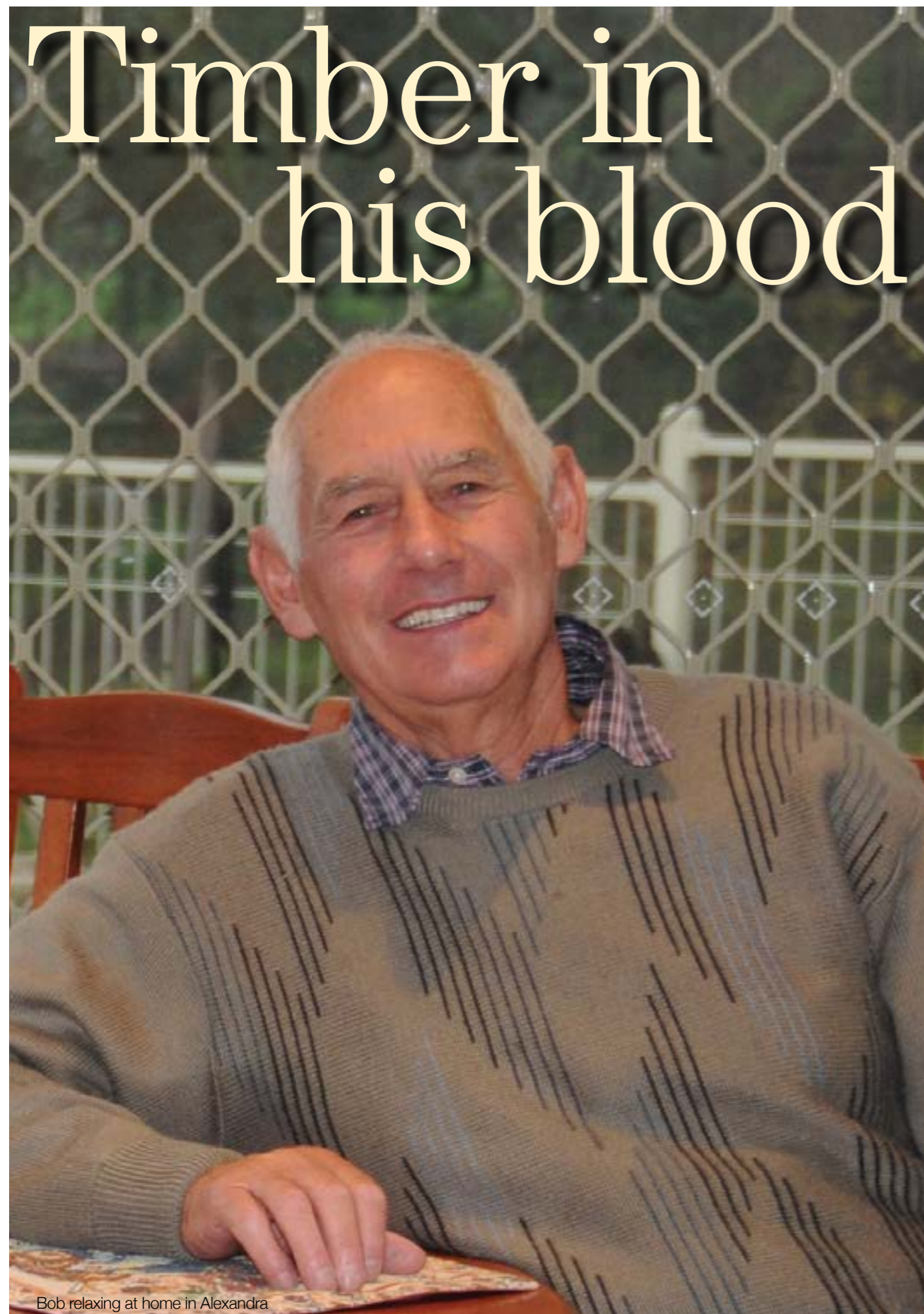


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Bob relaxing at home in Alexandra

Bob Gale worked in the timber industry most of his working life. Now happily retired and living in Alexandra, he tells his story to JULIA FOLETTA



The logging village Bob remembers

The world was a very different place when Bob Gale was growing up. It was the 1940s and he lived the first 14 years of his life in a bush timber mill settlement about six kilometres out of Marysville. These were the days when small timber mill settlements had sprung up in the bush around the Taggerty, Buxton, Marysville, Rubicon, Cambarville and Narbethong districts to process native hardwoods.

Anderson's Number 2 mill, where Bob spent his early days, was one of the mills that survived the 1939 fires.

Over time the mills moved into the towns; two in Narbethong were lost in the 2009 fires and by 2010 all mills in the region, including Alexandra's, which had been the major employer for the area, had closed.

Bush sawmills were like little communities – there were houses, workers quarters, a timber mill, an oval and usually a small rural school with one teacher taking classes to year eight.

Bob Gale remembers his early home well. There were five mill houses built from green rough sawn boards which shrank as they dried, leaving draughty gaps. The inside was 'plastered' with layers of flour, water and newspaper then finished with a brown paper layer. Bob's mother Masie then added a decorative touch with a kalsomine wash dabbed on with a sponge.

There was a very small kitchen, dining area, lounge room with brick fireplace and a chimney made from roofing iron. His parents had one bedroom while his two sisters shared the other, leaving Bob to tough it out in a small sleepout on the back verandah. Twice weekly baths were taken with water from the wood fired ►



Left: The home Bob grew up in

Top to bottom:  
Bob with one of his haulage trucks

Bob and his mum Maisie outside their home

Crossing the river with a full load

Bob and another of his haulage trucks



copper. The toilet was a long drop dunny out the back.

“Mum cooked with a Lux wood stove. It was very primitive, but from our point of view it was a palace, because it was warm in the winter time and we had plenty of food. She had a beautiful flower garden and grew what vegetables she could,” Bob says.

“Mum ran the boarding house for the mill workers – they’d come in for lunch and tea.”

At an evening, the family had to be resourceful. “There was no electricity and at night we’d sit around the radio with a six volt battery on the floor listening to ‘Biggles’ and ‘Pick-a-Box’ and those sorts of things,” Bob says.

“Before we got our Silent Night kerosene refrigerator, all we had was an ice chest, and before that a Coolgardie with damp hessian to keep things cool. Timber tuck driver Jack Brenda would bring a large ice block from Healesville wrapped in a hessian bag. This was placed in the top of the ice box. We were made when we got the Silent Night!” Bob recalls.

Toys were few. Bob had a scooter and later a pushbike and toys he invented from discarded machinery parts.

Wilkes Creek School, about one and a half kilometres from Number 2 mill, serviced about eight to 10 school-aged children from three bush timber mills. Getting to school along the bush track wasn’t much fun, especially in winter.

When the post war migrants arrived, student numbers swelled to about 18 or 19.

“The school’s gone now, but we had a reunion in 2008 and 36 came back which was pretty good,” Bob says.

“I went and found all the stumps and the brick fireplace. We have a rock there now with a plaque, probably three miles

down the road and a mile into the bush. The school was at the bottom of Mount Bismarck,” Bob says.

“We’d get four to six inches of snow in the winter, probably lasting for about a fortnight and every now and then we’d get a heavy fall.”

Bob was the third generation of his family to be involved in logging and he has seen many changes. His grandfather Jack used horses and bullocks at Anderson’s mills to operate steam winches and lowering gear. Bob’s father, also Bob, worked with Anderson’s as a tree feller and tractor driver.

Bob’s career in timber began at age 14 as a ‘swampie’ assisting his tractor driving father to snig out, then load logs onto the tramline trolleys.

“They didn’t have a blade on the tractor then. Say there was a log where you couldn’t get in far enough with the tractor, the swampie would pull the wire rope through to the log, put the wire strop around the log, hook it on and then the tractor would pull it out.”

Bob’s early days as a swampie were cut short when one of the log trolleys on the timber tramway ran over and broke his leg. The break did not heal well and Bob got a less strenuous job as a pot walloper (general kitchen hand) at Marysville’s Koorunga Guest House. Any hopes of joining a football team were dashed.

Itching to get back into the bush, at age 16 Bob returned to his swampie role and general bush duties, this time in the Big River area for J L (Lloyd) Gould. Not happy unless he had a steering wheel in his hand, at 17 Bob learnt to drive the ex-army Ford Blitz, loading logs destined for Warburton and beyond. In those days a licence wasn’t needed to drive on forest roads.

With a couple of exceptions, Bob’s ►



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Left: Bob and Ann's wedding day



Bottom left: Ann in their Alexandra home

Brothers who were taking Mountain Ash and Stringybark logs out of Mount Beauty and Gelantipy near Buchan.

Time had come to break into business on his own and Bob traded in his near new 1959 Holden on a tip truck and spent the next two years carting gravel to resurface the roads on the Reefton Spur and the Yarra Track.

His log carting career began in earnest after converting the tip truck to a timber jinker. He joined Dick Peter's team carting logs for the Matlock sawmill then, as a contractor to Lloyd Gould, he carted Mountain Ash and Messmate logs from Big River and Mount Margaret into Gould's Marysville mill.

Over the years Bob's fleet of trucks grew to four, carting logs into and processed timber out of JL Gould's Marysville and Alexandra sawmills.

Tiring of the pressure of business Bob sold his four trucks to Gould in 1990.

Bob's faithful drivers were Graham Weinberg, Leigh Bantick, Bill Pritchett and Andy Friedel.

But it wasn't long before Bob hankered for another truck. He bought himself a brand new Volvo and spent the next year travelling to and from the Sydney markets pulling a refrigerated van loaded with fresh vegetables from Wandin.

But that took him too far from home. Soon he was back in the bush and spent a further nine years driving with a logging syndicate for J L Gould Sawmills

before giving the game up for good in 2000.

"I love the bush, it's just part of me," Bob says.

JL Gould Sawmills in Alexandra was sold to ITC Timber in 2006 then to Gunns Timber Products in 2009 and ceased operation in 2010. Many jobs were lost and timber harvested from the district is now transported to Heyfield in Gippsland. JL Gould's Marysville mill had closed in 1995.

Bob believes the Alexandra mill should never have closed. "Many good people lost their jobs and it was a real blow to the economy of the town," he says.

He's seen many changes in the industry over time – in the forest, in the log yard, with safety practices and mechanical equipment.

"We used a Trehwella jack to jack each log off the truck, but now they lift the whole load off in one with a forklift. Down at APM or Midway, they just put the forks under it and lift 30 odd tonne of logs off in one hit," Bob says.

"When I first started driving for Lloyd he owned the sawmill in Healesville and I was carting greasy gum. In those days to release the logs you had to knock a pin out of the chock on the bolsters as hard as you could and run like buggery to get out of the way as they rolled out over parallel logs (skids) laid on the ground to keep the logs clean," Bob says.

"Fortunately that day they'd put new

*"You can't learn those sorts of things at universities; you've got to grow up with them"*

skids out because I knocked the pin out, then fell over flat between the skids – the log rolled right over the top of me!"

Roads have changed. "In the early days all we had was tracks, but these days they're not quite highways, but they are really beautiful roads," Bob says.

Management has changed too. "The Forest Officer was Jim Sherlock; he was in control of the bush and if you did the wrong thing you knew you were in trouble. I learnt everything from watching and doing it in the bush; you didn't need a book or go to school to learn what you did. You can't learn those sorts of things at universities; you've got to grow up with them," he says.

"When I first started swamping, the mud would be over your gumboots and you'd work in the snow. You're not allowed to work in the rain now.

"The trucks have changed so much too. In those days we just had 36 horse power trucks and now they have 600 horse power trucks, it's a big difference, B-doubles and all that.

"There's too much pressure now: we worked hard, but not with the same pressure. In the early days when we started with Lloyd we'd boil the billy, have a cup of tea, then go on the road. No time for that now!"

"My mates were real mates – Alan Walker, Alan Graham, Billy Bekter, Ken 'Boots' McLeod – we all stuck together and you'd help one another along the road if you broke down.

"Up at Matlock we were camped in a tent and slept on those old beds made out of wire gates. The guys today mightn't survive, camping up there the way we did."

Meeting girls was very different too. "From the age of 16 I was courting girls in Marysville. I used to knock round with Neville McKenzie and Brian Greatorex on a Friday night. McKenzies had a feeder bus that brought passengers from the Melbourne bus into Marysville from St Fillan. They might have 15 to 20 passengers and the rest would go on to Alexandra. We'd take them around the guest houses, drop them off and then we'd pick out the ones we thought would be alright. Later we'd go back to the guest house and try our luck!"

"We'd stand outside Cumberland Guest House when there were dances and the owner, Geoff Cuzens, would come out and say 'come on you young bucks, get in there and sort the girls out'. Sometimes, if there were too many guys, he'd say 'move along, there are too many guys tonight'. They were great times, no drugs."

After being stood up by a girl he'd met on one of these occasions, Bob decided to ask out the girl's friend, Annette (Ann) Duval from St Leonards. Their first date was on November 6, Bob's 28th birthday. They were engaged a fortnight later and married on December 21. Bob was a busy young bloke, no time to muck around!

Some thought it wouldn't last, but 46 years, two daughters and six grandchildren later the marriage continues.

By 2008 living in Marysville had served its purpose so Bob and Ann sold their Falls Road home of 40 years. They moved into Alexandra where Ann could be closer to her quilting group, and Bob to his Freemasonry.

Bob's 94 year-old mum Masie is in Alexandra's Kellock Lodge; daughter Lana lives in Canberra with husband John Woollard, Alexandra's former health surveyor; Roslyn kept timber in the family by marrying Jason Mckinnell of Mckinnell Harvesting Pty Ltd, in Healesville. Grandson Jesse represents a fifth generation in timber. He works in the bush operating a fully mechanised timber harvester.

Today Bob and Ann's pride and joy is their HR Holden, the same model as Bob had when they were engaged.

And what truckie doesn't love country music? Ann shares this passion so each year they hitch up the caravan and head north for two weeks of country and western music at the annual Mildura Country Music Festival.

"On reflection maybe I could have done business a little better and had a bit more for our retirement. But buying the house in Alex was the best thing we've ever done. We're very happy here." **NNE**

association with Lloyd continued until his retirement.

"At 18 I got my licence and heavy vehicle endorsement and began carting logs out of the Marysville area to Robbie's mill near Buxton, owned by Lloyd Gould."

Then he worked for Marysville logging or cartage contractors Bantick

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# The Big Wet

Metaphorically, the lotus is rising from the mud. Environmental alchemy is transforming a would-be wasteland, what was seen as a gigantic unloved swamp full of drowned dreams, into a brave new world of life-affirming wilderness and wonder

*"I think the magic of the (Winton) Wetlands is that they tend to transcend human history as most of us understand it ... They facilitate the social being in all of us and help us remember our connection to the landscape."* – Jo Bell, archaeologist ▶

Picture: LYNDA HEARD

In the largest restoration of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, Nature in the North-East is being brought back from the dead, writes JOHN LARKIN.

All that is left of the Winton North Primary School these days is a signpost and a small timber stump with a big plastic bag over it. The stump was the base of the old school's flagpole, and the bag was put there to protect it from the weather. So simple, yet such an act of devotion by a local farmer whose family goes back five generations. It symbolises mortality and immortality, which is the story of the Winton Wetlands.

The history extends as vast as the area itself, an enormous amphitheatre of primeval, enchanted space made up of 3000 hectares of wetlands and 5000 hectares of Red gum and box grassy woodlands between Benalla and Wangaratta. It extends literally as far as sight can reach, beyond which are the Warby Ranges, to the soon-to-be snow capped Alps, with the great translucent light swooping down across the water like the gaze of the gods through the mists and myths of time, the wind their breath on the hour glass.

The story is classic country Australian, of natural beauty and ways of life being overcome by human expansion, dispossession, tragedy

and suffering, followed by a festival of frolic as it became a recreation area, then dissolution and reversion back to bushland and swamp – what was left of it.

This time, amends are being sought and made, to give the story resolution, described as the biggest restoration of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. The Wetlands are being revitalised as sensitively as possible, so they become once again prolific and pristine, as Nature intended. They opened to the public from last November, and now people can go there 24 hours a day.

The Wetlands in fact number 30, with three main ones, named Sergeant, Winton and Greens.

First, as a gigantic swamp, it was vital to the Indigenous people, who were there for thousands of years. This was a highly honoured gathering place, of shelter, food and sacred corroboree, leaving behind hundreds of signs, in tool scatters, middens and scar trees. They called it Mokoan.

When the white people came, in the mid 1800s, the Aborigines were "forcibly removed". The place has a powerful, at times sorrowful, presence.

The squatters and settlers, some of Irish descent, started with big tracts of land, then broken down into smaller farms. The place went through hard times and abundance. The little village of Winton North sustained as well as the school, a butter factory, two churches and a post office.

Among its many visitors was that Irish-Australian son of a gun, Ned Kelly, and his gang, who roamed the North-East, robbed banks in Euroa and Jerilderie, killed three policemen in a shootout at Stringy Bark Creek outside Mansfield, and came to a bad end in the siege at the Glenrowan Inn in June 1880, with Ned, the country's most (in)famous bushranger, hanged in November the same year.

Duck shooting began there in 1874, with nine men in the first hunting party. At the peak, its estimated hundred thousand ducks were stalked by up to 5000 shooters at a time. The practice is banned there now, never to return, pledges Denis O'Brien, a member of the Winton Wetlands Committee of

Management based in Benalla.

As far back as 1885 there was talk of creating water storage, with much discussion for and against, always with flood mitigation in mind. Finally in 1961, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission proposed a channel between the Winton Swamp as it was called then, and the Broken River, to create a gigantic lake. More controversy followed as land was acquired, displacing 16 of the 20 families of long standing farms, with another 50 losing part of their properties.

It was the white people's turn for pain. Farmers are not always very sentimental, but they can be heartfelt about the land, even more so when it provides a living. Poignancy from that period, still lingering, has been palpable.

Descendant Ray Nelson says of his father:

"Yes, it was absolutely devastating for him (Dad) and anybody that was alive at that time would have told you that it killed Jim Nelson. Yeah, it did – I don't think there was any doubt about it.

"He was in the Benalla Hospital and Mum and my brother went in and he said 'Come on let's go home' and my brother said to him 'Where's home?' and he said 'Winton, where else?' ... and that was in his mind."

Even earlier, two elderly sisters, Alice and Fanny, from the long established Currie family, were forced off their patch by flooding from a local council drain, which they fought and lost. Then, all by themselves, they built a rough hut beside a roadway, where they struggled through a subsistence existence during the 1930s and 1940s. Alice assisted at the Winton North Primary School as the Sewing Mistress. Her days ended in the Beechworth Mental Hospital.

Lake Mokoan, as it became called, was built between 1967 and 1971, with the longest dam wall in the Southern Hemisphere, stretching 7.5 kilometres, and 47 metres wide. Still today we can see the levy, along with two natural sandbanks which form a boundary, as the most eastern of their kind in Australia.

Water from the lake, fed by four small creeks and a channel from the Broken

*"The Inundation drowned an estimated 200,000 trees, three quarters of them Red Gum, of whom a significant number were more than 500 years old"*

River above Benalla, then serviced irrigation areas back along the river through Stockyard Creek. At its peak capacity, the lake held 365 gegalitres, and supplied 16 gegalitres a year for irrigation.

Lake Mokoan became a popular playground. As well as duck hunting and fishing for the introduced Murray Cod and Golden Perch species, there were many water sports including boating and sailing. It had its own yacht club.

But the birth of the lake came at a price. The 'Inundation', the title given to the flooding, had been a creeping, virtual apocalypse, which silently consumed an entire environment, a beautiful, vulnerable world.

The Inundation drowned an estimated 200,000 trees, three quarters of them Red Gum, of whom a significant number were more than 500 years old.

Once Nature took over again, Lake Mokoan did not last long, after filling in 1974-75. The 1982-83 drought brought the water level down to five per cent. In 2009 it dried out totally. Between 1985 and 2000, it was prone to outbreaks of blue-green algae bloom.

Despite protests from the local community, the State Government decided in 2004 that the lake would be decommissioned. It was the first time a major Victorian reservoir (the State's fifth largest) would be closed.

Today we can see the brute remnants of what was destroyed, with the dead tree trunks reaching heavenwards

in supplication as a vast petrified forest. Stretching in all directions, they create an image suggesting partly a prolific Fred Williams' painting of the Australian landscape, and partly the set of 'Waiting for Godot', Irish avant-garde writer Samuel Beckett's devastatingly dark commentary on existential emptiness.

Among the impressions is an overwhelming sense of blight, waste and melancholia. Homeless phantoms listlessly stalk the tracks among the lonely waterways. Somewhere in the wind linger echoes of sacred ceremonial songs, women weeping, the chattering of long-gone children with their whole lives ahead of them, a preacher thundering from the pulpit, the groaning of men and beasts toiling under the sun, a cart rattling over Boggy Bridge, wind in white sails on the wide water, picnic parties, and the panic cries of ducks. The waters run as deep as their secrets.

But suddenly now a White-bellied Sea-Eagle swirls past us, then a pelican, who might join up to 50 others to herd large fish, while above on the dead branches perch a whole chorus of whistling kites. The animation opens our eyes and ears to observe what is really happening here, and we begin to see the sublime movements of flora and fauna, the many shades of green, and experience that Life, indeed, goes on.

Metaphorically, the lotus is now

rising from the mud. Humankind and Nature together are transforming with environmental alchemy a would-be wasteland, what was seen as a gigantic unloved swamp full of drowned dreams, into a brave new world of life-affirming wilderness and wonder.

After the decision to decommission the lake, the efforts of the working parties and advisory groups to save it, then led to the Government in 2008 committing up to \$20 million to implement the 2006 Lake Mokoan Future Land Use Strategy to restore the Winton Wetlands.

The strategy implementation and restoration work was given to the Winton Wetlands Committee of Management, set up in March 2009, and the 8750 hectare reserve established in April the following year, with the decommissioning completed four months later, and the dam wall breached and the natural level returned.

Ironically, there were big floods there between 2010-2012, with a 150 per



Jim Grant (left) and Dennis O'Brien are two of the members on the Committee of Management



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## BUCOLIC CHRONICLES

cent rise in 2011. This filled the Winton Wetlands, bringing with it new life force. The birds came back, and stayed, and the vegetation thrived. Out from the drowning fields began to emerge true beauty as River Red Gums sprouted, White Box tree cover flourished, and the open grasslands were covered by native and exotic species. It was primitive, raw, and real.

The site has a secure future now, with the coming together of government and private philanthropy. The Winton Wetlands@Benalla Master Plan is a proposed \$57 million two-stage development project to restore the wetlands and grassy woodland areas as it was before the Inundation. The Master Plan project funding will include the State Government's \$20 million grant, along with \$37 million private investment, and projected more money from tourism over 10 years.

"The vision for the restoration is for a project of national, scientific, cultural and environmental significance with a focus on education, research, tourism, recreation and community development, enjoying wide local, regional and national support."

Its policy seeks to rebuild the ecological integrity to protect and reintroduce threatened species. The environmental renewal is reportedly well underway, with the restoration and monitoring, and over 183 species of bird, an abundance of mammals, reptiles and other fauna and flora. Emphasis on the ecology with all its variants will be absolute.

Tim Barlow, the Ecological Projects Co-ordinator at the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, says: "Traditionally, ecological restoration normally takes the direction of establishing more native flora at a given site by displacing non-native species. Explicitly or otherwise, the condition and institution of a site or system prior to European occupation of Australia is considered to be a relevant benchmark. My major concern was that after 30-plus years of wetting and drying, much of the ecological character of the site had



been irrevocably changed from pre-European conditions. Was restoration to a pre-European condition the best plan for restoration? In addition to the physical size of the site, this suggested an approach of 'guided' natural regeneration would be the most cost-effective approach.

"I took a slightly different tack and suggested to the Committee of Management that restoration should be about improving ecological function rather than to a set prescription (i.e. as it was prior to settlement). After consultation with a range of experts, we developed a series of criteria as indicators of whether or not the ecological function is improving."

Dr Steve Hamilton, noted zoologist who specialises in biodiversity conservation and development, says: "The Winton Wetlands is a collection of 30 wetlands of different sizes and types in a very complex landscape. The wetlands, and the bits-in-between, are in amazingly good condition given all that has transpired in the last 100 years."

With the planned infrastructure and amenities of the Master Plan put in place, the Wetlands is imagined to evolve into a major attraction for bird watchers, star-gazers, bush walkers, cyclists, campers, wildlife lovers and photographers as well as people wishing to experience the vastness and beauty of the location.

The strategy includes a tourism and education complex, a discovery centre and learning and research facilities, boardwalks, interpretative signage, visitor amenities, wetland trails, bird hides, observation platforms, regional connections with Benalla, Glenrowan and Wangaratta, the Warby-Ovens National Park and other tourist

attractions, ecotourism accommodation, canoeing, kayaking, cycling and camping, and community facilities for meetings and other functions.

Among these projections, are resonances of Kakadu, the beautiful, fragile series of water levels, vegetation, creatures and ancient history in the Top End, and its information centre, designed by the inspired Australian architect Glenn Murcutt with Aboriginal children attending to visitors, and a theatre featuring tribal stories.

The Winton Wetlands Committee of Management has recently completed cultural heritage surveys of Indigenous values within the site, and reports that it is working closely with the traditional owners, the Yorta Yorta.

Highly esteemed North-East cultural heritage researcher and advisor Jo Bell, whom we have featured previously in NNE, says:

"As a local, I have been associated with Lake Mokoan since a child, coming here for picnics and water sports with my family. My extended family is based all over the North-East so we all converged on the lake to get together, share a meal and generally catch up – something people have been doing for thousands of years!

"It was with great excitement that once I qualified as an archaeologist, I had the opportunity to return to the Wetlands, for which I had such fond memories, and truly understand why I love it so much."

She was involved with the decommissioning from the beginning, and carried out cultural heritage assessments to determine what remained following 40 years of inundation.

"We were not disappointed. As the

water receded, we were able to identify the banks of the original Wetlands. This was exciting as the majority of cultural heritage material that we found during earlier surveys was predominately caught in strandlines of the high water mark, washed up on the shoreline like seaweed on the beach.

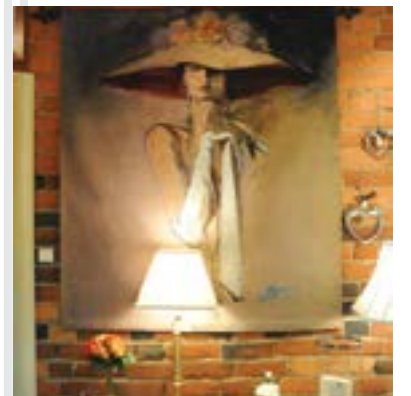
"Later surveys revealed that despite the 40 years of inundation, cultural material was found to be pretty much in situ around the Wetlands themselves, particularly the larger ones like Winton and Sergeants. A series of small mounds were also identified adjacent to the smaller Wetlands such as Blacks and Taminick Swamps. Not many mounds outside the River Murray corridor, which indicates that people come here often, from far and wide, converging on the Wetlands, and the resources they offered. This is also supported by oral history information from local landholders, handed down through generations since European occupation of the first squatting runs here.

"The historic literature indicates that the Wetlands fall within the language group boundaries of either Duang Wurrung or Bangarang. However, these boundaries tended to be somewhat fluid and indeed the Wetlands are quite close to the boundaries between Duang Wurrung, Bangarang and Ngurai-illam wurrung. It would make sense that during particular times, members of all three friendly groups, and possibly others, would converge on the Wetlands for corroboree and discussion. It may even have represented shared country for such a purpose given that the Wetlands contained a huge number of resources that had the capacity to feed a large number of people over a period of time.

"The Wetlands are remarkable in their geology, geomorphology and vegetation. This in turn, created a great place for people to live. The natural depression, surrounded by the Warbys, the Goorambat Hills and the Uplands, spills onto the wider and flatter Benalla Plain. The Wetlands would pretty well always have held water, except during the most extreme droughts, so was probably also

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*“The wetlands, and the bits-in-between, are in amazingly good condition given all that has transpired in the last 100 years”*

seen as a sanctuary during these times. A plethora of bird life always accompanied Wetlands, and fish, mussels and reptiles too, so food would have been plentiful.

“The adjacent hills and plain would have supported the larger mammals that were hunted. Rock wells have also been found in the surrounding hills, providing potable water for thirsty travellers.

“I think the magic of the Wetlands is that they tend to transcend human history as most of us understand it. People have been coming here for thousands of years, doing the same thing – meeting people, sharing food, interacting. The Wetlands don’t care what the colour of your skin is, your religion or what your politics are. They facilitate the social being in all of us and help us all remember our connection to the landscape.”

**L**iterally hundreds of talented individuals and interested parties are involved in the Wetlands project, including a strong science contingent, government departments, service clubs, environment groups and a heavenly host of volunteers. The place is very carefully scrutinised and considered before the various plans are put in place.

With the Committee of Management offices located in nearby Benalla, members and staff are dedicated and welcoming. They display the kind of savvy needed to care for such a vast, sensitive, public, complex, and dependent responsibility as the Winton Wetlands, and re-establish its integrity while at the same time providing for as many people needs as possible, and securing public support and participation.

Rebecca Hamilton, who greets us at reception, is not long out of school, comes from a farm life, with her father a botanist, and speaks eagerly of her sense of responsibility. “Everything relates to the project.”

Committee member Dennis O’Brien

has a background in agricultural science, and was former dean of Dookie College. He is straight-forward, passionate and able to steer a path which includes many interests but, most of all, the project itself. “We don’t have politics as an issue. What we have is community sentiment.”

While he says that at some stage the Wetlands will be a highly significant asset to North-East Victoria, he also speaks respectfully of the Wetlands having a spiritual sense, and a sense of place. “It’s very quiet. It’s a little bit intimidating. It’s vast. There is an aloneness there. If you just stop, you can feel how it is significant.

“There’s a sense of the past somehow. It’s a great place to be by yourself.”

Asked about the possible effects of climate change, he says the contribution will be the Wetlands renewal. With 17 different ecologies, it will always be ephemeral.

“Our idea is that the whole place will be soft – as in soft activities.”

Jim Grant, the project CEO, takes me into the middle of this strange, yet somehow familiar, stark yet beautiful, land beyond time. The sheer, sublime force of the place almost overwhelms, as does gratitude that it exists, and is now being redeemed for the sakes of both Nature and Humankind.

First off, the dead trees make it seem like the biggest graveyard in the world. Yet, as we look into the landscape further, beyond our sorrow, we see signs here and there of new growth. Last year, millions of River Red Gum seeds were dispersed by helicopter. The trees in front of us range in age from 20 to 300 years.

Roadways criss-cross like threads into eternity. Late last year the place was opened to vehicular traffic. People can come there whenever they please.

Jim Grant says: “We trust people, rather than being suspicious, and so far we have had no trouble.

“One of the great ironies of it is that

the swamps are in excellent condition because the flooding killed the weeds, and the native vegetation had 40 years below the surface. Drying out has not been so bad, because it put more oxygen into the soil.”

Asked about climate change, he says he believes the place will be strong enough to follow its own natural cycle. “If it dries out, or if it floods, we don’t get alarmed. The ecology here is very dynamic. It will be different from 50 years ago. But an area like this I think will be different in a wonderful way. With this landscape, the scale of it will overwhelm the detail of it.

“I think it’s pretty much been abused already. You can only go forward from here. The (water) levels are going to keep coming and going, and the vegetation will keep going. I think landscape like this is going to be pretty resilient. I am not complacent about climate change, but places like this will find its own way, its own ecology.”

In the old days, when he used to drive past the Wetlands, he never thought much about them. His first impression when he finally went in there was that it was “terrible.” All that has changed. You can feel how much he loves and respects the place. “I think it’s great that humans want to fix it up. I take heart from the fact that someone is giving it a go. It’s the start of a very long journey.”

He speaks of the enchantment of being out there at night, alone with his dog, on a Full Moon. From his description, the force of Nature was absolute.

**T**he ancient waters of the Winton Wetlands, which have run so many courses, and are now reverting back into primeval swampland, still have many secrets yet to reveal. One is the meaning of the name ‘Mokoan’. No one can be found so far who knows. **NNE**

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# Yea's water centre opens soon



As Yea's Water Discovery and Visitor Centre inches closer to completion, the man who has helped drive the project for the last 15 years sings its praises. Russell Wealands talks with LYNND A HEARD

Yea's Russell Wealands had one simple message he wanted to get out to the Yea community: "Thank you, absolutely, thank you". Russell was standing proudly in the stunning foyer of the almost completed YWater Discovery and Visitor Centre.

For Russell this project has been a major part of his life for more than 15 years and although feeling a bit jaded, he is still enthusiastic.

The Wetlands Committee of Management and Trust's vision of a Centre of learning has been revealed. The YWater Centre aspires to be the main visitor centre for the Murrindindi

Shire, but it aims to provide the community of Yea and Murrindindi with a valuable resource, inspired by the magnificent wetlands on the Yea River almost in the heart of the town.

The location of the wetlands has immense significance as it is on an unregulated river where there is no storage upstream making the wetlands of rare environmental significance and beauty. Being on this part of the river, the wetlands can be underwater when the river floods and when the waters recede, the magnificent wetlands are revealed along with the extraordinary ecosystem within.

The centre is hard to miss. It's the standout building with its surrounding wall of wooden pillars positioned next to the Wetlands on the river on the north-east side of the town.

"There are 104 wooden pillars of support and each one has been purchased by individuals in the community at \$250 plus," says Russell with some pride.

"To me the Wetlands and the centre are all about water – our brains are made up of 90 per cent water – and we don't seem to understand fully how little water we have and that in rural Victoria, water is a fundamental resource," stresses Russell.

"Water is Murrindindi's most valuable export and the least understood and appreciated."

According to Russell, the centre will have a wide approach of a 'look, enjoy and learn' experience with a strong emphasis on Indigenous heritage, the environment, and flora and fauna. Naturally, there will also be a focus on

tourism and learning with school and community groups encouraged to utilise the many resources of the centre.

"In addition, the centre will be a retail outlet for local producers to promote the region and Cindy McKay from Country Woman is undertaking the stocking. The centre will also be available for hire for weddings and other events," says Russell. "And there is the meeting room, commercial kitchen, Wi-Fi access and a smart TV for tele-conferencing."

The centre is set to open towards the end of July and already two organisers – Julie Blyth from Broadford and Pauline Roberts from the Highlands – have been employed part-time to organise the centre and work with volunteers (about 40 at the moment).

Standing in the middle of the main room of the centre with sunlight streaming in on the beautiful wooden walls and floor, Russell stresses that there are only positives to emerge from the centre coming together.

"Yea, has great potential when it works together. This is opportunity to bring businesses on side and engage with the Yea Business and Tourism Association."

Already, he says the community has been fantastic.

"The builders, Darjelan, are from Kinglake, the solar power was donated by Derek Marsden from ReneSola who lives in Yea and the landscaping design is being done by local Cally Sinclair."

To become involved in the YWater Centre contact Russell on 0408 246 308. Sponsors and volunteers are always welcome. <http://ywatercentre.com.au> NNE

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# Who's looking after mum?

As parents, we can all feel 'hopeless' at some point; psychologist CHERYL CLARK looks at ways to make it through these times of stress

*"NO! Turn that off NOW. Don't ask me again, just get in the bath"*

*"You said I could ... I just ..."*

*"For Christ's sake, I will take that thing and throw it through the bloody window."*

*"No, no; don't touch it. It's mine. I'm still in my time for it. Get away from me."*

*I hate you."*

*Door slams.*

**W**e all recognise this situation.

I imagine that the mother is now in the kitchen, leaning against the bench raging, perhaps crying. Over it all. Feeling at a complete loss as to how to rectify the situation, feeling ashamed of her behaviour, exhausted, a 'hopeless' mum.

From my professional experience I also know that at some level the child is feeling terrible, too. In other words, when nothing seems to go right, as it often can, in the busy, seemingly unpredictable day of every family, both mother and child, as we see in this case, can be overwhelmed by the intense and crazy mix of emotions that they are feeling and that they don't know what to do about.

It's the end of the day; this young mother has been attending to other people's needs all day - her children's (perhaps her baby and toddler) or those at work. It's now around 6pm, dinner should be ready, the kids are tired and still haven't done their homework, the

house is a bomb site, and nothing will settle baby.

Mum is thinking she can't cope any longer, her feelings of rage, frustration, exhaustion, inadequacy, perhaps even shame, threaten to overwhelm her. Nor does her child know what he or she is thinking any longer. He or she is totally overwhelmed by their own feelings of rage, frustration, confusion, uncertainty and abandonment.

There are times in every parent's life when nothing positive seems to work - when our baby doesn't seem to be progressing like other babies, when the approaches we try with our toddler never seem to work like the books say they should, when our adolescent refuses to listen to a word we say. It is at times like these that we can feel so much all at once - confused, uncertain, worried, frustrated, distressed or depressed.

This is when it is invaluable to have a partner, or perhaps a grandparent or close friend, step in and 'hold' the overwhelmed parent.

When we know that someone understands how we feel (anxious,

angry, confused), just the knowing that somebody else knows and cares enough to understand, is comforting to us. Another person's gentle acknowledgement of how 'bloody awful' it is can so often be all it takes for two people to be able to work out what can be done. This is what we mean by 'holding' - it is one person's sensitive response to another's frustrations, exhaustion, uncertainties or anxieties. It's like putting all our hurt and rage, all our worries, in a big basket and leaving them there until we can come back when we are calmer, when we are ready. Then, and only then, can we unpack them, understand them, and deal with them effectively.

In parenting manuals, we read that, as parents, we need to 'contain' our feelings. By containing our feelings appropriately we ensure that our emotions don't get the better of us, and in turn, that we are not blinded or distracted by our emotions. However, meeting the needs of an infant, young child, or adolescent, responding sensitively and appropriately to our ►

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*“Despite our sincere efforts and considered intentions, there are times when, as parents, we feel stressed, or overwhelmed and unsupported”*

child and understanding what they are trying to communicate, is very difficult. It is something that can be full of uncertainty and anxiety about getting it right. It requires of the parent the capacity to tolerate their own feelings. Being able to cope with our own intense feelings, to be able to tolerate a considerable degree of uncertainty and anxiety, is what we mean by ‘containing’ our feelings. And, at those times when our emotions do threaten to overwhelm us, we need someone who can contain or hold our feelings for us.

As parents, we need to care for our own ability to manage and regulate our own emotions. To do this we need to find the time or space for reflection, for thinking about ourselves, ourselves as parents, as partners with lots of different, and sometimes conflicting needs and wishes. In addition, it is always an added benefit if we can talk about this with someone we trust. In fact, when it starts to feel messy, talking with a partner or friend whom we trust is probably the best way of dealing with what can seem like the chaos of our needs, wishes, and responsibilities.

Despite our sincere efforts and considered intentions, there are times when, as parents, we feel stressed, or overwhelmed and unsupported. Often

such times occur when children are increasingly irritable (perhaps because they are unwell, not coping well at school), when there is strain in the marital relationship, or when nothing seems to work between ourselves and our adolescent. These are the times when we need the support of another, someone who can ‘hold’ our feelings, listen to how we feel, someone who can help us work through the difficulties. This person can be our partner, parent, good friend, or perhaps a professional.

Importantly, we need to remember that the person doing the caring needs to be cared for. When it’s mum caring for her infant, for example, her partner or her parent or a good friend needs to care for her. If, let’s say, it’s her partner, then someone needs to care for him, perhaps his good friend or his parents. In turn, grandparents have their network of peer support, and friends too have their social networks to support them.

In other words, each layer of support needs support. The image of ‘Russian dolls’ comes to mind here – as the child is cared for and supported by the mother, the mother is cared for and supported by the father; the father is supported by his parent or good friends, the grandparents and friend are supported by their peer group

of grandparents or social network of friends.

Having someone whom we know will be there on a regular basis, whom we can trust to listen to us, to respond, and who will try, together with us, to understand is the sort of support that a young parent needs. Further, it is not just during these years with children at home.

A close, confiding relationship with someone is invaluable support throughout our lives. Being able to share with someone we trust our hopes and wishes, as well as our innermost fears is a huge benefit to children and adults alike. A close, confiding relationship, and remember, it does not have to remain the same person, is a powerful protective factor against stress in adults of all ages, as well as for children and adolescents.

Parents need someone with whom they can talk about what would help overcome a problem next time, how to do something differently, how to ensure one’s expectations and hopes are realistic. They need someone who will recognise and acknowledge their difficulties, support them in honing their skills, and with whom they can celebrate their efforts. **NNE**

# Brain on Pause



LOUISE MUNRO writes of battling the hormones as she faces up to the inevitable menopause

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**O**f late I have experienced some blonde moments (more than usual), where I have showed up for work meetings on the wrong day, month and time, or not at all! I wander into rooms at home and arrive at my destination feeling perplexed, as I had totally forgotten why I was there.

Even in the car, I can sometimes arrive home wondering how I got there, as some parts of the journey, are a total blur. As I type this, I realise my confessions seem ditzzy, dumb and even downright dangerous! But, I have a sneaky suspicion this is not entirely my fault. I think (with what is still working) my brain might be sometimes on pause with the dreaded menopause!

I recall the days of my youth, when experiencing similar feelings; whilst I was a teenager experiencing mood swings with hormonal highs and lows and in my late 20’s and early 30’s being pregnant. So, I have calculated with my current fuzzy brain that my state of mind is being interfered with by hormones. Do I get angry, sad, or just continue to struggle, make the occasional fool of myself and soldier on?

Now, family and close friends may argue that I have always been a little vague. This I admit to being true, but in my defence being vague doesn’t make you a dill; just possibly elusive, even (hopefully) interesting. The old boy will vouch that living with me, life is never dull. He has been known to steal a quote, “Life is like a box of chocolates, living with Lou...you

never know what you’re gonna get!” Well, I take this statement as a back handed compliment, I think – or, then again, don’t think.

But more recently my vagueness has sadly gone into overdrive. We have all heard of baby brain, where a woman when pregnant does absent-minded things; like placing the kettle in the fridge and the milk carton on the hot plate. Yep, I did all that and more all those years ago, but I had a growing belly that I could blame. Now, I only have ageing to blame for these random acts of dumbness. Now, I am sad; pass the Kleenex please.

I am not usually one for complaining about belonging to the fairer sex, as most of the time I feel blessed to have been born a woman, not a bloke. But it seems ▶

*“It seems all terribly unfair that the female race over different periods of their lives have to experience hormonal brain fade and other symptoms”*

all terribly unfair that the female race over different periods of their lives have to experience hormonal brain fade and other symptoms.

Talking about other symptoms, well these make life a little uncomfortable and can leave one feeling frustrated, worn out and a little hot under the collar... literally. I have hot feet and hands that seem hotter at night, but maybe everything is just worse at night, but let's not go there, shall we.

I find myself laying in bed at night, when sleep won't come (insomnia is another symptom); I have visions of inventing a doona that has four holes, sounds kinky perhaps, but believe me I am being practical! I want this doona to have two slits in the top area for my hands to escape and another two down the end, for my feet to discover the beautiful crisp, cool

air. This technique will enable the trunk of my body to be warm and my extremities cool. Brilliant I know!

This would be a better option than positioning myself on the edge of our bed with my feet out dangling and hands up above the pillow. I have resorted to using my foot spa at times, full of cold water and ice cubes when sleep won't come. Not surprisingly the ice melts and the water becomes warm quite quickly, but this does bring relief and eventually sleep. Are you feeling my pain?

I tell the old boy to not take it personally, but cuddles in bed are now out of the question. His body feels like a heater permanently set on high, when he approaches me with outstretched arms I begin to hyperventilate, screaming “no, no!”

On the upside, I no longer feel the



cold like I used to. The days when my feet and hands were little ice blocks are a distant memory, I used to prepare for bed in winters gone by wearing flannel PJs, bed socks and the electric blanket on the highest setting. This thought now makes me feel nauseous. Now for sleep attire, in the middle of winter I wear the thinnest, summer nightie I can find, or to the old boy's delight; nothing ... but, refer to the previous paragraph!

The old boy has spent years cutting wood for our very effective free-standing, wood heater, and I have happily burnt truck loads of it. I am now perfectly content to sit on our couch not watching flames lick the glass front. Our boys are also pleased to no longer visit or live in a hot house. The middle son, still at home is actually wearing winter clothes around the house, no longer shorts and a singlet.

No menopausal brains were harmed in the writing of this article, just an old girl grateful she lives in a remote country area and not offending neighbours by occasionally enjoying the cold, winters night air – alone!

But, what strategies am I utilising to assist me with my newfound extraordinary forgetfulness. Well, I have a diary (the old fashioned kind where I actually write in it). I also use my calendar and notes in my mobile (if I use a combination of old fashioned methods and technology, surely I can't go wrong), but still I have been known to show up on the wrong day or time. Fortunately, sometimes I get it right and actually remember where, when and why I am supposed to be there.

The old boy did say though that I don't seem to forget my social commitments. Well, this may be so, but I do have good friends who remind me I am supposed to be there. Now, this I will take as a compliment. It means my friends possibly enjoy my company; even if I do momentarily forget the punch line at the end of telling a joke. **NNE**

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# Ticking all the boxes

Something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue all became very fitting mantras for bride Zoe Stephens and groom Jock Blakeney.

Choosing Holmesglen at Eildon as their reception venue quickly ticked the nearly new box, while electing to officiate their union at St Johns Anglican in Alexandra ticked the borrowed and the classic cars – a Ford GT 351 and a restored Mercedes – ticked the old. The bride's stunning sapphire engagement ring took care of the blue along with the beautiful blue sky for their March wedding.


With Jock growing up locally and the couple settling locally, there was no question that a local wedding with all the trimmings was in order. Mix in a vintage country rustic feel and the bonbonniere of hessian tied herbs provided the final bespoke detail in the day.

Maid of Honour was Edwina Hill with the bride's sisters Emma and Georgia Stephens as bridesmaids. The best man was Campbell Price backed up by groomsmen Chris Mullins and David Bourke. Family came into play with the flower girls and page boys all being nieces and nephews of the bride and groom. They were Chloe 6, Amelia and Georgia 5, William 5, Jack 3 and Charlie 1.

Alexandra's Mandy Valsinger supplied the beautiful cake and entertainment at the wedding was provided by friend Scott Leslie on his acoustic guitar. Local beautician Christie Snow, hairdresser Dabra Chaproniere and florist Nici Thompson assisted Zoe with final beauty and floral preparations as did all the staff of Holmesglen. The new Mrs Blakeney had one piece of advice for future brides – take the time to enjoy the day because it flies by in a blur of lace, flowers and champagne bubbles all too quickly. **NNE**



Pictures courtesy:  
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Thank you Holmesglen for making our day (and our guests' day) so memorable!" - Mel & Jim



With one of Victoria's most stunning and beautiful landscapes as a backdrop, Holmesglen at Eildon is the perfect venue for your wedding day. Our function rooms, decks and gardens provide you with choice, so whether your day will be an intimate ceremony, relaxed cocktail party or a fully-seated formal event we have a space to suit.

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# Euroa & Longwood before New Caledonia

This summer wedding had all the elements: a little bit city, a little bit country and a whole lot of romance. Winery Maygars Hill in Longwood as the reception venue certainly gave the bride and groom – Paula Ngov and Tim Burton – all the flexibility to combine these elements in an edgy romantic wedding with their personalities firmly stamped all over it.

Tim had grown up in Euroa so the area was the obvious choice for the couple's big day last December. Prior to the reception, the ceremony was staged in a private country garden in Euroa officiated by city based celebrant Kate Haley with transport for the bridal party bridesmaids Amanda Ngov, Shennae Searle, Selima Webb, groomsmen Glen Burton (brother), Andrew Tampion, Anthony Fernon, and tiny helpers Tim, Bethan and Harrison aboard the couple's black and white Nissan Navaras, the perfect city country ride.

Local caterer Lyn Smith assured the 95 guests were treated to an excellent sample of local produce all accompanied by local wines, with Blooms on Bridge in Benalla creating a spectacular floral display.

The brides' sisters, Annette and Dora Ngov, both pregnant at the time, helped where they could, whilst some of the brides' friends Lanie Phelps and Mark Thompson brought more than gifts by tending to the bride's hair and makeup.

After the wedding, Paula and Tim headed off to New Caledonia for their honeymoon. **NNE**



Paula  
+  
Tim



Pictures courtesy: Tom Blachford and Kate Ballis of Raspberry Robot

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# Wet and cold: A great time to plant

As well as being a botanical garden, the Euroa Arboretum has a motto: Growing back the Bush. One of its main objectives is to provide seed for revegetation work. CASS JASPER spoke with the Arboretum's Project Manager Cathy Olive



Cathy Olive

*"The progress of settlement has necessarily involved the destruction of an immense quantity of timber, and as our own experience has clearly proved that rainfall conditions are largely affected by tree cover, it may be accepted that the one cannot be removed without prejudice to the other. Many predictions of ultimate disaster from the clearing of our timbered lands have been uttered, but, without accepting these, it may be asserted that nothing but good can result from generous tree propagation"*

A plea for tree planting from the Victorian Surveyor-General, 1906



It's winter, it's cold, daylight is limited and there is mud everywhere and if it isn't raining it's snowing, but it's the perfect time to plant trees.

In our North-East region of Victoria we are subject to the huge variations in the seasons, we ski in winter, bush walk in autumn and spring and partake of a myriad of water sports in summer.

By having such strong seasonal weather, it can be very tricky as to planting trees especially when the trees are being planted outside of the controlled areas of our household gardens.

There is no assurance of rain in spring and autumn and dry, arid, hot summers can follow and water is essential for planting.

Taking advantage of the cooler temperature and the greater chance of rainfall can help ensure success when planting trees.

Project Manager at Euroa's Arboretum Cathy Olive is always happy to pass on some of her extensive knowledge and experience in planting and revegetation in our region during winter.

"The reason why we plant in winter is to ensure that there are adequate moisture conditions for plants and to avoid heat stressing the plants. The normal rule of thumb to know when it is best to plant that we apply is if you can put a shovel into the ground to its full depth, then you can start planting.

"Dormancy during the cooler months generally works in a plant's favour by providing the plant with the opportunity to stall its growth and not feel shocked. The plant can then just sit in the moist soil and wait until the ground warms up and switches the plants to grow, knowing that there is adequate moisture.

"Plants can become stressed when the soil starts to dry out rather than just warm up, and outside of winter there is a greater risk to the ground drying out.

"Once you have the right conditions, roots take off," she says.

"A concern for our region is frost; a mild frost of no more than -2°C is usually not a problem for newly planted trees though a hard frost can knock a plant about. "For areas that are known as frost hollows or are subject to hard frosts, it is best to plant in September. For most of the other areas in ►

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Organisers of National Tree Planting Day are still seeking people to help make National Tree Planting Day happen. They require coordinators to organise community groups to plant their hearts out and generally have fun along the way. Check out: [www.treeday.planetark.org](http://www.treeday.planetark.org) or the Euroa Arboretum site: [www.euroaarboretum.wordpress.com](http://www.euroaarboretum.wordpress.com)

New volunteers are especially welcome. Anyone interested in visiting the Arboretum or knowing a little more is invited to contact Cathy Olive on 0429 127 399.

the region, planting in winter is ideal.

Cathy says, "Guaranteeing soil moisture is the main basis for tree planting in winter; it is a great time to plant and plant pretty much any tree. It enables plants to become established particularly when planting outside of a controlled garden situation.

"Establishing trees on a steep slope is best done in late May, June and July as these areas are subject to such harsh conditions as they are often the first soils to dry out.

"It pays to be mindful of flooding when planting along creeks and rivers. There is really no guarantee during any season of the year as flooding can and does occur at any time. It is always a juggle, planting on a creek, but the best advice is if you are planting right on the edge of a creek, plant in October when water levels generally recede.

"The guards used to protect newly planted trees are very important to the plants and increases their chance of survival. Guards around the plants can create a warm, moist micro-climate and

they protect the plant from grazing. Be mindful of what type of material the guard is made from; cardboard will break down and always make sure that the guards are well staked in the ground to brace against animals bumping them.

"Weed control is paramount before you plant; it can make or break any planting. Perennial grasses and shrubs with good deep roots will compete with the new plantings; in some cases the competing plant can have a root system at least a metre deep.

"My advice if you are planning to do large scale plantings, is to organise yourself at least six to 12 months in advance and order your plants in October or November for planting the following winter. At the Arboretum this enables us to collect the seed and propagate the seedlings. The Arboretum offers help with project planning."

Looks like that over the next months it is a matter of kitting ourselves out with rain-coats, gumboots and gloves so we can get out there and plant those trees. **NNE**

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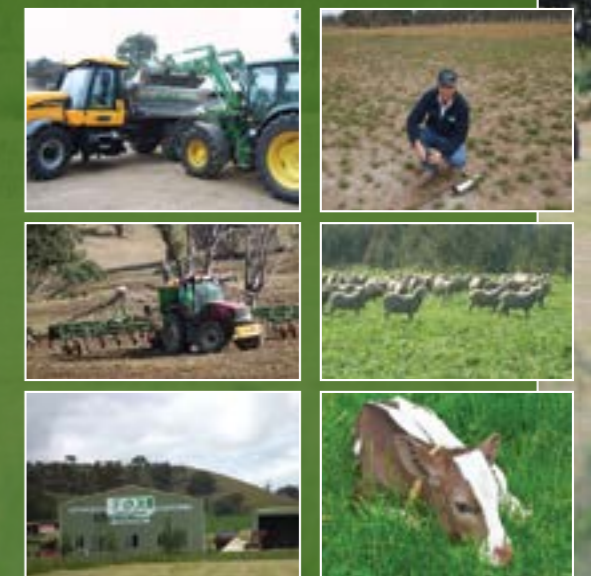
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# Looking after your microbes



They might be small, but bacteria and other organisms can be very useful friends. Alexandra veterinarian Dr DOUG NORMAN looks at the role they play with animals, plants and ourselves

**F**rom the early days of evolution, man has been exposed to microbes. There is a constant interaction with some proving damaging to health while other microbes are essential for life. It is this balance that has enabled humans to live and survive for so long. The vast majority of bacteria is rendered harmless either by the immune system or the pathogenic

bacteria are controlled by the numbers of friendly bacteria found on and in the body – the normal flora. The relationship between microorganisms and humans is a delicate and complex one.

### Bacteria

By far the largest group that affects human life is bacteria. One of their greatest roles is in the field of

agriculture, a process involving the Nitrogen cycle. This gas makes up 78 per cent of the atmosphere and is an important element of all living matter. It is an essential part of amino acids which are the building blocks of proteins, essential for structural growth. Nitrogen cannot be absorbed by plants and animals, but it is fixed by special bacteria that can incorporate it into the food

chains. This process also occurs in the rhizomes of legumes as they grow.

Decomposition is another process that is so important to life on this planet. The process involves the action of bacteria, fungi, moulds, protozoa and other saprophytic organisms to feed on decaying organic materials – a process known as composting. This process is aided by earthworms and insects to scatter the decaying material. The new compost provides nutrients for growing plants to maintain the cycle of life. These organisms are essential in the purification processes that treat sewage and waste water. Bioremediation is the use of living organisms for cleaning up oil spills and water pollutants. This is

a similar process to sewage treatment and relies on a process based on bio-filtration.

Microbes are a key component of food production; lactic-acid bacteria are used to make cheese, vinegar, yoghurt sour cream and fermented milk products. I recall that while studying at La Trobe Uni in the Microbiology course, every Friday afternoon was put aside to study the uses of microorganisms – beer, wine, cheese, salami, pickled onions to name a few. A good way to end the week!

Bacteria have a key role in the production of antibiotics and vaccines, as well as being the most studied organism in research and biotechnology. Microorganisms play a central role

in recombinant DNA technology and genetic engineering. In human and veterinary medicine, it is the very bacteria and viruses that cause disease that become the base for production of vaccines to ultimately prevent these diseases.

### Microflora

Human and animal digestive systems contain billions of bacteria and other microflora. The right balance of beneficial microorganisms is essential for good health and nutrition uptake. Imbalances can cause an overgrowth of unwanted organisms resulting in bloat diarrhoea and poor digestion.

The ruminant digestive system ▶

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Picture: Dr DOUG NORMAN

*“The right balance of beneficial microorganisms is essential for good health and nutrition uptake”*

is more complex and has four compartments instead of one stomach. Animals with ruminant systems are the grass-eating variety and include cattle, sheep and goats. As hay and grass fibre is the predominant source of food this enters the rumen and undergoes a process of fermentation to assist breakdown of the fibre. Changes to the type of food can have drastic consequences.

While working in Colac in dairy practice, I came across a farmer that fed their pet cow some left-over bakery items – usually bread or rolls. On this day there were a number of pies not sold and these were promptly given to their pet jersey cow. Not a good idea; within hours, due to rapid fermentation of the pies, lactic acid was released that sterilised the rumen and killed of the microorganisms. As the rumen failed to mix, bloat set in. An emergency rumenotomy was performed and the offending rumenal contents removed. To try and reinstate normal microflora, a cud transfer was performed. The cud was the left over fibre that had not been digested in the rumen and was returned to the mouth by a process of regurgitation to be chewed over again. To collect a fresh cud, the best approach was to enter the holding yard for the

dairy and watch for the bolus of cud to pass from the rumen and travel up the neck into the mouth. Once seen, a quick knee in to the abdomen caught the cow by surprise and with a cough the cud was expelled on to the ground. Once obtained, it could be replaced in the rumen to help recovery. Nowadays you can buy a probiotic that contain Lactobacillus and bifidobacteria for easy use. Faecal transfers are also being used in both human and animal patients to re-colonise the gut with beneficial bacteria.

**Fungi**

A very diverse group of organisms, fungi live by decomposing and absorbing the organic material in which they grow. Mycorrhizal fungi colonise the roots of plants where they absorb moisture and carbohydrates from the plant. In turn they supply nutrients from the soil, making it easier for the plant to absorb essential nutrients. This symbiotic relationship is one of the most important on the planet and involves more than 90 per cent of plants. The group includes mushrooms, moulds, rusts and yeasts. Most antibiotics used today were found originally in fungi; Penicillin being one of the first, but many more followed. Yeasts are vital to bread making and the manufacture of

beer and other fermented products.

**Nematodes/cestodes**

In recent years scientists have discovered that certain parasites have the ability to change the immune system of their host. This ability has arisen over countless generations of infestation and is seen predominately in the increase of allergies, auto-immune disease and multiple sclerosis in Western countries where intestinal parasitism is controlled. If compared to Third World countries where parasitism is common, the incidence of allergies and auto-immune condition is low.

One of the pioneers of this work, gastroenterologist Joel Weinstock from Tufts University had a theory that intestinal worms, in particular hookworm, had a calming effect on the immune system in the gut. According to his theory, the human immune system throughout history has been fighting intestinal parasitism. When no parasites exist, there is a greater chance the immune system may turn on itself and create the auto-immune disease or inflammatory bowel diseases we know as Crohns Disease, Irritable Bowel Syndrome and others. A recent TV show highlighted this treatment. People with gluten intolerance were infected with

several hookworm larvae and over the next few months found they could eat a greater range of gluten containing foods. Unfortunately this treatment is banned in the USA by the Food and Drug Agency and treatment clinics have sprung up in Mexico and other countries with less regulation.

Hookworms are blood suckers and live in the gut feeding on blood. It is thought that their saliva may hold the key by secreting certain proteins that can change the immune system so these parasites can survive. For years tapeworms were believed to be beneficial to the body and cause no harm. Their role was thought to be one of filtration and removed toxins from the gut to help their host.

A parasitologist lecturer who taught us at university held similar views. To test his theory he ate several tapeworm eggs and then travelled overseas to third world countries.

He ate in all the markets and street stalls and not once developed any gastrointestinal illness. On returning home he took a deworming tablet, but felt guilty of killing a friend!

**Invertebrates**

One of the longest beneficial uses of parasites has been since ancient Egypt where physicians used leeches in the pursuit of medicine. The process of bloodletting was thought to remove ‘humors’ from the body to maintain a balance for healthy life. Today leeches are used in plastic surgery to improve blood flow to severed fingers that have been re-attached. They are also used in some circulation disorders and application in skin grafts to help new circulation. As the leeches drew blood, they injected an anti-coagulant to prevent clotting, this helped to maintain circulation.

**Insects**

This is the largest and most diverse bio-group on the planet and it has been said that they may well be the only group to survive into the future. Without them our planet would not survive as we know it. Their role in decomposition of organic matter provides nutrients for new plant growth and their role as a food source for other birds, animals and especially humans is equally important.

Due to concerns of worldwide food shortage, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN recognises the food value of insects and that one third of the global population will eat them.

One of the most important benefits for insects is in the process of pollination where bees and other insects gathering nectar, will cross pollinate with the pollens gathered on their body. Many crops have failed due to the lack of pollinators. A side benefit of this process is the production of honey. There are many more examples of the benefits that microorganisms and insects provide. The relationship that microbes have had with humans over the years may have been underestimated as a stimulus for our immune system in overall health.

The preoccupation with cleaners, skin sanitisers and the tendency of children to play outside in the dirt may not allow natural exposure and immunity to develop. As Dr James Herriot from ‘All Creatures Great and Small’ once said, the healthiest kid on the block was the son of the abattoirs owner. **NNE**

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# Something's brewing in Strathbogie



A new local producer always rates a mention, but the story behind the Strathbogie Brewing Company is as refreshing, wholesome and delightful as the beer they produce. COLLETTE GEIER reports ▶



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As of March this year, there's a new kid in town at the Euroa Farmers' Market and it's certainly setting tongues wagging.

Dave and Sandy Joyce of Strathbogie dreamed for years of building their own brewery, but licensing and planning restrictions made it virtually impossible.

They researched other boutique produce such as mushrooms or cheese, but after a decade of patience and toil (and a restructure of government regulations) their dream of a brewery is now a reality and they are able to share their passion with the wider community.

Walking by the market stall, it would be easy to assume Dave and Sandy have been selling beer for years; the couple's meticulous attention to detail is illustrated in every part of their operation. Labels are hand-printed directly on the flip-top bottles in the brewery and even the beautiful wooden crates are handmade using peppermint gum hewn from local wind-fell trees.

The logo adorning each bottle is as bespoke as the beer itself. Take a close look and you'll see every ingredient in pictogram form right down to the water and the yeast. ▶

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medium; they have extended their craft to cover every aspect of their lives.

"He who dies with the most sheds wins," smiles Dave bashfully and although Dave does have an enviable number of sheds (a dairy, a granary, a smokehouse and a workshop just to mention a few), it's the beauty of their construction and the condition in which he keeps them that are the true measure of the man. It's not every bloke who has a granary with an elevator or a slaughter area with an electric hoist he's constructed himself.

"I have to constantly pinch myself," says Dave. "I've got my own brewery." However, what he doesn't mention is its effective, passive solar design, its bespoke laser-cut stainless steel brewing components or the brewery's name repeated around the walls as part of the perfect tile work.

It would be only mildly noteworthy had they employed a group of tradespeople to build it all for them, but they haven't; they've done the vast majority themselves and made it perfect to boot.

There's no rusted clutter or half finished construction one often sees on smallholdings; instead it's well kept, functional and ultimately beautiful.

The couple's four hectares (10 acres) is also a tardis in terms of productivity. With about two and a half hectares of grazing land, less than one hectare for house and other buildings and the rest under intensive production, they produce nearly everything they eat and nurture the ground that feeds them.

"We're very food rich," says Dave and he's not wrong. They have two Jersey cows (Jezebel and Daisy), two breeding ewes, two pigs, a dozen hens and then there's the garden. The orchard has

over 40 trees and they even produce root vegetables to supplement the dairy cows' diet over the winter. What isn't used goes to the pigs and the chickens and their greenhouse is producing sweet red tomatoes well into the cold Strathbogie winter.

Further to the garden's bounty, a sneak peek inside the couple's pantry would bring a tear to the eye of any CWA lady. The spotless rows of jams and preserves are only trumped by the plate of home-grown garlic, the endless tomato passata, not to mention the dried mushrooms.

From their dairy and their smoke house, Dave and Sandy produce specialty items money simply cannot buy. Without so much as a day's training, Sandy produces cheeses from all over the world. "I'll try making any kind of cheese," says Sandy. "I love them all." And she does more than try. Her cheeses are skilfully crafted and delicious and her five-year-old Parmesan would rival anything produced in Parma.

An electric cream separator produces vast tubs of cream you can stand a spoon in and from this they produce sweet butter with flavour worlds away from what we buy in a shop.

Their pigs provide everything from bacon to prosciutto and with all this produce; the biggest question is why Dave and Sandy aren't the size of houses?

"We have to work at it," explains Sandy. "There's the farm work of course, but I also ride my bike a lot and Dave's always working at something."

Although Dave grew up in Euroa and Sandy near Kyabram, the couple met while both working in Melbourne more than 25 years ago. From the very beginning of their relationship, ▶



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## NNEFOOD AND WINE

weekends were spent with friends and family scattered throughout the shire getting away from the big smoke. They always intended on moving back, but there was little work locally for young people back then.

"We partied hard and made good money," says Dave, but they never lost sight of their dreams of a country life. In 1990 they found the block they had been dreaming of on the edge of the Strathbogie township and spent all their spare time for the next eight years making it home.

The collapse of Ansett, where Dave had worked, expedited their plans and helped them finish the house and move up permanently in 2001. Dave and Sandy are proud to say they had the house finished before they moved in; a feat not every tree-changer can boast.

When the couple first started home brewing, their emphasis was self-sufficiency, not flavour, but over the last 25 years of trial and error, Dave has become a master brewer. The waste from production (known as brewers' grain) is fed to their livestock who convert it (free of charge) to fertiliser for growing next year's crops of hops and grain – and so completes the cycle.

The Strathbogie Brewing Company does not have a license to sell beer at the brewery, but it has found a way to share their produce with the locals. Last summer the Strathbogie Recreation Club used their license to hold an open bar of a Thursday evening and locals were able to gather and pass the time sharing a glass of Dave's finest. It's been years



since Strathbogie had a pub and in a way this is history repeating. Dave's grandmother Henrietta Joyce was the publican in Strathbogie in the 1940's, so it's certainly in the genes.

Although there is room for the Strathbogie Brewing Company to increase production, the couple has no desire to get big. Their aim is to produce an artisan product for the local market that allows them to meet their needs and maintain their lifestyle. For them, to grow beyond that would be counter-productive. "Time to us is worth more than money," Dave explains. "And money can't buy time. My ultimate goal is to be able to employ Sandy in the brewery part-time, so she doesn't have to work off-farm, but other than that we have everything we want."

These two are not born salespeople by any stretch of the imagination; they are humble folk and getting them to talk about their achievements is like getting blood out of a stone, they prefer to let their produce speak for itself.

Currently, Dave and Sandy produce four beers – a pale ale, wheat beer, Belgian Ale and McQuinn's Brown Ale. There's also a stout in the making that might be ready for June's Euroa Market.

So what does the future hold for the Joyce's? "More of the same," they concur with a giggle. There are a few projects around the place that need finishing – and there always will be – but let's hope, both for them and the rest of the community, that they keep doing what they're doing for years to come. **NNE**

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Josette Bradley from Mansfield

# Wine, food and song

It was a day of food, wine and bright and beautiful stalls in Mansfield on the last Saturday of April with the annual Upper Goulburn Vintage Celebrations. This was the 'Day on High' with a carnival type atmosphere on the grassed medium strip in Mansfield's High Street.

While the event was free to one and all, a small fee was charged for a sampling glass, enabling the holder to taste the best from local wine makers. The glasses were an outstanding success and more popular than planned as, late in the day, the glasses had all been sold.

As they strolled, the large crowd also savoured mouth-watering food from the stalls of various local producers. And there was continuous live entertainment to enjoy while eating and sipping wine. Basically, the perfect taste and sip event. **NNE**



Fem Belling sings a great song



Sian Scale from the Mansfield Produce store



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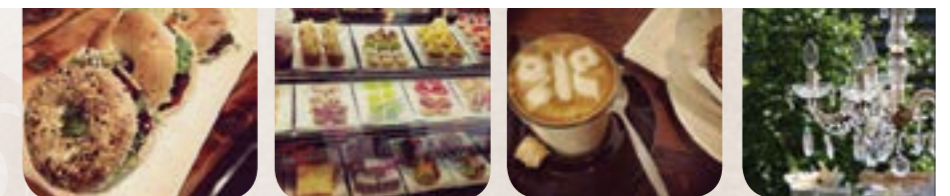


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# Taggerty dinner was *pot luck*

You wouldn't blame anyone for feeling a bit unsure when eating out for dinner when it is to consist of a range of unknown dishes prepared, albeit lovingly, by a diverse range of people.

Yet, on Saturday May 17, the Taggerty community held its 'Pot Luck Dinner' in the local hall. It was a sell out. Filling the hall were two full length tables decorated and set for dinner.

As the cooks with their dishes arrived in the kitchen, there was a scramble for power points and space in the bulging oven. Keen cooks and diners arrived bearing arms full of saucepans, slow cookers and platters topped with cakes.

It was a case of pure luck in a pot as lids were sombrely removed to reveal the many and varied meals that were on offer.

And thankfully nobody need have worried. The night was a great success as cooking is an enjoyable activity, people love to feed other people and there is great pride taken when creating their dishes.

This evening mixed a lot of fun and good conversation with laughter and food. **NNE**



Glori Zamani.  
Traditional Persian dish of Kooftah



Cathy Vining.  
Chicken curry



John Scott. Kouglof



Karen Johnson. Empty bowls



Jo Penny-Tagg.  
Chocolate brownie



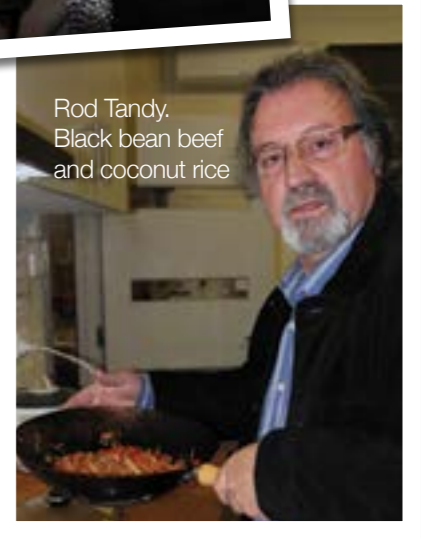
Beth Thorp.  
Trifle



Heather McLaren.  
Curry beef with rice



Anne Sharrock.  
Sweet and sour chicken



Rod Tandy.  
Black bean beef and coconut rice



Noelle Matthews.  
Lasagna



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**NNE**HOME ON THE RANGE

# One for the pot, one for me

Longwood Chef Colette Geier has gone into hibernation for the winter, but a quick trip to Strathbogies was enough to get her back in the kitchen

**Y**es, the grass is green and there's water in the tank at long last, but the frigid temperature means my normal exuberance for life has been packed away with the last of my summer dresses.

The Ugg boots and the passion killers (flannel jarmies) have become the ensemble of choice and don't try and tell me a mauve fleece dressing gown doesn't go with everything!

Despite my best intentions, I did get dressed the other week to spend the morning with Dave and Sandy Joyce from the Strathbogies Brewing Company and it's hard to not get excited around those two.

If the pair were shorter and had hairy feet, you'd swear they were hobbits and you'd wandered into Middle Earth.

As well as having the most beautiful farm and brewery, Dave and Sandy have a garden to die for and right now it's choc-a-block full of winter brassicas.

This recipe is an oldie, but a goodie and perfect for the cold winters in Strathbogies. With Dave's beer and Sandy's cheese, the only thing they'd have to buy is the salt and pepper.

The combination of cheese and cauliflower (or broccoli) is a no-brainer (who doesn't love cauliflower gratin?) but it's the beer in this soup that's the real crowd-pleaser. It adds a fabulous earthy meatiness that's guaranteed to warm the cockles.

The depth of the flavour can be varied by the strength of the beer you choose; for me, (especially in this soup) I like my beer like I like my men: rich and dark. I'm saying I like them like that, not that I've got one like that. I'll just have to make do with pale, strong and utterly delicious. **NNE**



## Cheesy Cauliflower/ Broccoli Soup

For a gluten free version: replace the beer with dry cider

- 2 kg broccoli and or cauliflower (roughly chopped)
- 2 medium onions (roughly chopped)
- Litre or so of chicken or vegetable stock (and no, you're not going to be struck down if you use stock cubes)
- 1 longneck or two stubbies of beer
- Bay leaf or two
- 2-3 tablespoons cornflour or arrowroot
- 2 cups grated cheese (I use half tasty, half parmesan)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Put vegies, stock, beer and bay leaves in a large pot and bring to the boil. Lower heat and allow to simmer until the vegies are falling apart (about an hour). Mix the flour with a little cold water until smooth and add to the pot. Stir for two minutes and then add the cheese.

Be sure to remove the bay leaves before you add the flour and cheese or you'll never find them again. Take to the pot with a potato masher for a chunky consistency or a stick blender if you like your soup smooth. Season with salt and cracked pepper. This soup also freezes well.



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# An afternoon of eating *pleasure*

It was a cold and wet day, which meant it was a great opportunity to catch up with friends. After a few calls lunch out was arranged. And on this particular Sunday, PAT O'BRYAN and friends decided to go the full hog and include more than just lunch; they went on for high tea

The Royal Mail Hotel in Yea was the destination for lunch. This is a pub whose traditional facade hides the fact that it has a stylish restaurant section inside. It's bright and contemporary with a large central bar separating the dining area from the bar section.

The dining area included a wood burning fire with a modern set of armchairs close by and dark timber tables contrasting with pale fresh walls. Adding variety is a long high bench for eating at and a few smaller tables in corners for more intimate occasions.

Tall vases of flowers complemented the fresh and clean look of the room that was well patronised with families and couples.

The menu offered 12 dishes for lunch plus specials. From the menu we chose the grilled pork loin medallions with a warm salad of sweet potato, rocket, red onion, semi-dried tomato and honey,



cider glazed apples (\$27). This dish was well presented and generous with three pieces of loin and a good helping of vegetables to accompany the meat. The apples added a special touch to the enjoyable dish.

Mushroom pappardelle was the next meal and again was a generous dish of assorted mushrooms lightly sautéed with garlic. The pasta was light and al dente with a small amount of cream tossed through and topped with a very tasty walnut pesto (\$23). This again was very much enjoyed.

Our other two were less adventurous and went for the beer battered fish and chips with a crisp salad and homemade tartare sauce (\$22). The fish was Blue Grenadier, beautifully cooked and very tasty, while the batter was crisp. Again the meals were

really big and I thought the batter perhaps just a little thick, but it's a personal thing – and you can always not eat it all.

The real criticism from our table was that the wine list was made up of New Zealand and mainstream Australian wines with nothing from the local region. Weird, we thought, considering Yea has numerous wine producers making some great wines and all within reasonable proximity to the centre of town. Thankfully, on making our view known we were offered a few local choices at the bar. We opted for the Larnoo Estate 2006 Shiraz (\$20) from the Yea Valley and it was a fine drop. I would certainly recommend others to do likewise and ask for local wines at the bar.

We kept our meal brief with no entrees or desserts as we were going on to high tea, but the Royal Mail appears to be the type of place where one could really settle in for an afternoon or evening.

The ambience at the Royal Mail is very pleasant; the staff are helpful and the meals very filling. For the prices, it would be hard to go past it. We'll definitely go again. **NNE**

\* Turn the page for High Tea at Flowerdale Estate

Royal Mail Hotel  
88 High Street, Yea  
5797 2515  
[www.royalmailhotelyea.com.au](http://www.royalmailhotelyea.com.au)



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# Old world delights at Strath Creek

What a gem, what a treasure trove is the historic Flowerdale Estate. We had come from lunch at Yea's Royal Mail Hotel, but had heard much about this place and wanted to explore a little more. So we continued on to Strath Creek for High Tea at the Flowerdale Estate, which was a whole new world – or rather old world.

Entering the grounds and viewing the main building puts you instantly in a wonderful mood.

Flowerdale Estate consists of a number of buildings – many used as stylish accommodation – but the dining area appears to have been the main homestead and it is rich in period detail. Open fireplaces, decorative high ceilings, pressed metal wainscoting and ornate leadlight windows take one's breath away.

We had not booked, but will next time; however, we were made to feel extremely welcome by one of the owners, the wonderful Maria Holmes who quickly had us seated in the main dining room where numerous parties were partaking in high tea delights.

To one side of the room was a party of women celebrating the 60th birthday of one of their party who were having a delightful time, all looking marvellous having dressed in 1950s style for the occasion.

China tea pots, silver milk jugs, white linen tablecloths and napkins all added to the ambience.

We did not wait long for a three-tiered china serving platter to be presented to us laden with warm pastries morsels, cucumber and club sandwiches and sweet morsels of tarts and cakes. And, of course, it hadn't been that long since we left lunch.


While talking with Maria, she produced the dinner menu from the Saturday night; it looked mouth-watering.

The high tea was terrific, but it looks like we have to go back soon for dinner. **NNE**



Belinda West from Stanhope celebrates her 60th birthday with family and friends at Flowerdale Estate

Flowerdale Estate  
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Strath Creek  
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# Stylish lunch in the country

The Upper Goulburn Wine Association weekend of food and wine celebrations started with the popular 'Day on High' celebrations on Saturday, April 26 and concluded with the magnificent annual long lunch on the Sunday. The main shed at the Mansfield Showgrounds was transformed into a fine dining room and looked a treat packed with people anxious to enjoy the seven-course degustation lunch with local wine, of course. Local chefs produced their magic and all enjoyed a lunch worthy of an entire afternoon. **NNE**



Benalla MP Dr Bill Sykes enjoying local produce



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# The patient Philip Lobley

Wine writer IAN DUNN heads south to Glenburn and then to the Highlands outside Yea for some interesting wines

**Philip Lobley Wines,  
1084 Eucalyptus Road  
Glenburn**

I have tasted and enjoyed the wines of Philip Lobley over some years. Some time ago his Pinot Noir featured as one of the chosen wines at the Mansfield Long Lunch. Over dinner at a friend's we were served an excellent Merlot and on visits to Yea Races, if one is in need of a cool libation whilst losing one's shirt, his Sauvignon Blanc has done the trick.

Yet I confess that until a recent visit, I wasn't certain just where these wines came from and I knew little about their creator. So after a phone call I paid a visit to an idyllic setting west of the Melba Highway some short distance south of Glenburn. For a number of reasons it was well worth the visit.

One finds a tiny vineyard on the edge of the forest on the side of a decent size lake (which, regrettably, has Redfin in it!). For a vineyard of about 6 acres, first planted in 1995, there are many grape varieties. Apart from the expected Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz and Merlot, there are more recent plantings including Nebbiolo and Semillon.

These plantings have had what might be described as a stuttering start. Not surprisingly, considering its location, the vineyard was badly affected by the Black Saturday fires, causing a loss of production for a couple of years. Fortunately, and unlike most in our region, Philip Lobley was able to make red wines from the 2011 vintage. But just to complete the picture the 2014 vintage – which was, throughout much of Southern Victoria, badly affected by a 2013 spring which was too cold – has been a complete wipe-out at Philip's Glenburn vineyard. Any wine made this year will be from grapes from elsewhere, either at Taggerty or Heathcote.

I mention this just to highlight that making wine in our regions is not easy! In Philip's case, patience, the expertise gained as a long-term Yarra Valley winemaker and, one would think, some capital, would certainly be required. But adding to the attractiveness of a Lobley visit is a fine art collection and also the fact that Lyn, his wife, both produces sourdough and also conducts classes in the making of it!

Following my visit, and in the company of a group of experienced wine lovers, we were able to taste two wines, a 2011 Pinot Noir and 2012 Nebbiolo.

The Pinot I would describe as being from the older Burgundian style. Recently we've been treated to some big intensely fruity specimens, for example from Marlborough or Otago in NZ or even some of the wines from Ballarat and the Yarra Valley. These may appeal more to some, but others will prefer the (Lobley) more restrained approach. And one must remember that it is a 2011 wine, when vintage occurred throughout many periods of rain. In any event it is a fine, elegant wine. Although I haven't tasted it, I understand that a very good Merlot was also produced in that difficult year.

And the Nebbiolo, on this occasion from Heathcote, is extremely drinkable. I see a big future in Australia for this grape variety.

The wines are priced in the high \$20s, with a discount by the dozen. A number of local outlets stock the wines including the Ruffy Store and several IGAs.

Philip Lobley wines do not have appointed cellar door hours, but a visit may be readily organised by calling 5797 8433 or mobile 0408 669 109. And there's the website: philiplobleywines.com **NNE**

## A good year at Antcliffs

I've recently encountered the latest offerings from Antcliffs Chase.

Some time ago I mentioned the great result in the Victorian Wine show achieved for the 2013 Riesling.

When we finally tasted it, in a group involving some very good SA wines, it absolutely shone out. This is a beautiful example of this variety, one of which our region can be proud.

Whilst I had anticipated that the Riesling might be great, I was very struck by the 2012 Pinot Noir. A bigger wine with more fruit than earlier vintages it will be very appealing and at \$20, is remarkably priced for a Pinot.

And the Lagrein – unusual, at first a bit closed on the palate, but opening out into an unusual but very distinctive wine, which by the end of the bottle was highly rated by the hard-to-please tasters.

Ian Dunn: iandunn227@gmail.com



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So when you, or anyone in the family next asks, 'Are we there yet?' the answer is almost always YES!





# Putting the pieces together

A jigsaw puzzle with pieces the size of dinner plates stretched across the floor of the Benalla Art Gallery. Children were eagerly holding pieces of the puzzle moving from one side of the gigantic picture to the other.

It was the Gallery's interactive children's workshop and they were literally putting together the Gallery's first giant jigsaw of Edouard Manet's painting 'Luncheon on the Grass' as part of the Benalla Nude exhibition.

Dylan Thornton from Avenel was commissioned to create the jigsaw for the gallery and he was there to watch as the children constructed the picture.

The children were not perplexed when the straight edge pieces didn't fit in the middle of the puzzle, or when the pieces seemed to fit better when they were turned backwards.

Happily the older children were kindly sharing their experience and coming to the aid of those with a look of, 'I will make it fit' on their faces.

For information on the development of the project contact Shanley on 5760 2616 or email her on shanley.cleland@benalla.vic.gov.au **NNE**



Isabelle from Gorambat with Wren from Avenel



Anna Claburn and Neo from Avenel

Gallery 34



invites you to "LIFELINES"

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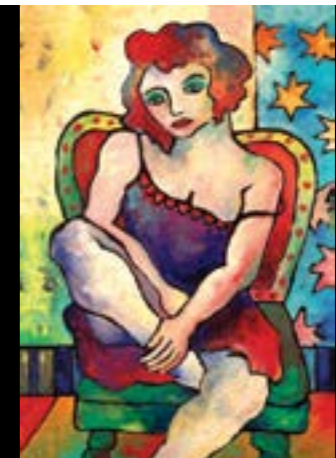
invites you to "LIVING PORTRAITS"

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## Just for Winter

### Rennies at Acheron

will be taking a little rest as Marian will be working towards an exhibition later in the year.

Rennies Restaurant is still available for bookings of 15 or more and of course *functions*.

Marian's new exhibition will be *very exciting!*  
Gallery open by appointment.

Please call 5772 1701 or 0412 109 129  
www.marianrennie.com.au



The cast of Nunsense get together for rehearsal. From left to right: Lou Fillmore, Deb Leslie, Janine Harrison, Lillian Moon, Deb Robinson

# A blessed comedy in Yea

Nunsense is habit forming, according to the five woman cast of the Broadway hit musical comedy being performed in June by the YAPPERS, the Yea Artistic Performing Persons Entertaining.

When NNE visited, it was a rehearsal and the cast is already showing the signs of excitement and anticipation of the opening night. Each is anxious to share their version of the story and their favourite song.

The bones of the musical comedy are five nuns returning from a bingo night to find Sister Julia, Child of God, has accidentally killed 52 of their fellow sisters of the convent. The culprit is the vichyssoise soup.

Money is needed to bury the dead nuns and Mother Superior comes through with some new-found funds. Except, before they can bury the last

four, Mother Superior spends the remaining money on an outdated VCR. So to raise the extra cash, the surviving nuns decide to stage an all singing, dancing nuns' cabaret and this is where the fun really begins.

With these five crazy, enthusiastic and talented players on the stage, the musical comedy is sure to be an hilarious romp.

Our stars are Mother Superior Mary Regina formerly a circus performer (played by Deb Robinson), Sister Mary Hubert (played by Deb Leslie), Mary Regina's rival Sister Robert Anne a frustrated actor with a streetwise background (played by Janine Harrison), Sister Mary Leo a novice who dreams of being a ballerina nun (played by Lillian Moon), and Sister Mary Amnesia who lost her memory (played by Lou Fillmore). **NNE**

Performances will be held at the Yea Shire Hall, High Street, Yea, at 7.30pm on Friday, 13 June, Saturday, 14 June, Friday, 20 June and Saturday, 21 June. There will also be a matinee at 2pm on Sunday, 15 June.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for concession and \$10 children and are available from Yea Community House, Yea District Community Bank and Gallery 34, or phone 0400 077 692.

# Exploring the Kimberley and two cultures

## Cicada

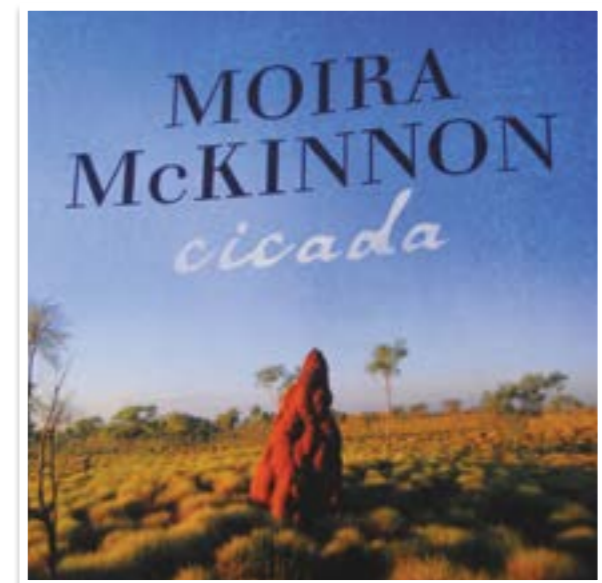
by Moira McKinnon, Allen & Unwin, \$29.99

Reviewed by Joe Blake

It's no surprise that the Kimberley region has become a great favourite with the Grey Nomads. Stunningly beautiful country and vast distances combine to give an almost magical effect. Termite mounds, spinifex grass, spindly trees, and wide rivers running through massive gorges create a sense of difference and peace for retired accountants in their newly-bought four-wheel drives. Well, it might be peaceful now, but that wasn't the case 150 years ago. The Kimberley is the site of some of the most brutal and bitter battles between white newcomers and traditional owners.

This excellent novel set in the Kimberley just after World War I, deals with the aftermath of those battles, in a time when the defeated Aboriginal warriors were subject to the most humiliating treatment by the white victors.

Emily, a rich English heiress, has come to Australia with her husband William, a poor man who won her heart with his elegance and poetic abilities. He runs a station owned by her family, but the tropical conditions have made him unravel; his health, both mental and physical, is impaired severely. After a brief encounter with an Aboriginal stockman, she gives birth to a brown baby. When William kills the infant, Emily realises she will be next, and sets out across country with her maid, Wirritjil, hoping to reach safety in Broome. William orders his brother Trevor to set off in pursuit, thus beginning a tale of two parallel and beautifully-described journeys.



Once they get away, the roles of Emily and Wirritjil become reversed. The wealthy Lady Lipscombe becomes dependent on her humble black maid, and starts to learn great things about the country; she'll never know a tenth of what Wirritjil does, but her learning curve is tremendous. They live off the land, and Emily becomes a part of the environment that has been so foreign to her until now. Because of Wirritjil's skills, Trevor and his Aboriginal tracker lose the trace of their quarry, and spend a lot of time casting about before they find it again. Finally, after many months of arduous travel, both pairs reach Broome at the same time.

Throughout their journeys, the travellers meet others along the way; some help and

some are a hindrance to the respective groups, but all are interesting and integral to the developing tension of the story.

For a debut novel, this book is marvellous in so many ways; the writing flows effortlessly and the descriptions – of the land and the people who live in it – are superb. McKinnon not only has an intimate knowledge of the plants, animals, birds and the landscape, but she is able to get inside the heads of a large variety of characters, both black and white, who populated our far north-west in its earlier incarnation as a pioneer outpost. Older caravanners and younger Australians who've never been to the Kimberley would benefit greatly from exposing themselves to this expression of our history. **NNE**

# Happening June & July

## Galleries & Museums

**Banksia Gallery King Parrot Valley Country Retreat** 26 – 66 Wentworth Rd, Strath Creek 0457 590 222 except Wed

**Bruno's Art & Sculpture Garden** Marysville 7 days brunosart.com 5963 3513

**The Sheila Inc Design Centre** 52 – 54 Binney St, Euroa

**Rustic Simplicity @ The Shear 'N' shedS** 7 Days 10am – 4pm, 74 Grant St, Alexandra rusticsimplicityblog.wordpress.com 0419 517 045

**Marian Rennie Gallery** 132 Breakaway Road, Acheron marian@marianrennie.com.au 5772 1701 / 0412 109 129

**Bob Bateup Photography & Framing** 8am till 8pm, 7 days In the Foodworks complex, Mansfield bobbateup.com.au 0457 752 434

**Mansfield Historical Society** 5779 1094 Mansfield Railway Station 175 High St

**Gallery 34** 10am – 4pm Thurs – Mon 34 High St, Yea gallery34.com.au 5797 3222

**Benalla Art Gallery** Bridge St 5762 3027

**Old Post Office Art Gallery & Restaurant** 50 Emily St, Seymour 5792 3170

**Highlands Hillcrest Gallery & Studio** Hillcrest, RMB 6020 Old Highlands Rd, Highlands dennisspiteri@active8.net.au 5796 9373

**The Farmers' Arms Hotel Museum** 25 Kirkland Ave Euroa 5798 9548

**Alexandra Timber Tramway & Museum** alexandratramway.org.au 0427 509 988

**Great Alpine Gallery** Great Alpine Rd, Swifts Creek. swiftscreek.net/scgallery/ 5159 4445

**Bright Art Gallery** Mountbatten Ave, Bright snp.mccall@gmail.com 5750 1074

**Benalla Art Gallery** Botanic Gardens Bridge St, Benalla gallery@benalla.vic.gov.au benallaartgallery.com 5760 2619

**Benalla Costume & Pioneer Museum** 14 Mair St, Benalla. benhist@vicnet.net.au home.vicnet.net.au/~benmus/ 5762 6039

**Wangaratta Art Gallery** 56 Ovens St 5722 0865 0419 322 086 gallery@wangaratta.vic.gov.au

**Robert O'Hara Burke Museum** Loch St, Beechworth 5728 8067 burkemuseum.com.au/burke\_museum

**Wangaratta Historical Society** Ford St, Wangaratta wanhistsoc@hotmail.com wanhistsoc.org.au 5721 3222

**Spiritus Art Gallery** 2 High St, Yackandandah art@spiritusgallery.com 02 6027 1797

**El Dorado Museum** 136 Main St, Eldorado hello@eldoradomuseum.com eldoradomuseum.com 5725 1542

## Shire Libraries

**Mansfield Collopy Street** 5775 2176

**Euroa Binney Street** 1300 374 765

**Alexandra Grant Street** 5772 0349

**Yea The Semi Circle** 5797 2209

**Benalla Nunn Street** 5762 2069

**Kinglake Kinglake-Whittlesea Rd** 5786 1522

**Flowerdale/Eildon/Marysville/Strath Creek** 5772 0349

**Violet Town Cowslip Street** 1300 374 765

**Nagambie High Street** 1300 374 765

**Wangaratta Docker Street** 5772 4211

**Bright Ireland Street** 5755 1540

**Beechworth Cnr Albert Rd & Harper Ave** 1300 365 003

**Myrtleford Cnr Standish St & O'Donnell Ave** 5752 2038

## Shire Cinemas

**Mansfield Armchair Cinema** 1 Chenery St 5775 2049 the-mac.com.au

**Swanpool Cinema** 2386 Midland Hwy 5768 2415 swanpoolcinema.com.au

**Euroa Community Cinema** Shire Building, Bury St 5795 0000

**Benalla Performing Arts & Convention Centre** 57 Samaria Rd 5762 5515

**Violet Town St Dunstan's Hall** High St

**Strathbogie Memorial Hall** Main St

**Chiltern Star Theatre** Main St 5726 1395

**Wangaratta Cinema Centre**

1st Floor, The Co Store Complex Corner of Ovens St and Reid St 5721 5555

**Yackandandah Memorial Hall Complex** High St 02 6027 1077 0427 271 017

## Gig Guide

**Yea Acoustic Jam Session** 7.30pm till stumps 1st Friday each month Yea Community House, 15 The Semi-Circle. 5797 3070 FINAL EVENT IN JULY

**Buxton Hotel Motel Live Music** Last Sunday of each month buxtonhotel@virtual.net.au 5774 7381

**MannaFest** Open Sundays 2.30pm Playing every Sunday is Corey Leslie, vocalist and acoustic musician 32 High St, Yea

**Bracket and Jam** Mansfield Regional Produce Store Mansfield's most popular live music night featuring best musicians from around the region. 3rd Friday of the month, a great night out! Cover charge \$10pp. Dinner from 6.30pm, music from 7.30pm. Bookings/Performers 5779 1404

The Flowerdale Hotel 2pm(ish) in the bar. First Sunday every month. Come and have a pluck or just enjoy the tunes 5780 1230

**Live Music at Bright Brewery** every Sunday 2pm start. Open Mic Afternoon with Rudi Katterl – First Sunday of the month. To join the line-up, call 0417 133 293 5755 1301 www.brightbrewery.com.au

**Music on the Deck @ Gapsted Wines** Free entry to all. Lunch bookings essential cellardoor@gapstedwines.com 5751 1383

**Everton Open Mic Session** 2nd Sunday of each month 2pm. If you can sing, play an instrument, recite poetry or tell a good yarn come along to the Everton Hotel for fun family friendly activity 5727 0232

## Markets

### Every Saturday

**Mansfield Produce Swap** 10am–12pm Free, registration required at event. Bring excess produce grown or made at home or preserves etc to swap. Fruit, vegetables herbs, seeds, baked & preserved goods. 120 High St, Mansfield

### Every Sunday

**Wangaratta Market** 8am – 1pm Pick up a bargain at the local trash and treasure market. Lots of fresh fruit and vegetables are also available. Avian Park Raceway, Newman St 0427 215 258

### First Saturday

**Taggerty 4 Seasons Market** 9am. A community market offering a variety of produce, products and plants. Showcasing excellent local products, wine, olive oil, honey, preserves, baked goods, craft, plants, fruit and veg, bbq sausages and coffee Taggerty Hall, 5 Taggerty-Thornton Rd 0421 351 571 nmatt6@bigpond.com

**Yea Country Market** Local producers, growers & makers & eclectic trash & treasure. Live entertainers, delicious food. Yea Railway Park, Station St. yeamarket@gmail.com 0411 433 702.

**Tatong Village Market** 8am – 1pm Make it, bake it & grow it. Rain, hail, frost or shine. Strictly no dogs. In the picturesque grounds of the English-style Tatong Tavern. thetatongvillagemarket@yahoo.com.au 5767 2192 www.tatongvillagemarket.com

**Nagambie Lakes Community Market** 8.30am – 1pm. Regional produce, arts & crafts, food stalls & more. Blayney Reserve. nagambielakestourism.com.au

**Mount Beauty Community Markets** 9am – 2pm. Features variety of homegrown fresh produce, new and used goods, household items, craft stalls, sausage sizzle and more! Hollands St & Kiewa Cres. 5754 4097



## Queen's Birthday Weekend Bush Market

Saturday 7th June 2014, 8am to 2:30pm

Highett St Mansfield (Curia St - Hunter St)

Local produce, Arts and craft, Knick knacks, Delicious food and much more ...



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## Bonnie Doon is kick-back central!

Bonnie Doon has a proven ability to provide genuine stress relief for jaded city people. The small town is situated in North East Victoria on the edge of Lake Eildon. It is best known as a holiday/weekend destination for water-skiers, fisherman and boat enthusiasts.



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www.bonniedooncaravanpark.com.au

**Violet Town Market**  
Second Saturday of every month, rain or shine, at the Violet Town Recreation Reserve  
from 8:30am to 1:00pm  
Dogs not permitted, service dogs excepted  
Enquiries to 0416 233 584



Whatever you're looking for,  
you'll find it at  
the Yea Country Market.

First Saturday of every month  
9.00am - 2.00pm

Many and varied stalls, the best in fresh local produce, arts and craft, children's activities, playground and skate park. Accompanied by a backdrop of live music, relax and enjoy a latte while taking in the ambiance and fun at this beautiful historic site - Yea Railway Park.



Yea Railway Park



I got it in Yea!



Fabulous array of stalls on offer by local producers, growers and makers, as well as eclectic trash and treasure stalls, all enhanced by local entertainers and delicious food and snacks.

## HAPPENING

### First Saturday

**Beechworth Farmers Market** 9am – 12pm  
Christ Church Grounds Cnr Ford & Church Sts.  
0408 859 282

**Mansfield Bush Market** 8am - 2:30pm  
Local produce, arts and craft, knick knacks,  
delicious food plus much more – JUNE ONLY.  
Highett St (Curia St to Hunter St) 0417 118 103

### First Sunday

**Tallarook Farmers' Market** 9am – 1pm  
Mechanics Institute, Main Rd, Tallarook  
clivehines@hotmail.com

**Producers Market** 9am – 2pm  
Live music, crafts, fresh food, meet the  
producers. Crossroads, Milawa 5727 3507

**Bonnie Doon Country Market & Car Boot Sale**  
A delightful country market at the  
Bonnie Doon Community Centre between  
8.30am - 1pm. Variety of market stalls,  
including food and great coffee.  
Come along for breakfast and stay for lunch!  
5778 7722 bdccentre@bigpond.com

**Myrtleford Cotters Market** 9am – 2pm  
Presented by Myrtleford Festival Committee  
focusing on locally grown, made and produced  
items and goods. Jubilee Park.  
0438 420 806 (after 6pm).  
www.themyrtlefordfestival.com.au

**Freeburgh Hall Bush Market** 9am – 1pm  
Enjoy the rustic ambience of the Freeburgh  
Bush Market situated in the Ovens Valley.  
Enjoy a variety of stalls including jewellery,  
cards, paintings, handmade garments, plants,  
pickles and jams, trash and treasure and more.  
Freeburgh Community Centre, Great Alpine Rd  
5755 1625 derekandmerle@hamboursat.com.au

**Beechworth Market** at Queen Victoria Park  
9.00am to 3.30pm 5728 2968 or 0428 282 968

**Chiltern Markets** 10am – 2pm.  
Woodfire pizza, local coffee, fine foods,  
produce, arts, craft and handmade items.  
Also kids will enjoy the Jumping castle, face  
painting and balloons. Come along for a fun  
day. 62 Main Street, Chiltern, (next to the Old  
Lodge cafe). 0431 821 347

### Second Saturday

**Violet Town Community Market** 8.30am – 1pm  
Handmade & homemade goods, community  
group stalls, buskers, organic veggies, coffee,  
original clothing, plant. No dogs.  
Recreation Reserve, Tulip St, Violet Town.  
info@market.violettown.org.au

**Alexandra Market** 9am  
Stalls, refreshments & train rides  
Alexandra Timber Tramway. 7 Station St  
market@alexandratramway.org.au. 0427 509 988

**CWA Craft & Produce Market** 10am – 2pm.  
Purchase some great locally homemade  
goodies. CWA Hall, High St, Mansfield

**Myrtleford Flea Market** 8.30am – noon  
Held at the Old School Museum, wide range of  
cakes, preserves, trash and treasure, plants,  
second hand books, clothing and jewellery,  
fruit and vegetables.  
Elgin St, Myrtleford. 5727 1417 / 5752 1963

### Second Sunday

**Marysville Community Market** 9am – 1pm  
Crafts, gifts, clothing, jams, jellies, chutneys,  
plants. Murchison St. marysvilletourism.com

**Avenel Produce & Craft Market** 10am – 2pm  
Grow it, sew it, bake it & make it.  
Live music & kids' art and pony rides.  
Jubilee Park Queen St. 0468 586 069

**Maindample Trash & Treasure** 8am – 2pm.  
Featuring fresh produce, plants, new and  
preloved treasures and BBQ. 0401 712 810  
Under the trees at the community park,  
Main St, Maindample (opposite the CFA shed).

**Benalla Lions Club Carboot Sale** 8am – noon  
Bring your goods to the Fawckner Drive  
Carpark to sell or come along to find a bargain.  
\$5.00 per site, buyers free.  
pandmpoels@bigpond.com 5762 3043

**Rutherglen Farmers Market** 9am – 12.30pm.  
Over 25 local and regional producers offering  
an extensive range of fresh local produce for  
sale that will include fresh seasonal fruit and  
vegetables, local extra virgin olive oils, hand  
crafted chocolates, free range eggs, Nashi  
juice, marmalades and spreads, and much more.

### Third Saturday

**Euroa Village Farmers Market** 9am – 1pm  
Fresh vegetables & fruits, olive oils, honey,  
eggs, meats & more. Farmer directly to you.  
Rotary Park, Kirkland Ave, Euroa.

**Yarck Country Market** 9am – 1.30pm  
Produce & craft. Yarck Hall, Maroondah Hwy.

**Moyhu Farmers Market** 8am – noon  
Market celebrates the best of the  
King Valley's food, wine and its vibrant  
community. Fantastic event for locals and  
visitors with opportunity to speak directly with  
growers. Moyhu Lions Park 5727 9301

**Beechworth Market**  
Beechworth food, refreshments and music.  
Great variety of handmade products. Lovely  
park setting. Queen Victoria Park.  
0428 282 968 / 5728 2968.

**Bright Markets – Make It, Bake It, Grow It.**  
9am – 1pm. Something original, handmade,  
special, organic, recycled, ethical. Artworks,  
woodwork, homewares and skincare, as well  
as gorgeous fashion and jewellery by local  
designers. Howitt Park.  
www.brightchamber.com.au

**Yackandandah Monthly Produce Swap**  
At 9.30 am the produce starts rolling in and the  
swap finishes around 11:00 am. A wide range  
including leafy greens, garlic, onions, peppers,  
zucchini, olives, beans, seasonal fruits,  
preserves, seeds and seedlings, egg cartons  
and glass jars – even the occasional rooster,  
chicken and duck! The swap is a fantastic  
opportunity to learn about growing vegetables  
and fruit, share gardening tips or just have a  
cup of tea with new and old friends. Recently  
moved to the new Yackandandah Community  
Garden (William Street, next to the swimming  
pool). 0477 417 445

### Third Sunday

**Flowerdale Community Market** 9am – 1pm  
Country market stalls, arts, crafts, veggies,  
plants, trash & treasure. Flowerdale Community  
Hall, Yea-Whittlesea Rd.  
alron27@bigpond.com 5780 1223

**Mansfield Lions Craft Market** 8am – 1pm  
High St. Delightful market held in the median strip  
opposite the Mansfield Post Office 5777 3760

**Lions Club Market Yackandah** 9am – 1pm  
Craft and local produce market. Entry by gold  
coin donation. 0418 122 921.

**Harrierville Historical Society Bush Market**  
8am – 1pm. Come and enjoy a day by the  
Ovens River in the picturesque village.  
Tavare Park, Harrierville 5759 2699

### Fourth Saturday

**Benalla Lakeside Quality Craft & Produce  
Market** 9am – 2pm Produce plus good quality  
goods Fawckner Driv, Lake Benalla Foreshore.  
benallamarket@gmail.com

**Mansfield Farmers Market** 8.30am – 1pm  
Traditional farmers market – meat, eggs, home  
olives, bread, cakes and more! (No dogs).  
Primary School "Bottom Terrace" off Highett St.  
mansfieldfarmersmarket.com.au 0417 319 879

### Fourth Sunday

**Marysville Community Market** 9am – 1pm  
Murchison St. marysvilletourism.com

**Kinglake Produce & Artisan Market** 9am – 2pm  
Local wines, plants, bread, seasonal fruit  
& veggies, olives, fresh flowers & plants.  
info@kinglakemarket.com.au 5786 1976

## Events

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June

**African Drum & Dance Classes**  
Experience the rich and vibrant culture of  
West Africa through Guinean drumming and  
dance! Workshops with Mohamed Camara  
from West Africa will be held at Mel'o'drama  
Dance Studio. \$15/\$20 Bookings essential.  
Mel'o'drama, 61 Fawckner Drive, Benalla  
0434 195 040 www.rhythmoflife.com.au

### Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

**Roald Dahl's Fantastic Mister Fox College  
Drama Production**  
3-5 June. College drama production open to  
the public. Adapted for stage by Sally Reid.  
EMPAC, Prince Street, Myrtleford 5752 1596

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June

**'The Unveiling'** 7.30pm The next exciting  
event in the Mansfield Three Faces Portrait Art  
Prize. Join in the excitement of 'The Unveiling'  
event where the portraits are revealed for the  
very first time. Three young artists and three  
adult artists will reveal their finished portraits  
of John Collyer, Mansfield Citizen of the Year  
2013, for the first time. Winners are to be judged  
by Mansfield Shire Council CEO David Roff  
and Curator of the Benalla Gallery, Shanley  
McBurney. The Deck on High.  
\$32 pp, reservations required. 5775 1144  
Drinks at bar prices.

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June

**Chiltern Visual Arts Exhibition**  
Exhibiting for over a decade, this annual visual art and  
photography display is becoming one of the region's major arts  
events, featuring works from renowned artists and photographers  
and from the local region and across Australia. Two and three  
dimensional works and photography are on show and all exhibitors  
are eligible for The Chiltern Art Prize of \$1000, with prizes also  
awarded in each of the four categories including the popular Indigo  
Award for Young Emerging Artists. All works exhibited are available  
for purchase. chiltern@bigpond.net.au 5726 1113.  
Memorial Hall, Conness Street, Chiltern. Opening night – Friday 6th  
June. Then daily between 10am and 4pm until Monday 9th June.

### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June

### Queen's Birthday Long Weekend

**Rutherglen Winery Walkabout** 10am – 5pm. From crisp Rhone-style  
table wines to warming reds and world-class Muscats, Rutherglen  
Walkabout is a great way to taste and compare some of the best new wines  
coming out of Rutherglen. Join in the excitement of Victoria's original wine  
festival. 1300 787 929. info@winemakers.com.au winemakers.com.au

**Explore the Glenrowan Wine Region** Over the three days of the Queen's Birthday  
long weekend, discover the region's signature wines and enjoy live music, 'inspired  
by the vine' winter fare, wine appreciation and educational sessions with the  
winemakers and art exhibitions by renowned local artists. There will also be a variety  
of cellar door entertainment for the whole family at each winery in the legendary Kelly  
country. 5766 2282. jennifer.booth@taminickcellars.com.au visitglenrowan.com.au

## June Long Weekend

North East Victoria Snow Season  
Opening Weekend Celebrations

Lake Mountain, Mt Buller, Falls Creek,  
Mt Hotham & Mt Buffalo



Remy in the snow



5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE - 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE



5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE - 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY



19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE - 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY



19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE - 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY



3<sup>RD</sup> JULY - 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY



3<sup>RD</sup> JULY - 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY



10<sup>TH</sup> JULY - 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY



24<sup>TH</sup> JULY - 6<sup>TH</sup> AUG



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Mansfield Armchair Cinema boasts two state of the art digital  
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Mondays & Thursdays or any day outside regular session times.

1 CHENERY ST, MANSFIELD (03) 5775 2049

WWW.THE-MAC.COM.AU

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

**Beechworth Bus Lines Winery Walk Tour**  
\$35.00 per person Big Coach  
9:00am Beechworth Courthouse, Ford Street  
10:00am - 11:00am Campbells Winery  
11:15am - 12:30pm Stanton & Killeen Winery  
12:45pm - 1:45pm Pfeiffer Wines  
2:00pm - 3:15pm Cofield Wines  
3:30pm - 4:30pm Valhalla Wines  
5:30pm Conclude tour at Beechworth Courthouse. 5728 2182 or 0438 836 361

**Alexandra Quilters Inc. Annual Exhibition Quilt Show.** 2pm Saturday, 10am Sunday.  
Alexandra Town Hall 55 Grant Street, Alexandra. Alexandra Quilters Inc will showcase their "Anniversary Challenge, 30 years of Stitching Pearls". There will be a quilt raffle where proceeds raised go to a local charity. Handmade articles for sale. Quilters within Murrindindi will also exhibit.

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

**Rutherglen Country Fair 9am**  
Stretches the entire length of Main Street with over 300 stalls. Fun and entertainment for the whole family including grape treading, barrel racing and live music. Main Street Rutherglen Rutherglen Rotary Club (02) 6032 7054.

**Crackle & Pop!** 11:30am - 4:00pm  
\$79.00 Includes master class, recipes and apron, glass of Don sparkling or wine on arrival and roast pork luncheon. Additional local beer, wine and cider available for purchase. A gluten free event. A country Sunday roast with a twist! Get hands-on with a pork crackle master class followed by a succulent slow roasted local pork luncheon with seasonal produce and matched local wines. Kick off a lazy Sunday afternoon with a glass of renowned local bubbles as The Culinarian Chef Ben Davies guides you to 'conquer the crackle!' Then relax by the warmth of the fire to a local Merton pork feast - slow roasted with market root vegetables, buttered Tuscan greens and Tormie apple cider jus. Set in the beautiful Kinloch Vineyard, nestled in Victoria's High Country, moments from Mansfield. Leave with a souvenir Crackle Master apron and recipes! 0448 123 098

**Alexandra Truck Ute & Rod Show**  
Exhibition of trucks, utes and rods. Also includes a major wood chop and live music. Largest annual event in the Murrindindi Shire is a 'show & shine' exhibition of trucks, utes and rods. This is a free event in the main street of Alexandra which makes it a great family day out. Alexandra Township Grant Street. 0428 589 852.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June**

**Faulty Towers** Guess who's coming back to dinner at Pinnacle Valley Resort? Join Sybil, Basil and Manuel for a hilarious 2-hour show accompanied by a 3-course meal. Doors open 6.30pm. Tickets \$89pp. Don't miss the comedy event of the year. Bookings Pinnacle Valley Resort 5777 5788 or email events@pvr.com.au

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June**

**Swanpool Environmental Film Festival**  
Renewable Energy and Forestry Swanpool Cinema. Featuring guest speakers:  
Dr. Mark Diesendorf – Institute of Environmental Studies, UNSW. Renewable energy.  
Prof. Peter Kanowski – ANU. Forest and environmental governance in Indonesia.  
Master of Ceremonies: Prof. Kate Auty – Former Victorian Commissioner for the Environment.  
Corresponding feature films will be screened throughout the day. geckoclan.com.au

**Regional Roast @ Indigo** Indigo Vineyard  
Tickets \$75.00 per person Includes 3 course meal with matching wines showcasing Indigo Free Range Lamb and some of the best produce in the High Country.  
Indigo Cellar Door Pop Up Restaurant - Bookings Essential 5727 0233  
1221 Beechworth-Wangaratta Road, Everton Upper. 5729 0255 emails@indigovineyard.com.au

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June**

**Acheron Mechanics' Institute Hall Centenary** 2.00 – 4.00pm. Presentation of a plaque by the Mechanics' Institute of Victoria. The launch of the full colour, over 250 page book - Acheron: a history of the district, written and produced especially for the Centenary. The book will be on sale on the day - soft cover version \$50 and hard cover version \$70. Drawing of Acheron Hall raffle – an oil painting of Acheron Valley by Wykeham Perry. Planting of a centenary tree. Afternoon tea will be provided. Also planned is a Bus Tour of Acheron Historical sites, at no cost to participants, on Saturday & Sunday mornings 14th & 15th June. The bus departs each morning at 9.30am from Rennies Restaurant, Breakaway Road Acheron and returns to Rennies Restaurant at 11.00am, when a light morning tea will be served. Bookings are essential as places are limited 5772 2143 or 0429 028 661 mafandgmd@virtual.net.au  
McCull Lane, Acheron. acheronhall.com

**Saturday 21st June**

**Roast Collection.** Join for a spectacular roast dinner with a difference in a beautifully-themed inflatable igloo. \$135pp includes 4-course, wine & entertainment.  
Bookings www.walkerevents.com.au

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

**The Benalla Migrant Camp Exhibition** 10am. The Benalla Migrant Camp has an amazing history well worth remembering. Between 1949 and 1967 60,000 European post-war migrants made their temporary home in Benalla at the 'Benalla Migrant Camp.' This exhibition of personal photos, documents and memorabilia tells some of their stories. Entry \$2 per person, children free.  
Barc Hut 11, Samaria Road. Drive into Gliding Club entrance, follow the road past the Benalla Aviation Museum. BARC Hut 11 is the last hut on your right. 5762 6678 (AH) sabine.smyth@gmail.com

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June until 11<sup>th</sup> July**

**Wanderlust.** View 'Wanderlust', a black & white photographic exhibition exploring the often barren mystery of landscapes in Country Victoria, NSW and abroad. Delatite Hotel.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

**Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow** 6pm Marysville Community Centre, Falls Road, Marysville. 5963 4567 info@marysvilletourism.com

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July**

**Mark Adams Ski & Golf Day** A terrific day on the snow Mt Buller and the Mansfield greens. This event is a fantastic fundraiser for the local community generating well over \$100,000 for local students ski programs in recent years. All money raised supports snow sports program for local kids. mtbuller.com.au

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

**Holmesglen at Eildon Christmas in July**  
Holmesglen at Eildon \$65 per adult - 4 course dinner Bookings & Enquiries 5774 2631 eildon@holmesglen.edu.au

**Christmas in July.** Ho Ho Ho! It's Christmas in July at the Kevy Pub to raise funds for the Upper Goulburn Community Channel 8 UHF Repeater. Tickets: \$30pp includes delicious 2 course meal with drinks at bar prices. 11.30am for 12 noon start. Bookings essential! Call Kevington Hotel 5777 054

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Schools' National Tree Planting Day**

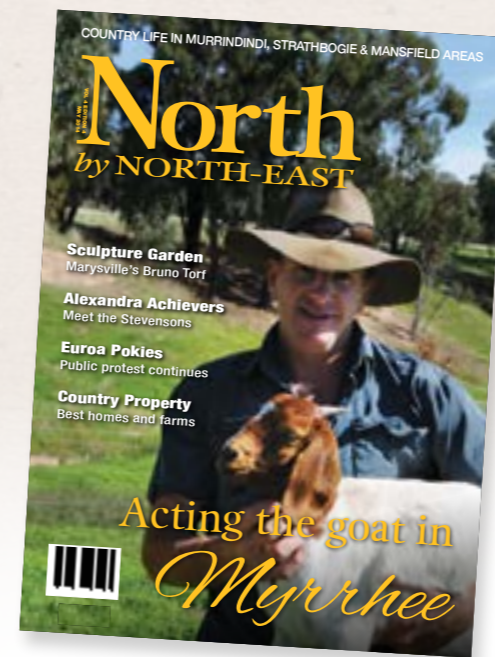
**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July**

**Oz Opera – Mozart's The Magic Flute**  
Marysville & District Lions Club 6pm, Marysville Community Centre, Falls Road, Marysville. 5963 4567 info@marysvilletourism.com



**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July**  
**National Tree Planting Day**

**George Kerferd Oration** 10.15am  
Baarmutha Park Orator Jenny Coles worked in East Timor as the right hand of Kirsty Sword Gusmao for five year. Jenny now divides her time supporting Kirsty's activities and overseeing projects in Timor. This is a free community event at Baarmutha Function Centre, Balaclava Road, Beechworth.



NNE is available at the following outlets:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Alexandra</b><br>Alexandra Foodworks<br>Alexandra Newsagency<br>Alexandra Tourist Info Centre  | <b>Nagambie</b><br>Nagambie Newsagency                                       |
| <b>Avenel</b><br>Avenel Newsagency  | <b>Oxley</b><br>Oxley Pantry Store   |
| <b>Beechworth</b><br>NewsXpress   | <b>Porepunkah</b><br>Porepunkah Store  |
| <b>Benalla</b><br>Benalla Newsagency  | <b>Ruffy</b><br>Ruffy Produce Store  |
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| <b>Cheshunt</b><br>Cheshunt General Store   | <b>Strath Creek</b><br>Strath Creek Store                                    |
| <b>Eildon</b><br>Eildon Foodworks   | <b>Swanpool</b><br>Swanpool General Store                                    |
| <b>Euroa</b><br>Euroa Newsagency  | <b>Taggerty</b><br>Taggerty General Store                                    |
| <b>Jamieson</b><br>Jamieson General Store   | <b>Tallarook</b><br>Tallarook General Store                                  |
| <b>Mansfield</b><br>Country Tales Bookshop<br>Mansfield Foodworks<br>Mansfield Newsagency<br>Mansfield Regional Produce Store<br>Mansfield Tattsloot<br>Mansfield Visitor Information Centre<br>Marks IGA | <b>Thornton</b><br>Thornton General Store                                    |
| <b>Marysville</b><br>Marysville Foodworks   | <b>Violet Town</b><br>Violet Town Cafe                                       |
| <b>Merton</b><br>Merton General Store   | <b>Wangaratta</b><br>Shades of Art   |
| <b>Merrijig</b><br>Merrijig Resort  | <b>Whitfield</b><br>Whitty Cafe  |
| <b>Milawa</b><br>Milawa Newsagency  | <b>Whorouly</b><br>The 2 Cooks Cafe  |
| <b>Montrose</b><br>Montrose Newsagency  | <b>Yarck</b><br>Giddy Goat Cafe<br>Yarck General Store                       |
| <b>Moyhu</b><br>Moyhu General Store   | <b>Yackandandah</b><br>Yackandandah Foodworks                                |
| <b>Mt Beauty</b><br>Mt Beauty Foodworks   | <b>Yarra Glen</b><br>Yarra Glen Newsagency                                   |
| <b>Myrtleford</b><br>Delizie Cafe<br>Myrtleford Newsagency  | <b>Yea</b><br>Country Woman<br>Gallery 34<br>Yea Foodworks<br>Yea Newsagency |

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North by North-East  
Published by RLMedia Pty Ltd





*“The home has been built from farm-quarried granite and looks magnificent in its landscaped setting”*

# Stone home offers stunning views

The property known as ‘Glenmaye’ takes up about 276.6 hectares or 685 acres just a few minutes outside of Euroa at Balmattum.

Some years back, the owners decided to take advantage of the glorious views offered from the higher parts of the property and build a ‘dream home’ with a northerly aspect down the valley formed by Faithful’s Creek and across to the nearby hills. This home sits on about 93.5 hectares (231 acres) and is available separately or with the remainder of ‘Glenmaye’.

The home has been built from farm-quarried granite and looks magnificent in its landscaped setting that takes full advantage of some natural rock formations around the garden.

Close to the home is a separate double storey building that serves as a studio

for the owners plus two-bedroom self-contained accommodation for friends or holiday letting.

The main home is something rather special. There is a wonderful entertaining area of lounge and dining with wide floor to ceiling windows positioned to make the most of the winter sun while taking in the glorious views. A tall vaulted ceiling of treated pine lining boards helps give the room a feeling of further grandeur, while polished concrete floors soak up the winter sun to keep the home at a comfortable temperature during the colder months. It is said that the wood burning combustion heater is only rarely used even during winter.

A wide, polished granite bench separates the living area from the kitchen which boasts a slow combustion stove along with the electric variety.

There is ample preparation space and a walk-in pantry.

Beyond this entertaining area is a hall that is more of a gallery being some three metres wide and with special lighting to highlight artwork. Here, more pine boards have been expertly manipulated to produce a spectacular domed ceiling.

The spacious main bedroom has a walk through robe and a glass wall that opens out to a private section of the garden. Its en suite bathroom with its glass-walled shower has great views of the garden.

Another large bedroom forms part of a separate wing incorporating a second lounge room with double glass doors to the garden. This area’s bathroom has a massive bath from where the occupant can also survey the garden.

As part of the outdoor living, there is a delightful undercover space that houses a barbeque, sink and food preparation area. And, naturally enough, there is a vaulted ceiling of stained pine boards.

Nearby shedding provides three garage spaces and work area, while a bank of tanks ensures ample water storage.

‘Glenmaye’ also boasts solar power along with mains supply and feeds back into the grid resulting in ridiculously low power bills.

The remaining part of ‘Glenmaye’ has its own four-bedroom solid brick home and a considerable amount of shedding. Depending on a buyer’s needs and, of course, budget, it can also be purchased. **NNE**



## AT A GLANCE

‘Glenmaye’, 246 Dip Lane, Balmattum. Approx 93.5 hectares. House, 2 beds; sep s/c accom. 2 beds.

**Private Sale:** \$1,600,000

Separate property of about 183Ha plus 4-bedroom house also available.

**Agent:** Landmark Harcourts Euroa: 5795 2868 John Stringer: 0418 575 156



**"Edgehill" 138 Sawyer Road Samaria**



- 113.7 ha or 281 acres, 5 titles, genuine 1,000mm r/fall.
- Solid brick 3 b/room & study home, reno'd bathroom & kitchen.
- Productive red volcanic soils, perm springs, seasonal creek + dams.
- Extensive shedding, disused equipped dairy/cattle yards.
- Annual top dressing + lime, good fences & pasture.

Genuine sellers wanting to retire after long family ownership.

**\$830,000 neg** David MacKinnon  
Vendor terms considered. 0410 556 531 Web ID: 493

**BRR Benalla Residential Rural Real Estate**

5762 3322 - 72 Bridge St, Benalla - www.benallarealestate.net.au

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**LANDMARK** **Harcourts**



**ALEXANDRA 'ARGUS FARM'**

138ac (55ha) of good improved pastures, undulation to rising hill country. This outstanding sustainable farming property has a lot to offer. There is 5kw solar system, water bore, 6 dams, steel cattle yards, lockup colourbond shed and multiple open bay machinery sheds.

8 year old immaculate home with lovely views. 3 bedrooms, master with ensuite and walk in robes, spacious open plan living with wood combustion heater and split system. Undercover outdoor entertaining area, immaculate gardens, double garage and double carport. All this under 10 minutes to Alexandra.

**\$750,000** Belinda Hocking 0418 115 574  
**ALEXANDRA 5772 3444 56 GRANT STREET**



**YARCK 'CANDALE'**

405 Acre 164 Ha of rolling pastures, impressive cattle country with good fertiliser history. Excellent carrying capacity with good steel cattle yards, easy B- double access. This property has 8 dams which have been cleaned out, permanent water supply via bore system. There is a hay shed and small cabin.

Ideal breeding property with exceptional views, perfect to build a country homestead with numerous suitable sites. Lovely stands of mature gums and stock shelter belts. Power at boundary. Minutes to the quaint Yarck Village with hotel, post office and cafes. Under 2 hours Melbourne enroute to Mt Buller and Lake Eildon.

**\$1,000,000 to \$1,200,000** Belinda Hocking 0418 115 574  
**ALEXANDRA 5772 3444 56 GRANT STREET**

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**EUROA - 'BALMATTUM'**

**PARADISE ON 231 ACRES - 93.5 HA**

'Glenmaye' is paradise only 10 minutes from the thriving tourist town of Euroa and an easy 1 ¼ hour (approx) freeway drive from Melbourne. You will be instantly captivated by this stone home which is perfectly positioned to take advantage of the stunning northerly vista down to Faithfulls Creek and beyond. Imagine coming home and strolling through the private courtyard and magnificent yet easy care gardens to the unique home. You will be awestruck as soon as you step into the grand hall with magnificent domed ceiling which then leads to the expansive open plan living area with floor to ceiling double glazed windows, polished concrete floors and the warmth of the wood fire. The superb kitchen will have you in raptures, the second sitting room is totally separate from the main part of the home, the bathrooms are opulent and the sheltered outdoor entertaining area complete with outdoor kitchen and wood heater is perfect for casual living. When your visitors arrive welcome them into the adjoining 2 storey residence which is fully self-contained with valley views from both the ground floor open plan living area and the two upstairs bedrooms which are ideally appointed for use as a B&B getaway. The quality of this whole property is beyond compare; the views over the paddocks and beyond are breathtaking and the lifestyle enviable.

**In a word... "perfection". \$1,600,000**

**John Stringer 0418 575 156 Web ID: LER 4454**



**EUROA 5795 2868 13 BINNEY STREET**



**YEA - 36 HIGH STREET**

**FORTHCOMING AUCTION**

**ADVANCE WARNING! THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS**

This historic and unique property in the heart of Yea will be auctioned. The property consists of numerous buildings: Manifest Café: Coffee Shop: Haberdashery Store all leased out and returning \$28,000 per annum: There is further opportunity for return from a 4 bedroom flat, historic bakery with Scotch Oven and Yea's original wool store. Concept plans will be available for one bedroom apartments to capture accommodation needs of the ever popular Goulburn Valley Rail Trail. The options are immense for the astute investor. Watch this space in the next edition of North by North-East or call: **Stuart Oddy 0402 349 120 for further information**

**YEA 5797 2799 52 HIGH STREET**





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Alexandra - 5772 1110 Nik Patek 0409 936 210  
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**22 SQUARES OF MODERN LIVING MANSFIELD \$379,000**

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**SMALL FARM - LARGE HOME - CONVENIENT LOCATION 32.3 HA - 80 Acres Asking price \$395,000. OFFERS INVITED.**

Situated just 20 km from Euroa and 25 km from Shepparton and comprising fertile farming country adjacent to Honeysuckle Creek. A large and very comfortable BV home provides 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen with a country pantry and a large open living area. There are wide verandahs on 3 sides, a double garage and also a storeroom. A LOVELY HOME ON FERTILE FARMING COUNTRY THAT WOULD SUIT A VARIETY OF AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS WHILE PROVIDING AN IDEAL LIFESTYLE ENVIRONMENT.

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# What price principles?

We couldn't help but notice this 'For Sale' board outside a property on the Melba Highway on the south side of Yea. Contrary to nearly everyone's first thoughts, we can now put to rest the rather unkind rumour that the agents have been fielding numerous inquiries from politicians as to the price.

NNE now awaits the first sightings of 'Ethics For Sale'.

Picture: LYNND A HEARD



## TAGGERTY 'Old Woolshed Farm'

Gilt Edged Rural /Lifestyle Property  
55 acs approx. (22.25ha)

- Extensive Little River Frontage.
- All usable fertile river flats, ideal cattle country, established olive grove.
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- Stunning kitchen with granite benchtops & s/s appliances.
- Feature indoor/outdoor entertainment area.
- Extensive establishing garden with mature Oak & Ash trees, rolling lawn, reticulated watering system.
- Remodelled woolshed converted to coffee shop/restaurant, fully licenced, commercial kitchen, male & female amenities.
- 35m x 9m Colourbond shedding, powered, concrete flooring, 3 remote roller doors.
- Cattle yards, quality new fencing, plentiful water supply.

**\$1.35 Million** Web ID - 6528134

**John Tossol 0419 558 032**  
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## EUROA 62 Saxon Street

Prestigious home on one acre (4000m<sup>2</sup>) allotment

This modern home is immaculately appointed boasting 3 large bedrooms plus study, formal dining and formal lounge rooms. Expansive kitchen/living area. Tasteful use of various timbers give the home a refined finish.

Under floor central vacuum / ducted in-floor central heating / evaporative air con / solar power

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- Bluestone edged gardens
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- Extensive shedding

Price: \$650,000

Peter OConnor 0429 951 099

View at [www.elders.com.au/euroa](http://www.elders.com.au/euroa)



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# Lifestyle blocks close to Mansfield



Some very pretty blocks in a new residential development just outside of Mansfield have recently been released for sale. The land sizes vary between approximately 2.8 hectares (seven acres) and 5.6 hectares (14 acres) and are in the development known as 'Merinda Park' which is off Monkey Gully Road about six minutes from the shops and schools of Mansfield.

At the time of going to press, four blocks of the original 17 had already been sold. Importantly, every block is covered by a covenant that will ensure the estate has a prestigious feel about it.

All the blocks have a delightful rural feel about them with many having outstanding views towards Mt Buller. Some already have dams and many have scattered trees. They all have access to a sealed road.

With all of a size that would easily accommodate a pony or two, the blocks should be in demand by young families or those ready to retire from a larger holding, but who still desire some land around them.

With the attractions and services of Mansfield so close by, it is expected that the blocks will appeal to many. And with a price of \$265,000 for each block, there should be a rush to secure the perfect home site. NNE



## AT A GLANCE

'Merinda Park', Mansfield.  
 Vacant land, each lot between 2.8 Ha and 5.6 Ha approx.  
**Price:** \$265,000 each.  
**Agent:** Ruralco Mansfield: 5775 1444  
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# Loving what they do



Kynnersley Builders has been constructing homes in Mansfield for more than 20 years. David Kynnersley started the business and now David's son, Nathan and his wife Mandy run the show.

"Dad is semi-retired, but he still helps out when he is not travelling," Nathan laughs.

Nathan and Mandy's home is a beautiful and bright contemporary home built, of course, by Kynnersley.

Nathan was his dad's apprentice and worked with him for eight years and then headed to Melbourne for six years where he met Mandy.

"When we decided to start a family, there was no question that we would move back to Mansfield," says Nathan.

"Mansfield is a great town and we have enough work here. At the moment we are working on homes in Tolmie, Bonnie Doon, Sawmill and Jamieson.

"There is no one project I have liked better than another; they are all different." However, there is one project that's a bit of a stand-out and that Nathan is justifiably proud of; that's the Mansfield Steiner School constructed with rammed earth.

Energy rating on new homes is important and Nathan works closely with IPS Building Services and Ben Willick of Willick Design. Nathan also works closely with other businesses and tradies around Mansfield.

"We buy all our timber from Yenckens; it's great to be able to use locals," explains Nathan.

Apprentices also play a big part in Kynnersley Builders.

"We believe in training apprentices; right now we have two, Brant Anselmi and Jessie Barber, both locals. They are vital to our business."

Nathan is born and bred in Mansfield.

"My daughter Sienna is five and Taj is three and loves to help me out; he wants to be a builder," says Nathan with a smile.

Nathan and Mandy both love being in Mansfield. Aside from their work, Nathan is "involved in the football and Mandy with the netball – and we love to water and snow ski and camp on the rivers." **NNE**

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