

TUBBUT TATTLER

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August 2017

Next deadline: July 21 2017
Tubbut Neighbourhood House

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Open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in school terms
<http://www.tubbutnh.com> Like us on Facebook



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*Photo of emus in midwinter at
Delegate River by Grace Malone*

CLASSIFIEDS

Bates' Fencing & Machine Hire



- Large 90hp Compact Track Loader. Tracks ensure minimal ground disturbance.
 - 900 mm Trencher ideal for pipe / cable laying
 - 6 ft slasher for paddock, scrub & advanced regrowth clearing with tree pusher, ideal for fence line maintenance
 - 1600mm Road Broom / sweeper
 - 300mm post hole auger
 - Bucket, dozer blade, pallet & hay forks
 - Fan assisted sprayer for difficult terrain
 - Experienced operator
 - Fully insured & GST registered
 - Experienced in Rural fence design & construction
- Call Mark n 02 64580225

Robert Hampshire will pump out your loo. Septic tanks, porta-loos— no problems Truck has capacity to handle 2 tanks/trip Phone 64583075

TNH Bazaar

We've promised a market/bazaar this year, so please start putting things aside to sell. Secondhand clothes and household items, tools, arts and crafts, plants and seeds, jams and pickles, you name it. Due to lack of room we will ask you to store things at home until the day. *Deb & Lisa*

Goongerah Hall now has a certified kitchen which is for hire at \$10 per day.

The hall also has portable speakers (USB etc jacks) at \$40 a day.

Contact Amy 03 51540118

Please tell us whether we need to place your ad again. If you sell your stuff or get that job—we need to know

Need a cleaner?

Contact Natasha 64588162 or 0408477774

Advertising is free to local residents

The Tubbut Tattler is produced by the Coordinators of the Tubbut Neighbourhood House which is funded by the Victorian Government. Material herein is the responsibility of the authors and does not represent the views of the DVICG or Tubbut Neighbourhood House unless stated. We welcome material from, and of interest to, people in the border areas of East Gippsland and NSW.

Bobcat contractor for hire

Slashing, clearing, small earthworks, levelling, preparation for sheds, carports, water tanks and paving

And clean ups

Ring Steve 02 6458 0303 or email stephenscroope@bigpond.com

Composting toilet for sale

All offers considered!

A new toilet block has been built at the campground at Goongerah, Victoria, and the Friends of Errinundra are selling the previous composting toilet to raise money for other campground facilities. The unit for sale is a Rota-Loo 950, in great working order. All parts are in very good condition.

Rota-Loo toilets use no water and produce healthy humus. The 950 unit has 2 pedestals and capacity for 5-8 people, and retails around \$5,000.

Pick-up only—the buyer will need to uninstall some parts from the building (we can help).

For more information, please contact Kerry Seaton by private message or at kerryseaton35@gmail.com



Bus trip to Merimbula

Bendoc bus goes to Merimbula the second Friday of every month. Book at Bendoc Resource Centre

Wanted to buy DVD player

Contact Cary Joyner 64580222

News from Tubbut Neighbourhood House



Clay Day at Tubbut

The next clay day will be Thursday the 10th of August

One of our Streetscape projects was to put history onto clay tiles which we would then mount in certain places eg. Halls, campsites etc. It has been a long process trying to get this right, but at last we have a success. If you have any history photos/short stories you would like to see at your hall, please send them to us.

We will be making more of these tiles at the next clay workshop.

Dellicknora Bridge photo printed onto a clay tile

Photo by Skye Auer



Thanks to people who have made their windrows and other excess wood available to Tubbut Neighbourhood House wood working bees. This is a win-win situation for the landowner and for the households whose winter fires are burning with this good wood. Thanks in particular to John Auer and manager Murray, who have given us permission to access aged white box from windrows.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the wood getting bees, just contact TNH to ensure you are informed of when and where they are taking place. We go out most weeks and have access to stringybark, gum and box. And... its safer and fun to go out in a group with Greg, our chainsaw and wood expert.

Streetscape

All our local halls have benefitted from the Streetscape funding acquired for us by East Gippsland Shire Council. Thanks to Andrea Lane and Lorelee Cockerill who helped administer the funds and get our ideas together. Tubbut and Bonang have extended barbecue areas and new pizza ovens that we are dying to try.

Goongerah has a new deck, sign and other additions to their community hall.

There is a theme to our streetscapes: making our local gatherings more enjoyable so that we feel like getting together more often. Think about how you can use our new facilities and invite others along.

YOGA



Yoga is a great success with Su King & sometimes Deb Tresham.

All welcome on Tuesdays at the Bonang Hall at 1pm @ \$7.00.

Just turn up with comfortable clothes, a mat to lie on and a blanket to cover you.

WANTED

Looking for people with skills to run workshops. If you are a local or know of someone with a skill to teach who is willing to travel here, please let us know. **Get paid to share your skills.**

WANTED

Front cover photographs for the Tattler. Historical. People. Natural scenes. Art works. With a local connection. Please contribute

The Tubbut Tattler is your newsletter—'the Community' - so please contribute in any way you can with your ads, stories, articles, cartoons, knowledge or anything of interest that others may benefit from.

Could you proof read the tattler at short notice? It would help reduce mistakes.

Books available to borrow

The neighbourhood house has a small range of books to borrow, please drop in and have a look.

A few that may be of interest are:

Mountains of memories—Jack Mustard
Native trees and shrubs of South Eastern Australia
Australian Native Bees
The Men from Snowy River
On Track—Searching out the Bundian Way
Back from the Brink by Peter Andrews

Did you donate to the Tubbut Neighbourhood House bus fund and feel disappointed that the idea of buying a new bus fizzled out?

As you know, it was hard to demonstrate a need for a new bus in circumstances where it was rare to get more than 2-3 people attending an event. Furthermore, the school bus has been made available to us when we need it, with approved drivers and between bus runs.

The donated money is sitting along with funds TNH put towards the bus safely in the bank for another big need. We understand if you would like your donation returned. Please contact us with bank details and we will ensure you are reimbursed.

If you want to attend any of the workshops and events that TNH organises and have transport problems please contact us. We will do everything in our power to make sure you can get there.

Cancellations, Date Changes and local news access

Sometimes our workshops or meetings may need to change or be cancelled due to certain circumstances. We try our best to let you know of any such changes but sometimes we cannot get that information to you quick enough. If you have Facebook, please like our page for quick access to information, or send us your email address if we don't already have it.

Out & about

Canberra Craft and Quilt Fair

Yes, it's on again from the 10th to 13th of August 2017. The Bendoc Neighbourhood House is planning a fun day away on Saturday the 12th of August 2017 for all those interested in going, please ring the centre on 0264581402 Monday to Wednesday to confirm your seat. Prices and Tickets are currently being arranged. We've missed the last few, let's try and make it a big day out for our crafty ladies and gentlemen

CFA News

Car training prop is booked for Goongerah 24 July to 21 August and Andy Bennett has booked the small industry prop for Bendoc 20 November to 18 December. As before, it is important we get as many people as possible along to make use of the props while they are in our area.

South Coast Happenings

[South Coast Field Days](#), 23-24 Sept, Cobargo

For information and bookings for the Sheep Dog Training School or for the Cheese Making course at the SCPA South Coast Field Days, please contact Christa at info@southcoastfielddays.com.au.

The South Coast Field Days are being held at the Cobargo Showground Sat 23-Sun 24 Sept. The theme is 'Traditional

Trying to reach Antarctica —Hazen Cleary

During 4 weeks over January and February 2017 I journeyed, with 48 fellow travellers to a part of the East Antarctic region seldom seen or visited. How big is Antarctica? Including all the islands and ice shelves, Antarctica is nearly twice the size of Australia, covering 13,661,000 km². In winter the increase in sea ice can nearly double the size again. It is immense! The region visited was directly south of Tasmania, 3,000 kms to Commonwealth Bay, to the historic hut of Australia's most famous Antarctic explorer Douglas Mawson. Unfortunately due to the ever changing sea ice conditions a landing was not possible. However 10 days were spent exploring over a 1,000 kms of the coastal/pack ice region where the true residents of Antarctica live: the penguins, seals, whales, birds – all in abundance.

One reason I journeyed south was to see for myself what may be happening to Antarctica during times of our changing climate. I am not a scientist or academic and so my observations are those of a concerned and knowledgeable citizen and I feel that this bucket list item has been ticked off substantially. The words consistently repeated in reference to all parts of the experience were: unusual; exceptional; unprecedented.

"Things" - be they glaciers, sea ice, animals, food sources, massive climate systems, the weather – all are moving and changing. Highlighting the instability of the current situation and how the past, and how things used to be and work, are TRULY no longer relevant. It is a new world and we are stepping into the unknown.

In the context of what is being observed more broadly over the continent (see above reports) and across the globe what is my take home? *These changes are global and the chain of events set up by the short sighted actions of humans will continue to play-out on this global stage indifferent to both the machinations of the politics of "national interest" OR the heartfelt dreams of an individual – ME. Physics of the natural world will do what it will – it does not negotiate. We will need to adapt.*

The Antarctic is a world of extremes and a vastness that highlights the insignificance of man and his endeavours. Due to these extremes and its current "inhospitableness" and isolation it is deemed "safe" from major exploitation – but this cannot be assured.



Hazen presented a well organised informative talk at Bonang Hall to interested Friends of the Errinundra and a couple of others in June. Great photos but not sure that any of us are enticed to make the journey. we were able to look at freezing images beside a warm fire. Hazen has a web site where she posts the latest climate change and sustainability news.

<http://www.pleanetwork.com.au>

Early morning vandalism in Goongerah



Goongerah residents received unwelcome visitors between 4 and 5 am this morning (July 28th) using their car as a ram-raid weapon. This is the owl sculpture at the campground: trashed. Several gates were destroyed in a similar fashion, along with mailboxes. In some cases, the car entered driveways to maximise damage. Police have been alerted.

The new bridge to the Stephens property at Tubbut is complete and today the finishing touches are being made to the road approaches.



Local History Resources

ORBOST HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTERS

The Orbst Historical Society now has a website. It's under development but is operational. All Newsletters will be posted on the website in PDF so that anyone can look at them.

orbosthistory should get you to the site.

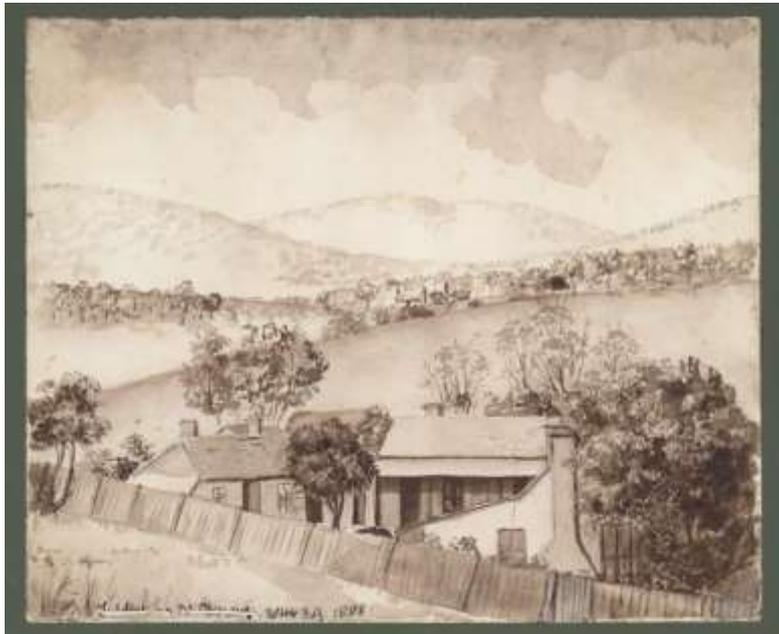
Thanks May Leatch

Below are 3 Facebook pages that will interest local history buffs. The stuff that gets posted is varied but often interesting: photos, letters and information.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/monarohistory/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1755971574632862/> (Gippsland)

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=history%20of%20orbost%20and%20district>



Can you tell us where this house was?
Historian Linda Barraclough has sent us
an inquiry.

Delegate River School 1940—see next page for Cliff Reed's account of Delegate River history



Cliff Reed, History of Delegate River

The history below was written by Cliff Reed, for Janet Cameron before Janet and Jim left Cabanandra back in the 1990s. Janet grew up and went to school at Delegate River and lived at Spring Creek before McDonalds mill was set up on the block where she lived with her grandmother Mrs Miles and her husband Charlie Miles, a saddler who did saddlery jobs in a small shed there. When the drover J. Parkes came through with a mob of cattle to Orbost they would board a night at Miles' place when the cattle were at Delegate River reserve. Jim Parkes Senior and Jim Parkes Junior, Gordon and Laurie Parkes and Reg Godber and Percy Reed are the drovers I can remember 60 years ago with mobs of 12 to 1400 head from sales at Delegate and Bombala.

Thanks to Janet and Laurie Reed (son of Cliff Reed) for passing this on to the Tattler. Laurie's updates are included in italics.

I first came here in September 1922. We arrived in a buggy from Goongerah on a cold showery evening. When my sister and I started school here there were about 20 students attending. Mary Harvey was the teacher. She boarded at Taylors' place over the river and often had to wade through water if the river was up. Some of the children had to walk about 3 miles to school, they included the Hayes from up at the top end of the settlement and Meads from down near the border. They lived near where the tavern is now. The Foleys kept the Delegate River Post Office and phone for many years. Their children attended the Delegate River School, also the Begleys and a family of McDonalds who lived where the new mill is now.

The 'new' mill was built on the corner of Kirkenong (Delegate River) Road and Bonang Road by Frank McDonald, a descendent of the McDonalds referred to and he sold it to Beswick who operated it for a time.

After, the old hall which was situated down near the river in Foley's paddock was used as a school for the pupils at the lower end of the River. Ted Argall was the teacher there. Dances and church services were held in that hall then. The hall was rebuilt on top of the hill near the road and it was used as a school then. Mrs W. Mead taught there for some years.

The Delegate River hall was where the CFA shed is now.

Miss Harvey taught at Delegate River School till 1931 when she left and married Russ Taylor. She taught school again in the war years.

Mrs Mary Taylor taught school till the end of 1951; Ethel Freeman, Colin McLaughlin, Don Cowell and Harry Grosvenor later taught, in that order, till the school closed in 1955.

There were several teachers here before the war: Hall, Griffith, MacFarlane, Joe Chandler and later C. McLaughlin and H. Grosvenor.

About 1925, my father and W. Allen erected a mill in our paddock not far from where the present mill is. The logs were brought in with a bullock team from up Spring Creek. Charlie Hayden was the bullocky. My father sold his share to W. Allen who worked it for a few years and sold out to E. Schultz. He shifted the mill to Pinch Swamp. Timber was cheap then, 17 or 18 shillings per hundred feet.

The mail was brought from Delegate 3 times a week by Tom Morrisson in a sulky and later by Joe Oliver. Mail was brought to Foley's PO on Mondays and Wednesdays; on Saturdays the mail run was extended to upper Delegate River to McNees.

Foley's PO was where Hudson's house is now.

In 1926 my father bought 'Maxfield' from D. McNee and we shifted up there from 'Greenmarsh' where we had lived for about 4 years. My mother kept the PO and phone here after McNees left.

In 1923 my uncle W.J. Reed, also from Goongerah, bought 'Melrose' from J. Feltis. It is now owned by Stan Reed and where Frank lives now was owned by Marriots. Hayes' place at the top end of the settlement is now owned by Frank.

Stan Reed sold to McKeon from Orbost who in turn sold to Delegate Station. Frank Reeds is now owned by J. Seovic of Camden.

H.T. Mead owned 'Cobango' which was sold to N. McDonald who nsold it to A. Archibald from Bairnsdale. He also bought 'Hilltop'

from N. McDonald. Kevin Ingram owns 'Hilltop' now. (Now belongs to Peter Jeffreys, Delegate Station).

Archibald lived where Stan lives now, for about 3 years and then sold the place to Stan and I bought 'Cobango' in 1951. Laurie owns 'Cobango' now. (Where John and Sophie live)

My father had bought 'Greenmarsh' from H.T. Allen in 1918 and later, the property opposite, from J. Taylor. We had a district nurse in the area in 1925. She drove a horse and sulky for some time till a T model Ford was bought for her. Sister Murray was the first nurse, then Sister Stewart and later Sister O'Sullivan.

Rabbits were pretty thick until the myxo got going and most people about trapped rabbits for their skins which were worth about 3 shillings a pound. Wool was not worth much, about 1 to 2 shillings a pound before the war. Cattle were cheap too, about 5 pounds for a 3 years old bullock. Cattle had to be driven to Orbost or Bairnsdale in those times as there was no market here. There were a good few people living on the River when I first came here. To mention some, starting on the west side of the river:

John Walker and family lived at the top end of the settlement. They left here and went to Bright.

A family of Hodgsons lived on the next block down Where Stan (Sophie and John) lives now was owned by Prestons, Jim Ivill lived in the house. W. Bates had a house where Stan's fruit trees are; it was pulled down after Bates left.

Taylors was the next place down Then McDonalds at Spring Creek where the mill is. Foleys at the PO.

Begleys near the river.

Commons lived where Brian Cameron is now (Where Leigh and Julie Jones now live)

Arthur Mead and family lived near the tavern Sam Mead's place was just over the border.

Ben Allen lived on the east side of the river.

W. Allen and John McDonald lived where Don Allen lives (now owned by Delegate Station)

Our place was next, going up the river and then 'Melrose' where W.J. Reed and family.

Matthews, Meads and Hayes.

Russ Taylor bought G. Phillips place and lived there until they sold out to Laurie Reed and shifted to Bairnsdale to retire.

Tom Begley owned 'Kimberley', which was sold to Harry Commons. Jack Reed owns it now.

Going back to about the turn of the century (1900s) – I was told that Mrs McDonald who lived where Don Allen lives now, used to make butter and cheese and take it by pack horse to where the mines were working at Bonang and Bendoc.

Everybody used to grow their own vegetables and milked cows and made butter and also, their own bread. I think the first cars came to Delegate River about 1925. N. McDonald and W. Allen each had an Essex. D. McNee had a Buick and P. Foley and my father had a T model Ford. My father used to ride to Orbost to Shire Council meetings before he got a car.

Jim Neven and his mate Arthur Clark came from Melbourne to work for Mrs W. Reed at the Walker place in 1928. When they finished there they lived at 'Greenmarsh' and worked for my father digging drains on the swamp and other jobs.

When Jim left here he selected his block at Tubbut where Alan and Helen (and Phillip and Patrizia) live now.

Changing times by Carl Cotterill Part 2

Paul Sanders had left John's home in a very bad frame of mind, he had called on John to see about a job John had promised to get for him with the firm he worked for, if it was possible, but when he had read that copy of the will his step father had left, it had renewed an old anger in him. It crossed his mind that John might not be trying to get a job for him, in his anger he thought of Allan Burton, a man he had met before, he knew Allan Burton also disliked John. He looked up Burton's phone number and rang him with the thought that Burton might help him get the job. He said to Allan that he had a plan he would like to talk over with him, could he meet him somewhere? This idea suited Allan as his wife had gone to John and Karen's party and he felt like a few drinks so they planned to meet in a bar at the half way mark for both Paul and himself.

Paul was the first to arrive at the bar and as he waited for Burton to arrive, he thought about his step father's will, he remembered that his step father had been fair in leaving himself and John, the same amount of money but the remainder of the will had angered him a little at the time and now this anger had been renewed. He now felt things favoured John, more than himself. Paul was reasonably well off, when the money had been left to him but he didn't have the drive like John and had not improved his position in life. In fact, he had done just the opposite, he had started drinking and gambling and was consequently low in funds at the present time.

He had stopped drinking and gambling and had asked John to help him get a good job, as he had met a girl and wanted to get some money in the bank before he asked her to marry him, his thoughts were interrupted as Allan Burton arrived. Paul could see by looking at Allan he was not very happy, asking him "why?" Burton explained that his wife had wanted him to go to the party and he had had an argument with her before she left, he said that his wife did not see things his way. She had been upset at John gaining a position above Allan, but after a short while had not held a grudge against John.

Paul could see his chance to turn Allan a little more against John, so he told him about the will he had read earlier in the night. He could see the look of anger in Allan's face as he finished the story. Both the men were in the right mood for drinking and it wasn't long before both were showing signs of being a little drunk. Allan promised Paul he would get him a job at the firm, if John would not. Both Allan and Paul had talked of their dislike for John and with each drink their dislike turned a little closer to hate and they talked of a way to bring about John's downfall, the drink had taken control of them.

Detective Rankin had not had a hard day at the office but was still weary, he watched T.V. for a while then decided to go to bed for a good night's rest, but tonight was just one of those nights when police have second thoughts about their jobs. It was about 4am when his phone rang, it took him a only few seconds to answer, he was used to these middle of the night or early morning calls. He listened as a Police Sergeant told him that he had heard from the Police Rescue Squad and they were at present trying to free a woman from a car wreckage, the tow truck driver waiting to tow the vehicle away had noticed with his experienced eye, that the brake system had been tampered with and could he come to investigate it as soon as possible. Rankin replied he would come immediately and not to let anyone touch anything around the area where the brakes had been damaged.

It was early, somewhere around 5.30am, when Paul was awakened by the phone, it was John speaking, he sounded in a state of shock and slowly told Paul of their ordeal and asked him if he would go to their place so Sandra could go home, then to call to the hospital later in the morning to pick him up. Paul did not have to dress as he was still in his clothes, as he left for John's house he thought of the plan he and Allan had decided on, to bring about John's downfall, before they left the bar.

When Rankin arrived at the crash scene he found the men he needed to check the car for fingerprints and for any other clues were also arriving, after a careful check of the car, he could see that the would be killer had been very careful, not leaving any clues behind. Rankin waited until next morning then went to see John Sanders, who was very helpful, telling him the names of the people at the party and that he didn't think that he had any real enemies. The Detective had questioned all the guests who had been at the party and was satisfied they were all in the clear, he had discovered by questioning Mrs. Burton, her husband had known of John's whereabouts and after questioning Burton, he was not sure if he was telling the truth, but could not prove otherwise.

Jim Hughes said that this was true when he was questioned but Rankin did not discard him as a suspect. He then questioned Paul about why he had been sleeping in his clothes, Paul explained that he had been too drunk to change when he had driven straight home from the bar, this case was coming up with a lot of dead ends for the Police, they couldn't prove Paul's story to be true or false. Detective Rankin had questioned a lot of people in his time in the Police Force and although the police had not established a motive for the attempted murder, he knew one of the people questioned knew something more than they were telling, he was sure it was Sandra Campbell. That's why he had not disregarded Jim Hughes as a suspect.

John Sanders lay in a hospital bed. he opened his eyes once, then closed them again, it was at that moment he heard his wife scream, a scream of terror, as the scream started a second time he sat up in bed,, when the nurse placed her hands on his shoulders and restrained him. He opened his eyes, after a second or so he realised he was in a hospital ward, his mind flashed back to the car accident, he turned to the nurse and asked about Karen. All she said was that 'your wife is alright' please lay down, but John was too anxious about the welfare of his wife and refused, asking to see Karen. The nurse asked him to wait for a moment and left the ward.

Soon afterwards, Doctor Collins entered the ward, he told John that Karen was badly injured and had undergone an emergency operation on her spine. John was shocked by this statement and asked anxiously would she be alright? The Doctor replied that she was going to live, but then added sadly that Karen may never walk again. He explained the nerve damage may not be as great as he thought and there was a very remote possibility she may walk again, a lot would depend on Karen, herself and the aid she would receive from her family.

After the doctor left, John was shocked and grief stricken, he could only think of how this accident would affect his family, it was then he thought of Sandra looking after the children, he asked the nurse to plug in a phone near his bed so he could make a call. He contacted his brother, Paul, who said he would go over to the children and let Sandra go home and would pick up John in the morning as the doctor had told him he only needed to be in hospital overnight.

Karen did not realise for the first couple of days in hospital that she was in a special bed, the pain had been too intense for her to take notice of her surroundings. She remembered John had been to see her and had wanted to speak to him but found she was too ill to do so. Karen could now see she was on a special bed for spinal injuries, she then started to have fears for her health. John came to see her as often as possible, but she had been in hospital about a week and had found Dr. Collins was avoiding a direct answer each time she asked him about her back injury.

This night, however, as John sat beside her bed, he seemed very quiet and Karen knew he had something on his mind. Karen took his hand in hers and said quietly "What's on your mind, John?" It took some time to speak as this was the most difficult task he had ever faced. Karen had prepared herself for a shock but when John told her that she may never walk again, it seemed almost too much to bear. She did not speak, nor did she cry, she felt herself draw away from John, almost as if she was drawn into a shell, all she could think about was that she would never be a true wife or mother again.

John's voice was coming through a fog as he tried to comfort her, he was saying it will not change our life too much, we will employ Sandra full time to look after you and the children and I will take care of you when Sandra is not there. Our life will go on for us just as happy as before, we will buy you a motorised wheelchair so you can move around as much as possible. John stopped talking when he could see Karen's mind was elsewhere. Karen knew John was only putting on a good front for her, she could see he was very sad and unhappy. To her it seemed their life was all but ruined, the thought kept running through her mind from one of the happiest nights of their life to the saddest time of their lives.

Sandra was only too willing to take a full time job at the Sanders' home, she had grown to like this family and wanted to help them as much as possible. She found that the children had been greatly hurt when they found out about their mother but after a few weeks had adjusted well to their changed life and promised their father they would do everything possible to help their mother. They even promised not to play in the old shed on the adjoining block, because their mother used to worry about them playing there. They would have to find another playing place instead, it would be hard for them as it was their favourite place and they played there most of the time. Sandra enjoyed her fulltime position at the Sanders home, the children kept their promise and were very good for her and were great to their mother when she came home from hospital.

Rankin had placed a watch on Sandra for about two weeks but when nothing happened he had taken it off and thought that he was mistaken about her. The Police were baffled by the lack of clues and for about three months had nothing to go on, if this killer was going to try again, he was taking his time! The detective decided to question all the people he had questioned before with the hope they may pick up a new clue, after questioning Sandra a second time, he could not help thinking how nervous she had been and he felt something was going to happen shortly, so he again placed a watch on her.

This time it paid off for the man tailing her saw her stopped by someone a few nights later. He could tell as he followed her home that she was very upset by that meeting. On hearing this, Rankin placed men to watch the movements of the main suspects, as the Police had no proof on anyone, they could do little except wait for the would be killers next move.

We need our country; our country needs us

The Conversation June 20, 2017

Author

John Woinarski worked with Pew Charitable Trusts to contribute to a series on Outback Australia. He is currently a deputy director of the Threatened Species Recovery Hub, funded by the Australian government's National Environmental Science Programme.

Increasingly, our leaders talk of Australian values and presume that these arose organically, as though through some moral forge. An alternative view is that our national character and sense of identity have been shaped mostly by the land itself: we are a nation of individualistic, resilient and resourceful individuals because our land is isolated, expansive, capricious and unique. Our country's dust, drought, flood, blood and harsh beauty have made us what we are.

In a [report published today](#), the Pew Charitable Trust compiled a series of perspectives on how people living in remote and rural Australia see their lives and country. We interviewed about 12 groups over the course of a year, trying to understand the intricate relationships between our people and our nature.

The core questions addressed in these accounts are simple. How do we see our land? How do we live in it? How do we care for it? How are we shaped by it? What do we value in it, or seek from it? And to what extent does the land now need us?

The responses were intriguing. For many Indigenous Australians, country is a defining feature, a place of belonging, imbued over countless generations with meaning and spiritual significance. For many other Australians living in remote regions, country still provides an embracing sense of place, a setting in which life can be meaningful.

"This place is where I feel safe and inspired and needed," conservation manager Luke Bayley said of Charles Darwin Reserve. "I love the landscape – the big sky, the weathered rocks and the harshness; the beauty when it all comes together [...] I also find it an endless journey."

Although they may want different things from the land, miners, pastoralists, Aboriginal landowners, wildlife rangers and tourism operators all share some pivotal values, concerns and language. All seek to treasure and maintain its productivity and health; all recognise the new threats that may be subverting it; all feel a sense of belonging and a responsibility to it; all appreciate the need to know how it works in order to draw benefit and sustenance from it; all see beauty and wonder in at least some of its constituent elements; all recognise the challenge of managing vast lands with few people; and, to some degree, all understand a mutual dependency between land and people.

This common ground provides a robust foundation for the collaboration and regional - or national - scale planning needed for the management of Outback Australia, with its unique challenges of complex environmental linkages across vast distances, pervasive threats and few management resources. But the nuanced differences in perspectives are also important. Many living in Outback Australia identify strongly with other groups living on the land. But there is much scope – so far little developed – in remote Australia for increased recognition of the perspectives and expertise of others.

Most notably, there is extraordinary opportunity to bring together the intimate knowledge of country and its care held by Indigenous Australians with the often complementary strengths of land management based on western science. We can create distinctively Australian environmental management, based on intimate knowledge of country and the capacity to respond to its new threats.

Of course, there are also some notable inconsistencies among the perspectives we investigated, indicative of unresolved issues that need attention and a better process for conciliation or mutual understanding. For example, the values attributed to [dingoes and wild dogs](#), and hence their [management](#), remain [highly polarised](#) among people living in remote Australia. The elements of [water](#) and fire are pivotal in the Outback, and their use is [often also contested](#).

Furthermore, just as our society has been moulded by our country, increasingly we are re-shaping the country, deliberately

or inadvertently, expertly or ineptly. Across most of the world, biodiversity is in decline particularly in areas with high human population density and extensive habitat destruction.

The Australian outback is one of the world's few remaining [large natural areas](#), along with places like the Amazon Basin and the Sahara. Such areas are most likely to long support [functional and healthy ecological processes and biodiversity](#).

However, somewhat counterintuitively, in much of the Outback, [nature is in decline](#) even in its most remote and sparsely populated regions. This decline reflects the loss from many areas of a long-established, intricate and purposeful Indigenous land management, that has [long moulded its nature](#). Now, fire is often [managed ineptly or not at all](#), leading to [uncontrolled and destructive wildfire](#). And the decline of biodiversity and loss of productivity in remote Australia is due also to the extensive spread of [many pests and weeds](#) introduced over the last century or so, and the inadequate resources committed to their control.

Inexorably, we will lose much that is special in our nature unless we can collectively address these causal factors and manage our lands more effectively. The land managers we talked to are skilled and willing, but they need more support.

One example is Les Schultz, a Ngadju elder from the country around Norseman in south-western Australia. He told us he wants to see the Great Western Woodlands managed properly, saying,

We will always be around, and it ticks all the boxes of everything good in terms of outcomes for Ngadju people and the general community We need Ngadju rangers with boots on the ground.

A similar call comes from some pastoralists, such as Michael Clinch from the Murchison region of WA. He inherited a land long over-exploited by unsustainable levels of grazing, and is now seeking new management approaches to take his land on "a journey of redemption": ...

The accounts showcase people at home in their country. Such accounts, of characters living in the bush, have long been emblematic for our nation. But these lives represent a diminishing minority of Australians. We would like all Australians to more appreciate the care bestowed on our land by those who cherish it, the benefits we all derive from that care, and the need to better support those who seek to maintain our natural legacy. We cannot live well in this land unless we understand it, and value it.

Geographic Definition of the Australian Outback as Used in This Report



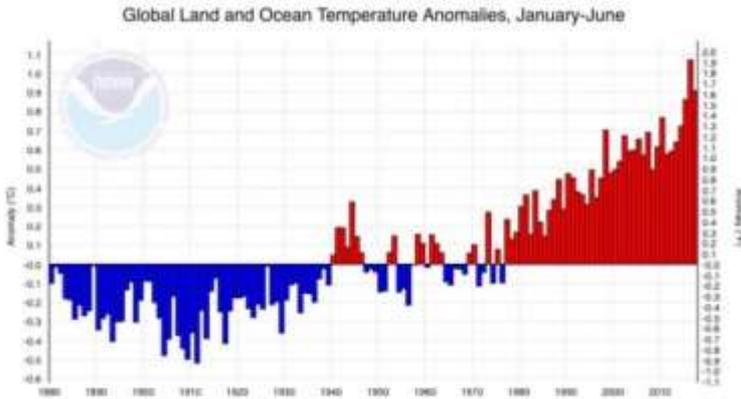
While not in the 'outback' part of the map, our area's isolated location in extensive forest means that much of this article applies to us.

Farmers & Growers

2017 is so unexpectedly warm it is freaking out climate scientists

By Joe Romm on 20 July 2017

[ThinkProgress](#)



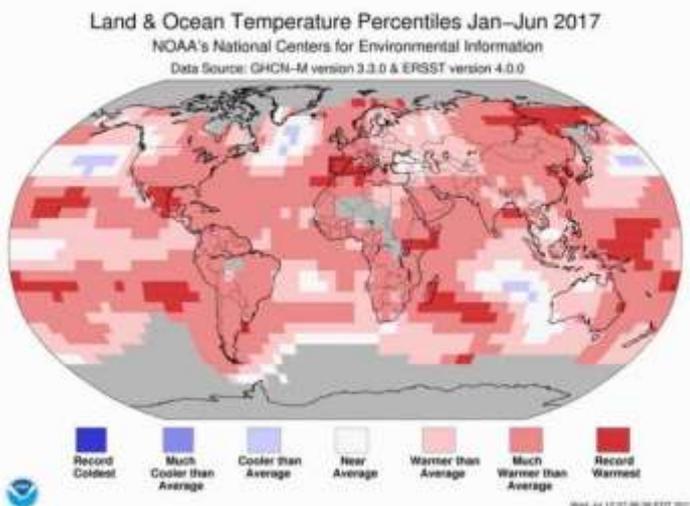
January–June 2017 global surface temperatures (compared to the 20th century average) in Degrees Celsius. Source: ThinkProgress

Normally, the hottest years on record occur when the underlying human-caused global warming trend gets a temporary boost from an [El Niño's enhanced warming](#) in the tropical Pacific.

So it's been a surprise to climate scientists that 2017 has been [so remarkably warm](#)—because the last El Niño ended a year ago.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) [reported](#) Tuesday that the first half of 2017 was the second-warmest January-June on record for Earth, topped only by 2016, which was boosted by one of the biggest El Niños on record.

“As if it wasn't shocking enough to see three consecutive record-breaking years, in 2014, 2015, and 2016, for the first time on record,” leading climatologist Michael Mann wrote in an email to ThinkProgress, “we're now seeing near-record temperatures even in the absence of the El Niño ‘assist’ that the previous record year benefited from.”

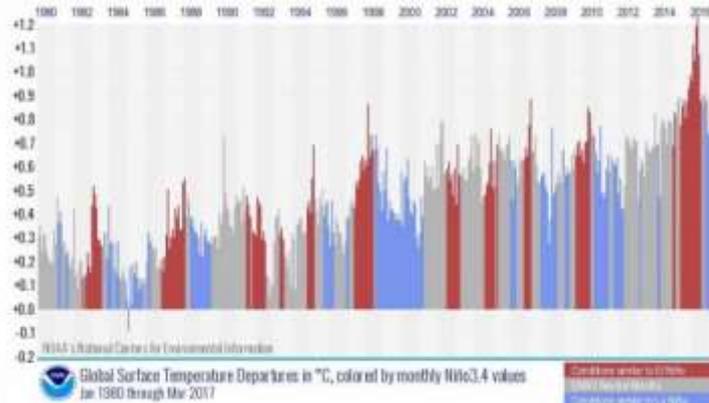


Table, previous column: How January-June temperatures globally rank compared to the 20th century average. Source: ThinkProgress

NOAA climatologist Ahira Sanchez-Lugo told [Climate Central](#), “After the decline of the strong El Niño, I was expecting the values to drop a bit.... This year has been extremely remarkable.”

Usually we see global records in years when the short-term El Niño warming adds to the long-term global warming trend (see chart below).

As NOAA noted in its [March report](#), without an El Niño, no month before March 2017 had ever exceeded the “normal” temperature (the 1981–2010 average) by a full 1.8°F (1.0°C).



Global monthly temperature departures (from 1981–2010 average) color-coded by whether the Pacific was experiencing an El Niño (red), a La Niña (blue) or neutral conditions (gray). Source: ThinkProgress

This matters because when a month—or six-month period—sees record high global temperatures in the absence of an El Niño, that is a sign the underlying global warming trend is stronger than ever.

The latest NOAA report is “a reminder that climate change has not, despite the insistence of climate contrarians ‘paused’ or even slowed down,” Mann said.

Bottom line: Human-caused global warming continues at a dangerous pace, and only human action to slash carbon pollution can stop it.

Source: [ThinkProgress](#). Reproduced with permission.

What is the Regional Assembly?

The aim of the Gippsland Assembly is to consult with community, business leaders and industry, to further develop and refine priority outcomes for the future of the Gippsland region. Your opinion, suggestions and voice is essential in ensuring that the State Government is hearing what is happening in our region broadly from across the community.

The first Gippsland Regional Assembly meeting was held in November 2016 at Moe with 200 people in attendance. The first phase of the Assembly process invited individuals to engage in an on-line forum to provide feedback on existing plans for Gippsland. They also provided input regarding issues that mattered most to them. These ideas and comments informed themes which were developed at the meeting in Moe.

- Connectivity
- Skills & Education
- Family & Community Well-being
- Food & Fibre
- New Jobs & Industry
- Energy & Resources
- Tourism & Visitor Economy

"Local Voices Count"

You can participate in the conversation by linking onto the web site: (<https://engage.vic.gov.au/gippsland-regional-partnership>) and register an expression of interest to attend one of the local Assemblies:

- Lakes Entrance - 3rd August 2017
- Sale - 16th August 2017

Farmers & Growers

Scientists make accidental breakthrough that could lead to drought-proof crops

ABC Rural By [Jana Black](#) and [Adrienne Francis](#)



A group of Australian National University (ANU) scientists has made a major breakthrough that could improve Australia's food security during drought.

The Canberra-based researchers have spent the past decade looking at the effects of drought on plants, accidentally discovering some plants have a self-preservation method that is potentially life-saving. One of the lead researchers, biologist Kai Chan, says the team found chloroplasts do more than capture sunlight through photosynthesis to make plant food.

Dr Chan said they found chloroplasts also worked together with plant hormones during drought stress.

"Chloroplasts are actually capable of sensing drought stress and telling the leaves to shut-up and prevent water from being lost during drought stress," he said.

"So the chloroplasts are actually helping the plants to prevent losing too much water.

"We know how the drought alarm actually calls for help and we know how help comes in the form of closing pores on the leaves."



Photo: ANU scientist Dr Kai Chan, who helped to discover the water saving properties of some plants. (ABC News: [Jana Black](#))

The team made the discovery while conducting tests on barley and arabidopsis, a relative of canola and mustard.

They found boosting the levels of the chloroplast signal in these plants extended their drought survival by about 50 per cent.

Dr Chan described the discovery as a major breakthrough for farmers.

"We have got very strong reason to believe that this ability is also present in other major crops like rice and wheat," he said.

"Imagine if you're able to help those plants close their pores much earlier during drought that might actually help those crops survive just that little bit longer until the next rainfall.

"The find means farmers may be able to better protect their crops, like wheat and canola, during long bouts of drought."

Dr Chan said he was working to develop a chemical spray to boost the chloroplast signal that closes pores on plant leaves.

Other collaborators are investigating plant breeding to naturally enhance levels of the chloroplast signal.

"Canberra is not particularly known as an agricultural area, but Canberra and the ANU is a centre of knowledge and technological breakthroughs that can help not just the Canberra region but globally as well."

It is hoped the crop technology could be available within the next five to 10 years.

The research was funded by the Australian Research Council and was a collaboration between ANU, the University of Adelaide, Western Sydney University, CSIRO, Kasetsart University in Thailand and the University of California San Diego.



The HSD

Australian farmer's weed-destroying invention draws world interest

[Landline](#) By Prue Adams

An Australian farmer's invention, which destroys weed seeds during harvest, has the potential to reduce the need for herbicides in grain farming and is gaining interest from around the world.

The Harrington Seed Destructor (HSD) is the brainchild of Western Australian farmer Ray Harrington.

The machine can be retro-fitted into modern grain harvesters and, with cage mill technology adapted from the mining industry, pulverises weed seeds to the point where they are no longer viable.

This means that when the chaff is spread back over the paddocks after harvest, viable weed seeds are not spread in the process.



Photo: Ray Harrington was worried his farm would fail under pressure from weeds. ([Landline: Prue Adams](#))

Extensive research through the University of Western Australia has shown the machine kills 95 per cent of the weed seeds collected in the chaff.

According to the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), weeds cost Australian grain farmers around \$3.5 billion a year, and there is an increasing problem with weeds such as annual ryegrass that have built up a resistance to commonly used herbicides.

"Five to seven years ago, particularly in places like the Western Australian Wheatbelt, there was quite a strong feeling that herbicide resistance was going to cause people to have to walk off their farms," said GRDC managing director Steve Jefferies.

Mr Harrington grows barley, wheat and other grains on his property near Darkan, about 200 kilometres south of Perth.....

The HSD system is based around the cage mill as the chaff processing unit. A pneumatic chaff delivery system, incorporating a cross auger and blower fan, collects and delivers the chaff that is pushed out the rear of the harvester and pushes that material, which is full of weed seeds, through the centre of the cage mill.

The weed seeds are smashed into a fine powder by rotating metal blades, and the inert powder is spread immediately back on the paddock.

Director of the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative (AHRI) Stephen Powles said the HSD was "the most elegant tool" in a system called harvest weed seed control — a process of managing weeds at harvest time, rather than relying on herbicides to knock weeds down during the growing season.

The HSD is being manufactured by the De Bruin Group, a family-owned company based in the South Australian regional town of Mount Gambier.

"We've refocused our entire business around producing the HSD," said Judson Wheatley, DeBruin Engineering's managing director.

Mr Wheatley said the company was manufacturing around 12 to 15 machines a month, and they retailed fully installed for \$160,000.

Most of the machines have been sold to Western Australian farmers, but several have also been sent to South Australia's Eyre Peninsula, and testing stands have been exported to the United States, Canada and South America.

Doubling of Sky Muster data limits in the bush welcomed by advocates seeking better internet

ABC Rural By [Charlie McKillop](#)



A [doubling of data allowances in peak periods](#) on the Sky Muster satellite network has been universally welcomed by rural and regional lobby groups, which have long argued for an end to the data drought.

The maximum monthly data usage per household will increase from 150 gigabytes a month to 300GB a month from October.

Maximum usage during a peak period will increase from 75GB a month to 150GB a month.

Regional Communications Minister Fiona Nash said it meant rural and remote satellite internet users would be able to access extra data regardless of when they were going online.

"For a business doing high definition video conferencing with colleagues and clients, that's going to mean 50 hours more a month," she said.

"If it's a student watching uni lectures, there's going to be 25 hours more each month. For a photographer, it would be an extra 3,500 pictures they can send a month.

"And the NBN has indicated that this is the start and they're going to look at even more capacity down the track.

"So, this is going to go a long way to alleviating a lot of that concern around that data."

The NBN has agreed not to charge retailers extra for the additional data allowance, and Ms Nash is hopeful it will be passed on at no or very minimal additional cost to consumers.

END TO DATA DROUGHT IN SIGHT

Better Internet for Rural, Regional and Remote (BIRRR) Australia joined a chorus of rural and regional groups welcoming the development, indicating it was a "very positive step in the right direction to end the data drought".

BIRRR spokeswoman Kristy Sparrow said it was now up to retail service providers to work with the NBN and their customers to ensure the new higher data plans were affordable and responsive to the needs of regional consumers.

"The doubling of wholesale data allowances will make a significant difference to communications in the bush," she said.

"If we are to encourage growth and innovation in regional areas, we need to ensure connectivity is on par with our urban counterparts."

BIRRR also welcomed an NBN contact centre and outage information service for Sky Muster users.

It will continue lobbying for improved reliability, changes to off-peak hours, business-grade services and an increased fixed wireless footprint to help alleviate pressure on the Sky Muster satellite network.

AgForce telecommunications committee chairwoman Georgie Somerset said the need for fairer, more reliable and affordable phone and internet services was the number one issue for people living and working in the bush.

"While Sky Muster is now delivering excellent speed and increased reliability, the data allowances have been a serious limitation, with many of our members restricted from even considering cloud-based business services," she said.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR MY DATA PLAN?

Ms Nash stressed it would be up to retailers to decide adjustments to individual plans under the Sky Muster rules, but she expected it would deliver about 50 per cent more peak data and twice as much off-peak data to users.

High-end plans would be likely to offer about 100 gigabytes a month of peak data and 150 gigabytes off-peak.

Average users on 30-40 gigabyte a month plans would receive an extra 15-20 gigabytes of data a month.

She said she would continue to listen to the telecommunications concerns of rural and regional residents, and urged them not to overreact to a [recent report by the Productivity Commissioner recommending an end of guaranteed access to fixed landline phones](#).

"It's a report to government. We're now considering that and I certainly have the best interests of people out in the regions uppermost in everything I do," she said.

The wood-chopping farmer with an axe to grind on fungus

Victorian Country Hour [Cherie von Hörchner](#)



As a volunteer Country Fire Authority firefighter, John Hine is aware of the dangers that lurk in everyday rural life.

But the 60-year-old farmer from Woodglen in East Gippsland never dreamt he could court death simply by chopping wood for the fire.

"I was just cutting some red gum with the chainsaw. About a month or six weeks later I got severe headaches and fever-like symptoms," Mr Hine said.

"I went for about seven or eight days before I thought I had better go the doctor because the Nurofen wasn't really cutting it."

When x-rays revealed a bright spot on his lungs, Mr Hine feared the worst, and his doctor's suggestion that he immediately go to the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute for a biopsy did nothing to calm his anxiety.

"They put a camera and a needle down my throat," Mr Hine recalled.

"About one-and-a-half hours later the surgeon came out and he said 'You haven't got cancer'.

"I said, 'Well, alright ... that's great!'"

DISEASE A RARITY IN AUSTRALIA

The truth, however, was no cause for celebration.

Mr Hine was informed he had contracted *Cryptococcus*, a disease that kills half a million people globally each year and, in Australia, tends to come from the *Cryptococcus gattii* fungus that grows in and around eucalyptus trees.

"It's rare," said James Fraser, a molecular biologist from the University of Queensland.

"There are two pathogenic forms of the *Cryptococcus* species — *neoformans* and *gattii*," Professor Fraser said.

"*Cryptococcus neoformans* is responsible for half a million deaths a year, predominantly in sub-Saharan Africa and less privileged countries ... these tend to target people who are immunocompromised.

"The case you talk about here with wood [*Cryptococcus gattii*], is rare. In Australia, we don't have a lot of instances of *Cryptococcus* — we're very lucky in that regard — but it does happen.

"The initial stage of an infection most commonly takes the form of cryptococcal pneumonia, and the symptoms you get can be consistent with a wide variety of diseases.

"It's not until the progression to meningoencephalitis, at which point the disease is actually quite advanced, that it becomes apparent that *Cryptococcus* is causing the infection."

Professor Fraser said the treatment could be almost as harsh as the disease itself.

"The big problem is that fungi, at a molecular level, is closely related to humans, which means that anything that can kill a fungus is probably good at killing a human," he said.

"That means we have a very limited number of anti-fungal agents that can treat infections like this.

"It can take months of treatment with drugs that are essentially nowhere near as advanced as we want them to be."

TREATMENT MADE LIFE WORSE INITIALLY

For Mr Hine, that meant five weeks as a patient at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, where staff pumped him full of antigens that made life worse before it got better. Professor Fraser insists there is no cause for alarm.

He said *Cryptococcus* was all around, but a white, powder-like fungus on wood could be a tell-tale sign of intense (from (from previous page) quantities of the fungus.

"There's been research over the years that shows if you take blood from a small child ... who has been out wandering around in the garden, you can detect antibodies against *Cryptococcus*,"

Professor Fraser said.

"We all would have been exposed to it dozens, hundreds or thousands of times in our lives, but the majority of us fight it off.

"In this particular instance, if a single individual gets exposed to a bolus dose, so a very large quantity of the infectious particles, that can cause an infection even in healthy individuals.

"So if that's what happened in this case, then that can happen to anyone, if you got exposed to sufficient quantities."

For Mr Hine, wearing a mask is now mandatory when he is chopping wood for the fire.

Farmers & Growers



(Supplied UNSW: Anna Normyle)

Dingo control is damaging Australian soils, say university researchers

ABC Rural By [Sally Bryant](#)

Trapping, baiting and fencing against dingoes is depleting Australia's soils, according to university research released this week.

The University of New South Wales study has found dingo controls have resulted in a boom in kangaroo numbers, with more wide-reaching environmental effects than previously thought.

Associate Professor Mike Letnic said the impact extended beyond the implications for other flora and fauna of the region. "What we found was that where the grazing by kangaroos was very heavy, the amounts of phosphorous, nitrogen and carbon in the soil were depleted," he said.

"We expect that those soils that have had their nutrient levels depleted by heavy grazing will actually have smaller booms, when it rains.

"Of course, much of western New South Wales really relies on the soil being able to respond to rainfall events."

Associate Professor Letnic said kangaroo numbers were self-regulating but that the animals would continue to increase in number while ever there was pasture for them to eat.

But he said that when the pasture runs out, the numbers crash, the animals die and the environment suffers.

"They do regulate their own populations but in a way that is disastrous for ecosystems," he said.

"When there is very little 'top-down' pressure on them, that is some sort of predation whether it's dingoes or people, their numbers 'track' rainfall.

"When you get a boom, kangaroo numbers go up, but when it busts, then kangaroo numbers bust as well and in the process of busting, they eat everything."

He said in the bust phase, kangaroos died in huge numbers but before they died they strip the country of ground cover, and that was depleting the landscape of valuable nutrients.

However, in parts of the landscape where dingoes were still active, kangaroo numbers stayed low and the country was not under the same amount of grazing pressure.

"This is National Parks that we were studying," he said.

"This is happening even in country where there are no sheep."

Associate Professor Letnic said it was not realistic to think the problem could be solved by simply reintroducing dingoes to the landscape of western NSW.

"I don't think that is a realistic option, but looking at what dingoes do, helps to inform us about how we should maybe manage ecosystems to make them healthier," he said.

"It is not possible to graze sheep, like we do in western NSW and have dingoes, so I think we need to be looking at other solutions.

"But we could be acting a bit more like dingoes ourselves, maybe setting higher harvest levels, or taking more affirmative action to reduce kangaroo numbers."

Eastern Victorian farmers plan new hemp cooperative as hemp seeds become legal to eat

ABC Rural By [Isabella Pittaway](#)

A hemp manufacturing company is establishing a farmer cooperative in eastern Victoria and plans to grow its first crop in September.

This comes after Australian and New Zealand food ministers gave approval for hemp seeds to be consumed as a food source.

The Australian Hemp Manufacturing Company has chosen Gippsland as the region for its first cooperative because of the quality of soil and high rainfall.

Chief executive Darren Christie said recent news that it would soon be [legal to consume hemp food products](#) meant more opportunities for farmers.

"The food side gives us more scope and I think it opens up the industry to giving us a future in another alternative farming commodity," he said.

"We've been trying to get this through the system for 20 years; I think it's fantastic, it's taken a long time but that's what we need."

The change in legislation, allowing hemp seeds to be consumed as foods, should come into effect in about six months, and states and territories will need to amend their own food regulations. It means Australia and NZ will now fall in line with the standards adopt by the rest of the world.

Mr Christie said it was not the first time hemp would be grown in Gippsland.

"Going back 20 years they actually started a few crops down here and it grew perfectly but they were too far ahead of their time, it was more into the clothing," he said.

"As time's gone by we've got to a stage with research where the hemp itself, the stalk and the fibre projects into the building industry perfectly.

"The reason why I've come [to Gippsland] is it's a great farming area, great farming practices, we've got a better rainfall so the yield as a return will come back a lot stronger for the farmers down here."



[Hemp foods sold in Australia are low in THC, the hallucinogen found in marijuana.](#)

Mr Christie said compared to 20 years ago people's attitude towards hemp was changing.

"People are starting to understand the differences between the hemp and medical marijuana."

The Gippsland hemp co-operative has signed seven farmers so far.

"It's another commodity for farmers. The milkers, they can use it as a rotation crop which will be great for them in the future," Mr Christie said.

"No pesticides, better PH levels in their soil, a bit more humus in the ground; that's why I believe down this way it'll be perfect for farmers to get on board.

"We're going to try and start growing in September, and we're

Farmers & Growers

always looking for more farmers that are looking for that alternative income in the future.

"What we're [also] trying to do is put an intellectual property in there. We're trying to change a hay band in the system, we'd like to do a hemp hay band."

Mr Christie said the company was also expanding a processing factory in Morwell that supplies the building industry with hemp products.

TWENTY MILLION TREES GRANTS PROGRAM.

Round Three of the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees is now open for grants of between **\$20,000** and **\$100,000** for tree planting projects that will support EPBC listed Threatened Ecological Communities and Threatened Species.

Individuals and groups can apply for projects on both public and private land.

Applications close: 19 August 2017.

Guidelines, application form and other useful information is available at: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/national/20-million-trees/competitive-grants-round-three>

Plastic Recycling.

Petra Szabo, Sustainability Projects Officer for the Wellington Shire Council, has recommended that anyone interested in plastic recycling should visit the "Precious Plastic" site by clicking on the link below. It has innovative ideas on how to set-up a small plastic reprocessing project.

It includes instructions, blue-prints and videos. Look it up at: <https://preciousplastic.com/en/>

New helmets could save lives, reduce quad bike injuries

ABC Rural By Tom Major

A newly developed helmet specially designed for farm workers could stem the rising death toll from tragic accidents involving quad bikes, experts say.

The vehicles have been linked with more than 200 deaths in the past 15 years, 20 per cent of them children, and already this year nine people have died while riding quad bikes.

As part of National Farm Safety Week, FarmSafe Queensland's executive director Jamie Cupples urged primary producers to take action to make All-Terrain Vehicle safety a priority for their properties.

"It's probably been the premier issue now for 10 years, it's been debated I guess at length for a long time," he said.

"Unfortunately, we really haven't got a resolution to it at the present, we've got some states doing some things, and we've got others doing less or different things, and there's no consistency about what we're doing across the country."

Recent changes to Queensland laws have made helmets mandatory on public roads and stock routes, and banned children under eight from riding as passengers, while last month in New South Wales the ALP announced plans to legislate to prevent under 16s from using quad bikes.

North Queensland ATV dealer David Muir, from Ayr, says manufacturers already urge users to wear helmets and ride appropriately sized bikes.

"There's plenty of choices out there of children's quad bikes that are suitable for children," he said.

Both Mr Muir and Mr Cupples said further regulation would be near impossible to police given the wide rural jurisdictions where many bikes are used.

"It would be more than difficult ... these vehicles are used privately, they're used on properties, they're used all over the place," Mr Cupples said.

"We don't advocate [regulation], we certainly think there should be an awareness about the children on bikes, particularly under 16s, but not necessarily regulating that issue."

Mr Muir said, in the heat of summer, reluctance to wear helmets was understandable.



[he helmets are based on the design used by firefighters and weigh just 800 grams.](#)

"They're not the kindest thing to wear all day every day and hence people are just not using them," he said. Mr Muir said most helmets currently worn in Australia were full head covering, meant for use in sports riding situations rather than farm work such as mustering cattle. But a new generation of helmets based on firefighting equipment and developed in New Zealand could hold the key to getting more farm riders to buckle on the protective gear.

The helmets use Kevlar, weigh just over a kilogram, and include air vents and better sun protection than many current models.

Mr Cupples hopes the helmets, which already meet New Zealand standards, will soon become approved by local authorities for use in public places.

"They've been widely used over there on quad bikes, I believe there's some five or six thousand of them out and about in the community over there now," he said.

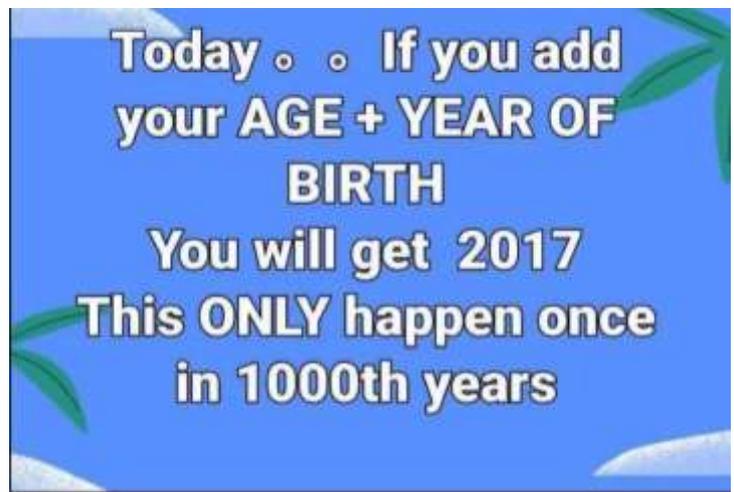
"It's something that we're trying to get Transport to look at to see if they'll endorse that for quad bike use here in Queensland."

A Transport and Main Roads spokesperson said the decision to approve the helmet rests with Standards Australia.

While adamant safety gear helps, Mr Muir said more user training was needed to save lives on farms.

"You can't get away with the accidents that have happened in recent years," he said.

"At the end of the day it's like a lot of training courses, if you pick up one small piece of information, that may prevent an injury or a tragedy, it's been well worth it."



Being Your Own Village

BY MADISYN TAYLOR

Sometimes we need to be our own village and utilizing all of our skills and learning more.

Simple survival requires us to be in possession of many skills. The pursuit of dreams requires many more. Most individuals rely on the support of a village, whether peopled by relatives or community members, to effectively address the numerous ways we need assistance. This can mean anything from asking favors of acquaintances and leaning on loved ones for support to paying a skilled artisan to handle specialized tasks. However, each human being is born with the capacity to be their own village. We embody many roles throughout our lifetimes, all of which are representative of our capacity for self-sufficiency and self-determination. In different moments in our lives, we are our own counsellor, janitor, caregiver, cook, healer, teacher, and student. Our willingness to joyfully take on these roles grants us the power to maintain control over the direction our life's journey takes.

In times past, human beings learned all of the skills needed for survival. Today, the majority of people specialize in a single discipline, which they hone throughout their lives. Thus, many of us feel uncomfortable standing at the helm of our own existence. We question our ability to make decisions concerning our own health, happiness, and welfare, and are left feeling dependent and powerless. But the authority to take ultimate responsibility for our lives is simply a matter of believing that we have the necessary faith and intelligence to cope with any circumstance the universe chooses to place in our path. Proving that we can each be our own villages through action enables us to accept that we are strong enough to exist autonomously. Cooking, cultivating a garden of fruits and vegetables, undertaking minor home repair, or adopting a healthier lifestyle can help you reassert your will.

Being your own village does not mean embracing isolation, for a balanced life is built upon the dual foundations of the inner and the outer villages. Rather, being your own village is a celebration of your wondrous inner strength and resourcefulness, as well as an acknowledgment of your innate ability to capably steer the course of your life.

This article is printed from DailyOM - Inspirational thoughts for a happy, healthy and fulfilling day.

Register for free at dailyom.com

Contributed by Lisa who thought this might be inspiring to a few of us who need reminders of our strength and resourcefulness.

Women's Village

Lisa and Deb are planning a day for women at Bonang on Tuesday September 19th. There will be massage, food, talking, games, yoga and more.

If you have an activity you'd like included please let us know, we want to make it a day with something for everyone.

Savoury Veggie Pancakes



Breakfast, lunch or dinner – these Savoury Veggie Pancakes provide the perfect, easy-to-prepare meal that goes well with bacon, tomato, avocado or a tasty chutney.

Serves: 2

Time: 40 mins

Ingredients

- 1 cup self-raising flour
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 egg
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 zucchini, grated
- 2 rindless bacon rashers
- 125g cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/2 avocado sliced
- 1/2 cup basil leaves
- 1 tsp balsamic vinegar
- Salt and pepper to season

Method

In a bowl combine the self-raising flour and baking powder before seasoning with salt and pepper. Make a well in the centre and add the egg and milk, whisk until combined. Pour in the grated zucchini and mix well.

Heat a large fry pan over medium heat using half of the olive oil. Using a quarter of the mixture each time, make four pancakes by reducing heat to medium low and cooking for three to four minutes on each side.

Pancakes should be golden and cooked through. Set aside pancakes on a plate covered with foil.

Using the rest of the oil cook the bacon until crisp, approximately three minutes each side. Remove from heat and tear into large pieces.

In a bowl mix the bacon with tomatoes, avocado, basil and balsamic vinegar. Season with salt and pepper and serve on top of the pancakes. Enjoy!

Beating the birds

Across the road from the neighbourhood house is one of Tubbut's most productive gardens. Tended by the Neven women, Helen and Patrizia, it grows excellent vegetables. This year it has a new structure made of poly hose and bird netting, an ingenious arrangement to protect the brassicas from the bower birds, so I went over to find out how it was made.



Wooden stakes slightly stronger than tomato stakes are hammered into the ground at intervals of around a metre. Star pickets could also be used.

The arches are made of used poli pipe of an inch or so diameter cut to equal length according to the height you want the enclosure to be.

The sleeves which keep them in place are about 45cm cut from poli pipe wide enough to slip over the poly pipe and the stakes.

A hole is drilled through both sections of pipe and a screw inserted to hold the 2 widths of poli pipe together.

A length of bird netting available from garden shops and hardware stores is draped over the structure and rolled where it sits on the ground.

Patrizia plans to lie several layers of newspaper where the netting meets the ground to stop weeds growing up through the netting.

The netting can be lifted anywhere for easy entry.

For a greenhouse, plastic could be used. Patrizia's is a temporary structure which she plans to take down in spring when the bower birds go elsewhere. **16**



Dog Stories

The light in those brown eyes



Its time to add Sabbath to this gallery of dogs. As I was writing this, she lay, gradually stiffening as her strong sense of life slowly ebbed away. She was lying on the hard slate floor near the fridge, but the night before she was rage, rage, raging against the dying of the light, either trying to bring it on or keep it at bay. I'll never know which.

Sabbath used to be called Sasha. She came into our lives like this. After Grit, our beloved Jack Russell died, Eleni and I went for several months without a dog. Its true, life was easier not having to watch out for this third person in our household.

Nobody to hurry back for from wherever we were, me a busy MLA working 24 hours a day and Eleni in year 11 at Narrabundah College, living a teenager's life in a new suburb. But then, there was an empty space in the house and in our lives. When Eleni's seventeenth birthday came I said, "Come on, hop into the car, we are making a surprise trip."

It wasn't far from our new house to Canberra's pound, and Eleni was very excited to find that was our destination. I imagine I'd asked the real estate agent whether we were allowed to have a dog in our rented house – though maybe I did that afterwards. In we went, very welcome as you can imagine, with many dogs eager to find a new home. I was thinking of another small black and white thing, a terrier of some kind, suitable for the suburban home. There were a couple there. The dog we came home with, however, chose us, as they do. A shiny black medium sized ragged dog with melting brown eyes and a tail like a flag, came up to the bars and captured Eleni's heart. We put her on the leash and took her for a walk and she seemed to want to come home with us. The pound couldn't tell us much about her – they'd found her wandering the streets of Gungahlin, half-starved and wild and no-one came looking for her. 'Sasha' was on her collar but no phone number. They put her age at anything between three and five and her breed as 'mixed'. She wasn't desexed but when we took her to the vet for a check up, he put her age at closer to 5 and said that, although she wasn't desexed, she'd never had pups, so it did seem a bit pointless having a pupless bitch desexed. Over the 10 or so years that we've had her, she has never looked remotely interested in a male dog.

We took her home to our very secure backyard with its paling fences in the back and tall cyclone barrier between back and front. Sasha became Black Sabbath. She was a lithe athletic dog with springs on her feet and determination in her heart and she got out. Several times. Our dog's brown eyes were full of

fear and her past experiences, whatever they were, had left her distrusting of humans. She wasn't so keen on pats outside the pound. We despaired. Should we keep a dog that didn't want to stay or should we take her back to the pound to be fostered out, as was the course we diverted her from?

A friend with self-professed psychic powers visited and recommended we keep her. "She will learn to trust you," she said, "and then she will be a different dog."

I called in a tradesman to raise the height of the fence. She still got out. Then apparently she ran, without thought of traffic or any other hazard, straight across Sturt Avenue and towards the city. Someone would capture the trembling animal and phone the really good lost dog line the pound runs and she would be delivered back. I'm not sure if I had to pay each time – in those days I could afford to pay fines without starving for a week.

My friend was right. Gradually the fear left her eyes and, best of all, the compulsive running away stopped. She grew attached to Eleni and me and became a dog that could be taken for walks to the Narrabundah shops without a leash. She never learned to be a good bicycle follower, with a dangerous habit of criss-crossing in front of the wheels. She never developed road sense but would stop and sit when told at intersections and was in every way an obedient dog with one of the best noses I've encountered. How she loved smells.

Such a city dog, I didn't know how she'd adjust to Cabanandra. When we left her with Bob for four weeks as Eleni and I went to South America, we forgot to tell her we were going and say a proper goodbye. Apparently she looked for us every day. I have never since made the mistake of not telling a dog where I'm going and how long I will be away.

Sabbath has had to adjust to being my dog instead of Eleni's dog as she took off into the world and I stayed behind. Whenever Eleni visited Cabanandra she became her dog again and when she could hear, she enjoyed my Skype calls with El. But the food has kept coming and Sabbath has never left anything behind in her dish for later. She loved a swim and had her last one in the Jingallala only two days ago. Blind as well as deaf, it was hard for her to find a good place to exit the water and she often needed a helping hand to pull her up a slippery rock. Then she would set off in the wrong direction, oblivious to calls as she followed her nose – around and around.

Walking had to be restricted to tried and true routes. Until yesterday, she never said no to a walk.

By yesterday it was obvious that Sab's joy in life had ebbed from her eyes. Most disturbing was the compulsive walking round and round the house panting all the way as she did yesterday and last night, knocking into things, eventually falling asleep where she met her last obstacle, like the fridge. I wished I had some Nembutal in the freezer, to 'put her out of her misery'. I've never had a dog die of old age; there is a sorry history of death by car for my childhood dogs and certainly Grit died under a fatal injection at a ripe old age. Euthanasia is legal for dogs and if I'd been handy to a vet I would have spared her those last desperate hours.

Sabbath didn't let go of life easily. She hung on through the weekend till Monday morning. I rang the vet and arranged to go in that afternoon when he would be available. But on Monday morning, she sought a place to plunge her head, behind the washing machine in the greenhouse/laundry. As I talked to the film crew that was visiting people affected by the 2014 fire, Birgit was laying her hand on Sabbath, helping her let go. That was all it took. The light left her eyes at last.

Deb

Chook News by Cheryl Nelson

A Chicken Saves the World

A farm entrepreneur at Dignam's Creek near Tilba on the South Coast of NSW has been **converting stubborn clay and rock to near-perfect soil with the help of his chooks!**

Nick Van Steckelenburg has recently completed long-term trials with his **unique chicken tractors**, solving the problem of **highly challenging soil conditions**. His method uses **three or four hens** housed in **mobile chicken tractors** about the **size of a small bathtub**. The **specially designed chook tractors**, which are made with mesh and partially covered with UV resistant 'tarpaulinnettes' also have **water and sleeping perches** available to the animals.

Twice a day Nick slides his chook tractors a metre over to a **new patch of ground** which has been already **lightly forked** with chook food thrown over it. The moving process, which includes forking, spreading food and checking the animals takes around **two minutes per cage**.

The combination of the **chook food with a light forking**, which **partially buries the seeds**, creates a challenge **irresistible to chooks**. The chook seed is highly desirable and the **chook must scratch** to access it all.

The chicken **digs and aerates the soil, clears weeds** and weed seeds, converting them to manures and in the process provides high quality **digging services, carbon sequestration, weed management and eggs and meat** - a suite of services from the humble descendants of the dinosaurs.

The resulting **top soil** is some of the **finest, most nutrient dense and fluffy loam you could possibly imagine**. The completed areas are **ready for mulching and planting** with herbs and vegetables and make very **good soils for fruit trees** to thrive in.

Nick has called his process '**Chicken Panacea**' and he regularly holds **courses** on his property to show people the benefits this method provides.

The process is inspired by Alan Savoury's Wholistic Management **crash grazing technique** which resembles animal herds moving through a landscape.

For more about Nick's method, check Facebook - Chicken Panacea

<https://www.facebook.com/chickenpanacea/>



The Australorp may be Australia's national hen. Australorps are very **hardy in both cold and hot weather**, amazingly **productive** and **not prone to broodiness**. They are **fast growers** with hens reaching point of lay at around five months of age.

They are **calm, very friendly great with other birds and children**.

They lay **largish light brown eggs** – about **5 eggs per week!**

Why Sulphur is Good for our Chooks?

It's Elementary!

Elemental sulphur is one of the **oldest fungicide and pesticide**. "Dusting sulphur," elemental sulphur in powdered form, is a **common fungicide**.... Elemental sulphur powder is used as an **'organic insecticide'** against **ticks** and mites. Elemental sulphur is non-toxic, as are most of the soluble sulphate salts, such as Epsom salts.

SULPHUR AS A DUST

A common method of application is **dusting** bodies and limbs with sulphur powder.

A diluted solution of **lime sulphur** (made by combining calcium hydroxide with elemental sulphur in water) This is used, not only as a clean up spray on our fruit trees and roses after pruning, but as a dip for pets to **destroy ringworm (fungus), mange and other parasites**.

Elemental sulphur can be used as a **safe and effective mite treatment** when applied in moderate occasional quantities directly to chicken **skin and feathers**, or mixed routinely into **dust baths** (10% sulphur to 90% sand by weight and as tested by the "Novel Control of Fowl Mites" researchers, is highly effective. For a **bad coop infestation**, sulphur can also be used as a dust or water slurry, **directly on cracks and other sites where mites hide out**.

SULPHUR IN FEED

According to Wikipedia, research suggests, that mixing **sulphur in chicken feed does work against mites**.

Recent [research](#) indicates that elemental sulphur **mixed into chicken feed** at 1 to 3 tenths of one percent is **quite effective against poultry mites**. That could have some big advantages over other mite control measures that involves dusting or spraying all over the place.

If you are going to add sulphur to your chicken feed, or any other animal feed, it is suggested that it be very **minimal** at a rate of **0.2%**.

SOME FACTS ON ELEMENTAL SULPHUR

- • inexpensive
- • effective on mites and other pests
- • low toxicity (unlike sulphur compounds)
- • resistance is less of an issue, and
- • Can be sprayed or dusted.

SOME PROBLEMS WITH DUSTING SULPHUR

- • flammable
- • corrosive
- • irritating
- • difficulty to control dose, and
- • Applications are labour-intensive

FINALLY ...

To summarise, elemental sulphur has been known for a long time (centuries) to be **effective against mites, fungi, and some insects**, while having toxicity comparable to table salt.

BUT...

As a word or **warning** using sulphur, or diatomaceous earth, or anything that can produce clouds of dust, we all need to be cautious so that we and our animals don't end up with it in our eyes and lungs. These things can cause damage to mucus membranes when inhaled or ingested, so **take reasonable care when applying**.

Goongerah News

The deck is finished! Celebrated with fine Italian food and drinks on Saturday July 1, the extra width makes it perfect for social gatherings. Funded by the Streetscape project, the deck will get lots of use over its busy future.



The deck nearing completion, without people. Photo Glen Below, with people on a Hub day.



Goongerah Public Hall & Recreation Reserve Notice is given of a PUBLIC MEETING to be held at the Goongerah Hall on Saturday 19th August commencing at 6pm. Bring a plate to share dinner. The meeting will nominate between 3 and 9 persons as the Committee of Management for the Goongerah Public Hall & Recreation Reserve for a term of 3 years. The current committee's term expires on 29th September 2017. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Nominations are welcome from everyone. Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting your local DELWP office or at the meeting. For further enquiries please contact the Secretary, Lorelee Cockerill on 0427 850 457.



The new tip trailers have started arriving in the district. This is Goongerah's but there is one at Tubbut and at Deddick too.

DELWP is replacing its most northerly Sardine Creek Rd bridge, isolating Josh and Jeannie and children who now have to travel to Goongerah via Sardine Creek.

The bridge was due to be demolished on July 24th with 2 months before the new bridge is (predicted to be) completed.



Thanks Jeannie for the photograph of the soon-to-be-gone wooden bridge.

Goongerah Hub is open Friday mornings. All welcome for a cuppa, a chat and free wifi internet.

Goongerah Good Foods has surplus in its storeroom. Items too numerous to mention. TNH can email/print you a list but contact Shelly Mac with any questions.

Thanks Birgit

With the Streetscape projects nearly complete we have come to the end of our Recovery from fire period. Its great that Lorelee's contract with Orbost Regional Health has been extended but Birgit Schaedler will have less time to spend with us. Fortunately, she will still be available as a counsellor through ATAPS. We informally said goodbye at lunch at Tubbut on Thursday June 29th and presented her with a picture by Kevin Parker which she chose.



Birgit holding the pastel drawing she chose from Kevin's collection. Michael Johnson looks on. A special cake awaits the knife. Below: Andy Camp painting the Snowy River Cyprus posts of the extended barbecue area at Tubbut while the rest of us pose for the camera



Health Matters

One in two farmers are at risk of premature hearing loss

By [Jemima Burt ABC Rural](#)

More than one in two farmers will suffer premature hearing loss according to research published by National Rural Health Alliance. Chelsea Scott, an audiologist for Australian Hearing said farmers were at a higher risk of premature hearing loss compared to other professions because of their long-term exposure to harmful noise levels.

"We hear a lot of complaints that family members are mumbling," she said.

"Tractors, workshop machinery, firearms and livestock noise are some of the most common causes of premature hearing loss."

Ms Scott is behind a new initiative from Australian Hearing in Victoria taking the hearing testing booth to local saleyards to make free testing more accessible to time-poor farmers who cast their hearing health to the bottom of their to-do list.

Information provided by Farmsafe Australia concluded that premature hearing loss numbers could be as high as two-thirds of farmers.

The visit to Casterton is the second saleyard visit they have made. Ms Smith said the results of their first visit were alarming.

"At the Warrnambool saleyards we tested 19 farmers for hearing loss. Of those, 14 had hearing outside the normal range," she said.

Ms Scott said many farmers were aware that they were losing their hearing, but did not do anything about it.

She said, despite advances in hearing aid technology, there was still a stigma around hearing aids.

"Some people see them [hearing aids] as a sign of ageing," Ms Scott said.

TEST SHOWS EXTENT OF LOSS

Casterton livestock farmer Kevin sat down for a free hearing test at the saleyards.

"My father was very deaf when he was old. My brother; he was fairly deaf too. But my hearing I don't think is too bad," he said.

His results were not great, and he is not alone.

DENIAL, STIGMA AND TIME-POVERTY BEHIND FARMERS NOT GETTING CHECKED

Ms Scott said denial was another reason farmers suffered hearing loss.

"On average people wait seven to 10 years to do something after they notice they are having difficulties," she said.

"Once you lose your hearing you cannot get it back. Part of the service the pop-up booth offers is advice about how farmers can protect what hearing they have left."

She said a cattle sale was a good opportunity to offer free hearing checks to farmers, because leaving their work at home was a challenge.

Ms Scott said hearing loss could lead to a range of negative emotions including frustration, depression, and isolation.

"One of my patients was telling me about how he and his mate were talking near a truck engine," she said.

"His mate was telling him about his dog dying, and because he couldn't hear he just kept nodding and smiling."

Around 15 per cent of people living outside major cities have hearing disorders compared to 12 per cent living within Australia's capitals, according to the National Rural Health Alliance report.

Only 18 per cent of farmers wear hearing protection, according to the National Rural Health Alliance.

Each state has legal health and safety obligations farmers have to comply with in order to create a safe noise environment.

"Action must be taken to reduce noise and protect workers/others if there is continuous exposure to average noise levels of 85 decibels or more in an eight-hour period," according to Farmsafe Australia's website.

The [Farmsafe](#) website provides information about safe exposure periods to high levels of sound and offers five methods of reducing noise injury.

Anyone concerned about their hearing can contact Australian Hearing on 1300 412 512.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service may be extended to dental care later this year. We will pass on more information as it becomes available.

Flying doctor optometrist service

Mon 13—Thurs 15 November

Goongerah Hall

Half hour appointments from 9-5

Please ring TNH 02 64580399

A bus from Tubbut-Bonang may be arranged, please mention when making appointment

The Royal Flying Doctor Service's most recent research paper is entitled "[Mental Health in Rural and Remote Communities](#)".

This new research reveals remote Australians die on average from suicide at twice the rate of city people, yet are only able to access mental health services at a fifth of the rate of city people. It also identifies farmers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander as among the most at risk of suicide.

The research shows there is no difference in common mental health risk factors of family history, stressful events, substance use, and health problems between city and bush, country residents risk exacerbated mental illness because of insufficient early intervention and prevention services.

<https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/what-we-do/research/>

Delegate Multi Purpose Service

Wellness Clinic is held at the MPS, in Craigie Street Delegate. People come to the clinic for procedures and assessment by nursing staff.

The clinic is open

Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri 1pm to 2pm

Every week except public holidays.

No Appointments necessary.

A variety of procedures are available.

- Wound care
- Blood pressure readings
- Blood sugar readings
- Non-urgent ECG's
- Suture or clip removal
- Injections – with Dr's written order
- Other procedures that do not require a Dr.

Pathology clinic

Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30 am. No appointment necessary. Closed public holidays.

Other Services

Women's Health Nurse

3rd Wed of the month

Dietician and Diabetes Educator

2nd Thur of the month

Immunisations – 4th Fri of the month

Podiatry – for HACC clients – monthly

Ring the MPS for appointments for the dietician, diabetes, immunisation, podiatry and women's health 6459 8000

Child and Family Health – visits Delegate MPS on a regular basis ring Kirsty on 6458 5777 for an appointment.

A blast from the past

Warm Corners

Bonang, Victoria
By Fiona McIlroy

We are at present a group of nine adults and five children, working towards becoming a co-operative soon.

Our land is in a sub-alpine area, in the foothills of the Snowy Mountains. It consists of 800 acres, 200 of which is cleared. The Warm Corners track leads up the back of our block, where on a clear day Kosciusko gleams white on the horizon.

On our first trip through the area six years ago, we saw two eagles close up, an emu and many other marsupials close to the road, which had very little traffic. There are grazing belts along the river, but the bush is overwhelmingly undeveloped. Our small river, the Jingallalla, provides drinking water for the farms up and down from us.

Our neighbours have been extremely kind and helpful at times when we had a sick animal or needed to know how to do something. When we arrived, coincidentally the "power" also came. They were the last people in Victoria to receive the SEC line and we have seen some of the effects over six years. The television in the living room has cut down contact between farmers, not to mention the phasing out of the local telephone exchange, which was a community centre of great value.

Last year, the area became part of a pilot community education scheme called the Country Education Project, designed to help isolated areas become more self-reliant. One of the members of our little community at Warm Corners was appointed as co-ordinator of this county area, taking in from Orbost to Mallacoota, to Buchan and in between.

The Project has arranged to make classes in woodwork, sheet metal work, weaving, pottery, painting and possibly welding, available in each of these areas. Local skilled people are employed where possible. Hopefully, these activities will bring locals of all ages and lifestyles together according to their interests.

Choosing to live in a remote area has drawbacks. We are cut off from towns by 50 or 60 miles of winding dirt road, employment is scarce and involves travel and markets for goods produced are often too distant to be feasible.

In winter, of course, we feel very isolated up here, because our friends tend to visit only in warm weather. Winter here is often heavy frosts and clear skies, beautiful if you are warm at night and work outside in the day.

When my brother, sister-in-law and I bought land here in 1972, it was relatively cheap. We fell in love with the quality of the bush, with its gallant, rainbow-streaked tree trunks, braced to receive the snow and



wind.

We didn't fully realise the difficulties involved in growing vegetables and crops reliably in a climate with long, harsh winters and short, sharp summers. We wanted friends to join us in caring for this land, but some of our friends moved on to warmer climates after spending a winter in a tent or a three-walled hut. Notable, though, is the impending return of one couple, now with two kids, after they tried living in Queensland and travelled overseas to see relatives, who say they want to return to us, to the changing seasons and to the song of the Jingallalla river (Aboriginal for "babbling water").

Our community has grown dramatically in the last year. We are beginning to feel capable of adjusting to this growth in numbers, partly because we have become attuned to the climate here, social and physical. We feel at home here.

When it comes to creating a new social fabric from the threads of individual interests and personalities, we are all equally at sea. Every time we meet, either to organise co-operative work, or to sort out Co-operative affairs, we are confronted with another set of unforeseen problems.

This is the challenge that we face continually along with the challenge of an unusually cold climate — how to live in scattered dwellings in co-operation with each other and in growing peace with ourselves. I find talking with other people living in small communities very exciting, as it reduces the feeling of "is it me, is it just us, is it happening to other people?"

The first year or two were far from romantic. We were living in a draughty old house set deep in the armpit of a steep gully, which cut off the winter sun at 3 pm. Our first attempts at growing things were thwarted by:

(1) goats, (2) shoddy fences due to, (3) lack of capital and expertise, (4) light sandy soil on the flat, where, (5) there were occasional summer frosts.

We persisted for a while with frost-sensitives on the

flat, raising them under plastic and planting them out cautiously in batches. But we are gradually moving tomatoes etc, onto the slopes, above the summer frost-line.

This year one of our members planted an experimental garden of maize, lentils, soybeans, peanuts, tomatoes and beans. The first seedlings were knocked by a frost in mid-November (which was also felt in Bega). He replanted and now the tomatoes are ripening and the maize is cobbing. It remains to be seen if the peanuts will harden off.

On the flat, we grow good crops of onions, garlic, carrots and parsnips. This year, we have our first small commercial crops of garlic and carrots. Our next problem is where to sell them without spending too much on petrol.

We accommodate to the uncertainties of the climate by drying and bottling vegetables and fruit and we intend to dig a cellar for storing fruit and potatoes and for maturing cheeses.

We have created a communal fund, which is a mere \$5 a week, and covers bulk dry food, flour, oats and oil, as well as fuel for the tractor, seeds for improving paddocks and fencing materials. A few hundred dollars goes into the fund also from the sale each year of wool from 50 sheep and calves sold.

Some of us spin wool and we are building up a black flock with a Romney Marsh ram and Merino and cross-bred ewes. We have eight milking cows, raised from two-day heifers and make yoghurt, butter and sometimes cheese. Other food produced includes eggs, poultry, mutton, pork, a little honey, apples, pears and plums from old orchards. It will be a few years before the fruit and nut trees we have planted yield crops. We have both vegetarians and meat-eaters in our community, but we all like dairy products.

I have a field of multi-coloured horses — two pinto mares and three offspring. Soon the day is coming when I must sell a horse as a "product". I hope to acquire a good Clydesdale mare when I can afford it.

She would be used in a springcart and with plough and harrows, as well as in breeding.

I have accumulated 10 collars and two ploughs, with bits missing, plus endless chains and blinkers. We did have a draught horse for two years, but he was crazed from bad handling at a pine mill and used to run amok as soon as he heard the chains clanking.

Though he was like a Mercedes Benz to ride, with a wonderful suspension he was as expensive to run. We sold him. At present we use a tractor to haul, to cultivate paddocks and slash long grass for compost and soil improvement. We have begun Keyline cultivation programmes and had several dams built. But all these activities cost massive amounts of money and time — chronic scarcities.

Each season has been a unique experience, beyond my wildest imagination. Our first spring brought us a bushfire. We had weeks of dry, windy weather. A neighbour was burning off, the wind sprang up and it got "out of hand", swept through our bush and stopped on the far boundary.

As if this wasn't strange enough, next morning we awoke to a miracle. We stepped out of the house to see snow crowning the charred tussocks. I rode back up the gully to discover country which I had never been able to ride through before opened up because the undergrowth was gone.

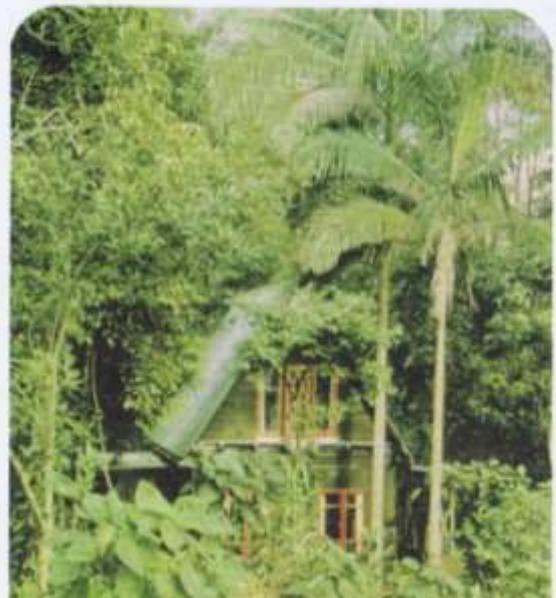
One winter was drought, the next was three floods in a row. We never attempt to predict the weather now. The only certainty is a new experience.

This intimate, remote place is a great teacher. We are learning to observe and be aware, to notice signs, rather than to expect or try to mould reality. If any of us feels threatened, trapped, used or inadequate, we are thrown back on our own resources. We are alone together and together alone.

We are learning to sink the bucket deeper into the well to find that longed-for water, or in our language, walk back up the Jingallala to find peace. The children growing up here already know this.

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EARTH GARDEN



From Earth Garden No 24, Sept/Nov 1978, The A frame is NOT from Warm Corners (kt was still being built). That's Tim Dell on Katy, Fiona's horse at the time. Many thanks to Editor Alan Gray who searched for and found these pages, produced long before digital technology.

Local Government Matters

Silage wrap trial

Farmers in East Gippsland had the opportunity to recycle their silage wrap during a trial period from 17 to 30 July at East Gippsland Shire Council's waste facilities in Bairnsdale and Orbost.

Silage wrap must be presented in bulka bags and without net wrap or twine. The charge was \$11 per bulka bag. Receipts will be supplied, and farmers are reminded Orbost is a cash-only facility.

The fee helps cover the cost of transporting and loading the bags. At the end processing point each bulka bag will be cut open and the contents screened to ensure there is no contamination that may damage the processing machinery.

Each year, over 100,000 tonnes of plastic goes onto Australian farms. Unfortunately, little progress has been made in the way of finding a suitable method of recycling it due to issues with handling, volumes and cleanliness.

Many farmers have had to send it to landfill or burn it on site.

Both these options have negative consequences for the environment and are a waste of a valuable resource.

Silage wrap is made of a high quality linear low-density polyethylene plastic. Processors are keen to take the material and melt it into a resin which is then used to make products such as irrigation/dam linings (mixed with tyre rubber), trickle irrigation and low pressure pipe, roadside/garden furniture, plastic pellets, vineyard stakes, and oyster poles.

If the trial is successful with significant interest and volumes, it is hoped that council will be able to implement a recurring silage wrap recycling program in East Gippsland.

For more information, contact council's Waste Department.

Ed: Apologies that this media release arrived too late to inform you of this trial, as we know there is lots of silage wrap in our district. We will let you know about future collections.

East Gippsland Council Plan & Budget

Key points raised in Submissions from residents

Bairnsdale Sporting Facilities Plan 1

Innovative housing solutions – Local Laws 1

Natural Environment 1

Lack of development and place making in Lakes Entrance 1

Retaining and Protecting Native Vegetation in East Gippsland 8

A Committee of Council convened to consider submissions on Tuesday 13 June, with a quorum of five councillors.

The draft Council Plan released for public submissions has also been revised to include contextual information, which takes into account the feedback provided as part of this process.

Included in the draft Budget is a wide range of initiatives and projects that will be delivered in 2017/18. A summary of the capital program and significant projects is shown in the following table:

Project Highlights Proposed Budget

Roads - including ☐ Reseal program, Shire wide - \$2.327 million

☐ Gravel Resheet program, Shire wide - \$1.250 million ☐

Reconstruction of McMillan/Hadfield Streets, Bairnsdale - \$2.050 million

Total Roads \$8.663 million

Bridges - including ☐ Lindenow Glenaladale Bridge

Replacement, Lindenow - \$1.963 million ☐ Giles Street Bridge,

Bairnsdale - \$1.792 million

Total Bridges \$4.606 million

Drainage – including ☐ Jones Bay McMillan Street Drainage,

Bairnsdale - \$0.565 million

Total Drainage \$0.852 million Footpaths and Cycleways – including Total Footpaths

Project Highlights Proposed Budget ☐ Walking Track

construction, Mitchell River Bank, Bairnsdale - \$0.220 million

\$0.634 million Buildings and improvements - including ☐ Swifts

Creek Caravan Park Toilet Block, Swifts Creek - \$0.400 million ☐

Building renewal (Council owned), Shire Wide - \$0.896 million ☐

Construct New Pavilion Mallacoota Recreation Reserve,

Mallacoota - \$0.350 million ☐ Essential Environmental

Measures Livestock Exchange Bairnsdale Stages 2 and 3,

Bairnsdale - \$0.595 million Total Property and Buildings \$2.674 million

Recreation, Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces – including ☐ Bairnsdale

Aquatic and Recreation Centre Development, Bairnsdale - \$3.520

million ☐ Streetscapes, Bairnsdale, Metung, Lakes Entrance and

Orbost - \$2.346 million

Total Recreation \$8.454 million

Plant and Equipment - including ☐ Renewal of vehicles, plant and

machinery - \$2.282 million ☐ Information and Communications

Technology systems, Shire wide - \$1.774 million

Total Plant/Equipment \$4.426 million

Waste Management - including ☐ Construction Cell 3B, Bairnsdale -

\$2.0 million ☐ Lakes Entrance Transfer Station Upgrade, Lakes

Entrance - \$1.540 million

Total Waste \$4.472 million

Other Infrastructure - including ☐ Safer at the Junction Project

Connectivity Project, Lakes Entrance - \$0.395 million ☐ Capital

Discretionary Fund, Shire Wide - \$0.200 million

Total Other \$0.780 million

Other initiatives included in the 2017/18 draft Budget include the implementation of priority actions in Community Plans and \$5.554 million for the rehabilitation of various landfill sites.

Recycling local jobs to Canberra

New waste management contract for the Snowy Monaro
Expected savings in excess of \$5 million over five years under new waste management contract.

Snowy Monaro Regional Council and REMONDIS Australia Pty Ltd (REMONDIS) have announced the beginning of the new waste contract for the region from July 1, 2017.

The tender for the waste and recyclables kerbside collections in Bombala, and the waste and recyclables bulk transportation and management was released to the open market in May for a competitive tender process as required under the Local Government Act.

An independent tender assessment panel reviewed all submissions and undertook a detailed assessment to determine the best option for achieving the required delivery of service for the community.

“General Manager, Joseph Vescio signed the contract on behalf of Council late last week and has advised me that the new contract is the best value option for ratepayers with expected savings in excess of \$5 million over five years,” Snowy Monaro Regional Council Administrator, Dean Lynch said.

“Council made this decision in the best interests of the ratepayer to minimise the future cost for the delivery of these services.”

REMONDIS will establish a depot in the Snowy Monaro and has commenced recruitment for positions relevant to the contract. REMONDIS brings to the region a wealth of knowledge in the waste and recycling sector.

“REMONDIS is excited to expand its services in the region and looks forward to delivering exceptional customer service in partnership with Council under the new contract”, REMONDIS’ NSW/ACT Manager, Susie McBurney said.

Council would like to thank the existing contractors W&W Hampshire Plumbing in Bombala and Burchalls Transport and Recycling in Cooma for their exceptional delivery of services in the past for each of the former council areas.

The new contract will allow the community to take advantage of integrated recycling with paper, cardboard, glass and plastics able to be placed in the one recycling bin for collection.

Delegate and Bombala residents were not impressed by these savings when they discovered that they would translate into loss of local jobs as the Canberra firm rolls in. Residents wondered why the decision had to be made BEFORE the new council was elected in September.

Gardening without Susan

What to sow:

There isn't much that we can sow in this climate at this time of year. The Permaculture Magazine (PIP) suggests planting the following, but unless you have a warm spot to plant them they won't make any progress. Don't bother putting anything frost sensitive, like potatoes, out now.

Potatoes, peas, broad beans, Jerusalem artichokes, rhubarb divisions, chive divisions, oca (a tuberous oxalis relative that grows like a potato). And all the leafy greens: lettuce, rocket, Asian greens, celery and English spinach. In raised beds and warm spots start with succession sowings of carrot and beetroot, and turnips if you must! You can plant seedlings of brassicas such as cauliflower, cabbage, broccoli – they will grow ok, but I much prefer to plant them in autumn and be eating them now.

What to do:

Keep your garlic and other onion family plants weeded: the slim leaves don't compete well with swamping layers of chickweed, stickyweed or other weeds that will start to grow fast now that the days are lengthening. Finish winter pruning of apple and pear trees. Your pruned branches might be useful as pea sticks, to support new plantings of bush peas or even climbing peas if your pruned branches are tall enough for a tepee.

Pruning fruit trees according to PIP

There are as many ways to prune fruit trees as there are to skin a cat, so it's no wonder novice pruners feel a little intimidated at the prospect of hacking away at their beloved deciduous fruit trees with a pair of secateurs. June is a great time to prune, but despite common perceptions, winter is not the only time you can prune deciduous fruit trees, and the best way to feel confident in pruning is to understand the different effects pruning at different times of year can have on deciduous fruit trees. So we created this little guide to give you a basic understanding of when to prune and, more importantly, the effects pruning at different times will have on different trees.

In general it's good to remember that winter pruning is best used for structural purposes, as hard pruning will encourage vigorous growth in spring. Summer pruning improves fruit quality and helps to inhibit growth (or control the size of your tree, whichever way you want to look at it!)

Apples:

Winter pruning for structural purposes will also increase spring growth. Summer pruning will help to contain growth and control size of your tree. Careful and selective tip pruning of lateral branches in summer will improve crop of the coming year (in the most common spur bearing varieties). If you live in an area with hot summers, leaving more leaf coverage can help to prevent sunburn on fruit, where conversely, if you live in a very cool climate, pruning in early summer to allow more light through branches to developing fruit can be beneficial.

Apricots:

As apricots are susceptible to disease, most gardeners either prefer to do any pruning earlier in autumn when leaves start to yellow, or later towards spring, as the cuts will heal more quickly in warmer weather, leaving less of a window for infections to take hold.

Cherry:

Winter pruning for structural purposes will also increase spring growth. Summer pruning will help to contain growth and control size of your tree. Careful and selective tip pruning of lateral branches in summer will improve crop of the coming year.

Nectarine:

Nectarines bear fruit on new wood, so a hard summer prune after the harvest will increase the coming year's crop as it gives it more opportunities to grow new wood for fruit on.

Peach:

Peaches bear fruit on new wood, so a hard summer prune after the harvest will increase the coming year's crop as it gives it more opportunities to grow new wood for fruit on.

Plum:

Winter pruning for structural purposes will also increase spring growth. Summer pruning will help to contain growth and control size of your tree. Plums generally benefit from lighter pruning than other trees.

Pear:

Winter pruning for structural purposes will also increase spring growth. Summer pruning will help to contain growth and control size of your tree. Pears generally benefit from lighter pruning than other trees. Careful and selective tip pruning of lateral branches in summer will improve crop of the coming year.

Quince:

Winter pruning for structural purposes will also increase spring growth. Summer pruning will help to contain growth and control size of your tree. Quinces generally benefit from lighter pruning than other trees.



Citrus:

Vigour

Pruning hard before spring will increase vigour (perhaps excessively). Pruning in late spring and autumn will allow for new growth without overdoing it. If your tree is lacking vigour then look to more than pruning to rectify it. Available water and nutrients are obvious but also adequate drainage, sunlight and root space could very well be factors.

For fruit

Assuming your tree is relatively well formed and is the desired size then thinning of the canopy will aid in the production of fruit, by encouraging fresh shoots to grow, while maintaining some existing fruiting wood. This can be carried out after fruiting and before flowering, or after flowering and before fruiting, to best direct use of the trees energy. Either way you may be removing either some fruit or some flowers. Do not worry too much about this, as long as you leave enough potential flowering/ fruiting wood, which is any wood at the extremity of the canopy.

Try to prune away branches which are shooting up or indeed out beyond where you want the canopy to be. Try to prune a branch away which has an immediate replacement or is even obstructing another branch which will bear fruit. As citrus fruit abundantly, prune to shape the tree how you want it, or if you don't know what you want, try to create a 'natural' tree shape. A well pruned tree (in a back yard setting) is usually aesthetically pleasing.

So to prune for fruit always leave enough one year old branches, shoots, and leaves, while thinning to make way for new vigorous shoots for the following year.

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 30 Car training prop in Goongerah	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Play with Clay at Tubbut NH (library)	11	12 Bendoc bus trip to Canberra Craft & Quilt fair
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Goongerah hall committee AGM 6 pm
20	21 Car training prop leaves Goongerah	22	23	24 Computers for Community (library)	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Sept 1	2

Things can always change, so if you are interested in anything, please ring and make sure it is still on.
 September 7—felting workshop at Tubbut
 September 19—Women's Wellness Day at Tubbut