

Merrijig Matters

Merrijig's Monthly Newsletter

March 2014

Issue No. 11

Index

Local Justice of the Peace and Our Albie	2
Calendar	3
Who's doing what lately	4 - 9
Welcome to Merrijig	9
Something to celebrate	10
CFA summer alerts	11
Give us safer roads	12
What's going on at Merrijig hall? Rock & Roll night	13 - 17
A new idea	17
Wild Dogs	18
Word from the shire	18 - 19
The Taungurung People	19 - 22
Emu / Dining out mob	23
MADEC / Campdraft News	23
Merrijig Rodeo	23
Motorbike Club News	26
What's on at the local?	27
Adverts	27
Now for a Final Have a laugh	28

Quote of the month

“There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.” — [Elie Wiesel](#)



Elie Wiesel is a Romanian born American Jew who survived the holocaust and has spent his life proving that peace is achievable. He was awarded the [Nobel Peace Prize](#) in 1986 for speaking out against [violence](#), [repression](#), and [racism](#). His awards and honours are an astounding and long list from various nations around the world.

Past issues of the newsletters can be viewed on the web using this link:

www.merrijig.com.au/html/local_news.html

Some articles in this newsletter may be picked up by the Mansfield Courier so consider this if you are submitting stories you could be sensitive about sharing with the community wider than Merrijig.

If you're looking for a **Justice of the Peace**, here are our two local people who may be able to assist you.

Dale Daly
Laurie Jacob

Timbertop School
Buttercup Rd

5733 6777
0439 280 333
After April 3, 2014

ALBIE (often known as **Wee Albert**) is very crook, having contracted cancer and he wants to have a living wake to see, once more, the people he has spent the greater part of his life with.

Glenda Lovick has requested this invitation from Albie be included in the newsletter so as many people as can be there, will be there to see him.

Albie requests the company of all his friends, acquaintances and indeed all the Merrijig community to help him celebrate his life in Merrijig, his adopted "Home."

Join him at the Hunt Club Hotel on Saturday afternoon March 15, 2014 at 3 pm for drinks and finger food.

Be there and spread the word.

For any more information please call either:

**Kellie on 0439 594 690 or
Charlie on 0429 775 510**

March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Muscle group at the hall 10am	5	6 Happy Hour Hunt Club Hotel Merrijig Lucky ticket draw for a slab	7	8 MERRIJIG RODEO gates open 1pm main event 6.30 All pro events live and HDQ plus local 7am 10am steel ride
9	10	11 TRIVIA night Hunt Club Hotel Merrijig Muscle group at the hall 10am Community matching fund grant applications opens	12	13 Happy Hour Hunt Club Hotel Merrijig Merrijig Dining out Mob 6-8 at the Mill Inn	14	15 Celebrate with Albie (Wee Albie) his life in Merrijig at Hunt Club Hotel Merrijig 3pm on
16	17 	18 Muscle group at the hall 10am	19	20 Happy Hour Hunt Club Hotel Merrijig Lucky ticket draw for a slab	21	22 MADEC horse trials today Mansfield Show grounds
23 Motorbike Club at McCormack Park track	24	25 Muscle group at the hall 10am TRIVIA night Hunt Club Hotel Merrijig	26 Merrijig Dining out Mob	27 Happy Hour Hunt Club Hotel Merrijig Lucky ticket draw for a slab	28 Rural community small grants applications closes today	29
30	31					

Who's doing what lately?



Lots of media outlets spent a lot of time reporting about Chumpy Pullen carrying the flag at Sochi and representing Australia in the snowboarding but they missed OUR important Olympic representative **Anton Grimus** who on his web site bio proudly lists under his Education

Primary:- Merrijig Primary School (Merrijig, VIC)

Now how can that be overlooked I ask you?

Now 23 years old - and of course he didn't look anything like this when he attended our Primary school.

Anton grew up on Mt Buller living in the snow every winter in Pension Grimus with his parents and brother Hannes, so it's a natural progression to go to the Olympics - **NOT**. We, who can remember the little boy, are all very proud of Anton as you all can be too. It's no mean feat to be selected to represent Australia in the Olympics and he has been working hard improving every step of the way to reach this goal. When asked "**What is your goal for Sochi?**" he said "First of all to qualify is my main goal. Then it would be to make the big final and place within the top four. "



He lists as his Career Highlights

- First podium on the World Cup at Nakiska in December 2012
- 7th place at the 2013 FIS Freestyle World Championships, Voss Norway
- 12th in the World Cup Overall Standings 2012/13

On February 20th he did us all proud, although he was not able to go through to the finals, he is reported to have philosophically told Sydney Morning Herald reporters " I got out to a shocking start, then I fought back and at the top I probably went a bit too soon and then down the bottom, at the first cut-out, I sort of made my move and then they made their move back so that's ski cross really," Grimus said.

Taken from the official Results sheet (*PDF on net*) **Freestyle Skiing Men's Ski Cross Seeding**

Rank	Bib	Name	NOC Code	YB	Time	Diff
5	18	GRIMUS Anton	AUS	1990	1:16.82	1.23



The PDF of official results for Anton have him coming 4th in his heat in the 1/8 Men's Skicross finals and in that position was the 5th fastest. What a wonderful experience for a Merrijig Primary School boy to be up against the best in the world and to do so well.



*Ups and downs: Anton Grimus of Australia (left) competes in the Freestyle Skiing Men's Ski Cross Finals.
Photo: Al Bello*

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/sport/winter-olympics/sochi-2014-australians-crash-out-of-ski-cross-finals-20140221-334zq.html#ixzz2uGTMDHt0>

What are the Jacob's up to in London?

Louise wrote on her 'blog' "We were on a London Walk yesterday (Feb 13th) learning all about the Blitz in London during the war. One of the many stories told was of a 1000 pound bomb found laying unexploded next to the beautiful and iconic St Paul's Cathedral. After much deliberation over a number of days it was painstakingly removed and exploded safely in the marshes way out of London. However not far away a huge bomb did explode on impact levelling a large area. The crater was so big that it unearthed an ancient Roman arena where gladiators had entertained the crowds.

London Walks' guides are characters with a passion for history. Our guide on this walk has a friend who is married to one of the archeologists working on the Roman discovery. Her friend said to her it was rather good being married to an archeologist because the older you got the more interested in you he became!"

They have also caught up with some Mansfield people in London, including Barb and Craig Jones who happened to be babysitting for their eldest daughter Trudy, (long way to go to babysit!). The four took the opportunity for a short break and bundled into Trudy's car heading to Oxford, where unfortunately it rained for their entire visit.

Still they enjoyed the excursion out of London. Most of the time Louise and Laurie are using public transport as they are only a few metres from the bus stop and the rail is not much more of a distance away. They find they neither miss nor want to bother with a car.



The Guild Hall pictured above escaped the bombing unlike the buildings which were next to it. The devastation was so enormous and deep the crater revealed Roman remains of an arena which is now marked out with a large gray circle on the square.



Craig, Laurie and Barb outside Christ Church College at Oxford

Kate and Jasper Bergmuller of Greenways Road Merrijig took part in the equestrian events at Tolmie Sports, where ‘mummy’ has to run around the barrels leading the horse and Jasper, so it really depends on how fast mummy can run.



Hawaii Calling....where swimming with the Dolphins was one of the highlights for Tess and Frank Johnson.



This was after Tess lost her handbag moments prior to leaving on the jet plane. Fortunately Frank had the passports in his man bag.



And exploring the historic sights brought home the seriousness of the Pearl Harbour attack

On returning home, one suitcase was lost by the airline, which contained all the souvenirs and shopping treasures.

Still when Tess received a phone call that her handbag had been handed in, and the suitcase had been found, the pleasure of the trip came flooding in, particularly when the handbag was returned containing everything including her cash.

“Well my faith has been restored in human nature.” Tess said, “My ‘lost’ handbag was returned home with EVERYTHING still in it! - Everything being my purse, with about \$300US, \$50AU, all other sundry items.” She added, “I realise this won’t get to the person who handed my bag into Lost Property at Melbourne Airport (*and apparently they did not leave their name*), but **Thank you from the bottom of my heart**, there should be more people like you!”

Geoff and Nan Webb of Buttercup Road are very excited for their 13 year old granddaughter Bec Watson, as she has been chosen to be part of the Junior Victorian Girls Polo cross team to go to Darwin in July this year. This is a bi annual event for qualifiers under 16 so Bec has a chance to participate again if she keeps up her interest in the sport, which is more than likely.



July is a great time of year for Darwin, so the Watson family, Sally, Michael, Nick and Ben will join Bec to make a family holiday of the trip after her comps.

Bec Watson on Leroy (Poppy's horse)

Poppe Davis was 'spirited' (on the Spirit of Tasmania) all the way to Tassie and she has only just returned from her fifth trip to Tasmania in under a year. Travelling from Devonport to Launceston and then down to Hobart, she is no stranger to Tassie's wonderful 110 kph speed limit and just loves opening up the car on the highways.

"I always take the car because it gives me so much freedom and is cheaper than hiring for two weeks or more. Tasmania is the most beautiful place." Poppe says. "I have good friends there in the Arts and have made other friends with different interests so there is always plenty on my itinerary. I never come back empty handed either."

This time she spent some time on Cradle Mountain in the rainforest – a wilderness retreat – and managed to take in a Tamar River cruise to get some 'on water' time.



The beautiful Tamar River

"Funny isn't it," she says. "The Poms sent their prisoners to what was the most inhospitable of places furthest from England, and in doing so sent them to the most beautiful place on earth."



Poppe also drove to the Freycinet National Park and says it is the most inspiring coastline.



Going back soon? "You bet."

Welcome to Merrijig

Welcome **back** really - because Jan Nelson was born here, grew up here and only moved away permanently when she married Mick. Now, though she has brought him back to her old family home where they have chosen to set up amongst family and good old life-time friends.

Jan is the elder sister of Bruce McCormack and big sister of Dot Corcoran both of Merrijig. She is also my niece and the Aunty of Jack McCormack, and grand aunty to Coby, Jaxon, Darby and Millar McCormack. So moving into McCormack's Road with the rest of us is coming home for Jan.

Mick and Jan have their Albury house on the market and will be moving in the near future depending on how quickly their property sells. It will be lovely to have extra family around and to see more of their delightful daughters Stacey, at present travelling overseas and Georgia who is nursing in Melbourne.



That's for sure. Ben Webster turned 25 and celebrated his milestone birthday with friends and family at the Hunt Club Hotel where finger foods and other nibbles were constantly in supply. A happy mob of people were very pleased to be able to congratulate this young man, who works with Christian Hayse on his trail ride business and is always, **always** wearing a smile.



The theme for the night was Pimps and Ho's and some of his friends, Nick and Donna, came from the other side of Melbourne to acknowledge this significant birthday with Ben.



Ben proudly paraded around in his 'birthday suit', well almost, when he opened one of his gifts, much to the amusement of everyone attending his party.



Glenroy Merrijig CFA

Fire restrictions are still in force - no burning off!

The hottest days may be behind us but that does not mean you can sit back and take your eye off the ball. Dry lightning strikes can still create dangerous situations with so much dry grass and tree litter around. Stay tuned in and observant, have your own place prepared and safe with no debris available for embers to create a danger of fire at your home. We have a wonderful volunteer CFA in Merrijig but they are not magicians and cannot save your home if you have not prepared it as best you can to prevent it falling victim to a summer fire. Given your preparation there is more likelihood that these well trained firefighters can make a serious difference if disaster strikes.

Keep an eye on the notice board showing fire danger in our area as you go past.



The other alternative is to check the CFA web site; the link for our area is below.

<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/north-east-fire-district/#municipality>

You can also download an app. for your phone to send you alerts as situations develop!

While in the Fire theme – but not only relating to fire threats

“GIVE US A SAFER ROAD PLEASE”

Peter Howarth requests of the powers that be -

Peter writes:- David Hume's letter in the Courier (Page 11, 19 Feb) is a wake-up call to all of us east of Merrijig on the Mount Buller Tourist's Road, particularly those in the declared high risk area between Happy Valley and Sawmill Settlement.

It's easy to say "get out early" on predicted Code Red days and that is a personal decision, however we have also experienced unpredicted emergencies caused by lightning strike, camping carelessness, and high wind events etc.

We have only one way in or out (unless you have a 4WD and really know the country) and the point David makes should be readily understood and acted upon by VicRoads.

The residents, tourists, the CFA, Ambulance Victoria, Victoria Police, SES and other emergency resources deserve a route into and out of this area which minimises the risk to human life and offers a reasonable chance of escape in any emergency. Outback NSW and Qld got the message decades ago. Just look at their roadside management practices.

The issue of roadside fire/falling tree risk on the Mt Buller Road should be promptly addressed by VicRoads, hopefully with the urging of our Shire, together with pressure from the agencies most at risk of being trapped (coming or going) whilst reacting to emergency situations in the Upper Delatite.

It takes people who give a damn like David, to get things done. If you also give a damn, take a few minutes and email your views today, to bryan.sherritt@roads.vic.gov.au, who is the Regional Director for VicRoads; bill.sykes@parliament.vic.gov.au, who does a bloody good job of representing us; and to the responsible Minister : minister.mulder@minstaff.vic.gov.au.

Not forgetting Peter Hunt at our Courier! phunt@nenews.com.au.

I would hope that in your emails (letters) people, you would demand :

- # The removal of all overhanging branches and trees obviously leaning toward the road.
- # Roadside verge clearance of long grass and other fire hazards.

The theory that road verges provide "wildlife corridors" needs to be weighed up against the high probability of loss of life due to over vegetated single access/egress routes in very high fire risk areas.

"If you do nothing," Peter concludes, "then that's probably what will happen - Nothing."

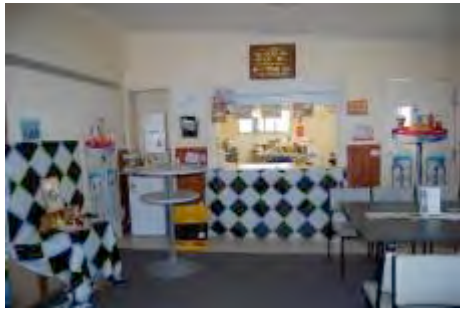
So please get behind Peter and help solve a serious problem by simply sending an email to those he suggests and everyone would feel that little bit safer.

What's going on at the Merrijig Hall ?



Saturday, February 22 -
Talk about turn back the hands of time

Check out the hall in the 1950's



Frank with Ailish & Erin Lunam



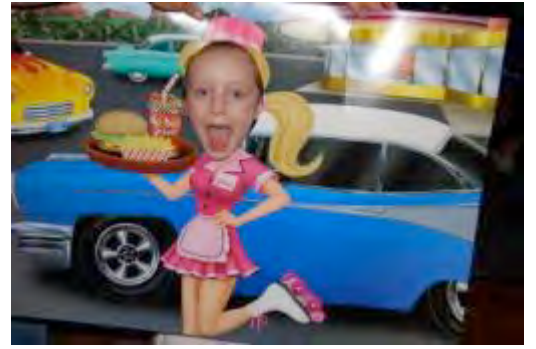
Dennis Tucker Rockin' on



Anne and Max Bloomfield pictured enjoying hot chips from an old LP record bowl

Wow what a *Merry Jig* it was. Boy, the hall was pumping on Saturday night the 22nd, at Merrijig to Dennis Tucker pounding out that good ol' Rock 'n Roll while coloured lights flashed on the outside demanding the attention of those passing by. Sixty or so people came dressed for the era and were able to really step back in time, even to being able to buy their snacks from the 'Jig Soda Shack' at old fashioned prices and have the hot chips served in bowls made form reformed preloved vinyl LP records.

Many people took the opportunity to pose beside a beautifully restored car owned by Shane and Paula Sutton from the Benalla Rock and Roll group. Les Large brought along his "Fonzie's Bike" and both were on display. The car had a striking resemblance to the face in the poster board inside the hall.



Thelma (Trish Thompson) and Louise (Jess Thompson) Erin Lunam (my littlest granddaughter) as a roller waitress pose with the car provided by Shane and Paula Sutton.

The hall was transformed to a 1950 dance space where Benalla Rock and Roll members gave a lesson on the basic Rock & Roll steps much to the delight of the patrons young and old.



Use the placement of your hand and arm to direct your partner into a spin out. The teacher says!

Ann and Max master the technique

Peter & Georgie Deyell in disguise

It was a wonderful happy community activities night, although at times it was difficult to recognise some of the locals who came wearing wigs and dressed up in 50's gear.



Doing the Bus Stop



Peter & Jan twirl around the floor



Keiran - from West Merrijig - as Fonzy



Adele the Roller waitress



Paul as The Fonzy



Getting in the mood



The Rockers crowd



Emma Howarth needed a man to dance with



Learning to spin the girl



R & R dance lesson



Sally as the Roller waitress



Emma with her man dancer Jack



More young Rockers Jesse & Ailish



The kitchen staff



During the Rock n Roll lesson



Ann & Max Bloomfield look the part with that beaut car



Some of the 1950's priced menu items: Chips \$2 Hot dog \$2 Cheeseburger \$3 Milkshakes were \$2 and Spiders \$2

This is the second social event brought to a successful completion by Frank Johnson and his support team which included for this event, his wife Tess, who with Frank as soon as they had returned from a holiday, threw themselves into pulling this together, Paul Jackson or Jacko who handled the catering, Adele McCormack did the designing and printing for advertising and menu etc, and Michele Lunam, who created many of the decorations and organized the purchase of others. Not a bad team effort. The decorations have been boxed up for future use.

Support from the Mansfield business community was greatly appreciated and added another dimension to the evening with a guessing game of how many smarties in the jar supplied by the Mansfield Sweets and raffles prizes from Martin's Garage, Delatite Hotel, and Strike Zone along with many locals who also donated raffle prizes giving 13 draws for the one raffle, adding to the fun of the night.

Many patrons asked "When will you do this again?" Due to the success of the event it will most definitely be repeated as will the Bush Poets' Night, and it's very rewarding to hear people ask this as it shows that all the work that has gone into it is appreciated.

The next activity in the near future is likely to be a casual Sunday BBQ at the hall **for all Merrijig people and their friends** including members from the local organisations such as the School, CFA, Campdraft, Rodeo and Motorbike Club, in fact all those who would like to come along to catch up with other Merrijiggers on a date yet to be set. Stay tuned for that one.



If you have any GREAT IDEAS for a new activity
Ring Frank 0400 315 344
or Adele on 0409 600 655

Another exciting plan being formulated born out of recent discussions, is to have a type of **Merrijig Show** at McCormack Park - something like a combination of the Tolmie Sports and the Mansfield Show with all sorts of horse novelty events, a bit of steer riding, dog jumping competitions and timed displays like barrel racing, with motorbike club members riding against horses.

Displays of vintage tractors with the possibility of a ploughing event, static displays of other vintage machines, cars and motorbikes are all ideas being put forward.

These ideas have come from the community and the activities team are enthusiastic to keep the momentum of the ball rolling now it has begun. Perhaps when the Merrijig Rodeo and Sports Association is running under the new committee this could become another annual event for that association to run, perhaps with a different group from the membership on a sub-committee of the same organisation.

The original Rodeo in Buttercup Road was not as a professional event as it is today, it was a fun local activities day and this is what people are wanting to revisit I believe. Fun games for kids, fancy dress on horse or bikes, lolly scrambles and running races just to mention a few more of the ideas floating around. It sure sounds like a great day.

The Merrijig Public Hall Committee are running the **BBQ** at the **Rodeo** and are **Looking** for a few more



Kerrie Purcell kartigi57@hotmail.com who is making up the roster is happy to put you in for one hour if you can't spare two.



Volunteering is a great way to catch up with people in the community or to meet new people.



So please drop Kerrie a line kartigi57@hotmail.com or ☎ 5777 5639



The group gathers on Thursdays at 11am, finishing up around 3pm. Everyone brings along a small plate of goodies to share for morning tea and/or lunch. Tea and coffee are supplied.

New members welcome. Cost per session is \$4. For further details contact Kerrie on 04 3738 0384



At Merrijig Hall
On Tuesdays
between 10 to 12
& only costing \$3.00

Muscle Gym

Don't do any of these workouts pictured.

Its good fun & light muscle strengthening exercises

Wild Dog problems

The problem is still an issue with several people reporting sheep and lambs being killed or maimed by what is presumed to be a pack of wild dogs. Jan Purcell of Timbertop campus said “Our Farm Manager, Greg Maroney, says a mob of shorn crossbred lambs and cast-for-age ewes had run together on our Delatite River paddocks. During the last week of January and the first week of February wild dogs attacked these sheep. One shorn lamb per night was killed or maimed on a regular basis.”

“The sheep were moved closer to the Mt Buller Road but still sheep were killed.” She went on to say, “They were then moved even closer to the school and the attacks stopped.”

Jan added, “These had been the first dog attacks since 2011”.

Brendan Mahoney also told me that he had one sheep killed on Poppe Davis' property, opposite Timbertop School and another bitten, which was on Ed Adamson's property. He then said “I am missing four others. I have moved the sheep back home now.”

“The DSE dog catcher has been notified,” Brendan added “and to my knowledge there have been 16 wild dogs destroyed.... either trapped or shot, in the Buttercup area since September last year, all by either the landholders or employees of the landowners.”

That's a lot of damage to livestock and obviously a big pack of wild dogs. You can all help to bring this unnecessary cruel devastation to an end – please be alert, listen for barking in unusual places and watch for carcasses. If you do discover anything unusual or suspicious notify the DSE dog catcher as soon as possible on 5733 1200.

If we as a community sharpen our observation skills we may be able to put an end to this vicious pack of hounds.



A WORD FROM THE SHIRE



Cr Marg Attley:- Your local representative on Mansfield Shire Council.

Available to be contacted on: 5776 2231 or marg.attley@mansfield.vic.gov.au

BY THE WAY MARG DONATED SEVERAL BEAUT PRIZES FOR THE R & R NIGHT WHICH WERE VERY WELL RECEIVED.

If an organisation you belong to is **looking for funding for a project** or two, here are some grants available at the moment.

The second round of the *Community Matching Fund*, (the Clubs and Groups Fund) will open on **March 11** and close on **April 4**, 2014.

Applications will be received for grants up to \$5,000.

The *Helping Hand Fund* (grants up to \$500) is now open and open all year round to assist groups with training, smaller projects and to kick start larger projects.

More information will be sent out closer to the date, but don't forget that the secret to success in winning grants is planning, planning, planning!

Regards

Sue Arndt

And another variety of grant funding

This funding is being offered by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR).

For any queries please contact FRRR directly

The *Small Grants for Rural Communities* is a collaborative program supported by various partners. It is the longest running and broadest program offered by FRRR. The program is open twice a year, and closes at the end of March and September.

The program offers at least \$400,000 per round in grants up to \$5,000 for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities, with populations of 10,000 or less, living in small rural and remote locations in Australia, contributing to their development in social and community welfare, economic, environmental, health, education or cultural areas.

Applications are invited from not-for-profit, incorporated community organisations. Organisations should have an ABN or Incorporation Certificate and projects must be for a charitable purpose (benefit the whole community). Deductible Gift Recipient status (DGR) is not required for this grant program.

Round 25 of this program opens on Monday, **February 3**, 2014 and closes Friday, **March 28**, 2014.

To apply for Round 25 visit http://www.frrr.org.au/cb_pages/small_grants_for_small_communities.php to download funding guidelines and application forms. For more information call 1800 170 020

Kirsten Lingard

[Expression of interest details](#) in this mentor program just click on the link.



The Taungurung People

Following last month's newsletter article on Dave Lovick's adventures in Vietnam, Michael Wahren mentioned that we do have a very long history in Australia with the Taungurung people, yet very little is mentioned about their history.

I did a bit of a google search http://taungurung.net/2011/04/taungurung_a_brief_history.html and found the information below which sheds some light on our district's ancient history of the people who lived here before European settlement.

"The Yowung-Illam-Balug were one of the tribes of the Taungurung people who lived at Alexandra, Mansfield and the Upper Goulburn River. The nomadic nature of the Taungurung people enabled them to utilise the resources available in their vast country."

(I have précised some of the text from the web page - shown below)

They had an intimate knowledge of their environment and were able to sustain the ecology of each region and exploit the food available. A staple plant food was the yam daisy which provided a reliable source of carbohydrate. Other plants such as the bracken fern was used for food and medicine, the tree fern, kangaroo apple and wild cherry were a valuable food source and can still be seen growing in the area today. Stringybark was used to construct shelters or to weave baskets. Fibrous plants, such as tussock grass were used to produce twine for nets while other tree species were used for their timber to make shields, clubs, boomerangs, water carriers and canoes.

The rich resources of the permanent rivers, creeks and tributaries and associated floodplains enabled the Taungurung to have an abundance of fish and other wildlife. Fish were speared and trapped while water birds were netted and the kangaroo, koala, and emu provided nourishing food. The pelts from the native possum were sewn together to form cloaks, ideal for the often cold and wet conditions.



Plants such as kurrajong provided fibres to weave nets for harvesting the nutritious Bogong moth in the summer. *(not sure about accuracy of this comment from their web site)*

When Europeans first settled the region in the early 1800s, life for the Taungurung people changed dramatically and was severely disrupted by the early establishment and expansion of European settlement. Traditional society broke down with the first settler's arrival and soon after, Aboriginal mortality rates soared as a result of introduced diseases, denial of access to traditional foods and medicines and conflict.

Today, the descendants of the Taungurung form a strong and vibrant community and meet regularly at Camp Jungai—an ancestral ceremonial site.



Bogong mass



Elders assist with the instruction of younger generations in culture, history, language and in furthering their knowledge and appreciation of their heritage.

Evidence of the Taungurung can be found in many places throughout traditional Taungurung Country. Scar trees, rock shelters, rock art and even place names all indicate that they were in this part of Victoria for thousands of years.

While travelling through North East Victoria you will be aware of the following towns. All these towns have a Taungurung origin.

Benalla - benalta = bigwaterhole

Delatite - Delotite, wife of Beeolite, clan head of the Yowung-illam-balluk clan

Murrindindi - murrumdoorandi = place of mists, mountain

Trawool - tarawil = turkey

Nagambie - nogamby = lagoon.

Artist and Taungurung Elder, Mick Harding, was not aware of his Aboriginal heritage for the first 25 years of his life.

“My name's Mick Harding and I'm from the Yowung-Illam-Baluk and Yerrun-Illam-Baluk clans of the Taungurung people - a tribe of the Kulin nation. My clan country's sort of Mansfield area, so that's my connection.” Mick writes on the web page below

<http://www.cv.vic.gov.au/stories/possum-skin-cloaks/11511/interview-taungurung-elder-mick-harding/>

On his web page he talks about obtaining from traditional motifs, inspiration for the Taungurung cloak, the cloaks are a way to connect with and learn about culture, and the difference between himself and his children in knowing about aboriginality from the outset and taking part in the ancient culture.



<http://www.cv.vic.gov.au/stories/possum-skin-cloaks/11551/possum-skin-cloak-taungurung-/>

Mick says on his web page “My children, Mitchell and Corey, have taken part in every workshop that we did to craft the cloak which I thought was really important for me. And I suppose that the important part of that is that for the first 25 years of my life I never knew about my Aboriginality but they will know and have taken part in their culture from the outset, from when they're little kids.

So they'll have the first 25 years, and this is part of it. And they've done other things like language camps and cultural camps and dancing; they've been part of dance groups. I've really made sure they've been exposed to it and been part of it, and this is just another one of those sorts of things that I'm really conscious of and I really want them to know who they are and be proud of who they are.”

Thanks for the suggestion Michael, it does make interesting reading and nice to know more about our district's history than our short well-recorded European history in Australia.

Talking about Emu



Photo from Andrew Jurrjens Facebook page

Look who has been spotted visiting around Changue Road lately. He has greeted residents in their back yards and wandered around the streets not afraid of anyone or anything. He has stopped traffic on the Mt Buller Road, as emu are not a common sight around here these days.

How about dining out occasionally?

Usually on a Wednesday evening on alternate weeks the ‘**Merrijig Dining out Mob**’ get together somewhere just for the fun of sharing a meal together. Next time though is to be on a Thursday at the Mill Inn on the corner of Mt Buller Rd and Alpine Ridge Drive.

This began years ago, the brain child of Jacquie Pollard (*then Jacquie Brown*) and has been ticking along ever since. We have been able to share the joys of Jacquie meeting and getting engaged then married to Brian as well as Frank and Tess becoming engaged and getting married along with sharing the excitement of the births of grandchildren and shared the natural disappointments and frustrations as they cropped up too.

Whoever is available on the night to come along does so, there is no obligation and the venue and time for the next dinner is decided at the end of the night you are currently enjoying. It's a pretty casual dinner out and always very happy and friendly.

If you find you are free for dinner on Thursday, March 13, at 6.45pm, you can let Jacquie know on brianjacquie@gmail.com or Maureen on maureenandgreg@bigpond.com and they will save you a seat, or you can simply come along and join in.

Mansfield and District Equestrian Club (MADEC)

Horse Trials - Saturday, March 22.

On Saturday, March 22 MADEC will hold its bi-annual Horse Trials Event at the Mansfield Showgrounds. About 150 riders will converge in Mansfield to test themselves and their horses over the three phases of the competition – dressage, show jumping and cross-country.

Come down and watch the thrills and hopefully not too many spills! Entry for spectators is free.

We are also seeking additional volunteers so if you can spare a few hours to volunteer for the event please let us know by emailing m.a.d.e.c@bigpond.com. Volunteers are needed for dressage and show jumping, pencilling, marshalling and cross country jump judges.

Thanks
Kirsten President – MADEC

Merrijig Campdraft News

Merrijig Campdraft Committee members are looking forward to a successful Merrijig Rodeo at McCormack Park and once that is complete they will push on with their efforts of trying for a government grant for a permanent amenities block and permanent power supply. Secretary Andrea Pickett said “I’m not sure how we will go but fingers crossed!”

“Our 2014 Campdraft will probably be run a bit earlier in the year due to cattle availability restrictions in December,” Andrea said, “at the moment dates being looked at would be late in November. A firm decision will be made at July AGM.”

Merrijig Rodeo - March 8th 3pm till late

The interim committee has been busy organising everything and locals have been showing up for the working bees so all is going to schedule.

When the previous organisers had decided to eliminate the locals steer ride from the program it brought much disappointment to those who enjoy participating in this event, as well as the people who wished to honour one of the local young riders. Now though much to the delight of many, the “**Jess Hearn Memorial Steer Ride**” will be run again this year after all, in honour of this talented and gutsy young woman who was taken from this world way too soon.

Extracted from the Rodeo Facebook webpage and website:-

Buckle Up Bush Rides said that they are planning a Rodeo Ride....Ride around Merrijig, trip to the Rodeo and camping overnight. See their Facebook page or <http://www.buckleupbushrides.com/> What a great way to see our beautiful countryside and be part of an iconic Merrijig event. For more info click on the link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1474302822790656/>

Saturday, March 8, 2014 Merrijig Rodeo

to be held at ‘McCormack Park’ in McCormack Road, Merrijig.
(Provided by Adele McCormack landowner)

There will be terrific kid-friendly sideshow entertainments, a variety of food stalls and a licensed bar
(BYO Alcohol is PROHIBITED & Children 17 and under must be accompanied by an Adult.)

Gates Open 3pm – Main Events From 6:30 pm

Adults(18+) – **\$30**

Children(17+under) – **Free. But Must Be Accompanied By An Adult.**

Senior/Pensioner – **\$20**

The events in this year’s program:

Bareback - **Barrel Race** - Break Away Roping - **Bull Ride** - Saddle Bronc
- **Steer Wrestling** - Locals Steer Ride

Camping

(sponsored by Bruce McCormack who vacates the paddock for camping)

Camping available Saturday night only – cost \$25.00 per vehicle

No fires allowed

Shuttle Bus *(sponsored by MMBL)*

\$10 Per Person Each Way - best way to get there from Mansfield

Departs Mansfield MMBL Depot 5.30 – 6.30 – 7.30

Returns Mansfield MMBL Depot 9.30 – 10.30 – 11.30

Nestled in the heart of Merrijig at the foot of the High Country and Mt Buller in the Great Dividing Range at “McCormack Park” on “Bally Patrick” owned by the McCormack family since 1866, the action packed event couldn’t be set in a more beautiful location.

Motorbike Club



Photo by Lisa Ross

Sunday, February 23, 2014 (National Come & Try Day) at McCORMACK PARK MERRIJIG



Photo by Adele McCormack

What a terrific turn up of new riders! They came to take advantage of the ‘come and try day’ on Sunday, February 23 at the Merrijig Track.



Photo by Lisa Ross

Mums and Dads picked up warning flags, donned safety jackets and manned the track in various spots to keep an eye on the young riders, most of whom were on the track for the first time. What a wonderful family activity, while the kids learn how to ride safely.

Instructor Paul Storey commented “A great turn out. 30 new club members!! About 25 kids on pee wees on the pee wee track. It was a bit like herding cats, but they are the future of the Club.”



Photo by Lisa Ross

Next meet day is March 23

LOOK WHAT'S GOING ON AT OUR LOCAL

Happy hour is still on, **Thursdays between 5.30 to 7.30** with a lucky draw at 7.30 for a slab.

Trivia has started up again on alternate Tuesdays for March it's the **11th and 25th**.

Meals offering everything from pizza through fish, steak and pasta are on **from 6 till 8**.

Keep an eye on the notice board on the roadside to catch when live music or special events are coming up so you won't miss out.

Ever needed a face painter ?

Michele was painting little faces at the Tolmie Sports on Saturday, February 8 then later in the month at a birthday party.

Keep Michele in mind for when you find you need a childrens' entertainer.

To hire Michele for a birthday party or club fundraiser check out the notice below.

Chele's Face~Painting.
\$50- p/h.



Fundraisers
Having a Family Fun Day, Fete, Trash & Treasure?
Pay for 2 hours get 4 hours and charge a minimum of \$6 per full face and \$3- per cheek to keep for yourself.



**AJ's
Laundry Services**

4 Stirling St Merrig
Juliet mob 0419 210 468
Merrig Office: (03)5777 5967

NOW FOR A FINAL GOOD LAUGH

A Scottish woman goes to the local newspaper office to arrange publication of a death notice for her recently deceased husband.

The desk clerk informs her that there is a charge of 50 cents per word.

She pauses, reflects, and then says, "Well, then, let it read, 'Angus MacPherson died'."

Amused at the woman's thrift, the clerk tells her that there is a seven word minimum for all death notices.

She thinks it over and then says, "In that case, let it read 'Angus MacPherson died. Golf clubs for sale'."

Bye for now from Adele

Adele McCormack
45 McCormacks Rd
Merrijig 3723

☒ 03 5777 5637 M: 0409 600 655

This Merrijig Community Newsletter is compiled by Adele McCormack of Merrijig and edited and published on this website by Louise Jacob also of Merrijig, as a community service.

The newsletter is an outcome of the Merrijig Community Plan initiated by the Shire of Mansfield Council.

Every care has been taken in gathering and presenting the information on this site. Inquiries can be directed to info@merrijig.com.au

The site is designed and sponsored by Merrijig resident, Steve Thompson of Appaloosa Films www.appaloosafilms.tv