



THE CROAKER

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FERN & GUM | OTWAY ARTISAN HAMPERS

Fern & Gum | Otway Artisan Hampers is a new family venture that Caroline and Luke Shelbourne have created, based from their small farm on the edge of Deans Marsh.

They have lived on the farm for 9 years, taking over from Ray Moore, a well-known Martian, and have been slowly renovating the farm as they raise their young family (Alice, currently Year 1 and Imogen starting in Prep 2020 at DMPS).



Their concept of an Otway hamper business grew organically from their Christmas gift shopping in 2018 at the fabulous Deans Marsh Store. As they gathered local food, wine and other items to create gifts to say thank you to teachers and Merry Christmas to friends and family, the idea bloomed.

As locals, we all know the common Otway scene of looming gums overhead and a lush carpet of fern foliage beneath, and it is for this reason they have named the hampers Fern & Gum. Caroline and Luke feel it is a perfect way to bring together all the incredible product offerings from the artisans across the Otway region.

It has taken nearly a year, on the side, to bring their idea to life (Luke is also the local Horse Dentist). Along the way they have been so fortunate to utilise the knowledge of family and friends, and meet a host of locals bursting with talent, all who have been so generous and willing to share their knowledge and experiences, and of course their Otway products.

Fern & Gum's thoughtfully curated gift hampers have been designed to make life simple. Dinner boxes that can be sent to a friend in need, Christmas hampers (for those who you know don't need a thing, other than good food and wine), sweet treats to say thank you or I'm sorry, breakfast hampers for BnB guests, pamper gifts to restore the soul, baby gifts to welcome a new little one, and really, hamper combinations for just about any occasion.

Luke and Caroline are excited to be at the beginning of Fern & Gum's journey, sharing their love of the Otways, beyond the view from their front paddock. They feel very honoured to be able work with and showcase these Otway Artisan producers, by way of a beautiful gift. Fern & Gum look forward to sourcing more local products and would also love to hear any suggestions and ideas the community may have.

To secure your hamper and ensure it is delivered to your loved ones by Christmas Day we advise pre-ordering by 8th December. Mailed Christmas hampers will still be available until 16th December and pick up orders will be available until 23rd December, or until stocks last.



For more information about Fern & Gum visit Website: www.fernandgum.com.au or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fernandgum/>

THE DEANS MARSH PROGRESS ASSOCIATION - 1941 - 1972... And maybe beyond?

Deans Marsh people always seem to have been striving to improve our place, not just our own homes and farms but the whole place, to make it better for everyone.

Most recently, the large number of responses to the Surf Coast Shire Hinterland Strategy from Deans Marsh residents, has helped reshape that strategy somewhat. The most important outcome though, has been the Marsh And District Community Action Plan (MADCAP) process, now happening, where Deans Marsh community members will determine our own plan for the future, rather than wait for Council to shape it for us.

Such a drive for self-determination and community-based action has a long history here. In some ways an earlier version of MADCAP was the Deans Marsh Progress Association (DMPA).

It is 1941, World War 2 is still centred in Europe but Australia too is at war. In Deans Marsh, community members are enlisting and being sent overseas to serve, but at home others form themselves into a Committee designed to campaign for better things right here. By 'better things', DMPA meant passable roads, workable drains, telephones that worked at all hours, electricity provided by the state government via the State Electricity Commission not by individual generators and kerosene lamps.

Long-serving Presidents Hannan, Farquharson, Col Smith and Frank Watts were supported by a core of locals, including some still familiar names; Stewart, Atkins, McDonald, Schram, Bush and Hunt - who wrote letters, organised delegations and site visits, formed subcommittees, attended regional conferences and held public meetings to seek community views and implement community improvements. In many cases too, the DMPA members got out and created change themselves. Members built at least one version of the community notice board at the Store, planted several plantations of trees in and around the town, and surfaced (what I think was) the first Deans Marsh footpath themselves. They lobbied for the first Deans Marsh bore, and regularly demanded that Winchelsea Shire Council service and surface the unsealed roads, blocked drains, malfunctioning culverts, and degraded natural waterways: In short they sought improvements to the whole place. All this with no money to speak of, the Annual Reports often list DMPA credit balances of a pound or less.

While Winchelsea Shire was often the first port of call for DMPA demands, the state and federal governments were also lobbied directly. While rectifying practical deficiencies was the core work of the Association, more positive and popular events were also organised and supported, often in conjunction with the Deans Marsh Hall and Memorial Park Committees. A Welcome Home for Marjorie Lawrence was organised in November 1944 and community celebrations for returned service people were supported actively.

The original DMPA went into recess in 1972 when as the Minutes state "all the (main) roads were sealed". There appears to have been an attempt to revive it in 1998 as a sub-committee of the Community Cottage. ***If any Croaker readers know more about this incarnation of the DMPA I would love to learn more about it for the Deans Marsh Town Stories project, so please contact me.***

But perhaps now is the time for a new version of the DMPA to emerge as part of MADCAP? Maybe the Hall and Cottage committees could develop a new model, exploring what we all see as 'progress' today? Yes, serviceable roads and phones that work, but maybe things have come full circle and we need to go back to our own energy sources, not rely on government? Maybe there are other opportunities for community action we can all take together to make things better for everyone?

Deb Campbell
kaosmgt@bigpond.com



Deans Marsh Primary School

This week students from Grade 3-6 have been participating in our Bike Education Program. During each lesson, students have been learning various bike riding and safety skills as well as playing games that focused on skill development. At the end of the program students enjoyed a skill challenge showing off what they learnt throughout the week and also a visit from 'Ride2School' to run a safety session with the students.

A special thanks to James, for allowing the students to ride on his property at Frogwood Arboretum.

AFTER FIRE COMMUNITY RECOVERY AND RENEWAL

Deans Marsh and District SMS Master List

Following on from previous years, the Deans Marsh Hall and Community Cottage committees again want to consolidate the comprehensive mobile phone number SMS Master List we initiated a few summers ago to allow the community to remain in touch AFTER A FIRE OR OTHER EMERGENCY.

This list is NOT for fire warnings - everyone needs to be connected to Vic Emergency App for those details.

We are aiming for the list to include the names and contact details of all full time and part time residents in the extended Deans Marsh, Bambra, Murroon and Pennyroyal communities, so that you all can be contacted wherever you are with the same accurate information.

In order to consolidate the list, we ask that if you have not filled out a form in previous years and want to be included on the list, please obtain a form from the Deans Marsh Community Cottage or email DeansMarshSMS@gmail.com and we will email you a copy to fill out and return.

As we are endeavouring to once again have this list in place for the next fire season, we ask that you forward the information relating to your household AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

We aim to test the system in the early part of December 2019. If you have any questions or concerns about the project, please contact Deb Campbell on 52 36 3298 or Victor Goldsztein on 0417 557 030 or via the email address above.

CFA REPORT

Dear Landholder, Another summer fire season approaches us and after significant spring rain the fuel burden is very high. We encourage you to be diligent about clearing up all possible fuel around houses and sheds to reduce fire risk. The more work you do now the better prepared you will be when the mercury climbs, and the north winds start.

REGISTER YOUR BURN OFF 1800 668 511: We really appreciate if you can please register your burn-offs by calling **1800 668 511** to avoid the brigade being called to your property unnecessarily. Remember, you are not allowed to burn off during the declared Fire Danger Period. Council generally does not issue permits to burn off during the Fire Danger Period. Check local media or the CFA website to see if the Fire Danger Period has been declared.

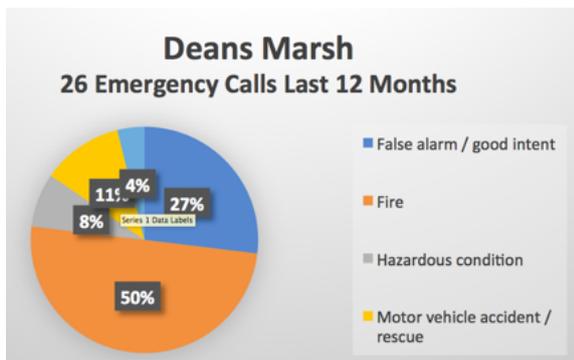
HAVE A PLAN: Have a fire plan and practice it. If your plan is to leave **early** and not to be in the area on a forecasted severe, extreme or code red day; that's great, but it's important to ensure you have a 'Plan B' for if you are caught at your residence, as fires can break out at any time day or night. Check the CFA website for ideas about what you should consider in your Fire Plan.

JOIN US: To continue to protect the community the **Deans Marsh Fire Brigade needs more volunteer Firefighters**. If you work or live in Deans Marsh and have good general fitness - please consider volunteering as a firefighter. Register your interest online at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or over the phone on 1800 232 636. We are usually at the station Sundays 10am. Please feel free to pop-in.

DEANS MARSH BRIGADE: In the past 12 months, Deans Marsh Brigade responded to 26 calls varying in type, but the majority were classified as Fires. We hope you have a safe fire season.

Jeff Clissold

Captain Deans Marsh Fire Brigade



SWAMP RATS REPORT

I'd better stop picking on Indy or I'll put 'the moz' on him. Two weeks in a row he's delivered match winning partnerships and what I've really enjoyed about his cricket this season, he's added workmanship to his game. Talent gets you only so far. Keep the good balls out, leave outside off, call loudly; you can work on the craft to make yourself a better cricketer. Not getting out. It's our trade.

You work hard all week to be here on a Saturday. You've earned the right to Pad -Up but when you get into the middle, you're not alone. Ya got ya mate on the pitch with you. He's been out there, if we're playing well, for a while. He just wants you to hold your end up, glide one off the hip for an easy single, build a picket fence of singles in the scorebook and watch him slap the bowlers around. It's your Saturday. Don't go home without a single.

Good win at home vs City United. Mostly thanks to Nick's skill. Yes he can wield the willow that's for sure, but it's due to his skill with refrigeration troubleshooting, that he made it in time for a quickfire 50, wicket keeping and marshalling the field, while also on call to any refrigeration crisis within 100km radius.

Jez and Toby put together a 30 run partnership and both cleared the rope in a coming of age akin to losing your virginity or robbing a bank. There's plenty more where that came from. We've opened a vault and it's full of sixes. Home 7th and 14th December before the Christmas break. Up the Rats

*Brendan Brown
Secretary, Deans Marsh Cricket Club*

The Mighty MADCAP Conversation Cafe

The MADCAP process is building to a large community meal and gathering on **Friday 13th December, 6.30pm, at the Deans Marsh Community Hall**. We will run a cafe conversation with a number of tables each with 5 or 6 people.

The Mighty MADCAP Conversation Cafe will explore four questions: What we would like to retain, What we would like to regain, What we want to change and What we want to start in Deans Marsh. Participants will prioritise and vote for what they would like to see prioritised as actions for the Deans Marsh and District Community Action Plan.



FREE EVENT

Please register your interest through Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/574650629962357/> or trybooking:

https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=579566&fbclid=IwAR2tU4i3QxbRSz4QfRjHqmurLdSgUWU6h73chMAox_2hr3yfRT3AAOB1Ecc

Deans Marsh Dog Trials 17th, 18th & 19th January 2020

Deans Marsh Recreation Reserve

The Deans Marsh Dog Trials are coming up in January next year.

Come along and watch a three-day test of skill, training and the bond between handler and dog. You will see some of the best in Australia working with sheep. It has been said a good dog is worth two workmen!

Many of the triallers have represented Australia in the Trans Tasman trial against NZ, so you will see some top competitors with their wonderfully trained dogs over the three days.

Come and enjoy a Deans Marsh welcome. Hope to see you there.

From the Organisers Jill Stewart & Mark Fagan

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER 2019

Deans Marsh Reserve - Swamp Rats Home

Deans Marsh Hall - The Mighty MADCAP Conversation Cafe

Deans Marsh Reserve - Swamp Rats Home

Deans Marsh Reserve - Deans Marsh Dog Trails

Saturday 7th December

Friday 13th December, 6.30pm

Saturday 14th December

17th, 18th and 19th January