



THE CROAKER

The Croaker is a not for profit, monthly, voluntary publication and is for general information purposes only. Alternative points of view to those expressed in opinion articles are encouraged and welcomed. Please send news, comments and queries to Renee - email: deansmarshartstudio@bigpond.com or on-line <https://www.facebook.com/thecroaker/>

Deans Marsh and District Community Action Plan Update

Some say 'Talk is Cheap' but it potentially could be our greatest resource!

When I read or hear this phrase I firstly think of empty promises and people not meaning what they say. That we can say things without meaning them, or say what we think people want to hear so as not cause offense. Such talk is not a valuable resource in its own right. That talk will not make a difference, go anywhere, or result in anything happening.

But reflecting on this phrase in the context of finding out what we as a community value, are passionate about and willing to contribute to make happen - talking seems to be a key resource. It is clearly something Deans Marsh and District people want to encourage!

It seems we want places to gather, more informal opportunities to catch up, to actively welcome new people to our community, to find ways to learn from each other, and to make sure we care for each other: In short, that we can and do talk to each other regularly. In these ways we feel we will learn what resources we can share, and how we can all contribute to growing and developing such resources.

We all need an ability to discuss ideas, to agree to disagree, to ensure all can speak, to find some common ground and advocate for ourselves. So let's celebrate that 'talk is cheap' and keep on talking - it doesn't cost anything and the returns are fabulous!

Thank you to all who have participated in and contributed to the MADCAP process so far by completing resident surveys, giving us your Big Ideas, holding a Madcappers' Tea Party, attending a focus group or popping in for a chat at The Cottage office.

The first stage of the process culminated with the Mighty Madcap Conversation Café. A lively evening was held and 73 locals across 3 generations participated in the facilitated discussion.

The themes that have been identified from the consultation data as community priorities are:

Our Local Community
Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
Our Local Environment
Land Use and Planning
Pathways and Trails
Township Streetscape and Signage
Our Local Economy
An Age Friendly Community

The MADCAP team have been busy collating all the information gathered so far and a draft plan is being developed from this for community feedback. We intend to publish a full report on this, expanding on the priorities by the end of February. If you already know you would like to participate on a working group to action one of the themes listed above please contact the Cottage.

Lisa Jarvis Community Cottage Co-ordinator



DEANS MARSH DOG TRIALS

We had a wonderfully successful weekend for the trials, with a record number of 33 competitors coming from all over Victoria, NSW, SA, QLD and WA.

The Open contest for the top dogs was closely contested with Jim Dodge and Patons Cooper taking out first place. The Improver was won by John Tuddenham with Warramara Dot. The Novice was won by Geoff Gibson with Smileys J T.

The triallers all commented on the friendly community atmosphere and said it was one of the best-organised trials they attend, including the great surroundings and beautifully kept grounds.

Around 500 spectators turned up over the three days with many commenting on what a superb spectacle the trials present. Many saying they came for a quick look and still found themselves there hours later!

Our own local star Mark Fagan penned the sheep with his dog T K Faith and went on to the Cressy trial this week placing 4th in the Improver event.

We had some great entertainment at Sunday lunchtime with Jill doing a farm dog demonstration with her dog "Buzz" and a very humorous poetry recital by Brian, from Dean.

A big thank you to Leah Bakes for her beautiful cakes and to Kristy Stewart and Luke Morgan for their scrumptious catering.



Mark Fagan and Jill Stewart the organisers would like to thank all those from the community, the triallers and the judges David Hines and Graeme Lace who helped on the weekend. A particular thank you to Tom Reid for his help with set up and take down, and his surveying skills!

Also a big thank you to our sponsors: Dog Pro | King Parrot Cottages, Open Event | Otway Greening Nursery, Novice Event | Outback Trading, Improver Event | Laurie and Marie Millard, sheep cartage | Colac Co-op, prizes | Deans Marsh Store, salad | Jules and Kath Marotta and James Maund, paddocks for the sheep to graze | Jim Gannon and family, portable sheep yards | Deans Marsh Cricket Club, use of the cricket shed for catering.



The Deans Marsh Festival | March 20th - 22nd 2020 | Experience Our Hinterland

Our annual community celebration is going to a weekend of activity and there are lots of opportunities for you to be involved!

The Deans Marsh Festival team are working to create a weekend that provides lots of opportunities for locals and visitors to enjoy and experience the diversity of Deans Marsh and District.

Our Festival favourite events including the Deans Marsh Gift, The Jack Russell Races, The Dog High Jump, The Dog Novelty events, The Gumboot Toss and The Sheaf Toss are all returning this year.

If you would like to participate as a stall holder, run a workshop, have an open garden or host a farm tour, play some music, display your art or help create a panther let us know as soon as possible.

The Festival needs volunteers to assist with planning, set up, pack down and in a myriad of other ways - please contact The Cottage if you would like to join us.

Thanks, The Deans Marsh Festival Team

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 February 2020, for new sign ups. 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.

For more details visit The Croaker Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/thecroaker/>

A Big Thank You!

I'd like to start the year by giving a big thank you to those Deans Marsh residents who reported sighting of a noxious weed on private land and beside Old Lorne Road - namely Cape Broome. The owner of the land swiftly sprayed the infestation, and the small group who donated their time, spending a couple of hours helping pull out the seedlings and cutting/painting with herbicide the more mature shrubs, beside Old Lorne Road. We managed to finish the job before any of the seeds matured.

Another thank you should go to the Surf Coast Shire's Environmental Officer, who swiftly arranged for the removal of the large pile of branches left on the side of Old Lorne Road.

Finally a thank you, to the GORCC officer based in Lorne who gave us some of the specially tinted pink herbicide to apply so that we could clearly detect which stumps had been painted and which hadn't.

The article headed '***This is what our Shire is doing in the climate change debate***' (on page 20 of the January issue of the Lorne Independent) is testament to the Shire's actions, delivered and underway, in their stated commitment "*Native vegetation management, and pest plant and animal control*". I'm told that their focus at present is to remove noxious weeds bordering the Great Ocean Road and then to work slowly inland. Similar to what LorneCare has systemically been doing in Lorne for going on 20 years.

The Officer was concerned when I reported a sighting of Cape Broome but I assured her that the even more noxious Boneseed has yet to travel up from Lorne to Deans Marsh.

Seeds of both these introduced varieties lie dormant for several years, so the plan is to monitor both areas of concern regularly. Another working bee is already planned for next spring and annually thereafter should that be necessary. The Environmental Officer has promised to continue to lend her support to these efforts whenever they are required.

In the meantime, if anyone spies any noxious weeds finding their way to our pristine environment, please get in touch with the Shire who will then contact me. Agriculture Victoria's webpage 'Pests, Diseases and Weeds' is a great help in identifying them.

*Juliet Beatty
Deans Marsh*

The Go-Between: William Murrungurk Buckley

Saturday 22nd February, 8pm
Dean's Marsh Community Hall

The story of the white man who went black and came back.

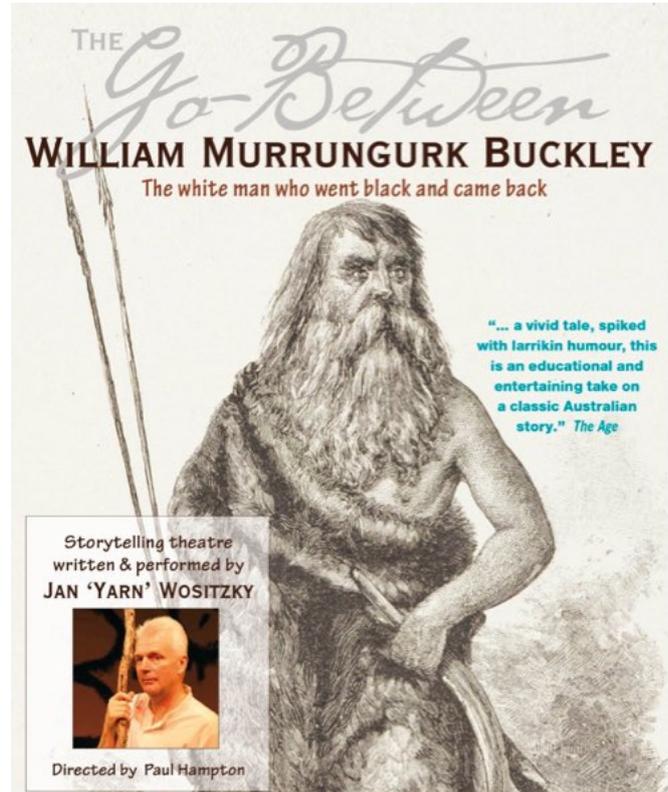
Written & performed by **Jan 'Yarn' Wositzky**

Dramaturgh: Paul Hampton & Director:
Sue Ingleton.

Jan 'Yarn' Wositzky performs the amazing story of escaped convict William Buckley (1780 – 1856). This show tells the story of the first attempted white settlement on Port Phillip (1803), of the Wathaurong people of the Geelong with whom Buckley lived for 32 years as Murrungurk, and then of Melbourne's beginning (1835-7) - where Buckley became the go-between, dealing with John Batman and his attempts to buy the land off the Wurundjeri people, and the other colonists such as John Fawkner.

For Bookings:

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=596450&>



Saturday 22 February @ 8 pm

Deans Marsh Community Hall

10 Pennyroyal Valley Road, Deans Marsh

\$30 includes light supper after show

Book at: www.trybooking.com/BHYIK or 5236 3388

Presented by Dean's Marsh Community Cottage

La Mama - Ladies of the Bay

Friday 20th March at 7pm

Deans Marsh Hall

Opening Night of the Deans Marsh Festival

A funny, vivacious, new show inspired by real stories from Aussie summer days where friends reminisce about the simpler times.

Nat, Tracy, Fiona and Naomi have grown up together in the Bay. They have gone through many life changes, but their enduring friendship carries on with their summer tradition – camping at the caravan park. Here, they gossip, tell it like it is and reveal secrets all over a cheeky glass at happy hour. But when tragedy strikes their town will these childhood friends be there for one another?

Ladies of the Bay will take you laughing and crying back to your own summers. Sometimes all we have are the memories.

For Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=587700&>



WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY 2020

Deans Marsh Hall - Pop-up Cafe, all welcome!

Deans Marsh Hall - *'The Go-Between: William Murrungurk Buckley'*

Deans Marsh Hall - La Mamma *'Ladies of the Bay'*

Deans Marsh Reserve - Deans Marsh Festival 2020

Every Friday evening from 6pm

Saturday 22nd February, 8pm

Friday 20th March, 7pm

Fri. 20th March - Sun. 22nd March