



The Croaker is a bi-monthly voluntary publication and is not for profit.

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DEANS MARSH FESTIVAL UPDATE

Get Involved : YOUR FESTIVAL NEEDS YOU

The festival relies on volunteers and any amount of time you could give is greatly appreciated. Some tasks include helping out with setup/or pack down tents and decorations, collecting items in the weeks leading up, sell raffle tickets or conducting surveys. Please contact the Festival if you are available.

IDEAS

Do you have some ideas for the festival, want to make decorations, have an idea for an activity or display, want to make an art installation or performance? Well your Festival Needs you! All ideas are welcome!

HELP SPREAD THE WORD

Please help us spread the word about the Festival, like us on Facebook, print out the poster from our website for your work-place, family and friends.

Festival Program so far.....all the below including lots of local food, live music and Deans Marsh love.

In the Local Harvest area: Cheese making demonstration, Bush Foods talk and demonstration, Goat Milking by Make Mine Milk, Bouquet making by florist Clare Cotton and Chocolate cooking demonstration.

Dog's events: the spectacular Small and Large Dog Jump, Jack Russel Race and the new 'Best in Show' dog competition

Sporting section: DM Gift (get practicing), Sheaf Toss, Gumboot Toss and the entertaining Hand Ball comp.

Kids section: The wonderful Connies, Woolly Creature Maze, Treasure Hunt, Pioneer dress up and Boxology – lots of fun with boxes.

Craft and Exhibitors: Mark Drayton and his vintage Hay baler, Colac Lace Makers, Stone and Jade carving, Basket making, jewellery making and wool spinning.

Calling all musicians

We would like to open the festival stage up to all musicians, street artists, poets and performers. If you are willing to perform for LOVE (and a food voucher!) then please let us know.

Festival Flag Project

Local residents are getting busy and creative by designing, printing and decorating flags in preparation for the Deans Marsh Festival and Flag Project. Flags have been posted to most residents in the area, if you missed out or would like more flags, please collect from the General Store or email us and we will post some. In the coming weeks over 200 kids from 11 local schools will be participating in printmaking workshops facilitated by local artist Veronica Phillips.

Free Printmaking Workshop

A free workshop for anyone interested in learning simple printmaking techniques will take place on Saturday 22 February (12pm – 2pm) at the Deans Marsh Cottage, all welcome and all materials supplied.

Bike Raffle

Win a Giant – Boulder 2 Bike Valued at \$429. Tickets are \$2 each available at the general store. The raffle will be drawn at the Festival, winner will be notified.

Stallholders for Market Village

We are looking for craftspeople, artists and local food producers to feature as stallholders in a unique Market Village. Please contact the Festival for more information.

Contact the Festival

Pop into the Cottage on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9-2

Phone Cottage 03 5236 3366 Donna 0402 352 906 Jane 0459 951 365

<http://deansmarshfestival.com.au> or email info@deansmarshfestival.com.au or on [facebook.com/DeansMarshFest](https://www.facebook.com/DeansMarshFest)

JaneWhitehead

This is my final edition of the Croaker. I would like to thank all those who contributed articles- without you there is no Croaker. So please if you have anything to say let the Croaker know. I would like to officially hand the Croaker over to Jane Gorman and Deb Campbell who have put this last edition together- thank you Jane and Deb- I wish you both happy Croaking. **Jane Whitehead**

Paul Smith Dip.Hort. Garden Design & Maintenance Fruit Tree Pruning

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Deans Marsh CFA Brigade

We're in the middle of another fire season, having had record high temperatures for several days in a row, and with the possibility of more to come.

The Deans Marsh brigade has to date attended 5 x grassfires and 2 x motor vehicle accidents this fire season.

Please ensure that by now you have prepared your property to give it the best possible chance of surviving a wildfire.

The best way to learn how to defend your property is to become a volunteer member of your local CFA, there you will learn about fire behaviour, suppression methods, and various other skills in fire fighting and rescue, or you can become a member to support our fire fighters in other roles.

Deans Marsh CFA is an ageing brigade, and new members – both men and women - are always needed and welcome. If you are interested in becoming a member please contact Heath for more information on Ph.0427363331.

From all the members of the Deans Marsh CFA, please have a safe fire season.

Heath Smith
1st lieutenant
Deans Marsh CFA

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Cottage Update

At the end of last year Rebecca Rayner decided to leave her role as coordinator. Firstly the Cottage Management Committee would like to thank Bec, who has done a wonderful job a over the past few years. In the interim we have Donna Nolan helping out at the cottage with the lead up to the Festival.

If you have any ideas for the cottage or would like to be more involved please contact the cottage, or even better join the cottage committee, new members are always welcome.

Jill Stewart

Join the Cottage Mailing List

Stay informed about what's on at the cottage and round town, receive the Croaker and Cottage News in your in box. Sign up on the cottage website today!

Website Business Directory

Have you got your free business listing on the cottage website? All listings include a description, photo and website link, please contact the cottage to be added.

Contact the Cottage

5236 3388

deansmarsh.org.au or deansmarshcottage@bigpond.com

Woodleigh Boarding Kennels

85 Old Lorne Road
Deans Marsh 3235

For bookings phone Sandra Dempsey

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Lock the Gate Survey :

Thanks to everyone for participating in the Deans Marsh/Bambra survey regarding coal seam gas mining in our area. Volunteers have been door-knocking, but if anyone has missed out on the survey and would like to participate, please contact

Liz lizbashford@mac.com or Seona seonagunn@gmail.com

Deans Marsh Sheep Dogs Trials January 16-18

With over 80 dogs and 17 handlers, and around 200 spectators over the three days, not even the very hot weather upset the smooth running of the Deans Marsh Working Dog Trials held between January 16 and 18. One of the Victoria Working Dog Association's more than 50 annual events, competitors came from as far as Queensland and WA to participate. Organisers Jill Stewart and Mark Fagan said that moving the trials to January had increased spectator numbers as well as preventing a clash with a Gippsland event. According to Mark, 'We had many people come out from Lorne to see something different - even one family from the US who were staying in Lorne. They said they had never seen anything like it'. Spectators told organisers they especially appreciated the commentary provided by experienced trailers and some newer competitors including Mark himself, as it helped those not familiar with the sport understand what was going on 'on the field'.

Crucial to the success of the Deans Marsh Trial were the sponsors – local firms **Otway Greening**, **Outback Trading** Birregurra, and **Lidgerwood Seeds** also of Birre sponsored the prizes in the Novice, Improving and Open categories respectively. Other sponsors included our own **Otway Prime**, the **Birregurra Lions Club**, and **M.L Herd Pty Ltd** of Corio – their livestock manager Nigel Vince provides the 300 sheep required for the trials every year at the Marsh.

Jill and Mark want to thank all the competitors and spectators and especially the sponsors for making the event such a success, and hope it will be held around the same time next year here in the Marsh. In the meantime, anyone local who enjoyed watching the trials could join Jill and Mark to help organise the event – must love dogs, sheep and computers – there's quite a bit of paperwork involved as well as sponsorship, logistics, permits required and then actually running the event over the three days.

Although the event itself was a great success with more than ten groups camping with their dogs around the Memorial Oval and enjoying a convivial three days, it is sad to report that Mark and his dog Nellie were not at their peak. In her run in the Improvers section, Nellie seemed to think she was on her usual morning walk – not competing in a highly contested event. A disappointment for both parties involved, but a lot of fun to watch I'm told!

Fear not though: Nellie has since more than redeemed herself at the Cressy Trials in early February where she was placed Third. Will keep you posted on her progress through out the year including at the Commonwealth Championship at Port Fairy [Feb 10 to 16] where more than 200 dogs will compete in some categories - imagine organising that?
Deb Campbell

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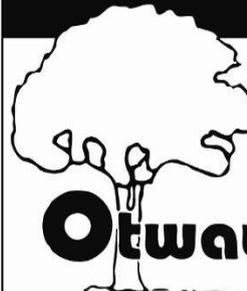
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Coming up in Deans Marsh



Tuesday 18th February 2014 at 7.15pm Geelong West Town Hall	Combined Refugee Action Group	Car Pooling available . Seona seonagunn@gmail.com or Judy Cameron at cameron.judy3@gmail.com
Thursday 20th February at 6:30pm 9 Sladen St, Birregurra	Fundraiser Dinner 3 courses for \$30. BYO drinks	RSVP Judy Cameron 03 5288 7005 or 0409 417 562
Saturday 22nd February 12—2pm	Printmaking Workshop	Veronica Phillips. Free.at the Cottage materials supplied.
Tuesday 25th February 2014 . At 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall	Deans Marsh Memorial Hall Committee	Secretary: Fran Permazel. 0428 115 534 Visitors are welcome
Wednesday 26th February At 6.-8.30pm at the Memorial Hall	Emergency Recovery Workshop <i>Follow up to Council Evacuation Work- shop held November 2013</i>	RSVP or for more information Surf Coast Shire, Tele- phone 5261 0501 or lwatt@surfcoast.vic.gov.au
Last Friday of the month. This month 28th February @ 7.00pm	Film Night Japanese Film " <i>Departures</i>	Blakes Estate, Parkers Road.52363 462) BYO Chair and wine. Optional gold coin.
Friday 14th March at 6.30pm	Mens Cooking Spanish	Please book. Cost \$20. Contact Andrew Blankfield elvisblanky@gmail.com 0407 756 455
Saturday 15th March 6.00—9.00pm	Lorne's Twilight Picnic at Qdos Arts & tour Lorne Sculpture Exhibition	Free Event Go to: www.lovelorne.com for more details.
Sunday 16th March	Birregurra CFA Annual Auction	From 10.00am
Sunday 23rd March—All day	Deans Marsh Festival	Deans Marsh Memorial Reserve
Tuesdays at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall	Table Tennis All Welcome	Richard Gilbert clearwoodfarm@gmail.com
Next meeting Wednesday April 2, 2014 at 1.30pm at the Memorial Hall	Red Cross We Welcome New Members	President: Christine Smith Email: cesmith@otwayescapes.com.au
Fridays between 10..00—12 noon	Mobile Library Van	Telephone: Geelong Library 5229 1939
Saturdays 9.00 -10.30am Memorial Hall	Tai Chi	Seona Gunn (see above) \$10/\$5 concession
Thursdays between 3.30pm and 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall	Eleve Ballet Studio Ballet & Jazz Dance Classes	Contact: Ebony Groten Web: eleveballetstudio.wix.com/eleveballetstudio

Cricket News

When too much cricket is just not enough, the Deans Marsh 'Swamp Rats' played host to the Wye River 'Sharks' in the 10th Annual Cricket Match last Sunday in blustery conditions. This year's contest was held in memory of Al Howie, a well know community member of Wye River. Against social cricket convention Rudi the 'Rats' nominated captain won the toss and decided to have a bat. Many made runs and some didn't, the team accumulated 185 runs from their allotted 30 overs. The ground although having its first soaking from the new bore was still lightning fast. 'Runs on the board', 'scoreboard pressure' and 'who's shout' were heard from wide-ranging portions of the outfield as the 'Sharks' slapped the 'Rats' bowling attack to all parts. Numerous catches were attempted without success.

With 25 runs required from the last over and the 'Bagman' from Seaview bowling downhill and with the south westerly behind him, the 'Blackwood Cup seemed in the bag. 'Man of the Match' champion 'Angus' (a ring in from the counties) and guest chef at the Rookery Nook slapped four consecutive boundaries and required a six off the last ball to tie the game. Fittingly the 'skipper' seized a fine snatch on the boundary rope off the last ball to secure an agreeable win. What a game and the folklore will live on. Recognitions to the hall committee for the BBQ and the commentators for another stellar performance. **Our Cricket Correspondent**

The 2013/14 Season is drawing to a close with three rounds remaining.

Division2 have played fierce & competitive cricket this season and have 5 wins so far which is one better than last season, they are tantalizingly close to playing finals and Marshall has done a wonderful job of building this young team with great spirit and they have lots to look forward to in cricket. **Division3** has improved 100% this season with now 2 wins we are tantalizingly close to overtaking Stoneyford and getting off the bottom of the ladder. Tom Reid continues his superb skippering, much fun had by all. **Under16's** have suffered badly with a lack of numbers this season but the boys have developed well & graduated to senior cricket Dan Zdybel & his committee have the Cricket Club in a strong position to continue to improve in every way. Mark Fagan has worked like a Trojan to keep the bar fully stocked and chilled to perfection We are busy planning our end of season trip to Yeodene for some paintball action in March. Sponsors and supporters welcome. **Brendan Brown**