



THE

croaker

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'It started as a room, a space...'

When I first moved into the house I saw the room – with lots of space. I was at the netball in Birregurra watching Tamekia Allen play, and talking with Kylie Permezel. She told me all about the Tabaka Academy in Kenya, and how the Deans Marsh Primary School had been pen pals with the students there for a year; they are desperate for internet access, uniforms and other school resources. I told Kylie I had this room, this space; I said 'Let's do it – let's make the money to give them'. The goal is \$5000.

Two weeks went by; the room was painted, carpeted, hanging rails went up. I went back to the school and said 'Let's go let's do it now'.

That was three months ago and so far we have raised nearly \$2500; you the community have donated many items for sale, and sell them we have.

Now I am moving house but I believe in my heart we as a community can do it – there are five weeks left to reach that goal of \$5000.

If all of us come into the shop and spend \$5 or make a cash donation we can get there, so remember all those Christmas gifts you need and stop by – we have new and vintage items.

Thank you to everyone for your warm hearts; look at what we can accomplish together. We can get that \$5000 for Tabaka School – let's do it now. *Mel Dellow*

The Shop will be open 9-5pm on Saturday and Sunday. DMPS has charge of all the money raised and will pass it to Tabaka's students and teachers, but the hard yards here have all been Mel's, ably assisted by Chloe James. Thanks to you both. See Colac Herald article about Mel's work <http://www.colac Herald.com.au/2014/08/community-support-kenyan-children/> Deb C

Deans Marsh Primary School

EDUCATION SUPPORT TRAINEESHIP

Deans Marsh Primary School has a traineeship opportunity to undertake a Certificate III in Education Support for a Year 12 school leaver/gap year student wanting to get hands on experience in the Education Industry before going onto Tertiary studies. May also be suitable for mature age trainee.

See the whole ad here: <http://www.deansmarshps.vic.edu.au/news/positions-vacant> Applications close on December 5

Murmurings in the Marsh

The **LOCK THE GATE** fundraiser held on Oct 4 was a great success and reminded many of the **Music in the Marsh** days. The music rocked... ..Baiba's cakes were much appreciated, and more than \$2000 was raised for the cause – a great night, thanks to Seona and Liz and all who contributed, and came.

Funded by **MIXED DOZEN** a philanthropic project run from Melbourne, Cottage staff hosted 15 local people to lunch on November 6 to celebrate our community, and those making a positive difference. DMPS preps and grade 1s came over for desert and all enjoyed an icy pole!

A quiet heads up for those trying to beat the tourists on the Lorne Road, we residents of Old Lorne Road or as some [me] prefer to call it - the Louttit Bay Track – have succeeded in getting the speed limit reduced to **60 kph for the whole road**. The new signage will hopefully be in place before the holiday period starts. Our thanks to Sean McKeon from SCSC for his help.

Pack your picnic baskets and come on over to **Blake's Winery** on December 7 for a community picnic and concert to celebrate the opening of their new functions venue. **Roesy, Anja and our own Mountain Grey will serenade us.**

Gentle Ammie is open for business again this summer every day except Christmas Day and New Year Day for the months December-January. Delicious meals and of course berry picking- most summer fruits will be ripe and ready. New this year: *al fresco* hampers and local wines on sale to eat there or take away- sound delicious...check it out at www.gentleammie.com.au... *hey why not take one to Blakes or the OMM Carols... ..?*

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We bid a sad farewell to **Martians'** master chef Josh Goddard who is taking his talents to Melbourne. Thanks Josh for all those coffees and musical treats....rumour has it Josh may do a farewell gig at the **OMM Carols** on December 14.

Several Marshians were scalped last week at **Martians** for Sandra Dempsey's **annual fundraiser** for *The Long Road to Recovery* - all are looking cool for summer. A total of \$850 was raised, and donations are still welcome.

A joyous commemoration of the life of **Rose Humphries** was celebrated in Geelong by friends and family. Also, Grace Howard, mother of Graham, Barry and Denise, formerly of Deans Marsh, died in Winchelsea this month.

The **Red Cross Open Garden Day** on November 8 was a big success with more than 100 people visiting at least one of the three beautiful local gardens.

The **Deans Marsh Dog Trials** will be held on Friday January 23 to Sunday 25 with new sponsors and new prizes and the Hall Committee are planning to run BBQs on Saturday and Sunday.

THE MARTIANS....Baseball legends....

Denis Jenkins

The Colac Baseball League began in 1964, and baseball came to Deans Marsh in 1966, when Murroon schoolteacher Hugh Morris helped some enthusiasts to form the Martians team. Jim Chappell led the first team which included Steve and Richard McKenna, Geoff Millard, Graeme Brien, John Woollard, Wayne Pritchard, Roy Chappell, Rod Morris, Brian Watts and Hugh and Andrew Stewart.

'Never Undeclared' after two years, the Martians broke through with some modest success in 1968 - enough to make the finals and finish third in a five team league. After struggling to keep a team on the field, the club went into recess in 1971 and 1972, but re-emerged in 1973, and played in Colac and/or Geelong competitions until the end of 1996. The Martians were runners-up in the five-team Colac League in both 1973 and 1974. When the CBL joined the Geelong B Grade in 1975 to make an eight-team competition, the Martians won the first combined premiership with a dramatic last inning surge to take the grand final by a score of 16-15. Runners-up again in 1976 with a tense 1-2 extra inning grand final defeat, the Deans Marsh Firsts team went on to play in the finals 19 times in the 20 years from 1973 to 1992 in competitions ranging from eight to fourteen teams. Six grand final appearances provided the scanty reward of just the one premiership.

From 1973 to 1996, the records show that 177 players wore the club's green and black colours in a total of 994 matches in the club's firsts, seconds, thirds and even fourths teams. The club also had a junior team from 1973 to 1975, which then morphed into the seconds and beyond from 1976 onwards.

From 1981, the Deans Marsh Martians club played its home games on the GBA ground on Belmont Common in Geelong. This venue provided a better surface to play on and was more accessible to the growing number of players based in Geelong or Melbourne.

Overall, the club played in 38 finals series in various grades, and won six premierships. As well as the firsts' 1975 win, the

seconds won C Grade in 1977 and 1984, D Grade in 1992, and C Grade again in 1993. The fourths won E Grade in their only season in 1993.

With dwindling resources after 1996, the club endeavoured to keep going as a merged entity with the Barrabool club, but the combined club barely survived one season.

Over the years, many local families were represented in the club: Stewart, Millard, Schroeter, McKenzie, Clissold, Steenholdt, McKenna, Watts, Swayn.... Temporary residents such as Jenkins, Grinter and Schultz were also involved.

Eleven players took part in 200 or more games, headed by the legendary Noel 'Chook' Grinter, who appeared in the firsts 415 (out of a possible 416) times from 1973 to 1995. Locals Andrew and Hugh Stewart would be best known of the 200+ group, with six of the other eight emanating from either the Geelong High School staff room or class rooms.

When the 1992 end of season function was held at Deans Marsh, a large number of the current players had to be given detailed instructions of how to find the Rec Reserve. Proving perhaps it takes real Marshians to be Martians? Thanks very much to Denis for the story. Denis, I'm told, was known as "The General" and captained us to our famous 1975 Grand Final victory in the Geelong league. Thanks too to Andrew Stewart for contacting Denis. We'd love more Deans Marsh history - footy club, cricket, tennis - bring it on ... Deb C

DEANS MARSH COMMUNITY COTTAGE

It's all change at the Deans Marsh Community Cottage after the November 23 AGM. Congratulations to new Chairperson Vic Hope who has already been doing a great job with the Marshmallow Club kids group on Fridays and will take over from the long serving Jill Stewart who will now have some more time to devote to her many other interests including Landcare, Dog Trials ... Thanks Jill and welcome Vic. There are also several new Cottage committee members who will feature in *The Croaker* over the next few months.

The Cottage's **Marshmallow Club** organised and ran "The Best Cake in the Otways" on Sunday November 23 at the Deans Marsh Market. Vic Hope, the main driver of the club said they exceeded all expectations! The kids sold over 350 cake boxes and 100 cakes were returned on the day to be judged and sold as a club fundraiser. The fantastic judges, Katrine Juleff (Pennyroyal Raspberry Farm) and Ami Hillege (Otway Fields), supported by Eugene and Sarah, had the hard task of judging the cakes, finally coming out with 2 very worthy winners! See a full report at <http://deansmarsh.org.au/the-cottage/> Ruth Hamilton

Town Closures for Bike Rides

The Croaker had several responses - thank you - to our question in the last edition about how we should respond in future to these events. While some are definitely over it, others were philosophical and urged us all to get more involved. It seems to me we could still speak informally to Council about the community donation idea? Might take it up with our new Mayor, Margot Smith next time she's in town?

Deb Campbell

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What's On

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday December 1

Fire Up Deans Marsh 5.30-8.30

Tuesday December 9

Making Christmas PINATA 6-8pm BYO LOLLIES

Friday December 12

Tech Savvy Seniors ipad course 1-3.30pm

Wednesday December 3 12 noon

Red Cross Community Lunch and Book Launch

Saturday December 6 6pm

Bambra Community Christmas party BYO salad plate to share;
BBQ meat provided.

Sunday December 7 3-7pm

BLAKES CONCERT and PICNIC

Wednesday December 10

Red Cross Members Dinner

Sunday December 14 6pm, choir at 7pm

Community Christmas BBQ and OMM Carols

Nellie's Column: DOG TRIAL CRISIS EMERGING

G'day, Nellie here, back in time you get you all in the mood for the new Dog Trials season, culminating in the Deans Marsh Trials on the Australia Day Weekend - let's hope it isn't as hot as last year: you'll all get sunstroke, I'll go down with heat prostration, and Fages'll have to break the habit of a lifetime and wear a hat.

We've had a few good results in the early season: I was one of only 17 out of 41 dogs who didn't cross on my run at Dean, and at Mirboo I came third which was sort of ok, except that I would have been first with 80 points if only Fages had shut that gate quickly enough - what can a dog do about 'the help'??

All that's all good, but I have a very serious issue to discuss with you. I have noticed this problem at several of my recent outings: the sheep are just not up to it - trialling that is- they are well - sheepish. They just don't know what they are doing when released onto the field - they just jump in fright and head for the hills BECAUSE they have never been worked by us dogs.

These sheep are used to noisy motor bikes no worries, but they can't handle us more subtle and stealthy four-footed operators - they panic and piss off. Now honestly it is just not on - how are we supposed to do our stuff if the sheep are not properly educated? Its unAustralian, that's what it is. It's like those poor bank and supermarket staff guiding you all to the machines, and doing themselves out of jobs - well we're not going to make the same mistake!

There's no good reason for this - it's a malicious campaign to put us dogs out of work. Sheep can be worked with bikes AND dogs, but one thing is for sure if this trend of scaredy sheep continues, there will be no more dog trials for Deans Marsh or anywhere else. So sheep farmers: get those dogs out there and educate your stock: be part of Team Australia.

OPEN FOOD NETWORK - could it work for the Marsh?

Remember that producers' cooperative idea that has been talked about in the Marsh over the years? Well here's a development that might help. Have a look at this link about the OFN due to launch next year, and have a think about this approach. *The Croaker* has been in touch with Kirsten and Serenity and perhaps we could invite them to the Marsh to tell us more? <http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/farm-magazine/open-food-network-is-open-for-business/story-fnkf1gpu-1227130657167>

Telstra ADSL FINAL DAYS FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

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