



# The Croaker

Volume 8 No.1 January 2015..... editor Deb Campbell .

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Happy New Year to everyone and just wanted to let you know of a few changes at *The Croaker*. We will be attempting to bring you an edition each month in 2015 and we are also trialling a new funding model.

### Many Thanks

Thanks so much to all our sponsors who have supported *The Croaker* over the years and hopefully into the future for some of you? With help from a small Grant from the Surf Coast Shire Council, this year we will be running a different ad on the front page each month, and offering sponsors an editorial piece in a month of their choosing as well. Sadly, co-editor Jane Gorman is standing down for 2015. Many thanks to Jane for her great Grant getting and production skills and her many other contributions. **Thanks too to The Store - now open**

**7.30am to 6.30pm 7 days** - for their distribution help.



### Accent on the Arts of all sorts

Renee and Rhea Wigley are joining *The Croaker* team to bring us news of the local world of the arts and artists. We have many talented people among us and *The Croaker* will introduce them to you over the coming months. Rhea is also

our digital correspondent and has already put us on facebook – have a look if you're into it: <https://www.facebook.com/thecroaker>

**Renee** is of course an artist herself – painter and photographer of local events, landscapes, portraits and sometimes paintings of her own photographs. Call into the **Deans Marsh Arts Studio** to have a look at her fantastic work.

Since she was chosen to attend an arts camp near Alvie in Grade 6, Renee has shaped her life around the visual image. Although like most artists, other professions, study and jobs have been necessary to maintain the family economically, it is art – the sustained effort of a canvas,

or the more immediate pleasures of photographs taken in the early morning or at sunset – that most satisfy her.

**A new venture for 2015** will be a chance for us all to actually get an interesting and maybe beautiful **portrait photograph** of someone special [or even ourselves...?]. Renee behind the camera, and Rhea on makeup, will work together to make portraits revealing the hidden depths we didn't know we had – **coming soon to the Studio.**

## DEANS MARSH CRICKET CLUB

### Swamp Rats...Cricket Legends...but not p'haps in a good way?

by our sporting correspondent

After hearing the news that the Swamp Rats' first eleven had been bowled out for 31 (including eight ducks) in the last round before xmas, many would asked, 'was that the lowest ever score?' by the local cricket club. Well it had this scribe probing deep into the past of the Deans Marsh Cricket Club. A little history first:

We know that the Deans Marsh Football Club (*The Blood & Bandages*) was formed in 1898, as was the Athletic Club, and we believe the Cricket Club would also have been formed at about this time. It was not until 1921 that the community purchased the 2.8 ha at the current site on Pennyroyal Valley Road from Mr. Mountjoy. (It was thought at the time that the public hall and oval,



**C&DCAPremiers 69/70**

Back: Colin Smith (President) Hugh Stewart, K Marriner, Tom Roscoe, Doug Trigg, Les Smith, Geoff Millard. Front: Ron Millard, Neville Clissold, Andrew Stewart, Bill White, Les McKay, Richard McKay, Noel Swayn

opposite the hotel, which was then in the Winchelsea Road near the Birregurra road corner, were too close together for community comfort!). The first earth wicket at our current site was constructed in 1922 and this was replaced in 1937 by a malthoid covered concrete pitch.

The club reformed after the war and the next 10 years is often referred to as the 'Golden Era' of cricket in Deans Marsh. From 1946 to 1955 Deans Marsh fielded 'A' and 'B' teams in the Polwarth Association. During this period the 'A' team **The Invincibles** won five premierships,

were runners up twice and the 'B' team was runner up on three occasions, twice to the 'A' team, as there was only Division.

From 1956 to 1968 Deans Marsh fielded the one senior team. Col Smith retired after the 1956/57 grand final loss to Winchelsea. Col had played for Deans Marsh since the twenties but continued his commitment to the club until his death in 1988. He was president of the club for 53 years and a Life Member of the Club.

The Club joined the Colac & District competition in 1969, winning a premiership in the first year. It fielded two teams through most of the seventies but had to wait until 1987 for their next premiership merriment. Andrew Kirkland 'Horace' Stewart scored two centuries and two fifties during the 86/87 season as well as taking 33 wickets. This consistency made him the **C&DCA Cricketer of the Year**.

The 'Golden Years' returned in 2002 when Brook Smith, son of Alan and grandson of Colin reformed the Club after seven years of recess. Over the next five years the **Swamp Rats** won five premierships including two in 2006/07 and was promoted to 'A' grade in 2009. During this time the Club also fielded a competitive junior team.

This short history of the cricket club would not be possible if not for local historian Ron Millard. Ron, who recently passed away, wrote eloquently about the history of Deans Marsh and the surrounding area. He played over 300 games for the Marsh, scoring 6500 runs with two centuries and 26 fifties. Ron played continuously from 1948-1978, was part of the 1969/70 Premiership side and became a Life Member of the club in 1990. Back to that score. Deans Marsh has twice previously been bowled out for less than 31. Forty years ago, all out 21 versus Apollo Bay (5 ducks) and way back in 1958 all out 21 versus Birregurra (5 ducks), **so there we have it: yes indeed the Swamp Rats HAVE outdone themselves in one way at least in 2014 with 8 ducks. Here's to 2015..... Follow the Deans Marsh Cricket Club on Facebook and the Club website. <http://deansmarsh.vic.cricket.com.au>**

### ***Fire Preparation: are you ready for the realities?***

In December a 'Fire up' event, an interactive session working through a fire scenario, was held in the Marsh. A follow up **CFA Fire Planning Workshop to be held on Sunday 11th January, 10am at the Deans Marsh Hall** will be a great opportunity for you to work on your fire plans in more detail. Virginia Morris, SCSC's Coordinator Community Emergency Management; and Lauren Watt, Resilient Communities Officer coordinated the **Fire Up** session, and while participants found it interesting and useful, several commented that it was also confronting, especially the sounds of fire played during the session.

Several came away feeling a bit overwhelmed at the scale of the demands on land owners, and especially those who are hosting many family, visitors and paying guests. While all agreed a fire plan was a necessary thing, in truth there is no avoiding the fact that, in the event of a fire, each individual decision still has the potential to effect life or death. The session stressed that this is why it is so important to practice your fire plan with your family: **practice makes it familiar, which will help to keep stress levels down and help ensure you make the right decisions when the time comes.'**

If you would like to have a specialised session for your community group or network, please contact Lauren Watt on 5261 0501 to discuss the options, she can liaise with the CFA and other agencies to provide you with the information you're after to help your fire preparedness. There is also a wealth of resources to help you understand your risk, plan, prepare and stay informed on the CFA website: [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

### ***Murmurings in the Marsh.....***

**Josh Goddard** was given a true Marshian farewell at Martians on Dec 20. Locals jammed, danced and consumed many nachos, and a few beers and such. His farewell card and gift, organised by Kerrie Harvey, was much appreciated, and we will all miss him. We all survived another Falls festival, and the **Deans Marsh Primary School benefitted too this year**, as Tom Reid and his crew helped with the cleanup on January 2.

**The Youth Group** raised several hundred dollars with their bbq at the Carols and will take themselves off camping beyond Lorne in January – well done TYG.

Speaking of the Carols, 2014's was another fun, relaxed, dog-friendly Deans Marsh community event and stars of the show included **Jo Stafford's niece Sade** who with her beautiful voice clearly should be on Australia's Got Talent. What a find – as usual thanks for a great show to **Jo Zdybel, Louise Brown** and all the OMM Choir members and musicians.

**Well done for VCAL/VCE to Tess, Abby, Luca, Danielle, Darcy and Rose.**

The Deans Marsh Hall Committee will apply for **solar power** for the Hall buildings under new SCSC programme.

**Ron Millard**, our local historian, longtime Bambra school teacher, cricketer and puppeteer died in December. His funeral at St Paul's learned about his long life and the many and varied community contributions he made. **Vale Mr. Millard.**

### Telstra ADSL

Well ADSL is here – sort of. Signing up and actual connection are proceeding and several of us have made it through, while others are having issues. Although some have been told there are no ports left, I understand that is not [yet] the case – 30 or so were taken out of the 130 or so available on December 24. If you are told ports are unavailable, contact Jim Boag Telstra CountryWide [southwestvictcw@team.telstra.com](mailto:southwestvictcw@team.telstra.com), or Shona McKeen at TCW Geelong [geelongscctcw@team.telstra.com](mailto:geelongscctcw@team.telstra.com) To sign up: Hope at the Ryrie Street Telstra Store is great.

Do not fear I am keeping the pressure on Telstra about **possibilities for both Bambra and Pennyroyal**, and meanwhile thanks again to all of you who have come to meetings, made applications, and helped behind the scenes. You all have made it happen and ....**it ain't over til it's over: that is: for all of us.... Deb C**

### NELLIE'S Column

**G'day** and greetings for 2015, just a reminder: on no account forget the **Deans Marsh Dog Trials** January 23-25. For those of you new to the field I thought I'd prepare a bit of a Spectators' Guide so you'll have a clue what on earth is going on.

#### Scoring

The best a girl can do is 100 points, and to get a perfect score I'd have to stay within 10 metres of Fages for the whole course, never stray outside the corridor marked on the ground with cones, get all three sheep through each of four obstacles - gap, race, bridge, and pen - first time round, and all within 15 minutes. Points are deducted for each and every mistake!

[For more on the rules see

[http://www.sheepdogtrials.com.au/assets/sheepdog\\_trial\\_details.pdf](http://www.sheepdogtrials.com.au/assets/sheepdog_trial_details.pdf) ]

Getting 100 is of course not all that easy to do: my last effort at Mia-Mia near Heathcote resulted in a score of only 24 but I was far from the worst performer there, and in fact the dog that came third only got 36...

Other unofficial Dog Trial rules include all handlers [that is the humans] being obliged to wear silly hats. As you know Fages has largely resisted this trend - except in the rain ... you should have seen him at Mirbou in his Akubra and Dry-As-A-Bone....

See you at the Marsh Trials on **Jan 23-5** and I hope you'll be barracking for me.**Cheers Nellie.**

### What's On

January 10	Cricket@home Deans Marsh Birregurra Grudge match
January 11	Fire Meeting, Hall 10am
January 17	Cricket@home Deans Marsh v City United
January 23-25	Deans Marsh Dog Trials all day
January 23-24	Hall Committee BBQ, Oval
January 24	Cricket@home Deans Marsh v Colac West
February 21	Cricket@home Deans Marsh v Irrewarra
February 12	East Otway AGM & bird walk. Distillery Creek picnic area BYO picnic tea. 6pm Enquiries 0427050284
March 22	Deans Marsh Festival all day