



# The Croaker

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It was a shaky start to 2016, as we saw in the New Year trying to process the devastation that affected our Wye River and Separation Creek friends. Many of us did not really feel like celebrating New Years Eve, on edge and uneasy after another sweltering day here in Deans Marsh. Events and local parties were called off due to possible fire risk.

Thanks to the vibrant and high-spirited communities of Wye, Sep and Kennett River, some of us were fortunate enough to have a New Years Eve 'do-over' at the Wye Beach Hotel on Friday 8th January. Thanks to all involved for a wonderful night!

We had our own fire scare here in The Marsh - on the afternoon of Wednesday 13th January, but thanks to the amazingly quick response from the CFA team and the water bomber chopper "Coulson", the fire was extinguished before a (brief) Northerly change could affect our communities.

A very sincere THANK YOU to all the CFA and Emergency Service volunteers who have put their lives on hold to save The Otways.

I would also like to say a massive "Thank You" to our out-going editor Deb Campbell for two years of voluntary dedication to The Croaker, and I hope to continue her great work in conveying information to our community.

Wishing you all only the best for 2016! Stay safe everybody, and keep on Croaking!  
Renee Wigley - Editor



## Did you know we now have our very own Real Estate Agents right here?

**Chase Australia Property Consultants P/L** is based in Deans Marsh. Jane Douglas has lived within the region and worked in real estate and also in the tourism sector of Lorne, Forrest and now the Marsh since 2001.

Commencing Chase Australia Property Consultants P/L in 2013, Jane began her career in real estate in 1978 and has extensive experience in city real estate as well as nearly 20 years around here. At the moment Jane and her partner Barry Wood, who also worked in the industry in Anglesea, have properties for sale as far a field as Kerang, as well as right here in the Marsh, although they are hoping to consolidate their portfolio to the local areas. Often working in conjunction with Melbourne-based agents, the two of them do a lot of the customer liaison and pretty much all of the legwork!

Unlike many agents, Chase Australia Property Consultants P/L does not have a shop front and is not involved in the rental market, preferring to specialise in sales. Jane and Barry concentrate on securing the perfect match of properties, for both vendors and prospective buyers. They also handle the sale of businesses, and recently sold the **Café Birre** to Brad Campbell from Kennett River. **Martians** our signature café is also on their books, so direct any potential buyers you know of straight to Jane.

Some of their current listings in the area are:-

Lorne: 3/8 Hopetoun Terrace. Auction 23/1/2016 at 12.30pm (conj)  
Lorne: "Dridan House" 5 Gardiner Avenue. Auction 24/1/2016. 12 noon (conj)  
Deans Marsh: 22 Deans Marsh-Lorne Road. Vacant land.  
Deans Marsh: Martians Café – Business for sale.

Should you want to sell or buy property, or have an enquiry, you should phone Jane now 0404 458 428 or Barry 0427 274 275 and support your local agent!

Deb Campbell

### **BIG BARWON WALK: 16th - 20th MARCH 2016**

#### **Stage 3: Inverleigh to Fyansford**

We are all part of the Barwon River Catchment and yet few of us have an opportunity to truly connect to this significant river. A river which provides Geelong and the region with fresh water, has been instrumental in defining our landscape, and is the life blood of many native flora and fauna. You are invited to be part of this fabulous event, walk as much or as little as you like!

<b>Wed 16th</b>	1 hour walk.	Easy walk, launch of the event, free BBQ, welcome ceremony.
<b>Thur 17th</b>	8 hour walk.	Most interesting but challenging day! High fitness level needed.
<b>Fri 18th</b>	6 ½ hours.	Including a 2 ½ canoeing segment, camp at Pollocksford bridge.
<b>Sat 19th</b>	6 hour walk.	Enjoy the Barwon valley, camping on local farm.
<b>Sun 20th</b>	3 ½ hours.	Half day walk finishing off with a lunch at the Fyansford Pub.

**To express your interest and receive more information, please contact:**  
**Kaye Rodden 0438 317 499 or the Upper Barwon Landcare Office 52362401**

\*Please note: As most walking will be on private property numbers will be strictly limited.  
We appreciate the support of the original custodians and local landholders and will show respect and care at all times.

## NELLIE'S COLUMN:

Well I really must just say that Team Deans Marsh, you humans have outdone yourselves - definitely the best Dog Trials ever, and all thanks go to all of you who helped Fages and Jill get it together - food and drink, grounds set up, the event itself, care of those baaastards, the sheep - all went off without one snag - except for those on sale at the Hall Committee barbeque of course! Personally though I have to admit, it was not my finest hour. There was the bull ant bite just before we went on. Would Fages scratch me as injured? Not a bit of it, the old so and so. Not surprising then that I timed out badly - limping painfully as I was...

But I have to tell you, although Fages has signed me up for a special class with Australia's best dog trial trainer next month, honestly I think I am over it. He says I have one more chance to shine, but if the truth be told, three sheep munching away just don't do it for me anymore.

I mean to say, where's the challenge in that? Give me a paddock and 250 sheep any day - there's some sport! So friends, it might be Lara who appears with Fages at the next trial - maybe even huge Port Fairy week-long event, or Maggie, Belinda's new mate, or even Jill's Buzz who got an excellent rap from the judges on the weekend during his demonstration event. Who knows?

Perhaps - and this is a bit of a joke considering my trials over the years with those sheep at the dog trials - I even have a career ahead of me in sheep rescue? Glad to say I found two lost in the bush with Fages at Wye River last Tuesday....

But it is farewell to you all from me, and thanks again for all your support this weekend. Think of me hooning around a paddock full of sheep somewhere, no longer forced to worry about getting only three of them over that damned silly bridge thing...

Signing off one last time, Nellie.

## THE DRESSMAKER BARWON PARK MANSION:

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January, The Croaker crew attended a meeting at Barwon Park Mansion with other local newsletter editors from Winchelsea, Birregurra, Lorne, Apollo Bay, Bannockburn, Inverleigh and the Otway Light team.

Barwon Park is currently exhibiting Marion Boyce's "masterful costume designs" featured in critically acclaimed film 'The Dressmaker'. This movie is based on the book 'The Dressmaker', written by Rosalie Ham - starring Kate Winslet, and our Liam Hemsworth. It is an Australian comedy set in the town of 'Dungatar'.

After the meeting we were invited to tour the exhibit, featuring exquisite costumes spread throughout the mansion. The displays were beautifully arranged to make us feel like we had walked straight into 'Dungatar' and the world of 'The Dressmaker'.

The exhibition is touring Australia's National Trust buildings and is at Barwon Park until March 11th. Open: Wednesday - Sunday, 11am - 4pm. Adult \$20, Concession \$18, Child (to 15 years) \$10, Family (2 adults, 2 children) \$50.

Thank you to the Winchelsea Star for arranging the meeting, and for sharing 'The Dressmaker' with our group.

Rhea Sabine Wigley - Reporter



## DEANS MARSH FESTIVAL

Easter Sunday - 27th March 2016:  
10am - 5pm

*Live Music and Entertainment*

*Dog Jump*

*Local Harvest - Beer, Wine and Produce*

*Market Stalls*

*Art and Craft*

*Deans Marsh Gift*

*Kids Activities*

***The best day of the year!***

## News from the Swamp - Swamp Rats Sports Report:

News from the 'green, green, green grass' of the Swamp. Our sympathies are with our sister community of Wye River/Separation Creek who have been devastated by the Christmas day fires. The communities have many close ties and we appreciate the difficulties the future holds. We are grateful to those in our community who have fostered this bond. Back in early summer of 2004 a Deans Marsh community cricket team led by Mark Fagan and Grant Byrne issued a challenge to the Wye River/Kennett River 'Sharks' communities skippered by Andrew Allen, to a game of cricket. The Sharks won an exciting game by one run. The Blackwood Cup has become an annual event since, with the 'Swamp Rats' successful on six occasions and the 'Sharks' five. There have been some preliminary deliberations between the communities for a date for this year's event. The most likely is the 21st February in Lorne.

Now back to the magic 'Rats' as they continue on their winning way. Since our last report, victories in five of their last six games have them resolutely cementing a finals berth in March. Apart from a rain affected loss against our nemesis Birregurra, all wins have been emphatic and have the opposition sides sweating on a prospective dwell. Indy Paddick has matured into a fine slashing/swashbuckling middle order batsman, Marshall Goddard and Rudy are amongst the runs, Zac Zdybel and the skipper Lachie Rowan continue to be prolific with the willow. In the bowling the recent return of 'Singha' and new rookie Liam Sayers has bolstered the already stout attack of Tommy Ryan and Josh Goddard. Oh and there have been other distractions from the recreation reserve with much hilarity and nonsense vented from the petanque piste mostly on Friday or Sunday evenings. Everyone is welcome to join some of these fine local tossers on the piste. Leather on boot will be heard from the ground on Wednesday nights from the 20th January as the Birregurra Football club commence training, get down and support our local lads. Finally thanks to our groundsman Mark Fagan who has the ground looking awfully pleasurable to the eye.

### Remaining home games:

06/02/16 Deans Marsh v Colac West  
13/02/16 Deans Marsh v Stoneyford  
05/03/16 Semi Final (venue to be decided although most likely on the green green grass of home)  
07/02/16 Birregurra v Apollo Bay 10.00am (juniors with several talented Deans Marsh colts)

### ADSL FOR BAMBRA:

A COMMUNITY MEETING for BAMBRA RESIDENTS to learn who will benefit and where it will work, will be held at the **BAMBRA HALL at 5PM to 7PM ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10th**  
*Deb C.*

### Film Night at Blakes Estate Winery: Friday 29th January - 7pm - "LAYER CAKE"

*Directed by: Matthew Vaughn.  
Starring: Daniel Craig.*

A film by the producers of "Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels", "Snatch" and other British cult criminal movies. This is one of the best of them all.

[http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/layer\\_cake/](http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/layer_cake/)

\*Contains sex, violence, drugs and a little optional subtlety!

### WHAT'S ON: FEBRUARY - MARCH 2016

East Otway Landcare AGM	Sunday 24th January 6:30 pm Jinda Park, Bambra
Film Night - Blakes Estate Winery	Friday 29th Jan, 7pm - FILM: "Layer Cake" Friday 26th Feb, 7pm *film to be announced Friday 25th March (Good Friday - pending)
The Dressmaker Exhibition	Open Wed - Sun, 11am - 4pm till 11th March
The Big Barwon Walk	Wed 16th March - Sun 20th March
Deans Marsh Festival	Sunday 27th March 2016 10am - 5pm
Barbra ADSL Meeting	Wed 10th Feb, 5pm - 7pm at Bambra Hall