This is Part 7 of Deans Marsh Community Stories, covering the 2000s – the Naughties as they were known. Music@the Marsh makes a big impression in the district and beyond, the Community Cottage gathers momentum, the former Deans Marsh Football Clubhouse gets restored and the Deans Marsh Dogs Trials begin.

## The 2000s

62. 2000 **Tai Chi** began in the Hall organised by Seona Gunn and auspiced by the Cottage.<sup>1</sup> It continues in 2020 – or will after restrictions ease.

63. 2000 November 25 The new **Community Cottage facilities at the Hall** were opened by the Victorian Minister of Community Services, Christine Campbell.

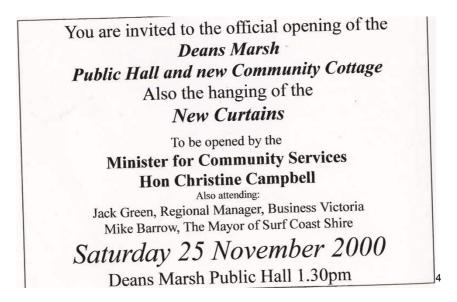


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Details received from Seona Gunn August 15 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Deans Marsh Community Cottage archives



64. And on the same day the new **Deans Marsh Hall curtain was** celebrated:



The Cottage was saved and relocated to the extended Hall after a sustained community campaign to lobby locals, SCSC and Victorian government agencies: petitions, media coverage, fundraising social events, offers for new buildings from Lorne and Warrnambool, and finally Council and State government agreement to fund the necessary facilities but ONLY as extensions to existing Hall. While this meant that the Cottage survived and thrived, it has had ongoing, serious and negative effects on our Hall itself.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Deans Marsh Community Cottage Archives

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Deans Marsh Community Cottage Archives

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Deans Marsh Community Cottage archives and 2022 Deans Marsh Community Hub proposal documents and process – see also <u>https://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/About-us/Your-Say/Deans-Marsh-Community-Hub-Facility-Development-Plan</u>



#### The Deans Marsh Curtains

During World War II, the women of the Deans Marsh community constructed the Deans Marsh Curtains. Sugar bags were sewn and embroidered over a period of nine years and used as curtain panels in the community hall. See Making the Original Curtains for more detail.

In 1991, due to the inevitable deterioration of the work, the community approached The National Wool Museum for assistance in preserving it. The Wool Museum stored the curtain and it was exhibited in 1994. It has since been relinquished to the Museum of Victoria and is displayed in the new facility.

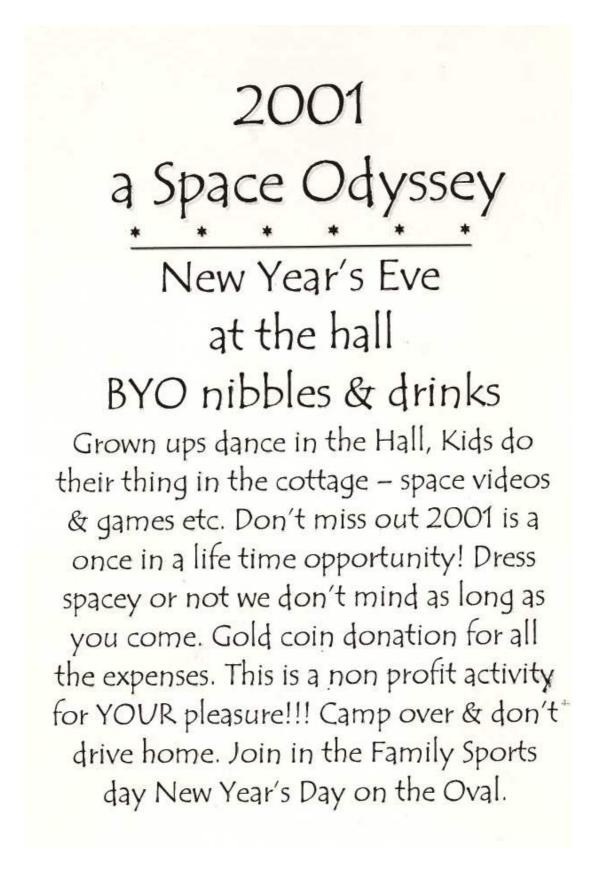
Local resident, Margaret Stewart, was keen for the new and original residents of Deans Marsh to be united and learn of the history of the area. Through her tenacity, a project to create new curtains for the hall was initiated in 2000 with the help of a grant from Arts Victoria and textile artist Jan Preston.

The brief for the new curtain was: it should reflect the history of the area, focus on the present and look forward to the new millennium. It should immortalise the potato and pea growing along with agriforestry; the indigenous floral and fauna; the eagle and the snake to represent the first people, the Wathaurong; the panther that roams the local forest; the original town buildings; a reference to Marjorie Lawrence, an internationally famous opera singer who grew up in the area; Ron Millard, puppet maker and puppeteer; and the Ash Wednesday fires.

On 25th November 2000, the new Deans Marsh Curtains were hung. In all, 7200 hours of voluntary community input had been recorded. Open Days for public viewing of the curtains are held.

2000-2001 NYE Space themed – yes around **2001 A Space Odyssey** New Year's Eve. Also that year locals were successful in obtaining a small grant which allowed the purchase of a portable PA system ...<sup>6</sup> which eventually lead to - see M@TM in the next installment ...

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Interview Mandy Baker July 27 2020



DEANS MARSH COMMUNITY CAROL NIGHT AND BUSH DANCE FRIDAY 14TH DECEMBER Start 7.30 p.m.



TO All Deans Marsh Community Cottage members



You are invited to celebrate Christmas and the end of the school year at the Deans Marsh Hall on Friday 14th December evening. Local groups and clubs, (in fact the whole town!), have been invited to participate in a combined community evening, starting with self catered BBQ (if you wish), singing of Christmas carols, led by the Deans Marsh singers, then a Bush dance with caller to finish the evening.

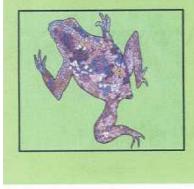
The Primary School will be using the night as their end of year breakup, so the whole family is invited, plus Santa will be in attendance.

If you would like to have any further details, or have suggestions (the format is fairly flexible), please contact the School or the cottage.

> School 52363264 Cottage 52363388 TELL US YOU ARE COMING!!

65. 2001 Deans Marsh Community Cottage and a rather familiar-looking newsletter logo...

# Deans Marsh Community Cottage Inc.



10 Pennyroyal Valley Road, Deans Marsh, Victoria, 3235

PHONE: 52 363 388 FAX: 52 363 227

E-Mail: dmcottage@deansmarsh.org

Website: www.deansmarsh.org

Welcome to this our November community catch ups.....

We look forward to the final months of the year enjoying all our regular happenings in addition to some key events. As you know we have been in the process of hiring a new coordinator and we are pleased to inform you that one has been appointed. We give Helen Hunter (yes another Helen, so it is easier to remember) a warm welcome to our community and hope that she enjoys her experience with the Cottage and the Community of Deans Marsh and surrounds. If you are passing, please drop in and say hello.

#### ACMI Film Night

The film nights have been a great success, with uncertainty that we would be able to continue as ACMI have changed their lending policy. However it appears that we will still be able to continue. We would like to thank Soena Gunn and Paul Smith for their instigation of the Movie Group, and for their ongoing support in this program. These nights have been very enjoyable.

### Childcare

Childcare is continuing to operate every Tuesday to Thursday 9.15am - 12.15pm. The cost is \$10 per child and is supervised by experience staff. Newcomers are welcome to visit and talk with our Childcare Coordinator Saffron Bell. Don't forget that the childcare service will be closed over the xmas school holidays. The last day for term 4 will be Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December and care will resume on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January.

#### Etching Workshop

Local artist Veronica Phillips held an Etching Workshop in the Footy shed. A collage has been created and is being framed for its installation in the Footy shed.

2001 and ongoing Cottage courses and activities included organic gardening, fresco painting, digital photography and a Men's Den.

TE	RM   2001
Tai Chi	Mondays Feb 12 > 6 -7pm
Intro to Computer	s & Internet
	Mondays 12Feb > 7-10pm
After School Activi	ties with Astrid
	Tuesdays 3.30 — 5.30pm
	Thursdays 3.30 - 5.30pm
lible Study	Tuesdays 9.30 am
Playgroup	Tuesdays 9.30-noon
Belly Dancing	Tuesdays 7.30 –9.30pm
Drama Workshop	Wednesdays 7.30 - 9.30pm
Natural Basketry	Wednesday March 21 10 - 3 pm
	Wednesday March 28 10-3 pm
Build a Web Page	Wednesdays Feb 21 > 9-noon
Singing Group	Wednesdays 7.30- 10pm
Victoria Market	Thursday 22 Feb 8.45-5.30
	Thursday 22 March 8 45-5 30

Do Your Own Thing Fridays 1-3.30pm

History Afternoon Sunday 4th March 2.30pm

#### Coming up at the cottage:

I

Whatever you want! All you need to do is let us know what activities/classes you want or need. We'll do our best to get them organised, up and running. It's YOUR Communit Cottage. Music at the Marsh A new and exciting initative for later

Trivia Night Christmas in July! Enjoy a night out testing

your trivia knowledge and feasting. July 28 (more informa tion later, but start organising your team and traing now!) More Classes - Computer (Quicken/Myob, Wordprocessing, Spreadsheets etc), Life Drawing, small machinery maintenance and much much more!

#### LOTS OF INTEREST FOR EVERYONE

After School Activities with Astrid Each Tuesday & Thursday Astrid will run a sesion for kids after school. A variety of ac-tivities to suit a range of ages and interests 3.30-5.30pm Bible Study Meet with other committed people to discuss how the scriptures affect our lives.

Tuesday mornings from 9.30 am. Singing Group Meets each Wednesday evening to practice accapella.

Hall Committee Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at

Red Cross Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 2pm. New members are always welcome. Come and do your bit for the community!

Cottage Committee of Management Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Time as arranged to suit most members.

Victoria Market Take part in a regular trip to the Market, one Thursday each month. Make sure the kids are booked into Astrid's Activity so you can pick them up when you get back! Friday afternoon Do Your Own Thing What unfinished project have you got at the back of the cupbaord? Drag out that jumper, drawing, bedspread, mosaic..(whatever), bring it down to the cottage and spend a bit of time doing your own thing! Time: 1-3.30pm Cost: \$2.00

Playgroup Meet with other parents of young children to share the joys and trials of parenthood while your children engage in play and creative activities. A great way to network and estab-lish new friendships

Date: Tuesdays 9.30-noon Cost: \$2 per family, plus a snack

Walk and Talk The cottage is part of VicFit's Walk and Talk Program. Walkers are urgently required to be activators and to provide inspiration for ideas as to where group walks can be held locally. Watch out for news of interesting walks soon!

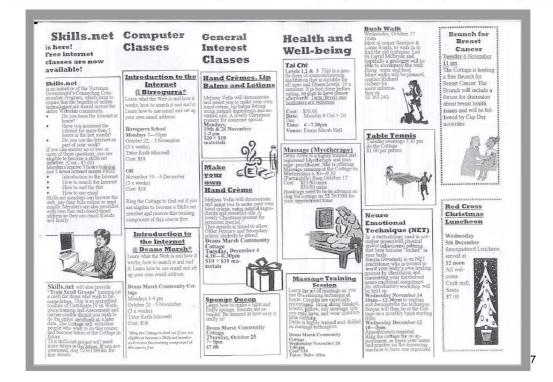
History Afternoon Sunday 4th March The Anglesea histori-cal society is visiting Deans Marsh on to view the Curtains. Come along to join them for an afternoon tea and discuss the history of the Deans Marsh and its Curtains. Cost:\$2.50

Computer Hire and Internet Access Available during office hours or by arrangement Cost: \$3.00 per hour + 15c per page printing



DEANS MARSH

To book a place phone 52363388



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> All Cottage newsletter images copied from Deans Marsh Community Cottage Archives

66. 2001-5 **Music @ the Marsh was the start of something big for the Marsh**. It operated regularly – monthly nine or ten times a year from 2001 to 2005, and with great success. Mandy Baker, a key organiser, reports "We had busloads of people from all over the Surf Coast and Colac Otway – Forrest and Gellibrand and beyond". Music @ the Marsh [M@TM] ran successfully until **Martians** – restaurant, coffee bar, take away and petrol stations – transformed from the former garage - opened and itself embraced music performance as one of its key attractions. **Check medi**a

M@TM evolved not from an existing community group but from a group of music lovers drawn from the community. Despite its *ad hoc* beginnings, the group became 'a proper organisation with structured meetings and careful organisation where each person involved added their skills to the range of tasks: arranging music acts, catering, running the bar, decorating the hall, providing the necessary documentation from state or local government, volunteering on the night .....

Although M@TM events were either gold coin donation or, later, \$4 per adult – kids free; no funding was received to run - apart from an initial small grant which was used to purchase the PA system for the Hall. As popularity grew, M@TM was also able to donate money to the Hall Committee for stage lighting and other needed maintenance.

The first M@TM event was held in conjunction with the local Upper Barwon Landcare Network in 2001. At each event the white board had a prominent place – anyone and everyone could put their names on it and have a go at performing – music of all sorts or even poetry. The money raised on the night paid the main band and the support act but others performed for free. Kids and others came in fancy dress – and a wide range of talented locals performed regularly. Each year there was special Youth Night when bands and solo acts from schools in the wider district came to perform – these ran in conjunction with Surf Coast Council Youth initiatives and therefore there was no bar operating on those nights – [but locals could BYO!]

Most of the M@TM events attracted 100 to 150 people – kids were welcome and so were those who weren't into the music but loved chatting to friends outside around the fire cauldron and having a coffee and cake or occasional BBQ managed by the Community Cottage crew– all home-made by the M@TM team – probably 20 community members who were the core of our efforts. As Mandy Baker puts it 'Music in the Marsh really was a community– wide event – no one was 'in charge' - we all were'.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Mandy Baker interview July 27 2020



# Fun keeps coming at the Music@the Marsh

#### by Mike Robinson-Koss

people behind the scenes hope Marjorie is enjoying the vibe! Showcasing many banks, performers, poars, and dancing troupers in all geners of the musical spectrum, the event especially concentances on performance from the Ocavey region (which is habiling over wirk a tick and varied array of musically arritice people). When the mood arises and the budget

There may be a few reasons acrually transfer to any reason the presenting live music in a couldor table local secting where you can acruate a voltar and voltar and voltar and there you can acruate a voltar and the budge data and voltar and there you can acruate a voltar and the budge data and work and there you can acruate the budge data and work and the budge data and th



Marjarie Lawrence would have to be aniling from her heavenly loft these days if she is tuned into the musical happening: around the town of her birthplace, Denns Marsh. The world formess open singur of the 1930 and 400 is not only renowned for two around into 10

13303 and 40% is not only renowned for her operatic that in all the best open heroses of the world, but is much lowed and remembered in Deans Marsh, where is her youth she took singing and music lessons from local trachers. But why would Marjorie Lawrence be milling upon the lappening down at Deans Marsh? There mus he a few rences arough the Above Michael (Lared) Callatan Above Michael (Lared) Callatan Ison Erflewayer, Meelle Danniel, Bater (forvi), Loure Brown (back), jorie Behavar-koa, Alex James belew 1

Surfcoast People





10

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Deans Marsh Community Cottage archives

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Surf Coast Living April May 2003 p.7 in Deans Marsh Cottage archives





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Colac Herald June18 2004 p.22 see Deans Marsh Cottage archives

66. 2003, 2004 and 2010: **Pizza ovens x 3** The first two pizza ovens were built over summer times as part of community projects auspiced by the Community Cottage and supervised by Rob Phillips; one was later removed due to placement of the new playground area. The third one was built by Rob himself, under the hexagon shelter made with bush posts and locally milled timber, and paid for by the Hall Committee.

67. 2003 **Skate park project completed**. After three years of hard lobbying, frenzied fundraising and great support from the local and wider communities, the local group of parents and kids, determined to have a skate park created on community grounds, celebrated its triumph of cooperation with the Surf Coast Shire staff, the Deans Marsh Hall, the Community Cottage and the community, with the opening of the Deans Marsh skate park on November 2 2003. <sup>13</sup>

After the initial lobbying by locals, the SCSC agreed to match funding dollar for dollar. Energised parents ran raffles, market stalls and persuaded a host of sponsors from Lorne, Colac, and Winchelsea as well as local businesses to make this dream come true. A total of \$9000 was raised and matched by SCSC, and then the team of skate park designers came to work.

The building team too were supported by the Deans Marsh community, as they worked in the bleak winter weather, with many coffees and cakes provided by grateful locals. In the end it was a combined effort with community, Council and the designers themselves all contributing to make our Deans Marsh skate park bigger and better than the actual funds raised!<sup>14</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Deans Marsh Cottage archives

<sup>13</sup> Personal communication Patricia Dressel

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Phone interview Patricia Dressell August 15 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Deans Marsh Community Cottage archive

68. 2003 FOOTY SHED RESTORATION In 2002 after preparation of a Deans Marsh Memorial Park Master Plan, the SCSC Council wanted to demolish the Shed but met with stiff and energetic opposition from community members and the Deans Marsh Community Cottage. The submission for restoration of the Shed to Heritage Victoria by those groups under the umbrella of the Deans Marsh Football Pavillion Action Group was noted as the best submission it had ever received.

**Pavilion sparks small town fight** 

#### NICOLE MAYNE

1 BATTLE is brewing over the possible demoliton of the historic Deans Mash football pavilion.

The Surf Coast Shire will vote tonight on whether to knock down the dilapidated 1929 structure at Deans Marsh Recreation Reserve.

Officers have recommended council approve demolition of the old pavilion, but local residents yesterday vowed to fight to preserve the building.

Deans Marsh architect

2003

292

had attracted 80 signatures.

"It is the original building that was built on the site and for that reason alone I think it's worth trying to preserve," Ms Gunn said. "It also has strong mem-

ories for the community from when they used to play there. "If it is demolished it

will have enormous impact on the look of the oval." The building is ident-

ified in the Surf Coast Deans Marsh architect Heritage Study as being of existing building would be chained to the Seona Gunn said a petition local significance, but is photographed before posts," she said.

in favour of reconstruction not included in a heritage demolition for potential overlay.

> A recent building surveyor's report found the pavilion was not suitable for occupation, with damaged asbestos wall sheeting, decaying floors, lack of support structure under external walls and evidence of termites.

The council report estimates it would cost more \$100,000 to retain and reconstruct the pavilion.

Under the recommendation to the council, the

GEELONG ADVERTISER THESDAY

### replication in the future. But Ms Gunn said the

community had received pledges from people to restore the shelter to its former glory.

She has offered to use her architecture skills 10 develop drawings with heritage advisers and local builders have volunteered.

Ms Gunn, who has contacted Heritage Victoria about the possibility of funding, hopes the council will defer its decision.

"If not, we will be there chained to the veranda

6th MAY 2003

# **Rebuild call** for historic pavilion

A Surf Coast Shire Council heritage adviser has urged the council to rebuild a dilapidated football pavilion at Deans Marsh.

Dr David Rowe performed a heritage assessment at the pavilion and recommended the council replace "deteriorated building fabric"

A council meeting this week postponed a decision about the pavilion's future for three months and agreed to restrict access to the building for public health and safety.

A municipal building surveyor's report revealed the building

AN action group is being formed to help save the his toric football pavilion at the Deans Marsh recreation reserve.

pavilion

The group is being set up under the auspices of the Deans Marsh Community Cottage but will operate independently, and will submit a report to the Surf Coast Shire on options for the building before the end of August.

**Deans Marsh** 

wins backers

Earlier this month, the shire council voted against demolishing the 1920s-era building. which is in poor condition, in favour of further public consultation.

Councillors gave pavilion supporters three months to come up with an alternative to demolition, along with sources of funding for renovations.

Community cottage committee secretary Paul Smith said about 22 people met last week to form the action group and also to discuss future uses for the pavilion.

He said several local artists planned to run a raffle of artwork to aid the restoration While the Footy shed was experiencing its community-led rebirth, the Cricket Club Pavillion - named in honour of long-time President Colin Smith - was also benefitting from a makeover. Local builder Brook Smith created the wet area and bar, created a concrete patio in front and added a verandah roof doubling the usable space of the facility. The new improved Cricket Club house - now much loved and used by the community - was opened in 2005 during Tom Reid's first reign as President [2004-5].<sup>16</sup>

69. 2003 The Untitled Chronicles a community newsletter editted by Paul Smith and supported by the DM Community Cottage had at least 3 editions in June July and August. Was this the start of what is now The Croaker? Details please from those who remember! <sup>17</sup>

2004 February 13 The Victorian Planning Minister announced that the state government would provide \$77,200 towards the rebuilding of the Deans Marsh Football Pavillion.<sup>18</sup>



project. Ms Gunn ct showe said the

Deans Marsh. "A lot of community history surrounds the Memorial Park and oval and the pavilion and the football team," she

19

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Tom Reid interview May 8 2023

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> The Untitled Chronicles no.3 August 2003 see Cottage Archives

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Victorian Heritage Program Funded projects 2003-4 p.9 of 31 see Cottage Archives.

70. 2005 **Farmers Markets and other markets** organised and run by Community Cottage: a Deans Marsh Markets committee operating under the auspices on the Community Cottage 2002-3 Former two-time Cottage coordinator Baiba Lowther 'remembers her days at the Cottage: 'Some things don't change – we as a community we have always done thing ourselves it seems - from Hall Committee to the Deans Marsh Progress Association to the Community Cottage - now it was interesting working with the Shire and getting them to be supportive instead of opposing everything.'

71. 2006 **Frog Mosaic** created during the Deans Marsh Festival by a team of local artists, lead by Veronica Phillips using locally-found objects – funded by the SCSC.

2007 January 25 [see  ${\bf 68}$  above] Reopening of the beautifully restored Football Pavillion.  $^{\rm 20}$ 



72. 2008 Deans Marsh Sheepdog Trials begin formally.<sup>21</sup>

**The Deans Marsh Sheepdog trials** began in 2006 with a one-day demonstration event. In 2007 rain and flooding marred the event, but by 2008 the Deans Marsh Trials had been included formally into the Victorian Trials Schedule and were official. A film made in 2008 introduces us to key officials, experienced triallers and the Deans Marsh initiators and organisers, Mark

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> **Colac Herald** February 16 2004 page unknown Deans Marsh Community Cottage archive

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> See Deans Marsh Community Cottage archives for a DVD of photos of the day.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> See Lisa Jarvis DVD film of 2008 Sheep Dog Trials. Deans Marsh community ar chives.

Fagan and Jill Stewart. Originally held in November, the Deans Marsh Trials are now held in January – less flooding, but alas potential heatstroke!

73. 2008 **Footy Shed Fish mosaic** created by community members after a workshop conducted by Veronica Phillips and funded by a SCSC Small Grant auspiced by the Community Cottage.

74. 2008-9-10 Maternal Health Clinics started around 2008.