To all those who work to support the Guim Tales.

- Lorraine, the postie, for delivering our Tales
- Margaret, for the copying
- Julie, for folding
- Helen, for back-up and collection of articles

And finally to all of you for reading our Tales.

Leader newspapers will no longer be delivered to your letterbox because the postie no longer holds the contract.

Hall Twilight Working Bee
Saturday January 16th
From 4pm

Followed by BBQ tea

We didn’t get through all the jobs to be done at the Spring working bee so we invite you to another followed by a community meal.

Please bring along any gardening tools that you think would be useful. We will be moving mulch, weeding, repairing some carpark bollards

We look forward to seeing you there.

Darraweit Guim War Memorial Hall
Annual Sale of Gifts
Saturday 14th May
Happy Birthday in January to
Holly Findlay 1st
Zara Lutter 6th
Emily Cruickshank 17th
Tommy Tobin 27th
Bradley Beaton 30th

Bookclub
Wednesday January 20
10:00am

The next book is a monster, so you have until February to read it: The Sunne in Splendour, a historical novel written by Sharon Kay Penman. So keen on the concept of Richard the 3rd she wrote the whole book twice, (after the first version was stolen from her car!)

Come along this month and talk about how you are going with it, or maybe chat about this and that, and maybe you could come along just to suggest a book we may try next time? . Come along to the tennis club and, if nothing else, have a cup of tea!

Heatwave help at hand

Council, in conjunction with five other regional Victorian councils, have developed a practical website designed to assist central Victorian residents prepare themselves and their homes to beat extreme heat.

The Heatwave Help website, which can be found online at heatwavehelp.com.au features information on:

- Keeping yourself cool – drink water, dress for the weather, go somewhere cool, stay in the shade, reduce physical activity, look after your pets, go shopping before it gets too hot, call 000 when you’re not feeling well
- Better managing your home – homes heat up for a number of reasons and these reasons may vary according to the direction your home faces. Keep windows and blinds closed until it cools down outside, reduce drafts, zone off areas.
- Improving your home – small improvements to your home can make a big difference to the temperature. Windows are one of the biggest sources of heat gain. Put external blinds on your sunniest windows, draught seal gaps and cracks and ensure there are thick curtains on windows.

The Heatwave Help Project was funded by the Adapting to Change – climate change adaptation project, in partnership with the Victorian Government and five other regional councils.
Upper Maribyrnong Catchment Group
Landcare Fire Recovery Project Wins Award

The Upper Maribyrnong Catchment (Landcare) Group was awarded a Community Fire Recovery Award at the 2015 Fire Awareness Awards that were announced in Melbourne in early December. The Landcare group was recognised for its work assisting landholders’ with their fire recovery efforts after the 2014 Kilmore-Mickleham fires.

The Upper Maribyrnong Catchment Group and South West Goulburn Landcare Network got together within a week of the fires being under control to plan Landcare’s recovery process.

The Landcare group and network worked closely with staff from the then Department of Environment and Primary Industries to organise a series of fire recovery workshops. The thirst for knowledge about the fire recovery process among landholders was huge after the 2014 fires. Landholders wanted to know what to do, as well as how and when to do it, and what they could expect or should look out for through the recovery process. As a result, a significant component of the Landcare fire recovery work in 2014 involved the provision of public education for landholders, which included the organisation of 16 workshops, field days and courses on a variety of fire recovery topics, such as: care of soils, protecting waterways and farm water supplies, fencing, managing livestock after fire, pasture recovery, weed management, and revegetation. These workshops were attended by almost 500 people. Some landholders could not get enough knowledge about fire recovery, attending every workshop and field day! The fire recovery workshops received in-kind support through the provision of workshop venues by Darraweit Guim Hall Committee, Mitchell Shire, and Wallan Neighbourhood House.

The Landcare group also secured a grant to undertake gorse control work on nine properties along Stockdale Road. The previously dense areas of gorse on these properties could be sprayed in a much more cost effective manner post fires, as it was gorse germinants rather than whole bushes that required spraying.

A concerted effort was also made after the 2014 fires to provide information on fire recovery in a variety of formats for the community. This included the creation of “Fire Recovery Resources for Landholders” webpages on the Victorian Landcare Gateway, setting up a facebook page on the fire recovery, re-printing a booklet on weed control on small farms, and the South West Goulburn Landcare Network developing a series of Landcare Fire Recovery Information Notes on topics such as weed and erosion control after fires.

Close collaboration, use of networks and local knowledge, and applying the lessons from the 2009 Black Saturday fires were imperative for the success the Landcare fire recovery efforts in 2014.

The judges of the 2015 Fire Awareness Awards when making their recommendation noted that the Upper Maribyrnong Catchment Group’s fire recovery project had “demonstrated great community outcomes and was really forward thinking in its delivery”.

The Upper Maribyrnong Catchment Group was represented at the 2015 Fire Awareness Awards ceremony by Grant Godden (Landcare Facilitator), Marg Pike (Chairperson) and John Robinson (Committee).
What the donations are for

The red line is creeping up on the donation meter. Just as well, because look what arrived for Christmas!

Yes, it looks just like the old one, just a bit shinier, but this one will be around longer than the old, we hope! We’d really like to keep it, so any support you can give this marvellous resource would be lovely.

In the meantime, we hope Santa came through for you, and we all have a happy and extremely calm and quiet 2016.