



We see lots of clouds around here.

Our flat land, coastal horizons and low forests make them readily visible, in the wide sky. There is so much drama – towering storms, luscious cumulus, cheeky streaks. They're always changing, dashing to the horizon, punctuating the blue.

Renowned artists like John Constable and J. M.W. Turner became famous for depicting clouds, in amongst other things. Islanders just have to look outdoors.

As they named Kylie Minogue's old place, 'Beau Ciel' (beautiful sky).

Look up and live.

Welcome to **Off-the-Grid** #3.

# Hot Tips

Planning on a lot of propagating but keep running out of seed trays. Here's a good idea that is so damn obvious, I wish I'd thought of it myself. Recycle plastic containers. These purple ones once contained pork fillets. To make drainage holes in the bottom, heat the tip of a long metal skewer, in your gas flame (2-3 seconds) then poke about a dozen holes in each tray. Bingo. Tray tip courtesy of **French Island Landcare**.

**Safety Warning:** Fire is dangerous. If your fingers get burnt doing this, it's probably time to move back to the mainland.



These are baby lettuces. In a few weeks they will be for sale at the general store, on the Landcare table. It's part of their range of handy vegie seedlings, available for home gardeners. Check it out.

## Credit where it's due

It was starting to get quite dodgy up Coast Road. The potholes were savage and a deep puddle near Linley Swamp was literally drowning engines.

You could waste your whole life whingeing about the roads, but not in this case. As he has done for many years, Ian Jeremiah got out his tractor and did a lot of grading and smudging, getting the road back into drivable condition. No fuss, just got it done. A dozen families/households live along Coast Road - great work Ian.

The puddle remains a bigger issue.



## Gentleman Jimmy

If you took the whole population of Victoria, removed all the “normal” people, who would be left?

And how many of them live on French Island? Some days it feels... umm....

One of the good things about this place is the diverse mix. Difference is healthy, in nature and in life, essential for survival.

Off the Grid pays tribute to our diverse characters. Today it's Jimmy Dalton, local legend and good neighbour to all. Thanks Jimmy, those eyes have seen a lot.

This portrait was painted by Alison Pathirana, daughter of Maurice and Glenys Ralph. We think she nailed it.



## One Last Thing

I was chatting on the ferry, to a fellow islander, who said they have no good news to share in the newsletter, because everything is too miserable these days. This is not OK.

Let's help her. Do you have a positive idea, a story, a picture, a recipe, some community information, something you did, or someone else? It doesn't have to be mind-blowing, just 'good' news. The more people, the more stories, the better.

**Off-the-Grid** is an unaffiliated, unconstrained publication – every the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. If you, or someone you know, likes it, send your name to [New Subscriber](#).

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In the meantime...



Photo: Terry Martin 2020

Suddenly days are longer  
daylight savings magic  
Be what we want  
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