



JACKAROO 4WD CLUB

VICTORIA'S PREMIER ALL MAKE 4WD TOURING CLUB



The Newsletter

Unfortunately, the restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic continue and the normal activities of the Club continue to be put on hold for the moment.

It makes the task of producing a Newsletter that little bit harder. But thankfully, Graeme Mitchell, Jan Martin and Ian Blainey have come forward with items.

Ian found a veteran Jackaroo outside Bunnings (where else!) and forwarded a photo of same. It graces the cover this month.

Jan sent in her reminiscences of our annual Murray River camps, which would normally have been held last month. (see page 7)

It prompted me to check what we did ten years ago and I found the Club had a trip to Lake Elizabeth in June 2010. So as a reminiscence, the trip report from that trip is reproduced on page 13.

This Newsletter therefore, is a bit of a nostalgia trip. No doubt as you peruse the pages, memories will come flooding back, particularly of members past and present.

Graeme has not been idle through the isolation and has submitted a couple of articles on how he has not wasted the time. Graeme, your imagination and skill are something I can only admire, as it is way beyond my capabilities. (See page 4).

Meanwhile, as mentioned, the Club is temporarily in limbo and therefore there are no trip reports, or advice of future trips, coming up.

So I am again asking for contributions from members for next month's Newsletter. Don't be shy. Look what Ian, Graeme and Jan have done.

I have just received a note to say your committee is meeting next Wednesday (June 17) to consider our future activity. No doubt, Chris will advise you of the outcome of that meeting in due course.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

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President's Report



I trust that you are all well, healthy and looking forward to when we can all be together again.

First of all, I would like to congratulate David for his term as President and to the committee who supported him. Special mention should be made of Chris, our Secretary and Harry, our editir, for the exemplary way they have carried out their duties.

As you are aware, this year's Annual General Meeting was held by electronic means due to the limitations imposed by the coronavirus rules. This has resulted in myself being elected as President and I thank you for your support.

The committee has largely the same members with shuffling of some roles. John Smith has stepped into the role of 4WD Vic representative. We look forward to your continued support as we navigate our way back to normality.

In these strange times if isolation, it is interesting to reflect on what our club means to each of us. For most of us, I guess it is the social interaction, the regular trips, the experience of tackling new territory and appreciating our country with all its blemishes. If you have any concerns, or suggestions, on how we can improve, please let me know.

Many of us appreciate the regular outings, such as the Little Desert wildflowers, Murray River camp, Mallacoota week, Eater Tri-States, Redcastle clean up and Christmas party activities. Not to mention the more extended trips into the High Country, deserts to our north and further afield.

However, we do need more activities. They can be social, day trips, weekenders, or extended travel. If you have a yearning to travel somewhere, or revisit a favourite area from the past, please let us know. We will assist you with planning and leading a trip if required, or find someone else to step in. Just let our Trip Coordinator, Brad Riddington, know of your thoughts.

As you have probably learnt, our annual fees have been REDUCED to \$75.00 for 2020/2021. This is mainly due to the reduced cost of providing our monthly Newsletter by email rather than by printing and posting.

But, we do need to provide 4WD Victoria with a list of members prior to the commencement of the new financial year. This will ensure your insurance cover is maintained. To this end, we need your subscription renewals by mid June, so that we can collate the details and forward to 4WD Victoria before 30th June.

A big thank you to those members who have renewed their membership. I would encourage those who have not yet done so, to please do so in the near future. And don't forget to complete and return the membership form forwarded to you by email recently. Contact our Membership Officer, Cleve Warring, if you have any queries.

Let's hope it s not too long before we can gather safely at our monthly meetings and enjoy club trips. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy.

Rod Tamblyn

Coping with Isolation

How are you handling the isolation rules? Particularly, what did you do over Easter for those of you, like me, who would normally have been at a Tri-State event?

Share your activities with the rest of us, with photos if possible, for next month's Newsletter.

Meanwhile ...

What's happening in the Garage

Confined to the house and not permitted to go shopping for a birthday present for our grandson, I was given the task of making something, only using what was in the garage.

After much thought, I decided to make a garage for his toy cars.

The garage consisted of a box made of pine, with a ply wood bottom and an upper level made of ply.



is also a petrol pump and compressor.



The garage is painted with left over paint.

The upper level has black wall buffers made of icy pole sticks and white curbs.

Access to the upper level is via a car lift which is manually operated. The ground floor has a drawbridge style main entry, with a ramp leading to the car lift.

Behind the car lift is a substation, which holds a battery pack used to power the garage lighting on the lower level. There

We will take the present over to his place on his birthday and leave it on the porch. Hopefully, he will enjoy it.

Graeme Mitchell

More Activity in the Garage

I have been on a very short lead and shopping is out of the question. Our sons have birthdays coming up so I got to thinking what I could make in the garage from what I had on hand.

Alan Dash had brought back a piece of timber from Hillston when he was up there before Christmas. I had asked him to bring me back a piece so I could make a hat rack.

But the piece was not quite big enough so I decided to make two platters out of it.

Step 1 - Cut the log in half

I decided to use a chain saw to cut the log. I started with the electric chain saw and only got about halfway through when the saw went blunt.

I had to finish the job with the noisy petrol saw. This created another job. Before going any further I had two saws to sharpen

Step 2 - Get a flat surface



With the log now cut in half, I decided to finish one platter at a time. I did not want to stuff up both pieces of timber.

I had managed to cut the log reasonably straight, so out came the electric plane to flatten out the timber.

This was to be the top side and after some work, ended up with a nice flat surface. I then gave the surface a rough sand.



Step 3 - Form the feet

The feet were marked out and cut using a sliding compound saw. The depth was set to the required thickness and multiple cuts made along the timber.



The excess was removed using a chisel and mallet. I set the saw at a 30° angle to

shape the legs and then a sander was used to clean up.

Step 4 - Sanding and finishing

The initial sanding was done using 80 grit sand paper and then 120 grit paper to get a smooth finish.

Next the wood was cleaned with compressed air and the larger cracks and imperfections cleaned out ready for filling.



The small cracks were filled using ultra clear E-poxy glue. The larger areas were filled with the same glue, but with a small amount of wood dust mixed in. This was allowed to set overnight.

With the glue set, it was time for the final sanding. First 120 grit sand paper was used to remove the excess glue. Then 180 grit, followed by 240 grit sand paper.



The final sanding was done in the direction of the wood grain for a better finish.

After the sanding, the wood was cleaned and then wiped down with a damp cloth. It was left to dry. If not, the wood fibres swell up and the surface will no longer be smooth.

The final sand was done with steel wool, again rubbed in the direction of the grain. The steel wool polishes the wood and brings out the different colours in the grain.

Step 5 - Oiling the wood

The wood was now ready for a finishing coat of oil. The oil I used was “orange oil”. This oil is recommended for chopping boards and platters. It has a slight orange tinge and highlights the grain of the timber.

The oil is best used warm and rubbed in thoroughly using a smooth linen cloth. For best results, several coats may be required.

The platter was left for a few days and any oil on the surface was wiped off. So one down and one to go. It sounds easy, but it takes quite a lot of time and patience.



To clean a platter like this, wipe it down with a damp cloth. Do not immerse in water. To maintain the finish, reapply the oil when required.

Graeme Mitchell

Reminiscences of Murray River Beach Camps



Jan Martin reminisces:

It's a rainy, cold Saturday in early May 2020 and I'm writing this in Covid 19 Stay at Home mode.

But I'm thinking that, for the last 16+ years, I would normally be sitting on a river bank on the Murray River at Backhouse Beach with the Jackaroo Club.

Well, maybe this would not have been such a good weekend, what with the freezing weather!

No, I remind myself. Even when it's 10° max in Melbourne, it can be sunny and 10° warmer up on the Murray. I'm missing it.

How did the annual trek to the Murray River, near Cobram/Barooga start?

Long before we joined the Jackaroo Club, we used to camp on the river annually. Our first camp was more than 30 years ago.

In those days, I used to fly light aircraft and was part owner of a Piper Cherokee 180hp single engine plane.

I had a friend who was a keen glider pilot. I'd never been in a glider, preferring a good engine up the front of a plane.

But Geoff persuaded me to try it and said the best place to go was Tocumwal, an internationally renowned gliding centre and home of the National Championships.

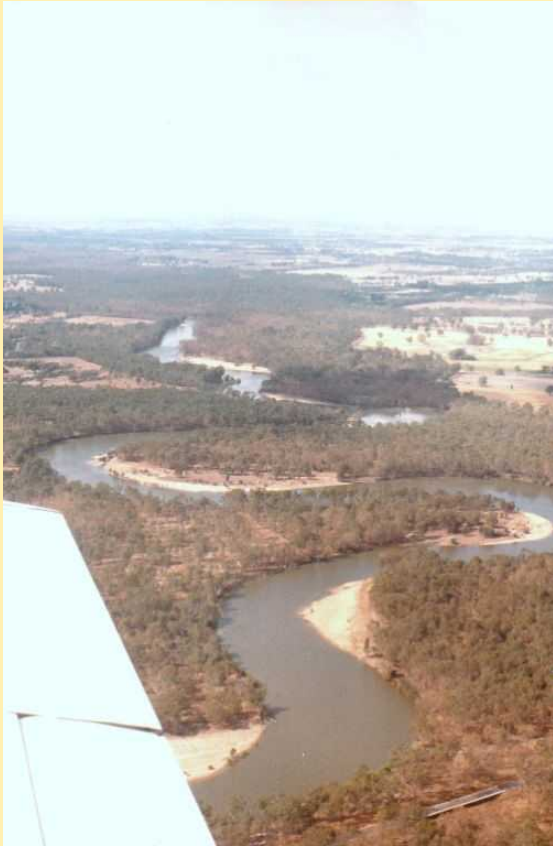
So, in 1986, we took off from Lilydale airfield and I flew up to Tocumwal.

I tried gliding. It was not a success. I thought it would be quiet and peaceful, but the wind made it very noisy.

I didn't appreciate that you need to fly round and round in ever decreasing circles, looking for thermals to climb on.

It was hot and bumpy. There is no shade under the Perspex bubble and I barely managed to hold my lunch.

After a suitable rest and a cuppa, we took off for home, heading south over the Murray River.



Looking down on it from 2,000 feet, I could see that every bend had a beautiful sandy beach. I circled around while Michael took some photographs.

Back home, I said to some camping friends "That looks like a perfect place to camp".

So, we packed the tent and drove to Cobram. Using a couple of ancient army survey charts, we searched for good beaches.

The first ones we tried were upstream of Cobram at Cobrawonga. We camped there a couple of times in the 1980s.

Later, we crossed over the bridge to NSW and tried camping upstream of Barooga. The Barooga town beach has good sand and a lovely setting, but gets very crowded.

Then we discovered a locally printed map marking all the river beaches. So we explored further upstream and

eventually found the Cottadidda State Forest as it was then.

There were several beaches to choose from, but Backhouse Beach ticked all the boxes.



It is a short drive into the forest, but long enough not to attract crowds, outside of school holidays.



It is a long beach, with plenty of room, with a spacious camping area



that is not under the red river gums, thus avoiding the real danger of falling limbs.

There is plenty of fallen timber in the surrounding forest for campfires. Best of all, despite being on the NSW side of the river, it faces north west and is sunny from mid-morning to sunset.

We have only a few photographs of most years we camped there with friends in the late 1980s into the 1990s. Our old yellow Terka tent and early model Subaru L Series wagon are featured, plus our rather battered second hand canoe.



We found a prize for canoeists. Righty opposite Backhouse Beach is an inconspicuous inlet. It looks like a short dead end, but actually leads through a winding channel into a huge lagoon called Chinaman's Lagoon.

You can paddle for hours in still waters with lots of waterbirds for company. If the water levels are high, you can rejoin the river many kilometres upstream and drift back down with the current.

Following the purchase of our Jackaroo in 1998, we joined the Jackaroo Club in 2000. A year, or so, later, there was a request from Colin Ritchie, the Trip Coordinator, for new trips.

We volunteered to run a Murray River Beach Camp, timed for the end of April, or beginning of May when the fire restriction season ends up there.

The first Jackaroo Club camp was in 2004. There were 24 people, including 9 children, two canoes, two kayaks and a tinnie.



At that first camp, most people were in tents, although the Ritchies and the Martins had camper trailers.



John and Carol Remkivicus towing a tinnie, got bogged trying to get onto the beach at sunset and had to be snatched out.

Greg and Noelene Moore were the camp oven experts and taught us all the finer points.

River red gum is a prime campfire material. In the early camps, we could collect off-cuts from railway sleepers, which were being sawn in the Cot-tadidda State Forest.

Gathering firewood became an annual first day task and Saturday evening



camp oven cookouts a tradition. There is a great series of photos in 2008 of a five oven trench being tended by master camping cooks.



The Club has been visiting annually for 15 years now. We love the "thong tree", which marks the entrance to Backhouse Beach.



As the years have passed, the photos reveal less tents, a move into camper trailers, then caravans. Tvans have been popular as well. The caravans have got bigger each year.



Activities include canoeing, bushwalking, fishing and just sitting in the sun. Mostly it has been lazy long weekends.

The flowing water, the sandy beach, the flocks of noisy cockatoos, the bright stars at night and the beautiful, majestic river red gums, encourage people to just sit and relax.

I hope we'll be back there next year.



The State Forest has since become part of the Murray Valley National Park.



Memories of Backhouse Beach

Around the campfire



Memories of Backhouse Beach

The Camp Oven Cookout



Trip to Lake Elizabeth

15th May 2010



Rick Farlow reports:

Participants:

Harry & Jill Richards (Trip Leader)
Greg & Noelene Moore
Michael & Jan Martin
Helen & Rocky Tompkins
Wayne & Christine Scholes
Mike & Anita Pavey
Chris & Helen Rogers
Rick & Glenda Farlow

We set off early Saturday morning, with the weather promising a fine day by mid morning.

It was our first time on the Geelong Bypass and I was quite impressed until we got to the end of it.

Harry's notes told us to turn left at the roundabout to get to the Anglesea Road, but due to road works, we were directed to go straight on, which would take us to anywhere but Anglesea.

After a tour of country back roads, etc., we finally got back on to the Anglesea Road.

This of course, made us late. I then realised that the road had been blocked to make sure I would be last and therefore have to write the trip report.

Others in the group had arrived the day prior to ensure they would not be last!

We set off from the Anglesea Hotel car park to the Alcoa Coal Mine and stopped for a view. The brown coal from the mine is used to supply power to the aluminium smelter at Point Henry, near Geelong.



From there we headed up Messmate Track, which had been made easier by the grader, as it was now a bypass to the main road, as the road around the mine was closed for road work.

The bush was ablaze with local wattle, banksias and heath.

At the top of Messmate Track, we stopped to take in the view back towards the mine and the valley beyond.

It was also an opportunity to photograph the wild flowers. We then headed back on to the main road, then turned on to Distillery Creek Road towards Aireys Inlet.

The sun was shining and the air was thick with the scent of eucalyptus.

On then to Gentle Annie Track. Apparently this track can sometimes prove difficult, but today was not too bad.

It ranged from sandy loam, some rocks and small bog holes.

Once over the crest (427m above sea level), we had views back over Aireys Inlet and the coast.

Grass trees started to give way to ferns as we got deeper into the rain forest.

At Seaview Road, we stopped to let those who needed to unlock hubs to do so.

Soon we were on the black top (Deans Marsh/Lorne Road) heading for Big Hill camping ground for morning tea.

Helen and Rocky produced a lovely chocolate cake which Helen had whipped up the previous night.

We were still about 30kms from Lake Elizabeth when we took the Mt Sabine Road, a smooth forest road.

However, after recent rains, one had to be careful approaching bends. We were starting to get mud over the vehicles.

We arrived at Lake Elizabeth about 12.45pm, via Klangalang Road and decided to take the thirty minute walk to the lake before lunch.



The walk to the lake was surrounded by tall trees and beautiful fern glades.

Many of us knew nothing of Lake Elizabeth before Harry told us.

The lake was created in 1952 when, after substantial rainfall, a hillside collapsed sending thousands of tonnes of rock and earth into the East Barwon River.

The landslide dammed the river and thus the lake was formed.

On arrival at the lake, we found it as calm as a mill pond, with lots of trunks of dead trees, drowned when the valley was flooded.



The lake is home to platypus and you can join either an early morning, or late afternoon, canoe tour to view them. The weather remained kind to us as we



had lunch in a lovely glade surrounded by the rain forest.

About 2.30pm, we headed off to retrace our steps back to the Big Hill camping ground and then took the Big Hill Track back down to the coast.

As we descended, gaps in the trees provided us with views of Loutit Bay and Lorne.

Once back on the Great Ocean Road, we proceeded through the surf stops of Eastern View, Moggs Creek and Fairhaven, before finally stopping at the Split Point Lighthouse at Aireys Creek.

At a small café, we enjoyed afternoon tea in the late afternoon sunshine.

After our break, we stopped at the Bark Hut in Aireys Inlet. This is a replica of a hut built by one of the early settlers. The original hut was burnt in the 1983 Ash Wednesday bush fires.

Harry said he had kept the best two tracks for last, but decided it would be too dark to attempt them. They can

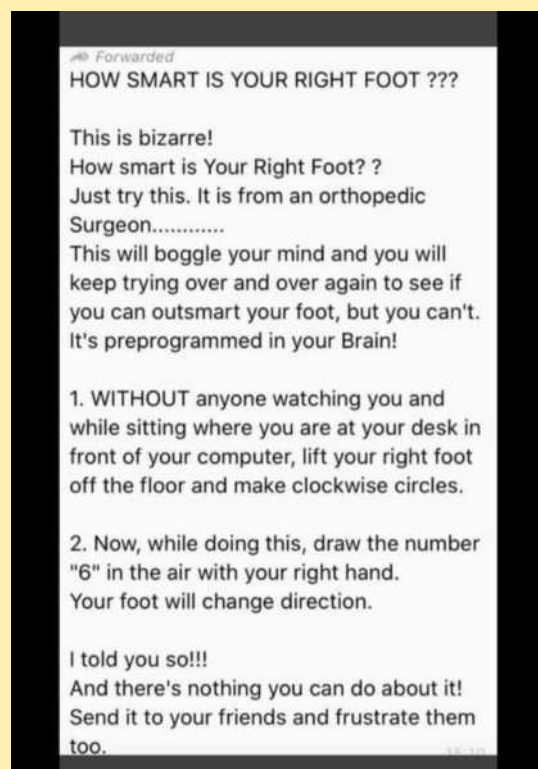


keep for another day.

With the light fading fast, we headed back to Harry and Jill's holiday house, passing the golf course where we saw the kangaroos for which the golf course is well known.

Animal lovers would always have an excuse for hooking their ball. The Richards provided a BBQ with enough meat to feed the whole club and, with other food supplied by the group, we were well catered for.

Many thanks to Harry and Jill for a most enjoyable trip and their hospitality.



Song lyrics

Last month I printed the lyrics of an amusing song of the 1960s, Right Said Fred. About the same time, a song by the Irish group The Corrs, also gained popularity. It is printed below.

The Bricklayer's Song

*Dear Sir, I write this note to you to tell you of my plight
For at the time of writing it, I'm not a pretty sight.
My body is all black and blue, my face a deathly grey
And I write this note to say why I'm not at work today.*

*Whilst working on the 14th floor, some bricks I had to clear
But tossing them down from such a height, was not a good idea.
The foreman wasn't very pleased, he is an awkward sod
And he said I had to cart them down the ladders in me hod.*

*Now clearing all these bricks by hand, it was very slow
So I hoisted up a barrel and secured a rope below.
But in me haste to do the job, I was too blind to see
That a barrel full of building bricks was heavier than me.*

*And so when I untied the rope, the barrel fell like lead
And clinging tightly to the rope. I started up instead.
I shot up like a rocket and to my dismay I found
That halfway up I met the bloody barrel coming down.*

*Well, the barrel broke my shoulder as to the ground it sped
And when I reached the top, I banged the pulley with my head.
But I clung on tightly, numb with shock from this almighty blow
While the barrel spilled out half its bricks, some 14 floors below.*

*Well, when these bricks had fallen from the barrel to the floor,
I then outweighed the barrel and so started down once more.
As I clung on tightly to the rope, my body wracked with pain
And halfway down I met the bloody barrel once again.*

*Now the force of this collision halfway down the office block
Caused multiple abrasions and a nasty case of shock.
But I clung on tightly to the rope as I fell towards the ground
And I landed on the broken bricks, the barrel had scattered round.*

*Now as I lay there on the ground, I thought I'd passed the worst,
But the barrel hit the pulley wheel and then the bottom burst.
A shower of bricks rained down on me, I didn't have a hope,
As I lay there bleeding on the ground, I let go the bloody rope.*

*The barrel now being heavier, so started down once more,
It landed right across me as I lay there on the floor.
It broke three ribs and my left arm and I can only say,
I hope you'll understand, why I am not at work today.*

Jackaroo Club Equipment List

This equipment is available for loan to members for trips they may be undertaking, although participants in official club trips will have precedence if any items are required there.

Initial requests for borrowing should be made to the Property Officer.
Mark Eames on 0401998172 or email eamesm@tpg.com.au

Communications

Sat phone "Thuraya" Phone 0405470020 Include log book and compass

Calls made to the Sat Phone will be charged to the caller at international Rates.

TX4200 in car SB (40 Channels)

Serial# 90557626

The unit power via the car 12Volt cigarette plug. The antenna has a magnetic base which can be place on the car metal surfaces.

2 x Handheld ICOM IC40Jr (40 Channels)

Serial# 02482, 02483

Take 3 AAA's batteries which are not supplied

2 x handheld Uniden 0.5 watt (40 Channels)

Serial# 26055023, 26055030

Recovery Equipment

Recovery Kit No.1

Snatch strap, winch strap, snatch block, 2 Shackles and gloves

Recovery Kit No.2

as above, plus drag chain

Hand winch

Tirfor T516 and cable on reel *

Ground anchor

3 different size anchors, 1 baseplate and 1 handle

Exhaust jack

Drag chain

Tyre pliers and rubber mallet

Blue Tongue air compressor

This unit has twin cylinders

2 sets of 2 Max Trax recovery slides

Other Equipment

Club Banner

Rectangular

Marquee

This has a Peters ice-cream logo and the Jackaroo club logo.

This comes with poles, ropes and pegs

Display boards

Jackaroo BBQ and 4.5 Kg gas bottle

NATMAP 1:2500,000 scale maps of Australia DVD

The DVD is in the Club Library

2 Jackaroo club banner flags (From Clunes) One of these flags is at the Club rooms.

Hillbilly fire dish

potable camping fire pit.

Medical Gear

First Aid kit (Large tool box created from the Clunes Tri-state)

Defibtech - Defibrillator

Tail End ...



**I despise people who
flaunt their wealth**

Day 7 of the quarantine
My wife took up gardening but won't
tell what she's going to plant



This is Wilson. He is now
working from home 😊



**IF YOU SEE THIS BIN FLOATING, YOU HAVE
BEEN INSIDE FOR TOO LONG. IT'S JUST A
WET SPOT ON THE PAVEMENT**

**Does anyone
know if we can
take showers yet
or should we just
keep washing
our hands ??**