



# **JACKAROO 4WD CLUB**

**VICTORIA'S PREMIER ALL MAKE 4WD TOURING CLUB**

**MAY 2020**



# The Newsletter

Unfortunately, due to the restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic, the Club has pretty much closed down.

Nevertheless, I feel it is important to maintain some contact with members, hence this Newsletter.

With no club activity to report on, I've had to resort to finding articles which I hope members will find interesting. I would love to have your feedback.

I'm hoping members will send me content such as past trips you have done, or other items you think will be of interest to other members. Please send them in.

Even if we can't do anything else for the time being, let's see if we can at least keep the Newsletter going.

Over to you.

## Front Cover

This is the Anglesea Sun Orchid, which is found in the Anglesea Heath and nowhere else.

See page 4, for more details.



"I know I'm not supposed to interfere, but how's the dog going to climb through that?"

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# 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 ...



turns out my top 3 hobbies are:

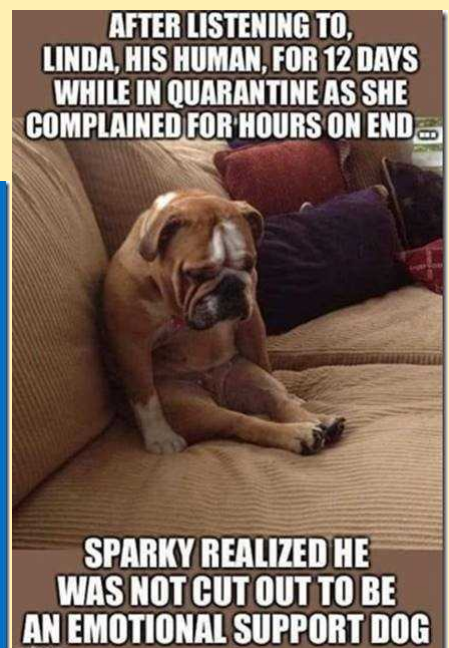
1. eating at restaurants
2. going to nonessential businesses
3. touching my face

**Hormel made their first batch of SPAM in 1937. The company has just announced that due to hoarding by consumers, they are going to make a second batch.**

**All those grandparents who are missing their grand kids right now. Once this is over you can have them for a month. Sincerely, a tired mom.**



**Returned from the grocery store with the hubby. Took masks off. It turned out it was the wrong hubby! Be attentive!**







The last trip before we "closed down" was to Anglesea and the Great Otway National Park. I thought you might be interested in learning a bit about the town and its environs.

Let's go back in time. Before European settlers arrived, the area was inhabited by the indigenous Wathuarong people, who called it Kuarka Dorla. (There is an interesting walk in town by that name).

In 1839, the Happy Valley pastoral run was taken up at the mouth of the river. More settlers came and then the tourist and fishing parties, who camped in tents.

It was then called Swampy Creek, the same name as given to the river.

In 1880, some land in the in the area was sub-divided into eight acre lots. These were purchased by holiday makers, who came for the great sports.



Timber bathing boxes were built to provide protection from the sun and, more importantly, modesty. Swimming costumes at the time showed very little skin to an observer. Several of these boxes are still in use along the river.



With the establishment of a hotel in 1886 and building of guest houses for the visitors, the little village quickly grew.

A post office and Presbyterian Church opened the next year, The population though was still mostly visitors.

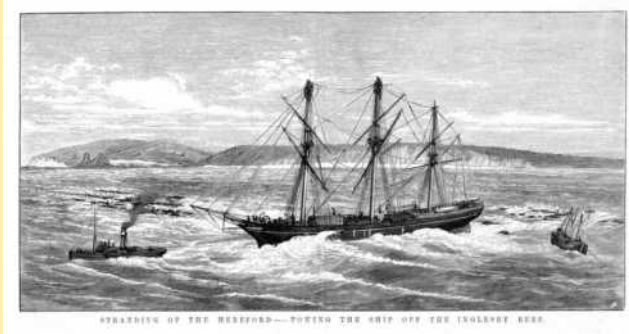
The river had a name change from Swampy Creek to the Anglesea River and it was only a small step to change the name of the village to Anglesea River.

Although it quickly became known as Anglesea, it was not until 1950 before Anglesea became the official name of the town.

Anglesea gained some notoriety with two nasty shipwrecks along its rugged coast. In 1881, the *Hereford*, an iron clipper, was stranded on a reef just off Point Addis, a little east of Anglesea.

In 1902, the *Inverlochy*, a three masted barque, was abandoned on Ingoldby Reef, a





little west of Anglesea. The reef and its wreck now form part of a 4,600 hectare National Park.

Initially, access to the area was by horseback through ironbark forests. But as the hamlet grew, an unformed road was constructed from Torquay to the east.



Cobb & Co coach in front of Anglesea hotel 1896

This enticed Cobb & Co to institute a service from Geelong, which carried passengers and mail. This service continued until 1920 when it was overtaken by motor cars.

After the First World War, Anglesea really started to flourish with the town being the hub for the construction of the Great Ocean Road.

Although the Great Ocean Road officially starts at Torquay, it's not until Anglesea before it joins the coast and becomes the iconic coastal road to Apollo Bay.



Aerial view of Anglesea 1937

About the same time, forestry became a big local industry, with good timber in the surrounding forests. This continued until the early 1960s, when suitable timber began to run out and pressure was mounting for a National Park.



However, a new industry replaced it. Around 1955, test bores for coal were made and extensive deposits of brown coal were discovered on the edge of town. Roche Bros commenced mining in 1959.



In 1961, Alcoa took over the rights to the mine and the government granted them a fifty year lease of 7,350 hectares, to explore and mine the coal.

The intention was to build a power station on site, which would use the coal to generate electricity for a proposed aluminium smelter at Point Henry, near Geelong.



The proposal came to fruition on 20th March 1969, when the power station started sending power to the smelter. It supplied about 40% of the smelter's power needs.

The Point Henry smelter was closed in August 2014, so the Anglesea power station was no longer needed by Alcoa.

It continued operating for another twelve



months, while Alcoa tried to find a buyer for the site. The electricity generated went into the state's power grid.

Alcoa could not get a buyer and the plant closed on 31st August 2015. Discussions are ongoing between various authorities and local groups on how the mine should be rehabilitated for the best use by the townsfolk.

Surrounding Anglesea, is a vast area known as the Anglesea Heath, although it was recently incorporated into the Great Otway National Park and has lost its name to some extent.



It has been described by Parks Vic as "the richest and most diverse vegetation community in Victoria. Amazingly, about a quarter of Victoria's plant species can be found here, including over eighty different types of orchids. Spring time is particularly spectacular, as the heathland erupts into a sea of vibrant colour."

The Heath is one of the few remaining remnants of natural vegetation in South West Victoria. Once this kind of heathland covered much of south west Victoria.

Before the Great Otway National Park was proclaimed, it was being slowly removed as farmers moved in.



The Anglesea Heath covers 6,730 hectares north of Anglesea, surrounding the coal mine and, as those who were on my recent trip will have noted, is a healthy woodland of eucalypts and tea tree.

The area is listed on the Register of the National Estate.

Orchids are an outstanding feature of the heathland, from the tiny Helmet Orchid to the Great Sun Orchid. As mentioned, over eighty species occur in the area, making it one of the



Helmet Orchid



Great Sun Orchid

most orchid rich sites in Australia.

The Anglesea Sun Orchid is found nowhere else in the world.

Apart from orchids, the heathland has a remarkable diversity of flora. In Spring, week by week, the wildflower blooms change from the blueish-cream of the Smoke Bush, to the yellow-red of the Bush Peas and to the red, pink and white of the Common Heath.

The Anglesea Gre-villea is unique to the Heath. It is part of over 600 species identified in the area.



The diversity of plant life attracts native birds and insects, which thrive on the nectar rich flowers. Over 100 species of native birds have been recorded here.

The waterways within the Heath, being largely pristine, are home to native fish. Some, such as the Spotted Galaxia are rare. The Southern Pygmy Perch is found nowhere else in the Otways.



Southern Pygmy Perch

There are numerous 4WD tracks through the Heath and my recent trip sampled some of these. All in all, it is a wonderful resource for outdoors folk.

Bushfires are a constant threat to Anglesea and its surrounds. From its earliest days, fires have destroyed, or threatened, homes and the native forests and woodlands.

Large fires in 1900, 1904 and 1918, arising from settlers clearing land for farming by burning, almost stopped the development of the town.

In recent times, a devastating blaze in 1966 destroyed a number of homes and in 1982, a couple of boys playing with matches, started a fire which raced through the campground and



destroyed hundreds of caravans and tents of holiday makers.

But the worst of these was in February 1983, when the horrific Ash Wednesday fire swept along the coast, through Aireys Inlet and on to Anglesea.



Thankfully, when the blaze reached Anglesea, it parted, with one section heading to the beach and the other behind the golf course and Alcoa mine.



*Anglesea after the fire*

Nevertheless, a number of houses were lost and all the surrounding heathland was reduced to black stumps and ash. But it would have been much worse if the fire had entered the town.

Today, 37 years later, there is very little evidence of the devastation. The bush has regrown, the birds and animals have returned and the town continues to bustle with the influx of over 10,000 holiday makers in Summer.

Of interest, after the Ash Wednesday fires, naturalists discovered several new species of orchids and indigenous flora, which were propagated by the heat of the fire.

The Lizard Orchid and the Austral Grass Tree, for example, but many grevilleas, acacias and orchids only release seed, or germinate, after fire events.



*The Lizard Orchid*

On the western side of the river is Coogoorah Reserve. ("Coogoorah" is an aboriginal word for swampy reed creek). This park with a children's playground, BBQ and picnic facilities is popular with families.



There are a number of walks on both tracks and boardwalks, through the river vegetation.

The Ash Wednesday bushfire set alight underground peat deposits in the area. To contain the fire, a number of canals linked to the river, were constructed and thus created islands which inhibited the fire.







As my fellow trippers recently found out, they now provide quiet kayaking through the area.

Many people associate Anglesea with its golf course, famed for its resident population of Eastern Grey kangaroos. They graze the fairways in the morning and evening, which is the best time to see them. During the day, they lounge in the shelter of the abundant trees.

For some ten years now, a group from the Melbourne University has been studying the kangaroos and a keen observer will note that most have ear tags, obviously to help the research.

One interesting thing they have found, is that there are two discrete mobs - one which inhabits the first nine holes of the course and the other, the second nine.

They have nothing to do with each other, except for a couple of weeks each year when they "diversify the gene pool".

Anglesea still retains a country town feel about it. The town is as big as it will ever get.

It is bounded by the sea to the south, the Great Otway N.P. to the west, the coal mine to the north and to the east, the shire has decreed the land as a Conservation area. Thus there is very little vacant land.

Also, the shire has also imposed a height limit on buildings. No construction can be higher than the surrounding trees. So Anglesea has been spared the apartment towers and large accommodation complexes.

We have had a holiday house there for more than 25 years. Before that, we camped in the campground for a number of years. We get down there as often as we can, as we love the place.

Hopefully, when travel is allowed once more, we'll be in a position to run trips and show you what we love about the place.





## *Right Said Fred*

During a quiet time on the recent Anglesea weekend, the subject of a song of the 1960s called "Right Said Fred" came up. There was a bit discussion about who sang it, what were the lyrics and, in fact, what was the song about.

Well, the song was sung by Bernard Cribbins and the song was about ... well the lyrics are below. You work it out.

### *Right Said Fred*

"Right" said Fred, "both of us together  
One each end and steady as we go".  
(huff, puff)  
Tried to shift it, couldn't even lift it  
We was getting nowhere and so we  
Had a cuppa tea and ...

"Right" said Fred, "give a shout to Charlie".  
Up comes Charlie from the floor below.  
(huff, puff)  
After straining, heaving and complaining  
We was getting nowhere and so  
We had a cup of tea and ...

Charlie had a think and he thought we ought to  
Take off all the handles and the  
Things wot held the candles.  
But it did no good, well I never thought it would

"Oh right" said Fred, "have to take the feet off  
To get them feet off wouldn't take a mo"  
(huff, puff)  
Took its feet off, even took the seat off  
Should have got us somewhere, but no  
So Fred said "Let's have another cup of tea"  
And we said "righto".

"Oh right" said Fred "have to take the door off  
Need more space to shift the so and so"  
(huff, puff)  
Had bad twinges, takin off the hinges  
And it got us nowhere and so  
We had a cup of tea and ...

"Right" said Fred "have to take the wall down  
That there wall is gonna have to go".  
(huff, puff)  
Took the wall down, even with it all down  
We was getting nowhere and so  
We had a cup of tea and ...

Charlie had a think and he said "Look Fred  
I've got a sort of feeling. If we remove the ceiling  
With a rope or two, we could drop the blighter through".

"Oh right" said Fred climbing up a ladder  
With 'is crowbar gave a mighty blow.  
Was he in trouble, half a ton of rubble  
Landed on the top of his dome.  
So Charlie and me had another cuppa tea  
And then we went home.

I said to Charlie, we'll just have to leave it on the landing that's all  
You see, the trouble with Fred he's too hasty  
And you never get nowhere if you're too hasty.

# Christina Macpherson ... Who?



Christina Macpherson is not a name which has much recognition among us. But she has two claims to fame with regard to two well known episodes in our history.

In 1854, the Macpherson and Rutherford families migrated together from Scotland and took up 150,000 acres of good grazing property near Wangaratta which they owned jointly.

Ewan Macpherson subsequently married Margaret Rutherford and they had eleven children. The ninth child was Christina Rutherford Macpherson, born in 1864.

Christina was educated at Oberwyl Ladies School in St Kilda. There she befriended Sarah Riley, whose father ran a Sydney legal firm.



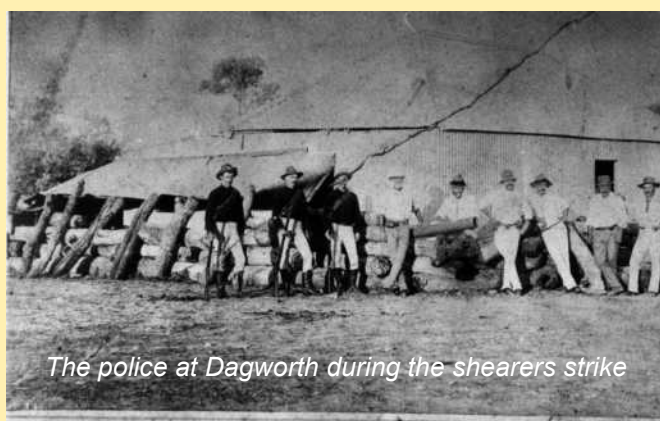
A partner in that legal firm was none other than Andrew Barton Paterson who, in time, became engaged to Sarah Riley.

In 1894, Christina, while visiting her sister Margaret who lived nearby, went to the famous three day racing carnival at

Warrnambool. It is still held each year in May, although this year's event has been reduced to two days because of the coronavirus restrictions.

The on course band frequently played a catchy march version of a Scottish song "*Bonnie Wood O'Craiglea*". It stayed in Christina's mind and she learned to play it on her piano.

At the time, the families owned another property in far north Queensland named Dagworth Station. A shearers' strike was in progress and a major riot occurred on the property.



The shearing shed at Dagworth was burned by a group of shearers. The shed contained 150 lambs and the act of violence resulted in police action and the media had a field day.

Christina's mother died in December of that year and her father wanted to see first hand, the outcome of the riot at Dagworth. He thought the break away from home would be good for Christina.

Sarah Riley and her fiancé were visiting Sarah's brother's property "*Vindex*" at the same time. The property adjoined "*Dagworth*".

A house party was arranged between the two old school friends, Christina and Sarah.



During this time together, Christina played the tune she had heard at the Warrnambool races to Paterson. He began composing some lyrics to the melody.



And thus *"Waltzing Matilda"* was born.

It is strongly rumoured that the collaboration between Christina and Paterson developed into much more than a songwriting exercise.

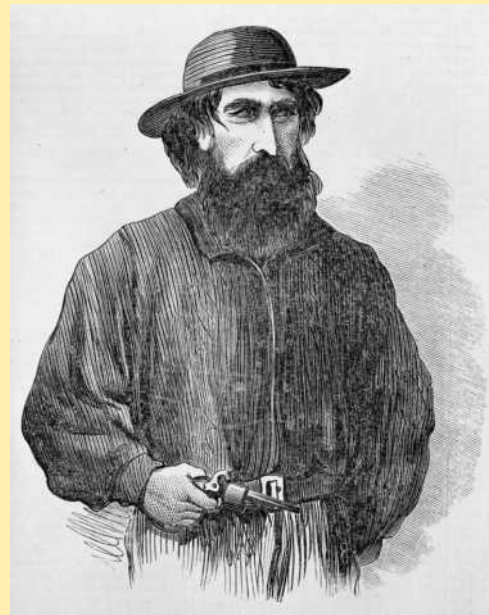
Whatever did happen, it is true that the engagement between Sarah and Banjo Paterson was dissolved and neither Sarah, nor Christina, ever married.

Paterson's family were always very reluctant to deal with the Dagworth episode in biographies after his death.

Thirty years earlier, in April, at the Macpherson property at Wangaratta, the notorious bushranger Mad Dog Morgan raided the station and herded everyone into the dining room.

Morgan was the most wanted man in the colonies after terrorising the populations of New South Wales and Victoria. He was known for his erratic behaviour and sadistic tendencies.

On one occasion, he held up a station and wounded a man. He apologised and allowed another to ride for the doctor. Then, he changed his mind, went after the rider and



killed him.

At Wangaratta, he rounded all up and made them prisoners in the dining room.

A baby started crying in the next room and Morgan allowed a nursemaid, Alice Keenan, to attend to the infant.

The brave young Alice escaped by climbing through a window and she ran to the other homestead on the property, which was the home of the Rutherfords, the relatives of the Macphersons.

The Rutherfords notified the local police, who arrived and laid a trap for Morgan in the early hours of the next morning.

The following day, as Morgan was leaving the homestead, a station hand named John Quinlan, who was the best shot in the district, shot the bushranger in the back as he crossed the open ground between the house and the stable.

Morgan died of his wounds and the event was celebrated by the press with gruesome photos of his body propped against the stable. He is buried in the Wangaratta cemetery.

The infant whose crying caused Mad Dog Morgan to allow Alice Keenan to leave the room and ultimately bring his life and career to a bloody and gruesome end, was fifteen month old Christina Rutherford Macpherson.

# Charles Souter

*The Bulletin* was a well known publication established by J.F. Archibald (of the Archibald portrait painting prize) in 1880, which fostered among other things, Australian poetry. The likes of Banjo Paterson, Henry Lawson, C. J. Dennis, Mary Gilmore and others became household names as a result.

One author of that time who enjoyed considerable success in *The Bulletin*, but has since been forgotten, is Charles Souter. I came across him while browsing a book looking for something else.

Souter was born in 1864 at Aberdeen in Scotland. He settled in Australia in 1879 in Coonabarabran and subsequently qualified and practiced as a doctor in Balaklava South Australia.

He loved writing and had his first poem published in *The Bulletin* in 1896 and was a regular contributor up until World War I. He had four books of his work published.

His poems appealed to me and I have selected one below. It is called *Sea Fear* and tells of an old sailor from the clipper days looking back. I hope you like it.

## *Sea Fear*

*I can't go down to the sea again  
For I am old and ailing  
My ears are deaf to the mermaid's call  
And my stiff limbs are failing.  
The white sails and the tall masts  
Are no longer to be seen  
On the dainty clipper ships that sailed  
For Hull and Aberdeen.*

*I can't go down to the sea again  
My eyes are weak and bleared  
And they search again for the gallant poop  
Where once I stood and steered.  
There's nought but wire and boiler plate  
To meet my wand'ring gaze  
Never a sign of the graceful spars  
Of the good old sailing days.*

*So I will sit in the little room  
That all old sailors know  
And smoke and sing and yarn about  
The ships of long ago  
"The Flying Cloud", "The Cutty Sark"  
"The Hotspur" and "The Dart".  
But I won't go down to the sea again  
For fear it breaks my heart.*



# 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](mailto: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 ...

Why women live longer

