



JACKAROO 4WD CLUB

VICTORIA'S PREMIER ALL MAKE 4WD TOURING CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2020



The Newsletter

Little Desert

For well over twenty years, each year Alan Dash has run a trip to the Little Desert, usually on the first weekend in October.

Alas, due to the current restrictions on travel, it looks unlikely the trip will run this year. It will break an unbroken run to the area.

Therefore, this month the Newsletter is devoted to past Little Desert weekends and the background to the area.

When one thinks of the Little Desert, Alan Dash is immediately associated with the district. As this is a Little Desert special issue, it seems appropriate he should grace the cover of our Newsletter.

Next month, I will reprint trip notes of past Little Desert weekends.

Guy Stealing The Moon(Awesome Photography)



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President's Report



Well, here we are again. Another month has passed with frustratingly little activity to report on.

The Committee did not meet this month and is unlikely to do so until there is a clear indication that some form of Club activities can resume. In the meantime, the Committee is quietly handling Club business.

Each month, I receive emails from various organisations promoting their wares, or magazines. If anyone is interested in any of these, I can forward the details on:

- Australian Motorlife Museum NSW - magazine
- Jacob's Well Retreat Murrayville - brochure
- Raynor's Orchard, Woori Yallock - newsletter and current fruit availability

With the newly released "Road to Recovery" plan, it would seem we might possibly see a trip before the end of the year. Keep your fingers crossed.

Please look after yourselves.

Rod Tamblyn

Anglesea Heath

It had been my intention to run a wildflowers and explore the Anglesea Heath trip later this month. The wildflowers, including many orchids, are magnificent at this time of the year.

Unfortunately, COVID 19 restrictions have caused the abandonment of the trip.

But for those of you interested in the area and its flora in particular, the local conservation group, ANGAIR, have set up a website to showcase the merits of the Anglesea Heath.

I recommend it to you:

www.AngairNatureShow.org.au

Coping with Isolation

Went to my first social distancing Christening last Sunday



Quarantine day 58: I built myself a Doberman



A HOME SCHOOLING MOM POSTED THAT HER KID CALLED HER ON THE PHONE FROM HIS ROOM AND TOLD HER HE MISSED THE BUS AND WON'T BE IN TODAY.

Stages of Quarantine



Gardening season is off to a great start: I planted myself in front of a TV four weeks ago, and I've already grown noticeably.



WARNING!!!

Do NOT let supermarket staff scan your forehead to take your temperature. It erases your memory.

I went in for bread and milk and came out with gin, wine and chocolate instead!!

So in retrospect, in 2015, not a single person got the answer right to "Where do you see yourself 5 years from now?"

WOLLOMBI TAVERN

Home of Dr Jardi's Jungle Juice

I Can't Wait 'Till The Pubs Open Again, So I Can Cut Down On My Drinking!



I swear we are fighting two pandemics.

Coronavirus and stupidity.



A Little Desert Reflection

Alan Dash looks back on past visits

The Little Desert of Victoria is one of those superb surprises of Australia.

It is not a desert. While it has sand underfoot and deep sand dunes to cross, it can have bog holes to flounder through at certain times of the year.



In Spring, especially in September and October, it has masses of flower carpets providing vast areas with blazes of colour. Hidden within these carpets are gorgeous orchids, close to the ground in unexpected places.

With over 1,000 plant species, more than 200 bird species and in excess of 400 animal species, visitors are guaranteed to have amazing encounters with nature, or “the bush”.

No matter what month you visit, you will have amazing photographic opportunities. Examples



of these by members are scattered through the Newsletter.

It is not commonly known that this semi desert environment contains numerous wetlands. Clay-pans are one of the hidden treasures of this area.

To look at the pools of clear water reflecting clouds and vegetation images “upside down” is a surprising discovery given the desert name.

The climate of the Little Desert is not true Mediterranean, as both winter and spring rainfall accounts for the major portion of annual rainfall.

Rainfall varies from 350mm per year in the East section to 550mm in the South West corner near Frances.

Nothing is as good as going bush. Going bush means different things to different people, but to me, going bush is a combination of fresh air, beautiful ever changing environments, sharing experiences, beautiful birds and flowers and some amazing geology.



History is also important, learning the stories of First Nation peoples, explorers and pioneers.

Throw in access by 4 X 4 vehicles to areas less visited with its peacefulness and serenity and I have the life for me. If I can enjoy it with some 4 X 4 mates, so much the better.

The Little Desert has all the above and it's what keeps drawing me back.

I joined the Jackaroo Club of Victoria in the beginning of 1989. It was in that Spring I led my first trip ever.

It was an opportunity to share a fabulous area and test the 4 X 4 capabilities of the brown Jackaroo - the first 4 X 4 vehicle I had owned. My previous experience was with military Land Rovers, Internationals and Studebakers.

We chose to camp at the Dimboola Showgrounds/caravan park. Subsequent years, our camps have been at Kiata, Broughton's Waterhole and of recent times Serviceton. On one occasion we camped at Mopoke Hut, which is almost the Little Desert.

Dimboola, on the banks of the Wimmera River, provided rich connections to the First Nation Aboriginals. A scar tree can be found near the bridge and, across the paddock on the south bank of the river, is a birthing tree.

The Little Desert was a traditional place for hunting by the Aboriginal family groups. It was common for these groups to hunt and gather food at appropriate seasons in the desert area.

Mallee fowl and emu were an abundant source of food and wattle seeds were plentiful. Other foods were bush tomatoes, yams, yabbies, mussels, goannas, quandong and possums.

The area also provided wood for boomerangs and other tools. Glues were obtained from the wattles, spinifex and grass trees.

With the discovery of gold around the mid 19th century, Chinese market gardens were developed on an anabranch of the river. They provid-



Camping at Kiata

ed fresh food to the gold fossickers and later to the settlers in the area.

From this location, there is great access to the East Block of the Park, with flexibility to cater for any track closures.

Many of our visits over the years were centred on Kiata campground in the East Block. It is a beautiful large, grassy camping ground with bush toilets, fire places and heaps of red gum sleeper firewood.

Camping fees were by a cash payment honour system. This made it easy for trip planning. It also provided easy access to the Kiata Hotel, where we enjoyed many Saturday evening meals with the local community.

But a substantial increase in camping fees forced a search for another venue and the Serviceton Sports Ground was "found".

Although further from Melbourne and close to the South Australian border, it offered much cheaper camping fees, showers and flushing toilets. And for those with a need for creature comforts, there are a dozen powered sites.

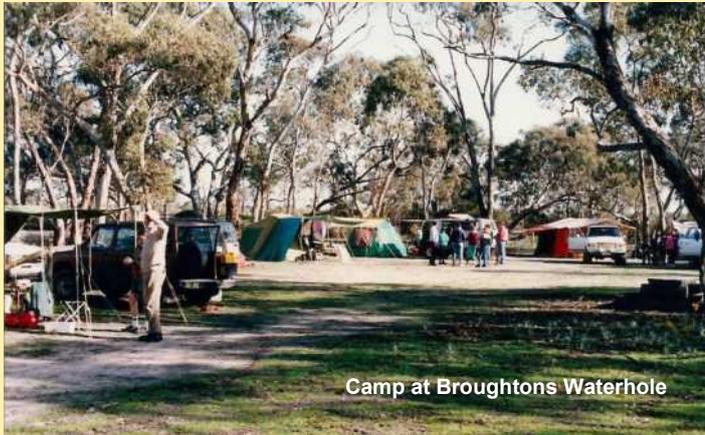


For many years, a number of our colleagues from South Australia have been welcomed and occasionally the odd New South Wales member.

I intend to highlight a number of experiences, trips and events. The first of these was the big

wet of 1991.

This was our third club trip to the area and we had not previously made it to the South Australian border. The idea was to rectify this omission with this trip.



Camp at Broughtons Waterhole

Our pre-tripping had us heading west along McDonalds Highway to Broughtons Waterhole, then head for the border along Elliots Track. This plan would cater for the young families by having a fun camp at Broughtons.



Alas, heavy rain fell between the pre-trip and the club trip. I'll let the following photos tell the story. A vote was taken and we agreed to head west. It was felt the base was solid and the water not too deep.

Initially, careful placement of the wheels kept us on course:



But, trouble was waiting. John Baxter, a former Club Secretary with a "have-a-go" attitude, found himself stranded. It took three snatch straps to rescue him.



We continued on into the West Block.



It made for an interesting trip and the subject of conversation back at camp.

The second memory is of the 2009 trip.

From 1991, the rainfall in the area steadily declined. From 1997 to mid 2009, the Wimmera experienced one of its worst droughts in



history. The water storages held barely 5% water and the Wimmera River was not flowing.

We were camped at Kiata and a local farmer, Garry Hall, suggested we could catch a once in a lifetime experience of seeing water flow again in the totally dry Wimmera River.

Needless to say, all plans promptly changed. We jumped into our vehicles and after a couple of misses where the water had already flowed, caught up with the river near the former Ebenezer Mission where the river bed was still dry.

We settled down under the gum trees and waited. Half an hour later, somebody said "Can you hear a sort of rustling noise?"



Slowly at first, water started welling out between dry rushes in the river bed and, over ten minutes, it started filling up. First the base, then the banks of the river.



At some points, the Wimmera River is almost as wide as parts of the Murray. So, it was an incredible sight to see it change from a wide, sandy bed, to a proper flowing river.

The water was turbulent, muddy and yellow at first, but, as the river flow stabilised, it became a clear deep green.

The current was strong enough to carry along debris and tree branches.



Birds and animals were confused by the unexpected rush of water, including a fox, whose comfortable hole in the river bed suddenly became very wet.

He emerged rapidly and ran around in circles, completely disoriented by the sudden change to his world.

We were joined by local farmers, one of whom had two school age children with him who had never seen the river flow in their lifetime.

Everyone was smiling as one of Victoria's driest and sickest rivers started to flow again.

It was certainly the sight of a lifetime and a lesson in just how important it is to maintain environmental water flows in our ailing rivers.

The third memorable experience was in 2006.

On the Sunday morning of our weekend, we headed off to find some of my favourite flowers, particularly orchids. The track I chose was the Salt Lake Track, marked at its beginning with a sign "Deep Sand. 4 X 4 only".

Imagine our surprise then, when well into the track, we came across a bogged brown station wagon.



A couple were sleeping under a canvas tarp

beside the vehicle and a little mirth was created as they quickly dressed. Apparently, they were taking a short cut to Mt Arapiles.

We performed a challenging recovery of their vehicle and its story joined other recoveries we had done in the area including a Datsun 180B and a Mini Moke.

I could talk of other adventures and discoveries, including in no particular order:

- Serviceton Railway Station
- The World War II bombing range
- Olive farming near Telopea Downs
- The Kaniva carrot farm
- The white kangaroos in Bordertown
- Red Rock
- Ebenezer Mission
- Milmed Track and Lake Hindmarsh
- Broughtons Waterhole
- Claytons Farm
- World War II fuel depot at Wolseley

And most of all, the wonderful array of orchids and wildflowers in the area. It is a truly brilliant location and I look forward to many more visits, especially with my Jackaroo Club friends.

Below are a number of useful references for the would be traveller to the area. Some are out of print, but sometimes available from Westprint in Nhill:

- *Birds and Plants of the Little Desert. A Photographic Guide* by Ian Morgan, Graham Goods and Maree Goods
- *The Little Desert* by Colin Thiele and Jocelyn Burt
- *The Victorian Wimmera - a floral hot spot.* (Australian Plants June 2011 Vol. 26 No. 207)
- *A Guide to Plants in the Little Desert and*

Mt Arapiles Area by F.J.C.Rogers

- *Little Desert National Park Westprint Map.* Last printed 1993
- *Outback Victoria . Westprint 2nd edition*
- *Birds of the Dry Country.* Gould League Handbook



Alan has a great knowledge of the area ...

But not necessarily where to park safely.



Some Thoughts on Politics

Politics is the art of getting votes from the poor
And campaign funds from the rich,
By promising to protect each from the other.
(Oscar Am Ringer, the Mark Twain of American Socialism)

I offered my opponents a deal:
“If they stopped telling lies about me,
I will stop telling the truth about them.”
(Adlai Stevenson, campaign speech, 1952)

A politician is a fellow who
Will lay down your life for his country.
(Texas Guinan, a 19th century American businessman)

I have come to the conclusion that politics
Is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians.
(Charles De Gaulle, French general and politician)

Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city,
It might be better to change the locks.
(Doug Larson, English middle distance runner who won gold medals at 1924 Olympics)

We hang petty thieves and appoint the bigger thieves to public office
(Aesop, Greek slave and fable author)

Those who are too smart to engage in politics
Are punished by being governed by those who are dumber
(Plato, ancient Greek philosopher)

Politicians are the same all over
They promise to build a bridge even when there is no river
(Nikita Krushchev, Russian Soviet politician)

When I was a boy, I was told that anybody could become PM,
I'm beginning to believe it.
(Quoted in 'Clarene Darrow for the Defence' by Irving Stone)

Politicians are people who, when they see a light at the end of the tunnel,
go out and buy some more tunnel.
(John Quinton, American actor/writer)

The dreadful truth is that when people come to see their MP,
They have run out of better ideas.
(Boris Johnson, while Lord Mayor of London)

He knows nothing and thinks he knows everything.
That points clearly to a political career.
(George Bernard Shaw)

Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful.
(George Orwell)

The reason there are so few female politicians
Is that it is too much trouble to put make up on two faces
(Maureen Murphy, Australian comedienne and actress)

Thanks Philip Johnstone

A History of the Little Desert

For tens of thousands of years, Aboriginal people hunted and gathered food in the Little Desert.

The Wotjobaluk people maintain a connection with the area, even after their forebears were moved into the Antwerp mission near Dimboola in the 19th century.

In July 1836, Major Mitchell, as part of his *Australia Felix* expedition, passed through the area, reporting that the country was "dreadfully deep in sand and mud".

Until the 1870s, the area remained virtually untouched. Settlers avoided it because of its infertile sandy soils and low rainfall. It was known as "scrub country".

From the 1870s, much of the natural vegetation of the Wimmera and Mallee districts was cleared for farming by selectors and, especially after World War I, by soldier settlers.

The Little Desert however, remained an island of biodiversity in a sea of agriculture.



In 1946, small conservation reserves were established near Dimboola and in 1955, the Kiata Lowan Sanctuary was set aside to protect mallee fowl, also called lowans, which were in decline.

The AMP Society, in 1963, proposed to subdivide and clear the Little Desert for agricultural and pastoral development.

Declining wool and wheat prices and government indecision, led to the scheme being abandoned in March 1967.

In June 1967, Sir William McDonald, a local pastoralist and long standing Victorian Member of Parliament, was appointed Minister for Lands by premier Henry Bolte.



McDonald announced the Little Desert Settlement Scheme, under which 48 wheat farms would be established in early 1968.

Conservationists and agricultural experts opposed the scheme. Conservationists set up the Save our Bushlands Action Committee, representing eight conservation groups.

They held two major public meetings in Melbourne in 1969, each attended by more than 1,000 people.

Local Wimmera people ran a campaign at the same time against the clearing scheme.

Mid 1969, McDonald scaled back the Little Desert Settlement Scheme to twelve sheep farms and announced a larger National Park to cover 35,300 hectares.

But conservationists were not satisfied

with this, believing that national parks must have ecological integrity.

Following this persistent opposition, Labor MP, J. W. Galbally, set up a Select Committee to inquire into the Little Desert Settlement Scheme in October 1969.

Leading ecologists such as Malcolm Calder, gave evidence about the natural values of the Little Desert.

The Age newspaper ran articles suggesting that the scheme was proposed, partly because a new road it included, would benefit McDonald's brother-in-law.

In December 1969, the Liberal Government lost the Dandenong By-election, partly because of community opposition to the Little Desert scheme.

The Legislative Council voted to block the scheme and it was abandoned. The Little Desert National Park was enlarged to 35,300 hectares.

The May 1970 election saw the Liberal government returned with a slightly reduced vote. McDonald though, lost his seat of Dundas after fifteen years as its member.

During the election campaign, Premier Bolte promised to create and expand national parks so that they covered five per cent of Victoria's area.

He also promised to set up a new independent body, the Land Resources Council (later named the Conservation Council of Victoria), which would encourage public involvement.

The Council would study Victoria's public land and recommend how it should be used.



William Borthwick became Minister for Lands (later Minister for Conservation) in the new government. He supported retaining

the Little Desert as a nature reserve.

In 1988, the western part of the Little Desert was added to the Little Desert National Park, roughly tripling it in size and making it the state's second largest national park at that time.

An additional seven hectares were donated to the Park by a local family in 1991. This was followed by another 640 hectares in 1997.

In 2005, the Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and the government entered into the first Indigenous Land Use Agreement in Victoria.

This co-operative agreement ensures the Traditional Owners will continue to be able to care for country by being involved in the management of the areas where their native title rights have been recognised.

The Little Desert National Park now covers 132,647 hectares and extends about 95 kilometres east to west between the Wimmera River near Dimboola and the South Australian border.

Its north-south extent varies between ten and twenty four kilometres.

Some 50,000 people visit the park each year to enjoy walking, camping and discovering the plants and wildlife in the desert. And the peace and quiet it offers.



Some More Tshirts you may have missed



Attractions near the Little Desert

Serviceton

Serviceton is a tiny railway town close to the Victoria-South Australia border, which today has been reduced to a railway station and a few houses.

The station was named after Sir James Service, Premier of Victoria from 1883-86. The town took its name from the station.

The interstate border between Victoria and South Australia was legally delineated to be on the 141st meridian east, but, owing to a surveying error in 1847, border markers were placed 3.6kms west of the meridian.

South Australia claimed the border should be corrected. As a result, a strip of land about 4kms wide was created until the claim could be resolved.

The claim went to the Privy Council in London which in 1911, found against South Australia.

When plans were afoot for a railway between Melbourne and Adelaide in the early 1880s, it was agreed a border station was needed to handle customs matters, engine maintenance, refreshments and overnight accommodation, as the journey would take two days.

It was agreed therefore, that the station be built on the disputed strip of land. It was completed in 1887 using red bricks transported from Horsham.

A town soon followed to supply the services required by the railway .



The station is a well preserved structure, even though it is no longer used. The importance of this border station is reflected by the 70 metre long platform.



The three level station was huge. The upstairs and the platform level, had fifteen rooms. These included a kitchen for customers refreshments, a dining area, ladies closet and waiting areas.

Each state had its own booking office and customs office for processing goods passing from one state to the other.

In the basement were large cellars for storage,

Retiree Mental Fitness Evaluation

This test is to ascertain your mental state now. If you get one right, you are doing OK. If you get none right, you better go for counselling. (I'll meet you there). There are four test questions, don't miss one.

Question 1. How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator?

Answer next page.



a mortuary for bodies being shipped across the border and a lock up for prisoners who were being transported interstate.

Two engine sheds were built at the same time and the town became a major focus for engine maintenance.

The decline of the town started around 1952 when the local school closed and diesel engines replaced the old steam engines.

As time went on and passenger numbers dropped, the need for the station diminished and the refreshment room closed in 1981.

The station itself ceased being used in 1986 as diesel engines no longer needed to stop and went straight through.

However, a very active local group is working hard to preserve the station and often allow events like weddings and small conferences to use the building.

A couple of side stories of the area may be of interest.

One of the earliest settlers in the area was Thomas Short, who established the *Cove* run in 1849.

He employed a station hand who, upon

being dismissed after an argument, destroyed Short's provisions and stole a horse. The hand was Dan Morgan who went on to become one of Australia's most notorious bushrangers.

In 1980, while on a concert tour of Australia the noted American singer/songwriter Tom Waits, picked up a newspaper and read a story about Vic Rail's decision to pass trains through Serviceton without stopping.

This decision meant the death knell for the refreshment rooms and the article spoke of the effect the closure of the station bar and restaurant would have on the already struggling town.

He wrote a song about it called "*Town With No Cheer*". Once completed, the song found its way on to his 1983 album "*Swordfish Trombones*". The lyrics of the song are reproduced on page 20.

Wolseley

Wolseley is a small town, about 10kms from the Serviceton camp ground, on the road to Bordertown.

It was founded in the early 1880s to service the new Adelaide to Wolseley railway line (The line was extended to Serviceton in 1887).

Originally called Tatiara, the town grew when the line from Mount Gambier was extended to Wolseley. This line was a narrow gauge rail (3ft 6in), whereas the main line was a broad gauge (5ft 3in).



Retiree Mental Fitness Evaluation

Answer to Question 1. Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe and close the door. The question tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated way.

Question 2. How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator?

Answer next page.



Junction of broad/narrow gauge

As a result, goods had to be physically taken from one train to the other and the town provided the facilities and labour for this task.

In 1950, the narrow gauge line was converted to broad gauge and about the same time, containers were introduced, thus reducing the transshipment times.

To compound the town's woes, the Mount Gambier line was closed in 1995. The other trains ran express through the town.

The Second World War gave the town a bit of a lift. The town's name was changed to Wolseley and the RAAF constructed the *No 12 Inland Aircraft Fuel Depot*, both events happening in 1941.

The RAAF established 31 of these fuel storage depots at inland sites considered secure from attack by sea borne aircraft. Two others were in South Australia - Port Pirie and Crystal Brook.

Initially, two standard 120,000 gallon tanks and one 40,000 gallon ethyl mixing tank, were erected on the outskirts of Wolseley. Barracks and other buildings were also built.

The tanks were camouflaged to look like farm buildings. Later, three additional tanks were erected, but these were only dull painted and not camouflaged.

The depot commenced operation in 1942 with a personnel attachment consisting of a sergeant, a cook and three guards.

In May 1944, it was decided to close the inland depots and the contents of the Wolseley tanks were transferred to coastal installations.

On June 14th 1944, the Wolseley Depot was disbanded and the property sold after the war ended.



The tanks can still be seen in a paddock beside the road.

Bordertown

Bordertown is a small town just over the border in South Australia, some 25kms from the Serviceton camp ground.

It is a sample of Australian humour that it is called Bordertown, even though it is 19kms from the border.

Retiree Mental Fitness Evaluation

Answer to Question 2. Did you say open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe and close the door? Wrong! Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant and close the door. This test your ability to think through the repercussions of your previous actions.

Question 3. The Lion King is hosting an Animal Conference. All the animals attend except one. Which animal does not attend?

Answer next page.



The town had its origins in the 1840s when grazing leases were taken out by Loudon McLeod (Nalang Station), John and Charles Scott (Cannawigara Station) and John Binnie (Wirrega Station).

The area was known as Tatiara, which was the local aboriginal word for “good country”. The name has been adopted by the current shire.

In 1852, 120 allotments were sold to settlers. Around the same time, Captain Alexander Tolmer surveyed a route through the Ninety Mile Desert for a gold escort to transport gold from the Victorian goldfields to Adelaide.

Gold was taken to Adelaide because it got a better price for the metal than in Melbourne. The route up until then was along the coast.

Tolmer suggested a depot be set up on the border to allow the escorts to rest and be refreshed. And so the town was born.

He was most upset when the town was not named after him, but given the name Border Town. However, his name

is preserved with the naming of several sites around Bordertown after him.

Border Town became Bordertown on 5th April 1979 and is now the commercial and administrative centre of the district.

Bordertown is noted for two attractions for visitors. Firstly, it is the birthplace of Bob Hawke, Prime Minister of Australia from 1983 until 1992.

Robert James Lee Hawke was born here on 9th December 1929 and lived in a modest, but elegant, sandstone house at 63 Farquhar Street. The house has been renovated and is used by community organisations.

His father, Clement Hawke, was the Congregational Minister in Bordertown from 1928 until 1935.

There is a bronze bust of Hawke outside the Tatiara District Council offices. The bust was unveiled by his father in 1987. I’m not sure it is a great likeness, but it is worth a seeking it out nevertheless.



Retiree Mental Fitness Evaluation

Answer to Question 3. The elephant. The elephant is in the refrigerator. You put him there. This tests your memory.

Question 4. There is a river you must cross, but it is used by crocodiles. You do not have a boat. How do you manage to cross the river?

Answer next page.

Inside the Council office is a museum to Hawke which is comprehensive and well worth a look.

It contains a number of pieces of Hawke memorabilia, including the famous jacket he wore when Australia won the America's Cup. The collection also includes photos, newspaper cuttings, cartoons and paintings celebrating his career.

The other site of interest is the Bordertown Wildlife Park, noted for its mob of white kangaroos.



This 4.5 hectare park has been open since 1948 and allows visitors to view the animals from outside the fences. There is no entrance gate.

The white kangaroos are not albinos, but a genetic strain of Western Grey kangaroos.

In 1980, a big white kangaroo was captured on a property near the South Australia/New South Wales border and brought to the park at Bordertown.

He went on to become the founding father of the White Kangaroo mob. The first white joey was born in 1984,

followed by a second two years later.

A breeding program has taken off with over fifty being bred at the park over the years. A number have been sent to parks and reserves around the country.

Frances

Frances is a small town about 50kms south of Bordertown just on the South Australian side of the border.

It was an important centre for grain when the Mount Gambier to Wolseley railway was operating. But with the closure of the railway, Frances fortunes declined.

Its silos still collect grain for transport by road and in 2017, a record 43,000 tonnes was received.



The hotel at Frances usually hosts our Little Desert forays, either for lunch, or dinner.

Clayton Farm

Located 3kms south of Bordertown on the Naracoorte Road, is the Clayton Farm Heritage Museum. It is a genuine attempt to recreate what a farm was like more

Retiree Mental Fitness Evaluation

Answer to Question 4. You jump in the river and swim across. Remember all the crocodiles are attending the Animal Conference. This tests whether you learn quickly from your mistakes.

According to Anderson Consulting, around 90% of the retirees they tested got all answers wrong, but many pre-schoolers got several correct answers. Does this mean most retirees don't have the brains of a four year old?



than a century ago.

The farm was owned and operated by the family of August Gottfried Wiese, who took up the land in 1872 and operated by them until 1985.

Today, it is a remarkable collection of historic farm buildings, all built by the owners, or local tradesmen.

Traditional materials were used to build a homestead dating from 1885, a silage and pigsty and a huge, thatched roof woolshed.



The Wiese family engaged in mixed farming, growing wheat and oats, selling chaff, grazing sheep and cattle, raising pigs and keeping bees.

The complex has about twelve farm buildings ranging in date of construction from the 1870s to the early 1900s. They form a remarkable record of past farming practices and construction techniques.



Apart from the homestead, perhaps the most notable building is the woolshed. It is about 30 metres by 10 metres with massive posts, slab walls and a straw roof.

Traditional thatch roofs are steeply pitched so that rainwater runs off. The roof here was designed to simply soak up light rain.

It was converted to a shearing shed in 1920 and remained in use until 1961.



The farm buildings were constructed in a variety of materials, some of stone, some clad with split slabs, or corrugated iron, several with massive forked round posts supporting straw roofs.

There is also some outstanding and very significant historic farm machinery on display.

Town With No Cheer

By Tom Waits

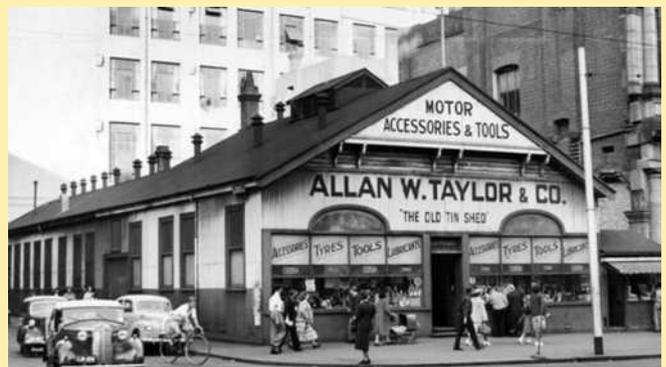
Well it's hotter 'n blazes and all the long faces
There'll be no oasis for a dry local grazier.
There'll be no refreshment for a thirsty jackaroo
From Melbourne to Adelaide on the Overlander.
With new fangled buffet cars and faster locomotives
The train stopped in Serviceton less and less often.

There's nothing sadder than a town with no cheer
Vic Rail decided the canteen was no longer necessary there
No spirits, no bilgewater and eighty dry locals
And the high noon sun beats a hundred and four
There's a hummingbird trapped in a closed down shoe store
This tiny Victorian rhubarb.
Kept the watering hole open for sixty five years.

Now it's boilin' in a miserable March twenty first
Wrapped the hills in a blanket of Pattersons Curse
The train smokes down the xylophone
There'll be no stopping here
All ya can be is thirsty in a town with no cheer. No Bourbon, no Branchwater
Though the townspeople here
Fought the Vic Rail decree tooth and nail.

Now it's boilin' in a miserable March twenty first
Wrapped the hills in a blanket of Pattersons Curse
The train smokes down the xylophone
There'll be no stopping here
All ya can be is thirsty in a town with no cheer.

How's Your Memory?



Taylor's "Tin Shed" near Post Office

Tail End ...



I bought a little bag of air today...
The company that made it was kind enough to put some potato chips in it as well.

If you eat well, get good sleep, exercise, and drink plenty of water, you'll die anyway.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW A CEMETERY CAN RAISE ITS FUNERAL PRICES AND BLAME IT ON THE COST OF LIVING.



Hey sweetie,
I'm at work
Dinner is on the stove,
you only have to light it,
the gas is already turned on.
Love you -xxx-
♥



"Did you know there's a miniature woman tied to the train tracks who looks remarkably like me?"

I WOULD LIKE TO APOLOGIZE TO ANYONE I HAVE NOT YET OFFENDED PLEASE BE PATIENT I WILL GET TO YOU SHORTLY.



THERE IS NO BETTER SUNSCREEN THAN SITTING INSIDE A PUB.