

THE KOO WEE RUP BLACKFISH



JULY 2021

The Great Flood of 2021 (or not)



In a month where very little happened, Koo Wee Rup had a flood that didn't happen as well. Over an inch of rain fell in around half an hour, flooding roadways and lapping up to the doors of businesses in Station Street and Rossiter Road. A significant enough event to get a mention on the TV news! A couple of hours after the rain, most of it had cleared away leaving only a few puddles behind and a rim of muddy detritus along some of the footpaths.

I have shamelessly stolen these photos from local facebook groups and acknowledge the local citizen photojournalists (clockwise from top left):

Kelly Michelle,
Linda English,
Annette
Scutter, Helen
Brown, Shawn
Duff, Nikki
Kelly.

Caroline Roff,
Editor



Items printed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the thoughts or beliefs of the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit any items, where necessary. All work associated with the production of The Koo Wee Rup Blackfish is done on a voluntary basis. Edited by C Roff email: blackfish@live.com.au
PO Box 64, Koo Wee Rup 3981, Tel 5997 2333
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What's on in Koo Wee Rup and District

July

Thu 1st	SW Gippsland Midweek Bowls	Bowls Club	10.30am
Fri 2nd	KWR Regional Health Service Ladies Auxiliary Meeting	Hospital Education Room	9.30am
Fri 2nd	Winter Triples	Bowls Club	10.30am
Mon 5th	CWA Meeting (<i>page 3</i>)	Senior Citizens Club	7.30pm
Wed 7th	Koo Wee Coffee Club (<i>back page</i>)	Royal Hotel	10am
Wed 7th	Township Committee Meeting (<i>page 5</i>)	Community Centre	7.30pm
Wed 7th	Lions Club Meeting (<i>page 28</i>)	RSL Clubrooms	7.30pm
Thu 8th	KWR Senior Citizens Indoor Bowls (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	12.30pm
Fri 9th	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Fri 9th	KWR Senior Citizens Bingo (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	1pm
Sun 11th	Bayles Fauna Park Working Bee & Committee Meeting (<i>page 20</i>)	Bayles Fauna Park	9am
Mon 12th	KWR Senior Citizens Indoor Bowls (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	12.30pm
Mon 12th	Pilates (<i>page 13</i>)	Eco House - Hospital	6pm
Tue 13th	Forget-Me-Not Café (<i>page 33</i>)	Eco House – Hospital	10am
Wed 14th	KWR Swamp Historical Society Meeting	KWR Museum	7.30pm
Thu 15th	KWR Senior Citizens Indoor Bowls (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	12.30pm
Fri 16th	Winter Triples	Bowls Club	10.30am
Fri 16th	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Bingo (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Sat 17th	Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	9am
Mon 19th	KWR Senior Citizens Indoor Bowls (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	12.30pm
Mon 19th	Pilates	Eco House – Hospital	6pm
Mon 19th	CWA Craft Night (<i>page 3</i>)	Senior Citizens Club	7.30pm
Wed 21st	Koo Wee Coffee Club	Chandelier Cafe	10am
Wed 21st	Lions Club Meeting	RSL Clubrooms	7.30pm
Thu 22nd	KWR Senior Citizens Indoor Bowls (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	12.30pm
Fri 23rd	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Bingo (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Fri 23rd	Koo Wee 4 Kids & Brave Youth (<i>page 29</i>)	to be advised	6pm
Sat 24th	Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	9am
Sun 25th	KWR Swamp Historical Society Annual Luncheon (<i>back page</i>)	Tooradin Sports Club	12noon
Sun 25th	Social Bowls	Bowls Club	1pm
Mon 26th	KWR Senior Citizens Indoor Bowls (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	12.30pm
Mon 26th	Pilates	Eco House – Hospital	6pm
Thu 29th	KWR Senior Citizens Indoor Bowls (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	12.30pm
Fri 30th	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Bingo (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Fri 30th	Koo Wee 4 Kids & Brave Youth	to be advised	6pm
Sat 31st	Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	9am

August

Sun 1st	National Tree Planting Day with CWA (<i>page 9</i>)	Orchard End Farm	9am
Mon 2nd	KWR Senior Citizens Indoor Bowls (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	12.30pm
Mon 2nd	CWA Meeting	Senior Citizens Club	7.30pm
Wed 4th	Koo Wee Coffee Club	Royal Hotel	10am
Wed 4th	Township Committee Meeting	Community Centre	7.30pm
Wed 4th	Lions Club Meeting	RSL Clubrooms	7.30pm
Thu 5th	KWR Senior Citizens Indoor Bowls (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	12.30pm

HAVE YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

Have you got some news, a photo, or an opinion you want to share with your community? Why not say it in the Blackfish? Just drop me a line at blackfish@live.com.au post to PO Box 64, KWR or phone 5997 2333

Caroline Roff, Editor

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

For document signing and associated services contact:

GARY KING JP - 0438 663 655

BEVERLEY EDWARDS JP – 0400 584 235

JP duties are a free community service



Koo Wee Rup Country Womens Association

Written by Linda Sanders

2021 Meetings

Our next meeting will be on Monday 5th July at 7.30pm at the Senior Citizens Hall in Icke Road.

Our next craft meeting will be on Monday 19th July at 7.30pm at the Seniors Hall. We will be doing our own projects.

If you would like to join our great team of friendly ladies, please call President Cathy Stevens on 0403 593 513 for more details, or just turn up on the night.

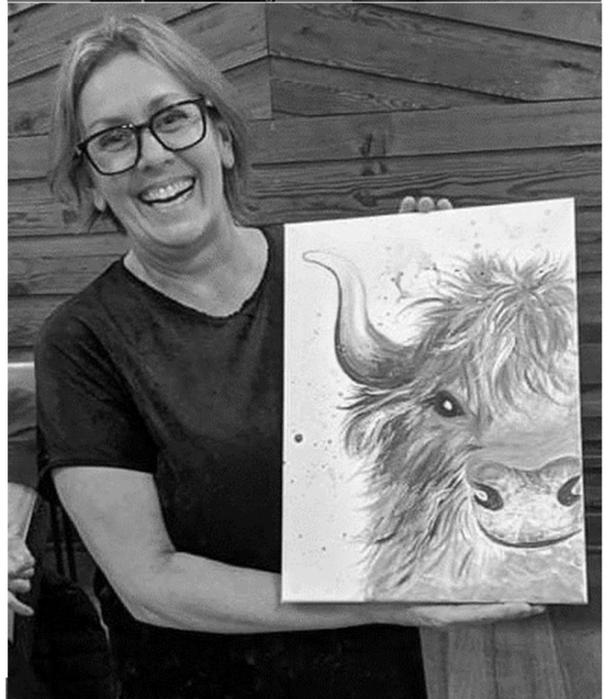
Bubbles and Brushes

At our craft night on Monday June 21st, we held Bubbles and Brushes where we created some very colourful paintings. While painting we got to indulge in some bubbly wine and individual hampers with snacks and sweet treats.

There were about 60 ladies who attended, most not involved with the CWA, so it was a great turnout.

I believe everyone had an excellent night and took home some remarkably interesting artwork.

This event was organised by our Secretary Joss Pohl, so a special thank you for your work.





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Koo Wee Rup Township Committee Meeting

The Township June meeting was postponed for a week due to the recent lockdown and then abandoned until July. Township Meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7 July at 7:30 pm at the Koo Wee Rup Community Centre.

As no meeting was held, I thought it would be worth rerunning the list of projects Township have been considering for this year.

- The Town Square proposal (the area near the RSL and opposite the Fish and Chip Shop). The owner of the site will need to be involved, the proposal was to add more seating and landscaping to make it a more pleasant area for people to rest, sit and consume their takeaway meals.
- The mural that was proposed for the toilet block in Rossiter Road should be revived now that COVID-19 restrictions have eased. The Township Committee can lead this ourselves now that we are an incorporated association.
- Update the information on the Clock Towers at the Bus Stop, there are also some blank faces that could have new information added.
- The Railway Platform. There have been some suggested additions to the renewal of the platform including a mural on the rear wall of the Woolworths complex and metal silhouette cut-outs to frame part of the platform. Secretary to write to Carol Jeffs for an update on this project and seeking councils support for these suggestions.
- Improvements to the Bus Service between Koo Wee Rup and Pakenham have been discussed for several years. This effort needs to be renewed. Some of the improvements we would like to see include an increase in the service, inclusion in the Myki system (zone 2), an additional stop at Livestock Way to provide for people who work in that expanding business park, and potential extension of the service to Lang Lang.
- Community Centre signage on Rossiter Road to clearly identify the entrance and parking, possible direction lights lining the driveway to guide people to the Community Centre.
- Council has budgeted for an upgrade to the Skate Park.
- Review of the Cochrane Park Masterplan to take into account changes over recent years (eg Tennis Courts, Avenue of Honour) and the proposal for a Dog Agility area in the rear of the park.
- Christmas Lights/Decorations for town centre
- There is a small section of the drain at the eastern end of Denhams Road that is still an open drain and often produces an unpleasant smell. There is a similar issue next to the high school oval in Moody Street. The Secretary has written to council CEO to advocate for covering these drains.



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Westernport Ward by-election

A by-election will be held for our ward this month with ballot papers to be posted to voters between 6 and 8 July. Ballots need to be posted or hand delivered to the election office (in the Tennis Club rooms next to the swimming pool) by Friday, 23 July. Vote counting will commence on Saturday, 24 July. I have asked the two candidates who have nominated for the ward to provide some information about themselves. Their responses are printed on this page and pages 9, in reverse ballot paper order.

Meet the Candidates - Kaye Cameron

Proudly local. Your voices need to be understood and heard. I was born in Koo Wee Rup and my family has lived in Cardinia Shire, Westernport ward for over 100 years. Westernport is such a unique ward predominately rural farming communities, small towns and a rapidly expanding housing and industrial estates and needs a councillor who understand the needs of such a ward and who resides in the ward. Council needs to focus on the simple things we all expect, and it needs to deliver as well as focusing on issues which affect small business, sporting and community groups.

If elected I will use the platform of being a Councillor to strongly lobby the State Government for better road funding. Roads and road safety in the Westernport ward needs massive investment to provide the ratepayers better road infrastructure and safety they desperately need. Sport and community groups are being forgotten.

I am passionate about the area in which I live and want to see it thrive under a proactive council. For too long we have allowed the bureaucrats run the agenda, unchecked and never challenged at the same time dismissing and ignoring ratepayers I have been a member of Victoria Police and was the first female officer stationed in the Cardinia Shire. I am currently nursing and work at a local hospital and as practice nurse for a prominent Plastic & Reconstructive surgeon. I will vehemently oppose any further pay rises for Councillors and will fight to have rates remain static. It's time for your voices to be heard. It's time to have a Councillor that cares about the whole ward.



Authorised by Kaye Cameron PO BOX 139 Koo Wee Rup

Cardinia Shire Council signs on to VECO, Australia's largest-ever emissions reduction project by local government

Council is proud to be one of forty-six Victorian councils to sign on to the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), the largest ever emissions reduction project by local government in Australia.

The bulk of Cardinia Shire Council's buildings and facilities, including streetlights, will begin to be transitioned to the renewable energy procurement project from July 1 2022, following the conclusion of its current energy contract.

Cardinia Shire Mayor Councillor Brett Owen said that council was proud to join the VECO initiative which supports council's commitment to reducing the impacts of climate change.

"In 2019, Council declared a climate emergency and we continue to recognise that we must work together to take action. Council is committed to showing leadership on climate change and we understand that our actions have an influence on our environment. By joining the VECO project we believe we can make this influence more positive through the use of renewable energy," Cr Owen said.

Through VECO, which is led by Darebin City Council, participating councils will be provided with 100% renewable energy.

Once all councils are on board, 45% of Victorian council electricity will be sourced from wind energy, reducing a combined total of greenhouse emissions by 260,000 tonnes of CO₂-e every year - equivalent to powering 48,000 homes or taking 90,000 cars off the road annually.

For more information about the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), visit veco.org.au





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Meet the Candidates - David Young

Firstly I would like to remember Ray Brown for the fine job he did for the Koo Wee Rup community over the years. He served a well deserved term in Council to cap off a lifetime of community service.

The main issue that needs to be addressed going forward is the Koowee-Pak road. I don't have to tell anybody who uses it how dangerous it is! I would, with the support of the community, be lobbying to have the proposed freeway linking the Pakenham bypass and the South Gippsland highway brought forward. It is not good enough for the State Government to not upgrade this important piece of infrastructure. VicRoads need to stop proposing what amounts to stopgap upgrades that do nothing to improve the safety or condition of the road.



Cardinia Council needs to improve the maintenance of many of the council maintained roads in Westernport Ward. Council has an asset renewal backlog and this is most apparent in the state of the roads.

The public transport service certainly needs improvement. It has not kept up to the needs of the community.

I would also work for a more visible police presence in the ward particularly Koo Wee Rup and Lang Lang.

I have lived and worked in the Ward all my life. I attended Cardinia Primary then Koo Wee Rup Secondary schools. I was a dairy farmer for over thirty years and am now enjoying semi retirement but remain on the farm. I consider that I know and understand the needs of the residents of the local towns as well as the rural community.

I am an active member of many groups. These include the Westernport Swamp Landcare group, committee member of the Westernport Catchment Landcare Network, an active member of the Cardinia branch of the Victorian Farmers Federation, committee member of the Cardinia Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and President of the Pakenham Art Show which has just completed a very successful exhibition.

If elected I will commit to making sure that the rates raised in the Ward are fairly expended in the Ward. I aim to be a strong voice for the Ward.

Authorisation: Authorised by D. Young 110 Wenn Rd, Cardinia Victoria 3978

national
tree day

PLANET ARK TOYOTA

NATIONAL TREE PLANTING

The KWR CWA is delighted to assist Orchard End Farm in hosting a National Tree Day activity on 1st August 2021 from 9am to 12pm.

This is to be held at 55 Number Five Drain Road, Bayles.

Continuing on the re-vegetation project for the third year with approximately 500 trees and shrubs to plant in a wildlife corridor that runs parallel to the Koo Wee Rup-Longwarry Road, we are aiming to increase biodiversity and provide habitat for local protected wildlife, as well as provide them safe passage to Bayles Flora and Fauna park.

Whilst 500 trees sounds ominous, we have found in previous years that with a number of volunteers we are finished just prior to lunch.

A BBQ lunch will be provided for volunteers after the event. We welcome anyone who would like to come along and help.

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138 Moody St, Koo Wee Rup

Price Guide on request

Enclosed outdoor kitchen and entertaining area.

Low maintenance landscaped backyard

Split system air conditioning



58 Bailey Blvd, Koo Wee Rup

\$620,000 - \$650,000

Multiple living areas, great room with wood heater and split system air-conditioning

Undercover outdoor entertaining



Development Plans



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Unit 2 - 137m2 (garage 22m2)



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Life after Covid -19 at the Men's Shed.

After all the happy news in last month's report on the Men's Shed and especially the news about the future reopening of our upgraded kitchen, we were again locked down with the problems of the Covid-19 virus on the very day we were due to swing open wide our doors to you all. Again, at the time of writing this, we are hoping to resume our activities on the 1st of July 2021, so keep your fingers crossed. It all depends on whether visitors to the hospital are allowed to visit their loved ones. If they are we can also resume our own daily routines in the 'Shed as well. Unfortunately, again, because of Covid-19 we weren't able to complete the new kitchen that we told you about last month but we are not that far away from the finish. Once we are allowed to do work in the 'Shed it will be about two weeks and then we can open our very popular Friday lunchtime café again for everyone, members and non-members, ladies and gentlemen. So ... as before, If you live in Koo-Wee-Rup and District, take note that all of our very friendly members will give you a real warm welcome as you come through the door. You don't have to be old either; we have a membership spanning all ages from youth to - well you know – somewhat older. Indeed there is always a genuine open invitation for you to come along, meet us and enjoy the company of real good mates and maybe get a boost to your own health and well-being at the same time. Come on, call in, try us.

It's now winter and the community veggie garden is in slumber mode; however the winter crop has been planted and we await the miracle growth of spring - not long now. This coming year all of our excess produce from the garden will be donated to the Turning Point Church and their Koo-Wee-Rup Connect Food Bank for distribution to the needy; surprisingly, there are quite a lot of our fellow townspeople who really do need our aid right now. The Church works closely with the Men's Shed, also they have a monthly outreach to the local nursing home and provide 'Food-Aid Services' to the community. The Church is also heavily involved in providing Ministry and Pastoral Care to the seasonal workers that come to the Koo-Wee-Rup area from Vanuatu. Some of them are still here with us.

For those of you who are new to the town, Koo-Wee-Rup Men's Shed continues to grow in stature and it is now recognized as one of the very best in the State if not in Australia. This amazing achievement has been won by the untiring work of the president, the committee, and of course the steadfast work of all the members. Finally:-

A men's Shed committee member was showing me around the shed tool storage area when he pointed at something and said, "That's my stepladder."

"I never got to know my real ladder."

Geoff Stokes



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KOO WEE RUP turningpoint CHURCH KWR connect

Koo Wee Rup Bowls Club

Winter Triples on the 4th June were cancelled due to the Covid-19 lockdown. Not much we can do about this situation. In drizzly weather conditions we actually played on 18th June after some players were uncertain if we would be playing a little of re shuffling of teams we got under way. The winning rink being John Van Vugt, Jim Smith & Simon Koning [Cardinia Waters] with 33 pts & 28 shots up. Runner up rink also with 33 pts & 11 shots up was Ken Clifton, Ned Courtin & Vince Aqualina [Pakenham]. Best 1st game was won by Mary Masters & Betty King [KWR] on 18 pts & best 2nd game went to Margaret McConville & Michael Dady [Corinella] with 16 pts.

We also managed to start our Sunday social bowls on the 20th with most of our newer members getting some practice and 1st time players were introduced to the game.





OBrien Real Estate

Last 10 sales.

Mark Sewell

0413 719 821

mark.sewell@obrienrealestate.com.au

Average above asking price.

\$41,200

Sale price.

High.

\$680k

Low.

\$340k

Average days on market.



Address	Suburb				Price range	Sale Price	Days on Market	Number of Buyers
182 Station Street	Koo Wee Rup	3	2	2	\$570,000 - \$620,000	\$640,000	9	21
9 Bailey Boulevard	Koo Wee Rup	4	2	2	\$590,000 - \$649,000	\$651,000	6	16
6 Ruby Avenue	Koo Wee Rup	3	2	2	\$550,000 - \$605,000	\$600,000	7	13
39 Alexandra Avenue	Koo Wee Rup	4	2	2	\$660,000 - \$710,000	\$680,000	14	15
19 Grange Court	Koo Wee Rup	4	2	2	\$600,000 - \$650,000	\$636,000	6	12
25 Emerald Crescent	Koo Wee Rup	4	2	2	\$575,000 - \$630,000	\$620,000	17	38
27A Charles Street	Koo Wee Rup	3	2	2	\$560,000 - \$615,000	\$585,000	15	11
14A Charles Street	Koo Wee Rup	4	2	2	\$540,000 - \$590,000	\$605,000	11	17
5 Bailey Boulevard	Koo Wee Rup	4	2	2	\$530,000 - \$570,000	\$550,000	34	16
2/3 Boormani Court	Koo Wee Rup	2	1	1	\$320,000 - \$352,000	\$340,000	8	4



Above is a summary of the most recent 10 sales achieved by myself & Team OBrien for our vendors.

Thinking of selling or just like an update on the current value of your home?

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Mark Sewell - Living Local For 40 Years

What was that siren?

June 2021

It was the Koo Wee Rup Fire Brigade back up siren to alert all the volunteers to attend the station for a turn out call. It's also used to let the local community know we are about to be out and about on a call.

Our calls since the last report were:

- 25/5/21 – Trees on fire – Boundary Drain Rd Koo Wee Rup
- 28/5/21 – Unattended fire – Station St Koo Wee Rup
- 31/5/21 – Motor Vehicle Collision – Ballarto Rd Koo Wee Rup
- 2/6/21 – Fire Pump Alarm operating – Rossiter Rd Koo Wee Rup
- 6/6/21 – Explosion – McDonalds Track Lang Lang
- 11/6/21 – Smoke Alarm Operating – Boundary Drain Rd Koo Wee Rup



Location of Smoke Alarms

Did you know you can't smell smoke when you're asleep? All homes should have interconnected working smoke alarms installed in every bedroom and living area. It could save your life.

Register Your Burn-Off

Before you carry out your planned burn, make sure you check and follow local regulations or laws set down by your local council.

Please also notify CFA to register your burn so we don't have to drop everything and check out your burn-off for no reason.

Go online <https://firepermits.vic.gov.au> or phone 1800 668 511 to register your burn.

Contact Us

You can contact Koo Wee Rup Fire Brigade for non-emergency enquiries via facebook @KooWeeRupFireBrigade



Pilates at Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service

After a disrupted June with another COVID lockdown, we are ready to go for Term 3 with classes starting on Monday 12th July. There has been some interest in a chair based class which I am offering this term as a trial.

Pilates is a focus on a full body workout challenging our core strength, flexibility and balance in many ways from very subtle to quite advanced, based on each individual's capacity. This happens because all exercises have the opportunity

to progress and work harder or regress and work more easily. This is achieved by how we position ourselves, hence the opportunity to do some work standing up or in a chair as well as on a mat on the floor. So how about giving it a try?

The first session remains a FREE taster class.

The new chair based class will run from 5 pm to around 5.30 pm every Monday with the mat classes continuing at 6 pm Mondays and 9 am Saturdays. The cost is \$5 for the chair based session whilst the others are \$10 per class of one hour's duration.

All sessions continue to be offered in the community room at Koo wee Rup Regional Health Service in Rossiter Rd, with the entrance just west of the community garden.

Enquiries to Marlene on 0429 814410



Mat Pilates

Term 3 2021

Try New Chair Pilates class

Pilates is suitable for all ages & abilities.
A new chair class is being offered allowing good core work without being on the floor.

When: Mat Classes: 6.00pm Monday or 9.00am Sat.
Chair: 5.00 pm Mondays for 30+ mins. Cost \$5 flat rate.

Where: Hewitt Eco House, Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service, 215 Rossiter Road Koo Wee Rup.

Cost: Mat classes: \$10 casual & concession of \$5 available.



Enquiries to:
Marlene on
0429 814 410

**Commences:
Monday 12th July 2021**

A climb up Uluru (Ayers Rock) in 1988 *by Geoff Stokes*

At the start of 1988 my job and career had become a little precarious and Olive and I were also becoming very restless to see some more of Australia. We had already bought a caravan as a fourth bedroom suitable for any visitors to Smith's Gully; there we had a small farm property on six acres of land. The 'van was in good condition but very basic, two wheels and oldish! It was 4.87m (16 feet) long and very wide at 2.4m (8 feet). No heating or hot water. Our vehicle at that time was a red 1985 Nissan 720, four-wheel drive, double cabin, (not many of these type of vehicles were around in that year; unlike today). With my career prospects getting worse it wasn't difficult to make the decision to hitch the two vehicles together and set off on a trip around Australia.



The journey took us six months to get to Perth and, in total, six years to get back to Melbourne - yes, you read that correctly - six years! We travelled directly north up the coast road to Sydney, Brisbane (The World Expo 88 was on at the time), Cairns and as far north as Daintree. Then west to Charters Towers and on to Cloncurry, Mount Isa, (another story there too) Tennant Creek, south to Alice Springs then 462km to Yulara and to Uluru and the climb! At this point in my tale I thought I should go into more detail because those particular days were full of adventure and wonder. Uluru or Ayers Rock, as it was called in those days, is a massive sandstone monolith in the very middle of the Northern Territory's arid "Red Centre". Uluru is sacred to indigenous Australians and is thought to have started forming about 550 million years ago. It is within Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park which also includes the 36 red-rock domes of the Kata-Tjuta ("The Olgas") formation. From Uluru it was a long way to Perth via Katherine, Darwin and Jabiru, Broome, Carnarvon, Geraldton and Perth but more tales about the remainder of the journey later if you want. Let me just tell you of our visit to Uluru.

We parked and stored our caravan at Tennant Creek because after eventually travelling south to Uluru via Alice Springs we would be returning to Tennant Creek to continue our journey northwards and anyway we wanted to experience camping in swags during our travels within the Red Centre. We were off on our way quite early in the morning with 505km of bitumen and gravel roads in front of us before we reached "The Alice" as it is called locally. Without the van we could maintain 105 to 110kmh (110kmh limit) easily and we flew along. After an hour we came to 'The Devil's Marbles', an unusual crop of worn and cylindrical rocks piled on top of each other; seemingly balanced quite precariously and ready to roll away. Others were sliced precisely and neatly in half as if by some infernal cheese cutter. No car parks there at that time but we explored around this strange rock formation on foot that the local Warmungu Aboriginal people believe are the fossilised eggs of the Rainbow Serpent.

Soon we were on our way south again and after two hours it was time for a driver swap and Olive took over. It wasn't long before we came up behind a Northern Territory road train. A prime mover with three massive loaded trailers behind, over 50 metres long. We called up the driver on our CB radio and told him we were about to overtake and he replied, "Yes mate, go, go, go". As we did the beautiful wide bitumen road changed to a single strip with wide gravel sides - wow! - dirt and fine dust everywhere. Olive was absolutely blinded by 34 of his 68 wheels and 2 of ours stirring up the dirt for at least ten seconds until she got the OK from the truck driver as the radio said "She'll be right mate, you're through!" Phew, I can still feel the fright and sweat now but I did remember that Olive had originally been police trained as an advanced driver in all situations. The scenery changed significantly as we approached Alice Springs with lots of greenery and bushes and there were thousands of blooming Sturt's Desert Pea plants with their distinctive blood-red leaf-like flowers, each with a bulbous black centre, just a magnificent setting in this brilliant red sand.

Soon we arrived in "The Alice" and we stayed there for almost ten days and had a magnificent time exploring all around the town and district. I will not write about this in detail because the main subject of this particular story is our visit to Uluru. Maybe at some other time I will write about our Alice Springs adventure? It was warm and a sunny 28 deg. C when we started our journey from Alice Springs. We travelled across the McDonald Ranges with a bright sun in a cloudless sky. The sun lit up the red soil and the colourful bush, absolutely beautiful to see. Indeed, it was ever changing from arid desert like scrub - flat - to mountainous; lush trees sometimes, and everything highlighted with the ever present brilliant red soil. The number of changes in the scenery was amazing.

Lunch was at Curtain Springs with a refuel there and just afterwards, from a roadside lookout, we saw Mount Conner on the horizon; a high tabletop mountain seemingly arising suddenly from the Plain below it. From the same lookout, on the other side, we viewed a dried out salt lake, huge, stretching to the far horizon. On this single strip bitumen road our speed would have been about 80 kmh when suddenly we saw them - Uluru and the Olgas - as we got nearer we could see just what a prodigious and enormous monolith phenomenon Uluru is; eerie, beautiful, so colourful and simply - huge. We eventually arrived at the Uluru camp site and put up our little tent with our swags within to claim our 'posi' at the site; it's about 13km from 'The Rock'.

Continued next page

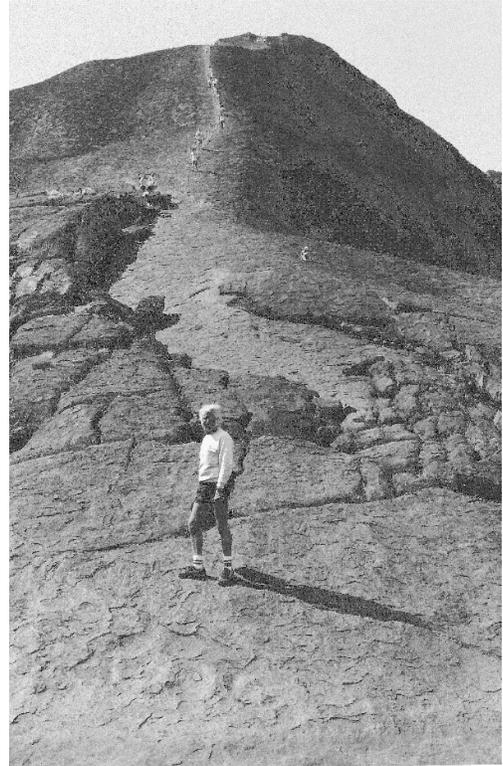
A climb up Uluru (Ayers Rock) in 1988 *from previous page*

As the sun went down we joined a couple of hundred others at sunset to see the changing colours on Uluru. Absolutely beautiful and so were the Olgas alongside as the sun sank below them. Then it was into our swags for the night. It was too hot to stay inside the tent so we fell asleep outside, under the brilliantly lit stars. What a day it had been. We slept quite well in our swags and we were surprised when 6:00 am came - time to get up. We move on tomorrow to King's Creek and King's Canyon so all of our cooking gear and swags had to be packed away before our adventure climb. As daylight dawned we made our way to the lookout at the camp site to see again the sun on the rock but this time it was the beginning of the day and different hues. Again the colours on the rock where just wonderful and we chatted to our new friends from last night's viewing until the sun was up. Soon it was time to get to the base of Uluru and remember now that the year is 1988. Today in 2021, 33 years later, climbing 'The Rock' is banned and has been since the 26th of October 2019. When the announcement of the proposed ban was made in November 2017, Chairman of the Park Board Sammy Wilson [wrote](#), "Whitefellas see the land in economic terms where Anangu (his people) see it as Tjukurpa. If the Tjukurpa is gone so is everything. We want to hold on to our culture. If we don't it could disappear completely in another 50 or 100 years. We have to be strong to avoid this". (Tjukurpa has many deep, complex meanings. Tjukurpa refers to the creation period when ancestral beings created the world. From this came Anangu religious heritage, explaining their existence and guiding daily life. It is the law of caring for each other and the land that supports them)

Not climbing Uluru wasn't even mentioned to us in 1988, in fact the Aboriginal Ranger was very friendly and quite willing to collect our fees and advise us about our safety for this severe climb. He told us that over 35 people have died since record-keeping began. However, he said that this figure only accounts for those people who died on the rock – not those who died later from cardiac arrest or other injuries sustained while climbing, or words to that effect. The climb was physically demanding and could be dangerous. At 348 metres, Uluru is higher than the Eiffel Tower, as high as a 95-storey building. The climb is very steep and can be very slippery. So off we went up the hill! The climb facing us was severe to say the least.

The Rock is huge, so colourful; I am unable to describe the feeling we had just being there and unable to describe in words how it really looks. Majestic, again I use the word eerie, wonderful; one must be there to see it to understand the incredible feeling it gives to you. Well - we made it - with some effort but we made it to the top. The initial leg of the climb was called the 'chicken run' because if you could make those first few metres unaided you were OK to go on. After the chicken run there was a linked steel chain to grab for support if you needed support. It is certainly not vertical but it is steep, very steep, and we had to have several breathers before we reached a relative flattening after the chain and, at that point, the wind was gale force and really hot. We reached the top and had our photos taken and we signed the book that was kept in a metal case on the summit. The Olgas, a few kilometres away, looked absolutely magnificent bathed in a yellowish, brownish ochre colour. In the distance we could also see the Ayers Rock resort, twenty kilometres away, a place to stay for the less adventurous. We were there at the summit for about fifteen minutes I suppose and then it was the descent. It was a precarious climb down, just as dangerous as the ascent and our knees became extremely wobbly and felt like jelly and they ached really badly as we came down the steep chain. It took us two hours and five minutes to get to the top and back and that included 15 minutes at the summit.

We were younger in 1988 because we then decided to go on the ten kilometre walk around the base to view the caves and waterholes and this too was another super highlight of the day. So much more to see than the bare rock of the climb. One of the few permanent water sources around Uluru, Mutitjulu Waterhole is a place where you can sit quietly and listen to all sorts of mesmerising and wonderful sounds. This is also one of the few places in the park where you may see wallabies among the tall grasses and river red gum trees. Bush foods also abound, including bush tomatoes, figs and bush plums. Mutitjulu Waterhole and the nearby [rock art cave](#) provided some relief to us from the very hot temperature of the day. After all this we then drove to the Olgas along a badly corrugated road - with some effort - then a further long walk to view the the Olgas more closely. Again I use the words for the sights we saw, magnificent, glorious, beautiful, it really was. By now we had had it! So ... back to the campsite for drinks, a cold supper and a chat with new found friends. One young lady from the Netherlands was actually cycling around Australia; she said that she had had three punctures this morning on her way here. Then we had a well earned rest before we collapsed into our swags to dream of a memorable magnificent day and to prepare for the drive to King's Canyon tomorrow.



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Koo Wee Rup Community Centre

247 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup

The Community Centre is used by a wide range of groups to bring people together and foster a positive community spirit in our local area.

From birthday parties to weddings, conferences to community seminars, the Community Centre caters for many different events in its three function rooms.

The centre is fully equipped with 250 padded seats, 25 tables that each seats 10 guests, a portable stage, kitchen facilities and crockery – so you have everything you need to ensure your function runs smoothly.

MAIN FUNCTION ROOM

Cocktails, conferences and seminars – 250 seat capacity

Banquets, weddings, and birthday parties (must be 21 or over) – 200 seat capacity

SWAMP ROOM 25 seat capacity

TOWER ROOM 10 seat capacity

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**Bookings subject to Committee approval*

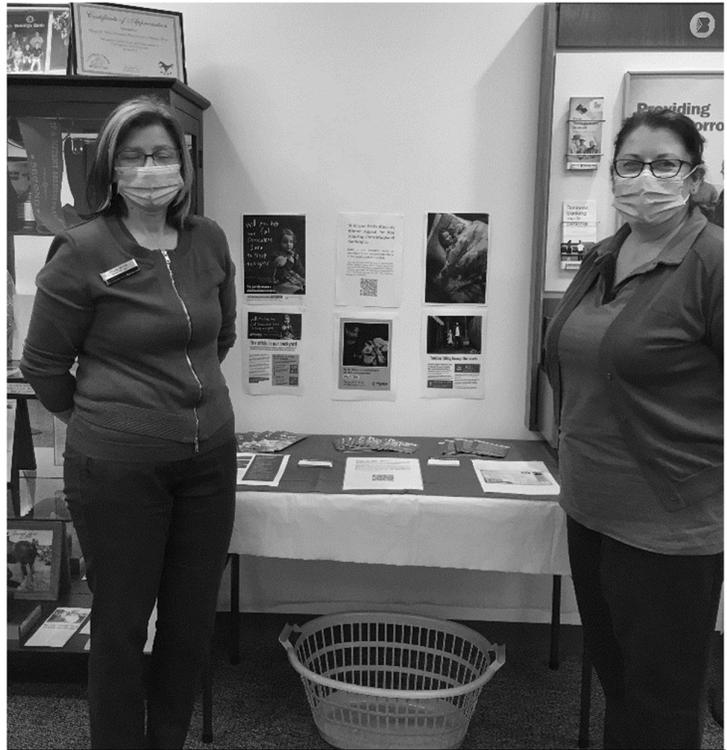
St Vincent De Paul Society Winter Appeal.

The St Vincent de Paul Society is part of a worldwide network of community services that are here to help. These include material aid support via home visits, education programs, Vinnies Soup Vans, the Healthy Minds Program, and Vincent Care frontline support programs.

Each year the St Vincent De Paul Society runs two appeals. One is over the Christmas period and the other over winter. This year's winter appeal focus is on homelessness, especially as a result of the many challenges we have faced over the COVID lockdown and recovery period.

This year our Koo Wee Rup / Iona Maryknoll conference is also working with the four local Bendigo Bank Branches across our catchment. So please keep your eyes open in the community and encourage participation at Bendigo Banks in Bunyip, Koo Wee Rup, Lang Lang and Tooradin. The promotions department at St Vinnies head office has generated a QR scanning code which will be available in the banks for monetary donations as well as being able to donate non-perishable food items. Literature about the services of St Vinnies will also be available both at the banks and each church. Please give generously.

The photo is part of the Bendigo Bank display at the Bunyip Branch during June.



Koo Wee Rup Senior Citizens Club

Icke Road, Koo Wee Rup

The club rooms have been closed all of June for the installation of a disabled toilet facility. Reopening has been put back a week. First Friday lunch will be 9th July. Bowls will start back on 12th July. We look forward to meeting again. The Annual General Meeting will be on Monday 9th August at 10.30am. All members welcome.

All enquiries

Dianne D 0419 405 404

Diane K 0408 663 655

Leonie 0477 249 000

Take the Plastic Free July challenge with free workshops!

Celebrate Plastic Free July with Council's All Things Reusable workshops.

The free workshops are all about reusable alternatives to everyday household items and are perfect for those starting out on their zero-waste journey or looking to reduce their waste at home.

Plastic Free July is a global movement encouraging us all to be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can all enjoy cleaner streets, oceans, and communities. When used correctly, reusable items are a much better alternative to compostable, biodegradable and recyclable items. The workshops will explore why this is, as well as identify alternatives to common disposable household items including paper towels, wipes, nappies, shopping and produce bags. Anyone who is interested in trying to reduce their environmental impact is encouraged to sign up for these workshops to discover how they can be more eco-friendly throughout Plastic Free July and beyond.

Event 1

Date: Thursday 8 July 2021, 7.30pm–8.30pm

Location: Online webinar

Booking link:

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/150448963901

This session is a virtual event. Once registered, you will receive an email with details on how to join the session.

Event 2

Date: Saturday 10 July 2021, 10.30am–11.30am

Location: Emerald Library,
400B Belgrave-Gembrook Rd, Emerald

Booking link:

<https://events.ccl.vic.gov.au/event?id=3504>

For more information about Council's waste workshops, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/wasteworkshops or call the waste team on 1300 787 624.

Or, for details about Plastic Free July, see www.plasticfreejuly.org

KWR Secondary College Year 7 Poems About Camp

The Swing

By Dylan Thurling

I'm go up in the sky
 High, like a butterfly.
 Three. Two. One.
 They pull the rope and I feel a jolt of adrenaline.
 I am flung through the air like a catapult, the sound like a whip.
 I then hear the clip hitting against my harness and the distance of the ground terrifies me.
 As I begin falling, the wind stings my eyes.
 And, as the swinging slows, everyone starts to grow.
 I'm grinning now
 My eyes adjusting to the people on the ground.
 Thrusting myself onto the safety of the ladder
 I could not be gladder.



Camp Commotion

By Erica Condon

As the orange sun rises in the distance from cloudy grey skies
 Raindrops fall on the soft green grass and the tall trees.

Slowly comes the sound of students' laughter and chatter
 And the tired teachers frantically getting everyone ready for breakfast
 While in the delicious smelling kitchen - The pots and pans clatter.

Outside against the backdrop of ferns and flowers
 The long zipline goes down the hill with the students - fast as lightning.

The students also go canoeing on the big lake
 Water soaking them from their heads head to their toes.
 And on the night walk, they can see possums peering with wide eyes.
 "Shhhh! Don't scare the animals!" the teacher goes.



The Maze

By Martin O' Brien

I can hear the sound of people running through the maze
 Their feet pounding against the gravel like a hoard of bulls.
 The huge wooden walls were tall mountains towering above us
 And the thousands of dead ends made reaching the flags seemed impossible.

We climbed up the stairs to look for a path to the flag
 The maze laughed whenever we went the wrong way.
 There was an endless amount of paths - but only one did work.
 We took twists and turns until our lungs started to burn.
 It felt like days had passed as we ran
 And soon, we were exhausted.

The night began to fall.
 The sky had turned from a light blue to a very dark purple with stars in the sky.
 And soon the finders of the flag stood up on benches and began to shout.
 The fun everyone was done and ready to go.



KWR Secondary College Year 7 Poems About Camp

11PM

By Tilly Smith

I was woken up by my roommates
They said it was 7.
But, I turned on my phone
To find it was eleven.
I told them to go back to sleep
But they ignored my groan and continued to speak.
I told them to "shut up" so that I could get some rest
Until finally, they listened to my request.
I eventually dozed off to sleep
Only to be woken up
by the sound of stepping of feet.
It was early in the morning
And I heard the Mr Ham's whistle
So I got up and got dressed,
For the activity:
I'm Present!
Dismissal.



The Giant Swing

By Kyiah Jones

On Friday we did awake
And how slow the morning did take!
We ran, we jumped, and played to compete-
But little did we know what we were about to defeat.
We all lined up one by one
Thinking *what an adventure this will become.*
Next up was my turn
And there I stood firm.
I was harnessed into the swing, - then off I did fling.
I flew through the air
With the wind brushing through my hair.
And as I swung - I felt free.
I am sure that the look on my face was just pure glee!



The Longest Maze

By Zoe Varapodio

I flew through the maze
Turn, after turn
Not knowing what or where to go next.
I came to a dead end
And needed to turn back.
It felt as though I had been running for years!
But I did not give up!
I kept going
Frantically hurrying through the maze like a bee trying to find
precious pollen.
Finally, I came to the end.
I was greeted by everyone cheering.
I felt so proud – I had made it.



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facebook page (Rotary Club of Koo Wee Rup-Lang Lang)
or our website

Email: rckooweeruplanglang@gmail.com
Phone: 0499 101 953

BAYLES FAUNA PARK

Working Bee

Sunday, 11 July, 9am start
followed by a BBQ lunch

Committee Meeting

Sunday, 11 July
immediately after working bee
Please bring own bottled water, wear long
pants and closed in shoes

All welcome



KOO WEE RUP Primary School

Last month we held our 2022 Foundation information session for prospective parents. The session was recorded and is available for any parents that missed it. Please contact our office if you are interested.

If you have a child that will be starting Foundation in 2022 it would be great if you could let us know at the beginning of Term 3 to allow for staffing and classroom structure.

Our Foundation Team have once again prepared a thorough transition program. Details and dates of the sessions, which start in Term 3, are provided below.

The first day of Term 3 is Monday July 12. I hope that you all have a safe, relaxing and well-deserved break.

Take care,

Ben Zimmerle - Principal

'Footsteps into Foundation 2022'

Koo Wee Rup Primary School strives to ensure we provide a positive gateway into lifelong education for your child. We prioritise the wellbeing of our students with the understanding that this underpins children's ability to engage fully in the learning process.

In the classroom we challenge our students academically through a differentiated approach to teaching, ensuring that the individual needs of all students is catered to. Our curriculum and way of teaching is constantly evolving so that our teaching and learning programs are developed in line with current research into educational 'best practice'. Our school motto of 'Together We Learn' is embedded through a strong professional learning program for all teachers to constantly reflect and build on their teaching practice.

Our 'Footsteps Into Foundation' program has been established for new Foundation enrolments as bridge between kindergarten and primary school. The program involves seven planned transition sessions as well as parent information sessions. As Principal of Koo Wee Rup Primary School, I invite you to visit our welcoming and friendly school and see for yourself the high quality teaching and learning programs on offer for all students.

To arrange your personal tour, please contact the school on 5997 1272.

Term 3 Transition (2:15-3:15pm) – 60 minute sessions

Wednesday 11th August – Week 5

Wednesday 25th August – Week 7

Wednesday 8th September – Week 9

Term 4 Transition (1:45-3:15pm) – 90 minutes sessions

Wednesday 13th October – Week 2 (Art & Sport/PMP)

Wednesday 27th October – Week 4 (Italian & Digi-tech)

Wednesday 10th November – Week 6 (Buddies)

Wednesday 24th November – Week 8 (Buddies)

State-wide Transition (9am - 1pm) - Date to be confirmed



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For the latest Covid-19 updates:
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T 03 5672 4755

E jordan.crugnale@parliament.vic.gov.au

 [jordancrugnaleMP](https://www.facebook.com/jordancrugnaleMP)

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St John's Primary School

Well Term Two had a bit of everything at St John the Baptist. This term we had our whole school swimming program. The students had a wonderful time learning new skills in the pool. During our four sessions students practised some safety entries as well as correct technique for the different strokes. With one day to go in the swimming program we were thrown another round of remote learning.

During this two-week period students connected online with their teachers and a small group of peers to participate in reading and maths sessions. It was great to see so many students online and turning our classrooms into the online world. The students showed great resilience throughout the two weeks and it was wonderful to see them return after the Queen's Birthday. The excitement on the yard and the classrooms was fantastic to see.

We finished the term with St John the Baptist Feast Day. It began with Mass where students listened to the Gospel story of about John the Baptist and sung our school song with pride. Students engaged in level activities that related to the life of St John the Baptist. It was a great day with fun had by all.

Exciting things are happening at St John's over the next few months, our current senior building and library will be partially demolished and a new building will be created.

We wish all our families a safe and happy holiday.



The latest news from the Consumer Advisory Committee

The next meeting of the Consumer Advisory Committee will take place on August 31st 2021 but, in the meantime, the members of the committee will always be available to anyone should they have any problem or difficulty with any part of the Koo-Wee-Rup Regional Health Service's (KRHS) activities. If you haven't yet read it, the write up of our May 25th meeting in the June edition of 'Blackfish' will bring you up to date with all our endeavours and activities leading up to this latest Covid-19 shut down. Unfortunately under the current Covid-19 rules and with KRHS being an aged care facility, no unauthorised person is allowed to walk around the grounds. Even those kind people who want to see their loved ones through a window perhaps are prohibited.

For those of you who are not quite sure, or maybe you are a newcomer to the town, the aim of the Community Advisory Committee is to provide the KRHS with feedback and advice to improve and strengthen their services, their information, their forward planning, and the future policy development of the KRHS. The Committee will give advice to the KRHS Board of Management about problems that could be upsetting a Patient, a Resident or a Carer, and also, maybe, from an individual Koo-Wee-Rup resident or, indeed, from the whole Community's point of view.

The Community Advisory Committee will listen closely to these consumers and acknowledge their concerns and

aspirations so that these alternatives that they offer are consistently understood and seriously considered. This advice, and the recommendations developed, will be broadened into balanced information to assist the complete understanding of a particular topic by the KRHS Board of Management.

If you have a suggestion or some nagging thoughts about your difficulties, or your dependant's comforts or problems with any aspect of the KRHS, then get in touch with the CAC Committee. Simply phone KRHS on 5997 9679 or Geoff Stokes on 0435 085 002. Or you can email: geoffreystokes@geoffstokes.com. Your email will be acknowledged.

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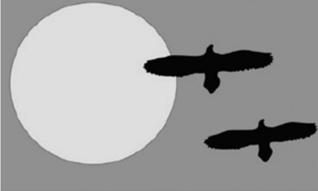


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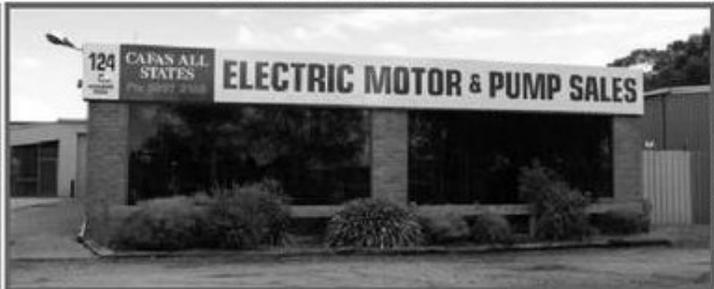
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1st Koo Wee Rup Scout Group

1 Mickle St, Koo Wee Rup VIC 3981

Joeys – 6:30 to 7:30pm Monday
 Cubs – 7:00 to 8:30pm Tuesday
 Scouts – 7:00 to 9:00pm Wednesday
 Venturers – 7:00 to 9:00pm Friday
 Rovers – 8:00 till late Friday



Our Joeys have been busy learning about fighting extinction, creating posters, Dioramas and raised funds with cookie dough. Cubs and scouts got together for some great food experiments, building pasta towers and making ice cream. During lockdown Scouts Victoria hosted a cook at home session where people were able to make chicken cacciatore and a baked banana dish. Cub scouts got on Zoom to do some home-made pizzas for their families. Once restrictions eased the Venturer section did an alphabet scavenger hunt at Fountain Gate shopping centre.



Great News! At long last the highly anticipated building works are due to start next month. We can't wait to see the finished upgrade, and in the meantime the youth members will be out and about in the community.

Monster Raffle

This is happening again this year. However, it has gone digital this year. All you need to do is scan the QR code and enter the details. You are still able to purchase tickets in person, just let us know if you would like some.

\$2 a ticket.

Drawn November 5th at 11am.
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Contact our Group Leader Shane Worthington
0427 770 781 or email 1stkwrscouts@gmail.com





Koo Wee Rup and Districts Lions

Written by Linda Sanders

Lions Meetings

Koo Wee Rup Lions have meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at the RSL rooms, Station Street, Koo Wee Rup at 7pm.

We are committed to serving our local, national and international communities.

If you would like to join our merry team, please come along to a meeting to see how things are run or call Ron Payne on 0429 042 911.

Craft and Patchwork Show

The Koo Wee Rup Lions held their Craft and Patchwork show on Saturday 26th June 2021 at the Community Centre. Doors were open from 9.30am to 4pm and we had a steady flow of visitors. What a wonderful day it was.

Thank you to organiser Sheryl Blay for all your hard work in organising the event and also for making the quilt for the first prize in the raffle. The quilt is gorgeous and a credit to you.



The winners of the raffle were:

First prize Quilt (left): Betty Leeman

Betty winning the raffle (right)

Second Prize Table (below right): Jenny

Third Prize Bed Linen and Cushion (on the bench below right): Cheryl

4th Prize Voucher from Craft Quarters: Celeste

5th Prize Voucher from Chandelier Café: Lyn Ingram



Koo Wee Rup and Districts Lions

Written by Linda Sanders

Winners of the following categories were:

- Quilt: Exhibit # 72 Dr Who Quilt by Virginia Wheeler
- Embroidery: Exhibit # 86 Compania by Jill Ellingworth
- Knitting: Exhibit # 86 Bear by Jill Ellingworth
- Crochet: Exhibit # 3B Rug by Cathy Stephens
- Photography: Exhibit # 2C 3981 Storm by Kaye Chaplin
- Painting: Exhibit # 2B Raceday by Kaye Chaplin
- Other: Exhibit # 84A Table by Ian Gratton

Thank you to the Ladies Hospital Auxiliary for their work in the kitchen, making sandwiches, slices and soup. We greatly appreciate your help. Thanks also for the beautiful fluffy scones baked by Leonie.

Congratulations on all the hard working members and helpers involved in bringing this event to fruition. It is a credit to you all but thank goodness it only happens every two years.



KOO WEE 4 KIDS will be on a short break over the school holidays BUT we will be back July 23rd!
Term 3 dates below!

Every Friday, 6pm, venue to be confirmed

TERM 3 DATES:

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| July 23rd | August 20th |
| July 30th | August 27th |
| August 6th | September 3rd |
| August 13th | September 10th |
| | September 17th |

Contact Jon & Patrina Eli - 03 5997 2297
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BRAVE YOUTH will be on a short break over the school holidays BUT we will be back July 23rd!
Term 3 dates below!

Every Friday, 6pm, venue to be confirmed

TERM 3 DATES:

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| July 23rd | August 27th |
| July 30th | September 3rd |
| August 6th | September 10th |
| August 13th | September 17th |
| August 20th | |

Contact Sean & Fiona Kallady - 03 5997 2297
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Koo Wee Rup RSL Sub Branch Report

A little bit more about the Battle of the Coral Sea for the benefit of our young.

Because of the Allied success in code breaking, the intentions of the Japanese were no secret. Intelligence had been reading intercepted signals which gave the game away. Even so, Allied naval forces were not plentiful and for the coming battle the opposing forces would be fairly evenly matched.

The allies regarded Port Moresby as a key base for a planned counteroffensive under the command of US General Douglas MacArthur against the Japanese forces in the southwest Pacific. While the Japanese needed Port Moresby and the nearby islands of Samoa, Fiji, Tulagi and New Caledonia to extend their defensive perimeter and strength as well as cutting the lines of communication between Australia and the United States. The occupation of Port Moresby would cut off the eastern sea approaches to Darwin and provide the Japanese with a secure operating base on Australia's northern doorstep.

Knowing of the Japanese intentions, the new commander of the US forces in the central Pacific, Admiral Chester Nimitz, decided to contest the Japanese by sending all four of the Pacific fleet available aircraft carriers to the Coral Sea. April 29th 1942 Nimitz issued orders that sent his carriers and their supporting warships towards the Coral Sea. Task Force 17 (TF17) commanded by Rear Admiral Frank Fletcher and consisting of the carrier USS Yorktown escorted by three cruisers and four destroyers was already in the South Pacific. Task Force 11 commanded by Rear Admiral Aubrey Fitch consisting of the carrier USS Lexington with two cruisers and four destroyers.

TF 16 commanded by Vice Admiral William (Bull) Halsey consisting of the carriers USS Enterprise and USS Hornet, had just returned to Pearl Harbour from the 'Doolittle Raid' where carrier based US B25 bombers led by Lt Col James Doolittle attacked targets in the Japanese home island. TF 16 immediately left Pearl Harbour but would not reach the Coral Sea in time to participate in the battle. Included with the above are the very necessary fuel oil tankers and their escorts. It may be a good time to point out that the escorting warships are there not only to provide gunfire support/protection for the capital ships (in this case, aircraft carriers) but also to draw fire including torpedos to save the capital ships. With the above we had the Anzac support group TF 44 commanded by Rear Admiral John Crace, RN consisting of HMAS Australia, HMAS Hobart, USS Chicago, USS Perkins, USS Farragut and USS Walke. Rear Admiral Thomas Kinkaid USN was in command of the 'attack group' with five cruisers and five destroyers.

The search group based at Noumea with twelve patrol aircraft and the Eastern Australia Submarine Group with eleven submarines.

For the Japanese Admiral Inouye had overall command and had divided his force into several groups, with the carrier strike force consisting of the carriers Zuikaku and Shokaku, two heavy cruisers and seven destroyers. This force was to provide long range cover for the invasion force by intercepting and destroying Allied warships. Included in the invasion force were eleven troop transports, the fleet minesweeper and six smaller minesweepers as well as two destroyers and two mine layers. The attack force consisting of one light cruiser and six destroyers. Providing protection for the troop transports were one light aircraft carrier Choho, four heavy cruisers and one destroyer with seven submarines on reconnaissance work.

Continued next page

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Koo Wee Rup RSL Sub Branch Report *from previous page*

In order to ensure that the Japanese invasion force would not get through to Port Moresby, early on the morning of May 7th, Fletcher split his forces by detaching the Anzac group with Crace and his support group to cover the Jomard Passage and intercept the invasion force as it exited. This was an extremely risk decision and perhaps the most important in the battle for not only did Fletcher weaken his own air defences, he also exposed Crace's Anzac force to the possibility of air attack without hope of fighter protection as had occurred with HM Ships Repulse and Prince of Wales off the coast of Singapore.

On May 7th the Japanese carrier strike force were in the Coral Sea. Their reconnaissance aircraft missed the US aircraft carrier and instead found the US fuel oil tanker Neosho and the destroyer Sims. These were reported as a carrier and a cruiser and, because of this mistaken report, the Japanese strike force mounted a full scale bombing and torpedo attack which sank the destroyer Sims and fatally crippled the oiler Neosho. On the same day Fletcher carrier planes were sent to attack the Japanese strike force, missed the carrier force but found and quickly sank the carrier Shoho which covered the invasion convoy. The following day, May 8th, the two main forces found each other and, in the ensuing battle, the Lexington was lost and the Yorktown damaged while, on the Japanese side, Shokaku was badly damaged and Zuikaku aircraft losses kept her out of the war for a month. Crace's Anzac naval squadron arrived at the area of his patrol off Jomard Passage at 2pm and at 3pm his force was attacked by twelve twin-engined torpedo bombers. Anti Aircraft formation and skilful ship handling cleverly avoided damage. Five enemy planes shot down. Shortly after, nineteen heavy bombers attacked HMAS Australia from astern and up sun, the bombing was accurate and Australia was straddled but no serious damage or casualties. The captain of USS Chicago managed to save his ship from four torpedoes directed at her but lost two of his men killed and 7 injured.

The Japanese invasion force remained intact and all that stood in the way of the Japanese and Port Moresby were Crace's Anzac squadron. The decision by Fletcher to split his forces by attacking Crace had proved to be the correct one, even though this may have contributed to the loss of Lexington. The Japanese invasion force were forced to 'advance to the rear' back to Rabaul and the Coral Sea battle provided a first in naval history because the opposing surface forces were never in sight of each other. All combat involved aircraft to aircraft or aircraft to warship. Most significantly the Japanese had suffered a strategic defeat – their first major setback.

They were to try once more but their forces would have to flogslog their way along the tortuous Kokoda Trail that snaked through the formidable barrier of the Owen Stanley Mountains. It was to become a job for the courageous and, through no fault of their own, poorly trained and ill equipped young men of the 39th Battalion and the AIF who would prove to be a thorn in the side of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto who, in January of 1941, boastfully told his troops 'When war comes between Japan and the United States I would not be content with the occupation of Guam, Philippines, Hawaii and San Francisco, I look forward to dictating peace to the Americans from the Whitehouse in Washington'.

While some of our people may scoff at the fears of a Japanese invasion in 1942, the fact is that for many Australians during the 1940s that fear was real.

Now, nearly 80 years on, who could have imagined the friendship enjoyed between the two nations, the result of the wisdom and foresight of those who were here before us in reaching out to our former foe, offering an open hand in friendship and working together for the good of our two nations.

We will remember them, lest we forget

*John Camilleri, KWR
RSL Sub Branch
5629 4242*



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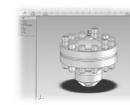
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Email: gregorys@krhs.net.au Website: www.kooweeruphospital.net.au

July 21

Find us on



KRHS Covid Update

Visitors:

- Two visitors allowed at a time with no restriction on length of visit
- Maximum 5 visitors per day
- Exceptions permitted for end of life care as arranged on a case by case basis
- **Note** – residents and patients are able to go out as there are no restrictions on people leaving home – while out they must follow the general guidelines for Greater Melbourne eg: masks, density limits, numbers in homes, physical distancing etc

Outpatient services & groups

- Telehealth consultations remain the preferred option
- Where telehealth is not possible or appropriate based on clinical risk face to face appointments can occur following thorough screening
- Group activities remain on hold
- Limited face to face EPU services returning with remainder via telehealth

Volunteers & Community Groups/Activities

- On site volunteers, community groups and activities remain on hold

Student placements

- Student placements continue

Health Care and Storms

Wild storms lashed Victoria two weeks ago, with many homes losing power, internet access and general damage to property. The Health Service continued to provide outreach and community services to our clients. The BOM (Bureau of Meteorology) said the storm was on a scale not seen in many decades, we urge our community to be aware of these events and prepare for floods and storms at this time of the year.

There are many great resources to help you keep informed such as the Vic State Emergency Service, tapping into these can keep you up to date and have great resources on what you need to do to prepare. Big thankyou go out to all the Volunteers who put their own situations on hold to help the community. This includes some of our staff who went out into the wild weather to assist. It is also normal to have mixed reactions following emergency situations, if people can feel they need someone to talk with Lifeline 13 11 14 or Beyond Blue 1300 224 636 are there to help. [\(1\) Victoria State Emergency Service | Facebook](#)

Forget-Me-Not Café

The Forget-Me-Not Café is an opportunity to make new friends and nurture old ones, share experiences and create new ones in an environment of support and understanding.

Join us at the Forget-Me-Not Café

Hewitt Eco House Community Room

215 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup

Tuesday 13th July 2021

10am - 12pm



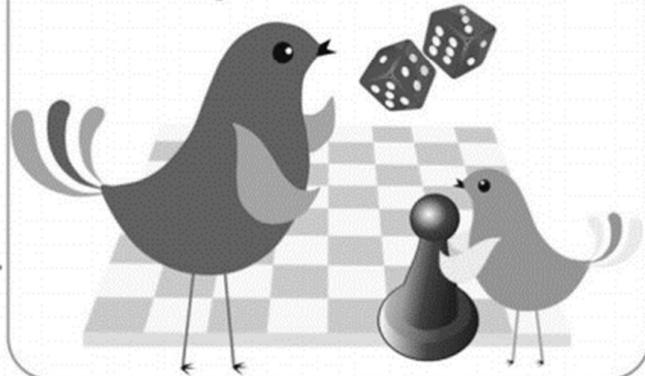
Kooweerup

The Café aims to bring together people living with dementia and their loved ones in Koo Wee Rup, and surrounding areas.

The Café is a nurturing space that offers enrichment, support and understanding, where you can share experiences with others living with the challenges of dementia.

Contact Joanne for more information 5997 9655 Joanne.Cain@krhs.net.au

Games Theme



Welcome

We are pleased to introduce our new Chief Financial Officer, Ragul Karun. Ragul comes to us from Swan Hill District Health Service where he has held the role of Chief Financial Officer for the last 9 years having held previous roles at Melbourne Health and Mercy Health. Please say hi and welcome him to KWR.



We provide a range of centre and community based services: Acute Care, Early Parenting Unit, Transitional Care Program, Respite and Residential Aged Care, Community Health, District Nurses, Home Care, Pathology and Allied Health for example: Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Social work. There is also Specialist Medical Services such as Cardiology, Podiatry and a Diabetes Clinic. KRHS is a member of the 'International Health Promoting Hospitals Network' and 'Global Green and Healthy Hospitals'.

Please visit our website for the latest information on KRHS and Covid restrictions



Get yourself computer savvy at Outlook Community Centre. We offer a range of low-cost courses catering for beginners to intermediate. Our experienced tutors are here to assist you to increase your skills and achieve your goals. A certificate of completion is awarded at the end of each course (except Get Tech Savvy for Seniors). There are no tests! To book online or browse our complete Term 3 program, please visit www.outlookvic.org.au/book-online, email a request for a PDF version or drop by the centre for a brochure.

Cardinia Shire Volunteer Subsidy, (discount), is available to volunteers in the Cardinia Shire where the course is relevant to your role.

HOW TO ENROL IN A PROGRAMME: In Person: 24 Toomuc Valley Road, Pakenham, **Telephone:** 5940 4728,

Online: www.outlookvic.org.au/book-online, **Email:** communitycentre@outlookvic.org.au,

Payment: Credit Card - online, over the phone or in person, Cash, cheque or EFTPOS

Computer Essentials (File and Folder Management, plus Internet and Email)

This course covers important knowledge and tips when using Windows-based computers and the internet, whether that be for work or personal use. Learn how to navigate your PC's filing system, understand folders and their structure, manage your files, find, transfer and backup data. Also covers exploring handy internet sites and web browsing skills, plus the essentials of using email.

BYO USB stick.

Mondays commencing 9 August for 6 sessions,

1.00pm - 4.00pm. Cost \$35 (includes course notes)

Everyday Computers

You perhaps have used a computer occasionally but would like to know more about their workings? Gain confidence in using them by learning how they can aid you in everyday life activities. Bring your own laptop or use one of ours.

BYO USB stick.

Tuesdays commencing 27 July for 8 sessions,

1.00pm - 4.00pm. Cost \$45 (includes manual)

Get Tech Savvy for Seniors

Keep up to date with the digital world with these hands-on informal classes, where you can ask questions about computing technology that frustrate you or make you curious. Whether you are a beginner or already have some experience, you will gain skills and confidence to easily use technology for socialising, accessing important services or organising your life. Classes cover computers and iPads. Use our laptops and iPads or bring your own.

BYO USB stick.

Wednesdays commencing 14 July for 10 sessions

Beginners 11.00am - 12.30pm

OR

Intermediate 9.30am - 11.00am

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Expand your Word and Excel Knowledge

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Fridays commencing 30 July for 8 sessions

9.30am - 12.30pm. Cost \$45 (includes course notes)

Intermediate iPads

Learn how to use your iPad for communication, entertainment and productivity. Edit and organise your photos; create, edit and store documents; access social media like Facebook and Instagram; watch movies, enjoy music and listen to Podcasts; and much more. Your trainer will try and accommodate participants' specific needs; so have those questions ready. BYO device.

Thursdays commencing 29 July for 8 sessions,

9.30am - 12.30pm. Cost \$45

This course is aimed at devices that are currently supported by Apple updates (iPad Gen 5 and later)

Intermediate Microsoft Office Online

During this course you will delve deeper into the free online apps, particularly Word, Excel and PowerPoint, but also Sway (digital story telling app), Forms and One Note. This course is ideal for those that have a basic understanding along with a Microsoft account and knowledge of OneDrive and Office Online.

Wednesdays commencing 28 July for 8 sessions,

1.00pm - 4.00pm. Cost \$35 (includes course notes)

Xero Accounting

Learn the essentials of the Xero cloud-based accounting system. This hands-on course covers setup, sales and purchase functions, banking and reconciliation options, reports, plus key payroll and activity statement setting. Working email address required.

Wednesdays commencing 28 July for 8 sessions,

6.00pm - 9.00pm. Cost \$55 (includes course notes)

Rythdale - the origin of the name

By Heather Arnold, Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society

Rythdale is a small locality bordered on three sides by Pakenham South; on the south by Koo Wee Rup North and also partially on the west by Cardinia. It was a Soldier Settlement area - Soldier's Road in Rythdale is a reminder of this fact. The properties which were sub-divided by the Closer Settlement Board to create this Soldier Settlement area were known as McGregor's and Hagelthorn's. McGregor's of 2,208 acres was divided into 37 blocks with an average size of 60 acres and Hagelthorn's of 1,560 acres, had 14 blocks with the average size of 111 acres.

The new settlers needed a school and on November 10, 1924 McGregor's Estate School, No. 4231 opened in a room of a house. It later moved to a house until the new hall opened in February 1927 and the school relocated there. The school closed in September 1951 and the pupils moved to Pakenham Consolidated School. The hall was demolished in the 1960s.

The name of the area changed in 1926 to Rythdale and on September 30, 1926, the name of the school was also changed. There seems to be some mystery as to where the name came from. Les Blake in his *Place Names of Victoria* book says it is apparently a 'coined word' and this is repeated in *Look to the Rising Sun: a history of Cardinia and District*.

However, I came across this article (reproduced below) about James Cuming's estate, *Rythdale* in the *South Bourke & Mornington Journal* of January 27, 1909, and this is clearly the source of the name of the town.

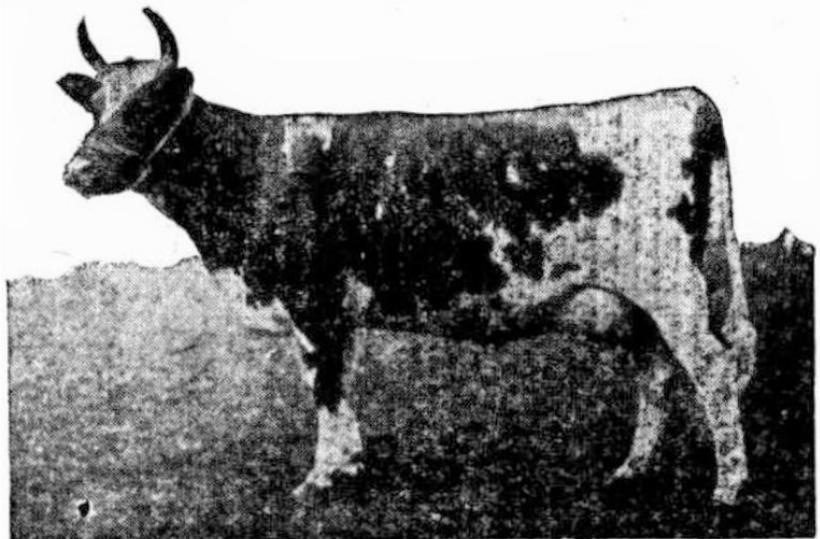
The Rythdale Estate: Koo Wee Rup Swamp

A visit was paid a few weeks ago to the above estate, and, as affording an example of what can be done with apparently irreclaimable wastes, may be of some interest to readers. This estate, comprising some 1,600 acres, was bought five years ago by Mr Jas. Cuming, jun. of the firm of Messers Cuming, Smith & Co. It was then overgrown with tree and "tussocks," and in winter the most part under water, and, only about 50 acres cleared. Mr Cuming was, however, fortunate in securing the services of a very able and capable manager in Mr. Ed. Wright, formerly of the Goulburn district, a gentleman of wide experience and dogged pluck, and under his supervision this property has been transformed from a wilderness into one of the most cultivated and up-to date farming and grazing estates in this State.

It is divided into 23 paddocks, containing six dams with three windmills on different portions of it. At the time of visiting, the reapers and binders were in full swing, and some 16 hands busily employed. Besides the large produce enterprise Mr Cuming makes a speciality of pedigree Ayrshire stock and Clydesdale draught horses. The dairy herd is composed of 15 pedigree Ayrshire cows, 10 pedigree calves and two pedigree Ayrshire bulls. All these cows are prize winners at different shows in the State; several at the Royal Agricultural Show; and only lately one young bull was sold for 32 guineas and resold immediately for 50 guineas, winning at the last Royal Agricultural Show in a class of 40 yearling bulls.

The Clydesdale draught stock are a splendid collection, some prize winners and one champion, including a beautiful Clydesdale stallion. There is also a small select stud flock of 1000 Leicester sheep; grazing for fattening purposes. Close to the homestead a new tank has been sunk, 19ft. x 17ft., capable of holding 40,000gal.; a silo, carrying 60 tons of ensilage; milking sheds, 15 stalls with three loose boxes and feed-room; separating-room; men's-room; boxes for stallions and bulls; stables for 20 horses; and two large sheds each being capable of receiving 200 tons of hay.

All work such as chaff, wood cutting, &c., is done on the estate. There has of course been a large outlay in reclaiming this land, but it clearly shows what enterprise can do, and too much praise cannot be given to Mr Cuming for the example he has set, and Mr. Wright for the work he has done. The monthly wages alone average from £50 to £80. The cream from the dairy herd is sent weekly to Melbourne; the cow test is carefully kept every week and milk weighed, each cow making from 10 to 13lbs of butter per week. (South Bourke & Mornington Journal January 27, 1909)



Original caption is 'Cora, a typical example of the Ayrshire females in the herd of Mr. J. Cuming, jun., of Rythdale Stud Farm, Pakenham.' The Leader December 18, 1909

Continued next page

Rythdale - the origin of the name *from previous page*

By Heather Arnold, Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society

The article finishes off with Mr Cuming's other interests - a farm at Shady Creek, also a large manure manufactory at Yarraville, an acid and tar manufactory and sawmills at Warburton.

It was, of course, the manure and acid and tar manufactories at Yarraville which enabled Mr Cuming to finance his agricultural pursuits. James Cuming (1861-1920) was the son of James and Elizabeth (also known as Betsy, nee Smith) Cuming. James senior and his brother-in-law, George Smith and a Melbourne merchant, Charles Campbell, purchased Robert Smith's acid works in Yarraville in 1872. James was born in 1835 in Aberdeen, Scotland (as were Smith and Campbell) and undertook a farrier's apprenticeship. In the 1850s the Cuming family migrated to New Brunswick in Canada.

James senior moved from Canada across the border to Portland in Maine (where James junior was born), before migrating with Betsy and the children to Victoria in 1862. He established a forge and with the money he saved was able to buy the acid works in partnership. The business was called Cuming Smith & Co. James was self-taught in Chemistry, studying it at night at the Melbourne Public Library and thus had scientific knowledge and more importantly drive and energy. The Company expanded, took over a bone mill (bones were used to make fertilizer) and then moved into the superphosphate business.

In 1897, Cuming Smith & Co. combined with Felton, Grimwade & Co.'s acid and chemical works at Port Melbourne and James junior became the General Manager of the Company. Around the time James Cuming purchased *Rythdale*, Cuming, Smith & Co. was the largest and oldest manufacturer of manures and acids in Australasia and their plant occupied 14 acres at Yarraville and in the busy season employed over 600 men.

The first record of James Cuming junior owning land on the Koo Wee Rup Swamp was in the 1903 Shire of Berwick Rate books where he is listed as owning 557 acres, being Lots 4a and 4b, Parish of

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, 23rd and 24th OCTOBER.

DISPERSAL of the WELL KNOWN RYTHDALE HERD

OF

155 PEDIGREE AYRSHIRE CATTLE.
Many Are Prize Winners, and Come from Prize Winning Strains at the Royal Show This Year.

77 PEDIGREE DRAUGHT HORSES.
(From Prize Winning Strains.)

Also Choice DAIRY and MIXED FARM, Comprising 640 ACRES, as Described Below, For ABSOLUTE SALE.

By Order of James Cuming, Esq., "Rythdale," PAKENHAM.

ADAMSON, STRETTLE and Co., Victoria Horse Bazaar, Bourke-street, in conjunction with W. P. SMITH, NICOLSON and CO. PTY. LTD., Metropole-buildings, Bourke-street, will sell by public auction, absolutely without reserve, owing to the property being sold,

On WEDNESDAY, 23rd OCTOBER, At 12 o'clock.

CATTLE.

120 pedigree Ayrshire females
25 pedigree Ayrshire bulls
15 young dairy cows
Pure Yorkshire pigs.

Sale notice from The Age October 22, 1912

Pakenham and 282 acres, being part Lots 65a and 66a, Parish of Nar Nar Goon. Lots 4a and 4b were bounded by Cardinia Road on the west, Watson Road on the north, Toomuc Creek on the east and Wenn Road on the south. The Lots in the Nar Nar Goon Parish were on the east side of Toomuc Creek, south of Watson Road and west of Koo Wee Rup-Pakenham Road. The locality of Rythdale is located right in the middle of his holdings that were situated on the east of Toomuc Creek.

The first reference to *Rythdale* as the name of Cuming's property is in December 1905. He was not in the area for long as he had a clearing sale in October 1912 where he disposed of his livestock, plant and equipment as well as 640 acres. The sale advertisement said that he had already sold the homestead block. There are references in the newspaper of Frederick Hagelthorn owning *Rythdale* from around 1916 until 1920. In 1918, the Berwick Shire Rate Books list Hagelthorn's holdings as 993 acres in the Parish of Pakenham and 1,476 acres in the Parish of Nar Nar Goon.

Continued next page

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Rythdale - the origin of the name *from previous page*

By Heather Arnold, Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society

Hagelthorn was a Stock and Station agent as well as a member of the Legislative Council from 1907 until 1919. In his Parliamentary career, *he championed farming interests and steered bills dealing with closer settlement, railways, water distribution and education through the ponderous deliberations of the Legislative Council whose members objected to his barn-storming tactics (Australian Dictionary of Biography)*. One hundred years down the track this interest in Closer Settlement and selling some of his land to the Closer Settlement Board would seem like a conflict of interest.

I firmly believe that the small town of Rythdale took its name from Cuming's property, later owned by Frederick Hagelthorn. James Cuming had died in 1920, but it is more than possible that it was Hagelthorn who suggested the name of Rythdale for the new town.

What is the origin of the name Rythdale? It does not appear in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Placenames*. However, there was a house in Moseley, a suburb of Birmingham, in England called *Rythdale*. I found mentions of this property in the *Birmingham Daily Post* from 1873. There were two other references I found to Rythdale which are closer to home. There was a property at Byaduk, south of Hamilton in Victoria called *Rythdale*. It was owned by Thomas Harper. The other reference to a Rythdale I found was that of the Reverend Rythdale Richards. He was an Evangelist who, in April 1890, held services in Hastings and Dromana. I have no other information about him, but it is a curious and unusual given name.

I cannot connect James Cuming junior or his wife Alice Fehon, whom he married in 1885, to *Rythdale* in Moseley, *Rythdale* in Byaduk or the Reverend Rythdale Richards, so as yet I don't know why Cuming called his property *Rythdale*. However, it was a name that had been used before Rythdale the town on the Koo Wee Rup Swamp came into existence and Cuming's use of the name for his property is clearly the source of the name of the town.



James Cuming and family pictured in John Lack's A History of Footscray (Hargreen Publishing 1991) p. 173.

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- *Vision and Realisation: a centenary history of State Education in Victoria*, edited by L.J. Blake. (Education Department of Victoria, 1973)
- Williams, Eileen and Beard, Jewel *Look to the Rising Sun: a history of Cardinia and District including Rythdale and Pakenham South* (Back to Cardinia Committee, 1984)
- *Vision and Realisation: a centenary history of State Education in Victoria*, edited by L.J. Blake. (Education Department of Victoria, 1973)
- Rythdale: the origin of the name – this is a list of newspapers articles from Trove that I created relating to Cuming and his time at Rythdale <https://trove.nla.gov.au/list/manage/153938>

The Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at Mallow house in Rossiter Road, corner of Henry Street. The next meeting is on July 14 at 7.30pm. New members welcome. The Museum is open the first and third Sundays of the month from 1.30pm until 4.30pm or by appointment. Heather Arnold harnold@dcsi.net.au 0407 521 637

Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society Annual Luncheon

Guest Speaker is Claudia Barker, O.A.M

Director of Music at the Koo Wee Rup Secondary College
and leader of the College band

When - Sunday, July 25, 2021 at 12 noon
(New date - we had to cancel this event in May due to Covid)
Where - Tooradin & District Sports Club,
Recreation Reserve, Tooradin

Cost - \$25.00 per head. Drinks at bar prices

RSVP, including any special dietary requirements, by July 16, 2021
to Heather Arnold - 0407 521 637 harnold@dcsi.net.au



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*Catching up with locals to have a coffee and a chat
from 10am onwards on the following days:*

July	7	Royal Hotel
	21	Chandelier Café
August	4	Royal Hotel
	18	Chandelier Café
September	1	Royal Hotel
	15	Chandelier Café
October	6	Royal Hotel
	20	Chandelier Café



Enquiries ph Jo on 0428 557 411



Koo Wee Coffee Club