

The Geelong Throng

April 2009

Allen Gray

Footy's Back!



Lisa Kenny



Lisa Kenny

In the rematch of last year's Grand Final, the Cats extracted revenge by downing the Hawks by 8 points.

Having snared the pre-season NAB Cup, can the Cats go all the way again this year?

4th - 5th April ~ Geelong Challenge Triathlon

The 2009 Geelong Challenge Triathlon was held on the first weekend of April. The Challenge consists of three triathlons ~ the enticer, trystars & olympic distance, meaning there is something for everyone.



Lisa Kenny



Lisa Kenny

What's On The Throng

Coming up in May 2009

9th May ~ Mouth to Mountain

10th May ~ Mother's Day Classic

17th May ~ RSPCA Million Paws Walk

16th -17th May ~ Great Ocean Road International Marathon

**See the forum for more details
and any added dates of new events**

10th April ~ Queenscliff Seafood Feast

The Queenscliff Seafood Feast is held on Good Friday every year, and is used as a fund raiser for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

There is music and dancing, an auction, plenty of seafood, and plenty of atmosphere.



Lisa Kenny

All roads lead to Queenscliff for the Seafood Feast



Lisa Kenny

Nothing better than Fish & Chips



Lisa Kenny

The auction gets underway, as well as a haircut and shave



Lisa Kenny

what's cooking...



Lisa Kenny

Seafood was on the plate as the crowd enjoyed the warm Autumn sun



Lisa Kenny

... now for the slow trip home

7th April - 18th ~ 2009 Rip Curl Pro

Action from the the 2009 Rip Curl Women's Pro held over the Easter Weekend at Bells Beach.



Layne Beachley



Sally Fitzgibbons



Coco Ho



Rebecca Woods



Chelsea Hedges



Anee Donohoe

All photos by Lisa Kenny

12th April ~ 34th Australian Nationals and Car Show - MG National Car Rally 2009 - Geelong



Peter Redmond

The MG Car Club held it's annual National Car Rally over the Easter weekend in Geelong

This event is staged every year all over Australia, last year it was held in Brisbane and next year it will be Adelaide's turn to host it. The MG's went through time trials in the car park of the Barwon Valley Activity Centre. A huge crowd and some superb cars were in attendance.



Peter Redmond



Peter Redmond



Peter Redmond



Peter Redmond



Lisa Kenny



Lisa Kenny

...then there was the Zodiac and Zephyr's that made their way to Geelong, followed on Easter Sunday by the Australian Van Nationals that was held at the Geelong Show Grounds



Lisa Kenny



Lisa Kenny



John Conway

the last minute clean, dust, polish and fingers crossed before the judges cast their eyes over the display.

TEARS AND TRIUMPHS ~ Other Sports in the Geelong Region - Rugby Union Football



Jane Keats

In a city and a state where Aussie Rules football gets all the press through Winter, there battles a football team of another code. Since first taking to the field in 1929, an assortment of rugged individuals came together under the "Geelong Rams" banner, playing a game enjoyed by over 120 countries world-wide, Rugby Union Football otherwise known as "The game they play in Heaven."

The Geelong Rams struggled on to win their first Premiership in 1958 and followed that up in the 1960's with two more Premierships in a higher division! Thanks to their success at this time, the Victorian State Rugby took note and subsequently took several players to play at state level.



Jane Keats

Mark "Fitzzy" Fitzgerald
(current Victorian state player) makes a break in the line

Since that time, Geelong RUFC has established itself as a serious contender in 3rd and 2nd division rugby in Victoria, as well as one of the best country sides in the state. Not a bad feat coming from a town where most residents admittedly don't know the first thing about Rugby!

So, what is it all about, this game where seemingly large men crash into each other and kick the ball out of bounds on purpose?

If you follow Aussie Rules, or even Rugby League, you need to clear the mind of all you understand about getting the ball from one end to the other. The rules of Rugby dictate much more of a strategy/defense game than the attacking/impulsive plays of AFL and NRL. Rugby referees have arguably the toughest job in sport. The rule book in length comes in at second longest of any rulebook in sport! For those of you wondering, golf is number one.

However, to cut it right back to basics there are two parts to a team – the "forwards" and the "backs". The job of the forwards is to draw the opposition's line one way or the other in order to create holes in their defence. Once these holes are created the idea is for the "backs" (who are waiting in readiness behind the line of play) to run through taking the ball further into enemy territory, and possibly scoring.

There are no limits on the number of "phases of play" like League has. The players must only pass the ball backwards to their fellow team members. Kicking can be used to gain more significant ground but runs the risk of "turning the ball over" to the enemy

A "try" is worth 5 points, this is where the ball is grounded in the opposition's goal territory. When a try is scored, the scoring team gets a chance to add a further 2 points by kicking the ball through the goal. Teams can also add to their score with Penalty and Drop kicks but if you'd like to learn more about that and the other strategies and rules of Rugby, visit www.rugby.com.au



Jane Keats

Rams Captain (backs) Mike Keats (ex Canterbury Maori player) sneaks the ball through his legs to hide it from the opposition

As you may have gathered, this is very much a team game. There isn't much room for individual glory because this game relies on everyone communicating and working together at all times.

Perhaps this is one of the reasons the Geelong Rams have survived for so long. The club is a close knit group from it's juniors teams, right through to the seniors. Player numbers fluctuate over the decades, but the club staunchly remains, due in part, to the administrative team headed by Club President Hugh Parsons. Mr. Parsons is also a life member, having played for and captained Rams sides in the past.

Current club sponsor,s Sweeney Todd Waste Disposal, NCT Plumbing, www.betezy.com.au and others also play a significant role.



Jane Keats

The Rams Bench

There have been many ups and downs over the course of the Rams existence. Ground location being one of the issues.

The recently forced change in home ground location has contributed to dwindling numbers again, however the new clubrooms at Flinders Peak, Corio are shaping up to be a great hub where the Rams and supporters can reminisce past teams and victories displayed in picture and trophies around the rooms. The "Rams Head Bar" and BBQ are always busy at home games and the atmosphere is always relaxed and fun.

The Rams President was said to have been "very disappointed" with the council in not backing them when they needed it, that is, to hold onto the original ground in Deakin. The council then decided it should be given to the Rugby League because they were a bigger club.

The move has meant that the junior teams have been severely depleted to the point where there are now no Under 12's and very unlikely an under 14's side will be fielded. The senior section however is looking stronger than ever, thanks to a new influx of players from the Marcus Oldham College. This will be a very good year for Geelong Rams seniors.

The Mighty Geelong Rams Seniors began their official season on the 25th of April against Eltham and ran out easy winners, to the tune of 38 - 7.



Jane Keats

Fans watch as Geelong plays host to the Masters Games

New fans and players are always welcomed and the action never fails to entertain, so come and give these true battlers your support this season!

Check out www.geelong.rugbynet.com.au for more info and contact details for the Geelong Rams Rugby Union Football Club

Story and Photography by Jane Keats.

More of Jane's sporting photos can be found at <http://www.redbubble.com/people/jakshots-sports>

...putting the focus on



This month we take a look at a place just outside of Geelong, a hive of activity in its heyday, Steiglitz.

Steiglitz (situated between Geelong and Ballarat) is almost a ghost town today, but in the 1860's and 1890's it was a busy goldmining township with hotels, shops, churches and a population of over 1000. At the height of the 1860's gold rush, Steiglitz township had more than 1500 residents, four hotels, a newspaper, a variety of shops and even an undertaker. Now most of the town and its surroundings are included in the 469 hectare Steiglitz Historic Park, which was declared in 1979.

From the 1970s on, the Victorian Government has played an increasing part in the preservation of historic areas on public (Crown) land. This is in addition to its more familiar role of preserving and protecting the natural environment in national parks.

Steiglitz Court House came under National Parks Service (now Parks Victoria) management in 1977 and Steiglitz Historic Park, taking in Crown land in and around the township, was proclaimed in 1979. A few houses and other buildings still stand and there are old wells, piles of bricks and mullock heaps to remind visitors of former activity there. Interpretive signs and displays in the Court House also help you reconstruct the town in your imagination.

Aboriginal Traditional Owners

Parks Victoria acknowledges the Aboriginal Traditional Owners of Victoria - including its parks and reserves. Through their cultural traditions, Aboriginal people maintain their connection to their ancestral lands and waters.

Further information is available from Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (<http://www.aboriginalaffairs.vic.gov.au/>) and also Native Title Services Victoria (<http://www.nts.vic.gov.au/>)

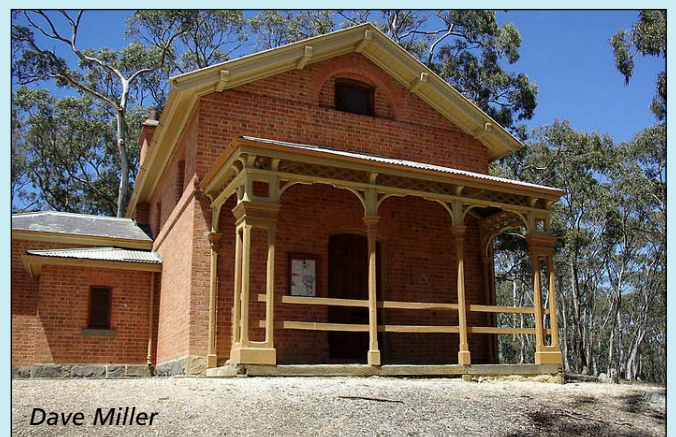
Steiglitz

Much of the park can be explored on foot. Walks along bush tracks in spring reveal a variety of wildflowers. There are many pleasant picnic spots around Steiglitz. Toilets are available at the Bert Boardman Recreation Area. Explore the surrounding bush for evidence of mining. However, beware of mine shafts and please don't remove any relics you find.

The cemetery on the Maude-Steiglitz Road is worth a visit if you're interested in history. During some holiday periods, the rangers organise guided walks and other activities.

Please note that gold panning is permitted only in the section one kilometre downstream from the Meredith Road bridge on Sutherlands Creek. Prospectors are permitted to use pans, cradles and hand tools within the creekbed. Please protect the creekbank environment. A miner's right is required. Volunteers from the Steiglitz Historical Society open the Courthouse to visitors between the hours of 1pm and 4pm on the last Saturday and Sunday of every month.

Precautions - Historic mines dot the landscape around the township of Steiglitz. Many of these are now overrun with vegetation and as such are hard to find. Visitors need to be careful when walking and remain on walking trails and management tracks.



19th April ~ 2009 National Women's Baseball Championships

In late April, Geelong hosted the best women baseballers in the country competing for the title of National Women's Baseball Champion. The venue was Geelong Baseball Centre, in Waurn Ponds.

Photos are of the 2nd final between Queensland and Western Australia. Victoria ran out winners in the final 15-13 against arch rival, New South Wales.



Lisa Kenny

Queensland deliver a pitch at the batter



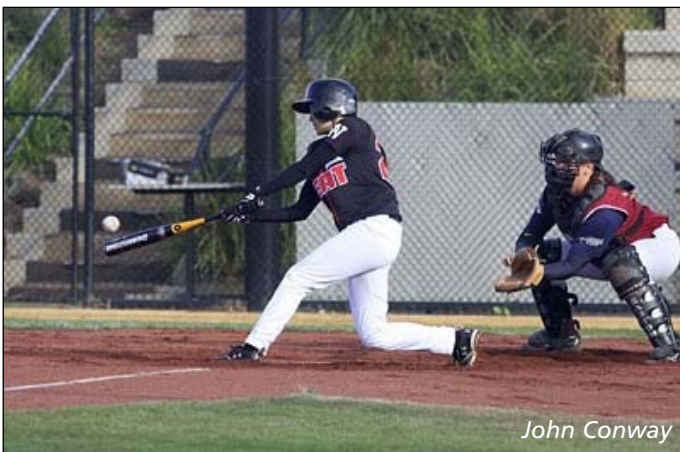
Paul Moore

A Western Australian player slides in safe



Lisa Kenny

A close call, no wonder helmets are required



John Conway

Contact! A Western Australian player makes contact with the pitch



Lisa Kenny

Concentration



John Conway

Hoping for a "Home" Run?

We're always on the lookout for contributors for the newsletter!

Go to the web address below for more details

25th April ~ ANZAC Day Parade - Geelong

ANZAC Day in Geelong, whilst not as big as the capital cities around the country, has plenty of atmosphere and emotion. The parade, followed by a service, and then a bit of a chat, in Johnstone Park is always very well attended by the young and the old. The weather was kind for the most part with just a passing shower and a sprinkling of sunshine



Lisa Kenny



John Conway



Lisa Kenny

25th -28th April ~ Geelong Camera Club Exhibition

Geelong Camera Club held a display of work over four days on the ANZAC Day weekend. A good crowd was experienced over the duration of the exhibition.



Margaret Metcalfe



Margaret Metcalfe



Margaret Metcalfe

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Many thanks to the following photo contributors.
Jane Keats, Lisa Kenny, Margaret Metcalfe, Dave Miller,
Paul Moore, Joe Mortelliti, Peter Redmond, John Conway