

The Geelong Throng

May 2009



17th May ~ RSPCA Million Paws Walk - Geelong

The 2009 RSPCA Million Paws Walk was held around the country.



Geelong dogs got to take their owners and friends along to the Eastern Gardens for their day out, and out they came, in their droves.



There were little dogs, big dogs, hairy dogs, bald dogs, some did tricks, and there were even some lazy dogs, but they were all on their best behaviour...not an angry dog amongst them. The RSPCA even bought along some other animals too...

What's On The Throng

Coming up in June 2009

5 - 8 June ~ National Celtic Festival, Portarlinton

14th June ~ the Battle of Bannockburn

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

**The next Throng Newsletter will cover
July and August.**

**This is due to not many events being organised
for the cooler months.**

...putting the focus on



This month the seaside town of Portarlington is our focus.

A brief piece of history. The Wautharong People lived in the Portarlington region for years and it appears they lived on the mussels which the town is now so famous for. There have been various archeological finds over the years which have discovered hunting tools and shells thought the Portarlington area.

In 1797 the Alma Doepel sailed into the waters around Portarlington but the first real exploration was by Lieutenant John Murray and his team in 1802, then shortly after Matthew Flinders camped at Indented Head and also visited the area which is now Portarlington and Point Richards while he was surveying the Australian coastline. Charles Grimes the Surveyor-General visited in 1803 aboard his ship the Cumberland and met with aboriginals and traded food and utensils and maybe even small pox which infected the tribe.

Escaped convict William Buckley lived around the area with the Wautharong people for 32 years from 1803 and then there were really no visitors to the area until 1835 when John Batman established a camp at Indented Head.

The area was originally called Drayton but later changed to Portarlington in honour of Sir Henry Bennet, 1st Earl of Arlington, but some people say it was actually named after Portarlington in Ireland as there were many Irish in the area.

One of the earliest known settlers around Portarlington was Henry Baynton, a butcher who moved from Hobart in the 1840's he set up a cattle shipping service between Portarlington and Tasmania which was then Van Diemen's Land.

The steam-powered flour mill opened in 1857, and mill owners also built a private jetty and shipped in grain from Geelong and processed it and returned it as flour and bran. Portarlington was regarded as the granary of the Victorian colony. The mill later became a successful brick works and is now a National Trust Property and open to visitors. Portarlington soon started to flourish with a post office opening in 1863, and many more amenities and the steamers traded goods at the piers.

The steamers played an important role in Portarlington, they served as an important method of transport for the Bellarine Peninsula. Not only was it a way of getting supplies to the region, but many of the regions produce and stock to Geelong, Melbourne and beyond. The steamers also brought visitors to Portarlington to enjoy the beautiful seaside and to the public bathing house. People were prohibited to bathe in open beaches as it was seen as rude.

A school, churches, halls and other public buildings opened during the 1870's and 1880's and the town even had a horse racing track which was originally built near the mill but moved to create the Portarlington Turf Club in 1883. The track had a major sand problem and in 1906, it closed. The Portarlington Golf club has had a much more successful time, opening in 1909 the club is one of the strongest in the Geelong region and offers some magnificent views of the surrounding peninsula and bay.

Portarlington - Events

The National Celtic Festival, Australia's largest and most diverse celebration of Celtic music and culture is held over the June long week-end, in beautiful Portarlington, on the Bellarine Peninsula, Victoria.

For three jam-packed days and lively nights - music, dance, art, poetry, cuisine, even Gaelic languages.

Enjoy the performances or be a part of the festivities by joining in one of the many workshops on offer, anything from limerick writing to bagpipe playing !

The National Celtic Festival is gearing up for the best festival yet so head to the National Celtic Festival for a craicing good time!

Don't forget also as January next year sees Portarlington host the Mussel Festival, lots of food, music and activites for the Summer Crowds, pencil it in to your diary.



John Conway



Under The Geelong Throng Microscope

With Membership in the Geelong Throng closing in on 90, we thought it might be a good time to catch up and ask our members, some questions, nothing too daunting, we hope.



First up, we have AI (Big AI) Miller. We'll let AI do all the talking now.

1 What camera gear do you have?

Pentax K10D + Pentax Z10 35mm SLR
Sigma 18-50 mm, Sigma 35-80 mm, Sigma 70-300 mm,
Tamron 18-200mm, Pentax FGZ 540 flash, battery grip, wireless remote and a tripod.

Quite a collection of gear you have AI.

2 How long have you enjoyed the art of Photography?

I have loved photography for 28 years, I started in secondary school. - *So not a newcomer it looks*



3 What is your favorite photograph you have taken, and any reason why?

"Candle Light". As I had no idea what I was doing when I started except for a picture in my mind. It came out exactly as I had pictured.

Very nice, I can see why it's a favourite.

4 Do you use a default setting for taking photographs? e.g. easiest style for you to take: action, portraits, landscape etc

My default setting would be action shots e.g skateboarding, surfing, snowboarding & mtn biking. I find it very easy as I have had lots of practice on these shots over the years.

5 What style do you find the most difficult and why?

Portraits are the most difficult for me trying to get the lighting and angles right followed close second by landscapes.

6 Who is your favorite redbubble photographer?

Hard to choose really, I have three. Lisa Kenny, John Conway, but I have to say my favorite Redbubble photographer would have to be Peter Marin.

7 What currently is your most viewed photograph on redbubble?

My most viewed photograph is "Lisa's Umbrella's" taken at the Pako fest 2008. It got the title because Lisa Kenny was sheltering underneath them from a light rain shower.

8 What is on your "Lust List"?

A 500mm lens and some studio lights. Oh, and some other stuff that has nothing to do with photography.

Dream on AI, but we live in hope.

9 Why did you join the GT group?

Lisa Kenny encouraged me to join Red Bubble and I am glad she did, I have learnt so much from fellow bubblers over the last year and half.

10 Who would you like to see grilled in the next GT news letter?

I would have to say I would like to see Peter Marin grilled in the next GT News letter.

He's a busy man AI, but I'll see if we can pin him down for at least 10 minutes.

Thanks for that AI, most informative.