

The Geelong Throng

June / July 2009



Portarlinton goes 'Celtic'



THE NATIONAL Celtic Festival, Australia's largest and most diverse celebration of Celtic music and culture was held over the June long weekend, 5th-8th, in beautiful Portarlinton, on the Bellarine Peninsula, Victoria.

There were three jam-packed days and lively nights, for all to enjoy the music, dance, art, poetry, cuisine, there was even Gaelic languages.

Entertained by the cream of Celtic performers from across the country and around the world and

it was easy to see why the crowds loved it.

If you haven't ventured down for the festival, have it marked in your calendar for next year's event.





Bannockburn Up For The Battle



photo by Lisa Kenny

BANNOCKBURN took on the look of a time gone by, with a re-enactments of battle and the shrill of the bagpipes ringing in peoples ears.

The day's activities also included Highland & Celtic dancing, Craft Markets, free children's amusements & rides, ferret racing, vintage motorcycle and car displays, food stalls, local school art competition, toss the haggis, and even a horseshoe throwing competition.

On a side note, Bannockburn has a population of around 2,500 and is one of the fastest growing regional towns in Victoria. The town grew in the 1850's after the discovery of gold in the provincial town of Ballarat. Bannockburn is situated on the main road from the gold fields of Ballarat to Geelong. The town is now more famous for its wineries and of course from its Scottish name of Bannockburn.



photo by Anne Buckley



photo by Anne Buckley



photo by Di Schoe

Thanks to Anne, Di and Lisa for the use of the excellent photos of this event.

...putting the focus on



THE present-day township of Little River had its beginnings around 1839, with the opening of a public house on the overland track between Geelong and Melbourne, overlooking the banks of the Little River. The inn, named The Travellers' Rest, was advertised in the Port Phillip Gazette as "...a commodious dwelling house of ten rooms".

As one of the few stops on the little used overland route between the settlement of Melbourne and the thriving township of Geelong, the inn struggled for survival. Passing trade was scarce, with many travellers preferring to use the busy sea route rather than the rough, stony track across the plain. The surrounding area could provide little support, being occupied only by the few squatters who had settled the area bordering the Little River in the late 1830s.

For many years, the Traveller's Rest comprised the complete settlement at Rothwell. There was a regular turnover of licensees during those first years, and hardship and tragedy shadowed many of those who tried their luck, culminating in 1851 when the Traveller's Rest burned to the ground.

In 1852, the township of Rothwell was officially proclaimed. That same year, planning of a railroad began to link the settlements of Geelong and Melbourne, with the original route planned to follow the line of the road with a station situated at Rothwell. The planning of the railway created much excitement in the township. The land was surveyed and divided, roads were planned, and many large and small allotments were sold surrounding the site of the Traveller's Rest.

As surveying of the railway line progressed, it became clear that the planned route through Rothwell would be unsuitable due to the unstable nature of the ground in the area. In fact, the section of the road to the south-west of the Inn was known locally as "The Glue Pot", becoming an almost impassable quagmire following heavy rain. Later that year, construction of the railroad began at Geelong, following a revised route north of the Rothwell township.

In 1853, a licence was granted to William Perrin



photo by Peter Marin

for the rebuilding of the hotel. The Rothwell Inn opened that year on the same site as the original Traveller's Rest.

In 1856, the railway line was completed to Little River, with the original station built on the Geelong side of the river, north of the line. With the arrival of the railway, a new township began to form around the station. Two new hotels would arrive that same year, the Station Peak Terminus Hotel, situated near the station, and the Bowling Green Hotel, on the Werribee side of the river, south of the line. With competition from the new township, Rothwell again began to struggle to survive. To make matters worse, the completion of the railway line through to Williamstown in 1857 reduced the appeal of Little River as a destination for day-trippers.

Over the following years, the fortunes of both towns would continue to wax and wane. The arrival of the railway in the early 1860s brought

with it not only passengers and goods, but also a steady stream of new arrivals from the large towns eager to fulfil their dreams of a life on the land. This presented a tantalising opportunity to budding entrepreneurs who, with varying degrees of success, split up and sold small parcels of land to prospective farmers.

As the towns began to boom, construction of schools, churches and bridges followed in order to support the growing population. The construction of a grand bluestone Railway Station on the Werribee side of the river, completed in 1864, reflected the expectations for the prosperity of the new town. In 1867, the new township became known as Little River.

However, before long the ever-present threat of drought, flood, fire and pest had taken their toll, and many of these new farmers left the land with their dreams shattered. By the late 1860s, the populations of Rothwell and Little River had dwindled once again.

In 1923, the closure of unmade and unused roads signalled the end of Rothwell as a township. In 1958, the Rothwell Inn was again destroyed by fire, but this time there would be no reconstruction. As Rothwell passed into history, the township of Little River continued to thrive, becoming a small but active rural town.

Today the township of Little River retains its agricultural origins, but continues to evolve, as new arrivals once again flock from the cities with dreams of a rural lifestyle. The ruins of the Rothwell Inn remain standing, silhouetted against the You Yangs in the distance, as a silent reminder of the rich history of the area.

History of Little River can be found at the following website.

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~lrhs/history.html>

Little River - small in scale, but big in other ways

WHILE Little River is possibly one of the smallest of townships around the Geelong area, it is nestled not far from the You Yangs. It also has possibly one of the most famous names of any Victorian city. It was adopted as the name of the Little River Band which had world wide success in the seventies and early eighties with songs like Reminiscing and Lonesome Loser. Little River was also used for many of the scenes from the first two Mad Max movies starring non other than the famous Mel Gibson.

Time has not have affected the towns country village style with not much more than a general store come service station and a good old fashioned pub. There are regular rail service from Geelong and Melbourne and the township is only minutes from the Avalon Airport home to Jetstar.

Little River is home to the You Yangs and close to Ford Australia's top secret proving ground test facilities and Earth Sanctuary where endangered native animals are bred. Earth Sanctuary was also one of the major filming sites for the 2003 Motion Picture "Ned Kelly" starring the late Heath Ledger and was recently used by Stephen Spielberg and Tom Hanks feature "War in the Pacific".



photo by John Conway



Under The Geelong Throng Microscope

Another “Thronger” goes under the microscope in this edition

IN THIS edition, as per Al Miller’s request, we have tracked down the busy Peter Marin. We had to literally drag him away from his lighting equipment. Hi Peter, and thanks for giving us the time, we’ll keep it brief so you can go back to “playing”.

GT : What camera gear do you have?

PM : All my camera specific stuff is Canon, my zooms are all Canon L series, but my primes are all Canon Goldfinger series, except my 50mm 1.8, just can’t justify L series primes at the minute. I’d love a few though, especially a 85/1.2L for wedding use, my 85/1.8 Goldfinger does just fine and it focuses faster than the L version.

As for my other gear, I love using light in all it’s forms, ala naturale, artificial or a mixture of both. I’ve made leaps forward from where I was technically just a few years ago, still have a fair way to go yet but enjoying the ride very much.

GT : Ah, this was the lighting we dragged you away from, quite a collection you have and judging by your photos, all are extensively used.

GT : How long have you enjoyed the art of Photography?

PM : Well, it’s fascinated me for as long as I can remember, about 30 something years. I got my first real camera in 1977 when I was about 18, it was a Fuji STX2 35mm SLR, still have it in my camera cupboard, just had 2 lenses, a 50mm and an 80-200mm. This camera was totally manual use only, apart from the meter. So no priority features like aperture and shutter, and definitely no ‘P’ mode or auto focus. I used to buy weekly camera magazines to learn stuff like how to focus accurately and how to successfully meter a scene in your head by examining its surrounding light and shadows. Pretty much what they call the ‘Zone System’. It’s really really important to me to know how to meter without relying on auto settings in my camera or flash. I need consistency from shot to shot, not some pre calibrated algorithm telling me what I want for exposure. So I guess I’m a manual only type.

I’m a big believer in learning to use the gear you have, from front to back and in 7 languages if need be. I can’t think of not wanting to know how something worked that I owned. Especially when shooting a couples wedding. They worked hard for the money they are paying me, so if I am calling myself a photographer, I better know how to use my camera in any situation I might find myself in, without fumbling with auto settings or figuring out what I’m gonna do.

GT : What is your favourite photograph you have taken, and any reason why?

PM : Good question, because I don’t have a favourite photo I have taken. I have plenty I really like as much as the other but none are really what I’d call all time favourites.

GT : 4 What currently is your most viewed photograph on redbubble?

PM : From the 109327 views in total, this one, Beach Planet that shot alone has 1114 of them.

<http://www.redbubble.com/mybubble/art/42618-11-beach-planet/edit>



GT : What is on your “Lust List”?

PM : That’s a hard one. I’d love something I could call my own studio, with enough room to swing a few cats. Oh yeah, and with its own make-up area would be great. Failing that, working / shooting in a big studio would be awesome too.

GT : A Studio! now that would be awesome.

GT : What would be your "perfect day, photographic wise"?

PM : Ahh, that’s easy. Going to Kakadu to shoot a wedding. Now that would be my perfect day.

GT : Sounds like a great idea Pete.

GT : Who is your favourite redbubble photographer?

PM : I found my favourite photographer once I joined Redbubble, not only that, I was fortunate enough to attend one of his workshops. His name is Peter Coulson, or better known as koukei.

<http://www.redbubble.com/people/koukei>

He is one very gifted individual, and knows his stuff from front to back and in seven languages. From drawing board to delivery, Peter does it all with such professionalism and artist flair. A great source for inspiration to me personally.

GT : Must pay a visit and check out his work.

GT : Is there a style of photography that gives you more satisfaction?

PM : Well, if you had asked me that 2 years ago I would have said Landscape and / or Seascape photography.

Today, I’d say environmental / people, using a mixture of studio and natural light outdoors. I’m really enjoying the challenges that this kind of shooting brings. It keeps me on my toes while the available light keeps changing.

GT : Why did you join the GT group?

PM : I love Geelong, so joining GT was important to me.

GT : Correct answer!

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

PM : Hmmm, lets see.....I’ll have to say Heather Hartkamp.

She is a quiet achiever, has come a long way in a very short time photographically. Heather takes pictures from her heart, always a joy to view her work.

Well, we’ll have to see if we can get hold of Heather, she does travel a bit, thanks for that Peter and thanks to Al as well for his choice.

Geelong 'rams' home dominance



photo by Jane Keats

AN earlier article by Jane Keats, covering the Geelong Rams, saw interest from a few Geelong Throng members wanting to try their hand at some Rugby photography. An invitation was extended, so in the true spirit of all things community, the hardy bunch trekked to their Hendy Street ground, to see the action, and hopefully, catch it for themselves.

Geelong found themselves up against Endeavour Hills for this clash and there was plenty of action with both sides trying to gain the upper hand. It looked at one stage that the The Rams were ti finally meet their match, but with a disciplined display, managed to come out victors 26-15, enabling them to extend their unbeaten streak.



photo by John Robb

John Robb



photo by John Conway



photo by Allen Gray

Allen Gray



photo by Campbell Miller

Campbell Miller



photo by Peter Redmond

Peter Redmond



photo by Ben Fittler



photo by Al Miller



photo by Jared Revell



photo by Neil Boucher



photo by Neil Boucher



photo by Di Schoe

MANY thanks to the “Geelong Throng” photographers who ventured out and ‘got the shots’ that you have just viewed. Any further information in regards to the photos can be found by clicking the images, that will take you to that persons RedBubble account. There is a chance there will be more photos that are not shown here, please have a look around.

Photographers on the day and listed in no particular order were, Jane Keats, Jared Revell, Neil Boucher, Cam Miller, Al Miller, John Robb, Allen Gray, Ben Fittler, Peter Redmond, Di Schoe and John Conway



Dog Rocks ~ Geelong Throng Challenge

Probably one of the most photographed trees, if not in Victoria, at least in Geelong. Dog Rocks has been a constant source of inspiration for photographers and artists in general. Although those new to photography might think that the tree has become popular due to the onset of digital cameras, but it has been well documented with paint, pencil and charcoal over many years.

The Geelong Throng decided to have a 'challenge' and let the viewers vote on their favourite photo from this location. There were 17 entries all up and after all the votes were collated, the winning image was "Dog Rocks", by Darren Stones, a big congratulations on winning the challenge Darren and also to all participants, as the calibre of entries was of a high standard. Listed are the top ten placegetters.



Winning entry in the Dog Rocks challenge, won by Darren Stones, and aptly titled, "Dog Rocks"

The placegetters



Jared Revell



Luka Skracic



John Conway



Margaret Metcalfe



Neil Boucher



Al Miller



Paul Moore



Joe Mortelliti



Di Schoe

What's On The Throng?

Coming up in August 2009

Wedding Special

PHOTOGRAPHY and weddings go hand in hand. This month we take a look at a group of GT members who use their talents to make the couple's day something special.

Under the Microscope

NEXT MONTH we take a look at local photographer, Heather Hartkamp and get the inside info on what makes her a photographer.

Focus On

A CLOSE up view on areas in and around the Geelong Throng "boundary" with a brief history, events and photos from the group, show casing the well photographed, Point Lonsdale.

A Local Event

IF YOU HAVE come across a local event held in the Geelong region, why not stick it in the Geelong Throng Forum. Putting it in early gives people the chance to organise themselves so that they may attend

*Serendip Sanctuary BBQ

THE "Geelong Throng" will be having a barbecue at Serendip Sanctuary in Lara, on Sunday 30th of August. Entry to Serendip is free, and they have undercover BBQ and picnic facilities, and public toilets with plenty of parking right there!

Pop into the forum and leave a message of interest and don't forget, we're a family friendly group.

Many thanks to the following photo contributors.

Neil Boucher, Anne Buckley, Lisa Kenny, Peter, Marin, Margaret Metcalfe, Al Miller, Paul Moore, Joe Mortelliti, Jared Revel, Di Schoe, Luka Skracic and John Conway

We're always on the lookout for contributors for the newsletter!
Go to the web address below for more details