



The Croaker

Volume 8 No.12 December 2015..... editor Deb Campbell

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For more about how we in the Marsh, Bambra and Pennyroyal use the land, let's meet our new Croaker sponsors: King Parrot Cottages and Retreat Centre's, Robyn and Tony Hampton....

They both knew the moment they drove up to it. This place – with its beautiful trees, calm and space – was *it*.

But how was it going to work?

Tony with his business and commercial printing background, and Robyn a kinesiology practitioner, came straight from Brighton, and neither was renowned for their 'handyperson' skills.

Their boys Travis and Jake thought the decision to buy King Parrot and run it themselves 'courageous' to say the least.

King Parrot has five cottages, the Lodge that sleeps up to 14, and a camping ground. It's perfect for families, romantic weekend getaways for two, or you can hire the whole place for conferences or retreats. King Parrot offers a whole range of activities including the

games room, mini golf, pool and gorgeous tranquil walks to the waterfall, where you will be escorted by Banjo and Mollie, the Hampton border collies.

Purchased in October 2013 and moving straight into the busy season in summer, taking all this on was no mean feat for Tony and Robyn. But the thing that has struck them most, they say, in their two years here, has been the people – wonderful, helpful people who have offered support and assistance in a whole range of ways. From the shopkeepers and tradespeople to the locals working and helping out at big events and in many small ways: the people have been a revelation.

In particular John Brown from Barongarook, who wandered in one day early in the piece, has been a marvel, turning his hand to any chore – including hauling the ute out of the bush – well done Tony... John now works two or three days a week, and there's nothing he can't do.

Although guests arriving with 'a few extra unexpected friends - and dogs' can sometimes be a challenge, Robyn and Tony have no regrets about their tree change – summing their time at King Parrot as healing and beautiful: <http://www.kingparrot.com.au>

Wait there's more: the Cricket boys are using the land too:5 wins - Go RATS!

News from the Swamp

There has been a changing of the guard in the Swamp Rats den, President Marshall Goddard is working with a team of Star Young Punk Rats who are taking control.

Lachie Rowan has been nominated captain assisted by Tommy Ryan and with other young guns Zac Zdybel, Luka Brown, Indy Paddick the team has a positively athletic look not seen for many a season. New caps have been presented to Lucas Marwood, Tony Hampton & Dave Thompson

The season started with a disappointing loss in the local derby against Birregurra. Following the loss, Club stalwart 'Horace Kirkland Stewrat' assembled the lads around and delivered a rousing discourse about what it meant to be a 'swamp rat', pride in your wicket kind of stuff, building partnerships and keeping the ball on the turf.

Since those celebrated words the 'Rats' have been undefeated and currently sit comfortably on top of the table with four wins [UPDATE: now 5 we beat Stoneyford!!] .

There have been many individual highlights, Lachie has lead from the front and along with Zac has 3 half centuries. Shane Clark is back amongst the runs after suffering a sickening cruel blow to the scone the previous week. 'Thomo' might have netted a vote for his all-round performance against Alvie. Tommy continues to perplex the batsmen with his bowling action and Josh Goddard continues to mystify selectors with his talent. Rudi enthuses the team with his fielding along with other local celebrities, Balsa & Robby Phillips.

The afternoon delights abound for home games. There is no better ground to watch cricket, enjoy the company of past players and supporters deliberating on the tactics of the new generation over a cup of tea and a scone (thanks to Janet Smart for continuing the tradition). Our reputation continues as having the best afternoon smoko in the land.

Fixtures: all at home

5/12/15	Deans Marsh v Apollo Bay
12/12/15	Deans Marsh v Irrewarra
20/12/15	Deans Marsh v Birregurra (The local derby) a Sunday game

And with thanks for the positive feedback, here is the next instalment of the story of the first people of our region, and how they used the land:

The Gadubanud lands have five documented clan groups: Bangurra, Guringid, Ngalla, Ngarowurd and a fifth known as Yan Yan Gurt. 'Yan Yan Gurt' means 'everflowing spring' and the name was applied by an early settler George Armytage to the clan group whose estate included that spring, in what is now the Deans Marsh area. Armytage was himself involved in conflicts with the Gadubanud, although his entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography written in 1966 makes no mention of them. [<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/armytage-george-1715>]

During much of the 1830s it was said the Gadubanud 'so successfully avoided interactions with most European settlers that some early squatters apparently thought the area was uninhabited.' However it is clear that very early sources such as Henry Allan, who spoke local languages, was intimate with the local families in the area. Allan moved through the area around Cape Otway regularly up until the early 1840s, and established strong relationships with the Aboriginal people there. Descendants today can still relate how Henry Allan had an understanding that people living in what was known as "the big bush" should be allowed to preserve their autonomy. When authorities enquired about the goings on of traditional people east of the Hopkins and through to Wadawurrung country [Barrabool hills area], Allan provided demographic information to Port Phillip officials with the understanding that people were surviving autonomously, and should be allowed to remain so. However, in nearly all cases, the push for land by settlers not only reduced significantly the sizes of land parcels protected for Aboriginal people, but also left them unprotected from further settler incursions, land where Aboriginal people were then living autonomously.

While it is impossible to produce a precise figure for the historical population of the area, a survey of the potential food supply and archaeological evidence suggest that combined clan numbers are estimated to have been 'several hundred people' to 'perhaps 1000' before the arrival of European settlers to the region in the early 19th century. Archaeological survey documents not only suggest the Otways displays one of the highest food and artefact dispersals, including sites of cultural and spiritual significance, and remnants of stone dwellings, but also supports oral traditions telling of movement through the Otways. Niewojt describes the Gadubanud diet as rich and varied: 'The many middens along the coast show fragments of turban shells, abalone, periwinkle, elephant fish, chiton, beaked mussel and limpets. It is known that seals, Cape Barren Geese, eels and ducks were also eaten, along with local spinach, tubers and berries. With over 100 kilometres of coastline yielding shellfish, the presence of several wetlands and productive estuaries, and the plant foods available both in open land and potentially acquired through trade with neighbouring groups and evidence from the archaeological record, historic coastal survey maps and an assessment of regional food resources indicate the existence of a sophisticated resource management regime and movement corridors that were maintained through the selective deployment of fire to generate a specific type of landscape mosaic.'

The work of Niewojt, especially when understood in the context of Gammage's ***The Biggest Estate on Earth*** [2011] demonstrates that the Gadubanud people, residing seasonally at various settlement areas throughout the Otway region, adapted the land and ecology to best serve their needs using a sophisticated system of land management. This careful, knowledgeable land custodianship is further evidence of the idea that 'much Aboriginal history *is* environmental history.'

Nellie's Column G'day, well the Dog trial season has started again with the Australian Championships in Tasmania this year, so it **was off overseas for Fages and I** - Lara stayed home to keep Mavis company. The ferry was a blast - although those cage things do cramp a girl's style - no scope for cocktails with the Captain...

The first event was at Meander footy ground - great venue, fab catering but the sheep were the worst I have ever come across - they were bast****, but smart - splitting up at the first opportunity and jumping the fences, bowling over spectators. I had no chance of getting them through the course, so we timed out. Fages thought they had never seen people before **but perhaps it was just Fages in that hat??**

The Australian championships at Campbelltown was the next event, after a lovely bit of touring around Tassie. The sheep were again a determined bunch, and I just couldn't get them to move as far or as fast as Fages wanted. But given this is the primo Oz dog trial event with some very high scoring runs, I did my best, and it was good to see what a girl is up against in terms of both sheep and other dogs. As you know, travel broadens the mind, so it is with a new and more seasoned approach that I look forward to the local season, especially 'playing at home' as it were at **the Deans Marsh Dog Trials on January 15-17 2016**. Cheers and enjoy the holidays.

Nellie

Complementary health practitioners in our midst: Zac Edwards is a remedial massage therapist whose wife is Johanna Edwards an acupuncturist. They moved to Bambra in 2014 and are establishing practices here. Zac offers a mobile service and also practises at "Moksha musculoskeletal health and wellbeing" in Winchelsea. His contact number: 0447826517. Johanna works at Birregurra Community Health Centre. Her contact number: 0414925652.

*On April 2nd and 3rd 2016 the **Lorne Spinners**, a team of local Lorne community members, will cycle from Swan Hill to Port Fairy in 24 hours... a whopping 520 kms! This ride forms part of the **Murray to Moyne cycle relay event**, where community groups raise funds for a local health project. This year the funds raised will be directed to **Michael Callanan (aka Camel)**, a local Lorne and Surf Coast legend. contact jenna.robinson90@gmail.com*

GENTLE ANNIE IS OPEN AGAIN 7 DAYS Dec-Jan 10am -5pm, [closed Dec 25, Jan1], serving **Twilight dinners** Friday and Saturday nights from 6.30. **Sundays late roast lunches from 2pm** until 5pm, Italian Farmhouse style. Or enjoy a **farmhouse platter** or cheese board with friends over a glass of wine then stay for dinner and select from our menu. **Families welcome. CALL LEANNE 5236 3391 FOR BOOKINGS.**

WHAT'S ON

OMM Christmas Carols

Deans Marsh Oval 6pm Sunday December 6

The Dressmaker EXHIBITION

Barwon Park from December 11

DEANS MARSH **PRIMARY SCHOOL CONCERT**

7pm Tuesday December 15

DEANS MARSH **SHEEP DOG TRIALS**

Deans Marsh Oval January 15 to 17

This is my last edition of **The Croaker** as editor, so it's definitely time for a big thank you to Renee Wigley who has been your Ace Arts Reporter in 2015 and also Online Editor and Creator in chief of our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/thecroaker>

Many thanks too to other regular contributors especially Tom Reid, Nellie Fagan and Belinda Campbell for the proof-reading - as usual any remaining mistakes are mine! I am very happy to say that Renee will take over as editor in 2016 so please contact her next year with your comments and thoughts: deansmarshartstudio@bigpond.com

Hope to see you all at the OMM Carols and remember DOGS ON LEADS AT ALL TIMES TO ENSURE NO SQUABBLES OR PEED-ON PICNIC BLANKETS!