



Whales' Tales – Vol 3

From the Chair

Hello everyone, and welcome to Whales' Tales Volume 3. I can't believe we are at Christmas already. What a year it has been. The Committee and I are really excited about the National Rally, as it is looking like we should have no problem going ahead with it. There may be some dos and don'ts, but we will keep you posted.

I think everyone else is really excited too, because the response to the opening of entries has been fantastic!

As I am writing this, we have 91 entries:

ACT – 2	NSW – 19	TAS – 1	VIC - 44
SA – 5	QLD – 17	WA - 3	

If you haven't yet sent in your registration, then please make it a priority so we can finalise numbers. There is a link to access the registration form at the end of this newsletter, as well as accommodation information if you have not yet booked. We will begin invoicing for entry payments in February 2022.

Have an amazing Christmas and looking forward to seeing you all in April 2022.

Regards,
Andrea Casabene
Rally Chair

Current Covid Regulations in Victoria

The rules and restrictions relating to Covid19 in Victoria are constantly changing. Currently, no border permits are required for those travelling into Victoria from other states.

Proof of full vaccination is required in non-essential retail shops, restaurants, pubs, cafes and venues such as theatres, cinemas, galleries etc. All venues require QR coding in via the Services Victoria App with a link to your Covid19 digital certificate, or manual signing of a

register, and physical proof of Covid19 vaccination (paper copy).

We anticipate this will be in place well into next year, and will be a requirement at all the venues we visit during the National Rally. At this stage, therefore, it is a requirement that all Rally participants be fully vaccinated, or hold a government exemption.

Sunday 10th April - Morning Tea time clarification

The "High Tea" on Sunday 10th April will be at Proudfoots Boathouse from 9.30am to 11.30am. It is aimed at occupying the ladies, whilst the men partake in the Swap & Sell, Show & Tell at Rally Headquarters. However, everyone is most welcome.

Lunch at Rally Headquarters will be served from 11.30am, and is for those who are not already full from Morning Tea.

Itinerary Days Interesting Facts

Fletcher Jones & Staff

Fletcher Jones was born in Bendigo, Victoria, on the 14th August 1895, and left school at the age of 12. He served with the Australian forces in France in World War I, where he suffered shell shock after being buried alive for several hours. On his return home he commenced a door-to-door sales business in Melbourne, and then became a hawker when he purchased a menswear store in Warrnambool in 1924.

His business expanded, and in 1941 he formed a new wholesale business making nothing but high quality, ready-made trousers. The business was boosted by a war-time contract for army pants, and rapidly made a reputation for manufacturing hard-wearing 'coverdine' work trousers for men on the land. By 1945 his Warrnambool rooms were supplying 123 retailers in four States. He then decided to sell directly, to insist on personal fittings and to accept cash only. When his first shop opened in Collins Street in Melbourne, on 23rd

June 1946, the response was overwhelming, with queues for blocks.

In 1948 he constructed a spacious factory on the site of a rubbish dump. Which had once been a quarry. The site was extensively renewed with gardens, and became a much-visited tourist attraction.

In the late 1940s, Fletcher Jones turned his business into a co-operative, named Fletcher Jones & Staff Pty Ltd. Initially, the Jones family had a two-thirds interest and the staff one-third, but the balance gradually swung so that by the 1970s, the staff held over 50 per cent of the shares. From the mid 1950s, the business also made women's attire.

Fletcher Jones & Staff was awarded a contract to outfit the Australian women's team for the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. At its peak, the company had over 2,700 employees and 55 stores in six states and the ACT.

Jones was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1959, and was made a knight bachelor in 1974 for services to decentralisation and the community. He is considered a pioneer in workforce participation.

Being located in a major wool producing area, Fletcher Jones concentrated for many years on using the best local wool in its garments, and by the 1960s, was the largest Australian user of fine merino wool.

Sir Fletcher Jones died in Warrnambool in 1977, and was buried there. His company was sold in 1998, and continued to trade with the Fletcher Jones name. It was placed into administration in December 2011 and 15 stores closed immediately, including the original Warrnambool store. The other 30 remained open until gradually, Australian production of garments ceased as imported garments became more viable. There are currently 3 Fletcher Jones stores operating in Victoria.

More about Tower Hill

Archaeological surveys of the area have uncovered axe heads and other artefacts in the volcanic ash layers and local Aboriginal people would have undoubtedly witnessed the eruptions. The area was a rich source of food and shelter for different clans of the Gunditjmarra Nation including the Koroit-Gunditj and Peek Whurrong people.

In the early years of European settlement, much of Tower Hill's natural vegetation was cleared and the land was used for farming and quarrying. In 1892 it

became Victoria's first National Park in recognition of its unique features but destructive uses continued. In 1961, Tower Hill became a State Game Reserve under the then Fisheries and Wildlife Department, and a major re-vegetation program began.

The planting scheme was developed using a painting by Eugene Von Guerard as inspiration. It shows grass and ferns on the island, tea trees, wattles, sheoaks, banksias and eucalypts on the cones with reeds and tussocks in the marshes. Botanists studied the painting to identify plants, and re-planting was based on species known or believed to have been indigenous to Tower Hill. Once the vegetation was established, wildlife was reintroduced to the reserve.

The Worn Gundidj Cooperative has managed the Visitor Centre on the Main Island since 2002 in partnership with Parks Victoria. They provide information on flora, fauna, geology and cultural heritage through interpretive displays and guided walking tours.

Accommodation

Not booked it yet? Please refer to the first edition of 'Whales' Tales' from August 2020 for details:

<http://www.austin7club.org/National%20Rally%20Newsletter%201%20and%20Expression%20of%20Interest%20v%201.1.pdf>

Entry Form Link

Please click on the link below or scan the QR code, to complete and submit your entry form. You will then receive a confirmation email with your booking summary.

Electronic lodgement is preferred, however, if this is just not possible for you, please contact Bev Logan at bevlog@hotmail.com or 03) 5989 7344 to request a paper copy be posted.

<https://form.jotform.com/212780869676069>

