



National Austin 7 Rally – Warrnambool – April 2022

Austin 7 Club Inc (Vic)

Whales' Tales – Vol 2

Entry link
included

From the Chair

Hi Austineers,

Well - what a journey we have all been on! As you can imagine, planning the Rally has certainly had its challenges for us stuck here in Vic, but we are moving onward and upward! I am sure we are all really looking forward to the opportunity to go away again and catch up with wonderful friends.

We have a *whale of a time* planned for you all. As you look through the newsletter, you will be able to read about the wonderful adventures that await you. The Warrnambool area offers many differing landscapes, and our day runs will introduce you to some of them. We have the ocean, the bush, lakes, craters and sink holes all waiting for you to explore.

At the end of the newsletter, you will find the link and a QR code so you can access the online booking form. Thanks to technology, all your information and booking preferences will be captured in a spreadsheet, and will streamline the entry process. It will also be far more accurate. Upon completion of the online form, you will receive an email "receipt" with a summary of your booking. It is our preference that everyone use this online form, but if you are unable to do so, please contact me and I will send out a paper copy. 2022rallyinfo@gmail.com or 0417 109 251.

Given our impressive vaccination rates, the committee is hopeful that all will go ahead as planned. However, as we have all learnt over the past two years, we must be flexible. With this in mind, we would appreciate completion of the entry form now (to give us a clear indication of who is planning to join us), *but no payment is required*.

In early 2022, the committee will look at the current circumstances relating to interstate travel and number restrictions on gatherings, and will make a decision about the viability of running the Rally in April 2022.

Once this has been established, we will issue invoices for payment of the entry fee and meals.

Stay well and keep your fingers and toes crossed. We have put a lot of work into our planning, and the committee and myself look forward to seeing you all in Warrnambool next year.

Warm regards
Andrea Casabene
National Rally Chair

Whalecome!

Kanawinka Region

Australia may be referred to as a relatively young nation, but the well-preserved ancient landscape provides many precious windows into the past. The Kanawinka region gets its name from the geological fault that stretches from Portland in Victoria to Naracoorte in South Australia. Kanawinka is an Aboriginal term meaning 'Land of Tomorrow' and the area is internationally recognised as the Kanawinka Global Geopark.

The Kanawinka landscape of southwest Victoria and southeast South Australia is a striking contrast of sweeping limestone plains studded with remarkable sinkholes and caves, spectacular mountains and extensive lava flows.

The area features nearly 400 individual eruption points, most of which occurred between 4.5 and 2 million years ago, and several hundred caves west of the Kanawinka Fault.

Aboriginal people have inhabited this region for up to 45,000 years. The region features prominently in stories of 'The Dreaming' and stones from the lava flows were used to construct channels linking the wetlands, weirs, fish-traps and stone huts. Excellent examples created by the Gunditjmara people can be found around the Lake Condah region.

Later, European settlers constructed dry stone walls in order to enclose crops and stock. Many examples can be found around Camperdown along the Dry-stone Walls Heritage Trail.

A feature drive of the South-West coastline of Victoria is The Great Ocean Road. It is an Australian National Heritage listed 243 kilometre (151 mile) stretch of road along the coast between the Victorian cities of Torquay and Allansford (10km East of Warrnambool).

The coastline includes sandy bays, golden sands, rugged cliffs, stunning rock formations and exhilarating views of the Southern Ocean. There are hundreds of reported shipwrecks, and a wild, rugged splendour that draws millions of visitors.

We plan to give you a memorable and enjoyable Kanawinka and coast adventure during the National Rally in Warrnambool. With a range of experiences including waterfalls, sinkholes, lava flows, cones, caves and coastal formations, we are sure you will be amazed.

We invite you to renew old friendships, celebrate 100 years of the Austin Seven and experience beautiful Warrnambool.

What does Warrnambool mean?

Gunditjmara or Gunditjamara, also known as Dhauwurd Wurrung, are an Aboriginal Australian people of southwestern Victoria. They are the traditional owners of the areas now encompassing Warrnambool, Port Fairy, Woolsthorpe and Portland.

The name "Warrnambool" originated from Mount Warrnambool, a scoria cone volcano 25 kilometres northeast of the town. Warrnambool (or Warrnoobul) was the title of both the volcano and the clan of Aboriginal Australian people who lived there.

"Warrnambool" also comes from the language of the Kuurn Kopan Noot Aborigines. It is said to mean either "two swamps", "a growing tree", 'place of plenty" or "ample water". A "warrambool" is used to refer to overflow channels which have water only during flood times.

Warrnambool

Nicholas Baudin, the French scientist and navigator, was credited with being the first European to sight

Warrnambool Bay. He marked the landmarks in his charts that are today named Tower Hill and Point Pickering but made no attempt to land. Sealers and whalers trawling along the coast were reported to have landed in Warrnambool Bay in the 1830s, but none stayed for any length of time.

In 1836 Major Mitchell, the explorer, reported in Sydney after his expedition to Western Victoria that it was 'ready for the immediate occupation by civilised man'. Following this, the first settlers moved in to the Warrnambool area, and soon agitated for a port to be established.

250 acres of land was allocated for the town, to be called after the nearby Mt Warrnambool, and in 1846 the new town was surveyed by William Pickering. He named the streets in the original 250-acre grid, the first land sales took place in Melbourne in 1847, and Warrnambool was born.

Early in its history, the local sandstone was extracted for building purposes and this industry continued for over 80 years. The first building erected in the town was the Warrnambool Hotel at the north-east corner of Banyan and Merri Streets. Early public works included the cutting through Flagstaff Hill and the diversion of the Merri River from Levy's point to its mouth, to reclaim swamp land.

In the later part of the 1800s, the Port of Warrnambool was a very busy place with the creation of two jetties serving regular coastal traffic for both passengers and cargo. The chief exports were wool, wheat, potatoes and dairy products. The 1880s were a boom time with the presence of several resident architects transforming the face of the town with new buildings featuring bay windows, verandas with lace iron adornments and carved barge-boards. Many of these survive today.

1890 saw the completion of the Breakwater, the coming of the railway, and the building of the ambitious Ozone Coffee Palace (sadly burned down in 1929).

By the early 20th century, Warrnambool was confirmed as a major market town and the centre of burgeoning industries. Nestles, Warrnambool Cheese and Butter Factory, Warrnambool Woollen Mill and (after World War II), the Fletcher Jones and Staff factory.

The influence of the port had already waned with the advent of the railways and the port was officially closed in 1942.

Today, despite the demise of the Woollen Mills and Fletcher Jones Factory complex, Warrnambool is the prosperous centre of an internationally-important dairy industry. Proximity to The Great Ocean Road, the beach and many seaside activities has ensured it has remained a popular holiday destination.

Climate

You can expect pleasant temperatures during the day in Warrnambool in April. The average maximum daytime temperature at Easter is 20°C. The average minimum temperature is 11°C.

There may be some rainfall, so bring a rain jacket and umbrella.

Rally Entry Types

1. 1st A7 - \$200.00

Owners of registered, unrestored and/or unregistered A7s who drive or transport their cars to Warrnambool, for use during the Rally. This category will receive a Rally Pack, memorial plaque, Rally Program, Souvenir Booklet, name badge, entry to museums & Flagstaff Hill & mementos.

2. Adult Passengers - \$60.00

This category is for all additional adult passengers, and will receive a name badge, entry to museums & Flagstaff Hill & mementos.

3. Children Passengers – no charge

Children aged 15 years and below are not required to pay an entry fee. They will receive a name badge, entry to museums & Flagstaff Hill & mementos.

4. Modern/ Other Vehicles - \$175.00

For entrants in vehicles other than an A7. This category will receive a Rally Pack, Rally Program, Souvenir Booklet, name badge, entry to museums & Flagstaff Hill & mementos. These vehicles will not be parked with A7s & will not receive a memorial plaque.

5. Additional “No Frills” - \$25.00

This category is for additional cars brought along by the entrant, and will receive a memorial plaque only (plus stickers and signage for the car).

Itinerary

Saturday 9th April

Arriving in Warrnambool

To ease congestion at the Warrnambool Showgrounds, we ask that Rally Entrants staying elsewhere (& not requiring trailer and/or tow vehicle storage), please check into their accommodation, unload and then register.

Entrants are invited to take an orientation tour around Warrnambool to take in some of the local sites including Cannon Hill Lookout, Thunder Point, Warrnambool Racecourse, Logan's Beach Whale Lookout and the Breakwater as well as the cafe/restaurant precinct. A list of local Op Shops will be included for those so inclined.

Registration at Rally Headquarters

Stan Lake Pavilion, Wannon Function Centre
Warrnambool Greyhound Racing Club
331 Koroit Street, Warrnambool

*11.00am to 5.00pm

*Tea/Coffee and cake available all day

* Bar open from 5.00pm

(Daily morning briefings to be held at this location)

Welcome Dinner

Wannon Room, Wannon Function Centre
(Address as above)

Our meal will be a two-course sit-down alternate drop, in the recently refurbished Wannon dining room. This is on the hill, overlooking the Greyhound Track and Showgrounds.

*From 6.00pm onwards

*Official Opening at 7.30pm

*Dress is smart casual

*Drinks available at bar prices

*Tea/Coffee complimentary

Sunday 10th April

High Tea – Proudfoots by the River

In 1885, Thomas Proudfoot applied for a jetty licence near the river mouth with the intention to establish a boating business. In 1900, shortly after the boathouse was built, Thomas died suddenly at the age of 44, leaving behind his wife Catherine and their two children, Ivy and Bruce.

Catherine continued to operate the boathouse tearooms and accommodation for over 30 years, before transferring the licence to her son Bruce. In 1939, the licence was then transferred to Thomas' granddaughter Ena Hunt, who operated the business with her husband under the name Hunts Boathouse until 1979.

During the 1980s, the licence was held by the Wearne family, before the Warrnambool City Council purchased the building in the 1990s. Restoration works were ordered and an additional building was added to house rowing facilities and a function room.

Today, Proudfoots Boathouse is one of the most historic and recognisable buildings in the Warrnambool region and is known for its unique dining experience as Proudfoots By The River Café and Restaurant.

Ladies are encouraged to dress in period costume pertaining to the age of our cars, or the early 1900s, from when the tearooms were established.

Swap Meet & Show & Tell

Please bring along your Austin 7 and related items to buy/ swap/ sell. The location will be the Wannon Function Centre car park. If weather is inclement, we will have the use of a showgrounds shed. BYO rug/ table/ box for display purposes. No tables will be provided.

Entry open to all Rally entrants free of charge for the purpose of selling/ trading personal items. Commercial traders and entrants selling items of a business nature are very welcome, but will be charged a nominal fee. For more information, please contact Andrea Casabene.

2022rallyinfo@gmail.com or 0417 109 251

Funkhana

The next round of the Australian Series, “National Austin 7 Rally Funkhana” will take place on the grassed interior of the Greyhound track. Teams will be selected/ nominated from each state, and participants will take part in historical favourite events such as Blindfold, Egg & Spoon, How Far Is It? and Harpoon.

Everyone is invited to watch from the comfort of the Stan Lake Pavilion and the terraced seating directly in front. A “sausage sizzle” lunch will be served for those who have placed orders.

Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum and Village

Victoria’s most active maritime museum and village and home to Australia’s most significant shipwreck artefact collection. A key feature is the priceless Minton statue, the Loch Ard Peacock. The statue was being transported from England to Melbourne in 1878, aboard the clipper the Loch Ard, bound for display at Melbourne’s Great International Exhibition of 1880. The ship ran into the cliffs at what is now known as Loch Ard Gorge, with the peacock being washed ashore two days after the wreck.

Australia’s most valuable shipwreck artefact, (currently valued at \$4m) the Loch Ard Peacock is permanently housed at Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village and forms the centrepiece of the Great Circle Gallery that houses our rich maritime heritage.

Stroll the cobblestoned streets and explore more than 40 buildings including a school, a fire station and blacksmith’s forge while meeting and chatting with the in-character volunteers. The village holds hundreds of relics from Warrnambool’s past. You can feel the history, with many objects able to be touched and held. Several buildings include digital displays where you can hear about particular aspects of life in the 19th century.

‘Tales of the Shipwreck Coast’

As night falls, step inside the Maritime Village to experience dramatic stories of Australia’s rich maritime history, told vividly through the multimillion-dollar Sound and Light Show Experience.

Tales of the Shipwreck Coast takes you on a journey through the ages. From local Aboriginal stories to our colourful whaling past then to events that gave the

coastline a reputation that inspired fear and trepidation among mariners.

See the village come to life and experience the stories told through projections onto a nine-metre water wall. Be taken on a journey into the past where those seeking a new life in Australia braved the perils of the Southern Ocean and where the livelihoods of men depended on capturing the largest mammals the world has ever seen.

Shows begin at dusk, with start times changing seasonally. The show is not weather dependant and runs rain, hail or shine. The Wharf Theatre is open-fronted so warm clothing in cooler months is recommended.

Entry to the Wharf Theatre is gained via a lantern walk over cobblestones, steep and rough terrain. A transport option is available for those with limited mobility, but numbers are restricted. Please indicate on the booking form if you require bus transportation into the Sound & Light Show.

Please note that the experience involves strobe lighting, fog effects and some sudden movements.

We have 4 nights available for viewing the Sound & Light show from Sunday 10th through to Wednesday 13th April. If your preferred night is sold out, we will contact you to select an alternative.

Monday 11th April

'The Shipwreck Coast' and Great Ocean Road – Port Campbell

Today's adventure will take you along the western end of the Great Ocean Road, and out into the Lakes and Craters precinct of the Kanawinka Geotrail.

A pre-ordered lunch can be enjoyed at the Port Campbell Lifesaving Club, where parking is available. There are many cafes and restaurants if you choose to do your own thing, and many shops & of course the beach to enjoy.

The Great Ocean Road is 234km long, stretching from Torquay to Allansford, and is the world's longest war memorial. Before the creation of this road, it was very difficult to travel between the towns on the southern coast. Following years of discussions, it wasn't until the end of the First World War that the Country Roads Board finally committed to the road's construction.

The State War Council was approached with a plan to hire returning WWI veterans to build a road as a memorial to the soldiers that died in the Great War. Around 3000 ex-soldiers helped to build the Southern Coast Road (as it was known then), and it proved very difficult. They worked on rough terrain, on rocky cliffsides, and through treacherous weather with tools such as explosives, picks and shovels.

The first section of road from Eastern View to Lorne was opened in 1922, with a toll of 2 shillings per car and 10 shillings per wagon with 2 or more horses. The final section was completed in November 1932, and the road was officially renamed The Great Ocean Road, when the State Government acquired it in 1936.

Tuesday 12th April

Warrnambool and surrounds

Today, we will split into groups and visit two locations in close proximity to Warrnambool.

The first is George Taylor's Store at Grassmere Junction, which houses an impressive motorcycle collection & and is also a disposal store. The second is Hopkins Falls at Allansford, which measures 90 metres wide and plunges 12 metres over dark basalt rocks. Take in the views from the two viewing platforms overlooking the falls, and take the easy path to the platform below for postcard worthy photos.

In between the two stops there is an opportunity to drop in to the Wangoom Store if you need to purchase morning tea.

After the two visits, we return to Warrnambool to display our cars throughout the famous Fletcher Jones Gardens. Car judging and official photos will take place, whilst entrants enjoy a pre-ordered or BYO lunch in the beautiful surrounds. On the Fletcher Jones site is the Warrnambool Car Museum (admission included for all rally entrants) and the Fletcher Jones Market for antiques & collectables, which is spread over two floors.

Wednesday 13th April

'Lakes and Craters' – Camperdown

Heading East again into the Lakes and craters precinct, we meander along roads flanked by dry stone walls, that form part of the Dry-stone Walls Heritage Trail. The stones were created by lava flows, and had previously been utilised by aborigines for various

purposes including water channels. These walls were constructed by skilled free men, and not by convicts as often thought. They were employed by European settlers to build walls in order to enclose crops and stock, and provide protection from rabbits.

Camperdown sits at the foot of Mount Leura, which has been the location of past Austin Seven Hill Climbs. Together with nearby Mount Sugarloaf, they are part of a large extinct volcanic complex known as the "Leura Maar". Our entry into the town from the immediate west will be between the deep volcanic crater lakes, Bullen-Merri which is very salty and Gnotuk which is fresh water. To the East is the crater lake Purrumbete, popular for Trout and Chinook Salmon fishing.

The town is renowned for its classic historic buildings. Central is the 31m high Gothic Manifold Clock Tower built in 1897, which sits in a wide Elm-lined median reserve between the dual main street carriageways.

Pre-ordered lunch boxes will be served by the Lions Club in the beautiful Theatre Royal, or lunch can be purchased at the small cafes, restaurants and pubs. Tea & coffee will be provided for everyone in the theatre. The short, but steep, drive up Mount Leura is well worth the spectacular view, and is highly recommended. Clock Tower climbers will be decided by ballot as numbers are limited.

The homeward journey will take in the lovely township of Cobden, and smaller farming communities.

Thursday 14th April

'Cones and Flows' – Port Fairy and Tower Hill

Today we head West into the cones and flows precinct, visiting the Aboriginal cultural site of Tower Hill and the fleeting whaling town, now seaside resort, of Port Fairy.

Tower Hill

Tower Hill is a volcanic formation believed to have erupted about 32,000 years ago. Its formation is known as a 'nested maar' and is the largest example of its type in Victoria. The area was a rich source of food and shelter for different clans of the Gunditjmara 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 Worn Gunditj 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.

Port Fairy

After Tower Hill we head into the nearby seaside town of Port Fairy. Parking and toilets are available at the Cricket Club. Lunch can be purchased at the many cafes, restaurants and pubs. Many shopping and browsing opportunities available in the sprawling town.

There is conjecture as to the exact date of the naming of Port Fairy, but it is agreed that the township was named by Captain James Wishart after his ship "The Fairy". It is thought Wishart and his crew named the unsettled area when sailing up the Moyne River in search of fresh water.

The area attracted many sealers, whalers and seamen during the early part of the nineteenth century. A whaling station was established on the island at the river mouth, and purchased by John Griffiths in 1835. The island now bears his name.

The whalers were so successful during those years that by the 1840s the supply of whales was exhausted and the whaling station closed. Some of the seamen had begun to settle the land, and the port started to flourish as a town.

The township was surveyed in 1843 and named Belfast, although the port kept its original name. Settlers were encouraged by the richness of the soils and commercial opportunities in the expanding Western District. By 1857, Port Fairy became, for a short time, one of the busiest ports in the colony, second only to the Port of Melbourne. In 1887 the town was renamed Port Fairy.

Farewell Dinner

After your fairly leisurely day, you should all be in the mood to let your hair down for our final fling together at Deakin University's Brother Fox Reception Centre.

Dinner will be a sit-down affair, with 3 options of entrée, main course and dessert.

The theme for tonight's dinner is "Maritime 1920s". You are invited to come dressed in 1920s, formal or maritime themed attire. Be creative. Ideas for costumes will follow in a future newsletter. Think pirates, under the sea, sailors and "Puttin' on the Ritz". Prizes for the best dressed.

Included in the night's activities will be the presentation of trophies/ awards and a few surprises. Join in to kick up your heels, laugh a lot, dance some and finish on a high.

Meals

Breakfast

Can be purchased from the Stan Lake Pavilion at the Rally Headquarters. Bookings and payment to be made during the Rally, directly to the Warrnambool Racing Club. Cost will be \$10 per head. Children \$5. Cappuccino/ latte etc \$4.

Lunch

Catered lunches (individually priced & pre-ordered) are available on Sunday to Wednesday. Thursday's lunch can be purchased in Port Fairy.

Dinner

Saturday & Thursday's dinners are catered for. Other evenings you can choose from the many fine restaurants and hotels in Warrnambool.

Morning/Afternoon Teas

There will be complimentary Tea/ Coffee & biscuits available at Rally Headquarters on days we are in Warrnambool. All other days you will need to BYO or purchase at the various stops.

Children's Prices

Free rally entry is offered to all children aged 15 and under. Children aged 1-4 will also receive a free children's size meal where available (see booking form). Please indicate on the booking form if your child is this age, and requires a meal. Although you do not pay for them, we still need to know numbers for catering purposes. You will be required to pay children's meal rates for those aged 5-15 where applicable.

Trailer Storage

If you are unable to leave your trailer and/ or tow vehicle where you are staying, please indicate on the booking form so alternative storage can be arranged for you.

'No 7' Rally Badge

Because of its special significance to A7 owners, the No 7 Rally Badge will be allocated by means of a "lucky dip". All entrants' names will be placed into a draw to receive this number before the commencement of the Rally.

'No 77' Rally Badge

The Committee is aware that many entrants/ passengers will celebrate their 77th Birthday in 2022. We would like to allocate the No 77 Rally Badge in a similar fashion to the No 7. If you will be 77 next year, and would like to be in the draw, please indicate on the booking form. The Seventy Seveners will be honoured with a birthday cake at the Farewell Dinner.

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.

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

