



The TDCA Committee meets 6.00pm first Friday of February, May, August and November at the Tawonga Fire Station and we welcome new members!

President:

Eric Napier

Vice President:

Trish Ryder

Secretary:

Sue Ryder

Treasurer:

Meryn Deans

Committee members:

Barbara Talbot

Bruce and Lorice Vine

Gina Sauervein

Melissa Wiffen

Harold Coad

Email:

tdca@tawonga.vic.au

www.tawonga.vic.au

The Tawonga and District Community Association committee admires the community fabric, resilience and adaptability which was demonstrated during the recent bushfires and has continued as we adjust to living in a COVID 19 climate. We take this opportunity to acknowledge the care and community support that continues to be provided and encourage all community members to stay connected and to reach out for any support, at any time.

The intended 'Thank you Picnic' for our emergency services post the bushfires in Pioneer Park on the 22nd of March 2020 was postponed with the onset of COVID 19 health precautions and we look forward to announcing a new date once deemed safe by the health authorities.

The committee meeting in May was held via video conferencing and we sense that we will experience more of this form of communication in the future.

The President and Secretary met with Francine Stacey, Manager Asset Development with Alpine Shire Council and MDG Landscape Architects in March as part of the Alpine Better Places initiative for Tawonga. We anticipate a community consultation process to commence in the next month around asset and safety improvement concepts for Pioneer Park and Tawonga central, and will communicate details once confirmed.

The 2020-21 Alpine Shire Community Grants Program is now open for projects that support diversity, community participation and contribution to the building of healthy, strong and connected communities.

We welcome your ideas alternatively visit <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/community/grants-and-awards/community-grants>. Please note that applications close at 10pm on 28 June 2020 for projects to be completed in the 2020-21 financial year.

Anzac Day

The Tawonga community paid tribute on Anzac Day to our service men and women with a dawn service where Nick Brown, Maureen and Mark Hardidge raised the flag and laid wreaths of remembrance.

Later in the morning, Eric Napier and Sue Ryder laid wreaths on behalf of the TDCA along with a number of locals also placing floral tributes at the Pioneer Park war memorial.

Arana Keeble played the last post from her front gate with the sound floating down to those present at the war memorial. On the other side of the Kiewa River in Cottrell's Lane, Andrew Laveglia played the last post on his bugle which was very much appreciated by the locals.

The Old Tawonga Store received (on behalf of the TDCA), a Lest We Forget flag donated by Lisa Dussin and the association thanks Lisa for her kind donation.

The flag was lowered at the end of the day by Mark Hardidge – thank you Mark. We also extend our thanks to Joanna Macklan who ventured out later in the night to take the wonderful photo of the memorial.



Tawonga Primary School

Tawonga Primary School is turning 140 in July. We are currently in the process of organising a small celebration for the Tawonga Community and would love to hear from past students. We are looking for photos, memorabilia, stories, anything that might be valuable to have on display for this occasion. More celebration details will be available closer to the time. Any items could be emailed to the school at Tawonga.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au or dropped in to the office.



You may have noticed the teddy bears on the school fence. They were put there by students to represent them while they were working at home. It was also for families going for walks to give their children something to look for and 'talk about'. There were a few places around town who did the same thing on their front fences.


The Cattleman's Cup

At our last committee meeting we discussed the rich history of the Kiewa Valley and how we could share stories of the day in the newsletter and on the website.

Thanks to Bruce Vine for the initiative to look into his archives and come up with the poem 'The Cattleman's Cup' authored by Don Kneebone.

If you have a tale to tell, a story to be shared or some old photos we welcome the opportunity to share these with the community.

In the interim please enjoy 'The Cattleman's Cup' and some photos of local cattlemen on the following pages.



THE CATTLEMAN'S CUP

It was down along the Tawonga side
Straight after the autumn muster,
Into the Bogong pub with pride
The cattlemen started to cluster.

To drink all night and half the day,
And tell tales of the cattle track,
Who had the best dogs away,
Or which was the smartest hack.

There was a tall stranger there
Queer sort of a bird,
He was waving a ten dollar note,
And soon made himself well heard.

'I've listened to you blokes skiting,' he said,
'I think it's a pack of lies!
We'll race from here to Mongan's Bridge,
And make this note the prize.'

Five miles it was to Mongan's Bridge,
Tom Roper measured the course,
So he'd want more than luck that day
He'd want a damn good sort of a horse.

Then they decided to reverse the course,
And finish them up the hill.
This way they'd find out which was the better horse
And give the crowd a thrill.

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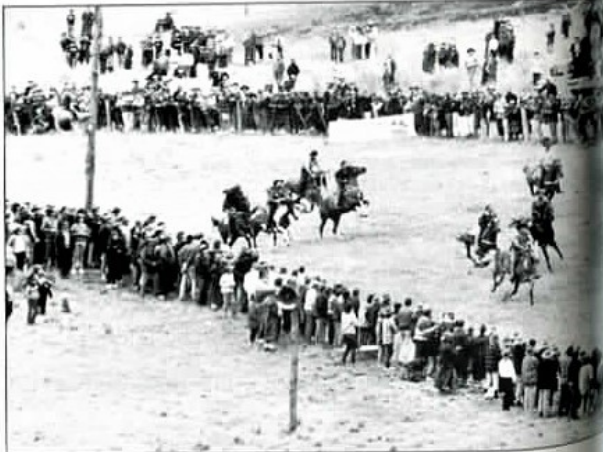
The Cattleman's Cup continued ...

There was Ryder there with a fiery beast
- I'm sure he called him King -
A full sixteen hands at least
He'd make the stranger sing.

Ian Roper was there with a little roan,
And Hicksy there with Kate,
Then Millsy led in a thoroughbred
And along came Cooper's Mate.

Away down towards Mongan's Bridge
Blairs joined 'em with a blue
That danced and pranced all over the ridge,
To show what it could do.

And in the yard was Dargo Newman,
With a half-broken little filly.
It was underfed, with a brumby head,
And to start it seemed almost silly.



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Away they went! It was a good start
- Except for Newman's little filly,
For her and jockey almost came apart,
She carried on something silly.

Off up the road those horsemen went,
Riding with whip and spur,
There never was a stockman yet
To saddle up a cur.

And high from a vantage point
Where the road gets a little bit hilly,
You could still see Newman back at the post
Wrestling away with the filly.

Down the straight past Madisons' gate,
They gave 'em all they knew,
Those horses going at a terrific rate,
Frank Blair in front on the blue.

Into the bend by Coopers' gate
Along past Tresidders' shed
Roper's roan and Hick's Kate
Were going head for head.

But as they bunched up in the gully
Old King had seen the way
He was as game as he could be,
And looked as though he'd stay.

Now Millsy's horse was dropping back,
- They said it went quite lame -
And Cooper's Mate was getting slack
Although it still showed game.

They never stripped their saddles down
There were raincoats, saddle bags and all,
And for days thereafter quart pots were found
Where they raced 'em past the hall.

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But Dargo was always a game little man
Who never turned it up,
And just to see how the filly ran
He started in the Cattleman's Cup.

'Bring 'em in!' we heard the starter call,
It was Jack Roper on a grey,
'And where's the bloke who started it all
With that stylish little bay?'

'Bring your horses into line,
And face 'em right about,
For anyone who gets the jump away
Will be disqualified and out!'

'And with one clean almighty blow,
I'll bring this stockwhip down
That's when you'll swing and let 'em go,
And head 'em straight for town.'



Cattleman's Cup at Castleburn

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But still down there by Mongan's Bridge
Just across the bog,
Was an old unwanted blue heeler,
Camped in a hollow log.

He was known around Tawonga town,
As the old Tawonga ghost,
But Newman had fed him from time to time,
So he whistled him to the post.

He came in so hard and fast,
That filly lashed out with pain,
Then dashed off down the road at last,
With Newman grabbing for the rein.

She bucked and reared and plunged,
Then gathered up her stride,
With the old blue dog still nipping away,
Newman settled down to ride.

The other horses were half-way there,
She'd have to do it alone!
But the speed that was in that mare,
As she swept past Roper's roan!

On past the church, the filly fairly flew,
After Cooper's Mate and Hick's Kate,
And straight on past the blue.
But Ryders' King was the horse to beat,
And would she see it through?
She swayed and wobbled all over the street
- She'd never worn a shoe.

On down into the town,
The maddened horsemen tore,
Neck and neck they fought it out
As they raced 'em past the store.

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The Cattleman's Cup continued ...

The old blue dog, he wasn't a fool,
He stopped and limped away
He knew they were near the school,
And the kids had stoned him every day.

On up the hill those horses raced,
But the filly turned it up
And Ryders' King just bowled along,
Looked set to win the Cattleman's Cup.

But just as the crowd all rose to cheer,
That horseman past the post,
The old dog did again appear,
He came in like a ghost



Stockman's Dash at Castleburn

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The filly gave a bound and squeal,
And then she really flew -
The old dog fastened hard on her heel,
He drove the little mare through!

So if ever you're up Tawonga way
And you don't believe in a ghost,
You ask the boys who were there that day
How Ryder got beat at the post.

Or down about Mongan's Bridge,
And your horse ever turns it up,
Just whistle out from over the rise
'Cos Newman has saved a pup.

And as for the bloke that started it all,
With that stylish little bay,
Well, this may stand correction,
But Jack Roper got the field away,
And he swears he went in the wrong direction.



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Jack Roper with Frank English - Mount Yorke Pine Trees



Top Left: Dargo Newman coming in 2nd in The Cattleman's Cup riding little Joe. Top Right: Ken (KJ) Mills, Man of the High Plains and SEC employee for 37 years. Bottom: Bill Hicks and Wally Ryder at Pretty Valley on the Bogong High Plains.

Tawonga Red Cross News

Tawonga Branch members have been 'keeping in touch' through monthly Zoom meetings in March and April and will be meeting by Zoom again in June. We are hoping to resume our face to face meetings from July. We have moved our meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month to the Rose Cafe at the Neighbourhood Centre We meet at 10.30 am for around an hour and enjoy a Coffee and a chat and the lovely views . New Members are always welcome. If you would like to know what Red Cross as an organisation is doing during the COVID-19 crisis and how the Bushfire Recovery funds are being used you can check out the website: RedCross.org.au. Our branch did a call out for any local donations to go directly to support victims of the bushfires in the Corryong area. We raised \$1000 and the money provided shopping vouchers at the local supermarket so it helped people in need, and at the same time, stayed in the local community supporting local business and employment.



Obituaries



The TDCA offers its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Keith Barham (formerly of Reid's Lane), Steve Keller (Keller's Lane), Irene Reid nee Tresidder, Bill Griffiths, Peter Ward, Veronica McKendrick nee Rooney, Jarrod Policha, Ron O'Keefe, Jack Cardwell and Bob Stones.

Tawonga Rural Fire Brigade

Tawonga RFB would like to extend a **BIG THANKYOU** to our local Community for their support over the last challenging fire season. Your actions, responding to the warning messages and being vigilant within our town is something to be proud of. We would also like to send a huge shoutout to our members. Your commitment, dedication and hard work doesn't go unnoticed.

On the predicted concerning days, you all took time away from your personal lives to man the station, ready for a fast response if the need arose, you filled strike teams, helping other communities in need and you all put in 100% this season, your community thanks you for this. Thank You!

We thought that we might mix things up a bit this newsletter and introduce you all to one of our valuable volunteers and share some interesting facts about the role he plays within the CFA.



What colour uniform is associated with CFA members? Yellow you might think.

Did you know that some CFA members wear dark blue overalls. For every fire attended it is a requirement of the CFA to determine where the fire started, often referred to as P.O.O (Point of Origin) and the cause.

After the Brigade returns to the station, someone has the responsibility of reporting those two pieces of information. On occasion, the Brigade needs to call in assistance to make this determination and a Fire Investigator is responded to examine the scene.

The Fire Investigator wears a dark blue pair of overalls! There are approximately 150 CFA fire investigators in the State, one is a member of Tawonga Fire Brigade.

Bruce Vine has been a member of the Tawonga Brigade for approximately 48 years and has been an investigator for the past 20 years. He has investigated 132 scenes during that time comprising grass, structure and vehicle fires.

To gain accreditation it was necessary for Bruce to attend a week long training session, attend two weeks at the Police Forensic Centre, attend and be mentored at a number of scenes over a two-year period and finally attend a week long assessment.

Once accredited it is mandatory for each investigator to attend a minimum of three scenes in a calendar year to maintain accreditation. This is a little difficult to achieve some years if Brigades don't require an investigator, in other years it can be very busy.

Tawonga Rural Fire Brigade continued ...

On arrival at a scene, the investigator initially looks for the area where the fire has been hottest, or where most damage has occurred to determine where the investigation is to be concentrated. Often the P.O.O is buried under a considerable amount of rubble that has to be removed to reach this point, this is the most physically demanding part of the investigation. To further assist the investigator can request attendance by a large range of chemists or specialist personnel.

The biggest attended by Bruce.....a manufacturing plant that was totally destroyed, \$3M damage.

The coldest.....an alpine village lodge, the investigation complicated in snow and biting cold winds.

The hardest.....a two story hotel, totally collapsed with the fire having started on the lower floor.

The most frustrating...a series of 42 roadside fires along a major highway through Victoria and into NSW. CFA had 23 to investigate, Bruce investigated 12. The arsonist was caught.

The most satisfactory result....an office fire initially deemed to be electrical but found to be the result of arson, the arsonist was convicted and jailed.

The saddest...a small house fire in which an elderly person became confused in smoke and was found deceased in the bathroom.

An interesting, sometimes rewarding, sometimes frustrating aspect of all that CFA is involved in.

Well done Bruce and thanks for being a member of Tawonga Rural Fire Brigade!

St Aidans Anglican Church—Tawonga

Over the past twelve months or so we have done a lot of interior and exterior painting including the fence. Also a new kitchen has been put in and a new carpet in the main part of the Church. New windows, and soon a new roof and exterior doors.

Sadly the Mount Beauty Anglican Church has been sold, so our finances have been helped along by the sale.

Our services are at 5.00pm every 2nd and 4th Sunday and we welcome you all to come. Father Stan Kelb is our Parish Priest and travels out from Albury to take the services.

Dot Higgins—Church Warden



The capacity of a Community Association is reliant on the strength of its membership. The TDCA continue to welcome new members and embrace the voice of the community in contributing ideas around future initiatives in the building of a safe, healthy, connected and progressive community. If you would like more context around the role the committee and how members can contribute please email us on **tdca@tawonga.vic.au**

TAWONGA and DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

(Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act # A 0053005U)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I/We..... of

Residential Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

hereby apply to become a member of the Tawonga and District Community Association Inc. for the 2020 – 2021 financial year.

Membership Fee: Single \$5.00 Couple \$10 Business/Corporate \$15

Payment: Cash or Cheque – please place your payment in an envelope with your name and membership category clearly indicated and return to The Old Tawonga Store.

EFT Payment to TDCA: BSB: 063-722

Account Number: 1006 0869

Account Name: Tawonga & District Community Association Inc

Please remember to add your name as a reference

I / we agree to be bound by the rules of the Association for the time being in force.

SIGNATURE **DATE**