

ROBERT



(BOB) TATE



**PEOPLE
SERIES**

BOB TATE

CONTRIBUTORS

Bob & Ann Tate
Peter Tate

Shannon Carnes
Graeme & Norma Hodson
David & Debbie Hibbert

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

CLINIC STAFF

CHANGE

SATURDAY PARTIES

MOTORBIKES

ULYSSES CLUB

TIMELINE

PUBLICATIONS

GALLERY

EULOGIES & LETTERS

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



INTRODUCTION

Name: Bob Franklin Tate
Born: 28 March 1933
Toorak, Victoria
Moved here: 1967
Known for: Vet, naturalist, writer
photographer,

Bob Tate and his wife Ann moved to Alexandra in 1967 and established the first permanent Veterinary Clinic in Alexandra that same year. He was also a naturalist, photographer, writer, long-term member of the Ulysses Motorcycle Club.

Bob circa 1935
Courtesy Bob Tate



Robert (Bob) was born in Toorak on 28 March 1933 to parents Alan Robert Tate and Amelia Mary Allen and grew up in Hampton. In 1938 he attended St Andrew's private kindergarten and private school near Kangaroo Flat with his sister Judith, who was four years his senior. He was then sent to Haileybury College in Hampton before being sent to board at Geelong Grammar School (GGS) on his ninth birthday (28 March 1942). At the time he was the youngest boarder at the school.

Like many children of the day, his parents sent him to boarding school for his own safety, as there was great fear that the war with the Japanese would spill onto Australian shores. The school had a contingency plan in case of an invasion, and Bob was to be in the care of older brother Geoffrey who at the time was in the senior school. During this time he attended Barrabool House from 1942-1946 inclusive and Manifold House from 1946-1949 inclusive.

During his orientation week at Geelong Grammar School he was introduced to

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

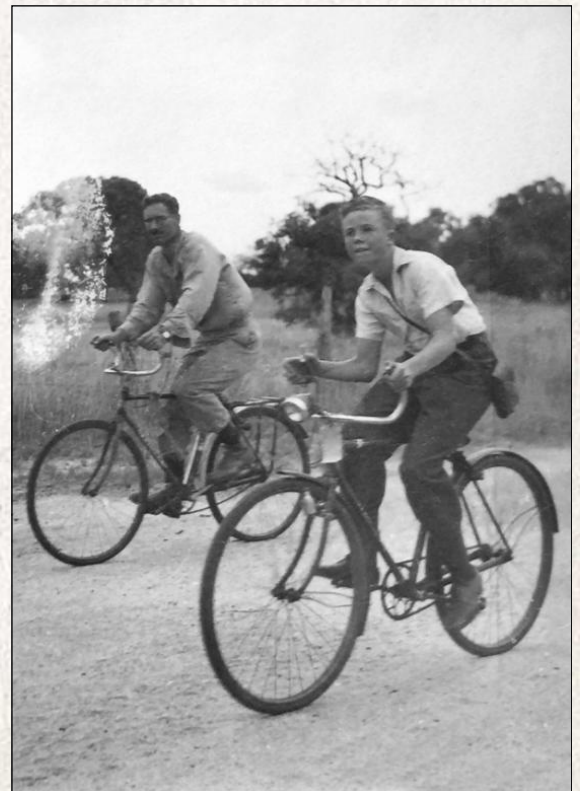


the Natural History Society by the late Mr J B Ponder. Bicycles and cars were in short supply, so his parents got him a bike after he pestered them for some time.

On Saturdays it was common for boys to go on nature excursions called 'Saturday Parties'. These were normally in groups of three, but on some occasions teachers would also join in. Bird watching was an activity that Bob took great interest in during these excursions, as he did during school camps.

After leaving GGS in 1949, he attended Longerenong Agricultural School at Horsham from March 1950 to January 1953. At that time cameras and film were hard to come by and developing exposed film was expensive. Thanks to the kindness of a friend who was a photographer, Bob was gifted an Ensign Selfix Camera with a top shutter speed of 1/250th of a second. Using the camera for bird photography became a favoured activity for Bob, even

though bird photography was crude at that time. To photograph birds he firstly had to find their nest and then mount the camera either on a tripod or on a brass holder on a piece of dowel, which we made in the carpentry shop. This was then fixed to something close to the nest. It had a one dioptr lens which took him to within 30 cm of the nest. Distance, exposure and speed were all done by educated guesses. He then tied a piece of string to the lever which operated the shutter and hid behind a tree until the poor hapless bird returned. The bird was then disturbed by the shutter noise and boys then running forward to wind on the camera for another photograph. According to Bob, he took some reasonable black and white photos during these occasions, which started him on his photographic journey.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION



During this period film was still hard to get and only came in Black and White. They were ordered once per week from the local chemist. In 1949 Bob purchased his first colour film, which when he had it developed, came as positive slides in what was then known as 620 size. He retained these prints and a friend was able to digitally improve a few of them recently, after more than 60 years.

After leaving school his bird photography also took leave until more recent times.

At school Bob was a prefect and dux of his class in his second and final years at Longerenong. He also passed matriculation English which resulted in a him receiving a scholarship to Melbourne University to study Agricultural Science. However after failing his first year due to a lack of interest in the course, he spent around four years developing life skills while working on wheat, sheep and cattle

properties in Victoria. He then spent 18 months working as a Laboratory Technician at the ICI Vet Lab at Merrindale, Croydon, Victoria.

In 1958, aged 25 years, Bob reconnected with study and attended Melbourne University. He then attended university in Brisbane where he studied Veterinary Science. He flatted in Bardon, Brisbane until he finished his course in late 1964, aged 31 years. He had successfully passed his course with one supplementary in Plant Pathology and graduated in early 1965.

While still at university in Brisbane, Bob met Ann and they married on 12 February 1964 at Trinity College, University of Melbourne. In early 1965 after graduating, Bob first joined the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA), of which he remained a lifelong member. Later that year, their first son David was born.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



INTRODUCTION

In 1965 Bob and Ann moved back to Victoria, where Bob worked in the private Dandenong based practice of Bill Thompson and the late W Hogarth-Scott for 12 months. They then moved to Ararat and rented a home adjacent to the Ararat practice of the late Alan Marshall where Bob worked for another 12 months.

Eventually the lack of independence and the pressure of being involved in a private practice resulted in him looking for new work opportunities. Bob and Ann explored Central Victoria looking for employment opportunities and in 1967 they settled in the small rural township of Alexandra, in Central Victoria. At this time, Alexandra only had visiting vets who would attend from other districts, so Bob and Ann considered the Alexandra District as ripe for the pickings. At this time there were over 60 dairy farms in the Alexandra Shire alone, with around the same amount again in the Yea Shire. This number guaranteed there would be a steady amount of work available. A number of local farmers were so keen to see Bob stay in the district, that they contributed to a fund to help his family with initial rental costs.

Their first clinic was run from a bedroom at the back of a house they rented at 20 Webster Street in Alexandra (located beside the medical clinic - which is now a dental clinic). They converted a back room into a surgery, the verandah into an area for kennels, and nearby cupboards into storage cupboards. Their second child Peter was born in 1968 while they were living at this property.

They ran the clinic in Webster Street for a year, before moving into their second property on the corner of Nihil and Bayley Streets in 1968. The new property was their first purchase and cost them \$9,500.00. It was located on the south west corner of Nihil and Bayley Streets in Alexandra and again they converted a bedroom into a surgery. The garage and verandah were converted into kennels and used for storage.

In late 1969 they purchased a property



HISTORIC FACTSHEET



INTRODUCTION

located diagonally across the street in Bayley Street for \$8,500.00, retaining the corner block as their home and an investment property. The newly purchased property is the site of the current veterinary clinic in Bayley Street. They used the new property as a surgery and later additions to the property included a brick dog kennel with heated floor, an outside area for pets to run and a self contained flat for the use of an assistant Vet or other staff member.

In 1975 they purchased a small 60 acre block on the outskirts of Alexandra, on the Goulburn Valley Highway. In 1977 they sold the property on the corner of Nihil and Bayley Streets for \$40,000.00 and used this money to build a home on the new block in 1977, which they then moved into. The new home was affectionately called *Allanvale*, which was formed by creatively combining Bob's mother's maiden name (Allen) with his father's given name (Alan).

In the mid 1970s, Bob served on the Practitioners Committee and continued to enjoy the benefits the Association had provided. During the 1970s, he was also involved in the push for a better outcome for the financial aspects of the Brucellosis campaign, not wanting it to fall behind inflation as had the T.B. campaign. Bob's role in the campaign was to help keep all relevant committees informed of developments. The group was successful in their goals. Brucellosis is a highly contagious zoonosis caused by ingestion of unpasteurized milk or undercooked meat from infected animals.

In the early days of their practice, Bob would regularly attend Australian Veterinary



Association (AVA) meetings at Parkville in Melbourne, which were usually held monthly, with a guest speaker. Later when the Benalla Lab came into operation, Bob would often attend Benalla to hear speakers, keep up-to-date with AVA matters and socialize with others in the industry.

Bob and Ann ran the practice in Alexandra for 20 years before deciding to change direction. They sold the practice to Doug Norman, who had moved from

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



INTRODUCTION

'Dr Dusty Rhodes' in Colac. Bob worked part-time for Doug over the next eight years. In the meantime, they purchased a caravan hire business which they ran for the next 14 years, while continuing to work for Doug part-time.

After eight years Bob formed an associate type practice with Doug, targeting an area in the Strathbogie Ranges, which worked in conjunction with the main practice. This practice continues to this day.



Bob was an active member of the APEX Club for a number of years in the lead up to joining the Alexandra Rotary Club in 1969. He served as President of Rotary in 1988/89 and was a member of numerous other local groups including the Bird Observers, Field Naturalists, Birdlife Australia - Murray Goulburn, the Victorian Branch of the Ulysses Motor Bike Club and Artworkz. He was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship Award for his service to the Alexandra Rotary Club. Other Paul Harris recipients that same year were Bill Rollason and Ian Welch.

Bob had a great interest in motorcycles, which started when boarding with friend Peter Phillips back in College. Bob mentioned how Peter spoke of little else and this rubbed off on him. This was even though his mother had always made it clear that the two things she hated the most were motorbikes and caravans. Two years after leaving college, Bob purchased his first bike, a 200cc Triumph Tiger Club.

Bob's first big trip was from Melbourne to Broken Hill, a trip that included lots of riding through sand and more than a few falls into the sand. Future trips would usually include plenty of bird watching.

The bike was replaced a few years later with a Morris 8/40, then a few years later he purchased his second bike, a 90cc Honda. This was replaced a few years later with a Honda AG200 which was also beneficial for Agricultural work. His first road bike came

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION



a few years later when he purchased a Honda 550 CBX. It was while purchasing this bike that he picked up a magazine which was advertising a new bike group called the Ulysses Club. He joined straight away and continued to ride his fifth motorbike, a Honda ST1100. His Club activities have been significant and Bob described how his involvement in the group changed his life forever. In 2017 he proudly told me how he rode over 500,000 kilometers over 21 years.

Bob was involved in the local 1st Alexandra Boy Scouts, including serving as President of the Scout Committee. He was involved in the establishment of the Alexandra BMX Track in 1982 and served on its committee, but sadly the Club only lasted for around a year due to a lack of community interest and support. Bob served as a long-term member of the Pony Club which his wife Ann along with others had helped start in the 1960s. Bob also served on the Ambulance Committee in the 1970s and was a member for around eight years.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



INTRODUCTION

In 1997 Bob became a volunteer at the Alexandra Information Centre, when it was located in its previous building on the opposite side of Grant Street. He did voluntary work at the centre until 2017 when his health declined and he was unable to help further - which was a great frustration to him at the time.

In 2006 and 2007, Bob was involved with the establishment and the running of The Motor Bike Show held annually at Alexandra. He was awarded a certificate of appreciation from the Rotary Club of Alexandra in 2007, signed by Rotary President Robert F Chaffe.

Bob first became involved in Artworkz in 2009. This was just after Artworkz commenced as a service group to help community members following the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires. Bob quickly became a valuable member and was central to the groups understanding of natural history, bird education and local history until his passing. His keenness as a photographer saw him established as one of the district's most published photographers, the district's largest bird publisher, and a core member of the Artworkz Photo Group and the Artworkz Heritage Group.

In late 2010 Bob purchased a digital camera with a 10 megapixel sensor and a 15x optical power zoom and was able to enjoy many outings with his long lost hobby. Then in 2015 he purchased a Canon SX50 Powershot Digital Camera with a 50x (1200 mm) optical zoom after seeing one in operation by an Artworkz photographer. This gave him more options in the field when presented with distant or close-up objects, than his previous camera. He went on to produce constant images of birds that were published in different publications.

In 2013, Bob was pivotal to the organisation and running of the 'Walk the Eildon Wall' event run by the Rotary Club of Alexandra. Bob was an organiser and a strong believer in the event, which was held in aid of mental health.

Bob was one of the foremost writers on birds in the District. Between 2013 and 2014 he wrote two educational bird books with David & Debbie Hibbert - titled *Local Birds Quick ID* and its companion resource book *Fun Facts about Birds*. These digital books remain free to this day and are the only books of their kind that are available for local schools to use on iPads and mobile devices. He was also a prolific writer for other local publications and loved educating others on his passion - birds.

In 2013 Bob attended the Alexandra Primary School with others and gave an excellent

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



INTRODUCTION

talk on local birds - using his resource books - which was projected on a large screen in the classroom.

Bob fell ill in January 2017 and radiation therapy took him to the edge of life by the end of February. He continued to work as best he could to help us to develop this factsheet. He also worked on planning his funeral.

More recent talks with Bob revealed that his favourite colour was dark red (burgundy) and his favourite bird species was the Regent Honeyeater. He also explained how he has few childhood memories of time spent with his parents, because his father was a busy doctor and his parents sent the children to boarding schools.

Bob started preparing for his funeral in February and requested that the John Denver song *What is Love* be played while pictures of his life were displayed. Bob passed away on 21 March 2017 and his funeral was held at the Alexandra Uniting Church on Downey Street at 2 pm on 29 March 2017.

*Compiled in partnership
with Bob and his family*

CLINIC STAFF

STAFF EMPLOYED AT THE VETERINARY CLINIC

BY © BOB TATE

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



STAFF

BEST RECOLLECTIONS OF THE STAFF AT THE ALEXANDRA VETERINARY CLINIC. 1967--1987

VETERINARY SURGEONS

- 1970** John Power. Left to start practice at Maryborough, Victoria
1971 John Herring. Left to work in practice at Margaret River, W.A.
1972-75 Stephen Tate (no relation). Started as assistant, later partner, but left within 18 months of partnership to take up job as D.V.O at Scottsdale, Tasmania
1976-87 Peter Hatch, Greg Padgett, Grant Fraser, Mardi Trease
From 1967 Bob employed locums during holidays in January, often staying for a few more months, particularly in Bob's later years

Stephen Tate went overseas whilst in my employ and John Patton filled in for six months. He later went to his home town of Corryong where he had his own practice.

SECRETARIES, FULL TIME

- 1967** Bob's wife Ann was the first and continued for one year full time, but supported Bob for the remainder of the 20 years
1968 Helen Clements, (later Walker)
1969 Bronwyn Murray, (later Dobson)
1970-81 Sue Hall, (later Powell)
1981-87 Karen Dallinger, (later Macasey), Karen continued with Doug Norman until 1994

SECRETARIES, PART TIME

- 1969** Ina Hewitt started as a baby sitter in 1969 and looked after the phone some weekends at her home. She worked in the new surgery in 1970 in between kindergarten hours. Her work gradually increased from 1971 and she continued until finishing in 1985.
1985-86 Wendy Creighton
1986-87 Sue Greatorex

SECRETARIES, YEA

- 1970** Margaret Cameron, the wife of a Dalgety agent in Yea
unknown Joyce Elliott, wife of an A.M.L. agent in Yea
unknown Hilary Tweddle, whose partner was the owner of Island Bend, Yea
unknown Margaret Finch
unknown Ann Bittner, formerly the owner of the Yea bakery

CHANGE

CHANGING NATURE OF THE WORK

BY © BOB TATE

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



CHANGING NATURE OF THE WORK

The nature of Veterinary work has changed over the years. In 1967 there were some 60 odd Dairy farms in the Alexandra Shire, with about the same number in Yea. These ranged from two cows to 100 or so. The wives of many farmers milked a couple of cows, and sent the cream to the local butter factory, thus earning pocket money. During the next years the butter factory closed and smaller dairy farms ceased production. The larger ones had milk contracts, which ultimately ceased and by then only a handful of Dairy farms were left in both shires.

Beef cattle have undergone their rises and falls. In 1967 beef numbers were unknown, but were on the rise until mid 1970s when the market crashed for several years before recovery. In the years since beef cattle have waxed and waned through various economic changes, but have remained a large part of practice.

Strain 19 vaccination was all the go in 1967 and with the help of Barry and Lorraine Pyke, strain 19 vaccination 'runs' were organised for me on my arrival. This gave me an immediate introduction to many of the district farmers as well as an income.

Vaccination and later blood testing cattle for Brucellosis formed a great part of our work, and along with the Yea branch office enabled me to have a Veterinary assistant for some 15 years. T.B. (Tuberculosis) testing of Dairy cattle also played a part in the early years, and again gave a good introduction to farms, as it was compulsory.

Dairy cattle and Beef cattle played a large part in the practice and district as a whole. With the beef and sheep crash in the late 70s, horses seemed to come from everywhere, and there were many horse sales, which replaced the cattle sales. This lasted for a few years and finally crashed like most sidelines. Since then Dairy cattle have gradually diminished in number until finally in 2004 the last few Dairy farms closed. Fat lambs were once prominent, but while the area is very suited and produced many good fat lambs, their numbers have also decreased. Medium wool Merino sheep have maintained reasonable numbers, and are still popular with many in the areas where they are suited.

Horse work has also always been present, but again has waxed and waned. It hit its peak in the mid 1970s for 5-6 years. We have seen Quarter horse and Appaloosa horse studs start and finish, and a few individual Thoroughbreds and ponies, but the district had never until 1987 being a great horse area.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



CHANGING NATURE OF THE WORK

Small animals have always been a good proportion of practice, and have gradually increased over the years, along with domestic animals often treated as pets as farms have been subdivided into hobby farms.

Realising the potential in Yea and spending much of my time there, I opened a branch office in 1970 with Margaret Cameron as my Secretary. We would go over each morning, see small animals, and then do outside calls. This office proved a great boon to the practice, but gradually became uneconomic. When the Yea Vet started, it was obviously time to pull out, this was in 1983.

In 1968 I also saw a potential in Mansfield, as I was spending much time up there as well as the shires of Alexandra and Yea. I invited Michael Harrison to form a partnership with me and he would live and work from Mansfield. This partnership lasted for several years until we parted on mutual agreement. The Mansfield practice continued to flourish, and over the years has grown from strength to strength, employing two other Vets. Another practice also commenced operation in the town.

Communication has changed over the years. In 1967 there were many local phone boxes associated with little post offices. After a Veterinary call, I would ring home to check for further work, if a phone call had not already come via the farm where I was working. In 1970 we installed a 2-way radio, which gave me about 90 percent coverage in both shires. A tremendous luxury. It was not until the 1990s when mobile phones came into use and the communication systems improved further.

In 1986, I felt it was time for a change. Our children had left school and having a private practice was becoming increasingly demanding, due to several factors. A Vet started in Yea in 1983 and this immediately took away a large area, the Brucellosis campaign finished and inflation was again on the increase - with no increase in cattle prices. So during the next few years I struggled along with only occasional help. This was at a time of my life when I wanted more time off work, not less.

By chance in 1986 we heard of a local caravan hire business up for sale. We had the money to purchase the business, so we sold the practice to Dr Doug Norman, who with his wife Anne, and children Sarah, and Kate, moved in, in March 1987. This was just 20 years after we started. Their third child James, arrived a little later.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



CHANGING NATURE OF THE WORK

After six months I came back part-time and worked 1-1.5 days per week for some eight years. When Doug employed a full time assistant, it was left to me to initiate another move. So I started as an associate, targeting the area from Gobur through to Terrip, Ruffy, and Creightons Creek, on a basis of my own practice, but working through the Alexandra Vet Clinic and paying them a commission. At this time I purchased a mobile phone. A great boon to communications, and something I had longed for in my last years owning the practice. It gave immense freedom, a luxury I had never enjoyed.

The main changes in the last few years has been the change to 'lifestyle' properties. Here we have seen many things come and go, Emus, and Deer have both collapsed. Now we see the swing to Wine production, Alpacas and Olive production. Their future remains to be seen.

By 2005 the outlook for wine did not look great either.

© *Bob Tate*

SATURDAY PARTIES

MEMORIES OF SCHOOL EXCURSIONS (SATURDAY PARTIES)

BY © BOB TATE

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



SATURDAY PARTIES

I attended Geelong Grammar School from 1942 until 1949 and during that time we partook in a tradition passed on from the time when the school was situated in Geelong. This was the 'Saturday Party'.

A group of at least three boys were given leave to go off on their bicycles to any reasonable place within the distance they could peddle and return in one day, having to be back usually by evening dinner. The idea of three boys was in case of trouble. If one boy was injured, one would stay to look after the injured and the third would go for help. Fortunately I can remember no incident where help was required, during my outings.

No roads were barred, but as there was severe petrol rationing, cars were very infrequently seen. This was even the case on the Geelong road which was then a single lane highway, if it could be called such. The top cruising speeds of cars at that time was at around 70 kilometres per hour flat out, so traffic was no great problem. The time of course was during the Second World War, as well as the austerity period after the war.

Our bicycles were either fixed wheel where the peddles went around all the time, or free wheel where at least you could have a rest from peddling and cruise for a while. Only a few very rich boys had bikes with gears. My first bike was very heavy, but later I bought a semi racer and I thought I then had it made.

Our names were put on a list late in the week, then on Saturday morning we would go to the kitchen and pick up a picnic lunch of bread and chops and something to drink. This was usually a billy and tea. We would cook our food on a fire at our chosen destination.

So after breakfast on Saturday morning, we would gather all our gear, pack it in a knapsack and off we would ride. Places I can remember were the You Yangs, Geelong foreshore, Batesford, Anakie Gorge, Steiglitz, and once to the sewerage farm near Werribee.

There were Geography lessons to be inadvertently learnt on these trips, as there always seemed to be a head wind on the way to the You Yangs, and a head wind on the way back. It was not until Vic Tunbridge explained in Geography in year 11 that I understood the reason why. The Saturday party to me was an escape from the school routine and one heritage of the school, which I appreciate today.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



SATURDAY PARTIES

I was introduced to the Natural History society by Mr J B Ponder (JB) a master in Manifold house, who along with Mr R R Baldwin often took us out to many places on Saturday parties looking for and photographing birds. Since my retirement some years ago, I have taken up bird watching as one of my major hobbies, and have gone to many places around Australia pursuing this activity.

I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Geelong Grammar School and Mr Ponder for this part of my life. I was very happy to have the opportunity to travel to Maldon several years ago where JB lived in retirement to thank him. This was shortly before he died.

A book on bird photography prompted another article I wrote for the Bird Observer where in an article on Graham Pizzey, J B Ponder was also acknowledged as a teacher of many boys in the art of bird photography.

What else did we do on Saturday parties? Well as any teenager would know, much time was spent just mucking around, exploring the areas where we went, having a BBQ lunch and just having a great time.

I remember swimming in the Lascelles dam, as we called it, on Woolloomallata Station, near the You Yangs. On another outing we were wading in what we later found out was the outer limits of the sewerage farm - we never did that again. We even boiled our billy that day - there seemed to be quite a lot of marine life in that water. All in all, Saturday Parties were great fun.

I believe they were stopped soon after I left Geelong Grammar School, due to sport becoming compulsory on Saturdays and an increase in traffic on local roads.

No doubt the activities at the Timbertop School near Mansfield have taken over from the Saturday Party tradition. Timbertop had not been started in my time, but if it had, I am sure I would have loved it.

Robert. (Bob) F. Tate
Barrabool house 1942-46
Manifold house 1947-49

MOTORBIKES

LOVE OF MOTORBIKES

BY © BOB TATE

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



MY LIFE ON MOTORBIKES

My Mother hated two things, Motorcycles and Caravans. I managed to get both, each occupying a large portion of my life. After I left school I went to Longerenong Agricultural College where I made friends with another student who had been brought up in a Motorcycling family. After his indoctrination for the three years of our residency at College I was determined to get one as soon as possible. The only one I could afford was a new Triumph Tiger cub and was a 200cc, whereas at the time a good tourer was at least 350cc. I was far from being a mechanic so did not want to get a second hand bike.

My parents were horrified when I arrived home after this purchase, although my father later admitted he had one at my age. Living in the country it experienced much long distance riding, including my first long trip to Broken Hill. This was in 1954 and the road from Ouyen to Broken Hill was all gravel with plenty of sand in 'surprise' places ready to test out the inexperienced rider. The result, many 'offs'. It did not seem to hurt in those days, not as much as more recent ones.

The bike gave much trouble, oil leaks and alternator problems amongst them. When I took it back to Melbourne for repairs I then had to ride it back to Warracknabeal where I was working at the time. On reaching Bendigo It was getting dark and as one does I turned on the head light to find out that after a while the engine cut out, and the only way to keep the engine going was to turn off the headlight and ride in the dark, turning on the light only when another car came the opposite way, and quickly turning it off again as soon as possible. My father said to 'get rid of it', so I bought a bigger bomb, a Morris 8/40 car.

Motorcycles never came into my life again until the 1980s when we had purchased a small farm here in Alexandra and a series of old Honda 90s and similar came and went. One day Ann said we should buy a new decent Agricultural bike, one which she could also ride. So along came a Honda 200cc Agricultural (Ag) Bike with auto clutch and self-starter. This bike reminded me so much of my old Tiger cub that I decided that as the girls took their horses up in the hills to ride then I would also take the bike up to the hills, and this I did for the next 12 months.

After selling my Veterinary Practice I decided a road bike would be nice, so purchased a Honda 550cc CBX. Picking up a magazine I read about the Ulysses Club, and I joined straight away. Next I took up a Suzuki 750cc both being second-hand with low kilometres on the clock. On a rally down at Dunkeld the new Triumph was available for

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



MY LIFE ON MOTORBIKES

demo rides so I took the opportunity, and when I looked at the speedo I found it was sitting on 160 kms/hr. That convinced me I could ride a bigger bike! So along came a new Suzuki 1100cc GSX G shaft drive on which I did 150,000 kilometres. However at 100,000 kilometres I was down at Orbost when I heard an awful noise in the drive shaft and the bike stopped. The result was the gears of the differential had worn out and I had to get the family to come down to pick me up in the trailer - somewhat humiliating and an episode often mentioned when I say I am going to Orbost again. I later sold this to purchase another of the same type, but this one looked like giving trouble, so off it went and on visiting various places in Ringwood I found my present bike - a sparkling Honda ST1100 with only 12,000 kilometres on the clock. To this stage it has now done 210,000 kilometres with little trouble, and mostly only normal maintenance. I have been to many places around Australia with either friends from the Ulysses Club or by myself and these include Rum Jungle, Kununurra, Esperance, Cairns and Townsville - the latter two many times, and many places in between. The Ulysses AGM's feature in many of those rides and I know that I have seen many parts of Australia through trips with the Club and by myself that otherwise would not have been 'found'. I have enjoyed every minute of my riding years and have made many friends to which I thank them all.

I have been a member of the Ulysses Club now for 28 years and estimate I have ridden around 500,000 kilometres in that time. Unfortunately I had a small fall at Christmas time which resulted in a large gash in my leg which must have got caught on the foot peg. At nearly 82 years of age, I had to realise that another small mistake could result in an even worse accident.

Having to give up riding hurts as I love it so much, but I also know that my enthusiasm has waned as a result of other injuries and activities.

My advice to others is to make full use of every day and never put off a promising ride or trip.

© *Bob Tate*
28 February 2015

ULYSSES CLUB

LIFE AS A MEMBER OF THE ULYSSES CLUB

BY © BOB TATE

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



MY LIFE IN THE ULYSSES CLUB

The Ulysses Club changed my life, so let's start from the beginning. Until I attended an Agricultural College in Victoria in the 1950s Motorcycles had never entered my life. In fact there were two things my Mother abhorred, Motorcycles and Caravans and I finished up with them both.

At College one of my mates Peter Phillips, (now a Broken Hill Ulyssian) spoke of nothing else but motorbikes, so that by the time I had left College I considered they may be a good thing. It took two years before I purchased a Triumph Tiger Cub 200cc. Obtaining a licence was no more than going to the Rego people in Melbourne and riding around the block. No lessons, no appointment, just rock up and ride.

My first big trip was to Broken Hill to stay with the Phillips family. It was a dirt road from Ouyen in Victoria to Broken Hill with much sand and many falls off in the sand, which did not seem to hurt in those days. Living in the country and often carrying a pillion passenger, the bike soon gave trouble and I had what was called a 'Triumph leg' which was a leg covered in oil. On Father's instructions the bike went in favour of an even bigger bomb, a Morris 8/40 car. It took another 25 years before the next bike, a Honda 90cc arrived on our small farm here in Alexandra, Victoria. After a couple of years my wife said it was time for us to get a new and better Ag Bike, so along came a new Honda Ag 200, which I rode around the paddocks and nearby hills, learning how to fall off again. But I gained much experience in doing so.

A yearning started for a road bike and the first a Honda 550 CBX was obtained and at the same time as the purchase I picked up a magazine with glowing reports of this new Club called the Ulysses Club. I joined the Club straight away. I was worried that I would not be accepted, as I had not really been involved seriously with motorbikes, however I found that I was welcomed at each ride. On one rally a certain Barbara Maggs (who at that time was organising the Melbourne toy run and has done so ever since) said that if I did not attend she would break my arm. My wife said it was her way of accepting me into the Club. So since then I have never looked back.

In the early days there was only one ride per month and two rallies in different parts of Victoria, organised by Brian Eldridge of Warrnambool. I tried to attend them all. Later the same Barbara Maggs nominated me for Vice President of the Melbourne branch. This branch was the only one in Victoria at the time and it was convenient for me to attend. I got to go places that were very different from our district here. I had spent the last 20

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



MY LIFE IN THE ULYSSES CLUB

years driving around the roads in this district and enjoyed a different environment. I spent two years as Vice President and three as President and that gave me a chance to put back into the Club as much as I had gained from it over the years. It also gave me the opportunity to meet many people and gain an insight to the workings of the Ulysses Club.

At one stage I mentioned to Henry Z (Melbourne's first President) that I wanted to ride to Cairns, so both he and Derham Butterworth (first Secretary) said they would like to come along. This was the start of many long distance trips up north and to many parts of Australia which has led me to form many, many acquaintances around the country, such that I have to be very careful wherever I go as there always seems to be someone who knows me. I am not sure whether this is good or bad. It also has given me the opportunity to pursue my other major hobby, that of bird watching (the feathered kind), such that I have tallied up some 400 species of birds on my life list, which is not bad out of 750 species in all of Australia

To this date I am on road bike number five, a Honda ST1100 which has done some 150,000 kilometres and taken me to some wonderful places. In total since joining the Club I estimate I have ridden over 500,000 kilometres in the last 21 years. I have been on hundreds of Club rides, many Odysseys, rallies and most of the AGM's and I am extremely grateful to the Club for without a purpose I am sure riding would not have been anywhere near so interesting.

Joining the Ulysses Club just after I had sold my professional business in 1987, which was 24/7 and very stressful, allowed me to enter a new life and one much more relaxed. Now I have got involved in many activities but still find time to get out on the bike and go for rides. The latest long ride was Cooktown after the 2008 AGM.

In my other life here in Alexandra I got involved in the organisation of our yearly motorbike show each March. However after six I decided that it is time for someone else to get involved as the chief, so I retired to the rank of an Indian.

I am sure there may be some 20,000 other similar stories of gratitude to the Club however this is my story.

Thank you Ulysses Club

TIMELINE

BASIC TIMELINE OF EVENTS

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

- 28 March 1933** **Born at Toorak.**
- 1938** Sent to St Andrews private kindergarten and private school with his sister Judith, who was four years his senior. Judith helped care for him during this time.
- 28 March 1942-49** Attended **Geelong Grammar School.**
- March 1950-53** Attended **Longerenong Agricultural School** and received a scholarship to University.
- 1954** **Commenced studying Agricultural Science at University**, but dropped out after his first year.
- c1954-1957** **Worked on numerous wheat, sheep and cattle properties** in Victoria for around four years.
- 1957** **Worked as a Laboratory Technician** at the ICI Vet Lab at Merrindale, Croydon, Victoria for 18 months.
- 1958** At age 25, Bob **recommenced university**, passing three subjects and failing Chemistry.
- 1960** Repeated Chemistry as well as completing first year Genetics.
- 1961** Started second year of Veterinary Science.
- 1962** **Engaged to Ann.**
- 12 February 1964** **Married Ann.**
- 1964** **Graduated** from the Brisbane University aged 31 years after passing with one supplementary in Plant Pathology.
- 1965** Bob and Ann moved back to Victoria where Bob worked in the Dandenong practice of Mr Hogarth.
- 1965** First son **David born.**

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

- 1965** First joined the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA).
- 1966** Worked in a practice at Ararat with Alan Marshall.
- 14 April 1967** **Bob and Ann moved to Alexandra** with their first son David and started there a Veterinary Practice. They constantly employed assistants at the practice.
- 1968** Second son **Peter born**.
- 1968** Partnered with Mike Harrison in Mansfield, working together for several years.
- 1969** Joined the Alexandra Rotary Club in 1969.
- 1970** Purchased their third property, opposite the property located on the south west corner of Nihil and Bayley Streets.
- 1983** Commenced working solo again.
- 1987** Sold the Veterinary Practice at Alexandra but continued working in the practice for around 20 years part-time.
- 1987** Purchased a local Caravan hire business and worked part-time in this venture for 15 years while continuing to work part-time as a vet. Caravans were set up in popular holiday areas for clients.
- 1988-89** Served as President of the Alexandra Rotary Club.
- 1992** Awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship Award for his service to the Alexandra Rotary Club. Other recipients that same year were Bill Rollason and Ian Welch.
- 1997** Bob started volunteering at the Alexandra Visitor Information Centre. He continued volunteering at the centre until his health stopped him in January 2017.
- 26 June 2002** Awarded the Club Services Award by the Rotary Club of

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

Alexandra in recognition for his contribution to the Club's Program for 2001-02.

25 June 2003

Awarded the Pride of Workmanship Award by the Rotary Club of Alexandra for his work on the Motorbike Show and Swap Meet.

22 December 2004

Became Life Member of the Australian Veterinary Association.

2005/06

Awarded a Certificate of Appreciation as Chair of the Motor Bike Show for 2005-06 by the Rotary Club of Alexandra.

2006-07

Awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for his leadership in The Motor Bike Show for 2006-07 by the Rotary Club of Alexandra.

25 February 2007

Awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the Ulysses Club in recognition of valuable contributions to and support of the Ulysses Club - Melbourne Branch.

2009

Bob became involved in Artworkz and quickly became a founding member and great friend to all in the group.

2010

In late 2010 Bob purchased a digital camera with a 10 megapixel sensor and a 15x optical power zoom and was able to enjoy many outings with his long lost hobby.

4 November 2012

The First 'Walk the Eildon Wall' event was held at Eildon by the Rotary Club of Alexandra. Bob was one of the core organisers and a strong promoter of the event which was held for a second time again in 2013 and for its final time in 2014.

30 April 2016

Awarded the Telemachus Medal by the Ulysses Club - Melbourne Branch for outstanding service to the Club.

February 2017

During early preparations for his funeral, Bob requested that *What is love* by John Denver be played while images of his life are shown on a screen.

21 March 2017

Bob passed away at the Alexandra District Hospital.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



TIMELINE

24 March 2017

eSplash170 was released and was dedicated to Bob. Elements of the coverage (including copyright material) was sadly lifted by other publications without Artworkz knowledge or permission.

29 March 2017

An extremely well attended funeral for Bob was held at the Alexandra Uniting Church at 2 pm. The service was conducted by Pastor Richard Lovett.

15 April 2017

The Artworkz Factsheet on Robert (Bob) Tate was officially released through eSplash171.

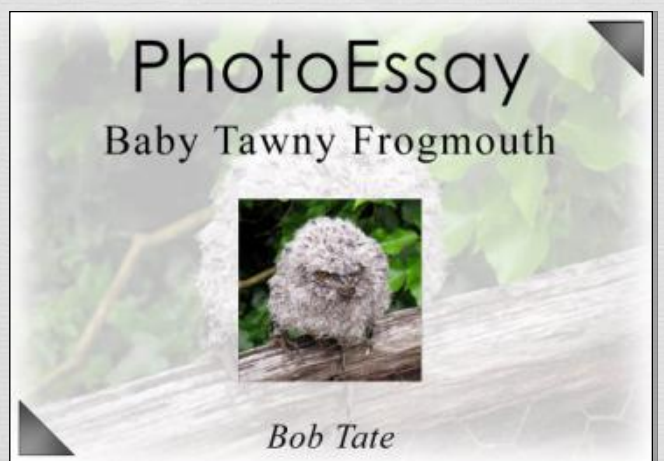
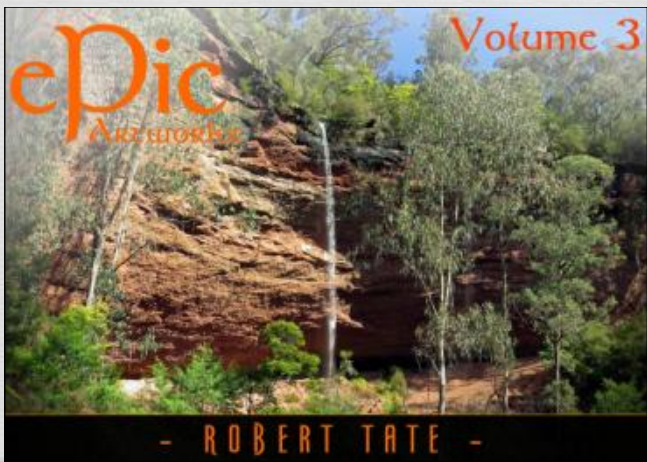
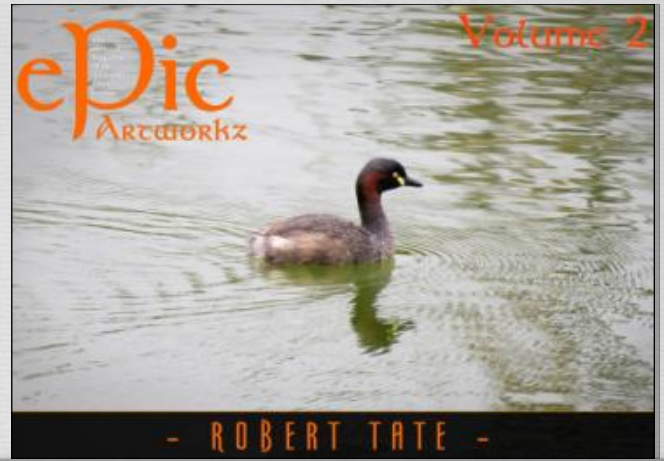
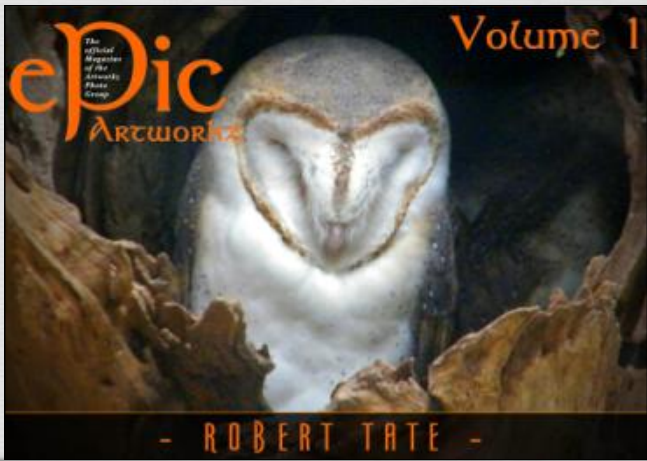
19 April 2017

The Alexandra Standard and the Yea Chronicle both had full page articles on Bob's life. The Standard had a two page spread.

PUBLICATIONS

FREE EBOOKS

BOB'S GALLERIES



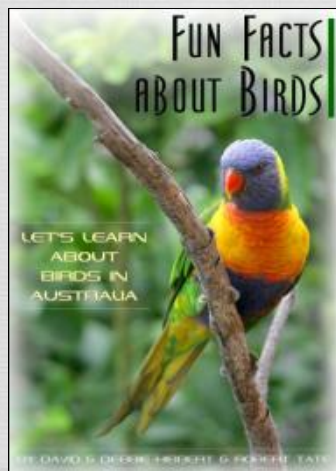
BOOKS



QUICK IDENTIFICATION - LOCAL BIRDS

A free educational Resource, produced for schools and learning.

A quick reference guide for finding information on the more common local birds. It was compiled by locals and endeavours to use local photographers who are happy to share their images to build a substantial community bird database. Bob Tate has had a significant influence in this free educational eBook.



FUN FACTS ABOUT BIRDS

A free educational Resource, produced for schools and learning.

This educational book is designed to work in concert with the Quick Identification - Local Birds book. With this eBook a teacher can conduct a talk on birds using the eBook as a slideshow on an interactive whiteboard, projector or large TV. Bob Tate has had a significant influence in this free educational eBook.

HISTORIC BROCHURE

EILDON

1 EILDON PONDAGE

There is a formed walk around the lower part of the pondage, well vegetated on the south side and both bush birds and water birds can be seen all around the track which is 4 kms in a circuit. A telescope here would be very handy.

Alternatively drive a little further and past the road crossing the pondage where there are many walks in the southern area of the upper part of the pondage. These do not always give pondage access, and they include walks in the area of the Eildon cemetery. There are many Spotted Gum (*E. maculata*) in the area, a favourite food of the Swift Parrot when in blossom.

(WALK GRADE 1)

2 MT PINNIGER

Keeping on the southern side of the pondage, drive further along this road towards the spillway, and there is a road to the right indicating the tip and to Jerusalem Creek. Follow this road to the top of the hill and take a sharp turn left to the lookout known as the Mt Pinniger lookout. Excellent views of the lake can be seen from here and there are many birds in the area, including the coloured robins in winter.

(WALK GRADE 1)

When returning turn left at the bottom of this side road and continue another few kilometres to the Jerusalem Ck store and boat harbour and then continue along the road past the boat access area where the road turns to gravel and is often rather rough, but access to much bush is gained here. This is part of the Lake Eildon National Park and descriptions may be found on their brochures.

(WALK GRADE 1-5 - DEPENDING ON WHERE YOU GO)

YEA

1 YEA WETLANDS

Just out of Yea on the east side—(road to Mansfield) are the Yea Wetlands. Enter off the Highway and follow road to the end where the walking tracks start. This area is very wet after large rain events but mostly is a quite easy walk. Tracks meander through the whole area and are easily followed, and one should not get lost. A swing bridge and several board walks add to the attraction. Birds are a-plenty and often a water rat can be seen basking on a log or rock. (WALK GRADE 1)

2 GHIN GHIN BRIDGE

Take the road towards Seymour for approx 2 kms from Yea where the road to Ghin Ghin takes a right turn off the Highway. Follow this for approx 3-4 kms to the Ghin Ghin Bridge where it crosses the Goulburn River. There is a river reserve on the north side of the bridge which allows access for fisherman. There is plenty of vegetation here and the track can be followed through a small gate for about 1 more kilometre. There are always plenty of birds here and often Koalas. This area is best away from weekends or holidays when it is often crowded with fishing folk.

ARTWORKZ TOURISM WEBSITE

www.esplash.me

Visit our website for local Visitor Information Centres.

Brochures have been produced by passionate volunteers to help promote our District.

Disclaimer: The authors have taken care to ensure this publication is correct, though please be aware that errors and omissions do occur.

Produced by Robert (Bob) Tate

Last Updated: 20 March 2017 Brochure 093

DISTRICT

BIRDS & WHERE TO FIND THEM



*Shaded by over 30 Mountains and
on the banks of the beautiful Goulburn River
and Lake Eildon. This is our playground!*

ALEXANDRA

WALK GRADES 1=EASY, 10=HARD

1 MCKENZIE RESERVE

(Refer walk sheet). Follow main street south past Scout Hall to entrance of Reserve on your right. Walk is from about one hour in a circuit and graded easy. (WALK GRADE 1-2)

2 ALEXANDRA BUSHLAND

(Refer walk sheet). Go past McKenzie reserve entrance for another 1 km to a gravel road on left which swings left again to top of hill, then turn right to lookout. This walk is steep if you walk to the fence facing the large gate but can be avoided by using the smaller entrance on the west side of the lookout. The track can be done in two parts and both are circuits which join up to be one if you follow the fence line. (Care, if leaving the track - unguarded mining holes in this area.) (WALK GRADE 2)

3 CHINAMEN'S FORD AND HALLS FLAT RD

(Refer walk sheet). Travelling south on Maroondah Hwy. turn left at the Secondary College in Downey St. past the last speed restriction sign and follow gravel road to a sign which points to Monserrat on the left. Continue just past here and park where it is safe. There are excellent views over the billabongs with bush birds along the road. Follow road nearly to its end where it enters bush with a large gate. Watch all along the way for birds, below and on the roadside bushes. This is an excellent area where 20-30 spp can always be found in a short and easy visit. (WALK GRADE 1)

4 ACHERON ROAD

(Refer walk sheet). Follow the Maroondah Hwy out of Alexandra towards Healesville-Melbourne for about 8 kms to a left hand turn—Acheron rd. Follow this road to top of hill where it becomes gravel and then to the top of the next hill. Park anywhere here or go to bottom and park. Walk either way along this road and also turn right into Yellow Box Rd. Plenty of bushes along the road & plenty of birds. (WALK GRADE 1-2)

ALEXANDRA

5 GRANNYS LANE

(Refer walk sheet). This road leads off the Maroondah Hwy some 6 kms from Alexandra towards Healesville-Melbourne on the right hand side. Alternatively it can be reached by turning 3 kms from Alexandra along the same Hwy, into Whanreganwen Road (to Molesworth.) Follow this for another 2 kms to Crystal Creek Road on your left. Grannies Lane (gravel) is on your left again. Park here and the whole road or parts can be walked from either end. Crystal Creek end is the best for birds. (WALK GRADE 1-2)

6 CRYSTAL BREAK AND DEVASTATION TRACK

Follow Crystal Creek Road for at least another 5 kms to the end of the bitumen and park here well off the road (log trucks use this road). Crystal Break is a fire track (four wheel track) going off to the right and appearing to go up a hill. However keep on the main track which follows the creek. Lyrebirds can always be heard here in the winter and the Cicada bird has been seen. After ½ hour a much smaller track will go off to the left. Bikes and walkers only. Follow this for another ½ hour till the creek is crossed and comes back along Devastation Track which again brings you back to Crystal Creek Rd. In other words when using this track follow the creek and always veer left in a large circle. If you get lost return the same way. (WALK GRADE 2-3)

7 OLD FAWCETT ROAD

(Refer walk sheet). Take the Maroondah Hwy towards Yea-Mansfield for about 1 kms past the speed 100 km sign to a K sign on the right. Take the left hand branch of this junction for about 2 kms to the old railway crossing and now the Fawcett bushland. Park and walk around here, then go over the hill to a set of stock yards, park again and walk along the road to Spring Creek Rd and return or continue to end road turn left into Spring Ck Rd & back to the Highway. (WALK GRADE 1)

8 NATIONAL PARKS

Both Lake Eildon and Cathedral parks have plenty of walks and birds. DSE brochures show walking tracks.

ALEXANDRA

9 MCGUIGAN'S RD. KANUMBRA

This road goes off the Maroondah Hwy some 5-6 kms from Yarck, towards Mansfield and can be reached directly up the Hwy just past two old churches now privately owned with many trees in front. Either walk along the road or the old railway line. The Rufous Song Lark can always be found here in season. (WALK GRADE 1)

10 SPRING CREEK RD-UNITED KINGDOM GAP

Spring Creek Rd is a right hand turn from the Maroondah hwy some 6 kms from Alexandra towards Yea-Mansfield. After a while the road turns to gravel and this is usually in good order. Go for a total of about 15 kms till the road appears to deteriorate and many trees line the road (just past the property "Corriegong"). Park here and walk to top of hill some 3-5 kms which is steep at the finish. There are creeks here and White Box trees which may contain Swift parrots in season. (WALK GRADE=2-5 DEPENDING ON HOW FAR YOU GO)

11 CATHKIN RAILWAY RESERVE

15 kms from Alexandra on the Goulburn Valley Hwy and where it joins the link road to Mansfield is the site of the old railway station of Cathkin. This will become part of the rail trail from Tallarook to Mansfield or Alexandra. Recently much work has been done there to clean up weeds and also many trees have been planted in the hope that in the future a native nursery can be developed here. The area is not huge but the bird life can be very good on certain days. There is a picnic area with table and seats and also an information board giving some of the history of the station. (WALK GRADE 1)

12 CATHKIN RIVER RESERVE

Another kilometre along the hwy towards Yea, Ridds Road goes off to the left. This is a short gravel road to a gate which may be opened and park when the area opens out. Please shut the gate. This is a small area along the Goulburn River organised for fishing access. At the far end is the remains of the old bridge which was the original access from the south. (WALK GRADE

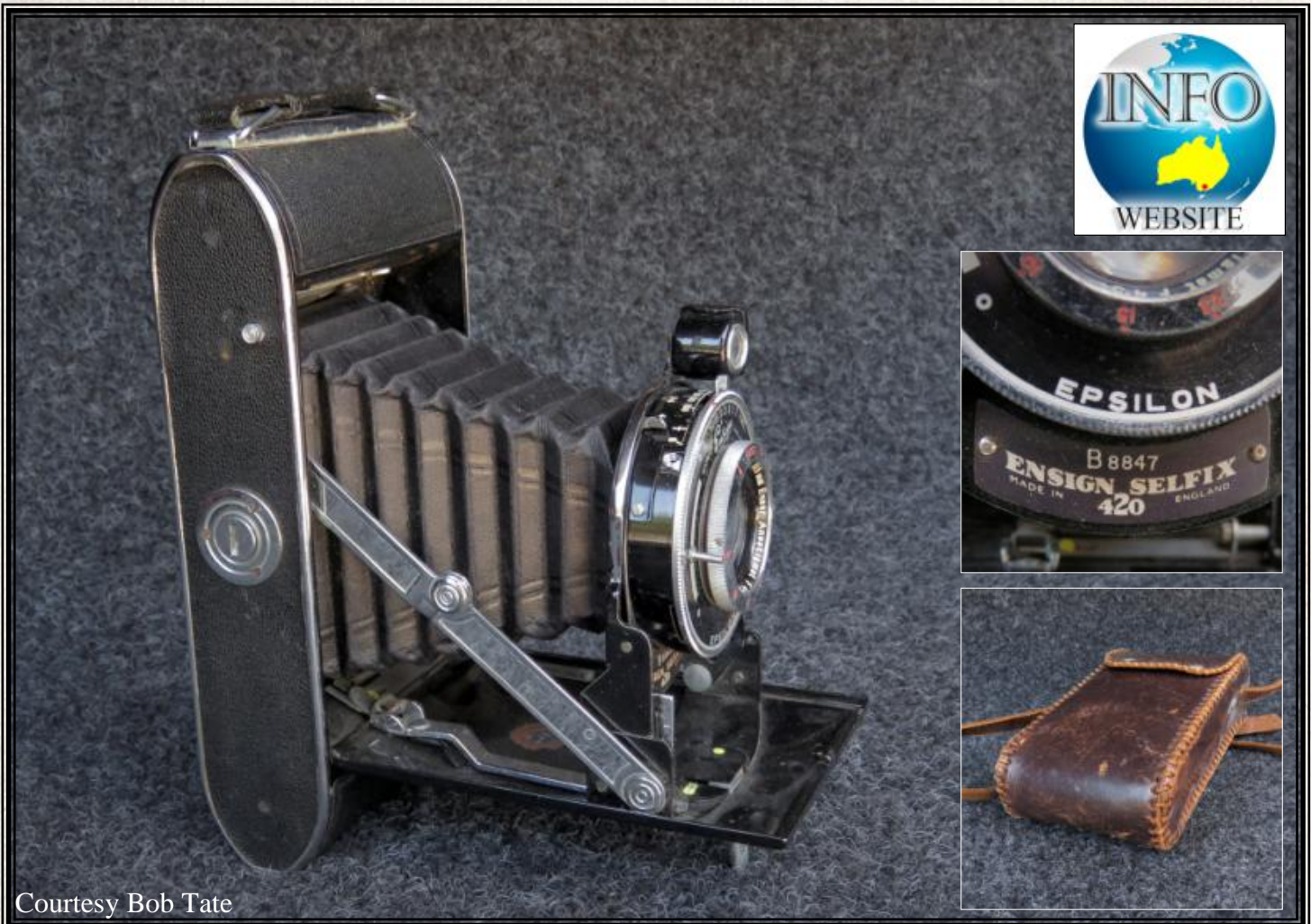
GALLERY

COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

EPSILON SELFIX 420

HISTORIC CAMERA SERIES

Built from 1946



Courtesy Bob Tate



The Selfix folding camera series was produced by English company Barnet Ensign Ross from 1946 and took 120 medium format roll film, first introduced by Kodak for their Brownie No.2 camera in 1901. It has an Epsilon shutter with a shutter range of 1 s to 1/150 s and bulb. The aperture ranged from f4.5-f22.

This camera is from the collection of local Alexandra identity and former veterinary surgeon Bob Tate. He first received the camera from a photographer friend in the early 1950s and used the camera across Australia, often carrying in on his motorbike, being a long-term member of the Ulysses Bike Club and a dedicated bird watcher and naturalist.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



1945



Bob at Lorne in 1945

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



1946



Bob heading to a Davis Cup match with his mother in 1946

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



1947



Bob's mother and father in Surfers Paradise in 1947

(Left) A Ensign Selfix camera



HISTORIC FACTSHEET



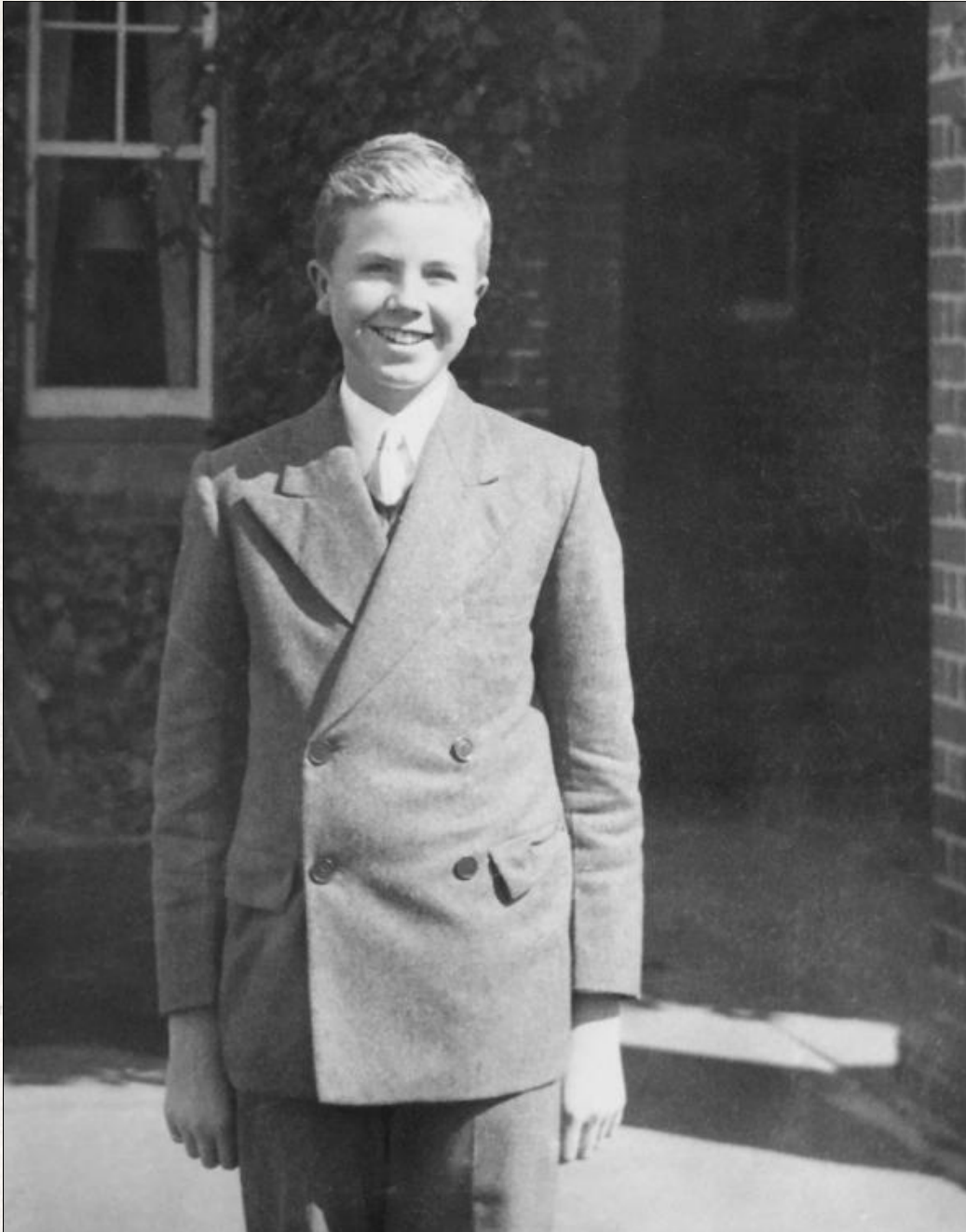
1948



Bob riding his bike with a teacher John Ponder on a 'Saturday Party' at Geelong Grammar School circa 1948. Bob has his bird watching binoculars hanging around this neck.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

CIRCA 1949



Bob circa 1949

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

CIRCA 1949



Bob circa 1949

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



1950



Bob's classmates from Longerenong Agricultural College before heading to the Rural Show at Horsham in 1950

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

CIRCA 1950



Bob with dead goanna he killed as a teenager before becoming a field naturalist

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

CIRCA 1950



Bob and friends before becoming a naturalist

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



1954



Bob during his three months National Service at Puckapunyal in 1954 - Bob was in Cadets during his senior year at school

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



1954



Bob at Broken Hill in 1954 after he rode his new Triumph motorbike to Mildura and then Broken Hill. This was his first long distance motorbike ride. On his return trip, Bob had a puncture. He fixed it and then rode home. By the time he arrived home he was that frozen that he took all night to warm up.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



1954



Bob at Broken Hill in 1954 with an unknown group of people.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



1962



Third year of College, in Brisbane in 1962

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



1962



Third year of College, in Brisbane in 1962

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

FEBRUARY 1976



Watering trees at Allanvale in February 1976

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

AUGUST 1976



Sydney holiday in August 1976

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

AUGUST 1976



Sydney holiday in August 1976 - Dog on the Tuckerbox

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

FEBRUARY 1977



Bob with his dog Nina in February 1977

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

FEBRUARY 1977



Building of Allanvale in 1977

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

FEBRUARY 1977



Building of Allanvale in 1977

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

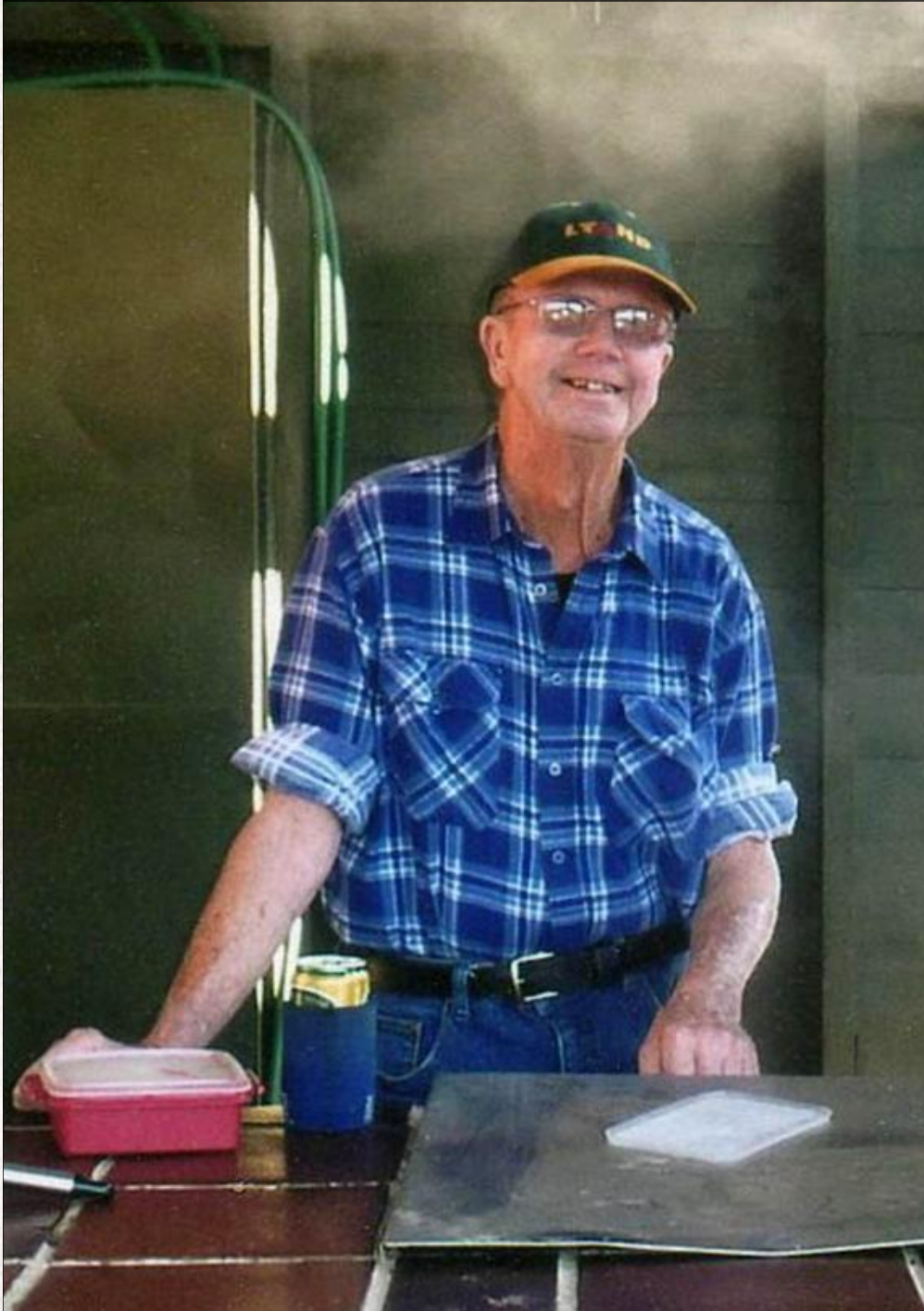
FEBRUARY 1979



Bob with horses Chester and Tilly on injection day in February 1979

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

FEBRUARY 2012



Bob in February 2012

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

FEBRUARY 2013



Bob at Lubra Creek Bridge in the Rubicon Ranges on 14 February 2013

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

FEBRUARY 2013



Bob with fellow walker Ron Cooper at Rubicon Dam on 14 February 2013

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

FEBRUARY 2013



Bob with fellow walker Ron Cooper at Rubicon Dam on 14 February 2013

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

FEBRUARY 2013



Bob at Rubicon Dam on 14 February 2013



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NOVEMBER 2013



Bob scouting for birds at Jerusalem Creek on 15 November 2013

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NOVEMBER 2013



Bob helping a fellow nature lover get up close to a photographic subject on 15 November 2013

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

MARCH 2013



Bob educating school children on birds in 2013

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NOVEMBER 2013



Looking up in the Highlands

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NOVEMBER 2013



Bird watching at the Mt Pleasant Flora Reserve

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

MARCH 2014



Bob in the Highlands

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

JUNE 2015



On the farm 27 June 2015

EULOGIES & LETTERS

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT (BOB) TATE

RAYMOND HERD

ANNE FINLAY

ROBB CHAFFE

JOHN COOK

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



RAYMOND HERD

Vale – Robert (Bob) Tate

It is with deep sadness that we gather here today to commemorate the life of Robert (Bob) Tate who passed away on Tuesday 21st March 2017.

Our heartfelt sympathies go to his wife Anne, sons David and Peter and the extended family.

I first met Bob some 15 years ago on a Ulysses Club ride and it quickly became apparent that this quiet, gentle, unassuming man had much to offer and despite our age differences, as time passed we became firm friends.

Right from the beginning it was clear that Bob and I had much in common, including a love of bikes and the wider Goulburn Valley District and surrounds.

The longer I knew Bob the more I grew in awe of his generosity, kindness and of his unstinting support for others and their causes. Bob was truly generous with his time and knowledge and could always be counted on to provide wise council should that be needed.

In the early days, Bob was instrumental in helping me in my role of branch historian/webmaster to document the history, traditions and characters of the Club, donating his much loved copies of the Club *Riding On* Magazine and branch *Spare Tyre* Magazine to the branch archives (as did Ron Blomley who is with us today). Without that involvement much of the early Club and branch history may well have been lost in the mists of time.

Bob's community work was another facet of his caring and generous nature that never ceased to amaze me. Bob was always looking at ways and means of advancing local community projects that were of benefit to Alexandra and the wider community.

One year it was fundraising for a skateboard park for the local Alexandra kids. When that project had run its course, it was the Truck and Ute show - held in the main drag, followed by the Custom Rod and Car show at the football oval.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



RAYMOND HERD

More recently it was the Eildon Dam Walk that Bob so actively promoted and it has been my pleasure to support Bob by leading a ride to Alexandra each year to support these activities.

Another really worthwhile activity that Bob was keen on was in working in and supporting the local Information Centre, which produced dozens and dozens of excellent information pamphlets to promote tourism within the local area.

In later years Bob became a huge supporter of the immensely talented local David Hibbert, and Kathie Maynes who publish the highly regarded Artworkz eSplash and Photo Graphic Magazines.

True to his nature Bob was unstinting in his support and contributions to these wonderful publications and participated in field trips and educational activities in support of these magazines.

Sadly Bob has left us, but his legacy of community spirit, involvement and achievement remains along with the memory of a wonderful, gentle and caring man who gave so much of himself to others and their causes.

Rest in peace Bob and ride safely through the hallways of heaven.

Raymond Herd

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



ANNE FINLAY

BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA - MURRAY GOULBURN

Vale – Robert (Bob) Tate

Bob Tate loved Nature and was concerned and cared for the environment. Birdlife Murray Goulburn branch knew and respected him for his love and knowledge of the Birds.

Bob has been an active member of the Bird Observers Club of Australia and then later Birdlife Australia for over 25 years. His name first appeared on the committee of Murray Goulburn in 2001. He has been on the committee every year since then, somehow managing to evade any more onerous roles.

Bob led outings to Yea Wetlands, Merton-Ancona area, Kanumbra, Gobur Reserve, Seymour Bushland and the Light Horse Park. As a coincidence, Bob's first of many articles in our branch magazine 'The Babbler' was on an outing he led to Gobur Reserve in 1998. Last November his last outing as the leader, was to Gobur Reserve.

Bob was always very knowledgeable about the sites he took us to and was always keen to impart that knowledge of birds, botany, plus history and 'army life' to our group. On the other hand Bob was never one (excuse the pun) to 'crow' about his contributions and achievements in life.

He obviously enjoyed time on the computer too; he forwarded a good many links to favourite sites and organisations over the years, including jokes and caused many a head ache with his 'guess the mystery bird?'

The June 2013 edition of 'The Babbler' included a two page article on 'Birds of Alanvale at Alexandra' which was the 66 acre property purchased by Bob and Ann in 1975. This article showed the affinity and love that Bob had for their patch of bush.

Bob also regularly contributed articles to a Murrindindi Tourism Guide publication under the title 'Watching Birds'. Bob, with his Veterinarian background, gave advice about why it's best NOT to feed native birds which was particularly informative with numerous science based details.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



ANNE FINLAY

Birdlife Murray Goulburn covers a very wide area, Alexandra being in the extreme SE corner. Nevertheless, Bob's battered blue station wagon was often the first to arrive at our monthly outings, even when they meant travelling long distances, the Warby Ranges including Killawarra and Kinnaird's Wetland near Numurkah all in the opposite corner of the region. Bob & Gillian in recent times, Loraine and Joan with them in earlier times were seen enjoying a cuppa as the rest of the birdos arrive.

Bob also enjoyed attending numerous Birding camps, he was easily spotted with his very sturdy spacious caravan. I remember one occasion in September 2009 at Gluepot in South Australia at least seven or eight of us sat comfortably in Bob's van each night playing variations of the game of scrabble. This was the camp we left in a dust storm that eventually blocked out the view of Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Bob even turned up to occasional outings and committee meetings on his motorbike despite being in his eighties.

On the topic of motorbikes, two of our notable Murray Goulburn birdos were happily birding when suddenly this 'Bikie' much to their dismay is heard approaching. It was with much delight to find that their 'Bikie' was Bob on his favourite mode of transport.

Bob could be assertive too and on more than one occasion he approached trail bike riders unlucky enough to be encountered while we were birding, to remind them that registration and helmets were mandatory.

Bob had a never-ending fascination with plumage variations in even the commonly seen local birds such as thornbills and robins and many of us learnt from his attention to detail.

But as we Birdos would say, 'Bob has fallen off the perch'. He will be very sadly missed by all members who were fortunate to have birded with him.

Anne Findlay
Birdlife Australia - Murray Goulburn

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



ROB CHAFFE

The first time I met Bob as Rotarian was when I was running Australia Day for Apex in Alexandra. Bob came up to me in the street and asked if he or Rotary help with the event. For a new person in town it was just what I needed to get on with the job confident that along with my Apex mates the community was with me. It set a pattern, for me of many years of active partnership and collaboration with a range of community groups and Rotary. Bob's life was based on the basis of all enterprise being 'service above self'.

It did not take long for us to find we had a common background in Agricultural Science including a common interest in living with our natural world in a sustainable way. Bob brought his life mission and interests to the community through many organisations but it was Rotary where he shared his passions and inspired us to commit to sustainable living and the conservation of our natural environment.

It did not seem to matter what job, what project, what activity, Bob was always there. We spent many hours of fun in hands on service work, including supporting the Dame Pattie Menzies Centre Inc and working on its heritage property 'The Mount'. Bob was always a champion of the annual secondary college walk and in later years the Walk the Wall project. Yes, out in fresh air enjoying the wonders of our natural world. Always his constant companion was his dog, in recent years a little foxy!

Bob for many years coordinated the Rotary roster for Alexandra show gates and fund raising activities. Within the capacity of the available members his roster was always filled on the first request, being early November it is not easy to fill all the places yet every year the jobs were done and a considerable amount raised for Rotary projects. Thanks to Bob, almost single handed, the issues were dealt with and we always went home with a smile on our face.

In recent time it was Bob who helped me get the Leckie Park fitness track installed. Thanks to Bob's Rotary way of constant support and encouragement after three years of hard work the track was a reality and, of course, Bob was one of the regular users of the equipment. Bob was a great supporter of the Motor Bike Show and the raising of funds for next generation of Youth Service projects. The most recent being the Skate Park in Alexandra that includes a unique serpentine roofed shelter, a gift from Rotary to our community to mark the Centenary of Rotary 1905 to 2005.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



ROB CHAFFE

After the 2009 fires Bob contacted me to find a way we could acknowledge the super human effort the members of the Rotary Club of Alexandra extended to the community. Estimated cash and in-kind value to be about \$1.25 million dollars. The outcome was the development of a new custom made lectern with a special inscription to ensure this story is not lost. The Lectern will be completed by the Eildon and District Woodworkers Guild and will be commissioned at the 2017 Rotary Club of Alexandra change over dinner.

My last memory of Bob was as Chairman of the regular Rotary meeting in January 2017. Bob took command and ran the meeting like a well oiled machine including his informative Chairman's address that as always was both topical and provocative.

Rob Chaffe

HISTORIC FACTSHEET



JOHN COOK

ULYSSES CLUB

Bob Tate, Ulysses member #1028
28 March 1933 to 21 March 2017

Bob contacted me several weeks ago and asked both Ron and myself to say 'a few words' at his funeral. That says a lot about his character and I trust that he is now resting in peace. I can only speak of him as an Ulyssean.

Bob Tate joined the Ulysses Club in 1987 and was very recently awarded his 30 year membership badge and that milestone was of significance to him. He was very involved with Melbourne Branch for most of those years, having first joined the Committee in 1991 as Vice President. From 1992-94 he served as Branch President. In 2016 Bob was awarded the Telemachus Medal for his outstanding service to the Melbourne Branch by the National Committee.

Not only was Bob a committed committee member, he was also an active ride participant and his contribution to our ride calendar was significant over the years. In particular his willingness to lead our Branch's first ride of the New Year for many years, even when he was into his 80s. Bob often opened his home here in Alexandra and hosted lunch after some 'Father's Day' rides back in the early 90s. It was only in late 2015, after a minor incident, that Bob decided to hang up his riding boots.

For many years after retiring from the committee, Bob continued to make a significant contribution to the Branch and chaired many of our Annual General Meetings during election of office bearers. Bob's knowledge of procedure at these meetings was invaluable. He often provided wise counsel over the years to both committee and members in general and I can personally recall how welcome he made new members feel.

Bob provided support to the late Henry Zlabek (Melbourne Branch's first President) after Henry moved to Wodonga and accompanied Henry to several branch presidents' rides, brought him to several Branch Christmas Functions and was supportive to Henry during Henry's final illness.

Put simply he was a great bloke, a great example of what being a Ulysses member is all about and he will be missed.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

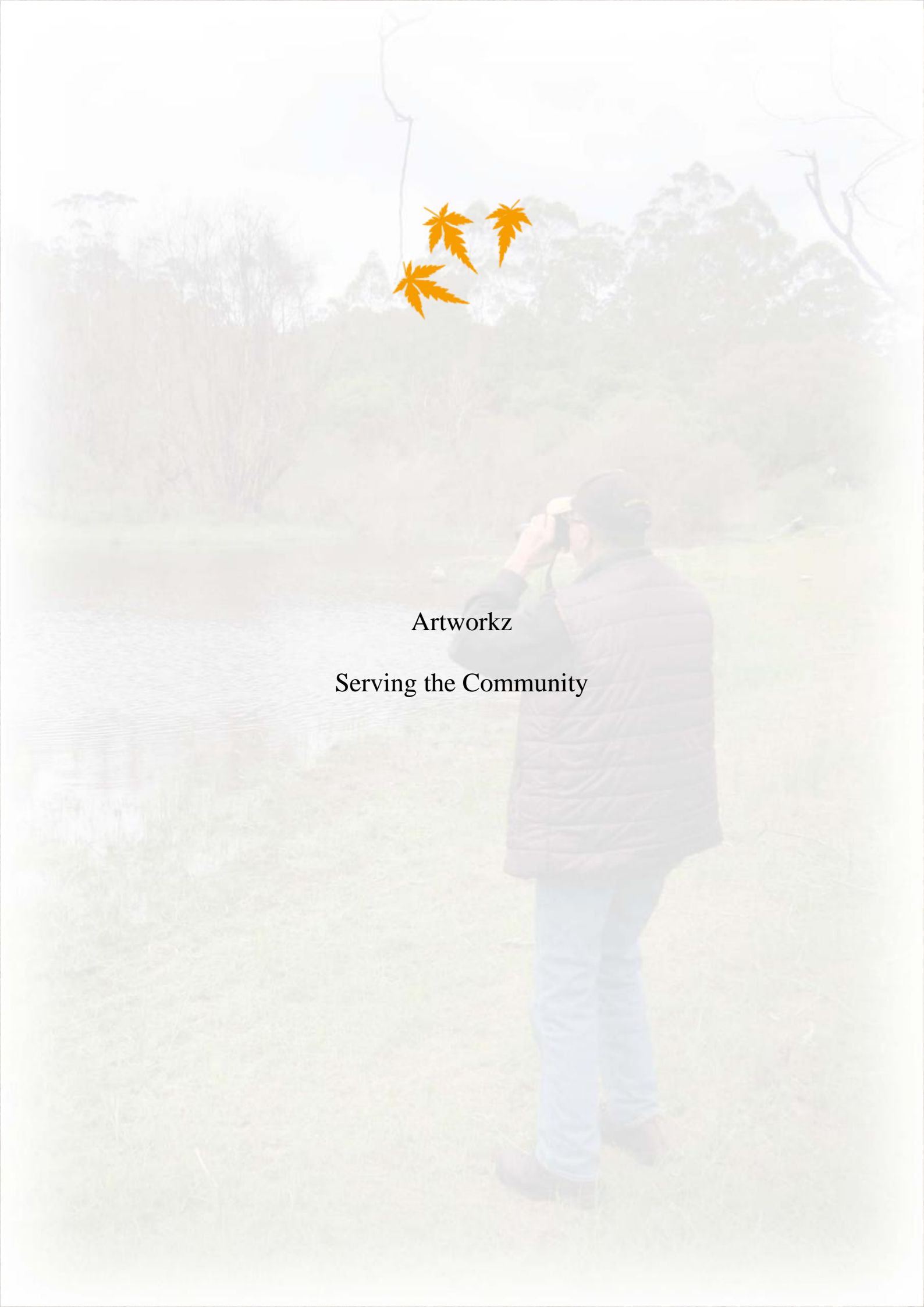


JOHN COOK

Bob – it was an honour to have known you for the past 25 years. Your guidance was both valuable and appreciated by me and many others.

May you now Rest in Peace.

John Cook
Melbourne Branch - Ulysses Club



Artworkz

Serving the Community