

# VICTORIAN AGENDA FOR TOCUMWAL

10<sup>TH</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## Don't forget to take your GPS

**8.30 AM**      **Option 1** – meet at MacKenzie Park at Yarra Glen for an 8.30 AM departure to Lake Nagambie. Peter Welten to be convoy leader

**9.00 AM**      **Option 2** – meet at the Wallan Northbound BP servo for a 9.00 departure to Lake Nagambie. Top your fuel up. Next fuel stop is Shepparton.

**10.45AM**      Arrive at Lake Nagambie. Look for Darren Viney's white MK 1 2000 on the LHS near a statue of Black Caviar. Lake is on the LHS. Darren is to be convoy leader to Shepparton Motor Museum.

Park by the Lake. Fuel on way in, Toilets & coffee/Bakery all within a few hundred metres.

**11AM**    Depart Nagambie

Arrive at Kirwans Bridge 10 min later for photo opportunity (15min)

**Kirwans Bridge** is on Longwood Rd **Nagambie**. Refer to info on bridge on next page.

Continue via the back road through Murchison and over the Goulburn again, heading for Shepparton.

**1145 AM**      Arrive at Shepparton Motor Museum 7720 Goulburn Valley Highway, Kialla at Emerald Bank Complex 03 5823 5833. I believe that the Museum has doubled in size since our last visit in 2015. Darren Viney has friends that have a café in the area.

The Shepparton Motor Museum & Collectibles, at any time, the Museum houses over 100 classic, vintage and veteran cars and motorbikes as well as associated motoring memorabilia.

Groups of over 20 the ticket price is only \$7. Normally (\$10 & \$7 Conc)

Allow 45 min to 1hr to complete.

Emerald Bank also has a large nursery and an antique store for those not so interested in motor museums.

**12.45 PM**      Lunch will be at the local RSL, a direct 5min run into town from the motor museum. They have onsite parking and good menu. Address is 88 Wyndham St Shepparton 03 5820 4100. Lunch will be in the Diggers Bistro. **Peter Welten to organise.**

**2PM**    Depart Shepparton for 7034 Goulburn Valley Highway The Big Strawberry at Koonoomoo. (what a great place name) Opening hours from 8.00 to 5.00. I have advised them that approx 30 people will be there around 3PM. [www.thebigstrawberry.com.au](http://www.thebigstrawberry.com.au).

**3PM**    Arrive at Big Strawberry, 03 5871 1300. Those that went to Griffith in 2015 will remember the cold ice creams and milkshakes.

Leave at your leisure for the final 10 minute drive into Tocumwal. It is on the same road, no turn off required. Kingswood Motel 22-24 Kelly St Tocumwal 03 5874 2444

**Kirwans Bridge** near Nagambie, Victoria, is a work directly associated with Alfred Deakin's dream of a great 'National' irrigation system based upon the construction of the Goulburn Weir. Consequently, with nearby Chinamans bridge, it was built entirely with Victorian government funds, a factor in its large size. When opened in 1890, it provided access to Nagambie and the railway for the mining areas of Bailieston and Whroo.

So significant was the access to Nagambie it provided for those living on the west of the Goulburn River that a threat to the bridge's continuing future in the mid-1950s led to a municipal secession movement that enlarged the Shire of Goulburn at the expense of Kirwans' original builders, the Shire of Waranga. The current narrowed timber deck with passing bays, supported by rolled steel joists placed over the ancient piers, remains a memorial to that municipal protest. It is one of Victoria's very oldest timber road bridges still in operation; very few are earlier. Kirwans Bridge is also one of a unique group of four large timber road bridges from the 1890s, of contrasting types, located on the Goulburn River between Seymour and Murchison; this is the last remaining group of large old timber river bridges in Victoria.

The bridge is one of only two extant Victorian timber bridges retaining vestiges of a colonial 'strutted-corbels' type of river-bridge design. Only at Kirwans Bridge and the Jeparit Bridge is it now possible to study examples of this historic European form of timber-bridge craftsmanship. Although its visual effect is not greatly different from that of the equally rare and historic 'strut-and-straining-piece' design of nearby Chinamans Bridge, the detail and mechanics of the stringer-support system are structurally different. Kirwans Bridge also provides a remarkably successful example of engineering adaptation to changing vehicle needs over more than a century. It has an exceptionally long timber deck; no road bridge in Victoria is longer.

The 310 metres long Kirwans Bridge is situated over the Goulburn River at Bailieston near Nagambie. It was opened in 1890 and is still in use for one-way motor traffic. The only comparable timber bridge in Victoria in terms of length is the 1927 Barwon Heads Bridge which is 308 metres long. In 1955 the bridge was modified by the construction of a new superstructure in which its timber beams were replaced by RSJs and its deck narrowed to single lane with passing bays maintaining the full 6.3 metres original width. The bridge retains its original forty-eight spans of 5 metres, and its original seven main river-channel spans of 10 metres. Its tall timber trestles are largely immersed under Lake Nagambie. Remnants of its original squared beams and strutted corbels, one of only two remaining examples in Victoria, are clearly visible beside the bridge.

The bridge features a dramatic mid-stream bend and is also unique in its incorporation of two vehicle passing-bays. It is set at the northern arm of Lake Nagambie, a very popular boating and fishing venue close to Melbourne. The distinctive and imposing nature of the bridge has seen it feature in State-wide commercial and social promotions.

Other bridges to consider at another time are the Chinaman's Bridge and Barwon Heads Bridge



October 2015. TCCV Crossing



