



*November 2021 Newsletter*  
*Magazine Section*

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*FRIENDSHIP, FELLOWSHIP  
AND FUN*

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*THE MELBOURNE CUP*  
*TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER*

**The Melbourne Cup** is the world's richest handicap and the world's richest 3200-metre horse race. It is Australia's major horse race and is *The race that stops a nation*. The race is for horses three-years-old and over and is 3200 metres long. Except for one year during the Second World War the event has been held on the first Tuesday in November since 1861 by the Victoria Racing Club at the Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne.

The race was first held over two miles, about 3,218 metres, but after Australia changed to the metric system in 1972 it was changed to 3,200 metres. This made it 61 ft 6in shorter and Rain Lover's 1968 race record of 3min.19.1sec was changed to 3min.17.9sec. Now, the record holder is the 1990 winner Kingston Rule with a time of 3min 16.3sec.

The race starts at 3.00pm Melbourne (AEST) time.

Seventeen horses raced in the first Melbourne Cup in 1861. The prize was a gold watch and 170 Pounds cash. Some people say Archer (the winner) walked 800 km to the course from Nowra. However, it is possible he travelled by ship. Four thousand people watched the race.

Archer won again the next year. However, because the owner's application form arrived late the next year, Archer was unable to try for a third cup. Many owners boycotted the race in protest, so it started with only seven horses. That is the smallest number in the history of the cup.

Fashions on The Field is a major focus of the day. The miniskirt received worldwide attention when model Jean Shrimpton wore one on Derby Day during Melbourne Cup week in 1965.

In Melbourne, the race day is a public holiday. In the rest of Australia most people watch the race on television and gamble. In 2000 it was estimated that 80 percent of the adult Australian population placed a bet on the race.



*An engraving of the finish line 1881*

**The Victoria Racing Club** was founded in 1864. It was formed following the disbanding of the Victoria Turf Club and the Victoria Jockey Club. A legacy passed from the Victoria Turf Club was the annual "race that stops a nation", the Melbourne Cup.

From its foundation in 1864 until 2001 the Victoria Racing Club was the responsible authority for the conduct of thoroughbred racing in the State of Victoria. Since 2001 this role has been managed by Racing Victoria Limited.

The Victoria Racing Club is managed by an unpaid committee, elected by club members.

In 1871 the Victorian Government appointed the VRC as trustees of a site of 352 acres (1.4 km<sup>2</sup>) of Crown Land, next to the Maribyrnong River, which became known as Flemington Racecourse. Much of the early success of the VRC is attributed to the administration of the first Secretary of the club, Robert C. Bagot and his successors H. Byron Moore and A. V. Kewney.

**Flemington Racecourse** in Melbourne is situated on low alluvial flats, next to the Maribyrnong River. The area was first used for horse racing in March 1840.

The racecourse is shaped not unlike a pear and boasts a six-furlong (1,200 m) straight known as 'the Straight Six.' The track has a circumference of 2.312 kilometres (1.437 mi) and a final straight of 450 metres (490 yd) for race distances over 1.2 kilometres (1,300 yd). Races are run in an anti-

clockwise direction. The course has a crowd capacity of over 120,000 and contains three grandstands. The biggest ever attendance was on Victoria Derby Day in 2006 when 129,069 people saw Efficient win the Victoria Derby. On 28 November 1986 Pope John Paul II celebrated Mass on the racetrack inner oval.

The racecourse has undergone a facelift in recent years, with the opening of a new \$45 million grandstand in 2000 and the opening of a new members' grandstand in 2018. It also contains a bronze statue of the famous racehorse Phar Lap, which was donated to the Club as part of Australia's bicentenary celebrations in 1988. Also in celebration was the commission of Harold Freedman's seven panel mural which traces the History of Racing. The mural is housed in The Hill Stand, built in 1977.

Flemington Racecourse was added to the Australian National Heritage List on 7 November 2006, announced during the 2006 Melbourne Cup. The site is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register

Flemington Racecourse today hosts many of Australia's top races, including the Melbourne Cup, Victoria Derby, VRC Oaks, Mackinnon Stakes, Newmarket Handicap, Australian Cup and Lightning Stakes.

The site has its own railway branch line, which operates on race days, bringing visitors to the adjacent railway station. Originally, it was serviced by Salt Water River station, before that was demolished in the 1860s and replaced with a station on the present site.

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## BREWARRINA FISH TRAPS

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The Brewarrina Fish Traps, or as they are traditionally known Baiame's Ngunnhu, are a complex network of river stones arranged to form ponds and channels that catch fish as they travel downstream. Known as one of the oldest human-made structures in the world, the traps are located in the Barwon River on the outskirts of Brewarrina.



The fish traps reflect an ancient genius in the simplicity of their design, which was adaptable to the seasons and changing water levels. The fish traps work by using stone walls to guide fish that are swimming upstream into the holding ponds where the Aboriginal People traditionally caught them with their bare hands, used their spears or blocked them in ponds to be caught later.

According to Aboriginal tradition, the ancestral creation being, Baiame, created the design by throwing his net over the river and, with his two sons

Booma-ooma-nowi and Ghinda-inda-mui, built the fish traps to its shape. But according to oral history, the fish traps (and the technology behind them) were inspired by nature—by the pelican, with the traps acting like a pelican's beak to scoop fish out of the water.

The creation of the fish traps, and the Aboriginal Lore governing their use, helped shape the spiritual, political, social, ceremonial, and trade relationships between Aboriginal groups from across the greater landscape. The fish traps were an important site of food production, work, trade and consumption.

In the 1920s, townsfolk at Brewarrina loaded carts with stones from the fish traps to use for foundations of buildings in the town. A weir completed in the 1970s damaged some of the traps and altered the sediment flows and ecology of the river. Native fish could not pass through the weir's steep fishway. Despite over 160 years of destruction and loss of traditional management and maintenance, substantial elements of the fish traps and their significance to Aboriginal people survive. Today, Aboriginal people in the region continue to use, maintain and care for the fish traps.



*(With thanks to John Robinson)*

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## GROWING UP IN BONDI

*Malcolm McLean*

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Bronte Road... Waverley Police Station.

I remember at an early age (probably aged 4) a locked gate in our backyard at 42 Moore Street, Bondi. It was my ambition to climb over it as I could not unlock it, and I would then be free to wander around the area with my little mate Kenny Hodge, who lived in a block of flats nearby in Henderson Street.

We would go up to the local Dye works, visit shops eventually getting up our courage to jump on a tram.

There were many trams that ran up and down Bondi Road, some to the beach some to the city via Bondi Junction,

On occasions we would invariably get ourselves lost then hopping another tram thinking it would take us back home, but we would end up anywhere maybe on a Bronte tram or another city tram by mistake.

The tram conductors then would hand us over to the police usually at Waverley where we were both well known (Waverley Police conveniently situated on a tram stop on the old Bronte tram route).

Not sure how they knew where we lived but I do remember being brought home on several occasions sitting in a Police motor cycle side car driven by large motorcycle cops.



*These police motor cycles were the US made Indian motor cycles, then more favoured than the Harley Davidson. In 1940, Indian sold as many motorcycles as its major rival, Harley-Davidson. During this time, Indian also manufactured other products such as aircraft engines, bicycles, boat motors and air conditioners.*

The Waverley Police in 1944..... I know they had better things to do than look after wayward pre-schoolers like us.

Dad at this time was away in New Guinea & when I got into any strife it was poor mum that the police challenged saying my wandering days must cease forthwith as 4 year-olds could not be roaming out on the streets alone.

I often wonder if the Waverley Police still have my details recorded....

Interesting in Australia we were taught if we were naughty the policeman would come and lock us up ! a deterrent to behave. The exact opposite occurred in the UK where we

were told the police are your friends. UK parents told their children if in trouble to seek help by locating a Bobby on the beat.



*Circular Quay early 1920s. E, O and P class trams can be seen. The trams on the left were for the Western Suburbs via George Street, while trams on the right were for the Eastern Suburbs via Elizabeth Street*

Robert (my elder brother) was at one time a bus/tram conductor & he told me he did collect fares on the trams, but he was in the main working on Eastern Suburbs buses in the 1950's which he found easier than outside on the trams sometimes in wet weather hanging on for dear life.

These trams were a familiar sight in my years living in Bondi.

An interesting fact –

“The man on the Bondi tram” is a fictional character used in civil law in New South Wales representing an ordinary person. Jurors, for example, have been directed to consider what the man on the Bondi tram would think of whether a statement is defamatory or not. The phrase borrows from the English

formulation of the 'man on the Clapham omnibus', who personifies an average, reasonable person. It is comparable to the phrase 'the man in the street'.

Government trams were discontinued in Sydney in the 1960s, to be replaced by buses.

Growing up in the Eastern Suburbs I knew of course about the bohemian rebel and renowned Sydney eccentric Bea Miles.....

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## BEA MILES

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*Bea Miles (right) in the early 1940's*

During the early 1900's people in Sydney were often taken aback by the sight of a woman riding a man's pushbike, wearing a formal dress and

a tennis cap while blowing a whistle. The woman was the late Bea Miles, who became one of the city's most famous eccentrics.

Born in September 1902 Beatrice Miles was an Australian eccentric and bohemian rebel. Described as Sydney's "iconic eccentric", she was known for her contentious relationships with the city's taxi drivers and for her ability to quote any passage from Shakespeare for money

Born in Ashfield, New South Wales, to Maria Louisa Miles (née Binnington) and the third of five surviving children, she grew up in the Sydney suburb of St Ives. Her father, William John Miles, was a wealthy public accountant and hotheaded businessman who had a tempestuous relationship with his daughter.

Bea Miles studied at Abbotsleigh School and enrolled in an arts course, but opted out, citing a lack of Australian subject matter.

Miles then enrolled in medicine, which was unusual for women at that time. Bea was startlingly intelligent but in her first year of medical studies she contracted encephalitis lethargica. The disease permanently and profoundly changed her personality, but not her intelligence, such that she was unable to finish her studies and became an eccentric and notorious identity in and around Sydney.

In 1923, tired of his daughter's bohemian behaviour and lifestyle, Miles' father had her committed to a hospital for the insane where she stayed for two years (at a time when the "treatments" they offered were usually extreme sedation and drugs to induce vomiting). After that Miles lived

on the street and was known for her outrageous behaviour. She was arrested many times and claimed to have been "falsely convicted 195 times, fairly 100 times".

For a while Miles was living in a cave behind one of Sydney's beaches. She received a small monthly income from her father's estate and she drew on this to pay her debts. It was said that she always carried a £5 note pinned to her skirts so that the police could not arrest her for vagrancy.

Miles' most notorious escapades involved taxi drivers. She regularly refused to pay fares. Some drivers refused to pick her up and she would sometimes damage the cab in retaliation, including once reputedly ripping a door off its hinges.

In 1955, Miles took a taxi to Perth, Western Australia and back. This time she did pay the fare, £600. On Christmas Day, 1956 she interrupted a taxi driver's festive dinner to demand he drive her to Broken Hill via Melbourne. On their return to Sydney she paid the fare of £73 10s.

It is also said she would sit in a Sydney bank smoking cigarettes under a sign reading "*Gentlemen will refrain from smoking*".

Shopkeepers would give her drinks and sandwiches just to quickly move her on.

Music-lovers who attended the regular free Sunday-afternoon concerts given in the Sydney Town Hall by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra may recall how, just before the performance began, Miles often appeared and wandered down the centre aisle, calling out "Ruby? Ruby?"

When Aub Laidlaw, the legendary Bondi Lifeguard apprehended Bea bringing a sheep onto the beach one day, Bea responded that although there was a sign saying 'no dogs' on the beach, there was nothing about sheep. When Aub Laidlaw responded that there was no grass for the sheep Bea responded that the sheep didn't want to eat, just sunbathe.

Another incident has Bea boarding a tram to Bondi. When she refused to pay, the driver got off the tram, refusing to go on until she paid her fare. Bea took control of steering wheel and took the tram through to the beach, stopping for passengers on the way.

Miles was well-educated, highly intelligent and very widely read. She was legendary as a fast and voracious reader throughout her life, even in her declining years, and reputedly read an average of two books every day. She spent a lot of time in the State Library of New South Wales reading books, until finally being banned in the late 1950s. Miles was also regularly seen standing on street corners with a sign offering to quote verses from Shakespeare for between sixpence and three shillings.

Miles' writings are in the State Library, some in her own handwriting. They are:

*Dictionary by a Bitch, I Go on a Wild Goose Chase, I Leave in a Hurry, For We Are Young and Free, Notes on Sydney Monuments and Advance Australia Fair.*

Fiercely patriotic, at twelve years old Miles wore a 'No Conscription' badge to school during the referendum

in World War I. In another incident Miles was disgusted when she was severely marked down for an essay about Gallipoli, which she described as a 'strategical blunder', rather than 'a wonderful war effort'.

As ill health started to catch up with her, Miles spent the last nine years of her life in the Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Aged in Randwick. She supposedly told the sisters that she had "no allergies that I know of, one complex, no delusions, two inhibitions, no neuroses, three phobias, no superstitions and no frustrations". While in Randwick she borrowed an average of 14 books a week from the Randwick Branch Library.

One of the Sisters of the Poor recalled that Miles came to be known for her compassion for the sick, comforting the old and infirm and sitting patiently with the dying. She even prayed with them, on one occasion, when questioned, observing "I don't believe in God, but she does".

Miles died on 3 December 1973, aged 71 from cancer

Australian wildflowers were placed on her coffin, while a jazz band played "Waltzing Matilda" and "Advance Australia Fair".. Miles is interred at Rookwood Cemetery in the family plot

A musical based on her life, "Better known as Bee" was first performed in 1984. The 1985 novel Lilian's Story by Kate Grenville was loosely based on her life; and was turned into a movie in 1995 starring Toni Collette and Ruth Cracknell (who also starred in the popular ABC series Mother & Son with Gary MacDonald).

Dorothy and Edna, two "senior"  
widows, are talking.

**Dorothy:** "That nice George Johnson  
asked me out for a date. I know you  
went out with him last week,  
and I wanted to talk with you about him  
before I give him my answer."

**Edna:** "Well, I'll tell you. He shows up  
at my house punctually at 7 pm,  
dressed like such a gentleman in a fine  
suit,  
and he brings me such beautiful  
flowers!  
Then he takes me downstairs and  
what's there; a limousine, uniformed  
chauffeur and all.

Then he takes me out for dinner; a  
marvellous dinner, lobster,  
champagne, dessert, and after-dinner  
drinks.

Then we go see a show. Let me tell  
you Dorothy, I enjoyed it so much I  
could have just died from pleasure!

So, then we are coming back to my  
apartment and he turns into an  
ANIMAL.

Completely crazy, he tears off my  
expensive new dress and has his way  
with me three times!"

**Dorothy:** "Goodness gracious! So you  
are telling me I shouldn't go?"

**Edna:** "No, no, I'm just saying, wear an  
old dress!"

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## BYE BYE MISS AMERICAN PIE

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Follow the lyrics closely together  
with the photos. They synchronize  
beautifully to explain each  
verse. Although Don McClean only  
released the song in 1971, for those  
of us who grew up in the 40s, 50's  
and 60's this is a great piece with  
some very poignant moments in the  
history of those times.

Those were the days and we were  
very fortunate to grow up during  
that period of time. *Be sure to skip  
the ads !!.*

[Click here to watch](#)

*(With thanks to Roger Morrow for  
the information and Ross Swadling  
for assistance with the link)*

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*Success is not final*

*Failure is not fatal*

*It is the courage to start that  
counts*

*.....Winston Churchill*

*(With thanks to Judee Radford)*

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## APHORISMS

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*Aphorism - A short pointed sentence that expresses a wise or clever observation or a general truth*

- 1. The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.*
- 2. Money will buy a fine dog but only kindness will make him wag his tail.*
- 3. If you don't have a sense of humour you probably don't have any sense at all.*
- 4. Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.*
- 5. A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.*
- 6. How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?*
- 7. Business conferences are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.*
- 8. Why is it that at school reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?*
- 9. Stroke a cat and you will have a permanent job*

*10. No one has more driving ambition than the teenage boy who wants to buy a car.*

*11. There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.*

*12. There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 am; for example, it could be the right number.*

*13. No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning.*

*14 I've reached the age where 'happy hour' is a nap.*

*15. Be careful about reading the fine print, there's no way you're going to like it.*

*16. The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.*

*17. Do you realize that, in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos?*

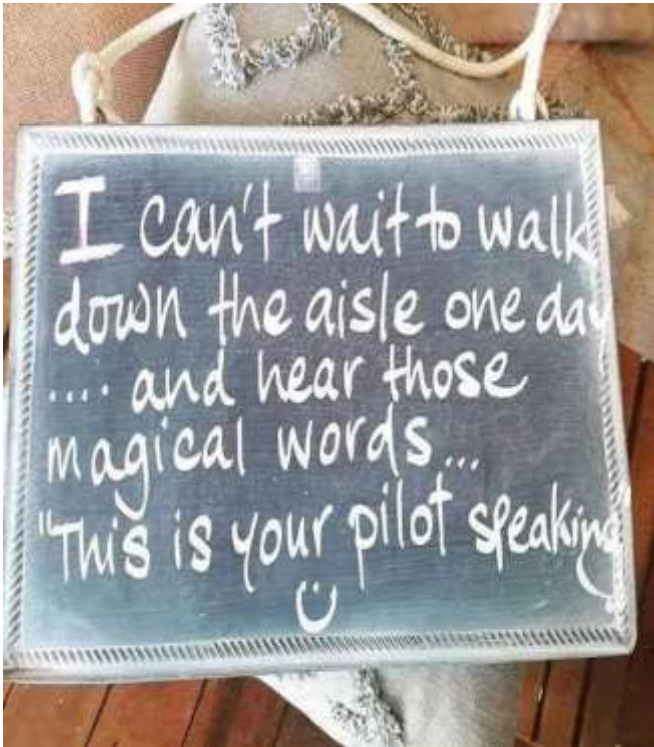
*18. Money can't buy happiness but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Jaguar than in a Ford.*

*19. After 60 if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you're probably dead.*

*20. Always be yourself because the people that matter don't mind and the ones that mind don't matter.*

*21. Life isn't tied with a bow but it's still a gift.*

*(With thanks to Roger Morrow)*



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## OUR LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

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Living opposite a park and a children's playground is great front row seating. We see people, cars, delivery vans, cycles and families meeting in the park and a few children's parties with beautifully decorated cakes. From 7 am the same runners, people coming and going for cups of coffee from Glenrose and dogs being walked or people being walked by their dogs. We do like our dogs. Almost forgot our tennis players - we have a very active community in Belrose.

*Yesterday is history  
Tomorrow is a mystery  
Today is a gift*

*Robyn Wood*

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## QUOTES

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~ Prince Philip...

When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.



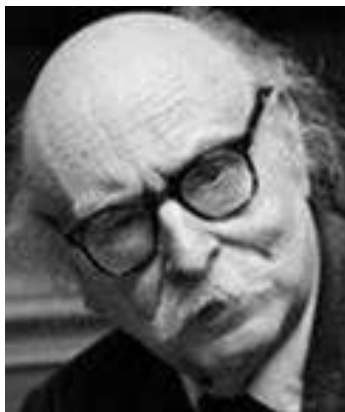
~ Harrison Ford...

Wood burns faster when you have to cut and chop it yourself.



~ Spike Milligan...

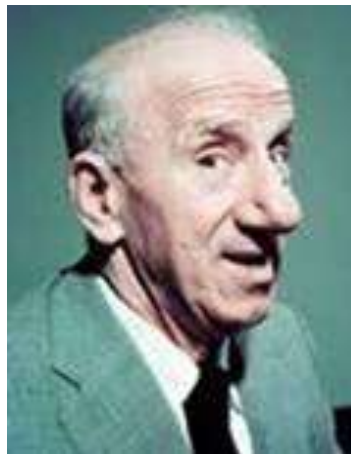
The best cure for Sea Sickness is to sit under a tree.



~ Jean

Rostand...

Kill one man and you're a murderer,  
kill a million and you're a conqueror.



~ Jimmy

Durante...

Home cooking. Where many a man  
thinks his wife is.



~ Arnold

Schwarzenegger...

Having more money doesn't make you  
happier. I have 50 million dollars but  
I'm just as happy as when I had 48  
million.



~ Betsy

Salkind...

Men are like linoleum floors. Lay 'em  
right and you can walk all over them  
for thirty years.



~ WH Auden..

We are here on earth to do good unto  
others. What the others are here for, I  
have no idea.



~ George

Roberts...

The first piece of luggage on the  
carousel never belongs to anyone.



~ Jonathan

Winters...

If God had intended us to fly he would have made it easier to get to the airport.



~ David

Letterman...

America is the only country where a significant proportion of the population believes that professional wrestling is real but the moon landing was faked.



~ Robert

Benchley...

I have kleptomania, but when it gets bad, I take something for it.



~ Howard

Hughes...

I'm not a paranoid, deranged millionaire. Actually, I'm a billionaire.



~ John Glenn...

As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind - every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder.



~ Old Italian

proverb...

After the game, the King and the pawn go into the same box