



Coordinator's Comment

Have you ever experienced walking through the aged ruins of a place, and imagined the rocks and trees coming alive and yarning about events from yesteryear? Bit like Alice in Wonderland.

Each morning I take a stroll past "The Canteen" foundations at Poatina. There is a part of me inspired to find out what life was like back in the 60's and what it was that created so many treasured memories. If only I could make the rocks talk!

There are two grand old Blackwood trees, and I can't help wondering who planted them and why in that spot, and how many young boys longed for the day those trees would be big enough to climb and make cubby houses? Or the gum tree that hosts two street lights - what a genius idea! I giggle just thinking about it - imagine trying to do something like that today!

So many stories woven into the fabric of Poatina's existence; so much history and opportunity; so many lives that brought their own personalities and through their shared experience created an incredible richness that outlasted anything money can buy.

My dream is to be a part of a community of people who actively contribute to their own region, country and beyond, who ask the hard questions about the past and make valued-based choices to give all our children a future.

I invite you to come "Back to Poatina" on Saturday, July 17, for an incredible day of sharing your precious memories and reuniting with friends and neighbours. I have had the privilege of working with two former residents, Keith & Roger, and it has been delightful to hear some of their stories and see first hand the photos collected for scanning and reprinting.

Come and see what Poatina has become subsequent to the Hydro days, offering a remarkable tourist resort, training centre, rehabilitation service and more. In fact, the population has grown so much that every house in the Village is now occupied and an exciting development plan is underway building delightful double-storey mountain cottages.

It's going to be one huge memorable day, and I look forward to sharing it with you.

Rosa Koster
Event Coordinator



Unveiling of Monument

To mark the day, Poatina Village has commissioned a skilled local glass artist to construct a glass water feature "Monument" to celebrate the hard working souls and striving spirits of our pioneers. We are also planning to open a Museum and Interpretative Centre.

Along with photo displays throughout the Village, we will have a few footies down on the Oval, a couple of "Deb Ball" dances, slide shows, a movie or two from the era, and a model of the Village back in the Hydro days. And the kettle will always be hot for plenty of cuppas during those catch ups with friends!

The Poatina Golf Club is joining the action with a "Golf Day" and its club house will be open. We have invited a renowned Australian singer to join us on the day.... but this will remain a mystery until we have received final confirmation.

Fusion has become known for its free Festival activities for children in the Tasmanian Shows circuit, and the "Back to Poatina" event will be no exception. There will be all the usual activities including Thomas rides, jumping castle, face painting, merry-go-round, and plus more.

There is a lot more in the pipeline (not literally!), more ideas floating of ways to mark the event - videos, names on bricks, evening program etc - all to celebrate with you the journey of Poatina Village.



Back to Poatina
SAT. 17 JULY 2004



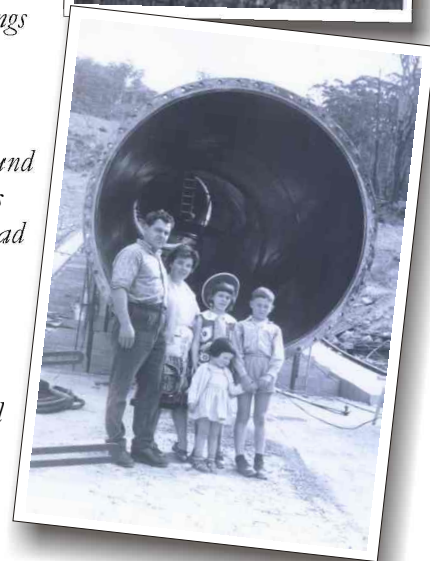
The story of the “Big Wind”

Do you remember the “Big Wind” of June 1962? Di Adams caught up with Roger Nutting last year, and here are some of his memories of the day....

“It seems everyone who was in town on the day of the “Big Wind” in June 1962 has their tale of the destruction it caused. Unlike every other Saturday during the football season, Roger was not at the game that day. At home with two of his sisters, they noticed the wind start up around lunchtime, increasing to such an extent that from their vantage point inside the house on the corner of Gordon St and Denison Ave, they saw bits and pieces of building materials flying off in all directions from the roof of the Chalet, which at that stage was not fully built.

The three of them moved strategically to a safe place in the house as the timber garages opposite their house were ripped from their foundations, then propelled by the sheer force of the wind towards them across the road. The light pole on the corner was sheared off its moorings as the garages proceeded to career down Denison Avenue, just missing the corner of their house.

Miraculously, even with houses on both sides of the street, the garages missed everything, but the extensive damage around the town looked for all intents and purposes like a cyclone had hit, with the General store, along with numerous houses and part of the Community Hall all losing their roofs. The whole town was out and about the next day, surveying the aftermath that would take months to repair.”



Accommodation

Chartered Coaches

For some the long journey from Hobart or the North West could be a deterrent for coming, so we are looking into chartering coaches, and extending the day to include a light dinner and evening program at the Chalet.

If you are interested, or know of someone who may be, please contact us.

There will be limited Motel accommodation at Poatina's Best Western Motel. Call 6397 8290 to make your reservation.

For all other accommodation needs, call Tas Temptations on 1300 655 145, and they will be able to help you with a variety of different options.