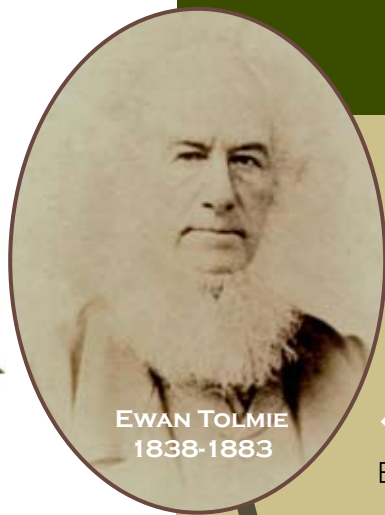


Tolmie

WOMBAT·TOLMIE
HIGH COUNTRY HERITAGE.
EST. 1879



WOMBAT RANGES / TOLMIE TABLELANDS

From 1860 to 1880 the Wombat Ranges area was part of Ewen Tolmie's 40,000 acre Dueran Pastoral Run.

When three policemen lost their lives at the tragedy of Stringybark Creek on the 26th October 1878 the Kelly Gang was created. This event along with the exploits of bushranger Harry Power prompted Government authorities to open up the Wombat Ranges for selection. In order to deter the presence of the outlaw element the selectors were carefully chosen.

They were promised a railway line to get produce from this rich volcanic land to market.

In the 1880's the township of Wombat was established in the heart of the Wombat Ranges. In September 1889 the township was renamed Tolmie in honour of Ewen Tolmie and the Wombat Ranges became known as the Tolmie Tablelands. Over the years, the township grew into a thriving centre with a post office, store, hotel, school, churches and a hall.

Sadly the railway line never eventuated and many of the settlers were forced to leave the district. By 1963 the school had closed and the Tolmie Post Office had been relocated to a store in Mahaikah. In recent years the Tolmie farmland has been subdivided and taken up by new residents who have settled back into a small, but close knit community enjoying the delights of clean air, cool climate and relaxed lifestyle.

Throughout the years since 1886 the annual sports day has endured. The events have changed little over the years with footraces, horse riding events and woodchopping still heading the programme.

Images and acknowledgements.

1. Whitfield folk leaving Wombat after a 1908 Sports - MHS collection
2. Presbyterian Church 1993 - David Williams
3. Tolmie Mechanics Institute - David Williams
4. Wombat Hotel - Georgina Costa - MHS collection
5. Town of Tolmie "Looking West" - J N Cairé - Museum collection
6. Sarah Usher at Tolmie Post Office - Usher Photographic collection
7. Tolmie State School c1942 - Edna Lavis, Teacher
8. Catholic Church 1993 - David Williams



Tolmie Sports Grounds

Sports Oval

Wood Chop Arena

Stables

Bar

Secretary

Kiosk

Tea Rooms

Football Change Rooms

Toilets.

Tolmie Sports Grounds

Tolmie Tennis Courts

CFA Shed

Uniting Church (Formerly Presbyterian Church) 1889

Mechanics Institute 1920

Ex Post Office 1879

Site of Wombat Hotel. 1887

Memorial Pine Trees. 1922

Site of Wombat/Tolmie State School. 1880

Ex Teachers residence 1901

Catholic Church 1908

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Old Tolmie Road

Tolmie - Mahaikah Road

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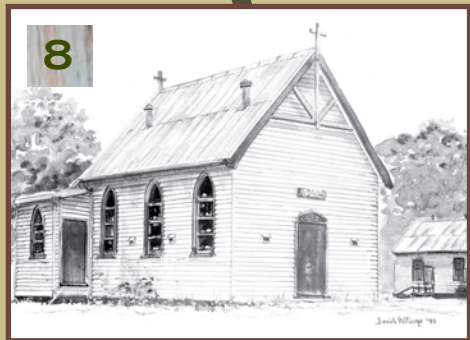
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Tolmie

WOMBAT·TOLMIE
HIGH COUNTRY HERITAGE.
EST. 1879

TOLMIE SPORTS GROUND

One event in Tolmie has endured through both good times and perhaps not so good... the annual Tolmie Sports day. The first sports were held in 1886 and were then known as the Wombat School Picnic.

The program of events has changed very little over the history of the Sports with foot racing, woodchopping and horse events remaining firm favourites. *The Old Buffers Race* for men over 45 remains as popular today as it was when first recorded, at the Picnic of 1888.

Traditionally, everyone arrived at the Sports by foot, horse or horse drawn vehicle and from as far afield as Mansfield, King Valley, Whitfield, Tatong and Wangaratta. The tradition of a "Grand Ball" following the Sports Day is one held still to this day and newspaper reports from the earliest years invariably mention that the dancing continued until the early hours of the morning – often until daylight!

The 1888 Picnic Day is recorded as having made a profit of five Pounds, 17 shillings and 11 pence. Beneficiaries of the proceeds over the years have included Red Cross, "Sick and Wounded Soldiers", "Returned Soldiers Association", and "Fallen Soldiers" (all throughout the years of the first world war), and then subsequently the Tolmie Hall, Recreation Reserve, Mansfield Hospital, and Bush fire appeals.

Over the years a number of local sports clubs have called the Tolmie Sports Ground home, from the Wombat United Cricket Club in 1887, to tennis, table tennis and the Tolmie Football Club, formed in 1890.

Images and acknowledgements.

1. Woodchop late 1920's - Betty Herman
2. Tolmie Football Team - premiers 1952 - Unknown
3. 1923 Equestrian team - H McKay collection
4. 1928 Sports - Betty Herman
5. Woodchop 1986 Tolmie Sports - 'Mansfield Courier'
6. Handicap Open Chop 1908 - From a post card of the time
7. Tolmie Sports 1910 - May Green (nee White)
8. Tolmie Sports 1910 - May Green (nee White)
9. Folk arriving from McCashneys' Mill 1920's - Unknown



Tolmie Road

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Tolmie Sports Grounds

Tolmie Tennis Courts

CFA Shed

Catholic Church
1904

Police paddocks

Tolmie-Mahaikah Road

Tolmie

WOMBAT·TOLMIE
HIGH COUNTRY HERITAGE.
EST. 1879

SPORTS

EST. 1886



YOU ARE HERE

Uniting Church
(Formerly Presbyterian Church)
1889

Mechanics Institute
1920

Ex Post Office
1879

Site of
Wombat
Hotel.
1887

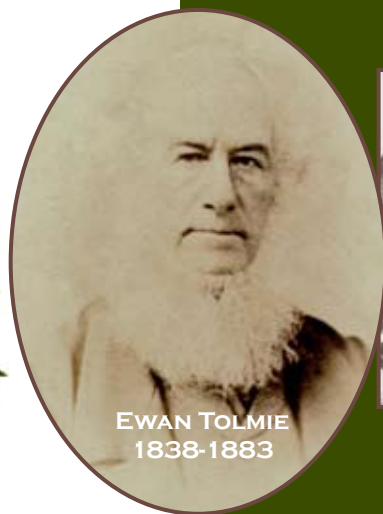
Ex Teachers
residence
1901

Site of Wombat/Tolmie
State School. 1880
1880

Memorial Pine Trees.
1922

Tolmie

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Memorial Pine Trees.
1922

Site of Wombat/Tolmie State School. 1880
Ex Teachers residence 1901

Tolmie - Mahaikah Road

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