

SPIRIT

- Regional Australia -



SPIRIT

- Regional Australia -

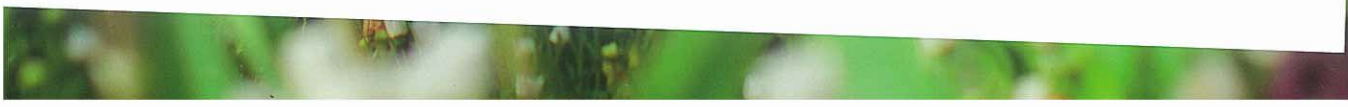
Published by
Endless Summer Publishing Pty Ltd
ABN: 79 100 745 079
PO Box 214 Paddington QLD 4064
T: 07 3369 2284 M: 0412 825 205
paul@endless-summer.com.au
www.endless-summer.com.au

Distributed by
QANTASLINK

*Dear Charles,
see from page 52.*

*Cheers.
Paul Morris*

With compliments...



Great Ocean Road

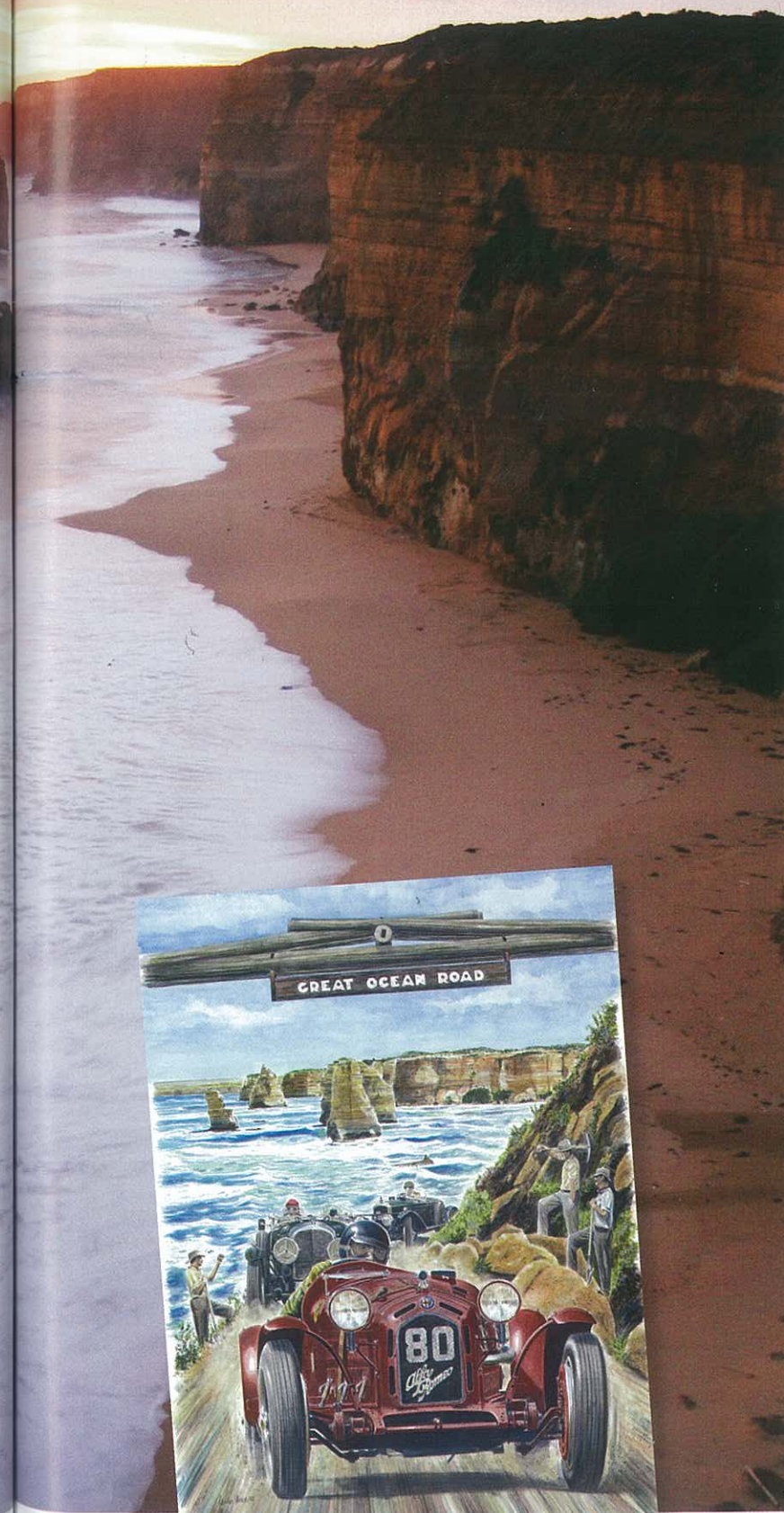
The Long & Winding Road Turns 80

Twisting along the southwest coast of Victoria is one of Australia's celebrated touring routes. It begins at the home of surfing in Torquay and nearby Bells Beach. Then, it continues its path tracing the coast with fabulous vistas of long untamed beaches and cliffs that rise abruptly from the swirling sea; connecting along the way to postcard seaside holiday spots and fishing villages, historic lighthouses gleaming white against a brilliant blue sky; into the cool temperate rainforest of Otway National Park and onto the best-known section of this rugged coastline – the Twelve Apostles.

This windswept coastline with its powerful seas, green rolling fields atop the cliffs and dramatic coastal scenery makes an ideal escape from the city, tollways and traffic for a few days of open road holiday touring. We took the long and winding Great Ocean Road as it prepares to celebrate its eightieth birthday in late November.

The Twelve Apostles at Sunset – Great Ocean Walk
IMAGE COURTESY TOURISM VICTORIA / PHOTOGRAPHER KEONG WOO KIM

THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD IPHONE APP IS AVAILABLE FROM ITUNES.



Early Days Remembered

It was philanthropist Howard Hitchcock, Mayor of Geelong around the close of World War I, together with a group of other gentlemen of vision, who pondered the prospect of linking the coastal towns and villages of the Otway Ranges from Torquay to Warrnambool. Hitchcock established the Great Ocean Road Trust to raise funds to build the road raising £81,000 with a view to recovering the investment through tolls – something that has thankfully long since been discontinued.

Fortunately, the timing was good and as Australia was returning to peacetime many of the veterans returning from the battlefields of Europe needed employment with the Government generating work through nation building projects. The Great Ocean Road was just such a project and work began in September of 1919, employing some 3,000 returned servicemen who carved the road out of the rocky coast with little more than picks and shovels and sticks of dynamite. The road meant a vital new means of connecting the small coastal communities that till then had relied on travel by sea or bush tracks. It was also a permanent monument to those fellow servicemen lost during the conflict.

Hitchcock's dream was finally realised in November of 1932 but he had succumbed just three months earlier to heart failure and at the celebration procession for the opening of the road on 26 November he was remembered by his chauffeur driven car joining the procession, his hat taking his place on the seat.

That famous procession will be remembered this November with the RACV 80 Years Great Ocean Road Celebration Tour, the event organised by the Vintage Sports Car Club of Victoria. Just as with the 75th anniversary, classic vintage car enthusiasts, dressed in period outfits, will be taking their prized possessions on tour to relive the original procession with a five day touring event. Expect to see amongst the fleet of participants the badges of Rolls Royce, Delage, Bugatti, Alfa Romeo, Vauxhall and more pre World War II cars. Vintage car owners interested in taking part can visit www.80greatoceanroad.com.au where copies of Mike Harbar's evocative poster of the event can also be ordered.

Poster by Mike Harbar www.car-artist.com for the RACV 80 Years' Great Ocean Road Celebration Tour



View from Teddy's Lookout, Lorne



Lorne



Cape Otway Lighthouse

It takes around an hour and a half from the centre of Melbourne to reach the start of the Great Ocean Road at Torquay. From here the original road stretches along the Surf and Shipwreck Coasts to just near Warrnambool – a distance of 243km. Of course today the road continues on and becomes the Coastal Explorer's Way taking in Port Fairy, Portland and onto Nelson near the South Australian border – a distance of around 400km before it heads north to Mt Gambier. Our focus, on this 80th anniversary is the original road but we also visit Warrnambool – the largest community on this coast – and the heritage fishing village of Port Fairy.

While the Great Ocean Road offers scenic driving, the best experiences are enjoyed when you step outside of the car to take in the views or head off for a bracing walk to the coastal lookouts; go exploring a rainforest track that leads to beautiful waterfalls; soak up the atmosphere in the villages and enjoy a meal in the cafes along with some local treats and wines; or visit the region's major sights and attractions. You can also leave the road behind and hike your way along the Great Ocean Walk – a 104km scenic trek from Apollo Bay to Glenample taking in the highlights of the Twelve Apostles.

Time your visit to enjoy one of the music and cultural festivals like the Port Fairy Folk Festival in March or when the Rip Curl Pro



Surf Museum, Torquay



Lookout, Bells Beach



Apollo Bay

takes to the waves at Bells Beach in April. Bells Beach is just a short drive from Torquay – Australia's home of surfing and the base for signature surf brands Rip Curl and Quiksilver. Close to the major surf shops at Surf City, Torquay's Visitors' Information Centre includes an interesting and informative museum dedicated to the history and culture of surfing in Australia. This attractive seaside town with its green grassy parklands that overlook fabulous beaches makes the perfect start to exploring the Great Ocean Road and it's well worth spending a few days here, enjoying the beaches and clifftop walks, or relaxing with friends and family in cafes overlooking the sea.

Heading south the road soon reaches Anglesea, a small seaside community lying on the banks of an estuary that is popular for fishing or hiring canoes and miniature motorboats. Further south, Aireys Inlet is the first of the historic lighthouses – Split Point Lighthouse, which also has an inviting tearoom. Close by at Eastern



Located off the Great Ocean Road, the Otway Fly Treetop Walk is the highest and longest of its type in the world and now you can experience the thrilling NEW Zip Line Tour... the only one of its kind in Victoria.

Bookings for the Zip Line essential.

10% off

Family Treetop Walk Pass (2 x Adults & 2 Kids)
On presentation of this ad.

Call 1800 300 477

otwayflytreetopadventures.com.au



PHOTO COURTESY TOURISM VICTORIA



PHOTO: BILL FAIRHALL



PHOTO COURTESY OTWAY FLY



PHOTO: BILL FAIRHALL

L-R: Triple Falls Great Otway National Park; Otway Fly Treetop Adventure & Zip Line; Great Ocean Road is popular with international visitors

View is the Great Ocean Road memorial arch dedicated to the returned servicemen who built the road. Lorne is the next stop. It stretches along a narrow coastal strip on the shores of Loutit Bay. Lorne has been a popular seaside resort since the Victorian era and it continues to attract visitors, making an ideal base for a few days of your tour. With its mix of heritage and modern, the colourful town precinct offers plenty of dining options and shopping. Backing the coastal strip are steep hills that lead to Teddy's Lookout with panoramic views of the coast and Southern Ocean.

From Lorne it's just a short drive inland to the Great Otway National Parks with rainforest tracks that take you to beautiful waterfalls. The road south hugs the steep slopes of the coast, twisting above the sea and passing through small communities before arriving in Apollo Bay. This vast bay boasts a long crescent beach overlooked by magnificent cypress pines along the foreshore.

Carved trunks are a feature in the foreshore park – a reminder of Apollo Bay's timber-getting history. The local fishing fleet occupies a breakwater harbour at the southern end of the town. Apollo Bay offers a good choice of accommodation and as one of the main towns along the Great Ocean Road is an ideal place to overnight.

The Great Otway National Park – one of the highlights of the region – is close by and the road tracks away from the coast, winding through some spectacular forest. Take a diversion to the Cape Otway Lighthouse – Australia's oldest mainland lighthouse (1848) that towers above the Southern Ocean and Bass Strait. In its early years it was the first sight of Australia for immigrants arriving by ship from Europe and North America and it provided the telegraph link to Tasmania. Today a modern electronic lightstation fills the navigation task. Visitors can, however, climb to the top of the old tower and the Head Lightkeeper's House has become novel holiday accommodation.

Hotel room from
\$210* PER ROOM PER NIGHT

1-bedroom apartment from
\$270* PER ROOM PER NIGHT

sensational beach escape at Wyndham Resort Torquay

STAY 4 NIGHTS PAY 3
EQUALS ONE NIGHT FREE!*

- Stunning beachside location
- Onsite day spa, bar and restaurant
- Romantic escape or family getaway

BOOK NOW (03) 5261 1500
www.wyndhamtorquay.com.au

WYNDHAM
Hotels and Resorts

*Terms and Conditions apply. Subject to availability. Minimum of 4-night stay applies. Valid for bookings and travel from 01 September 2012 to 30 November 2012. All rates include GST and are quoted in Australian Dollars unless specified. Not valid for group bookings of 10 or more. Prices are subject to exchange rates and currency fluctuations. Rates are for un-serviced rooms & departure clean only. When booking, quote promotional code 'SpinAus' to receive offer. Resort Management by Wyndham Pty Ltd ABN 37 099 634 830 trading as Wyndham Resort Torquay. WHG6456b

WYNDHAM
Torquay



PHOTO: BILL FAIRHALL

Twelve Apostles



Loch Ard Gorge



PHOTO: BILL FAIRHALL

Warrnambool and Lady Bay

Back on the road and from Lavers Hill, take a diversion into the rolling countryside of dairy pastures and into the cool temperate rainforest to one of the main man-made attractions – albeit one that celebrates the natural environment. Otway Fly is located within a stand of towering Mountain Ash and luxuriant tree ferns. Visitors can get up in the canopy on the 600 metre long walkway – 25 metres above the forest floor or climb even higher on the spiral tower. Even better, you can sail through the forest on the Zip Line Tour, suspended up to 30m above the ground as you traverse the cable spans between cloud stations – a unique way to experience the rainforest and get some adrenalin thrills.

Back on the Great Ocean Road and we join the coast again on a stretch of limestone cliffs that the seas here have carved into dramatic shapes. From the car park at the Twelve Apostles Marine National Park a walkway leads under the road and out to viewing platforms for the massive limestone stacks. The shapes and tones of these pinnacles of rock – some as high as 45m – glow against the colours of the sea and sky, especially in the golden light of early morning or sunset. For unforgettable views of the Twelve Apostles take one of the regular helicopter tours.

The Twelve Apostles are the best known of the cliff features along this stretch of coast however nearby are more stunning examples of the sea's work. Loch Ard Gorge is named in memory of the fateful wreck of the clipper 'Loch Ard' and where the two sole survivors were washed ashore. Thunder Cave, London Arch (formerly London Bridge before the collapse of one span in 1990), and the Bay of Islands are other highlights in this gallery of the sea as sculptor.

The small seaside town of Port Campbell is the next nearest community and an ideal stop for lunch or longer. From here the road continues to its original conclusion at Allansford but it is a short

drive to Warrnambool, the main city for this region. From the shores of the horseshoe shaped Lady Bay and a patchwork of parklands, the terrain rises up to the broad streets and avenues of Norfolk pines that surround the city centre. A key trading port during the 19th century, Warrnambool has strong links to the sea – not always happy ones as this is part of the 'Shipwreck Coast'.

Today, Warrnambool is a handsome regional city, a university town with a campus for Deakin University, and a popular holiday spot well served by a good selection of hotels especially around the Lady Bay area. Overlooking the bay is the Flagstaff Maritime Museum and a must see item for visitors. The story of the 'Loch Ard' is told and prized relics including a porcelain peacock and a gold fob watch are part of the exhibits. The recreated village of shops and buildings of an early port are complemented by a small harbour with historic vessels including the Huon pine trading-ketch 'Reginald M' and a former Launceston ferry the 'Rowitta'.

Other attractions include the viewing platforms at Logans Beach for spotting Southern Right Whales and the Tower Hill Reserve on the western side of the city as you head for Port Fairy. Our last stop but the most picturesque of the coastal communities is Port Fairy. The echoes of Port Fairy's 19th century origins are evident in its streetscapes and fine heritage buildings from Georgian houses and cottages to Victorian shops. This appealing town lies on the banks of the Moyne River and was a fishing and sealing port. Port Fairy boasts an outstanding links golf course and an even more famous folk music festival in early autumn – one of the top five folk festivals in the world.

While that is the end of our journey, the coastal road continues west with more to discover or you could get a whole new perspective on the Great Ocean Road by heading back home and rediscovering your favourite locations.



PHOTO: BILL FAIRHALL

Flagstaff Maritime Museum at Warrnambool with the Reginald M moored in the harbour

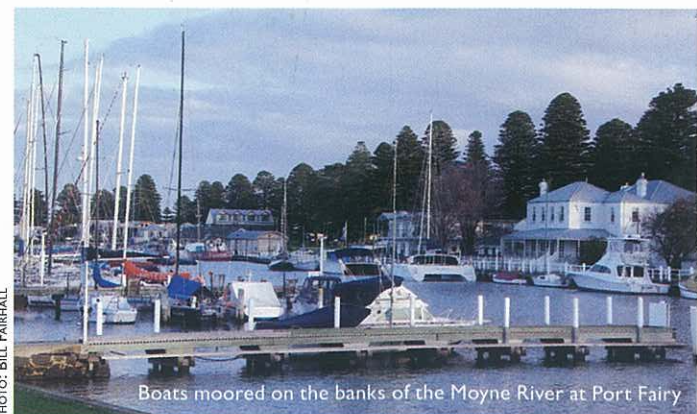


PHOTO: BILL FAIRHALL

Boats moored on the banks of the Moyne River at Port Fairy

THE BEST ENHANCEMENT TO YOUR ENGINEERING PLANS.



At Deakin University there is no such notion as going 'back to the drawing board'. When you are looking to revise your career plans in the field of engineering, the best enhancement for your profession is a Bachelor of Engineering degree.

Deakin's School of Engineering has an enviable reputation for its links with industry and in producing specialised graduates who are qualified in a variety of engineering disciplines. To achieve this, our degrees are modern and forward focussed with an emphasis on utilising design principles to solve complex and ill-defined problems.

With the flexibility to study wherever you are, at a pace to suit your personal circumstances, Deakin Engineering is an ideal choice when balancing work and personal life. As a further enhancement, our undergraduate degrees are continuously being accredited by Engineers Australia to ensure your qualifications are recognised internationally.

So, don't change your engineering plans, enhance them with an undergraduate or postgraduate degree at Deakin University.

Visit deakin.edu.au/scitech/engqf or call 1300 DEGREE (1300 334 733) for more information.



ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA

