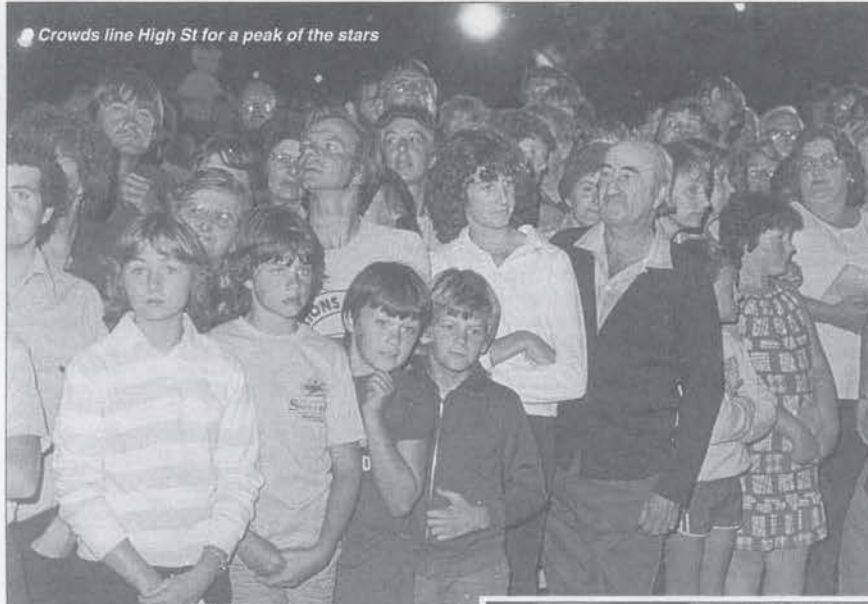


It was 20 years ago . . .

# 'The Man' rode into town

● Crowds line High St for a peek of the stars



● Graeme Stoney arrives on horseback to greet the Prime Minister in Mansfield's High St.

by PAUL DUNLOP

IT was an event that put Mansfield on the world stage.

'Bush premiere wows them,' was the proud headline in the *Mansfield Courier* of March 25, 1982.

The event, of course, was the world-first screening of the *Man From Snowy River* at the Mansfield Cinema.

It was attended by (then) Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser and wife Tammy, movie stars Tom Burlinson, Jack Thompson, Sigrid Thornton, Gus Mercurio, Lorraine Bayly, entrepreneur Michael Edgley and Banjo Paterson's granddaughter Rosalind Campbell.

A crowd of up to 3500 people lined High St to watch the stars arrive, and the many local 'Cracks' who helped make the film the timeless attraction it remains 20 years later.

Right on cue, before the official party entered the theatre, there was the

sound of horses hooves and down High St came a mob of horsemen — the Cracks.

One horseman, Ron Purcell, made a slight detour via the Delatite Hotel and drinkers were caught by surprise when Ron rode up to the bar, ordered a beer for himself and one for his horse, and then left via the lounge through the front door.

The day after the premiere, guests gathered at the Harrison Homestead movie set at Buttercup for the running of the Cracks Cup, one of the highlights of the big weekend.

It was won by Brendon Purcell on Ben and paved the way for the Great Mountain Race of Victoria, the centrepiece of Mansfield's Mountain Country Festival.

The premiere was just one night in Mansfield's history.

But, it paved the way for a remarkable era of change in the next 20 years — and much of it was inspired by 'Snowy'.



● Nick Williams gets an autograph from Mr Fraser.



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HIGH COUNTRY HORSES  
TRAIL RIDES  
MERRIJIG - VICTORIA



MERRIJIG SINCE 1973

Libby's  
**SADDLERY  
AND  
WORKSHOP**



**Mansfield  
Cinema**

**McCORMACK'S  
Mountain Valley  
Trail Rides**



THE SNOWY MOUNTAIN RUG CO.







SPECIAL PICTORIAL SOUVENIR LIFT-OUT

THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER



YOUTH AND EXPERIENCE: Kirk Douglas and Tom Burlinson chat during filming.

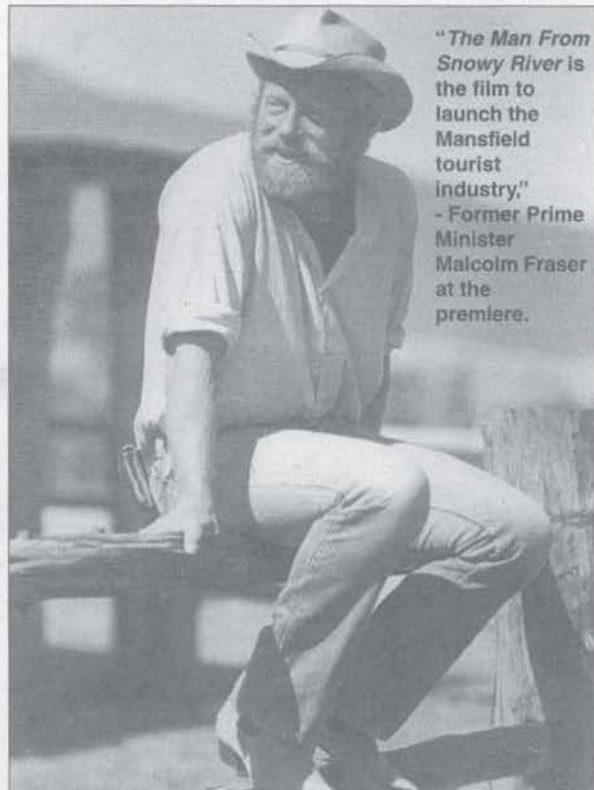


Jack, Paul and Chrissie Purcell at Craigs Hut during the filming of 'Snowy'.



"We wanted something out of the ordinary and Mansfield was the right setting."  
- 'Snowy' executive director Simon Wincer

UP HE GOES: Charlie Lovick and Dollar turn it on for the crowds at the film set at Buttercup.



"The Man From Snowy River is the film to launch the Mansfield tourist industry,"  
- Former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser at the premiere.

LENDING A HAND: Jack Thompson won hearts as Clancy of the Overflow.



CENTRE OF ATTENTION: Tom Burlinson and Sigrid Thornton take a break during filming.



Crowds line up at the Star Cinema to see the show.





## SPECIAL PICTORIAL SOUVENIR LIFT-OUT

## THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER

White moleskins, riding boots, check shirts and stockmen's hats pushed aside the usual glitter of diamonds, furs and black ties at last Saturday's bush style world premiere of the film, "The Man From Snowy River" in Mansfield.

As world film premieres go, it would have to be rated one of the most outstanding successes in the film industry.

Last weekend, Mansfield became the focal point of daily television and news coverage when an impressive line

the scene was the through the film show. Mr and Mrs Fraser explained, growing up with the horsemen and the horses, light and dark, extended hours, and television coverage before noon.



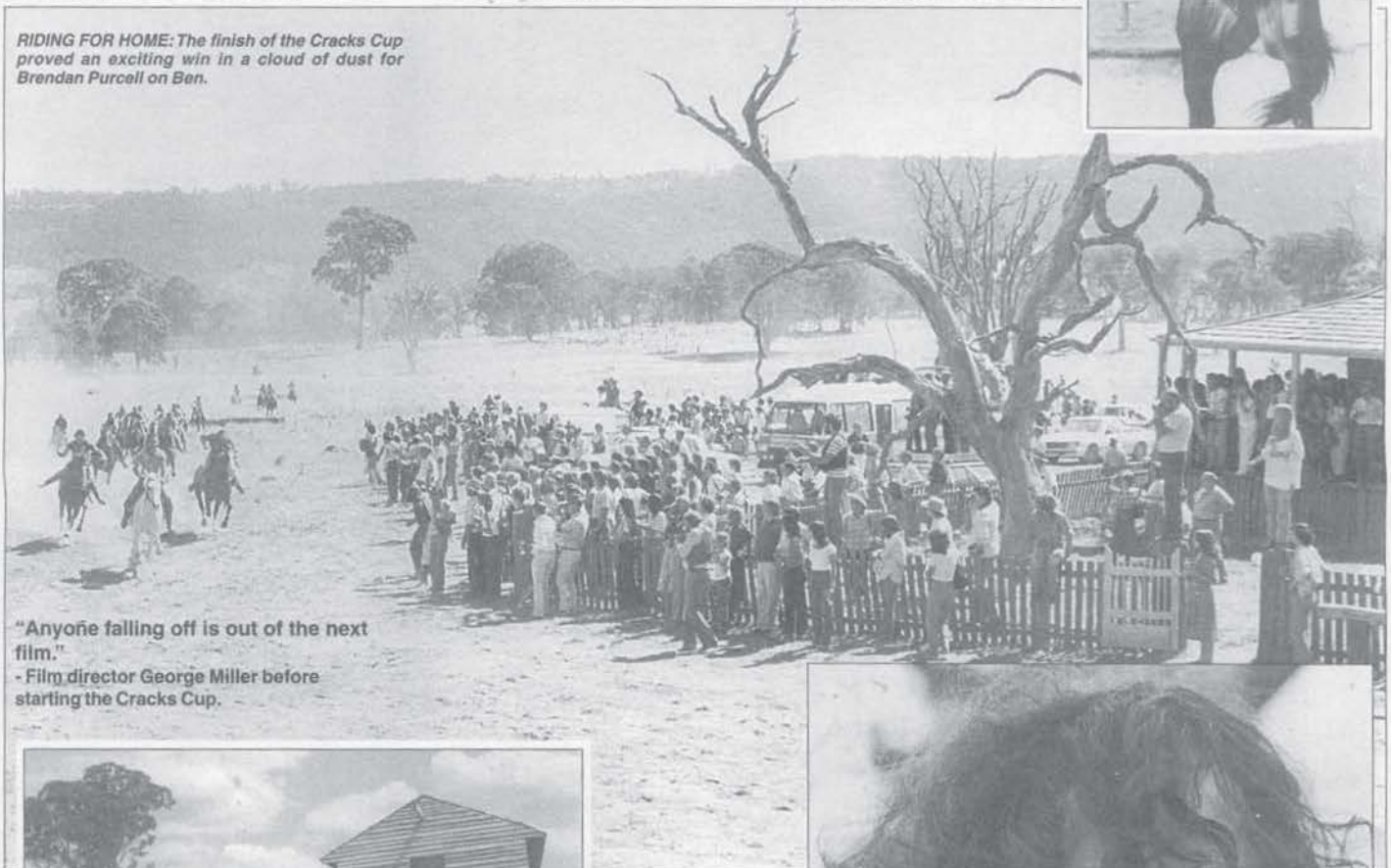
'HE CLEARED THE FALLEN TIMBER': Gerald Egan (right) jumps in the Cracks Cup.



"At the conclusion of the film, the audience remained silent throughout the credits, which included many local names, and then broke into enthusiastic applause."

- The Mansfield Courier, March 25, 1982

**RIDING FOR HOME:** The finish of the Cracks Cup proved an exciting win in a cloud of dust for Brendan Purcell on Ben.



"Anyone falling off is out of the next film."

- Film director George Miller before starting the Cracks Cup.



"It will be the highlight of my career."

- Former Star Cinema owner Eddie Revell on the eve of the premiere.



'Jessica', alias Sigrid Thorntor



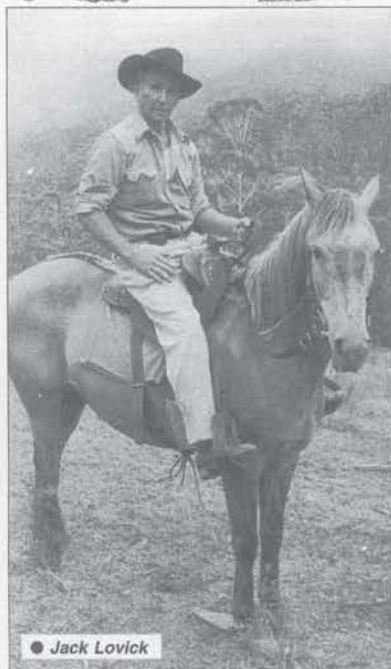
**PREMIERE LINE-UP:** Brian Warton and John Cerrone of Hoyts; and (as they were in 1982) Sue Dyson, Jennifer Revell, Megan Brearley, Linda Revell, Elizabeth Revell and Sue Martin.



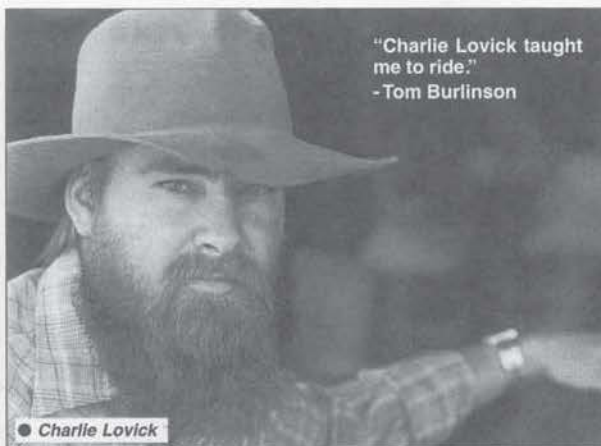


## SPECIAL PICTORIAL SOUVENIR LIFT-OUT

## THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER



● Jack Lovick



● Charlie Lovick

"Charlie Lovick taught me to ride."  
-Tom Burlinson



● John Coombs



● Gerald Egan



"... However, the real stars of the film were our local heroes on horseback, the Cracks, who included local stockmen such as Mick Hulse, Dick Forrest, the Lovicks, Frank Hearn and the Purcells. Producer Geoff Burrowes described them as "the most professional group of extras you would ever get in your life".

"You could have recruited them literally out of the pub - the Hunt Club Hotel at Merriig..."

- Mansfield Courier, March 25, 1982



● Lloyd Parks



● Dick Forrest

The Courier would like to acknowledge the generous assistance of Geoff Burrowes who provided these pictures of some of the local Cracks featured in the Man From Snowy River.

## CAST

Harrison:	Kirk Douglas
Spur:	Kirk Douglas
Clancy:	Jack Thompson
Jim Craig:	Tom Burlinson
Jessica:	Sigrid Thornton
Rosemary:	Lorraine Bayly
Curly:	Chris Haywood
Kane:	Tony Bonner
Frew:	Gus Mercurio
Henry Craig:	Terence Donovan
A.B. (Banjo) Patterson:	David Bradshaw
Moss:	Kristopher Steele
Short Man:	Howard Egan
Mrs Bailey:	June Jago
Tall Man:	John Nash
Mountain Man:	Tommy Dysart
Man in Street:	Bruce Kerr

## HORSEMEN

Jack Lovick	Jack Purcell
Charlie Lovick	Jim James
John Lovick	Bill Stacey
Gerald Egan	Brendan Purcell
Ken Connley	Greg Purcell
Mick Hulse	Paul Purcell
Max Scanlon	Rob Purcell
Peter McElroy	Ron Purcell
Dick Forrest	Noel Egan
Chester Wallis	Basil Egan
Peter Wallis	Stan McKay
Bernie Wallis	Bruce McCormack
Terry Walsh	John Coombs
Geoff Burrowes	Adrian Daniels
Graeme Stoney	Gerard Comerford
Lloyd Parks	Tom Purcell
Frank Hearn	



● John Lovick



● Paul Purcell



● Graeme Stoney