

PURCELL FAMILY

Richard Purcell, his wife Amy (Murphy) and her family arrived in the Merrijig area in the mid 1860's

The Purcell family's involvement with bush grazing started around 1865. Richard Purcell took over the lease of the Bakers Creek area from his father-in-law Edmund Murphy.

Apart from cattle, sheep and young horses were also put on the run for the summer period.

The run passed from Richard to his son John William (Will / "Pop Purcell"), then to his son Richard (Dick) until he sold his Merrijig farm.

The Bakers Creek run and adjacent Evans Creek run were then taken over by his brother Norm and his family. Bakers Creek is now run by Norm's son Greg and his family.

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John William Purcell (Pop Purcell) remembered taking cattle to No. 3 with his family when he was a boy, around 1890.

He was grazing cattle on No. 3 and Razorback areas in the 1920's.

Later, his sons Tom and Jack ran Razorback and Mt. Stirling with the Klingsporn family. In the early 50's Pop Purcell and son Dick ran the Bluff for 2 years. Dick's son Laurie ran the Howqua slopes area in 1964-1966. This was taken over by Jack and Tom, who also added Stirling to their grazing area. The pair took over Ross's run, Clearhills, in the late 60's-early 70's.

Tom and Jack's partnership lasted over 50 years, and at their peak the family ran No. 3, Razorback, Howqua, Upper King, Clear Hills and Mt Stirling.

Their mountain bred calves regularly topped snow lease sales held in Mansfield in May each year.

Tom's sons, Hadyn, Daryl & Paul and Jack's offspring – Stephen, Brendon & Maree continued the tradition of mountain grazing and assisted with the cattle-run musters. Jack & Tom also had the support of the extended Purcell family.

Mustering time at Razorback was always entertaining. Jack & Tom were great singers and yarn spinners, and many of the willing helpers enjoyed Jack's famed "Razorback Stew".

The lack of natural boundaries between Razorback and Stirling meant the run boundaries were restricted. Government regulations and increased tourist traffic have resulted in No. 3 being the only run able to be leased without great difficulty. This is currently run by Jack's son Stephen Purcell.