

Reedy River glossary of terms, places & people

- * Barcaldine Q: a focal point of the 1891 shearers' strike; the Eureka flag flew over their camp
- * billy: metal vessel for boiling water, making tea
- * blackleg: strike breaker
- * bluey: swag
- * clink: jail
- * cocky: farmer on a small piece of land
- * colonial experience man: "new chum" sent out by wealthy English parents to learn about the wool business; shearers saw them as "soft", not having to work hard to earn a living
- * cooler: jail
- * Deeming: serial killer Jack the Ripper suspect Frederick Deeming, hanged in Melbourne 1892
- * duffer: cattle stealer
- * fats: prime cattle
- * free selectors: those who took up land under the NSW Robertson Land Acts of 1861
- * hump: carry
- * Gatling: early machine gun
- * Jack Robertson: Sir John Robertson whose Land Acts opened up land belonging to the Crown and lease-holding squatters to poor settlers
- * johnny cake: fried damper
- * matilda: swag
- * Nordenfelt: early type of rifle
- * on the wallaby: wandering the countryside with no fixed address or employment
- * ramstag: tough, rank mutton
- * ryebuck: very good
- * scab: strike breaker
- * squatters: those who ran stock on Crown land, initially without government permission but later with a lease or licence
- * swag: bundle of possessions
- * swaggie: swagman who tramped the countryside in search of employment
- * tigering: working in hard conditions
- * toadskin: pound (£) note
- * whaling: idling along rivers in off seasons
- * whips of rhino: lots of money

SHEARING:

bare-bellied jo: ewe with no belly fleece

blow: stroke of the shears

board: shearing floor

clip: wool clip

gaffer: the boss

gun: champion shearer

jo, joe, yo : ewe

machine: mechanical shears arrived in Australia in 1888

ringer: fastest shearer in the shed

Sawbees: brand of shears

shed: shearing shed

snagger: slow shearer, always trying for a high tally

stone: on which blades sharpened

tally: total of sheep shorn

tar boy: lad who applies tar to cuts on sheep

wide/sardine/cuts/drives/Moran's great shoulder cut/Pierce's rang-tang block: shearing strokes