

Western Historian

September
2019
No. 224

Newsletter of the
Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies Inc.

A0020504K

Societies cost — [Print or PDF, included in annual fee] \$30.00

Individual Subscribers \$15.00

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Next AGM is at Ararat on
March 28-29, 2020.

Zone meetings for 2019:
Wimmera zone at Natimuk
on Sunday Sept. 22, 2019 from 2 pm.
Midlands zone meeting will be held on
Saturday, October 26, 2019 at the
Serpentine Memorial Hall
20 Chapel Street, Serpentine at 9.30 am.
(See back page for further details)
Southern zone and executive meeting
at Derrinallum.
Hosted by Derrinallum/Lismore
History Group
on October 20, 2019 from 9.30 am.
Tour of Mt. Elephant during the day.

Please address all enquiries for
W.V.A.H.S to the secretary:
Helen Curkpatrick
273 Old Hamilton Road,
Haven, Vic. 3401
Telephone: 03 5382 7227
Email: haven273@outlook.com

W.V.A.H.S. Executive Committee for 2018-2019

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Carolyn Olive, Charlton (M.)	0418 361 971	c.olive@bigpond.com

Our member groups are:-

Arapiles	Ararat	Ararat Rail Heritage	Balmoral
Barham/Koondrook	Birchip	Boort	Camperdown
Carisbrook	Casterton	Charlton	Cohuna
Colac	Coleraine	Dimboola	Donald
Derrinallum/Lismore	Dunkeld	East Loddon	Edenhope
Geelong S/W/Rail	Glenthompson	Goldfields	Halls Gap
Harrow	Heytesbury	Horsham	Hopetoun
Inglewood	Kerang	Koroit	Maryborough
Minyip	Mortlake	Nulawil	Ouyen
Port Fairy	Portland	Pyramid Hill	Rainbow
Rupanyup	St. Arnaud	Stawell	Swan Hill
Terang	Warracknabeal	Warrnambool	Woolsthorpe

Note: Send me your report [to fit half page ONLY] Word documents only, photographs .jpg (Straight emails can't be edited into the Western Historian either becomes unco-ordinated paragraphs)

For the couple of societies who don't have email — send a hard copy to the Secretary, Western Historian, 273 Old Hamilton Road, Haven, Victoria 3401.

Long reports have to be edited to fit the space and may not contain what you consider to be relevant to your society.

Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies Inc. President's Post.

Spring is sprung (as the saying goes) and we enter a time of year when a lot of activities and events take place. The next round of our three Zone Meetings will soon be occurring. I encourage all member societies to attend.

There also seem to be many other activities and events taking place throughout Victoria during Spring. Many local rural communities hold their annual Agricultural Show. A lot of venues and volunteer associations organise special events for Seniors Week and other annual events occur.

Most local historical societies become heavily involved in organising special displays and open days in association with those days. They are a good

opportunity to promote local history and how each district gathers, saves, conserves and makes available that resource to the local and wider community. Some useful income can generally be generated with a bit of effort and it is also an opportunity to encourage more individuals to become members.

Several member societies have dwindling membership and we need to try and reverse that trend. Perhaps some suggestions as to how that may be achieved could be a topic of discussion at the Zone Meetings. Thinking caps on!

Michael Menzies
President.

***As the current editor of the Western Historian
I am seeking articles on what is happening in your
society or articles from your area of historical interest.***

***Please contact Helen Curkpatrick on haven273@outlook.com
or write to 273 Old Hamilton Road, Haven 3401.***

In word preferred and any photos in jpg format.

***The editor is seeking copies of society newsletters to glean articles for
Western Historian
Email to robinparker81@hotmail.com***

The Ballarat Archives Centre has moved!

And here's everything you need to know...

Author: Public Record Office Victoria

We are excited to announce that the Ballarat Archives Centre (BAC) moved in June!

We have operated the Ballarat Archives Centre at the State Government Offices in Mair Street since the early 1980s including a reading room and repository. Over the years the facility has suffered from numerous issues related to the building's structure with the facility coming to the end of its useful life.

So we have found ourselves a wonderful new location — the Eureka Centre building at 102 Stawell Street, Ballarat Central.

The move will see us come together with the Ballarat Libraries' Australiana Research Collection and Ballarat & District Genealogical Society under the same roof, forming a new shared resource and research hub.

Important dates and information for BAC researchers

We expect services to commence at the Eureka Centre on the 17th of June 2019.

As a result of the move we will be able to offer increased services, opening Monday to Thursday 10am to 4.30pm. One thing that won't be changing is our

friendly team — our long-standing Ballarat Archives staff will be moving to the Eureka Centre too.

Important dates and information for government agencies storing records at BAC

While our reading room will now be located at the Eureka Centre, our collection of records will be distributed between two sites for storage: The State Library Victoria storage facility at Mt Helen for all *open* records and the Victorian Archives Centre in North Melbourne for all *closed* records.

All ordered records will be couriered to the Eureka Centre for pick up Monday to Thursday 10am to 2pm - with closed records now requiring a 48 hour turn-around. (Unless you want to pick-up closed records from North Melbourne, in which case this can be done during normal collection time 10am to 11am daily).

If you require a record urgently please email us at recordsissuesoffice@prov.vic.gov.au providing all relevant details relating to your request.

Local History Grants Program 2018-2019

Recipients of the 2018-2019 Local History Grants Program are listed below. Congratulations to all recipients!

Bacchus Marsh and District Historical Society.

Awarded \$12,973. Digitisation of The Bacchus Marsh Express Newspapers.

Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative.

Awarded \$15,000. BADAC: 40 Years Strong.

Castlemaine Billy Cart Challenge.

Awarded \$7,800. 70 years in the making: Capturing the history of billy cart racing in Castlemaine.

Colac and District Family History Group Inc.

Awarded \$2,098. Computer to Digitise Colac and District Family History.

Creswick Museum - Hepburn Shire

Awarded \$4,350. Purchase and installation of compactus unit for the Creswick Museum Research Centre.

Creswick Railway Workshops Assoc Inc.

Awarded \$8,330. Creswick Interactive History Installation: 100 Years of Culture Change.

Echuca Historical Society Inc.

Awarded \$15,000. Digitise and Archive 6493 pages 2001,2002 Riverine Herald.

Environment Victoria Inc.

Awarded \$13,875 50 years of protecting Victoria's environment.

Horsham Historical Society

Awarded \$2,049. Computers for public access to view our digitised collection

Kilmore General Cemetery Trust

Awarded \$5,350. Kilmore General Cemetery records conservation project.

Kinglake Historical Society

Awarded \$4,950. Kinglake District Archival Storage.

Kow Plains Homestead Committee (Mildura Rural City Council)

Awarded \$6,000. Kow Plains and Beyond Revisited 1849-2019.

Longwarry and District History Group Inc.

Awarded \$3,930. Historical Photo Display Panels

Port Fairy Historical Society Inc.

Awarded \$8,492. Equip a new purpose built archive facility.

Quambatook Historical Centre Inc.

Awarded \$1,500. Remembering Quambatook History as told by the Towns older residents.

Skipton and District Historical Society.

Awarded \$10,500. Digitisation and upload to Trove of the Skipton Standard, part 1, 1914-1928.

Smythesdale Cemetery Trust.

Awarded \$14,592. Smythesdale Cemetery Trust - A Tribute to the Women of the District.

West Wimmera Shire Council (Kaniva Historical Museum)

Awarded \$14,836. Digitising Lawloit Times 1910-1929.

Wodonga Historical Society Inc.

Awarded \$14,414. Extending coverage of the Albury Banner and Wodonga Express.

163 years ago— Arrival of the immigrant ships direct to Belfast (Port Fairy)

In June 1852, Lieutenant Governor in the Colony of Victoria, C.J. Latrobe wrote to The Right Honorable Earl Grey, in London, enclosing a Memorial addressed to him by eighty-three settlers and other residents in the Towns of Belfast and Warrnambool and in the surrounding District, requesting that Emigrant ships be dispatched from England direct to these Ports. Their reasons for such a request included the contribution from these districts to the Land fund from recent land sales, the land being more suitable for growing wheat than the Portland district and that immigrants landed at Portland “could not without great difficulty and expense (if at all) be brought to Belfast; coasting vessels between the two places are infrequent and uncertain and the road across is both long and intricate without any house of accommodation on the line”.

It wasn't until November 1856, that the first of only four ships, which brought immigrants directly to Port Fairy arrived. The *Euphrates* arrived 21st November 1856, from London with 277 passengers, followed by the *Balnaguith* on 28th January 1857 with 221 passengers, *William* with

from Plymouth and *Chance* from Liverpool on 15th September 1857 with 372 passengers. Perusing the disposal lists of these ships, reveals many names of the ancestors of families still living in the district, or who have passed through the area. It is also interesting to see the names of the employers of these newly arrived immigrants, as some of them had also arrived as assisted immigrants themselves. Good workers were eagerly sought during the time, as the harvesting season commenced.

Alexander Duncan, was one of these immigrants, who arrived aboard the *Euphrates*, and a copy of his first letter home appears on the following page.

As he pointed out, there was the question of accepting work at what they thought was a low rate, but perhaps the length of the contract, 3 to 12 months, would compensate for the possibility of being less work available after the busy harvesting time. Other new arrivals were not going to accept these low wages, and it is noted that they were “dismissed from the depot for refusing to obey orders”.

Alexander DUNCAN — Letter to his parents in Scotland, written from Tower Hill, Victoria, 20 Dec 1856.

In 1856 Alexander Duncan a young Scottish farm laborer from the shire of Fife left his family forever and took an assisted passage to Australia. Aboard the emigrant ship ‘Euphrates’ he sailed for more than three months from Southampton before first landfall at Port Fairy in Victoria.

On his 24th birthday, almost a month after his arrival, Alexander penned his first letter home. His parents did not receive this first news until 8 months after his departure. Fortunately the letter was retained.

Three years after writing this letter, Alexander Duncan married Agnes, the 16 year old daughter of Andrew Cowan Kell, the farmer by whom he was “taken advantage of” in his initial contract of employment.

Transcript of Letter (spelling and punctuation corrected)

Acknowledgements:

Mary Kelly

Mitchell Library, Sydney CY1492,

MS 12358. Alexander Duncan. Letter. Australian Manuscripts Collection, State Library of Victoria

This article was included in one of our newsletters back in 2006. We thought it was very interesting and worth reading again. As you read through you will see that Alexander Duncan married the daughter of Andrew Cowan Kell. Our next meeting will be in Port Fairy at the cottage home of Andrew Cowan Kell and built c. 1846-49. All members are encouraged to attend. Please confirm with Secretary Di, if you plan to attend. (for address etc)

Tower Hill Dec 20th 1856

Dear Father and Mother

I now begin to let you know of my welfare. I have been rather long in writing to you. I should have wrote when I came off the ship, but I have always put it off ‘till now.

So I am engaged to a farmer. I was engaged the next day I came ashore. This place is about 12 miles of the port where we landed, and there is a good many of my shipmates ‘round about me which is very lighsom for us. The fellows that left Perthside, they are just ‘round about me. My master is a Scotchman. I am working horses here, the same as at home. He has 2 pair of horses and a team of dulches. A team is 6 or 8.

My neighbours are good enough, as far as I see of them. There are 2 besides me: the one is English and the other Irish. It makes no difference here what country they are. There are all sort in this country. I am engaged (for) 12 months a £1 per week. The engagement is rather too long, but all emigrants are taken the better of when they come into this country. It's strange to them, and they do not know well what to do, and the masters consider us not as good for the first while. Any-one is better to engage for 6 months at first ‘til he see the run of the country. The run of wages just now is 25 and 30 shillings per week and rations.

This country is not like the home country. Whatever wages a man has, he's always him meat along with them. Although he is working piece work it makes no difference. Harvest is drawing near, I think it will be a fortnight or three weeks, and after that wages is considered to fall. So if that be, it won't be so for me. If we had taken a little more time we might have down ditler. (?done better). We was not forced to engage. We was

Continued on Page 12.

Hangman from Dunolly: William Perrin

William Perrin was born in Worcester in England in 1837. He came to Australia in 1858 and followed the gold rushes. In 1864 he married Mary Duffy, they had two daughters, one in Vaughan in 1865 and the other in Ballarat in 1868. William found work as a labourer in Timor and Laanecoorie.

By 1872 they were at Dunolly when William was sent to gaol for four months for indecent language and assault. The obscene language was to a young woman and the assault charge was brought on by Elizabeth Freeman of Elgin St. Remaining in Dunolly two years later he was again found guilty of assault. This time an eight year old girl. For this he got another three month sentence. When searched he was found to be carrying a stolen watch. This led to two more charges. These both resulted in guilty verdicts and he was sentenced to another three months for assault and three years for receiving stolen property. He was transferred to Pentridge Gaol. William Perrin was released in 1876.

In Melbourne he lived at various times under the names of Thomas Walkerk Thomas Parter and Thomas Jones. Then in November 1883 he was convicted of in-

decent assault upon Amy Simpkins, a girl under the age of twelve. For this he got twelve months hard labour with twelve lashes.

Upon his release he became the Victorian hangman. Over the next ten years he carried out fifteen hangings. He was considered an expert at carrying out his duties. His was always a clean execution with no mistakes.

Then in 1893 Frances Knorr was sentenced to death. He had never hanged a woman before. He had no problem with hanging a woman but other men started to taunt him and he started drinking heavily. The governor moved him into the gaol to dry him out. Then on January 6, 1894 William Perrin or Thomas Jones as he was then known committed suicide with a cut throat razor. Even in this act he was precise. Instead of using the normal practice of cutting his throat, he instead severed the main arteries. He did one side with his right hand then swapped and did the other side with his left hand.

From the Dunolly Tailing newsletter June 2019.

William John Wills of Burke & Wills

Before he became an explorer William John Wills trained as a surveyor. He commenced work at Ballarat towards the end of 1855 under the guidance of surveyor John Hamlet Taylor. The following year he started field survey work under the experienced surveyor Frederick John Byerly. This work was initially in the Ballarat and Clunes districts.

By 1857 Wills was made foreman in charge of his own survey party. In March 1857 Wills was up at Kingower where he produced a map of that goldfield and then surveyed the nearby township of Kooyoora. He was surveying at Bet Bet about the middle of the year and here he became friends with Donald and Mary Grant who owned the Bet Bet Hotel. Wills gave Mary a silver mug which is still owned by the family.

Wills continued with his survey work. He may have been working again under Byerly who in February 1858 surveyed the Jones Creek Road from Dunolly through Tarnagulla to Catto's Station north of Newbridge.

Wills spent from April to June working around St. Arnaud. In July he was in Ballarat before moving to Melbourne in August 1858. Whilst in Melbourne he applied to the Royal Society to go on the Victorian Expedition as their surveyor under the command of Robert O'Hara Burke.



The silver mug presented to Mary Grant by William John Wills in 1857 which is still in the hands of the Grant descendants.

Article from the June edition of the Dunolly Tailings newsletter.

Have you an interesting story to tell.

**Contact editor on
robinparker81@hotmail.com**

Maryborough Midland annual report

Annual report: 2018-19

The highlight of this year was undoubtedly the exhibition of Wal Richards' wedding photos, made possible by a grant from Creative Victoria, which enabled us to employ Kareen Anchen of Maldon, as our professional curator.

The exhibition was held at the Maryborough Art Gallery, from June 23rd to July 29th. Over 200 people attended the opening and overall attendance for the entire exhibition was an all time record for the Gallery. As well as many Maryborough district residents, past and present, people came from other parts of Victoria as well as interstate. Several members of Wal's family came, including his brother Ian, who with his wife Roma, visited Worsley Cottage to give us more of Wal's photos. Members of the Friends of the History Council of Victoria also enjoyed a visit to the exhibition, and to Worsley Cottage.

Society members attended various workshops and seminars throughout the year, including a Museums Aust. Victoria session in Bendigo, on Managing Collections and another of their workshops at Ballarat on Digitisation. In August the Public Records Office held an information session at Ballarat which was attended by three Society members.

Our Annual Dinner in April was held at Ripples on the Res. The guest speaker was Phillip Ashton, who played a selection of historic recordings he has made over many years. The CEO of Central Goldfields Shire, Lucy Roffey, was our guest at the dinner.

During May, the Administrators of CGS were invited to visit the Museum Complex and showed a keen interest. We took the opportunity to point out the serious cracks in the corner of the front bedroom of Worsley Cottage and the fact that the side wall was beginning to lean outwards. Shortly afterwards the Cottage was visited by Shire Engineers and several props have been installed to prevent further deterioration. The gap between the top of the wall and the roof has also been covered. We are hoping that it won't be too long before these problems are permanently repaired.

In October two representatives from MAP Vic. called in on their way from Bendigo to Avoca. They were keen to assure us that it was not an inspection, just a chance to familiarise themselves. They appeared very impressed with the set-up and especially the cottage garden, which was at its springtime best.

For an Open Day at 2828 School House Village, we were able to provide several photographs and newspaper clippings to two of the residents and to the owner's son, who is putting together a file on the history of the school, for the interest of residents.

Our Christmas lunch was held at Ripples on the Res and was well attended.

Early in the new year a family from Tasmania, descendants of Alexander Lowenstein, visited the Cottage, bringing with them the engraved silver trowel which was used to lay the Foundation Stone of the Town Hall.

Much valued work has continued to be done by our group of dedicated volunteers, including sorting & cataloguing of our very large collections of photographs; data entry of water rates; MKM employees and shareholder registers. Research queries have continued to be numerous and varied, and have continued to be an important part of our fundraising efforts. Two very successful raffles were held, thanks to the untiring efforts of our Treasurer.

A small group representing MMHS has continued to attend Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies zone meetings and the AGM, this year held at Carisbrook and Swan Hill.

Last year our Society provided a letter of support for an application by the Chinese Australian Family Historians of Victoria to the Public Record Office Local History Grants Program, to digitise ten years of the Maryborough Advertiser (1857- 1867) and to make the material available on Trove. That application was successful and work is now finished. Robyn Ansell, a member of our Society, will be holding an official ceremony to announce the grant and the launch of the project. All in all, a busy and successful year. We look forward with anticipation to the coming year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At our AGM On March 20 all office bearers were re elected unopposed, and we were pleased to welcome Shirley Schulz as a committee member. Shirley has extensive experience in data base design and entry.

Irene Oxley, President MMHS

Camperdown news

CAMPERDOWN: As well as the regular work of cataloguing, researching and hosting visitors, plans for new projects are always being discussed.

A major project for 2019 is our 'Businesses Project'. This will entail listing the history of the shops, owners and businesses carried out in the two main retail blocks of Manifold Street.

A great deal of work has already been done in preparation for this, including current photos of each of the premises. These can then be compared with older photos from our catalogue. Lots of work still to be done and it's still in the planning stages but it's going to keep members busy for some time!

Have you an interesting story to tell.

**Contact editor on
robinparker81@hotmail.com**

Carisbrook: Reminiscences of the 1860s

(Paper read by Mr W. Durbridge before the Carisbrook Rechabites.)

My first recollections of Carisbrook date back fifty years, when I went to school in the building now doing duty as the Church of England Sunday School.

It was not so large in those days, but some few years afterwards another room was added to the end and used for the infants as the main room was getting too small for the increased attendance.

It was then called the common school and I think we each paid the teacher 1s 6d a week for teaching us.

This teacher's name was Murphy. He was very fond of his beer during school hours, and many a time we boys had to take his jug over to the Shamrock hotel – (now named the Britannia) – then kept by a Mrs Gosling.

This was the only thing we could not play tricks with, for if we did he would know who was the culprit.

He was very fond of using his ruler on our hands or anywhere else if he could get a crack at us; and what pranks we used to play on him! It was his custom to sit on a fairly high stool with a high desk in front of him so that he could look all over the school.

One of our favourite tricks was to get a piece of cobbler's wax and stick on a needle or pin in it and then fasten it to the seat of his high stool. When he sat down, he would soon jump up again and nearly always bring the stool with him. And didn't he make it warm for any boy whom he could find had set the trap. But I don't think he ever discovered who was the guilty one. He seemed to forget all about it afterwards, but I suppose that was because he was nearly always partly muddled with beer.

We were nearly always playing some trick on him, but this one was a favourite, as we all liked to see him jump.

In those days we used to play cricket, marbles etc., on the site where the Church of England now stands, after the church was built the favourite place was where Mr Brunn butcher shop is. It was always a nice smooth piece of ground, and so made a grand place for marbles. During the winter months we used it for Skating and a grand slipping place it was. But what pictured we looked after getting a buster or two. We had two cricket grounds. One was behind the fire brigade station, or else where Hugh Hinks' shop is, and we used the wall of the hotel as our long stop.

In the early days the Chinamen when the creek was low in summer, used to dam the water back and cart and wash the dirt from the bottom of the creek for gold, and I believe they did well at it. There was very little water at Maryborough rush, so the diggers carted their wash-dirt to Carisbrook creek and washed it, and no doubt would lose a lot of gold, and this is what the Chinamen were after.

They had a large camp on the banks of the creek at the back of the property now owned by Mr L. Bland. We boys used to stand on the bridge and pelt the Chinamen, and as soon as they got wild they would make

after us with shovels and bamboo sticks. We thought it was good fun, and this went on daily for a long time until they used to fire a gun after us. Then we left them alone for a good while, but now and again we would through stray stones at them.

When they finished washing the creek out they left. About this time Mr Murphy, our school master, left for another school, and a Mr Hamilton came in his place. Soon after this, I left and went to the Grammer school at Castlemaine.

Ah! I wonder where all the boys and girls are now who attended the school in those days. There are very few of them in Carisbrook at present. What glorious times those were – the best of our lives, but we did not think so then.

I will try now to tell you about the buildings, etc., in different parts of the town. Most of the old ones have disappeared. There used to be a building right opposite the Methodist Sunday school room, which was once used as a bank. Afterwards it was used as the Rechabite lodge room, and during 1871 I first joined the O.I.R. here. Mr H. C. Clarkson was Chief Ruler, and a Mr Hill secretary. I went through several offices while there, the last one was assistant secretary, which I gave up when I left the district.

The temperance movement was in full swing before that through the Band of Hope, which was held every Saturday in the Church of England Sunday school. There used to be great singing, recitations, etc., and the place was crowded every evening. Then there was the Working Men's Talbot and Maryborough Total Abstinence League. I had the pleasure of dropping across an old minute book with the minutes of the first meeting held on November 26, 1869, held in the Wesleyan Church, Craigie. There were representatives present from Talbot, Maryborough, Amherst, Carisbrook, Majorca, Alma, Chinaman's Flat and Cockatoo, consisting of Messrs Fisher, Rawlings, Dyer, for Amherst; Messrs Young and Pearce for Craigie; Messrs H. C. Clarkson, H. Clarkson, W. Neale, and J. Crossley for Carisbrook; Messrs E. Stubbs, Hesketh, J. Thompson for Chinaman's Flat; Messrs Clark and Lockyer for Cockatoo; Messrs J. Carlyon, Lightfoot, Banagrove, and Woodland for Maryborough; and Messrs Barr, Ferber, Stamp and J. Gearing junr. for Majorca. The delegates met fortnightly at the different places and meetings were at first well attended, but according to the minutes, this league seemed to have died out about the middle of 1872. There were many other well known names on the minutes whose owners attended the meeting at different times, so you see in those early days the temperance cause was well to the fore. I can well remember a very large temperance picnic held in Mr Price's paddock at Four Miles Flat on the other side of Craigie at which the Rechabites from all parts was well represented. We marched from Carisbrook with the Carisbrook Brass Band leading and a great crowd in

Continued on Page 8.

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attendance. The profit after paying all expenses was well over £100. Mr Coffee Jones delivered a great address on the temperance cause. He was a splendid speaker and was well worth listening to. Afterwards, he was a member of Parliament. I don't know exactly just how he came to be called "Coffee" Jones, but I fancy he used to manufacture this commodity.

In those early days there was a large flour mill owned by a Mr Webb, but it was not built by him. This turned out a very large quantity of excellent flour yearly. It was afterwards burnt down. Then Mr W. Neal's bakery shop was next to the house, where the Rechabites used to meet, and a very good business was transacted there. Next door were the old assembly rooms, where the Carisbrook Brass Band practised and which was a great place for travelling showmen. I can well remember the renowned Billy Barlow, who used to give a whole entertainment himself, and very good he was too. One time he was living in Mr O'Kelly's house at Woolbrook – (the old place is still there) – and many a time I have been over there to see him. It was there he composed his famous song "The Blue-tailed Fly".

I often saw him practice this, and highly interesting it was to note the way he could imitate a fly. One would almost swear it was a fly the man had caught. We boys used to think it great fun watching him.

Next to the assembly rooms was the Nag's Head hotel, which in the early days did a roaring trade and was the stopping place for Cobb & Co. coaches. This place has also been pulled down. There was another hotel on the corner (called the Bridge Inn), kept by a Mr Haylock, one time Mayor of Carisbrook. I can remember Messrs J. Bowman and McKean, who had been returned to parliament, making a great speech there. A barrel of beer was on the footpath for any and everybody to drink from, and what a host of customers that barrel had!

Opposite was Kirk's hotel, where Cobb & Co used to stop in latter years. This place was burned down. The site is where Mr Shebler's blacksmith shop now stands.

On the other corner was the Railway hotel (kept by a Mr Pennington,) but I think it had a different name in those days.

There was another hotel called the Tullaroo, on the other side of the creek. I believe it was kept by a Mr Hudson. You will notice after going up the hill from the bridge that the metal road has a turn in it to the left. This was done so that the coaches could pull up at the hotel. Before the present bridge was built there was a small, low bridge across the creek just beside it, and you can see to this day some of the old piles standing in the water. There was a large blacksmith's shop next to the Railway hotel, kept by a Mr Metcraft, and next to that was Mr Sweet's butcher shop, now occupied by Mr Downs. Opposite this was another blacksmith's shop kept by Jimmy Parker, besides several other shops of various kinds between it and the Bridge Inn. On the other side of Parker's shop was a butcher's shop kept by Mr Harry G. Hart, and next was the Carisbrook Hotel, kept by Mrs O'Kelly, a great place for playing

"forty-fives." I can well remember a small fruit shop, kept by Mr W. Saville, on the corner where Mr Cambridge's large store now stands. Cambridge's shop in those days was on the opposite side of Green Street, just where there is now a large red gum tree growing. Mr Peacock used to have a baker's shop next to Cambridge's store, but the place has been pulled down. Next was Mr Crooks' butcher shop and Mr Smith's store.

The corner where the post office now is was a great place for us boys to play cricket and marbles. Next to this was the large brick cottage where lived Mr Dowie (father of Mr A. H. Dowie.) Further down Bucknall Street was the Town Hall, which was built by Messrs Powell and Williams. The post office in those days was situated in one of the side rooms where the free library now is. The free library in those days was part of the present Council Chambers. A little further on was the court house, a fine large bluestone building. The police station was then situated in the police paddock behind the State school. There were a fine lot of buildings then, but they have been shifted away. The gaol was built of logs (now to be seen in Bucknall Street, next to the railway bridge.) The sons of the late Constable Dooley and myself were great chums, and were nearly always together, so we had the free run of the police station. Constable Conn lived in a large brick building situated on the banks of the creek. A fine woman his wife was and I remember she used to wear a large crinoline. It would take up the whole footpath and when we wanted to pass her, we had to run into the gutter. If a fellow was courting a girl in those days, he could not get his arm round her waist for the crinoline.

There were not many buildings on the creek side of Bucknall Street in those days down as far as opposite the court house, but a good many lower down. Opposite the court house was a large brewery, now occupied by Mr Highdale as a dwelling. Lower down was another large brewery called "The Standard". This was a fine brick building, but like all of the others, has now vanished. Lower down the creek used to be a large vegetable garden and next was Mr D. Crooks' tannery, not much of which is to be seen today. Then there was a soda water factory over on the flat near the cricket ground, a place now occupied by Mr Ben Howell. In Green Street there was another butcher shop between the Carisbrook hotel and Cambridge's shop. Further along was Mrs McDonagh's newsagency and fancy goods shop. On the opposite side of this street was the Shamrock hotel (now called the Britannia,) which was owned and occupied by Mrs Gosling. Further along was a large draper's shop, which was afterwards a butcher's shop run by Mr Ponsford. There were several small shops along this street – a saddler's shop kept by Mr John Hunter, and another occupied by Mr Rogers (who afterwards removed and opened a shop in High Street, Maryborough.) Mr Hill had a chemist shop, afterwards occupied by several other traders; finally it was burnt down.

Past the school Mr H. C. Clarkson had a wheel-

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wright shop and next was Mr C. Laird's blacksmith shop. Opposite was the large brick building, used at that time as a market, which I think was held every month. The numbers on the walls around the building represented the stall-holder's number. There used to be great crowds attend on market days. The pig yards used to be along the fence where the fire brigade building now is. I remember the time when the Prince of Wales (afterwards King Edward VII) was married, and what a great to do there was that day. They roasted a bullock on a spit at the back of the market and afterwards hoisted it on the shoulders of several men and carted it round the town to the Town Hall, where it was cut up and a large amount of it eaten. The two large oak trees in front of the Town Hall were planted at the same time.

Then there were three large fruit gardens, which were open to the public on Sundays. The largest was Mr Nutall's, up towards Craigie, now occupied by Mr Stubbs. There used to be great crowds visit this garden every Sunday. There was always a booth where drinks of all kinds were sold, and many a one would spend his week's earnings. One paid 1s to go into the garden and could eat as much as desired, without being allowed to

carry any away. However, plenty got away all the same. A man was posted at the gate to watch everyone as they passed out to see that they did not take any fruit away. I saw him once tap two women very hard on their crinolines, as they had something very hard there. He made them drop the fruit, which they had tied up in a bag under there crinolines. Another dodge was to get a small child under the crinoline and walk in. So it is evident the crinoline came in very handy sometimes.

Then there was the Kirk's garden, nearer Carisbrook, where he built, a two storied brick building, and was used as a place to sell liquor and fruit. This place is now owned by Mr S. Cole. The building stands today in the middle of a paddock, which at that time was a forest of fruit trees and grape vines and was one of the finest gardens in the district. The third garden was at Newmarket, where one could get a fill of wine and grapes. At that time there was a large number of fruit gardens around Carisbrook – Attwood's, Macoboy's, Cambridges and several others, but of nearly all these only a few old trees are left today. Neither are the hotels so numerous now, for at that time there were 14 hotels and shanties in the borough of Carisbrook.

Ex Maryborough Advertiser Aug. 14 1914

Gold Escort Route Excursion

In April twenty Nhill Historical Society members enjoyed a guided tour of the old Gold Escort Route along the section from Bordertown to Winiam. John Deckert was our tour guide and he kept us all enthralled with his knowledge of the route. John has been researching the route for many years and has put all of this information into a booklet entitled "Gold Escort Route" the "Adelaide – Melbourne Road of 1852". Copies of this book can be purchased from Westprint Maps, 6 Park St., Nhill. On the day he gave each of us a sheetlet with a map and notes about the various parts we would see during the day.

The road we followed was probably the best preserved section of the route John told us. The surface of the roads was suitable for a small 20 seater bus and for an ordinary car. Some of the roads were bitumen, others sandstone and limestone and we skirted around the really rough sections to join the route further along. It was a comfortable ride and the scenery was pleasant. If you would like to travel the route you are encouraged to contact John on 0353911466. He will be able to give you information about conditions and the best route to follow. I am sure that following the success of this tour the Historical Society will offer the trip again sometime into the future.

In 1851 gold was discovered in Victoria and this led to near disaster for South Australia as many men left to find gold and in doing so they withdrew their funds from the South Australian banks. This run on funds meant that the state was cash strapped. The Government of the day did two things. They provided for a survey party to find a shorter route to the goldfields and passed the Assay Bullion Act. This meant that successful miners could bring their gold back to SA as the Gov-

ernment was now able to buy their gold.

At about the same time that John McLaren, the deputy Surveyor General left to survey a route to Castlemaine, Alexander Tolmer, the South Australian Commissioner of Police, offered his services to act as gold escort. It was along this route from Bordertown to Winiam that we travelled.

John included many other places of interest for us to visit on the day.

After we left Nhill in the morning we travelled to the Diapur Cutting. This is a very impressive hand-made cutting through which the main railway from Adelaide to Melbourne passes. Excursioners also remembered the books "Mad as Rabbits" and "Our Uncle Charlie" which were written by Elizabeth Lane. Elizabeth grew up in the area and attended school at Miram North East. (Copies of both of these books can be borrowed from the Nhill Historical Society.)

We then travelled on to Kaniva for coffee and on the way we learned a lot about who lived where. After leaving Kaniva we travelled to Lillimur South and stopped to see where the old gold route road joined this part of the road. Part of the route is not suitable for wet weather driving or ordinary vehicles. Here you can see the remnants of the old bridge the coaches passed over. The sealed road follows the old route fairly closely.

From here we travelled across the border to the area of Custon. It is to be noted that there is a road of some sorts that can be followed from Nelson to the Murray River along the border. The position of the border was also under dispute for 64 year and when the issue was finally resolved the border remained in its original position.

Obituary: Lil Kirk valued Donald resident

Lil was the only child of William and Ethyl McCarron born Jan. 6, 1923 and grew up on a small farm twelve miles out of Barellan, a small town in Central-West New South Wales.

Her early schooling was by correspondence until, following a series of drought years, the family was forced to abandon their farm and move closer to Leeton.

She was presented with "What Bird Is That?" as a ninth birthday present and became a keen observer of birds in her area. Membership of the Gould League enabled her to enter its annual competitions and wins in 1936 and 1937 provided her with additional bird books. Lil had to board with a series of local families for her secondary education at Leeton High School and then Wagga High School. In her final year she was able to win bursaries which enabled her to proceed to the University of Sydney in 1941. She enjoyed her four years as a resident of the Women's College and graduated with an Honours degree in Arts.

She was employed by the Royal Navy as a cipher clerk in Sydney in 1945 and loved the challenge of that important work until the war ended. Her skill as a typist enabled her to move into a temporary position at Colonial Sugar which led to a six year career as a buyer of production material for Telephone and Electrical Industries makers of automatic telephone exchange equipment.

Lil's parents had moved to the Donald district in 1942 where her father had taken a job as manager of Guthrie's Rich Avon station. During visits there during holidays she had met local farmer Jack Kirk whom she married in 1952 and started a new life as a farmer's wife at Avon Plains. She quickly learned how to milk the family cows and to manage the chooks. Children Linton and Christine were born there. After fourteen years Lil answered an advertisement in the "Donald Times" for a librarian position at Donald High School. She applied and thus started a very successful twenty two year career as librarian at that school.

In 1972 the family moved into a home in Donald and Lil was able to become actively involved with the Donald History and Natural History Group, the Camera Club and C.A.E. Book Club. She had been an active member of the Victorian Field Naturalists Club since 1969 and was a regular participant in its field trips.

Following her retirement from her library job Lil divided her time between working for the local paper and in the Archives. She also found time to travel extensively around Australia, Europe, Africa, Canada and the U.S.A.

Lil was named as the Donald "Citizen of the Year" in 2003 and the award listed her roles in the work of the History and Natural History Group. She had served as President (1989-90) and Secretary (1972-73). She had taken on the task of indexing copies of the local paper "Donald Times" and worked on this, assisted by volunteers she trained, until she left Donald in 2018.



Mrs Lilian (Lil) Kirk.

She made a huge contribution to the Group as Archivist and as press correspondent. As archivist she had dealt with thousands of enquiries from all over Australia and she had been able to provide prompt and helpful responses.

Her monthly newspaper reports of History meetings and talks publicised the activities of the Group. She was also the author of a number of books on topics of local interest. Lil regularly attended Zone and Annual meetings of WVAHS and helped neighbouring Historical Societies.

When Lil left Donald to live with her daughter Christine and son-in-law Ian at Wentworth and passed away May 29, 2019 — the "Buloke Times" tribute was headed "On behalf of a grateful community, thanks a million Lilian". The membership of the WVAHS can sincerely endorse that sentiment.

Stawell — The man who found gold

Digging up the past By Stawell Historical Society

William McLachlan – the man who discovered the first gold in Pleasant Creek in 1853 – was born in Scotland in 1806.

When he discovered the gold, he was working as a hut keeper on Concongella Station.

McLachlan was living with two shepherds in a bark hut on the western slopes of Pleasant Creek.

Hut keepers were employed to do the cooking and whatever other housekeeping jobs needed doing.

They were usually responsible for taking care of the sheep at night.

McLachlan discovered gold at Pleasant Creek about 150 yards further up the creek to the west from where the memorial stands near the bridge on Pomonal Road, just before the racecourse.

His discovery was only a few ounces and caused no great excitement at the time, as other goldfields in Ballarat, Bendigo and Clunes were producing much more gold.

These towns also had stores and shops whereas here there was only a bark hut.

The areas first gold rush did not start until one year aft the find in Pleasant Creek.

The rush took place near Commercial Street, Illawarra and it's quite possible hat McLachlan's 1853 discovery drew some prospectors to the area who kept on searching.

No reward was ever paid for the discovery at Pleasant Creek, although the government of the day had offered rewards of up to 1000 for the discovery of new goldfields.

Little is known of McLachlan's later years, although in 1879 he was known to be working as a labourer in the Black Ranges. From 1879, he was in and out of hospital many times for various illnesses.

Finally, in August 1889, he died in the benevolent ward at Pleasant Creek Hospital aged 84 years.

This ward was added to the hospital in 1882 and many old miners spent their last years there.



He was buried in an unmarked grave in the pauper section of the Stawell Cemetery.

In 193 his grave was marked in concrete and the top was inscribed "discoverer of Stawell's first gold in 1853."

In March 2018, Stawell Historical Society – through a generous donation from one of its members – had the grave finally restored with an imposing black granite headstone installed.

McLachlan's grave can be viewed in the Stawell Cemetery left of the gates when entering through the Lake Road entrance where there exists more than 400 paupers' graves.

McLachlan Street in Stawell is named in honour of William McLachlan.

Article from Stawell Times-News June 28, 2019.

Smith family reunion at Charlton Saturday, Oct 26, 2019

There is to be a Gathering of Descendants of Thomas Smith and Ann Hemenstal who arrived in Western Australia in 1841 and came to Victoria in 1852. The families 2nd generation families are Smith, Heraud, Irvine, Heenan, Mahlberg and Scudder 3rd generation includes Morrow, any connections are welcome to attend.

At Charlton, Victoria, facilitator Roma Bowman 5482 3844, email roma.b@westnet.com.au being assisted by Charlton Golden Grains Museum.

BYO, there is a hall to use if it rains, and plenty to see. Trip to the cemetery to say hello to Thomas and other members of the family buried there.

Day to be held at Senior Citizens Centre, next to Golden Grains Museum from 10 am.

It's your newsletter —
have your say

Spanish Flu comes to Wycheproof

Due to errors in previous newsletter have repeated the artical.

A devastating epidemic of this disease swept the world from 1918 to the early 1920s. World wide it is estimated that between 50 million and 100 million died from this disease. Some 15,000 Australians were victims of this pandemic. The following items from local papers published in April 1919 give some picture of the impact of this disease on a Wimmera community.

Donald Times April 15th. Widespread regret was felt in this district when it became known that Nurse E. Walder, daughter of Mr and Mrs Walder of Watchem had died from an attack of pneumonic influenza after an illness of eight days. The young lady, who was deservedly popular, died on Friday and was buried privately at the Watchem cemetery on Saturday. The deceased young lady had nursed a patient, a man from Melbourne, who succumbed to an attack of the influenza. Miss Walder had been nursing at the Wycheproof Hospital for almost two years

Mt Wycheproof Ensign April 18th.

Nurse E. Walder

The pneumonic influenza outbreak has called upon doctors and nurses throughout Australia to make supreme sacrifices in the execution of their duty to the sick, and Nurse Eliza Ellen Walder of the Wycheproof Hospital, was found at her post of duty when called upon about two weeks ago to nurse an influenza male patient from Carlton.

She contracted the disease, and despite Dr Rail's medical skill and the nursing care of Matron Shaw and

Nurse Cuthbert, she died, after an illness of 10 days, at 3 p.m. last Friday.

Quite a gloom seemed to spread over the town because Nurse Walder was well known and popular and sincere regret was widespread. Her bright life and promising career were terminated a few days after her 24th birthday.

Before taking up duty at the Wycheproof Hospital, Nurse Walder took a prominent part in the work of St Aiden's Church Watchem, being organist and a Sunday School teacher for years. She was also an enthusiastic Red Cross Worker and had four brothers in the A.I.F. abroad, one of whom – John was killed at Gallipoli. In addition to the parents – Mr and Mrs James Walder – there are eight brothers (James H. William R., George T., Oswald F., Alexander C., Harry, Archibald S., Llewellyn S.,) and four sisters (Mrs S. King, Kinnabulla, Maggie, Louisa and Mary) to mourn their sad loss and for whom deep and sincere sympathy was shown.

The deceased was born at Watchem and about two years ago entered on her training as a nurse at the Wycheproof Hospital where she won a name for gentleness, sincerity and amiability.

The body was conveyed to Watchem Cemetery for interment on Saturday morning, where a large number of relatives and friends assembled. The oak coffin was covered in floral tributes from the Hospital staff and friends. Rev. Mr Bodley conducted the service at the graveside and Mr F. H. Tucker carried out the funeral arrangements.

163 years ago — Arrival of the immigrant ships direct to Belfast

Continued from Page 4.

in the depot before we engaged. We came all to it as soon (as) we came ashore, so that was the place the farmers came to hire us. They knew of us all coming, and they had it made up amongst them-selves just to give us certain thing, and that was considered a reasonable offer, and if you did not take that you was turned out of the depot. There were plenty of masters, so the greater part of them was engaged, and that was like the thin. And there (were) a few that did not engage. Some went one road, and some another. Some went to the diggings.

This is better country for the working man that the home country. I will never come home and work to the farmers as I have done. A man has a chance here if he is steady and behaves himself. But this is an awful country for drinking. Home is nothing to it. They are coming down just now from the shearing with £20 and £30 pound cakes to the public houses, and spend the whole of that in two or three days. That is the way of a good many in this country. It is not so good as it has been for making money. It is a regardless country. There is very little Sunday work here. There are churches too, they (are) generally a good way off, but there are a few that ever thinks of going to church when

they come here. This is a good country for good living.

There is no brose nor porridge here. We have our tea morning and night: beef roasted and boiled all times, and loaves of bread. They have all ovens in the bush and bakes it themselves. Provisions is not much higher here than at home; the 4 pound loaf is 1 shilling, beef and mutton is rather cheaper than at home, clothes is rather higher, and boots and shoes is very high.

We had a long and tedious voyage. We left Southampton on August 7th. We set sail that morning and we dropped anchor on Nov 19th and we came ashore next day. And glad we was to get our feet on land again. We were blessed all with good health. I was as well and stout when I landed as when I left home. We had 4 births and 3 deaths. They were all children.

We was very well provided for on the ship. We could not complain at all. We was all in messes. Eight was about the general run in each mess. There was one of the mess appointed to see their goods weighed out and take them to the cook. We had good weather the greater part of the voyage. We had a month's bad weather. It was very cold, wet, and very disagreeable.

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Welsh miners on Central Goldfields

More than three thousand Welsh-born men and women flocked to Victoria's Central Goldfields after the official announcement of the discoveries in 1851. The *Welsh on Victoria's Central Goldfields: A Dictionary of Biography* records the lives of six hundred and twenty of them in individual biographies, a sample estimated to be around forty per cent of the Welsh immigrant population. The meticulously researched and referenced biographies are tied together by an underlying theme of the Welsh attempting to retain their language and culture as a minority in the cultural melting pot of the goldfields. Miners and mining investors joined politicians, preachers, publicans and many others as they were caught up in the all-pervasive 'gold culture'. Around twenty non-conformist Welsh chapels sprang up across the goldfields in the 1860s — but there was a constant shortage of Welsh-speaking ministers and a lack of permanence as the miners moved from rush to rush. Chapels were physically moved, sold to other denominations or simply disappeared. And the study shows that around half of the Welsh population were, in fact, Anglicans. Welsh was said to be the language of the chapel and English the language of business. However, by the 1880s many religious services were being held in English and the old bards were complaining that the eisteddfods had become too much like an English concert. Reverend William Merion Evans bemoaned in 1875 that: The children are growing up as English; only a few are coming from the old country to settle among us; also there is room to fear that the national feeling is gradually disappearing in the hearts of many of the old settlers and that it is likely to be so as long as one thinks that it is to be of no profit, or of any distinction to be a Welsh speaker. Evans was also concerned at the 'wild and drinking habits of some of his countrymen'. RHSV NEWS The *Welsh on Victoria's Central Goldfields: A Dictionary of Biography* Tales of success, failure, tragedy and even humour thread their way through this absorbing study that breaks down the typical stereotype of the Welsh immigrant of the period. Almost every Welshman, from politician to the poorest labourer, invested in mining shares. This was like a giant game of lotto. Fortunes were made, lost and sometimes regained. John Beynon is said to have made £40,000 from the Poverty Reef at Tarnagulla and rode a horse shod with golden shoes down the main street, but he died leaving debts of £260. Methuselah Williams had mined the rich Nimrod Reef at Chewton and was involved in the Queen's Birthday Mine at Dunolly when its shares jumped from 2d to £30; he died in Ballarat 'having made and lost two fortunes'. Some made fortunes and invested wisely. William Anthony, a benefactor of the Stawell Welsh Baptist Church, made thousands out of the Cross Reefs at Stawell and put most of it into prime real estate. Four two-storey town houses in Carlton alone were valued at almost £10,000. James Randell was an investor of 'sound judgement and wide experience' and was heavily involved in the Madame Berry mines north of Creswick. He retired at

55, built a mansion in Geelong and died leaving an estate valued for probate at more than £42,000. There are more than fifty entries for Welshmen who died in mining 'accidents', some by their own misadventure, but many by unsafe practices used to save time and money. Ebenezer Jones was one of four men killed when the shaft of the Britannia Quartz Company's claim at Carngham collapsed in 1861. A second shaft had to be sunk to recover the bodies and it was two weeks before they were brought to the surface. The Geelong Advertiser reported that 'a grosser state of neglect and mismanagement has seldom, if ever, occurred on any claim'. Reverend Zerubabel Davies, a Welsh Baptist minister and school teacher, preached the first Welsh language sermon in Victoria in Melbourne in 1852. In about 1858 he moved to Stawell, where he became the first recognised school teacher. He also 'salvaged gold from the creeks and the alluvial leads. Sunday he sought to salvage souls from any pulpit that offered.' He later became minister of the Stawell Welsh Baptist Church and financed the building of its manse, while investing heavily in Stawell mines and at one time owning the town's newspaper. This is a must-read book for lovers of Victorian regional and social history, family historians, history teachers, students and anyone with Welsh ancestry. It contains ninety illustrations, extensive indexes and easy-to-read charts and tables that put the biographies into a wider context. Peter Griffiths is the author of the acclaimed *Three Times Blest: A History of Buninyong and District 1837-1901*, and this new work continues his passion for documenting histories of the Victorian gold era. Peter Griffiths *The Welsh on Victoria's Central Goldfields: A Dictionary of Biography* by Peter Griffiths, 'Commended in the 'Local History Project Award' section, VCHA 2018. Now available at the RHSV bookshop for \$45 Reverend Zerubabel Davies (1806- Zerubabel Davies, (Reverend, 1806-1877.

— This article retrieved from the June issue of the RHSV News.

Change of telephone numbers for Nhill Historical Society

Secretary: Kay Scott
03 5391 3131
0428 512 730

President: John Deckert
0437 351 753

Event celebrates the digitisation of early Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser

by Christie Harrison
Maryborough Advertiser

Community members have been called to come together for the launch of the digitisation of the Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser from 1857 to 1867.

Papers from 1857 to 1867 have been digitised by Trove — an aggregator — thanks to a \$13,232 grant from the Public Records Office Victoria's Local History Grants Program.

Chinese Australian Family Historians of Victoria Inc. (CAFHOV) treasurer Robyn Ansell was the driving force behind the grant application and said the launch is "very exciting."

"I'm very excited, I'm looking forward to showing people why digitisation is a wonderful thing for the community, both in Victoria and overseas," she said.

"I've been working on this since January last year."

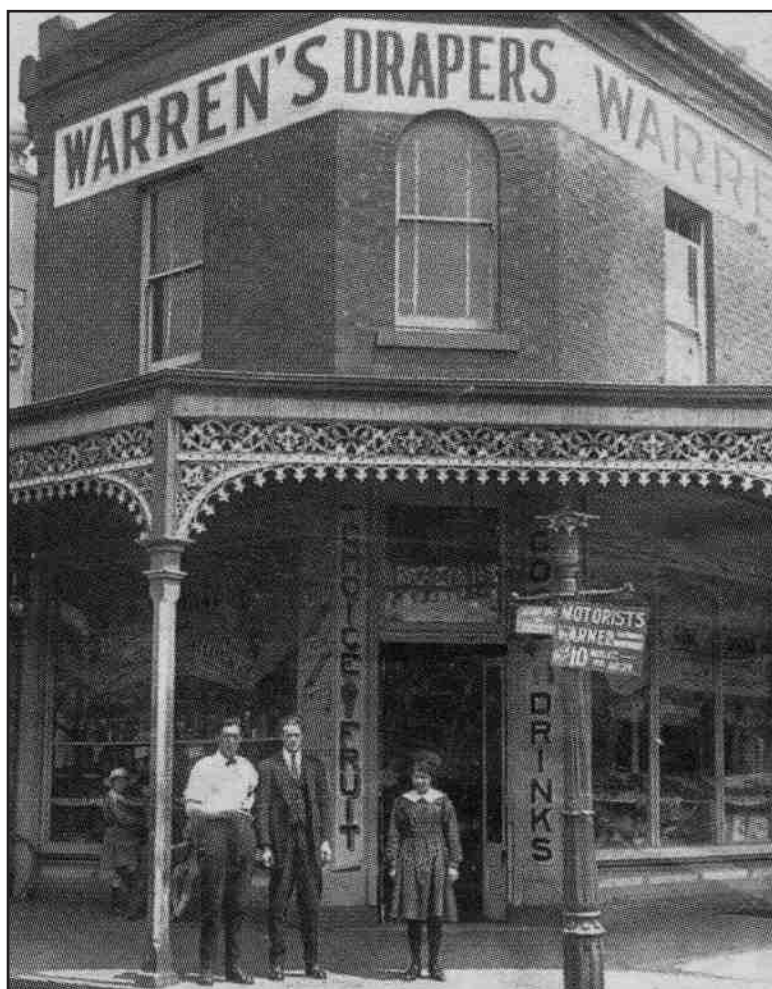
Ms. Ansell gave a talk at the launch on how exciting the new resource is for genealogists and history students.

"People from the Public Records office of Victoria and the Chinese Museum in Melbourne and local history groups were well represented as well," she said.

The launch is also part of National Family History Month, an Australasian Federation of Family Organisations initiative running throughout August which sees events conducted across Australia and online that focus on genealogy, family history, heraldry and related subjects.

The launch was held Friday, August 2 at the Maryborough Regional Library.

Ms. Ansell said the library has also reserved computers for a period after the launch so guests can learn how to search the 1857-1867 newspapers on Trove.



Copies of the Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser from 1857-1867 have now been digitised so anyone interested in the region's history can jump online and find old articles and photos, such as the photograph of the Wray family's Maryborough fruit, retail refreshments room. Photo: Robyn Ansell, Chinese Australian Family Historians of Victoria Inc.

The day was well spent for those new to the Trove website.

163 years ago — Arrival of the immigrant ships direct to Belfast

Continued from Page 12.

That was after we passed the Cape of Good Hope. We never called in there, nor spoke to any homeward vessel, so we had no chance (of) sending a letter back.

I have been rather long in writing. You will be worried enough before this reaches your length. I hope it will find you all enjoying good health. As this leaves me, I may thank God I have had a tack of good health since I left home. You will be kind enough to write me when you get this and let me know the news of home. I may well write to you, but as for seeing any of you it is a hard question when that may be. I will write you I about two

months again and let you know how I am getting on.

I'll say no more at this time, but I hope this will find you all in the way of well-doing, and I hope my mother is getting better and able to guide herself again. I believe many is the though she will have had about me. If I keep my health I am right anigh here. Better than at home.

So I will conclude and say no more. I remain still your kind affectionate son and well-wisher. I will bid you all goodnight.

The Blue Ribbon Cycle Race

60-MILE CYCLING RACE. E. A. (TED) WATSON WINS EVENT

The trying weather on Saturday rather militated against a good day, and the nineteen riders who pedalled strongly had a battling time. It took 4½ hours to complete the journey, instead of 31 hours, as anticipated.

The atmospheric conditions and several punctures accounted for many withdrawing from a gruelling test. Five riders only came home and the finish was exciting. Mr. J. E. Williams officiated as starter.

E. Watson, 16 of Wail and E. Brennan, 16 of Horsham, were leading well on the turn home. By an extra spurt, the former came in by two lengths. The winner also gained the cup donated by Mr. S. May and the Blue Ribbon championship for the fastest time. Guest arrived 13 minutes later, followed by J. Martin and S. Arnott. The oldest rider in the race, J. Bell, had to retire at Pimpinio through cramp after a good attempt. The winner also secured the trophy for the fastest time and the amateur championship for the Wimmera, as well as the trophy for the first Dimboola Club rider to reach Dimboola. Brennan secured the trophy for the first rider to make the turn at Blue Ribbon road. The results were: E. Watson (Wail), 4 min first; E. Brennan (Horsham), 18 min second; S. Guest (Horsham), 9 min third; J. Martin (Horsham), 25 min fourth and S. Arnott (Horsham), 25 min fifth. Mr. S. May acted as judge. Mr. J. Nolan patrolled the course in a car.

The club offer their thanks to Mr. W. McGregor for his motor truck for an ambulance and to Messrs. A. Maurer, Ivey and others for their valuable assistance.

A creditable performance was put up by Eric Brennan, a lad of 16 years. His handicap was 18 minutes. He rode splendidly all through and was only beaten by two lengths for first place. He is to be congratulated on his feat.

A considerable improvement could be effected by the officials in roping off the finishing post, as the present lack of control hampers the cyclists in their final sprint to the tape. The practice among bicycle enthusiasts in the metropolis is to line each side of the road to the finishing post with their machines end on end, forming an effective barrier.

As the Blue Ribbon road race wasn't repeated the record still stands today 95 years later.

Pictured right: Ted Watson a Wimmera footballer following his cycling career in the 1920s and 30s.

Ted played with the Horsham seniors as a full-back from 1928-31 and also played with the Dimboola team in the Wimmera League.

**Sourced from the Horsham Times
on the Trove website dated
Tuesday, December 2, 1924.**



Horsham Historical Society update

The Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 10th July, 17 members attended and elected a new Committee, with a change in some of the Office Bearers.

The new committee has some new and familiar faces; thanks to all those members who have assisted over the past 12 months. Thanks to Ken Flack for conducting the election and Jim Heard for writing the minutes.

Our collections have continued to increase thanks to ongoing acquisitions and permission to copy information and photos. Tuesdays and Wednesdays are usually quite busy with photographs being scanned; the inputting and processing of data, researching requests and attending to visitors.

Rod Jenkinson continues working on photos, audio and video tapes. Lindsay Smith and Don McMillan have been busy upgrading all the files in the filing cabinets. Rod was invited as guest speaker to talk to the Horsham Men's Probus at the R.S.L.

The Society continues to have projects on the go, including a monthly history column in the Wimmera Mail-Times. The May to July articles were: Archie Raggatt, Roberts Avenue and Gas comes to Horsham.

We have also been successful with the PROV: Local History Grant for two new research computers and a portable desk. The computers will allow public access to view our database records. The desk has been made by Peter Krause. We have recently purchased a new scanner for the Library. Unfortunately, we were not successful with the Horsham Rural City Council - Community Development Grant 2019/20 (CBD Heritage Signage).

Requests May-July: HHS has received approximately 40 requests — this includes 9 for family research and the rest were general. Several requests are still ongoing or awaiting a reply. The researchers have running sheets with the entire request topics if members want to know more on the requests.

Publications purchased: 13 including 3 Society DVD's. (A full list of the publications is available from our website or at HHS). Requests should be emailed to the society email: horshamhistorical.com and not directly to a members personal email address.

The researchers will then process the request and reply from the society email address.

History Week: 13th - 20th October 2019. Events are yet to be organised, possibly a street walk — members will be updated via email and media.

Horsham Regional Museum: Horsham Rural City Council have released a City to River draft master plan - proposed Museum. The proposed museum located in the Showgrounds area. Details are available on the HRCC website; a submission form is available to provide your personal views.

Vale: Members will be saddened to learn the passing of members: Robert (Bob) Flack in January 2018. We have recently been advised as he lived in Melbourne. Also Penelope (Penny) Pipkorn in June at Hor-

sham and former member Graeme Meyer in June aged 80 at W.B.H., Horsham. Our deepest sympathy to their family and friends

Horsham Historical Society — Annual Presidents Report 2018 - 2019

The past year has seen much advancement in adding, maintaining and organising Horsham's vital historical records.

We were successful with recent grant applications from the Public Record Office Victoria and Horsham Sports and Community Club.

Research, typing documents, scanning photos and data entry by members can be frustrating and hampered by a shortage of computers especially when public access is also required at the same time. The PROV grant was to purchase computer equipment and a portable desk to allow public access to view our database records. These new facilities will allow more space in the Ward Room for meetings as it can be moved next door. — As there is currently no digital access to the W.M.T. after 1954 on Trove, the physical copies of the papers are required for research and quickly deteriorate unless bound.

The Horsham Sports Community Club grant was to bind the 2018 issues of the Wimmera Mail-Times.

A previous grant from the Horsham Rural City Council completed this year helped bind copies of the 2016 and 2017 W.M.T. and a previous grant from the H.S.C.C. purchased a replacement Video camera to record guest speakers and interviews with local identities. A moving video along Firebrace Street has been recorded. A similar movie was taken from a moving car in the 1920s by Jack Shany.

Monthly historical articles in the WMT starting in September 2017 have continued with Wendy Donald also producing the quarterly Historian members' newsletter and helping with research. The articles raise awareness of Horsham's history, raise the Society's profile and give the community a place to donate photos and information on families, clubs and local history.

Publicity has been sought using the weekly community noticeboard in the Wimmera Mail-Times with Society opening times and contact details, as well as informing the ABC Community radio and 3WM radio. Jim Heard has been organising guest speakers and promotion on the radio as well as carrying out handyman jobs.

Hundreds of negatives taken by professional photographer Brian Murray over many years have been stored in files for future processing. Many photos taken by earlier residents and photographers including Ian Ward have also been given to the Society.

One project during the year was assisting the Horsham Show to prepare for their 140th Show in 2018 by allowing them to use our photos and video for an audio visual production screening at the Show. Our Society digitised a Super 8 sound film taken forty years ago at the Centenary Show by Ian Ward. This is now on DVD. The H.H.S. will sell DVDs of our photo com-

pilation. We have also copied the Show photo collection and the Lance Trigg collection of photos for our database, giving the Show an off-site back-up for all their photos.

History Week at our October meeting was used to show unidentified photos from our database. The following Saturday a street walk was held and later a DVD of Horsham memories was played.

Our database is growing thanks to all those assisting with the inputting & processing of data. Members and volunteers have also been busy processing photos with the new scanner in the Library.

Lindsay Smith has been busy archiving current acquisitions and updating library and other data files with help from John Barr, Bob Kirsopp and Don McMillan.

Research inquiries have been handled by Janet Allan and Sandra Decker with assistance from Wendy Donald. Sharon Bethune and Robert Queale have been responsible for the Society finances and also help with inputting.

Bob Wynne has been scanning photos and long-time committee member, Kathy Mackley, helps with typing, Cheryl Muir and Dino McMillan have been inputting on computers, and Jacquelyn O'Connor is behind the scenes several days a week organising secretarial work, inputting and backing up computer data. Sue Smith deals with computer issues as well as backing up data. Lyn McCrae and other volunteers are typing up handwritten records and audio tapes.

Weekly tasks are scanning photos for input as well as adding records, keeping up-to-date with research re-

quests, filing acquisitions and museum items, and updating databases so everything is searchable on four in-house Historical Society computers. Electronic data is backed up weekly, including photos and other records, onto several portable hard drives normally kept off-site by different members unless in the building for updating.

During the year, Society members have done school talks, attended Zone meetings, participated in the proposed museum consultations and been open by appointment.

Afternoon teas have been a great place to exchange stories with up to a dozen members joining in. The Society has lost some of its ageing senior members and therefore some of Horsham's early oral history. A trip around Horsham CBD in June this year to update the business names and locations has shown high business turnover and many empty shops.

After holding the office of President for 8 years, it is time for me to catch up on audio visual video productions and allow others the opportunity to further the aims of the Society. This is achieved by collecting images, stories, local and family history books, preserving history for the present and future generations in both hard copies and digitised images, providing information for both on-site and off-site backups, and keeping items for museum displays.

Thank you to everyone who helps with continuing our important Society work of actively preserving Horsham's past for present and future researchers.

Rod Jenkinson. July 2019

Bealiba man first to fall in World War II

Just 28 days into World War II, Bealiba's Ivan McLeod Cameron made the ultimate sacrifice for his country, becoming Australia's first casualty during the conflict.

While performing a reconnaissance flight in his Bristol Blenheim bomber over Germany on September 28, 1939, RAF bomber pilot Wing Commander Cameron was intercepted and shot down by a German pilot, Feldwebel Klaus Faber of 1/JG 1, Luftwaffe.

The entire crew was killed and Wing Commander Cameron would later be confirmed as the first Australian casualty of World War II.

Wing Commander Cameron is buried at Reichswald Forest Cemetery, Kleve in Germany.

Becoming a prisoner of war in 1941, Klaus Faber was later shot down over Bulgaria.

The son of Alexander Cameron (1835-1934) and his wife Isabel Louise (nee Sawtell) (1868-1917), Wing Commander Cameron was born at Bealiba on April 11, 1908. His father owned Bealiba Station.

In his younger years, Wing Commander Cameron attended Maryborough High School before being enrolled at Geelong College on June 2, 1926. He attended the school for six months. After leaving the college, the Bealiba resident was selected as one of 17 out of 300 applicants as a Cadet in the RAAF. After qualifying at

Point Cook, Wing Commander Cameron was one of five selected as a pilot to go to England for a four-year course in the RAF before being promoted to the rank of Flying Officer.

While in England, he was selected to take part in the Aerial Pageant Exhibition over London.

Wing Commander Cameron then completed a two year engineering course before receiving a permanent appointment to the RAF and a posting to Iraq for two years in 1934.

Returning to Australia for three months, the pilot served with the bomber transport squadron during this time. After returning to Iraq for about a year, Wing Commander Cameron was transferred to England and promoted to squadron leader on June 1, 1937.

He was subsequently appointed to Acting Wing Commander with 110 Hyperabad Squadron at Watisham, England before being promoted to Wing Commander.

From the Maryborough Advertiser, April 24, 2018.

**It's your newsletter —
have your say**

Charles Gavagan — Dunolly Boer War veteran

Charles John Gavagan was born at Emu on 10th May 1883. His father had previously been a labourer around Eddington and his mother had been laundress at the Dunolly Hospital. When Gavagan was about four years old the family moved to Kensington in Melbourne. His mother died two years later and his father left. He was then looked after by his grandmother. One day on his way to school he disappeared. It was some months before his grandmother found out what had happened. He had stowed away on the Langdon Grange bound for Argentina and England. He was discovered and put to work. When the ship arrived in England he was sent back to Melbourne. He was 14 years old.

Gavagan found work first as a jockey, then as an apprentice electrician for Victorian Railways. His supervisor did not like his poor attitude to work and his practical jokes. When the newspapers wrote about the imminent likelihood of war in South Africa he decided to go. Gavagan had little money so he stowed away on the S S Innaminka. He was discovered, dropped off at Adelaide and sent home. He tried again and this time set ashore at Albany and returned. In August 1899 he tried his third attempt, this time on the Hesperides. He wasn't discovered until in the Indian Ocean. He was brought before the captain who said he wished there were more plucky young men like him. He landed in Cape Town to find that the war had already started. On the 13th December 1899 he joined the Roberts' Horse as a bugler. He was then sixteen years old. An article in the Herald said he was the youngest Australian to fight in the Boer War. The Roberts' Horse was a South African regiment that was made up mostly of people who had found their own way there. It was a mixture of British and colonial men along with a group of Texan cowboys keen to join the fight.

He distinguished himself whilst in Roberts' Horse and received a medal from Cecil Rhodes for taking part in a cavalry charge to relieve the besieged town of Kimberly. During this his horse was shot from under him. Gavagan took part in five engagements with the enemy whilst in Roberts' Horse. After Kimberly they chased General Cronje to Paardeberg and captured him. Gavagan was in a scouting group that got penned down behind a small kopje (hill). After holding off the Boer fighters for sixteen hours his Lieutenant decided they should make a run for it. This involved a ride of 1,000 yards over open ground. The Lieutenant was killed. Gavagan was shot in the left foot and his new horse was shot from under him. One of the other riders stopped and picked him up. He went back to Cape Town then after several weeks went back into the field. In October 1900 he was discharged for misconduct. He

then joined another South African regiment, the Kaffrarian Rifles. He was only in this unit about two months before being invalided back to Victoria. Presumably this was caused by not giving his foot enough time to heal properly. During his stay in Victoria he visited his aunt, Mrs Linderberg, in Dunolly.

Then after only two months in Victoria he joined the 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles as a bugler and went back to the Boer War. The 5th VMR served in Transvaal and Natal and had the highest casualties of any Victorian unit. Charles Gavagan was shot in the left arm and left groin. In October 1901 he was again invalided back to Australia. He came back on the White Star steamer SS Afric. This time he only spent three months in Victoria before volunteering again. Australia had federated so time he became a bugler in the 2nd Australian Commonwealth Horse. They left Australia in February 1902. Gavagan saw out the rest of the war near the Natal border and in west Transvaal. He returned to Victoria in July of that year.

Gavagan didn't settle down in Victoria getting caught for minor theft and travelling on a train without a ticket. It appears his troubles escalated and perhaps to avoid capture, he shifted to Western Australia and changed his name. When the First World War started Gavagan enlisted under the name of Charles Moncrieff. He enlisted on 5th March 1915 but was soon discharged as medically unfit. Not to be deterred he stowed away on the troopship A11. When he was discovered the ship was already well on the way so they accepted him as a new recruit. His admission papers, which have survived, are written by hand on the ship. He was now in the 10th Australian Light Horse a contingent made up of Queenslanders. This was part of the 26th Battalion and when they went to Gallipoli the horses were left behind. In July in the trenches he caught a cold. This developed into phthisis and he was evacuated to Egypt.

He wrote letters back under his real name which were published in newspapers. He was never caught as he had enlisted under a false name. He somehow got the letters passed the censors. Some of his poignant comments which would have outraged the army included: - *Our revenge is not so much on the Turks as on the Germans, who were the cause of the bloodshed...I don't think much change will take place this year in Gallipoli...Only the 'pawns' have been moved...be prepared for an expensive victory.*

He was invalided back to Australia but never recovered. Charles Gavagan died at Wooroloo Sanatorium in Western Australia in August 1917 aged 33. He maintained his cover until the end, his headstone reads Charles Patrick Moncrieff.

It's your newsletter — have your say

“Victoria Police Star” awarded to Edward Barnett posthumously

By Riley Upton

A police officer who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty more than 160 years ago has been posthumously awarded one of Victoria Police’s highest accolades – the Victoria Police Star.

At the height of the Victorian Gold Rush, 9-year old Senior Constable Edward Barnett was shot through the heart on Monday, February 1, 1858 at the White Hills Goldfield near Carisbrook, now known as Havelock.

A special ceremony at his grave at the Carisbrook Cemetery was held yesterday, remembering and honouring Barnett’s heroic deeds 161 years and 6 months after his murder.

The Victoria Police Star is awarded in recognition of the service and sacrifice made by Victoria Police employees who are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, and Barnett’s is now framed and hanging inside the Maryborough Police Station, alongside the accolades of fallen comrades.

The ceremony at the Carisbrook Cemetery was attended by Victoria Police’s Acting Police Commissioner Wendy Steendam, a Police Band piper, local police officers, CFA members, students from the Carisbrook Primary School, members of Carisbrook Historical Society, government representatives and Shrine Guards.

The Acting Chief Commissioner Steendam said that although Barnett’s death occurred more than 161 years ago, the risks faced by police remain.

“Senior Constable Barnett’s death clearly had an impact of the local community and no doubt significantly affected his family and colleagues at that time, she said during her speech.

“It’s no surprise to anyone that policing can be a challenging career choice. Members see confronting and complex situations every day and they are often put in harms way.

Fortunately, we are better trained today than back in 1858, but we still do have members who are injured in the line of duty.”

Acting Chief Commissioner Steendam said while much has changed for Victoria Police over the 161 years since Barnett’s death, the organisation’s commitment to remembering and honouring fallen members has not dwindled.

She also said having the Victoria Police Star mounted on the wall at the Maryborough Police Station provides a “tangible and important” way for current members to connect and reflect upon Victoria Police’s history.

“Senior Constable Barnett took a solemn oath to protect all Victorians and paid the highest price in fulfilling that duty. Over 160 years have passed since his death and it’s a true testament to our respect for his service that we are here at his grave site,” she said.

“I am honoured to formally recognise Senior Constable Barnett’s service and sacrifice by rededicating

his grave and awarding him the Victoria Police Star.”

Avoca Police Leading Senior Constable Chris Trimble and his wife Tanya have spent the past 12 months researching Barnett’s murder, and it was Leading Senior Constable Trimble’s idea to have the accolade presented posthumously.

Ordinarily presented to a relative when awarded posthumously, Leading Constable Trimble said no relatives have been found.

“I’ve been looking forward to having the Star hung in the Maryborough Police Station, it’s been a long process but it’s completed, it’s certainly satisfying,” he said.

“There are other members on the wall inside, we call it our memorial wall, and it’s good to have Edward included in that. Police working here today can now stop and have read to now what happened 161 years ago.

“Nobody looks after us in the most crucial times as well as we do and 161 years and six months later, that should not change.”

Barnett’s Victoria Police Star now hangs alongside Senior Constable Maurice Moore’s, an officer who was shot dead by an offender in Maryborough in 1986.

Leading Constable Trimble, who was present on the night Moore was shot, said having Barnett remembered with a Victoria Police Star is close to home.

“It’s kind of a replication of what I’ve lived through, but it’s 161 years ago,” he said.

“Despite 12 months of my research, we’re (Victoria Police) still the only family of Edward Barnett that we could find.”

On the night he was shot, Barnett was attempting to arrest William Brook, who had just murdered restaurateur Charles Lopez during an attempted robbery. Fleeing the scene, Brook opened fire on Barnett with a bullet fatally striking him in the heart.

Brook was later arrested and died of injuries sustained during the robbery. A crowd of 1500 miners assembled later that day and ‘undesirable elements’ became the target of their vengeance following the deaths of Barnett and Lopez.

from the Maryborough Advertiser Friday August 2, 2019.

Have you an interesting story to tell.

Contact editor on
robinparker81@hotmail.com

WESTERN VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

WVAHS MIDLANDS ZONE MEETING

HOSTED BY

EAST LODDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2019

SERPENTINE MEMORIAL HALL

JANEMBER PARK COMPLEX

20 Chapel Street, Serpentine

9.30am Arrive for registration and cuppa

10.30am Mystery bus tour to an historic location

12.15pm Return to hall for light lunch

1.15pm Zone meeting commences

Member Reports

Group discussion

Followed by afternoon tea at end of meeting

Cost \$20.00 per head (Catered by Serpentine Playgroup Association)

Payment required on day of meeting

John Davidson (Pres) 5437 8330 or Robyn Brown (Sec) 0428 368 208

Email: elhs@bigpond.com or P.O. Box 14 Mitiamo 3573

Please RSVP by Friday 18th October and include;

- Name of your organisation _____
- Number attending zone meeting _____
- Apologies _____
- Numbers for lunch _____
- Special dietary requirements _____

It's your newsletter — have your say