

# Western Historian

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The WVAHS website is  
up and running.  
Google western victorian  
association of historical  
societies to see the  
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and newsletters.

Please address all  
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**Our member groups are:-**

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

**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 — 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 and they will be typed into word.

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

## WVAHS President's June report

### Digital Dilemma.

We are living in an increasingly digital age. Many people do all of their banking on line, most of their shopping and use no cash. They communicate by text, email and messenger services and rarely by voice 'phone calls, hand written communication, posted letters and postcards belong to a past era. Business and government records are all created and most held digitally.

Historical Societies have collected extensive paper based archives. Some are now scanning much of their collection. (partly to assist with its conservation.) So that the original documents are not handled frequently but also so that some of it may be accessed by people remote from the location where the records are kept. Documents may be searched for particular words, phrases or names — saving many hours of reading that most people simply do not have the time to do in order to find a small reference to a topic or person of interest. That seems to be an admirable benefit of digitisation. The digitised newspapers and other documents available via the National Library TROVE facility are a boon to research.

At least one body that I know of is scanning many books and documents in its reference library and disposing of its hard copies of them, partly motivated by a loss of their previous storage space. A local University has been scanning all of its thesis collection and shredding the hard copies. In many cases laboriously typed up on old manual typewriters and specially bound at a cost that the student could probably ill afford. It will no longer be possible to go to that university's library, access the work and actually hold the document that so much effort and inspiration went in to.

There is now at least one museum in Victoria that has no premises or filing cabinets full of documents — the Torquay Museum without Walls.

In my main area of personal research interest I find it wonderful that I can go to the Public Record Office or other archives and access original documents. Many of them are on a wonderful old assortment of varying quality and coloured paper. Often hand written (and one of the challenges is trying to decipher some of it!) and often with endorsements on the back of the page to save paper! On a few occasions I have looked at the signature of a person famous in their field of activity 100 or more years ago and experienced the thrill of knowing that I am now holding a page that they held and wrote on or signed will be lost to future generations. I also fear that much of the detail and deliberations of what was discussed and decided by people involved in a multitude of activities today will not be available to future researchers. There may just be a brief formal record of the decisions, outcomes and policies, but no feel for the individuals involved and the debates that took place to create their results.

Perhaps a generation that grows up digitally will not know or care?

**Michael Menzies, President.**

**Next AGM Ararat on March 28-29, 2020.**

**Zone meetings for 2019:  
Wimmera zone at Natimuk  
on Sunday Sept. 22, 2019.**

**Midlands zone meeting will be held on  
Saturday, October 12, 2019 in the  
archive rooms of the Cohuna District  
Historical Society at 10.30 am.**

**Southern zone meeting at  
Derrinallum/Lismore in October 2019.**

**More details in September newsletter.**

# Port Fairy President reports on 2018

It is my pleasure to present this report on the activities of the Port Fairy Historical Society for the year 2018-2019. The past year has been an extraordinary one with many projects and successes.

Guest speakers included Denise Adamson who spoke in April about her aunt, teacher and naturalist, Grace Bowker; in September, Margaret Whitehead paid a tribute to her recently deceased aunt, Pearl Trigger, who for many years researched for our society; Jeanette Robertson in October told of her extended cruise and some of her exotic experiences; Bruce Smith spoke in October about his findings as a freelance archivist; Martin Syme completed the speakers list in January with stories of writing his latest and most extensive history of Port Fairy.

The lunches in July and December attracted greater numbers and were much appreciated. Greater numbers have also gathered for the Monday morning and Thursday afternoon work sessions but there are still some areas of work to be covered.

Several of these members have faced serious health issues during the year but have continued to work on their projects. I most sincerely thank them for their perseverance and loyalty.

Our communication channels continue to expand. *The Port Fairy Post* is sent by email with only a handful of hard copies mailed or delivered and continues to receive positive feedback.

Thank you to Graeme Kershaw and contributors. To Andrea Lowenthal, Anne McLean and Carol Heard thank you for your work with our website and Facebook pages. This year we have also received support from Ashley Price at the Visitor Information Centre and from the Port Fairy Tourism Association in advertising our exhibitions on social media.

The first special event of the year was the WVAHS Annual General Meeting weekend in April. Nearly 75 historians, some from distant centres congregated in Port Fairy for the three Zone Meetings, AGM and the dinner on Saturday evening where Roger Haldane spoke about his first successful introduction of alpacas to Australia. It was wonderful to see the great support of members — particularly after catering arrangements went astray.

Much of the year has been immersed in grant applications for the two other special projects the '*Icons of Port Fairy*' exhibition and the building of the free standing Archives Facility. Peter Grenfell must be congratulated for his work in planning the facility and for obtaining funding of over \$19,000 from Moyne Shire; \$10,000 from Pacific Hydro; \$1000 from the Uebergang Trust; and hopefully \$2000 from Bendigo Bank. The building is nearing completion and a further application for funds to furnish the facility has been made to the PROV.

Other grants have been received from the Port Fairy Folk festival for \$1,659 to purchase a display cabinet for the *Icons* exhibition and \$1,300 from the Holsworth Trust to publish the '*Icons of Port Fairy*' book.

Thank you to all these organisations for their much needed support.

The special *Icons* exhibition was a new venture that brought mixed blessings. The ten days taken to remove earlier displays, to clean the various rooms and to set-up the new exhibition proved to be an exercise with very positive outcomes in bonding for new and older members.

The Official Opening on Friday evening, 21 September, brought invited guests into the museum.

Takings were very good for the following fortnight of the school holidays although these waned later with admissions increasing again during the summer holiday season. There were excellent comments from visitors and Lynda Tieman, Richard Patterson and Margaret Collins are to be commended on their efforts in bringing the exhibition to fruition.

Nearly five months seemed a long time at the beginning of *Icons* however it rapidly passed and a new exhibition arrived this time in the form of a travelling exhibition from the Australian Maritime Museum called *Submerged*. The logistics for the swap over of displays were much easier. Two days with now experienced workers saw the change. Thanks to Ron Cashmore, who has lent two films and many artifacts from the *Schomberg* wreck, and our own shipwreck collection, we have a most interesting exhibition until 27 April when the AMM material will be returned.

Re-accreditation loomed for almost twelve months, with much of the policy and report work done online. Eventually, on 26 and 27 November, the MAP Panel members arrived. The Museum and Archives have been reaccredited for another five years subject to a couple of minor glitches.

The routine activities undertaken by many members continue behind the scenes with research, museum tasks, school and bus visits all well completed by competent people. The Society is in a good place with increased membership in recent years, new ideas and willing workers.

At this point I want to mention a very special achievement: It is 25 years since Lynda Tieman accepted the role of curator of the Port Fairy Historical Society in February 1994. From a relatively small position Lynda has developed the role of Collection Manager to the huge task it is today with its policies, protocols and processes. Congratulations on a wonderful job!

To the committee, to our volunteers, to members, thank you for your belief in preserving our heritage, and supporting the work of the Port Fairy Historical Society; any organisation is only as good as its member components, and ours are excellent.

**Judith Kershaw**

Port Fairy report continued on page 4.

## Archivist's report

In 2018 the archival duties have been performed by many of our volunteers — the Monday morning volunteers, the Thursday afternoon ladies and the wonderful group looking after our extensive photograph collection and Tony Hutchinson and myself concentrating on the research queries with help from Richard Patterson when the need arises.

Every other year I have stated that research requests or income derived from the research was decreasing but not this past year! Our income from research increased and we were extremely busy throughout the year. This year has already started well with requests for information.

Once again requests have come from all over Australia and New Zealand. I am meeting with some New Zealanders this week to look at their ancestor who lived here in Port Fairy in the mid 1800's. Another New Zealander visited us last year after I had researched her family and she was able to visit her ancestors' graves and the old building in Koroit where they worked and lived. Obviously through our website and social media — our Museum and Archives reaches out far and wide. Thank you to Tony for his work in family research. Thank you to Lynda Tieman and Judy Kershaw in leading the many enthusiastic volunteers in many of the archival tasks carried out. Thank you to the rest of the committee for their support.

### CURATOR'S REPORT 2018

*by Lynda Tieman*

This year has certainly been very busy for everyone in the Society. We have achieved much on Volunteers' Monday with 7 to 10 people working at the regular jobs of filing, scanning and sorting and data entry. During the week archive sorting, photograph recognition and cataloguing is done so thank you Jan, Heather, Carol, Angela and Jeanette for your enthusiasm in these tasks.

The Archive sub-committee has finished sorting through our archive files and is now half way through removing excess paper in the family research files. We are in the process of identifying many films and magnetic tapes in our collection that need to be converted to newer technology; we still have quite a large collection of film that requires transferring to newer media. Thank-you to Judith, Andrea, Patricia and Anne.

An amazing amount of work has been completed and although there is more to do it has been a great year. Jan and Peter Grenfell have continued scanning the photographs as the girls catalogue them. We still need to get them on to Victorian Collections and that is another herculean task. This year we had a small case display to go with the launch of Richard Patterson's book "The Lighthouse Keeper and the One-armed Cricketer".

A large photographic display called "Happy to Serve You" is to highlight the lovely photographs taken by Peter Grenfell of shops and shopkeepers of 2017-2018. Carol and Lyn set up a wonderful display at the Football clubrooms to celebrate their 150th year. A display of photographs was set up at short notice by Judith, Carol

and Heather at the wharf for the opening of the new wharf precinct. In August a large team of members came together to clean the Museum and assemble the "Icons of Port Fairy". This exhibition impacted on all major exhibition spaces and over two weeks — the Museum transformed into an airy interesting area. This exhibition was not without its challenges and disappointments but with the help of social media and the Tourist Association I think it was a success. Thank you to the Folk Festival Committee for the grant allowing us to buy a great new showcase. Thank you to all who helped in any way; there are too many of you to thank individually.

There were just two days between opening hours to bring down and put up the next display called "Submerged" — a travelling exhibition on a set of panels provided by the Australian Maritime Council and worked on by many historians around Australia including Marten Syme. The team again came together and achieved a cohesive and interesting display incorporating information on our own shipwrecks. Our own relics from the "Socrates" and footage of this wreck on one television screen provided by Ron Cashmore and on another Ron — also provided a DVD and relics from the "Schomberg" in Peterborough.

Re-accreditation provided more challenges. We achieved this and we have now been accredited for 25 years. There is still some paperwork and changes to bring about so please read any paperwork that is provided as some ways of doing things will be changed. Along with re-accreditation came Aboriginal Victoria on the same day to photograph and register those seven aboriginal items in our collection. No pressure that day! Jeanette Robinson is still working on our numerous databases and setting up new ones. One new database had to be created so that we can register our shipwreck items with the National Shipwrecks database as the information that was previously gathered by the Commonwealth was never added to the computer system. Garry is keeping up with our local newspaper collection and Jeanette is updating the database to track our hardcopies.

During the coming year the new Archive facility will come into operation and we will need many people to help us change our indexes and move items so that the many books and papers that will be stored there can be easily found. Acquisitions are still being received and we thank the donors for passing their precious objects into our keeping.

Thank you to all members who have helped us with their expertise in repairing things, researching information, cleaning and typing. Thanks also to our President and hard working committee members for meeting the many challenges we have faced this year and who dedicate their time to the preservation of our local history and the continuing success of our Society. And last but not least thank you to my very capable assistant Margaret Collins and the Volunteer Day group.

Extracted from Port Fairy  
Historical Society newsletter.

# Camperdown & District Historical Society Inc report

Since the last Zone Meeting in October 2018 our Society volunteers have continued to keep active with visitors, research (both in person and by email), cataloguing and indexing.

Since the completion of our new all-abilities toilet the Shire have demolished the old block. Plans are being made to landscape the area and provide a pleasant outdoor area for our volunteers and members to enjoy.

The old 'supper room' renovation is nearing completion with some painting still to be done. Once that is completed our collection of Honour Boards from local organisations will be hung. Strong but moveable storage shelving have been installed.

Recent events for members have been a tour of Coragulac House and Beeac in October a Christmas picnic visit to Marida Yallock Homestead and an afternoon meeting featuring award winning writer Elizabeth O'Callaghan of Warrnambool.

The Society is once again organising the very popular lecture series for the Robert Burns Scottish

Festival in the first weekend in July. Our centre will also be open to visitors over the weekend.

We have occasional visits from visiting groups and also from the local Primary School students.

Partnerships are being formed with Camperdown Community House and Courthouse Camperdown Inc. to assist with the planning and running of workshops focusing on both the built and natural heritage of our area.

Plans are being made to run a tour for members of a local historic property during May and other events later this year.

The membership remains strong and members are kept up to date with informative quarterly newsletters and regularly updated Facebook. We are fortunate to have a new, young volunteer who is working on keeping us up to date with technology.

Best wishes to all for a successful meeting at Swan Hill which unfortunately, due to other commitments, we are unable to attend.

**Maree Belyea, Secretary**

# Ouyen District History & Genealogy Centre report

Apologies from Ouyen for our absence. Our best wishes to Swan Hill and all other member groups.

The Ouyen District History & Genealogy Centre, located in the old Ouyen Courthouse, continues to open to the public on Fridays 9.30 am to 4 pm. As our active volunteer numbers were down to three at the start of the year it seemed we would not be able to continue opening every Friday. However articles in the local paper and on Facebook have helped attract another 3 volunteers who now require training.

To further promote the Centre an empty Ouyen shop window has changing displays. Our summer display theme was recreational water over the years to compliment interest in the new Ouyen Lake. The latest display promoted the 'Mallee Root Festival' and included a model Mallee Roller, shoot cutter with suitable photographs.

Email requests for family history continue. Several folk undertaking research have visited and been delighted with the Centre's unique resources. A couple of recent visitors are working towards book publication. A new publication is 'Mallee Roots' by Bill Hampel who grew up in Walpeup. The Centre was able to promote Bill's book which is now being enjoyed by many locals.

Ken Mustey from Mildura RSL recently donated a collection of information and photographs of every en-

listee in World War 1 from along the Mallee Track. Ken had been researching the topic for the past 25 years.

This year the Centre celebrates 30 years since moving into the Ouyen Courthouse (after its closure in 1989). The Centre first began in 1984 as part of Victoria's 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations and since then has been run by volunteers.

A Remembrance Silo Art Trail along the Mallee Highway is to commence in May. The first silo to be completed is at Walpeup and will immortalize one of the town's sons - Harold Thomas Bell (Wickham) Light horse Beersheba.

The Centre has written a letter to in support of the Walpeup Memorial Hall Committee's application for a Veterans Minor Capital Works Grant for funds towards further Hall restoration.

On reflection, the activities covered by our Centre are wide ranging and can be an important positive influence in our community. I believe having a recognized group in the community with knowledge of their districts local history is vital.

So keep up the good work everyone!

**Merle C. Pole (President)**

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

# Balmoral Historical Society report

In the last report it was mentioned that the Society has been successful in the application to Heritage Victoria's 'Living Heritage Grant Programme' to restore the Balmoral Courthouse. This is being managed on behalf of the Justice Department and Victorian Police.

Basically the Society's time has been taken up with the restoration. It is a long, slow process. Being the project manager working with the sub-contractors to ensure adherence to criteria and sourcing of some people and materials has extended the time it is taking — as well as a shrinking budget.

Other work has not come to a standstill but again, with a dwindling membership, time management and not overloading the few is important. The Society needs

to improve its numbers, a problem all are experiencing I expect. The Society has previously had a letter drop drive to attract new members. Are there any other suggestions? What methods have other groups found to be successful? We are active in the community, have a Facebook page, put articles in the local 'Balmoral Bulletin' that comes out monthly as well as having displays.

Once the restoration work is completed it is hoped (through other local groups and clubs) that members may be attracted through use of the courthouse and seeing the work that the Society carries out in the community.

# Pyramid Hill & District Historical Society Inc. report

We launched our book - Remember, Respect, Rejoice World War 2 - on 14 October, 2018 in the Memorial Hall. Two hundred people came as an extended family when Dr. Sharman Stone launched the book. Our other special guests were Sharman's father Harvey Bawden, (who now lives in Bendigo) and Lloyd Mills who lives in Mincha. Both these boys were supported by their families. Sharyn Glen (of Melbourne and who has family connections in Pyramid Hill) attended and did a video recording of our boys and this was shown at the launch. You could have heard a pin drop during the showing on the big screen. The book sells for \$35 and we have some for sale today. We did get a small grant towards printing the book from the Holdsworth Trust.

Hospitality (provided by the pre-school parents) followed and much catching up was done.

Since then we have been working on the Ferris Collection with all glass negatives scanned, labelled and sorted into sections ready to be taken to Bendigo for printing. The hall committee suggested we might have a Magic Lantern night but the pictures would be on a disc - not the same as the real thing.

The hot weather has meant visitor numbers have reduced but houses have been selling in our town and

this leads to people being interested in the story of their new place of abode. The latest are a garage, house and two blocks of land. The garage started out as the livery stables and then, with the advent of cars, the building was renovated in December, 1948 when the Holden car was promoted.

We were recently given some photos of the licensee and the Victoria Hotel. It was great as this grand building celebrated being 90 when the bar opened on 12 February. We held a small celebration to mark the day - not quite what it would have been 90 years ago when it was men only in the bar!

We produced a calendar for Christmas — "Pyramid Now and Then" — showing the old and the new eg: the swimming pool, fire brigade, school, etc. Around 65 were sold and the next one will be "Pyramid Recycled".

Clearing/land sales, farewells and sundries have been completed from 1890-1936 and are still a work in progress. This is a great resource for family history. The Depression years of 1919-1937 I didn't know much about so am learning through this project.

Hoping the WVAHS can stay in touch as we all get older and we congratulate Swan Hill for hosting today.

**Margaret Williamson — Archivist**

# Hopetoun & District Historical Society Inc. report

The society is like most other societies — always looking for members and finance.

We have had a steady stream of visitors to Corrong Homestead and the interest is possibly coming from visitors to the Silo Art Trail (which is very popular).

We have been trying for grants to get the remaining Micro films digitised as the reels are deteriorating quite badly. We have around 15 more reels to do then we will have all our Hopetoun Couriers on disc.

At present we are looking for new premises as we feel that the Old State School is coming up for sale and we may have to move out of the building as Neighbourhood House has purchased the old CFA fire station.

Research is still going at a steady rate with inquiries coming from as far as New Zealand — (that was from the Great Grandson of the first Chemist shop owner to Hopetoun in the very early 1900s).

# Swan Hill Genealogical & Historical Society report

Needless to say, our group has been occupied with the planning for the WVAHS AGM and we appreciate the response we have had from the districts. Personally I am thrilled with the response from the members in planning, contributing and attendance on the weekend. Special thanks to Helen Curkpatrick for her assistance in the preparations.

Our long time researcher, Bet Jenvey, retired from the position recently after many, many years of filling this role. It was a position she loved doing and her personal knowledge and desire to research has been greatly appreciated. On a positive note there have been several people take on the task of researching in the interim and I'm sure they will find these duties just as rewarding as Bet has.

In the preparation for the AGM I was able to attend the Southern, Wimmera and Midlands meetings in Colac, Warracknabeal and Carisbrook respectively which I found very interesting and rewarding discovering what other groups are doing and how they do it. This is one of the benefits of WVAHS.

The all-time conundrum of how much to charge for research has been tackled for the first time in many years and we have decided on a figure (subject to variation) of \$20. For the amount of time and resources consumed this seems to still be reasonable.

Thanks also go to Peter Morton for offering his boat for a cruise this weekend and allowing visitors to appreciate the Mighty Murray.

**Steve Pentreath, President**

## Barham-Koondrook Historical Society Inc. report

The ongoing activities of our small group of volunteers have resulted in a number of important goals being reached with others awaiting further attention to achieve completion. This vital, though sometimes tedious work, is a continuation of our stated aim to preserve the history of our local towns and surrounding districts for current interested parties and for future generations.

Our annual pictorial calendar once again proved to be a profitable fund-raiser as have a couple of street raffles and our rostered Friday night meat raffle every six weeks at Mates Royal Hotel in Koondrook always greatly contributes to our operating expenses.

Re-prints of some of our out-of-print publications are in the works and we have already completed production of a facsimile edition of the popular "Pictorial History of Barham-Koondrook District 1843-1993".

Our secretary/treasurer, Helen, has completed the scanning of the donated collection of over 60,000 negatives from local photographer Sam Dailey. The task of identifying the people, places and events depicted therein continues. Helen is now working on a similar negative collection from another local photographer Rudie Metzler and is well advanced with the digitising process. When this project is completed, the two collections will be an enormous asset for future researchers. In fact, they have already proved invaluable in many cases despite the current lack of

identification on a large percentage of the images.

We have also started to digitise our folders of photographs and family histories so that copies can be kept off-site in secure storage. This is another long term project which needs to be worked on intermittently as our volunteers' limited time permits.

Funding for the restoration of the Koondrook Baptist Church building is again on the agenda.

We have applications in the works for several possible partial grants with outcomes awaited.

Our attempt to obtain a grant under the Victorian Government's "Pick My Project" initiative was, not surprisingly, unsuccessful. The procedure was cumbersome and not well thought through, as many of you will be aware. Being on the border, over half of our volunteers and many other locals were ineligible to vote for us being NSW residents. Getting word across to eligible voters was expensive and time-consuming and we are grateful to our volunteers who did so much to try to achieve a successful outcome.

In closing, we want to extend best wishes to our fellow Zone Societies — your committee members, donors, visitors, customers and most of all, your dedicated volunteers — the time and effort they have contributed is widely and greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**Prepared by Allan J. Tompkins, President,  
for the Barham-Koondrook Historical Society.**

*Wanted articles of interest  
from your local area  
for future newsletters*

# Carisbrook Historical Society report

As the new president of the Carisbrook Historical Society — I'm new to this but I'm sure I will get it right eventually.

We have been very busy indexing and updating a lot of data including our very extensive photograph collection and including them on our system. This is a complicated exercise as some of them are unfortunately unnamed.

We have "kinder" on a weekly basis for members to learn our computer programs which is extremely helpful for the newer members to learn how to access our records.

We produced a calendar late last year with pleasing results with the proceeds going to the restoration of our

town hall. It contained scenes of local attractions and the girls did a wonderful job for a first time effort.

We have also been helping local people with their family history on ancestors of this area which is very interesting not only for them but we also find out interesting stories about this area (with quite a few people making return visits to us.)

We have had some very entertaining guest speakers with a wealth of information about the district and how life was like in the early days. This was very interesting and we hope to have many more.

Kind regards to all

**Nancy Egan, President.**

## Glenthompson Historical Group Inc. zone report

The Glenthompson History Group only just held their AGM this Thursday night with only one change from last year being our new president Elaine Budgen. Elaine has been a member for many years and had taken a break away from the group over the past few years. But she graciously stepped up to take on the president's position when our president resigned after the birth of her baby prematurely last year and she took up the mantle again at the AGM.

For the most part we have had a very quiet year with only one main event. We were part of the Armistice Day celebrations alongside the Glenthompson branch of the "Friends of RSL" back in November. There was a weekend of events including a dinner and old-time dance on the Saturday night while Sunday commenced with Remembrance Day celebrations at the Cenotaph before people headed to different venues around the town to reminisce. At the History Centre we had a display of photos, war relics, medals and military documentation for people to peruse. We also were lucky enough for a gentleman to bring along an old jeep that was well remembered around the town as belonging to the garage man. It was used to assist those whose vehicles had broken down requiring a tow as well as delivering gas bottles to people's homes. The weekend was well attended and our Facebook page, where we had many more photos and documents, was viewed heaps.

Between the Armistice Weekend and our Facebook page we have had more requests for research into different aspects of family histories. One of these requests helped to highlight a big gap in both our groups and the local cemetery trusts records. Apparently the Headmaster at the local primary school was the BDM's registrar in the early 1900's and all the records were stored at the school. Sadly a fire destroyed the school and all those records. While attempting to research burial records for this person we discovered that we had almost no records pre 1913. We are currently attempt-

ing to rectify this issue through the BDM registry. Another of the research requests once again reminded us of just what a small world it really is. The woman making the request turned out to be the wife of a distant cousin of my own.

I am still busy slowly digitising our collection. It's a big job and will take many more hours to come. Many of the photos are shared on our Facebook page with good results. We have received quite a lot of little tidbits of information which help us to identify people in old photos as well as helping to flesh out events and items with background information either unknown or lost in time.

We are still awaiting to hear whether we will be able to acquire the old primary school. We are told, we should know something more definite in approximately a month's time. We hope to move into the old school for two main reasons — firstly to allow us to better display our collection and to ensure the conditions are better for the survival of our collection (which is currently at risk due to moisture issues in our current location.) We are also awaiting a contractor to assess the issues we are having in our current site to see if we can get repairs done before it is too late. As always it comes down to who has the responsibility the local council who are the leasees or Victrack who own the property. I would value feedback from anyone here today who may be able to guide us with minimising the damages to our collections.

Thank you.

**Tracey Potatau-Wright (Sec.)  
Glenthompson Historical Group Inc.**

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



# A History of Stawell newspapers

The first newspaper in the world is believed to have been the "Tching Pao" translated as the Peking Gazette. It was first published 1306 years ago in 713 AD in the Chinese capital during the Chang dynasty, to make known the decrees of the Court and it ceased publication only in 1900.

## **Local Stawell Newspapers.**

### **1858 The Pleasant Creek Times.**

A printer named Scott started a newspaper called the Pleasant Creek Times. The small printing office was near the Peace Memorial on Halls Gap road. Publishing at the same time was the Mount Ararat & Pleasant Creek Advertiser printed at that time by Nuthall and Banfield and at a later date by Banfield and Merrifield.

1860 to 1867 the Mount Ararat and Pleasant Creek Advertiser was the chief exponent of Pleasant Creeks requirements.

### **1867 The Pleasant Creek Chronicle**

The residents of the Reefs wanted a local newspaper and Thomas Stubbs of Melbourne undertook the task of starting one this was named the Pleasant Creek Chronicle. It was bought out by a syndicate which started the Stawell Chronicle.

### **1868 The Pleasant Creek News**

Mr Maynard Ord started an opposition paper which he named the Pleasant Creek News. It was first published twice a week. Subsequent proprietors of this paper were Rev. Z. Davies, (during whose term it was a daily paper,) also C.T. Ord and Lyell and Marquand. It became amalgamated with the Stawell Chronicle, (the other daily paper which had been started in opposition after Lyell and Marquand had purchased the older journal.)

### **Pleasant Creek News and Stawell Chronicle.**

The Stawell Chronicle proprietors purchased the plant and business of the Pleasant Creek Chronicle, which then disappeared. The first proprietor of the

Stawell Chronicle included in its list of shareholders Mr. N.W. Swan, (who edited it before and after amalgamation and after his death.) The amalgamated publication appeared as the Pleasant Creek News and Stawell Chronicle.

Shortly after the change of title and a long period of depression on the goldfields the re-organised journal dropped down to a tri weekly and continued until approximately 1896. Peter Galbraith was the organizer of the company which started the Stawell Chronicle; shareholders included J. Clough, Dr. Bennett, D. McKellar, A. Brown, E. Bennett, R. Z. Davies and G. Bristow.

### **1887 Stawell Times and Wimmera Advertiser**

At the end of 1887 mining prospects improved and a new company was formed by R.W. Baxter to publish a second tri weekly paper called the Stawell Times and the Wimmera Advertiser. The first issue was in February 1888.

### **1896 Stawell News and Pleasant Creek Chronicle**

The title was changed to the Stawell News and the Pleasant Creek Chronicle. Mr Fleetwood-Smith commenced as publisher in 1906

### **1951 Stawell Times and Wimmera Advertiser.**

The title was changed to the Stawell Times.

### **1961 Stawell Times News**

The Stawell News & the Pleasant Creek Chronicle closed in December, 1961 and the local newspaper became known as the Stawell Times News, (as it is known up to this day.) It was first published on Tuesday 9th January 1962. Mr Frank Plaisted remained on as Manager and Publisher. Mr Ken Dadswell became Managing Editor and publisher in October, 1964 and remained for 21 years up until his retirement.

**Extracted from Digging Up the Past  
Stawell newsletter Jan-Mar 2019**

## Stawell Historical Society report

Digging Up the Past newsletter

What's happening at our Society?

We recently received a Post Office Letter Box that was situated in the Main Street since the late 1800's and was recently removed for Street alterations. The Letter Box was donated to us by Australia Post and has been installed near the front of the Old Court House. (Our Museum)

We are about to install a very old Gas Light and Column near the Letter Box.

Our current Museum display features the history of the Stawell Woollen Mills that existed in Stawell from 1926 to 1998. We are also setting up a display on the history of the Stawell Timber Industries that supplied timber, and built houses from 1948 to 1980. These houses were sold locally, and interstate including Darwin and Alice Springs Transported by truck and assem-

bled at the distant locations. Some houses were also exported to Indonesia.

We have developed a 'Local History and Schools Program' to connect our local schools to the Historical Society. We aim to enhance student's knowledge, exposure to and an understanding of the events and people that brought Stawell into being and the journey to our present day. We are keen to develop a stronger sense of community and invite teachers to call and meet with us to discuss our aims and objectives.

Our Facebook site is becoming more popular with many hits and we have received very good responses in regard to our weekly posts. Some of the responses lead to enquiries that are made directly to us for further information.

We are now the proud owners of display banners (Bow Banners) to help attract visitors to our Museum.

# Charlton Golden Grains Museum report

Again we've had a busy six months. We took part in the Remembrance Day event on November 11<sup>th</sup> which took place in the Elliott Gardens in front of the Museum. We opened the museum to the public and created a few extra displays of WW1 items. This was a terrific day and over 50 people visited the museum.

On Thursday night (28<sup>th</sup> March) we hosted a 'Night at the Museum'. This event was initiated by a couple of our newer members. The night had a fifties theme with special displays of fifties items from our collection as well as short term loans from the community. Fifties music, tv shows and a broadcast of Blue Hills were also playing in different rooms. Wine, nibbles and supper were included in the ticket price. This was a great night with over 40 people attending including several new visitors to the museum. We plan to make it an annual event. The displays look so good they will be left on display for the next three months.

We have renewed our clothing display with three wedding dresses. Two of the dresses are from the same family a mother and a daughter. One first dress is from 1902 and the bride sadly died after having here first baby, Elinor, in 1903. The second dress is the 1930

wedding dress of Baby Elinor who lived until she was 102. Her daughter Janet allowed us to use the dresses in the bridal parade last year and has loaned them to us for 12 months.

Working towards accreditation with MAVic is keeping us busy. Our submission is due in June, so we are busy producing procedures, interpretation and collection policies, manuals and a disaster plan, all of which we didn't have previously. We are making great progress and it's a worthwhile process just to make us document our activities.

Finally, after four years of patient negotiation we have signed a User's Agreement with the Uniting Church to officially use two of their disused buildings for a peppercorn rent. A builder can now replace the floor in one of the buildings so we can use it for storage.

Carolyn, our Secretary, is currently working on a book for the Charlton Bowling Club 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which is being celebrated in September. This will be Carolyn's 5<sup>th</sup> book with another two books in the pipeline. Whilst they are very time consuming to produce the finished project is always worth the effort.

## Temporary society closure at Glenthompson

Due to renovations, Glenthompson History Centre is closed temporarily.

We operate out of the old railway station and the owners (Victrack) along with representatives of the local shire council (Sthn. Grampians) have been through and assessed the building, after much pushing from us. Now they are finally going to get to and do all the repairs that are needed to clean up the building (internal render falling away from the walls, white ant damage to the floors, moisture issues, etc) as well as upgrading a few things to assist us in both managing our collection bet-

ter and removing the current risks to both our volunteers and the general public.

As we are only a handful of volunteers at the moment, we are closed effective immediately, to allow time to pack and move our collection prior to the commencement of the capital works. We look forward to notifying everyone of our re-opening.

Cheers, Tracey Potatau-Wright  
Secretary, Glenthompson Historical Group Inc.  
(AKA Glenthompson History Group)

### Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies (WVAHS)

Emeritus Professor Richard Broome, President Royal Historical Society of Victoria, together with the RHSV Councillors, has much pleasure in inviting you to the launch of our exhibition,

#### Isaac Selby: Lecturer, Historian, Assassin!

Commenced **June 13 2019** — **January 2020 9am-5pm**

at the Gallery Downstairs, RHSV  
239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne

The exhibition will be launched by

**Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC FASSA, FAHA FAHS, FRHSV**  
**Curator: Alison Cameron**

Joining the (Royal) Historical Society of Victoria at the age of 60 was a turning point in Isaac Selby's life. He had enjoyed early career success and a happy family life but, in his early forties, the bottom fell out of his world, and Selby committed a crime that made sensational headlines across the globe. This exhibition presents the colourful life and times of Isaac Selby through his own words and pictures.

# Spanish Flu comes to Wycheproof

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 Carlton, Melbourne, who succumbed to an attack of the influenza. Miss Walder had been nursing at the Witherspoon Hospital for almost two years

## **Mt Witherspoon Ensign April 18, 1919 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 Witherspoon Hospital, was found at her post of duty when called upon about two weeks ago to nurse an influenza male patient from Charlton. 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 was terminated a few days after her 24th birthday.

Before taking up duty at the Witherspoon 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. and 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 Witherspoon 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.

# Horsham Historical Society report

Our collection continues to increase thanks to ongoing acquisitions and permission to copy information and photos. We have many things on the go and often require volunteers to assist with scanning and data/photo entry.

The Society continues to have many projects happening including a monthly history column in the Wimmera Mail Times. Feb-April articles include: Green Park Home, Thornley's Home and Bullocks in the Wimmera. Topic suggestions or researchers for articles are more than welcome.

The Grant from Horsham Rural City Council for binding copies of the Wimmera Mail Times has been used to bind 2016 and 2017 editions.

No word yet if we have been successful for the PROV: Local History Grant for two new research computers and a portable desk.

We have applied to Horsham Rural City Council-Community Development Grant 2019/20 for heritage signage in the CBD and Horsham Sports & Community Club for binding the 2018 editions of the Wimmera Mail Times.

We had a small group visit in April. Hosts Jim Heard and Rod Jenkinson talked on local families and gave a tour of HHS.

**Requests Feb-April:** HHS has received approximately 32 requests - this includes 20 for family research

the rest were general. Several requests are still ongoing or awaiting a reply. Thank you to the researchers and others who have assisted — we really appreciate all the effort you put in. Requests have been declining due to the availability of free websites and Facebook

**Publications purchased:** 13 including one society interview.

*(A full list of the publications is available from our website or at HHS).*

## **AGM agenda & Nomination form:**

Attached are the AGM Agenda and Nomination Form. We encourage members to consider nominating for the committee. Membership Fees are from 1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020 and the due date is 30 July. Forms will be sent out in July after the AGM. Printed Historians will have a fee with no additional cost for an email copy.

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

## **Contact Details**

Please make sure the society has all your current contact details — including email and mobile number so you do not miss out on the quarterly newsletters or any society news/updates.

## **Upcoming Events/Important Dates:**

**May:** Society birthday – no event planned.

## Lucky trip sees steps to forgotten springs unearthed



**Newstead resident Chris Simmins has uncovered a piece of forgotten history — the Joyce's Creek Springs.**

**By Christie Harrison  
Maryborough Advertiser — May 24, 2019**

Newstead resident Chris Simmins thought someone had been dumping rubbish when he tripped over a piece of concrete on the bank of Joyce's Creek.

But little did Chris know that what he'd actually stumbled across a piece of lost history which he'd spent weeks searching for.

The concrete was part of the Joyce's Creek Springs, a once hugely popular natural spring located next to the Pyrenees Highway bridge which crosses Cairn Curran Reservoir near Newstead.

Discovered in the 1930s, the spring attracted hundreds of people to its banks, but, until its recent rediscovery was completely lost to time.

Chris said he first heard about the Springs from a friend and became interested in rediscovering the lost landmark.

"I was on my way to Maryborough with a friend, Bernie Gervavsoni and as we drove over the Pyrenees Highway bridge and he mentioned that a member of our local fire brigade used to hose down the steps he said.

I had no idea what he was talking about and he told me about the concrete steps going down to a spring on the bank of the creek."

Talking to fellow Newstead residents Chris discovered the springs had once been a well established rest spot for tourists and travellers but there was no record of its location.

I had recently retired and being a former surveyor, I had two weeks to spare so I started looking for them by probing," he said.

"I probed from Plaistow (which is a fair way from the bridge) looking for some sign of a structure but couldn't find anything.

"I decided that if I didn't find it on the last day of the two weeks I would give up. I was wandering around on

that last day near the bridge feeling quite despondent when I tripped over a big bluestone rock. I put my hand out to save myself which came to rest on a piece of concrete.

"Initially I thought someone had been dumping rubbish but I started poking around and realised it was the edge of a step. The next day I started excavating and discovered the springs.

From there Chris jumped into research, pulling up plenty of record from old newspapers and community notices:-

"On January 28, 1936 the Tarrengower Times published a story which described how a boy named Templeton had discovered the spring while fishing," he said.

"Lots of local notables (like councillors from the various shires including Tullaroop, Maldon, Baringhup, Newstead and Maryborough) became involved in a management committee for the springs.

"In 1939 the committee received a grant and the steps leading down to the springs were constructed for £100 which was a lot of money in those days.

"There was also a lot of analysis done on the spring water and it was the second if not the first best mineral water in Victoria which is what made it so popular. People would come with bottles and collect water and there was seating and signs.

"It used to issue 100 gallons of water per hour just under its own power no pump needed. It was well loved and popular but it was eventually lost in time.

Since making his discovery Chris has been taking measurements and plotting the location of the springs in the hopes it will not be forgotten by future generations.

My part of this is just to document it. The spring's no longer functioning but I want to make sure it's not forgotten again" he said.

"It will be covered up again in time because the reservoir will rise and fall but I want to make sure it's not lost to future generations.

# Coroner's Inquest, on businessman Mr. Robert Mann.

Hobarton Guardian October 15, 1847

The enquiry of the corpse as to the cause of the death of Mr. Mann, having terminated at one o'clock on Thursday morning last, we shall now give a full narrative of the brutal murder from the evidence as given at the inquest, at which we were present taking notes with an understanding that we would not publish them until the inquest had terminated.

It appears that Mr. Mann left his office in Murray-street on Thursday afternoon and proceeded to the Berridale Inn, Glenorchy where he remained about 4 hours which house he left about 9 o'clock to proceed to his own farm which is about half a mile from the Berridale up a lane of the highroad; about halfway between the house of the deceased and the road in the lane that leads to his late residence is a gate at the entrance to his farm and when he entered the gate the deceased only proceeded a few steps before he received two mortal wounds at the back of the head either of which said Dr. Bright was sufficient to have cause immediate death but other wounds were inflicted by the brutal fiends or monsters who thus took the life of an inoffensive and much respected fellow-citizen.

Nothing was generally known in the neighbourhood where the murder was committed until the following morning and we will just give the evidence of Miss Richards who was stopping at the house of the deceased at the time and a few days before at the house of Mr. Mann as given in evidence on Tuesday last at the Berridale Inn before A. B. Jones, Esq. and the following jury Henry Bilton, Esq. foreman (who we have much pleasure in stating paid the greatest attention to the witnesses and made a note of the whole of their evidence,) Messrs. Thomas Aberly, Solomon Austin, S. S. Stevens, Joseph Beresford, Sinclair Williamson, J. H. Barley and John Robertson. The coroner closed the court on the public as he has the privilege to do fearing that the ends of justice might be frustrated if the evidence was talked over before the termination of the inquest, but allowed reporters to be present on condition that the proceedings were not published until the termination of the inquest.

Miss Richards, on being sworn, said — I am daughter of Mr John Richards, schoolmaster; I went to stop for a few days at Mr. Mann's, the deceased, whose body I saw this day at the Berridale Inn. On Thursday evening last, I was stopping at Mr. Mann's, about 10 minutes past 9 o'clock, and on the same evening we were expecting Mr. Mann home and Mrs Mann went to the door, and said she saw Mr. Mann coming up the lane with a lantern; Mrs Mann then told Livingston that his master was coming. Livingston said, is he? Mrs. Mann asked Livingston what o'clock it was? He replied 10 minutes past nine. About a quarter of an hour after that time, Miss Agnes Mann and I went out to see what Mr. Mann was about we had a candle with us Miss Mann called out Father two or the times but no one answered.

Mrs Mann laid a cup and saucer with a plate a knife

and fork for Mr. Mann to get his supper Mrs Mann said if the deceased was in a good humour she would remain up for some time but if he was cross she would go to bed Mrs Mann called out to Livingston Henry the master is coming he said is he? We waited up for some time but the deceased did not come. I asked Mrs Mann what kept Mr. Mann so late? She replied he often stopped out later than that in the past and we thought we heard some one talking in the yard and I thought it was the deceased talking to the pigs as he sometimes did. I heard the dogs bark and said it is strange the dogs bark at Mr. Mann there must be some stranger. Mrs. Mann said perhaps he is drunk. I told Mr Mann she had better go to bed as if Mr. Mann was in a bad humour there might be a quarrel. Mrs. Mann then went to her bedroom. Sometime after this I heard someone talking and we listened to hear who it as. Miss Mann said it was Michael Whelan.) We heard the kitchen door open, and Miss Mann called out to Livingston to know who came in. A voice, which I believed to be Livingston's, replied it is Michael. Miss Mann then said, Michael did you come up the drive? Michael said he did not. Miss Mann then asked Michael if he had seen her father. Whelan said he did not. I heard Mrs. Mann say she wondered here Mr. Mann could be when Miss Mann replied, perhaps he is at the Berridale on business. We then went to bed.

About half-past 5 o'clock, on Friday morning last, the 8th instant Mrs. Mann told Miss Agnes Mann and me to get up as there must be something the matter with Mr. Mann as he had not come home. I saw Mrs. Mann go to the parlour door and call Whelan whom she told to get up and go to the public-house and see if his master was there. Mrs Mann seemed very much frightened to think that Mr. Mann had not returned. Miss Mann and I then went down the lane as far as the red gate which is the boundary of Mr. Mann's land. We stood there for 10 minutes when we heard footsteps behind us and on looking round I saw Livingston behind us who seemed to be looking about at the road where the body was found. We saw that too and (pointing to Whelan) returning from the public-house. I asked Livingston if he thought anything wrong had happened Mr. Mann; he replied I do not know shortly after this Livingston found the body and said here he is. I said is he asleep and Livingston replied "My God he is murdered." I looked and saw Mr. Mann's boots. I ran up the road crying. Miss Mann began to cry and said now my father is gone what are we to do? Mrs. Mann called out what is the matter? Livingston told her she fell in the road and cried very much. Miss Mann and I assisted Mrs Mann up to the house and put her into a chair. Livingston then said Mrs this is Michael's work it is strange he was out last night. Miss Mann said you ought not to accuse anyone without you know, you might accuse the innocent. Livingston then went down the road. Whelan

Continued on Page 14.

then called in and Mrs Mann asked him where he was on the previous night. He replied that as he was with free people; he did not like to say as it might get them in to trouble as he was an assigned servant. Mrs. Mann said to him it looks very curious and, if you are taken, you will be obliged to tell. Michael then went out. In reply to the coroner, this witness said she had known the family for about 2 or 3 years that she had known Mr. Mann to come home tipsy' but always able to walk home. I never knew the deceased to stop out so late before. I asked Mrs Mann what made her cry on the Friday morning and she said she had dreams and was afraid something had happened Mr Mann. I did not hear any cries of murder on Thursday night last. I did not sleep with Mrs Mann on Thursday night but on the bed that was made for Mr. Mann.

There were several other questions put to the witnesses but they were not of any importance. On Friday morning Livingstone sent a passholder in the employment of the late Mr. Mann to inform the police. He went to D. C. Scott, who went to where the body was lying after which Scott proceeded to Hobart Town and reported the murder at the police office as he was returning to Glenorchy, Mr. Moruan, C. C., and D. C. Goldsmith overtook him in a cab and he accompanied them to the place where the murder was committed, Messrs. Morgan and Goldsmith then proceeded to the house of the deceased and examined the occupants.

Mr. Goldsmith asked Mrs Mann if any of her men could have been absent on the previous night without her knowledge but did not receive a satisfactory reply. Mr. Morgan then directed Whelan and Livingstone to be taken into custody.

The body was removed to the Berridale Inn and the coroner enquired of the murder, when it was arranged that an inquest would be held on the following day. Shortly after 10 o'clock on Saturday the proceedings were commenced and the jury were much alarmed at the frightful appearance of the deceased as his head was literally smashed to pieces.

Dr. Bright made a post mortem examination of the deceased and gave it as his opinion that the deceased must have died from either of the wounds inflicted by some blunt instrument. A statement was handed to the coroner and jury which was made by Whelan on the Friday night in the lock-up which implicated Livingstone in the horrid murder and was signed by Whelan, as correct

The coroner and jury sat until late on Saturday

night, and then adjourned the court until the following Tuesday. On Sunday last Whelan bent for O. C. Scott and to that officer made a "further statement" which affirmed that Mrs. Mann was concerned in the brutal murder and entered into several particulars respecting what occurred previous the murder.

Whelan admitted in his statement that he laid in wait for Mr. Mann on the previous Tuesday for the purpose of murdering him with a pitchfork but when Mr. Mann came up he had not the heart to do it at that time but that he and Livingstone murdered Mr. Mann on the Thursday night. Several portions of this statement are unfit for publication but Whelan declared that it was true as he stood before God.

When the statement was finished it was thought necessary to apprehend Mrs Mann. On Tuesday the coroner and jury again assembled at the Berridale Inn, when an axe was produced by Dalvol the "detective force" which he found at the house of the deceased among some wood upon which was a quantity of blood and hair. Dr. Bright examined the hair and on comparing it with some of the hair cut off the head of the deceased declared it to correspond which left little doubt on the minds of the jury that the axe was the fatal instrument with which the foul murder was committed.

The second statement of Whelan was put in and read during the reading of which Mrs Mann was very much excited and declared there was not a word of truth in it. Both statements were made by Whelan without being solicited to make them or any threat or inducement whatever. Whelan told the constables he was with a man, who lives at Glenorchy, called "Old Jonathan" on the night of the murder but on enquiry this was not found to be the case.

Several witnesses were examined and the enquiry lasted until 10 o'clock on Tuesday night when the court was adjourned until the following morning. Mrs Mann gave evidence to show that in consequence of some misunderstanding between the deceased and the man Whelan on the day previous to the murder Whelan threatened Mr. Mann.

On Wednesday the coroner and jury again assembled and after taking evidence to a late hour the coroner then summed up and read the evidence over to the jury who after deliberating about three hours and a half returned a verdict of wilful murder against Henry Livingstone and of aiding and abetting against Michael Whelan. The prisoners will be tried next week at the Supreme Court.

## History Victoria Bookshop

Our *History Victoria Bookshop* has both a physical presence at 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne and an on-line presence through our website and is a valuable outlet for any and all publications which touch on Victorian history.

We mostly sell books on consignment and there is a consignment agreement and information available for download from our website.

If you are sending us three books for the bookshop

we ask you to consider adding two more copies and make it five in total.

The first extra copy is a donation to strengthen our collection of Victorian history - the largest and most important collection outside government bodies. The 2nd donation is a review copy.

We are happy to sell books from other historical societies and have great success in helping these publications reach a larger readership.

# Successful March weekend in Swan Hill

On Saturday March 30 at 6.30 am Judy and I departed Carisbrook for the day trip to Swan Hill to attend the AGM of the WVAHS which was well attended with about 80 members attending.

Following a quick cuppa and something to eat the group split up to attend zone meetings, Midlands zone was very well attended.

At midday the AGM commenced with Michael Menzies of Geelong re-elected as President, the position of Vice-President was filled by Margaret Haines of Maryborough, Secretary/Treasurer again went to Helen Curkpatrick of Horsham, Webmistress again went to Carolyn Olive of Charlton and Newsletter Editor again went to myself for a third year.

Membership fee was again left at \$30 per society and \$15 per individual for the four newsletters.

The majority of societies have kept research fees to \$20 plus small charge per page and photographs. Carisbrook increased to \$25.

John Kumm of Donald gave an updated session on the slide show "History Road Trips" where each society can input historical places of interest on a smart phone app showing where tourists can find items of interest eg. cemeteries, monuments, heritage buildings etc.

WVAHS has the webpage up and running including

newsletters which can be downloaded and also a Facebook page to those interested. Please give it a go.

Next zone meetings are to be at Natimuk for Wimmera zone, Southern zone to be held at Derrinallum/Lismore and Midlands zone to be held at ERpentine by Cohna Historical Society location and date to be confirmed in September/October 2019.

Next AGM to be held hopefully at Ararat (to be confirmed)

Following the AGM members were taken on an hour cruise on a paddle steamer down the Murray with afternoon tea served on board which was greatly enjoyed by all.

Sadly Judy and I missed the dinner Saturday evening and the trip to historic Tytynander Homestead on the Sunday due to commitments on the Sunday at home in Maryborough.

At 5pm Judy and I headed off on the return drive home arriving just after dark completing a 466 km trip and kangaroo free.

**Robin Parker, Secretary,  
Carisbrook Historical Society and  
Editor of the WVAHS newsletter  
"Western Historian"**

## Victorian Community History Awards Applications close 2pm, 19 July

Each year, in partnership with Public Records Office Victoria (PROV) we run the **Victorian Community History Awards** – the eligibility period runs from 1 Jul to the following 30 Jun. Applications are now open for projects which will come to fruition between 1 Jul 2018 and 30 Jun 2019.

The awards ceremony is held at the Victorian Arts Centre during History Week in October (Mon 14 Oct 2019) and the peak award is the Premier's History Award. There are nine different awards in total covering all aspects of community history.

These awards are not just for published history but include podcasts, exhibitions, articles, multi-media presentations, etc.

**Application forms are available now through the link below.**

**Victorian Community History Awards  
2018 – 2019**

Entries are now open for 2018 – 2019. Applications close at 2pm, Fri 19 July 2019.

**2019 Application information and on-line  
application form can be found here.**  
**2017 – 2018**

Entries for the 2017-2018 year are now closed. All Victorian history projects which come to fruition between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2019 should be entered in the awards for 2018-2019. Entry forms will be available from this website in April 2019.

The Victorian Community History Awards recognise excellence in historical method: the award categories acknowledge that history can be told in a variety of formats with the aim of reaching and enriching all Victorians. The Victorian Community History Awards have been held since 1999 and are organised by Royal Historical Society of Victoria in cooperation with the Public Record Office Victoria.

Thank you to all who submitted works for the 2018 Victorian Community History Awards. Please access the award booklet:

**VCHA 2018 winners and commendations booklet**  
**VCHA 2018 All Entrants book**  
**Where to find VCHA publications final**

Keep an eye on this page or contact the Royal Historical Society of Victoria [office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au) for details of our 2019 Victorian Community History Awards.

Stories of the 2017 Victorian Community History Award Winners

The RHSV is currently publishing, in our eBulletin, a series of articles by Paul Sandringham profiling the 2017 winners of the VCHA. They are great stories and well-worth reading. As the stories are published we will also upload them to this website..

# Are You an Author? or History Publisher? — We can help you

## **HOLSWORTH LOCAL HERITAGE GRANTS: Closes 31 July**

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria is currently accepting applications for grants of up to \$2,000 which are available for the publication of any specific or general local history or natural history in rural and regional Victoria. The grant is intended for small organisations with an interest in publishing works of historical value. Applications close 31 July 2019.

### **MARKETING**

We have almost **1,200 members** – 350 of which are other historical societies across Victoria which usually forward our newsletters to their members so our total reach is up to 20,000 history enthusiasts across Victoria. The community history movement in Victoria is strong and well organised.

### **We have 4 regular avenues for publication:**

1. The *Victorian Historical Journal* (VHJ) which is a substantial journal of articles, papers and **long book reviews** which comes out twice a year for our 1,200 members. It is also digitally available through the State Library of Victoria website, Informit (University Libraries) and Web of Science (educational libraries). It also has a small subscription list of libraries across Australia and around the world. The editors choose the books to be reviewed. VHJ also accepts **advertisements**.

2. *History News* is our 16 page newsletter which is delivered both electronically and / or in hard copy to our 1200 members. This is published six times per year. *History News* carries both **short book reviews and information about new titles to be found in our His-**

**tory Victoria Bookshop**. All books on Victorian history (fully or partially on Victorian history) sent to us are reviewed in *History News*. Some are then chosen by the VHJ editors for longer reviews. *History News* also accepts **advertising**.

3. *Old News* is our eBulletin which is a more informal document that goes out to our members and other interested parties fortnightly. This does not carry book reviews however every edition has a **spotlight on a new book** in the bookshop. We will also do **book giveaways** for new publications.

### 4. **Facebook**

We have a strong presence on Facebook (currently 4,250+ followers and growing at 30% pa). Facebook is used to promote our events and services including **books for sale** through our History Victoria Bookshop.

### **BOOK LAUNCHES**

We often hold **book launches** at the RHSV. These can be private launches or can be opened up to our membership in which case they get publicised through our *History News*, *Old News* and Facebook.

### **AND FINALLY ...**

Don't forget, when you publish, send us 5 copies — 1 for the collection, 1 for review and 3 for the bookshop. And then make sure you enter the Victorian Community History Awards.

And remember, finally, when you start **researching your next book**, that our Collection of Victorian history is the best place to start.

**If you have any queries please contact  
Rosemary Cameron (03) 9326 9288.**

## **Donald reports a successful year**

Since the October Zone meeting the Donald Group has held an exhibition to mark the Centenary of the Armistice, organised a full program of monthly speakers for 2019 and enjoyed a successful Annual Dinner which featured Pam Copper as guest speaker.

The Archives are open for three days per week from 10 am to 4 pm and have attracted a fair level of interest and enquiries.

This period saw the deaths of two very valuable members in Lois Davidson and Ron Falla. Lois had devoted countless hours to organising displays and to cataloguing the collection in the Court House Museum.

Ron was a foundation member of the Group and, for over 50 years, had been an active member. His 44 booklets listing the selections in Parishes in the East Wimmera are still sought out by researchers into family connections with the area. He also wrote a number of other books on local history, for some co-authored with wife Honor. His knowledge of the natural history of the area was unrivalled and he wrote a book on the Flora of Mt Jeffcott.

**A copy of Ron's death appeared in the March issue of the *Western Historian*.**

***Have you an interesting story to tell?***

**Contact editor on [robinparker81@hotmail.com](mailto:robinparker81@hotmail.com)**



# Selby, Isaac, Lecturer and Historian

by Frank Strahan

*This article was published in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 16, (MUP), 2002*

Isaac Selby (1859-1956), lecturer and historian, was born on 3 November 1859 at Greenwich, Kent, England, son of Isaac Selby, joiner, and his wife Isabella, née Gilhorne. In 1868 the family migrated to New Zealand. Young Isaac attended school at Dunedin, studied at night and began to accumulate a vast store of information about history, religion, philosophy, science, literature and the arts. He moved to Melbourne in 1882 then returned to Dunedin. At the office of the registrar of marriages, Auckland, on 28 October, 1885 he married Jessie Beatrice Chapman; they were to have a daughter and two sons.

Back in Melbourne Selby made a living from public lecturing and debating. He praised the virtues of Unitarianism and teetotalism and attacked Catholicism in general and the Jesuits in particular. In the late 1890s he and his family travelled to San Francisco, United States of America where a businessman Donald McRae introduced them to the Universal Spiritual Association. Isaac repudiated the society as Catholic but Jessie came under its influence and refused to leave San Francisco. He sailed to Australia alone in 1901. After standing unsuccessfully against H. B. Higgins for the House of Representatives seat of Northern Melbourne at the Federal election in March, he attributed his defeat to 'the sinister hand of Rome'.

In 1904 Selby returned to San Francisco. When his wife petitioned for divorce he countered by suing McRae for alienating her affections. Judge James Hebbard found against Selby granted the divorce and gave Jessie custody of the children. On 28 November Selby entered Hebbard's court and fired a revolver at him: the bullet lodged in the back of the judge's chair. He was sentenced to seven years imprisonment, transferred to a hospital for the insane, and released in 1910 on the condition that he immediately leave for Australia.

Selby resumed lecturing and debating in Melbourne and at country centres. His performances often supported by musicians, singers and photographic slides, continued until the 1950s. As part of a protest against the planned resumption of the old Melbourne cemetery, he formed the Old Cemetery and Soldiers' Memorial Union in March 1918 to 'Save the Old Cemetery and build in the centre of it a monument to the Heroic men who have fallen at the front'. In 1920 he joined the (Royal) Historical Society of Victoria. About that time he inaugurated the Old Pioneers' Memorial Fund to promote the study of history and to lobby for the erection of a statue of **John Batman** in the Flagstaff Gardens.

In 1924 the fund published Selby's book *The Old Pioneers' Memorial History of Melbourne*, in which he commended the growth of charitable organizations, praised developments in literature, the arts, science and industry and endorsed free education, the eight-hour day and the White Australia policy. In the following year he published a pantomime *Hinemoa* in the same volume as his history, *Memories of Maoriland*. His other works included *The Old Pioneers Memorial Almanac* (1935).

Selby never remarried. A disappointed lover named Gertie had written to him in 1924: 'You seem to overrule my thoughts when we are together'. He was sometime minister of the Church of Christ, Carlton. During World War II he lectured on the history of warfare and presided (1941-42) over the Russian branch of the Victorian division of the Australian Red Cross Society. He died on 26 March, 1956 at Parkville and was buried in Fawkner cemetery.

## Select Bibliography

*San Francisco Chronicle*, 29 Nov 1904

*Argus* (Melbourne), 4 Mar 1954

*Age* (Melbourne), 27 Mar 1956

Selby papers (University of Melbourne Archives and Royal Historical Society of Victoria).

## Ah, Foster! It all started in Wimmera River

From *Wimmera Mail Times* January 23, 1980

Wimmera River water was the base of a Horsham-brew which won an award at the 1855 Paris exposition. The beer's recipe later became Fosters Lager. The story of Foster's link with the Wimmera River water came to light when Horsham historian, Lillian McKenzie, spotted a photograph of a medal from the exposition in last Friday's Mail Times.

Mrs McKenzie said Horsham-made beer from Seeliger's Brewery won the award at the exposition.

"Horsham people laughed when word came back because the water used was from the Wimmera River" she said. "The owners later sold the recipe for the beer and it became Foster's Lager".

Mrs McKenzie said a Horsham Historical Society map showed six blocks at Meadowbank, near Horsham

Showgrounds, in the name of Seeliger.

Mr Cliff Seeliger, of Langwarrin, said yesterday his Grandfather, Ernst Seeliger, had possibly brought the beer recipe from Germany — or developed it in Horsham. Family records about the brewery were destroyed by fire in 1944.

Mr Seeliger said Melbourne Combines put Horsham breweries out of business because they could cart beer from Melbourne cheaper than it could be produced in Horsham.

Ernst Seeliger also owned the Bull and Mouth Hotel and two other Horsham Hotels. He is buried at Horsham Cemetery.

A spokesman for Carlton and United Breweries said that Fosters Brothers brewery, built at Collingwood in 1888, pioneered lager-style beer in Victoria.

# ISAAC SELBY:

Lecturer, Historian,  
**Assassin!**



Joining the Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) at the age of 60 was a turning point in Selby's life. He had enjoyed early career success on the public speaking platform and a happy family life, but, in his early forties the bottom fell out of his world and Selby committed a crime that made sensational headlines across the world.

Isaac Selby (1859-1956) became a member of the RHSV in October 1920. At the time he was fighting the City Council's plan of expanding Queen Victoria Market over the grounds of Old Melbourne Cemetery.

Selby went on to co-found the Old Pioneers' Memorial Association that put on over 150 musical entertainment events to raise funds, each including an original lecture illustrated with glass lantern slides. The Selby Collection at the RHSV holds 1700 of these slides as well as numerous notebooks, manuscripts and scrapbooks.

This exhibition presents the colourful life and times of Isaac Selby in his own words and pictures.



**EXHIBITION DETAILS**  
RHSV Gallery Downstairs  
From June 14, 2019  
Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm  
Curator: Alison Cameron  
Curatorial support: Richard Barnden  
and David Thompson

