

# Western Historian

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Newsletter of the

**Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies Inc.**

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Keep This  
Weekend Free  
for your

**A.G.M. MEETING:**

**Saturday, April 21  
and  
Sunday, April 22  
2018.**

Location and Host Society:

**Port Fairy**

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Arapiles	Ararat	Ararat Rail Heritage	Balmoral
Barham/Koondrook	Birchip	Boort	Camperdown
Carisbrook	Casterton	Charlton	Cobden
Cohuna	Colac	Coleraine	Dimboola
Derrinallum/Lismore	Donald	Dunkeld	East Loddon
Edenhope	Geelong S/W/Rail	Glenthompson	Goldfields
Halls Gap	Hawkesdale	Heytesbury	Horsham
Hopetoun	Inglewood	Kerang	Koroit
Maryborough	Minyip	Mortlake	Mt. Rouse (Penshurst)
Nhill	Nullawil	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.

Welcome to the first edition of Western Historian for 2018. I would like to thank Robin for his effort in having caught up our newsletter backlog, so that we start this year on time. Thank you also to our Secretary, Helen and all other contributors.

We need to now revive our website so that the wider world may find out about us and the activities of each member organization. I also believe that we need to expand our presence with a Facebook page – any volunteer to assist with setting up and maintaining one? We need to explore any avenue to assist gain and hold the

interest of younger people so that an interest in local history lives on beyond the current generations.

Communication is vital for an organization with members spread over most of the western half of Victoria as we do not often catch up face to face. The next official opportunity to do so will be at the AGM and Zone Meetings at Port Fairy on 21-22 April 2018. I look forward to seeing many of you then.

Regards, Michael Menzies  
— President.

## Outrages by the Aborigines

The "Queensland Times" gives the following particulars of a recent outrage by blacks in the vicinity of Brisbane: A number of blacks, some twenty or thirty, congregated near the Milton bridge, in a state of obvious drunkenness. After beating their gins, and fighting with one another in a dreadful manner, they assailed the European inhabitants who happened to be looking on and demanded tobacco in true bushranging style.

One man had his scalp cut to the skull bone because he refused to give tobacco when they asked for it. The neighborhood was immediately aroused, and guns were fired off, which had the effect of dispersing the blacks. It appears that some of the blacks had been engaged in bringing down the river a raft of timber, and had made use of the proceeds of their labor to buy rum."

The ruffianism of the blacks does not appear however to equal that of some of the white population of Brisbane. The same paper gives an account of a disgraceful street fight." Queen street was the scene of one of the most discreditable disturbances that has been witnessed in this city for many a day.

About 3 o'clock a well-known public house loafer named Roache interferred with a party of seamen who were evidently bent on a spree together and being in a quarrelsome mood he was very roughly handled The unfortunate fellow was kicked and cuffed by a dozen able-bodied men any one of whom was a match for him, still he made a show to fight the lot. At this stage the police came up and interferred to quell the row, but their efforts were resisted.

A constable was seized round the waist by one brawny fellow, and was held while three or four others punched his head and with fiendish malignity tore out his beard and the hair of his head by the roots. A sergeant soon measured his length on the ground. and was brutally kicked while down.

A crowd speedily collected, and a couple of men came to the aid of the police and the assailants were at last driven off. The prime mover in the quarrel, Roache, was taken into custody. The other men were afterwards apprehended.

**Society news wanted**

# News report from Dunolly Historical Society Inc. **A NEW VERSION OF THE PAST?**

By John Tully — Dunolly Historical Society President



**1851 sketch of the Monster Meeting by David Tulloch. The approximate corner of the property purchased by Heritage Victoria has been added by black lines at the edge of the sketch.**

Recently there was an investigation held by the Heritage Council Registration Committee into the location of the Monster Meeting site. The Monster Meeting (or rather meetings) were held by miners in Chewton in 1851 to protest against the mining license fees. This pre-dated the Eureka Stockade.

It was one of the Goldfields Historical & Arts Society's members, Glenn Braybrook, who re-discovered the site along Golden Point Rd in 2003. Heritage Victoria spent \$265,000 buying a vacant block of land so the site could be included in their proposed World Heritage claim. Their own investigation found that they did not consult with the original discoverer. Nor did they do a comprehensive survey of historical records. It turns out that the actual meeting site was on a rise on the other side of the bitumen road. They purchased the wrong block of land!

This has placed Heritage Victoria in an awkward situation. Heritage Victoria stated the contemporary maps and sketches that show the meeting site is across the road are inaccurate and that the main sketch was done at a later date. If so the artist must have had an incred-

ible memory as all the features are in correct alignment including the topography. Surely this means the sketch was done on site.

All agree that the Tulloch sketch is looking easterly. The shadows in the sketch confirm this. The meeting is clearly being held on the high ground behind the shepherd's hut. The land Heritage Victoria purchased is to the north of the hut.

Heritage Victoria and the Heritage Council Registration Committee seem to be prepared to change history in order to save face.

The Goldfields Historical & Arts Society will take submissions from all parties on this subject. The historical society will be holding an independent enquiry where Heritage Victoria and others can explain their views. Other historical societies and the Prospectors & Miners Association of Victoria have expressed interest in sending representatives to form a panel.

The hearing will be at Buckley's of Dunolly, 1787 Maryborough-Dunolly Rd, Dunolly on Saturday 21st April at 1.00 pm. Submissions can be sent to John Tully at [weilapublishing@bigpond.com](mailto:weilapublishing@bigpond.com)

***IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER  
— Have your say***

# Maryborough clock keeping good time

Several of the Maryborough Historical Society members were visiting the railway station recently when they noticed V/Line's Frank Aston winding the large 8-day clock in the foyer, a task he carries out each Monday.

The clock was in storage for some years, but following the station upgrade it's now back for travellers and tourists to appreciate. It dates from the 1880s, is weight driven, and was manufactured in England. Owned by the Victorian Railways Institute, the clock is on loan to V/Line.

Courtesy of the  
Maryborough Historical Society



**IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER —  
HAVE YOUR SAY**

## An introduction to Family History

### *Introduction*

Many people desire to know where they come from — But a sense of belonging is especially important for children and youth. A knowledge about their family history gives children of all ages a sense of their place in the world. It can also give young people something to live up to — a legacy to respect. Family history also provides an opportunity for children and teenagers to make a meaningful contribution to something bigger than themselves. This lesson provides ideas about how to involve children and youth in family history activities. Children and youth who develop an interest in family history are more likely to participate in family history throughout their lives.

### *Activity Ideas*

Parents, grandparents and teachers can involve children and youth in family history in many ways. The following family history activities work well with children.

**Talk to living relatives:** Encourage children to talk to their living relatives — especially the older ones. Hearing stories about what life was like in the past helps young people connect to that time. This connection brings generations together and establishes strong family bonds.

**Expert Tip:** Take your children with you when you visit with a relative and teach them how to talk comfortably with older people. Explain what is appropriate and what is not.

Children and teenagers can interview relatives and record the interviews on a video or audiotape.

Questions they could ask include:

Where did you grow up?

What were your parents like? Your siblings?

What do you remember about your grandparents?

Who were your friends?

What was school like for you?

What did you do for fun when you were a child?

When you were a teenager — What movies and songs did you like?

How did you meet your spouse?

What important lessons have you learned in your life?

### *Tell stories*

Tell stories about your life and the lives of your ancestors. Young people need more than facts and dates — They need the facts and dates packaged in interesting, meaningful and memorable ways. The best way to create an interest in family history is by telling young people stories about real people. Fill your stories with interesting information, humorous details and unusual facts that will capture a young imagination. Sharing family stories doesn't have to be a big event; make it a common occurrence around the dinner table, in the car or at bedtime.

### *Share heirlooms and photographs*

Holding something that once belonged to an ancestor can be a powerful experience. Pictures and heirlooms make the past come alive. Children especially enjoy photographs that show how clothing and hairstyles have changed over the years. Keep photographs and family heirlooms around your home so children are constantly reminded of their heritage. Tell stories and histories about the item and its owner.

### *Attend family reunions*

Family reunions are a good way for different generations and branches of a family to come together — and gives young people an opportunity to know relatives they might not otherwise meet — a chance to create experiences and memories that can last a lifetime. Help children and youth understand how they are related to each person they meet.

For example — you might say — “This is your great-aunt Phyllis she is your grandma's older sister.”

### *Go on family history field trips*

Children of all ages enjoy field trips. A family history

field trip could be across the country or just down the street. Visit places where your ancestors lived or worked. Visit graveyards. Go to museums or living history exhibits, such as a historically re-created village or a historical farm that shows how your ancestors lived. Celebrate your family's ethnic heritage at a cultural festival. Use an Internet search engine to help you find festivals and living history exhibits in your area. Above all make these trips fun for the children.

### **Play family history games**

Games are a good way to make family history fun. Family history board games are available for purchase or you can also make up games that are specific to your family. It's easy to create a trivia or matching game or adapt a common game such as Bingo. Your children could even help make up the game. For examples of family games and instructions on how to create them.

### **Involve entertainment**

Music and movies from the past are another way to reach young people. Share music from different eras and teach children some of the dances their grandparents used to dance. Children enjoy learning the old songs their great-grandparents used to sing. Watch movies that were popular during the lifetime of an ancestor or that portray a certain period in history. Children are often amazed to see some of the old silent movies that were popular in the past.

### **Celebrate with food**

Food is an important part of holidays and family gatherings and it was the same for our ancestors. Make your grandmother's apple pie recipe or your father's famous meatloaf for your children. Food from different countries where your ancestors lived can provide an interesting variation on your normal diet. International recipes are available on the Internet and in many cookbooks. You can prepare pastries from France or kimchi from Korea for a special family history meal.

### **Create personal family histories**

Help children and teenagers create their own personal histories. They could keep a journal, create a scrapbook or write stories from their lives. Give them a camera or help them take pictures of events and save those photographs in an album.

For a list of Websites that may help you — go to Google or similar platform

### **Tie family history into school work**

Make the connection between what children learn in school and their family history. For example — if a child is studying a historical event, tell what an ancestor did who witnessed or participated in that event. Look on the Internet for information about what life was like during that time period and how wars and other events affected daily life. If a teenager studies a book for school tell about ancestors who lived at the same time as the author or who may have experienced some of the events described in the book. Help students learn about geography by looking on a map to see where ancestors lived. If children need to choose a state or country for a report suggest that they choose a place where your ancestors lived. If you have photographs of the

area your family came from you can use those photographs to augment your child's studies.

**Expert Tip:** Thousands of photographs, stories and accounts documenting local historical events, as well as other international events are available on the Internet. Articles, stories, photographs, maps, statistics and other interesting items provide excellent resources to help document events of almost every nation and cultures of the world. To find these fascinating resources, do a search on [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) or [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)

### **Age-Specific Suggestions**

**Young Children:** Children are never too young to begin learning about their family. Don't underestimate a child's ability to appreciate stories about ancestors but consider each child's age and skills when you plan family history projects. Young children can: Illustrate their own bedtime stories about their ancestors.

Create coloring books about specific ancestors or family stories. Fill out their own pedigree chart with your help or draw a family tree. These activities help them visualize how generations are connected and where they fit in the big picture. For a blank family tree that you can use, visit <http://genealogy.about.com>. For a blank pedigree chart, visit [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). Click on Search and then Research Helps. Choose Sort by Document Type then Form then Pedigree Chart Form.

Create a pictorial pedigree chart by placing a small photograph of each ancestor by his or her name. From these photographs, children learn what each ancestor looked like and children can compare similarities between themselves and their ancestors.

### **Teenagers**

One key to involving teenagers in family history is to give them something meaningful to do. Although youth may not know how to do genealogical research they often know how to use computers. Don't hesitate to ask for their help with a computer-related or Internet problem. To help with family history, teenagers can:

Search on the Internet for family history information. Enter information into a genealogical database, such as Personal Ancestral File or a similar record management

**Expert Tip:** If a teenager or a group of teenagers is interested in working on an extraction project they should work through a family history extraction specialist at a local family history centre near their home. Youth can also do indexing in their own home using the internet program.

Record information on a pedigree chart or family group record.

Create, edit, organize and print digital pictures.

Record personal histories of older relatives on video or audiotape.

Create and maintain a family Web site.

E-mail relatives and request information.

Create and edit a family newsletter.

With the necessary approval clean a cemetery or transcribe headstones for a local history society.

Help with an indexing project for a local genealogical society or historical society.

## The Tea and Sugar Train book review

**The Background** — When the railway line reached Kalgoorlie from Perth in 1896 the Western Australian Premier (Sir) John Forrest promised the goldfield's residents that the railway would extend beyond Kalgoorlie — and the locals were not going to let him forget!

This transcontinental railway became a "lure" of sorts which led Western Australia to join the Federation of Australia on 1 January 1901. A preliminary survey done that same year and many years of subsequent lobbying resulted and, in 1908, Western Australia and South Australia undertook (each to their side of the border) a full survey across the desert. It was soon realised the enormous costs were going to prove to be difficult for the young nation.

A visit to Parliament by Lord Horatio Herbert Kitchener (who was the Chief of the Imperial General Staff — that is the Chief of the British Army) in 1909 saw two things happen — the first was the introduction of compulsory military service and the second was the realisation that, from the viewpoint of the nation's defence, the transcontinental railway line was important. Further progress towards the rail line was a vote for the Bill into Federal Parliament by the Minister for Home Affairs, King (he was named after his mother's family — the King's) O'Malley, passed on 6 December 1911.

Construction of the line to Port Augusta commenced in 1912 — this first venture into railways by the Commonwealth of Australia would become the Commonwealth Railways.

The 1914-1918 war meant there were problems with both labour and supplies however construction was completed on Wednesday, 17 October, 1917 at a point near Ooldea in South Australia. One team had worked from Port Augusta at the eastern end and the other team from Kalgoorlie and, despite the hardships and challenges (the teams had to be equipped with not only the railway building materials but food, water, accommodation and other necessary supplies), when the two teams met they were less than a metre apart on a north-south line making the final joining of the rail very easy.

During World War 2 the railway line fulfilled Kitchener's prediction of its importance for Australia's defence as the line was generally unavailable for any non-military use due to its vital role in transporting troops and equipment.

In the late 1960's a standard gauge railway was built between Kalgoorlie and Perth meaning both passengers and freight suffered what was called the "break of gauge experience" — a change of trains at Kalgoorlie.

Sadly in 1996, after an incredible 81 years, the life-line to so many isolated workers and their families who lived on the 1051 miles (1692 km) between Port Augusta and Kalgoorlie was finished. The rail link had not only brought these people much needed supplies (household goods, groceries, fruit, vegetables, a butcher's van, banking facilities and, once it had a the-

atrette car for showing film) — it delivered news of the world by way of newspapers and books and (by way of the train crew) news from down the line of births, marriages, divorces and deaths. A priest travelled on the train and, in the 1970's, medical services were available. The banking car served as paymaster to the workers and often doubled as a post office.

The tea and sugar train travelled from Port Augusta to Kalgoorlie once a week from 1915 to 1996 servicing the settlements along the Nullarbor Plain. Its first service left Port Augusta on Monday, 22 October, 1917 at 10.15 am. The last tea and sugar train ran on a Friday, 30 August, 1996.

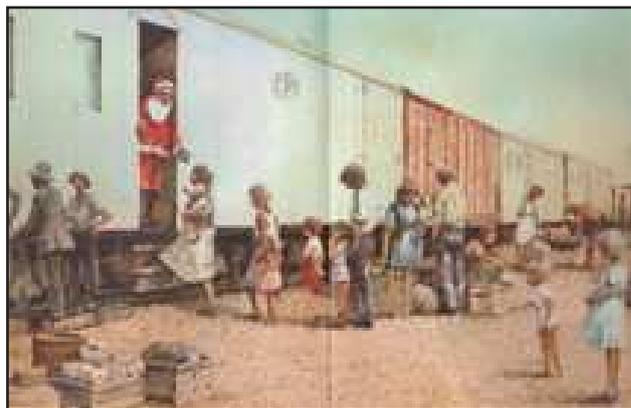
And there you have the information for the book....

"Tea and Sugar Christmas" by Jane Jolly and Robert Ingpen — ...a book I borrowed from the Wimmera Regional Library to read to my grandchildren — it caught my eye as it is a combination of my passion for steam trains and a special time of year.

**The Overview** — Kathleen is a young aboriginal girl who lives with her family along the railway line that goes all the way through to Kalgoorlie. Kathleen's family and neighbours rely on the train for all their supplies and most of them use a wheelbarrow to transport the items from the train to their homes. The December train is extra special — Father Christmas is a passenger!

**The Verdict** — The book has some lovely drawings in it and the historical value and story line make it a worthwhile read for everyone.

*Helen Curkpatrick*



**The Tea and Sugar Train at one of the remote stops on the Nullarbor complete with Santa.**

Compiled by Robin S. Parker for the  
**Western Victorian  
Association of  
Historical Societies.**  
**Mar. — Jun. — Sep. — Dec.**

# Historical society visits Castlemaine

Recently a few members from Carisbrook Historical Society and their guests motored off to Castlemaine where the group visited the Castlemaine Gaol and the old Telegraph Station.

Christine Sayer was “tour guide extraordinaire” in the way she explained the beginnings of the Castlemaine Gaol and its history up to its closure as a regular prison back in 1990.

To further explain how things evolved over the years, Ms. Sayer involved the historical group in role play by allotting each person a character.

For example, Judy Healey was the overseer (Harold) who wheeled and dealt with the authorities to make life better for himself, while the rest of the group became the unfortunates whom Harold used along the way.

A sobering moment came when the group was confronted by the silhouetted image of a man standing high up on a platform with a rope around his neck.

Ms. Sayer then told the story about the prison’s first hanging — that person being David Young.

Seems that Mr. Young was an English felon who was transported to Tasmania, did his time and was given a ticket of leave after which he relocated to Victoria.

Usually when a convict was ticketed they changed their name in order to begin a new life.

David Young did not do this and spent a number of years roaming around the Kilmore/Daylesford area.

Somewhere along the way he met and flirted with an attractive young woman named Margaret Graham, who was married to a much older man but had a jealous Italian admirer.

The day after David Young moved on to another area Ms. Graham was found murdered and even though her Italian admirer had blood on his clothing, the finger was quickly pointed at “that ex-convict fellow”.

David Young was hunted down and arrested for the murder. And, as they say, the rest is history.

An interesting side note was the presiding judge for the Young case was Redmond Barry.

A couple of interesting bits of information passed to the group about early prison life were:

In order to deter young offenders from re-offending, they were allotted the horrible task of cutting down the hanged bodies.

The women’s cells were distinctly smaller than those of the males.

Orphaned or abandoned children were forced onto women prisoners even if they had multiple offspring of their own.

Hanged prisoners were buried standing up and facing the exterior walls of the gaol.

Prisoners of later years were permitted to have a garden but not allowed to grow potatoes (in order to stop them making boot-legged vodka.)

After having a bite to eat, the historical group

headed to the heritage listed old Telegraph Station in Castlemaine (which is run by the Pioneers of Old Resident’s Association.)

Here hosts Graeme Barry (president) and Wilson Bunton (secretary) welcomed everyone before relaying the history associated with the buildings and vast collection of memorabilia relating to the Castlemaine area.

The gentlemen also explained the workings of the 19<sup>th</sup> century telegraphic equipment housed within the room.

Along with the historical interest the Carisbrook members were eager to see how their Castlemanian counterparts collated and stored their written and photographic memorabilia.

A most impressive overhead scanning device for scanning ledger books etc. drew a lot of interest from the visiting group.



**A most impressive overhead scanner at the Castlemaine P&ORA rooms drew a lot of interest from the visiting group.**

Carisbrook president Judy Healey marvelled at the work the P&ORA are doing in maintaining history for future generations.

In the adjoining Faulder Hall the group admired the beautiful room with its wood pannelled roof and fittings while Judy Healey displayed her skills on the ballet hand rail (barre.)

During 1893-94 the northern timbered part of the telegraph office was demolished and in its place the multi purpose Faulder Watson Hall ‘was erected’ and has been in constant use ever since.

The Carisbrook Historic Society and guests are grateful to the people of the Castlemaine Gaol and the Pioneers and Old Residents Association for the interesting and valuable information they passed on. — Well worth a visit.



**William Bunton and Graeme Barry of the Castlemaine Pioneers and Old Residents Association.**

# The great heat: Hottest day of the year — Deaths from sunstroke bush fires — Predictions of change

Unhappily Mr. Baracchi was no false prophet when he said on Wednesday night that the following day would be the hottest this season, for when yesterday came it not only proved the Government meteorologist was right, but it went further, and touched a temperature which has been felt only once in Melbourne since 1876. From the earliest hours of the morning—from sunrise, in fact, for the temperature fell very little during the night—the most intense heat prevailed, and people arose from their beds to meet a heat which it is usual to find at about mid-day in the hottest summer. After an eager glance to the west for a sign of the promised storm, Melbourne settled down to stew and suffer, and to encounter a rise of more than a degree of temperature every hour. From more than 90 deg. [32C] the shade at breakfast time, the silver streak in the thermometer gradually rose until the century was topped somewhere between 11 and half-past 11 a.m. At noon the Observatory register showed 102.3 deg. [39C] in the shade, and 157 deg. [69C] in the sun. At 1 o'clock the sun thermometer showed 157.9 deg. [69C] the maximum for the day, and, as the instrument is a self-registering one, no more information could be given by it. In the shade, however, the thermometer continued to rise, topping 107 deg. [41C] by one point at a quarter to 3 p.m., and half an hour later reaching the record heat for 21 years of 107.3 deg. [41.8C]. This was the zenith, but the fall was not sudden. It was as gradual as the rise, and it was not until after 6 o'clock that the mercury dropped below 100 deg. Business during the week between Christmas and the New Year is always at very low ebb, and happily the heat had little to affect in this direction; but little though it was trade has almost been destroyed in the last few days. The streets of the city and suburbs have been practically deserted, and nobody has, in the words of one disgusted shopkeeper, done a "hap'orth" of business, but the hotels, the fruiterers and the purveyors of summer drinks. One well-known hotelkeeper of Brighton gives an eloquent comparison of the Boxing Day of 1896 with that of 1897. Last year, he says, the heat was not nearly so intense, yet the six hogsheads of beer he had on his premises were all consumed by nightfall. To obviate such another mistake, he laid in a stock of 11 hogsheads this year, only to find that the

last glass had been drawn at even an earlier period.

The infuriated and thirsty throng in the bar became desperate when the news was broken to them, and after a futile attempt to quench its thirst with peppermint and raspberry vinegar, it departed, swearing, and, as the licensee afterwards discovered, carrying in its pockets no less than 170 large tumblers, evidently for use in the event of anything liquid being encountered later on. Though few people other than those compelled by their occupations left their houses during the day, they made up for the omission after sundown, and the trams and trains on the south suburban lines were simply packed with perspiring crowds clinging to the stanchions, standing in the carriages, and forcing their way into the guards' vans. At the seaside the expected relief was only to be found in complete immersion in the baths, and an immense amount of money was taken at all the bathing establishments around Hobson's Bay last night. Hundreds, who entered only to find every bunk occupied, and all the platforms and passages strewn with apparel, solved the problem by undressing hastily on the strip of beach within the enclosure, and rushing into the water to wallow and splash in luxury. The whole of the beach from Port Melbourne pier to the Red Bluff, at St. Kilda, was simply a mass of people vainly endeavouring to imagine they felt the change coming, and it was long after midnight when the last local disappointed stragglers dragged their respective ways home. The Argus, Friday December 31, 1897.

This article courtesy of the the Maryborough "Diggings" newsletter.

## Victorian Sands and McDougall Directories now available online

The Historic Victorian Sands and McDougall directories, a key source for researching the history of Melbourne and Victorian properties, residents, businesses and streets, indexed and divided into sections by location, name trade and more, have been released and are now available to search or browse on the State Library of Victoria Website. Explore the State Library of Victoria digitised collections.

## Warracknabeal Rally not to be missed

Easter Vintage Machinery Rally at Warracknabeal Wheatlands Warracknabeal Agricultural Machinery Museum will be holding their 51st Annual Vintage Machinery Rally over the Easter weekend 31st March — 2nd April. This years Rally will feature Chamberlain tractors, Ronaldson Tippet engines and there will be working exhibitions of baling.

The weekend will begin with the Easter Street Parade down the main street of Warracknabeal. In the afternoon there will be many displays and demonstrations

for the public to enjoy. The vintage tractor pull will begin late afternoon and continue on into the evening.

On Sunday and Monday the engine bays will be busy with various engines demonstrating lighting, pumping and just simply running. Other activities will include shearing, axe handle making, rope making, a parade of tractors, activities for the kids, a hay bale maze and many other demonstrations and displays.

The weekend is fully catered so visitors can come and enjoy a step back in farming time.

# Carisbrook Honour Roll stands proud

The Carisbrook WWI honor roll is located in the main hall at the former Town Hall. There are eighty-three names, twenty of who were killed in the conflict, listed on the roll. The list is not alphabetical but appears to be arranged in the order that the names were submitted to the local Committee which had representatives from such local organizations as the Council, Red Cross and Comforts Fund.

The Carisbrook Welcome Home Committee arranged public celebrations to welcome local returning servicemen. Several wounded soldiers were welcomed in 1915 to 1918 but the great majority of Welcome Homes were held during 1919.

The Carisbrook Fallen Soldiers' Memorial Committee was formed at a public meeting on 15th October 1919 to raise funds to erect a memorial to the local soldiers who had been killed in the war. This committee mainly had much the same membership as the Carisbrook Peace Celebrations Committee formed in November 1918.

The Board was painted by Bendigo artist and sign writer Bernie Marcollo at the completion of the war. It appears that the Board was made in two sections with the lower section with additional names and the U.S. flag added. This board was restored in 2010 by Kirsten McKay of Castlemaine Art Gallery with the aid of a \$3000 grant from the Federal government.



This article courtesy of the Carisbrook "Logs" newsletter.

Carisbrook's WWI Honour Board.

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

*Please contact Helen Curkpatrick on [haven273@outlook.com](mailto:haven273@outlook.com) or write to 273 Old Hamilton Road, Haven 3401. In word preferred and any photos in jpg format.*

# The very model of a modern day historian

## Donald Menzies Gibb 1937-2017

The Very Model of a Modern-Day Historian: Donald Menzies Gibb 1937-2017 Caption As a boarder at Geelong College during the 1950s, Don Gibb won academic prizes and excelled at rowing. He was a sergeant major in the school cadets, but more memorable was his role as the exuberant Major General in a school production of *The Pirates of Penzance*. The Major General with encyclopaedic knowledge, a penchant for history and audience rapport, foreshadowed aspects of Don's life. Don had impressive general knowledge, history formed the lodestar of his career, and he was a natural teacher.

Donald Menzies Gibb was born in Melbourne on 18 October 1937, brother to Joan and John and son of Katie Gibb, née Jayes, a nurse, and Herbert Gibb, doctor. He attended Caulfield Grammar, Hutcheson School in Hobart, Geelong College, Ormond College and Melbourne University, where he graduated BA and BEd. He later completed an MA on Sandringham, supervised by the doyen of local history, Professor Weston Bate.

Don taught history and geography at Camberwell and Waverley high schools before lecturing in history at Monash Teachers College, Rusden State College, Victoria College and Deakin University. He assisted college amalgamations with Deakin University and twice was convenor of history. Don had a long, productive involvement with the Victorian Historical Association, forerunner of the History Teachers Association of Victoria; he was president from 1973 to 1975 and foundation editor of *Journal of History for Senior Students* 1969 to 1974. He participated in 'Safari' trips, taking history to schools in regional districts, co-authored HSC/VCE courses, contributed chapters to various books, wrote articles and numerous book reviews, worked as review editor of the *Journal of Australian Studies* from 1977 to 1996, and achieved academic recognition as associate professor in history at Deakin.

At an Ormond College ball, Don met Ann Balderstone from a wellknown Canterbury family; they married in 1961, had three daughters and lived for many years in Balwyn Road, Canterbury. Don was a foundation member of the Canterbury History Group and a key supporter for 30 years. His attachment to the middle-class suburb of Canterbury led to a meticulously researched study of the local shopping precinct. *Visions of a Village* is a highly polished, jewel-like book, delightfully illustrated by Stuart Warmington. Don left an unfinished social history of Canterbury.

Don's involvement in community history flourished at the RHSV, and the society honoured him with a Fellowship in 2005. He was a Councillor from 1998 to

2008. Don served on the Council of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, which later awarded him a Certificate of Merit. Don represented the RHSV on the History Council of Victoria from 2005 to 2008. As convenor of the Publications Committee for eleven years and a member for much longer, his collegiality, succession planning and unstinting support for history projects were invaluable. He encouraged Judith Smart to become editor of the *Victorian Historical Journal* and Richard Broome to succeed him as committee chairman. He painstakingly factchecked the popular *Remembering Melbourne* and his name appears as one of the six contributors. Don's knowledge and understanding of RHSV history and culture were unparalleled, and his shrewd judgment as well as personal kindness at the RHSV and beyond were legendary.

For over ten years Don selected undergraduates from Deakin University to serve as interns at the RHSV, thus benefitting student and society. From 2006 he wrote 'Books Received', the review pages in *History News*. These concise, insightful short reviews were informed by deep knowledge of Victorian history. Often, they were the only professional reviews received by self-published authors. Don's recent reviews of books on the Kulkyn national park and Governor La Trobe showed that, at the age of 80, he was at the height of his powers.

Don was a judge of the Victorian Community History Awards from 2011 to 2016. A team player with balanced judgement, he helped restore stability after a serious threat to the existence of the Awards. His egalitarian sympathy and scholarship gave him an affinity with a competition that favoured grass-roots projects and raised the standards and profile of community history. Don wrote masterful, incisive citations and a perceptive review of *The Victorian Bush*, the probing reflections of a Creswick forester, Ron Hateley, who died shortly before he was to receive a high award in 2011.

The main strands in Don's life coalesced at his memorial service in Canterbury: his devotion to family, bonding with friends, identification with place, and vocation in history. In a coordinated tribute, three of his ten grandchildren declared that he was indeed, a Don. The service was held in the heritage-listed Emulation Hall near the Maling Road shopping centre. The former masonic temple with ancient Egyptian motifs seemed symbolic of Don's view that understanding of the local was a pathway to the universal.

### **Carole Woods**

assisted by Judith Smart and the Gibb family.

*Retrieved from R.H.S.V. History News, Feb. 2018.*

**IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER — HAVE YOUR SAY**

## Destructive fire in Maryborough

The town of Maryborough was thrown into a state of wild excitement last evening (March 17, 1861), by the outbreak of a most tremendous fire at Bernie's Freemasons' Hotel, and which threatened to result in the complete destruction of the town.

In a few minutes the house and premises were a raging mass of flame and, as the house is situated at one end of High street, and the wind was blowing in such a way as to carry the fire onward through the town seemed at one time that its destruction was inevitable.

Hundreds of willing hands were exerted to prevent the spread of the conflagration and the adjoining premises, which were of wood, were rapidly pulled down, and a space cleared as a barrier to the flames. Providentially, the wind suddenly chopped round and blew from the opposite direction. This enabled the men at work to approach nearer the burning building, and greatly facilitated the removal of the debris of the adjoining houses after they had been pulled down, and it is this change of the wind that the salvation of the town must be attributed.

The alarm throughout the town was intense, and the inhabitants from the same side of the street, expecting every minute that the flames would be spreading in their direction, set eagerly to work removing property into the street or to carry it across to the opposite side to the comparative safety of their neighbors. After the wind subsided, however, the excitement became subdued, and attention became more directed towards the extinction of the fire at the Freemasons'.

The want of water was very seriously felt there being no large body of water available. One or two water carts soon made their appearance, and water was also brought, in buckets from a tank on the premises of Mr. Ingram, a few doors along the street. The limited supply was made the most, of in preventing the spread of the fire by saturating any inflammable material, not readily removable, but as for the hotel itself it was soon evident that no amount of exertion could save any portion of it.

At half-past eight the bugle call of the volunteers was sounded and in a few minutes about eighty of them were mustered, and marched to the scene, with a view to protecting the property exposed in profusion in the street, and also to keep guard over the fire during the night, for which purpose they were sworn in as special constables by Mr. D. K. Campbell, J.P. the chairman of the municipality. Captain Dunn then posted his men so as to form a cordon militaire around the burning building, and also along the street wherever property was exposed, and this guard was maintained till 6 o'clock in the morning, by which time all danger was supposed to be over.

Of the origin of the fire nothing positive is known; but the alarm was first given by one of Mr. Bernie's children. The sufferers by the pulling down are Mr. Hazen, butcher; Mr. Hawkes, blacksmith; and a shoemaker, whose shop was in between the two. Fortunate it was that the fire occurred at such an early hour of the night,

when the streets were full of people, otherwise it would be difficult to say what destruction of property, or even of life, might have resulted there from. \

The hotel we understand, was insured in the Australasian Fire Assurance Co. for £500. Since the above was written we have learned that Captain Dunn, of the volunteers, is laid up from the effects of a blow on the back, received from a falling beam whilst pulling down buildings.

### A Snake Yarn

We have to relate a snake story of a more than usually startling description. The scene of the drama, a domestic one is laid at the residence of our excellent clerk to the Bench, Mr. Montgomery, who cultivates the original principles of Adam at his flourishing gardens near the Maryborough cemetery. On Sunday last (October 26. 1862), Mr. Montgomery, who is rather up in snakiana, from a long residence here, killed a brown snake in his garden about four feet six inches long. This was merely a passing incident to him, but, on Monday, he received a message that he was wanted particularly at home. He, of course, loyally departed, and found that Mrs. Montgomery had sent for him, and with good reason, for it appears that on moving some articles of clothing in one of the bedrooms, another snake had made sibilant demonstrations close to the lady's hand. He instituted a search, and between the lining of the room and the outside of corrugated iron, there was a reptile of the brown species snugly ensconced. A prod with a sword was avoided by the "wily sarpint," and the gardener cooked his goose with a blow of a spade.

Over the next few issues space permitting, I will include some more of the early stories which appeared in the Maryborough & Dunolly Advertiser in the 1850s-1880s. A joint project of Judy Healy and myself.

— *WVAHS editor.*

### **SURPLUS EQUIPMENT**

available to a new home

### **2 microfiche readers**

**(1) 3M Consultant 114**

**(2) Leigh Mardon nmi75**

Contact Robin Parker

**0459 032 068**

Royal Historical Society of Victoria  
**History Victoria Support Group**

Please join us for a Seminar Day  
**Saturday April 28, 2018**

**9am – 3pm**

**Hosted by the Lilydale & District Historical Society Inc.**

Located Lilydale Primary School

63 Castella Street, Lilydale (cnr. of Castella & Jones Streets)

## **Succession Planning — embracing the future**

**9.00am** Arrival, registration and a cuppa. (Old Lilydale Court House, next door to the school)

**9.30am** Introduction

**9.45am** Christine Worthington, RHSV Collections Manager – Digitisation and Historical Societies. This topic will cover a range of things (outreach, capacity building, access, streamlining) and emphasize the need to digitise for preservation.

**10.20am** Lisa Clausen, joint winner of the Judges' Special Prize in the Victorian Community History Awards 2017 for Garden Diaries. Cruden Farm, 56km south-east of Melbourne, was the cherished home of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch for more than 80 years before her death in 2012. Working alongside her for four decades was Cruden's head gardener, Michael Morrison, and this book traces the history of their deep friendship and creative partnership. Lisa will discuss how she drew on Morrison's diaries to write this intimate insight into one of Australia's foremost private gardens and the extraordinary pair behind it.

**11.00am** Morning tea with opportunity to network (old Lilydale Court House)

**11.30am** Key note speaker: Dr Bernadette Flynn, Federation of Australian Historical Societies Outreach Officer (by Skype). Succession Planning: ever wondered where you are going? Who you are as an organisation and where you want to be? Bernadette introduces the newly published FAHS Succession Planning Guide, <http://www.history.org.au/SuccessionPlanning.html>, and the 7 steps that can help you survive

and thrive into the future. The step-by-step process helps you evaluate your situation, whether you are facing the challenge of diminishing membership, considering who will be the next President or how you can find that special person to photograph the collection. Follow up consultations from the presentation will be available through the FAHS History Clinic.

**12.30pm** Panel of three: Jane Nigro (Stonnington History Committee), Alleyne Hockley (Income streams for societies) and Russ Haines (Classic flubs)

**1.00pm** Lunch (old Lilydale Court House)

**1.45pm** Rosemary Cameron, EO RHSV, will highlight how societies can run successful, engaging and memorable walks. Rosemary was previously with the Professional Tour Guide Association of Australia and is highly qualified to enlighten us on how to improve our walks.

**2.30pm** Question and answers. Opportunity for attendees to share their concerns.

**3.00pm** Finish

### **Bookings**

<https://www.trybooking.com/TTGG>

### **Cost**

\$20 per person (includes morning tea and lunch)

### **Contact**

[office@historyvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@historyvictoria.org.au) or  
9326 9288

### **Bookings Close**

26th April, 2018

**Come and join us for a day full of tips, inspiration & useful ideas  
to help your historical society**

# Swan Hill police history

An article by the Swan Hill Genealogical and Historical Society  
from the Swan Hill Guardian Dec. 24, 2008

Swan Hill's history of policing dates back to the early 1850s. Although not officially declared a township until 1861, the need for a police presence in Swan Hill (then known as Castle Donnington) was determined earlier.

Swan Hill was becoming a stopover for travellers between the central Victorian goldfields and south Australia due to the availability of water on that route alone.

Swan Hill also had a punt and wharf which opened up the Riverina to the Victorian markets and thus the township was to develop.

With the separation of Victoria from New South Wales in 1851 a Victoria Police Force was established in 1853.

Swan Hill's first Police Magistrate was Mr W. Plunkett with Inspector Francis Cobham being appointed to Swan Hill in 1854.

The district that Cobham was in charge of went from Elmore to the South Australian border. One must also consider that transport was by horse or foot in this period and the tracks travelled were primitive making the policeman's duty exceptionally difficult.

The first Swan Hill police headquarters was erected on the hill where the current McKillop College is located. Apart from being in relative scrub at the time there would have been some visual benefits from this geographical location.

Inspector Cobham tried to have the police station relocated to Kerang and then, almost as a compromise, Lake Boga.

This could have been due to the poor conditions of the hut he and his family were residing in.

On one occasion Cobham is reported to have travelled to Albury to make an arrest then escorted the prisoner to Melbourne before returning to Swan Hill.

During his service in Swan Hill (until 1858), Cobham had also set up outposts between Loddon and Wentworth, namely Kerang, Lake Boga, Kulnane, Tooleybuc, Narrung, Bumbang, Kulkynne, McCullams, Grant's, Log Yard, McGrath, Wal-Wal, and Cowanna Bend (beyond Mildura.)

At this time the Swan Hill station comprised about seven or eight officers. Police were not allowed to vote, had to wear white gloves, worked seven days a week and were on relatively low wages without overtime. Their uniform was modelled on the English uniform but changed in the late 1850s to suit Australian conditions, (paid for by the officer.)

It was many years before these conditions changed. A recruitment campaign in the 1850s saw many Irish come to Victoria as police officers.

Before this officers were mainly made up of ex-convicts, not surprising considering Australia's history.



Swan Hill Police Sergeant's House on the Hill.

Complaints were made about the quality of horses provided to the Swan Hill station as like today transport was of vital importance to the officers.

Occasionally officers would be required to travel throughout the State on their horse in rugged conditions and climates.

Swan Hill's police station was located on the south-east corner of McCallum and Curlewis Streets and the Police Sergeant's house was on the north-east corner.

During the First World War (and after much lobbying) Victoria followed the lead of other states and employed women as police officers, (but only a few.)

During World War II an auxiliary women's force commenced but the number of regular women police officers numbered 18 by 1949. This was a period of substantial change to officer's employment conditions.

About this time a police 'union' commenced and they were granted one Sunday a month rest! It wasn't until the 1940s they received the benefits of a 40 hour week.

Another monumental occasion in the policing of Victoria was the 1923 strike. While the strike action turned to chaos in Melbourne it appears there wasn't too much trouble in Swan Hill. Servicemen from World War I were quickly enrolled to perform police duties with some men from Lake Boga travelling to Melbourne to enlist in an auxiliary force.

Shortly after this time many changes occurred in conditions for police officers.

Swan Hill police have had some fatalities over the years which tend to come with the occupation. Bob Lane and Joe Delaney are just two, lost their lives in shooting accidents.

As we explore the history of the station there are sure to be more incidents but two that are known of are Constable Roy Currie who in 1926 was involved in a fatal car accident while participating in a car chase in Melbourne.

There was also Constable Henry Lamb who died while washing his police horse in the river in the 1850s. While he may not have been on duty it was essentially police work he was conducting.

Reference: *The People's Force*, R. Haldane, Swan Hill by A. I. Feldtman, *Police Historical Records*.

Photograph courtesy of *Traces of the Past* by Graham Gardner.

**Harrow, second oldest town in the State  
from the first issue of the Harrow Mail & Kowree Shire Advertiser  
Thursday, July 4, 1946**

Harrow Historical Society is in the old town of Harrow.

It is claimed by old residents that Harrow is the second oldest town in Victoria with only Portland being older and the "Victorian Gazetteer" backs its claim.

Harrow in 1848, Dougheny's Inn and the Hermitage Inn and store. Harrow in 1865 is described as a postal village in the parish of Harrow.

Harrow was surveyed on August 17, 1869 but evidently the township existed long before the survey was made.

The district is purely pastoral and consists of undulating plains lightly wooded while parts are level country interspersed with hills covered with stringy bark and only adapted for grazing.

Harrow has a Post Office, Court of Petty Sessions and a mail coach service. The hotel's are The Hermitage, Spur Inn and Plough and Harrow. It is under the control of a Road Board and the population is 158 persons and the number of dwellings at 32. It is 49 feet above sea level.

The land (being pastoral) was taken in large areas and the first land settlement was established at Mooree about seven miles down the Glenelg River from Harrow. A company, which traded under the Glenelg Establishment Company, controlled an area from Balmoral to the South Australian border. Later the area was subdivided using the Glenelg River as a dividing line. Then Koolmurt Station was established and other early stations were Fulham, Clunie, Longlands, Kout Norien, Pine Hills, Mullagh and Kadnook, (the owners being,) Clunie, James Blair; Kout Norien, John Broughton; Pine Hills, David Edgar; Mullagh, Birmingham and was later Fitzgerald.

James Blair was formerly a Police Magistrate and provided the money to erect an iron railing fence on a concrete base around the Mechanic's Institute in 1889. The early settlers commenced building their huts on Clunie near the football ground and they crossed the river to establish the town on its present site. James Blair had a hut on Clunie reserved as a camping place for swagmen. A clause in the contract of sale when Clu-



**Harrow Historical Society in the old town of Harrow.**

nie was later sold was that swagman were to be allowed to camp there undisturbed.

Back in that remote period there were six police constables stationed at Harrow four of whom were mounted men and the police district extended from Ballarat to the South Australian border.

At that time Harrow was the centre of postal districts and mail coaches (horse drawn of course) were run to Horsham, Hamilton, Apsley, Casterton and Coleraine tri-weekly and about 100 mail bags made up weekly. The first post office was in a room of Fitzgerald's store and was conducted by Mr Cohn McLean. Later it was housed in a building where C. Loy's bakery now stands.

The first official Post and Telegraph office was conducted by Miss Creagh from 1875 to 1888 who was followed by Miss Montgomery and later by Miss Kealey.

Mr Blackburn commenced business as a chemist in 1875 on the site between Loy's Bakery and Mrs Stewart's residence.

Mr Benjamin Creagh was the first clerk of courts — his office being a room above the kitchen of the Harrow Hotel (formerly the Spur Inn) now delicensed and the room still stands.

Various mail contractors delivered the mail including Cobb & Co. (the proprietor being Mr Tom Vines) and Western Stage Co.

Stages left Apsley at 4am arrived Harrow at 8.30am then Hamilton at 5.30pm (with an overnight stop) and arrived Melbourne at 9pm the following night.

# Robert Hoddle: The man with the grand plan

***Robert Hoddle: Pioneer Surveyor 1794-1881, By Berres Hoddle Colville.***

To look at the grid of central Melbourne you'd reckon that its design had been drawn up somewhere else and just plonked down on the local landscape. And you'd be right.

The grid followed "a plan in the Sydney office": a generic design for colonial townships set out in a government regulation of 1829.

That Melbourne's grid deviates even a few degrees from the stipulated north-south orientation we can thank the Yarra River — and Robert Hoddle the surveyor who tilted the grid.

The Sydney government sent Hoddle south in March 1837 to stake out an eruption of civilisation in the Port Phillip district. A bunch of speculative types from Van Diemens Land had been in pre-emptive occupation of the place for 18 months and Hoddle arrived to find a scatter of tents and huts beside the Yarra. He produced the standard plan, gave it a twist so that Flinders Street would lick the river rather than swim in it, and laid out the town.

Melbourne wasn't the first town Hoddle had laid out using the regulation grid: he'd already done Liverpool, Campbelltown, Goulburn and others. Manning Clark branded him "a man with geometry in his soul" but Hoddle had imagination enough to discern that the straggling Port Phillip settlement "promises to become a large city" and to picture his dead-straight streets teeming with life.

With that foresight he pegged out Melbourne's streets at 99 feet (30 metres) wide rather than the standard 66 feet (20 metres). Governor Bourke first objected to Hoddle's wide streets then agreed on the condition that they be interleaved with lanes — the "Little" streets the bane of bullockies and Beemer drivers from that day to this.

But if Hoddle has been lauded for Melbourne's broad thoroughfares he's also been blamed for omitting a central city square from his plan. Areas were set aside for government purposes — but no open space reserved for public gatherings. This was no whim of Hoddle's though. A government edict forbade public squares in new towns on the grounds that they "encouraged the spirit of democracy".

The task Hoddle set himself was to make order the government's intention however was to make money. The NSW government was less interested in the width of Melbourne's streets than in the rectangles of land that those streets outlined. The primary purpose of Hoddle's survey was to mark out land for sale. Three months after commencing his survey — he was auctioneer at Melbourne's first land sale. The proceeds were sent to Sydney but Hoddle stayed making Melbourne his home for the rest of his long life.

Written by Hoddle's great-granddaughter, *Robert Hoddle: Pioneer Surveyor* is both biography and family history. General readers should be prepared to learn more than they might want to know about the intricacies

of the Hoddle family begettings. But don't be put off. Berres Hoddle Colville's book has plenty to offer a reader lacking Hoddle DNA.

Drawing extensively on his personal journals and field-books Colville presents a detailed account of her ancestor's years as a NSW government surveyor. For 14 years he surveyed roads and towns, farms and land grants, at ever-increasing distances from Sydney. With John Oxley he surveyed Moreton Bay, the future site of Brisbane, and under the spleenish direction of Major Thomas Mitchell, he surveyed vast areas of virtually impenetrable country for the landmark 1834 map of the colony.

His profession should have made Hoddle terra nullius personified, yet he acknowledged prior occupancy of the land by ascertaining and retaining local indigenous names for many of the features he surveyed. Though he deplored the Aborigines' "unsettled and wandering habits", he had to admit that his own habits weren't so different. "(A) few days back I met a large tribe of blacks who wanted to know where my carbonne gunnia (large house) was," he wrote. "I told them I lived in a tent and walked about like a black fellow. They thought I was humbugging them."

Hoddle's journals from 1837 onwards went missing 100 years ago or more. As a result, this book's coverage of his Melbourne years is rather slight on detail. Appointed Victoria's first surveyor-general in 1851 he was forced to retire just two years later. As lieutenant-governor La Trobe put it Hoddle found the duties "trying to his age and temper". He was then 59 and lived for another 28 years.

The most surprising thing about this biography is how little it reveals of Hoddle himself — not what he did but who he was. Apart from hints of regret and a rare spark of mischief, what emerges most strongly is a man utterly bound by duty. His public social face remains a blank to the reader. You'd expect, given Hoddle's long life and his pioneer status that he'd have been much remarked-upon in the annals of early Melbourne. But Colville was able to find just one scant pen-portrait by a contemporary of Hoddle's, noting his "decisive countenance" and "kindly, reserved demeanour".

"Reserved" I suspect, holds the key. From his "Camp on the Yarra Yarra River" in March 1837 Hoddle summarised his plans at Port Phillip: "To quarrel as little as possible. To make myself as happy as I can. Not to be too intimate with any."

But — it's a postscript, almost — in 1863, the newly widowed Hoddle remarried. He was 69 years old; his new wife, Fanny, was just 21. Years later, Georgiana McCrae found the 80-year-old Hoddle in the yard of his home in Bourke Street West, knocking together a playhouse for his infant children. Fanny called her husband "Bobby", and we glimpse him, at last, as gruff but indulgent, his "unsettled and wandering" years long behind him.

— Melbourne Age June 5, 2004

## TIME IN DUNOLLY



**Glenmona Homestead on the Bet Bet Creek at Bung Bong. The shadow from a pole like the one shown to the right of the roof could be used to determine midday to an accuracy of less than a minute.**

When Central Victoria was settled, like other parts of Victoria, solar time was used. The squatter decided what time to set the clocks at for his own station. The shadow from a prominent point on the homestead (like a lightning rod,) flagpole or finial could be traced along the ground. Its shortest length is both due south and midday. The shadow is shorter in summer and longer in winter but noon is always due south. Once this line was determined a mark could be made along the ground in stone or a post erected. When hit by the shadow it was therefore noon. At Charlotte Plains a bell was rung at noon which could be heard for some distance. It might be interesting to know if any of the original squatter's homesteads still have a point for determining midday.

When towns were established it was usually the post office that was responsible for determining the time. Clocks in Dunolly were set at about 4 minutes and 58 seconds behind clocks in Melbourne. For most people this was not an issue. If they went to another town they might have to change their watch just a few minutes. This was still solar time but these variations from town to town were usually called local mean time or civil time.

The only time when seconds really mattered was when a mining lease expired. Under the Act a lease expired in civil time. If the lease was east of the town a smart person could adjust their watch to the exact time

for the location of the lease and legally peg it a few seconds before anyone else.

When the railway arrived in Dunolly in 1874 the timetable was set to Melbourne time. Arriving late for a train was a problem. So Dunolly moved their clocks forward 4 minutes and 58 seconds to Melbourne time. Places like Deniliquin in New South Wales were connected to Melbourne by train so they also ran on Melbourne time whilst some Victorian towns such as Warrnambool, Wodonga and Mildura still kept their own time.

Time zones were slowly adopted around the world. The Australian colonies and New Zealand introduced time zones on February 1, 1895. On this date all places running on Melbourne time moved their clocks forward 20 minutes 5.8 seconds to Eastern Standard Time.

Places like Broken Hill benefitted greatly with the introduction of time zones. At the time they only had railway connections with South Australia, so they chose to adopt Central Standard Time they have kept it ever since. Before standard time zones there was great confusion with Broken Hill having three different time systems. The trains were run on Adelaide time the Post Office and Telegraph were on Sydney time and the shops and mines were on local mean time. This meant the clock on the Post Office was set about 39 minutes ahead of the clock on the Town Hall and 51 minutes ahead of the Railway Station clock.

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

**The "Western Historian" compiled by  
Robin Parker for the  
Western Victorian Association of  
Historical Societies.  
For suggestions  
email [robinparker81@hotmail.com](mailto:robinparker81@hotmail.com)**

# Williamstown Railway Museum visited



The Locomotive "Heavy Harry" built to haul the Overland between Melbourne and Serviceton.

I was delighted to accompany Helen Curkpatrick to the Australian Railway Historical Society (ARHS) Museum at North Williamstown on January 6th. It was Helen's first visit to the museum which has been operating since 1961 when the then Victorian Railways Commissioners granted permission for the Society to restore and publicly exhibit items of historic railway rolling stock. The maintenance of the collection and the public operation of the museum relies on a very small group of Society volunteers who undertake all manner of various tasks from metal work to gardening to serving in a sales and shop front area.

As the majority of the exhibits are owned by the State Government it is a scenario of a volunteer-based Society preserving the State's historical railway assets for the people of Victoria without ever receiving meaningful financial resources to cover basic operating necessities. For example the Society recently funded the erection of an open sided shed to store three locomotives (each over 100 years old) and four carriages - this being the first instance of weather protection for exhibits since the museum opened. Sadly all other items are exposed to the ravages of salt air and the site's close proximity to the beach.

There is much to see and play with!

Firstly we were enthralled by an extensive hand-built model railway - based on the Victorian Railways of the 1930's. A most friendly Society member welcomed us and answered any question we could throw at him. Another member (and former President of the ARHS Victorian Division) Mr. Ian Jenkin conducted us through the Norman car which was formerly used by the Railway Commissioners for their tours of inspection as well as being used on Royal trains.

Climbing up into the signal box we examined tickets, photographs, number plates, builder's plates, safe working equipment and a massive signal frame that had originally been installed at Springvale.

Wandering around the extensive complex we inspected all manner of wagons, carriages and locomotives - electric, diesel and, of course, steam. The major exhibit at North Williamstown is H220 - a locomotive built in 1941 to haul The Overland express service between Melbourne and Serviceton. Although four engines were planned only one was completed being, at the time, the largest locomotive in Australia. The locomotive became known as "Heavy Harry", "the H" or, to some railway men, "the big, black \_\_\_\_\_" (custard).

Due to wartime restrictions curtailing bridge upgrading around Bacchus Marsh H220 was allocated to the only line that could take its great weight - the Albury line. Thus the north-east became Harry's territory - his haulage feats becoming legendary. Helen and I were awestruck at the sheer size of the H and shook our heads in amazement at the thought of such a beast roaring down the main line.....260 tons of locomotive - at 60mph with 800 tons of train along behind him.

**Note:** Michael and I are both train enthusiasts and so enjoyed our day at North Williamstown. This museum is one of many such collections throughout Victoria which are run by passionate volunteers and I was pleased to visit, appreciate and therefore support this group.

Heavy Harry is a sight to behold!

**Words by Michael Foley and Helen Curkpatrick**

# Port Fairy AGM program and reply form

WVAHS – AGM Program  
April 21-22, 2018

Senior Citizens Centre  
Barclay Street  
(Near Bank Street & St, John’s Church)

## PORT FAIRY

Port Fairy Historical Society members invite other WVAHS societies to the 2018 Annual General Meeting weekend on 21-22 April. The venue is in central Port Fairy and there are many places to find lunch within two blocks.

### Saturday April 21, 2018

10.00am-10.30am	Welcome, Registration, Morning Tea	Senior Citizens Centre
10.30-12 noon	Individual Zone Meetings	Senior Citizens Centre
12 noon-1.30pm	Own Lunch arrangements	Port Fairy eateries
12 noon-1.15pm	Executive Meeting & Lunch	Senior Citizens Centre
1.30pm-3.30pm	Annual General Meeting	Senior Citizens Centre
3.30pm-4.00pm	Afternoon Tea	Senior Citizens Centre
4.00pm-5.00pm	Walk Tour of Historic Port Fairy	
6.30pm-7.00pm	Dinner at “Charlie’s on East”	Surf Club, East Beach
8.30pm-8.45pm	Break	
8.45pm-9.30pm	Guest Speaker	
9.30pm	Farewell	

### Sunday April 22, 2018

Visit the Port Fairy Museum and Archives at 30 Gipps Street – Opposite the wharf  
Open to WVAHS guests at 9.30am.

As the Museum is open to the public on Sundays from 10.30am-12.30pm, it is not possible to offer morning tea. However there are many places for coffee/tea in the business area of town.

### REPLIES – By Thursday, April 12, 2018 Email replies to Port Fairy Historical Society at:

[pfhmuseumandarchives@gmail.com](mailto:pfhmuseumandarchives@gmail.com)

or mail to: The Secretary, Port Fairy Historical Society  
P.O. Box 15, Port Fairy, Vic. 3284

**Please complete the reply form and return to the Port Fairy Historical Society by email or post**

### REPLY FORM

**WVAH Annual General Meeting — To be held at the Senior Citizens Centre, Port Fairy.**

**Saturday April 21, 2018**

Name of the Society.....

Number of people attending the following

Zone Meeting.....

AGM.....

Dinner at \$34 per head.....

Names of people attending the dinner.

.....  
.....

Payment is required with booking.

Please indicate the amount to be paid \$..... & the method of payment

Payment enclosed.....

OR

Direct Bank Deposit.....

Electronic payment may be made to Commonwealth Bank

BSB 013 760 Account No. 283606079

Please indicate your name as the reference.

**Special Dietary Needs and Numbers**

**Please contact Port Fairy Historical Society by April 12, 2018**

**We look forward to another successful weekend.**

Best Wishes, Judith Kershaw President PFHS