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Newsletter of the

Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies Inc.

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The next
WVAHS AGM
will be held at
Swan Hill,
Saturday,
March 30, 2019

For accommodation
Bookings
(See Page 6)

Please address all
enquiries for W.V.A.H.S
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Our member groups are:-

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

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

For the couple of societies who don't have email — send a hard copy to the Secretary, Western Historian, 273 Old Hamilton Road, Haven, Victoria 3401. Long reports have to be edited to fit the space and may not contain what you consider to be relevant to your society.

WVAHS President's report

I regret that I was unable to attend any of the Spring round of Zone Meetings due to prior work and other commitments. I gather that they were well attended and with good outcomes for all attending.

Planning is well advanced for the AGM to be held at Swan Hill in March 2019. I congratulate the organizers for being so well advanced with

arrangements and you should all have received the relevant details regarding the itinerary, venue and accommodation. Please assist everyone by placing the details in your diary and more importantly, respond with your booking.

Best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year.

Michael Menzies, President.

Atrocious murder on the Wimmera

By a telegram received yesterday (November 9, 1863) by the Melbourne police it appears that a discovery has been made of human remains under circumstances clearly proving that a double murder of a most atrocious character has been committed on a highway in the Wimmera district.

On the 16th of last month a licensed hawker named William Selby, accompanied by his hired man, John Bennett, left Pleasant Creek proceeding further back into the bush. They had with them a spring cart and a heavy dray loaded with the usual miscellaneous assortment of a bush hawker's stock known in this case to comprise a quantity of wearing apparel and a selection of jewellery amounting to considerable value.

It seems that nothing was known of them after their departure till their bodies were found at a place near Glenorchy. In the words of the telegram they were found "each tied to a tree and brutally murdered by an axe or tomahawk." Neither the carts the horses or the property have been found or heard of and there is no room to doubt that the unfortunate men were murdered for the booty they were possessed of. As appears from the circumstances given above the crime of murder was an unnecessary addition to that of robbery as when discovered, the victims were perfectly secured.

A correspondent has favoured us with additional particulars, and his account differs materially from the

above, in some material particulars besides giving a description of two men who are suspected of the barbarity. The names of the murdered men are correctly given, and it is explained that they must have been detained some ten days with their carts by the floods in the creeks and gullies from proceeding on their way from Pleasant Creek to St. Arnaud.

Our correspondent writes, probably from a description given him by one who discovered the bodies that the victims were "tied to a tree gagged, and blindfolded and shot each through the head." And he adds that when discovered the corpses presented a horrifying spectacle having been partly eaten by ants and maggots. He further says: "None of the goods were taken, except a change of apparel which Selby carried for sale perhaps for the purpose of disguise." This seems odd.

As we have said two men are suspected who are thus described: "A thick-set man with sandy complexion and hair" and "a short thick-set man with fair complexion and black hair." Several of the inhabitants of St. Arnaud had mounted horses and scoured the bush in search of the supposed murderers and more would have gone if horses had been procurable. Some traces have been discovered, and the quiet and pretty little town was at the time of our correspondent's dispatch, in a ferment of expectation and excitement on the subject.

Pyramid Hill & District Historical Society

Midlands zone report October 2018

Thank you to Carisbrook for hosting the meeting.

Two of our members have been very busy cleaning and storing the glass slides taken by William Ferris used in his Lantern Projector. He travelled around Victoria showing his Lantern Slides and was away from his farm for many months at a time (getting behind with fencing in his selection and in danger of losing it until neighbours helped out.) The glass slides had been stored in Ern Ferris' garage and were very dirty. Great photos have been discovered and some have been named.

The other big project has been researching and collating information for a book of World War II "Happenings in the Pyramid Hill and District area." Much information was taken from the Pyramid Hill Advertiser, War Records on line, letters home to families and many photos were collected to see the book completed and printed.

Over 150 attended the book launch at the Memorial Hall. Loddon Shire Mayor Cheryl Mc-Kinnon welcomed everyone and invited Sharman Stone nee Bawden, Australian Ambassador for Women, to officially launch the book.

The book has been many years in the making and reflects on the letters home from World War II and many reports in the Pyramid Hill Advertiser of farewells, welcome homes and fund raising activities for the war effort in all the districts in the area served by the paper.

World War II returned servicemen from this area, Lloyd Mills and Harvey Bawden, had been recorded on video

telling in their own words, of what it was like to be in the war; the trials and tribulations they both had to endure. This was shown interspersed with information explaining what was happening during the war at the times they were speaking about and a pin could have been heard drop while this played.

The Boort Babblers led community singing of war songs ending with Auld Lang Syne then afternoon tea and a yarn concluded a great afternoon.

Margaret Williamson has completed her task of researching 1920 to 1929 farewells, land sales, clearing sales and she commented on how the town developed during this time with new buildings were erected.

Best wishes to all — sorry we will not be able to attend this time.



Harvey Bawden and Lloyd Mills with their World War II books.

Colac & District Historical Society Inc.

Southern zone report October 2018

The Annual Meeting in May 2018 saw all positions filled with active involvement by a dedicated membership. Barbara Minchinton livened up the event with an entertaining address entitled 'Money & Madams' centring on the recent archaeological dig in the Commonwealth Square off Lonsdale Street, Melbourne which was the centre of a flourishing brothel trade in the late 19th century.

Our winter meetings are held on a Saturday afternoon which enables some of our more elderly and wider district members to attend. We have reverted to evening meetings in September. Attendance has been steady at 20-25 members with informative programs provided by both members and guests

A highlight of the last six months has been two successful grant applications.

From Colac-Otway Shire, \$1010 for a new display case to feature our Aboriginal Heritage.

\$9000 from the State Government PRO towards cataloging, indexing, preserving and making more accessible the large collection of material from the Stock and Station firm J G Johnstone & Co. (established in 1883.) Engagement of professional help is providing the opportunity for a new group of members to work with an experienced collection manager

which we hope will have much broader benefits.

Requests for information and photos are consistent both via the website and in person. We are open to the public on Thursday, Friday and Sunday afternoons. We have met a request for suitable historic photos to be utilized in a 3.5 x 1.5 metre mural behind the front desk on the new \$15 million Colac Police Station to be opened this month.

A much viewed part of our operation is the display windows which face into the foyer of the Performing Arts Centre. Currently we have a display by the Colac Lions Club who have just celebrated 60 years of service and another featuring Lake Colac when water levels were higher and it was a busy boating and recreation venue.

Robert Missen
President
Colac & District Historical Society Inc.

Email: colacanddistricthistoricalsociety@gmail.com

PO Box 154 Colac Vic 3250

WVAHS – Annual General Meeting

30th- 31st March 2019

Stradbroke Hall, Stradbroke Ave, Swan Hill

The Swan Hill Genealogical and Historical Society invites you to Swan Hill for the WVAHS AGM in March 2019. This is a great opportunity to catch up with what other groups are doing and discuss ideas and issues affecting your group.

Saturday 30 March

Registrations from 9:30am.
Welcome 10:15.
Zone Meetings 10:30.
Lunch 12:00 Available at venue.
Executive Meeting.
AGM 1:30pm.
Afternoon Tea.
Tour to be advised 3:30pm.
Dinner Evening.
Sunday 31 March.
Morning Tour To be confirmed.

A Book stall will be set up and manned where groups can sell books. A price list and stock count will be required.

ACCOMMODATION

Ten accommodation suites are available at Stradbroke Hall. All rooms have ensuite with heating/airconditioning. There is a combination of bedding arrangements from Queen to King Single and combinations for \$100 per room. See the registration forms sent from Swan Hill Genealogical & Historical Society. There is a common dining room with kitchen facilities where everyone can meet for breakfast and cuppas.

Friday is only available if sufficient numbers, so people booking 2 nights will have priority.

A deposit of \$50 is required for accommodation.

Registration and payment is required by 3rd March 2018.

Accommodation is subject to bookings on all rooms Bookings to Rhonice Graham on 0417 106 644 or Steve Pentreath on 03 5033 2954 or 0428 584 325.

REGISTRATION FORM

Western Victoria Association of Historical Societies
Annual General Meeting Saturday 30th March 2019

Venue: Stradbroke Hall

<https://www.stradbrokehall.com.au/>

Stradbroke Ave, Swan Hill 3585.

Registration

Society Represented

Lunch(\$10) Dinner (\$32)

Name

L/D\$.....

Name

L/D\$.....

Name

L/D\$.....

Name

L/D\$.....

Dietary Requirements Details

Name

Name

Registrations to:

Swan Hill Genealogical & Historical Society Inc
PO Box 1232, Swan Hill, Vic
shghso@hotmail.com

Banking Details:

Postal- PO Box 1232, Swan Hill, Vic 3585
Direct Deposit- NAB
BSB 083-874 ACCOUNT 04681 6232
Please use your name as reference

STRADBROKE HALL ACCOMMODATION

On-location accommodation where the AGM will be held

Off-street parking available

Communal kitchen facility

Room 1. D/bed. & K/single.

— 2. D/bed. & K/single.

— 3. D/bed. & K/single.

— 4. 2 x K/singles Booked

— 5. Q/bed

— 6. Q/bed

— 7. 3 x K/singles. Booked

— 8. Q/bed Booked

— 9/9a Suite. Q/bed, K/Single, 2 x Singles Kitchenette,

T.V. (\$125) Booked

— 10. Q/ bed

— 11. Q/ bed

— 12. Q/ bed

All rooms have ensuite's, airconditioning and heating.

All available rooms are \$100 per night.

Friday is only available if sufficient numbers, so people booking 2 nights will have priority.

A deposit of \$50 is required for accommodation.

Registration and payment is required by 3rd March 2018

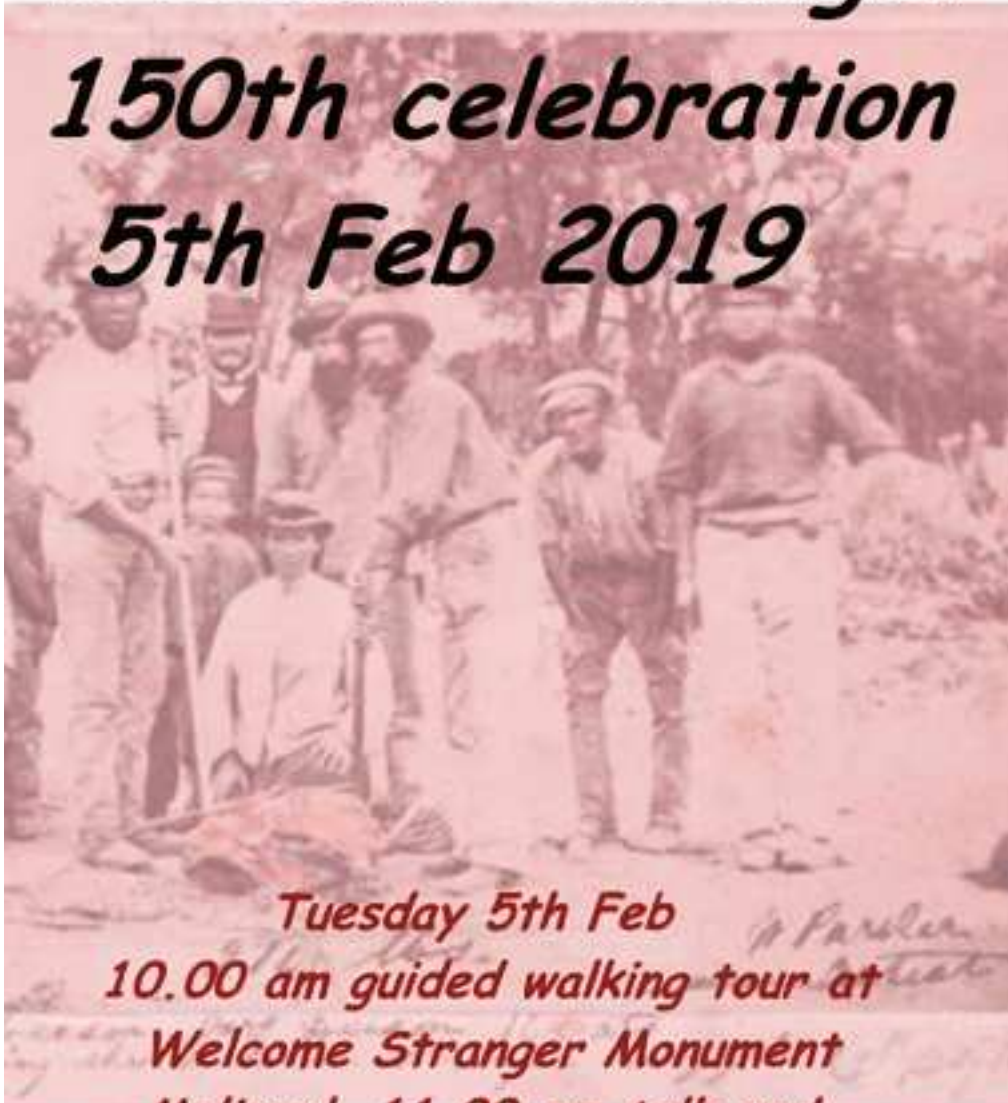
Accommodation is subject to bookings on all rooms

Bookings to Rhonice Graham on 0417 106 644 or

Steve Pentreath on 03 5033 2954 or 0428 584 325

**PLEASE ADVISE ASAP OF YOUR INTENTIONS
SO WE CAN CONFIRM THE ACCOMMODATION
BOOKING.**

Welcome Stranger 150th celebration 5th Feb 2019



*Tuesday 5th Feb
10.00 am guided walking tour at
Welcome Stranger Monument
Moliagul. 11.00 am talk and
re-enactment of the Welcome
Stranger photos.*

*Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd display at Dunolly Museum
including the Welcome Stranger scales on loan
from NAB Museum. Also display of photos
and other items relating to the Welcome
Stranger nugget.*

*Goldfields Historical & Arts Soc (Dunolly
Museum) 75 Broadway, Dunolly.
Further details 0428178669*

“Back-to” Warracknabeal 1933

The invasion of visitors to Warracknabeal for the “back to” celebrations commenced in earnest on Wednesday, March 1. For some days previously isolated “comebacks” dribbled in by car or train but the big influx was on that day. The main body came by special train from the city and elaborate and extremely efficient arrangements were made for the comfort of the travellers on the journey and for their reception at Warracknabeal.

The train organiser (Mr. G. Smith) kept the local organisation in touch with developments during the day and forged the links of organisation which led to ultimate success in handling the big project. As the time of the train’s arrival — 5.45pm — drew near the scene at the station was an unforgettable one. Organised by the transport committee — another body which did fine work — a great number of car owners, ready to transport the visitors to their lodgings, drove their vehicles to their allotted places until the area adjacent to the station was a veritable sea of vehicles — all carefully shepherded in orderly formation numbered and ready to function.

As to the people: It seemed that all Warracknabeal was there, so great was the crowd. The wise precaution had been taken of closing the station platform and thus the mass of the crowd was concentrated outside. Some were relatives, some friends and some just sight-seers; and yet all were justifiably curious to see the culmination of months of organisation or to catch first glimpse of a well-remembered face. Busy officials hurried about putting on the final touches; transport arrangements were completed; curious small boys were removed from the tops of the station hoardings; it was a memorable sight. And then came the whistle of the train bearing its load of visitors for the great reunion. As the train steamed slowly into the station, which had its allotted shore of decorations, the Warracknabeal Band under the baton of Mr. B. Barnett struck up the old tune “Home Sweet Home”.

It was appropriate that it should be to such an accompaniment that former residents once again came

to the town the scene of past joys, sorrows, disappointment and what not. Only members of the executive, police and a few officials were on the platform and quickly and quietly the passengers numbering nearly 200 filed out and, without the slightest fuss, were shown to the car waiting to take them to their homes.

Reception to visitors

Great crowd assembles

In glorious sunshine, tempered by a cool southerly breeze, a reception was tendered to the visitors on the steps of the Shire Hall on Thursday morning, March 2nd. With the flags fluttering bravely in the streets nearby the decorations of the civic hall and the varied colours of the ladies’ hats and dresses the scene was a delightful one as the great crowd assembled at 11 o’clock. Seats were provided for elderly visitors but the majority were willing to stand in the pleasant sunshine while the brief ceremony took place. The president of the shire (Cr. W. Pendlebury) presided.

Speaking on behalf of the citizens of the town and district Cr. Pendlebury extended a cordial welcome to all the “comebacks”. Some had been away a long time; others not so long; but he hoped that all would find here the welcome and friendship they expected and that their visit would be a memorable one. It was to be a week of recollections. Most of them would get as close as possible to the days of their childhood looking back on their early association with the district.

The closing scenes

Special train departs

“The end of a perfect week” said someone at the station on Thursday morning when the special rail motor, packed with its load of happy “comebacks” homeward bound, set out on its journey. The station was crowded with a happy throng, some returning thanks for hospitality, others saying last good-byes, others just looking on at the closing scenes of a most memorable period in the history of Warracknabeal and district. Just prior to the departure of the train an impromptu “conductor” started “Auld Land Syne” and the old refrain proved a fitting finale to a great week. Amid cheers the train pulled out leaving behind relative and friends with the satisfaction of a job well done. Many other visitors went by car; and still others remained for yet another week or two in the old surroundings. Thus the curtain falls on the great event.

1933 news items from the Warracknabeal Herald.

Special thanks to the Warracknabeal Historical Society for hosting the Wimmera zone and executive meeting on October 27. It was a great effort and am sure was thoroughly enjoyed by all. I, for one, will return for another visit in the coming months. The displays in the Society rooms were of great interest as was the Warehouse.

Editor.

Swan Hill accommodation for the A.G.M. meet is now open

For bookings: Rhonice Graham on 0417 106 644

nirfg@hotmail.com

or Steve Pentreath on (03) 5033 2954 or 0428 584 325

loi@live.com.au

(Please advise as soon as possible so we can confirm accommodation booking.)

Disastrous 1948 fire at Minyip

Disaster struck Minyip on Australia Day, January 26, 1948. On January 27 the paper reported as follows:

Three shops and two dwellings destroyed

Damage estimated at over £10,000

One of the most disastrous fires ever experienced in Minyip occurred in Main Street on Monday afternoon when three shops and two dwelling houses were completely gutted. The damage is estimated at over £10,000 and it was only through the strenuous efforts of the fire fighters that the whole block of business premises on the north side of Main Street from the Commercial Bank corner to Foundry Street was not destroyed.

The outbreak started at 2 pm in some grass at the rear of Mr. S. R. Toll's business premises and was noticed by some men who were playing tennis at the Presbyterian courts.

With the aid of bags they got the fire practically under control but it ignited a palm tree at the rear of Mr. E. Janetzki's private dwelling. The tree flared up and set alight to Mr. Janetzki's house. The alarm was given by Mr. A. Penny but some of the Minyip firemen were away attending a demonstration and the fire pump was brought to the scene by volunteers. However they could not get the pump to work and an urgent call for assistance was sent to the Warracknabeal, Rupanyup and Murtoa brigades. By the time these brigades had arrived the fire had a good hold and had spread to Mr. Toll's shop and also Mr. Janetzki's shop.

The blaze was threatening premises occupied by

Mr. Webster and Mr. Gierke who started to remove their furniture and personal belongings. However the wind changed and the fire swept back and the premises formerly owned by Mr. E. V. West caught fire. The private dwelling occupied by Messrs. Patterson and Hahne and Mr. Patterson's bakery were gutted and the blaze reached Mr. Hahne's butcher shop where it was checked.

The heat was so intense that the window of Messrs. Penny Bros. Newsagency opposite was cracked and some furniture stacked in the street caught alight. Sparks from the blaze were carried some distance away and caused minor outbreaks in different parts of the street. Palm trees at Mr. S. Baker's and Mr. Brady's premises, some grass at the rear of the Union Bank and a shed at the rear of Mr. Baker's shop were set alight. These outbreaks were quickly got under control before any damage was done.

The fire is alleged to have been caused by some small children playing with matches and the damage caused by it is estimated at over £10,000. All the occupants of the buildings suffered heavy losses and some were successful in saving only a small proportion of their shop fittings, personal belongings and furniture. One of the heaviest losers was the Patterson family who, besides having their business destroyed, lost all their furniture and personal belongings. Mr. Hahne also lost all his furniture. It is believed that the buildings were covered by insurance.

Firemen and volunteers did a splendid job and battled hard against tremendous odds. One volunteer, Mr. "Paddy" Boyd, had the misfortune to have his hand cut with broken glass but he continued on with the job despite his injury



Remains of buildings in Minyip.

Horsham Historical Society

Wimmera zone report October 2018

Looking back to September 2017 the Horsham Society started a monthly trial of a Historical article in a Friday's edition of the Mail Times beginning with a story about the Caltex Roadhouse; this has been followed by Lowestoft, Helmet House, Drive Inn, Pony Club, Weldon Power showground memorial gates, Church of Christ, Wirraway, the Butter Factory (now used for Table Tennis), Wesley performing Arts Centre, May Park, Horsham Show and Lubranizki's. All members are invited to contribute to this project about a 400 word article and a photo to illustrate the article is required. Feed-back identifying people in photos is a way to get the public involved.

Barry Clugston has given us a collection of about 100 tapes of interviews and we have plenty of guest speaker tapes to type up. We plan to digitise the tapes and type them up; some will be used in future DVD projects however, with only one machine available to transcribe the tapes and plenty of volunteer time needed to type them up, this will not be a quick project.

Hundreds of photos have been given to us by former Mail Times photographer Ian Ward covering photos used in the WMT from 1960 to 2002. 600 portraits have been inputted to the HHS database. Hundreds of negatives taken by professional photographer Brian Murray over the years have been stored in files for future processing.

A History talk at SS298 on early settlement was given by Rod and a Lutheran School Street walk was conducted by Helen and Wendy. A Lutheran School class attended our rooms on two separate occasions for parts 1 and 2 history presentations.

A recent project was assisting the Horsham Show to prepare for their 140th Show by allowing them to use our photos and video for an audio visual production to be screened at this year's Show.

Our Society digitised a Super 8 sound film taken forty years ago at the Centenary Show by Ian Ward. This is now on DVD. The Historical Society's screen and projector was used to show the DVDs. The HHS will sell DVDs of our photo compilation. We have also copied the Show photo collection and the Lance Trigg collection of photos for our database giving the Show an off-site back-up for all their photos.

History Week at our October meeting was used to show unidentified photos from our database using a DVD player and large screen then noting names on a sheet corresponding to the photo number. Photos prior to 1930 were not readily identified. The following Saturday a street walk was held and later a DVD of Horsham memories was played. The local papers were given details of the events but putting in a write-up without the Society paying for an Advert is not high on their list. In future I think working with a reporter and aiming at an article with a photo each week for two weeks before the event may be more successful.

Our database continues to increase thanks to all those assisting with the inputting and processing of data. Members and volunteers have also been busy scanning photos with the new scanner in the Library. The Tuesday morning group of Lindsay, John Barr and Bob Kirsopp have been busy organising hundreds of photos ready for computer input. Lindsay has been busy archiving current acquisitions and updating library and other data.

Successful grant applications have been from the HRCC towards Binding copies of the WMT and the HSCC towards the purchase of a replacement video camera to record guest speakers and interviews with local identities. The camera is now in use for videoing guest speakers and has been used for interviews of Ian Ward and John Barr. A moving video along Firebrace Street has been recorded. A similar movie was taken from a moving car in the 1920s by Jack Sharry on 9.5mm centre sprocket Pathe film. The Society sent that film to Sydney to be digitised as no projectors for the unusual film were available.

Daughters of former Horsham Historical Society president the late Clive Smith have made a generous donation to HHS which will help towards binding WMT newspapers plus video and other projects.

Publicity has been sought using the weekly community noticeboard in the Wimmera Mail Times with opening times and contact details as well as liaison with the ABC, Community and 3WM radio.

Research inquiries have been handled by Janet and Sandra; Sharon and Robert have been responsible for the Society finances. Wendy has been kept busy with monthly articles for the WMT and producing the quarterly Historian, in her "spare" time helping with research.

Jim has been organising guest speakers and promotion on the radio as well as handy man jobs. Bob and Kath have been scanning photos, Cheryl and Dino on computers inputting and Jacquelyn behind the scenes several days a week organising secretarial details, inputting and backing up computer data. Sue has dealt with computer issues as well as backing up data. Don and Barry have helped with the newspapers. Lyn and other volunteers have been typing from handwritten records or audio tapes.

Weekly tasks have been scanning of photos for input as well as adding records, filing acquisitions and museum items, updating databases so everything is searchable on four in house Historical Society computers. Weekly backup of electronic data including photos and other records goes onto several portable hard drives normally kept off site by different members unless in the building for updating.

Rod Jenkinson, President

Dimboola Historical Society report

Wimmera zone report meeting October 2018

Hi fellow historical society members

We have been quite busy at the society this year. This is my second year as secretary and I find myself getting more confident at my job.

We celebrate our 50th birthday this year and have organised a special dinner to be held in November. The courthouse and print museum will also be opened and a slide show on early Dimboola is to be held over the weekend.

In August we were involved with Nicole Miller of the Wimmera Health Care Group who gained some funding to hold a photographic workshop with our community youth. The theme was "My Town through My Eyes" and the Print and Courthouse museum were used for the photography. A public photographic exhibition was held and members were invited. It was very interesting to work out where the pictures were taken and was well received.

Many groups from far and wide are coming to the print museum which is proving very popular our print boys are being kept very busy. The large poster size Dimboola Regatta fliers and the Wimmera Mallee Pioneer long weekend publicity fliers are also produced at the museum using the letterpress machines.

We now have a four tiered display cabinet for our members to showcase their own collections on a monthly basis. It has proved popular. So far we have had teapots and cup saucer and plates, vintage heirlooms, model ships and even Tassie Devils from the cartoons.

There are many requests for family research coming in and Saturdays are still our catch up days with many members enjoying our shared luncheons.

Mandy Myers
Secretary. D&DHS.

Charlton Golden Grains Museum

Midlands zone report October 2018

Well what a busy few months we've had. The museum hosted the play 'Mud & Blood' about Pompey Elliott in June. This was a huge risk due to the \$15,000 price tag. However, with an anonymous donation of \$8,000 and a grant from the Victorian Veteran's Council of \$4,000, we proceeded. It was a huge success considering it was held on a Monday in winter. Over 200 people attended from all over the district. Thankyou to all the folk who came along from neighbouring museums. Ross McMullin's talk about Pompey was a bonus and was very enjoyable.

In August we joined with the CWA to host a bridal parade. It featured over 70 outfits dating from 1902 until 2018. It was held at the Rex Theatre and the stories of each wedding were told and a photo of the bridal party displayed on the movie screen. Over 200 people attended and it was a terrific fundraiser for both groups. It was, however, a huge job to organise and not something you'd want to do too often. We have since been donated some older wedding dresses and will create a display in our mannequin showcase.

We are currently enrolled in the MAVic accreditation program and we thought we still had at least 12 months to complete all the tasks. As it turns out our submission is due in April and we have been a little slack due to lack of numbers. So the race is on to get everything done. Our priority was to work out what items were lost in the flood but we still haven't finished going through our catalogue. Some items are still in our secretary's barn and others are stored in the old Wesleyan Church. They've been there since before the flood and are in various states of decay and rust but there are still many good items in there worth salvaging.

Our negotiations to officially use two of the disused Uniting Church buildings (one is the church mentioned

earlier) is progressing extremely slowly after four years of negotiations. The fact that we want to repair the two buildings (they both need new floors) at our own cost doesn't seem to have registered — you'd think they would jump at the opportunity. Hopefully something happens soon as we are desperate for more storage space. Our existing storeroom is like a Tetris puzzle. Every time we add something we have to rearrange half the contents.

We have another new volunteer who is delightfully enthusiastic and very skilled. She is the new manager of the caravan park and is married to a former local who's returned home. Diane jumped right in within days of her arrival in Charlton and has already spent several days at the museum cataloguing. Of our eight active members five are aged in their early to mid-60's so we are a 'young' group.

On November 11th we are taking part in the Remembrance Day activities which will be held just outside our museum. The museum will be open for free all day, and after the service, there is a BBQ and the Charlton/Wycheproof Band will play in the Rotunda in the afternoon.

A section of our ceiling has to be replaced due to white ants. The Buloke Shire have committed some funds but we have to come up with the rest. We have been running a fundraiser to help raise the \$10,000 we need. If the work is not done soon the museum will have to close due to safety reasons.

One of our biggest sources of income is printing as Charlton does not have a Resource Centre. Charlton have just recently received funding to set up a Neighbourhood House in Charlton so printing will be done there in the future. Whilst we'll miss the income we won't miss the time taken up undertaking the work.

East Loddon Historical Society Inc.

Midlands zone report October 2018

Thank you to Port Fairy Historical Society for hosting the AGM and Zone meeting in April. It was a treat to see that part of the world. And Thank you to Carisbrook for hosting today's meeting.

East Loddon Historical Society have been busy working with the East Loddon P12 College to finalize their long awaited project to recognize WW1. They kept pursuing grant applications and eventually success eventuated with a grant from the Federal Govt. The Shire of Loddon recognized the significance of this project and have added more funding and site work assistance. This project recognizes the effort of the residents of the former Shire of East Loddon.

Eight bollards are now being erected at the Memorial Gates in front of the East Loddon P 12 College and tells the story of the Great War (now known as WW I) and the East Loddon community. The students have been heavily involved in the research of the war effort and design of the bollards and led by a very enthusiastic teacher Mrs Sarah Clare.

The East Loddon Historical Society have identified nearly all the soldiers and nurses who enlisted from the former Shire of East Loddon using the Shire of East Loddon Great War Memorial Board and the Memorial Monuments and Honour Boards from the Schools and districts that made up the Shire. Other names have been included because of the family connection to the Shire even though enlisting as far away as Sydney, Western Australia and South Africa.

So far 326 have been recorded with possibly 13 at this stage we are still trying to identify as to having a definitive link to the Shire. Misspelling and duplicates of names has been the challenge. An interesting snippet that emerged from this research showed that there were many young men who had recently arrived in Australia from England, were working on farms in the district then enlisted with the AIF and served under the Australian Flag. Most returned to Australia after the war. This bollard project will be linked to the East Loddon Anzacs website created by the East Loddon P12 College year 9 students. The official unveiling of these bollards is happening on November 9th.

Noel Ridge (of the Bendigo Trotting Club History Centre) came and shared the journey of John Peck —

researching and writing the history of trotting races in the Bendigo area from 1850 to 1950 or a bit later. It is a story of many local families and fortunes won and lost in the trotting industry. This Bendigo Annals 1850-1950 is an e book available only at the Goldfields Library Bendigo research centre and the Dingee Library agency. A great resource for family historians.

Volunteer numbers increased by one in the past six months so regularly have eight to ten people in attendance to keep the doors open with cataloguing, researching and cleaning. A review of items in the collection is beginning; the first to be reviewed were the collection of Ancestry and Family History magazines dating back many years. These have been donated to the local library agency for the whole community to access. We have a box or two of Power farming magazines that are not really within our collection guidelines. If there are any suggestions on what we could do with them please let us know.

A recent research request on the Ponton family generated a bit of interest because it has created another potential chapter to be added to the Serpentine Creek Station book of families who lived and worked on the Station. These families quite often get overlooked in the history of the Stations.

Up coming events: Two bus tours organized by the Loddon Shire are at the end of this month and early November and then the first of, hopefully, more to come as an initiative and organized by the newly formed CWA Dingee branch. A rail/bus tour to bring city folk to the country is coming up at the end of November. A special carriage is being added to the train on the Melbourne to Swan Hill line. CWA guests are disembarking at Dingee in the morning and then a bus tour of the district and back on the train to return to Melbourne mid afternoon. The Historical Society have been asked to talk about the history/settlement and new industries opening up.

Planning has started (to recognize in 2020), the Centenary of the First Official Air Race that flew from Serpentine to the Melbourne GPO in August 1920. More information will be passed around through the Zone next year. Our AGM is being held on November 27.

Goldfields Historical & Arts Society

(Dunolly Museum) Midland zone report October 2018

The Goldfields Historical & Arts Society has been busy. We have held historical tours to Bealiba, McIntyres and Orville. These always create public interest and we often afterwards get new members.

We held an enquiry into the actual location of the 1851 Monster Meeting site. The evidence was compelling that Heritage Victoria were claiming the location at a different location.

A major task currently is putting in a ceiling in part of the back section of the Dunolly Museum.

We are looking forward to 5th February next year when we will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the finding of the Welcome Stranger nugget at Moliagul.

See details on page 5 of this newsletter.

John Tully, President Goldfields

Nullawil Historical Society

Midlands zone report October 2018

1. Auchmore Museum hosted a Uniting Church service instigated by the Eastern Mallee Rural Parish on Sunday 29th April at 10:30am. The historical society members catered with a basket lunch afterwards. A project of the society is the restoration of the Estey organ in the church. The proceeds from this day (including donations) will contribute to the funding. An article was placed in The Guardian (Swan Hill) reporting on the success of this day.

2. The Boort Historical Society visited the Museum and the society catered with soup and sandwiches for lunch. There were about seven of them but they thoroughly enjoyed their guided tour and have made plans to bring another group back.

3. The society is pleased to advise that the Wyche-proof Lions train donated to the historical society has been fixed up and ready to use. We have not had anyone at the museum to use it yet. The society was thrilled to be asked to put together some information for the Wimmera Mallee brochure being compiled.

4. A meeting was held early August and the main item on the agenda was the restoration of the Estey

organ in the Winston Church. Wendy and Lex Spry have delivered the organ to a repairer in Ballarat and the plan is for it to be returned for use at the Nullawil Remembers Armistice Day Centenary Commemoration Service. The men have been busy putting a roof over the toilet and wash basin area and Ian Marquis is now putting a coat of paint on the inside. On Friday August 24th the society hosted Meagan McGregor from the Guardian, Swan Hill. This visit was a result of the article that had been in the paper. We had some community members attend to speak to Meagan. She spent the whole day and was very impressed with what she saw. She is writing an article for the Swan Hill magazine that is published each year for hotels, coffee tables etc.

5. Auchmore Museum had a visit from the photographer associated with the magazine Your Swan Hill. He spent over two hours at the museum and was very professional in his photography. The historical society has enlisted the help of Bree - Anna Poyner and has put a brochure together. The first draft passed the meeting and with a few minor changes our intention is to get a quote from Mallee printers to get them printed.

Swan Hill Genealogical & Historical Society

Midland zone report October 2018

Our group is currently busy planning the Western Vic AGM which will be held on 30th March 2019 in Swan Hill. We hope to have many people come to Swan Hill and experience the get togethers where we can share ideas, tackle similar problems and be enthused by likeminded groups and get to experience a bit of Swan Hill.

Talks have been happening to establish a museum in Swan Hill but a venue is our biggest problem. We have our eyes on a couple of places but will need to wait and see what happens.

Over winter, like some other groups, we held afternoon meetings which meant other members were able to get to the meetings. Guest speakers over the past few months have varied. Members who have participated in genealogical DNA testing spoke at our October meeting relating their experiences, the positives and the negatives of their particular test. In all they were happy and intrigued by some of the results. Members also visited Kerang for a more scientific talk there.

One of the meeting topics was your grandparents' occupation which everyone had a story to tell and all varied. This was a great way to get everyone at the meeting involved.

Members of our group travelled to Moulamein to the Moolamoon Shearing shed which Graerne and Diane Nalder have worked hard at getting a wool industry display happening in the shearing shed. A nice morning tea was also provided in a very pleasant setting on the Edward River.

Our next trip is planned to Nullawil for their Remembrance Day service and Auchmore Homestead tour. Personally I'm looking forward to seeing what I've been hearing about for some years at Western Vic meetings.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Swan Hill in March next year.

Steve Pentreath, President

Swan Hill accommodation for the A.G.M. meet is now open

For bookings: Rhonice Graham on 0417 106 644

nirfg@hotmail.com

or Steve Pentreath on (03) 5033 2954 or 0428 584 325

loi@live.com.au

(Please advise as soon as possible so we can confirm accommodation booking.)

Frederick John Cato pioneer of Stawell

Mr Frederick John Cato, a native of Stawell, was born on the Pleasant Creek goldfields in 1858. Fred Cato's grandparents, William and Elizabeth Cato, landed in 1830 in Western Australia and sometime later moved to Tasmania.

William and Elizabeth Cato died there and were survived by three children William, Sophia and Edward. Edward Cato (Frederick John's father) sought a living in Adelaide and while there married Catherine Nimmo. He went to work in Western Australia and then moved to Melbourne.

Edward, his wife Catherine and three children followed the "gold rush" and sought gold on the alluvial gold-field at Pleasant Creek. They had a total of nine children and their third son Frederick John Cato was born on 15th May 1858 at Pleasant Creek. (He was commonly referred to as Fred Cato). In 1861 the family moved to the "Reefs" quartz gold area about one mile north of Pleasant Creek. (In 1858 Pleasant Creek was named Stawell and in 1869 'Stawell' and the 'Reefs' were merged and became the Borough of Stawell for 88 years - until 1957). Fred Cato attended State School 502 and later became a pupil teacher at the school. In 1879, at the age of 20 years, he went to New Zealand to teach and, before he returned to Melbourne in 1881 he became engaged to Miss Frances Bethune.

While in Melbourne in 1881 he accepted an offer from his cousin Edwin Moran (a grocer) to join him as a trial partner in a business called 'Moran and Cato' which set its sights on a high goal.

Three years later in 1884 he married Frances in New Zealand. They had eight children.

The trial of the Moran and Cato business was so successful that the firm owned 30 shops around Victoria by 1890. By 1932 Moran and Cato had 114 branches in three States. The firm used revolutionary principles and practices with success resulting in the growth of a great business enterprise. A branch of Moran and Cato was not established in Stawell because Mr Cato did not want to let the small businesses in the town be affected by a chain store grocer.

Mr. Fred Cato expressed a desire to "be in a position to give money away" and this was no empty sentiment. Mr Cato's donations and endowments in Melbourne were many but he did not forget his birth place.

On his 70th birthday in 1928 Mr Cato returned to Stawell and arranged to spend £100 for every year that he lived which amounted to £7,000. Mr & Mrs Cato invited representatives of the Borough Council, Churches, organisations and leading citizens to attend an afternoon tea in the Town Hall and nearly 300 people attended. Assisted by the Mayor & Mayoress (Cr. & Mrs D. Mitchell), Mr Cato distributed the following cheques — Stawell Hospital £1000; Borough Council £500; State School 502 £500; Mechanics Institute £100; Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, and Methodist Churches £100 each; Congregational, and Baptist Churches and Salvation Army £50 each; High, Techni-



Frederick John Cato

cal and St. Patrick's Schools £20 each; Belmont College £5. Total £2715.

Regarding the £500 Mr Cato gave to the Borough Council the only stipulation was that it be used for one object, the beautification or betterment of Stawell. In order to carry out Mr Cato's wishes, the Council decided to change the name of Victoria Lake to Cato Park and to spend the money in the beautification of the Park and the provision of children's amusements. Cato Park was officially opened in October 1930.

Another Stawell "boy" J. P. Whelan, who became "Whelan the Wrecker" pulled down a building in Melbourne which had a 'Royal Standard'. Mr Whelan presented the 'Royal Standard' to the Borough Council and it was erected on the Cato Park gate entrance.

Mr Fred Cato was noted as "a loyal son of Stawell honoured and commemorated by Stawell". Mr Cato died in 1935 and on his last birthday, distributed money in Victoria equal to one quarter of a million dollars. He was, for many years, a benefactor of many institutions and causes.

September issue of Stawell newsletter

**I have just come across a great website
for transferring large files called**

WE TRANSFER

**Simply open free website upload photo-
graphs or files and insert your email
and recipient's email and send.**

— editor

Passing of progressive pioneer

Article appeared in the last issue of the Koroit newsletter which originally appeared in the Koroit Sentinel and Tower Hill Advocate, Koroit Saturday, September 28, 1918

THE LATE MR. T. F. RUTLEDGE

There is no one, either living in the district at present, or passed to the great majority, who was more closely associated with the progress and development of this part of the State and so well and widely known and generally respected as the late Mr. T. F. Rutledge. His name will long be remembered by residents for his many acts of charity, kindness and generosity. A man of high scholarly attainments and upright character he was a gentleman of the old school and his passing is regretted, not only by those who had direct business transactions with him over forty years ago but also the descendants of those early settlers who are to-day the owners of comfortable farms on what was known as Rutledge's Special Survey. The late Mr. Rutledge and his brother, Mr. W. R. Rutledge, were the owners in that vast tract of rich agricultural and dairying land extending from the Merri River to Killarney and containing in all 5,000 acres.

Deceased lived the greater part of his life at Werrongurt where he came to reside about 15 years ago. As a breeder of pure Lincoln sheep he was known throughout the whole of the State and was regarded as one of the best judges of Lincolns in Victoria. He was a successful exhibitor at the Royal Show in Melbourne and also at various district shows. He imported for his own use (and also for the late Mr. Stuart Black) some of the highest priced stud Lincoln rams brought here in those days. He was also an importer and breeder of Shorthorn cattle and his estate was noted for the class of sheep and cattle it produced.

Something over 30 years ago he imported a large number of Clydesdale mares from Scotland (noticeable for their breeding and quality) but the venture was not altogether a success financially and after a few years he discontinued horse breeding.

When the co-operative system of dairying took root in this district the late Mr. Rutledge was one of the first to lead the way. Always anxious to take an active part in any thing calculated to advance the interests of the people or the district he entered into the movement enthusiastically. He was a member of the first Board of Directors of the old Farnham factory (now several years extinct) and occupied the position of chairman. He was also a member of the board of directors of the Rosebrook Butter Factory and was one of the first, if not the very first, to introduce the share system in this district. He also served the ratepayers of the Warrnambool Shire and was one of the south riding members for several years.

Finding he had too much to attend to he disposed of 1,500 acres of his estate to Mr J. W. Anderson (known afterwards as Tower Hill Park Estate.) The price paid was £30 an acre and this land was sold by the late Mr. Anderson a few years ago at prices ranging from £70 to £80 an acre. Some years later another portion

of the survey estate, containing 400 acres, was sold to Messrs. Anderson and Taylor and subsequently sold by them to local farmers. The remaining portion was disposed of by public auction about 19 years ago and the late Mr. Rutledge, his wife and family severed their connection with the district and went to reside in Geelong. A few years later he took up land in New Zealand but returned to Geelong. He subsequently removed to Melbourne where he resided until his death. The late Mr. Rutledge with his wife and family visited England about 26 years ago and remained at home for two years.

Always keenly interested in the welfare of his tenants he was prepared to assist them in every possible way and when it came to the disposal of his land by public auction he was delighted to see his own tenants in many cases, out-bid all competitors.

As an employer he was considerate towards his employees, and was closely concerned in their welfare, when the conacre system was in vogue, and small farmers from all parts of the district came to rent a few acres of land. May Day was a memorable one at Werrongurt, and when bad seasons came with their blighting effects the late Mr. Rutledge was always prepared to listen to the struggling potato grower's tale of woe and it is perhaps unnecessary to add that these bad seasons with their accompanying complaints came fairly often but this is now all past history.

The once popular squire of Werrongurt has gone from the scenes of his earthly activities, but his many kindly deeds will long be remembered by residents of this district.

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

"free" to a new home

2 microfiche readers

(1) 3M Consultant 114

(2) Leigh Mardon nmi75

Contact Robin Parker

0459 032 068

Minyip & District Historical Society

Wimmera zone report October 2018

As reported at the April meeting the project to name and document all the children in the Minyip cemetery has been completed. This work was mainly done by one of our members, Mr Wayne Jackson, who has spent hours working on the project. It was finished for our last meeting which was on 16 October, and it was a Cemetery Walk. Wayne produced a booklet with general information, and then spoke about the tragic circumstances of 10 families.

In the Minyip Cemetery there are 353 burials of individuals in the 0 – 20 age group. 105 have headstone, 133 have no headstones but the site is known and 115 are known to be buried in Minyip Cemetery but site is not known.

The Society received a grant from Horsham Sports & Community Club for \$1620.00, which enabled us to purchase from Births, Deaths & Marriages, the Death Register of some of those unknown. This was of valuable assistance to Wayne. He has now completed a very detailed map of all sections of the Cemetery, the sites, who and where buried and if there is a headstone. Copies of these maps have been given to both the Cemetery Trust and the Historical Society, and both the Trust and the Society are so grateful and appreciative of the work he has done.

Wayne also had all this information at the Minyip Show, which created a lot of interest.

The Society also had as a Guest Speaker Dr. Gillian Heintze, who has family letters written to her father Lesley, who was a student at Concordia College, Adelaide in 1938 & 1939. The letters are a story of the goings-on on the Heintze farm,

and what was happening in the area in those years. Now we are scanning these letters to have on file. Fascinating and personal memories of a family.

Wayne Jackson has also been wonderful for the Society by making Trinket boxes from wood taken up from the floor in the building known as 'Emma's'. Part of this building had to be repaired. However, they are beautiful boxes and the proceeds being divided between the Society and the Minyip Progress Association. They have been selling extremely well and have been a great boon to our finances. Wayne by the way grew up in Minyip, with many siblings and cousins. Graduated as a teacher, even came back to Minyip Primary as Head Teacher for a few years. Is now retired with his wife Daphne living in Horsham. But loves coming home!

In an arrangement with the Lions Club, who purchased a new whiz-bang photocopier and is in our building, we are now digitalizing our records. So far, the paper records of our family files, and some of the photos. It will take a long time, but it is a start.

We were fortunate to receive from the Yarriambiack Shire a Sponsorship Grant, which we will use to sponsor a History Project at the Minyip Primary School. A very busy year for us as we had the WW1 Memorial Wall, then published all articles and letters from Minyip people that were printed in The Minyip Guardian during the years 1914-1918/1919. And the huge Cemetery Project. Now we must think, what to do in 2019!

Birchip and District Historical Society

Midlands zone report October 2018

Sorry I was not able to be at the Carisbrook meeting. We only found that the meeting was today a couple of days ago. Have not had any of the usual info, invitation etc. I have also taken on secretary of our Birchip group while Dorothy cares for her husband who has dementia.

Our group is very small and as all groups I guess, we would love New and younger members like every other organisation in town. We recently took possession of three original channel diggers which lay languishing in the former Grampians Wimmera Mallee yard. They have to be approved, a few repairs made and we hope to have them housed at Sunset Park the approach to town demonstrating the equipment used to construct the channel system which enabled settlement in a dry area without natural water reservesour town and surrounds. They were the life look of our area.

We continue to work with the Railway Restoration Committee to keep our Restored Railway Station in

good order and used for a few functions.

We have taken possession of three large pieces of equipment once hosed at the former Grampians Wimmera Mallee yard. One is a Queens Bridge Motors ditchers used to construct the Warranga channel and the other two are smaller ditches used on farm channels. These will be re-located at Sunset Park on the approach to the town of Birchip. They were once the life blood of the town community. That is about all to report except that continued family research and newspaper cuttings for the football and tennis club have been worked on. We have had visits from school students researching the early days of Birchip.

Maureen Donnellon, Secretary

We hope to keep up better when internet and NBN problems are ironed out.

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

Please contact Helen Curkpatrick on haven273@outlook.com

***or write to 273 Old Hamilton Road, Haven 3401.
In word preferred and any photos in jpg format.***

Ararat & District Historical Society Inc.

Wimmera zone report October 2018

The Ararat & District Historical Society Inc. continues to be active in the Ararat community as the Langi Morgala Museum attracts tourists, schools and tour groups while also providing an important resource for Ararat and district.

The A&DHS has, of late, become involved in local affairs such as the Dobie Avenue of Honour Memorial which will need to be re-established due to the demolition of the old highway duplication and Ararat Mechanics Institute needing a new committee to shore up its future.

We await further improvement to our museum building while Ararat Rural Council decide upon a major re-

furbishment to the rear of the museum Hopefully these will include a disabled toilet and rear ramp to be incorporated into the final section of concrete paving.

A special new exhibit "the Southern Cloud" remains on hold until this concreting is finished. Meanwhile and our volunteers keep up the good work — from restoring & cleaning to cataloguing and digitizing the ever growing collection while greeting visitors and answering queries.

Please accept our apologies for not having a representative at your meeting.

Gerry Bolt - President

Edenhope Mechanic's Institute

The Edenhope Mechanics Institute and Free library began around 1874. The Committee of that year obtained a Government Library Grant to get it established. It's not known where that building was.

In 1887 Mr. David Edgar donated the land the hall is currently situated on. That hall consisted of an entrance foyer, main hall, members' room and a public meeting room. By 1889 a government grant of £47/3/2 was secured. Once it was completed a letter from the then Shire of Kowree Secretary, Mr. R. Cummin declared the building fit to be held as a public place for entertainment.

By 1929 it became evident there was a need to expand the hall so fundraising from the community began once again. When the committee decided to expand the original hall, the stage and a dressing room remained. This new hall consisted of stage, main hall two dressing rooms and two ante rooms and was declared open to the public in 1930.

By 1939 the hall was looking for another extension of a supper room and listening to the elders of the community possums visited regularly because there was no lining in it to keep them out.

In 1966 a hard working volunteer named Mrs Jean Burrell put her hand up to be secretary of the hall and was the driving force behind raising monies for the upkeep of the hall. In 1967 it was time for a new supper room to be built. The proposed new supper room had the addition of toilets and kitchen, much delight of the entire community. They could have any sort of entertainment and catering as well.

Jean was Secretary from 1966 to 2000, a total of 34 years. She was a tremendous caterer and a beautiful cookmaking making the best 21st, engagements and wedding cakes, all beautifully decorated.

The land the Mechanics Hall is situated on had a trustee arrangement and the transfer of ownership to the West Wimmera Shire Council took place in March 2012.

It's your newsletter
— have your say

WHAT HAS THE HALL BEEN USED FOR:

Originally meetings and library, on going meetings and fundraising events for the whole community. In the 1940's the Blind Institute organised concerts to raise money for the blind. In 1952 there was a Queens Competition to raise money for a private school and Convent. School Concerts and plays have been ongoing through the years. There are memories of having a picture theatre in the Hall — it was very popular in the 40's and made a comeback in the 80's.

During World War II the men who enlisted and were given final leave always had an "Open Farewell at the Mechanics Hall. There was a dance in the Hall every Saturday night. The whole town was invited to attend. The sad thing was it was very clear to the community—they didn't know whether these men would ever return. Dances of the past transferred into relationships and for some, followed a wedding and a reception in the Hall or Supper room.

Monday May 20th 1957 was significant as there was a double wedding reception held in the main hall with 200 guests. Debutante Balls have been one of the most popular events over the many years. The last deb Ball, organised by the Hall Committee was in 2015. 21st Birthdays, special birthdays, engagements, cabaret's, talent quests were all held in the Mechanics Hall. The Schools' used the hall extensively. The 1980's saw weddings and funerals due to the demolition of the Catholic Church.

There are many individual memories of family and public events over the years the elders of the community are extremely sad and disappointed about the demise of the Edenhope Mechanics Hall Institute — However the age and ongoing maintenance of this asset was always going to be a challenge particularly public safety. On Saturday 10th November 2018 (and 129 years on) the final curtain call for the community to say Good-bye — Farewell was held. A state of the art building will replace the old building for future generations and make more memories.

A tale of the Bryant brothers

W. S. Griffith

This is the story of four Bryant brothers; George born 1789; Francis 1795; James 1799 and Edmund 1803 who emigrated to Van Diemen's Land. They were sons of Matthew Bryant and Mary Mills who were tenants of Curry Pool — a farm of some 390 acres in Charlinch and Spaxton parishes in Somerset from 1791. Matthew and Mary were married in Bridgewater in 1784 and the older four of their ten children were born there. He died in 1815 and she about 1829. From that time George held the lease of Curry Pool Farm.

During the 1820's a great many respectable settlers arrived in Van Diemen's Land bringing the letters of recommendation from the Home authorities which entitled them to land. Immigrations of persons with capital was encouraged by Lieut. Governor Arthur who saw immigration as the servant of transportation. The convict system was based on assignment and men of capital were needed to maintain it. Land policy in the 1820's discriminated against the less wealthy settler as the size of land grants was proportional to the amount of capital held. The need for recommendation to the Governor and the high cost of travel to Van Diemen's Land also discouraged the poorer person.

Of the brothers James and Edmund, both bachelors, went first. They wrote jointly from Guild Hall Coffee Shop, London to Earl Bathurst on April 25, 1823 soliciting a land grant in Tasmania. Their letter of recommendation to Lieutenant Governor Sorell was dated April 30, 1823. They sailed in the ship *Aguilar*, 32 tons, and arrived in Hobart on February 4, 1824.

After arrival in Hobart (with about £1,000 capital each) James and Edmund Bryant took up land near Jericho. This is about seventy kilometres by road north of Hobart. Even forty years later it was fairly wild country. James was granted 800 acres and Edmund 700. Afterwards they were to receive further grants of 700 and 800 acres on account of additional stock imported.

Lengthy sea voyages or a lonely life in the bush are good for romance. In October 1824 at Hobart James Bryant married Ann Roe (the widow of Thomas Roe another passenger on the *Aguilar* who had died on the voyage out.)

Meanwhile Edmund had departed again for England in the brig *Woodlark*, 196 tons, on April 4, 1824. There he married Jane Mogg by licence on February 15, 1825 at St. Mary's Church, Bridgewater. They were to have seven children. Edmund arrived back in Hobart in the brig *Mountaineer* on October 24, 1825 with his bride and Francis Bryant with his wife and five children. They brought pure-bred sheep and cattle and a two year-old thoroughbred stallion as well as goods for sale. Francis had married Jane Carver about 1815. They were to have a further six children in Tasmania.

The brothers did much jointly and had a store in Hobart which was also a butchery at one stage. They imported pure-bred sheep and cattle and ran stock on their various properties. It seems James and Edmund

ran their properties at Jericho jointly. However before James died on January 27, 1833 Edmund had leased "*Trafalgar*" at Evandale and was in occupation by October 1831. He was to run other properties later.

Francis Bryant received (with William Nicholls) a grant of 1,118 acres in Bandon Parish in 1826 and 700 acres in Newark Parish in 1827. He also was to own or lease other properties later.

As Edmund Bryant imported the first thoroughbred stallion, *Viscount*, it seems likely that the brothers were much involved in racing.

In spite of Governor Arthur's disapproval there had been a day of horse racing on the Fourteen Tree Plain, Jericho as far back as April 3, 1826. The day following these races a meeting was held at Jericho at which it was unanimously decided to form a Turf Club with a limit of fifty members. This was the foundation of the Tasmanian Turf Club and was the first club in V. D. L. to use the word "Tasmanian".

Meanwhile, back in England, George still held the lease of Curry Pool when the property was sold in October 1833 when he was 44. Although the lease at a rent of £520 a year was for 14 or 21 years from Michaelmas 1831 George and his family sailed to join his brothers in Van Diemen's Land aboard the *Sarah*, (a ship of 488 tons.) She sailed from London on October 14, 1834 and arrived in Hobart on February 14, 1835.

George Bryant had married Ann Legg in Bristol in 1811 and they had ten children between 1812 and 1833. It would appear that George and his family lived with his brother Francis at "Redlands", Plenty for some years after arrival in Van Diemen's Land — probably until Francis left "Redlands" on expiration of the lease at the end of 1841. George died in Hobart on November 8, 1853. His wife Ann Legg seems to have gone to live with her son James in Victoria soon after. She died on December 7, 1867 aged 77 years at his property Frogmoor Farm, Yarram Creek.

As early as 1836 Edmund and Francis Bryant (with John Atkin) had shipped 1,000 sheep to Port Phillip where Atkin had them at Salt Water River, twenty miles from what became Melbourne. Edmund and Francis were signatories that year of a Memorial from settlers at the Port Phillip to Governor Sir Richard Bourke requesting the same consideration in respect to land grants as the Port Phillip Association (which wanted a monopoly.) Both Edmund and Francis made several crossings of Bass Strait in the next ten years.

In 1845 Edmund and family were living at "Kingston" near Ben Lomond, their property of 5,000 acres thirty miles from Launceston. T. Thorpe reported to the police magistrate, Fingal, on March 22, 1845.

About 8 o'clock this evening two armed men (Priest and Smith) went to Mr. Bryant's hut near Ben Lomond. The bushranger's presented their pieces and ordered them to remain quiet. One of them tied up the men

whilst the other stood sentry (there were eight men in the hut). They then marched the men up to the house and opened the parlour door and ordered Mr. Bryant and his family into the kitchen – they demanded the key of the stores which was given to them by Mr. W. Bryant (16 year old son). One remained sentry over the whole of them while the other plundered the stores of the following food stuffs viz. a quantity of tea and sugar, tobacco, flour, two new hats, a topcoat (black pitch cloth,) a double barrel gun (percussion), one pair blankets, one pair of white fustian trousers and two white shirts, etc. which they packed up in their knapsacks and after drinking two glasses of ale they . . . (left) cautioning Mr. Bryant and his servants not to report them for an hour and a half.

It was in late 1845 that Edmund Bryant moved to the Port Phillip District with his family. They sailed from Launceston in the Tamar on October 25, 1845 and arrived in Melbourne on 31st of that month. He was at first at “Charlotte Plain” station of Hector Norman Simson (who later married his daughter Jane) before acquiring “Cairn Curran” in 1848. It was there that he died on April 21, 1849. His wife, Jane Mogg, survived him and all her sons and her eldest daughter. From 1870 she lived at Hamilton House in Lennox Street, Richmond, Melbourne, where she died on December 28, 1893 aged 95 years.

On August 20, 1845 Francis offered 2,186 acres at Jerusalem for lease. It is not clear when Francis and his family left Tasmania for Victoria but it may well have been about this time. By daughter Eliza’s account they certainly were living in Melbourne by 1850/51. The Victorian Electoral Rolls for 1856/57 show Francis Bryant, Gentleman at 27 La Trobe Street, Melbourne. His wife Jane Carver died on March 15, 1857 at Victoria Street, Melbourne aged 65 years.

Francis Bryant of Spaxton Cottage, South Yarra, Melbourne born Charlinch, Somerset, late of Surrey, Gentleman aged 63 married Lucy Matilda (nee Marzetti) aged 38 widow of George John Marzetti on March 9, 1859 at Christ Church, South Yarra. A Marzetti family was prominent in the New Norfolk area in Tasmania. Francis Bryant died in London, England on January 29, 1863. The Bryant brothers of Somerset were well known for improving the quality of stock in Tasmania in difficult pioneering days.

Edmund Bryant’s descendants have farmed in the Maryborough District for several generations — much of the property was flooded in 1948 and is now under Cairn Curran Reservoir. The Bryant descendant’s sold “Cairn Curran” earlier this year.

From the *Tasmanian Ancestor* June 1998.

Balmoral and District Historical Society

Wimmera zone report October 2018

Balmoral and District Historical Society “News flash”

The Balmoral Historical Society is proud to announce that, through the ‘Living Heritage Grants Programme at Heritage Victoria, its application has been successful.

The Society has been granted \$50,000 to restore the Balmoral Courthouse. Finally after many years of investigation, fund raising and grant applications the Courthouse will once again be able to be used by the Society for displays and meetings and be part of the community again.

The Courthouse has to be restored from the ground up. As with many early buildings in this area it is sitting

on the ground. So excavation work will begin next week and consist of replacement of weatherboards, floorboards, lining boards and will finish with a new roof, downpipes and guttering. The building is to be painted both internally and externally.

Many of the furnishings and artefacts are still intact and so the Courthouse will be predominately set up as Court but adapted for displays. Hopefully all this will be completed in the New Year.

The Society has recently been receiving many donations to its collection and Restoration Fund. We think that this is due to the news about the restoration of the Courthouse, our Facebook page, items that are placed in the local “Balmoral Bulletin” and Open Garden Days at historical homesteads this also shows that the Society is alive and well and working in the Community.

New Genealogical site found

Genealogy Victoria Australia

While browsing Facebook recently I found an interesting website where local family historians can leave and place messages on lost and found family members and brick walls, (which we all find at some time in our research.)

History Road Trip site developed

Using internet technology to bring historical information to the public
By John Kumm, Donald

One of the problems local history groups have always experienced is that of encouraging more interested visitors to the region and thus promoting the services offered by the group.

Our groups rely on volunteers and dedicated staff to provide advice, resources and reference materials to members of the public who make contact in order to discover more about history and traditions.

In many cases visitors come to a community in order to discover more about the history and lifestyle of early members of their family.

Other visitors express a strong interest in specific industries or activities that were part of the way of life in a town or region in days past. Examples of such activities could be gold mining, farming, transport, etc.

However a number of issues seem to be common amongst most, if not all, of these groups.

These include:

Letting members of the public know about the availability of the historical information that is available, (including old maps, genealogical resources, photographs) and of course local knowledge held by the members of the group.

Finding more ways of getting visitors to our information centres, (so that we may have the chance to communicate with them and therefore assist them in their search for information)

Ensuring that the information that we are able provide is accurate as well as comprehensive – sometimes a challenge particularly if volunteers are not completely au fait with all of the resources available to meet a specific request

A recent issue that was raised at a meeting of the Donald History and Natural History Group made me aware of the need for more information.

It involved a short letter sent by a member of the public that referred to the state of a signposted historical marker located on the Sunraysia Highway between St Arnaud and Donald. The letter requested that attention be paid to tidying up the site and simplifying access from the roadway to the marker itself.

Unfortunately this communication eventually found its way into State Government bureaucracy and it was quite some time before it was passed on to the Buloke Shire for attention.

After a short time the Buloke Shire passed the letter on to our group and the issue was discussed, many months after the letter had been written.

It eventuated that the historical site in question was situated on the boundary of Buloke and Northern Grampians Shires and, in fact, came under the auspices of Northern Grampians.

What this issue indicated to me was that there is a very limited amount of data available in the public arena to identify these historical markers that are very widely distributed around the country.

Except for a number of the more substantive markers (such as the Burke and Wills memorials and the memorial of the Major Thomas Mitchell expedition near Wedderburn,) it's difficult to locate those markers that relate to less "important" matters in the history of Australia.

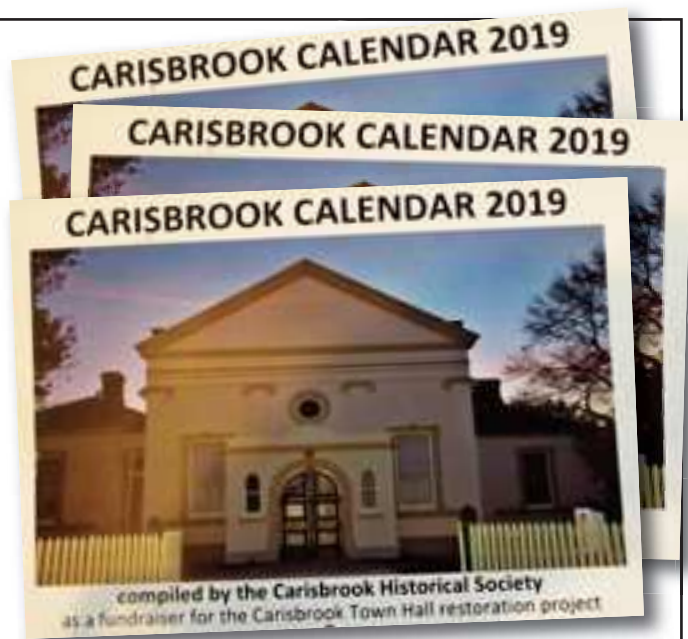
However, for the purposes of meeting the needs of our visitors, it is often these overlooked historical factors that are of the most importance.

Upon consideration of the issues mentioned above I decided to develop an internet based tool that is specifically aimed at promoting points of local historical interest.

As a result, the History Road Trip site
<http://historyroadtrip.com.au>

**Carisbrook
Historical Society
has for sale
2019 calendars
\$12 inc. postage**

**for orders contact
brookhistsoc@gmail.com or
19 Bucknall Street, Carisbrook 3464
(proceeds to Town Hall restoration project)**



WVAHS — Midlands zone meeting

Carisbrook October 2018

Meeting opened at 10.30am by Judy Healey following morning tea.

Roll Call: Judy Healey, Robin Parker, Nancy Egan Jeffrey Mikkelsen, Nancy Fergeus, Alex Stoneman (Carisbrook), Marion Melen, (Maryborough), Mary Davidson, (East Loddon), Carolyn Olive, (Charlton), Steve Pentreath, (Swan Hill), John Kumm, Mary Archibald, Dot McKay, Beryl Pearse and Ann Dunstan (Donald).

Apologies: Birchip, Nullawil, Dunolly, Charlton, East Loddon, Margaret Haines, (Midland), Gwen Twigg (East Loddon), Barry and Kaylene James (Nullawil), John Davidson (Donald).

Reports: Donald, Nulawil, Swan Hill, Dunolly.

Marion Melen of Midlands told of the success of the Wal Richards wedding photo exhibition which was a great success.

Steve Pentreath (Swan Hill) told of the changes to information to marriage certificates and the application to marry.

Loddon soldiers WWI and WWII at Serpentine finds 326 in total.

John Beck e-book 1850-1950 Bendigo Trotting Club.

The Mud and Blood at Charlton on Pompey Elliott received \$12,000 grant.

The WVAHS website is up and running.

General: Swan Hill AGM March 31, 2019 at the Starbroke Hall including accommodation and dining room.

Group contact details — see WVAHS newsletter for details.

Carisbrook Historical Society are holding an exhibition on Soldier Settlement in November, 2019.

Steve Pentreath: Colac spoke of need for Soldier Settlement information in the area.

Research fees: Nullawil \$15 and 50c per page, East Loddon \$20, Swan Hill \$10, Gisborne \$30, Midlands \$30 and Carisbrook \$20.

John Kumm of Donald showed a slideshow of points of interest in towns, history road trips showing locations of monuments, cemeteries, historical societies, schools, churches etc. John has developed a website to show locations called historyroadtrips.com.au

Call it up on Google and give it a go. Site will give latitude and physical address for each search.

The next Midlands zone meeting will be held at Cohuna in 2019.

Carisbrook meeting closed at 12 noon followed by lunch and a tour of the Carisbrook Historical Society rooms and Town Hall building.

It's your newsletter
— have your say

SHIRE MONEY STOLEN

From Tailings, newsletter of the Goldfields Historical & Arts Society, Dunolly

Frank Pickersgill Cheetham was born in Tarnagulla in 1871 to James and Mary Cheetham. James was both secretary of the Shire of Bet Bet and a councillor for the Borough of Tarnagulla. He was the mayor of Tarnagulla for four years. James also entered the Victorian parliament and was the MLA for the Dunolly Electorate. This meant he was holding three positions at the same time. James died in 1890 from injuries received in a buggy accident.

Frank gained employment as valuer to the Shire of Bet Bet and assistant to the secretary. Then when he turned twenty-one took over his father's former position as secretary. He was also the rate collector. Earlier there had been a slight blemish to his name when secretary of the Tappit Hen Mining Co in Tarnagulla. The company owed money leading to creditors stepping in and seizing the property. In retrospect this was an early warning that was ignored.

One of Frank's first decisions as secretary of the shire was to introduce carp into the reservoirs.

He married Louisa Hodges from Laanecoorie in 1897 and the following year they had twin boys. The family lived in Dunolly in the house behind the shop at 107 Broadway.

In May 1899 the Shire of Bet Bet received notice that money from the Public Works Department had been misappropriated. This was backed up by inspector Martin and Mr Drake an auditor.

The council decided to hold a special meeting to discuss the resignation of Frank Cheetham the secretary. Some councillors refused to hand over the books to the Government auditor — instead they suggested an internal audit should be sufficient. However councillors Joseph Freemantle and Thomas Fotheringham moved that their books be given to the Government auditor and their motion was carried.

Frank went for a trip to Melbourne and was seen at a suburban racecourse in early July. Soon after, it is assumed, he took a passage to Western Australia. The police issued a warrant for his arrest on two charges of embezzlement totalling only £14/10/-. This small amount gave the public a false impression of his crimes as the amount missing was so much more. The police also obtained a photograph of Frank Cheetham which they sent to all the Victorian police stations in a restricted part of the Police Gazette. For some unknown reason they never released the photo to the public.

— John Tully, President.

Murder at Back Creek (Talbot)

The inhabitants of Back Creek Talbot were startled on Monday after noon by the intelligence that a man had murdered his wife and had afterwards cut his own throat.

On proceeding to the spot about a mile distant from Scandinavian Crescent a dreadful tragedy was disclosed. A few yards from a small tent the body of a woman as lying quite dead with her throat and face terribly cut. At a short distance a man was supported up against the trunk of a tree whilst his throat (which was severely cut) was being sewn up by a medical man in attendance.

It appears from the evidence on the spot that the woman was living with a bullock driver who had left the tent only a short time when the murderer (supposed to be her husband) rushed in and attacked her with a razor. She rushed out of the tent where he followed her and got her on the ground and cut her throat so as to sever the cartoid and cause almost instant death.

The man almost immediately drew the razor across his own throat twice apparently without doing himself much injury. He then stooped down and kissed the murdered woman and again cut his throat this time more severely.

Two men passing by attempted to interfere when the man threatened them with the razor and they desisted.

This version is from a woman named Combe living in the neighbourhood who, from a distance saw the whole affair. (A little girl about four years old,) daughter of the deceased woman was present at the time.

Mr. O'Hea a chemist from Castlemaine was soon on the spot and after examining the woman and finding that she was beyond the reach of human aid turned his attention to the man and skilfully sewed up the wounds in his throat.

Shortly afterwards Dr. Candiottis arrived and between them he slowly regained consciousness. He then signed to the bystanders to bring his child; which, after a short interval, was done. When the little girl was brought she cried out "Will you kill me Daddy?" The man seemed much affected.

The child was left in the charge of a benevolent neighbour and the man and his ill-fated victim were removed to the Daisy Hill Hotel.

The woman was about twenty five years of age and of rather prepossessing appearance. She came of a very respectable family. At the early age of nineteen she was married at Adelaide to a man named John White. A year or two after their marriage she discovered that he had a wife still living.

She left him taking with her the child she had borne him and went into service. We do not know how she became acquainted with Johnson (the man who murdered her) but at any rate she had been living with him some time. The unfortunate woman told some neighbours that she had supported him for upwards of twelve months by a sly grog shanty which she kept at Ballarat.

They were very unhappy together and he left her at the time of the rush to Chinaman's Flat but returned to her after a month's absence. She described him as an idle dissolute fellow. A short while back she went with him to the rush at Crowlands. There she met Higgins, the bullock driver, with whom she was living at the time of her death.

At Crowlands she was in great distress and had to pawn some of her dresses for 15/-. Johnson then appears to have left her or she him and she came to Back Creek with Higgins about a fortnight since.

Nothing was heard of Johnson till Saturday last when he came to the tent as soon as he ascertained, by waiting that Higgins had left it. When she saw him, the woman ran away and took refuge in a Mrs. Combe's tent. He followed her and threatened to "Do for her." The unfortunate woman cried out "My God he's come" and ran into her bedroom.

Johnson then left taking with him the woman's child by her putative husband White. When she told the circumstances to Higgins afterwards he said if she wished to go back and live with him she could. She answered that she would sooner go to service.

On Monday Johnson watched him go away to his work and entered the tent. She endeavoured to get away but he overtook her and knocked her down with his fists. Kneeling upon her he deliberately — inflicted upon her the wound from which she died.

One of the wounds on the cheekbones was fully two inches and a half long. The woman seems to have struggled desperately one of her hands were very much cut. Johnson against whom a verdict of willful murder was returned, died on April 5, 1859 at the Maryborough Hospital.

Article from the Maryborough & Dunolly Advertiser 1859.

Original stories out of the Maryborough & Dunolly Advertiser are available for sale (covering the 1850s, 1860s and 1870s which reappeared in the newspaper in 1917 and 1918.)

First article was from January 4, 1857 and the stories are well worth a read.

\$30 on DVD
170 pages.

For further information
contact WVAHS editor on
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or 0459 032 068