

Newsletter of the

Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies Inc.

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We are still accepting membership dues.

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Our potential 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 (Dunolly)	Halls Gap
Harrow	Hawkesdale	Heytesbury	Horsham
Hopetoun	Inglewood	Kerang	Koroit
Landsborough	Maryborough	Minyip	Mortlake
Murtoa	Nhill	Nullawil	Ouyen
Penshurst	Port Fairy	Portland	Pyramid Hill
Rainbow	Rupanyup	St. Arnaud	Stawell
Swan Hill	Terang	Warracknabeal	Warrnambool
Wedderburn	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 December report

2020 has turned out, to a certain extent, a lost year due to Covid-19 restricting people in their activities and travel. However, at the time of writing, we are experiencing an easing of restrictions in regional Victoria and hopefully that will continue.

I am inspired by how innovative some member societies have been. Most have continued, with appropriate safe distance and cleaning regimes, to accept additions to their collections, cataloguing and filing of them, digitisation of new and existing collections and publication of newsletters, books and online material.

Several have done a great job of displaying or highlighting aspects of their collections or local historical sites on line. I realise that some find that a daunting task to commence but there are usually easy step by step guides regarding how to do so, or people in the local community that are able to assist set up it and explain how to update the information or site. It can be as easy as scanning a document or image and writing a few sentences to bring it to life or, better still, a video explanation. That is even more relevant when filming and explaining what is fascinating about a local historical site. Give it a go and see what results. In a year or two you may even have a laugh about how basic your first online efforts were!

I would like to welcome several renewing members and especially two new members: Landsborough & District History Group and the Wedderburn History Group. Hopefully, we may all catch up face to face during early 2021. I will close with wishing all members societies and their membership a happy Christmas and New Year for 2021.

Michael Menzies. President

WVAHS AGM
is scheduled to be held on
April 10-11 2021
Location
to be advised

Watch WVAHS website and
March newsletter for details.

As the 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 Robin Parker on robinparker81@hotmail.com

or write to 21 Fraser Street, Maryborough 3465.
In word preferred and any photos in jpg format.

Mark Davis — Carisbrook District Pioneer

Mark Davis was the 5th child of Isaac and Hannah Davis of Bath, Somerset, England. Census records of Twerton, Bath in 1851 show that Mark Davis was staying on census night with his sister Caroline and her husband Daniel Clifford. His occupation was given as a painter.

On 24th November, 1851, Mark, aged 20 married Harriet Stevens also aged 20. Her father was William Stevens a mason, whilst Mark's father's calling was listed as Maltster. (ie: Maltman)

It appears that Mark and Harriet left shortly after for Australia.

Harriet, along with the couple's only child, were drowned enroute to their new home. When Mark landed in Perth, W.A., his age was given as 19. He remained in Perth for 2 years, before moving to South Australia, where he stayed for one year.

Mark met and married Maria Whitehead, whose family came from Bury, Lancashire. The ceremony was held at the Church of St. John, Adelaide on November 21, 1854 with the records showing Mark to be widower, painter, aged 22. Maria was listed as spinster, aged 21 years. The day of the wedding was called 'Black Friday', as Adelaide was encircled by bush fires. The day was apparently so 'rough' that Maria could not wear her wedding gown.

(Maria and her parents arrived in South Australia on April 6, 1851, on board the 'Osceola' (Mark may have arrived on the 'Mary'.)

The next news of Mark is the registration of land, purchased from Samuel Bottomley on November 16, 1858, situated in Burke St., Melbourne, — an area of 80ft by 100ft, at this time was deep in mud, with bullock teams in the street.

At about this time (or at least before 1862) Mark and his young family journeyed to Maryborough in style by Cobb & Co. coach. On arrival they ordered boiled eggs for tea, only to find out later that they cost an expensive 2/6 each. Marion Dolan a descendant believes however, that Maria arrived after Mark.

Maryborough and District was to remain the centre of Mark Davis' many pursuits, as he owned a glazier's shop in High Street It is believed that his home was the first to have glass windows. Also, Maria had the first sewing machine in the district. Another Davis enterprise was as owner of the Supreme Court Hotel in Maryborough, where their fourth child, Eliza, was born on the 8th of October, 1862. A further interest was in running a printing business — it shows the business sense and energy and drive that was always associated with Mark in all his undertakings. Above all, a close affiliation with the land and its people was made with Mark.

When the Simpson Station was opened up for selection in the 1870's, Mark selected blocks at Boundary Gully — so named because it divided the Charlotte Plains run of the Simpson Station and the Cairn Curran Station — and named it Boundary Gully Farm, later known as 'The Farm'. This property he worked and enlarged until, at the time of making his last Will, it amounted to 310 acres.

Other property owned by him included 'Ardmore', on Donovan's Road, Bald Hill, The home was near the present Pepper Trees, now owned by the Rinaldis. An area of 330 acres was listed in his Will, which he left to his son, Fred. The other properties to come under his control were the two timbered blocks of the Pickering's (later bought by the Harses) and the adjoining block of Percy Cain.

Such was his drive and foresight, that Mark developed and operated a produce store in Carisbrook and established a chaff mill operated by a steam engine. The products were sent by rail to Melbourne, to fulfil contracts he obtained from the Tramways Board (after much persuasion) for the horse-drawn trams. The hay was grown at the Farm, with other hay bought from district farmers.

The Farm was their home until daughter Eliza married John Robertson Allan there on the December 31, 1884. Afterwards they moved to the Carisbrook home of 'Fernlea' in Birch St., near the Scout Hall. This home was their main base for the rest of their lives and later became the home of daughter Elizabeth after her marriage to James McElwee. That the home still stands is a tribute to Mark's skill in getting things done properly.

Mark made at least one and perhaps two, trips to the United States to visit his mother and other members of his family. His younger brother Isaac was also a remarkable man being a brave soldier, highly decorated for his action in the Civil War'. He was a Doctor of Medicine, County Coroner, Chemist, Undertaker, father of 15 children and a leading citizen of Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs, Colorado in the County of El Paso. It is not known if Maria accompanied her husband on these journeys, but Marion Dolan is certain that she did.

Mark Davis died at Carisbrook on the 4th May, 1911 and was buried at the Maryborough Cemetery on the 5th of May. His wife had an excellent headstone erected over his grave — in respect of his Will (£50 was set aside for this). Maria followed him two years later on the 31st May, 1913, ending a very fruitful and remarkable partnership and the passing of one of Maryborough and District's real pioneers.

[Source: Ray Allan]

"Tarrone Estate Soldier Settlement"

Book available from Koroit & District Historical Society Inc.

P.O. Box 118, Koroit Vic 3282

Frederick Smith, last survivor of the first Australian £1 note scene

By Mick Vort-Ronald

Featured on the back of the Australian one pound note that circulated from 1913 to 1923 was a mining scene from a photograph taken on the 19th level of the Victoria Quartz Mine at Bendigo, Victoria — some 4,254 feet (1200 metres) below the surface.

The scene on the note depicted three men operating a rock drill but there were originally five men in the picture — said to be taken by Vincent Kelly in 1909 for an exhibition in London. (See the end of this story indicating 1908 or earlier.) William Vincent Kelly later purchased Bartlett's Studio in Bendigo. A reproduction of the original photo appeared in the *Observer*, (Adelaide) on Jan. 20, 1923 stating it was flashlight photograph by Vincent Kelly 4,156 feet below the surface. A monument plaque acknowledging this contribution to Australia's past is included in the Long Gully Mining Monument. The Long Gully Monument was dedicated in 2009, one hundred years after the event.

The men depicted on the note were W. Healy (left), Frederick Joseph Smith (underground manager centre) and J. Beveridge (right) the last of the men to survive died on Tuesday December 24, 1935 at his home in Inglewood Road, Bendigo from "miner's complaint" phthisis - black lung - tuberculosis and was buried December 25, 1935 in the Bendigo Cemetery. "Miner's complaint (phthisis) was a lung disease caused by the constant inhaling of dust from a mixture of cordite and powered rock from driving tunnels or sinking shafts.

Frederick Joseph Smith was born in 1883 at Tarnagulla, Victoria the third child of John Smith and Esther Anne Smith nee Pollen who married on November 17, 1875 at Inglewood, Victoria. Frederick's grandparents originated from Huntingdon, England and arrived at Port Phillip Bay on June 29, 1849 aboard the "Saxon".

In 1903 — at the age of 20 years, Frederick Smith was given a Miner's Stewards Award. In 1908 he married Janet Florence Don in Castlemaine, Victoria. At age 31 years in 1914 his occupation was still given as a miner but in 1919 his occupation was listed as a eucalyptus distiller and in 1931 as a carpenter, however he was manager of the Central Nell Gwynne at the time of his death in 1935. His wife Janet Florence Smith was



Original mining photograph, Victory Quartz Mine

born in Bendigo in 1885 and died in Cheltenham, Victoria on August 10, 1976.

It is possible that the other two men depicted on the note also died from Miner's Complaint because of a testimonial given in 1923 by one of the men, W. Healey for De Witt's Kidney and Bladder Pills. Healey (then of Willoughby, N.S.W.) stated he was the man holding the drill in the picture and that some years after the photograph was taken he became an invalid with "Miner's Complaint", Rheumatism and sciatica. He stated that the disease prevented him from lifting his right foot off the floor and he had to walk backwards with a stick, dragging his foot behind him. According to the advertisement the pills provided considerable relief.

The Victorian Quartz Mine was situated on the Now Chum line of reef at Bendigo and at 4,614 feet deep enjoyed the distinction of being the deepest gold mine in the world. Its surface quartz deposits were remarkably auriferous and were worked back as far as 1854 when the lease was held by a number of co-operative parties.

The mine ceased operations from June 14, 1910 when it began to flood due to the other mines on the line of reef closing and not pumping water, (the capacity of the pumps upgraded could not cope with the extra water. At the time of closing the mine was still extracting good payable gold.

Frederick Smith's daughter Winifred Jean told her son Noel that she was present when the original photograph was taken — having been allowed to go down the mine because her father was the manager. She remembered that the walls of the mine were either warm or hot. She said that her father was very good at his interpretation of the faulting rocks and knew where to drive tunnels and shafts from reading the rock strata. "Everybody knew he was talented in this field."

These skills were picked up during most of his working life spent in the mining industry at Bendigo.



Front of 1918 £1 note (ex writer's collection)

The Smith family had a long history of goldmining – as children, Frederick and his brothers used to wind winnow for gold in the school grounds during lunch times.

According to his widow they were close friends of the Lancel family, the richest family in Bendigo at that time. When visiting the Lancel's — one could see gold in quartz along their garden path and they used to have a large display of gold on the mantelpiece of their home.

In 1935 Frederick was driving a tunnel in a mine looking for gold when he took ill and the drive was almost abandoned because it had gone on too long without any payable result but gold was found much later. His sons Ernest and Bill — also worked at the mine. When gold was found his son Ernest ran to Frederick's home to tell him the good news but Frederick had died only a few minutes earlier. However his wife Janet be-

lieved that he had died at the same time the gold was found. She recalled that "Bendigo stopped" on the date he was buried. Prior to his retirement through illness-Frederick Smith was manager of the Central Nell Gwynne Mine and had also been associated with the Hercules and several other mines. After his death the mining company paid his widow a £100 bonus in appreciation of his services rendered and his son Ernest became manager of the Central Nell Gwynne Mine.

Acknowledgement —

Noel Rieusset, grandson of Frederick Smith for supply of information and photograph of the mine. Noel would be grateful for any further information about his grandfather or any of the mines mentioned.

email: silkyoak@nsw.quik.com.au

Article received from Michael Menzies.

Joseph Thomas Sullivan the bushranger

In December 1861 the New Zealand goldrushes were at a peak. Joseph Thomas Sullivan travelled to Otago in New Zealand on the Alma under the name of John Sullivan. Joseph Thomas Sullivan was a notorious bushranger but has been excluded from Australian history books. This was because he was caught for bushranging in New Zealand but he was never caught as a bushranger in Australia.

On board the Alma with Sullivan were some ex-convicts that he had probably known in Tasmania and Victoria. They formed New Zealand's first bushranging gang. In March 1862 the police raided their hideout and charged them with a mixture of assault, robbery and shooting at police with intent to kill. The gang consisted of Richard Hill alias Burgess, Thomas Hannan alias Kelly, John Russell alias Spratty, J Davies and John Sullivan alias Joseph Thomas Sullivan. For some unspecified reason the charges were dropped against Sullivan. It is likely he turned evidence against the rest of the gang. The others all received 3 or 3½ years hard labour. Left on his own — Sullivan returned to Victoria back to his wife and hotel in Wedderburn. This was April 1863 when he boarded the Reliance from Auckland to Melbourne as the only steerage passenger.

Several months later William Selby and John Bennett were robbed and murdered near Donald. They

were Jewish hawkers and had left Pleasant Creek (now Stawell) for Wedderburn before being murdered in the bush. These murders were very similar to the other Jewish hawkers who had been murdered in similar country five years earlier. In this case Sullivan was seen nearby on the road but again not connected with the crime. It seems that Sullivan saw lonely Jewish hawkers as a soft target.

The Bendigo Advertiser ran the following news item in January 1864. "Korong — Mr Thomas Sullivan is erecting a new Half Way House on the new surveyed line of road between here and Inglewood, he having purchased a site there — at the last sale of 20 acres. He purposes, I believe, in the course of time making a pleasure garden there so as to afford the inhabitants of Inglewood and Korong an opportunity of being able to occasionally spend a pleasant day."

This hotel was isolated from other buildings and may well have also been used for receiving stolen property from his other bushranger friends.

In 1866 (when Richard Burgess and Thomas Kelly) were released from prison in New Zealand, Sullivan again went to the New Zealand. He arrived in Hokitika on April 10, 1866 on board the S S Albion. Sullivan travelled with a friend Harry Presnell who had also been a convict in Tasmania.

from John Tully,
Dunolly Historical and Arts Society.

As a group we would like to hear how the societies are coping during the Covid-19 Lockdown

Email or write your replies to the editor.

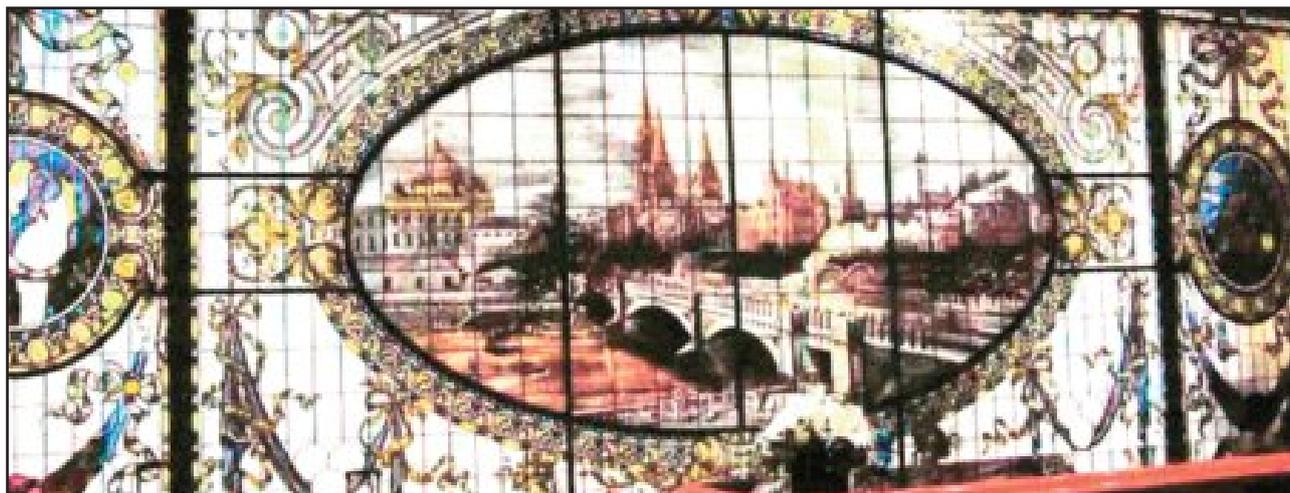
robinparker81@hotmail.com

or

21 Fraser Street, Maryborough 3465.

It's your
newsletter
— have your say

Window of Melbourne



On entering the foyer of Bayview Eden Hotel (which overlooks Melbourne's Albert Park Lake) guests are greeted with an elaborate wall of stained and painted glass representing Melbourne.

This eye-catching feast is a vast improvement on the usual bland corporate backdrop to hotel reception desks and guests are instantly intrigued and delighted to discover intricate details that seem to hark back to the 1880s the time of Marvellous Melbourne. But all is not quite as 'nineteenth century' as it might appear. This stunning evocation of Melbourne was installed in 1999 after months of work by artists Magda and Janusz Kuzbicki for the new tower hotel on Queens Road.

Just as Spowers Architects physically linked the newly designed building to the adjacent Victorian mansion, this new glass installation aimed to reflect the stained glass window in the old wing. This typically Victorian window featured bird roundels that were restored by Kuzbickis some years earlier, ultimately leading to this commission. The 2800 mm high x 8000 mm wide light box is designed in three sections — dominated by an elliptical central image of Swanston Street and St Paul's Cathedral viewed from an elevated position near Princes Bridge south.

Two flanking panels show life-sized sulphur-crested and yellow-tailed black cockatoos faintly echoing the old Victorian window. The rhythmic composition is united by decorative ornaments, flourishes, ribbons, swags and borders which add a sense of nineteenth-century exuberance to the overall installation. Centrally the scene is filled with people taking the air on the bridge or strolling the Yarra embankments, taking a cable tram, driving their carriages or on horseback; all undeterred by the overcast sky that is marginally relieved by a blue break in clouds to the north.

The prominent polychromatic façade of St Paul's, the distinctive Gothic Revival Melbourne Gas Company building next door, the dome of Flinders Street Station and Melbourne Town Hall (partially obscured and almost obliterated by smoke from the steam trains) are recognisable even today. However it is a different story with the skyline where the towers of Scots' Church and Eastern Hill Fire Station stand above the surrounding

buildings with no inkling of the multi-storey towers that would dwarf these landmarks in the 20th century.

To create their vision the Kuzbickis researched old lithographs and photographs of the burgeoning city, but they playfully moulded the past into a new reality — their audience to unpack the anomalies and quirks within the painted glass. We might remember that those distinctive spires on St Paul's Cathedral were only erected in the 1930s and that this federation-style Flinders Street Railway Station was not designed until 1899 — but other differences are unlikely to reveal themselves. In the foreground, next to the 'M & J Kuzbicki' signature picked out in the footings of the Yarra balustrade, the artists had the joy of painting their much-loved former river and white pointer — while, not far away, firmly held on a leash by a young girl strolling with her family, is their equally loved replacement — a Chihuahua and Jack Russell cross.

Melbourne has been home and studio for Magda and Janusz since they came from Poland via Paris in March 1980. After studying at art academies in Poland, Magda became a tapestry artist and Janusz completed post-graduate studies in monumental struc-



tures at the Fondation de Coubertin in Paris. A French artist introduced him to dalle de verre, (same glass as in the Great Hall ceiling, National Gallery of Victoria,) and glass in many forms became one important aspect of his subsequent work.

The couple works closely through the research and design stages, discussing how best to interpret the brief but Magda, who describes herself as the more organised of the two, precisely cuts all the glass and builds the leadlights to ensure a long life for the finished work; the all-important glass-painting is shared by them both.

Despite an international reputation few know of their Centenary of Australian Federation Heraldic Window in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle (2000-02) or more recent Victorian commissions: a vast project for the new St Peter and St Paul's, Church, Buninyong (2010-12) and sculptural glass installations for the recently completed Music School and Chapel at Catholic Ladies Col-

lege in Eltham. But Magda and Janusz's most appreciated local work is the west entrance to St Paul's Cathedral (2005) — the outcome of a rigorous international competition. The principal theme of the dalle de verre Processional Doors, Saul's Vision on the Road to Damascus, is symbolised by radiating light which completes the St Paul story and which is told in the nave windows.

Maybe if the commission had preceded the installation at Bayview Eden Hotel, the artists could have been tempted to add another twist to their painting of St Paul's and allow a glimpse of the light and colour that now marks the main entrance. Dr Bronwyn Hughes OAM Hughes Hughes Associates Stained Glass Historians and Consultants e: drbronwynhughes@gmail.com

RHSV News August 2020

Mallacoota fire disaster in 2020

The loss of the Genoa School Museum provides a blunt wake-up call for all museums regarding the need to develop emergency plans and implement back-up contingencies to preserve records during disaster situations. The one-room school and its related buildings were completely destroyed during the New Year fires — along with more than 100 houses in the area. A great deal was lost but luckily some of the school and mining records had been copied and a history of the school had been published. Unfortunately four people lost their lives in the East Gippsland fires which continued for several weeks and blanketed much of the state, including Melbourne, in smoke. Recent reports note that January's fires burnt 1.5 million hectares and razed 1000 structures as they tore through the east of the state. The latest economic figures for the year to March show the bushfires cost the Victorian economy about \$500 million but that will be dwarfed by the pandemic's impact predicted to be 140 times worse. Several other significant heritage landmarks were also lost during the fires including the Genoa bridge over Genoa River on the Old Princes Highway which was included on the Victorian Heritage Register. The 100 metre long timber truss and concrete bridge was a parallel girder truss bridge opened in 1928. Alterations included realigning the timber decking to longitudinal and the introduction of some steel supports for decking. Around half of O'Gradys Creek rail bridge over the Wairewa Road was burnt. Opened to trains in 1919, it was a gentle curving bridge 142 metres long (although unused for about 30 years.) The Murrindal River truss bridge on Basin Road north of Buchan was built in 1927 and also included on the Victorian Heritage Register. It consisted of a single timber Howe truss span and five stringer approach spans — supported on timber trestles fixed to concrete piers. Stringers Knob Fire Tower on Monument Track, Bete Bolong North, another included on the Victorian Heritage Register. It was constructed in 1941 following the devastating 1939 fires. Mt Nowa Nowa Fire Tower, a timber firetower constructed around 1926. School houses at Wairewa and Suggan Buggan escaped the

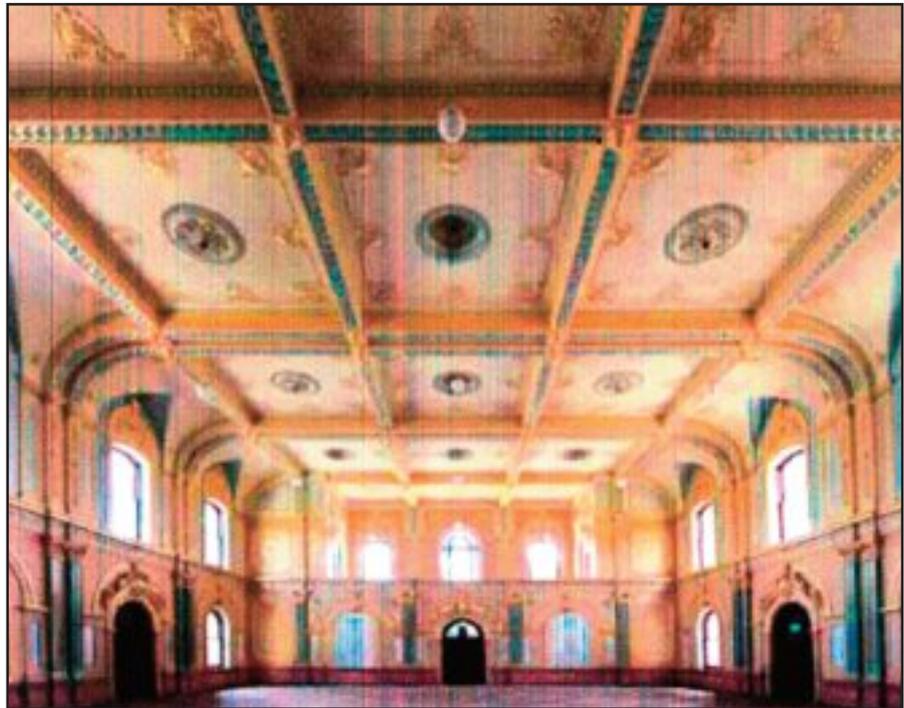
fires. The Buchan Caves reserve was seriously hit but reopened to the public on Valentine's Day. As one would hope the Mallacoota Bunker Museum survived the fires and is looking forward to installing historical displays on a series of panels near the town's supermarket to tell more of the stories from the district's history. Bunker manager Pierre Forcier says the road to the Bunker was closed for several weeks but is now open again. The base for Mallacoota and District Historical Society, the bunker was a former major Advanced Operations Base used by the RAAF during WWII for Communications. The restoration of the bunker commenced as an RSL project in 2002. The Society, formed in 1974, is now responsible for the ongoing development, management and interpretation of the site and collections to preserve the region's local and WWII history. The society has digitised some 7000 photographs and a huge number of documents and provides research services, (led by member Lindsay Carter) who also contributes a history column to the local paper. Of course there's also the award winning 'Secrets from the Mallacoota Bunker' available online at www.mallacootabunker.com.au — Despite COVID-19 restrictions the society has continued on some projects. New history display boards in the township went into operation late March. Four members worked on the Riverina lifeboat — cleaning it out and one of the crew painted the port side: the side on view to the public. Another member has been digitising some of the security footage. Several other members are collating material about the fires after a flyer was distributed and placed on the website inviting input from the public for its Saving Mallacoota Memories project. The group wants stories written by local people, the young or not so young, or visitors who were in Mallacoota, Genoa, Gipsy Point, Wangarabell or any of the outlying districts over the period last week of 2019 to the end of January 2020, that reflect your experiences during those difficult times. These will help future generations understand what the community went through and how it coped during that extremely difficult time.

RHSV News August 2020.

A Town Hall built to last a lifetime

Local government came to Bendigo in 1855 — just four years after gold had been discovered there and a population began to arrive, largely impoverished and not too keen on paying for the roads and other requirements of the new settlement. An expression of the ratepayers' reluctance to waste money is reflected in the Town Hall they erected in 1859 and which they added to, but never demolished, making it possible today to identify all the stages of its growth. The grandeur and integrity it shows from the outside is the result of restyling the building while retaining the earlier structures in its development. The site of the Town Hall in the middle of Market Square enabled the building to be viewed from all sides with the front facing Hargreaves Street giving it a presence lacking in most others and few of which have more than one or at most two street frontages. One aspect that the ratepayers would have approved of was that the original 1859 building and the subsequent

additions in 1866 and 1870 were designed by the Town Clerk, George Avery Fletcher, which possibly meant no extra fees were required for design and supervision. The architects of the town were less impressed because it denied them an opportunity to demonstrate their abilities. The provision of a decent public place to hold the annual Mayoral Ball was an expense that also found little popular support from the ratepayers so an acceptable alternative had to be found that could also fulfil that need. A large Corn Exchange was designed to be built onto the front of the existing buildings and the proposal to obtain loan funds to build it was pushed through when two dissenting council members were absent. A large room corresponding to the present-day dimensions of the main hall, (but devoid of plaster internally and ornamentation externally) it was built in 1871-1872 and was universally condemned as being unworthy of this grand city. This time Fletcher had used the services of architect Edward Anderson to draw the plans, (but to his own design.) The Corn Exchange appears to have rarely been used for that purpose and in 1873 was open only once a week for a few hours. It became of greater value in 1873 as a temporary school when the 1872 Education Act found the City short of space for students. And there was the annual Mayoral Ball. The roof of the main hall was supported on six columns (that the dancers complained about,) so something had to be done. By the late 1870s plans for a large project to restyle the Town Hall were drawn up by William Vahland, — the principal regional architect of the time and a former Bendigo councillor. Vahland had



Interior of the Bendigo Town Hall built in 1859.

deficiencies addressed over the next seven or eight years. A mansard roof, with timbers spanning the width of the building, allowed the main hall to be A Hall of Fame. The interior plaster decoration was undertaken by Otto Waschatz who was then teaching at the Bendigo School of Mines. He had previously ornamented the Royal Palace in Copenhagen so his credentials were impeccable. The result was much as we see it now except the main hall remained unpainted. That came in 1902 when the walls were embellished with murals and gold leaf. The principal changes during the twentieth century were the addition of a 1915 staircase in the enclosed lightwell, a stage with proscenium arch across the Hargreaves Street entrance (and, presumably to avoid maintenance costs,) and the once glorious walls of the hall were painted over. The decision not to demolish the building was carried by one vote in 1973 when new civic offices were to be erected. From then on, in spite of losing its former purpose, the building began its long path to restoration. In his 1993 Conservation Plan Trevor Westmore recommended returning the Bendigo Town Hall interior to its nineteenth century form with the restoration of the main hall and the reinstatement of the original court room at the rear by e+ architecture, a local architectural firm. Further conservation work is currently being undertaken to ensure the Town Hall remains as one of the city's major attractions into the future.

trained in what had by then become Germany, arriving on the Bendigo Goldfield in 1854, and by 1878 had a substantial body of work to demonstrate his ability. The existing walls remained, but towers were added and the

RHSV News August 2020.

Advice on re-opening your society

As Victoria moves into another phase of COVID-19 management we are holding our breaths to see how this greater freedom impacts the spread of the disease. Many of you will be considering the processes for re-opening your historical societies.

I thought I'd outline some of the processes that the RHSV is engaging in which might assist or guide your decisions. I will be speaking about Victoria although I acknowledge that we have members in most states and territories and their time-lines and government dictates will be different; also, all historical societies differ in their operation and housing. We should also be aware that the situation is extremely fluid and these steps and dates might change should there be a second wave.

For the RHSV one guiding principle is that a lot of good things have come out of this lock-down. Fewer cases of flu and other communicable diseases have occurred so it is in our best long-term interest to incorporate some of the measures we have adopted recently as permanent. And whilst we are all suffering from Zoom-overload it will become a feature of our future work practices as we will be working hard to also create events which are accessible digitally.

One of the future problems for us is how do we make these digital events an income stream? During COVID-19 we've all scrambled to create lots of digital content but it has been generously given away. For a long time we will be maintaining the 1.5 metre distancing and the 4 square metres limit per person so, even if the framework says you can have 20 patrons in a museum, if your museum is only 40 square metres, you are limited to 10 patrons not 20. By the time you read this in Victoria we should be in Step 2 of the Australian Government's 3 Step Framework for a COVIDsafe Australia which means that galleries, museums and libraries can open for a maximum of 20 patrons. Once Step 3 kicks in we will be allowed 100 patrons; we don't have a date for this yet. Consult your volunteers It is important that early in the future planning process you consult your members and volunteers. Ask what would make them comfortable re-engaging with your historical society; people will have their own personal time-table. Build in flexibility to your meetings and events so that volunteers can avoid public transport during peak hour.

Your collection is probably the mainstay of your society and it may require extra attention at the time of re-opening after many weeks, perhaps months of closure. Some exhibition layouts may need adjustment in order to prevent congestion by visitors. Some displays, such as those that involve touch-screens or 'hands on' interactive exhibits, may need to be redesigned, disabled, fenced off or removed.

At the RHSV we are now experimenting with allowing very small numbers of researchers back into the library so we have implemented the following: We spent \$65 on a hand sanitiser stand (nothing fancy) for the front door – it will be mandatory for all people entering the building to sanitise their hands. You don't need a stand — a bottle of sanitiser on the front counter is sufficient; I've bought a stand because it is more visible. We bought some floor

decals to remind people about social distancing, especially at our front counter. These are surprisingly expensive; using brightly coloured adhesive tape from the hardware store to mark lines and crosses will achieve the same purpose. We have also bought a Perspex 'sneeze-guard' for the front counter to protect our staff and volunteers from the public. Once again, a handyperson could produce a frame covered in clear plastic which would be just as effective.

We are looking at areas where people congregate. For us the lunch-room is difficult; we often have 6-8 people crowded into a very small space which is very convivial for both us and the COVID-19 virus! We are putting extra tables in our gallery space so that volunteers can spread out whilst still lunching together. The collegiality of volunteering is a huge positive factor that we want to maintain but also keep everyone safe. Other bottlenecks might occur in foyers, lifts, stairwells, around the photocopier, at the lockers, in the toilets and bathrooms. Think about all these areas and how you can manage the flow of people so social distancing can be maintained.

We are looking at ways of changing the ways volunteer sign in so they don't have to share a pen. We will remove any magazines available for people to browse. We will suggest to volunteers that they bring their own mug, or claim one from the lunch room and keep it for the duration of COVID-19. We are traversing a bit of a tightrope trying to be COVIDsafe and environmentally sound so I'm not prepared, yet, to go down the disposable cup path. We are looking at providing single-serve packets of sugar and coffee. The biscuit barrel will probably go, sigh! But good for our waistlines. We all share equipment: pens, desks, computers, laptops, the photocopier, scanners, etc. Think about how you can sanitise these between uses. Make it standard for everyone to wipe down equipment before they use it. We usually have a pot of pencils in the libraries for people to use whilst working in the library. We'll be encouraging people to bring their own pencils however, if they don't, we will generously donate a pencil to them. Books that are used by researchers will be wiped down before being returned to the shelves or re-used. We will be providing more gloves, Nitrile powder free; gloves and sanitising wipes are available from hardware and stationery stores. As we ramp up the number of people coming into the building so we will ramp up our cleaning: more wiping down of commonly used surfaces like light switches, door handles, copiers, hand rails etc. Take a good hard look around your building and list the areas that need vigilance. All staff and volunteers will have some level of responsibility for this.

With regard to events, we will take a softly, softly approach with the introduction of just small events even after we reach Step 3. Our main lecture room seats 100 usually but in COVID-19 terms we can probably only seat 30. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact myself at the RHSV on 03 9326 9288.

RHSV News June 2020.

Winiam tornado terror of 1894

by J. J. Janetzki

The Nhill and District Historical Society Inc. — recently had a letter given to them by Karen Cramer. Karen is the grand-daughter of Mr Richard Janetzki. In this letter Mr Janetzki tells us of a tornado that caused a lot of damage to his families' property in 1894.

A copy of this letter is held by the Society. The story is also recorded in the book "South of the Line" which is a compilation of stories, history and information about Winiam, Kinimakatka and Winiam East. This book was written by John and Bev Deckert.

The Winiam Tornado of 1894 — written by Mr R J Janetzki.

This memorable event occurred in either late February or early March 1894. Mr. Janetzki records it as a day of "sheer horror" for his family because the Janetzki family was to experience the full force of this strong tornado. Other families in the area, (such as the Fritsch Family) did not sustain the great financial loss that the Janetzki family did. The Fritsch family would lose a cow that was sucked up by the twister but otherwise their losses were minimal.

Mr. Janetzki writes that the day had an ominous feel to it right from the morning. There was a strong, warm, wind blowing and from 11 o'clock clouds began to gather on the western horizon. There was lightning and thunder and the storm broke in the early afternoon when heavy rain began to fall.

After this initial storm Mr Janetzki, along with his grandfather, went to visit cousins about half a mile away. It was here that they noticed clouds gathering in the east this time. The movement of these clouds seemed to be quite unusual. Then, at about 4 o'clock, there was a sudden calm then semi-darkness and then the elements seemed to "combine their forces in one place". Mr Janetzki records that he had never been so terrified in all of his life as he was then when he observed the approach of this huge twister. It travelled from the north east to the south west in the almost opposite direction of the earlier storm.

He remembers the noise and likens it to that of "100 express trains travelling at full speed". As it approached it appeared to get stronger and even more ferocious. It was so loud that they could not hear each other speak. The tornado reached high into the sky, far above the clouds, and it sucked up everything into its narrow vortex which was travelling along the ground.

Mr Janetzki described the tornado as a "big spinning top that was narrow at the bottom and spreading out as it reached the upper regions"

Mr Janetzki, his grandfather and his cousin were not in the pathway of the tornado but were watching helplessly as it travelled slowly across the land sucking up everything in its way. They watched as mallee roots were sucked up and flung out of the twister to land who knows where.

Then it was with great concern that the three ob-

servers noted that the tornado had made a slight turn and was heading straight for the family home and farm. Mr. Janetzki's cousin raced ahead to try and save the family, but, as he got to the edge of the tornado he realised the danger he was in and had to retreat to safety.

The Janetzki farm had three separate buildings all in a line with about a chain in between each one. First was the house that the family lived in, next was the grandfather's little weatherboard house and then came the shed that had a straw roof. This shed was filled with "cocky" chaff.

Fortunately, Mrs Janetzki saw the tornado coming and managed to try and find shelter indoors for herself and her six children. She hid five under the 'bed and she and her youngest daughter took shelter under the kitchen table. The tornado hit the grandfather's house full on and that house just disappeared.

The house in which the family were sheltering was not demolished but did suffer severe damage. The family, however, came through the ordeal relatively unscathed. The little girl, Bertha, sheltering under the table with her Mum was burned when some of the coals were sucked out of the fire place. Her hands and arms were burnt and she was scarred for life. Other things that were loose in the house were sucked out and whisked away. Mr Janetzki writes that a buggy rug had been carried away from the farm and was eventually found five miles away.

Gaps appeared in the walls and chimney of the house. The father's vest that was hanging on a peg on the wall was sucked out of the house. A watch that had been in a pocket and chained to the vest, was found a few days later on the road. But it was a week later when the vest and chain still attached were found hanging on a fence.

The family had only just filled their water tank and this tank and water were carried away — never to be seen again. Their hens and the roof of shed and the chaff within were all lost forever too.

After what was felt to be an eternity but was probably only a few minutes the tornado passed and you can only imagine the relief of the men watching when they saw Mrs Janetzki and her baby daughter emerge from the wreckage along with the other children. Whilst the traumatised family were standing there a buggy appeared over the hill. The buggy was approaching at full speed and had lots of men on board. The men had been working at a farm three miles away and observed the tornado approaching but thought that it would miss the Janetzki farm by a half a mile. Mr Janetzki's father came rushing up to his family so relieved that they were all ok.

After the destruction of the Janetzki farm the tornado went through a patch of big gum trees. Every tree in its path was twisted off at ground level. Then a little further on it entered an oak scrub which was about a mite wide. It cut a path a chain wide through

this scrub and did not leave a single tree. It then travelled to the Fritsch's Farm but did no damage here. Then, after a few more miles it entered the desert and petered out.

The tornado only caused damage in a strip seven to eight miles long. But during this destructive trajectory it sheared off trees and hurled them through the air, carried away a cow and destroyed the Janetzki farm. Sheets of iron and other debris from the farm were found miles away.

The next day sightseers from all over the district came to view the destruction and desolation. Reporters and photographers appeared and marvelled at what they saw. In fact the author commented on a cartoon that appeared in a Melbourne paper — he

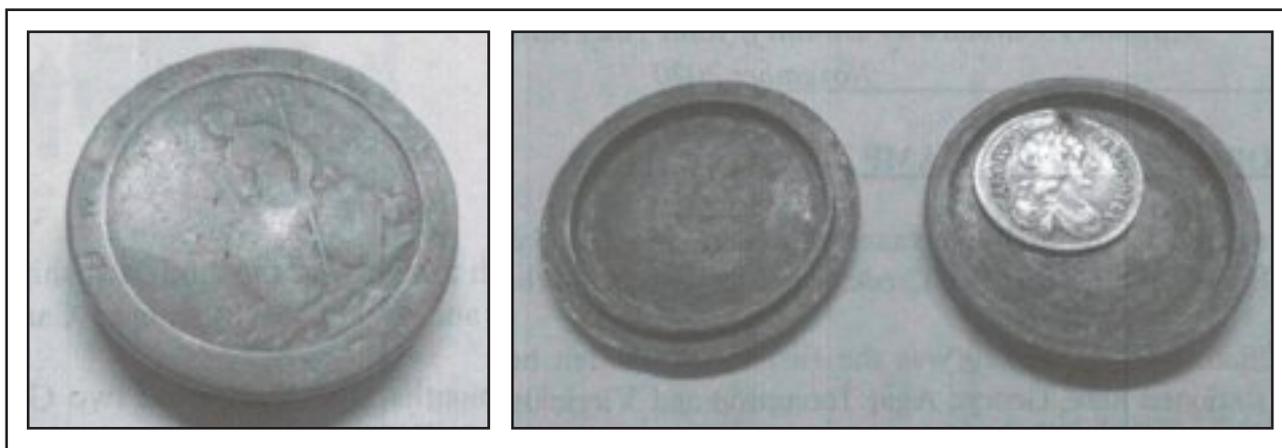
thinks it was either "The Hawk" or the "Melbourne Punch". It was a cartoon of the family sheltering in the house. This was to be the only laugh the family had.

The disaster left the family in a desperate financial position as they had lost many buildings and possessions. They received no assistance from people who were well to do. But Mr Janetzki does say that their family and friends who were in the same financial situation as them rallied around and provided them with food, clothing and shelter until they were able to re-establish themselves.

The Janetzki family stayed in the district for another four years and then they moved to Queensland.

from Nhill & District Historical Society

Smugglers Box found near Dunolly



1797 Cartwheel penny

1797 Cartwheel penny opened to show a 1678 groat.

This item was discovered by one of our members in August. It was found near Dunolly. The coin is what was commonly called a Cartwheel penny. The Cartwheel pennies which were made in England from 1797 to 1799 but all were dated 1797. They were large copper coins of one penny and two penny denominations.

Being a large thick coin they were ideal to be modified. One process was to get two coins, grind one side of each, hollow them out and fix the two sides together. This was either a press fit or screwed together by a thread. They are known as Smugglers Boxes. Inside could be a sketch, lock of hair or some other keepsake. They were popular during the Napoleonic Wars. During this war they were also used to conceal messages. This is why they were called Smugglers Boxes.

The Cartwheel penny was the first English penny made in copper. In 1800, 18,000 of them were brought to NSW where the Governor proclaimed their value as double, ie 2d and 4d. This was to try and keep them in the colony. Although not made in Australia these technically were the first coins proclaimed as official use in Australia.

By the time of the goldrushes the Cartwheel pennies were virtually out of circulation. The smaller pennies had replaced them. Most were probably kept by people as mementoes. Perhaps they were passed down from their convict parents?

The Smugglers Box pictured here contained an old coin that must have been special to someone. It has a small hole so was probably on a bracelet before it was placed inside the Cartwheel. The coin was at least 120 years old before this happened so may have been in the same family for a few generations. It is a silver Charles II 4d dated 1678. The 4d was called a groat. The 4d and other coins were often handed out to the poor on Maundy Thursday. This could be what made the coin special in the first place.

There is no number 4 on the coin. Instead there were four interlocking Cs for Charles. Around this were four symbols the English rose, Scottish thistle, Irish harp and French fleur de lis (lily). The motto on the reverse reads REX MAG BR FRA ET HIB which stands for King of Great Britain, France and Ireland.

by John Tully, Dunolly Historical and Arts Society.

**Coming in
following issues
Pioneer stories
from Carisbrook
and district.**

A Tribute to Dorothy King 1925 - 2020

By Jim and Wendy Melbourne

Wendy first met Dorothy in the late 1980's and Jim met her in the mid 1990's.

Dorothy King nee Kingston was born in Stawell in 1925 and lived for many years in Ligar Street, Stawell. In 1985 she joined Stawell Historical Society and spent over 25 years as Research Officer.

In the earlier years (with fewer members than at the present time) we affectionately felt that Dorothy was the 'boss' regardless of who was President as she was the person members and visitors went to for information. She was highly respected for her knowledge and astounded many people by answering questions on Stawell's history, (without looking up records.) She often remarked that she was very familiar with the area from Ligar Street to the High School but she also knew a great deal about the rest of the town.

One of Dorothy's important accomplishments was establishing the Index Card system which holds a vast amount of information on people, businesses, schools and organisations in Stawell. Our Society now has over 30,000 index cards that she compiled from local newspapers, cemetery records, Church and school records, history books or from anywhere else she get could obtain more information. She also typed up many other records on a variety of subjects.

Another huge project she completed was the compiling of records from various cemeteries that she typed up using a typewriter — long before she had a computer with 'spell checks' and other modern features. She was given permission by the Cemetery Trust to hold the original cemetery records for the time required to record the information.

On one of her visits to her second home in Halls Gap (she lived in Horsham when not working at Stawell Historical Society) she took the index cards with her and on the way she hit some black ice on the road and had a small accident. She worried about the cards being spilt from the drawers but the cards were not harmed. Besides spilling some milk she unfortunately cracked her sternum.

For many years Dorothy was reluctant to let anyone else complete research work on their own but she liked other members to assist her. Wendy was her research assistant for quite a few years and having Dorothy as a mentor, she learnt a lot about Stawell's history. When Jim started at the Society he became Dorothy's assistant and after about two years, Dorothy allowed him complete research on his own. She was very fastidious with her research enquiries and over the years she received many letters of appreciation and



Mrs Dorothy King.

praise for the quality and amount of information she supplied.

The vast amount of work carried out by Dorothy in compiling records has resulted our members having a first class Historical Society with a well organised system which allows members to easily find a great deal of information for research purposes. There is no doubt that Dorothy's efforts over the years enabled us to obtain our initial Accreditation through Museums Australia who regard Stawell Historical Society as one of the best Historical Societies in Country Victoria.

Dorothy refused to be formally awarded and recognised for her efforts and attempts to do this were ordered to be withdrawn. She was quite unassuming about her achievements and preferred that she not be commended. She enjoyed her work at the Society and did not want praise at any time.

In 2010 Dorothy retired and was sadly missed for her friendship and knowledge. All members admired Dorothy very much and our Society had no hesitation in asking her to officially declare our new premises open in 2016.

Sadly Dorothy Jean King passed away at Geelong on 16th June 2020 at the age of 95 years.

From the Stawell Historical Society newsletter
September 2020.

The editor would like to hear how the different societies are coping with the lockdown due to Coronavirus.

Contact: robinparker81@hotmail.com or write to 21 Fraser Street, Maryborough, 3465.

In memory of a wonderful sister

On August 22, 1951 at 8.30am Ellen Jo-Anne was born at Dimboola District Hospital to Cam and Nance Schlichting nee Watson. A week later the family moved to Edenhope to a new life.

It must have been a change for Mum and Dad to have a little girl in the household. Ellen (from memory) was a chubby little thing with jet black hair when she was born.

At about five years old, I was chasing Ellen around the kitchen and Ellen grabbed the apron of her Nana (also named Ellen) who was at the time, taking the kettle of boiling water off the wood stove. The water spilt down the front of Ellen's little dress scolding her with 2nd degree burns.

I can still remember going into the Edenhope hospital with Mum, Dad and Gary to see Ellen it was a dark ward and my tiny little sister all bandaged up.

My other memories of Ellen are a very quiet little girl — always beautifully dressed in those days Mum made all of our clothes Ellen was usually in frilly frocks and Gary and I usually in shorts and check shirts, (Gary's shirts always green and white and mine always red and white.)

In 1955 we went to the Edenhope Regatta on Lake Wallace. Ellen was entered in the Miss Tiny Tot Competition and won first prize — part of the prize was a large toy Koala and sash which Ellen still has to this day.

About aged 10 Ellen became interested in Highland and Irish Dancing in Horsham in which she was very talented at — winning many trophies at various competitions over the next few years around the State.

Later memories of Ellen are as a marching girl with the Horsham squad which she put a lot into (as was usual.)

Sport wise Ellen seems to have been the sports person in the family — playing netball, swimming and diving were her favourite interests but in latter years has taken up skiing with Robert, (but has paid for it through knee injuries.)

Ellen was always a good student and wanted to be a teacher on leaving school but ended up being a book-keeper for various accountants in her business life. Was a job she thoroughly enjoyed.



The Schlichting siblings Julie Nan 5, Gary David 16, Robin Parker 14 and Ellen Jo-Anne 10. Photo taken in Horsham 1961.

As a teenager in the late 1960s I remember Ellen going to the Dimboola Regatta with a girlfriend and coming home winner of the Ideal Regatta Girl, (a title Mum had won in 1941,) I can still picture the outfit Ellen wore, a green striped dress.

Ellen's first car was a little Hillman Husky, (a five door station wagon) and later on she bought a new Holden Gemini Coupe, (bright yellow, quite a sporty vehicle for its time.)

Following my time spent in New Zealand Ellen travelled there in the early 1970s for a working holiday with a girlfriend — a time she immensely enjoyed and a few years later went to Europe and America with Rob on further trips.

Ellen married Robert Murray at home in Elsternwick on February 28, 1987 in a beautiful garden ceremony and on May 23, 1991 a beautiful daughter Anna Jo-Ellen was born.

Ellen, Robert and Anna resided in Research east of Melbourne and one of their interests was raising Alpacas on their property.

Ellen was a resident at Bupa Templestowe Nursing Home for the last five years with early onset Alzheimers and sadly passed away on September 3, 2020 shortly after her 69th birthday.

Remembered with love always.
by Robin Parker, Editor.

MURRAY (Schlichting)

Ellen Jo-Anne

August 22, 1951— September 3, 2020.

Dearly loved wife of Robert, loving mother and mother-in-law of Anna and Mark.

Loved elder daughter of Cam and Nance Schlichting, (both deceased.)

Dearly loved sister and sister-in-law of Gary, (deceased) and Val,

Robin and Marlene, Julie, (deceased) and Matt.

Loved Aunt to Nicole, Tamara, David, Jason and families.

Wimmera Mail-Times, Horsham Sept 9, 2020



George Michael Prendergast 28th Premier of Victoria

by Geoffrey Serle

This article was published in *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 11, (MUP), 1988

George Michael Prendergast (1854-1937), printer and Premier, was born on 20 May 1854 in Adelaide, son of Luke Thomas Prendergast, (goldminer) and his wife Mary, (née Evans.) George's parents had migrated from Ireland the previous year and in 1856 moved to Stawell, Victoria where his father opened up the Rose of Denmark claim. Michael attended local state schools until 1868 when he was apprenticed to the printer of the *Pleasant Creek News*. He was then employed for several years on a Ballarat newspaper and married Mary Eliza Larrad there on 12 November 1876 with Free Church of England rites. He then worked in Sydney for five years on the *Daily Telegraph*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and elsewhere. A unionist since 1874 he was secretary from 1881 of the New South Wales Typographical Society, then managed the *Narrandera Argus*, a 'glorious interlude' in his life.

Prendergast returned to Victoria in 1888 and was soon a delegate of the Melbourne Typographical Society to the Trades Hall Council of which he was President for a year from July 1893. He was prominent in recommending political organization of labour and became first Secretary of the Progressive Political League in 1891. His own chief objective was a legal minimum wage on which he lectured widely and eventually, in the Legislative Assembly in 1895 moved and carried a vital amendment to the Factories Act which imposed the principle on the new wages boards. He had been elected for North Melbourne in 1894, lost the seat to **W. A. Watt** in 1897, won it again in 1900 and remained in the assembly from 1927 (as member for Footscray) until his death. He was mayor of North Melbourne in 1902-03.

In 1894-95 Prendergast was President of the Eight-Hours Committee and remained a member of the Australian Natives' Association, the United Irish League and the Celtic Club. In 1897 he joined the Victorian Socialists' League, then its successor, — the Social Democratic Party. Over the years, indignant at constant misrepresentation by newspapers, he worked to develop a Labor press: he was a founder of *Commonweal and Workers' Advocate* (1891-93), joint-owner of the short-lived weekly *Boomerang* (1894) and the originator and manager of *Tocsin* (1897-1906); from 1903 he was closely involved in efforts to establish a Labor daily and in 1912 was trying to found a monthly. In the 1890s and 1900s he produced 'Black and White Lists' indicating voting-records of politicians and throughout his career wrote constantly for whatever Labor press there was.

The Labor Party in Victoria had made several false starts: organization was poor, ties with radical liberalism remained strong, the South African War and Federation were divisive issues and several independent Labor societies diluted strength. From 1901 the Political Labor Council was more stable and at the June 1904 election,

profiting from **Tom Mann's** organizing work, Labor won five more seats, (including several outside Melbourne) in a smaller, reformed assembly. Prendergast succeeded **F. H. Bromley** as parliamentary leader for all but five of the next twenty-two years in a period when few potential leaders emerged.

In 1907, despite increasing its vote, Labor lost seats but in December 1908 won sufficient to make up almost one-third of the assembly. While not reaching the Labor Federal vote in Victoria, the State party (by 1911) was attracting nearly all its possible supporters. That Victorian Labor was the last to form a State ministry — primarily due to the heavy weighting of the rural vote — there was no hope of gaining power. Prendergast had by no means failed in his first period of leadership. (**Sir Frederic Eggleston** judged Labor 'as a team ... incomparably the most efficient section of the House'. Prendergast was 'never a strong leader ... but he was a tremendous worker'. However his torrential style of speaking at inordinate length on any subject—he was sometimes affectionately called 'Windy Mick'—helped conservative organs like *Punch* to describe him as a 'violent demagogue' — fierce, vindictive, bitter. But he was a long-standing member of the committees on public accounts, standing orders and consolidation of the Statutes.

Prendergast had been especially outspoken on coercion during the railways strike, land reform and the need for free secondary education; he had also been particularly interested in the New Protection movement. In 1905 he had chaired the Federal Labor conference in Melbourne.

In 1913, in poor health and helped by a gift of £500 from trade unions, he made an overseas trip. On his return he retired as leader in favour of **George Elmslie**, who for a fortnight in December, led an 'accidental' ministry in which Prendergast was chief secretary. After Elmslie's death in May 1918 he became leader again and in August, after earlier staunch anti-conscriptionist campaigning, called for negotiations to end the war. One of his sons had been wounded serving in the Australian Imperial Force. Unlike militant colleagues Prendergast was more concerned with the prospects of forming a State government than with the socialist objective. The *Herald* in 1922 described him as a 'tolerably able, thoroughly well-meaning conservative patriot' who showed a certain weariness when 'talking a little Bolshevism'.

From 1920 the Victorian Farmers' Union (Country Party) held the balance of power in the assembly. A Nationalist-Country Party coalition broke down early in 1924 and at the June election Labor emerged for the first time as the largest party — only six seats short of a majority. On 16 July Prendergast's no confidence motion in the **Peacock** ministry was carried with Country Party support and to his considerable surprise, Prendergast found himself Premier and Treasurer at the age of 70 — still fairly vigorous.

The government's long-term survival was unlikely

and no radical legislation would pass the Legislative Council: Prendergast's purpose was to demonstrate that Labor could govern capably. Their first administrative action was to house the unemployed overnight; they established royal commissions on the price of bread and flour and on the reasons for the Police strike late in 1923, made financial concessions to soldier settlers and announced their intention to abolish capital punishment. Serious attempts were made to meet the requirements of the Country Party but the council rejected a Bill to establish a compulsory wheat pool. The legislative programme was moderate but the government's refusal to proclaim Anzac Day a holiday or to provide financial support for the proposed Shrine of Remembrance and an attempt to eliminate any hint of militarism from school-texts roused hostility. With the writing on the wall Prendergast's budget was uncompromising in its proposed increase of taxation of the wealthy and reductions for the poor—'class taxation!' shrilled the press. The Nationalists and the Country Party remarried, a no confidence motion was carried on 11 November and the Governor refused a dissolution. The labour movement had broadly approved the Premier's tactics: not many Labor governments, in office without power, did much better.

Prendergast unexpectedly resigned the leadership in March 1926 — despite caucus protests. In the 1927-28 Hogan ministry he was chief secretary but was not a contender for the second Hogan ministry of 1929-32.

A. A. Calwell's judgement that Prendergast was as much a 'Wren man' as were Messrs Hogan, Tunnecliffe and Dunstan seems unlikely given his 'almost religious' faith in the movement and his overwhelming reputation for integrity; Crown Solicitor F. G. Menzies believed him to be 'as honest as the day's light'. Prendergast was entirely trusted by his caucus as dependable, unselfish and always a cheery optimist. He obviously was skilled at balancing the interests of caucus, central executive and Trades Hall. He regularly marched with the printers on May Day.

Prendergast had many friends in all parties. He was a skilled raconteur (who in old age attempted some anecdotal reminiscences) and a practical joker. Since 1912 he had been a councillor of the Zoological Gardens and from 1921 a trustee of the Public Library, museums and National Gallery; he had a modest collection of pottery and porcelain and works by, among others, Penleigh Boyd and Lionel Lindsay.

Survived by a son and a daughter, (who was the wife of Group Captain Eric Harrison) Prendergast died on 28 August 1937 and after his state funeral procession passed the Trades Hall, was cremated. His old colleague Tunnecliffe gave a moving oration and Sir Stanley Argyle commented on the 'extraordinarily beautiful traits in his character'. A bust of him is in the Trades Hall, Melbourne.

Wanted articles of interest from your local area for future newsletters

Geelong & South Western Rail Heritage Society Inc.

Our tours and events program for 2020 was a good exercise in forward planning but sadly all were cancelled due to Covid-19. Planning for 2021 is proceeding well and a program is almost complete.

We welcome involvement of local historical societies in planning and attending some of these tours when we visit your area. Destinations during 2021 at this stage include:

Saturday 20 March 2021: Castlemaine – Maryborough.

The railway from Castlemaine to Maryborough opened on 7 July 1874. A book regarding its construction and history has been written and may be published during 2021. We will operate a day trip to visit the site of all former stations and sidings. The tour will coincide with publication of the book so the date is still a bit uncertain!

Saturday 5 June 2021: Birregurra – Forrest line.

The railway from Birregurra to Forrest opened on 5 June 1891 (130 years ago). We will follow the line - visiting the site of all former stations and sidings. There will be an opportunity to walk some sections of the old formation and it is likely there will be some local history displays to mark the 130th.

Saturday 25 September 2021: Irrewarra-Beeac-Cressy - Newtown line.

The railway from Irrewarra to Beeac opened on 7 August 1889, from Beeac to Cressy on 1 December

1910 and Cressy to Newtown on 25 September 1911 (110 years ago). All sections closed on 18 November 1953. We will follow the line - visiting the site of all former stations. There will be an opportunity to walk some sections of the old formation and, again, it is probable that there will be some local history displays to mark the 110th. One of our first tours (in 2011) to follow this line for the centenary of the final section being opened. Several people have asked when we will visit it again and the 110th anniversary seems a good date!

Day trips to follow the railways from Moriac to Wensleydale and Ballarat East to Buninyong were planned for 2020 but cancelled so they may occur during 2021. We had also planned long weekend tours to follow the railways from Dimboola to Jeparit, Yaapeet and Yanac; Horsham to Natimuk East, Carpolac and Hamilton. One of these will probably occur during 2021 and the other during 2022.

Contact: Michael Menzies, President. 0419 546 251.
Email: geelongrailheritage@gmail.com

All events and tours are open for public bookings.

Like us and view updated event details on
Face book: Birregurra Station or look at
www.geelongrailheritage.org.au

Connections to Maryborough

Writers, Journalists, Broadcasters and Reformers

Phillip Adams: Social Commentator, Broadcaster, Journalist, Film Producer. Born in Maryborough Hospital in 1939. His father was the Congregational Minister.

Matilda Ann "Tilly" Aston (1873-1947): Tilly was born in Carisbrook just east of Maryborough where her father was a bootmaker. Undeterred by low vision then total blind from early childhood. Tilly went on to challenge popular perceptions of the role of the vision impaired in Australian society by forging a career as a writer, poet, teacher, Esperanto enthusiast, community worker and campaigner for the blind society.

Alexander Hugh "Alex" Chisholm (1890-1977): Born and educated in Maryborough he worked for a time on the local newspaper and went on to become a journalist, encyclopaedia editor and noted ornithologist — an interest that he developed in the bush surrounding his home town. He published hundreds of articles and a number of books.

Politicians, Generals and Governors

Steven Phillip "Steve" Bracks: Before entering politics, (ultimately to become Victorian Premier.) Steve worked as a teacher at Maryborough High School then as a Municipal Recreation Officer in the town.

Sir Edmund "Ned" Herring (1892-1982): Born and educated in Maryborough, — Barrister, Sportsman, Rhodes Scholar, Army Officer, Chief Justice, Lieutenant Governor of Victoria. The family home "Tiverton" still stands in Peel Street.

Edward Matthew "Ted" Horsington (1878-1947): Born in Timor and educated in Maryborough. Drover, Miner and Union Secretary.

Alfred Richard Outtrim (1845-1925): His family arrived in Maryborough during the gold rushes. Business man, Councillor, Mayor, Politician and Minister, Decentralisation Advocate.

Clive Phillip Stoneham (1909-1992): Born and educated in Maryborough, Railways Clerk, Trade Union Official, Councillor, Mayor (1942-43), Labor Politician, Leader and Opposition Leader.

Sir Julius Vogel (1835-1890): English born Vogel arrived in Victoria in 1852 and two years later set up a wine, spirits and Apothecary business in Maryborough. He reported on the gold rushes for the Argus and edited the Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser. After an unsuccessful tilt at politics he moved to New Zealand where he ultimately became Prime Minister.

Entrepreneurs

Sir Reginald "Reg" Ansett (1909-1985): With savings of £70 Reg Ansett purchased a secondhand Studebaker car and set up his first business venture in 1931 carrying passengers and freight between Maryborough and Ballarat. He went on in later years to found Ansett Airways.

Sportsmen

Bill Woodfull (1897-1965): Born in Maldon Woodfull taught at the High School and played cricket for Maryborough before selection for the Victorian and Australian

teams. He captained Australia during the infamous "Bodyline" series against England.

John "Jack" Worrall (1861-1937): Son of a miner Worrall was born at Chinaman's Flat just outside of Maryborough. He won fame as a champion football player (Fitzroy), Test Cricketer, Coach, Administrator and Journalist.

And just passing through . . .

Amy Castles (1880-1951): Internationally known opera singer who was born in Melbourne and lived in Bendigo. She sang in Europe and America including a command performance for King Edward VII. She performed in Maryborough in 1909.

Caroline Chisholm (1808-1877): Community worker and supporter of female immigration. In 1854 she toured the Victorian goldfields (including the Maryborough area) lobbying for a series of shelters to be built to house travellers heading to the diggings.

Joseph Jenkins (1869-1894): Author of the Diary of a Welsh Swagman in which he notes down his experiences in Australia as an itinerant worker and poet. In 1874 he was admitted to Maryborough hospital suffering from quinsy (a complication of tonsillitis and diphtheria.) On August 3rd the Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser published some recollections of his forty days in hospital. He praised the food, beds, staff and especially the administrations of Dr. Dunn the hospital surgeon.

Annette Kellerman (1886-1975): Actor, long distance swimmer and aquatic performer. In January 1905 at the local Maryborough swimming carnival, Kellerman and her brother Freddie gave an exhibition of diving and swimming.

Dame Nellie Melba (1861-1931): Melbourne born international opera singer. As part on an extensive Australia wide tour in 1909 she performed in the Maryborough Town Hall.

Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens) (1835-1910): Mark Twain visited Maryborough in October 1895 as part of a year long around the world speaking tour.

"Mark Twain' arrived by the 3.30 train from Bendigo this afternoon and was met by a number of leading residents and driven to the town hall where he was welcomed by the Mayor Mr. F. J. Field. Tonight the American humorist gave an 'at home' in the town hall before a large and appreciative audience. Mr Clemens proceeded to Melbourne in the morning by the 5 o'clock train. . ." The Age, Saturday, October 26, 1895.

Mark Twain's comments about the Maryborough Railway Station have often been misquoted. What he ACTUALLY said was: "You can put the whole population of Maryborough into it with a sofa apiece and have room for more.

Eugene von Guerard (1812-1901): Austrian born artist who arrived in Victoria in 1852. H visited the Maryborough area on one of his sketching trips staying overnight at a hotel in Carisbrook. He is renowned for his landscape paintings.

From the Maryborough Midlands "Diggings" newsletter.

Resources from Dimboola and Swan Hill

Dimboola History Society Resources

We hold many local artifacts and paper records. Our collection also includes copies of local newspapers (micro film, micro fiche or hard copy) from as early as 1882.

The archive collection includes:

Extensive photographic collection.

Dimboola Banner Newspapers Bound in Hard Copy from the 1920s to current.

Micro film of the Dimboola Banners from 1882 - 1920.

Micro film of the Dimboola Chronicle 1920s.

Micro fiche Birth, Deaths, Marriages, Pioneer Index.

Dimboola Shire Rate Books 1886-1940s.

Sporting Club Minute books and associated items.

Minute books from local businesses.

Parish Maps.

Family history files and resource books.

Family history publications of district families.

Extensive card index.

Swan Hill Historical Society Resources

The library's Heritage Room has historical displays, family history resources and an extensive local history collection about Swan Hill and its surrounding areas.

The local history collection includes the Mallee Oral History collection, photographs, books, documents and newspapers available to use within the library.

Newspapers available for viewing on micro-film include:

The Guardian (late 1880s – 1965).

Kerang Times and Swan Hill Gazette (1877 – 1890).

Mid Murray Illustrated (1964).

Nyah and Piangil Times (1924 – 1942).

Riverina Recorder (1869 – 1884).

Riverina Herald (1898 – 1938).

Swan Hill News Pictorial (1965 – 1967).

Ultima and Chillingollah Star (1915 – 1951).

Dead man's penny beginnings



It was decided during WW I that all next of kin of service personnel who lost their lives as a result of the war would be presented with a memorial plaque and commemorative scroll from the King and country.

The plaques were cast in bronze and were approx. five inches (125mm) in diameter. On the plaque itself no rank was recorded as the intention was to show equality in their sacrifice. The troops referred to them as "The Dead Man's Penny." At the same time a scroll was also sent.

This scroll was 27 x 27 centimetres made of slightly darkened parchment headed by the Royal Coat of Dis-

claimer: Articles in this Newsletter are published in good faith but no responsibility is taken. Arms, with a carefully chosen passage, written in old English script.

Unfortunately the production and delivery of the plaques was not a complete success and the scheme ended before all next of kin received this official recognition. In the Swan Hill area approx 158 service men and women lost their lives — it is not known how many next of kin received the "Penny".

— from the Swan Hill newsletter of 2007.

Dunolly's Eliza Ellen Russell and the first Australian flag

Eliza Ellen Russell was born in Dunolly on 20th January 1861 to Henry and Sally Russell. Henry was a carpenter who lived at the corner of Broadway and Russell St. Presumably Russell Street is named after him.

Eliza was the youngest of thirteen children and later in 1861 the family shifted to a larger house at the corner of Lawrence and Tweeddale Streets. Her father died when she was ten years old.

At the age of nineteen Eliza was a milliner and dressmaker at a shop in Broadway. A few years later Eliza shifted to Carlton and worked as a seamstress in her brother-in-law's tent factory. Eliza never married and died in Carlton in 1910 aged 49.

The Australian Colonies Federated in 1901. A competition was held to design a flag for Australia. Eliza's nephew, the fourteen year old Ivor Evans, submitted one of the winning designs. He asked his auntie, Eliza Russell, to make up the flag at the tent factory. Eliza became the first person to sew together what became the first Australian Flag.



The first Australian Flag as sewn by Eliza Russell.

The 1901 flag was a little different to the current flag. The Commonwealth star had only six points — one for each State. Now it has seven points one for each state and one for the territories.) The Southern Cross on the modern flag has (one five pointed star and four with seven points. The original design (which only lasted two years) had different stars of five, six, seven, eight and nine points.

by John Tully, Dunolly Museum. from Dunolly website.

Blast from the Past from East Loddon Historical Society



1918 A century ago. One popular fundraising event was to hold a 'Queen Competition'. East Loddon Historical Society is fortunate to have this photograph from Eileen Martin's scrap book collection. Queen Competition for Pyramid Hill Roman Catholic Church held October 1918. (Names spelt as written on photo).

Left to right: Lal Pola, Eileen Martin (Mary's cousin) Alice McGrath, Mary Cliff (Queen of Peace), Mary Martin, Mary Pola, Florrie Clark, Rose Martin, Mary Carrol. This Queen of Peace photo was taken one month prior to end of the first world war.

WESTERN VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES INC
NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBER 2021 - 2022
FOR AGM - ARARAT - SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2021

I HEREBY NOMINATE

.....
for the position of

.....
President / Senior Vice President / Junior Vice President / Secretary / Treasurer /
Newsletter editor / Facebook editor / Website editor / Ordinary member
Nominated by

.....
(Signature) (Name in block letters)

Seconded by

.....
(Signature) (Name in block letters)

I accept the nomination for this position

.....
(Signature)

Of.....Member Society

Dated:

Please return form to

Helen Curkpatrick
273 Old Hamilton Road
Haven 3401
(03) 5382 7277 (home no.)

Or at Ararat AGM
Or e mail to:

haven273@outlook.com

Please Note: All nominations must be an affiliated member of a
Historical Society and that Society must be affiliated to the
WVAHS.

