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*The cancelled 2020 **WVAHS AGM**
is scheduled to be held at Stawell at the
old Pleasant Creek Hospital on
Saturday and Sunday 10th and 11th April, 2021*

Watch WVAHS website for details.

W.V.A.H.S. Executive Committee for 2021-2022

| | | |
|---|----------------|---------------------------|
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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 | Heytesbury | Hawkesdale | Horsham |
| Hopetoun | Inglewood | Kerang | Koroit |
| Landsborough | Maryborough | Minyip | Mortlake |
| Murtoa | Mt. Rouse/Penshurst | Nullawil | Ouyen |
| Port Fairy | Portland | Pyramid Hill | Rainbow |
| Rupanyup | St. Arnaud | Stawell | Swan Hill |
| Tarnagulla | 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 Post

Covid-19 threw a spanner in the works for 2020 but let's be positive for 2021. There may be a few ups and downs but hopefully, as time passes, inoculation commences and other developments occur, we may gradually get back to a more "normal" existence this year.

The Executive have determined to proceed with our AGM at Stawell in April. It may be a slightly altered and abridged version of our normal AGM but hopefully many will attend and it will be great to catch up face to face again. Nothing can fully replace personal contact. Having said that we have maintained production of our quarterly Western Historian publication so that all are

kept informed about what is happening in most member societies. I would like to thank Editor Robin and Secretary Helen for ensuring that it is produced and distributed on time and also thank all the societies and individuals contributing to it. Please keep on doing so.

Please consider if you are able to serve on the Committee or as an office bearer and arrange to be nominated. We need a full team for the coming year. I look forward to catching up with many of you at Stawell.

Michael Menzies
President.

Vale — Margaret Joy Walkley

A valued member of Maryborough Midlands Historical Society, Margaret was family and local history researcher for some 17 years loved attending the WVAHS meetings and purchasing the various history books. Margaret passed away on December 31, 2020 in Maryborough.

MARGARET JOY WALKLEY 1943-2020 was born in Wonthaggi in South Gippsland. Margaret spent her early years on a dairy farm at Glen Forbes with her parents and older brother Noel. They later moved to nearby Woodleigh where Margaret attended primary school riding her horse each day from home. Like many other Gippsland dairy farmers her parents moved north to Kyabram in the irrigation area of northern Victoria. Their next move was to Kallangur near Brisbane and later to another dairy farm at Caboolture. As a teenager here Margaret developed her love of country music and square dancing. After a move to Perth Margaret embarked on a round-Australia caravan trip with her brother Noel and family. Margaret's strong sense of duty brought her again to Queensland where she cared for her parents and maternal uncle as they aged and became unwell. She and her mother shared a love of handcrafts and, with her father, she enjoyed rearing and training the Arab horses that he bred.

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 on robinparker81@hotmail.com
or write to 21 Fraser Street, Maryborough 3465.
In word preferred and any photos in jpg format.**

Edward Robert Langlands (1914–1941)

The first instance of the supreme sacrifice being made by one of Horsham's young soldiers overseas came on Tuesday afternoon when the news was received of the death in action of Lieutenant Edward Robert Langlands of the 9th Division Cavalry Regiment.

The sad intimation was received his father, Mr. Frank Langlands, at his office and the news quickly spread throughout the town. Born in Horsham 27 years ago deceased was the younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Langlands of Darlot street.

He was educated at the State and High schools here and at the Melbourne Grammar School. One of the town's popular, esteemed and progressive young men — it was natural that he should be linked up with activities for the welfare of his fellow men and the community in general.

As an active member he was soon guiding the presidential reins of the Apex Club. In church work he was a member of St. John's Church of England and secretary for many years of the Horsham Church of England Men's Society.

His business career commenced after he left college when he entered the well known firm of J Langlands & Sons Pty. Ltd. in January, 1931. When the furniture emporium was opened in Pynsent street he was appointed manager — and in February, 1939 he was made a director of the firm.

His personality was such that he was a popular figure with the staff and the clients. His business ability was recognised in a wide sphere for the Furnishers Societies of Victoria honoured him with the position of retailers' representative on its executive council.

In the sporting world he was a prominent figure as a player and president of the Horsham Tennis Club and a member of the Horsham Golf Club. He was also a valuable playing member of the Horsham Football Club.

The late Lieut. Langlands was one of the first men to join the First Armoured Car Regiment which was formed in 1934. He displayed such ability and keenness that he was soon promoted to the rank of corporal in No. 2 Troop which had, as its leader then Lieut. (now Captain) J. S. Bolton.

In 1936 Corporal Langlands, still with the troop, was made a sergeant and during part of the Seymour camp he acted as troop leader. It was due to his excellent work that he was asked to sit an examination for the rank of lieutenant. After passing easily he was promoted to the rank of officer in 1937 when he took over No. 3 troop of the Armored Car Regiment.

When war broke out he felt it was his duty to enlist in the A.I.F. which he did while attending the camp at Torquay in 1940. Colonel Bastian, who was in charge of the Car Mechanised Regiment, selected the Horsham lieutenant out of quite a number as one of his troop leaders. A considerable time was spent in training at different centres after which the regiment sailed for active service overseas.

Lieut.Colonel D. Clark of Horsham, who is in com-



1st Armoured Car Regiment badge.

mand of the 19th L.H.M.G.Regiment, paid the following tribute: "Bob was one of the best troop leaders anyone could wish to have. While I was in charge of the squadron the troop leaders were Russell Wilmoth, Tim Bolton and Bob with Jack Bolton as second in command. It was a pleasure to work with them. Bob was very thorough in all he did and his first consideration was for his men. He would never ask his lads to do anything he would not do himself. We have lost a born leader and a thorough gentleman."

Deceased was married to Miss Nancy Barker of Mount Barker, South Australia who survives him together with a young daughter (Margaret). He also leaves a brother (Bruce).

His late uncle (Mr. John Langlands) served in the great war.

In honor of deceased the flags at the store and Town Hall were flown half-mast and business at the store was transacted behind closed doors. The deep sympathy of a wide circle of friends throughout the Wimmera has been conveyed to the bereaved.

Original publication

Horsham Times (Vic), 27 June 1941, p 3.

Additional Resources

memorial service, *Horsham Times* (Vic), 8 July 1941, page 1.

Citation details

'Langlands, Edward Robert (Bob) (1914–1941)', *Obituaries Australia*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/langlands-edward-robert-bob-17084/text28925>, accessed 10 November 2020.

from *Obituaries Australia*

Carisbrook Court House and Masonic Lodge



Carisbrook Court House (built 1858), now the home of the Masonic Lodge.

The Masonic Lodge was originally built as the Carisbrook Court House which replaced a small slab court house built in 1851.

George Henry Cox of Maryborough was awarded the contract to build the Court House in 1858 for £1,995/15/-. Work commenced in May. By July Cox was behind in paying for materials. He owed Thomas Chaplin £37/14/- for bricks and Charles Jolly £35/5/10 for sand and delivery. They took him to court and won. Cox failed to pay instead went into hiding. A few weeks later he was found living at the house of H H Hoskin his solicitor. Cox was put in the lock up. For not paying his debts he was convicted and sent to Castlemaine Gaol. He was declared bankrupt in August. It is rather ironic that whilst building the new court house he was tried in the old one.

Cox hiding and then going to gaol caused a considerable delay in construction. Hoskin managed to transfer the contract to Edward Williams who finished the building.

The Court House was completed and opened about March 1859.

Dunolly, Maryborough and Carisbrook were all part of the same County Court Circuit. The three court houses were built in 1858. They were all the same design but built using different materials. Maryborough was sandstone blocks, Dunolly was also sandstone but laid freestone style whilst Carisbrook was bluestone.

The Carisbrook Court House not only heard County

Court cases but was also used as a police court (now magistrates) and a court of mines.

The Court House originally had an 8ft verandah across the front.

In 1925 the Public Works Department sold the building. It became the Carisbrook Masonic Lodge No 405. They removed the verandah, bricked in the windows and added a room to the north wing. It is reputed that to do this extension to match the rest of the building they used bluestone blocks left over from the demolished Carisbrook Flour Mill.

by John Tully, Dunolly Museum.

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.



After an extended Covid19 – induced sabbatical the Tarnagulla History Archive re-opened its doors on 11 January 2021 with an extensive and elaborate display entitled Old Tarnagulla In Colour. This display features poster-sized and beautifully coloured photographs of people and places in and around Tarnagulla in the early years. For those of you familiar with the historic Victoria Theatre at Tarnagulla the display occupied almost the entire large hall as well ancillary rooms and was put together by volunteer members of the Tarnagulla History Archive. Along with many other towns in central and western Victoria — Tarnagulla has a rich history dating back to the gold rush era and, although now scaled-back to a much smaller town than it was in its boom years of the 1800s — Tarnagulla still retains a healthy nucleus of historic public buildings, churches and private residences which leave visitors to the town and district with a vivid impression of what was once a large and important gold-mining centre. Tarnagulla has long felt the need to preserve its history for future generations and several years ago the Tarnagulla Hall Committee applied for and received a grant from PROV to refurbish and refit a room adjoining the Victoria Hall for use as a secure repository for the large volumes of historical photographs and memorabilia which had been gathered in private collections. This facility is now known as the Tarnagulla History Archive.

Tarnagulla is very fortunate in having the voluntary services of local resident Dr Megan Cardamone and her small band of volunteers in not only putting a process in place to seek the PROV grant but also in overseeing the time-consuming task of setting up the History Archive and cataloguing and managing what is

rapidly becoming a very large collection. Megan may be known to some of you as a highly experienced museum consultant.

It is now eighteen months since the Tarnagulla History Archive opened its doors on a monthly basis and, excepting the Covid19 restriction period, has proven to be a very popular focal point for ex-Tarnagulla-ites visiting their old home town as well as numerous family and local historians looking to put flesh on their research bones. On the subject of research the Tarnagulla History Archive is also in the fortunate position of having access to a comprehensive index of the old town’s local newspaper (the Tarnagulla Courier) for the period 1864 to 1920. This is of course a boon to researchers — especially family historians. The open day on 11 January attracted over 60 visitors as the result of a focused promotional campaign and in response to the historical colourised photographic display. Our visitors usually come from all over Victoria and even interstate and we are continually amazed at the numbers of visitors with strong old-time family connections to Tarnagulla but who have never visited the town until attracted by the opening of the History Archive. In fact in January we received an entire family group of descendants of the acknowledged first discoverers of gold at Tarnagulla in 1852 but who had had no connection with the town since 1853! Similarly other visitors included a group who were descended from a very wealthy quartz miner who left Tarnagulla in 1870 and had never been back. As you can imagine we welcomed with open arms these descendants of our earliest and long-lost pioneers!

The Old Tarnagulla In Colour exhibition is open again on two further Sundays - 14 February and 14 March. Lunch is available at the rear of the Hall and the Pub is open for drinks and snacks. If you would like more information or wish to arrange private viewing you can email on tarnagullahistoryarchive@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook (as Tarnagulla History Archive) for up to the minute information about the Archive.

For enquiries about scanning, digitisation and digital restoration or colourisation of your historical photographs or other museum-related services please contact Megan at her business email: megan@circamuseumservices.com

It’s your newsletter — have your say

Old Tarnagulla in Colour



Historical images of Tarnagulla and its people digitally restored and colourised for a new era

Open on 3 Sundays in **2021** Jan 10
10am - 3pm Feb 14
Free entry & Mar 14
at Tarnagulla Public Hall

For information or to arrange a viewing on other dates email tarnagullahistoryarchive@gmail.com



The early Lock family of Moolort

Fanny Lock (1840-1891) the fifth Child of John and Rebecca Lock (nee Solway) crowded more into her short life of 51 years than many other of the Locks who came from Somerset, England — adventure, joy, sorrow, tragedy however she also left a rich heritage to more descendants than any other.

She travelled from Somerset in 1851-1852 old enough to have memories of Somerset and the voyage across the world and old enough to be married at 15 years and 7 months and set up home on the Moolort Plains with one of the original settlers. She was left a widow at 29 with five children (none of whom were yet teenagers) and had a farm to manage.

Widow Fanny Maxworthy fell in love again with a local boy and re-married after 3 years of widowhood and moved from Moolort to Pyramid, had three more children and was widowed again in 1877 (still only 37 years old.) She and the younger members of the family returned to Moolort to her parents John and Rebecca. It was here that she died in 1891. Fanny is the link person in the Maxworthy Muxworthy saga, the (Maxy-Muxy's), a situation that has not yet been fully understood.

Fanny was born at Aller in Somerset on April 20, 1840 and would have been 14 when her father John selected the land at Moolort east of Maryborough in 1854 — the original 285 acres.

About the same time another young emigrant from neighbouring Devon back home selected 124 acres across the road directly opposite the Lock land. George Maxworthy was the young man a dashing young Englishman who had come direct from Devon to Melbourne in 1850 on the "Maitland". George was the only Maxworthy listed on the passenger listing having come as an "assisted migrant". The list gives the following information about our George — "George Maxworthy, from Barnstaple, Devon aged 24 years, an agricultural labourer of Episcopalian member of the Anglican Church could both read and write and possessed a Bible".

It was surely a significant recorded detail that each emigrant had to indicate if he or she "possessed a Bible" but this was during the period when the British were known as "the people of the Book". The Bible and its influence in the total life of Britain, both for the individual and for the nation was freely acknowledged as the source of the greatness of Britain of that era. Today migrants are given a Bible — or some prefer a Koran at their naturalization ceremony. The question could

be asked "Does the Bible mean as much in the 1990's as it did in the 1850's?"

It is presumed that George Maxworthy worked in or around Melbourne until gold was discovered and the gold rush began in 1851 — when he joined the increasing ranks of the workers in city and farm who travelled to the fields of Central Victoria. In 1854 or 1855 George was one of the first selectors of the rich Moolort Plains. But it wasn't long before he "selected" Fanny Lock to be his bride and share his land and raise his family.

The marriage certificate of Fanny and George gives interesting detail - they were marriage No. 31 in the Marriage Register of the Church of England at Carisbrook being married in the residence of the Minister of the Church of England on 10th November 1855, George was a bachelor, Fanny a spinster, both had been born in Tavistock, County Devon. George was stated as butcher while Fanny did not give an occupation. He was 29 the bride stated that she was 16. She would have been 15 years and 7 months — can you imagine your 15 year old daughter married to a man almost twice her age?

The interesting fact is that George's and Fanny's address, both "usual" and "present", is given as Daisy Hill the other side of Maryborough to Carisbrook and Moolort. But then it was proposed that Carisbrook and not Maryborough should be the principal town on the fields.

How history re-writes the plans of men. George's parents were William and Ann Maxworthy nee Marshall. William's occupation was "farmer" while Fanny's father John was still "digger". Both George and Fanny declared that they were "members of the Church of England" and of the signatures, George was the only one to sign his name. Fanny and her parents, John and Rebecca, made their mark. However it should be noted that, on other documents about the same time or a little later, all of these three did sign their names. Was it easier to make their mark than labourously to sign their name?

In addition to George Maxworthy there was another Maxworthy family on the Moolort Plains. The survey map shows that Ann Maxworthy had 80 acres adjoining George and Fanny's lot and from other documents there was Archalaus L. Maxworthy (the father of Ann) with adjoining land.

The relationship is not clear but Ann Maxworthy borrowed £80 from John Lock in 1871 to effect improvements to her land but in 1872 when Ann Maxworthy married James Bell she was unable to repay the loan so the land passed to John Lock. This was all detailed in a Declaration to the Lands Department in 1872 but the only comment on the transaction is a pencilled Department note "never resolved".

Fanny and George acquired 'additional land in Moolort to add to their original 124 acres freehold.

George's address (when he took up his first lease

Have you a story
you would like
to share

of the 124 acres) was given as Emu some miles north west of Maryborough. In 1872 Fanny, while still a widow, took over 80 acres from her brother-in-law Benjamin Dicker who had married Fanny's older sister Jane. Benjamin and Jane had moved from Moolort to Evansford beyond Maryborough and to the west of the road to Ballarat.

Fanny and George had six children — William 1856, Ann 1859, Ellen 1861, Sarah 1864 and Mary and Elizabeth 1866. George died on 11th Jan. 1869 aged 45 years, the cause of death being "disease of the lungs". He was buried in the Carisbrook Cemetery.

After George's death Fanny continued to live on at their farm their home being opposite the land of her parents John and Rebecca. Brother Francis, (because George had left no Will), was appointed Administrator.

The Maxworthy family lived there until after Fanny married William Wyley on 28th July 1872 after 3 years of widowhood. William was a Moolort boy who came there with his parents when they selected land north of John Lock's selection, (about one mile towards Carisbrook.)

William was born in 1845 and he like others of the period, was a keen horseman and proud of his team of working horses. When the land around Pyramid was being opened up about 50 miles north of Bendigo. William Wyley became part of the transport system supplying the needs of those early settlers before the building of the railway from Bendigo to Swan Hill. A round trip took most of a week — provisions and requirements for the settlers and their families was the outward trip and produce on the return — but sometimes it was an empty wagon for the return.

William and the other transport operators had a staging camp at the halfway point where provisions were kept, fodder for the horses, a spare horse or two and some harness in case of breakages. Flour was the staple part of William's diet enroute which was supplemented with wild turkey and kangaroo or wallaby, quite a varied diet for those times.

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After Fanny and William's marriage the family moved from Moolort to Pyramid — their Moolort land apparently being farmed by John and his son Francis. At Pyramid William rented 300 acres.

So the Wyley family or rather, Fanny and her family, were off on another pioneering trip in a newly opened up district. But their stay there was only a few years. William's accidental death in 1877 must have been a severe blow so Fanny and the five Maxworthy children (together with the three Wyley children) all born at Pyramid returned to Moolort and their original property.

The three children of this marriage were Rebecca born 1873, Edward George 1875 and John born in 1877. With baby John only 2 months old and the other children in the spring cart and driving to Pyramid Hill, the horse took fright, swerved, a wheel ran over a stamp, the cart overturned, all the occupants were thrown out and all escaped with a severe shaking except William. He was killed instantly.

It is not known when Fanny and her fatherless children returned to Moolort but, as Fanny's father John

Lock died just 23 days after her husband William, she may have returned soon afterwards. All the other brothers and sisters of Fanny were married and Rebecca would have been alone in the original home except perhaps the youngest brother Francis who had married Charlotte Baxter in 1876.

It is an ironic co-incidence that Fanny's second husband William Wyley and her father John should die in successive months in 1877 and Fanny and her mother Rebecca should die in the same year 1891 — Fanny in March and Rebecca in November.

Even though Fanny herself did not have much formal education (she was 12 years old when she came to the Victorian goldfields) she was concerned about the education of her children. When the first Rural School was commenced in the Church of England Hall, Moolort on the 5th of May, 1869, she enrolled her children William (12) and Ellen (7). Why Ann aged (10) was not a pupil on the roll is not known. However two years later (in September 1871) when the School Committee was seeking a grant from the Department to build a new school a "prospective student roll" was presented containing three Maxworthy names — William (15), (the only scholar over 13 years), Ann (13) and Ellen (10). Two Lock's were also on the roll (John aged 7 and George 5), the sons of Emma Lock, the widow of James Lock who had been killed in an accident from his horse in 1869.

Fanny Wyley (nee Lock) formerly Maxworthy must have been a very accomplished business woman and farmer. It is not quite clear what her activities and movements were after George Maxworthy's death and after she and William Wyley were married. Earlier in 1872 she had arranged with her brother-in-law, Benjamin Tucker, (who had moved to Talbot) for the transfer of his adjoining 80 acres to her name. In 1873 after the railway line from Castlemaine to Maryborough and beyond had been constructed diagonally through her property and that of John Lock her father. John and the Wyley's (presumably William and Fanny) were engaged in controversy over the transfer of small areas of land on either side of the line and the question of exchange and who owed who money for the additional land. It was only small area, Fanny would gain five acres from John Lock, while she would lose three acres to John.

Apparently John wanted it both ways — to keep his own five acres even though it was the other side of the line or to have a crossing constructed to give him easy access or be paid £5 pound in compensation.

article from Carisbrook Historical Society files

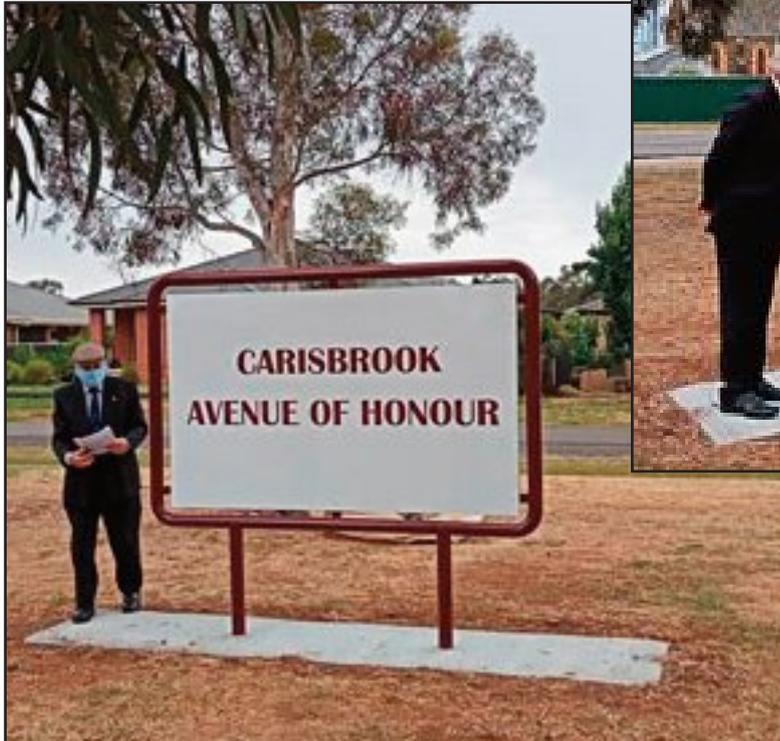
"Tarrone Estate Soldier Settlement"

**Book available from
Koroit & District Historical Society Inc.
P.O. Box 118, Koroit Vic 3282**

History of Carisbrook 's World War I Avenue of Honour

Road side view of the new sign at the Avenue of Honour commemorating the lives of soldiers of the district killed in World War I.

Unveiled on Remembrance Day 2020.



The rear view of the Avenue of Honour sign in Simson Street, Carisbrook displays a photo and text of each soldier of Carisbrook District killed in World War I.

In Carisbrook during World War One several patriotic community organizations were formed to encourage enlistments, the sale of War Bonds and to provide comforts for the troops.

The main organizations involved were a branch of the Red Cross, (the Australian Comforts Fund), the Recruitment Committee of the Carisbrook-based Shire of Tullaroop and the Carisbrook branch of the Australian Natives' Association [formed in 1871.

In 1919 their focus changed as the war ended and soldiers returned home. A Welcome Home Committee was formed to hold official functions to welcome them home and to present each soldier with a gold medal. Honour Boards were produced by the various churches, the local State School, and the Shire Council. The A.N.A., (under its President—Mr. F.N. Bucknall) — resolved to commemorate the sacrifice of those local soldiers who did not return by creating an Avenue of Honor in Simson Street. In 1919 twenty four Black Wattles [*Acacia mearnsii*] were planted, one for each dead soldier.

The Avenue of Honour had great significance for the families in the Carisbrook community because it represented a continuing local physical presence for each of their loved ones, who were either buried in 'some foreign field' or even had no known grave. Government policy was not to repatriate the dead but to create Commonwealth war graves near the battle-

fields. At the time families had little opportunity to visit those sites.

Unfortunately the Avenue trees either died or were eaten by roving goats or rabbits. The A.N.A. replaced these with another planting of Black Wattles in 1920, but these suffered a similar fate. In the following year 24 Queensland Silky Oaks [*Grevillea robusta*] were planted and fencing was placed around them.

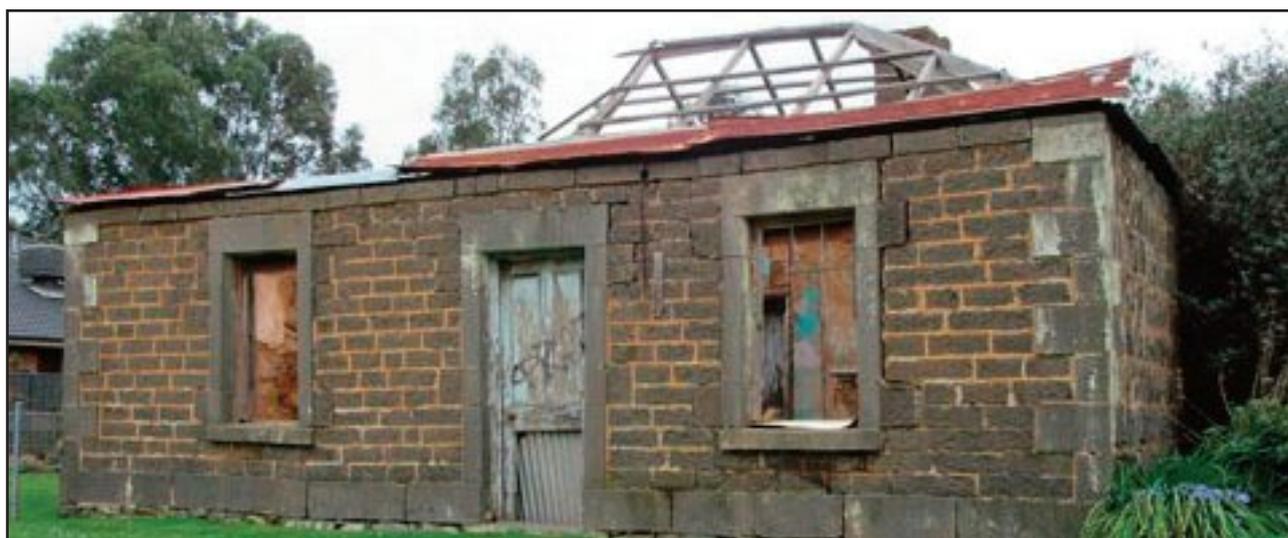
Eventually these plantings deteriorated and died during the severe drought of the early 1940s and the Shire of Tullaroop decide to replace them all with a new planting of Red Spotted Gums [*Eucalyptus mannifera* ssp. *maculata*] which were thought to be more long-lasting and being natives, redolent of the local countryside. At some stage a wooden sign marked the Avenue but this was not replaced when it deteriorated.

A fifth planting was carried out by Central Goldfields Shire Council in 2010 and Red Spotted Gums were again selected.

Of recent times many local residents and visitors were unaware that these trees (in two rows between Simson Street and Chalk Street) was an Avenue of Honour. This signage rectifies that. The Carisbrook community has pride in its heritage and recognizes the significance of this Avenue and the sacrifices it represents.

by Alex Stoneman OAM, Carisbrook Historical Society

Bluestone houses in Bucknall Street Carisbrook



36 Bucknall St

The derelict bluestone house without a roof is on land that was purchased by blacksmith Charles Laird on 11 November 1861. He built his bluestone house the following year then purchased the block next door to the north for his blacksmiths shop.

He must have been a good blacksmith as Charles Laird won first prize at the 1867 Carisbrook Agricultural Show for horse shoeing. Charles Laird remained here as the blacksmith until his death in 1887.

One son, Charles Almond Laird, continued the business

for two years before going bankrupt.

The two allotments remained in the estate of the late Charles Laird and were then separated. Another son, Richard, continued running the blacksmith's shop whilst the oldest daughter Margaret lived in the house.

In 1892 Frederick Coe — (a miner,) rented the house. He was followed by an engineer Wright Dover West. Then in 1895 Richard Laird moved into the house to be next to his blacksmith shop.

34 Bucknall St



This allotment was purchased by Thomas Williams on 11 November 1861. A stonemason. Thomas Williams, (with builder Isaac Davies) built the Carisbrook Town Hall in 1858. The facade of the Town Hall is rendered whilst the sides and back have exposed bluestone walls. Williams built his house using the same materials and process.

The 1865 rates has Thomas Williams with an unfinished house. It was probably completed later in the year. When the house was finished the council valued

it at £18. Thomas Williams remained here until his death on 28 September, 1907.

Thomas Williams has left a significant legacy in Carisbrook. We have already mentioned his house and the Town Hall. He also built the police stables in 1863 and some of the bluestone drains in 1862.

The Williams house is a two storey building. One part of the original building was demolished a single storey section that extended out to the footpath.

THE SNOW IS ON MY HAIR

— A Country Childhood Revisited

In 1992 Maryborough-born teacher Joyce Downing published her memoirs. For many years her family, then later Joyce, lived in "Montana" in Burns Street opposite the tennis courts.

Her widely travelled father, Thomas Frederick Downing, named his house after the American state which he regarded as one of the most beautiful places he'd ever seen.

Back in Australia he became an engine driver for the Victorian Railways. Those were the days when tradesmen called at the house and, in my pre-school years, I found their visits fascinating.

First came Mrs Main the milk lady who had been up for hours before daylight milking the cows. Then she would saddle up the horse to her milk cart, load the cans of milk and set off on her delivery round. She would appear at the back door with a big can of milk with ladles hanging on the rim – half pint and one pint measures – to measure out the milk required into the waiting jugs or billies. To this day I still use an old milk ladle to serve billy tea on our bush picnics.

The second daily visitor was Mr Hosken the baker with a cloth-covered basket of loaves on his arm. Pipe loaves, sandwich loaves and big loaves with squared white crust on one end and curved dark crust on the other. Ess [Joyce's sister Esther] and I vied for "the black crust end please Mum". Brown bread was seldom bought as it was not often wholemeal in those days just brown colouring.

Mr Hosken had only one hand: to the other wrist was attached a contraption with an iron hook. He carried his money in a soft leather bag with a drawstring threaded through the top and was adept at opening the bag with his iron hook. He entered the bread bought by mother each day in a little notebook hanging on our verandah wall and Mother paid his bill weekly. This was easier for him as it saved him delving for change each day.

"Chungi" Backway gave a wacry at the door each day to let Mother know that his butcher's cart awaited her critical eye at the back gate. The back of the cart opened to display the meat hanging therein and a shelf with scales let down by way of a counter. Such things as soup bones, lamb's fry and so on were given in with the main order as "perks" to a good customer.

Every Monday morning the grocer's man appeared with his little book to take the order for the week making suggestions of various items Mother might have forgotten to write on the slate (which hung on the kitchen for the purpose) as she found stocks dwindling in this or that commodity. The same afternoon the order would be delivered by horse and cart.

Tea was seldom on the grocer's list as we had a special "tea man" who came monthly then Mother bought (ten pound) tins of Glen Valley tea — packed by Henry Berry of Collins Street Melbourne. Sometimes another traveller brought us Rasawatti [sic] tea. A cheerful little Chinese gardener brought vegetables in his hand-drawn cart ... When we reported back to him [what our mother wanted] he would bring in a selection in a rounded Chinese basket ... A sheer delight to me was when a hawker called with his van (also horse-drawn) just packed with fascinating goods. Dress materials, sheets, towels, underwear, beads, buttons, laces, elastic, insertions – you name it, he had it. Mother did not over-buy here but tested the strength of the various materials before giving her verdict – "Too much dressing in that: it will be a rag when washed! But she did often buy *galatea for Papa's work shirts and *madapolam for her own chemises.

Some of the hawkers were Indians. I remember one – Mustapah [sic] – resplendent in turbans and robes — who camped nearby. Just to smell his curries made one's throat burn.

*Galatea: Strong cotton material often striped in blue.

*Madapolam: Fine, soft fabric from Madras.

from November issue of the Midlands Historical Society newsletter "Digging".

Have you an
interesting
story
to tell.

Contact editor on
robinparker81@hotmail.com

or snailmail to
21 Fraser street,
Maryborough 3465.

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

Dunolly railway line upgrade



Rail upgrade at Gooseberry Hill near Dunolly in 1898.

This photo from the State Library of Victoria is titled 'regrading the line at Dunolly 1898'. It was taken by Charlie Farr — photographer of Maryborough. The photo is taken from Gooseberry Hill looking towards Maryborough.

The railway had been completed to Dunolly in 1874 and from there extended both to St Arnaud and beyond and to Inglewood. Gooseberry Hill just south of Dunolly was one of the steepest gradients on the Melbourne to Mildura line. Trains leaving Dunolly station had trouble climbing the hill from a standing start. Fully laden trains travelling north picked up speed coming down Gooseberry Hill. They had trouble stopping at Dunolly station.

In 1898 the Victorian Railways decided to lessen the gradient by lowering the track as it crossed the saddle on Gooseberry Hill. This was a unique enough event to warrant taking a photo of at the time. The officials in uniform at the front and the navvies (also in uniform) are standing at the rear. Using hand held track lifters (shaped like a bent crow bar) and nothing but manpower the entire length of track has been moved away from the area to be excavated without being disconnected from the rest of the track. Once the bedrock had been dug away to the desired depth and the ballast replaced the line was edged back into position. During the period of these operations a train from Dunolly to Maryborough would have had to be rerouted through Inglewood, Bendigo and Castlemaine.

Almost the entire length of this railway was fenced with either post and rails or wire fences. Most of the road crossings had gates with gatekeepers living nearby in railway houses. Later again telephone lines

were installed with railway telephones at strategic points along the track.

The left and background of the photo shows the forest largely still intact with numerous mature trees. The intense mining of the Gooseberry Hill rush in 1864 is only 100 metres away to the left of this photo yet these trees on Crown Land were not cut down.

Posted on Facebook by John Tully
Dunolly Historical and Arts Society.

**The editor desperately
needs input from
societies for newsletter.
Due to medical reasons
newsletter is being
reduced in size until
further notice.**

**Special thanks to
Edenhope, Horsham
Stawell and Nhill societies
for your
past support.**

Betty Osborn Tribute

by Maryborough Midlands Historical Society

"Is it in Betty's book?" This is invariably the first step at the Historical Society in response to enquiries about Maryborough people, places and events.

As a dedicated historian Betty was curious about how history is recorded (and sometimes mis-recorded) and was open to the re-interpretation of long-held versions of events.

The James Daly story is a case in point. The traditionally held version of the naming of Maryborough has always been that James Daly, the gold commissioner named Maryborough after his home town in Ireland now known by its Irish name Port Laoise. Many Maryborough residents have made the pilgrimage to the Irish town in this belief. However, some Daly descendants who visited Worsley Cottage in the last few years cast doubt on this version of events, claiming that the Maryborough in question may have been a property or an administrative area. Betty was intrigued to hear this possible new interpretation.

With a background in journalism setting the record straight was critical for Betty. On the Culture Victoria web site you'll find the text of an interview in which she explains what Mark Twain actually said about the Maryborough Railway Station. On Betty's behalf we'll set the record straight now. His comment (much paraphrased by later writers) was this: "You can put the whole population of Maryborough into it with a sofa apiece and have room for more." On the same website Betty appears in a video detailing the life and work of Maryborough's Wal Richards, now renowned as the "Wedding Photographer".

For many years Betty, (who was awarded a Life Membership) edited the Historical Society's newsletter Diggings and represented the society at meetings and conferences of the Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies.

With Bruce she organised excursions for members to local properties and significant houses, and co-ordinated history-related tours for the general public. She was also a member of the now defunct Central Goldfields Shire History Advisory Committee.

No matter how ill or tired she was in latter years, Betty still brought the plate of scones to our morning research sessions.

After many years as an office bearer (and after Bruce's death) Betty took on the role of Curator and applied her meticulous writing and editing skills to cataloguing. She also compiled a database of historic photographs in our collection. Many visiting authors and researchers benefited from Betty's knowledge and experience and she contributed to or advised on a variety



The late Betty Osborn of Maryborough.

of publications. Both Betty and Bruce were largely responsible for preparing the Historical Society's initial application to be registered with Museums Australia (Victoria).

Betty wrote articles for the Maryborough Advertiser many about local personalities and history. In a description of a Field Naturalists' tour of the Phillips Gardens in 1984 she humorously observed: Then we pass a Douglas fir, a bracelet honey myrtle, bamboo, a magnolia and a dogwood which has orange coloured fruit on the ground. No one knows if it's edible. Vi Baker [a local doctor's wife] takes the plunge and eats one. I hope she's still alive ...

From her days at The Argus and at Melbourne University Press, Betty had a collection of entertaining anecdotes. When The Argus closed in January 1957 many of the staff were the last to know. Betty, who was assigned to the womens' pages at the time, had attended a society wedding in Toorak, and sharing a taxi ride back to work with a colleague from another paper, was astonished to hear news of the closure.

At Melbourne University Press Betty edited a number of doctoral theses as well as books. She remembered in particular the pleasure of working on the proofs of Margaret Kiddle's Men of Yesterday, a social history of the Western District but was a little less enthusiastic about the renowned historian Manning Clark's History

The editor would like to hear how the different societies have coped with the lockdown due to Coronavirus.

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

of Australia Volume One. Betty had the thankless task of editing the index which involved, in her words, “slashing it to ribbons”. It was originally so large that it would have filled another book and the chief editor’s instruction was to reduce it. “To this day” she often said “I have guilty feelings about that index and how we murdered it”.

Betty’s principal legacy is of course the two volumes of Maryborough’s history — one co-written with Tren DuBourg and the other a solo effort assisted of course by Bruce and the family. Several years ago Betty recorded her recollections of writing the two volumes of history. This is the way the project started. The first book *Maryborough: A Social History 1854-1904* was put into motion in 1980 when Syd Moore (the Town Clerk) asked Tren DuBourg if he and Betty would be available to research and write it. This was her reaction: “At first I wasn’t too sure. I’d only been in the town some seven years ... but I did know a little bit about local history having been a member of the Historical Society from the day I arrived practically and before that of course, I’d been very involved with local history at Bacchus Marsh and I did a couple of books there.

Apart from that I had worked in publishing with Melbourne University Press so I was well aware of what can happen with local histories and the publishing of it. So Tren and I signed up with one condition - that we just did the first 50 years.” The next stage was assembling and organising resources and locating a place to work. Betty and Tren were shuffled to several locations — finishing up in the vault room at the old State Bank.

Government Gazettes were retrieved from inside the roof of the town hall, council minute and rate books sorted and Maryborough Advertisers rescued from the old Hedges and Bell premises.

Very few letters and diaries from gold rush times survived so official documents became critical. This required Betty to often travel to Melbourne to spend hours researching the government archives. She recalled vividly her attempts to decipher the handwriting of the

long-serving Town Clerk Henry Neville Phillips (Phillips Gardens) and her profound relief when he had obviously taken holidays and a stand-in with neater handwriting recorded the council minutes. All the research was initially handwritten then Betty (as well as Tren’s wife Madge) typed it onto sheets of cypaper which could then be shuffled into paragraphs and chapters.

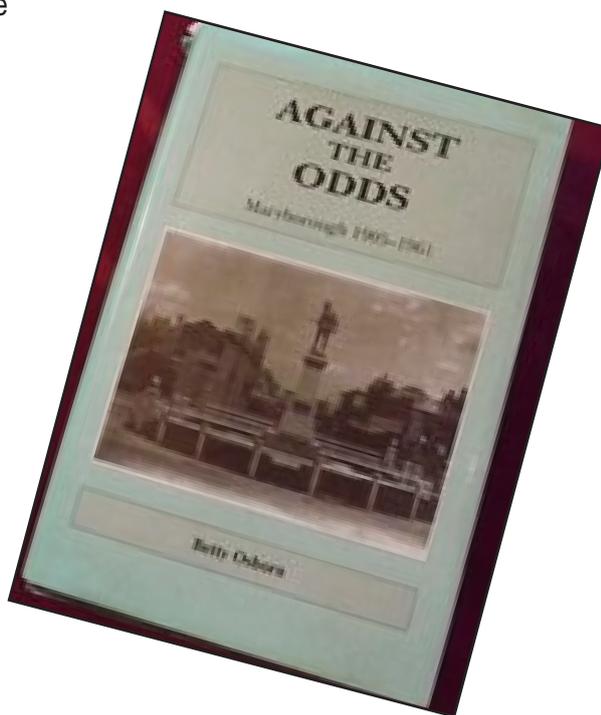
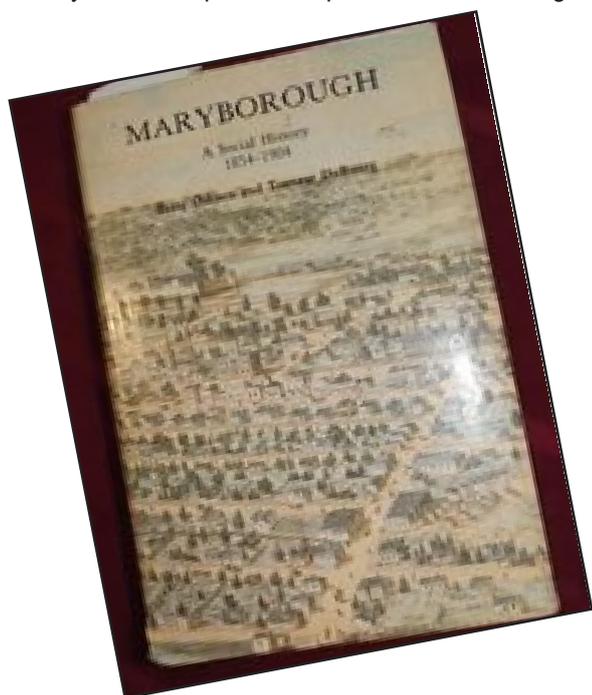
This, it must be stressed, was pre-Internet, pre-TROVE (the wonderful National Library online digitised newspaper collection) and pre-computers. While they were writing up the history Betty and Tren stressed that they wanted it to be for the people of Maryborough — not just an academic thesis. They wanted to include as many names as they could so that people (or their forebears) were part of the history themselves. There were apparently some interesting discussions though when it came to naming (or not) the local identities involved in notorious Melbourne court cases.

The second book, *Against The Odds: Maryborough 1905-1961* (which Tren decided not to tackle) was easier in many ways to prepare because Betty was able to personally interview many local residents about events and people in their lifetime. It was sometimes an emotional and revealing experience for example when interviewees recounted events during the World Wars.

The late Jack Ross was an invaluable contributor who even corrected Betty’s spelling. Although Bruce’s assistance was invaluable Betty remembered resenting his insistence that she methodically research the death notices in *The Standard*. (the information proved invaluable later.)

The last paragraph in Betty’s preface to *Against The Odds* reflects her life’s work: “History is never finished and I do not pretend to have it all but I hope my account is a fair and accurate one of a most interesting periods in Maryborough’s life and that it is informative and enjoyable.”

— from *Maryborough Midlands Historical Society*.



The Story of Yanggendyinyuk who was known locally as Dick-a-Dick

I think it was last year that Jill Giese contacted me at the Nhill and District Historical Society for information about Mrs MacKenzie's diaries or any information that we held concerning the first people of the district. As a result of the information I sent her (and Dick-a Dick's extensive research) she has contributed his story to the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

I found this to be a most enlightening article and his story shows that he was a highly accomplished Australian. He was the aboriginal who found the Duff children, and was also called on to look for a missing toddler who was lost in the Yannipy bush.

He was a member of the cricket team that toured

England in 1868 and his success as a cricketer and an entertainer are revealed in this article.

The story of this successful man can be found at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/yanggendyinyuk-30059>

Jill has asked me to ask our members and readers if anyone knows of a copy of Mrs MacKenzie's memoirs could they please let us know and I will forward this information to her. So if you have a copy could you please drop it into the Historical Society or email us a copy. With thanks Lyn.

From Nhill & District Historical Society.

Harry Haycroft — Boer War Veteran

More information about Harry (Henry) Haycroft.

Recently the family of Harry Haycroft contact the centre about the gold watch that the citizens of Nhill and District presented to Harry on his return from the Boer War. The watch was donated to the Nhill and District Historical Centre on the 28-07-1986. Mr and Mrs V Haycroft brought the watch to Nhill after the four brothers decided that this was the best place as a permanent home for the watch.

The watch is inscribed "**Presented to Harry Haycroft on his return from South Africa after 12 months in the field as a mark of esteem from the citizens of Nhill**"

The Nhill Historical Society holds quite a bit of information about the Haycroft family which they have presented to us. You will also remember that I wrote of the rifle that the family donated to us in 2017. This rifle is not stored in the Centre (for legal reasons) but is held by a collector on our behalf. We can arrange for any visitors who wish to see the rifle to do so.

Henry (Harry) Haycroft was the eldest son of John Haycroft and his wife Mary Jane (Keegan). John was a farmer at Haycroft which is just a few kilometres west of Nhill. It is where the John Shaw Neilson cairn is located. John came to Nhill from Dunkeld where he was a boundary rider.

John had the contract to carry mail from the Coach Road which ran from Mount Elgin to Winiam. The mail would be brought back to his home (which was the Post Office.) This was before Nhill was founded.

John Haycroft was also a petitioner for a school to be established at Tarranginnie East (which later became the Haycroft School.) The school had 90 pupils at one stage. This was the first school to be established west of Dimboola.

Harry was the first lad from Nhill to volunteer to go to the Boer War in 1899. In South Africa he served as a bugler and a dispatch rider. After serving for a year on active service with the Imperial Bush Contingent he was the first Nhill soldier to return from this war.

The Nhill Free Press of Friday May 31st, 1901 states that they thought Harry Haycroft would be home soon but it wasn't until Thursday, 13th June, 1901 that Harry's homecoming occurred. In true Nhill form a number of his friends made arrangements to meet him off the Thursday night express.

Harry was given a "Welcome Home" evening.

When interviewed by the Nhill Free Press on the 18th June, 1901 Harry told the reporter that his health had improved a lot on the journey home. He also said that most Australians were preferring to return home rather than begin lives in South Africa. He told the reporter that inducements were on offer for the soldiers to remain — either as troopers or farmers. Even though it was a fine country the boys were wanting to go home.

He commented that there was a large mineral wealth to be developed but ventured that this would take some time.

Harry commented that he had travelled over a large tract of the country and there were good areas and not so good land. He did say that in the "valleys of the Transvaal and on the river flats there were splendid farms and orchards". In fact he went on to say he had not seen land to match it in Australia. He mentioned that the sheep that he saw did not compare with those being grown in Australia and that our wool was much better. He also thought that our cattle were fatter.

He mentioned that our gum trees grew much faster in South Africa.

The reporter then questioned Harry about the war. He asked whether the meetings at the Hague between Mr Kruger, Dr Leyds, Mr Botha and others would lead to an end the hostilities. Harry thought not. He replied that the Boers who remained in the field were "determined and desperate". He said that the Boers had lost so much that they had nothing to lose so they would keep on fighting in what was dubbed as a "bushranging" style. Harry commented that the Boers tended to fire without aiming or putting the weapon to their shoulder. So this was detrimental to their approach.

Harry Haycroft also told the reporter that, as fast as

troops left South Africa — more were arriving.

Harry was a prisoner of War whilst in South Africa. A short version of this event is as follows. (There is more detail in the Haycroft File for those interested). Harry was with the NSW Bushman and they were ordered from Mafeking to Zeerust and from there to Rustenburg. They had been ordered to attack the Boers but, during the march, were surrounded by 800 to 1,000 Boers. Harry writes how he had to take Captain Hill's horse and three others to the rear but he could only go back 20 yards before he was stopped by a barbed wire fence. He then made a rush for a "Spruit" (river) a little

distance away. To get there he had to go through heavy fire. He lost one horse on the way but got there unhurt. They tried to defend themselves but, after about two and half hours, things were looking grim and Harry tried valiantly to escape but eventually his horse was shot from under him and he became a prisoner of war. He says that he had to sleep on the ground that night and it was raining. He also says they had very little to eat. Eventually Harry was freed and returned to Nhill.

From Nhill & District Historical Society.

New book release by Heytesbury & District Historical Society

The Heytesbury District Historical Society reopened in December to a vastly different cohort of visitor. Our museum is in Port Campbell on the Great Ocean Road and our visitor book for many years has had entries from the far reaches of the globe. In the last few weeks our visitors have been predominately locals and Victorians.

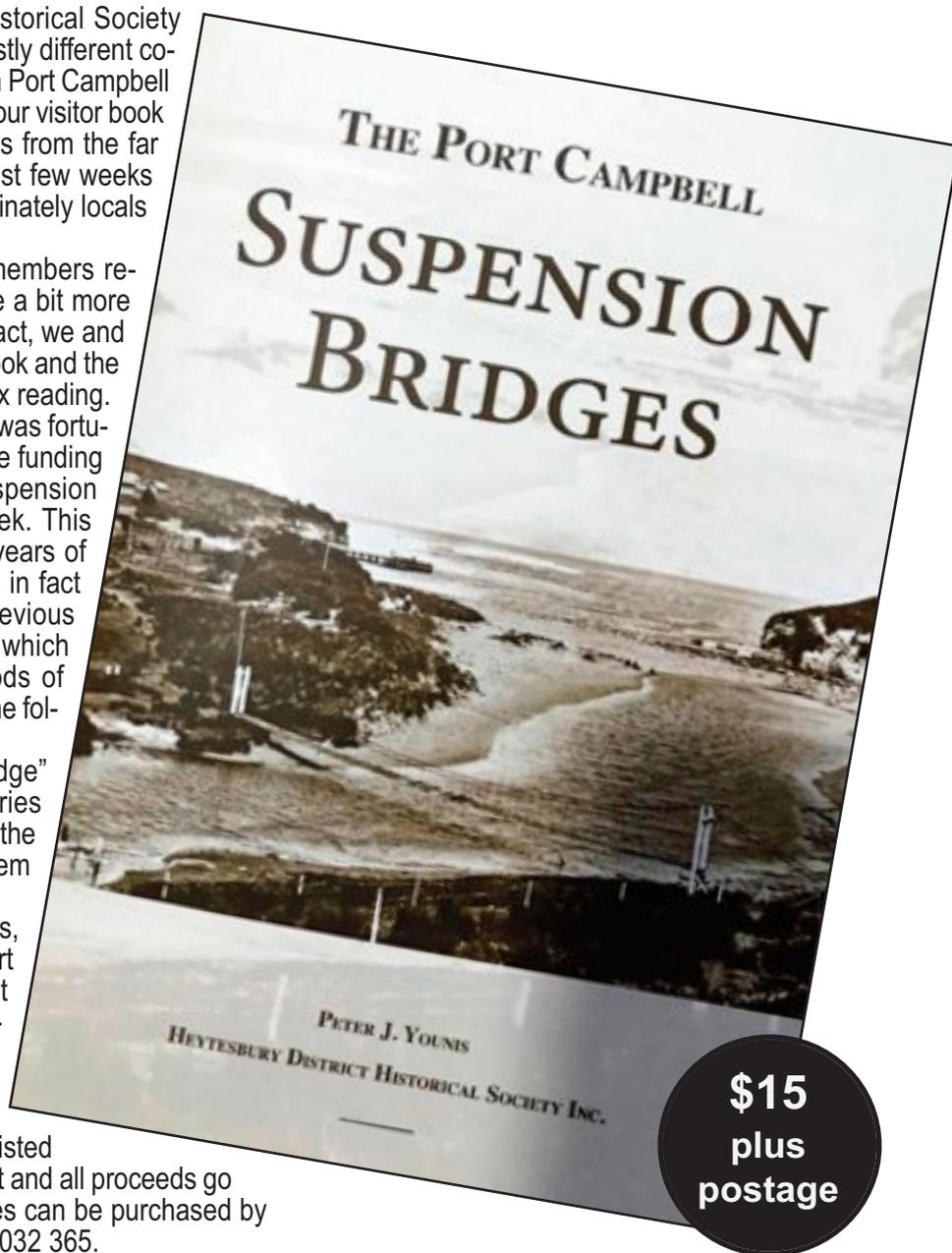
During the lockdown our members rearranged the museum to make a bit more room for social distancing. In fact, we and our visitors like the new open look and the increased ability to sit and relax reading.

The town of Port Campbell was fortunate to be the recipient of some funding to build a wonderful new suspension bridge across Campbells Creek. This was the culmination of many years of wishing and planning and was in fact a replacement for two previous bridges, (the most recent of which was damaged during the floods of March, 1946 and demolished the following year.)

The previous "Swing Bridge" was the subject of many stories older residents and visitors to the town and of course, many of them were contradictory.

Our Treasurer, Peter Younis, has written a history of the Port Campbell suspension bridges. It explores the bridges construction, their role in the social and tourist history of the town and includes ample photographs.

Publication was greatly assisted by the Holsworth Heritage Trust and all proceeds go to our Historical Society. Copies can be purchased by contacting the author on 0408 032 365.



**\$15
plus
postage**

from Heytesbury District Historical Society Inc.

Have you a story you
would like to share

Nhill & District Historical Society news

The Centre still remains closed to drop in visitors but Kay and Colleen have continued to work there on a regular basis. Colleen has scanned all the Nhill Free Press papers and she now has the papers in a searchable format right up to the latest edition of the Nhill Free Press. She is presently up-dating the cemetery information for all of the district cemeteries. She says that this task has not been completed for some time so there is a lot of new information.

Kay has continued to answer research requests and to apply for grants. Research, membership, the newsletter and grant monies are the sole source of revenue for the Historical Society.

In November the Annual General Meeting was held after restrictions had been modified and we could meet as a group ensuring social distancing and masks were worn. President John Deckert's Report below.

President's Report 2019-2020

It is very pleasing to be able to report that the Nhill Historical Society has had a reasonably successful and stable year considering the turmoil caused to the world by the Covid-19 Pandemic. This can be partly attributed to the dedication of our Secretary, Kay Scott and a new member Colleen Forbes.

Colleen came to us via a few well-chosen comments on Facebook. Due to her personal circumstances she was available to assist with voluntary work supported by Centrelink (a situation with which Kay was familiar.) I am pleased to say that my initial reluctance quickly changed to complete support as I realized the benefit of Colleen's assistance. Her ability with computer systems and her organizational skills are proving valuable.

Colleen joined us about the time we purchased a scanner recommended by the Royal Historical Society. One of its features was its ability to be used for scanning newspapers. Colleen quickly mastered the procedure for scanning copies of the Nhill Free Press and was soon scanning a page every six seconds. We now have a complete digital collection of the Nhill Free Press from 1882 through to last week.

The scanner purchase was supported by a grant from the Kiata Wind Farm. As part of this grant it was decided to upgrade one of our old computers with a new laptop. This cost the Society additional funds but the result will see us with a modern system for several years. One problem with using old equipment is that systems change and data can be lost because it cannot be accessed by the latest computers. We had approximately 40 old floppy disks which had not been playable for at least 10 years. I was able to source a special drive and all data has now been converted to a modern format. If anyone has any personal stories of historical information filed on these 3 1/2" disks just remember the Historical Society can access them for you.

The building was closed to visitors due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. As a result it has not been possible to

run any activities such as day tours of the district historic spots or to have any events such as film evenings. However Kay and Colleen still answered emails and continued to work two afternoons a week. During this time they have assisted the Nhill Free Press with numerous stories and photographs. I think this has awakened an interest in local history and I hope this will result in additional interest in the Society.

Our collection is still growing and we are bursting at the seams. This is a huge problem and one wonders what we can do about it. Our walls are covered in pictures, our tables covered with stuff and our display cases are full. My suggestion of a huge antique sale was not well received. We are using the cells behind the old Police Station and Kay has asked for the use of the empty station building but without a reply. Unfortunately this is only a temporary solution. Some day we will be asked to vacate the police station buildings then what will we do?

On the bright side though it is good to report that the Wedding Dress collection is progressing favourably. The intention is to photograph all the dresses and list them on the Victorian Collections website. The collection is worth seeing so I suggest you all take time to come at your leisure and have a good look around.

We also have a problem with the building. The verandah posts are rotting away and the spouting is falling off. The building is owned by the Department of Environment, Lands and Planning and we pay \$114 per year as a License to Occupy. When we first moved to this building it was owned by the Shire and they paid some of the bills but the Shire eventually decided to hand the building back to the Government and now the Historical Society receives no support from the Shire or from DELP. We just pay the rent and the building appears to keep falling down around us.

The finances of the Society don't appear to have changed markedly but it is a continuing battle to cover the costs of all we would like to do. I would like to see us with a presence on the internet. This would cost about \$3,000 with some ongoing costs but would make us much easier for researchers of all kinds to find. Then there is the problem of having someone to administer the site and provide continual improvement to it.

We have come forward a few steps this past year so if we continue to keep making progress then we must be going in the right direction. Thanks to all who have volunteered their services; thanks also to those who have taken part in our events and to those who read the historical interest articles in the Nhill Free Press. It has been a pleasure to be involved with everyone I have met during the year and I am looking forward to another good year in 2020-2021.

**John Deckert, President,
Nhill & District Historical Society.**