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Western Historian

Newsletter of the Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies

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The Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies acknowledges the traditional owners of country on the land on which we are meeting throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, culture and community.

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<https://www.facebook.com/WVAHS/>

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Please email your report or any other contributions for publication as Word documents with images as jpgs to
Craig Proctor, wvahsinc@gmail.com

Potential Member Groups

Arapiles (Natimuk) Ararat
 Balmoral Birchip Boort
 Camperdown Carisbrook
 Casterton Charlton Cobden
 Cohuna Colac Coleraine
 Dimboola Donald
 Derrinallum/Lismore
 Dunkeld East Loddon (Mitiamo)
 Edenhope
 Geelong & South Western Rail
 Glenthompson
 Goldfields (Dunolly)
 Halls Gap Harrow
 Heytesbury Hawkesdale
 Horsham Hopetoun
 Inglewood Kerang
 Koroit Landsborough
 Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum
 Maryborough Midlands
 Minyip Mortlake
 Mount Rouse (Penshurst)
 Murtoa Nhill
 Nhill Silo Heritage Project
 Nullawil Ouyen Port Fairy
 Portland Pyramid Hill
 Rainbow Rupanyup
 St Arnaud Stawell
 Swan Hill Tarnagulla
 Terang Warracknabeal
 Warrnambool Wedderburn
 Wimmera Mallee Pioneer
 Museum (Jeparit)
 Woolsthorpe Wycheproof

President's Post



2023 is well advanced and Spring is here. It has been a significant year for me so far personally – a heart attack, more or less retirement from my previous employment and a 'significant' birthday in July.

We have so far finally had a 'normal' year for W.V.A.H.S. activities and Covid-19 permitting, plenty of activities will occur during the remainder of this year. The various reports delivered as part of our AGM and Zone Meetings held at Charlton in April, and ongoing reports in this issue of *Western Historian*, show lots of achievements and activities taking place throughout our large area of Victoria.

We should be proud that September 2023 signifies that W.V.A.H.S. has been active for 60 years and is still providing a link between local historical societies and museums throughout the western half of Victoria. 'Half' is an understatement when you look at how much of the state our members are based in. Other similar regional historical bodies cover far less territory.

I would like to thank our Secretary Helen and all at Charlton for arranging a great AGM, Zone Meetings, tours and Saturday evening dinner in April. I am looking forward to seeing many at our 60th Anniversary lunch and the Zone meetings planned during September and October.

Michael Menzies
 President, W.V.A.H.S.

W.V.A.H.S. 60th Anniversary and Wimmera Zone Meeting

Wednesday 27th September 2023

West Side, 1C Bennett Road, Horsham

10.30 a.m. – Registration and refreshments

11.00 a.m. – Wimmera Zone Meeting (all welcome)

Members' reports and discussion

12 noon – Welcome and seated luncheon (\$35.00 pre-paid)

2.15 p.m. – Coach tour of Horsham area (limited to 57)

3.30 p.m. – Return to West Side for farewell

RSVP by Friday 15th September

to wahsinc@gmail.com or to Helen Curkpatrick 0413 382 567

Payment for lunch (**\$35.00 per person**) must be made by

Wednesday 20th September

(see email for payment options)

W.V.A.H.S. Zone and Executive Meetings

Midlands Zone & Executive Meetings

Sunday 24th September

Hosted by Nullawil Historical Society
Nullawil Heritage Museum
94 Nullawil Quambatook Road, Nullawil

10.a.m. – Registration and cuppa
10.30 a.m. – Midlands Zone Meeting
Member reports and group discussion
Luncheon

(Executive Meeting over lunch)

1.15 p.m. Tour of Museum
Afternoon Tea

Visit to Trickbott's Metal Art, Nullawil

Cost: \$15 per person payable on day

RSVP Monday 18th September

nullawilhistorical@gmail.com

Phone: Kaylene James (Asst Sec.) 0428 935 270

Southern Zone Meeting

Saturday 21st October

Hosted by Camperdown and District Historical Society

Camperdown Heritage Centre,
243 Manifold Street, Camperdown

Rooms will be open from 9 am
9:30 am: Registration and refreshments
10 am: Southern Zone Meeting
12 noon: Light Luncheon – buffet style
A free guided Heritage Buildings walk will be available after lunch

Cost is \$10 per person for morning tea and lunch

RSVP Monday 16th October 2023

camperdowndhs@gmail.com

Phone: Maree Belyea (Secretary) 0417 352987

Wimmera Zone Meeting

The Wimmera Zone Meeting will take place as part of the W.V.A.H.S.'s 60th Anniversary Lunch in Horsham on

Wednesday 27th September

Member Groups attending should present a brief report and those unable to attend can email a Report in advance to be presented at the meeting.

From the Goldfields Historical and Arts Society (Dunolly)

VALE JOYCE CHIVERS, 1924 - 2023

A valued member of our historical society, Joyce Chivers died in July. Joyce was born in 1924 and didn't quite make her 100 years. Joyce and her husband Lloyd joined the Goldfields Historical & Arts Society in the late 1970s. She served as our secretary and/or treasurer for 27 years and also did a stint as secretary of the Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies. Joyce received an Australia Day award in 2007. She was also well known for her peppermint slices she brought to the meetings.

Email

Please remember that W.V.A.H.S. now has a dedicated email address to which all communications should be sent in preference to using Helen Curkpatrick's personal email address. Helen, Michael and Craige all have access to the email inbox and it is checked constantly for emails.

wvahsinc@gmail.com

Newsletters

Only a few members are sharing their newsletters with W.V.A.H.S. Please try to include us in your newsletter mailout. Absolutely every newsletter is read thoroughly and some items are certainly worthy of being shared with other members.

Email to

wvahsinc@gmail.com

First issue of the W.V.A.H.S. Newsletter

To mark the 60th Anniversary of the W.V.A.H.S., below is a facsimile copy of the very first issue of the Association's newsletter, titled simply 'Newsletter', from November 1963. It has been reproduced without any editing. Many thanks to Lesley Stephan of the Warracknabeal Historical Society for providing a scan of the original issue.

WESTERN VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES.

No. 1

NEWSLETTER

1 Nov. 1963.

FORMATION OF WVAHS

An enthusiastic meeting of delegates and observers from historical societies at Hamilton, Ararat, Warracknabeal, Kaniva, Horsham, Nhill, Arapiles, Donald and Beaufort was held at Horsham on Saturday 28 September 1963. After a welcome by Cr H. Schwarz, Mayor of Horsham, Mr R. G. Hicks, President of Kaniva society, presided over the meeting. Delegates from each society indicated research work which was proceeding. On the motion of representatives from Nhill and Donald the Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies was formed. Mr L. J. Blake, Horsham president, was elected inaugural president of the Association; Mrs T. L. McKenzie of 11 Rose Street, Horsham was elected Secretary/ Treasurer and Messrs. Geoff Stephens, president of Hamilton & Western District Historical Society, R. G. Hicks and Basil Dodd, president of the Arapiles society were elected as executive members.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the W.V.A.H.S. may be briefly stated as mutual assistance in the field of local history. By means of Newsletter it will be possible to avoid overlapping of research and to extend the resources of each society. History is not static; its end-on progression through time is accompanied by what may be termed a lateral progression through different districts, regions and states. An investigation begun at Warracknabeal may easily lead back to Portland or Geelong and beyond.

MEMBERSHIP.

To cover costs of stationery, postage etc. a membership fee of each society has been fixed at £1-1 annually.

OTHER SOCIETIES

The Association is anxious to establish contact with historical groups and societies not represented at the inaugural meeting. Please send to the Secretary name of Society, postal address names of President and Secretary, if you are interested in linking your work with others for the mutual benefit of local historical studies generally.

NOTIFICATION OF SPECIAL FUNCTIONS.

Are you planning an excursion, arranging for displays, "back to" programs or publications? If so, notification, well in advance, to Newsletter may assist your society with publicity.

RESEARCH PROCEEDING

The Association represents several hundred enthusiastic historians scattered over many thousands of square miles of Victoria. Perhaps among them are some who have material which could assist the research work of your society. Newsletter can help if societies forward a list of research projects on hand and names of members concerned. For example R.G. Hicks (Kaniva) is investigating the story of artist Percy Leason; Miss Lorna Banfield, 7 Ligar St Ararat, seeks information about early Ararat Shire; L. J. Blake is studying the Wimmera as a whole; the Beaufort group is interested in steam engine preservation; Hamilton and Horsham are keeping current history records; Arapiles is interested in the original Beard and Sisson's foundry and the story of Jane Duff. These are but a few of the projects in hand.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Mr Stuart Sayers of the Age staff has written to the Association to seek information about Captain Foster Fyans, Crown Lands Commissioner for Western Victoria. He has been advised of information held by the Geelong District Historical Society and of reference in Men of Yesterday (Kiddle), Victoria the First Century, Letters of Victorian Pioneers, Pioneering Days in Western Victoria (Hamilton). The Association asks member societies to publicise Mr Sayer's request at meetings and in local newspapers. The need is for original source material on Fyans's life and records of his work.

SHANTY AT THE BRIDGE

Congratulations to Donald on publication of C. E. Sayers's all-embracing history of one hundred years of Donald's history. Titled The Shanty At The Bridge and profusely illustrated, this book is a valuable contribution to Western Victorian history. Price £1-12 posted from the Shire Office.

PUBLICATIONS PROJECTED

History of Ararat Shire by Lorna Banfield, author of Like the Ark, the Story of Ararat; due about next April.
History of Dundas Shire, due December, 1963.

LOCAL PUBLICATIONS THAT YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

- 1962 An Historical Record of Melton by J. N. Pollitt;
From Bullock Tracks to Bitumen (Shire of Berwick);
Centenary of Shire of Ballan (2/6d);
History of Bulla by Alan Gross;
Wimmera Shire Centenary by L. J. Blake & K. N. Lovett (7.6d – the few copies of the third and last edition are reserved for historians).
- 1963 Borough of Queenscliffe 1863-1963.
- 1960 Early Rainbow (7/6d from Lex Gould, Rainbow).
- 1961 Kaniva Souvenir. (5/- R. G. Hicks, Kaniva.)

BOOKS ABOUT THE GOLDFIELDS

Two excellent recent publications are:

The Golden Age, Geoffrey Serle, Melbourne University Press,
The Rush That Never Ended, Geoffrey Blainey, Melb. University Press.

COMMENT

At the inaugural meeting many worthwhile comments were made concerning official sources of reference, display material on hand, recent acquisitions by societies, the marking of historical sites, local records available, guest speakers' addresses, storage of records, etc. Brief paragraphs on such matters, for inclusion in Newsletter, could be helpful to others.

W.V.A.H.S. WHO'S/WHO

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| R. G. Hicks, | President Kaniva District Historical Society, Pleasant Hills, Kaniva. |
| B. A. Dodd, | President, Arapiles District Historical Society, Natimuk |
| K. Robb, | President, Nhill District Historical Society, Diapur. |
| G. Stephens, | President, Hamilton & Western District Historical Society, 66 Coleraine Road, Hamilton. |
| M Robson, | President, Stawell District H.S., Main Street, Stawell. |
| M. Smale, | President, Warracknabeal D. H.S., High School, Warracknabeal. |
| R. A. Blachford, | President, Ararat D.H.S., Elizabeth St., Ararat. |
| R. Falla, | President, History & Nat. Hist. Group, Box 18, Litchfield. |
| L. J. Blake, | President, Horsham D.H.S., Box 346, Horsham. |

L. J. Blake

Walpeup Memorial Hall Centenary Celebrations 1923-2023

Merle Pole, Ouyen District History & Genealogy Centre

Plans to mark the Centenary of the historic Walpeup Memorial Hall on Saturday 23 September 2023 are under way. The Hall was built and dedicated to local soldiers who lost their lives during World War 1, 1914-1918.

In May 1923 the Walpeup Memorial Hall foundation stone was laid by the then-President of the Hall, Mr Neil Vallance. In laying the foundation stone Mr Vallance said that the Hall was a sacred tribute to the memory of the fallen and should be treated as an honoured building.

The foundation stone reads...

THIS STONE WAS LAID 16TH May 1923 IN MEMORY OF OUR HEROES WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918'.



The Hall was formally opened on 12 September 1923 by the Hon. P. G. Stewart, Federal Minister for Works and Railways who congratulated the people of Walpeup on being able to erect such a fine building in honour of the men who had fought for their country. Mr Stewart said he would return again in October on the occasion of the Governor General's visit.



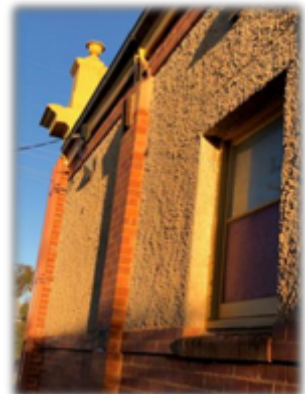
Governor General's Visit, 6 October 1923. Walpeup School children line up outside the new Walpeup Memorial Hall

The Hon. F. E. Old, the Minister of Agriculture and Railways said the building did credit to the architect and to the contractor and its foundation showed how truly and deeply the people of the district appreciated the valour and self-sacrificing spirit of the fine body of men who enlisted and fought in the cause of freedom.

An extract from *The Ouyen Mail* dated 19 September 1923 reads... 'This magnificent Hall which is undoubtedly the best in the shire of Walpeup' was also described as the finest and most striking public hall to be built in the Mallee'.

The opening of the Hall was celebrated by a concert and dance, with over a hundred couples taking to the 'splendid dance floor', 'a secret nailed jarrah one' and described as 'fast'. Visitors came from far and wide to be present and the array of motor cars parked outside the Hall made 'a most imposing sight'. Many visitors travelled from Ouyen by a special chartered train, and the large Hall was packed to its utmost capacity, with several latecomers unable to gain admittance. Practically all of the seats in the Hall had been reserved and £122 was taken at the concert being 'a new record for the Mallee'. Supper was supplied in the 'new and commodious supper room' by the local baker Mr. George McCracken who 'is to be heartily congratulated on the sumptuous repast provided for the large number who partook of the good things provided'. Walpeup's renown for 'a good night's entertainment' was spreading throughout the district.

Mr Southgate, who was farming land north-west of Torrita, was the building contractor and had 'a team of tradesmen under his control'. The bricks for the Hall arrived by train and were carted by horse and dray from the railway station by Mr. Jack O'Shannessy, each brick being loaded and unloaded by hand.



The builder, Mr Southgate, suggested to the Hall Committee that the top half of the brick exterior have rough cement applied to improve the Hall's appearance. However, this was voted against due to limited finance. Mr Southgate then offered to rough cement the walls free of charge. Charcoal was mixed in the cement to give a rough effect and lighten the weight.

The nearby original public hall known as the 'Little White Hall', which had served as a school from 1912-1914, was moved a short distance and enlarged to be placed at the rear of the new Hall to become the Hall supper room. Today this supper room is home to an extensive display of Walpeup's proud history including photographs of the district's men and women who served in the wars. The sporting and social life of the district over the last century can also be traced through the memorabilia exhibited.

Silent pictures were the popular entertainment at the Hall in the early years. The pictures were projected on to a screen from a cinema box located above the front door of the Hall. Mrs Nulty, wife of the local garage owner, played tunes on the piano to accompany the mood of the picture.

Bad seasons, the depression and public apathy in the late 1920s saw Hall finances considerably 'in the red'. In 1936 the Walpeup Younger Set was formed with the idea of running entertainment to reduce this overdraft. The *North West Express* dated 14 June 1939 reads...*'The overdraft reduction, and ultimate extinction, was effected by means of fairs, concerts and finally by the splendid community singing efforts of the Younger Set and the co-operation of the C.W.A. and the Sports Club'*. Saturday night community singing was a popular fund-raising event over many years. The words of the songs were written in ink on glass slides and projected onto a large screen with the lantern projector.

Inside the Hall Honour Rolls for the First and Second World Wars are displayed and the Hall is home to a unique Soldiers' Welcome Home Banner. This Banner was made in 1919 by Christina Glen on behalf of the Red Cross Society and the Welcome Home Society. The Banner was held aloft to greet the returning diggers who signed their names on the banner. In 2004 the Welcome Home Banner was a surprise discovery found under the Hall stage. The banner has been conserved and framed.

A woollen tapestry mural entitled 'Walpeup 1989', is an historic record of the town and is on permanent display in the Hall. This mural was a community project with a wide variety of people involved including the local school children.

Walpeup has a proud history of popular community entertainment and tradition which goes all the way back to the early days of settlement. Over the past hundred years many groups have called the Hall their home including the Returned Soldiers League, the Victorian Farmers Federation, the Walpeup Younger Set, various Churches, the Red Cross, the Country Women's Association, the Young Farmers Club, the Mural Group and craft groups.

Activities that have been based at the Hall include Community Singing, Concerts, Bazaars, Picture Shows, Table Tennis, Dances, Balls, Line Dancing, Kitchen Teas, Weddings, Special Birthdays, New Year's Eve cabarets, Football Netball club cabarets, Christmas Eve Carols, the CWA Christmas luncheons, Casserole Luncheons, Annual School Concerts, Arts Council performances, reunions and funerals.

Special Celebrations have marked the Hall's various milestones. The 50th Hall Anniversary in 1973 was commemorated with a Golden Jubilee Concert and Ball. At the 70th Celebrations in 1993 there was a Parade, Hall opening re-enactment, meal, concert and dance. Mr Bruce Ruxton, President of the Victorian R.S.L., unveiled a plaque donated by 'Jock' William Rowan which *'commemorates those who gave their lives in World War 2 (1939-1945) and subsequent wars'*. 'Jock' was a well-known Walpeup identity who was born in Scotland in 1905 and enlisted at Walpeup. He was a Corporal in the 1st Australian Guards Battalion Reg. VW13587 and a P.O.W. The 80th Hall Celebrations were held in 2003 with a Nostalgic Concert and Community Singing'. A Back-To Walpeup was held in 1969 and again in 1982 in conjunction with the Golden Jubilee of the Mallee Research Station, a Variety Concert in 1986 and a Federation Grand Youth Concert in 2001.

Once the event of the year were the balls held by the Catholic Church and Church of England. Two bands would provide a night of non-stop dancing and dancers would be treated to a 'knife and fork' supper of turkey, trifles and fruit salad.

Over the past 100 years the Hall has gained additions such as a new storage shed and many renovations have been undertaken. Funds have been raised and grants applied for by the Hall Committees to maintain the building. Structurally the Hall required serious work in 1946 with roof repairs and stays put across the side walls to stop further movement. In recent years further structural work has been necessary including foundation reinforcement and bracing rods attached to stabilise the walls.

Nowadays the Hall is the icon of Walpeup and a special place for our small community to gather for meetings, library services, reunions and funerals. The Hall also attracts tourists, both those with an interest in the history of rural Australia and those with family links to the region.

In order to highlight the historical role of the Hall as a memorial to those who have served Australia in times of war, the formal part of the centenary celebrations will commence with the dedication of an outside site for times of remembrance. On Saturday 23 September 2023 a plaque is to be unveiled on the north east side of the Hall. The plaque reads ...

*'The Walpeup & District Community
dedicates this memorial
to all those men and women who served their country in
times of conflict.
LEST WE FORGET
On the occasion of the Centenary of the opening of the
Walpeup Memorial Hall. September 23rd 2023'*

A new flag pole is to be installed behind the plaque.

Other events on the day will include historical displays in the Hall, a Dryland Memorial Garden Tour, afternoon tea, a meal followed by a concert. Bookings are required. For further information contact Merle Pole poles7@bigpond.com

Centenary of Walpeup Memorial Hall

Sat. 23rd September

Historical displays and catch up
with friends and family
10 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.

Dryland Memorial
Garden Tour – 2 p.m.



For further details follow the
[Walpy News Facebook Page](#)

or contact
Sue Sly or Greg Vallance

Dedication of outdoor memorial –
4 p.m.

Afternoon Tea
(gold coin donation)

Pre-booked Dinner – 5.30 p.m.

Old Time Concert &
Singalong – 7 p.m.

Meal tickets and memorabilia can be
pre-purchased via Walpeup Memorial
Hall Centenary:

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

The Commercial Hotel of Landsborough

Submitted by Brett Leslie, Landsborough & District Historical Group
and W.V.A.H.S. Vice President

The early days of Landsborough saw a large influx of mining activity and with it came the opening of many hotels during the 1860s, including those operating with a licence, along with many “sly grog” shanties operating without either a business or liquor license - which kept the district police very busy. When interviewed in 1947, Fred Curnick (born 1852) said that “although he was a non-drinker the same could not be said of a big proportion of the early day population”.

Literally dozens of hotels once operated in the district, but after the gold rush subsided and farming took over as the main activity, the number of hotels whittled away, and with the closure of the Shamrock Hotel in 1912, this left the Commercial Hotel as the sole trader in town, and it continues to operate right through to the present day.

The first “Commercial Hotel” had opened way back in the time of the great rush of 1862, and was operated by Michael Simpson and John Byrne, and situated near the corner of Burke & McKinlay Streets. McKinlay St was known as Camp St in those early days. The original site was located just behind where the old Coffee Palace once existed, roughly now where Graeme Sandlant garages his buses. The early hotels were the sites of many suppers, balls, celebrations and sporting club meetings and gatherings. Michael Simpson was initially fined for not having a business licence in addition to his Publicans licence, and again in 1863 he received another fine for keeping up a sign “Hotel” whilst not being licensed. John Byrne, one of the leading lights of Landsborough’s early years relocated to Crowlands in 1876 to run their local Hotel for several years, which had been operated by the Noonan family. Later publicans included John White, John Hayes, and Alexander Shaw but the hotel closed at the end of 1882.

The hotel that became known as the Commercial originally opened in 1866 at its familiar site on Burke St. It was originally known as the “White Swan” Hotel, then “Paddy’s Goose”. 2 years earlier, Blacksmith John Farrell had a forge and dwelling in the Malakoff, as well as a store in Landsborough. The store was also a sly grog shop and the police raided it after noticing two men coming out the back in a drunken state, seizing kegs of brandy, sherry and rum. The old gold warden reports of the time, apart from estimating the districts population at 8,750



which included European and Chinese miners, reported numerous confiscated alcoholic beverages, subsequently sold at auction at the local police station presumably to licensed business operators. After many attempts to obtain his Publican's license, thwarted by objections made by the numerous other hotels trading at the time, John Farrell finally succeeded in 1866 and his hotel opened for business. He had the usual problems of abusive and violent drunks in the bar as well as unpaid bills, and in 1868 was fined one pound after police provided evidence of the "generally disorderly character" of the house. Farrell's wife Rebecca had cause to charge one Levi Williams with using abusive language in the bar, after he told her "She was worse than a common prostitute or a Fenian" and was "unfit to live among Europeans". All that Williams could say in court was that he was too drunk to know what he was doing. He was fined £2 nevertheless.

John Farrell also successfully applied for a theatre license in 1869, and it was known as the Duke of Edinburgh, and the building was described as a large hall attached to the hotel. It had seating for 300-400 people plus a stage and was used as both a meeting place and the scene of politicians addresses at election times, as well as a venue for many professional entertainment acts. Farrell also operated a booth to sell liquor at the Landsborough races throughout the 1860s and 1870s and became involved in the flour milling business, which saw him relocate to Numurkah in 1882 with his son John (Jnr). The license for the White Swan Hotel was then transferred to his eldest daughter Margaret Jane Farrell, who had married local miller Fred (FC) Hodgetts. Fred was a younger brother of William Booth (WB) Hodgetts. The hotel then became known as Hodgetts Hotel. Fred and Margaret operated the hotel until 1890, when the sudden death of John Farrell (Jnr) in Numurkah, along with Fred's ill health saw John Farrell senior return from Numurkah where he again ran the hotel. Fred Hodgetts retired to become a mining investor, and after the closure of the adjacent theatre in 1893, Fred passed away in 1900. John Farrell renamed the hotel the "Commercial" in 1896 as he was keen to attract Commercial travellers and other visitors. This name would remain unchanged for 97 years.



Rebecca Farrell, wife of John Farrell. First publicans of Commercial Hotel .

The hotel itself was a timber structure dating back to its opening, with a bull-nose verandah, prior to the brick façade being added in the 1960s. Although the façade has been altered substantially over the years, many original elements of the Hotel remain. During the late 1940s a cool room serving as a rabbit chiller was added on the south side of the hotel – during a period when rabbits were in plague proportions. They became an important source of income for many local district people, and many of the older residents will reflect on their childhoods spent trapping rabbits, which gave them pocket money at a time when many large families struggled with the hardships of life on the farm. The old cool room structure survives to the present day but is now in poor condition.

John Farrell continued to operate the Commercial until his death in 1909 and was mostly able to steer clear of the law, except for the habit of some regular customers drinking in the bar on a Sunday, which was illegal at the time. On a few occasions he was fined for not having all the doors locked on Sundays, which was a legal requirement and easy enough for the police to prove in court. After his passing, ownership of the hotel passed to his daughters Margaret Hodgetts and Eliza Dow. Over the next 12 years, Margaret took out licenses for sports at Barkly and the Landsborough Races, whilst also running her drapery business. In October 1921 she sold the hotel and property to Michael Lloyd. Margaret and her niece also donated two blocks of land adjoining the Anglican Church for the purpose of erecting the Public Hall which has just recently celebrated its centenary. When Michael relocated to Marnoo in 1926, Patrick Neeson took on the lease for 5 years, followed by an Ararat nurse Florence Madern in 1931, then a railway man Thomas Mangan in 1934. In the Ararat licensing inspector's report at the time, Thomas was described as a "person of good repute, and although not previously holding a license the fact this hotel is in a very backward part of the Wimmera, I would not consider the business would call for much experience from the licensee". Early in 1937, Mangan installed a new hot water and sewerage system, along with two new bathrooms and two lavatories as well as additions to the kitchen.

Licensee Tom Kerin followed Les Aston in 1965, followed by Winnie & Alexander Grant from Redbank in 1967. In 1970 due to ill health Winnie and Alex headed back to the family farm and Fred & Peggy Hilton took over, specialising in "real country-type" meals using Peggy's extensive catering knowledge. The Delaneys took over in 1972, and also purchased the hotel freehold from Les Aston. Bruce Thompson followed in 1975, then John & Patricia White in 1977 who remained as the publicans until

1988. Ian & Dawn Knox then took over, remaining until 1993 when Andrew & Joyce Horvat took over. This resulted in a name change of the Hotel to “Burke and Wills”, given the close links the Landsborough name had to the ill-fated expedition. Andrew & Joyce had taken over the post office in 1991 from the long-serving Charles & Lois Turner, and initially ran a small business in conjunction at a new site, before shifting the post office into the hotel in 1996. Neville Fergus was the next owner from 1999. The post office would remain part of the hotel until 2002 when it shifted again back to the original site where the Turners had operated it. The hotel was leased to Michael & Priscilla Hill in 2001, then in April 2002 John Hamilton & Estelle Nix took over, and it became known as the “Landsborough Hotel” which is a name that the locals had become familiar with anyway. In 2005 Peter & Joan Murphy took over and renamed the hotel “Murphys Country Pub” with the lease passing briefly to Harry & Veronica (Smith) in 2006, then Ian Redfern & Barbara Taylor who took on the lease in August 2009 – when the dining room finally reopened after being briefly closed. Marlon & Sonia Griggs took over the lease in November 2013. Marlon continues to operate the hotel to the present day (and is also now known as “Marleys Pub”) - and given the closure of Hodgetts General Store in 2017, it serves a vital role in a small close-knit community. It has now traded at this site for 157 years.

The new Historical Society Publication, written by member Phil Waring, is a wonderful history of the early days of Landsborough in the days of the rush, and an extensive look at all the pubs that once operated in those times. Full of interesting stories and anecdotes, copies can be obtained direct from the Society or via the Landsborough Larder. Cost is \$20.00 plus postage of \$5.20. We can be reached via our Facebook page or at bleslie@bigpond.net.au (Brett) or dwestern3@gmail.com (Diane).

Around the Groups

Ararat and District Historical Society

LANGI Morgala Museum volunteers have begun the arduous task of cataloguing its extensive collection with thanks to a program offered by the Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria.

The museum is home to more than 100,000 individual items, including photographs, from the Ararat district’s past, so you can imagine what a huge task is involved in cataloguing every object and piece.

While almost all items have been recorded in a hand-written ledger, we didn’t have an online data base.

When AMaGA advertised it was accepting applications to take part in a Collections and Community Resilience Project, we jumped at the chance to apply and were successful (after an initial group was forced to withdraw). Only a handful of these workshops were offered around the State.

The Collections and Community Resilience Project is a Victorian-wide initiative to make regional communities disaster ready through digitisation and knowledge sharing.

The project provides regional communities with the opportunity to digitally preserve their collections and receive onsite training in the care and preventative conservation of collections, and risk mitigation in the face of natural disaster events.

AMaGA trainer Maxine Holden spent six days (over two visits) at Langi Morgala advising our volunteers of the best way to digitise our collection. We chose Victorian Collections.

Maxine showed us how to set up a mobile photography studio and the best way to capture images of individual pieces.

We now have five volunteers trained in photography and cataloguing and hope to share this knowledge with all volunteers at the museum.

The museum has purchased two different scanners—an overhead book scanner and a flatbed scanner—to enable volunteers to digitise the thousands of photos we hold.

We hope to offer scanning services to other groups for a fee.



AMaGA’s Maxine Holden (left) shows Ararat and District Historical Society members Geoff Devitt, Marion McAdie and Sandy Audsley how to set up for a photography session.

Congratulations to the **Horsham Historical Society** which is celebrating its 66th Anniversary, the inaugural meeting having taken place on 13 May 1957.

Stawell Historical Society

We recently received a donation of \$2000 from the Grampians Toy Club thanks to donations and entry fees from their "Show 'N Shine" held in January. Toy Club Committee member Malcolm Hayes presented a cheque to President Dorothy Brumby and we thank them for their generosity.

Copies of our "Stawell Times" newspapers from 2015 to 2022 were recently sent away for binding in order to update our collection and help with ongoing research. This was made possible due to the Biarri Group's recent donation of the balance of their funds after their difficult decision to wind up. This has enabled the Society to continue to fund various projects including the ongoing digitisation of our newspapers which have now reached 1920.

A hand-made balsa wood model of the Stawell Town Hall (including its Clocktower) constructed by Dennis Nicholson of Melbourne, formerly of Stawell, in 1968 when he was approximately 17 years old whilst at Stawell High School has been donated to the Society (pictured at right).



Goldfields (Dunolly)

A recent issue of the group's newsletter *Tailings* included several interesting items (as they always are). One item focusses on Americans on the goldfields with five hotels in Dunolly in 1856 being owned by Americans. There were American Reefs at Tarnagulla, Moliagul, Inglewood and Logan; There were California Gullies (and a California Reef) at Maryborough, Havelock, Castlemaine and Dunolly. Other Reefs, Gullies and Mines in the district included Alabama, Lone Star, Niagara, Atlantic, Golden Gate and Yankee.

The newsletter also includes a most interesting item on the indigenous languages of the region, focussing on the Djadja wurrung language and its five dialects spoken by fifteen clans.

Well done John Tully on providing these worthwhile items in your group's newsletter.

Wimmera Mallee Pioneer Museum, Jeparit

At our Annual Vintage Rally held over the Long Weekend in June among the groups joining us were the Nhill and District Historical Society and the Nhill Silo Heritage Project.

The NDHS set up a wonderful display in the old Detpa School on site and this drew much interest from those attending. Members of the NSHP showcased their achievements and plans for the future and likewise drew considerable interest. This was a nice example of like-minded but differently-focussed groups working together to promote the work they do.

Tarnagulla History Archive

Recently the Archive and Hall Committee was awarded a 'Saluting Their Service' grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs to produce banners honouring people from Tarnagulla and district who have served in military conflicts. The aim was to put faces and stories to some of the names listed on Tarnagulla's Honour Rolls and monument. The banners will be on display at the Strictly Vintage Fair on September 10th.

Dimboola and District Historical Society

In its recent newsletter D&DHS paid tribute to Margaret Menzel who recently passed away. Margaret had served as Treasurer for eighteen years and had provided the Society and other groups with her financial expertise and advice.

Camperdown and District Historical Society

The W.V.A.H.S. congratulates **Bob Lambell**, Vice-president of the Camperdown group, on being one of the recipients of the R.H.S.V.'s Award of Merit for 2023. Bob joined CDHS in 1988. He has served continuously for the past 35 years including twelve years as President between 1991 and 2017.

Bob pictured with RHSV Vice-president Dr Rosalie Triolo.



Vale Andrea Lowenthal, 1952 – 2023

Koroit and District Historical Society

Eulogy delivered at Andrea's funeral service

Good Afternoon, my name is Di Fary. It is an honor and a privilege to speak here today, on behalf of the Koroit and District Historical Society.

Andrea, our President.

Andrea joined as a member of Koroit & District Historical Society in 2011 and in 2016 accepted the position of President.

Andrea's interest in Koroit stemmed from the fact her mother was born in a midwife's house in Black Street, and the fact she holidayed at Woolsthorpe with her grandparents, who met her at the Koroit Railway Station after a trip from Melbourne by train.

Andrea has been involved in most aspects of our Society.

As newsletter editor, she wrote many interesting articles as well as being involved in its publication.

Andrea created and maintained the Koroit and District Historical Society's Facebook page.

In 2017 she was instrumental in the update of the Museum showcases. With her keen interest in historical items, she helped with displays of different aspects of Koroit's development.

As President, Andrea made clear presentations on our behalf, on radio and at meetings.

To add interest to meetings, Andrea introduced a 3-minute history spot and listed possible guest speakers.

For several years Andrea represented Koroit at the Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies Meetings. Yesterday, Helen Curkpatrick, Secretary of that Society, phoned me, offering love and support to our Society and to Andrea's family. They, and the Henry Handel Richardson Society, will honor Andrea in their next Newsletters.

Many of our own members have expressed their love and thoughts also. David O'Brien, a member now based in Sydney, apologises for not being able to be here today, offered prayers for Andrea and her family.

Andrea was a cheerful volunteer on our Open Days and special occasions. She will be sadly missed for her genuine guidance and leadership. She was clear in her aims for KDHS and encouraged and supported members in their endeavours.

Andrea was an avid Essendon Football Club supporter. This pleased me greatly, as I am also. Each month, prior to a meeting, we would catch up to work on the Agenda for the coming meeting. Last September, there wasn't a lot of General Business to be discussed. Andrea suggested an item to list.....Who will take over as Coach of the Bombers? I followed through, adding this question to General Business. Andrea read out this item.....the room went quiet, I glanced around quickly, to see some raised eyebrows and bewildered looks on faces. I glanced back at Andrea, who had a twinkle in her eye and when our eyes met we burst into laughter as did those who were present. Lots of banter followed. May I add that item of General Business was not recorded in the official minutes.

Andrea, it was great to know you and work with you at our Society.

Our thoughts go out to the Lowenthal family at this sad time.

RIP Dearest Andrea.



Cobb & Co. Research

I am seeking information in regard to Cobb and Co. proprietors, agents and offices. Currently, I am tracking as many partners/proprietors as possible who ran their business under the 'Cobb and Co.' brand from 1853-1924.

Also, if members have any names of Cobb and Co. drivers, I am more than happy to do some research about that person. If you would like to peruse the current list of drivers (surnames only) you can scan the QR Code or visit www.cobbandcotracks.au. As it is an eBook, I am able to add more information as it is gathered.

Hazel Johnson dvhtjohnson@gmail.com



Hephzibah Menuhin and the Western District Children's Library ...and Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh drop in for dinner

By Craige Proctor, Mortlake and District Historical Society

Hephzibah Menuhin was born in California in 1920, one of three children of Marutha and Moshe Menuhin. Her brother was Yehudi and her sister Yaltah. The Menuhins educated their children at home, Marutha teaching them a number of languages including Russian, French and German while their father taught them Hebrew, Maths and History.

"The two of them were sort of avant-garde in educational things," a grandson has said. "They gave their children an education that allowed them to look at the larger world."

From 1928 until 1935 the family lived in Basel, Switzerland where all three children studied music under famous music teachers of the day. From the age of 14 Hephzibah played sonata concerts with Yehudi.

In 1938, aged 18, Hephzibah married wealthy Australian sheep farmer, Lindsay Nicholas, in California. Hephzibah's brother, Yehudi, had married Lindsay's sister, Nola Nicholas, two months earlier.

Lindsay and Hephzibah settled on his property, 'Terrinallum', north of Darlington in south-west Victoria. They had two sons, Kronrod and Marston.

The *Mortlake Dispatch* of August 3, 1938 reported the impending arrival of Hephzibah Menuhin in the district:

DOUBLE ROMANCE

Menuhins – Nicholases.

This week's issue of the *Woman's Weekly* has a full page of exclusive pictures of the Menuhins—Nicholases double wedding. Writing concerning the wedding the paper says: Lindsay Nicholas and Hephzibah Menuhin were betrothed in a blue-bell wood in England, married under an oak tree in California on July 17; second romance between world-famous musical and well-known Melbourne families. Musicians protested: "Instead of continuing her artistic career as a pianist, she goes to live on an Australian sheep station!" Said father Menuhin: 'We insured her against fire, flood and shipwreck—but we could not insure her against this young man from Australia!' It is expected that Mr and Mrs L. Nicholas will arrive at Terrinallum station, their future home, during September.

Though Hephzibah was said to have 'sacrificed' a flourishing musical career to be with Lindsay, she refused to be just a farmer's wife. While raising her two sons, Kronrod and Marston, at 'Terrinallum', she founded the Western District Children's Library, a mobile library service, in 1948 and did much to advance children's education, and the fledgling feminist movement, transcending the cultural norms and conventions of a parochial Australia. It is Hephzibah Nicholas' commitment to the educational and literary development of the district's children while she lived in the district which is the focus of this profile.

Mrs Anne Blacker of Mortlake had the great privilege of growing up on 'Terrinallum' while it was owned by the Nicholases and has recalled some of the many enriching childhood experiences she had as a result of knowing Hephzibah Nicholas. Anne has written:

Hephzibah Nicholas was a person who wanted the best for everybody. She felt that all people should have access to learning, love and health. So the Western District Children's Library was born. When the schoolroom at the homestead was no longer in use and the Terrinallum kids—as we were known—were all at school at Pura Pura, she thought it would be a great place to have a library but not just for her own family and the station people's use but for the district schools.

She went to Melbourne and bought the first 500 books for the library at her own expense. Then she went about raising funds for further books and to set the whole system up. There was a huge Ball held in the woolshed which was scrubbed and preened so that it neither looked like nor smelt like a woolshed inside. Beautifully decorated, and lavishly catered for by her staff and the district ladies, it was a roaring success. Not only the district turned out in full in all their finery but the Nicholas' large circle of friends and associates from Melbourne came and supported her wonderful venture. The books came thick and fast and she roped in her good friend, Flo Calvert from 'Terinallum South' to help her and Miss Kelly [the governess] with the Library. The station kids also lent a hand and we bound, lacquered and numbered books after school. Each book had its paper cover removed, was then lacquered and bound, the paper front cover then trimmed and stuck on the front of the book, each book then numbered, relacquered over the paper cover and filed. Hephzibah and Mrs Calvert then sorted the books into long wooden boxes, loaded them into the back of a Holden ute and distributed them around the schools of the district. Pura Pura, Vite Vite, Woorndoo, Chatsworth, Dundonnell, Nerrin Nerrin, Darlington and Streatham were some of the first schools to have fortnightly deliveries and changeover of books. Later on Hephzibah enlisted Miss Lorne Hood from 'Merrang', Hexham, to come on board with the delivery and so the Hexham, Ellerslie and Ballangeich schools were included.

Another fundraiser in the form of a bazaar was held—not a garden party or a fete, but a bazaar. The verandah of the homestead was set up with stalls of every type. Miss Kelly's bedroom was turned into a boutique, many of Hephzibah's Melbourne friends having gladly given their 'slightly used' clothes and fashionable hats. They also gave jewellery and household goods the likes of which the district had never seen. I remember Mum bought a beautiful hat for two shillings to wear to mass and I am sure some socialite had worn it to the Melbourne Cup or The Oaks; it was so elegant. The district ladies had cooked and cooked and cooked. There were cake stalls, biscuit stalls, Devonshire teas. I seem to remember that the amount raised at that bazaar was in the vicinity of £200. In those days it was a great amount of money. I know that some of it was spent to buy a new Holden

ute especially for the library deliveries and the rest went on books. We all helped with the labelling, cataloguing and preparation of the books for distribution.

Later on this wonderful library of books was handed over to the Mortlake State School and, strange as it may seem, I was out at the tip one day about the time the Mortlake State School building in Dunlop Street was closed and found two books sitting up there as though they were meant to be found by me. One of them is number 1666, *Your Town and Mine*, Western District Children's Library, first date stamped 1950 and the hand printing on the front is my printing. The other book is some three years younger and is a dictionary numbered 4461. Therefore, in three and a half years almost 3,000 books had come into the library. This must have been about the time of the magnificent bazaar.

This mobile library service continued and grew until such time as Mrs Nicholas moved to Lilydale at which time all the books were transferred to Mortlake State School Library.

A time of great excitement among the children on the property was when Mrs Nicholas would return from a concert tour overseas. She and her brother Yehudi Menuhin gave concerts all over the world, she being the pianist and he the violinist. It was not only that we were always happy to see her back but she always brought us presents from the mystical places she had toured. One time they had played in China and I recall we all received Chinese shirts, beautifully hand-embroidered on the mandarin collars and cuffs. Mine was white with the embroidery being in three shades of blue and my brother received a royal blue shirt embroidered in navy blue and red. The cotton material must have been magnificent because they lasted for years and years as I remember our two younger sisters wearing them later on. After one of her trips to America she arrived home with a gift for Mum who was expecting our sister, a beautiful maternity suit, soft green and white striped seersucker—and so trendy. At that time ladies didn't have maternity clothes; they just made do with bigger sizes. So Mum really was a trendsetter and she looked so nice in her American outfit.

Many famous and talented people came to stay at 'Terrallum', from all walks of life. There were the musicians, many of whom came to practise for an upcoming concert; members of the Victorian Symphony Orchestra and also the Australian Orchestra, too. When Yehudi Menuhin was touring Australia or just visiting his sister, he and his family joined in the activities of the property, working alongside the station hands. I remember that our Dad really liked Yehudi and would be full of stories after a day in the paddocks with him doing stock work on horseback.

When the 'practice sessions' for the Orchestra were on, we children would sit on the verandah outside the lounge room and listen to and watch practice. I really think that this was where Brian and I got our appreciation and love of classical music. We would sit so quietly listening, but when it was time for a break and the musicians went to morning tea or afternoon tea as it may be, we would invade the lounge room and have our own concert. None of us could play a note but we certainly



Photos from 1950 of Hephzibah Nicholas and her Western District Children's Library team delivering books to children at Darlington and Woorndoo Schools. In the top photo Hephzibah is in the centre, wearing sunglasses. Photos: Mortlake and District Historical Society.

had the actions right. One would be on the grand piano and the notes rolling and fingers up and down the keys together with the appropriate head shaking and thumping of the keys certainly looked the part, as did whoever was on the violin. We were never admonished for using the instruments and, in fact, encouraged, although we were all tone deaf, including Kronny and Marsty. In hindsight I look back on these jam sessions and think of the value of the instruments we played: Hephzibah's magnificent Steinway baby grand piano; Yehudi's Stradivarius violin; and all the other beautiful instruments that these wonderful musicians allowed us to play.

Probably the most famous visitors to 'Terrinallum' were Laurence Olivier and Vivian Leigh who came to visit for a week in 1949. We were not to realise how famous these visitors were until years later as we just took it that they were some more visitors at the Big House. In later years we realised just who they were and we tried to get a copy of a photo which Lindsay took of the Oliviers coming across from the tennis court side by side with our brother, Brian, riding on Laurence Olivier's shoulders

Every Saturday night we had 'Pictures' at the homestead. These were movies which Lindsay ordered from Melbourne and showed on his own movie projector and screen in the lounge room at the homestead. We would have 'Ma & Pa Kettle', 'Abbott & Costello', 'Francis the Talking Mule' plus the classics as they became available. The visitors, station hands, wives, kids and also some of the district people would come to the pictures and afterwards a beautiful supper was served by the kitchen staff and family.

On the Saturday when the Oliviers were visiting, Mrs Nicholas was at our house having a chat with Mum. This was a regular occasion. She decided she had best go home to the visitors and said to Mum "Better go, Mrs Corbett. See you tonight;" to which Mum replied "Oh, we won't come tonight." Hephzibah turned around and said "Why ever not? You always come to the pictures." Mum's reply was "You have all those important visitors over there." The reply to that was "Mrs Corbett, whenever will I get it into your head we all come into the world the same way and we all go out the same? No-one is any better than anyone else. We will see you tonight." Naturally the Lady of the House had spoken and we went to the pictures that night. This is a statement I have remembered all my life and whenever somebody is being a bit hoity toity and tending to put me or someone else down, I think of the words of that beautiful lady who probably had more to stick her nose in the air about than anyone I know.

Miss Bell [the teacher at Pura Pura School] married and her replacement was a young teacher by the name of Steve Woodcock. It was while Steve was our teacher that Mrs Nicholas had a trip to America and came back all inspired about our desks. She had seen that in the better American schools the children sat on individual chairs with their own desk. She discussed this with Lindsay. He told her that all Australian children used desks like ours — wooden, two to a desk, some variation in size, but not much. She was adamant that the American idea was much better for the children. They could pull their chair in

to suit their stature; the table type desk had adjustable legs so they adjusted to each individual height, so much more comfortable and better for posture. Lindsay asked her what she was going to do about it. "You can't change the system" he told her. "Well," she said, "I want to buy new tables and chairs for the children at the school." "That's OK," Lindsay replied "but use your money." Thirty very smart bright aqua chairs and table desks arrived at the school courtesy of Mrs Nicholas. They were truly magnificent and so comfortable. When they were delivered we all thanked her profusely. Never had any local school had so much luxury. We were the envy of all the other district schools. Some years after, when she was having one of her heart-to-heart talks with Mum, Mrs Nicholas told Mum that Lindsay wouldn't give her the money for the desks so she pawned her engagement ring and bought the desks. Some weeks after the delivery of the desks, they had guests for dinner and Lindsay said to her "Hephzibah, you haven't put your engagement ring on." to which she replied "I bought the desks for the school." I can imagine the look on his face but the outcome of the story was that he went to Melbourne and retrieved the engagement ring. So in the end he paid for the desks.

She also supplied us with an upright piano which she came and played and taught us singing. We never realised how privileged we were to have this wonderful lady come and play common old school songs for us.

Another of her ideas was that she organised for all the schools of the area to link up for a chat on the two-way radios which were used in the fire season for firefighting. She spoke to Merrell Macdonald at Pura Pura who must have been the regional fire captain, I think, and he organised that someone set up a two-way radio at the district schools and we linked up to chat and discuss different matters. It was probably a predecessor of the 'School of the Air'.

Eventually Lindsay, Hephzibah and their family left 'Terrinallum' and moved to Lilydale. After World War II, a visit to Theresienstadt Concentration Camp had further strengthened Hephzibah's resolve to help others. This saw 'Terrinallum' become home for many post-war refugees.

In the early 1950s she and Lindsay divorced as a result of her relationship with a Viennese-born sociologist and social commentator who provided her with the opportunity to channel her concerns for social justice. This was a tumultuous time for the Nicholas family since Hephzibah left her sons when they were aged 11 and 6 and they did not see their mother again for three years. The Hausers and their infant daughter, Clara, moved to London in 1957 where they became heavily involved in issues of social justice and where they formed the Centre for Human Rights and Responsibilities in the East End of London. They opened their home to the needy, refugees, and battered women. Hephzibah and Richard also fostered a son, Michael.

Over the years Hephzibah returned to Australia, for which she had a great affection. She gave her last Australian concerts in 1977. After a long battle with cancer, Hephzibah died in 1981, aged 60.

In 2019 Hephzibah's sons Cr Kron Nicholas of Moama NSW and his brother Dr Marston Nicholas were guests of honour at the opening of the new Mortlake Library, representing their late mother.



In Northern Victoria, almost 300kms from the coast, is a museum dedicated to flying boats that operated during World War 2.

The museum, which attracts thousands of visitors each year, is on the land where the former No.1 Flying Boat Repair Depot (FBRD) operated between 1942 and 1947. In a purpose-built hangar is the restored shell of a Catalina, one of six types of flying boats to visit Lake Boga during the war years.

But “Why Lake Boga?” many ask. “Why so far away from the action?”

In February 1942 Darwin was bombed by the Japanese as they continued their invasion throughout the Pacific area. Just as crucial was the attack on Broome on 3rd March 1942 in which 15 flying boats were damaged or destroyed. The decision was then made by authorities to visit Lake Boga with the intention of establishing a depot.

Qantas had been using flying boats prior to the war and had identified Lake Boga as either a re-fueling location or emergency landing lake. With diameters of three by three-and-a-half kilometres, landing and taking-off would not be an issue. The township had already been established with both road and rail access to Melbourne. Geographically, it is in the centre of the Melbourne-Adelaide-Sydney triangle. The decision was made: build Lake Boga.

During its operation No. 1 FBRD serviced more than 400 flying boats from the RAAF, the USA and Netherlands. At its peak, almost 1,000 service men and women were working at Lake Boga with repairs and communications. Because of the operations being conducted, it was top secret; however, the locals had no trouble identifying what was happening! The personnel were socialising, competing in sporting competitions, and the air was abuzz with activity.

A military hospital was established at Castle Donnington, between Lake Boga and Swan Hill, although no evidence remains today.

At the end of its tenure, Lake Boga was used by the Commonwealth Disposals Commission to dispose of the surplus war equipment, including flying boats. Qantas bought back flying boats as did other aviation businesses including the newly-formed Asian Airways. (This in itself is a story, as it was hotly contested in parliament over its ownership and links the directors had with Communism).

At the Lake Boga cemetery there is a Commonwealth War Graves section where seven service people are

interred. Ironically, none of the deaths occurred due to work activities; they were as a result of road accidents, a drowning and a football injury.

As a testament to its wartime significance, the FBRD area, communications bunker, Catalina and slip- ways are heritage listed with Heritage Victoria. Hundreds of photos and artefacts contribute to the Museum collection, relating to flying boats and Lake Boga.

Steve Pentreath, Manager

For further details including opening hours, admission charges and to see some interesting videos of the Museum go to

<https://www.flyingboat.org.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/lakebogaflyingboatmuseum/>



Upcoming Events

Reconnect your Jeparit Journey

October 20th – 22nd, 2023

The Jeparit Reconnect Committee extends an invitation to anyone who would like to help us celebrate the uniqueness of Jeparit and some of its amazing milestones.

Friday 20th October

Jeparit Golf Club 115 Years' Lunch
and Tall Tales of Ability

Movie Night



Saturday 21st October

Town Breakfast

Guided Heritage Walks

Clydesdale Carriage Rides

Historical Photo Display

Visit to Lake Hindmarsh

Evening Cabaret*
(* bookings essential)

Sunday 22nd October

Jeparit A & P Society 125th Annual Show

Vehicle display

Carriage rides, Musicians, Mini-circus,

Puppet Show, Stalls, Games, Sheath

toss etc.

Evening BBQ



To register your attendance or to exhibit at The Show contact
Paul Bell 0448 772 355 paulbellthoroughbreds@gmail.com

"It's amazing how reconnecting with your past can make you remember who you were and realise who you have become."

Geelong Museum Association Inc.



2023 'Last Sunday Series' at the National Wool Museum

1.30 pm - 3 pm

Free entry. Afternoon cuppa provided; gold coin donation. Details of talks are updated on the Geelong Museum Association Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/geelongmuseum>

Sunday 24 September:

The Geelong Mural – a significant and historic artwork. The Geelong Mural is our region's largest and most significant artwork. It is a mosaic 32 metres long by 2 metres high, telling in a cavalcade of images the story of Geelong and its district over two centuries. It is delicately crafted from more than a million coloured glass tiles, set into concrete. It takes up an entire wall in the foyer of the State Government Office in Little Malop Street. The work was commissioned by the Hamer Government in 1972, work commenced in 1977 and it was unveiled in 1980.

Colin Mockett is a writer, historian, broadcaster, entertainer, editor and tour guide. He's a graduate of both Geelong's Gordon Institute and Deakin University. He regularly hosts walking tours of the Geelong Waterfront and is a step-on guide to coach parties visiting the Geelong region. He writes and produces monthly Morning Showtimes for the CoGG's Potato Shed venue and co-presents *The Sustainable Hour* weekly podcast and radio program.

Sunday 29 October:

The 39th Battalion - The 39th Battalion AIF was raised in Ballarat in 1916. Following training, they departed for the UK and served in France and Belgium. The Battalion continued between the two World Wars and served on the Kokoda Trail in World War 2. Some soldiers from the Geelong district served in the 39th.

Tim Fitzgerald has long held an interest in the 39th Battalion. His grandfather, Private George H Donohue MM, served in the 39th Battalion 1916-1919. Tim is a committee member of the 39th Battalion Association.

Sunday 26 November:

A Different Courage - Billibellary and Radical Hope Billibellary was a Wurundjeri man whose lands stretched north of the Yarra River from what are now the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, north-west to Lancefield. He was a leading Kulin Elder. He was one of eight to sign a treaty with Batman in 1835. He engaged with European society as a way of managing colonialism.

Emeritus Professor **Richard Broome AM, FAHA, FRHSV** taught at la Trobe University for thirty years. His varied research interests have covered the local, regional and national sphere. He has written/co-written thirty books and dozens of articles on immigration, religious history, local history, sports history, popular culture, biography and Aboriginal history. The last theme was the focus of four of his books, two of which have won prizes.

Michael Menzies, President, Geelong Museum Association Inc.

Tarnagulla History Archive

Tarnagulla Strictly Vintage Fair

Sunday 10 September 2023

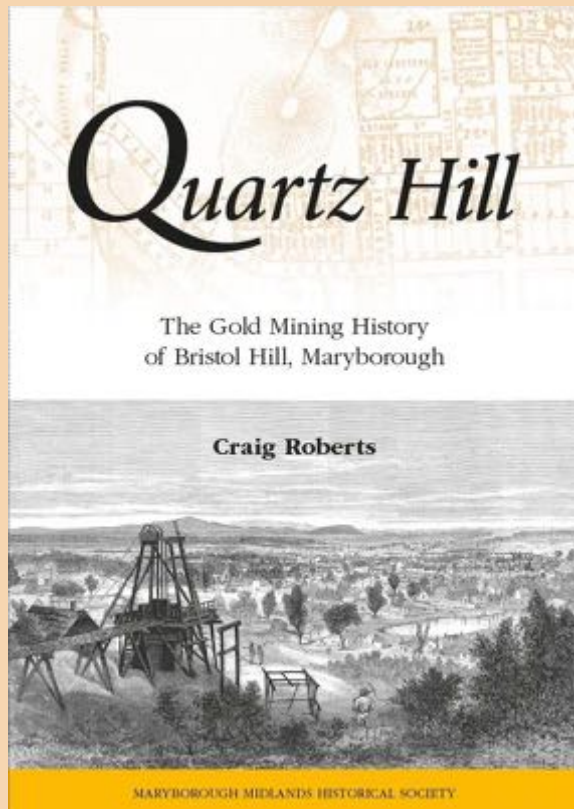
The Tarnagulla History Archive will once again be present in all its glory in the Victoria Theatre. The display will include posters of Tarnagulla's World War 1 Diggers and photos relating to the district's school. We have a great deal of pioneer family information.

Contact: David Gordon

tarnagullahistoryarchive@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Tarnagulla-History-Archive-100063692630172/>

Publications



Maryborough Midlands Historical Society

<https://mmhs.net.au/bookshop>

mmhs@outlook.com.au

The previously untold story of gold mining at Bristol Hill is brought to life in this new volume.

A tale of riches and bust.

The celebrated Ellery and Passmore claim on a short section of quartz reef transformed John Ellery and William Passmore into wealthy men.

Others were not so lucky.

Explores the years from 1854 to 1951.

112 pages in A4 format

\$20.00 plus \$5.00 postage

Landsborough and District Historical Group

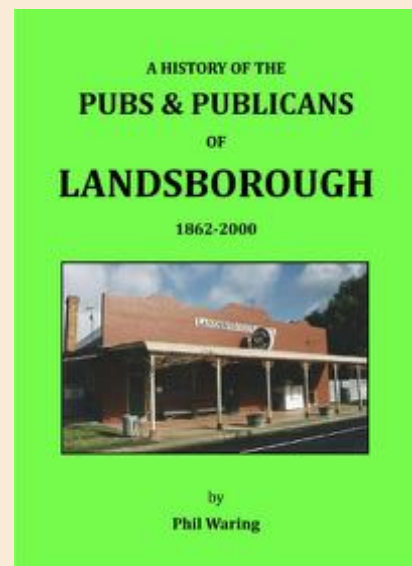
<https://www.facebook.com/p/Landsborough-District-Historical-Group-Victoria-100066833657529/>

Pubs & Publicans of Landsborough 1862 – 2000

by
Phil Waring

We are pleased to announce the publication of our latest book with thanks to Phil Waring who has spent many years researching and compiling the information which has culminated in the release of this wonderful piece of early Landsborough History. Full of anecdotes and stories, there is much to enjoy here as a snapshot of life in Landsborough including the early days of the rush when there were dozens of pubs operating. Of course only one pub now remains, and there is a detailed history covering all the publicans and licensees up to the 2000s.

The book is 73 pages and the cost is \$20.00. Postage can be arranged to anywhere in Australia for \$5.20.



Books planned for later in 2023:

A History of Landsborough 1862 – 2022 (Landsborough Historical Group)

Other titles still in print:

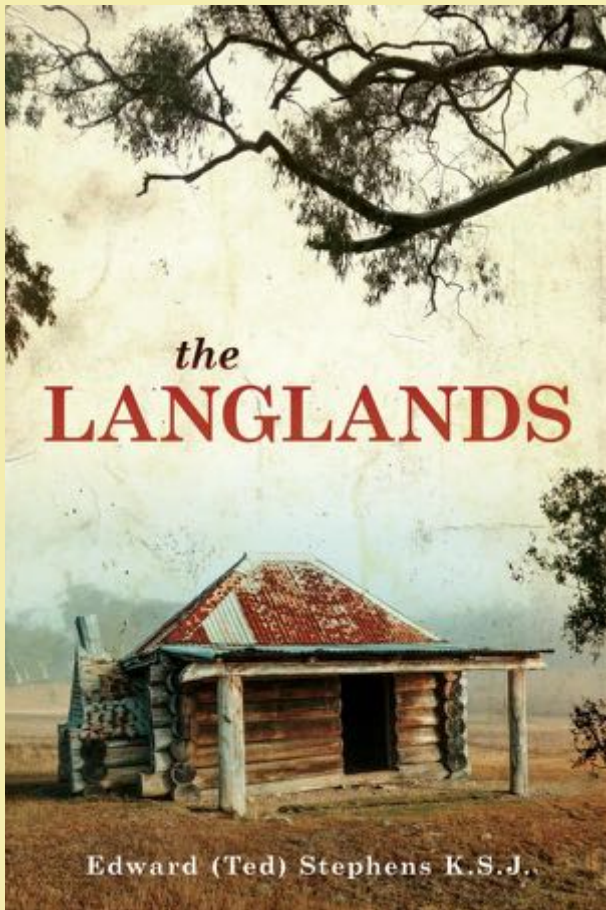
Lost Railway Stations of the Pyrenees (Revised edition) \$45.00

Landsborough Hall – A History \$5.00

Lost Schools Of The Pyrenees \$30.00 (only one copy left)

School On The Hill (History of Landsborough State School) \$20.00

No Honey No Money (Max Jeffery) - \$15.00 (limited stock)



IN 1840 ROBERT LANGLANDS, A YOUNG SCOTTISH MAN TOOK A HUGE STEP FOR LOVE AND LEFT HIS FAMILY TO EMBARK ON A ROMANTIC ESCAPE ACROSS THE OCEAN...

He shocked his family by deciding to pursue his lady friend who had been deported to Australia for a minor misdemeanour.

After arriving in Melbourne, Robert immediately set off to Sydney to ask his girlfriend, Agnes, to marry him.

Robert's brother, George and his wife Betsy, during his leave, and having fallen on hard times, had become interested in an offer to start a Post Office in Western Victoria.

So, they loaded their five children (including Ted's future grandmother Margaret, at age six) on board three bullock drays and set off to find a survey peg 300 miles away on the Wimmera River marked as "A place to be called Horsham".

Robert set up a foundry in Flinders St in 1841 which thrived and Horsham grew around the Langlands store.

The rest, as you will discover in this book, is wonderful history...

Publication date: September 2023

Published by Shawline Publishing Group

<https://www.shawlinepublishing.com.au/search/display/394-the-langlands>

AUTHOR BIO

Ted is a retired farmer who grew up on the land working with his elderly father. Ted's childhood was filled with stories of the early days of Victoria and the families his father knew. He has spent the last thirty years writing the stories of these people, culminating in this, his latest work, *The Langlands*. Ted has a second book *The Ormonds of Borriyalloak* coming in 2024.

A few copies of Alan McLean's book on the wreck of the *Fiji* near Cape Otway in 1891 are still available.

Cost: \$20.00 plus \$15.00 postage.

Contact Alan directly at
alanmclean@bigpond.com

Ph: 0412 143660

A reminder that all Member Groups have the opportunity to promote publications of local interest in *Western Historian*. Books and other publications relating to a specific area may well be of interest to the wider community.

Submit all details to Craige at
wwahsinc@gmail.com

