

ROADSIDE SIGNS

From the archives of the Bass Valley Historical Society Libby Skidmore, archivist

We see so many signs along the roadsides as we travel. Many are quite useful and some are obvious but some make you think!



But do you know where the first road sign in Victoria was placed

Captain John Murray in command of the “Lady Nelson” sailed into Western Port in December 1801

He anchored near Churchill Island and hurried to the gardens that had been planted six months before.

He wrote that the growth of the corn and wheat was quite remarkable and a bushel was harvested for three pairs of captured swans. He expected to see indications of the developing seal industry at Western Port but there were no signs of further habitation. While they were anchored at Elizabeth Cove (near the present site of Ventnor) two soldiers made the exciting discovery of a new source of water there by overcoming the drudgery of negotiating the narrow channels and mudflats to the Freshwater Creek at Bass. They had discovered a series of springs. Murray was enthusiastic about the water and wood supplies of the cove but he described the trees as “very small and invariable decayed” and he believed the area “would poorly pay a settler”

With haste the party levelled a pathway to roll the water butts from the spring which was not fifty yards from the seaside. Victoria’s first road sign was erected there on December 19 1801! Murray wrote in his journal “I got a large board hung up at the entrance of the road to fresh well or spring on which painted in oil colours directions for any stranger how to get to the watering place was”

Mean while they feasted on the bounty found in this new place. Nine large swans of 8 or 9 pounds each lots of fish, large quantities of oysters, mussels and other shell fish. The New Year “was ushered in by splicing the main brace and three cheers”

SAM'S PEARS

By Libby Skidmore, Bass Valley Historical Society



In 1835 the oldest orchard in Victoria, wholly pear trees and still flowering and bearing fruit was planted in Bass, in the eastern district of western Port and here also the first real farm in the state came into operation, growing wheat on the rich Bass River flats that season necessitating the establishment of what is regarded as the first Victorian flour mill. Samuel Anderson was that pioneer. The Western Port locality was at that time the most prominent part of southern Australia as investigation was being made by Tasmanians for the introduction of sheep and the place was cashing in on a prolific supply of wattle bark. Anderson followed the water supply, landing at Bass landing and made his way upstream to the extreme extent of the tide's action and there on the higher north bank set up his farm, The fruit trees though now only two in number flourish and produce pears in the farm that is still on the site.

Samuel Anderson was born in Scotland in 1802, came to Tasmania with the Van Dieman's Land company, and visited Portland with the Henty's. Returning to Tasmania he learned of the activities of Batman and Fawkner and decided to investigate western port for which purpose he built a small vessel and in June 1835 accompanied by Robert Massie he sailed through the eastern passage of Western Port and landed his stock, goods and chattels at the Bass river site. Farming operations were immediately commenced. Wheat was the staple crop for some years and 40 to 60 bushels per acre was common, oats was also grown . Salt was another crop, sea water being pumped on to the lower flats by the river and the water evaporated. This found a ready sale in Launceston and Melbourne, Anderson and Massie thus began the first farms in the Bass area.



BERWICK PAKENHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Secretary A. J. Dodson . Ph. 5943 2271
330 Officer South Rd.
Officer 3809

Cr Princes Highway &
Main Street
Inc. No. 6023
Postal address
POBox 442
Pakenham 3810

Our Annual meeting is on November 4th but again I don't expect any changes. We are few in number but there is reasonable interest on Sunday afternoons, and many queries by phone. Penny Harris Jennings is our speaker. Her topic is "Eight weeks in London." Her time in London was spent doing Historical research.

We have asked for a quote to reprint Berwick Nostalgia, having sold almost 2000 copies. A lady from Canberra has just sent me an 1885 photo of her ancestors shop in Nar Nar Goon. It is surprisingly good.

I attended a book launch at Beaconhills College on Thursday. The children's book, "Toomuc Treasure" was written by John Waterhouse, local historian and teacher at the college. It is based on a true story and the children who found the treasure were present at the launch (now grey haired) Much Australian history is woven into the tale and life in the late forties and early fifties is well depicted. We have it for sale at \$25. We also have "On the Swamp" by Jim Mynard - \$20 plus postage.

On Friday Officer Primary School celebrated its 130th birthday. We put on a display of historic Officer photos. The school also had a great collection of old school photos. Unfortunately the weather was terrible but as the event had already been postponed once because of even worse weather it went ahead with teachers arranging different indoor games in the classroom.

We are to be visited by Cheryl Griffin, the Convener of the Royal Historical Society's History Victoria Support Group at our December 2nd. meeting.. She is bringing research material on the Mc.Crae family and hopefully will talk about the family. She has written a biography about their daughter Doris.



SEHA report 6/11/2016

Heather Arnold Local History Librarian

August 4 - The Local History Reference Group (LHRG) meeting was held at the Emerald Museum. Emerald is a very interesting Museum and they also run the Nobelius Heritage Park. Find out more about them from their website <http://www.emeraldmuseum.org.au/> The LHRG is run by Casey Cardinia Libraries and most of the heritage groups in the Casey Cardinia region participate. One of the members is the Narre Warren Mechanics' Institute, where the SEHA held our August meeting. They turn 125 years old in November - follow this link to the festivities <https://homeiswherethehallis.com/category/victoria/narre-warren/>

August 22 - The Narre Warren & District Family History Group presented a seminar for Family History month looking at resources 'Here, near and Far' - I presented on Casey Cardinia resources. Ten people attended.

August 25 - I talked to 96 Grade 3 students at St Catherine's Catholic Primary School in Berwick on the history of their area. They were lovely, it was a fun afternoon.

September 19 - I spoke at the Berwick Springs VIEW Club on the history of Tooradin. The Group raise money for the Smith Family, read more about VIEW Clubs on their website <http://www.view.org.au/> 35 women attended, they were all very nice. This group meets at Kilgerron Homestead Restaurant in Narre Warren, the food was great, and it has a great ambience (it's a c. 1920s house) well worth a visit if you are in the area. This is their website <http://www.kilgerron.com.au/>

October 5 - As part of the City of Casey Aging Positively Festival the Berwick Mechanics' Institute held a talk and I was the guest speaker. I spoke about Women in 19th Casey Cardinia. Even If I say it myself, it's one of my favourite talks. I look at four categories of women - the entrepreneurs, the aristocrats, the farmers and the poor. 38 people came along to either hear me or get a free morning tea!

October 10 - I spoke to the Berwick Legacy Widows on the history of Narre Warren. This is my third time I have spoken to them this year, they are only a small group, there were only 12 people there, and it is not always easy to get speakers. I had a great time. The Legacy Widows, who are all getting on in years, have a volunteer welfare officer from Legacy to help them negotiate with Government Departments and any other matters they may have. Bill Rogers is their volunteer welfare officer and he was awarded an Order of Australia medal in the Queens Birthday Honours list this year.

October 28 - We had Helen Stitt, Historian at the RACV, as a guest speaker at the Library. She gave a talk on the history of the organization from its establishment in 1903 up to the mid 1940s. She was really interesting, worth keeping in mind if you want a guest speaker.

Don't forget our blogs!

- Casey-Cardinia: Commemorating the Great War: 1914 – 1918 blog <http://caseycardinia1914-1918.blogspot.com.au/>
- Casey Cardinia links to our past –
- <http://caseycardinialinkstoourpast.blogspot.com.au/>

We are also on Facebook - Casey Cardinia Heritage.

Cranbourne Shire Historical Society

Established 1968

ABN: 86659602533



Meetings: 4th Thursday of each month (Feb to Nov) at 8.00pm.
All correspondence to 13 Mickle Street, Tooradin, 3980. Telephone: 03 5998 3643.
New members welcome.

SEHA report 6/11/2016

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held in August and the following Office Bearers were all re-elected -

President: Colin Butler

Vice-President: John Denholm

Secretary: Polly Freeman

Treasurer: Carol Edwards

This is a summary of the President's report: Colin thanked all the members who had worked so hard to make 2015/2016 such a successful year. He paid special thanks to Polly, Carol and Helen Lowery for all the work they have done in many different capacities. We have accomplished much during the year. The polycarbonate doors to the Machinery Shed have helped protect the shed and its contents. The new shed at the rear of the school will help greatly with displays. Barry Freeman is to be thanked for all his work on getting the minor works grant and supervising construction. Andrew Pinxt's work in the machinery shed is much appreciated. We have had very successful dinners both socially and financially and Derek Genoni's family history was particularly interesting.

Society news

The Society has had articles in *The Waterline News*, which helps to promote us and the Fishermans Cottage Museum. <http://www.waterlinenews.com.au/>

The Tooradin Foreshore Committee has been given a grant from the Bendigo Bank for historical signage.

The new shed, behind the school, has been completed and there will be a new concrete path leading to it for all-weather access. The shed houses farm machinery and the next project is to create some labels for the exhibits.

Museum

The Museum will be open over summer (except Christmas Day/New Years Day weekends) The Museum opens every Sunday at 12 noon or by appointment at other times.

Polly Freeman and Heather Arnold

Dandenong & District Historical Society Inc

Registered Address:

The Houlahan Community Centre
186 Foster Street East, Dandenong Vic 3175

PO Box 8029, Dandenong Vic 3175

Tel: 9794 8967 www.ddhs.com.au

Opening hours: Wednesdays 10 am – 3 pm or by appointment

President: Chris Keys (Ms)

Email: dandhist@internode.on.net

Registration No: A13681W ABN 91196711434

Report to the SEHA Meeting held on Sunday 6 November 2016 hosted by the Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries

Dandenong Show 2016

The Society will once again have a stand and display in the Exhibition Pavilion at the Dandenong Show on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 November. This year the theme for the display will be focussed on the Dandenong Market, as the market celebrated its 150th anniversary last month. If you are at the Show, please say hello to us!

We are moving!

After 16 years in the Houlahan Community Centre, the Dandenong Historical Society will be relocated to the old council offices near the Dandenong Market. Our last day here will be on Wednesday 23 November. By close of business on that day, we have been instructed to pack our personal work items in a box. The City of Greater Dandenong will organise the rest of the packing for us. Usually we finish up at the beginning of December, so we will be unavailable a couple of weeks sooner. We expect to resume in February 2017. Our phone number will stay the same, as will our email addresses and of course our post office box mailing address.

Christmas Lunch

On Sunday 4 December we will be enjoying our End-of-year Christmas lunch at the Dandenong Club. Cost for a two-course Christmas meal will be \$30 per person. Bookings and payment should be made by 23 November early afternoon at the very latest. This is a very informal meal - no guest speaker, no place cards on the tables and no raffle.

HASTINGS-WESTERN PORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

ABN 35 495 397 462

Museum - Cnr Marine Pde & Skinner St Hastings: Postal address: PO Box 223 Hastings 3915

**REPORT TO SEHA MEETING HELD AT NARRE WARREN
MECHANICS INSTITUTE, 59 WEBB ST, NARRE WARREN
ON SUNDAY 7 AUGUST 2016**

MUSEUM: The Committee this year decided to have a winter closure of the Museum during the months of July and August. This enables members to work on a new look with changes in the displays. Work is continuing to take place in the storage/display shed and it is slowly being lined and other necessary jobs done. The Pioneer Cottage has a fresh new look at the rear entrance with weatherboards and windows replaced, as well as painting tasks. This has been done by Mornington Peninsula Shire who is the owner of the museum precinct property. Two of our newer volunteers have commenced cataloguing the artefacts in Dad's Shed, with the assistance of Sally Robins and local members, Ken Stockton, Dave Mason and John Woolley.

LOCAL HISTORY OFFICER, SALLY ROBINS. Sally is employed by Mornington Peninsula Shire and her skills have assisted our society as well at all the other historical societies in the area. She holds regular two-monthly meetings with representatives of the group where discussions take place on plans, projects and other challenges. At present, there is another Oral History project commencing where interviews take place of people who have attended the local primary schools. Lance Hodgins of Hastings will shortly be interviewed – the project was successful in a grant that was submitted by Sally. Lance Hodgins has written a number of local history books – two volumes on the history of the Hastings Football Club – one on an acclaimed Hastings concert singer “Rosa Alba” and book 1 of “It Happened Here” (various stories of happenings around Hastings or adjoining areas). These books are available for \$15 each. Sally is also assisting with the training of the volunteers working on cataloguing.

MORNING COFFEE: The Morning Coffee on Thursday 14th May where Wendy Morrison did an appraisal of the various artefacts that were brought along was very successful and raised \$200 for our funds. Another Morning Coffee was held on Thursday 14th July where the guest speaker was the popular Stuart Duff. Stuart spoke for the first time about an incident that happened at Blackwood “The Pincombe Incident”, and as usual, he had a very attentive audience with the way he presented this. The income raised from this was \$131.

NEXT MORNING COFFEE. This will be the final Morning Coffee for the year and Cr David Garnock will be guest speaker. David was previously the Commanding Officer of HMAS Cerberus and he will speak of his time there. This will be on Thursday 10th November at 10.15 am at the Hastings Museum, cnr Marine Pde & Skinner St. Cost is \$5 pp. Door prize and a lucky dip raffle (3 tickets for \$2).

Please note this date in your diaries....we would love to see you!

AGM - This will be held at the Museum on Sunday, 21 August at 2 pm. The president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary are not available for nomination, so a “new crew” will be elected.

This report by Shirley Davies 039781 1141 shirleydavies101@gmail.com

KOO-WEE-RUP SWAMP HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Established 1974

No. A0027576R

President: Heather Arnold
510 Murray Road
Vervale, 3814
Ph: 03 5629 4396



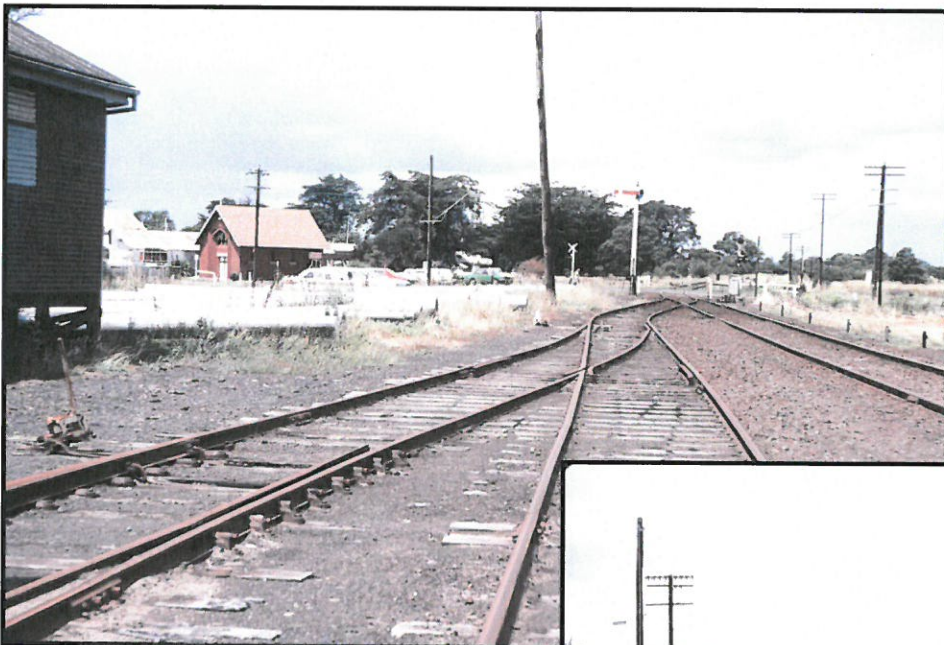
Secretary: Audrey Mills
2 John Street,
Koo-Wee-Rup, 3981
Ph: 03 5997 1357

"Mallow" 1916

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of each month (Feb to Dec) at 7.30pm. New members welcome.

SEHA report 6/11/2016

- AMS Digitising in South Melbourne has completed the digitising of the *Koo-Wee-Rup Sun* newspaper from 1958 to 1970. We will now get the remaining years, to the early 1980s, done.
- The Cardinia Shire has given us a grant of \$600 for operational costs.
- We received our Cardinia Shire Rates bill - we only need to pay the Fire Services levy of \$254.58. They have valued the property at \$315,000 (Capital Improved Value)
- Our Museum is open on the second and fourth Sundays of the month (or by appointment); we will close over January, as usual, and re-open in February.
- We have a Facebook page – Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society. Please like us!
- Our 2017 Annual Dinner will be held on May 28. The guest speaker will be Barry Gracey who is President of the Pozieres Remembrance Association.



Koo-Wee-Rup Railway Station

Photos were taken
January 17, 1984
by Weston Langford.

They are from the website *Weston Langford Railway Photography*
<http://www.westonlangford.com/>



LANG LANG AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



PO Box 8
Lang Lang Vic 3984

www.langlang.net/historical.html
email: ralph6@dcsi.net.au

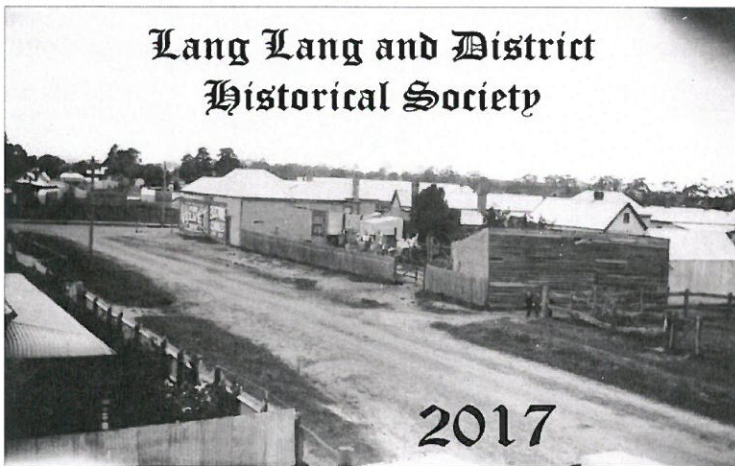
Incorporation Number A0037879A
ABN 52 076 303 894

OCTOBER 2016

The Society has been quiet since our last report.

We had our Annual General Meeting on the 18th of October, with the result that Jean Hayden and Peter Hayden are still respectively President and Secretary. Joy Kay has retired as Treasurer after umpteen years and she has been replaced by Joy Adderley, another stalwart of the Society.

The survey of all the heritage and /or historic homes of the areas of Lang Lang, Caldermeade and Yannathan has been completed. Currently it is comprehensive collection of photos and documents and we are now commencing to compile them all into a video slide show and as a power point presentation. We are also considering making it up into a proper bound booklet.



Our 2017 calendar is now finished and is on sale at several locations, including the Bendigo Bank and the Post Office in Lang Lang, or by order via email.

The calendar this year features street scenes from the early 1900's through to the late 1940's.

The cover is a photo of Station Street, from the roof of the butter factory toward Westernport Road.

We also had a guided tour of the Corinella Cemetery highlighting the early settlers and their stories. (Thanks very much Libby.) This was followed by afternoon tea at the foreshore, and a general meeting.

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.



Specialising in the Casey Cardinia area

Inc. No. A0023666M ABN 15 397 153 919

PO Box 149, Narre Warren Vic 3805

(03) 8787 5558 Home Page: www.nwfhg.org.au

Email: president@nwfhg.org.au

Report to SEHA November 2016

October has been busy with the Harkaway Cemetery Tour and our Ageing Positively/Seniors Week Workshop but extremely satisfying.

There's nothing quite like watching the weather on the morning of a cemetery tour. In the 'old' days, we watched the weather forecast on the TV. Now, they hold up their mobile phones and promptly warn you of impending doom or tell you 'it's going to be alright, the rain won't be here for another couple of hours'. How things have changed. I always wonder what our ancestors would make of all our technology.

But, again, the weather was kind to us and it didn't rain. It was windy, but it didn't rain. Over forty people came and walked with us and listened to our stories, they bought our books and we made new connections within our local community. All in all, a great morning for the family history group. Congratulations to our Cemetery Tours Team.

We're currently participating in *Local Matters* at Grill'd, Fountain Gate. Essentially, when customers buy a burger, they're given a token to place into one of three jars. We've got one jar this month and the jar with the most tokens wins \$300 for that organisation and the other two get \$100 each. So, it's easy money – and details on the Local Matters program can be found on their website.

We're still waiting on official notification from the City of Casey regarding our move to new premises at Cranbourne early in 2017. It is becoming increasingly frustrating as time goes on. I am sure we're not the only group to be in this position.

We're trying to be clever and address the problem of a dearth of material from members for the newsletter and the call for a writing competition by rolling the two concepts into one. We're about to announce to members the 2017 Writing Competition in which they will write an article of between 300 and 600 words which will be published in the newsletters during 2017 and members will vote for the best article in each edition. The author of the article receiving the highest number of votes will be awarded a prize at our December 2017 meeting. Of course, this could go really well, or not – only time will tell.

On behalf of the Narre Warren & District Family History Group we wish all SEHA members a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Lynne Bradley (President) & Lyne McGregor
SEHA Representatives for NW&DFGH.

A Member of:

Casey Cardinia Local History Reference Group

*Genealogical Society of Victoria – South Eastern Historical Association Inc. – Royal Historical Society of Victoria
Victorian Association of Family History Organisations – Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Inc.*

Nepean Historical Society

Report for SEHA meeting November 6 2016

NHS Sorrento Museum volunteers have been busy organising the reprinting of the 1950s account of life in Sorrento 'Miss Gymkhana, RG Menzies and Me' by local Kathy Skelton. We are launching this at a sold out function at Sorrento Hotel on 13 November.

The book is a funny and perceptive look at this then small town. Copies \$20.00 from NHS.

At our October AGM the Committee remains the same with the addition of Gary Naughton as New Treasurer.

Work on Building Planning issues continues to occupy a huge amount of time with so many applications for the Heritage Overlay areas of Sorrento. At threat now is the iconic Continental Hotel the tallest limestone building in the southern hemisphere planned by George Coppin to be seen throughout the area.

Joy Kitch

President NHS Sorrento

Phillip Island & District Historical Society Inc

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER, 2016

6.30 for 7.00pm

at the

ST PHILIP'S PARISH HALL, THOMPSON AVENUE, COWES



SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

OUR PRESIDENT:

GRAEME CLAUSCEN

"Big Game Hunting
With a Camera"

Pre Dinner Nibbles

Main Course/Dessert/Tea/Coffee BYO Drinks

Lucky Prizes including Christmas Hamper

\$30 per person Admission only by Preurchased Tickets

(Ticket price includes your entry into the lucky Prizes & Hamper draw)

RSVP: 25th November 2016



REPLY SLIP - PLEASE RETURN WITH PAYMENT
& INCLUDE POSTAL ADDRESS FOR RETURN OF TICKET/S

Post to: Judy Gittus, Phillip Island & District Historical Society Inc

PO Box 816, Cowes, 3922

Phone: Judy Gittus: 5952 6498

Or payment by Direct Credit to: Bendigo Bank BSB: 633-000 A/c 151829389

email Judy with all details at j.gittus43@gmail.com

Please advise if you have special dietary needs.

NAME:

NAME:

NAME:

NAME:

NAME:

Springvale and District Historical Society Inc.

Research Centre: 7 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale 3171

Phone / Fax (03) 9548-2732

Reg No. A0015243F ABN 40 286 680 605

SEHA Quarterly Meeting to be held on Sunday, November 26th 2016 at the
Cheltenham Hall 1218 Nepean Highway, Cheltenham,
Hosted by the Friends of Cheltenham Regional Cemeteries

We had 12 from the Mornington Probus in September, after they had terrorised the Springvale Market, enjoyed lunch and walked shopping centre. They enjoyed a very light afternoon tea and a tour of the House Exhibit. What was in the house reminded a lot of the visitors of what they had in their homes.

Even though it has been a poor in visitors it just continues every time Colin looks like changing the Exhibition people come for a visit and are very happy that they took the time to do so.

We had our elections in August and the following are the Office Bearers

President	Colin Robinson
Senior Vice President	Bill Warner
Junior Vice President	Alexandra Bryant
Secretary/Treasurer	Robyn Robie
Public Officer	Robyn Robie

We have our last meeting for the year on the 26/11/16, which we are having a luncheon before and a good talk and get together.

The next SEHA Meeting I will have information on the new Exhibition.

The trip to Geelong with the Council did not happen as those who said they would go were sick therefore the rip was cancelled the Thursday before, as Colin & I had arranged to have the day free we ended going to geelong by ourselves and found out a few things that the council was not telling the truth. Colin & I had a very nice day and the weather was good for travelling.

May all your Christmas wishes come true. With best wishes for a great season and a safe new year. I look forward to seeing you in February 2017.

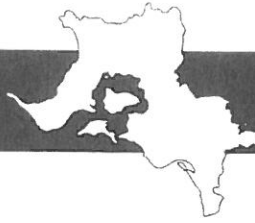
Regards

Robyn Robie

SEHA Delegate.

Postal Address – 7 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale 3171

Proudly Sponsored by the City of Greater Dandenong



**Secretary's report for the General Meeting
held on Sunday November 6, 2016
hosted by the Friends of Cheltenham & Regional Cemeteries.**

Correspondence received since the August 2016 meeting

- Bass Valley Historical Society Dinner Meeting 2/9/2016 flyer
- Chelsea & District Historical Society newsletter September 2016, November 2016
- Dandenong & District Historical Society Christmas luncheon flyer
- Hastings Western Port Historical Society newsletter September 2016
- Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society newsletter September 2016, October 2016, November 2016
- Lang Lang & District Historical Society newsletter November 2016
- Narre Warren & District Historical Society newsletter *Spreading Branches* August 2016
- Mordialloc and District Historical Society newsletter July 2016, August 2016
- Mornington & District Historical Society newsletter August 2016
- Narre Warren and District Family History Group newsletter *Spreading Branches* May 2016
- Nepean Historical Society newsletter *The Nepean* September 2016
- Phillip Island & District Historical Society Christmas function flyer
- Rye Historical Society newsletter *White Cliffs* October - December 2016
- Somerville Tyabb and District Heritage Society newsletter September 2016
- Wonthaggi and District Historical Society newsletter *The Plod* August 2016, September 2016, October 2016; Annual Dinner flyer; book launch flyer - *Contribution and conflict: a history of Wonthaggi and the First World War* by Sam Gatto

Outgoing correspondence since the August 2016 meeting

- Reports, Minutes, Agendas.

News from the newsletters

You can also read this on-line on our website www.seha.org.au

Chelsea & District Historical Society

- The September 2016 newsletter has an article about the Aspendale Palais also known as The Road House. It was built in 1925 and had a hall with a dance floor, a café, golf course and beach access. The November 2016 newsletter had an article on the Aspendale racecourse written by Margaret Jacobs.

Dandenong & District Historical Society <http://ddhs.com.au/>

- Christmas luncheon. When: Sunday, December 4 at 12.30pm. Venue: Dandenong Club, cr Heatherton and Stud Roads, Dandenong. Cost: \$30.00 per head. Bookings and payment to be received by Wednesday, November 23. Dandenong & District Historical Society P.O Box 8029, Dandenong, 3175. More information: 03 9794 8967 or email dandhist@internode.on.net

Hastings Western Port Historical Society

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dromana/hastings/aHastingsFrontPage.html>

- The September newsletter has an article on the 150 year old Hastings Jetty Fish shed

News from the newsletters continued

Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society

- The September newsletter has an article on the Eleven Mile bridge at Cora Lynn, the October newsletter has a short history of Tooradin and the November newsletter a history of Western Port Road, all written by Heather Arnold.

Lang Lang & District Historical Society <http://www.langlang.net/historical.html>

- At the recent AGM, Jean Hayden was returned as President, Peter Hayden as Secretary and Joy Adderley was elected Treasurer after the retirement of Joy Kay, who has had the Treasurer's role for a number of years. The 2017 calendar of historic street scenes is available for sale; email Jean the President on ralph6@dcsi.net.au if you wish to purchase a copy.

Mordialloc & District Historical Society

- The Society had a training session with Victorian Collections in July and in August some members attended the Kingston City Council Historical Society network meeting.

Mornington and District Historical Society www.morningtondistricthistory.org.au

- The August newsletter has an article on the Bates family of Moorooduc and Mornington. Albert Bates was a Shire of Mornington Councillor, who was killed in a motor car accident in 1917. The Mornington community raised £40 to erect a clock on the front of the Mechanics' Institute as a memorial to Albert. The Mornington & District Historical society restored the clock in 2004.

Narre Warren and District Family History Group <http://nwfhg.org.au/>

- *Spreading Branches* August 2016 has a report on the AGM, where Cameron and Marianne Rocke presented their research into the history of the Old Cheese Factory in Berwick. There is part 2 of Max Thomson's memories of Narre Warren in World War Two and an article by Di Christensen on Frederick Percy Williams, a chaplain to the 58th Battalion of the 15th Brigade of the 5th Australia Division, who fought at the Battle of Fromelles.

Nepean Historical Society <http://nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au/>

- The September 2016 *The Nepean* has an article on the Sorrento Baths, based on the recollections of Marius Webb. The Society has republished the book *Miss Gymkhana, R.G Menzies and me* by Kathy Skelton, her memoir of growing up in Sorrento in the 1950s. It is being officially launched in November 13.

Phillip Island & District Historical Society <http://www.pidhs.org.au/>

- Christmas Function. When: Saturday, December 3 2016 at 6.30pm for 7.00pm at the St Phillip's Parish Hall, Thompson Avenue, Cowes. The guest speaker is Graeme Clausen, President of the Society, 'Big game hunting with a camera' Cost is \$30.00 by pre-purchased tickets. Either send payment to Judy Gittus, Phillip Island & District Historical Society P.O Box 816, Cowes, 3922 or Direct Deposit to Bendigo Bank BSB: 633-000 Account 151829389 and email Judy with details to j.gittus43@gmail.com RSVP by November 25 to Judy Gittis on 03 5952 6498.

Rye Historical Society <http://ryehistoricalociety.weebly.com/>

- The *Whitecliffs* newsletter has part four of an article looking at road names in Postcode 3941 written by Noel Erbs. John Bertacco has written an article about the history of rabbits in Australia and there is a reprint of a 1900 obituary of Rye pioneer, Samuel Sherlock.

News from the newsletters continued

Somerville Tyabb & District Heritage Society <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~stdhs/>

- There is an article on the Omega band, also known as Cooks Band who played at dances all over the Mornington Peninsula and as far away as Korumburra, Tooradin and Koo-Wee-Rup in the 1940s. There are obituaries of locals William Rennie Rae and Gloria Taylor (nee Perriam)

Wonthaggi and District Historical Society <http://www.wonthaggihistoricalsociety.org.au/>

- The essay in the August *Plod*, written by Geoff Johnston, is about Clara Letitia Johnston (nee Ah Chow, 1883-1972) Clare married Julius Johnston in 1910. When they were on their honeymoon in Blackwood, they discovered some gold, which was valued at £600, a large amount of money in those days. This money allowed them to move to Wonthaggi where they purchased several blocks of land which they built shops on. In Wonthaggi, they operated 'The Hamburger shop', one of the first of its kind in Wonthaggi (or possibly anywhere) Clara was very entrepreneurial and operated and invested in many other businesses as well. The September *Plod* essay is A story of Wonthaggi by the man who opened the first business in Wonthaggi about Mr Cain's butcher shop and other early businesses. The October *Plod* essay is Kit Sleeman's memories of bath night when he was young and the carious hot water services including the Donkey, coal fired hot water service.
- Annual Dinner. When: Friday, November 25 2016 at 6.30pm at the Vick's Bistro at Capital, 140 McKenzie Street, Wonthaggi. The theme is Wonthaggi Garages and a range of speakers will entertain with a history and stories associated with local garages. Cost is \$30.00 per head by pre-purchased tickets – available at the Railway Station Museum – open Saturday 10.00am to 2.00pm and Thursday 10.00am and 1.00pm or Direct Deposit to Bendigo Bank BSB 633 000 Account 1323 14543 with your name. RSVP to Mr Laurie Culph on 03 5674 4658 by November 18.