

WHITTLESEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

ABN 46019570463

Our mission for this year to get more recognised within the community has certainly been fulfilled. It seems we have got the Council at least considering our plight for the need to have a permanent residence.

We have participated not only at the Council Community Festival earlier in the year where we were able to collect quite a lot of names for our petition but was also present at the open day for the Mernda Railway showing our display of Railway photos and an old train lantern.

In the meantime our Vice President Neil Johnson has managed to have his face appear several times in The Local Leader Newspaper relating to issues of saving and protecting heritage buildings and old red gum trees.

We continue to present historical articles in the Town Crier and have an event planned for November as part of the Whittlesea Cultural Heritage program.

A big thank you to all our members who have offered their time and energy this year.

WHITTLESEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings	3rd Sunday each month (Excluding January)
Time	2 pm
Venue	Whittlesea Community Activity Centre Laurel Street, Whittlesea.
Website	whittleseahistoricalsociety.org.au
Subscriptions	Single \$15/ Family \$20

NEWSLETTER Number 28 October 2018

Editor Wendy Lowry

*This Newsletter is kindly printed by the
office of Andrew Giles MP
(Federal Member for Scullin)*

ODD SPOT

By Lindsay Mann

**MELBOURNE ARGUS
September 1853**

*" Colonial Secretary's Office
Melbourne, 19th September, 1853*

WHITTLESEA

*Notice is hereby given that a site has been fixed
upon for a township at the under-mentioned
place, and that a copy of the approved Plan may
be seen at the Surveyor General's office,
Melbourne, viz -*

*WHITTLESEA , in the parish of Toorourrong
on the Upper Plenty Road, about twenty-three
miles from Melbourne.*

*By His Excellency's Command,
JOHN FOSTER"*

**MELBOURNE ARGUS
Tuesday 7th June 1848**

" WHITTLESEA'S HISTORY"

Don't miss out coming to this event !!!!!

The Whittlesea Historical Society is putting on this display of photos and artefacts as well as presenting a talk as part of the Whittlesea Cultural Heritage Program 2018.

It will be taking place at the Whittlesea Community Centre in Laurel Street on

Sunday 18th November 2018 at 2pm.

MONIER BRIDGE

By Wendy Lowry

At our December meeting last year, Mr Rex Cardwell presented a painting by Ilma Duncan of the Monier bridge in Mernda often referred to as "Magpie Bridge" in Bridge Inn Road. This painting was being donated to the Whittlesea Historical Society by Erif and John Vincent.



Rex Cardwell with the painting.

This bridge was built in 1901 and is one of the oldest reinforced concrete bridges in Victoria. This method of bridge building was adopted here by Sir John Monash (of World War 1 fame).

Monash who set himself up as an engineer and Patent Attorney began a fledgling firm of Monash and Anderson with a fellow civil engineer JT Anderson. Most of the technical information related to this new method of reinforced concrete construction was coming from France and Germany specialist journals. Monash knew both languages well. He became the pioneer in Australia's adoption of this engineering concept. Monash and Anderson acquired the Victorian rights to the manufacture, use and sale of the patented Monier pipes. The bridges constructed got to be known as 'Monier Bridges'. The Shire of Whittlesea employed Monash and Anderson to build this bridge in 1901.

The Plenty Valley Arts Association have now hung Ilma Duncan's painting of the 'Old Bridge' in the dining room of the Le Page Homestead. The PVAA are very excited and thankful to the WHS for allowing them to display this painting in honour of Ilma Duncan.

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM ?

" GALLUP POLL "

*It is an opinion survey that targets a cross-section of the population. In 1932 journalism lecturer George Horace **GALLUP** (1901-1984) was engaged by an advertising agency to determine the popularity of its products. Within four years he had established his company, the Institute of Public Polling, in both Britain and the US. The accuracy of his election forecasts engendered public confidence in his methods.*

"HOOVER"

*Meaning to vacuum, a trademark name for a vacuum cleaner. In 1907, a new device called the 'electric suction sweeper' came to the attention of an Ohio leather goods manufacturer William Henry **HOOVER** (1849-1942). The appliance, invented by a night watchman called J. Murray Spangler, was the prototype of the household vacuum cleaner. The smooth talking Hoover immediately saw its potential and Spangler agreed to sell him the rights. The following year the Hoover Suction Company launched the Model O domestic cleaner, priced at a hefty \$70.*

" ROLLS ROYCE "

*Meaning High Quality. The experimental motorcars built by engineer and electric crane manufacturer Frederick Henry **ROYCE** (1863-1933) came to the attention of the aristocratic automobile dealer Charles Stewart **ROLLS** (1877- 1910). In 1906 they agreed to merge their operations to found the **ROLLS ROYCE** Limited which soon developed a reputation as the maker of the "best cars in the world" and later aeroplane engines. Ironically, **ROLLS**, a pioneer aviator who became the first man to cross the English Channel twice in one flight also became the first Englishman to lose his life in a plane crash. **ROYCE** was elevated to peerage while the name **ROLLS ROYCE** remains a byword for prestige.*

FOOTPRINTS ON THE LANDSCAPE

By Wendy Lowry

The Whittlesea Historical Society supported Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria in presenting an event for the Whittlesea Cultural Heritage Program 2018 titled, "Footprints on the Landscape" on Saturday May 18th.

Beginning at the historic Carome Homestead with a smoking ceremony by an elder of the Wurundjeri people, we walked along the Plenty River past Moses Thomas's Flour mill and onto the old flume bridge of the Yan Yean Water supply system.

Representatives from Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and the Whittlesea Historical Society gave accounts relating to the area's occupation, from its original inhabitants the Aboriginal people through early settlement with the Willis and Thomas families to the development of farming and the building of infrastructure associated with the Yan Yean Reservoir. The tour certainly gave insight and education as to how the landscape has been layered and shaped over time.



Margaret and Lindsay Mann getting smoked.



Neil Johnson with Ross Mugavin and Chas Taylor .



Paul Ballassone and Lindsay Mann at the Flume.

UNEARTHED - A SHARED HERITAGE

By Wendy Lowry

From the 21st May to the 29th June, a display of artefacts from the Old Bridge Inn Archaeological Dig was made open to the public through a joint collaboration between the Mernda Rail Authority, Heritage Victoria and the Whittlesea Council.

The Level Crossing Authority had contracted Heritage Victoria to conduct the archaeological dig in the area where the original Bridge Inn Hotel was said to have stood. This fell into the area required for the extension of the Mernda Rail line. Although the dig was carried out last year, this event allowed people of the City of Whittlesea to view the excellent presentation of the wonderful items found.

Items of a personal nature included glass and metal buttons, buckles and an array of smoking pipes. There were children's items such as marbles, dolls parts and a toy comb. Tableware was in abundance from a large willow pattern serving dish to fragments of bowls, cups and plates. Also there were many pieces of cutlery typical of the 1850's. forks with three tines and knife handles made from bone and not to mention all the hand blown glass bottles. Farming related items such as chain fragments, nails and fencing wire too.

Added to this presentation was a collection and display of tools used by Heritage Victoria to perform this archaeological dig.

In all it provided a good insight into how life was at the Old Bridge Inn Hotel.

LIFE BEHIND THE GRAVESTONE

By John Waghorn

BURKE FAMILY

The headstone at Epping Cemetery was erected by **Patrick and Sarah BURKE**'s daughter Mary Ellen Zeven.

The **BURKE** family arrived in Australia from County Galway, Ireland in 1841. Patrick operated hotels for many years, including the Traveller's Home Hotel between Epping and Wollert, an old timber building which stood just up the road. This building was probably the oldest timber hotel left in Victoria but sadly was demolished in 2003.

In 1864 the Traveller's Home Hotel was the scene of a murder investigation when the body of **Mary BURKE**, Patrick's sister-in-law was discovered in a shallow grave nearby. The subsequent inquest determined that Mary's husband **Bartholomew BURKE**, Patrick's brother had murdered her in September 1858. Bartholomew and Mary had been living in a tent and the body was found buried on that site. Bartholomew Burke had disappeared by the time Mary's body was discovered and we haven't yet discovered whether he was ever brought to trial over the murder.

Patrick's wife **Sarah** died at Epping on 6th September 1874 of 'chronic asthma and debility' and her son **Martin Joseph** died at Brunswick on 5th February 1875 of 'congestion of the liver after measles'. **Patrick** himself died at Yarra Bend Asylum on 25th April 1881 of 'Softening of the brain with disease of the heart' having been admitted there in 1872 suffering from 'dementia and delusions'.



SAVING OUR HERITAGE

By Wendy Lowry

Our Vice President Neil Johnson has been busy this year visiting some of the heritage sites within the City of Whittlesea.

He has attempted on behalf of the Society to gain support from the Whittlesea Council to take a stand against developers who threaten to destroy the area's heritage and have the Council initiate a better plan to protect those heritage buildings that are falling into disrepair.

Mernda's Black Brae's Farm had been in Mernda for more than 100 years. Graff's House although destroyed by fire in 2015 is to be demolished and cleared. Mayfield Farm in Mernda the original home of the Thomas family could go the same way.

Neil has spoken to Whittlesea Council Planning and Major Projects but they have advised Council does not have the power to force owners or developers of heritage assets to maintain properties.

Neil is also worried about the bluestone outbuilding of Mayfield farm ,built in the 1850's and used as a butter factory, from being damaged by Vic Roads as they upgrade Plenty Road. Major Road Project Authority has said they would work with Council and Heritage Victoria to ensure appropriate measures were in place to protect the building.

President Bruce Batten and Judy Clements also met with the Whittlesea Council to discuss the preservation of the stalls from the Mernda Sales Yards. It is proposed part of the Mernda stalls will be moved to the Whittlesea Agricultural Society.

One of the Society's main aims is to help preserve the rich heritage we are fortunate to have within our local Municipality. It is the future generations who will miss out on seeing this if all the old structures are cleared away.

EARLY MAP OF MELBOURNE

Excerpt from Herald December 4th 1937

"Of enormous value to historians, an early map of Melbourne town, showing the type and layout of buildings in 1839, has been unearthed from the family chests of the late Mr J. D. Minty of Milton Street , Elwood.

The map is the work of John Williamson, an ancestor of Mr Minty's who was a thoroughly competent and reliable surveyor. The mystery of the map's appearance is that such a valuable record of early Melbourne should have lain for 98 years unknown to historians. It will however establish beyond all doubt the locality and structural nature of Melbourne's first buildings.

Mr Minty's family will not part with the map, but it has been placed in the custody of the National Gallery Trustees. A copy will be made for reference.

It is incredible to think how the map escaped publicity at the time of its preparation which is estimated to be late 1839. The Williamson map is in perfect condition. It was engraved by R Clint of Sydney and the paper on which it is engraved bears an 1837 water mark. It seems that although it was engraved it was not issued.

Sketches of public buildings, two storey and one storey buildings and mud buildings are drawn in distinguishing colours."

***** VALE *****

MAVIS DOHERTY
(1924 - 2018)

Long time resident of Wollert. 94 years

COMMUNITY DAY MERNDA RAILWAY

By Wendy Lowry

On Sunday 19th August, the people of the City of Whittlesea were offered a sneak peek into the new Mernda Railway line.

The three new stations of Middle Gorge, Hawkstowe and Mernda were open to take visitors along the track on special shuttle trains that left from South Morang Station. Despite terrible weather conditions the event was well attended and the Mernda Rail Authority would have been very pleased with the turn out.

Stalls and marquees were erected at the stations by local groups who were invited to show activities that were available within the community. These activities ranged from food and coffee stalls to music and dancing and sports groups.

The Whittlesea Historical Society showed their presence with a display of old photos of the Mernda Rail line along with maps and an actual railway lantern that had been used by the Rail motors.



David Ovenden and Ross Mugavin



The old Rail lantern

DO YOU REMEMBER ?

By Gwen Hawke

CHARLOTTE'S WEB



Miss Janet Gordon's Cottage was often referred to as "Charlotte's Web" and was located on Plenty Road South Morang. In the 1980's Ms L Dynan opened her craft shop there. She would advertise and hold spinning demonstrations and have art and craft work on display and for sale. She also had fleece for sale. This photo was taken in 1985.

FRANK RICARDO



For 60 years Frank Ricardo was known as the cheerful travelling Haberdasher. People within Whittlesea never would forget seeing his red Bedford truck around.



GENEALOGY NIGHTMARE

Courtesy of Margaret Mann

This poem appeared in the A.I.G.S. Newsletter 2017 and might appeal to the family historians amongst us.

*" My daughter never married but she's lived with Joe so long,
And they and the kids are so happy that somehow ,
it doesn't seem wrong.*

*My son, he was legally married but his wife kept her own name.
We don't know the name of our grand kids but we love everyone just the same.*

*My sister, she really got married, she 'tied the knot' all seven times.
her family could pass for a railroad with the crossing of so many lines!*

*My brother, well, he was adopted, but he found his natural kin,
And our family tree is just blooming like a wild and monstrous thing.*

*I try to keep things in order, everyone a place of their own,
But what shall I do about Father, he says, "He's really a clone!"*

E.H.WALDRAM

WHY I LIKE RETIREMENT

How many days in a week?
6 Saturdays and 1 Sunday

What do retirees call a long lunch?
Normal

What's the biggest gripe of retirees?
There is not enough time to get everything done.

Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?
Because the term comes with a 10% discount.