



CAMPERDOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

PO Box 243 Camperdown 3260

Email: camperdowndhs@gmail.com

www.camperdownhistory.org.au

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NEWSLETTER

January, 2017.

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**Newsletter &
Communications**

Ray Watson

Photographs

Hello to all members

We have lots of plans for 2017 and some of them are now well on the way. The booklet of "Inspiring Women" should be ready to go to print by the end of February and we hope to have it available in March. This means it will be in plenty of time for the Burns week-end in May, which is a good time for selling a few copies to our visitors.

Of course, summer time is also holiday time and so many of our members are taking a few weeks off to be with family. This means that although plans have been made, the actual work may have to wait a little. We still have enough volunteers to man the Museum every Tuesday, though. So, if you are on holidays, this could be a good time for YOU to call in and see us.

Once the Dairy Industry Display is set up - which should be within the next couple of months - there are plans for quite a bit of re-arranging in the Heritage Centre involving new displays and new exhibitions. Watch this space!

We've had some interesting visitors in the last month - details in the pages ahead. It's surprising how often people arrive from other parts of Victoria completely unannounced and either they give us new information that we're happy to have or they make a vague family enquiry, only to find that we have a whole file on their family, sometimes even with photographs that they've never seen.

Our Facebook page continues to attract quite a lot of followers and there was an interesting development from a reader back in November which we tell you about on page 6.

Our next outing for members needs your urgent attention if you want to join us, so have a good look at it and contact us quickly if you want to book.

Wishing a Happy New Year to you all from the committee and volunteers,

Camperdown Heritage Centre

241 Manifold Street
Camperdown 3260

PO Box 243
Camperdown.

Opening hours
Tuesdays and 1st Sunday of
month, (Market Day) 10am-
3pm

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From the Heritage Centre

This very imposing statue of a Spanish Cavalier used to have pride of place at 'Talindert', the home of James C. Manifold M.L.C., son of district pioneer John Manifold. 'Talindert' was erected in 1890 for James Manifold who was a public benefactor, politician, and influential pioneer of the dairying industry in western Victoria.

The statue is one of a pair of "spelter" statues purchased by James Manifold in England c.1909.

COMING EVENTS: FEBRUARY - MARCH 2017

**"A touch of Hollywood"
A visit to the National Trust property
Mooramong at Skipton
Sunday 12th February**



Mooramong homestead

In 1938, *Mooramong* homestead was revamped in "Hollywood style" by wealthy Australian grazier Donald "Scobie" Mackinnon for his American movie star wife Claire Adams.

Mooramong recaptures the glamorous life and times of the Mackinnons from the 1930s to the 1960s. Their wonderful house features photographs, curios and objets d'art.

After a picnic lunch in the gardens, we will have a guided tour of the homestead.



Scobie and Claire



Claire by the pool

Depart from Camperdown Heritage Centre at 11.15 am (share cars)

BYO picnic lunch

**Entry cost \$12.00 per person
(National Trust members free)**

Visitors welcome

Bookings essential:

Maree Belyea, Ph. 0417 352 987

Bob Lambell, Ph. 0424 220 809

Please book early. Bookings close on Wednesday 1st February

Wednesday 22nd March at 9.30 am: Executive meeting at the Heritage Centre

HERITAGE CENTRE - Jottings and News

Christmas Breakup at 'Penzance'



The weather man turned on a perfect evening for our picnic tea and informal gathering at 'Penzance' to celebrate the end of another year.

It was hardly a 'picnic' as our hostess, Pamela Jellie, had tables and chairs all ready for us in the back courtyard, complete with cutlery, condiments and Christmas decorations. President Bob Lambell welcomed the 30 or so members and Pamela and Maree Belyea gave us a brief history of 'Penzance', its previous owners and its various uses. We then had a chance to wander the extensive - and beautifully kept - gardens before sitting down to enjoy our BYO food and drink. A very pleasant end to 2016.



Another booklet on the way.

For the annual Burns Festivals in 2012, 2013 and 2014 your society staged three different exhibitions of "Camperdown's Notable Scots" and after each exhibition, we produced a booklet containing all the stories and photographs.

Following that tradition and now that our exhibition of "Inspiring Women" has closed, we are in the process of putting those stories together in a similar fashion. This new booklet is being created using a different computer program and, although it's taking a little longer, it promises to be a slightly more professional-looking production than our earlier efforts. We expect it to be available for purchase by May this year for the Burns weekend – *all going well!*



AND - yet another book - all the Scots together.



This is a rather more major undertaking than the Inspiring Women booklet, as it involves compiling all of our notable Scots into the one volume. We have received a grant from the Victorian Government Local History Grants Program for this project and the resultant book will be professionally printed and will contain all the necessary sources, indexing, etc. required of a proper reference book. Of course it will also contain any available photographs.

The writers now have the job of checking their sources, enlarging the articles to include as much known information as possible and double checking that all the information is correct. Quite a responsibility!

Our timeline tells us that we have to have it ready for the printer by March, 2018, and somehow we have to fit all that in with our other work. *It WILL happen! (We always think positively!)*

An interesting visitor

We are always happy to welcome visitors at the Heritage Centre and often they arrive with a very interesting question or two. One of these was a writer from Coff's Harbour, Jacquelin Melilli, who is in the process of writing a book about Shirley Broadway and her father - the owner/manager of 'Alf Broadway's Entertainment Troupe'.

Some of you may remember Shirley Broadway from her television appearances in the 1960s and 70s. She hosted **Two's Company** and **The Saturday Show** in the 1960s and appeared in the TV series **Whiplash** and **Seven Little Australians**. She also has the distinction of being the winner of the "Shirley Temple Look-alike competition" back when she was about four or five years old. In January, 2014, Shirley was awarded Arts Health Institute Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts.

Jacquelin's search was for any records we might have about her father's entertainment troupe which visited south-west Victoria in the 1930s. It seems he definitely travelled in this area and could well have played at the Theatre Royal but our records have no mention of the name. If any of our readers have



From Coff's Harbour's "Jetty Memorial Theatre" Facebook Page

memories that go back far enough(!) we'd be pleased to pass any information on to Jacquelin; or she can be contacted direct at her website: www.jacqx.com.

Grand (& Great-Grand) Children of the Clocktower.



Peter Roger – 9th July, 2014.

“My grandfather built your clocktower.”

Richard Ziegeler – 22nd November, 2016.

“My great-grandfather made the mechanism of your clock.”

Judith Vimpani – 4th December, 2016.

“My great-grandfather installed your clock mechanism.”



Those names and quotes above belong to “totally out-of-the-blue” visitors to the Heritage Centre.

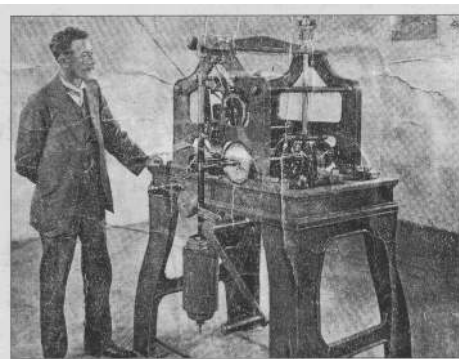
The first one - Peter Roger, grandson of the builder, visited back in 2014 and we featured **Peter Rodger,** his visit in our Newsletter of August of that year.

At that time, Peter furnished us with a photograph of his grandfather, also called Peter Rodger, as well as a detailed history of the builders and their many outstanding public buildings. All are now part of our Clocktower records. Sadly, he had no record of a photo we have been looking for over many years. (See next paragraph)

An ongoing search for a photograph:

Many readers of this newsletter will already be aware of this request but just in case there are some new ones out there with an answer for us..... here it is again:

Our records state: *“During the construction, the bricks and mortar were raised to the work level by means of a hod. The hod was hoisted by a pony-powered block and tackle. All day long the pony would plod up and down the avenue, covering only short distances at first but, as the building reached its ultimate height, the pony had to travel as far as the Mechanics Hall.”*



Fritz Ziegeler – from The Weekly Times of November 27, 1909. (Source: Picture LEANNE PICKETT)

So far, we have been unable to locate a photograph of this pony-powered block and tackle. Is there any help out there?

As you can see from the dates above, the other visitors were quite recent and both Richard and Judith had stories to share with us, enabling us to add extra information to our files.



Richard Ziegeler - Nov.2016.

Richard Ziegeler

Much of the information from Richard Ziegeler had already been reported in the Warrnambool Standard of 17th May, 2008, so he was very pleased to see that we had all of that in our records.





Judith Vimpani - in December 2016

Judith Vimpani

Only a week and a half after Richard's visit, Judith Vimpani arrived with the announcement that **her** great-grandfather had installed the clock mechanism. We were more than a little surprised!

On being asked about her statement, she produced a lap-top computer which contained newspaper reports, court reports and lots of photos covering her great-grandfather's history.

The following is taken from her family records:

John Dean Vimpany (spelling changed over the years).

On 9th November 1870 John Dean Vimpany sailed to Australia on board the Essex.

John had been engaged, in October, in London by agents for Thomas Gaunt, to work for him as watchjobber in Melbourne. Gaunt paid his passage under the passage warrant scheme.

He arrived in Melbourne on 26 January, 1871. Life in the early days must have been tough. A new young town - Melbourne had only been started 30 years earlier and had already seen fluctuating fortunes with the goldrush of the 1850s and 60s. At least John had a job to go to, or did he? Recent searches (2009) have uncovered a court case where John took Gaunts to court over wrongful dismissal and sadly, after the second hearing, the case was lost.

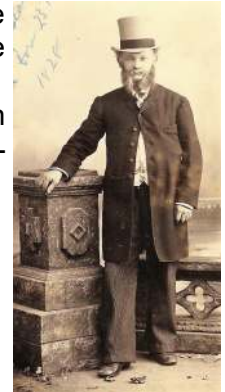
The Argus 7 March 1872 **VIMPANY v GAUNT**

The plaintiff was engaged by Mr. Gaunt's agent in London, as a competent watchjobber, at a salary of £3 10s. a week for a year. His passage was paid out to Melbourne, and a day or so after his arrival he entered the defendant's establishment in Bourke-street, and was set to work. After a few days' trial, he was found not to give satisfaction, and his services were not retained. He was out of employment for some time, and now claimed £500 damages for wrongful dismissal. He explained that the reason he was not able at first to satisfactorily perform the delicate required of him was, that after an extremely rough and protracted sea voyage his hands had got out of working order, but that a few days would have put that all right. The defendant stated that the plaintiff was not a first-class workman, such as he had expected. When he discovered that, he had offered to pay his passage back to England, and to give him something besides, but the plaintiff had not accepted the offer, apparently preferring his action instead. It was stated by an employer of the plaintiff that although he was a good sound worker: he was not a first-class watch-jobber. On the other hand, it was alleged that even ordinary work entrusted to him had been so clumsily executed that it had in many cases been returned for fresh repairs.

It seems that the initial problems between John and Gaunts were solved when clockmakers were in high demand during the building boom of the Gold Towns and 1880s of Marvellous Melbourne. The wealth from the goldrush was being poured into magnificent public and private buildings.

In 1881 the family was living at the shop in Bulleen Rd, Kew and John was involved in the building and installing of turret/tower clocks. Public clocks were vital as the watch was not yet common place.

Family anecdotes remember five such clocks. All of these clocks were supplied by Thomas Gaunt & Sons. The first clock the family believe John was involved with is the Castlemaine Post Office which was built in 1874-75. The building was opened on 5th July 1875.



John Vimpany
c.1880



Melbourne's GPO
Clocktower was added in
1887.

The period 1885 to 1890 saw John also busy as a 'sub-contractor' to Thomas Gaunt assisting with the clocks for the Collingwood Town Hall, for the Victorian Railways at their Newport Workshops and the new clock in the extended Melbourne GPO in Elizabeth Street. The GPO is the most impressive, being associated with a carillon of 12 bells which were originally programmed to play any one of 28 tunes of the Victorian era such as Rule Britannia, The Grand Old Duke of York, Comin' thru the Rye, The Minstrel Boy and Old Hundredth. Today Waltzing Matilda is the only tune that experts can produce.



Manifold Clocktower, Camperdown.

The last turret clock John was believed to have worked on was that in the Manifold Clock Tower in Camperdown which was built in late 1896 and early 1897. The clock was officially started at a ceremony on 16th March 1897, just weeks before John's death.



The story of a shoe

Back in November, 2016, then newish owner of 'Keeyuga' - the turreted house in Campbell Street - contacted us on our Facebook page. Here's what he said:

I recently found this button up shoe hidden under the floor of a built-in robe in Keeyuka.(sic)

On being asked what he intended to do with it, he replied:

Keep it in the house in a small glass dome on a fire mantle, how could you possibly remove it from such a long term resting place.

What a great find! After this conversation had been published on Facebook, we received the following article from member, Margaret Nixon. We're sure Historical Society members will find it really interesting.

Hidden Shoes:

A large number of shoes or boots have been found in spaces under floorboards, in chimneys and elsewhere when a house has been renovated or demolished. A relatively common folk practice called 'HIDDEN SHOES'.

Shoes or boots are usually found concealed in chimneys, either on a ledge a little way up the chimney or in purpose-built cavities behind the hearth into which items can be deposited from above. These have been termed 'spiritual middens'.

Other places of concealment are found in walls, under floorboards, in window frames and in staircases. Nearly all of the shoes or boots discovered in this context are well worn. Half of those found belonged to children and only very rarely are pairs found.

Over the years there have been various theories as to why shoes were concealed this way. Hidden shoes - A kind of folk magic to protect houses from unwanted intruders or witches. The shoe was a symbol of good luck to warn them off.

Hiding a shoe in chimneys and around doors - 'the openings' where evil spirits could enter the home.



An 'unofficial saint' named John Schorn was partly responsible for this custom. Schorn was reputed to have cast the devil into a boot, which fits in with the idea of shoes acting as a trap for evil spirits.

The shoes - hidden in cavities behind hearths - may have been intended to act as a kind of bait. Witches would be lured into the trap by the smell of the shoe and once there would be unable to escape, since as everyone knows, witches are unable to travel backwards.

A shoe was also thought to be a fertility symbol. (Many thanks, Margaret - Ed.)

Local CDHS members will probably have read this article in the Camperdown Chronicle but it may be of interest to those who have moved from the town:

Camperdown Chronicle, Friday, January 6th, 2017.

Can you identify the building?

A Bacchus Marsh resident has challenged the memories of Camperdown residents after coming across a historic photograph of the town.

Margaret Collier, a former resident of Camperdown, said she came across the photograph on the

internet.

"My father noticed a building beside the old courthouse and both my parents couldn't remember it," she said.

"My father also took a copy of the photo into the local museum, but they couldn't help either."

<p>Temperament is particularly important in this position and the applicant must possess the capacity to remain calm and serene through flood, fire and footrot. She must be prepared at all times to have her most cherished and longed-for plans cancelled at the last moment.</p>	<p>tooth edible, and the ability to produce a sumptuous repast out of absolutely nothing on those occasions when there are suddenly ten extra for lunch and the cupboard is bare.</p>	<p>In order to take up this position, the successful applicant must have a thorough knowledge of carpentry, plumbing, mechanics, veterinary science, landscape gardening, interior decorating, hotel management, accountancy, law, medicine, child psychology and diplomacy - just for starters. Other necessary skills she will acquire on-the-job.</p>
<p>In particular, she needs the organisational ability to arrange the family calendar. In this, sowing and harvest, hay-making and shearing are the main events of the year. All other minor happenings like births, weddings, graduations and emergency illnesses, etc. must be squeezed in between.</p>	<p>The successful applicant in this position will find it necessary, because of time pressures, to undertake many different tasks concurrently. Thus she must possess enough motor skills and eye-hand co-ordination to be able to change a nappy, mix a batch of scones and answer the telephone - all at the same time.</p>	<p>Applicants also need a fully-endorsed licence to drive a car, truck, tractor, motor bike, ride-on-mower, pram and billy cart.</p>
<p>As well as proficiency in all areas of household management, some extra culinary skills are required for this position.</p>	<p>As well, cleanliness and neatness of workmanship are an advantage, especially on those inevitable occasions when she will have to change a tyre while wearing tennis gear, push a car out of a bog in a dinner dress and pull a calf in a nightie.</p>	<p>SALARY AND REMUNERATION: Wages: none Overtime: none Weekend penalty rates: none Sickness benefits: none Holiday pay: none Long Service Leave: none</p>
<p>This include an encyclopaedic knowledge of how to make a six-</p>	<p>QUALIFICATIONS:</p>	<p>FRINGE BENEFITS: Despite all, amongst its practitioners, this position rates</p>

Ms Collier said the photo appeared to be taken in the late 50s or early 60s. "I grew up in Camperdown in that era, but can't remember the building either," she said. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Camperdown Chronicle on 5593 1888.

Problem solved!

Our intrepid researcher, Maree Belyea, fossicked through our records and came up with the answer, complete with Camperdown Chronicle news articles of the time, which she passed on to the Chronicle for their next edition.



The building in the temporary Commonwealth they were having and current - constructed. It was Church Street, used by the Senior still there and is the David Centre.



question was home of the Bank while their new - building then removed where it was Citizens' Club. now home to Newman



Situations Vacant (continued from last month's Newsletter)

Who wants a farmer's wife job (Grade 1)? This was the question asked last month. We now continue with the qualifications deemed necessary for this demanding job:

We don't quite know where this gem came from, it was passed to your editor a few months ago and it seemed to be something we'd like to share with our readers.

One thing not mentioned - and which would be essential in today's world - is the ability to use a