



# PAST MATTERS

CAMPERDOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Volume 28 – No.2

NEWSLETTER ISSN 2209-2617

April, 2018

## **President**

**Bob Lambell**

## **Vice President**

**Rob Wuchatsch**

## **Secretary**

**Maree Belyea**

## **Acting Treasurer**

**Jan Whamond**

## **Committee**

**Jan Whamond**

**HC Co-ordinator**

**Gillian Senior**

**Newsletter &  
Communications**

**Ray Watson**

**Photographs**

**Rob Wuchatsch**

**Co-ordinator**

**Scots Compilation**

Hello to all our members,

As you can see, our newsletter now has a brand new name and logo which was decided on by the Executive Committee after looking at a number of suggestions and designs. This one has been designed by our photography expert, Ray Watson - we hope you like it.

Volunteers at the Heritage Centre have spent a lot of their time over the past three months editing and proof-reading the book we are publishing in time for the Burns Festival. It is called "Scotland to Australia Felix - Founding Scots of Victoria's Camperdown District" and it is based on the original research done for our three "Notable Scots" booklets. It will be launched at the Killara Centre as a finale to the speakers program on the Saturday of the Burns Festival. (See "Coming Events" inside). It promises to be a very special event, so we hope you'll come along and take part. The final speaker of the day, Ben Wilkie, is a fascinating speaker and has contributed to our book by writing a comprehensive introduction to it, explaining the background to the Scottish settlement in this part of Victoria.

Have a look at the Burns Festival website:

<http://www.camperdownburnsfestival.com.au> – it's full of information about what's on with more details about the very interesting speakers – all organised by our President, Bob Lambell.

It's very encouraging that our membership list keeps growing and is now around a healthy 120, plus various Museum and Society memberships. We look forward to welcoming members at the Heritage Centre – call in any time, there's lots to see – and we love a chat!

*Gillian Senior*, Newsletter Editor

## **Camperdown Heritage Centre**

241 Manifold St.,  
Camperdown 3260

PO Box 243, Camperdown 3260

[camperdowndhs@gmail.com](mailto:camperdowndhs@gmail.com)  
[www.camperdownhistory.org.au](http://www.camperdownhistory.org.au)

### **Opening Hours:**

Tuesdays & 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of month  
(Market Day) 10am-3pm or by  
appointment.

### **In this issue:**

- P1. From the Heritage Centre
- P2&3. Coming Events
- P4 Heritage Centre Jottings and News. Special Terang Event May 15th
- P5-6 "An American Impression"
- P7 "What Kiddle Forgot"

## **From the Heritage Centre Camperdown's first fire truck.**

A photograph from our catalogue of Camperdown's first fire truck in 1926, complete with fire extinguisher, hoses, ladder and firemen. In light of the wonderful job the Fire Brigade has done during the recent fires in our district, it seems a good time to remember and thank all those brave members who have looked after the town and surrounds for so many years.



## Coming Events:

### Camperdown Robert Burns Scottish Festival

18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018

#### LECTURE PROGRAM

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May, Killara Centre, Camperdown

*Entry fee: \$5.00 per lecture, \$20.00 for series*

**9.30 am - 10.30 am: Dr Iain Buckland**

*"Guid auld Scotch drink - drinking culture in the time of Robert Burns"*



**10.30 am - 11.30 am: Allan Willingham**

*"Scottish intrigues in the naming of Camperdown : debunking a legend".*



**11.30 am - 12.30 pm: Alistair Watt**

*"Robert Fortune: A Scottish Gardener in China"*



**1.30 pm - 2.30 pm: Jamie McGeechan**

*"Scottish roots: an exploration of the relationship between Scottish music and song, the fertile environment of Scotland and the international export and development of the Scottish tradition"*



**2.30 pm - 3.30 pm: Dr Ben Wilkie**

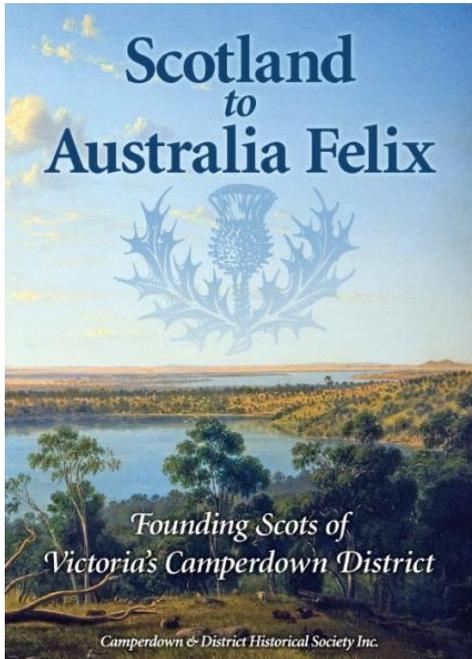
*"Caledonia Australis: Scottish migrants and the making of the Western District"*



# BOOK LAUNCH

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 3.30 pm  
Killara Centre, Camperdown

*(Immediately following the lecture by Dr Ben Wilkie)*



## Scotland to Australia Felix:

*Founding Scots of Victoria's Camperdown District*

Published by: Camperdown & District historical Society Inc.

*... a warm and human story of those courageous Scots who came to Camperdown, some more than 150 years ago.*

Stewart McArthur AM, of 'Meningoort'

To be launched by Mr. Richard Riordan, MLA for Polwarth

Join us for the Book Launch.

*Entry is free*

## Camperdown Heritage Centre

*Entry: gold coin (at door)*

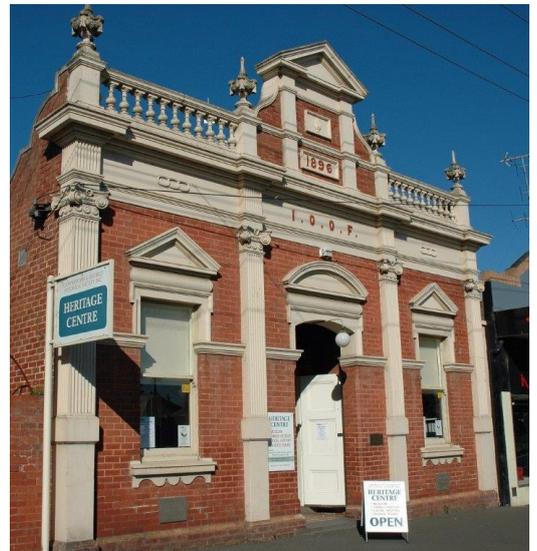
**Special Exhibition:**  
**"Founding Scots of the Camperdown District"**

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May:**

10.00 am - 2.00 pm

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May:**

10.00 am - 2.00 pm



For further information about the Camperdown Robert Burns Sottish Festival, go to the festival website:

<http://www.camperdownburnsfestival.com.au/Home>

## HERITAGE CENTRE - Jottings and News

### WILLIAM ADENEY OF 'CHOCOLYN' – Standing room only!

After noting that more than two and a half thousand people had clicked on our Facebook posting for Elizabeth Adeney's talk on her pioneer great-grandfather, we were just a little worried about whether we'd have enough chairs! As it turned out, we JUST made it - after using every one we could find, including computer and desk chairs and the odd stool.

A total of just under fifty visitors arrived to share the talk and all agreed that the event was a great success. Elizabeth shared many photographs and anecdotes about her ancestor and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day - including the afternoon tea provided by our members.

Present in the audience were the previous owners of Chocolyn House and a representative of the current owners, as well as many locals and a few passing travellers who had seen the poster on Facebook. Elizabeth was supported by various members of her own family and all were very impressed by the CDHS Museum and our displays. All in all, a very successful opening event for 2018. The picture is of the Adeney family: Bill, Maureen, Michael, Elizabeth (speaker) and Judith.

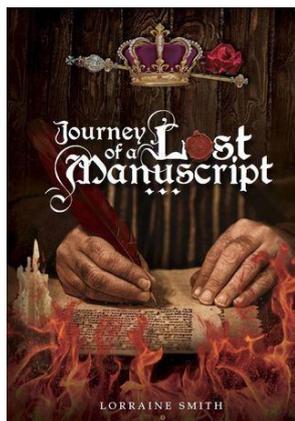


### ARE YOU LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT?

The Committee of CDHS is a hard-working lot but we also enjoy a lot of chat, laughs and a sense of achievement. You too could be part of this happy group!

Currently we are in need of a Treasurer. Jan Whamond, Heritage Centre Co-ordinator, is also Acting Treasurer and she'd love to pass that role on to someone else. We'd also like to have someone who is interested in writing and editing the Newsletter and/or posting bits of news and photos on Facebook. Current Editor, Gillian Senior, does both jobs but she would like to have someone to learn the jobs, assist occasionally and be there to take over if necessary.

### Journey of a lost manuscript : the rediscovery in Warrnambool of a 16th century manuscript believed destroyed by fire.



When an old parchment was found inside a copy of Alice in Wonderland in a second-hand bookshop, everything about it was a mystery. Discovered to be an Elizabethan manuscript, this is the enthralling story of its travels from Gildersome, Yorkshire in 1583 to Warrnambool, Victoria in 2013. It is a journey with so many twists and lucky escapes it should be a novel – but this is a true story.

Author of the book, Lorraine Smith, is the owner of the bookshop where the manuscript was discovered. Two and a half years after that find and after research that took her to the other side of the world, Lorraine was able to publish the results of her search.

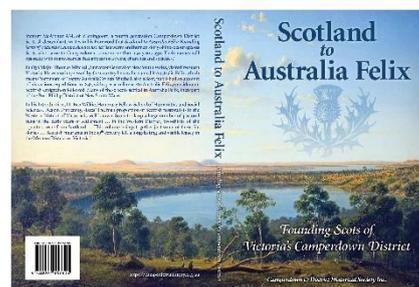
She will be talking about the adventures she has had in following the trail of this manuscript and also selling copies of her book **on Tuesday, May 15th at 8 pm at the Terang Elderly Citizens Clubrooms, The Promenade, Terang.**

CDHS is happy to publicise this event which is being run by the **Terang & District Family History Group**. There is no charge for entry and all are welcome. A number of our members will be there to share this fascinating story.

### IT'S GONE TO THE PRINTER!

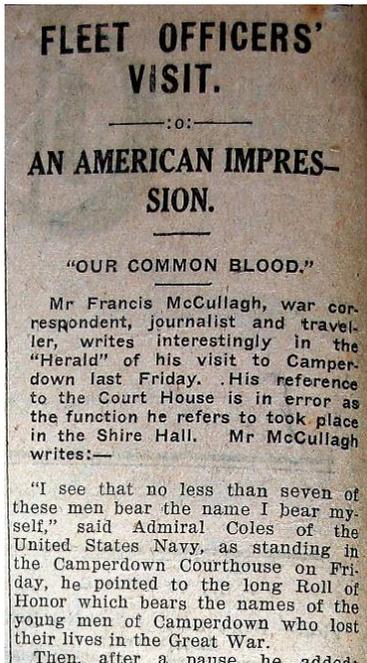
At long last, after an exhaustive (and exhausting) collating and editing process, the CDHS Scots Book Committee has sent the final draft off to Star Printing in Terang.

You'll see the date of the official launch advertised in our Coming Events page (P.3) and now we are at last confident that we will *definitely* have the book available for this event. We've seen a proof copy and it looks GOOD! (huge sigh of relief from all concerned!)



# VISIT FROM THE AMERICAN FLEET – 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 1925

## AN AMERICAN IMPRESSION



After the report in our last newsletter about the 1925 visit to Australia of the American Fleet, it was interesting to find in the Camperdown Chronicle, an article written by **"Mr. Francis McCullagh, war correspondent and journalist and traveller"**.

Captain McCullagh travelled on the train with the Naval Officers when they visited a number of towns in regional Victoria, including Camperdown and his report is fulsome in its praise of the Camperdown reception and of Australian people in general.

He begins by reporting the farewell speeches made in the Camperdown Shire Hall and then continues:

***The portraits of strong-faced pioneers and mayors that looked down on us from the walls might have been all taken from the council chamber of some old town hall in Massachusetts. The brave little township outside might have been transplanted bodily from the banks of the Mohawk River. The genial, strongly built local men, with square jaws and weather-beaten faces, might have been New England farmers.***

(High praise indeed!)

***The feeling of kinship was increased by the factors of remoteness, distance, isolation, danger. We had traversed a hemisphere of water. We had come through the only sea-lane that was free. For, on the north were those hundreds of millions of Asia to which a slight, a very slight, reference was made at Echuca and at Ballarat; and to the south lay the Polar Sea. The Americans, whose country is in one solid chunk, were surprised to find a very white, very pure-blooded nation away down here at the back of the Beyond, past Hawaii, past even ultimate Pago Pago. Perhaps it was the existence of these factors – isolation, distance, danger – that gave an edge to the welcome and a heartiness to the handshake.***

There are also some sentiments expressed which, in today's world, would not be expressed openly nor would they be acceptable to our readers.

However, history is history and if we delve into the past we must be prepared to find unpleasant facts and opinions and we should not be afraid to read about them.

### **BY GOSH THEY'RE WHITE.**

***"Plucky people," said one young naval ensign to me. "Plucky people to come so far out, and to keep so white. By gosh, they are whiter than you or we are. I now understand what they mean by White Australia. "This ensign had just come from Mexico where he had found the children "all the colours of the rainbow", as he expressed it. Very pleasing, no doubt, it would be to a painter – to Mr Grant of the Pennsylvania, for example – but very bad, in this ensign's opinion, from the point of view of John Citizen. Those multi-coloured children would grow up to constitute an unstable Commonwealth like Mexico or Haiti. "The Australians are right," said the ensign. "White Australia's the only possible ticket. Advance Australia!"***

of the Beyond, past Hawaii, past even ultimate Pago Pago. Perhaps it was the existence of these factors— isolation, distance, danger—that gave an edge to the welcome and a heartiness to the handshake.

**"BY GOSH, THEY'RE WHITE.**

"Plucky people," said one young naval ensign to me. "Plucky people to come so far out, and to keep so white. By gosh, they are whiter than you or we are. I now understand what they mean by White Australia."

This ensign had just come from Mexico, where he had found the children "all the colors of the rainbow," as he expressed it. Very pleasing, no doubt, it would be to a painter—to Mr Grant of the Pennsylvania, for example—but very bad, in this ensign's opinion, from the point of view of John Citizen. Those multi-colored children would grow up to constitute an unstable Commonwealth like Mexico or Haiti. "The Australians are right," said the ensign. "White Australia's the only possible ticket. 'Advance Australia!'"

The faces which we saw during our trip in the Reso train were all British and Irish faces.

## AN AMERICAN IMPRESSION – contd.

### SPARKLING CHILDREN

*The greatest impression made on the American visitors was made by the children. “You have been showing me fine sheep all the morning,” said Admiral Cole in one pastoral district, “but what are the finest sheep in the world in comparison with these?” – and he swept his hand in the direction of a big bunch of boys and girls, who might have, all of them, taken first prizes anywhere, for size and strength and swiftness, for beauty of face and figure, for the healthiness of the flow in their cheeks, for the brightness of the sparkle in their eyes.*

*This may seem to be the language of exaggeration, and I would not use it if similar language had not been used by every member of the American party. The children are wonderful. They were great favourites with the visitors, each of whom is now sorting out this morning, aboard his battleship or destroyer, presentation postcards from little boys and girls in out of the way parts of Victoria – places like Nagambie and Echuca and Tatura, of which none of the Americans had ever heard before.*

### WHERE WERE THE BOYCOTTERS?

*But it was not the boys and girls alone who welcomed us. Everybody welcomed us. Farmers working the in the fields waved their broad-brimmed hats at us. Squatters placed their motor cars at our disposal. The strong, competent, resourceful daughters of the squatters acted very often as our chauffeurs, and most skilful chauffeurs they proved themselves to be. Carpenters sawing wood stopped to cheer as our motor cars went past. Draymen waved their hands and wished us “God Speed”. Workmen were as enthusiastic as landowners.*

*In one remote town where we arrived by motor car late at night a great crowd had been awaiting us patiently for three or four hours, for we were unavoidably late; and our welcome was so enthusiastic as to bring tears into the eyes of the younger and more impressionable ones in our party. Neither darkness nor heavy rain nor bad roads nor unpunctuality on our part (unpunctuality due to the weather) nor strong head winds nor anything else was able to damp the magnificent welcome we got from all classes of the population. If there were embittered Communists anywhere about, they must have hidden themselves very well and kept very quiet, for we neither saw nor heard anything of them.*

The regional towns were not the only ones who made the Americans so welcome. Medals were struck, “Welcome Badges” were made and sold, and a huge parade took place in Melbourne past the Victorian House of Parliament. Other parades were held in Sydney and Hobart and many welcome speeches were made wherever the fleet visited.



## “WHAT KIDDLE FORGOT”

### A Social History of the Mount Elephant district of Western Victoria, 1860-1880

Quite often we get enquiries from descendants of farm workers whose only knowledge about their ancestor is that he or she worked on a certain property. Unfortunately, we rarely have any records or information in our files to assist their research.

However, recently the CDHS has been extremely fortunate in being able to access a wonderful new resource written by Michael Sturmfels B.A. (Hons.) Dip. Ed. It takes the form of a thesis written for a Master of Arts and, apart from a fascinating discussion of the various jobs carried out by pastoral workers at the time, it also includes a spreadsheet documenting the workers on various properties in the Mt. Elephant district between the years 1860 and 1880.

In reply to a request by our Secretary, Maree Belyea, to purchase the document, the author of the thesis graciously offered us an electronic copy at no cost. His email reads, in part:

***Your society was of great help during my research (Bob Lambell, Norma Wynd, and others). I attach a copy of the database for the society's use and also a copy of the thesis on which it was based (without illustrations). I hope your members find it useful.***

Below are a few examples of the type of information available in this new resource.

Excerpt from the thesis document – Pg. 33

***The house cook, so-called to distinguish her from the station cook who cooked for the male estate workers, was expected to provide sometimes extensive meals for the household and she played a crucial role in social entertainment. She was paid from £30 to £40 per annum, depending upon expertise, experience, and whether her contract included extra duties such as doing the laundry. She was more likely to be an older woman with previous work experience, sometimes employed as part of a married couple agreement in which her husband worked as a labourer out on the estate or did odd jobs around the homestead. Because of her status, she expected to be treated with more respect than an ordinary housemaid, but this was not always the case and as a result some stations changed cooks with the same regularity as other domestic servants: there were twenty-four house cooks at Tandarook between 1862 and 1880.***

An example of the accompanying database gives the following details about Catharine Woodward:

***“Tandarook” - 1862-63 - Cook - 29/5/62: Catherine Wood (sic) employed from ‘Coles Asche & Tait’ as cook, paid at £30 pa; 24/11/62: husband Herbert Woodward began work, now ‘married couple’ at £65 pa; 9/5/63: settled, advanced £6.19 from £46.6.6. Herbert Woodward m. Catharine Foley 1862, children b Camperdown (2: 1863, 65).***



A young Frances Curdie

Mrs. Frances Curdie, wife of Dr. Daniel Curdie, was the Mistress of Tandarook at this time. She was an intelligent, well-educated woman with many interests outside running the household. She was also plagued with ill-health, usually associated with either being pregnant or having recently given birth to one of her ten children. It is understandable then, that she may not have been an easy woman to work for, which could explain the number of cooks employed over the years.

The availability of this document adds so much personal history to the background of the running of various properties in the district that there is no doubt we will be making good use of the information in the future.



Frances Curdie in mourning