

PAST MATTERS

CAMPERDOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Opening Hours:

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

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Hello to all our members,

The busy volunteers at the Heritage Centre have been back into the swing of things over the last three months. There always seems to be work that needs doing just to keep up with visitors, enquiries and cataloguing. Our Executive Committee also has to evaluate new offers of donations and perhaps, our policy on that subject needs explaining occasionally.

We have a comprehensive policy on accepting donations of items, so that we don't become overwhelmed by objects that need to be kept, cared for, catalogued, stored, displayed, etc. Accepted items need to have a direct connection to Camperdown and it's preferable that they also have a family or property connection as well which can be catalogued with the item. Then, it also depends on whether we already have an example of a particular item. There are only so many examples of, say, an old milk-can or a pair of old spectacles that we can find room for. This policy is always explained to prospective donors so that they understand and don't feel we are ungrateful for their offers!

We are also now in preparation mode for the up-coming Burns Festival in July where we are hosting the Speakers Event – as you will read in the pages ahead.

A warm welcome to new members: Ian and Charman Morris; and a special welcome to Julien Varrenti-Osmond who is doing some PhD research with us at present. We hope you enjoy your first copy of "Past Matters" and can join us in some of our members' events.

Gillian Senior,

Newsletter Editor

From the Heritage Centre A Display (in the Toilet Ante-room!)

With our new Unisex Toilet ready for use, we've taken the opportunity to use a few of our historic bathroom items to give it a truly historic ambience.

Genuine chamber pots, washbowl and jugs with some handmade lace and a delicately coloured portrait (subject unknown) complete the 'welcome' display.



Coming Events: May – July, 2019

Executive Committee: Wednesday, 15th May, 9.30 am – Meeting at Heritage Centre

A visit to "WEST CLOVEN HILLS"

Sunday 26th May

Nick and Sue Cole have kindly agreed to allow us to visit their historic property "West Cloven Hills" at Bookaar. Nick is a descendant of pioneer pastoralist Nicholas Cole, who settled in the area in 1839. This is a rare opportunity to visit this wonderful property and to learn about its fascinating history.



Woolshed, built 1851



Nicholas Cole 1st

Depart from Camperdown Heritage Centre at 1.00 pm.

BYO afternoon tea

Bookings: Maree Belyea, Ph. 5593 1273

Email: camperdowndhs@gmail.com

RSVP by Tuesday 21st May

Camperdown Robert Burns Scottish Festival

5th - 7th July 2019

**Special Exhibition at the
Camperdown Heritage Centre**



Entry: gold coin (at door)

**"Founding Scots of the
Camperdown District"**

Saturday 6th July:

10.00 am - 2.00 pm

Sunday 7th July

10.00 am - 2.00 pm

Executive Committee: Wednesday, 17th July, 9.30 am – Meeting at Heritage Centre

BURNS FESTIVAL LECTURE PROGRAM

Saturday 6th July, Killara Centre, Camperdown

Entry fee: \$7.00 per lecture, \$20.00 for series

*This series of lectures is hosted by the Camperdown & District Historical Society.
Many thanks to Bob Lambell for researching, negotiating & booking these excellent
speakers.*

10.30 am - 11.30 am: Stewart McArthur

*"Scots Tradition: Five generations of McArthurs –
A perspective of 180 years at 'Meningoort', 1839 - 2019"*



11.30 am - 12.30 pm: Dr Iain Buckland

*"From Land o'Cakes to Camperdown – the immigrant food experience
for the Western District settlers from Scotland".*

1.30 pm - 2.30 pm: Dr Raymond Madden

*"James Dawson: Advocacy and Antipathy in Colonial
Western Victoria"*



2.30 pm - 3.30 pm: Dr Ben Wilkie

"A poet for every occasion: The many faces of Burns in Australia"

** More details about the lectures later in the newsletter*

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

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

HERITAGE CENTRE - Jottings and News

FACEBOOK PAGE

Our article and posting of the Racecourse Grandstand's opening ceremony in January brought us some more pictures and information from Judy Stokes. Judy's grandfather was Stewart Wooley, who was curator from 1917-1937. Great to add to our collection.



Little Stan in the Aviary - with peacocks.

Stan McIntosh, who is 91 years old, spent his early years living with grandparents at the Botanic Gardens. He came in to the Heritage Centre and gave us lots of pictures – and memories – of his time there in the 1920s. Posting a couple of those pictures brought in lots of memories and history of the gardens from Facebook watchers.

We made a request for the loan of kilts, in preparation for a display for the Robert Burns Festival in July and now have EIGHT! Two of them are gifts and we have offers of more on loan if we need them! Such is the power of Facebook! A big thank you to all those helpful people.

Don't forget, if you're not a member of Facebook, you can follow these posts on our website: www.camperdownhistory.org.au

Volunteers' Info morning – with chocolates!

On Wednesday, 10th April we all gathered at the Heritage Centre for a couple of hours for a little sharing and learning – what we do, who does what, how to do stuff, where to find things, etc. etc.

Bob gave us an overview of the history of the society – fast approaching our 60th year – and showed us the general layout of the centre: what every room is used for and where things are stored.



Maree talked about her research techniques, which consist of our Archive Room (with filing cabinets full of many labelled folders), our digital catalogue, Trove online, Births, Deaths & Marriages online, our ancient copies of local newspapers – going back to before the Chronicle was established. Then she showed us where all the rate books are and how to use them – a huge task.

Bob told us how the society had come into possession of a great quantity of very valuable maps and Jan told us what different maps we have - from the very early days of the first settlers up to quite recent – how they are stored and where to find them.

Ray showed us how photographs are copied, digitised, stored and then moved into the catalogue.

Bob and Zelda talked about how the cataloguing is done and how items are stored – and found again! Gillian talked about doing the Newsletter and Facebook and how it keeps the public aware of our existence. And half way through we stopped for a welcome cuppa. Maree shared a box of delicious chocolates she had been given by a grateful recipient of her researching skills and, eventually, we all staggered home.

Have we learnt a lot? Well, it won't make us all experts in the many different fields, but at least we know who to ask for help and where to find information.

CHECKING ALL BOOKS FOR SALE AND REFERENCES

Some of the books for sale on our website are getting very low in numbers so we've had to do a stocktake of all books. Some can only remain for reference purposes at the Heritage Centre as they are no longer in print. For some others, we are trying to source new copies.

We're also updating our whole reference library so that books are listed in various categories and 'findable' by subject, or by title. It's quite a fun job because sitting quietly listing and looking through each book for relevance can turn up lots of interesting items. It's not all hard work at the H.C.



Western District Clubs

By Norman Houghton

Editor's Introduction:

Historian, Norman Houghton was kind enough to send us his article about a number of different "Gentlemen's Clubs" in the Western District which he had been researching for the Geelong History Newsletter. With his permission, we reprint the very interesting section dealing with Camperdown. A number of places and names will be familiar to local residents. Some of the names have featured in our recent publication: "Scotland to Australia Felix", and others are familiar as influential people in the early development of our town and surrounding district. Many thanks to Norman for letting us use this in our newsletter.

Norman Houghton's Introduction to the whole article

At different times there have been gentlemen's social and sports clubs in the towns to the west of Geelong. These long-failed bodies are worth an historical look to see how they operated, what they did and why they died.

Part 4 – The Camperdown Club

The Camperdown Club was similar to the Geelong Club in that it was founded by gentleman graziers of the district along with their professional associates. The Club was formed in March 1884 with about 60 members. The press said at the time that a club is 'greatly required in the township'.

Rooms in the Commercial Hotel

The Club took up rooms in the Commercial Hotel. The hotel was being extended and rebuilt with a brick two storey addition, some parts of which were funded by the Club. The Club had an arrangement with publican Neylon (a Club member) to occupy the front portion of the new wing, including the street balcony, a billiards room, reading and smoking room, card room and toilets. The hotel provided the furniture and fittings for all the rooms except the billiards room where the members funded the purchase of two tables.



J. Quinn's commercial Hotel, 1895.

Then to the Leura for about 15 years.

The Club operated here for four years and then relocated to the Leura Hotel, then under a new ownership of a syndicate, possibly some of whom were Club members, where it negotiated for similar spaces to the previous occupancy. These leased spaces included a billiards room, two 'other' rooms, presumably card and smoking rooms, and four bedrooms. The Club controlled the bedrooms and attempted to secure a liquor



William Wiggins Leura Hotel c.1890

licence in its own rights, rather than have the hotel supply liquor to members but the Licensing Bench refused the application. Apparently, the Bench thought it odd that a private club located entirely within a licensed hotel should hold a licence.

The Club functioned at the hotel for several years until forced to find alternative premises when the hotel was slated for renovation and rebuilding in 1902. The Club decided that it needed its own discrete premises so reconstituted itself in order to do so.

A Club House of their own

On 29 October, 1903 the Club called a meeting at which it adopted a new constitution, agreed to the purchase of land, organised the issue of debentures to fund the plan and formalised the appointment of an architect and building specifications. The new Club House was designed by Geelong architects Tombs & Durran as a single storey ornate wooden building situated at 19 Pike Street and ready for occupancy in 1904.



The 1904 Clubhouse in Pike St. The arrow points to the lantern roof for the billiards room. The large trees seen in Pike St. are no longer there.

The Club house had all the requisite appointments, including a billiards room, reading room, bar, card room and Steward's bedroom.

The Club epitomized the western district landed establishment, probably more so than the Geelong Club, as its membership included giants of the land as well as turf and political heavyweights. The Manifold, Macarthur, Ware, Street, Smith, Armytage, Chirnside, Mackinnon, Austin, Cumming and Bolte names appear in the membership register.

CAMPERDOWN CLUB PAST PRESIDENTS

1904	W. A. TRINDER	1920	A. H. GREENE
1905	J. B. WARTHER	1921	...
1906	W. T. MANIFOLD	1922	...
1907	H. A. ASBY	1923	W. X. MACKINNON
1908	G. A. BOFF	1924	...
1909	L. MCKENZIE	1925	L. B. WARTHER
1910	W. J. C. OSBERGLEY	1926	W. B. NEVETT
1911	L. J. SPEARE	1927	L. J. GREENE
1912	J. B. WARTHER	1928	L. A. THORNTON
1913	A. J. GREENE	1929	J. S. BLACK
1914	P. T. WATSON	1930	J. B. WARTHER
1915	W. A. J. GOWEN	1931	J. B. WARTHER
1916	L. B. WARTHER	1932	J. B. WARTHER
1917	W. A. WATSON	1933	...
1918	J. B. WARTHER	1934	H. B. NEVETT
1919	A. H. GREENE	1935	J. B. WARTHER
1920	...	1936	W. B. NEVETT

1924	G. A. THORNTON	1940	R. A. MURPHY
1925	J. S. CALVERT	1941	L. J. W. SHAPPE
1926	...	1942	J. P. CAMPBELL
1927	...	1943	J. BAY
1928	...	1944	...
1929	HEN. E. J. WARTHER	1945	...
1930	...	1946	R. T. WARTHER
1931	...	1947	A. E. J. MILL
1932	...	1948	L. B. BERRY
1933	...	1949	W. B. OWEN
1934	J. W. BOLTON	1950	A. B. CUMMING
1935	...	1951	H. J. DAVIS
1936	HEN. E. J. WARTHER	1952	R. A. MURPHY
1937	...	1953	R. B. GIBLIN
1938	...	1954	T. L. AVETON
1939	...	1955	J. S. WATSON
1940	G. B. CUMMING	1956	F. S. WARTHER
1941	...	1957	F. S. WARTHER
1942	R. S. CALVERT	1958	F. S. WARTHER
1943	...	1959	F. S. WARTHER
1944	HEN. E. J. WARTHER	1960	J. B. WARTHER

1972	H. D. CUMMING	1988	T. R. WILSON
1973	R. MURPHY	1989	R. J. COOKE
1974	P. D. MANGELL	1990	B. A. TURNER
1975	F. S. WARTHER	1991	B. A. TURNER
1976	F. S. WARTHER	1992	B. A. TURNER
1977	F. S. WARTHER	1993	J. B. MEATH
1978	F. S. WARTHER	1994	J. B. MEATH
1979	J. HIGBERT	1995	J. B. MEATH
1980	S. L. LAWRENCE	1996	J. B. MEATH
1981	E. CUTHBERT	1997	J. B. MEATH
1982	S. C. BLYTH	1998	J. B. MEATH
1983	R. J. DOUGLASS	1999	J. B. MEATH
1984	H. D. THORNE	2000	P. V. KELLY
1985	K. J. DOUGLASS	2001	P. V. KELLY
1986	K. J. DOUGLASS		
1987	H. R. WILSON		
1988	T. R. WILSON		

(Editor's Note: The boards, above, are in the safe-keeping of the Camperdown & District Historical Society. See enlarged copies of these by control/click on: <https://camperdownhistory.org.au/picsvids/> or typing the link into your browser.)

By the late 1950s the Club house was showing its age and its appointments were somewhat dated and cramped for the then membership level, so the Club decided on a rebuild. The original structure was removed in its entirety, being carted to a builder's yard elsewhere in

Camperdown and a stunningly modern masonry and glass edifice put in its place. The appointments included a two tables billiards room, bar, lounge, card room and a suite of amenities. The new Club House was officially opened by Sir Dallas Brookes, Governor of Victoria, in March 1960.



The 1960 clubhouse, very recognisable on the corner of Pike and Fergusson Street.

The Club then had 15 very good years until social change and demographics brought about a slide. Bar nights took a hammering when 10 o'clock closing was introduced in 1967, causing one reason to be a member of the Club (getting a drink after 6 pm) dissipating. The resignation and passing of very long term members who were regulars at the bar also had an effect. Changing forms of evening entertainment such as dining, cabarets and shows (offered in Warrnambool for instance) favoured by the younger generation made the Club less appealing as it provided none of this. Plus the Club's nomination procedures were torturous and convoluted and a barrier to smooth entry for new members. Younger members who wished to bring their wives to the Club as guests were denied this privilege apart from very occasional mixed dinners.

Another contributing blow was the introduction of drink drive laws, meaning that many country members who used to call by the Club when in town now ignored the place. These drawbacks saw membership decline 58% between 1975 and 1981. At the same time wage costs rose 32%. The Club was being squeezed at both ends.

Something had to be done if the Club was to survive so the Committee made various changes in the years 1981 to 1983. A call was made on members to balance the books and a resolution passed that the annual member subscriptions be advanced each year by CPI. The full time Steward position was abolished and replaced with a part-timer, a situation quaintly put as being 'to offset the many hours spent behind the bar with few or no customers to serve'. Walls were knocked out between the bar and lounge to create bigger spaces, enabling a dance floor to be prepared so that dinner dances with live bands could be hosted. Nomination of new members was greatly simplified and this aided recruitment. Women were now welcomed as valued guests of their husband members and members were encouraged to hold their private functions at the Club. All of these moves had positive results and by 1983 membership stood at 170. However, Club turnover and activity remained problematical.

Towards the end of the 1980s the Club was thrown a life line by the Camperdown Football Club Social Club whose dilapidated club rooms were condemned in 1988. The CFCSC requested a partnership with the Camperdown Club on a temporary basis until the CFCSC could rebuild its home. The CFCSC entered the Club in 1989 with the holding of a function and next year bought equity in the Club as a Junior Partner. The joint arrangement worked satisfactorily but it soon became evident that the CFCSC was the dominant partner and user of the building. The CFCSC completely took over management of the facility in 1991, more or less marking the de facto end of the Camperdown Club, which was now a minor guest in its own home. The Club lingered on in name until 1995 when the Camperdown Club was rebadged as the Camperdown Sports and Social Club.

In 2001 the CSSC purchased the balance of the partnership so this transaction can be regarded as marking the legal end of the Camperdown Club. The CSSC continued to use the building until it opened a new club rooms at the local sports ground in 2010. The former Camperdown Club building was sold next year to an accounting firm and remains intact for this purpose at the time of writing.



*"Wuurong" - timber addition to the building
c.1984*

The old original wooden club-house eventually found its way to the Wuurong property in the 1970s where it was incorporated into the homestead and much modified in the process.

Camperdown Robert Burns Scottish Festival 2019

LECTURE PROGRAM

Saturday 6th July

Venue: Killara Centre, Camperdown

Entry fee: \$7.00 per lecture, \$20.00 for series

10.30 am - 11.30 am: Stewart McArthur

"Scots Tradition: Five generations of McArthur's - A perspective of 180 years at 'Meningoort', 1839 - 2019"

11.30 am - 12.30 pm: Dr Iain Buckland

"From Land o'Cakes to Camperdown – the immigrant food experience for the Western District settlers from Scotland".

1.30 pm - 2.30 pm: Dr Raymond Madden

"James Dawson: Advocacy and Antipathy in Colonial Western Victoria"

2.30 pm - 3.30 pm: Dr Ben Wilkie

"A poet for every occasion: The many faces of Burns in Australia"

ABOUT THE LECTURERS:

Stewart McArthur



Stewart McArthur AM, is a fourth generation descendant of Peter McArthur, a founding Scot of Camperdown district. His property 'Meningoort' has been held by the McArthur family since 1839.

Stewart was educated at Bookaar State School, Geelong College and Cambridge University. He is a farmer, businessman and former politician. Stewart represented the Corangamite electors in the Australian House of Representatives for 23 years, from 1984 to 2007.

Dr Iain Buckland



Following a long career as a mechanical engineer, Iain Buckland embarked on a new career exploring a long-held passion for food culture and history.

In 2011, Iain completed a Le Cordon Bleu Master of Arts in Gastronomy at the University of Adelaide. This led to an offer from the University to undertake a Doctor of Philosophy in food history which he completed in 2016.

Iain and his sculptor wife Julie Edgar both come from families with Scottish connections. This has inspired Iain to ongoing academic and practical interest in the unique culinary traditions of Scotland.

Dr Raymond Madden



Dr Raymond Madden is a Senior Lecturer, Anthropology, at La Trobe University.

Raymond has taught ethnographic methods, applied anthropology, and human and animal anthropology for over a decade. He has also worked extensively in the area of native title research in South East Australia.

Raymond will talk about early Scottish pastoralist James Dawson, famed as the great friend and advocate for the Aboriginal people of western Victoria.

Dr Ben Wilkie



Dr Ben Wilkie is an Australian social and environmental historian with a longstanding interest in the relationships between Scotland and Australia. His book, *The Scots in Australia 1788-1938*, was published in 2017.

Ben is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, and an associate of the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies at the University of Otago. In 2019, he is a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow Library. He was previously a Lecturer in Australian Studies at Deakin University