

CAMPERDOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

PAST MATTERS

CAMPERDOWNHISTORY.ORG.AU

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CAMPERDOWN & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

PO Box 243, Camperdown 3260

ABN 54 827 430 820 Inc No. A0020588V

HELLO TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

Notice of Annual General Meeting, Camperdown & District Historical Society

The AGM of the Camperdown & District Historical Society will be held at the Heritage Centre, 241 Manifold Street Camperdown, on Friday 28th August at 9.30 am

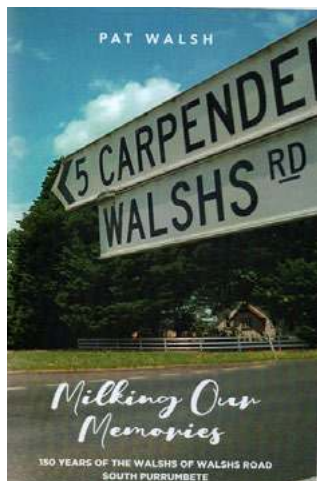
Please note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, attendance at the AGM will be restricted to members of the outgoing Executive Committee. At least seven days before the AGM members will be sent an information package which will include the previous minutes, notice of motions, nominations for office bearers and committee and a Proxy Voting Form.

Enclosed is a Nomination Form for the Election of Office Bearers and Committee. Please consider becoming a member of the incoming committee for 2020 - 2021. Post, or email your nominations to the Secretary by Tuesday 18th August.

Many thanks for your support of the Society over the past year.

Yours sincerely,
Maree Belyea
Secretary

MILKING OUR MEMORIES BY PAT WALSH



This is the latest addition to our reference library and promises to be a rewarding and entertaining read.

The quote from the back cover describes it beautifully:

"Milking Our Memories is a memoir of the tribulations and triumphs of two Irish teenagers and their Australian descendants. Set in the context of their times, it is both a window onto some of the great upheavals of the last 150 years and the day to day fortunes of one Australian family in country Victoria."

Sometimes sad, often funny, it is a tribute to all the Walshs who have farmed, lived and thrived on Walshs Road, South Purrumbete, and deserve to be remembered."

Camperdown Heritage Centre

241 Manifold St.,
Camperdown, Victoria 3260

Postal Address:

PO Box 243,
Camperdown, Vic 3260

camperdowndhs@gmail.com
camperdownhistory.org.au
[facebook/camperdownhistory](https://www.facebook.com/camperdownhistory)

Opening Hours:

Heritage Centre closed to public due to COVID-19 restrictions.

*Latest updates for opening will be on the website & Facebook.

President:

Rob Wuchatsch

Vice President:

Bob Lambell

Secretary:

Maree Belyea

Treasurer:

Jan Whamond

Committee:

Bob Lambell

HC Co-ordinator

Gillian Senior

Newsletter &

Communications

Ray Watson

Photographs

Angela Preiss

Web design, design

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JEANIE PETER – HER MUSICAL STORY.

It all began with an old tarnished brass plaque. It had been attached to a fence and advertised “Miss J. F. Peter, Pianoforte, Theory, Harmony, etc.”



We were planning an exhibition focussing on women of Camperdown and District and decided to put a photo of the plaque on Facebook to see if we could find out anything more about this local piano teacher.

Within hours, we had reactions from some of her early pupils – many of them sharing memories and lovely stories about her. We had earlier received a couple of photos of her classes from around 1928 – a group of little girls, many of them holding a favourite toy or doll, with a smiling Miss Peter standing at the back.



Soon, a message came in from her family – a great nephew and two great nieces – who had a number of items of interest belonging to Miss Peter. Would we like to have them? More discussions online continued, bringing in more and more information about our music teacher, until we had an almost complete picture of her life.

Jeanie Peter – her story.

Jeanie Finnie Peter was born in Camperdown on 29th February 1884 and was the youngest daughter of John M. and Rosamond Peter (nee Bowyer). Her father was for many years the local saddler and an advertisement in the Camperdown Chronicle of 1891 states:

J. M. Peter, Saddler and Harness maker, begs to intimate to the public that he has acquired the right from Mr. Morris to enter upon the business as above and trusts, by supplying a first-class article at a reasonable rate, he merit a share of public patronage. Every article in the trade manufactured or supplied.

He was indeed a first-class saddler as we have been given two items of his handiwork: a beautifully made whip handle and a plaited leather whip which won first prize at the International Exhibition in Melbourne, 1880. These items are in our display and were donated by Peter Ronald of Warrnambool, who fondly remembered his great-aunt as “Aunt Jinny”.

As a young girl, Jeanie attended Grenville College in Ballarat and the photo we have here is dated 1899, when Jeanie was 15 years old. Founded in 1860, the college was co-educational and taught the full range of subjects, including music, and its motto was ‘To learn, not for school, but for life.’



Jeanie is 2nd row 2nd from left.
Photo donated by Jane Carpenter

Jeanie’s music studies continued as a pupil of Mr J Alfred Johnstone of Geelong and by nineteen years of age, Jeanie was the holder of Certificate for Theory of Music, and Honour Certificate and Medal for pianoforte playing from the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music, London.

For some time she taught at a Camperdown school and in 1903, at the age of nineteen, she began teaching pianoforte to beginners from the family home ‘Dareetneong’ in Harrison St., Camperdown.

We have also been told by Jeanie’s great niece, Jane Carpenter, that Jeanie had at least one, if not two, orchestras, one of which was called “The Hawaiianettes”.

In 1916 Australia was in the middle of the great war – World War 1 – and Jeanie Peter was 32 years of age. One of our donated items is a gold watch engraved inside with the name Edmund A Millar and the date 1.8.1916. It has Jeanie’s initials engraved on the outside and was a gift from Jeanie to her ‘intended’.

There doesn’t seem to have been an official engagement but when, in 1917, the sad news of Edmund’s death in France reached Camperdown, the watch was one of many personal items passed on to her by Edmund’s parents.

She was also given a burial certificate and photograph of Edmund’s grave in Dartmoor France as well as the bizarrely named “Dead Man’s Penny”, which is a bronze plaque given to commemorate all those who died as a result of that dreadful war. These items, along with Edmund’s portrait, are all on display as part of our women’s exhibition.



Edmund A. Millar - Jeanie's Intended

Jeanie never married; she was one of many young girls and women who were left single after so many young Australian men lost their lives during those war years.

In 1928 Jeanie's classes included Piano, Theory, Harmony, Counterpoint, Mandoline and Steel Guitar with many students excelling in their Trinity College and Royal Academy examinations. Jeanie was registered as a Highest Grade-Teacher.

Her career continued until the 1960s, sharing her many skills with Camperdown and District students for over sixty years.



In teaching room.c.1920s

Jeanie died in 1973 having lived for all her 89 years in the Harrison Street home built by her father in 1875.

Amongst the other donated items are two books of Jeanie's meticulously kept pupil records - also on display at the Heritage Centre - and we are promised even more from great-niece Judi Hocking - a collection of cards given to their teacher by her students. There are also photos of Jeanie in her teaching room, and one of a gold bracelet-with an attached locket holding Edmund's portrait.

What an enormous amount of information and display items came from that one posting on Facebook only a couple of months ago!

SOME MEMORIES FROM HER STUDENTS

From the memoirs of Courtney Harrison:

"At the age of twelve, in 1928, I began lessons on the piano from a Miss Peter who was a long time friend of the Harrison family. I was taught to read and play Classical piano for around three years. Miss Peter also taught the guitar and banjo mandolin and had formed a group of nine pupils of which most were female. The group occasionally performed at the Manifold Garden parties for the elite. Payment for the performances was usually a fee paid to Miss Peter with the group members receiving sandwiches, tea and biscuits."



COURTNEY HARRISON

"That sign was on her front fence she polished it regularly. I remember watching her back her little maroon mini over her garbage bin one day and she then drove off up to Manifold Street." Tammy Discher

"I can remember she had a little stick if you hit the wrong key you got a tap with it that was in the 60's." Carol Webb

"She was a lovely lady. I remember she wrote on our music with grey lead pencil. She always put the tip of pencil in her mouth before she wrote anything." Lorraine Foley

"She was a very nice lady. Quite prim and proper but always up for a chat." Tammy Discher

Article by Gillian Senior - Newsletter & Communications

BABY SHOW - A 'HOWLING' SUCCESS!

That's what the Camperdown Chronicle of November 1943 said about this money raising event. The badge was found by Nicole Cummins while renovating a house in Camperdown and she kindly sent us a photo of



it. The joint winners of the Air Force Baby competition were Diana Cabble and Rosemary Law Smith. There were also many other winners though, Army Baby, Navy Baby, POW Baby, Baby with the biggest eyes.....it's very likely that no baby went home without a prize of some sort!

'MACARONI' - CHARCOAL DRAWING 1904
Mrs Annie (McLachlan) Ross
Artist 1858 - 1932



This picture sat upstairs for many years without anyone really examining it. When the time came for our Women's Exhibition at the Heritage Centre, it was discovered that it was created by a local woman artist, Annie Ross, and so our researcher, Maree Belyea got to work and here is the result of her investigations.

Annie was well known and highly respected throughout the Camperdown and Derrinallum districts where she was remembered as a clever and capable artist in drawing and painting.

For a number of years she successfully taught a large number of pupils in pastel work, water colours and oils. Annie was awarded prizes in many district art competitions during the early 1900s, in a wide variety of mediums.

She was born at "Paisley Park" Rokewood, second daughter of Peter and Agnes McLachlan. After marriage in 1882 to David J Ross, the couple lived at Mt Elephant station for thirteen years where he was employed, before moving to Chirside's Skibo estate near Camperdown in 1895. Annie remained in Camperdown until joining her husband at Vite Vite estate fifteen years prior to her death at age 73.

Annie's talents were taught to numerous students in the Camperdown and Derrinallum districts.

An interesting addendum to this article is to look at Annie's obituary in the Camperdown Chronicle of 14th June, 1932. Over 400 words are written about her - her life, her art and her teaching - and not once is her Christian name mentioned. She is always referred to as Mrs Ross. Such was the anonymity of women in the early days.

camperdownburnsfestival.com.au

ROBERT BURNS
SCOTTISH VIRTUAL starting 4th
FESTIVAL FEST July
2020
virtual

CAMPERDOWN Victoria
Australia

facebook.com/robertburnsfestival - live streaming from July 4th

camperdownburnsfestival.com.au

GET VIRTUAL!

The Camperdown Robert Burns Virtual Festival 2020

Visit the website for great festival content and subscribe to hear about when the next online concerts will be streamed.

What's online?

CDHS contributed excerpts from guest speakers, there's lots of music videos, special interviews, dance demos & more. Special content created for a special festival. Please visit and connect socially to support the volunteer festival committee.

HERITAGE CENTRE - NEW DISPLAYS



In the other side of this display cabinet we have set up a display relating to 'Talindert', James Chester Manifold and his son, Sir Chester Manifold. We are still working on a larger "Manifold" exhibition to exhibit more of the items donated to our Society when 'Talindert' was sold recently and some display boards to detail the history of the Manifold family in the district.



While the Heritage Centre has been closed during the Covid-19 lockdown our volunteers have been working on a new layout and a range of new displays for our museum.

Our new Women's Exhibition is now complete. Our aim has been to highlight a variety of district women, both well known and obscure. The women featured in the displays are - Jane Cameron from Foxhow and Kariah; Annie Ross artist and art teacher in Derrinallum and Camperdown; Frances Curdie, amateur botanist from Tandarook; Jeanie Peter, Music Teacher from Camperdown; Rachel Glen from Kariah; Helena Marfell, one of the founders of the Country Women's Association in Victoria and Ethel Stonehouse, a seamstress from Camperdown.

We have purchased two mannequins to display dresses which have been in storage and have also incorporated the old typewriter into the exhibition. The typewriter is very popular, as visitors are able to "have a go" on it. Children are amazed that there were no computers and tablets around in "the old days".

We have replaced the display of women's dresses with a women's underwear display. The dresses were quite dark in colour and the display always seemed to be dark and uninteresting. The underwear is mainly white and we have removed the back from the cabinet to let in more light. This has made a big difference to the feel of the display.

<https://www.facebook.com/camperdownhistory>
<https://camperdownhistory.org.au/latest-news/>



Bob Lambell has done a great job displaying our aboriginal artefacts in a more contemporary fashion. To give a more comprehensive overview of the aboriginal history of the district, Bob has also expanded the information displayed on the vertical display boards in the centre of the Heritage Centre.



Maree Belyea has also been busy setting up a display featuring the Camperdown Hospital. Last year the Hospital donated us a display cabinet together with various artefacts and record books, including the original Patient Registers. The cabinet, together with photos from our collection makes up the display. This ties in neatly with our new Manifold displays, as the Manifold family donated the property of "Monamith-gya" to the people of Camperdown for the hospital. When we reopen we hope that you will call in and check out the new layout and exhibitions at the Heritage Centre. Entrance is free for members.

Article by Jan Whamond - Treasurer



HIDDEN TREASURE

There was no 'X marks the spot' in the discovery earlier this year of this hidden treasure.

If not for the inquisitive mind of a house re-stumper the object that resembles an old metal pipe could well have been permanently discarded and the contents lost forever.

Chocolyn resident Sue Pollock brought the object into the heritage centre requesting we investigate the contents and arrange for their most appropriate location.

She reported the hiding spot under the house was in the vicinity of a loose floorboard that had existed when they purchased some 30 years earlier.

At first, the tin cylinder looked just like an old and partly rusted bit of pipe with a join in the middle, sealed at one end and a tight cap at the other. However, when the cap was removed there was another close fitting cap that could be removed with an attached cord.

The cord was stitched into the bottom left hand corner of a tightly rolled document which when unrolled was discovered to be a **magnificently preserved parchment measuring 47cm x 60cm.**

The parchment is a Charter Certificate presented to the Haran Royal Arch Chapter, Laurencekirk, Number Eight upon the registry of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, at their assembly in Edinburgh on the twenty first day of March 1818. The extensive rules of the organisation and office bearers are included and signed by important dignitaries under wax seal.

The rear of the parchment has details including that the lodge has been practising under the Saint Laurence Royal Arch Chapter since the month of September 1774.

The parchment was rolled around what looked like a light cardboard tube but on checking was found to be a sample membership certificate with instructions for filling out the



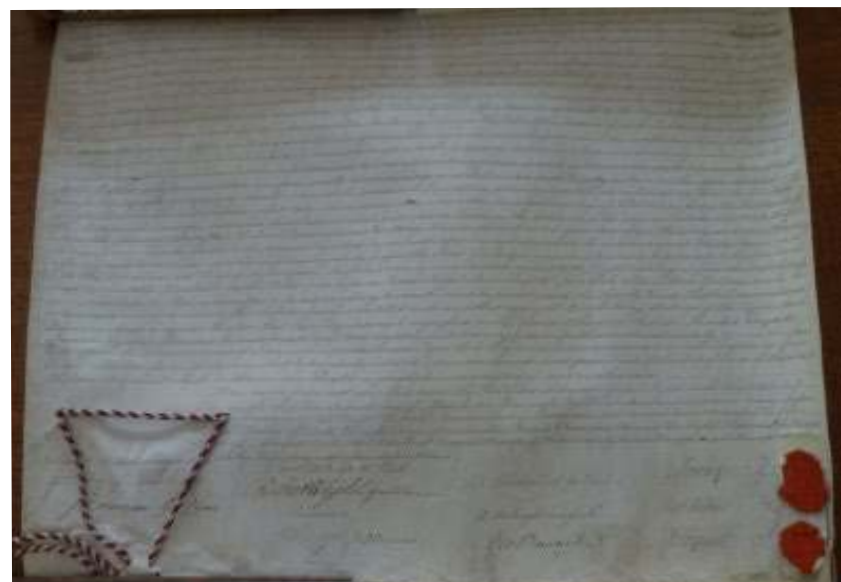
certificate. The lodge details shown were for the same lodge as on the parchment.

This 'Russian nesting doll' tube still had even more to reveal as there were two smaller items rolled inside the membership certificate.

The first was a reference or letter of introduction, for a member of the Montrose Kilwinning Lodge, Grand Lodge of Scotland No. 15, dated April 18th 1854. This was also signed and wax sealed.

The final item was a Certificate of Membership to St John's Lodge No. 895, Warrnambool, dated 11th October 1888.

Having these documents in our possession was both exciting and challenging.



Being so precious, the first reaction was to put them back as found to ensure there was no damage done.

A short time later, I very carefully removed all items, unrolled and photographed them to attempt to solve the mystery of their provenance.

The latest dated item gave the starting point with the Warrnambool certificate presented in 1888 to James DUIRS. This vital clue led back through the documents as the DUIRS name existed in all.

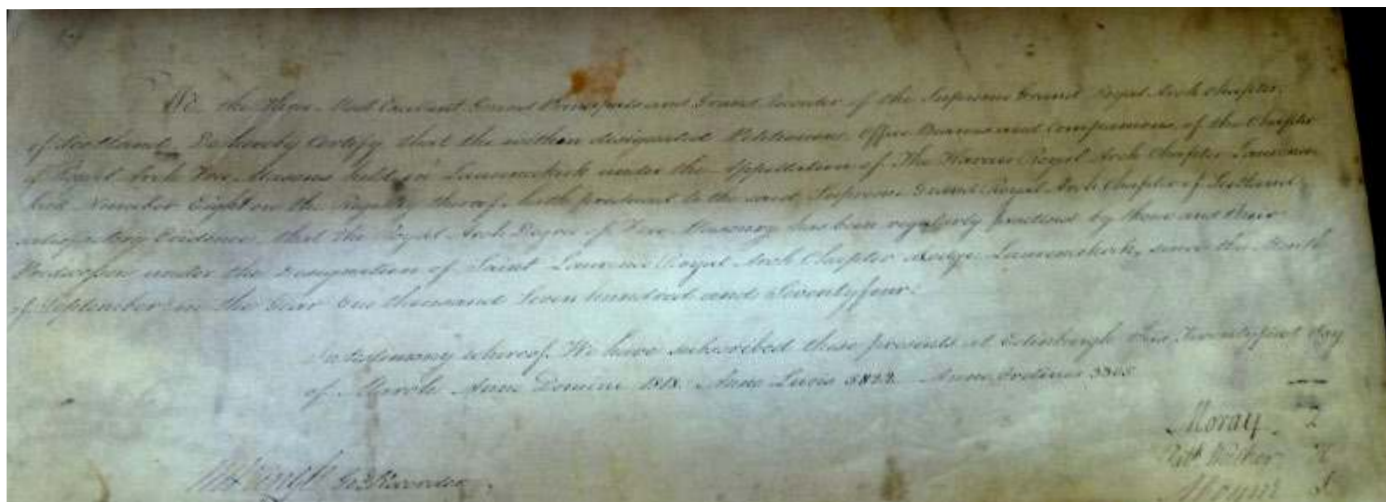
The trail is easier to understand if shown in chronological order.

James DUIRS, born Laurencekirk in March 1764, died before 1858.

1818 Document - James is the first listed member on the parchment - shown as Most Excellent Principal Z, along with six others, two being Scribes and two Sojourners. James and his wife Margaret Duncan had eleven children, their tenth being Thomas DUIRS, born 1815.

1854 Document - The reference/letter for Thomas DUIRS was dated 18th April 1854. Thomas was the only family member to emigrate to Australia.

He, his wife Jean/Jane and three children - James, Margaret and Thomas, aged 10, 8 and 3 respectively, departed Dundee, Scotland on the barque OPHIR on 24th April 1854 and arrived in Melbourne on 11th August 1854.



The family settled in the Campbellfield area north of Melbourne where his work as a mason saw him contracted to build stone culverts in the Sydney Road area during the 1860's. By 1880 Thomas and his wife had moved to Wangoom. Eldest son James may have moved to Warrnambool a little earlier. Other son Thomas, spent some time in Deniliquin NSW, before moving to the Kalgoorlie district around 1880. Thomas Snr. died in 1896, aged 80, his wife Jane in 1903, aged 86. Both are buried in Warrnambool.

1888 Document - James DUIRS membership certificate for St John's Lodge, Warrnambool.

James had moved to Warrnambool prior to his marriage to Florence McKay in 1871. It was around this time he became associated in the grocery firm Duirs and Warrell which continued until his death in 1923. James and Florence had two sons who died in infancy and two daughters. All this family are buried in Warrnambool including the two daughters and their husbands.

The logical explanation for the documents being here is that Thomas (1816-1896) brought the parchment, template of membership certificate and his reference with him to Australia in 1854, with the view to setting up a similar lodge wherever he settled, if none existed.

So, how did this cylinder containing lodge memorabilia of three generations end up under a house in Chocoly'n?

Sue Pollock's husband Russell, who passed away in February 2019, was the proprietor of Buckland and Nevett, Solicitors at Camperdown. Sue believes it likely that Russell was given the cylinder for safe keeping and had either not mentioned or forgotten about it.

After considerable thought and the preference for the items to remain together, the Librarian at Freemasons Victoria was contacted with details and photographs. Due to the age, condition and historical value, they are very anxious to add all to their collection. The viewing and collection has been delayed until the pandemic restrictions allows. Further research at the library may indicate Thomas' involvement in freemasonry in Australia.

The current Warrnambool Lodge have also been contacted and are keen to visit for a viewing prior to collection by Freemasons Vic.



There are only two 'Duirs' listed in phone directories in Australia, both in Perth. A cold call to Andrew Duirs confirmed he is from the family of Thomas (1843-1917) who moved to the Kalgoorlie district. He has no knowledge of Thomas or his family being freemasons. Andrew was thrilled to receive photos and family information found, particularly as he had visited Laurencekirk on a trip to Scotland late last year.

Collection by Freemasons Victoria and any further information that comes to light will be passed on in a future newsletter.



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NOMINATION FORM, 2020-2021

Nomination Form for the election of Office Bearers and Committee, 2020 - 2021

Positions to be filled: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and a minimum of three ordinary Committee members.

Position: *(please circle)*

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Committee

Name of nominee: _____

Signature of Nominee: _____

**Please post or email this nomination form to the Secretary,
by Tuesday 18th August:**

Camperdown & District Historical Society
PO Box 243
Camperdown 3260

Email: camperdowndhs@gmail.com

Web: www.camperdownhistory.org.au