



## CAMPERDOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

PO Box 243 Camperdown 3260 Email: [camperdowndhs@gmail.com](mailto:camperdowndhs@gmail.com)

Volume 26 - No. 4

## NEWSLETTER

July, 2016

### President

**Bob Lambell**

### Vice President

**Rob Wuchatsch**

### Secretary

**Maree Belyea**

### Treasurer

**Frank Rose**

### Committee

**Jan Whamond**

**HC Co-ordinator**

**Gillian Senior**

**Newsletter &  
Communications**

**Ray Watson**

### **Camperdown Heritage Centre**

241 Manifold Street  
Camperdown 3260

PO Box 243  
Camperdown.

Opening hours  
Tuesdays and 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of  
month, (Market Day) 10am-3pm  
Or by appointment

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Hello to all members

Issue No.4 for 2016—the last for what has been a very busy year.

Among the improvements at the Heritage Centre has been the construction of new shelving upstairs for storage of our various documents and artefacts. Slowly, the downstairs back room is being cleaned up and decisions are being made about what to keep and how to preserve certain items. Special tissue paper has been purchased for the safe storage of some of our very old and delicate clothing into drawers. New display boards have arrived which will be used for a Dairy Industry display to be erected on the stage of the Museum. This has been funded in part by the Gardiner Foundation, an organisation whose stated vision is: “to invest in emerging leaders and practices to help develop a long term future for the dairy industry”.

Now that the “Inspiring Women” display has been replaced, we are now in the process of putting all the information and photos together and will be producing a booklet—similar to the ones we have compiled on the “Notable Scots”. Watch for that in the new year.

The Robert Burns Festival planning is already underway for 2017 and Bob Lambell has been attending the planning meetings and arranging our participation in the lecture series.

MOBILE PHONE: It has been decided to cancel our mobile phone number and rely solely on our email address, website or postal address for contact. The phone is seldom used, those who do call rarely leave a message and we can always be contacted by calling in or emailing.

Finally, our new members are: Florence Charles and Becky McCann. Welcome both and we hope you'll join us at our Christmas breakup.

Season's Greetings to all,

*Gillian Senior* Newsletter Editor

### **From the Heritage Centre**

In our last Newsletter we were able to show a banner designed to publicise our society wherever we go for an event or an exhibition.

We now have another new one, which was part-funded by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. They give assistance to societies to help publicise themselves and also to promote awareness of History Week in Victoria.

Similar to our earlier one, it's a free-standing sign which can roll down into its stand and be taken to other venues – extremely valuable to help create awareness of what we are doing.

Its first outing has been at the Courthouse, where we have a display from our “Inspiring Women” exhibition.



# COMING EVENTS: NOVEMBER 2016 - JANUARY 2017

## Christmas Breakup 2016

A visit to

"PENZANCE", 43 Scott Street Camperdown

Tuesday, 6th December



Pamela and David Jellie, the owners of Penzance, have kindly agreed to allow us to have a picnic tea in the beautiful gardens of their historic bluestone home in Scott Street Camperdown.

Penzance c.1858 was constructed for Scottish settlers, James and Jane Tait, who operated a general store there until 1887. Penzance is one of the oldest buildings in Camperdown and is a rare surviving example of a colonial store and residence.

**Meet at Penzance at 6 p.m.**

**BYO picnic tea and chair, or rug**

**Bookings:**

**Maree Belyea, Ph. 0417 352 987**

**Email: [camperdowndhs@gmail.com](mailto:camperdowndhs@gmail.com)**

***NOTE: This is a members only event***

# HERITAGE CENTRE—Jottings and News

## AGM

There's been quite a lot of activity at the Heritage Centre over the past quarter. We've had the Annual General Meeting and you can see the make-up of the new committee on the front page of this newsletter.

## MAGGIE BLACK'S PRESENTATION

On 2nd October at the Killara Centre we were delighted to host a very successful afternoon for nearly 60 people. We were all there to meet the author of "Up Came a Squatter—Niel Black of Glenormiston 1839-1880". Maggie was a riveting speaker and kept us all interested and entertained as she spoke about her great grandfather and his early years as a settler in the area.



We also took the opportunity to unveil one of our latest acquisitions—an embroidery 'sampler' which was sewn by a young 13-year-old in 1842. She was Frances Purves who came out to Australia as the new wife of Dr. Daniel Curdie, another early settler of the district.

In 1893, one of her daughters married the son of Niel Black and the sampler was passed down through the generations until it came into the possession of Frances' great granddaughter, Gina Black. Frances Curdie is one of our celebrated "Inspiring Women" and when Gina saw our exhibition, she kindly donated the sampler, for which we are very

grateful.

Such a special item needed careful conservation, which was carried out by a University of Melbourne Textiles Conservator at the Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation. The cost of the conservation and framing was covered in part by a generous contribution of \$900 from the Bendigo Bank Community Grants.

The photo shows Bendigo Bank representatives Pat Robertson and Bill Duncanson with the sampler.

## CAMPERDOWN SHOW

What great weather the Show Committee had for Show Day! This brought out heaps of people to join in the traditional day of competition, exhibition, show bags, side-shows and food stalls. And we were there—showing the old silent films of Camperdown in 1922 and 1928 in the 'Tin Shed' - where the ladies were serving tea & scones and many other community organisations were showing their activities. We also had photographs and handouts about what we do and showing how anyone can become involved or use our research facilities.



## HISTORY WEEK AT THE COURTHOUSE

Our newest banner was put to good use at the Courthouse/Information Centre from 14th October in recognition of Victoria's History Week. It was a great time to have a presence there as it coincided with the weekend of Camperdown Cruise so there were plenty of extra visitors to see what we were doing.

It also gave us the opportunity to showcase part of our "Inspiring Women" Exhibition-

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR HOURS:

The Museum will be closed on Tuesday 27th December and Sunday 1st January. We will be open for the first Tuesday of 2017—which will be 3rd January.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30 am: Executive meeting at the Heritage Centre

## THEATRE ROYAL—An ongoing story

### And a new exhibition at the Heritage Centre.

In our Newsletter of April, 2016, we continued a history of the Theatre Royal and reached the 1950s.....

Now, going through our files and archives for a new exhibition, we decided to re-use display material which was put together by the Camperdown Lions in 2003. This was in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the opening of the new building in 1928. Apart from being a pictorial record of many different events that took place at the theatre, there was also a re-enactment of the “Grand Opening Night” by the Camperdown Theatre Company.

Here are just a few of the highlights of the display and some of the events over those later years:



#### SQUARE DANCING

A craze that took off in the 1940s and remained popular into the 1950s.

Back Row: Peter Wilson, Richard Jehu, Matt Whytcross, Bill Fisher

Front Row: Margaret Wilson, Maureen Riches, Pat Howard, Miriam Butterfield.

This set competed in Colac, Terang, Warrnambool as well as locally, as did many other sets resident in the area.

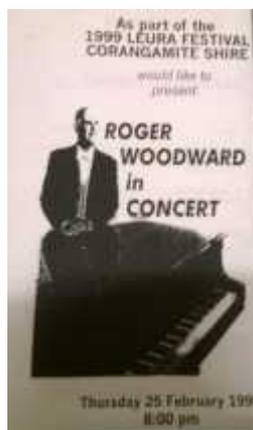
Matt Whytcross was also an accomplished ‘caller’.

The Theatre Royal was used for square Dancing once the crowds became too large for the Oddfellows Hall.

*Photo courtesy Miriam Cavey, (nee Butterfield).*



**A costume ball at the Theatre in 1929**



**A scene from “The Belle of Barcelona”**



**Member, Bob Lambell was there in 1999 and recalled that a Grand Piano was shipped in to Camperdown for the event. There was a crew of four or five men who handled it, placed it on stage and spent hours tuning it to perfection before the concert began at 8pm.**

# THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND RE-ENACTMENT

12th & 13th April, 2003

**A full weekend of celebration, films, displays and total community involvement.**

Organised by the Lions Club of Camperdown and supported by the Corangamite Shire, it involved the Camperdown Theatre Company, Camperdown & District Historical Society, Camperdown Fire Brigade Band, Screen Sound—National Screen & Film Archive, "Take a Bite of Corangamite", John McInnes, Ray Watson, Len Harvey, Peter Hassett and many other community members supplying memorabilia.

**Saturday 12th April**

**Matinee 1:30 pm**  
 Children from 1900 plus the world-famous feature  
**The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938)**  
 Starring Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland & Michael Curtiz

**Evening 7:30 pm**  
 Fire Brigade Band, Live Theatre by Camperdown Theatre Company,  
 Classic ads (1940's), Newsreels (1960-1990), Camperdown Film Club  
 plus **Dad and Dave Come to Town (1938)**  
 Starring Bert Holey, Fred Macdonald & Shirley Ann Richards  
 Footage supplied by ScreenSound Australia, the National Screen & Sound Archive

**Sunday 13th April**

**Matinee 1:30 pm**  
 Classic ads, Newsreels, Camperdown Film Club  
**Casablanca (1942)**  
 Starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman & Michael Curtiz  
 Memorabilia will be on display

**Classic Films & Nostalgic Memorabilia**

The 1938 film shown at the late Camperdown Theatre in 1928 was **The Volga Boatman**, a Cecil De Mille production. This silent movie can be viewed during intervals and at supper time on Saturday night and family afternoon as well as local footage from 1940's and 1950's (Cinema Mackinnon Films). Memorabilia relating to the Theatre will be on display all weekend.

**Seating Chart**  
 Matinee - \$5 per person  
 Saturday night - Upstairs \$15  
 Downstairs \$10

**Tickets available at**  
 Bobo's Newsagency  
 111 Heathfield Street, Camperdown  
 Ph. 0954 1128  
 Enquiries - Mervyn Boyd



The program covered a matinee for the children and evening events for all. May Simcox sold tickets and the well-dressed customer was Bernie Price.



There were ushers to show the audience to their seats and, of course, 'lolly boys' with drinks and sweets. Tom Wilson, Ron Simcox, Doug Martin, Alex Bourke, Ron Gravett and Ted Peers were the ushers and Alison Bant and Archie Stevenson sold the goodies. There are a few recognisable patrons there, too, enjoying the show.



## THE OPENING CEREMONY:

The Theatre Company provided a re-enactment of the original opening ceremony with Peter Gstrein as MC, with Bill Hesketh, Lyn McLean, Robyn Lucas as Mrs. Desailly and Malcolm Arnold.



In 1928, Esme Desailly was asked to "turn on the music" which was the national anthem played by a panatrophe (pictured above).

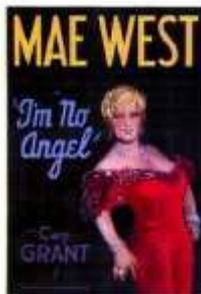
The 2003 re-enactment followed tradition and actors and audience all sang "God Save The King" with patriotic fervour!

As shown on the poster below, there's an added bonus for visitors to the Heritage Centre. Member, Maree Belyea was one of the prime movers of the celebration back in 2003 and she still had the video tape of "The Volga Boatman" which was shown at the original opening and at the anniversary celebration. It's a silent movie directed by Cecil B. DeMille and has orchestral music added to the tape. We are screening it throughout the day when we're open and it is well worth seeing.

# CAMPERDOWN'S THEATRE ROYAL

## a new exhibition

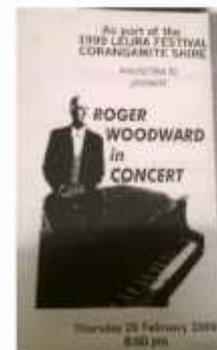
**Come and see 175 years of memories**



**Movies-  
silent &  
talkies**



**Square Dancing**



**Concerts**

**Display includes:**  
**Bands - Dances - Debs - Theatre -  
School Events - and a special screening  
of..**



**Cecil B. DeMille's "The Volga Boatman"**

## TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS ?

Some of our more efficient members will no doubt have already baked their Christmas cakes and have them stored ready for the festive season. However, for those who are still looking for the perfect recipe, the following may be of interest.



1. Switch on oven, get out utensils and ingredients.
2. Remove blocks, play-dough and dolls from table.
3. Grease pan, measure two cups of flour
4. Remove Jessica's hands from flour, wash Jessica.
5. Re-measure flour, put flour, baking powder and salt in sifter.
6. Answer telephone. Explain that "You don't mind at all that it's the wrong number"
7. Return to kitchen. Remove Jessica's hand from sifter.
8. Wash Jessica.
9. Pick up pan and grease.
10. Answer doorbell. Tell him, "Thank you, I don't want any."
11. Return to kitchen
12. Remove quarter inch of salt from greased pan.
13. Look for Jessica. Find her, put rest of biscuits back in jar.
14. Take up sifter and find heavy coating of nutmeg in it.
15. Head for Jessica who runs knocking bowl off table.
16. Wash kitchen floor, table, walls and utensils.
17. Telephone local baker.
18. Lie down. And finally.....

### SITUATIONS VACANT

#### Who wants a farmer's wife job (Grade 1) ?

OUTLINE: This is a senior management position for which the applicant must possess outstanding organisation and communication skills together with high levels of initiative, self motivation and the ability to work as part of a team.

She must be able to plan and implement a wide variety of processes and programs, develop resources and strategies, provide efficient and reliable back-up services as well as on-going operational and administrative support - all with a minimum of supervision.

Expertise in the area of industrial relations is also necessary as is the knowledge of how to handle under-age staff.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The successful applicant must be of sunny and gentle disposition, attractive in appearance and capable of lifting a bag of wheat in one hand and two unshorn goat wethers in the other. She must also be able to spend at least 14 hours a day on her feet and remain patient and smiling even when the blisters have burst.

The applicant must be an enthusiastic early riser, summer and winter, and possess an exceptional ability to organise her time. She will be expected to draft, drench and drove all day, then bath the kids, check the homework, feed the chooks, chop the wood, take in the washing, cook the meal—and appear five minutes later for a little drink before dinner looking like the front cover of Vogue. To be continued.....



POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA

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