

# PAST MATTERS

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WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF CAMPERDOWN AND DISTRICT, THE DJARGURDWURRUNG PEOPLE, AND PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS - PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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## INTRODUCTION & WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members Peter Conheady, Denise Daffy, Lorna Henry, Pat Walsh and Annie Keogh, Mayra Walsh, Elizabeth Hickey and the Camperdown Courthouse. Thanks also to all our members who have renewed for 2021/22 and those who generously donated to our Society.

In this edition of *Past Matters* you will find a story about member Sue Cole's 1988 1,000 kilometre Federation horse ride to Canberra along the newly formed National Trail. This article was written by Gillian Senior based on Sue's diary of the event, see pages 2-4.

Pat Walsh's long delayed talk about his 2021 Walsh family book *Milking our Memories* took place on a beautiful afternoon in the Camperdown Botanic Gardens on 20 February 2022. Pat's summary of his talk appears in this issue, pages 8-9.

Another Covid delayed event, the Aboriginal History and Culture Workshop and Bus Tour, was finally held on 5-6 March. Bob Lambell and Emily Mercer's report is included on page 6.

Maureen Hemley's review of Dr Ian D. Clark's new book *An Ethnohistory of the Djargurdwurrung people of Camperdown* appears on page 10. This important, thought provoking book, is available for purchase at the Heritage Centre.

Maree Belyea recently applied successfully to the Bendigo Bank for a \$1,500 grant towards digitizing our 1875 and 1876 hardcopies of the *Camperdown Chronicle* and uploading them to the National Library of Australia's Trove Collection. Thank you Bendigo Bank! Our Society will pay the balance required. As usual, Maree has also been busy at the Heritage Centre with various research requests and her report appears on pages 11-13.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter.

Rob Wuchatsch  
President

## COMING EVENTS

Monday 23 MAY - An evening with Ted and Tim Egan  
1-3 JULY - Camperdown Robert Burns Festival  
9-15 JULY - Bookaar Art Exhibition  
Tuesday 19th July - "Talkie" Silence, presentation by Laura Flanagan

### Camperdown Heritage Centre

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Camperdown, Victoria 3260

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[facebook/camperdownhistory](https://facebook.com/camperdownhistory)

\*closed in lockdowns

### Opening Hours:

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

### President:

Rob Wuchatsch

### Secretary:

Maree Belyea

### Treasurer:

Jan Whamond

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Bob Lambell  
Gillian Senior  
Angela Preiss  
Maureen Hemley  
Lyle Tune

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# THE FEDERATION RIDE 1988

Article by Gillian Senior.

The Federation Ride was an Equestrian celebration of Australia's Bicentenary year in 1988.

The Ride began on Sunday, 17th April, 1988 with a parade of 350 horses and riders through the streets of Melbourne. Riders and horses then assembled later that day at the Healesville Showgrounds, ready to set off for Canberra the following morning. Using the newly formed National Trail wherever possible, it was timed to arrive on Sunday, 8th May for the opening of the new Parliament House. The total ride was over 1,000 kilometres with average days of 40 km. depending on the terrain, a huge undertaking for the participants and the organisation.

## LOCAL RIDERS

A group of local riders from Camperdown and district were there, including our own Historical Society Life Member, Sue Cole.

## PHOTO (A)

Pam Wilson, Lyle Buntine, Jenny Whitehead, Lawton French, Susan Cole, Stephen Cole, Ros Stansmore, Elspeth Buntine, Rowena McArthur, Sybil Bailleau.

Sue Cole kept a wonderfully detailed diary/scrapbook of the whole trip which is currently being digitised for our historical records. Meanwhile, we are happy to share some of the highlights in this edition of *Past Matters*. The diary is full of interesting information as well as many moments of hilarious disorganisation which make for a thoroughly entertaining read. Over to you, Sue!

## Sunday, 17th April

On a hot autumn afternoon we drove to the Healesville showgrounds in a station wagon groaning with luggage, relieved to see that our ponies had arrived safely. (They had left Mt Elephant station early that morning in the Bailleau's truck.)

It was rather like a circus – tents, large marquees, vehicles driving everywhere, people wandering about looking bewildered and wondering how on earth this circus would get on the road!

As we were approaching Healesville, we kept saying, 'it can't be much further'. (Little did we know how many times we would say that on the ride!)

Registration at the administration tent to receive our tent allocation: H1 with Pam Wilson, Rossi Stansmore, Jenny Whitehead, Beverley Burns from Colac and Wendy Yelland from Berrigan.

Well, there we were, with a mountain of luggage, a six-man tent, stretchers, saddles, to say nothing of six 10-gallon rubbish tins to water and feed the



SUE COLE 1988

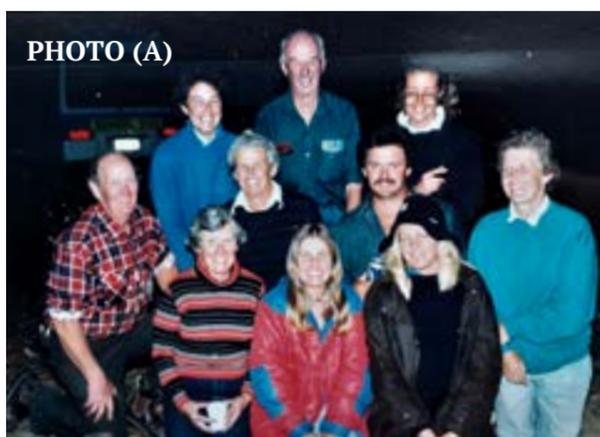


PHOTO (A)

horses, hay-nets, and bags of useful things which could never be found when needed.

Eventually we got all our gear sorted and stowed away, the trucks and cars left for home, we queued for our evening meal, rushed down to our horses, refilled water bins, then we were to assemble in the large marquee for a meeting. It was dark and there were no lights inside – this was only the beginning! It took a while to get sorted out, then the organisers told us what fun it was all going to be, and it would be 'the media event of the Bicentenary'.

We were to be ready to ride by 8.30 am the next day. Everyone was to help; our gear was to be put in one corner of the marquee to be collected by the trucks. (The luggage overflowed from the marquee, let alone the corner!)

Checked the ponies before getting into our sleeping bags – not much talk – except I hope the ponies will be alright.

## FEDERATION RIDE CONTINUED...

### DAY 1 - Monday, 18th April.

A promise of a 6 am call to feed our steeds then queue for water. Rubber boots are needed as the tap came out sideways! You had to guess where the water would land according to how much was in the tank! So there was a very large puddle around the tap area by the time 350 bins had been filled.

Breakfast for us, a visit to the portaloos – which were set up cheek by jowl – very off-putting to say the least!

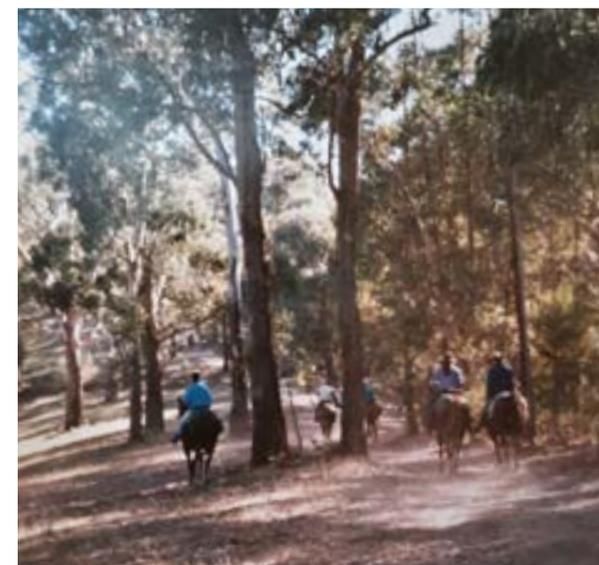


Nature calls! No one knows who had to empty the buckets or WHERE they were emptied!

Time to saddle up and be off on our big adventure! A lot of fizzy horses all wanting to get going. I tried taking Spice away by himself to get him to settle down and walk out some of his nonsense. Tried to keep him away from strange horses and let him walk along beside Liza with Pam (Wilson). He seemed much happier there; he had never seen so many other horses.

At last it was time to move. We set off down the road to Healesville – 360 horses of all shapes and sizes and colour, lots of people lining the road watching the cavalcade pass. Also people in cars at the corners, rather tight-lipped and not amused at being held up, knuckles white on the steering wheel, lighting up yet another Marlborough to help the stress level!

We carried our banners through the streets of Healesville, then we left them with the truck and headed off up into the divide. Mostly tracks, some quite steep country. How exciting to at last be on our way, through the trees on the way to Canberra.



Climbing up onto The Divide out of Healesville.

Pine plantations just as we came into Narbethong. A dam just inside the camping ground caused a problem. A very thirsty horse went straight in, went over the ledge and nearly drowned. It was a wake-up call to everyone to be careful in strange places.

We found our yards, but no water provided. There was a water race about 300 metres away, so down the hill, over a fence, into the race about three feet deep. Heave the water out, back over the fence and up the hill to the ponies! Then a pump was brought in with a hose attached, rather resembling a fireman's hose in size AND pressure! It took two people to hold it and the water container was blown away! So it was a three man operation!

Luggage difficult to find as was horse gear, which was in another truck. Then to find tent H1. The tents were not in order so we spent time walking about looking – eventually there it was! Beside the generator and near the canteen. You win some and lose some!



"It's got to be here somewhere!"

## FEDERATION RIDE CONTINUED...



TENTS... "Which one?"

The loos were to be avoided at all costs. This night, they were a fair walk away on the edge of a bank, in a line, about one foot between each blue poly enclosure. Facing east so you could enjoy the morning sunrise and the view – if you stayed there long enough!

Eventually we found all our belongings, had our evening meal and listened to everyone grumbling. No seats so bed was the best place.

There were two people on night watch for the horses and they had a very busy night as a lot of horses got out and the vets were busy with colicky horses having drunk the icy creek water.

### DAY 2 - Tuesday, 19th April

Up about 6am – a call in case you slept in – a tin tray being hit with a large metal object. Queue for horse feed, find some water, line up for cornflakes, muesli, fruit toast, tea or coffee. Roll up your belongings, leave in a heap for the trucks to collect, clean your pony, saddle up, put rubbish tins, rugs and all horse gear in another heap, get on your pony, head for the gate, give your number to the person checking as you went out (No.49) and head off up the track. That was to be our routine for the next couple of weeks. I remember nothing about the morning ride but come lunch time we were hungry. 1 salad roll, 1 piece carrot cake, 1 muesli bar, piece of fruit. And three weeks down the track it was still the same menu! Can't think how many boxes of carrot cake they must have bought.

A horse went through an old bridge, managed to get itself out, no terrible damage, so we found another way across the creek and up a cliff. Came into Camberville reserve just on dark.

Spice bit Pam on the arm – not good. Yards not up, no water, lit a fire by the tent to dry saddle cloths etc. Truck with three water tanks arrived – outlets each side except the back tank outlet in the middle. No way you could get at the water! Shortage of horse

feed. Only two days out! Lucerne, chaff, lucerne hay, Coprice and some strawberry clover hay.

### Day 3 - Wednesday, 20th April

Beautiful day – cold and clear. Left by 8 o'clock, logging track. Lovely ferns, very cold gullies – climbed high then came down a long slide to a valley floor – took 25 minutes. Arrived at Frenchman's Creek about 3.30 and sat on the side of the road as the camp was not set up. Got into the camp just on dark. It's a very tight spot. The yards are in amongst the trees – Mountain Ash I think – very tall. Tonight we had seats – trestle tables with planks. The horse yards on the road had to be dismantled in the night to take a rider to hospital. Spice (pony) is a bit short tonight and tomorrow is a big day. The blacksmith looked at his foot and thinks he is all right – we'll see in the morning.

### Day 4 - Thursday, 21st April.

Four-thirty a.m. start. On the track by seven – still dark and very cold. I decided to float Spice the 50 km over Mt. Terrible. Very steep and rocky to Jamieson. A hot day, no water on track, horses dehydrating. I managed to get a spot in a float with a Palomino with a streaming nose and a cough. Here's hoping Spice doesn't catch that wog! I travelled with Ian Someone (?) from Yass in his truck. Took three hours to get to Jamieson. We camped by the river – a good spot. I managed to fall in – fairly cold. Lorraine Webb was kicked by her own horse and leg badly broken. Taken to Wangaratta hospital. Riders got in about four – nearly eight hours. Some took much longer. Some horses still at Frenchman's Creek. Went to the Jamieson pub in the back of a Hertz Rent-a-van. Terrible feeling! Pitch dark and shut in! Was glad to get back to camp safely and get to bed.

*We'll leave Sue's adventures here, on day four of the twenty-two day trip. There may be another episode in our next edition of Past Matters – depending on how much room we have; but in any case, we plan to transcribe the whole trip and make it available on our website.*

*It's an important record of an historic occasion: the 200th anniversary of Australia's Federation, the opening of the new Parliament House and long trek by a group of ordinary Australians that deserves to be remembered.*

*Gillian Senior.*

## RAY WATSON – Nonagenarian!

On Tuesday, 1st March, we celebrated the fact that Ray Watson, our photographic guru, has arrived at the grand age of NINETY!  
(And still going strong!)

Gail arrived with a birthday cake, candles were lit and blown out, and we all sang Happy Birthday. Well done Ray!!



### "Talkie" Silence: The Changing Soundscape of Camperdown's Mechanics' Theatre (ABSTRACT) Laura Flanagan, Texas Tech University

In Australia in the early 20th century, going to the movies was a popular form of entertainment. Silent films arrived first and then, as new technology enabled the synchronization of recorded sound, talking pictures, or "talkies," became an important part of Australian popular culture. Although the history of film and its industry has been well documented in Australia, very little has been written about the early movie-going experience in rural Australia.

In Victoria, citizens were able to attend the films in multi-purpose community spaces or halls. This paper uses the 1928 Mechanics' Hall (known locally after 1934 as the Theatre Royal) in Camperdown, Victoria as a case study to present a snapshot of movie going in summer 1931, during the transition from silent films to "talkies." It examines how the arrival of the talking picture technology changed aural elements of the movie going experience – both through the inclusion of sound with the film, but also the evolution of audience behavior.

Additionally, I suggest ways in which rural town values shaped talking picture technology's adoption. These impacts included not only financial considerations, but also choice of technology, films shown, and audience behavior based on sound and sonic experiences. One conclusion suggests that the introduction of the "talkie" to the Mechanics' Theatre paradoxically resulted in a quieter audience experience overall.

Although there are no recordings of what the Mechanics' Theatre sounded like in 1931, it is possible to piece together that experience through contemporary newspaper stories and advertisements, a taped interview describing what it was like to play piano for silent movies, and other documents held by the Camperdown and District Historical Society.

By examining Camperdown's "sounded" history at the moment of transition to talking pictures in the Mechanics' Theatre, new insights can be gained regarding popular culture and the values of rural Victorians during the Great Depression, a time and population which have heretofore been underrepresented in studies of Australian popular culture.

## ABORIGINAL HISTORY SEMINAR & BUS TOUR

DR IAN CLARK, JOHN CLARKE, EMILY MERCER, BOB LAMBELL, BRETT CLARKE



After many Covid-related delays, we were finally able to deliver the second instalment of our local history project with the Camperdown & District Historical Society Inc.; "Camperdown and District Aboriginal History and Culture" seminar and bus tour.

The seminar, with over 60 attendees, was held at Camperdown's Theatre Royal on Saturday 5th March, with talks from Dr Ian D. Clark, an expert in pre-settlement history in our region and John Clarke from Eastern Maar Corporation, along with musical performances from the talented Brett Clarke.

The sold out bus tour was held on Sunday 6th March, and was led by Dr Ian D. Clark and Bob Lambell, touring significant sites across the district adding to the information and stories shared at the seminar and creating tangible connections to those stories for all who came along for the journey.

It was a powerful weekend learning about and connecting to our local history.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with some reporting back that they "found it to be a deeply enriching and thought provoking weekend", and "we felt immersed in learning, reflecting and "feeling", given the subject, for the entire weekend". Others reported that the events were "best thing I've ever been to on my life", that attending was "really worthwhile", and many asked when the next session will be.

A huge thank you to John Clarke, Brett Clarke, Dr Ian D. Clark and Bob Lambell for making this all possible, and to Camperdown's Milk Bar, Cobden Coaches and Madden's Commercial Hotel for your services and support of these events.

We hope this will be one of many community events that we can take part in to support such important conversations, community education and understanding of local history, place and community.

There are two more sessions coming up in this project series, so be sure to sign up to community house eNews to be first to know when the next session in this series is open for registration; <https://camperdownch.com.au/news/newsletter/>

Copies of Dr Ian Clark's book covering local Aboriginal history are available at the Historical Centre. See P10 for review. Article by Emily Mercer, Camperdown Community House



## "TALKIE" SILENCE: Laura Flanagan

### The Changing Soundscape of Camperdown's Mechanics' Theatre

A special presentation by Laura Flanagan, Texas Tech University.

Laura studied her subject, in depth, over the past 18 months and will present her paper to the historical society during her visit from Texas, USA on 19th July.

The story, uncovered from a myriad of sources, brings into focus the changes in society from the silent era to the arrival of 'talkies'.



Don't miss the opportunity to meet Laura and discover why, or how, she chose her subject, the journey and results of her research.

**Tuesday 19th July at 7:30 pm, Heritage Centre**

ALL WELCOME

## An Evening of Entertainment with Ted Egan

**Musician, Songwriter, Story teller**

Many tales of an extraordinary life - as a bush school teacher, working with Aboriginal people in the Gulf country, performing in Alice Springs and throughout Australia, Administrator of the Northern Territory, and much more.

Supported by his brother, Tim, an international Police Officer and great raconteur. Ted has generously offered to do the "show" for the historical society while in Camperdown for his Egan family re-union



**Monday 23rd May at 7:30 pm, RSL Hall 14 Pike Street**

Limited seats - Bookings essential: [camperdowndhs@gmail.com](mailto:camperdowndhs@gmail.com) or 0417 352 987

Members only event - partners welcome **Book early to avoid disappointment**

Tickets - \$10 includes light supper

**1-3 JULY** [camperdownburnsfestival.com.au](http://camperdownburnsfestival.com.au)



**Celebrating our local connections**

**to the Bard... songs, stories, dance**

**pipes, history, haggis**

**\*Also featuring Laura Flanagan.**

**BOOKAAR EXHIBITION**

**9-15 JULY @ OLD BOOKAAR SCHOOL**

Light refreshments SAT 1-4pm 9th July.

SUNDAY to FRIDAY 11AM - 4PM

@ Old Bookaar School; 14kms down Darlington Rd.

[creativeaboutbookaar@yahoo.com](mailto:creativeaboutbookaar@yahoo.com)

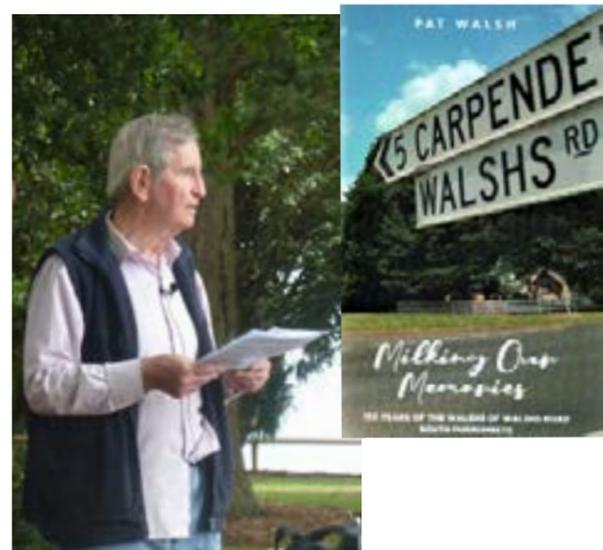
Pat Walsh's book *Milking Our Memories* about the Walsh family of South Purrumbete was published in 2020. It is a wonderful book full of warmth, wit and wisdom. Pat Walsh AM recently spoke to us about the book.

## MILKING OUR MEMORIES

Pat Walsh ([www.patwalsh.net](http://www.patwalsh.net))

Summary of my talk at the *Camperdown Botanic Gardens*, 20 Feb 22

I used the talk to respond to four questions I've been asked since publishing the Walsh clan memoir in 2020.



In response to the question why did I write the memoir, I gave two main reasons. First that working in East Timor for over a decade woke me up to big gaps in my own story. Though 70 years old and well educated, I came to realise that I knew more about East Timor's past than my own including that of my ancestors, Maurice Walsh and Margaret O'Brien, the First Walshs of Walshs Road South Purrumbete. In addition, the strong East Timorese connection to country and their ancestors reinforced my personal sense of disconnection and ignorance. This led me to look for my ancestor's grave in the Camperdown cemetery, then to research and publish their story.

Like East Timor's, it was a story of extraordinary determination and enterprise against the odds. I learned that Maurice and Margaret were forced by poverty and famine to leave their families and homeland in Ireland and were illiterate teenagers when they arrived in far away Melbourne in the mid-19th century. And that, despite these obvious handicaps, they had soon begun farming and raising a family in South Purrumbete, typifying the pioneering mentality that once made South Purrumbete, nowadays a shadow of its

former self, a thriving local community. The second reason I had for writing the memoir was even more personal. Having left home at 12, a bit like my ancestors but in my case to get a good education, I wanted to re-discover and re-connect with the place where I had been born and its story.

In the talk I also touched on how I'd written the book. I chose to present it as a memoir rather than strict history, though I took care to ground it in long hours of solid research based on records, archives, local newspapers and studies. Using a memoir format gave me more creative space and allowed me to incorporate colourful oral accounts milked from my family in particular!

To deepen appreciation of the challenges and opportunities my ancestors faced, I also situated their story in the context of their times, events and places. Many readers responded enthusiastically to this approach. It helped them to re-live family histories, dairy farming and other experiences of growing up in country Victoria, such as trapping rabbits, when farms were smaller family lifestyle projects.



Some readers also shared information that was new to me. For example, I learned stories of kindness that cast new light on my father; that Hallyburton's corner, situated on Walshs Rd and now a paddock owned by a Walsh, once hosted a country store; that the first St Brigid's church was also a school; that the 80 year old cypresses around the 'new' St Brigids at the top of Walshs Rd, now a private home, were planted by the families who paid for the church to be built in the 1930s when Purrumbete was booming; that the Pirron Yallock pub was once known as the West Colac police station; and other items of interest!

## MILKING OUR MEMORIES continued...

This feedback would not have been possible had I not self-published. Self-publishing meant I became the sole distributor, a bookshop! Two bookshops in Colac, one in Warrnambool and newsagents in Cobden, Camperdown and Terang all ordered copies, but many readers contacted me directly to get the book and this led to many exchanges by email and phone. While useful, as mentioned above, this interaction was above all very satisfying. It has generated many new friendships with extended family and others, a reward not always available to authors who sell through bookshops and have no direct contact with readers.

I concluded the talk with reflections on three issues that arose from the book project.

In writing the book I became aware how much my sense of my cultural and ethnic identity was shaped by the male line in our family, and how this contributed to both a gender and an ethnic imbalance in my self-understanding.

My second reflection was prompted by the realisation that my ancestors settled in the Stoney Rises in the 1870s when the eradication of the area's First Peoples was nearing its end point. I found no evidence that the First Walshs were involved in this genocide but I also found it hard to believe that they would not have seen or heard of local tribes or, being dispossessed people themselves, realised the grim irony of their situation. This has fine-tuned my attention to, and support of, Victoria's current Yoorrook commission. Its government backed program of truth-telling and treaty-making is critical to finally reducing ignorance on the part of the non-Indigenous majority and placing our two civilisations on a proper legal par.

Finally, I noted the death of the local institutions and economy that once made South Purrumbete a thriving, creative, self-reliant community. This led me to question the notion of progress driven solely by economic forces.

Other questions sparked by the memoir I opted to leave to the kitchen table! They included exploring the vacuum left by the slow death of cultural Catholicism and the future of the Walsh footprint in South Purrumbete after 150 years.

I and clan Walsh reiterate our thanks to the Camperdown & District Historical Society for its keen interest and for hosting the talk after several COVID-related postponements.



*Milking Our Memories: 150 Years of the Walshs of Walshs Road, South Purrumbete* is available from

Camperdown Newsagency,  
Manifold St, Camperdown

or from the author:  
[padiwalsh@gmail.com](mailto:padiwalsh@gmail.com)

**An Ethnohistory of the Djargurdwurrung people of Camperdown** by Dr Ian D. Clark  
 Book Review by Maureen Hemley.

Dr Clark has patiently researched and compiled a collection of records of the early history of the Camperdown District at a time when the Djargurdwurrung people faced the conflicts of European settlement and countless changes to their way of life.

Although not overly illustrated, the book is an account of Djargurd customs, language and place names in the area we know as Corangamite Shire.

It has references to mega fauna and volcanic eruptions, as well as early records of European-Aboriginal interactions including accounts of the horrors of mass murders.

It also documents James and Isabella Dawson's early advocacy for indigenous rights and reconciliation. James Dawson was appointed local guardian of the Aborigines in the Camperdown district in 1876.

Through authenticated aboriginal descriptions and stories, newspaper articles, reports from the Board for the Protection of the Aborigines, letters and journal entries of early travellers to the area and pioneers, the story of the eventual decline of the Djargurdwurrung people unfolds.

Dr Clark is well qualified and has a doctorate (PhD) in Aboriginal Historical Geography and has been researching and publishing in Victorian Aboriginal history since 1982. Born in Ararat, he has been the Centre Manager of the Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre at Halls Gap, and Research Fellow in History at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies in Canberra.

*I learnt a lot from this thought-provoking book. It reflects attitudes of a century long gone, but these stories need to be told, recognised and understood if we are ever to move forward in reconciliation as a Nation today.*

The book is concise, easily read, and records are set in chronological order making it a valuable reference tool for local history buffs, students and people open to discovering the rich history of the Western Districts of Victoria.

Now available from the CDHS for \$21.95



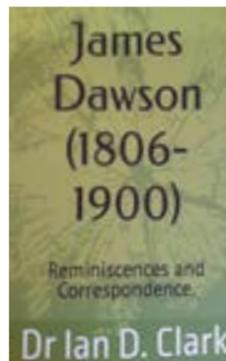
**James Dawson (1806 - 1900) Reminiscences and Correspondence** by Dr Ian D. Clark  
 Article by Gillian Senior.

Hot off the press, we have received many copies of this book by Dr Clark for our own reference and for sale to the public.

As with his Ethnography of the Djargurdwurrung, this is a compilation of all the letters, articles and reports by - and concerned with - James Dawson. It is incredibly valuable to have all the records of Dawson's contribution to the Victorian community together in one volume. He was a steadfast supporter of the Aboriginal population in South Western Victoria, made friends with many and wrote extensively about their culture and language.

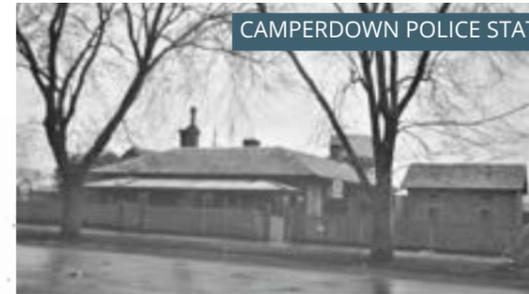
His other interests were wide ranging, from animal welfare to engineering, from the naming of landmarks to the history of steam engines.

The book is a revelation about such an interesting and unique individual. It can be purchased from the Heritage Centre for \$38.50.

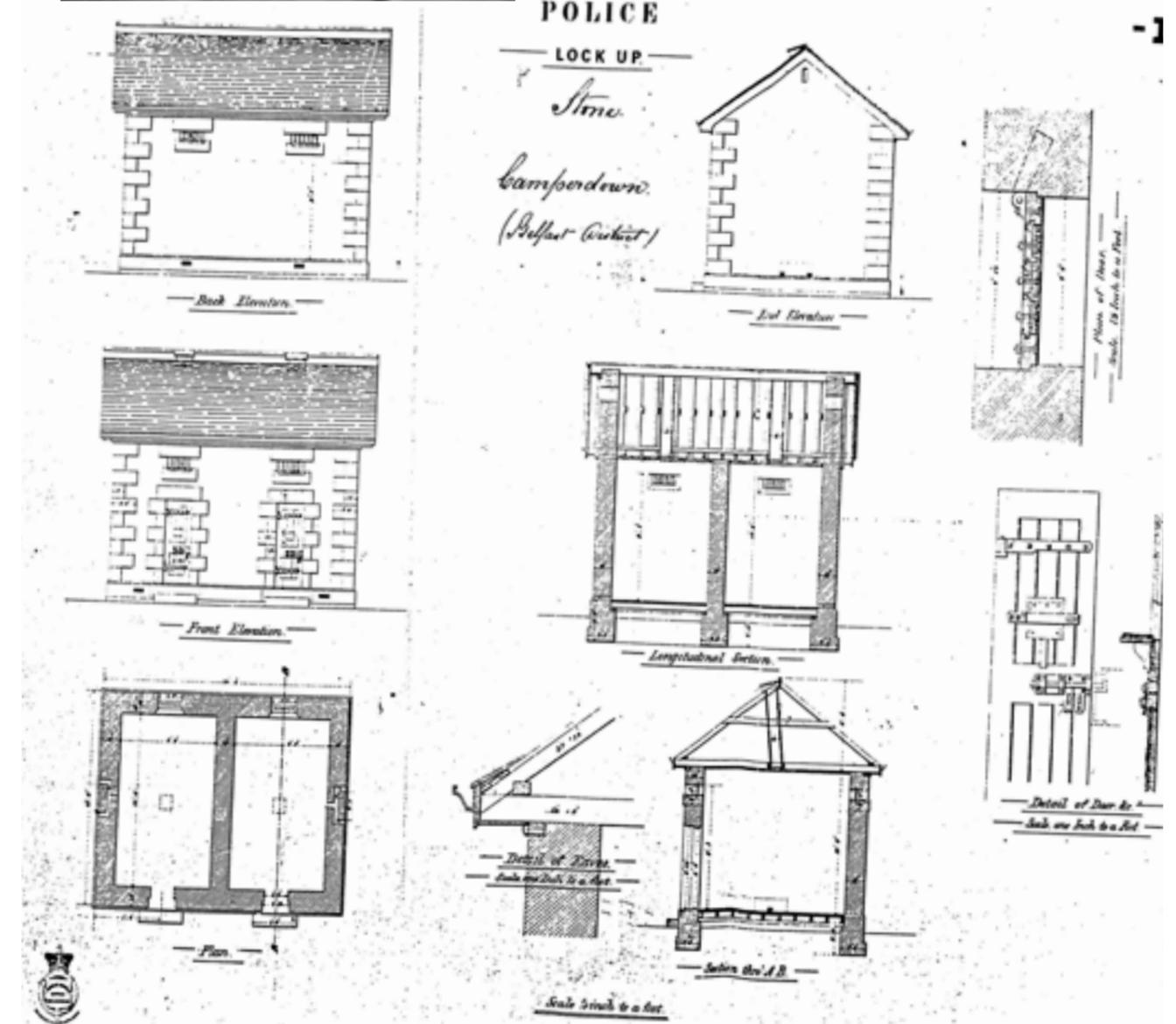


**RESEARCH REQUESTS**

We had an unusual request from the Mornington, Vic Police Station. Their 1860's Lock Up, still on the station site, is about to be restored. They were hoping Camperdown's lock up was still in existence, as apparently built of the same design and around the same time. Unfortunately, ours was demolished some years ago, however we were able to provide a good photo and original detailed plans for the building, including the locking system that they were particularly interested in.



CAMPERDOWN POLICE STATION



## RESEARCH REQUESTS

Unfortunately, one of our major research resources, local rate books, will be transferred to Public Records Office at Ballarat around the end of April. Hopefully the records will be available in digital form in the near future. In the mean-time a limited selection is being photographed.

We have seen an amazing variety of requests of all sorts over the past three months and never know just what will be next! Older cottages with new owners keen to discover all they can about those who came before them are always interesting, but to have quite a few in a short period is unusual. Those researched are 46 Leura Street (1876), 63 Fergusson Street (1882), and 40-42 Bowen Street (1902).

Some of the owners will be resurrecting previous property names by having plates fixed to their homes. Another, but with long term owners, is 18 Meiklejohn Street (1889).

New owners of not so old homes are also interested in the history of their home and/or the land they are built on. Two of these being at 1 Curdie Street and 17 Walls Street. Rural properties researched were 'Wanganuk' and 'Crail'.

Well-known entertainer Ted Egan was searching for the family properties of his Egan and Brennan parents. The Egan family are planning a reunion in Camperdown in May to celebrate the centenary of his parents' marriage at St Patrick's Church in May 1922. Ted has kindly offered to do a 'show' for us, with his brother Tim, a former international police officer. Details of the event are elsewhere in this newsletter. It's bound to be a very entertaining evening of interesting stories and songs.

## VISITORS

A pre-arranged visit was made by Glenn Marler, keen to identify the homes of his Ross family grandparents and great grandparents. Prior to the visit we sent addresses and family gravesites in Camperdown Cemetery for him to check out.

When visiting the centre, Glenn was thrilled to be shown a 1904 charcoal drawing done by his great-grandmother Annie Ross, that features in our women's display area. Annie had titled it 'Macaroni'. By pure coincidence, volunteer Jan Whamond had brought work in a carry bag and Glenn's wife, Joan, noticed the 'San Remo Pasta' logo on the bag had the same image as Annie's drawing, except in colour. Volunteer Maureen Hemley was quickly on the case (Google) and discovered an old masters painting by John T Bowen (1801-1856), titled 'Two Monks Cooking' that Annie must have copied. We all agreed that Annie's version was the best.

We were also able to give Glenn a copy of a photograph of the Camperdown Pipe Band that includes his great-grandfather, grandfather and two great-uncles, taken prior to WW 1, donated to the society by Dr John Menzies. Glenn has since sent us a wonderful undated photo of his grandfather, Alexander Ross, in a group of six men competitors and trainers in the 'Noorat Gift', and also a photo

of a framed c1898 painting by Annie, titled 'Rydal Water', held within the extended Ross family. Max Hardman had also arranged a visit to view all we held on the Bregenzer family. Win McArthur (nee Bregenzer) had quite a collection of family history, most of which was donated to the society by her executors a few years ago, one of whom came to meet with Max. Although an accomplished historian in his own right, Max was amazed and overawed by the range of information available. He will return in the near future to make copies and have a further meeting with the executors, who are anxious the memorabilia be kept within Win's extended family.

Former resident Noel Stonehouse visited, bringing lots of items previously owned by his late Mother, Ethel, and memorabilia from his years at Camperdown High School. Noel and his wife Rosemarie are photographed beside a mannequin in a c1890 wedding outfit, one of quite a few dresses donated to the society by Ethel some years ago.



## UPDATED SIGNAGE

A much-needed refresh of our ageing and faded outdoor signage has been completed. As reported in the last newsletter, we were successful with a CHART grant application.

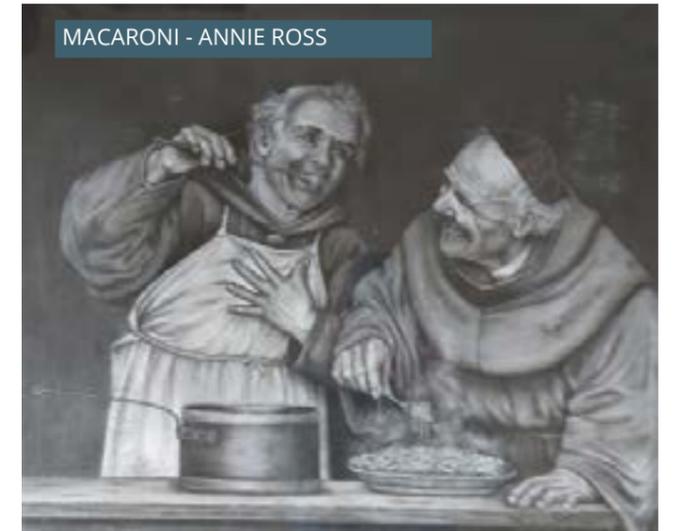
We are very pleased with the service and product supplied by Peter Conheady of 'Mr. Sign'.

"Supported by the Australian Government's Culture, Heritage and Arts Regional Tourism (CHART) program"

Maree Belyea, Secretary.



NOEL & ROSEMARY STONEHOUSE



MACARONI - ANNIE ROSS



'NOORAT GIFT'



PIPE BAND

## Camperdown Robert Burns Scottish Festival 2022

### LECTURE PROGRAM

**Saturday 2nd July, 10.30 am - 4.30 pm**

**Killara Centre, Camperdown**

**Day ticket \$25.00 (Available online from May 4)**

**Bookings: [camperdownburnsfestival.com.au](http://camperdownburnsfestival.com.au)**



#### **Dr Andrew Lemon 10.30 am** **The Manifolds, their horses, and the Scottish connection**

The first generation of English Manifold brothers in Australia did not go in for racehorses. The second generation did, with a vengeance. The third generation included 'the Father of the TAB', Sir Chester Manifold, owner-breeder of Arbroath and the champion steeplechaser Crisp. Racing historian Dr Andrew Lemon will explore this trajectory and consider the extent to which neighbouring Western District Scots played a role in developing the Manifold family passion for the horse. Dr Andrew Lemon is the foremost expert on the history of horse racing in Australia.

Andrew has enjoyed a long career as a professional historian, has published books on topics ranging from schools, sport and shipwrecks to biography and local history, and has won several national literary awards.

Andrew is consultant historian to the Victoria Racing Club. He has served on Victoria's Heritage Council, the State Library of Victoria Board, and is a past-president of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.



#### **Dr Ruth Pullin 1.30 pm** **Subject: Vision and patronage: von Guérard and the Scots of the Western District**

Dr Ruth Pullin is the leading world expert on the paintings and sketch books of the artist, Eugene von Guérard.

inburgh. In 1725 a very unpopular malt tax was introduced across Britain increasing the price of malt whisky and ale. An outcome for Scotland was a huge increase in smuggling of illicit whisky from the Highlands to the Lowlands and to England.

Robert Burns, known for rousing drinking poems such as John Barleycorn Must Die and Scotch Drink, opposed these taxes on whisky and wrote a piece including the famous line, "Freedom an' whisky gang thegither!" It is therefore strange that Burns, who lambasted excise officers in his song, The De'il's awa wi' th' Exciseman should apply to be appointed to that role in 1789.

This paper examines the growth in illicit whisky distilling and smuggling in Scotland in the late 18th century and Robert Burns' role in attempting to prevent it.

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 Ruth Pullin 1.30 pm** **Subject: Vision and patronage: von Guérard and the Scots of the Western District**

Dr Ruth Pullin is the leading world expert on the paintings and sketch books of the artist, Eugene von Guérard.

Ruth is an independent art historian, curator and von Guérard specialist. She has curated two major exhibitions of von Guérard's work: the Art Gallery of Ballarat's 2018 exhibition, Eugene von Guérard: Artist-Traveller, and, as co-curator, the National Gallery of Victoria's 2011 travelling exhibition, Eugene von Guérard: nature revealed. She was the principal author and editor of the catalogue, Eugene von Guérard: nature revealed. Her most recent book, The Artist as Traveller: The Sketchbooks of Eugene von Guérard was published by

the Art Gallery of Ballarat in 2018, along with, as co-author, an annotated collection of von Guérard's letters, translated from Old German. She has held fellowships at the State Library of New South Wales and the State Library of Victoria, her research has been published in Australian and international journals and she presents regularly at national and international symposiums.



#### **David Jellie 2.30 pm** **Two Scottish engineers - Telford and McAdam - and their legacy to the World's roads.**

David Jellie commenced work as a structural design engineer with the Victoria's Country Roads Board in 1961. During his early career he managed the design of bridges on the Monash Freeway and the Western Freeway, before he moved to Orbost in East Gippsland to supervise the construction of the bridges across the Snowy River. After this he was appointed the Resident Engineer Bridgeworks on the Hume Freeway between Seymour and Euroa.

He then moved back to Melbourne in 1978 and was appointed the Project Manager of the West Gate Freeway - Victoria's largest infrastructure project at that time. After completion of West Gate, he started on the Western Ring Road. In 1988, David was seconded from VicRoads by the Victorian Government to assist in the establishment of a government-owned consulting company - the Overseas Projects Corporation of Victoria (OPCV). This company's mission was to export

government expertise to overseas countries. As General Manager of OPCV, he was involved in a wide variety of aid projects in Asia, the Pacific islands, southern Africa and the Middle East.

David also participated in the development of Australian design codes and has written many papers and books - mainly relating to construction and safety in construction. He was appointed an Adjunct Professor at RMIT University.

He retired in 2001 and created his own consulting practice - assisting clients in international development projects and in Australia, advising consortia in tendering for large road infrastructure projects. He finally stopped working in 2015 to concentrate on his real passions - landscape painting, grandchildren, and his favourite football clubs - Essendon, Melbourne Storm and Melbourne Victory.



#### **Dr. Ian D. Clark 3.30 pm** **"Some rambles with the Campbells" - The life and times of Western District pastoralist and politician, Colin Campbell (1817-1903) and his family.**

Dr Ian Clark has a doctorate in Aboriginal Historical Geography from Monash University. He was born in Ararat and his family has been associated with Djabwurrung country since 1854. Ian has been researching and publishing in Victorian Aboriginal history since 1982. He has been the Centre Manager of the Brambuk Aboriginal Cultural Centre at Halls Gap, and Research Fellow in History at the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies in Canberra.

Ian's many areas of interest include genealogy, Aboriginal history, the history of tourism, toponyms (placenames) and the life and music of Ella Jane Fitzgerald.

In his lecture, Ian will take us on a ramble with the Campbells through the Western District highlighting Scottish elements and people and events as they occur in the regional landscape.

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