

PAST MATTERS

CAMPERDOWNHISTORY.ORG.AU

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

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**CAMPERDOWN & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.**

PO BOX 243, CAMPERDOWN 3260
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INTRODUCTION & WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members Rodney and Jennifer Blomely, Simon and Alison Bucheri, John, Maree and Peter Daffy, Laura Flanagan and Billy Quinn. Thank you for joining the Camperdown & District Historical Society and we look forward to seeing you at the Heritage Centre for research and future events.

Some great news! Our Society has just been awarded a Victorian Government Local History Program Grant run by Public Records Office Victoria (PROV) to digitize our hardcopy holdings of the Western Press (1866-69) and Hampden Guardian (1870-77). When digitized these newspapers will be uploaded to the National Library of Australia's Trove website. Well done to our Secretary Maree Belyea for making this project happen. If anyone knows the location of the long missing 1873 volume of the Hampden Guardian please let us know.

In May over 50 members and friends were entertained by Ted Egan who put on a special concert for us. Ted, whose parents were married at Camperdown in 1922, performed some of his most popular songs and his x-ray vision into the Australian character was very evident. You can read about Ted's concert in Angela Preiss' beautifully written report on page 4.

Jim Wilson, foundation and Life Member and former President and Secretary of our Society, passed away in June. You will find Bob Lambell's wonderful tribute to Jim on pages 6-7.

Laura Flanagan from Lubbock, Texas has been visiting Camperdown again to continue research for her Ph.D. In July she spoke to us about The Changing Soundscape of Camperdown's Mechanics' Theatre. Maree Belyea's report on Laura's very interesting talk appears on page 3. You will also find Part 2 of Gillian Senior's story about Sue Cole's epic 1988 Federation horse ride to Canberra on page 2 and another article Gillian has written about weights and measures on page 9.

The long delayed Robert Burns Lectures, postponed from 2020, finally took place on 2 July. Over 70 people were treated to a veritable history feast by speakers Dr Andrew Lemon, Dr Iain Buckland, Dr Ruth Pullin, David Jellie and Dr Ian Clark. Thanks to all those people who attended the lectures; the speakers for staying with us for the last three years; to Bob Lambell for arranging the lectures; and to Maree and other members who worked so hard to make the day such a success.

COMING EVENTS

Tues 9th August - CDHS AGM 7.30pm @ Heritage Centre

8th October 2022 the Camperdown P&A Society will hold its 150th Show

15th October 2022 Camperdown College will celebrate its Centenary.

July 2023 - 140 years since the railway opened to Camperdown.

We have a lot of history to look forward to. Rob Wuchatsch, President.

Camperdown Heritage Centre

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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

Committee:

Bob Lambell
Gillian Senior
Angela Preiss
Maureen Hemley
Lyle Tune

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THE FEDERATION RIDE 1988 PART 2 Article by Gillian Senior.

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

In our last edition of Past Matters, we shared Sue's diary entries from her wonderful scrapbook up to the end of Day 4.

It was a wonderful experience and she thoroughly enjoyed it, but it was no picnic!

She and her party had coped with the cold and wet conditions, finding their tent and luggage among a hundred others at the end of a long day's ride, and struggling to find enough feed and water for their horses.

Day 5 begins with a ride through Mansfield and ends with a decision to a) stay in a motel and b) call for back-up from home!

Day 5 – Friday 22nd April.

Quite a bit of bitumen riding then out beside the Eildon dam, crossed the Howqua River – very low, just a trickle. Rode into Mansfield carrying our banners to the showgrounds. Plenty of space. Saddler came to do repairs – plenty of work for him. Went to a motel, had a hot shower – lovely. Rang home and arranged for Steve (Sue's son) to join us with the Mt. Elephant truck. We could then be independent and keep our belongings together. All well at home. Steve should be with us by Sunday.

Day 6 – Saturday 23rd April.

Parade through the town again then out on the road north. Open rolling hills, no trees, very windy and cold. After lunch we turned east and down into the King Valley. Very pretty – tobacco, corn, beautiful trees. Three children had a drink stall on the side of the road and did a great trade. Ten cents a glass. Talked to a man from Apollo Bay on the side of the road – he was watching the passing parade. Beautiful soil, lots of weeds, blackberries everywhere.

Some highlights:

Day 7 – Sunday 24th April

Steve arrived just on dark. Wasn't hard to find us – just followed the horse manure!

Day 8 – Monday, 25th April

We put all our gear in the truck, including the tent. Also two horses who were struggling. The front part was full of extra horse feed. We were very glad to see Steve. He slept in the truck. Today is Anzac Day and we formed a guard of honour for the returned soldiers. They led us out of camp.

A nasty accident where a man leading a young horse took a short cut down a steep bank. The horse panicked, went over a cliff edge and broke its pelvis. Had to be destroyed.



Day 11 – Thursday 28th April

Put Spice in the truck – footsore. Wendy left us – her horse very lame – bad luck.

There will be some more highlights in later editions and, eventually, it will all be available on our web-site.



Pictured above:
Mitta Mitta River, morning - before setting off.
Lyle, Lawton, Pam, Elspeth, Margie Taylor.

'TALKIE' SILENCE Presentation by Laura Flanagan

A wonderful evening presentation was made by Laura, to an enthralled audience of thirty-five members and guests on 19th July.

Laura left no stone unturned in tracing the origins of Camperdown's Mechanics' Institute buildings and the various activities hosted in their hall over a long period.

Through minute books, newspaper articles and from local, district, state and national archives she then focused on the buildup to, and period in 1931, when silent movies were replaced with the 'talkies', including the choice of projection equipment and difficulties encountered.

Interestingly, the movie audience experience differed greatly as the silent movies had pianist accompaniment with lots of talking and laughing going on, compared with talkies requiring silence from the audience as they needed to hear the dialogue to follow the movie.

Laura greatly enjoyed being able to include local names in her presentation that might otherwise not be included in the historical record – especially having the honor of being able to name several of the local pianists who played for the silent movies in Camperdown.

She also highlighted, with the support of a detailed calendar, the wide range of entertainment being held in the Mechanics' Theatre, as it was then known, during 1931, and other local venues, despite this being during the depression years.

President Rob Wuchatsch thanked Laura heartily for her interesting and in-depth presentation, commenting it was more 'history coming alive' than nostalgia.

Laura conducted most of her research from Texas, USA, expanding it further after arrival in this area in June.

After a convivial supper, most of those present took the opportunity of a tour of the Theatre with Tony Dupleix and Laura. Many commented on their enjoyment in seeing and hearing about the space, and connecting the history with the actual space still being used by the community.

Article by Maree Belyea.



TED EGAN - A rare night of music, history, and storytelling.

On Monday 23rd May approximately 53 CDHS members & guests gathered at the RSL hall for entertainment of a very special kind.

The opportunity to hear songs and stories presented acoustically by Ted Egan (90), using only voice with occasional beer carton accompaniment, was to be invited into another world.

Through story, song and reminiscence Ted introduced us to his experiences of Australia, its landscape and its characters.

In true bardic form he drew vivid pictures of time and place, at times with different languages (Me and Bobby Ngarli'), then with humour and audience participation ('Schultz', 'Warnie'), and often with great poignancy that left a tear in the eye; ('Drover's Boy', 'Sayonara Nakamura', 'Two Little Boys').

His songs and storytelling invited appreciation, empathy, understanding and introspection. Ted was asking us to reflect on another's experience as he shared his life adventures, weaving the beauty of walking alongside each other in a spirit of seeking understanding.

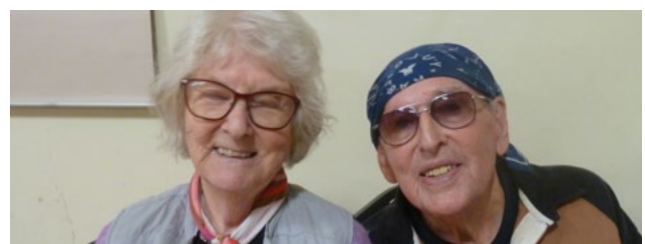
Ted sang of times with aboriginal community, told of learning language to coach footy, of time walking the land with Elders to reach better understanding for his role as Administrator of the Northern Territory (2003-2007). He spoke of prison encyclopaedias educating bushman of diverse nationalities who could be found discussing Greek philosophy, of travelling people ('The Last of the Packhorse Bagmen'), of pearl divers, of droving and drovers, of bush women, of depression, of war.

As a kid I have fond memories of Mum and Dad putting on Ted's cassettes in the car for many a road trip sing-a-long... with favourites like 'The Urapunga Frog', 'Say G'day you Aussie Kids', 'Andy's Gone with Cattle' and 'Old Man Emu' heartily rendered. I asked Mum and Dad to come with me to the show and for them it was also a step back in time, so much so that they stayed up until the small hours with their own collection of memories of life on the land.

We recently celebrated Camperdown's Robert Burns Festival. Burns, Scotland's most revered national bard, wrote and collected songs and stories of the common man, in colloquial language. Ted Egan (OM, AM) is our equivalent, he's Australia's national bard. He highlights and humanises our collective story with all of its changing political realities. He celebrates the strength and diversity of Australia's cultural mix through his time.

Many write about history, some make history, we all live through our shared human history. Ted is

a superb collector and communicator of Australia's lived history. He lends his voice to unsung heroes. He makes us want to go out and discover our towns and peoples in new ways. He gave us new eyes, ears and minds. He gave us a night to be treasured and remembered.



Article by Angela Preiss.

RESEARCH REQUESTS

Another period of requests of a wide and varied nature received from near and far.

Properties researched include those of Seth Worrall, 39 Lawrence Street, 12 Henderson Street, 32 McNicol Street, 105 Camperdown-Lismore Road, 41-43 William Street in Lismore and the holdings of the Bridget Seid (nee Spark) and Thomas R Crosby family.

Information sought was on the Woollard/Bamford/Lindenberg family; Sanson family; Easterbrook family; George H Vincent; James & Isabella Dawson; Glen family; John E Hill; William Blom/Bloom; James Macarthur Jnr properties; and local buildings designed by architects Backhouse & Reynolds.

Details on J E Drew, a local Motorcycle dealer, and his attempts to climb the sides of Mt Leura and Sugarloaf in 1925 and 1926.

Local organisations being assisted with information, artefacts and photographs are the Camperdown P & A Society to assist with their 150th Show coming up on 8th October and Camperdown College for their Centenary Celebrations being held on 15th October.

The Lake Purrumbete Angling Club & Foreshore Committee and the Camperdown Motorcycle Club are both searching for historic information. Unfortunately, our files are sparse on these – if any members can assist, please either contact the committees or through the historical society.

Visitors

St Patrick's Primary School Grade 5/6 students enjoyed learning about Aboriginal history of the area, surveying methods using a 'chain' measure, hands-on grain grinding and viewing the various displays.

Colac Historical Society combined a visit to the Heritage Centre with a regular monthly meeting. The centre was popular with visitors over the Burns Festival weekend with many general and membership enquiries.

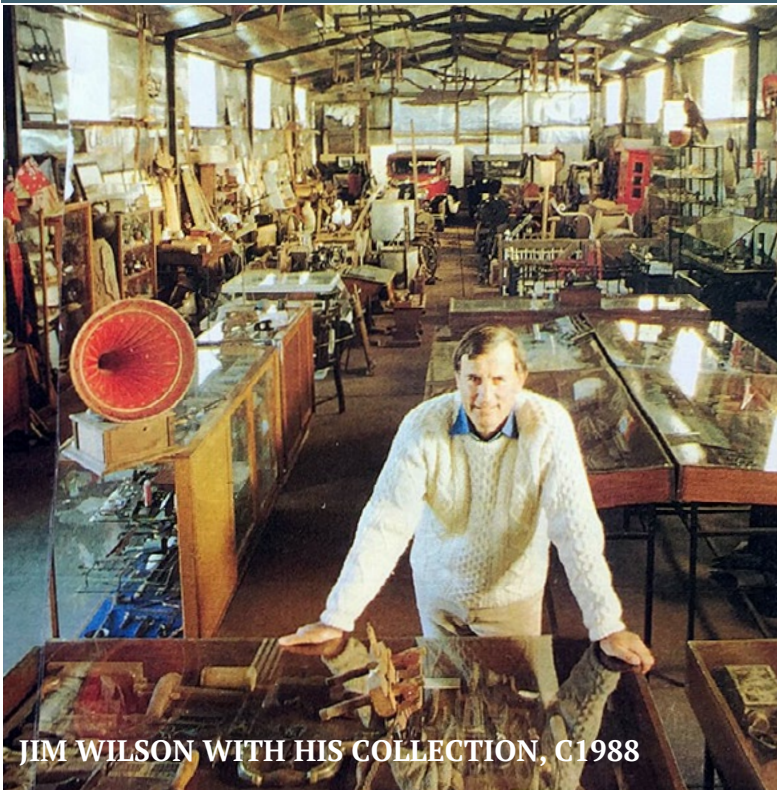
Personal visits have focused on the Hill and Bregenzer families while Laura Flanagan has been accessing our research facilities regularly since arriving from Texas in early June.

Displays

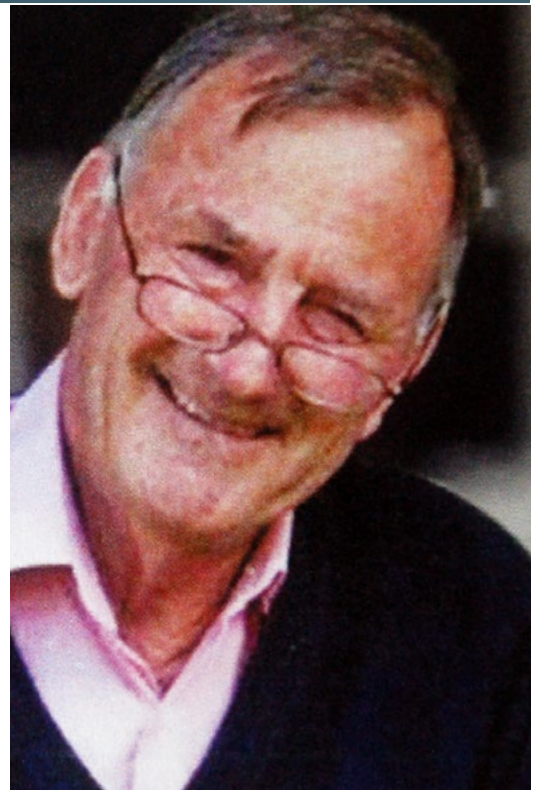
The current display at the Courthouse was supplied to coincide with NAIDOC Week.



VALE - James Dowling (Jim) Wilson



JIM WILSON WITH HIS COLLECTION, C1988



20/4/1938 – 7/6/2022

A memorial service celebrating the life of Jim Wilson was held at All Saints Chapel, Geelong Grammar School on the 15th June. It was filled to overflowing with Jim's many admirers and friends from all walks of life.

Jim's four children and a close friend spoke lovingly and eloquently about his life as a historian, farmer, industry leader, museum curator, world traveller, collector and orator. He was all of those things as well as being a wonderful father, husband and friend to many.

We at the Camperdown & District Historical Society will remember Jim as a loyal supporter of our Society and a great friend. Over many decades, Jim made an outstanding contribution to the recording, preservation and understanding of our local history,

On 7th December 1959, a public meeting was held at the Town of Camperdown Council chambers for the purpose of forming a Historical Society to serve Camperdown and district. Present was 21-year-old Jim Wilson and he was elected to the first committee. The first regular meeting of the Camperdown & District Historical Society was held on 2nd February, 1960.

Jim went on to serve as Secretary and President of our Society and was eventually made a Life Member. He served continuously on the executive committee

until he retired and moved from his property 'Puunyard' at Gnotuk, to Barwon Heads. Jim remained a member of the Society until his passing.

Jim's curiosity about anything historical was boundless. During talks and field trips he would constantly jot down his observations in his trusty notebook. He researched papers on subjects such as "The History of Sheep Washes" that were so detailed that it would take two or more meetings to present them! He organized and led marvellous field trips to district homesteads and other historical attractions. And of course, visits to view his private collection at 'Puunyard' were unforgettable. In his twilight years Jim still keenly read our Society newsletters. He would often send us insightful and much appreciated hand written letters correcting or expanding on various articles.

Jim played an important role in the battle to save Camperdown's Mount Sugarloaf from quarrying.

In early 1966, local residents were outraged by disfigurement of Mt. Sugarloaf by quarrying of its northwest face. A well-attended protest meeting was held in the Theatre Royal. Jim was one of the speakers and was elected to the "Save Mt. Sugarloaf Committee" chaired by Sir Chester Manifold.

In October 1966 community anger mounted and there was a confrontation with the quarry operator. A bulldozer headed towards the top of Mt. Sugarloaf with the intention of taking off the top.

continued next page...

Vale continued...

Over 50 citizens climbed Mt. Sugarloaf and some lay down in front of the bulldozer to block its progress. Many other protesters cheered them on from the top of Mt. Leura

In 1970, after four long years of negotiation, the State Government purchased Mt. Sugarloaf and gave it to the National Trust Victoria. Of the \$53,000 purchase price, the State contributed \$35,000 with the balance contributed by local councils and the community.

This was one of the first battles to save a natural feature in Australia's history. It was also the first time that the National Trust had become involved in saving and protecting a natural feature.

Over his lifetime, Jim assembled an immense, diverse and valuable collection of historical items. There was no particular theme to his collecting. Just whatever he found interesting. On his property 'Puun-yart' there are four large sheds housing his collection, now under the care of his family. Jim's collecting started in primary school when he swapped a bag of marbles for an Aboriginal fishing spear. A past Director of the Museum of Victoria, Robert Edwards wrote: "Your collection is quite extraordinary and one of the most comprehensive and important of its kind in Australia..." Jim generously lent items from his collection for various exhibitions around the country.

Jim also donated several items to the Camperdown Heritage Centre. One of the most significant of these was a folder of pressed seaweeds collected by pioneer Scottish settler, Dr Daniel Curdie. Jim rescued the folder from a bonfire during a clean-out of the Carpendeit Hall.

Jim was a foundation member of the Corangamite branch of the National Trust and chaired the farm management committee of the National Trust property, 'Mooramong' near Skipton. He was also a committee member of the Royal Historical Society Victoria and a member of numerous collector's clubs around the world.

Jim had so many other interests and achievements besides the historical. These are better left to others to talk about.

He led a remarkable life of dedication, achievement and service to the community. It was a great privilege to have Jim as a member of our Society and a friend.

Written by Bob Lambell.

Wombeetch Puyuun, a unique friendship and the push to recognise a monument erected in his honour.

ABC South West Vic / By Matt Neal
Posted Sun 10 Jul 2022 to read search for Wombeetch Puyuun ABC - or
ABC South West Bob Lambell;

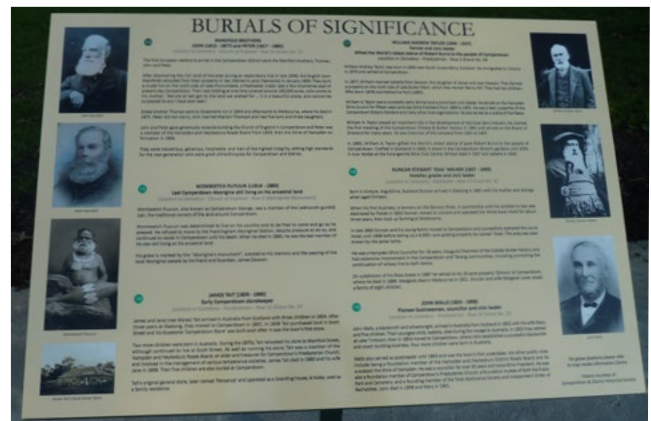
[ABC South West - Bob Lambell](#)

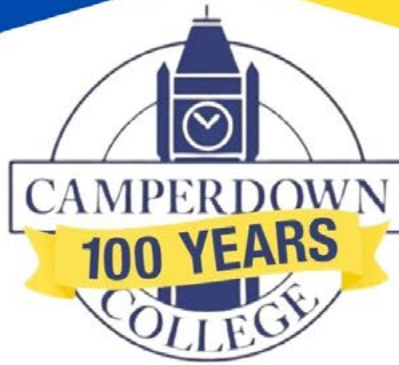
Cemetery Trust Special Project 'Burials of Significance'

The Camperdown Cemetery Trust is to be congratulated for completing their latest project of signage featuring twenty 'Burials of Significance'. Each with a photo and short biography.

A visit to the cemetery to view the signage and many other improvements is highly recommended.

Our society is proud to have assisted with content for this worthwhile project.





100 YEAR CELEBRATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

SATURDAY 15TH OCTOBER, 2022

CAMPUS OPEN DAY 10AM - 3PM

CAMPUS TOURS, PRODUCE MARKET & FOOD STALLS, HISTORICAL DISPLAYS
FORMAL ASSEMBLY AT 1PM

HIGH TEA 2PM - 3PM

CATERED HIGH TEA WITH HISTORICAL FASHION DISPLAY \$20PP VIA EVENTBRITE

SCHOOL SOCIAL 7PM - LATE

LIVE MUSIC, SUPPER, DRINKS AT BAR PRICES \$40PP VIA EVENTBRITE

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 CAMPERDOWN COLLEGE ALUMNI

Tues 9th August - CDHS AGM 7.30pm @ Heritage Centre
Sat 8th October 2022 the Camperdown P&A Society will hold its 150th Show

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Quite some time ago we received an email from a researcher asking whether we had any 'standard weights and measures' used by the Shire of Hampden or any nearby authorities.

The result of this enquiry was that last May we had a visit from Mal Campbell who spent almost a whole day in our downstairs storeroom examining, photographing and recording details of our collection.

He has given us a copy of his report which tells us what all the various scales and weights were used for and their dates.

"These items were used by inspectors who regularly travelled around the state checking the accuracy of weights and measures used by local suppliers. They covered anything from various trade dealers to jewellers, chemists and banks or bullion dealers.

The following explains in detail how and when they were used:

Although Port Phillip District (Victoria) became a separate colony of Britain, 1 July 1851, Victoria's first legislation in respect of weights and measures was 1862, repealing, in Victoria, the NSW Act of 1832. This Act introduced the concept of standard weights and measures for Victoria which were in compliance with the standards of the Exchequer at Westminster.

The 1862 Act was replaced by the 1864 Act which placed the responsibility for the administration of weights and measures in Victoria onto municipalities or groups of municipalities, the latter being referred to as "unions". Authorised copies of weights and measures were to be issued to municipalities or unions for the use of their inspectors in administering weights and measures legislation within their areas of authority in Victoria.

The local authorities purchased their standards from the state authority which allocated them a "distinguishing number" and on the standards issued was a crown the word STANDARD and the number. The date of issue and subsequent dates of reverification were also stamped on the standards although this practise was discontinued in the 1950s, and typed certificates issued on reverification.

The inspectors had sets of steel stamps and when they checked and verified local weights and measures and if they were verified for ongoing use, were stamped by the inspector with one of their stamps. These small stamps consisted of a crown with an E or G and their distinguishing number beneath and VIC beneath.

The weights at Camperdown are Troy and were used by Shire of Colac and then by Corangamite Weights and Measures Union when it was formed in 1953. Prior to that time the Shire of Hampden and Camperdown were responsible for weights and measures administration in their district between 1908 and 1953 before they joined with others to form the larger union of Corangamite weights and measures union. Local authorities formed into larger groups (unions) in the 1950s as it was a more efficient use of rate payers funds."



From the look of this scale it would most likely be somewhere between the 1860s and 1880s. Other examples similar to this scale that I have seen were more commonly used by banks or bullion dealers, but I am not discounting this scale being used by an apothecary.



56 lb Beam Scale as used by the local inspector of weights and measures for Corangamite weights and measures union. This beam scale would have been suspended from a tripod and used to test trade weights between 7 and 56 lb.

Many thanks to Mal for sharing this information with the Society, enabling us to identify and explain these pieces in our collection.

Article by Gillian Senior.