

CAMPERDOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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NEWSLETTER

April, 2014

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Hello again,

It's our second three-monthly newsletter for 2014 and in it you'll find quite a number of requests for your help. We will be staging some special exhibitions in the coming months and your contributions to Camperdown's recorded history will be most welcome – and necessary! Please try to help us.

Our Facebook Page is keeping online members up to date with information but we haven't forgotten those who are NOT computer users. There's plenty of information here for you too.

Members' visits to Framlingham and Purrumbete Open Days in April were full of interest and both are reported on in this newsletter. There is also an article on the history of Framlingham and Camperdown's connection with the reserve. A mini display has been set up at the Centre covering Framlingham's past, present and future.

New members welcomed are: Margaret Nixon, Brooke Rose and Felicity Sloane.

We'd like to see some of our members call in at the Heritage Centre every now and then to see our recent displays. Members have free entry and you're always welcome.

Gillian Senior Newsletter Editor

Camperdown

Heritage Centre

241 Manifold Street
Camperdown 3260

Opening hours

Tuesdays and 1st Sunday
of month, (Market Day)

10am-3pm

Or by appointment

**From the Heritage Centre Collection:
Holmes Stereoscope c.1920-30**



In 1861 Oliver Wendell Holmes created and deliberately did not patent a handheld stereoscopic viewer. The stereoscopic photographs we have at the Centre seem to be from around 1920-30, covering many 'tourist' views; from Mt. Buffalo and other local holiday destinations to overseas views of Ireland, Switzerland and even Japan. It's well worth coming in to have a look at this old technology.

In this issue:

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!!! PRINT THIS PAGE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE !!!

COMING EVENTS: MAY – JULY 2014

As indicated in our last newsletter, monthly membership meetings are no longer part of the CDHS calendar. Instead, we are holding random special events – either at the Heritage Centre or involving outside trips. These will be advertised in the newsletter or, if something comes up, members will be notified by post or email. What follows is an indication of our planning so far:

Tuesday 6th May, 10.30 am: Executive meeting at the Heritage Centre

A CHAT ABOUT CAMPERDOWN'S PAST.



At the Camperdown Heritage Centre:

Sunday, 1st June, 2.00 pm

An informal chat with local long-time residents about our local history. They will share their memories of 'how things were' and how they have changed over the years. Members and general public are invited – and encouraged – to join us.

Members please bring some afternoon tea.

ROBERT BURNS FESTIVAL – Friday 27th to Sunday 29th June, 2014.

The Burns Festival is again almost here and here's our program for that weekend:

Heritage Centre:

Special Exhibitions:

Camperdown and district notable Scots

Map of Scotland marked with settlers home towns/districts.

Robert Burns Memorabilia

Opening hours:

Friday	1pm – 4pm
Saturday	9am – 5pm
Sunday	9am – 4pm

Activities:

Sunday 10.00 am – 12 noon (approx.)

Heritage Walk and talk with Bob Lambell, starting at Heritage Centre; may include entry and discussion into some public buildings.

Cost: \$5 (includes entry to HC). Tickets at the Heritage Centre before or on the day.

See the Robert Burns Festival website for the full program:

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

Tuesday 1st July, 10.30 am: Executive meeting at the Heritage Centre

VALE GAYE WUCHATSCH

Those who connect regularly to our Facebook page will already know the sad news that we recently lost Gaye, one of our valued and much loved volunteers. She and her husband Rob were both active members of the Society and our thoughts and condolences go out to Rob and family members.



These are the beautiful flowers that members of the Camperdown Garden Club and Camperdown Historical Society contributed to Gaye's farewell. Thanks to all members who contributed and assisted in putting together the ten wonderful bunches of flowers and foliage from our gardens. We know Rob was moved when representatives of both groups arrived with the wonderful array of flowers.

FOR NON-FACEBOOK WATCHERS

The heading says it all – apologies to members who have already seen the following bit of information:

FOUND!

The missing pair of iron railing gates that we were told were at the front entrance to the IOOF Hall have been hiding in the most obvious place - in full view of us all! Member Ray Watson had a brain-wave in the middle of the night and took us out on Sunday morning to show us. They have been used across the side entrance lane right next to the building. On careful inspection, it seems one of the bottom pegs wore too thin to keep the gate in place so they were removed – eventually ending up in their current position.



FUTURE DISPLAYS – CAN YOU HELP?

Anzac Day has just passed and we remind members that we have quite comprehensive records of Camperdown's service involvement from the Boer War onwards for reference.

However, with the centenary of the day coming up in 2015, we will be putting together an exhibition covering Camperdown's lost servicemen and women and would very much appreciate any family information to help us make this as complete as possible.

Photographs, memorabilia, your family's stories will be part of our special way of remembering.



*Boer War memorial,
Manifold Street.*

BURNS DISPLAY –

From around the second week in June, the 2014 Robert Burns Festival will be in full swing in Camperdown. As in previous years, the Heritage Centre will have a new Scots Settlers Booklet completed, the contents of which will be displayed as usual. There's also a map of Scotland being prepared that will show the places of origin of all the settlers mentioned in our three books of local Scots families.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION

There will also be a display of local Scots memorabilia – items lent to us which are part of Camperdown families' history. We already have a few of these and we are sending out a request to YOU, members and friends, to share with us their Scottish treasures. It may be anything from a teaspoon to an old picture-frame; from a cracked vase to a silver cake stand.

What we are looking for is the STORY that goes with your treasure. Who it belonged to, how and when did it come to Australia? What made it so special to the person who owned it? Let's learn a little about YOUR history through these special items.



*Birdseye Maple Frame.
Hector Munro 1854.
Gillian Senior's family.
(Full story will be at HC)*

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION – IOOF HALL

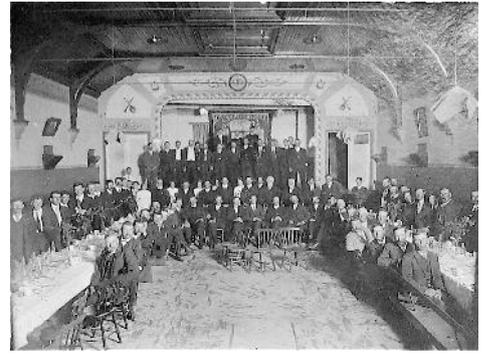
We're intending to keep producing small, themed displays within the regular museum exhibits at the Heritage Centre – the Framlingham one is the first of these.

We are currently getting together photos and memorabilia for a display about the IOOF Hall – our home in Manifold Street. This will be put up after the Burns Festival in June probably around September; so now we are calling on our members to help us.

We often have visitors who arrive and tell us about their wedding reception held in the hall, or perhaps a regular dance they attended. We are collecting the names of various bands which played here, special celebratory dinners held by different organisations, even the occasional school speech night. The hall was well used and was the centre of many community activities. We'd like to have a more complete record of all this and are depending on YOU to share your memories.

You can call in any Tuesday or Market Sunday at 241 Manifold Street between 10am and 3pm, or email us at camperdowndhs@gmail.com. You can even mail us at PO Box 243, Camperdown, 3260. Don't forget – we NEED photographs!

There are a couple of members who have been 'going to bring their wedding photo' to us for some time but I won't give away any names! (YOU know who you are!!) Hope we'll see them soon!



PURRUMBETE OPEN DAY



Beautifully restored steam traction engine.

Those who visited the Purrumbete Homestead on 31st May were treated to a smorgasbord of old machinery collected and restored by new owner, Laurie Voutier. There were steam engines puffing away, lines and lines of old tractors, an old steam roller, and other historical machinery as well as many different collections of country, farming and general historical items.

If your interest in machinery was minimal, the gardens surrounding the old homestead are obviously loved and well cared for and provided very pleasant surroundings. Many of the original trees and shrubs are thriving and show signs of the careful restoration of the garden. Older residents of Camperdown who were

present recalled earlier visits to the property for various charitable or community events and were full of stories of the past in the old property. It was a great day – thoroughly enjoyed by all.



View of Lake Purrumbete from front lawn.

FRAMLINGHAM DISPLAY – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

There's a new display at the Heritage Centre which will be left up until we need to change it in mid June for the Robert Burns Festival. It gives a very short history of Framlingham and its latest developments – all of which we learnt from our visit there on 12th April.



Elder Rob Lowe

A number of Camperdown people attended the Framlingham Open Day, celebrating their 150th Anniversary (plus 50,000!) and were very impressed with the whole day.

On entering, we passed through the smoke of a cleansing fire and were welcomed by smiling faces and a gift of an information booklet and program for the day. A big marquee held a stage and seating for the hundreds of people who attended. Elder Rob Lowe welcomed us all to country and then the Framlingham Dancers, the Children's Choir and Herb Patten (with his very musical gum leaf) completed the opening ceremony.

The day's program was filled with Aboriginal musicians performing onstage, cultural tours and talks, bush foods, arts and crafts, traditional games and kids' entertainment and playground. There were also all-day historical displays, a land management exhibition, a past, present and future slide display and a number of other activities.

Come and see our new display at the Centre – it's well worth a visit.



Possum Clark-Ugle explaining the Eel Traps

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF FRAMLINGHAM ABORIGIAN TRUST



Ngatanwarr. Ngathoo-ngat
leenyooong Koorramook. Gnutook deen
gnúitch.

Welcome. My name is Koorramook.
This is my country.

Our 150th anniversary is a milestone event for Framlingham Community. It is a time to reflect on the past, celebrate the present and look forward to a positive future.

WE HAVE SURVIVED ON OUR OWN LAND

This short sentence carries a great burden and great expectations. Our people have lived here for many more than 1,000 generations. The invasion of our country by Europeans 7 generations ago robbed us of our land, our natural resources, our culture and way of life. Our people were murdered, killed by foreign diseases, rounded up and put on reserves. Many European families became wealthy and powerful from stealing and exploiting our assets. If there is to be reconciliation then the truth must be told and understood.

Despite many attempts to take away this last small piece of our country, here we are today celebrating our ownership, stewardship and continuing connection to this place.

The Eumeralla Wars and other conflicts are gone but not forgotten. No longer do we live under the control of the Aboriginal Board of Protection Act. In 1967 we were granted the right to vote and be counted as Australian citizens. And in 1970-71 the Victorian Aboriginal Lands Act created Framlingham Aboriginal Trust and handed the Framlingham Aboriginal Reserve over to its traditional owners.

We can't change the past but we can shape the future. Being proud of our history, our heritage and our achievements is a strong foundation for building a positive future. Having a broader non-Indigenous community around us that is interested in understanding the truth of our joint history is important.

Today I invite you to take the opportunity to connect or reconnect with Country and Community. Welcome to our Aboriginal family members from all around Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia. Welcome to our non-Aboriginal friends from Warrnambool, the district and further afield. To everyone, please be respectful of each other and this place. Have a great day!

Ngatanwarr! From Framlingham Aboriginal Trust Chairman, Possum Clark-Ugle

JAMES DAWSON'S CONNECTION:

James Dawson, as many of our members may already know, was resident in Camperdown from the early 1870s until his death in 1900. He lived at "Wuurong" looking out over Lake Bullen Merri and was a dedicated and fierce supporter of Aboriginal people.

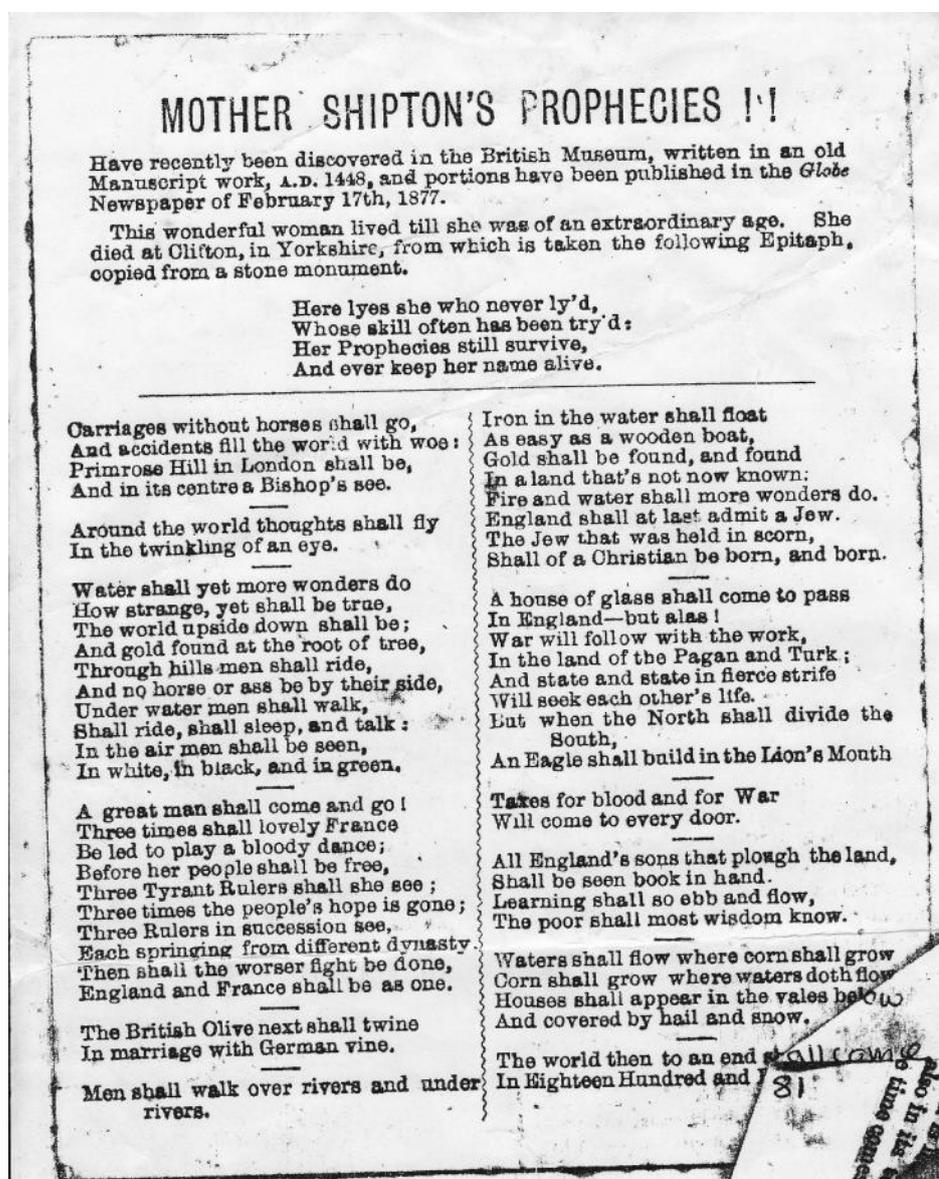
He had previously lived for over twenty years in the Macarthur area where his daughter, Isabella grew up with Aboriginal children and became familiar with much of their language. In 1881, with Isabella's help, he published the book, "Australian Aborigines: The Languages and Customs of Several Tribes of Aborigines in the Western District of Victoria, Australia".

It was Dawson who was instrumental in erecting the obelisk in the Camperdown cemetery in memory of the Aborigines of the district and where the remains of Wombeech Puyun, or "Camperdown George" are buried.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE:

Dawson was a man of many interests and talents and his scrapbook, which reflects the many diverse facets of his personality, was the subject of an article in this newsletter back in October, 2012.

Out of this scrapbook come some weird and wonderful snippets – here is one of them:



EDITOR'S COMMENT:

A little internet research comes up with quite a lot of information about "Mother Shipton".

Her name was Ursula Southeil and she lived from around 1488 to 1561. She is said to have been an English soothsayer and prophetess and the first publication of her prophecies did not appear until eighty years after her reported death.

Sadly, a number of her prophecies seem to be written by various writers much closer to the dates of the actual events forecast.

A fake version was written in 1862 by Charles Hindley (who admitted his complicity) and contains the lines:

***In water iron then shall float
As easy as a wooden boat.***

This printed version would probably have been collected by James Dawson around 1877, the date on the newspaper clipping.