

CAMPERDOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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NEWSLETTER

January, 2013

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Hello everyone,

By the time you receive this, the year 2013 will already be a week or more old and we take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year. The Society had its final monthly meeting for 2012 at the Heritage Centre which gave members a chance to browse the centre and check its latest additions. Instead of hosting an invited speaker, President, Bob Lambell projected our CDHS Website onto a large screen and took members through each page and its capabilities, such as: Home Page, History Page, Membership Forms, ordering Photographs online, Research Requests, etc. etc. There are also links to other Websites connected with Local History. He reported that the site has many visitors from all parts of the world; the research request form, in particular, has been very well used, thus giving our Head Researcher, Maree Belyea lots of work to do.

Members without computers who would like to see this demonstrated can call into the Heritage Centre at any time and be given a personal tour of the Website: <http://camperdownhistorynewsupdates.blogspot.com.au/>.

We welcome new members: John McCabe Hall, John O'Connor McCabe and Elizabeth Jamieson.

Gillian Senior Newsletter Editor

From the Heritage Centre Collection: HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE Program.



A program from the 1920s – just one of the numbers of paper items we have at the Heritage centre. These are kept in glass-fronted cases for safety but can be taken out for perusal on request. The featured article in this edition “One Hundred Years Ago in Print” is from around 1910-12. If any member has programs or posters from this earlier time, we would love to see them.

Camperdown Heritage Centre

241 Manifold Street
Camperdown 3260

Opening hours

Tuesdays and 1st
Sunday of month,
10am-3pm
Or by appointment

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COMING EVENTS: FEBRUARY - APRIL 2013

Visit to the



The *Camperdown Chronicle* was first published in October 1874 and is one of Australia's oldest surviving newspapers. It continues to play an important role in the life of Camperdown and district residents.

Editor, Stewart Esh, will tell us about the history of the *Chronicle* and will show us the fascinating process of printing our local newspaper.

Tuesday 5th February, at 7.30 pm
Meet at the rear of the Chronicle Office (off Scott Street)



Tuesday 5th March
7.30 pm at the McCabe Room

Studying history in England

Our guest speaker is acclaimed Ballarat based historian, Joan Hunt.

After retirement in early 2011, Joan and husband Gary spent 13 months living in England. While there, Joan undertook an Advanced Diploma in Local History through Oxford University. Joan will talk about her course and the wonderful Oxfordshire villages used as case studies.

Tuesday 19th March, 7.30 pm: Executive meeting at the Heritage Centre

Tuesday 2nd April
7.30 pm at the McCabe Room
Historic Photo Night

At this meeting, we will view and discuss some of the intriguing photographs in the Camperdown Heritage Centre collection.



MEMBER PROFILES

Maree Belyea:

Maree, our Head Researcher, is the person who receives research queries from members, visitors and the website. Questions can be as varied as: "Was my great-grandmother buried in Camperdown Cemetery?", or "Do you have information on a mini-tornado that hit Leslie Manor around the 1940s?" She searches Births, Deaths & Marriages records, old Camperdown Chronicles and other newspapers online, Rate Books, Cemetery records, Shipping records and many other obvious and less obvious resources. The trick is, what to search for, where to search and how to search – and Maree is our expert. There are other volunteers who have quite a bit of expertise and are learning every day but Maree is the person we turn to when we need extra help, and she's always prepared to share her knowledge.



Zelda Clementson:

We have a number of experts in our group of volunteers at the Heritage Centre and Zelda is definitely "Cataloguing Expert No.1". It seems a never-ending job (and probably is) but Zelda is the one who comes in every Tuesday and works with total dedication, slowly working through the ever-growing workload. She is currently entering our huge collection of photographs into 'Maxus', our computer catalogue program. Many of the photos require quite a bit of detective work to identify places, dates and people, all of which need to be checked and verified before the information is entered into the computer.



Gillian Senior:

Gillian is more a 'Jack-of-all-Trades' than an expert in anything in particular. Newsletter Editor is her current official position and, as well, she has recently been persuaded to take on the job of co-ordinating the day-to-day activities of the Heritage Centre. Rather than organising people to do jobs, this has been much more a learning experience – finding out how things are done and who does them and then sorting out how other people can be involved, either assisting or in spreading the workload. We're hoping to instigate some 'training sessions' for volunteers – maybe once a month – so that knowledge and skills are spread around amongst more people and no one person is left with all the work in a particular area.



SILENT MOVIES AT THE MECHANICS' HALL

The article about the showing of silent movies in our July 2012 Newsletter prompted a member to present us with the following information and pictures:



The photograph on the left is of Ivy Mildred Pilkington (nee Hay) who was born in 1898. She lived in Leura St., Camperdown and later in North Carlton. Ivy used to play the piano for the silent movies at the Theatre Royal in Camperdown around the 1920s. She married Roy Fielder Pilkington in 1920 or 1921 who is pictured with her at right. Ivy died in 1985.

The Society is very grateful for this sort of feedback which enables us to add to our historical records.



A Visit to Narrapumelap



On Saturday, 10th November, twenty-five members travelled by bus through Lake Bolac to Wickliffe and the Historic Homestead, "Narrapumelap". What we saw there was the result of twenty years solid hard work by the current owner, Kevin McIntyre, who is slowly restoring this building and its gardens to their former glory.

Those who had made an earlier visit some

years back and had seen some areas in total disrepair and the garden hardly more than a desert were very impressed with what had already been accomplished. It is almost all the work of one dedicated man and a few of our members were inspired to dash back home and complete jobs they had been 'going to finish' for the past ten years or so. Others, like your Editor, were left feeling quite breathless with admiration and totally inadequate! The workmanship is precise and painstaking and the love which Kevin has for both the house and garden came through very strongly as he showed us all around his property.



A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:

A visitor to the Heritage Centre has put in a request for any information regarding the property at 22 Walls Street, Camperdown – Cnr. Russell and Walls St. They are particularly looking for photos – especially around the early 1900s. We would be grateful if any member can help out with this request.

One Hundred Years Ago...or thereabouts



STYLISH WALKING COSTUME.

A stylish walking coat of Reseda green serge in diagonal serge with collar and cuffs of caracal, or caracal cloth, and handsome trimming of black silk cords across the front. The coat is single breasted and is arranged to fasten with mantle hooks and eyes placed invisibly.

In our Newsletter of July, 2012 a search of old Chronicles provided us with a sampling of live entertainment and films shown at the Mechanics' Institute Hall from the late 1880s to the 1920s. This month, we have a selection of printed articles from about one hundred years ago.

Regular "Romances" were printed in every edition of the Chronicle around this time – three times per week on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The adventures of "Lady Gwendoline" must have given Camperdown ladies plenty of entertainment and excitement and one can imagine evenings spent devouring the latest episodes – much the same as we look forward to following our TV stories today.

The advertisements with each article are taken from the newspaper of the same date.

LADY GWENDOLINE'S SECRET. THE STORY OF A FAMILY SECRET AND A GREAT WRONG.

(All Rights Reserved.) CHAPTER XXVIII. The Secret Must Be Told.

By AGNES M. and W. J. ROWE. Authors of "The Lady of Kileen." "His American Wife," etc.

Lady Gwendoline Dysart sat at the open window of the artist's cottage, with her gaze fixed far out upon the heaving expanse of water. There was a frightened, strained look of fear on her beautiful face as with eager eyes she scanned the horizon. "Oh, God! Is it safe to keep him longer here? Would it be wiser to have the yacht in readiness so that we could fly to her at the least sign of alarm? There is danger at hand, I feel sure. Oh, Heaven! Am I never to be free from these awful presentiments of evil, these omens of evil which seem to haunt my life? Can it be true that Stanley Beaumont has discovered our retreat? Is it possible there is no escaping his piercing eye, no place on earth safe from his hated footsteps?"

A young man, who (of course) secretly adores Gwendoline, has called in to see her:

"I am glad you have come, dear boy; I – I want your help now, your advice; you promised me that long ago, you remember? I need a friend's strong arm now to aid me, Reginald."

"You can rely upon mine, dear Lady Gwendoline; only tell me what I can do for you. I shall be too happy." And the thought that entered his mind was, even though there is a mystery, some disgrace or shame, I for one will never desert her. For the sin, if there be such, was not hers.

"Reginald, you are willing to promise this, in spite of all you see around, despite the secrecy which so far enshrouds all my actions, you do not doubt, you trust me still?"

"Were the whole world to condemn, blame and criticise your deeds you would still have one partisan, one friend who would lay down his life to serve you."

"Oh, thank you for those words: your friendship sustains me, and shows that one heart at least feels for my sorrow. But will you think as well of me when you know all?"

"Yes, oh, please trust me – tell me your trouble; I may be of help to you in some way, my lady."

Gwendoline placed her hand in that of her companion, and the young man's closed over it in a warm clasp. "Reginald, you must first hear my story before you can judge. You wonder, perhaps, what brings me here, what relation I am to the man asleep upon that couch. No one has a better right to be by his side and I will tell you why. Reginald, that poor wreck of humanity, that prematurely old man is what his enemies alone have made him. He was once fine, handsome, and strong – an Hercules; yet there he lies, but a shadow of his former self. I can trust my terrible secret with you; that man, the artist, is an escaped convict, and my husband!"

Apart from these Romances, the paper also contained Handy Home Hints and wise advice for mothers on bringing up daughters:

Camperdown Chronicle, 27th May, 1913 – Page 4.

TEACH GIRLS TO BE HOME MAKERS.

We all know the usual fate of the girl. It is marriage; consequently wifehood and motherhood. She may teach, she may study music, or she may work in an office for a time, but she is very likely to marry sooner or later. Then why not prepare her for the trials and duties that await her? The girl who has been brought up in a good home by a mother who is a mother in the truest sense has the best chance of becoming a good wife and mother, while





the girl who comes of a home of unhappy conditions and lacking that all-powerful influence of a good home, a good mother and the proper training, is seriously handicapped. And she is sure to have plenty of grief and sorrow in store for her when she marries. Keep the young girl at home under your loving and watchful care as long as possible. To be sure, she must have a good education, and perhaps a business education, that she may make her own way if necessary; but do not neglect the most important part of a girl's education – that of home-making. Home! It should be the sweetest word in everyone's vocabulary. If our girls shall not be creators of homes, who shall be? Let us teach them how to be real home-makers. How powerful is example? And the one way to happiness – forgetting self and doing for others.

Male readers were also catered for with tales of Indian Army adventures and real-life stories such as the following:

Camperdown Chronicle, 2nd March, 1911 - Page 5.

THE JAWS OF DEATH.

"I had attended to the wants of the great python for so long that familiarity made me careless," said Robert Hess, Superintendent of the Snake Department in this New York Zoological Gardens.

"A live duck is the python's meal. The method of feeding her is to wave the duck before the snake's face until she launches her many-toothed head in the direction of the bird. This is the only way to get a python to feed. They dart at their prey. I have fed the snake hundreds of times in this way, and never thought there was any danger in it. On the day when the reptile got me I was waving the duck from side to side as usual. I happened to glance away for a fraction of a second and at the same instant the python, with her huge jaws distended to their fullest extent, swung her head with lightning rapidity at the duck. The first intimation I had of the serpent's action was the feeling in my hand and wrist of a hundred needle-like points piercing me cruelly. Not only had the great jaws closed on the duck, but on my hand too. I felt the enormous strength of the reptile drawing me irresistibly towards the open doorway of the glass case in which she lived. To withdraw my hand from the snake's mouth was an impossibility. A python has six rows of teeth, four on the upper jaw and two on

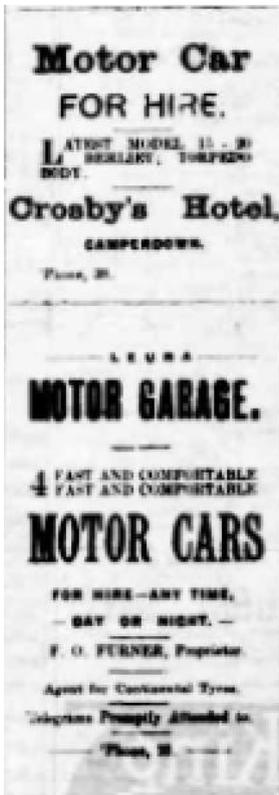
the lower. In each row there are twenty teeth. My hand was held in the grip of a pair of vice-like jaws, armed with one hundred and twenty inch-long teeth, as sharp as a needle. Nor was this all. The python's teeth are bent inward, so that to pull my hand from the snake's mouth would be like drawing it over & mass of bent needles. I might have got the hand out by main force, but there would have been little left but the bones. It was no use calling for help. I was alone in the snake room, caught by the biggest reptile in the collection."

Some surprisingly modern scientific thinking was also evident in those early days. Here is an article which is not only looking at the possibility of harnessing natural forces for energy but also describes the technology involved:

Camperdown Chronicle, 15th August, 1912- Page 6

SUN, WIND, AND WAVE

In the "Strand", Mr. Arthur Dolling, under the title given above, discusses the possible sources of the power of the future. He quotes Sir William Ramsay's declaration that there is no necessity to mine coal at all. Sir William would run a bore-hole down to the coal stratum, and by means of tubes set fire to the coal by electricity, and blow air down to enable the coal to burn. Then gas would be produced to work gas-engines at



the mouth of the bore-hole and produce power there, which might be diffused by electricity over an area of a hundred miles or more radius.

By this plan 30 per cent of the coal energy can be converted into useful work, instead of a meagre 15 per cent, which, by present methods of coal consumption, is the best efficiency obtainable. Thus we may double the life of our coal mines and, in addition, the smoke problem will have become a thing of the past.

The sun has also been harnessed to supply man with requisite motive power. A boiler is put at the focus of a reflector, and the steam obtained by the heat of the sun is utilised by a small vertical motor, which can actuate a printing press. The Funke apparatus is used to create a current of air by which a reciprocating engine or turbine is driven. The Adams apparatus, now in use in India and in Egypt, consists of a conical reflector made of wood and lined with common silvered sheet glass. Inside of this is placed a cooking vessel, which is heated by the reflected rays of the sun. Mr. Frank Shuman's sun-engine is to be used in Egypt for pumping water, and is said to lift 3,000 gallons of water every minute to a height of 33 feet at Philadelphia. In Egypt the hotter weather will produce better results.

The tides of the sea are used by various means. Mr. Laird's patent is a huge walled basin on the seashore, into which the tide flows over a long millwheel, the power being conducted by belts to a dynamo. When the tide ebbs, the basin being full, the motion of the wheel is reversed. It is estimated that this method would produce enough electricity to run all the trains on a railway having its terminus on the coast.

The windmill might be developed, so as to supply every house with electric light and force.

Readers of this newsletter who would like to know the endings of some of these articles can find them on <http://trove.nla.gov.au> where the *Camperdown Chronicle* of the relevant dates can be found. They are a wonderful resource and make for great reading.
