



CAMPERDOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Volume 23 - No. 2

NEWSLETTER

April, 2013

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Hello everyone,

It's been a busy three months since our last Newsletter so we bring you a full report from the Heritage Centre plus three more member profiles to read.

Occurring just a little late for inclusion in our January Newsletter was a well-deserved Citizen's Award presented to our President, Bob Lambell at the Australia Day ceremony held at Dalvui Homestead, Noorat. This news was posted on our Blog but, for those who don't have access to the internet, there's a photo later in this Newsletter.

A few visitors have asked about the whereabouts of the old AJS Motor Cycle that used to be downstairs. Well, inside is a report on *that* good news story.

Plans are well advanced for the Society's involvement in the Robert Burns Scottish Festival for July, this year – extended opening hours and more Notable Scots of the district.

Our feature article gives a short history of Street Lighting in Camperdown and there is an attachment from our Vice President, Frank Rose, about the Kilnoorat Pioneer Cemetery.

New members welcomed are: Jim Anderson, Kaye Holster, Andrew O'Flynn and Cindy Sharp.

Gillian Senior Newsletter Editor

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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From the Heritage Centre Collection: GLASS LUMINAIRE – Significance Assessment No.3004



This glass luminaire came from one of the three cast-iron light standards erected in front of the Leura Hotel in 1902-03. It is thought that acetylene gas, used for all lighting in the hotel and the business premises adjoining the hotel was also used to illuminate the street lights. An article on Lighting in Camperdown is a feature later in this Newsletter.

COMING EVENTS: MAY - JULY 2013

Tuesday 14th May, 1.00 pm: Executive meeting at the Heritage Centre

Annual Dinner

Saturday 18th May, 6.30 pm
Commercial Hotel Camperdown

Guest speaker;
Suzie Zada

"Point Henry:
an amazing place"



Immigrants arriving at Pt. Henry, 1853

We are very fortunate to have Suzie Zada as our guest speaker. Suzie is a well known and respected genealogist, historian and researcher. She will talk about one of her favourite subjects: the fascinating history of Point Henry near Geelong, the entry point for thousands of immigrants in the 1840s and 1850s.

\$30.00 / person

RSVP by Monday 13th May

Heather McDowell, Ph. 5593 9313, or Bob Lambell, Ph. 5593 2213



**Tuesday 4th June
7.30 pm at the McCabe Room
Australian Nurses in Vietnam**

Our special guest speaker will be talented young historian, Lauren McIlveen, a year 7 student at Camperdown college.

Lauren will talk about *Australian Nurses in the Vietnam war*. In 2012, Lauren's 1000 word essay on this subject took out the top award in the *National History Challenge* for school students - a remarkable achievement!

**Tuesday 2nd July
7.30 pm at the McCabe Room**

Film Night:

"Mooramong - Private Hollywood"

A lifetime on film uncovered... the extraordinary love story and legacy of Hollywood silent screen Claire Adams.

In 1936, Claire chose love over fame to marry Skipton grazier, Donald "Scobie" Mackinnon. At property "Mooramong" she created her own private Hollywood.



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Tuesday 16th July, 1.00 pm: Executive meeting at the Heritage Centre

MEMBER PROFILES

Frank Rose:

A long standing member of the Society, Frank is Vice President and on our Executive Committee where he previously held the post of President for around eight years. He is currently in charge of the development of our new constitution. This has become necessary because of a directive that all societies must bring their constitutions into line with new regulations from the Department of Corporate Affairs. Since our constitution has not changed since the society was formed in 1961, it is not before time that it was looked at and brought up to date. The new constitution will be presented to members for information and acceptance at our Annual General Meeting in August this year.

Frank is also Chairperson of the Kilnoorat Cemetery Committee of Management and, attached to this newsletter, is an invitation asking for new members to join this valuable committee.



Jan Whamond:

A regular volunteer at the Heritage Centre on Tuesdays, Jan has been responsible for various jobs including research, writing for our first Notable Scots booklet, listing more local Scots for a later booklet, and is now in the middle of putting together a "Self-drive Historical Tour" which we will be able to offer to visitors (or locals) to help them discover our rich heritage in many fields – important buildings, aboriginal heritage, natural history, etc. Jan is also an active member of the Terang Family History Group and is often able to help in our research with her extensive knowledge of local families.



Liz Jamieson:

A relatively new member of the CDHS – and to Camperdown – Liz very quickly joined our band of volunteers and has proved a regular and dedicated worker. We gave her the rather long job of going through all our hundreds of files, one by one, checking that all their contents were actually relevant and in the right place; removing unnecessary duplicates; taking out photos that needed cataloguing and generally making sure everything is correctly filed and titled. She has found this to be a great way of getting to know the district and its history as well as making a valuable contribution to the Society.



AN EMAIL OF APPRECIATION FROM SCOTLAND

The booklet referred to in this email is "A SELECTION OF NOTABLE SCOTS" which the Society produced for the inaugural Robert Burns Scottish Festival, 2012. It is nice to be appreciated!

18th January, 2013-03-17

Hello from Carluke, Scotland,

On behalf of Carluke Parish Historical Society, I would like to thank those members who produced the excellent booklet which has just arrived here in Carluke. Mrs Greta Stratton recently visited Camperdown and presented one of our books to Glen Bernoth. Unfortunately for her, she was only there for lunch and had only time to visit the Greenshields statue which was recently restored. The restoration was of course much to our delight here in Carluke. We are very proud of our two sculptors, Greenshields and Robert Forrest who between them produced many fine pieces. They were contemporaries and indeed Greenshields worked for Forrest for a short time.

Your booklet fills in much of the story about William Taylor, some of which we had learnt from Gordon Ashley. Could we use some of the information on our website?

If any of your members are ever in Scotland, we would be delighted to show them around.

Thank you again

Christine Warren, Chairperson

Congratulations to Bob!

VERY belated congratulations to our hard-working President, Bob Lambell for his Citizenship Award on Australia Day. Bob was honoured by the Shire for his contributions to the the community - not only in the Historical Society but in many other spheres over many years, from School Councils and Scouts when his children were growing up to involvement in many other community activities.



Report from the Heritage Centre:

- Our decision to open on all Sundays during January was quite a success and we had a number of appreciative visitors each Sunday – locals as well as tourists.
- Our *Notable Scots* Booklet still creates interest from visitors and planning is well advanced for *Notable Scots* Booklet No.2. It will be ready in time for the next Robert Burns Festival in July this year.
- On Tuesday, 12th March the 1926 AJS Motorcycle that had languished downstairs in a back corner for some years, finally arrived – looking a million dollars. More information below.
- On Tuesday, 19th March we hosted a group of friends from all over Victoria who were given a talk by Bob Lambell and then spent an hour or so enjoying our displays and our DVD of old Camperdown.
- On Monday, 25th March we hosted **one hundred and ten** Year 1 & 2 students from St. Patrick's Primary School. NOT all at once – fortunately! They arrived in groups of 22 accompanied by teachers and parents and were perfectly lovely to have there. They behaved beautifully, asked lots of interesting questions and went away with a 'History Bag' and a printed handout to take home to their parents. All good for our publicity and public relations.



Visit from St. Patrick's

The children had been studying History through Term I and this day was 'dress-up day' so we saw costumes from many different eras. The table in the front of the photo is our 'touching table' with volcanic rocks, an iron heated by hot coals, a set of leather 'horse boots', etc. which were all of great interest. They were each given a small plastic 'History Bag' containing about a spoonful of 100-200 year old shells from the shores of Lake Bullen-Merri including whatever other tiny historic items they could find in them: perhaps volcanic stones, fossilised wood, charcoal from a bush or camp-fire, a feather....the possibilities were many. And we have

some delightful quotes or questions we'd like to share:

- Butter Pats: Were they used to scrape paint off the walls?
- Birds in the glass case: Are they still alive?
- The Microfiche: Is that an old fashioned video-game?
- and: Is that an old-fashioned computer?
- In answer to a question about the making of our landscape. "Do you know something that was big and noisy and exploded and made all these hills and lakes around us?" Answer: God?
- One little girl wearing a fur around her neck asked us: "What sort of fur do you think this is?" When we were unable to answer, she proudly told us: "It's a ferret!" And it was!

AJS Motor Cycle Returns

Former Naval Engineer, Mick Roberts of Carlisle River, spent many dedicated hours cleaning up the bike and repairing broken parts. It was also resprayed and provided with a two new tyres. It will never actually be rideable again as too many important parts are damaged beyond repair, but it is now proudly displayed as a relic of old times in Camperdown.

It was originally owned by Ernest Sharp, an enthusiastic volunteer with the Camperdown Fire Brigade, who used it on many occasions to take him to brigade headquarters when he was called out to an emergency.

We have lots of information about the bike – its history, its mechanical details and a number of photos of the repair work-in-progress. All this is now displayed with the bike at the Centre.



When Electric Light came to Camperdown

(The following is an excerpt from an original article written for the CDHS Newsletter January, 1996. The plaque referred to in the opening sentence does not seem to have eventuated – it certainly isn't in evidence at present. Ed.)

Lighting in Camperdown

Notes by Jim Wilson – May, 1995.

I have assembled some notes to help formulate the wording for a descriptive plaque for the historic gas lamp posts outside the Leura Hotel.

At the end of these notes, I have included a suggested plaque wording that can be discussed but it needs to be short and to the point as the cost of getting a plaque cast is on a per word basis.

General Notes:

Gas became the preferred form of lighting after candles and oil wick type lamps by the turn of the century. By 1900 gas street lighting was still predominant but was soon replaced by electric filament lights.

The Shire of Hampden (which at that stage included Camperdown) produced its own electricity in 1909 from generators behind the Council Chambers in Scott Street. This supply was turned over to the S.E.C. (State Electricity Commission) in 1924 when power came through from Geelong and Colac from the State owned electricity grid system powered by Gippsland coal.

The discovery and patent of the silk mantle in 1885 enabled gas, kerosene and petrol type lamps to compete with the electric filament lights patented in 1879.

Camperdown's earliest gas jet type street lights originally had square wooden posts. There is an early photo of one of these outside the Post Office. These were later changed to cast iron in the 1870s, with fluted columns; a cross-arm at the top supported the lamp-lighter's ladder.

A lamp-lighter was employed by the Shire to cycle around with a ladder to light them in the evening and again to extinguish them in the mornings.

The first electric light system for the town came into being on April 6, 1909. Supply schemes had



been promoted simultaneously in Camperdown and Terang following loans being raised in 1890 to provide electrification. Despite constant interruptions to the supply and hours of blackout when faults arose in the system overnight, the demand for the service grew at a rapid pace. The service and its buildings had to be extended within 12 months because the demand for power doubled.

The generators were used until midnight and batteries augmented the supply until about eight o'clock in the morning. By the early 1920s these were dispensed with and the whole plant with three generators was extended to cope with increasing demand.

The sale of electrical systems for farms and rural buildings and halls was promoted locally by Charles Odlum of Camperdown.

The unit, fuelled by kerosene or petrol, would provide sufficient power for lights in a dwelling and power for all sorts of motors.

I remember, as a boy, when the 32-volt lights dimmed and eventually faded in our home. My father would mutter and stumble out in the dark to the "Delco" light shed, which was lined with glass storage batteries, and crank up the Lister petrol engine which would generate enough power so that mother could have enough light to complete her batch of date scones, rock cakes or gem scones and he could finish reading the "Leader" or "Pastoral Review".



(More information about Camperdown lighting and the Luminaire featured on our front page comes from "Camperdown: A Heritage Study" ©1995 by Architectural Historian, Allan Willingham. Ed.)

CAST IRON STREET LIGHT STANDARDS

McNicol Street, Camperdown 3260

Street lighting in Manifold Street was an important community issue from as early as 1870. The first permanent street lights erected in this increasingly busy thoroughfare in the early 1880s were somewhat primitive and unreliable kerosene powered lamps mounted on timber posts at strategic corners and in front of the principal public buildings in the town. The lamps required constant maintenance and the wicks had to be trimmed and lit each night. High winds often extinguished the lamp flame and the local press regularly sounded forth on the need for a reliable system of street lighting and on the relative merits of oil, kerosene, acetylene gas and electric lamps.

The two cast iron street lighting standards now located on the kerb in front of the McNicol Street façade of the Leura Hotel most likely date from 1902-03 when the Leura Hotel at Camperdown was completely rebuilt for the proprietor John Wiggins, to designs by the former Warrnambool architect George Jobbins. The hotel was equipped with a patent acetylene gas lighting system installed by the Melbourne Gas engineer William Bradley and there is every likelihood that this system powered the street lights strategically located in front of the three entrances to the building. A similar acetylene generator installed at the Hampden Hotel powered a street light erected in front of the Mechanics' Institute in 1905.

Photographic evidence confirms that three cast iron light standards were erected in front of the Leura hotel by early 1904 as they are clearly shown in a panoramic photograph taken by the local photographer R. Scott at the time. Two of these light standards variously survived in their original positions in front of the public bar entrance at the corner of Manifold Street and McNicol Street and the residential entrance to the hotel in McNicol Street until recently (1993),



when the redundant cast iron standards were removed and restored. Following the fitting of new glass orb luminaires and conversion to electricity, the two standards were relocated in front of the residential entrance to the hotel in McNicol Street.

The street lighting standards at Camperdown are elegant examples of the foundry craft and apparently date from 1902-3. Whilst the origin of these lights is not established, they are of interest both as rare relics of the gas lighting age and as unusual examples of the application of Egyptian lotus motifs in early twentieth century street lighting. The two surviving standards are intrinsically associated with the Leura Hotel and with the history of street lighting in Camperdown.

Scottish Festival for 2013 – Friday 5th to Sunday 7th July.

Plans for the second Robert Burns Scottish Festival are well underway and CDHS, as usual, will be very involved. (Visit our Blog for updates: <http://camperdownhistorynewsupdates.blogspot.com.au/>)

The Heritage Centre will be open for visitors as follows:

Friday 5 th July	1pm	to	4pm
Saturday 6 th July	9am	to	5pm
Sunday 7 th July	9am	to	5pm

Displayed in the Heritage Centre we are planning to have:

Burns Memorabilia:

Memorabilia loaned by Melbourne Robert Burns Society.

Portrait – Copy of original portrait which inspired Burns Statue, from Scottish Gallery.

Other artefacts etc. from statue restoration, Scottish heritage, books, etc.

Display of Notable Scots No.2

Booklet of Notable Scots No.2 – Containing map of Scottish settlers' properties.

Booklet of Notable Scots No.1 available for purchase.

KILNOORAT CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE



The Kilnoorat Cemetery lies on the banks of Mount Emu Creek, at the end of what is now known as Kilnoorat Road [VICROADS DIRECTORY: Map 91 REF B3] and was first used as the burial ground of the Wooriwyrite Homestead in 1851. Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages records show that a total of 46 interments took place between that date and the last burial in 1900.

Unused and isolated, the Cemetery fell into a state of extreme neglect, almost forgotten, apart from an occasional newspaper article or a visit by "history buffs". However, the Camperdown and District Historical Society, concerned about the continuing deterioration of the Cemetery, in 1999 decided to call a meeting of people interested in ensuring the preservation of the important heritage value of this site. This meeting was held at the historic Elephant Bridge Hotel, Darlington, on 13th April, 1999, and it was agreed that Corangamite Shire, as successor to the previous Trustees (the Shire of Hampden) be requested to appoint a Kilnoorat Cemetery Committee of Management. Following this meeting the Shire formally appointed a Committee of 8 volunteers which met for the first time on 10th August, 1999. On 24th April, 2001 the Shire increased the size of the Committee to 12 members.

The Shire Terms of Reference state that *the role of the Committee shall generally be to oversee the Kilnoorat Cemetery on behalf of Council in the best interests of the residents of Corangamite Shire, and among other things the Committee is required to (a) oversee that the historical significant aspects of the cemetery are maintained; (b) guarantee that the cemetery grounds are maintained in a manner which ensures that no historically significant aspects are damaged; and etc.*

Over the past 14 years the Committee has completed many projects to enhance the Cemetery:

- Replaced perimeter fencing and gates, and planted many native trees
- Erected signage, including a plaque listing the names and dates of all burials
- Conducted regular working bees to clear and burn unwanted vegetation
- Arranged for a contractor to slash or mow the area regularly

Also, the Committee has:

- Researched all burials and produced a CD-ROM* with details of every interment
- Gained National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Classification of the Cemetery as a Place of Local Significance, and erected a Plaque to indicate this
- Accessed numerous grants to fund the projects referred to above

Since inception, members of the Committee have been re-appointed by Corangamite Shire for one-year terms; from July, 2013 members will be appointed to serve three-year terms. As currently there are only 8 members, this would be an appropriate time to increase the membership to 12 persons.

Membership of the Committee is not an onerous task: only two meetings are held each year (on the second Tuesday in April [*which is also the Annual General Meeting*] and October) with power to hold additional meetings if needed. Meetings never last longer than an hour. Because of the original input by the Historical Society, now would be an opportune time for members of the Society to offer their nominations to fill the vacant positions.

The Committee meets next at 8.00pm on Tuesday, 9th April, 2013 at the Old Bookaar School, and all interested persons are invited to attend, gain a "feel" for the Committee and nominate for appointment as from 1st July, 2013. Please speak to the Committee Chairperson Frank Rose – telephone 5593 1990 – before then if possible, if you are willing to help with the continued preservation of the historic Kilnoorat Cemetery.



*CDHS has a copy of the book printed from this CD-ROM at the Heritage Centre.
It is a valuable research tool and an interesting history of the people of Kilnoorat.





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