

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
ABN 54 877 430 900 INC NO. A0020586V

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members Jane Carpenter, Russ Davis, John Fallon and Carolyn Duynhoven, Chris Fairbank, Andrew Graham, Royden James, Eric and Jacinta Read, Lorraine Secen and Denise Kavanagh. Thank you for joining, we look forward to seeing you at the Heritage Centre. Thanks also to all members who have renewed for 2022/23 and those who generously donated to our Society.

We held our AGM in August and my Presidents Report for 2021/22 is included on p.3. We welcomed two new members to our committee - Kevin Murray, who is our new Treasurer and Allan Willingham, who is well known to many of our members. We also thanked Jan Whamond for her five years as Treasurer and for continuing to serve on our committee.

On 6 October 2022 the Heritage Council Victoria determined to include the Wombeetch Puyuun Grave Monument and Dawson Family Grave at the Camperdown Cemetery on the Victorian Heritage Register. For further details see Bob Lambell's report on p.14.

It was great to see the Camperdown Show return on 8 October 2022 after a Covid enforced absence. The Camperdown Show celebrated 150 years, then the following weekend, Camperdown College held its 100 Year Celebration of Higher Education. Both were very enjoyable events. Allan Willingham's report of the event is on p.12-13.

The European Settlement Seminar and Tour will take place on 12-13 November 2022. This will be the third of four seminars arranged by Emily Mercer of the Camperdown Community House and Bob Lambell, Vice-President of our Society. Saturday speakers feature Dr Peter Youl, Dr Rosalie Triolo, Stewart McArthur and Nick Cole. On the Sunday, Stewart and Nick will lead tours of their properties 'Meningoort' and 'West Cloven Hills'. For further details: camperdownch.com.au/workshops

Gillian Senior's article about Robert A. (Bob) McAlpine, author of *The Shire of Hampden 1863-1963* appears on p.7-9. In 1960 it was much more difficult to research and write about local history than it is today. Bob McAlpine, who worked for the Shire of Hampden for 53 years, was also a foundation member of our Society; President for four years during the 1960s; and Secretary for four years during the 1970s.

Maree Belyea's research report appears on p.6. with a 'can you help?' request.

On 24 August 2022, the Corangamite Shire Council hosted a meeting of local history groups at Cobden. Maree, Bob and I attended and enjoyed catching up with Council officers Gary Moorfield and Janet Read and fellow local historians to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Rob Wuchatsch, President.

COMING EVENTS

Sat 12th & 13th November - European Settlement Seminar and Bus Tour

Sat 19th November - Visit by Light Railways Research Society of Australia

Tue 6th December - End of year picnic and visit - a visit to Jancourt

Camperdown Heritage Centre

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Camperdown, Victoria 3260

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Opening Hours:

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

President:

Rob Wuchatsch

Vice President:

Bob Lambell

Secretary:

Maree Belyea

Treasurer:

Kevin Murray

Committee:

Gillian Senior
Angela Preiss
Maureen Hemley
Lyle Tune
Jan Whamond
Allan Willingham

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THE FEDERATION RIDE 1988

PART 3 Sue Cole's Diary
Article by Gillian Senior.

On day 21, Sunday, 8th May the riders arrived in Canberra; it was the day before Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was due to open the new Parliament House.



Pam Wilson, Sue Cole, Pru Milllear, Edith Pagan.

Day 22 – Monday 9th May.

We were up early, grooming and cleaning to ride up to the back gate at Government House to form a guard of honour for the Queen when she came out on her way to open the new Parliament House.

Eventually, she came and rushed past. All we saw was a blur of pink. Thinking we may see her on the way back, we moved down into the park and let the horses graze. A couple came along on their Sunday morning stroll, stopped to talk to us. They insisted we come home with them for coffee and hot scones - about eight of us and horses. Very generous and much appreciated.

We hurried back to see H.M. return. This time, the car slowed down and she had the window open and waved to us all.

Back to camp - about ten minutes canter - for lunch and start packing and sorting up all the rubbish we had collected.

Of course there were celebrations, a few drinks and sad farewells to all the many friends they had made on the trip. Eventually, the horses were loaded into the float and Steve drove them off, leaving the riders to make their way back to their various homes.

Sue's final thoughts:

Looking Back

Looking back, it was lucky there were not more accidents. It was a great idea but not researched properly. The lack of forethought was unbelievable. It certainly tested people. Tempers got a bit frayed at times though I think our group survived pretty well, but I would never have made the end without Sybil and Ant Bailleau generously letting us have the use of their truck and Steve being available to drive. We were all a lot happier knowing we were going to be able to find our belongings at the end of each day's ride and we had safe transport for our ponies.

I am very glad I completed the trip. There was quite a lot of time for thinking along the track - how marvellous all the pioneers were, especially the women. We knew we would have food, water and a bed at the end of a day and were supposed to know where we were going, whereas they were never quite sure of what was over the next rise and would be hoping for water in this dry country. How did they cope with accidents and illness of which there were many?

Following our last couple of Newsletters and some Facebook posts, another member of the Federation Ride got in touch with Sue and sent along her own scrapbook for us to look at. Many thanks to Rowena McArthur for thinking of us. We've reproduced each page so that we have yet another record of this quite unique event in Australia's history and these will be available on our website by December. There are also some newspaper cuttings and letters connected with the organisation which make for interesting reading.



CDHS President's Report 2021/2

2021/22 saw a welcome return to normal after two years of Covid and other health related issues. I am very pleased to report that much has been achieved over the past year.

Members are the lifeblood of any voluntary organisation and we thank all our 175 members for their support during 2021/22. The strong growth in new memberships over the past year has been particularly pleasing, suggesting we must be doing something right.

Thanks also to new committee members **Maureen Hemsley** and **Lyle Tune**, along with volunteers **Ray Watson, Sue Cole and Maree and Kevin Murray**, who attend the Heritage Centre on Tuesdays to photograph and catalogue material for our collection. As usual, our Secretary **Maree Belyea** handled the lion's share of the local and family history enquiries.

Highlights for 2021/22 include:

- **Three very interesting talks by Jennifer Rabach** in August 2021 about her Search for the First Australian Theatre Sister; **Pat Walsh** in February 2022 on researching and writing his book *Milking our Memories* about the Walsh family of South Purrumbete; and **Laura Flanagan** in July 2022 on *Talkie Silence: The Changing Soundscape of Camperdown's Mechanics' Theatre*.
- The Covid delayed **Aboriginal and Culture Workshop and Bus Tour** was finally held in March 2022. Thanks to Bob Lambell for arranging this event in conjunction with **Emily Mercer** from **Camperdown Community House**.
- **A special concert by Ted Egan** in May 2022. Ted, whose parents were married in Camperdown in 1922, enthralled us with his songs and stories as he celebrated the strength and diversity of Australia's cultural mix. **Angela Preiss'** beautiful report on Ted's moving performance appeared in our July 2022 edition of *Past Matters*.
- The **Robert Burns Festival** finally returned to Camperdown in July 2022 after Covid cancellations in 2020 and 2021. Our Society organized both the Gala Dinner on Friday evening and the Saturday lectures. Thanks to **Bob Lambell, Maree Belyea** and all involved for their outstanding efforts to ensure these events were so successful.
- **Grants of \$1,500 from the Bendigo Bank** towards the digitization of our 1875 and 1876 hardcopies of the Camperdown Chronicle and **\$5,024.25 from the Victorian Government's Local History Grants Program** to digitize our holdings of the Western Press and Hampden Guardian from 1866-77. These will be uploaded to the National Library of Australia's Trove website. Well done to **Maree Belyea** for successfully applying for these grants on our behalf. We also received a **\$2,000.00 grant from the Shire of Corangamite** towards the purchase of a laptop computer and data projector.
- Four high quality editions of our newsletter *Past Matters* were published during 2021/22. Thanks to **Gillian Senior and Angela Preiss** for their hard work and all members and friends who contributed material for the newsletters. Gillian and Angela also kept our website and FaceBook page up to date.

On behalf of her fellow committee members I extend **special thanks to Jan Whamond for her service as Treasurer**. Jan is retiring as Treasurer after five years and leaves us in a very sound financial position. Thankfully, she will remain on our committee.

Rob Wuchatsch
President

Camperdown Show - celebrating 150 years.

Congratulations to the P & A Society for the 150th Show held on Saturday the 8th of October, 2022 - sponsored by South West Conveyancing. It was a true celebration of community, honouring the past and the present.

With record attendance there was a jubilant, festive feel to the day which had skills showcased in the arts pavillion with participants' stories told through displays (Make-Bake-Grow-Create providing a new look homecrafts expo), a wide variety of artisan stalls, beauty competition, vintage tractors, SES/CFA demonstrations, horse competitions (The Mt Leura Stockman's Challenge), poultry, cattle, dogs (dachshund dash and dog high jump), sheep and fleece on show. The Leura Pavillion was the place to get delicious jam and scones.

Here's the show's story from the Pastoral and Agricultural Society Inc. website:
<https://camperdownshowgrounds.com.au/>

On the 17th November 1869, an energetic group of locals got together and staged a small show of farm produce in a local hall. At the conclusion of the event a meeting was held, and the Hampden & Heytesbury Pastoral & Agricultural Society was formed. President was Peter McArthur of Menin-goort.

The next year on the 25th March a "Grain Show" was held in the Temperance Hall On Friday October 28th 1870 the first Stock Show was held with horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, dairy produce and saddlery. It was held in the "Pound yard", 5 acres of land facing Gellie Street, temporarily reserved by the Government for the use by the Society. There were yards and fences constructed but the site was very wet some years for the show in October.

The Society sought new grounds when the Railway was to arrive and the tracks would go through the site. Initial negotiations in 1879 to purchase 16 1/2 acres at the foot of Mt Leura from Finlay Brothers of Glenormiston for 12 pounds was declined. Then in 1881 a price of 20 pound per acre was settled upon. A further 3 1/4 acres was purchased in June 1887 from Marion Manifold for 65 pounds.

The first Show on present site was held on 22nd October 1881. The area was described as "a shambles of boulders, fallen trees and ferns" but over the years the site was cleared and developed by building a large produce hall (1883), cattle yards, luncheon room and bar(1887 now stables) horse stalls(1905), sheep and pig pens(1901). On the west side of the grounds a rabbit proof stone wall was erected by Daniel Lawson of Terang for 2 pound 2/6 per chain. This still stands today.

In 1924, the society changed its name to Camperdown Pastoral & Agricultural Society to reflect the local community.

After WWI there was a military flavour to the shows with mounted military drills and events for returned soldiers who had moved into the area with the soldier settlement scheme. The only years that the show wasn't held was during WWII (1941, 1942, and 1943)

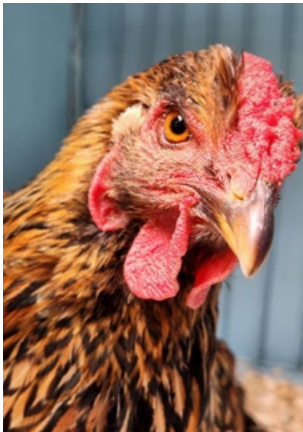
The period after the Second WW, was a boom time for agriculture, there was a great deal of development at the show grounds and farms started to become more specialised. There was a move to have all shown animals registered with breed associations and disease control became important.

This brings us to 2022. Not since the 1940s had a show been cancelled. In 2020 and 2021 the Society had to cancel its show due to a global pandemic. So in 2022, we finally get to celebrate the 150th Stock show here at the beautiful Camperdown Showgrounds.

Agriculture has changed substantially, farmers now work in an environment that centres on technology and science. Biosecurity, animal welfare and sustainability are the buzz words at the moment, but farmers and the local community still need occasions to come together.

The Camperdown P & A Society would like to thank everyone for their support and hope you and your family have an enjoyable day and make some great memories. **Please visit their website to become an annual member, it supports annual events and show-ground maintenance.*





RESEARCH REQUESTS - Maree Belyea

A variety of requests have been received over the past three months.

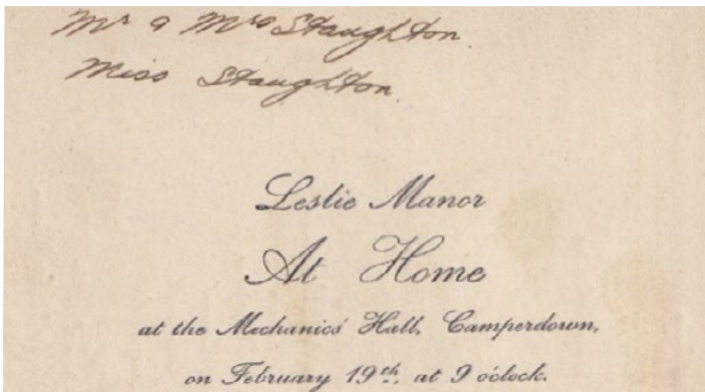
General information was sought on A E Easterbrook, F C Russell, John Coward and G M Wright.

Residence address for the Torrance family, Robert McKenzie family, and J L McCunnie, were all provided, as was property information on 73 Hinkleys Road, Tandarook.

The Camperdown P & A Society and Camperdown College have been provided with photos and information for their 150th Show and Secondary Education Centenary and photos have been supplied of 'Lake-side', Pomborneit.

Corangamite Shire sought assistance with wording on new signage being installed at Camperdown Caravan Park.

A query we have not been able to help with relates to the below invitation – believed to be between 1923 and 1929. Can you help?

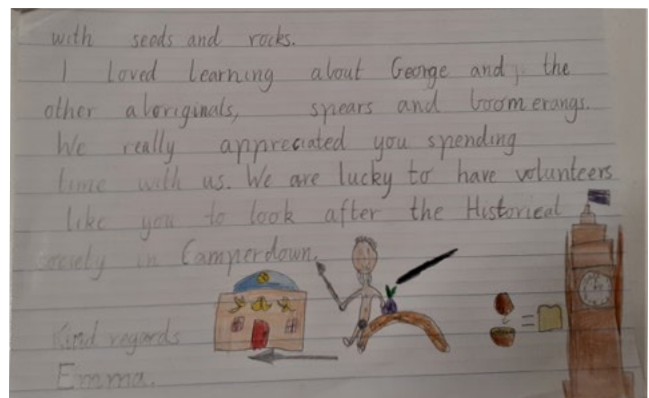
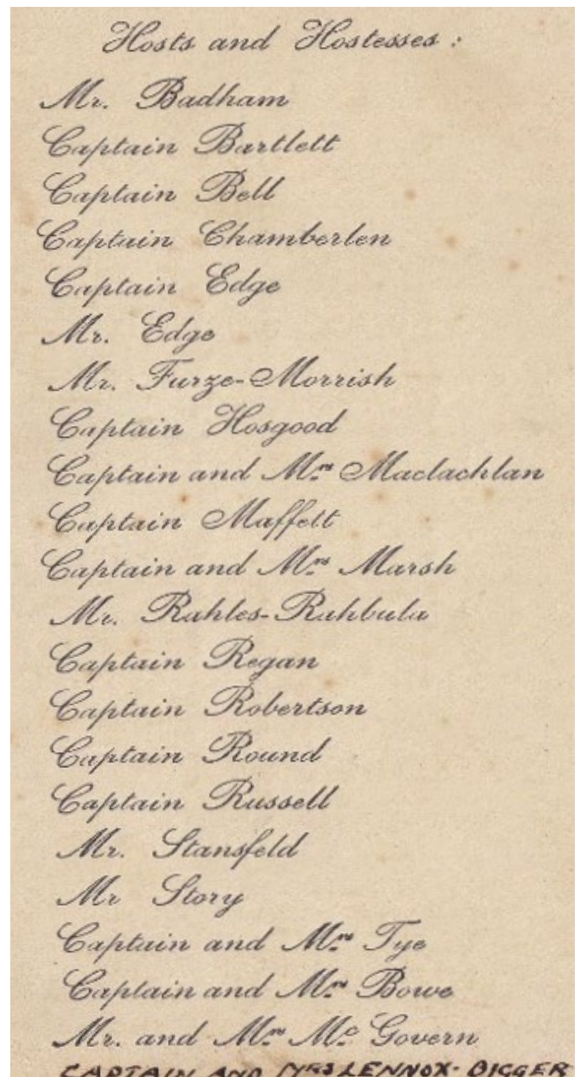


Visitors to the heritage centre include family of Alan Fewtrell, descendant of Nathaniel Lucas and Olivia Gascoyne and group visits from St Patrick's Primary School Year 2 students and the Probus Club of Grovedale/Waurn Ponds.

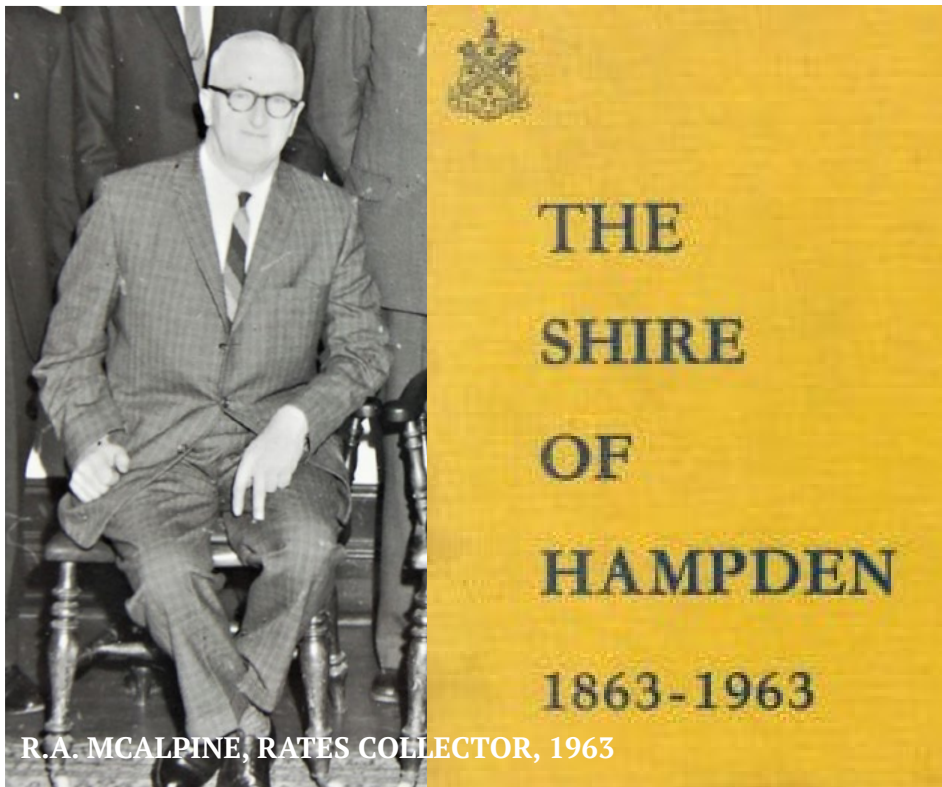
SCHOOL VISITS - ALWAYS A JOY

On Thursday, 1st September, two groups of Year 2s from St Pats came to visit. Their hosts were Bob Lambell and Maree Belyea and they began with a visit to the Reconciliation Park in Walker St. where Bob told them all about why it was there and what it means. Then off to the Heritage Centre where they were shown Aboriginal artefacts and tools, tried their hand at grinding seeds for flour and learnt a lot about our early Aboriginal history. It's always lovely to see the children's interest and involvement in these visits. *By Gillian Senior.*

*Pictured Yr 2's with Bob & Emma's letter of thanks.



THE SHIRE OF HAMPDEN 1863 - 1963



R.A. MCALPINE, RATES COLLECTOR, 1963

In 1964 a book was published with the above title. Inside the cover is written:

The story of the Shire of Hampden, and the industrial and social development of the towns and districts within its boundaries, together with its geological history.

Compiled for the Hampden Shire council on the occasion of its Centenary by
R. A. McAlpine.

The writer of this book, Robert A. McAlpine, was an employee of the Shire who began his career as a Junior Clerk in March 1921 and retired after 53 years in April 1974. Without any background in formal writing, Mr McAlpine took on the task at the request of the Shire.

In amongst a large box of his notes and files which we have in our records, there are some interesting pages of notes for a talk he gave describing his acceptance of the job and his subsequent trials and tribulations. The following article is based on these notes.

Robert (Bob) starts the story:

"I was asked in May 1962 to write a history of the Shire to be ready for the centenary of the first council meeting of the Shire held on 13th January 1964 which meant the book had to be complete in every detail by the end of the following year, 1963. A clear 18 months to complete it.

I ACCEPTED! And I suggested that Terang Express be asked to do the printing.

TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, I didn't know what I was taking on.

Where do I start? Look at the Minute Books (the minutes of council meetings). Very disappointing. References to tenders but no tenders register. Reference to a letter but no letter. Look in Newspapers? But most are in the State Library – in Melbourne."

A friend met him in Melbourne at the State Library and listed some books for Bob to read. Another friend arranged a meeting with the Chief Research Officer in the Library who gave him Government Gazettes, and who explained how to look up schools, court houses, big contracts, early establishment of the town, etc. etc.

"Weekends were spent breathing in dust while examining Shire rate books, valuation books, local papers, etc. After Christmas, weekdays were spent in the library – 10 am to 10 pm - leaving home at 9 am and back at 11.30 pm. Weekends were spent organising all the notes taken."

Then it was on to different documents: history books which had to be read in the library, NOT taken home. More newspapers – day after day of fine print, falling asleep at the desk. To the Royal Historical Society archives for more reading.

continued next page...

THE SHIRE OF HAMPDEN 1863 - 1963 *cont.*

Then urgent Shire work back home – “had to get out those rates notices.”

By the middle of May 1963 – 12 months after starting – it was time to collate all the notes into some sort of order. The deadline for getting the book to the printer was the end of November.

He then had to work out how the book was to be organised. Perhaps break it into various subjects: An outline of local government, the beginning of the municipality, white settlement, industries, aborigines, townships, parliamentary representation, geological history.

He began to lose sleep over the project.

“How was I to write it? I need a style. Can't just fill a book with dry statistics.”

He shared his worries with his wife.

Her advice was: *“Just write it in your own way. You used to write me nice, interesting letters.”*

“But they were love letters!”

“Well, you're in love with the Shire!”

He submitted what he had written so far to the Centenary Sub-committee, and they were very encouraging. By September he had something on each of his subjects – but with enormous gaps to be filled. He spent days and nights telephoning descendants of old families for stories of the old days.

“Bill Manifold opened his strong room and offered its contents for me to look through. Terang Express advertised for photos to be sent in. Many valuable books were lent to me. Camperdown Historical Society opened all its papers and files to me.”

To save time traipsing from place to place, my office at the Shire was cluttered with books and documents which I don't think impressed anyone.”

There was still his regular job to be coped with. The council suggested getting extra staff but trained municipal staff were not available and even having an extra typist required a lot of time setting out work for them to do and then having to check it. The Centenary sub-committee ordered him away from interruptions, from people or phones, so he used a room on the top floor and the switch girl was told to put through only ONE call a day.

The printers knew the deadline was coming up and began asking for copy to start setting it up. They also said: Where are the photos?

“We had a very good photographer on staff and we took all the photos I had listed in two days. In all, about 47 photos.”

Back to the State Library again to fill in many gaps.

The Research Officer said: *“Don't try to finish it this year. Make them wait another two years – you haven't a hope of finishing it.”*

But Bob wasn't to be deterred.

“Home again and produced a latent mothering instinct. Said 'get lost' to the municipality, just get the history finished. But it was difficult – Local Government Departments like things done on time.”

Special contributions were coming in: Edmund Gill on the geology of the shire, Andrew Rahles-Rahbula on parliamentary representation. Terang Express were screaming to get the copy to start setting it up. At last he hit the final full stop. The History was finished!

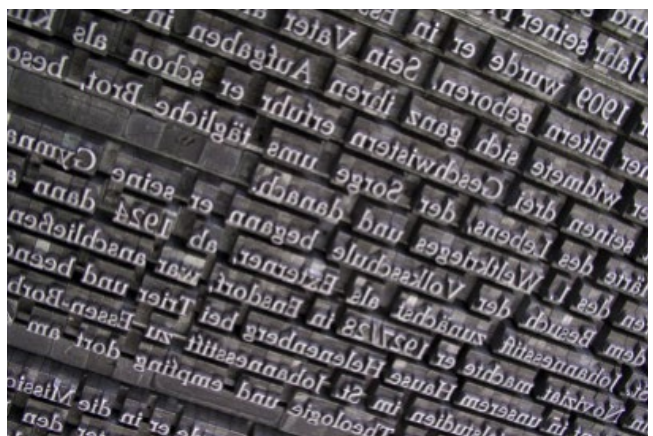
Until – Terang Express rang to say: Can you come over at once? Typesetting is finished and we want you to set it up. That is, design the book!

When he arrived at the printers, he was confronted with long benches crammed with black type – all back to front! He had no hope of working from this, so proof sheets of each page were printed which he took home. He worked for two days from 8 am till midnight working out where photos could go and how the type would be moved. With that done, he hoped his job was finished.

A day later, Terang Express called – come on over, we're starting to print.

Bob's Capital letters in his notes:

“THAT GREAT MACHINE THROWING OUT ONE SHEET WITH 16 PAGES OF THE BOOK AT A TIME. THIS WAS IT – NO TURNING BACK!”



Not quite over yet.

There was still one more hurdle. Once the book was printed, of course it had to be bound. But the bookbinders were closing down for Christmas and the books would not be bound until mid-January – after the date of the Centenary Celebrations, on 13th January.

THE SHIRE OF HAMPDEN 1863 - 1963 *cont.*

An urgent phone call from Bob to the Manager of the bookbinding company saw an extra man put on and a promise to have 300 copies bound and available one week before the appointed date.

And now, Bob's last words:

"The book was duly launched during the Centenary Celebrations by Cr. Peter Cole. He compared the getting out of the book on time with the Battle of Waterloo - a damn close thing. And he compared me with the then Prime Minister of England who was dubbed 'unflappable Mac'.

In this he was wrong. I flapped alright within - nearly died of panic at times - but no one knew."

The result of all Bob's hard work was very well received by the public and has been re-printed numerous times. It is now out of print but second-hand copies are still in demand and the Society has a few copies available.

Further information about Bob McAlpine.

Bob's interests were many and varied. He was a foundation member of the Camperdown & District Historical Society, was its President four times and Secretary four times between 1960 and 1977. He was also a very active leading light in the local theatre company and appeared in many plays as well as occasionally directing plays and writing sketches for presentation on stage.

Article by Gillian Senior.

52 THE SHIRE OF HAMPDEN 1863-1963

With the further rapid growth of the company, the building at Glenormiston was found to be inadequate, so in 1910 the factory was transferred to up-to-date premises at Noorat, and a creamery was carried on at the old factory site.

In June 1911, Trufood of Australia Ltd. commenced operations at Glenormiston for the purpose of manufacturing powdered skin milk, supplies of raw material being obtained through the Glenormiston Butter and Cheese factory.

The business of Wood and Co., of Kolora, was taken over in 1912, and carried on as a creamery. Two years later the Terang Cheese & Butter Factory Co. Ltd., which covered Terang and Ecklin districts, was also taken over as a creamery. Further acquisitions to the company were the business of Wood & Co. at The Sisters in 1927, and that of the Mortlake Butter and Cheese Factory Co. Ltd.

The factory buildings at Noorat were rebuilt in 1924, and in 1936 the business was transferred to a new modern factory adjoining the old one.

In its last year of operation prior to the merger with the Camperdown Company, the Glenormiston factory's output was: Butter 2600 tons, milk products 178 tons, and liquid milk sales 292,000 gallons.

The Trufood factory in its final year before the merger produced 3,871 tons of milk products.

The Camperdown-Glenormiston Dairying Company Limited

Subsequent to a meeting of the directors of the Camperdown Cheese and Butter Factory Co. Ltd. with the directors of the Glenormiston Butter and Cheese Factory Co. Ltd., these two companies took over Trufood of Australia Ltd. on October 1, 1936, and an amalgamation of the Camperdown and Glenormiston companies to form the present Camperdown-Glenormiston Dairying Co. Ltd. took place on January 1, 1960, with Mr. Eric T. Heard as general manager. This company carried on with the Trufood factory as a subsidiary until the latter company went into voluntary liquidation in May, 1963. The operations of the Camperdown-Glenormiston Dairying Co. were further extended with the purchase of the Holdenson & Nelson factory at Derrinallum on August 1, 1962.

The output of the combined companies forming the Camperdown-Glenormiston Dairying Co. Ltd. for the year 1962-63 was: Butter 5,810 tons, milk products 854 tons, and liquid milk sales 2,560,436 gallons.

The Lake Purrumbete Butter Factory

A butter factory, almost unique in the district, was the Lake Purrumbete factory, which was owned by W. T. Manifold and situated near the Purrumbete homestead. Unique, because it was supplied with milk from only the dairies on the estate, and the butter exported through agents direct to England.

The butter was sold in England as "Pelican" brand.

There is no available record of when the factory commenced operations, but it was apparently in the 1900s. The first manager was Jeremiah Quinlan, and a later one, Jack Skene. Mr. Perc. Clingin, who now resides in Campbell Street, Camperdown, was manager from 1906 to 1911, and his successor was Mr. D. Lee. It is believed the factory closed in 1918.

The first power plant employed was a steam engine, which was later replaced by a suction gas engine, and the station was not handicapped in its meat supply during the hot summer months, as there was a cool room installed.

The dairy farmers were paid on a gallonage basis for the milk supplied. At first the rate was one penny per gallon, but later raised to threepence a gallon. The farmers were allowed butter at ninepence a pound, all the milk and cream they required for their own use, and rent free dwellings with an acre of ground for growing vegetables and a poultry run. Meat was supplied at threepence a pound, and not only mutton. Periodically a bullock would be slaughtered as a variation.



THE ORIGINAL BUTTER FACTORY AT GLENORMISTON

The Sheep And Wheat Country

In the northern section of the present Shire—the plains country—the land was, in the early days, used for grazing, when the sheep were shorn by hand. Once a year the wool wagons took the clip to Geelong, and on the return trip brought back supplies of the necessary stores.

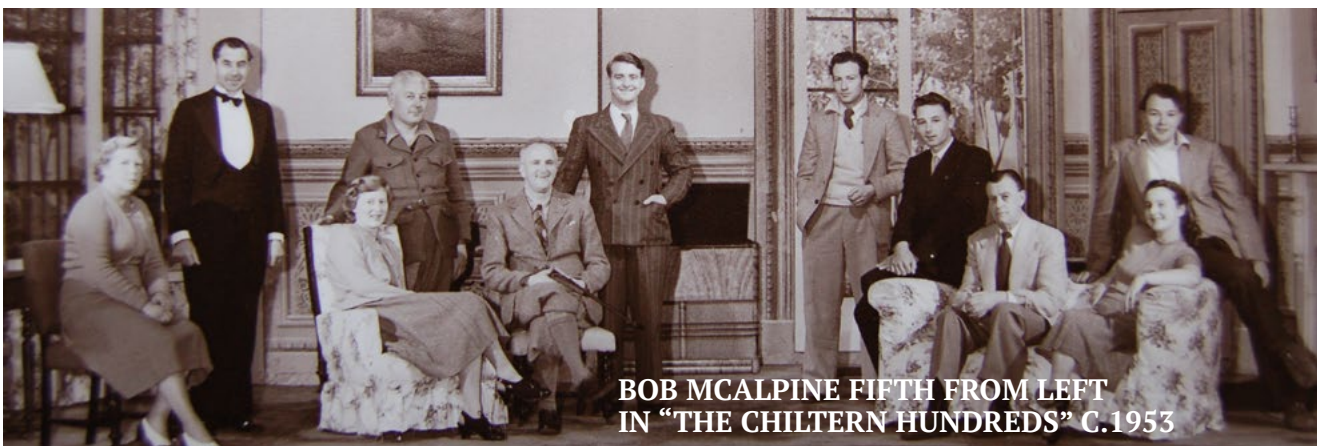
Prior to the turn of the century, shearing machines were on the market. From the record of the Currie family, shearing with machines was introduced by them in 1896. They were steam driven, but improved shearing speeds came slowly. In 1900 the average daily tally for twelve blade shearers at Titanga was 54 sheep. In 1905 ten machines averaged 57 sheep. These figures are a representative cross section of a number of years records for the two shearing methods.

In 1905 the first of the land in the northern section was thrown open for closer settlement. Finding it impossible to realize a reasonable return from the area allotted—500-800 acres—with grazing, the settlers' attention was attracted to the growing of cereal crops. The coming of the railway in 1913 made this possible, and stacks of bagged wheat appeared at every station in the season.

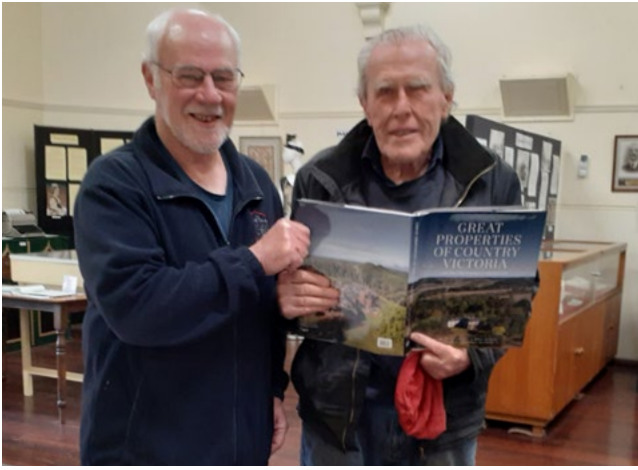
Early ploughing was done with bullock teams, but horses were mainly used.

For chaff cutting the horse, walking in a circle was the motive power. The horse pulled a pole attached to bevel gears which sent the rotary knives spinning in the cutting machine.

The agricultural machinery consisted of a mouldboard or disc plough, a set of harrows, a drill and a reaper and binder or harvester, although most crops were cut and stacked, and later threshed by a travelling threshing machine, steam driven. Prior to the steam tractor as the power for the thresher, a pair of horses was used, but not in a circle as used for the chaff cutter. The horses were placed on a kind of endless belt, or treadmill, transferring their 2 h.p. to a driving pulley.



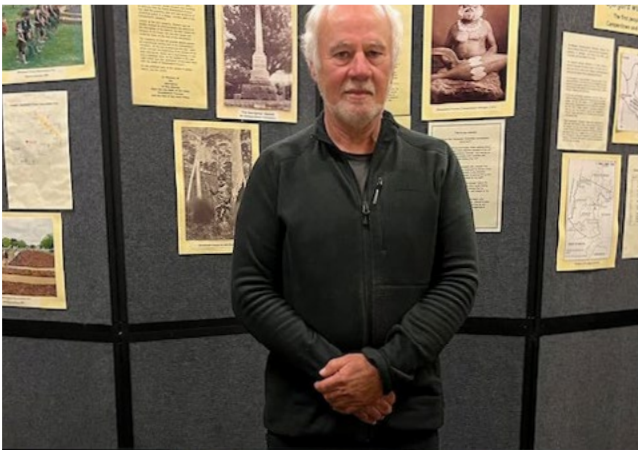
BOB MCALPINE FIFTH FROM LEFT
IN "THE CHILTERN HUNDREDS" C.1953



BOOK DONATION

Stewart McArthur popped in a little while ago with a present for us. He presented us with Book 1 of **"Great Properties of Country Victoria – The Western District's Golden Age"**.

He had already given us Book 2 some time ago, which featured his own property, **Meningoort**. They are beautiful books – lovely to browse through and admire. Many thanks, Stewart.



ABC South West - Bob Lambell

In our previous edition of Past Matters we included a link to a very interesting interview conducted between the ABC's Matt Neale and our own Bob Lambell.

It was a late arrival to our newsletter so here is a little background information to go with the interview – which is still available at: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-07-10/wombeetch-puyuun-james-dawson-camperdown-cemetery-memorial/101083712>

The interview was timed to be published for NAIDOC week and was brought about by a proposal to give Heritage recognition to the Wombeetch Puyuun Aboriginal Monument and the Dawson family graves in the Camperdown Cemetery.

Matt visited the Heritage Centre to talk to Bob and photograph some of our collection and then they visited the Reconciliation Park and the Cemetery for photographs.

The interview covers the story of the Obelisk and James Dawson's role in supporting the Aboriginal community through the very violent time following European arrival in the district.

DIGITISING OUR PAST

Recently, we received a \$5000 grant from the Victorian Government to pay for the digitising of our copies of the very earliest newspapers published in Camperdown. This will then make the papers available for public access on Trove.

MP Gayle Tierney called in to have a look at the papers, the Western Press and Hampden Guardian, and she was very impressed with our displays and the work we are doing. She also gave us a very nice write-up on her Facebook page.

She also had her photographer take some pics of her visit - so here's her post and a couple of her pics.

*"It was wonderful to join the Camperdown & District Historical Society Inc. last week, to take a deep dive into our region's rich history. It was great to read through these publications with Maree and Gillian, and I cannot wait to see them online for all to enjoy. **Regional Historical Societies play such an important role in preserving our past**, so we can walk towards a better tomorrow, and I'm so proud that our Government not only recognises their contributions to our communities, but also invests in their important work."*

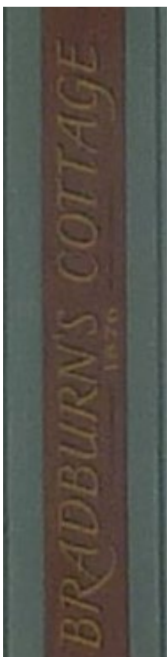


TELEPHONES - 1930's STYLE

A Facebook post in August generated some memories for a few people, about their mothers or other relatives working as a telephonist in the 'exchange', connecting people's calls.

This post refers to the start of 'automatic' dialling - a whole new world.

Written by Bob Lambell.



DIRECTIONS FOR OPERATING GEELONG AUTOMATIC TELEPHONES.

1. Ascertain the correct number.

2. Remove the receiver from the hook.

3. How to Dial.—Assuming the number is Geelong 1234, place the first finger in the hole over the figure "1." and pull the dial to the right until the finger strikes the finger post. Remove the finger smartly and allow the dial to return to rest. Proceed in the same way with the figures 2-3-4, in the order they appear in the number. When this has been done your line is connected with Geelong 1234 (unless the number is already engaged), and the bell on that line will ring at intervals. If the line is engaged, a loud "Buzz" signal will be heard, and if all the apparatus to a group of numbers is in use a succession of "clicks" will be heard. In these cases, hang up the receiver and call again a little later.

4. If you wish to complain dial figure 9 (Geelong Information Officer) at the time the trouble occurs and report the details of the difficulty.



SPOTTED AROUND CAMPERDOWN

Wonderful to see new house names plates being introduced around the town, including those shown below.

Some are old names resurrected following research, while others are a nod to the early history of the property.

Have you spotted any others? If so, let us know and we will include them in a future newsletter.

Maree Belyea.



'STRIVING FOR THE LIGHT OF KNOWLEDGE' (1921-2021) 100 YEAR CELEBRATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN CAMPERDOWN

A public celebration of the first hundred years (plus 1) of that noble seat of local learning, variously known to different generations as Camperdown Higher Elementary School (CHES), Camperdown High School (CHS) and Camperdown College (CC), took place at Camperdown on 15 October 2022. That morning, a very large crowd of past students of every age and description, as well as a sprinkling of fellow-travellers, made their pilgrimage to the School in Wilson Street (now known as the Camperdown College Senior Campus) in anticipation of meeting old classmates, swapping outrageous tales of triumph and adversity, wandering through the myriad classrooms to refresh dim memories, and thereafter seeking out relevant personal career references to their education at Camperdown. It proved to be a stimulating experience for the majority of ex-students who came to their alma mater that morning.

Amidst the enormous collection of school memorabilia arranged in well annotated 'decade displays' from the 1920s to 2000s, were original photographs of all of the usual culprits (staff, students grouped in their various forms or classes, sporting champions of every persuasion, student leaders including prefects, house captains, bus captains, and the SRC), as well as historic report cards, faded newspaper cuttings, countless issues of *Baltarta* (first published in 1948), bits of school uniforms, honour rolls, class lists, official programs and biographical notes and photographs of many of the most distinguished alumni of the School. Arranging for the collection and display of this mighty array of memorabilia was undertaken by a Centenary Committee, ably assisted by others especially delegated to curate the displays for the seven decades plus the junior school on show on the day.

The centenary celebrations were formally marked by an assembly in the school grounds at 1.00 pm, with a call to attention from Ms Vicki Angus, acting principal of CC, followed by a welcome and acknowledgement of country by school captains Eve Britton and Sydney Bateman. Thereafter, the oath and national anthem were observed, with an address by Ms Cherie Kilpatrick, current principal of CC. Students from the Junior Campus then performed an intricate maypole dance before the throng, School Council president Mr Luke Webb summarised decades of building work at the school in a few minutes, and the School Song was sung (ever so politely).

Mr Les Anderson, the octogenarian former sloyd master at CHS, then reflected new light on the significance of being an alumni of the Camperdown College and its forebears. He then introduced Ms Suzanne Charles, a former CC

teacher who launched her highly informative 100-page digest entitled *First Hundred Years of Camperdown Higher Elementary School, Camperdown High School and Camperdown College, Camperdown, 2022*. To end formalities, the members of the Junior School, in neat uniforms, ended proceedings with a neardisciplined march out of the grounds of CC, to a recording of F. J. Ricketts' celebrated and oft-played 'Colonel Bogey March' (1914). Group photographs in decades were then taken on the original steps to the old school entrance, with a clear highlight being a rousing rendition of the last chorus of both the School Song and the War Cry from the 1960s era mob of musical show-offs.

The School was then re-invaded, memorabilia was acquired from the CC merchants, High Tea was taken in the 'Dicky' Daws Assembly Hall at 2.00 pm (courtesy of the Parents & Friends Committee), and in late afternoon hundreds of ex-students went home, or otherwise got into shape for the School Social that evening. And what a blast from the past this event proved to be. Lions Club finger-food was served all night, Junior School teacher Lewis Osborne first performed entertaining solo vocals with his own instrumentals, and then the packed gathering were introduced to the well-known Melbourne cover band 'Cop This'. And we did!

Typically loud, engagingly harmonious, professional and well rehearsed, this band dominated the night, chains of hits from the 50s, 60s and 70s+ reverberated throughout the Hall until midnight, when silence finally descended on Wilson Street. And, amongst countless memories of the long day's proceedings at CC, the late night rendition of Tina Turner's 'Nutbush', with Cheryl McGill, a fit septuagenarian, leading the pack dance, will remain with me, now, as the unexpected highlight of the CC Centenary Celebrations. Never let it be said that CHS graduates can't dance and don't keep up with the times!

The social, architectural and cultural history of Camperdown Higher Elementary School (CHES) and Camperdown High School (CHS) has been well documented in the past, by former teacher Claire Cummins in her pioneering essay on the development of education at Old Timboon and Camperdown (CDHS Archives), by Bob McAlpine, in *The Shire of Hampden 1863-1963*, Terang, 1963, by L. J. Blake in *Vision and Realisation*, Volume 2, 1973, p. 981, and by the writer in *We Strive to Save*, North Fitzroy, 2012, pp. 92-94.

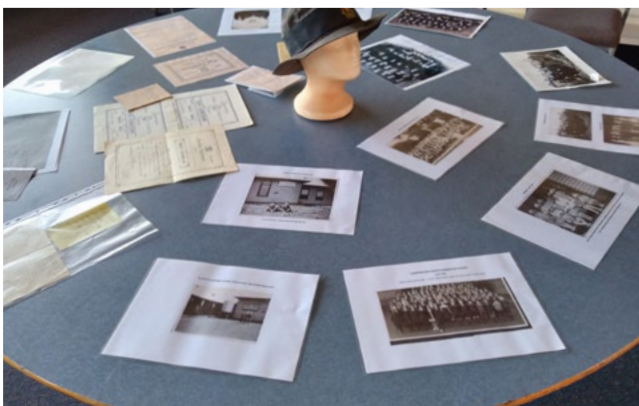
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Article by Allan Willingham.

Whilst establishment of the Higher Elementary School at Camperdown was long in gestation, a timber schoolhouse with four classrooms designed by Education Department architects was finally opened on 14 October 1921 by Sir Alexander Peacock, Minister for Education. Local builders, Spicer and Screen, won the contract to build the school at £4,680, on land donated by the Shire of Hampden. One hundred and ten students were enrolled at that time, to include 'a large number of country students who are taking advantage of a secondary school education' [Camperdown Chronicle, 21 February 1922]. It has long been a matter of pride that my father, Harold, was dux of HES in 1928. Fire destroyed this first school on 6 August 1940, reducing the majority of the school buildings to ash and twisted iron (See Camperdown Chronicle, 8 August 1940, p. 2). A new single-storey red brick school rose out of the ashes in 1942, with a second storey added in 1956-1957. Photographs of the new buildings abound in the First Hundred Years of Camperdown Higher Elementary School, Camperdown High School and Camperdown College, to give a comprehensive overview of the physical development of CC since 1942. The cover photograph is particularly revealing, as the new school is shown with Wedge Motors buses in the driveway, and a bald Uncle Sugarloaf in the background.

Suzanne Charles compendium is a noteworthy contribution to the cultural history of education at Camperdown and in the surrounding districts. This centenary book includes much factual information concerning key events in the history of Camperdown Higher Elementary School (CHES), Camperdown High School (CHS) and Camperdown College (CC) from 1921 to 2021, with data relevant to a particular year being tabulated in an easy-to-read point form. The A4 book, which will prove to be a reliable reference aid, is lavishly and colourfully illustrated with sharp digital images and clear annotation of the text. This centenary history is now available from Camperdown College, the local newsagent, and the Camperdown and District Historical Society (RRP \$40).

Article by Allan Willingham.
Camperdown High School (1957-1963)



Heritage listing for Aborigines Monument and Dawson Family Grave

Heritage Victoria recently listed the Wombeetch Puyuun Grave Monument and Dawson Family Grave at the Camperdown Cemetery, on the Victorian Heritage Register.

The listing gives long overdue recognition to the importance of the Monument as a powerful statement on the devastating impact of colonisation on the Aboriginal people. The listing also recognizes the lives of three remarkable people in the history of Aboriginal - white relations in 19th century western Victoria: James Dawson, his daughter Isabella Taylor, and Wombeetch Puyuun.

Wombeetch Puyuun, also known as Camperdown George, was an elder of the Liwura Gundidj clan of the Djargurd Wurrung people, the traditional owners of the country around Camperdown. When he died in 1883, Wombeetch Puyuun was the last member of his clan still living on country.

At a time when their views were often unpopular, James Dawson and his daughter Isabella were fierce supporters of the Aboriginal people and their interests. They did the Aboriginal people of western Victoria a great service by documenting their languages and customs. In 1885, James Dawson commissioned the erection of the Monument as the gravesite for his friend Wombeetch Puyuun and in memory of the passing of the local Aborigines.

Why are these sites so significant?

The full details of the Heritage Victoria listing can be found here: <https://vhc.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/208508>

In part, the listing reads:

The Wombeetch Puyuun Grave Monument and Dawson Family Grave is historically significant for its capacity to demonstrate the rapid and devastating effect of European colonisation on Aboriginal people in Victoria from the 1840s. Commissioned by James Dawson in 1885, a white settler and outspoken champion of Aboriginal interests, this monument has no parallel in Victoria. The obelisk's height, prominent location and unusual inscriptions make a powerful public statement about the dispossession of Aboriginal people. The imposing monument stands in contrast with Dawson's own modest family grave which commemorates himself and his daughter Isabella, amongst others. Together James and Isabella worked with the local Aboriginal people to record their languages and culture, drawing on the knowledge of elders including Wombeetch Puyuun, with whom Dawson formed a particularly strong friendship.

Congratulations and thanks to the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation whose application to Heritage Victoria and strong advocacy brought this listing to fruition. Thanks also to Allan Willingham

who extensively researched the history of the Aborigines Monument as part of his 1995 Camperdown Heritage study. Allan unsuccessfully recommended the Heritage listing of the monument at that time.

Article by Bob Lambell.

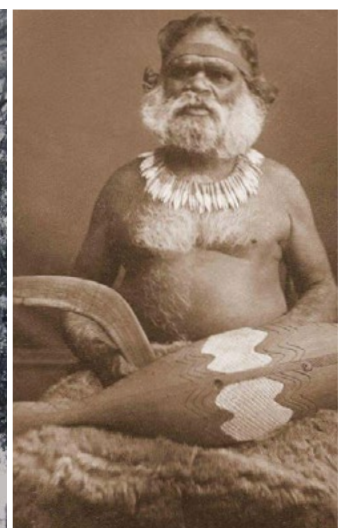
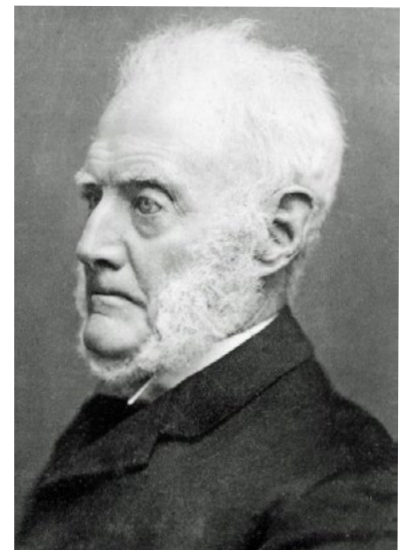
Photographs below:

James Dawson, c1878

Isabella Dawson with Aboriginal informants, c1870

Aborigines monument, 1885

Wombeetch Puyuun, c1879





COMING EVENT

A visit to "JANCOURT"

470 Jancourt Road, Bostocks Creek

Tuesday 6th December

For our final meeting of the year,
Nick and Jo Lillie have kindly agreed to allow us to
visit their historic property "Jancourt" at Bostocks Creek.

This is a great opportunity to visit this interesting property
and to learn about its long history, while enjoying a picnic
in the lovely gardens.

Depart from Camperdown Heritage Centre at 6 pm
(or make your own way if preferred).

BYO picnic meal, drinks, chair or picnic rug
Tea & Coffee supplied

Bookings:

Maree Belyea, 0417 352 987

Email: camperdowndhs@gmail.com

RSVP Friday 2nd December

NOTE: This event is open to members and their guests.