



Spreading Branches

Narre Warren & District Family History Group Inc.
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Didn't we meet under the clocks?

Issue 90 November 2011

I cannot count the number of times I was told "Let's meet at Flinders Street Station, under the Swanston Street clocks."

Today, it is still an easy phrase to drop off the tongue when meeting work mates or my family. The steps of the main entrance have been used as a meeting place for a hundred years by street kids, non-travellers, tourists, newspaper sellers, flower sellers, those meeting friends and those watching the day go by. But just how long has it been there and why is the station on that corner?

On Saturday 13th August 2011, we were visited by Jenny Davies who enlightened us on the history of Flinders Street Station.

The first steam railway in Melbourne ran from Flinders Street to Sandridge (Port Melbourne) in 1854. The constant number of immigrants made the proposal to establish a rail line attractive. The railway was the first steam driven railway in Australia. The railway engine was the first of many to be built in Victoria. The line, rolling stock and terminus were all privately owned.

In the 1850s a lot of gold money was around, but the amount required to build a viable railway system was beyond the means of any one company. A number of small companies began and looked after their own lines till the state government was able to acquire the assets of the private companies, due to outstanding debt, and form the Victorian Railways. The position of the rail lines and stations had already been determined and not designed as an integrated system. Melbourne had three main railway stations servicing different parts of the metropolis and country regions. The first rail terminus was built by the Melbourne & Hobsons Bay Railway Corporation on Flinders Street near the end of Elizabeth Street in 1854. There was only one platform that provided access to Sandridge and later to St Kilda.

In 1877 an additional platform was constructed and two overhead bridges provided access. The bridges were intact until 1902. A telegraph station was opened in 1879. A collection of mismatched buildings extended eastwards to the corner of Swanston and Flinders Streets.

By the late 1880s the station consisted of accommodation for staff, a lamp room, a licensed bar at each of the entrances, an oyster saloon, a bookstall and a fruit and confectionery shop.



Left:
Jenny
Davies
deep in
discussion

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Family History Research Room

Location: Casey Cardinia Library Corporation, Narre Warren Branch; Overland Drive, Fountain Gate.

Research Room: Within the Narre Warren Library. **Meetings:** Narre Warren Library Meeting room.

Opening Hours: Tuesday 11 am to 3 pm Thursday 7pm to 9 pm (November to May)

Research Queries

We offer a research service
for those unable to visit our
Family History room
personally but please note
that we can only research our
own holdings and those of
the local municipal libraries.
The cost for this service is
\$15 per hour plus
photocopying expenses
All research queries can be
sent to the Research Officer
at the above address or email

research.officer@nwfhg.org.au

Publications for Sale

Microfiche:

Berwick Cemetery -
Register & Headstones
1867 – 1999 = \$22.00

Harkaway Cemetery
Register & Headstones
1863 – 1999 = \$6.00

Pakenham Cemetery
Register & Headstones
1850 to 1999 = \$22.00

Postage + Packaging

+\$2.50 for up to 3 sets of fiche

Books:

Kindred Spirits
20 years of the Narre Warren & District
Family History Group 1989 – 2009
\$25 (+ \$6.00 postage + packaging)

Early Settlers of the Casey- Cardinia
District.
\$30 (+ \$11.50 postage + packaging)

Book order forms available from the
research room or download from our
web site

The Narre Warren & District Family History Group gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Casey – Cardinia Library Corporation and City of Casey in allowing us the use of facilities at the Narre Warren

President's Report

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Lyne McGregor as the Group's new Newsletter Editor and to wish her well in her new position and I am sure she will work hard to produce the same excellent standard of newsletter that we have all enjoyed reading in the past.

It is with many thanks and appreciation that we must all say goodbye to Pam Lowther as our Newsletter Editor and to say how much we have all enjoyed reading the excellent newsletters that she has published over the years. Pam certainly deserves a well earned rest after all her hard work and she may even find time now to continue on with her own family history research. So thank you once again Pam for a job well done.

This year our May newsletter was entered into the Nick Vine Hall Awards and won second prize. So Pam has left the position with the recognition she deserves.

A big thank you goes to Jenny Hayes for organising and running a fun filled and interesting Antiques Appraisal Day. There was a good crowd on the day and some of the visitors had good results by having their items appraised.

The Committee have had two resources acquisition meetings recently. One in September and the other in October. At the September meeting we decided to buy resources for each Australian state and most of these have already arrived. At October's meeting we decided to buy resources for Wales and Ireland. At the November meeting we will be covering resources for England and then they will move on to Scotland at a future meeting.

The committee and I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Wendy Goodwin

Research Room News

Hello fellow Genies,

In early September Wendy E and I had a very interesting two days at the Unlock the Past Expo in Geelong, checking a street directory or GPS would have helped us find the venue. We knew where it was and could see it but took us a u turn and much laughter to work out how to cross the train track.

The venue was good although one of the two lecture rooms was noisy and it was a little hard to hear, the presenters covered many topics and the hall was full of exhibitors. Wendy and I spilt up as we had both pre-booked different speakers, Susie Zada is always an entertaining speaker. I could listen to her describe grass growing and enjoy it. The talk that I got the most from was on the Saturday. At short notice a speaker had withdrawn and the replacement topic was "Breaking down brick walls". There were heaps of hints and the talk was well presented. The thing that stuck for me was the advice to not think of something as a brick wall but rather the go stop man at road works. Sometimes the delay is short, sometimes it's long, sometimes you have a detour, you might even go back to your start point but eventually you're back on your way.

The relevance of going back and rereading certificates and notes was a good way to fill in time while you wait to get started again, a name that didn't seem relevant two or three years ago suddenly can make a connection or a place can explain a family's movement. The other big hint was to make a timeline of your person or family relevant to history so you can see any gaps that could explain missing men or children be it war, migration, factory closures, disease or natural disasters. I bought myself a couple of books and CDs for my family research. I enjoyed chatting to the many friendly men and women. It was fun to walk around with a name tag on that

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The Princes Bridge Station ran a service to Punt Road, Richmond. The station was opened in 1859. A line to Hawthorn was opened in 1861. Two culverts were excavated under Swanston Street to connect to the Melbourne Terminus in 1865. Princes Bridge Station was then closed till 1879 when the Gippsland line then used the station as their metropolitan terminal.

The Melbourne Mount Alexander and Murray River Railway Company started building a railway and station at Batman's Hill in 1858. A line to Williamstown opened in 1859 and on the same day the Geelong and Melbourne Railway Company trains ran through to Batman's Hill instead of terminating at Williamstown Pier. The Melbourne and Essendon Railway Companies were incorporated in 1859 and were running from Batman's Hill to Essendon in 1860. With time the station became known as Spencer Street and was developed as the principal terminal for country and goods trains. The station was rebuilt in the 1960s to coincide with the linking of Melbourne and Sydney via standard gauge track. In 2005 the station became Southern Cross Station.

The 1882 Railways Act allocated expenditure for a new station and the construction of a new Princes Bridge, a viaduct to Spencer Street and The Falls Bridge. To link all three stations and rail lines required a substantial viaduct to connect Flinders and Spencer Street Stations, which started in 1888 and was completed by 1891. A competition to design the façade and connections to the platforms of the new Flinders Street Station was held in 1899. Fawcett and Ashworth won with their design "Green Light". Both gentlemen were railway employees who won a £500 prize.

The construction of the new station was not to interrupt the rail services. A temporary booking office was erected at the corner of Swanston and Flinders Street. Major alterations were made to the winning design. Construction proved to be a long and disjointed process, which resulted in the building looking different in design to the approved plans of 1900. Minor modifications continued to be made and despite the delays, interruptions to services were minimal. The main station building was well in use and almost finished, by mid 1909. The concourse was extended in 1909 to the river. The veranda along the Flinders Street frontage, Swanston Street and the concourse roof were completed in 1910 after the official opening.

The Victorian Railways Institute relocated from Collins Street to take residence on the third floor of the station. The creation of the institute served a dual purpose of providing facilities for "self betterment" and in anticipation of reducing the likelihood of industrial upheaval. The Victorian Railways Institute was officially opened on Saturday 22 January 1910 in the Lecture Hall. The rooms were reported to be "furnished on an elaborate and modern scale" with the walls adorned by an exceptionally fine collection of pictures. (Argus 24 January 1910)

Lectures were held on science, art and literature from 1910 to 1928. The academic nature of these lectures didn't provide a large audience. Topics of a more general appeal using "moving picture" and lantern slides didn't improve the attendance so the series discontinued after 1928. The VRI offered an impressive array of educational classes in music, performing arts, sporting activities and social/recreational activities.

Activities of the VRI greatly diminished at Flinders Street station once the VRI moved from the station in 1985. Access to the magnificent facilities available on the third floor was no longer available and most of the space was converted into offices in 1995. The ballroom and gymnasium however remain essentially intact although little maintenance work has been done since the 1970s. The uses of the rooms were many. A gymnasium, lecture hall, billiards room, luncheon hall, games room, reading room, Library and Ballroom. Many clubs and societies made use of the facilities including the following:

VRI Musical Society	Basketball Club	Cricket Club	Wine Appreciation Club
Ladies Harrier's Club	Fencing Club	Orchestral Society	Ladies Physical Culture Club
Camera Club	Swords Club	Choral Society	Horticultural Society
Smoke Socials	Table Tennis Club	Wireless Club	Photographic Society
Ice Skating Club	Billiards Club	Swimming Club	Retired Railmen's Club
Ladies Club	Hockey Club	Draught Club	Literary & Debating Society
Tennis Association	Dramatic Society	Golf Club	Gymnasium Amateur Club



At the completion of the station building in 1910 there was office space to rent on the first and second floors. Government departments occupied most of the office space. The only non-railway department occupation after the depression was the Children's Welfare Department and the State Land Tax Office. By 2008 most of the usable office space was taken by the transport provider Connex. A large amount was not occupied due to its neglected state.

The original plans allowed for twenty retail shops located on the Swanston Street concourse along Flinders Street. The first shop being in the basement followed by 3 others being at street level. There were four shops in the central basement that could be accessed by Degraes Street entrance and five shops in the western basement being accessed directly from Flinders Street. Only the central basement is no longer used for retail trade.

Above: Display of previous Flinders Street Station tenants.

The Milk Dock was built to handle the unloading of fresh milk from the country trains. This was the central distribution point for all milk deliveries. An Entrance ramp off Flinders Street and a loading bay allowed carriers to collect cans. Clean, empty cans were returned for sorting and returned to their owners.

The fascia of the Milk Dock is actually made of pressed metal and has been assessed as an area of primary significance "contributing in a fundamental way to an understanding of the history, operation and functioning of the station complex." (Allom Lovell 1999)

In front of the Milk Dock are three shops between the station and Banana Alley.

Banana Alley has a chequered past. The Viaduct café was established in 1936 and was operating in the 1970s. A few tables and chairs would be setup inside and it was very popular with the late night crowd.

Hearns Hobbies opened in 1946 at 367 Flinders Street. The shop moved to the basement of the station.

Kelleher's Newsagent was in 371 Flinders Street and was the distribution point for paperboys and sellers.

City Hatters is in 211 Flinders Street. This shop has been a hatter since 1910.

The shop is actually in the basement of the station. It has pressed metal ceilings that date back to 1909. The railings and gate at Flinders Street and glass windows and brass frames are also original. The metal gate is pulled across at night time and unlocked in the morning.

The Children's Nursery was primarily used by mothers travelling from suburban stations, 'a convenient place to leave baby when paying a visit to the city'. In 1933 trained staff were made available in the nursery for the exclusive use of rail travellers. The nursery was an initiative of Chief Commissioner Harold Clapp. A polio epidemic in mid 1937 brought a closure of the nursery till early 1938 when renovations brought a larger reception area for prams, strollers, cloaks and toys. Toilets suitable for children were installed and a kitchen with modern sterilising equipment. The Railways nursery closed in January 1942.

There are a large number of people with remembrances of the station, who have helped Jenny with content for her book titled *Beyond the Façade*. These memories are similar to those held by other users of the station. It is great place to reflect on over 100 years of travelling and social interaction.

Lyne McGregor

Acknowledgement: Many thanks to Jenny Davies.

Source: Beyond the Façade by Jenny Davies.

Right: Jenny Davies



Research Room News *Cont'd from page 3*

caused people to ask me, "Was I related to the lady in the book on female aviators in Australia?" No but I did buy the book, and I signed up to visit Darwin in February 2012 for a five day trip to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Darwin. So I haven't hit a brick wall I'm on a detour to learn more about my Dad's time in Darwin during the war, which will mean I learn more about him before I go to Darwin and hopefully learn more when I'm there.

The purchasing group met at Lynne's house in September and had a very enjoyable time adding to our Australian collection. We have covered all states and we have ordered CDs for our growing Police and Government Gazette collection. Gazettes are a goldmine of names and you will find them easy to search. We will meet for the last time this year in November to look at what is available for the United Kingdom, Fay is sourcing a list of Irish records, Wendy is looking at Wales while Lynne and I are looking at England, Paul checks that any proposed CDs are compatible, we all enjoy the comradeship, the sugar highs from Lynne's nibbles and the laughter makes for quick agreement. The Australian resources have started to arrive, the overseas records will arrive soon and be added during the Christmas break.

The stock take will again be over two days, the dates are Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th January 2012. Please think about spending an hour or so helping, you will find it fun and you certainly get to know what we have while sharing time with a great group of people.

Have a safe festive season and remember to have a pencil and notepad somewhere handy when you catch up with family, you just never know when someone will mention a name, event or place that will help you build your family tree or add a chapter in your story.

Happy reading.

Jane Rivett-Carnac

New to the research room

Books

Klitscher family history

Donated Rachelle Smith

Pictorial Record of City Life in Australia

Donated Greta Bain

Beams of Light 125 Yrs St Johns Lang Lang

Purchased for the group

Microfiche

Immigration to Victoria Inwards passenger

lists British Ports 1870-1879

Immigration to Victoria Inwards passenger

lists Foreign Ports 1852-1879

Purchased for the group

All borrowed items need to be returned to the Research Room by November 30th. No material is to be borrowed during December, any items out for indexing or Casey Cardinia research, must be returned prior to the December room closing so that we can do a complete Stock Take in January 2012.



RSS Feeds

Do you read the newspaper every day? If so, how do you get it? Do you get dressed, jump in the car, drive to the shops, park, get out, go into the shop, buy the paper, then get back to the car and drive home before you can read it? Or, do you get the paper delivered and read it in your PJs while sipping tea and eating toast?

Have you looked at any family history related blogs yet? If you have, do you have to check them periodically for updates? Do you forget at times? Wouldn't it be good if you could have them delivered just like the newspaper? Actually, you can!



Many of you will recognise these symbols without really knowing what it means and what it can do for you. In short, this indicates that new content from the website you are looking at is able to be sent to you as it becomes available, sort of like getting the newspaper delivered!

The RSS symbol stands for 'Really Simple Syndication' or others know it as a 'web feed'. Simply put, it's a uniform way to share web content, but you don't need to understand or remember that, you only need to know that it is a secure way for a website to deliver news to you.

We could go on and on for pages but here's a nifty little video that explains it all much better than we can - *RSS in plain English*, and it's at YouTube: <http://youtu.be/OkglSsXGsU>

Although the video *RSS in plain English* highlights Google Reader, which is not a bad thing because many of you probably already have a Google account anyway, there are other feed aggregators like RSS Owl at <http://www.rssowl.org/> and FeedDemon at <http://www.feedException.com/> and FeedReader3 at <http://www.feedReader.com/> - all are free and just need to be downloaded and installed (get the grandkids to do it). It's just a matter of personal preference as to which one you use. A feed aggregator can work hard bringing in all the latest news from your favourite websites and blogs while you're boiling the kettle in the morning and have them ready to read with tea and toast! Well, you'll have to cook the toast; they can't do everything - yet! Just open the program and it will check all your subscriptions for new content and tell you what it has found. Just think, with one click you can keep up with the latest news from us, the GSV, AIGS, the State Library, PROV,.....

Or, you can utilise your email programs like *Outlook* and *Thunderbird* to bring in RSS feeds. A couple more videos you could watch are: *Subscribing to RSS on blogs using Outlook 2010* at: <http://youtu.be/Xr3gyQFdvC> and *RSS feeds and accounts in Thunderbird* at: <http://youtu.be/vfgYQBmsFUA>

Or, you can subscribe to the feed by email if you're not comfortable with aggregators, see our post about email subscriptions at: <http://nwfhg.org.au/whats-this-subscribe-by-email-thing-all-about/> for more information.

Which is better? It's up to you really; the one big difference between news feeds and email subscriptions is this: if you've got an email subscription then the website has your email address. It has no other information about you, just your email address. How else is it going to deliver your news? Most sites and organisations have privacy policies and will not divulge your information but you should check. If you use a news feed, the website has no information at all about you, it doesn't need to, your email program or aggregator gets the content from them.

By the time you get this newsletter we'll have a blog post about RSS on our blog, perhaps you'd like to ask us a question via the comments box or comment about your experiences with RSS, we'd love to hear from you.

Lynne Bradley

Words Worth \$100



Thanks to Claire and Paul Stevenson our group has won \$100. Claire noticed in a local paper that Grill'd Restaurants were giving three local groups near each of their restaurants a chance of sharing \$500 monthly. The idea was to write 45 words about the group and those words would appear on one of 3 jars at the local Grill'd Restaurant if the group was lucky enough to be chosen. Customers would read the words then decide which group they would like to support and place their token in that jar. At the end of the month the tokens are counted. The jar with the most tokens wins \$300 for that local group and \$100 goes to each of the other groups. As treasurer, I immediately saw \$ signs flashing before my eyes, and decided we must put in an entry.

We are lucky enough to have a very talented writer in our group, namely Paul Stevenson. Paul's 45 fantastic words were – *Narre Warren & District Family History Group also has a great menu, not wonderful food like Grill'd Fountain Gate. A menu of information, try our sensational variety of resources served in many forms. Be helped by our friendly volunteers. Information – just as you'll like it!* which were placed on a jar for the month of September.

So, our thank you goes to Grill'd Restaurants and all the people who placed their token in our jar, for giving us the opportunity to boost our finances, which in turn, allows us to purchase more research material for our members and visitors to use.

Jenny Hayes



A few words from Di Christensen

Firstly congratulations to Lynne Bradley for our fantastic website and blog, one of the best I have seen.

FAMILY HISTORY FEAST

This was held at the State Library on Monday 1st August in National Family History Week.

A good crowd attended and the speakers were most interesting. The Annual Don Grant Lecture was given by Dr Andrew Lemon "Storming the Barricades-the Family History Revolution"

Go to the VAFHO website-<http://www.vafho.org.au/lectures.html>

You will find - under Don Grant Family History Lectures, the last lectures from 2007 are all on podcasts which can be listened to in your own time.

VAFHO AGM AND SEMINAR

This was held on Saturday 27th August at the Victorian Archives, North Melbourne

A reasonable crowd arrived. The AGM went well-the current officebearers were re-elected

President- Jenny Harkness

Vice President- Dr Dorothy Wickham

Secretary- Di Christensen

Treasurer- Jan Parker

Charlie Farrugia, Senior Collections Advisor, PROV spoke on

"Convicted and neglected" researching Victorian Wards of state 1864-c1960 at the Public Record Office of Victoria. Wardship and how to find information using the Childrens' Registers (Ward Books)

Mary McGrath found this of interest and I think she gained several good leads to follow.

Ada Ackerly spoke on "Finding Treasures at PROV"

Ada has researched at the PROV for over thirty years. Ada has indexed many collections and still has twenty more years of indexing to do.

As usual Ada had us amused and also saddened at some of the stories she told us. A good afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Di Christensen

\$ \$ MONEY \$ \$ \$

As Fundraising Coordinator, I'm always wondering how to bring funds into the group. I can tell you, it is not easy always asking your members to part with their hard earned money. There is one way where I don't have to ask: all you have to do is shop at Ritchies Supermarket and show your Community Benefit Card at the checkout.

I know we have a number of members who do shop at Ritchies, but, as treasurer of this group for 16 months, I have wondered why, in all that time, we have only had one cheque from the Ritchies Community Benefit scheme. That was received in September last year. Curiosity got the better of me, so I phoned Ritchies head office and found out the answer. For a community group to receive a minimum of \$10 per month the members of that group need to spend \$2,000 or more in any one month at Ritchies stores. I thank our members who are shopping there, but, unfortunately, you are only spending between \$300 and \$1,000 a month, which doesn't entitle us to a benefit at all.

A kind lady I spoke to at Ritchies' head office has sent us 30 registered cards for members to use. So please ask me for one at the next meeting, or contact me at treasurer@nwfhg.org.au or phone 5991 4499. I'm hoping we'll soon have some more cheques sent to us.

Jenny Hayes

Where was your family on this day?

Whilst holding dozens of people hostage in the Glenrowan Inn in June 1880. Wearing their famous armour, the Kelly brothers held a shootout with police. Gang members Dan Kelly, Steve Hart and Joe Byrne were killed, and Ned was shot twenty-eight times in the legs, which were unprotected by the armour. He survived to stand trial, and was sentenced to death by hanging, by Judge Redmond Barry on 29 October 1880. Ned Kelly was hanged in Melbourne on 11 November 1880.

*Thursday,
November 11,
1880.*

November 11 has come to be known as Remembrance Day or Armistice Day. Traditionally, British, Canadian, South African, Australian and New Zealand citizens observe the day with two minutes' silence at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, which is the time that the armistice became effective.

*Monday,
November 11,
1918*

The notorious English pirate, Blackbeard, was born either Edward Teach or Edward Thatch sometime in 1680. Governor Alexander Spotswood of Virginia commissioned Lieutenant Robert Maynard to hunt down Blackbeard and eliminate him. Maynard found the pirates anchored in a North Carolina inlet on the inner side of Ocracoke Island, on the evening of 21 November 1718. Following a pursuit, Blackbeard was hunted down and killed on 22 November 1718, ending Blackbeard's infamous reign.

*Tuesday,
November 22,
1718*

The Olympic Games commenced with an opening ceremony on 22 November 1956. The games proceeded well, and earned the nickname of "The Friendly Games". It was at the first Australian-held Olympics that the tradition began of the athletes mingling with one another, rather than marching in teams, for their final appearance around the stadium.

*Thursday,
November 22,
1956*

John Fitzgerald Kennedy's presidential term was cut tragically short when he was assassinated while riding in a presidential motorcade within Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas, on Friday, 22 November 1963. Three shots were fired at his open-topped car, hitting him in the head and throat. He was taken to Parkland Hospital, but died thirty-five minutes after being shot. Kennedy was the fourth US President to be assassinated, and the eighth to die while in office.

*Friday,
November 22,
1963*

The SS Georgette was a steamship used as a coastal trading and passenger service between Fremantle, Albany and Champion Bay. On 1 December 1876, the Georgette sprang a leak 32km out to sea, whilst carrying fifty passengers and a cargo of jarrah wood. The pumps failed to work, and passengers and crew bailed water non-stop. Each lifeboat that was released was swamped or capsized in the storm-driven seas. Aboriginal stockman, Sam Isaacs and sixteen-year-old Grace Bussell raced down to the surf on horseback, and Grace then rode her horse into the bay until it was alongside one of the swamped lifeboats. People clung to her and her horse as she returned to shore and landed them. One man was left on the boat, and Isaacs was sent to collect him. Bussell and Isaacs continued their rescuing efforts, taking over four hours to land all the passengers. The wreck of the Georgette still lies about 90 metres off Calgardup Beach.

*Friday,
December 1,
1876.*

It took 15,000 workers over seven years to dig the tunnel, with tunnelling operations carried out simultaneously from both ends. On 1 December 1990, workers bored through the final wall of rock to join the two halves of the Channel Tunnel.

*Saturday,
December 1,
1990*

Thanksgiving in North America is a day of feasting and celebration, and has been a tradition for hundreds of years. The very first Thanksgiving actually occurred among a group unconnected with the Pilgrims. This festival was completely religious in nature, and no feasting was involved. On 4 December 1619, a group of settlers from England arrived at Berkeley Plantation on the James River, now known as Charles City, Virginia. In their charter, this group dedicated the day of their arrival as a Day of Thanksgiving to God.

*Wednesday,
December 4,
1619*

Early in November 1872, the ship set sail from New York to Genoa, Italy, under the command of Captain Benjamin Briggs. A month later, on 4 December 1872, it was found adrift and abandoned; yet its cargo of 1700 barrels of alcohol was intact. None of the Mary Celeste's crew or passengers was ever found. Theories have abounded as to what happened

*Wednesday,
December 4,
1872.*

One of the earliest sightings of the yowie is recorded in a letter from naturalist H J McCooey in "The Australian Town and Country Journal", dated 9 December 1882. McCooey claimed to have seen the yowie in 1880, in an area of bushland between Ulladulla and Bateman's Bay on the New South Wales southern coast.

*Saturday,
December 9,
1882*

The first Christmas cards were created in England on 9 December 1843. Horsley produced 1,000 lithographed and hand-coloured cards. More like postcards, they sold for a shilling.

*Saturday,
December 9,
1843*

In 1815 Captain James Kelly embarked on a journey to circumnavigate Tasmania in a whaleboat, with the view to exploring the commercial potential along the Tasmanian coast. On 9 January 1816, Kelly and his men sailed into Port Dalrymple where they were initially believed to be bushrangers, and arrested accordingly. The mistake was soon rectified, the men's food supplies were replenished, and they were given fresh clothing. The party continued south down the eastern coast, arriving in Hobart Town on 30 January 1816.

*Tuesday,
January 9,
1816.*

British chemist and inventor Humphrey Davy was born at Penzance in Cornwall on 17 December 1778. Davy is renowned for his invention of the miner's safety lamp. Mining explosions were frequently caused by fire-damp or methane, which was often ignited by the open flames of the lamps used by coal miners. Davy pioneered a method of using an iron gauze to enclose a lamp's flame, and so prevent the methane burning inside the lamp from passing out to the general atmosphere.

*Tuesday,
January 9,
1816*

The 'HMS Bounty' sailed with a crew of 45 men from Spithead, England in December 1787 under Captain William Bligh, bound for Tahiti. Their mission was to collect breadfruit plants to be transplanted in the West Indies as cheap food for the slaves. After collecting those plants, Bounty was returning to England when, on the morning of 28 April 1789, Fletcher Christian and part of the crew mutinied, taking over the ship, and setting the Captain and 18 crew members adrift in the ship's 23-foot launch. Captain Bligh sailed nearly 6000km back to England, arriving there on 14 March 1790, where he was initially court-martialled and ultimately acquitted. The mutineers took HMS Bounty back to Tahiti, and collected 6 Polynesian men and 12 women. They then continued on to Pitcairn Island, arriving there on 15 January 1790. After burning the ship, they established a settlement and colony on Pitcairn Island that still exists.

*Friday,
January 15,
1790*

Captain Arthur Phillip was appointed Governor-designate of the proposed British penal colony of New South Wales in 1786. The First Fleet of convicts left Portsmouth, England, on 13 May 1787, and arrived in Botany Bay on 18 January 1788. Phillip immediately determined that there was insufficient fresh water, an absence of usable timber, poor quality soil and no safe harbour at Botany Bay. Thus the fleet was moved to Port Jackson, arriving on 26 January 1788. Australia Day, celebrated annually on January 26, commemorates the landing of the First Fleet at Port Jackson, and the raising of the Union Jack to claim the land as belonging to England. The first celebrations of the landing of the First Fleet were held in 1791. The first official celebrations were held in 1818, marking the thirtieth anniversary of white settlement.

*Saturday,
January 26,
1788*

On 26 January 1801, whilst circumnavigating Australia for the first time, Flinders crossed the 129th degree of longitude, which today marks the border of Western Australia and South Australia. At this point, Flinders was astonished to sight the vast limestone cliffs, which now mark the southern coastal extremity of the Nullarbor Plain.

*Tuesday,
January 26,
1802*

The Rum Rebellion of 1808 was the only successful armed takeover of government in Australia's history. The Governor of New South Wales was deposed by the New South Wales Corps command of Major George Johnston, working closely with John Macarthur, on 26 January 1808, 20 years to the day after Arthur Phillip founded European settlement in Australia. Afterwards, the colony was ruled by the military, with the senior military officer stationed in Sydney acting as the Lieutenant-Governor of the colony until the arrival from Britain of Major-General Lachlan Macquarie as the new Governor at the beginning of 1810.

*Wednesday,
January 26,
1802*

The world's largest gem diamond ever found is the 3,106 carat Cullinan Diamond. The diamond was discovered during a routine inspection of the Premier mine in Pretoria, South Africa, by superintendent Frederick Wells on 26 January 1905. The diamond was named Cullinan, after the owner of the mine, Sir Thomas Cullinan. The diamond was commissioned to be cut by the Asscher Diamond Company of Amsterdam. Company head Joseph Asscher reputedly studied the enormous diamond for over six months before determining how to best divide it. The Cullinan was ultimately cut into 9 major gems, 96 smaller brilliants, and 9.5 carats of unpolished pieces. The largest of the cut stones is the "Cullinan I", also known as the "Star of Africa I," which, at 530 carats, is the world's largest-cut fine-quality colourless diamond.

*Thursday,
January 26,
1905*

Source: <http://today.wmit.net/>

DISCLAIMER: Contributions to this newsletter are accepted in good faith and the Committee does not accept responsibility for accuracy of information of submitted articles nor opinions expressed.

Welcome to our new members:

Mavis Anderson	Judith Board
John Chambers	Leone Hambly-Clark
Gillian Hansen	Dorothy Hedin
Bronwyn Hopkins	Carol Kelly
David Maude	Patrice Maude
Peter McDonald	Patricia O'Leary

Volunteer Roster for December 2011 & February 2012

December 2011					
Tuesday		Thursday		Saturday	
		1	Nowella Ahlgren Eileen Durdin	3	Wendy Brock Judy Mehegan
6	Fay McCoubrie Mary McGrath	8	Wendy Eldridge Claire Stevenson	13	Wendy Goodwin Shirley Peterson
13	Anne Blair Bev Lambie				

January 2012					
Research Room closed for holiday period. Please enjoy the time and stay safe					

February 2012					
Tuesday		Thursday		Saturday	
7	Fay McCoubrie Lina Butler	9	Wendy Eldridge Eileen Durdin	11	Steven Smith Robyn Jones
14	Bev Lambie Val Bennett	16	Di Christensen Claire Stevenson	18	Wendy Brock Judy Mehegan
21	Lynne Bradley Rona Gibson	23	Donald Connop Nowella Ahlgren	25	Wendy Goodwin Jan Reynolds
28	Anne Blair Joyce Masters				

Antiques Appraisal Day September 24, 2011



Above: Display case in the Narre Warren Library

Over the years with the Group I have organised a lot of fundraising events. To be a little different this time, I arranged for the Group to have an appraisal day for antiques and collectables, which we held in the Meeting Room of the Narre Warren Library on Saturday September 24, 2011.

Vanessa Crew and Adam Truscott from The Collector at Murrumbidgee were appraising items from 11.00 a.m. until 3.00 p.m. and were quite impressed with some of the items they appraised. One of our members had a pleasant surprise when an item was assessed as being potentially of some value, and I know of another who has had a large item, which will be auctioned, collected by The Collector.

I wish to thank Heather Arnold and our other members who helped out on our successful day which boosted the bank balance by \$459.00.

Jenny Hayes

Below: Adam Truscott



Above: Adam providing an appraisal



Above Vanessa Crew



Antiques Appraisal Day September 24, 2011



Left:

Vanessa Crew and
Adam Truscott



Right:

Wendy Brock,
Mary McGrath,
Shirley Peterson
and Anne Blair

Left:

Cheyenne, Paul
& Claire Steven-
son



Right:

Greta
Bain,
Wendy
Eldridge,
Jane Poul-
ton & Jane
Rivett –
Carnac

Left:

Appraisal
in progress



Genealogists Prayer

**Genealogy is my pastime – I shall not stray,
It maketh me to lie down and examine half buried tombstones,
It leadeth me into courthouses,
It restoreth my ancestral knowledge,
It leadeth me into the paths of census records,
And ships passenger lists,
For my surnames sake.
Yet though I wade through the shadows
Of research libraries & microfilm readers,
I shall fear no discouragement,
For a strong urge is with me,
The curiosity and motivation they comfort me.
It demandeth preparation of storage space
For the acquisition of countless documents,
It anointeth my head with burning midnight oil.
My family group sheets runneth over,
Surely birth marriage & death dates
Shall follow me all the days of my life
And I shall dwell in the house of a family history seeker forever.**

Author Anon

Submitted Robyn Jones

THE NARREWARREN MAIL SERVICE.

A deputation of the residents of Narrewarren, accompanied by Mr J. L. Smith, M.L.A, yesterday asked the Postmaster General that the mails for Narrewarren citizenship should be conveyed direct from the Narrewarren railway station, a distance of three miles, instead of being forwarded via Berwick and Harkaway a distance of ten miles, as has been the custom hitherto. They also requested that a telephone or telegraph station should be provided at Narrewarren railway station Mr Derham replied that he would obtain a report from his officers as to the advisability of granting their requests. The way out of the difficulty would be to give a direct service, both for Berwick and Narrewarren station, and if the expense was not too great he might be induced to establish these double facilities. Their appreciation for a telephone or telegraph station should also receive consideration.

(The Argus Thursday May 19 1887)

MOTORING MISHAPS

CYCLE AND CAR COLLIDE.

Accident at Beaconsfield.

Following an accident near Beaconsfield last night, the Warragul-Melbourne express was stopped for some minutes at Berwick station to allow an injured man to be taken on as a passenger for conveyance to the Melbourne Hospital. Wilfred Charlton, aged about 25 years, of Orchard House, Leongatha, was riding a motor-cycle along Warragul road towards Beaconsfield last night, when he collided with a motor-car. Charlton was thrown on to the roadway. He was taken to Berwick station, where he was placed on the Warragul-Melbourne express. From Flinders Street Station he was taken by Civil ambulance to the Melbourne Hospital, where, on examination, he was found to have suffered a fractured skull and fractured left leg.

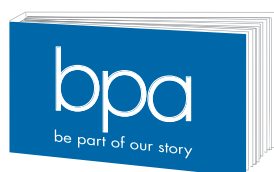
(The Argus Saturday 18 June 1927)



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