

# MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

published monthly, except December

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm  
in St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Hall

Vol. 9 No. 6

JUNE 1993

WELCOME TO THE JUNE NEWSLETTER

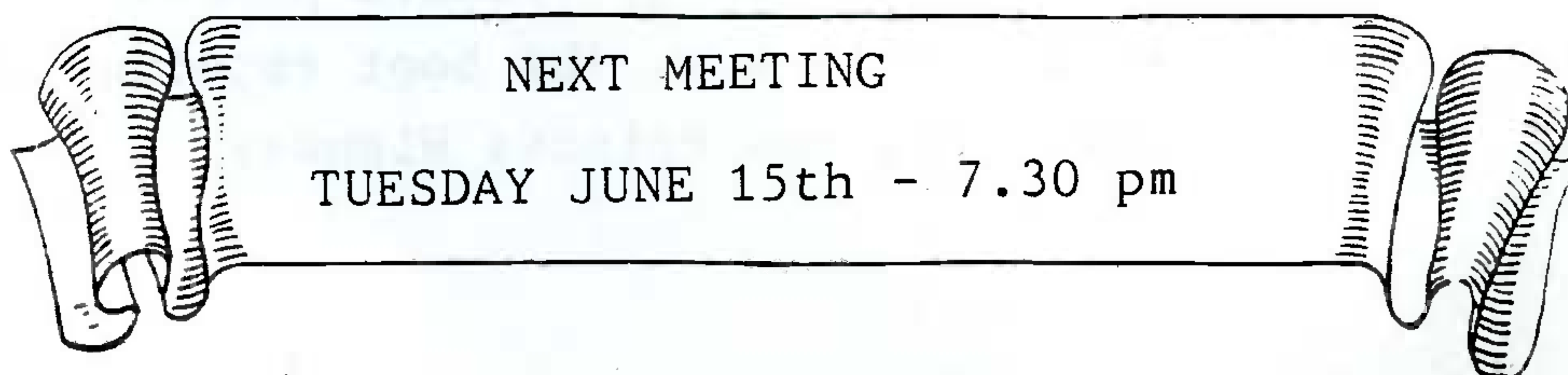
Occupation of our new premises in the Old Town Hall is proceeding. Most of the Society's holdings are now in place and, as soon as our photographs are returned from the Morwell Main Street display we will be setting up a display in the Foyer. We have a table, filing cabinet, map cabinet and several cupboards. Does anyone know where we can buy some (cheap?!) chairs?

Is there a green cross in this box?

If so, you have received the dreaded MARK OF THE TREASURER!! This means that we have no record of having received your subscription for 1993-94.

It also means that this is the last of our fascinating, scintillating, witty and informative newsletters that you will receive!

Subscriptions are \$7.00 single member, \$10.00 couple or family and they can be paid to Dot Bartlett, 5 Phyllis St. Morwell, or Elsie McMaster, 2 Harold St. Morwell.





# ANNOUNCING

Invitation from Traralgon Historical Soc.

to join an EXCURSION TO THE ROYAL MINT AND THE POLICE MUSEUM

Date: TUESDAY, JULY 6

Time: Bus leaves Traralgon 9.00 am

Picks up at Morwell Railway Stn. 9.10 am

Return home by 6 pm.

Program: Arrive Melbourne approx 11.30 am. Visit Royal Historical Society's Headquarters at the old Royal Mint in William St. There will be people on hand to assist if you wish to do some research.

B.Y.O.Lunch - or you can buy light refreshments at nearby milk bars.

Attend R.H.S.V's lunchtime meeting at 1.00 pm.

Guest speaker Dr Janet McCalman.

After the meeting, visit Police Museum.

Depart Melbourne approx 4 pm. Home by about 6.

COST: \$15.00 includes everything except lunch. Money MUST be paid by June 20.

Please let Secretary Elsie McMaster know as soon as possible if you would like to go. (We need to know what size bus to book!)

Phone (051)341149

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## CORRECTIONS

At the May meeting, members' attention was drawn to a number of errors in the article "Early Morwell" published on pages 6 and 7 of the May Newsletter. Readers may like to make a note on those pages, referring to the following corrections:

Paragraph 1, line 7 on page 7: Tarwin St. never went past Wallace St.

Paragraph 4, lines 1 and 2, page 7: Access to the Old Coach Rd was not via Jane St. A road led over the railway line well to the west of the present Jane St bridge, then turned and ran parallel to the railway line. Access to the Old Coach Rd was via Toners Lane.

Paragraph 5, line 5, page 7: Mr Smith had an orchard property where the present Presbyterian Church is now. The boot repairer's house (Mr Holloway) was on Station St, now Princes Highway.

Morwell Advertiser and Gazette August 20, 1942.

It is now my intention to mention the names of some of the original selectors of the leasehold of Hazelwood when the Government surveyed and threw that portion open for selection.

One of the first was John O'Hara who came out from Ireland to work on Scrubby Forest. He chose a very good piece of country adjoining the Hazelwood Prem-Right which is still held by members of his family.

Glancing over the parish plan I see the name of J.H. Matthews. My first recollection of this well known identity was driving a pair of carriage horses in one of the Morwell Agricultural Shows. These horses he afterwards sold for 60 or 70 guineas, a price which spoke well for his judgement and no doubt made the other horse breeders of the district very envious.

The next names I find are Wm Daly and Paul Applegate, who selected on Eel Hole Creek. Both these gentlemen came from Geelong having sold their properties in that district and set out to seek pastures new and hoped that greener fields would follow.

Another old and respected pioneer was Mr Geo Bolding, who settled on Bennett's Creek. His was a house noted for its hospitality and still is. The third generation is living now in the homestead and here I might well mention that five of his grandsons are at the present time prisoners of war. May they all return safe and sound!

Further up that creek was Sandy McDonald and T. Mackey, who came from The Marsh (Bacchus Marsh) with all his belongings and worldly goods including a miners pick about which there was some controversy in later years.

Then Alphonse Nadenbousch, whose apple and pear orchard was the envy of all the small boys in the district.

Another who has come to my memory is Donald Shaw and his brother Col, and here I will mention something in the way of ancient history which may be forgotten. Donald was one of the first, in fact I should say the first councillor in the Morwell Shire as he topped the poll in the Municipal election held after this shire was formed and he had the honour of being the first President at the Morwell Shire Council table. His son William, in later years, held the same office.

Travelling towards Hazelwood South as it is now known, I see the names Geo McFarlane and the McDonalds - Dan, Malcolm and Angus - all men of integrity and sound judgement. It is a pity they could not have added much interesting data to this attempt of mine.

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HARKING BACK (cont)

At the moment I was writing this, my radio, which was playing low, soft music, suddenly started out a clarion call "What's in s Name". This was a coincidence as I heard the name McDonald so I dropped the pen and lit my pipe to listen. If what I heard is true, McDonald is indeed a name to be proud of. It went back to the days of Bannockburn and the clashes between the clans, and mentioned a famous general of that name in the Battle of Alma, in the Crimean War. Those who knew these Mcdonalds will agree that they were made of the right stuff to pioneer a new land.

Now let us go back to The Ridge. I wonder how many can remember Gooding's Post Office which was situated on the farm known as Heesom's. A post boy on horseback used to deliver the mail from Smith's at the Morwell Bridge a few days a week after the coach had gone on its way to Sale. Not far from Gooding's the Ridge Picnic was held annually on New Year's Day. I think the late Mr Geo Firmin, a councillor in the Traralgon Shire, was one of the main instigators of this famous picnic. In those days there was very little entertainment and consequently this outing was looked forward to. At 10 o'clock on New Year's morning the Ridge would be all hustle and skurry. Buggies coming from every direction were enveloped in a cloud of dust. Horsemen came cantering along the road, their backs covered with flies and their horses covered with sweat. "Happy New Year" was heard with the reply "Same to you and many of them". The children's races were started and the ladies prepared dinner. Everything went with a swing until the sun was getting low, then horses were yoked up and the crowd dwindled away, all very happy and all very tired.

The Hazelwood School, now known as The Ridge, is an old landmark, being built before the township of Morwell was thought of. I think the first teacher was a man named Nelson, whose ability with a cane was far in advance of that of a teacher according to the scholars of his day. There were some big boys going to this school when it was first opened. Some of them were fifteen or sixteen who had not been to school before. Later Miss Waldon was the teacher. This lady will be well and kindly remembered by the old residents and scholars alike for she was a firm but conscientious teacher whose greatest pleasure was doing things that would give other people happiness and now with this fine character I have to leave Hazelwood and start on that run situated on the western side of the Morwell River known in the old days as Merton Rush.

To be continued.

## HISTORIC SHIPWRECKS ACT AMNESTY

Our earliest known shipwreck is the *Trial*, an English East Indiaman which sank off Western Australia in 1622. Since then an estimated 5000 ships have foundered around the coast of Australia and its Territories.

The remains of some of these are of international significance such as HMS *Pandora*, sent to capture the *Bounty* mutineers, whose hull is largely intact. Some have great heritage value to the nation such as First Fleet flagship HMS *Sirius* at Norfolk Island. Many others are important as examples of maritime technological development or because they assisted the exploration and economic development of various settlements, such as the *Gothenburg* sunk when returning from the Northern Territory to its colonial capital, Adelaide. Others, like the *Yongala* near Townsville, continue to contribute to local economic development by becoming major tourist attractions and the centre of a recreational diving industry. Some have become prominent in our folklore like the *Dunbar* and the *Loch Ard* from which only one or two people survived.

The introduction of SCUBA diving in the 1960s accelerated the discovery of wrecks and the removal of relics for commercial gain and souvenirs. The use of explosives to get at silver bullion on the old Dutch shipwrecks off Western Australia led the Western Australian Government to introduce the first legislation to protect shipwrecks. But because most of them lie in waters under Commonwealth rather than State jurisdiction, the Commonwealth was forced to step in with the Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976.

Since then, all States and the Northern Territory have enacted legislation to protect shipwrecks in State waters, ie on the landward side of low water mark and including rivers, bays and between some islands and the coast. The States and the Commonwealth now cooperate in a national historic shipwrecks program for wrecks in Commonwealth waters. The principal objectives of this program are to conserve and protect shipwreck sites and recovered relics, to foster research into our underwater heritage, to encourage community appreciation of shipwrecks and to gain their support for the protection of shipwrecks as a cultural resource of the nation.

Why protect shipwrecks? The remains of wrecks and the cargoes and personal effects they carried are an important part of Australia's heritage. They provide irreplaceable evidence about many aspects of Australian history which is not available in the documentary record.

For example, excavation of the Sydney Cove at Preservation Island in Bass Strait, wrecked in 1797, is yielding examples of speculative trade goods brought to Australia for which there are no ships' manifests. The goods include footwear, rum and Chinese porcelain. They can be precisely dated because of the wreck event. In many cases they survive

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surprisingly well under water, as they may not have done had they reached their destination. For example, sealed bottles of rum from the days of the Rum Corps, having escaped the thirst of early settlers, can now be subjected to scientific analysis!

Shipbuilding was for long a craft passed on orally, with only rudimentary plans which often do not survive. So the structure of the Sydney Cove itself, built in India, tells us about the colonial construction and adaptation of merchant vessels. Through professional excavation of this shipwreck, a richer picture is being built up of Australia's economic development in the first decade of European settlement.

Material recovered from the site will be displayed in the local community and at Hobart, and may be lent for display elsewhere. The total assemblage and all excavation records will be conserved and available for study. What would the result be if it had been looted for profit or souvenirs, and dispersed?

The Historic Shipwrecks Act aims to protect wrecks for both their heritage and recreational values. Sports diving is a growing industry. The Act does not lock wrecks away - except for a mere ten sites of outstanding heritage value which are at particular risk of human damage, and even these may be visited by permit. The rest may be freely visited.

Over the years, 158 wrecks in Commonwealth waters were declared protected under the Act. But on 1 April 1993 all shipwrecks aged 75 years or more under control (ie on the seaward side of the low water mark) became protected.

Protection under the Act means it is illegal to damage or disturb the remains of the wreck or to take souvenirs. Bona fide archaeological work can only be done with a permit. The Commonwealth wants to protect them for the enjoyment of people now and in the future.

The Act also requires any person who finds a shipwreck or a relic of a ship in Commonwealth waters, or who has possession of a relic from a protected shipwreck, to report it to the Minister.

There is an amnesty from 1 May to 30 October 1993 in respect of due notifications that were not given prior to 1 April 1993 and where a person voluntarily submits the required notification within the period of the Amnesty. It does not apply in the case of an offence committed or detected after 1 April or where charges are current or pending.

For further information or to obtain reporting forms, contact the Maritime and Historical Archaeology Unit, PO Box 262, Albert Park VIC 3206, tel. 03 690 5322, or telephone toll-free 008 819461.

Alan Roberts

# Where history lives on



KEITH DUNSTAN

Handwritten notes: Acknowledgement, 25-5-1993

**O**UR family has always been devoted to cemeteries. My wife is a remarkable enthusiast. If we are passing through a town and she sees a cemetery, always, she cries: "Stop".

Cemeteries are history. Several of our grandchildren have won their names from tombstones, and it has to be confessed, that when looking for an appropriate name for a recently acquired poodle, the odd tombstone has been a great inspiration.

But the most wondrous cemetery in the whole country, the Melbourne General Cemetery in Carlton, is almost ignored.

Mr Malcolm Tucker, the general manager of The Necropolis in Springvale, which operates the Carlton cemetery, said last week it does not rate on tourist itineraries.

Few people visit it to investigate the imposing cast of citizens who made our city.

The most frequent visitors are university students who use it as a short cut to their colleges and joggers who like an early morning pant and eternity.

Back in 1852 when it was becoming difficult to bury Melburnians at Flagstaff Hill, the Government decided to go right out of town to Carlton and set aside about 40 hectares.

It divided the land into precise areas for Methodists, Presbyterians, Catholics, Jews, Congregationalists and Anglicans.

The feeling was it would not do, for example, for a Methodist to have to rest forever uncomfortably close to a Catholic or an Anglican.

Today, it is so crowded that you or I cannot get in there unless we bought a plot years ago or unless we own a family vault. Yet there are still 20 to 30 burials every month. More than 500,000 people are buried there.

Mr Tucker and Kevin Scheele, the Melbourne General Cemetery manager, took cartoonist Jeff and I on a guided tour.

Nearly all our pioneers are buried there. John Pascoe Fawkner has a very imposing pile.

John Batman was too early, a Flagstaff Hill man, and his grave was removed to the Fawkner Cemetery.

Mr Tucker thinks this is sweetly ironic. Batman and Fawkner could not stand each other, yet Batman ended in a cemetery named in honor of his rival.

The remains of Burke and Wills were brought back from central Australia and their grave is marked by a vast piece of granite that must weigh at least 30 tonnes.

Mr Scheele looks at some of the great old monuments and wonders how they were shifted there, with just horse and dray, block and tackle.

Sir Charles Hotham, perhaps the most incompetent of all our governors and the man who helped cause the Eureka uprising, has a whopper — a towering marble column, with a number of ladies on top who appear to represent learning, wisdom, justice and that sort of thing.

I prefer the grave of the champion billiards player of the world, Walter Lindrum. His tombstone is in the shape of a billiard table, complete with billiard cues resting on top. There is a message in stone: "It's queer how folks you'd never miss, it seems, can always stay, when folks you love and want so much must always pass away".

**T**HERE is Ray Wilson, a jockey, killed at Morphetville while riding Trimerician in 1938. His cap, whip and stirrups are carved in stone.

There is also the grave of Tommy Corrigan. He was killed at Caulfield in the Grand National Steeple of 1894 and, except for Burke and Wills, it was claimed he had the biggest funeral ever seen in Melbourne with a cortege of 240 vehicles.

Then there is the grave of Dr James Beaney, who died on June 30, 1891. They used to call him Diamond Jim and he would wear anything up to £10,000 worth of jewels at the one time.

He used to wear all his diamond rings when he was operating. For the cure of most ills he prescribed brandy or gin.

Federick Baker, better known as Federici, is there too. He was playing Mephistopheles in *Faust* at the Princess Theatre in 1888. He went through the trap door to "hell" and died of a heart attack.

His ghost, it is said, has haunted the Princess ever since, but he does not put on any shows at the cemetery.

In fact, Mr Scheele said he often goes for evening walks with his wife in the cemetery and he has not spotted a ghost yet.

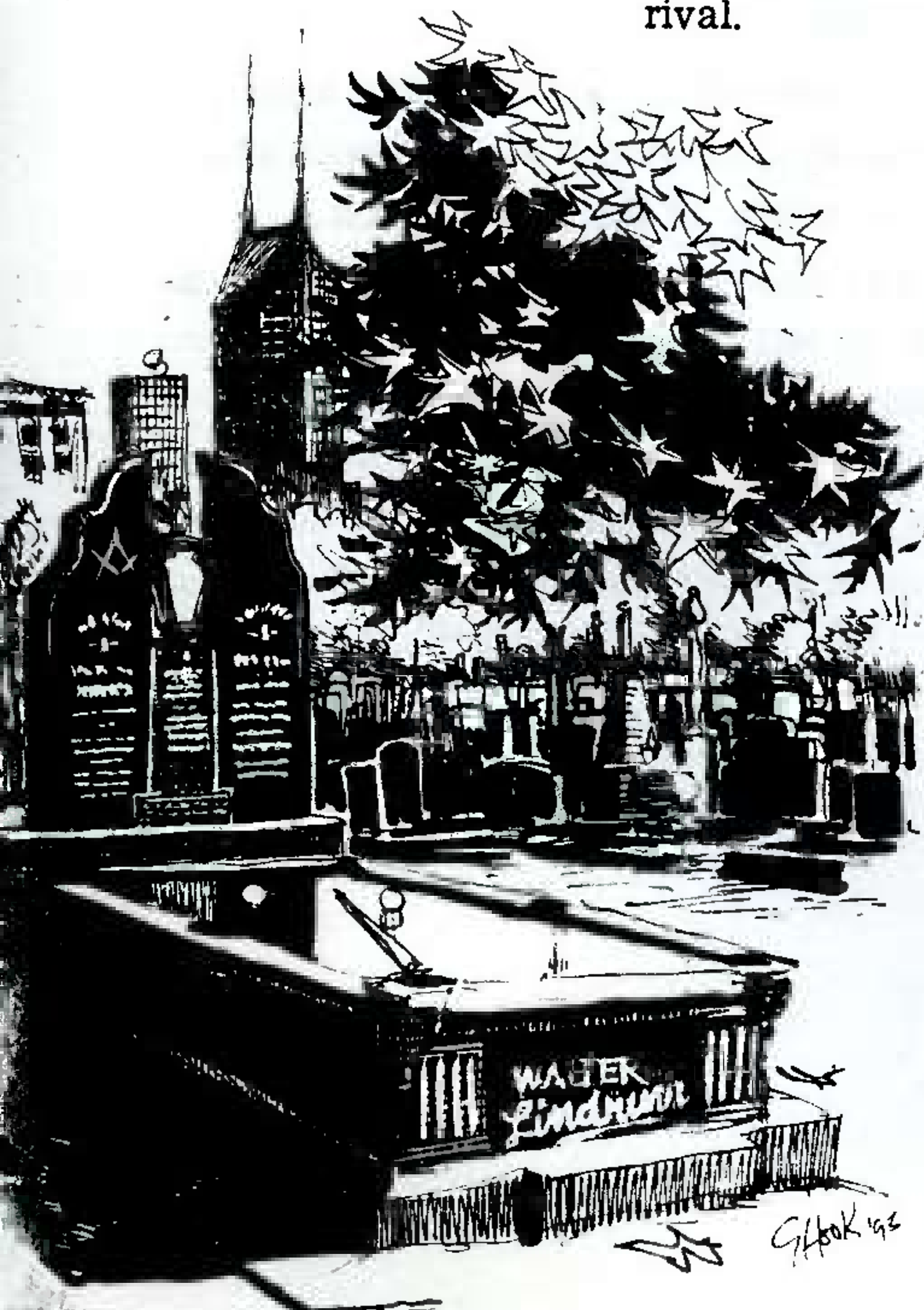
There is the grave of Emily Mather. She had the misfortune to be married to Frederick Deeming, the "monster of the century".

In December 1891, he battered Emily to death, cut her throat, and buried her under a hearthstone. Deeming was hanged at the Melbourne Jail.

There are so many interesting people there: Bert Ironmonger the master spin bowler; Billy Midwinter the only cricketer to play Tests for Australia and England. There is Marcus Clarke, who wrote *For the Term of His Natural Life*.

You will also find Sir Redmond Barry, Peter Lalor, James Galloway, founder of the eight-hour movement, James Scullin, Arthur Calwell and Robert Hoddie, who laid out our city.

To see these graves and others call Helen Harris on 890-9288. She runs two-hour walking tours for \$10. The tours have themes such as medicos and misadventures, sporting identities, artists and writers, Labor history, pioneers, and law and order.



WALTER LINDRUM, 1897-1960 ONE OF THE GREATEST MELBOURNE PLAYERS OF ALL TIME.

JOHN BARRYMORE BURKE 1877-1905 THE FIRST CRICKETER IN THE MELBOURNE CEMETERY



# R.H.S.V. HISTORY NEWS

No. 138 JUNE 1993

## TREASURE TROVE

The success of our Heritage Festival book and music sale has prompted a repeat in 1994. A committee (Susan Priestley, Elaine Brogan, John Knight - others warmly welcome) has started long-distance preparation. Please spread the word among relatives and friends to earmark unwanted books of all kinds, quality magazine, journals, tapes and records as stock for April 1994. We hope to have storage space at the Mint for deliveries about two months beforehand. Now there's a good reason for starting spring cleaning this autumn!

## WWII EVENTS AND SITES IN EAST GIPPSLAND

Allom Lovell & Associates Pty Ltd has been commissioned by the Historic Places Section of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to produce a history of World War II Events and Sites in East Gippsland. The study has been funded by the Australian Heritage Commission through a National Estate Grant.

The consultants are interested in talking to people with personal knowledge and information relating to civil defence and military activities in East Gippsland during World War II. The aim of the study is to locate and identify sites of activity in the study area, which includes the coastline from Lakes Entrance to Gabo Island. These sites might include, for example, jetties, Radio Direction Finding stations, and other physical remnants of activities such as volunteer coastal surveillance and the like.

Any information would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the firm's historian, Kate Gray, on 662-3344, or write to Allom Lovell & Associates, 35 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne, 3000.

## CONSTITUTIONAL CENTENARY FOUNDATION INC.

The Foundation was established in April 1992 to encourage discussion of the Australian constitutional system during the decade leading to the centenary of Federation in 2001. It is independent and has no predetermined view either on the need for change or on the form which any change might take.

The Foundation's newsletters from April 1992 and its first annual report can be perused in the RHSV library.

## SUNDAY OPENINGS OF THE MINT

The Mint and RHSV Library will be open on the third Sunday of the month commencing on 20 June, providing bookings are made five days in advance. Hours will be 10 am - 3.30 pm. Prior notice must be given for this service to be available.

## THE 'ASHES' IN ANGLO-AUSTRALIAN CRICKET

In November 1992 the Birthplace of the Ashes Society was founded. The following note is based on a letter from its President, Mr Jim Foran.

The concept of 'the Ashes' arose in August 1882 when an advertisement mourning the death of English cricket appeared in the *Sporting Times* (2 September 1882) after Australia's first defeat of England in England.

Next summer (1882-3), during the tour of Australia by a team led by the Hon. Ivo Bligh (later 8th Earl of Darnley), Sir William Clarke, then president of the Melbourne Cricket Club, who had just returned from a visit to England on the same ship as the cricketers, entertained the amateurs in the team at his Sunbury mansion, Rupertswood. After a social match there on Christmas Eve, Lady Clarke burned a bail, placed its Ashes in a small cremation urn and presented it with a crude hand-written inscription to the English captain. Bligh seems to have regarded them as a personal souvenir which he kept at his home, but when he died in 1927, his widow gave the urn containing the Ashes to the Marylebone Cricket Club. Shortly afterwards, she spoke of their origin at Rupertswood at a luncheon given to W.M. Woodfull's team on their tour of England in 1930. The urn and its contents have of course since remained at Lord's.

The evidence for the visit to Rupertswood consists of photographs taken on the occasion, diaries and the silver tray which the visitors presented to the Clarkes on the occasion and the testimony of workmen at Rupertswood reported by Michael Clarke, a grandson of Sir William and author of *Big Clarke*, a biography of Sir William's father, W.J.T. Clarke.

Apparently some ladies thought the Ashes needed closer confinement than a mere urn, so when the English team was in Sydney for the third test they sent Bligh a bag for them to be kept in. Replying to the donor, Mrs Annie Fletcher, on 15 February 1883, Bligh wrote,

Many thanks for the pretty little bag you have kindly sent me. The ashes shall be consigned to it forthwith and always kept there in memory of the great match.

It seems clear from this that the Ashes existed before the bag (and not vice versa, as has been claimed), and likewise that they came into existence that summer. It is also clear that the plaque at the reception desk at the Hilton Hotel in East Melbourne, now on the site of the Clarkes' former mansion, 'Cliveden', is unjustified in saying that the Ashes originated there - for in February 1883 the building of 'Cliveden' had not begun.