

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. 7 No. 10

OCTOBER 1991

WELCOME TO THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

This month we present a further extract (the second last) from Emily Walker's diary and a copy of a letter written by member Perc Mooney in reply to a query about the Morwell Players. Perc has been guest speaker at our meetings on two occasions and we have a recording of his latest address which is available for borrowing.

At our September meeting, John Pearson, Lecturer in Education at Monash Gippsland, gave a most interesting and informative talk on his research into enlistments from Morwell Shire during World War 1 - a report appears in this newsletter

Also inside is the programme for the 1991 Gippsland History Conference entitled 'Perceptions of the Landscape'. It will be held at Monash Gippsland on Saturday October 26 and participants are assured of a most enjoyable and worthwhile day.

Members were delighted to receive a beautifully framed enlargement of the photograph of the Firmin Family of Yinnar (see p.12, Glimpses of Our Past) presented to the Society by Ms Susan Hunt of Churchill Hotel-Motel. Ms Hunt has used a number of photographs from the Society's collection in the decor of the hotel and the enlargement is a token of her appreciation for the help of our curator of photographs, Eric Lubcke. We look forward to holding our final meeting for 1991 at the Churchill Hotel motel where we will be able to view the familiar photos in their new setting.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY OCTOBER 15 - 7.30 pm - See you there!

THE MORWELL PLAYERS

(Copy of a letter written by Perc Mooney to Mr.F.Farr)

December 1990

Dear Frank and Mrs. Farr,

I received your letter addressed to Mr.Legg, Historian, via the Morwell historical Society, of which Jean and I are members. Pleased to hear that you are interested in the history of the Morwell players.

Unfortunately we came to an untimely end at the latter end of 1985 after performing, entertaining and producing good quality shows for approximately 38 years continuously. We reached a very high standard in production, acting and producing shows, pantomimes and sketches, often original material written by Players members, namely Merle Martin, Joyce Sheridan and Val Wilson.

We entered in every Dance-Theatre competition against all comers around the state of Victoria, competing against amateurs and semi-professionals in and around the suburbs of Melbourne.

We had many successes, namely Moomba 1962, V.D.L. Regional Competitions numerous times and the B.H.P. Drama Award - just a few of the trophies we won during our long run before the public eye, clocking up many miles of travel across Victoria, including Mildura, Ballarat and Melbourne suburbs, and of course, all this was done outside normal working hours.

When the Morwell Historical Society obtains a secure building of their own to hold our hard-earned awards, I will hand them over to the Historical Society for posterity. I have on two occasions appeared as guest speaker with the Society, once on record.

In the good years we had about 40 members to cast a show from and approximately 64 subscribi**ng** members.

Some of the members became professionals, namely Kaye Stephenson (nee Kellow), Jim White (ex Sharps), Frank Raggart(ex L.Valley Health Services), Raymond Creevey (ex plumber) still acting I presume.

We developed some brilliant producers, namely Doll Rust, who took us to fame many times and Mrs.Phil Crook who has since passed to the big stage in the sky - a sad loss to theatre. Also Vicki Simmons, Joy Sheridan and Sheila Moody guided us to the award -winning lists and last, but not least, Val Wilson, Perc Mooney, Raymond Creevey and probably others I have forgotten. Val Wilson had the ability and the opportunity to turn professional but wouldn't leave home or Morwell.

Our seasons were mainly three to five night stands, approximately four or five times a year. We always played in Morwell first and would repeat if requested, mainly for charity, before travelling to local districts such as Thorpedale, Gormandale, Mirboo North to mention a few.

Muriel Bickton (Bath) one of our staunchest members and critics, passed away early this year.

THE MORWELL PLAYERS (cont).

I did not have the pleasure of meeting Ruth Wattenhall as I joined the company for the second production and stayed until the final curtain. Our first production was "Til Further Orders" (as you know) and the final one "The Butterflies Are Free".

The reason we disbanded the company in 1985 was that the present talent of the day was not up to standard and they would not commit themselves to a productions timetable, and we who were left in the company were not prepared to lower the standard of productions or The Players' good name.

We distributed our assets to numerous worthy organisations, giving costumes, kighting, furniture and money (\$9000 in cash) mainly to worthy charities.

Hope this note gives you some insight into the history of The Morwell Players Drama Group and their efforts over the years. As you know, we started with nothing - no money, no books, no future that we could see - only some enthusiasm mixed with hard work, determination, energy, long and tiring hours, especially when we had to put up complete and sometimes complicated sets after the pictures in the local town hall had finished, at about 11 pm!

On behalf of the Morwell Players of the past and the living, I thank you for your interest. I will give a copy of this reply to your request to the Morwell Historical Society and Mr. Legg the historian.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Perc Mooney.

SUBS DUE NOW

If a cross appears in this box we have no record of having received your membership subscription for 1991/1992. Subs can be paid to Treasurer, Dorothy Taylor, 17 Denise St. Morwell or to Secretary, Elsie McMaster, 2 Harold St. Morwell

Cost of membership is \$7.00 single , \$10.00 couple or famil

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MORWELL DISTRICT ENLISTMENTS IN WORLD WAR 1.

At our September meeting, we were pleased to have as our guest Mr. John Pearson, Lecturer in Education at Monash University College Gippsland.

John has been conducting research into the background of the men and women from Morwell district who enlisted in World War 1 and plans to publish a book on the subject within the next few months.

His interest in World War 1 enlistments was aroused by the names on the Yinnar War Memorial, which caught his attention while he was waiting to pick up his daughter from basketball practice. He was surprised at the large number of enlistments from such a small town and became interested in the reasons and circumstances surrounding those enlistments. This led him to look at enlistments from the wider district and he has now discovered 361 men and 4 women who enlisted from the Shire of Morwell. (John has included Darlimurla in his research because, although it is outside the Shire boundary, it had strong affiliations with Boolarra).

To find information, John used a number of sources. The first consisted of those available from the National War Memorial. These were:

- 1) Embarkation Rolls, containing details of personnel at the time of their embarkation for overseas service.
- 2) Nominal Rolls compiled at the end of the War, and
- 3) Roll of Honour Circulars, which contained details, supplied by relatives after the War, of servicemen who had died.

(Examples of these three sources are shown on page 6/7)

The second source of information was the Memorial Books published after the War by a number of companies and organisations such as the Education Department, which contained details of members who had served. (See page 6 Nos. 4 and 5).

The third source used by John in his investigations consisted of local Honour Boards, reports in the local papers (in particular the Morwell 'Advertiser') and personal effects (eg letters and diaries) of service personnel, made available by relatives.

From these sources, John has built up as complete a picture as possible of the people who enlisted from the Shire.

Enlistments from this district seem to have followed the general pattern throughout Australia, with large numbers of men joining up following the big recruiting campaigns in which members of Parliament and service personnel toured the country inspiring the young men with patriotic fervour. At the beginning of the War there was a large number of enlistments with a peak in early 1915; numbers dropped, then there was another rush in 1916 (following another recruitment drive) but, by the end of 1916 there were very few enlistments as most of the eligible males were already serving overseas. (John estimates that about 52% of the eligible males from Morwell Shire had enlisted by the end of 1916, compared with a national figure of 38%)

John expressed surprise that the enlistments from the Morwell area followed the national trends so closely - one would have thought that the peaks might occur after harvest or when the cows were dry in winter, but these considerations do not seem to have weighed greatly with the young men from the farms.

The age of the men on enlistment varied greatly; some were quite young (18 or even less) but many were in their late 20s or early 30s and the oldest from this area was 44. Men in the Pioneer and Remount Units tended to be older on average than those in other units, perhaps because they were less likely to be in combatant situations.

Of those who served overseas, about 20% died of wounds or disease, and of those who returned, many were badly affected by their injuries and experiences.

Four nurses from the Shire served overseas. They were Staff Nurses Agnes Nadenbousch, Bessie Waldon, Annie Thompson and Alice Elliott.

When the War ended, there was much discussion as to the most suitable way of honouring those who had served. Should there be monuments, as in Yinnar and Morwell, and, if so, whose names should appear on them - all those who had enlisted or only those who had died? Should the memorials be more practical? The suggestion of a rest room for returned men in Morwell was thought to be too expensive, but the citizens of Boolarra set up a recreation reserve with memorial gates honouring those who had died overseas.

Should the commemorations take the form of a public monument or a private acknowledgement of some type? Many local communities within the Shire presented their returned servicemen with individual medals eg Yinnar, Boolarra, Jumbuk. It was estimated that the cost of providing individual medals for the returned men of Morwell riding would be around £400 - about the same as the cost of erecting a public monument, so the latter was decided upon. Yinnar residents, however, erected an impressive monument, containing around 63 names, and gave individual medals as well. Rifle Clubs gave medals to members who had served and some districts such as Hazelwood North presented their returned men with handsome certificates as well as medals.

There were numerous Honour boards erected in schools, churches and public halls. Sadly, a number of these can no longer be found. Some were destroyed in fires, others have simply disappeared, perhaps put away when the building was painted. The Hazelwood South school honour board which had disappeared, was recently discovered hanging behind the honour board in the Hazelwood South Hall.

John's research is continuing and he would be most happy to have any information which might add to what he already has, in particular any information concerning the "missing" Honour boards. He would also like the opportunity to photograph any of the medals and certificates presented by local communities to their returned servicemen. He can be contacted through this Society or at Monash gippsland.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE--NOMINAL ROLL--continued.

Serial No.	Name	Age	Trade or Calling	Married or Single	Address at Date of Enlistment	Religion	Date of Enlistment	Service Description		Other Description		Daily Rate
								Rate	Pay	Rate	Pay	
31	BIGNELL, Marion Theresa	21		S.	Geelong, Victoria	C. of E.	28.12.16	10 4	5 0	5 0	5 4	
32	MORROW, Mary	22		S.	Bullara, Victoria	C. of E.		10 4	1 6	8 10	8 10	
33	MCCARTHY, Elsie May	23		S.	Traralgon, Victoria	R.C.		10 4	3 0	7 4	7 4	
34	JACKSON, Emily	24		S.	East Malvern, Victoria	B. Army		10 4	4 6	5 10	5 10	
35	LINES, Nellie Elizabeth	25		S.		Bapt.		10 4	5 0	5 4	5 4	
36	LARKAN, Gladys Marie	26		S.	Bullara, Victoria	C. of E.		10 4	3 6	6 10	6 10	
37	WELLARD, Emeline Louisa	27		S.	Forth, Tasmania	Meth.	19.12.16	7 10	3 0	5 10	5 10	
38	SKIDMORE, Jean Gillian	28		S.	Harristown, N.S.W.	Pres.		7 10	3 0	5 10	5 10	
39	HEZERV, Kathleen May	29		S.	Melbourne, Victoria	R.C.		7 10	3 0	5 10	5 10	
40	DORKE, Elsie Agnes	30		S.	Melbourne, Victoria	R.C.		7 10	3 6	5 4	5 4	
41	HELL, Ella	31		M.	Stray Hill, Victoria	C. of E.	28.12.16	7 10	3 6	5 4	5 4	
42	MORRISON, Christina Eliza	32		S.	Soredale, Victoria	C. of E.		7 10	3 0	5 10	5 10	
43	BOOKER, Constance Jessie	33		S.	East Melbourne, Victoria	C. of E.		7 10	3 6	5 4	5 4	
44	STEWART, Lily	34		S.	Ararat, Victoria	Pres.		7 10	3 6	5 1	5 1	
45	SEYMOUR, Mary	35		S.	Bullara, Victoria	Meth.		7 10	3 6	5 4	5 4	
46	FURNISS, Dorothea	36		S.	Mafra, Victoria	Cong.		7 10	4 4	3 4	3 4	
47	BISHOP, Gladys Patricia	37		S.	Kyneton, Victoria	C. of E.		7 10	3 6	5 4	5 4	
48	MARUM, Isabel	38		S.	Kerangah, and Wedge, Victoria	R.C.		7 10	2 0	5 10	5 10	
49	ROGERS, Alice	39		S.	East Malvern, Victoria	C. of E.		7 10	2 0	5 10	5 10	
50	O'HANLON, Elizabeth Frances	40		S.	St. Kilda, Victoria	R.C.		7 10	3 0	5 10	5 10	
51	CANNON, Lillian	41		S.	Olney, Victoria	Pres.		7 10	3 0	4 10	4 10	
52	BALLARD, Rosalind Eva	42		S.	Whitmore, Victoria	C. of E.		7 10	3 0	4 10	4 10	
53	CARPENTER, Mary Campbell	43		S.	Dandenong, Victoria	Pres.		7 10	3 0	4 10	4 10	
54	NADENBOUSCH, Agnes Josephine	44		S.	Morwell, O'Connell, Victoria	Pres.		7 10	3 0	4 10	4 10	
55	McALISTER, Charlotte Joan	45		S.	Braeswick, Victoria			7 10	3 0	4 10	4 10	
56	KEANE, Nellie Alicia	46		S.	Bullara, Victoria			7 10	3 0	4 10	4 10	
57	WATERSTON, Margaret	47		S.	Bullara, Victoria			7 10	3 0	4 10	4 10	
58	CLEMENTS, ...	48		S.	Bullara, Victoria			7 10	3 0	4 10	4 10	

NURSES--continued.

Mother, Mrs. M. A. Bignell, 224 Barker's road, Geelong, Victoria	C. of E.
Mother, W. C. Morrow, Havelock street, Bullara, Victoria	C. of E.
Mother, Mrs. N. McCarthy, "Duners," Loch Park, Traralgon, Victoria	R.C.
Father, J. Jackson, Toorongs-road, East Malvern, Victoria	B. Army
Mother, Mrs. C. Lines, Waiti, Nelson, New Zealand	Bapt.
Aunt, Mrs. T. P. Wilson, Start-street, Bullara, Victoria	C. of E.
Father, J. Willard, Forth, Tasmania	Meth.
Father, W. Edinson, West Wyalong, N.S.W.	Pres.
Mother, Mrs. N. Heery, Weld-street, Rosedale, Tasmania	R.C.
Father, F. Blake, 15 Moolton-crescent, St. Kilda, Victoria	R.C.
Sister, Mrs. C. B. Church, 60 Canterbury road, Barry Hills, Victoria	C. of E.
Mother, Mrs. E. Morrison, Lauraville, Queensland, Victoria	C. of E.
Mother, Mrs. Y. Brooks, 144 Clarence-street, East Melbourne, Victoria	C. of E.
Father, C. Stewart, Fair View, Ballyroonan, Ararat, Victoria	Pres.
Father, H. Beaumont, 108 Howard-street, Bullara, Victoria	Meth.
Sister, Mrs. W. L. Williams, Mafra, Victoria	Cong.
Father, Mrs. Archdeacon Bishop, The Rectory, Kyneton, Victoria	C. of E.
Mother, Mrs. P. Moran, Kerangah, and Wedge, Victoria	R.C.
Mother, Mrs. H. Wilson, "Weroona," Paston-street, East Malvern, Victoria	C. of E.
Mother, Mrs. M. A. O'Sullivan, "Riverside," 16 Lindsay-street, St. Kilda, Victoria	R.C.
Father, J. H. Cannon, Keat Orchard, Red Hill, Queensland	Pres.
Mother, Mrs. C. Ballard, Post Office, Whittlesea, Victoria	C. of E.
Father, J. Carpenter, Hamming-street, Dandenong, Victoria	Pres.
Father, A. Nadenbousch, Morwell, O'Connell, Victoria	Pres.
Father, W. McAlister, 11 Charles-street, Braeswick, Victoria	Pres.

Embarkation Roll (AWM8). Note the entry for Nurse Agnes Nadenbousch who left Melbourne on the R.M.S. "Mooltan" on 26 December 1916.

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FIRMIN. -- Parents: Alfred and Priscilla Firmin, Morwell. Sons enlisted: G. W. Firmin, Pte., No. 1147 "B" Coy., 8th Batt.; b. at Morwell, June 15, 1891; educ. Hazelwood; farmer; enl. Traralgon, Sept. 28, 1914. War service: Egypt; Gallipoli (wounded, May, 1915; inv. to England). France (Scouts).--C. Firmin, Pte., No. 1141. "B" Coy., 8th Batt.; b. at Hazelwood, near Morwell, June 17, 1896; educ. N. Hazelwood; farmer; enl. Traralgon, Sept. 28, 1914. War service: Egypt (gas son duty); dis. med. unit, April, 1916.



Geo. W. Firmin. Chas. F. Firmin.

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Gunner JAMES W. EDMONDSON, son of Mr. R. Edmondson, of Blackburn, enlisted on the 14th of April, 1916, and embarked with the 27th Reinforcements to the Field Artillery on the transport *Port Sydney* on the 9th of November, 1917. After training in England for some time, he proceeded to France, and was taken on the strength of the 2nd Divisional Ammunition Column in August, 1918, and later on the 4th Field Artillery Brigade. He was present with his unit during the fighting on the Somme from August onwards. He returned to Australia on the transport *Suffolk* on the 5th of June, 1919, and was discharged on the 28th of the same month. Prior to enlisting, he was teaching at School No. 3057, Jeeralang.



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Particulars Required for the Roll of Honour of Australia in the Memorial War Museum.

1. Name (in full) of fallen Soldier *Leslie Stephen Boardman*
2. Unit and Number (if known) *216th Machine Gun Coy 4437.*
3. With what Town or District in Australia was he affiliated (under which name he ought to come in the Memorial Roll) *Geelong Victoria*
4. What was his birthplace *Stargis Victoria*
5. Date of Death *26/11/17.*
6. Place where killed or Wounded *Japricecourt France.*

Particulars Required for the Nation's Histories.

1. What was his Calling *Stammer*
2. Age at time of Death *19 years*
3. What was his School *Geelong State School.*
4. What was his other Training
5. If known in Victoria, Vicinity, at what age did he come to Australia
6. Had he ever served in any Military or Naval Force before Enlisting in the A.I.F. (Please state particulars)
7. Any other biographical details likely to be of interest to the Historians of the A.I.F. or of his Regiment

Was he connected with any other Member of the A.I.F. who had a ~~relationship~~ relationship? *Yes*
 Relationship: *brother to the James Ethel 5th Division*

Name and Address of the Parent or other person giving this information -
 Name *Mr E. Boardman*
 Relationship to Soldier *Uncle*
 Address *Geelong Victoria*
 Name *J. Boardman*
 Address *Stonewell (Vic)*

The Roll of Honour Circular for Private Leslie Boardman completed by his aunt at Geelong. These were used to compile the Roll of Honour Cards, the basis for the Hall of Remembrance at the Australian War Memorial.
Therese

Nominal list (at end of war)

58609	Pte.	McKENZIE	Nathaniel James	55th. Battalion	13-3-16.	R.T.A.	8-7-19.
2940	Pte.	McKENZIE	Neil Kenneth	52nd. Battalion	11-9-16.	R.T.A.	21-12-17. - D
2738	Pte.	McKENZIE	Norman Leslie	46th. Battalion	15-8-16.	R.T.A.	2-6-19.
1894	Pte.	McKENZIE	Oswald	57th. Battalion	22-2-16.	R.T.A.	15-4-18.
1140	Pte.	McKENZIE	Owen Alexander	31st. Battalion	28-6-15.	D.O.W.	20-7-16.
3572	Pte.	McKENZIE	Oswald Percival	5th. M.G.Bn.	16-7-15.	R.T.A.	23-3-19.
1678	L/Cpl.	McKENZIE	paul	38th. Battalion	11-4-16.	R.T.A.	21-3-19.
6862	Pte.	McKENZIE	Percy M M	22nd. Battalion	12-2-17.	K.I.A.	19-5-18.
1971	Spr.	McKENZIE	Peter	5th. A.L.Rwy.	15-2-15.	R.T.A.	5-3-19.
34635	Bdr.	McKENZIE	Peter	4th. F.A.D.	14-10-16.	R.T.A.	25-3-19.
6349	Pte.	McKENZIE	Percy George	38th. Battalion	23-6-16.	K.I.A.	4-10-17.
1109	Pte.	McKENZIE	Patrick John	13th. L.R.	8-1-15.	R.T.A.	11-5-19.
14519	Bgt.	McKENZIE	Percival Stewart	1st. A.W.Sig.Sqd.	17-2-16.	R.T.A.	22-3-19.
989	Cpl.	McKENZIE	Robert	4th. Battalion	4-9-14	K.I.A.	6-8-15.
1693	Pte.	McKENZIE	Robert	52nd. Battalion	7-1-16.	R.T.A.	19-10-17.
3577	Pte.	McKENZIE	Robert	55th. Battalion	6-9-15.	R.T.A.	11-1-18.
5062	Pte.	McKENZIE	Robert	24th. Battalion	9-2-16.	R.T.A.	20-12-17.
	Sister	McKENZIE	Rose Ann	A.A.N.S	6-12-16.	R.T.A.	22-3-19.
596	Dvr.	McKENZIE	Robert Bruce	2nd. Pioneers	26-5-15.	R.T.A.	6-9-19.
2381	Gnr	McKENZIE	Robert Burns	5th. Div. T.M. Bde.	20-4-17.	R.T.A.	28-3-19.
6953	Pte.	McKENZIE	Richard Clyde	21st. Battalion	29-3-16.	R.T.A.	31-10-17.
17465	Spr.	McKENZIE	Robert Cyril	3rd. Div. Sig. Co.	21-9-16.	R.T.A.	12-6-19.
10315	L/Cpl.	McKENZIE	Richard Francis	10th. Fld. Co. Eng.	15-3-16.	R.T.A.	25-3-19.
1362	L/Cpl.	McKENZIE	Roderick George	39th. Battalion	7-4-16.	D.O.W.	1-2-17.
2362	Pte.	McKENZIE	Robert Herbert	40th. Battalion	18-8-16.	R.T.A.	6-9-19.
141	Pte.	McKENZIE	Robert James	4th. A.L. Regt.	24-8-14.	R.T.A.	8-5-16.
4668	Pte.	McKENZIE	Robert James	4th. L.H. Regt.	6-8-17.	R.T.A.	28-1-19.
2177	Pte.	McKENZIE	Robert Malcolm	38th. Battalion	25-3-16.	R.T.A.	12-4-19.
1916	Pte.	McKENZIE	Robert Patterson	13th. L.H. Regt.	3-8-15.	R.T.A.	20-5-19.
2913b	Pte.	McKENZIE	Rupert Stuart	9th. Battalion	16-5-16	R.T.A.	16-3-18.
1331	Sgt.	McKENZIE	Robert Taylor	A.V.C.	18-8-17.		
	Lt.	McKENZIE	Ray, Valentine.	16th. Battalion		R.T.A.	22-7-17.
	Lt.	McKENZIE	Robert William "MC"	A.S.C. AFC	19-8-14.	R.T.A.	16-3-19.
5614	Pte.	McKENZIE	Robert William	27th. Battalion	13-6-16.	R.T.A.	16-1-19.
	2/Lt.	McKENZIE	Robert McNeil.	9th. Battalion	18-3-14.	D.O.W.	21-9-17.
3835	Pte.	McKENZIE	Robert William	29th. Battalion	1-7-16.	R.T.A.	16-6-19.
2940	Pte.	McKENZIE	Richard George	12th. Battalion	22-7-15.	D.O.W.	8-4-17.
2192	Pte.	McKENZIE	Samuel	23rd. Battalion	6-7-15.	R.T.A.	13-4-19.

CENTRE FOR GIPPSLAND STUDIES

PERCEPTIONS OF THE LANDSCAPE

Saturday 26 October

Room 1N207

**Monash University College Gippsland
Churchill (051) 226356**

9.30 - 10.00	Registration	
10.00 - 10.15	Welcome	
10.15 - 11.10	Ann Galbally	'The Search for Sublimity: Nineteenth Century Artists in Gippsland'
11.10 - 11.30	Morning Tea	
11.30 - 12.20	Linden Gillbank	'Early Botanical Footprints Across Gippsland: Ferdinand Mueller's Mid Nineteenth Century Epic Expeditions'
12.20 - 12.40	Glenda Johnson	'A Peep into Gippsland: the Sketchbooks of Mary Ellen Kenny'
12.40 - 1.40	Lunch	
1.40 - 2.10	Patrick Morgan	'Nature writers in Gippsland'
2.10 - 2.40	Terri Allen	'Gifted with Orchid Eyes: Else Rossiter, Local Naturalist'
2.40 - 3.10	Molly Palmer	'The World Around Them in the 1930s: Children and Nature Study'
3.10 - 3.30	Afternoon Tea	
3.30 - 4.15	Ian Lunt	'Gippsland's Original Grasslands and Woodlands'

Cost: \$10.00

Note: Morning and afternoon tea are provided but please bring your own lunch.

34 This offer... Haha, another passenger bought a pair of ibex, or antelope horns... They are coalid for the first time after leaving England.

Some rails were fastened across the deck, so that the coal-dust might be kept as much as possible from blackening the whole of the steamer, & the companions were fastened down, excepting the first class & stowage. The coal-barge, or barges, were alongside by 7 or 8 o'clock, also the men who were going to carry the sacks of coal aboard. All these men's "smocks" were very short, only to the knees, they

were no other farmers that we could see, excepting a turban. How they managed to run so swiftly up & down the planks, between the steamer & the barge, & with their loads on their backs, I do not know, & yet no accident occurred that we are aware of! It was so stifling below that for a while we went to sleep on deck, but about 12 o'clock when the coaling was over, we made a move down below to our berths, & made the best of the heat in trying to get a little rest after our tiring day. An almost futile attempt! 6 o'clock next

36 day, the 14th, found us moving very slowly down the canal at the rate of 5 knots an hour. On both sides of the canal we can see little but sand, sand; here & there a few cactus plants, nothing else seems to thrive in the desert. About a dozen Bedouins, a little while ago, ^{passed} that fierce looking men they are. It is very, very hot on deck, although the awning is up; & we are obliged to stay down below in the middle of the day. We are all very tired, it is such a comfort to get a little ice now & then. All the port-holes are open & the big doors in the Saloon, we need all the air we can have - it is almost stifling. Dear Mother feels almost over-

37 done with the heat & I wish it was a little cooler weather. One of the officers (2nd), took some of the passengers up on "the bridge" this evening after we had stopped for the night. It was beautifully cool, in comparison to the deck below, & there was a faint breeze which was delightful after the stillness of the day. We can understand now, how tired people must get when they are becalmed in the Tropics. It must be awful being in this intense heat next after bread. Reached Suva on 11/Jan 15th, about 10 o'clock a.m. Few passengers went ashore; they were ^{much} disappointed. Some went for a sail in the after-

-noon & brought back a little coal.

Not many boats came alongside as we did not go very near the town of Suva. I should say the coast Suva being about 1 ml. from the shore I think.

A great many sea-birds hovering round us. Very bare, rocky scenery, not at all pretty.

Some of the passengers are smoking, almost the whole day.

It is simply disgusting. We all feel very lazy with the intense heat. Not a very large mail this time, I hope we have letters at Aden. Left Suva at 8 o'clock in the evening. Saw some Steamers homeward bound from the east of Trav.

40 Mr Noble, the 2nd engineer, took Oapa & our three boys into the engine-room, & then into the Refrigerator, where it was freezing they said, so I suppose we shall have some ice today at dinner.

May 17th. A great many jelly fish in the sea, in the day they look like pieces of gelatine with pink in the middle, & at night like phosphorows. Saw some flying-fish & dolphins also some sharks. On Sunday.

May 18th, the service was held on deck & was attended by some of the sailors & stewards. The Rev. Martin Lewis preached.

Very hot weather the whole of May 19th.
On May 20th We reached Aden.

Those on board, chiefly sick & disabled soldiers, cheered lustily in hearty English fashion, & were answered by us. Would that we could go back too!

The tiny baby whom I mentioned as I mentioned as coming on board with its father & mother at Naples, being very poorly, died today. May 16th very early this morning, & is to be buried about the middle of the day.

The poor mother is very much cut up, but the father does not seem to care - in fact he made the remark that he did not feel sorry when anyone died - a sentiment he would have done better to keep private.

our last stopping-place before 41 Adelaide. All hatches, port-holes & ventilation, were fastened down to keep the coal-dust & thievs out. While we were coaling, for the Adenese are fine hands for appropriating what does not belong to them.

We stayed up on deck till about 2 o'clock am. on the 21st, when all the port-holes were opened as we had just turned our backs on Aden. One of the black fellows who was carrying coal last night, was found stowed away this morning. He says he fell on deck & so was taken along with us.

To whichever way it was, the sailors have a great dislike to him, & would have no objection.