



The Wandong History Group Inc. Quarterly Newsletter FREE with your What 's News

“WHAT'S OLD”

Issue 9—March 2019

Email: wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com

FROM THE EDITOR

Well here we are into the third month of 2019 already, and as usual its been a busy start to the year.

We have attended the Australia Day event and congratulate the recipients of the community awards, Gwen McIntosh, Christine Gordon and Clyde Riley all worthy winners. Unfortunately Gwen has suffered health issues recently and we wish her all the best and are thinking of her and the family.

We were very pleased to have our event “Walk Through the Wars” chosen as the Mitchell Shire Council, event of the year. This event was a huge commitment from the group and to be recognised for it was very gratifying.

This year we look forward to continuing with our work in looking after our heritage, and we will soon start planning our activities for 2019. Don't forget the Wandong reunion at the Australiana this month, all are welcome, details on back page.

The History group played a large role in the ten year anniversary of the Black Saturday fires with a photo display and we prepared 50 emergency kits which were given away. The kits contained items such as transistor radio, first aid kit, document wallets, pet bowls torches and many other items. We believe these to be the first step in preparing a kit and that those lucky enough to receive one should add their own personal items to it. We would like to thank John Georgy from the Wandong pharmacy for donating the 1st aid kits and K & G Labels of Whittlesea who made the labels for the kits free of charge. These generous donations enabled us to increase the value of the kits to over \$100 each. We are now planning the year ahead, the next event we will be involved in is ANZAC Day and we look forward to seeing you all there.

Editor: Karen Christensen

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR



Each issue we talk to a local identity, this edition it's Gwen McIntosh, recipient of the 2019 Wandong Australia Day Award.

When did you come to Wandong Gwen?

Mum, Dad and my siblings Ron, Bev and Ken, moved to

Wandong in 1949. we moved into Gordon Shiels home, in Wandong Avenue one of the homes built by Robert Affleck Robertson, for the Australian Seasoned Timber Company Secretary.

What was School like at Wandong then?

We played the usual games Charley over the Water and hop scotch, shoe nugget tins filled with sand were used for our taws. School sports were played and Christmas concerts at the hall. A funny incident occurred while at school that makes me laugh to this day, it had been snowing and teacher Mr Kettle had parked his car near the school building, from inside we heard this unholy bang on racing out we had discovered Mr Kettles car had slid in the sludge and taken out the school steps. Because of his name when he became cross and grumpy, we'd joke and say Kettle's on the boil again. At that time school only went to grade six, so the older students like Jean Faulks and Valerie Kelly did their secondary schooling by correspondence. I finished my schooling at Seymour, it was a long day, the bus left the Wandong store at 7.30 in the morning and returned home 5.30 at night. After school I remained home for a while keeping house and looking after the family. I started working at the clothing factory in Broadford as a machinist using a BL Machine. I eventually got my car licence so I was able to drive to work. Local resident Lottie Campbell came with me for my drivers test as she did with lots of other people in the town and that continued with her for many years to come.

What was the entertainment in Wandong like then?

Euchre parties and the occasional dance was held at the hall. I belonged to a youth group that played table tennis in the supper room at the hall. That's where I met Bob.

When did you marry Bob?

I married Bob in 1966. He worked for the Forest Commission and had purchased a home in Dry Creek Crescent, previously owned by Lyall and Kath Christensen. This home once belonged to Syd Harper. Our three children Annette, Andrew and Cheryl were born while we lived there. All attended Wandong State School and Broadford for their secondary education. During their school years I was on the mothers club.

Your loyal commitment to the Wandong Tennis Club earned you a Life Membership and a court named after you, from experience I know you were an excellent tennis player with a magic serve and forehand.

I loved playing tennis and have played most of my life with other towns until Wandong formed a club. I served on the committee all those years as well.

Tragedy struck your family Gwen.

January 1980, Cheryl required a routine operation that went terribly wrong, resulting in her being wheelchair dependant for life. We eventually ended up selling the family home and built a new accessible and modified home in Bonnie View Court. If someone had told me years ago I'd be living on Angus McDonald's farm I wouldn't of believed them.

You have lived in Wandong the majority of your life, what stands out the most for you?

"Progress" so much as changed in our once little town But I'm very happy living here. As for the town today its getting way too big. I've retired from volunteering now so a lot of things don't affect me.

You have been a valuable member of the History Group since it began in 2012 sharing your knowledge and wisdom of the history that once was at Wandong and Heathcote Junction. Thank you for your time Gwen and Congratulations on receiving the Australia Day Award.

This edition we thought it would be good to look at the history of one of our near neighbours– Clonbinane.

Clonbinane is located 55 kilometres (34 miles) north of the Melbourne. Geographically, it lies east of the Hume Freeway but now lacks a distinctive township precinct. According to Crown Land records of 1856, the pastoral region was part of the Western Port District. At the 2011 census, Clonbinane had a population of 381

The name Clonbinane suggests a marriage of two surnames, Clon and Binane. The Binane part may have found its origins in Welsh, Irish or Scottish clans' surnames, deriving from the Latin "Benedictus". It is suggested that the Binane part of the name came from the galectisation of Benedictus and that the Clon part may have its origins in early Scottish history. It is not clear how the name came about. During the development of the Australian colonies, the Clonbinane area was part of the Colony of New South Wales between 1788 and 1851 when, on 1 July 1851, Victoria was separated from New South Wales. An early mention of the name Clonbinane appeared in The Argus on 29 September 1848 in relation to Claims to Leases of Crown Land. At that time, a 10,400-hectare (25,600-acre)-run Clonbinane was cited as a claim by Michael Heffernan. The property was bound by 8 kilometres (5 mi) along Reedy Creek to the north, Mt Whitehead 2.4 kilometres (1.5 mi) to the west, up to the ranges east and 4.8 kilometres (3 mi) off Kirk and Harlin to the south with a potential for 600 head of cattle.

Gold mining commenced in the Clonbinane area around 1870 and lasted until around 1880. There was a cyanide processing plant on the Wandong-Kilmore Rd which served the local gold mines. When the gold appeared to run out, the area was extensively logged and supported saw milling



Clonbinane Post Office



Clonbinane State School No 1653

Clonbinane Post Office opened on 23 January 1892 and closed on 1 July 1895, reopening again 5 October 1897 and closing 30 April 1956. According to National Archives of Australia, it was determined in 1964 that, at the time of its existence in 1902, the Clonbinane Post Office was domiciled at the Clonbinane Park homestead. According to the Victorian Postal Guide of March 1895, mail coming from Melbourne had to be posted by 0530 hours to reach Clonbinane Post Office by 1330 hours on the same day, allowing for sorting and logistics. At Clonbinane, mail had to be lodged by 0900 hours to reach Melbourne's GPO by 1525 hours. Those time-frames suggest that mail was routinely carried by train during the period, probably between Melbourne and Wandong. The Clonbinane post office building burnt down in the Black Saturday fires on 7 February 2009. It was a single room weatherboard shed with a corrugated iron roof and was on the property known as Walhaven on Government Road which, along with the original Clonbinane Park homestead, was destroyed in the fires. In its gold mining heyday, the village had about 20 houses and a school. Clonbinane shares a postcode with neighbouring towns Broadford, Flowerdale, Hazeldene, Reedy Creek, Strath Creek, Sugarloaf Creek, Sunday Creek, Tyaak and Waterford Park.

In July 2007, a Rockwell Commander 500S aircraft, en-route to Shepparton from Essendon Airport, broke up in-flight approximately 1.5 km SSW of the Equine Centre, crashing in a heavily timbered mountain range. The aircraft was carrying the aircraft's owner and a pilot on an aircraft recovery mission when it encountered severe turbulence; both sustained fatal injuries

"Clonbinane Park" was built for M. K. McKenzie around 1885 located approximately 250 metres off the Clonbinane Road). Crown land licence records from 1856 suggested two large pastoral properties (runs) of around 10,400 hectares (25,600 acres) were operated by the McKenzie and McDonald families at Clonbinane and Reedy Creek. According to The Argus of 27 January 1866 John McRae McKenzie was reported as being of Clonbinane and Tallarook Stations when on 25 January 1866 he married Emily Anne Cairnes, eldest daughter of Henry Cairnes of Dublin, Ireland. John McDonald was reported in the records to have been assessed for 4,600 sheep, 20 cattle and 8 horses. "Clonbinane Park" was in 1922 a property of 779 hectares with a 490-hectare grating area with excellent potential for cattle grazing and wool production. "Clonbinane Station" appears to have been a much larger property with a sales notice in The Argus of 4 July 1878 citing 32,000 hectares. The old homestead at Clonbinane Park was destroyed by the Black Saturday bushfires in 2009.



Clonbinane Park

Did you know?

That Arkells Lane was originally called Dows Lane after the Dau family that lived on the property "Heather Farm". The lane was renamed by Frederick George Arkell who established the first store and suggested the town be named Wandong. Perhaps he thought Wandong was to become a Ghost town.

History Matters

In this column we will try to keep abreast of the things that affect our town and its historical links.

The Wandong History Group's charter is to protect and preserve the history of our area. As we are within the Mitchell Shire, we need to be informed of happenings within the shire that may affect us.

Just a reminder that anyone finding artefacts anywhere, it is illegal to remove items from the place they are found. Items should be photographed in place and if possible a GPS location taken. Anyone who is unsure about this can contact us and we can provide assistance.

We are still gathering information on the Derill Mill site, the more we look at the data we have so far, the deeper the mystery of this mill is. We believe that it may be worthy of a heritage listing as the first of the sawmills in the area and will be exploring that this year.

The Wandong reunion is back on again in March at the Australiana. Please book as soon as you can so we can confirm numbers. If you have any old photos or saved memorabilia on Sporting days in Wandong please bring it along.

The group always welcomes new members, we need people who can help with cataloging our items so anyone with a few hours to spare please contact me on the history groups email. On the back of our successful railway display for History Week 2017 we are putting together a book on the rail history of the area. Dave Moran is researching the book and would appreciate any information anyone may be holding.

Contact him on Mob: 0409 164660 or
Email: mountview@ssc.net.au



Holy Communion being delivered at St Michael's Catholic Church.

BOOK SALES

There Was a Soldier—Karen Christensen

(A history of Wandong at War) \$20

From Lightwood Flat to the Forest—Lynne Dore

(A history of our schools) \$20

WANDONG IN PICTURES

Book (1-5) \$7 each or \$25 the set.

Wandong War Memorial

Wandong Seasoning Works

Wandong in Business,

Wandong Timber Mills and Tramlines

Wandong Buildings

**All books available at the Wandong Newsagent or
contact the History Group.**

Donations

The Wandong History Group accepts donations of any Wandong/ Heathcote Junction related historical artefacts. All items will be kept and displayed sharing our past and preserving it for the future generations.

“BACK TO WANDONG” LUNCHEON

Sunday March 24th 2019 - 12.30pm

“Wandong Australiana Restaurant”

Broadhurst Lane Wandong

Guest Speakers: Ron & Lawrie Pickett

Enjoy a yummy smorgasbord luncheon.

Cost: \$34 per head.

RSVP—15th March—Di Vidal

Phone: 57871 314 or Mobile: 0438 811318

2018/2019 COMMITTEE

President:	Karen Christensen
Vice President:	David Moran
Secretary:	Di Vidal
Treasurer:	Sandra Moran
Newsletter:	Karen Christensen & Di Vidal

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