



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

# “WHAT’S OLD”

Issue 4 December 2017

Email: wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com

## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our final edition of “What’s Old for 2017. The year has been an exceptionally busy one for the group, with our History Day on the rail a resounding success. I would like to thank all our members who work so hard to get these days organised, it takes a lot of blood, sweat and tears, to get these projects up and the team put an enormous amount of work into it. We also thank those who continue to support us. Following on from our Rail theme see this editions interview with past station master Maurie Carboon, who kindly took the time to talk to us about being a station master at Heathcote Junction and Wandong.

Planning is well underway for ANZAC Day 2018, this will be our biggest display yet, and we thank the Bendigo Bank for their support. We are still looking for more sponsors for this event as it will be quite costly to present. Please contact the History Group if you would like to be a sponsor. And finally from the group we wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to another busy year in 2018.

**Editor: Karen Christensen**



The City of Melbourne steams through Wandong,  
October, 21st

## **PIONEERS– Frank Hudson**

We are the Old world people,  
Ours were the hearts to dare,  
But our youth is spent, and our backs are bent,  
And the snow is in our hair.  
Back in the early fifties,  
Dim through the mists of years,  
By the bush-grown strand, of a wild, strange land,  
We entered– The Pioneers.  
Our axes rang in the woodlands,  
Where the gaudy bush birds flew,  
And we turned the loam of our new found home,  
Where the eucalyptus grew.  
Housed in a rough log shanty,  
Camped in the leaking tent,  
From sea to view, of the mountains blue,  
Where the eager diggers went.  
We wrought with a will unceasing,  
We moulded and fashioned and planned,  
And we fought with the black, and we blazed the  
track,  
So ye might inherit the land.  
There are your shops and churches,  
Your cities of stucco and smoke,  
And the swift trains fly, where the wild cats cry,  
O’er the sad bush silence broke.  
Take now the fruit of our labour,  
Nourish and guard it with care,  
For our youth is spent, and our backs are bent,  
And the snow is in our hair.

## GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Each issue we will talk to a local identity, this edition it's Maurie Carboon ex Station Master at Heathcote Junction and Wandong

### **What brought you to Heathcote Junction?**

I was working at the signal box at Wallan, when a vacancy came up at the Station, after Allan Young resigned. I applied and got it. My wife Judy and I moved into the Railway house at Heathcote Junction in 1955.

### **How long did you live and work at Heathcote Junction?**

I was there for 10 years until the Heathcote line closed in 1965. during that time my three children Christine, Mark and Kerry were born. Initially there was no power or water at the home so we had 5 water tanks and I would light the tilly lanterns at night. The toilet waste would be buried in the back garden, until a sanitary service was provided. Lyall Christensen got the contract, at times I would give him a hand. I also helped do the census, which was relatively easy as there was only 24 families living in Heathcote Junction. If the line hadn't closed I would still of been there, I loved my job. I got into trouble for letting the people climb the signal poles to take photographs of the trains.

### **So did you move to Wandong after the line closure?**

Yes, the home my in-laws lived in at Heathcote was moved to Wandong, we moved into it while I worked with Ken



Neal. The pulp carting from the bush was very busy at this time and sometimes Ken and I assisted loading the trucks. Milk and bread also came by

train for the Wandong residents. After Wandong I was offered a choice of places to work. I transferred to Broadford and worked there a couple of years. The shifts were very long, and I didn't get to see the kids so I resigned from the railways after 20 years and took up day shift work at the Broadford Paper Mill.

### **What are your fondest memories of your time living here?**

I have many—Knowing families, the Ryans, Christensens, Keaths. My proudest moment was the opening of the new Wandong school. I was Chairman on the school council, during the course of my children attending. I played cricket for Wandong with Jim Rogers the school teacher and other locals, I served on the Wandong Fire Brigade and I joined the Lions Club at Kilmore with Ken Neal. Wandong has certainly gone ahead in leaps and bounds since I left.

**Maurie its been a pleasure hearing about your time living here. You have certainly been very active, not just working on the Railways, but your involvement with the local community and serving on the numerous committees, which you have continued to do all your life. Thanks for your time.**

## RAIL FATALITIES

Following on from our Rail Theme, there were numerous rail fatalities in the early days. Here are a few that happened locally.

### FATAL RAIL ACCIDENT

A terrible railway accident occurred at Wandong on Tuesday evening, by which Mr. A. Brown, yard foreman at the Australian Seasoned Timber works lost his life. Brown was crossing the line when two trains were approaching, and was run over by the 6.30 goods train from Seymour, being fearfully mangled. One leg was torn from the foot to the socket, and the unfortunate man's intestines being scattered on the line, besides other terrible injuries. Constable Wilcox picks up the injured man, who was then alive, as he lived for 2 and a half hours after. The Accident was witnessed by a number of people. Deceased was 38 years of age and a single man. A magisterial enquiry will be held at Wandong this morning.

*Kilmore Free Press, 28th November 1901*

### KILLED ON THE RAILWAY

#### WANDONG. Monday

Another railway fatality occurred here on Saturday night, when a young married man named Thomas Allen McQueen, a quarryman in the employ of the Railway department was killed. Deceased had been in the township during the afternoon and evening and left for his home at the quarries shortly after 11 o'clock, taking the railway line as the shortest route. Nothing more was heard of him till the 9.35 pm up goods train from Seymour came along, when Driver Diston noticed the body of a man lying close to the down-line rails. Pulling up his train he got down, and found the man had apparently been dead an hour or more. Constable Wilcox had the body removed to the hotel. It was surmised that deceased was either sitting or lying close to the down line, and some portion of the passing train had struck him on the back of the head inflicting a deep gash. An inquiry was held before Mr. John Taylor, J.P., this morning, when a verdict of accidentally killed was recorded. Deceased was 28 years of age and leaves a widow and one child.

*The Argus, 21st January 1902*

## Wandong Netball Club

### 1975 & 1976

Wandong first Netball Team began in 1975 competing in the Kilmore, Broadford Association (KBNA) It was very challenging time for our coach Margaret, as most of us had never played Netball before. We played every Saturday morning and trained Thursday nights after school. Our uniform was a bottle green skirt with the original "yellow" "Wandong Country Music Festival" T Shirt.

The club consisted of two teams, Under 13s and Under 16s. The local girls who played Netball were Sharon, Lisa and Colleen Costanzo, Leslie and Judy Haine, Marnie and Allison Ross, Terry Gunston, Kerry Gray, other names were Johnson, Heintz, Clarke and many more. Mrs Pam Ross & Mrs Lorna Haine helped with transport and encouragement. Our Netball presentation nights were held at the Wandong Hall. I am searching for passed players from the year 1975 & 1976 Wandong Netball Teams, any memorabilia or photos would be much appreciated.

**Sharon McCarthy - Mob 0417 033747**

## BACK TO WANDONG ANNUAL LUNCHEON

**(18th March 2018)**

*Anyone with an interest in our local history is welcome to attend*

**More details on Venue and Time in February Whats News**

## Did you know?

Wandong had an athletics club that was renowned in the district. Walter Bretherton, also a sportsman was employed on the Faulk's farm Viewbank. Sadly Wally was lost in World War Two. Learn about Wally's story at the History Group's "Walk Through the Wars" display.

25/04/2018 ~ 29/04/2018



## VALE

### Jean Ryan

The History group along with many other Wandong residents was saddened by the passing of Jean Ryan. The Ryan family have been in Wandong for many years and Jean as well as being a school teacher at Wandong Primary was involved in many local activities. Our sympathy to Allan, Barry, Greg, Anthony and Michelle and their extended families.

### Ruth Smalley

Also in October the wife of Roy Smalley, Ruth passed away. Although only known to a few of us at the history group, Ruth was a wonderful lady and will be sadly missed by the family. Once again our sympathy to all of Ruth's family.

## BOOK SALES

**Ghosts, Gold & a White Elephant**

**Ron Pickett— \$50**

**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, and preserved for future generations. We thank Marie Elson for her recent donations of memorabilia and photos and Ron Pickett for his kind donation of the Wandong Railway Station Telephone.

## 2017/2018 COMMITTEE

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

## NEW MEMBERS

|                      |   |                    |
|----------------------|---|--------------------|
| Graham Neal          | - | Garry Neal         |
| Duana Sharp & Family | - | Christine Carman   |
| Alan Beckett         | - | Raechel Harrington |
| Alan Morphett        | - | Olga Lee           |

## DISCLAIMER

The Wandong History Group Inc, disclaims responsibility for any statements or opinions expressed by authors of materials published in this newsletter.