



Wandong History group  
Quarterly newsletter free with your "what's news"

## "WHAT'S OLD"

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### FROM THE EDITOR

The History Group has had another very busy year, the walk through the Wars exhibition was a huge commitment and we are hopeful of getting a further grant to allow us to do another exhibition next year. More on that if the funding becomes available. We have been fortunate to receive a grant from Heritage Victoria which will allow us to investigate further the full scope of works required to bring our one heritage listed building, St Michaels church back to its former glory. While this means restoration works cannot begin, and a further grant application will be required the grant will allow us to properly assess the works required.

October 13th at the Wandong Public Hall will see our History Week exhibition, this year featuring the sawmills of Mt disappointment. We will also have a presentation put together by Len Lord of Whittlesea who ran the sawmill there and logged from the forest. Vic Forests will also be part of the day and will talk about modern forestry methods and management of the forest.

There will be a sausage sizzle run by the Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group and entry by gold coin donation. This will be a great chance to learn about our sawmilling past, an opportunity not to be missed.

It will run from 10.00am to 4.00pm 13th October, Wandong public Hall.

Editor: Karen Christensen



### The Witch's Song– Ruth Bedford.

Hoity-toity! Hop-o-my-thumb!  
Tweedledee and Tweedledum,  
All Hobgoblins come to me,  
Over the mountains, over the sea.  
Come in a hurry, come in a crowd,  
Flying, chattering, shrieking loud.  
I and my broomstick figet and call,  
Come hobgoblins, we want you all.  
I have a pot of mischievous brew,  
You must do what I tell you to:  
Blow through the keyholes, hang to the  
eaves,  
Litter the garden with dead brown leaves:  
Into the house, hustle and run,  
Here is mischief, here is fun!  
Break the china, slam the doors,  
Crack the windows and scratch the floors.  
Let in the cockroaches, mice and rats,  
Sit on the family's Sunday hats.  
Smashing everything thin and brittle,  
Teasing the children, tickling their heels-  
Look at them jumping! Hark to their  
squeals.  
Pinch their elbows and pull their hair.  
Then out again into the gusty air.  
Flutter the birds in their sheltered nests,  
Pluck the down from the ducklings  
breasts,  
Steal the eggs from the clucking hen,  
Ride the pigs round and round the pen.  
Here is mischief to spare for all,  
Hoity- Toity come at my call  
Tweedledum and Tweedledee  
Come at my summons, come to me.  
Thus said the witch on a windy night,  
Then sailed on her broomstick out of  
sight.

(Hope you are enjoying stepping back in time with these old poems.  
This is another from the grade five reader)

Ed

## GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Each issue we will talk to a local identity, this edition it's Allen Ryan.

**Allen tell us about your early days at Wandong.**

Well, my father purchased the Burnside property, it was a substantial farm in those days, we ran a small dairy and supplied milk to the locals.

**Yes, I can remember walking down the lane behind the hall to get our billy of milk from him. He used to line us up and squirt milk straight from the cow into our mouths., that's fresh milk!**

I went to Wandong State School and that was the only education I had. One regret I have is that I couldn't go further, I would have liked to have learned more. Saying that, I did have the chance to go on with my schooling but dad said to me, "if you want to go to Assumption (Kilmore) you can ride your bike in and home each day, or you can come cutting wood with me". I didn't like the idea of riding my bike over that rough road to Kilmore every day, so I went wood cutting. We cut firewood and brought it down in 8 foot logs then had a saw bench where we cut it up into foot blocks and loaded it on the railway trucks. Firewood was in great demand in those days especially in Melbourne.

I started shearing, first using hand held blades and later electric, I remember the day I shored my first 100 sheep in a day, everyone was clapping and dancing round, I didn't think it was that exciting. I'd spend three months of the year shearing, then come back and cut wood with dad.

**I suppose the next major point in your life was your marriage.**

I married Jean Faulks, her parents owned the "Viewbank" property at Wandong. A small farm at Caveat in the Highlands near Seymour came on the market and we bought that and moved up there. We liked it up there, made some lifelong friends it was a good life. We had five good years there but we sold up and moved back to Wandong, so Barry could get medical help and we needed to be closer to Melbourne so he could access the hospital.

**You eventually moved into earthmoving, how did that come about?**

I was always friends with the Keith's, they had earthmoving equipment, one day Dave Keith said to me to come down to where he was working for a holiday, he had a caravan there, I was about 19. So I go down there and Dave tells me to get up in the dozer and have a go, I spent the day pushing dirt around and it was getting dark, so I thought better knock off, no sign of Dave. So I went into the caravan and knocked up a bit tucker, next day Dave turned up. I said where have you been, he said I went home: best way for you to learn is to leave you to it. From then I stayed with them working the machinery for about 15 years. After we moved back to Wandong we worked on the roads around the town, the freeway was a big job. I partnered with Laurie Davern and we kept the business going until I eventually bought him out. By then Greg left school he worked with me until the work started to cut out, he went to Queensland and I sold up and retired.

**Allen I know there's lot's more to tell but thanks for giving us an insight into your life story, and congratulation on your Australia Day award.**



## The Travellers Rest

### Part 2

1892 saw a new proprietor at the Travellers Rest Hotel, Richard C Quinton took over the running of the establishment, and it appears ran the hotel with few problems. By 1901 Elizabeth Quinton was applying for the licence to run the hotel, the reason for the transfer given as ill health of Richard. The Quinton's ran the hotel until 1910, Elizabeth's death saw the hotel passed into the hands of Mrs Gertrude Stevenson who was allowed to take over the licence as no objection was made by the local police. "I should think not", said counsel for the applicant, "considering that my clients have conducted licensed premises for twenty nine years without a single complaint against them". (them refers to Gertrude and her sister (Mrs Quinton), who ran the hotel together). Every year the proprietor's of licenced establishments were required to attend the local licencing court where the licence to carry on was either granted or rescinded. In 1911 Gertrude had to pay the princely sum of 50 pounds for her licence, a large amount of money in those days. By June 1921 Gertrude and her sister sold all their Wandong holdings and were given a send off at the public hall. Charles Marshall took over from Gertrude with his wife Florence, and in 1925 transferred the licence to Florence. They continued to run the hotel until 1926 when the following occurred: Florence Marshall of Rossmoyne St Thornbury, petitioned for divorce from Charles Thomas Marshall on the grounds of misconduct. The parties were married in 1911. In 1921 she engaged a housemaid and in 1925 she heard that the respondent and the housemaid were very friendly. Both the respondent and housemaid admitted misconduct and subsequently her husband signed an agreement transferring all interests in the

hotel to her and providing maintenance for the two children of the marriage.

Bertie Smith was the publican when the great fire of 1933 occurred as described in the poem by Jews Harp.

Tis near Kilmore, you can't go wrong,  
To find the to find the town of Wandong'  
Where every sire, each son and maid,  
Compose the Wandong Fire Brigade.  
Now this tale of fire and flame.  
Of plucky men and flappers game,  
Who fought the fire and did their best,  
To win or die at the Travellers Rest.....

The Travellers Rest, a grand hotel  
Went up in smoke that blew to... well.  
We cannot say, and are afraid,  
To ask the Wandong Fire Brigade.  
(This poem is quite long to find a full rendition go to the publication Ghosts Gold and a White Elephant- Ron Pickett).



*The second Travellers Rest Hotel*

On the 10th July 1933 the licence of the Travellers Rest Hotel was surrendered. The occupier received 125 pounds and the owner 475 pounds.

So began a long period of Wandong being a dry town, although in 1966 the general store obtained a liquor licence, but it wasn't until 1994 that the Magpie and Stump Hotel opened for business built on the same ground as the original Travellers Rest hotel.

## **Did you know?**

### **How Leslie Siding was named?**

The name was given by Mr Robert A Robertson, proprietor of the Australian Seasoned Timber company at Wandong. The property passed into the hands of David Beath, of Beath Schiess and Co, Chairman of the Australian Seasoned Timber Company who was born at "Leslie" Fifeshire, Scotland. This led Mr. Robertson to submit the name "Leslie: for the railway station.

### **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.

We recently made a submission to the Ministerial panel set up to adjudicate on the structure plan. The panel report is now available on the Councils website, in some places I think it has confused some of the issues even further, but there is recognition of the importance of the heritage that is within our area so that is a good thing. Read it for yourself although I warn you its 82 pages long.

ARTC has finally decided to talk to Wandong Heathcote Junction on the Double stacking of containers on the Standard Gauge line. We were going to be left till last but were prompted to engage with us which they have now done. The impacts on the town will be around the replacement of the overhead bridge and we will continue to monitor their activities as there is likely to be artefacts in the area they will impact on.

We have completed our ground truthing survey of the Derrill mill site, it was good to have a representative from Vic Forests along to inspect the site with us and the site card will soon be sent to Heritage Victoria.

Planning is occurring for a world War One display next year although it will depend on the outcome of a grant application. 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 0409164660 or email: [mountview@ssc.net.au](mailto:mountview@ssc.net.au)

## **History Week 2018**

We are beginning our plans for History Week 2018, the event will most likely be on the 13th October at the Wandong Public hall. Plans are to feature the local sawmilling history, the Mount Disappointment State Forest was one of the biggest suppliers of timber in the early days, with many mills operating. Early history of sawmilling in Victoria is not well documented so researching this project has its challenges.

More information in the September What's Old.

### **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. Thanks to Allen Ryan for his recent donation.

### **History Group books For Sale.**

**There Was a Soldier, Who Wandered Far away.**

**Karen Christensen (A History of Wandong at War)  
\$20.00**

**From Lightwood Flat to the Forest—Lynne Dore (A  
History of our Schools) \$15,00**

**Wandong In Pictures— Book 1-5 \$7.00 ea**

**Wandong War Memorial, Wandong Seasoning  
Works, Wandong in Business, Wandong Timber  
Mills and Tramlines, Wandong Buildings**

**All books available at the Wandong Newsagent or**

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