



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

“WHAT’S OLD”

Issue-7 September 2018

Email: wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com

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.

October 13th at the Wandong Public Hall will see our History Week exhibition, this year featuring the “Sawmills of Mt Disappointment”. This will include 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 forests.

The Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group are providing a sausage sizzle, light refreshments will also be available. Entry is 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

Editor: Karen Christensen



PICK MY PROJECT

Our Community needs a Visitor Information and Exhibition Space

Pick My Project is a new state-wide community grants program that provides Victorians a chance to make their community an even better place to live.

To help us win funding for PICK MY PROJECT, you will need to register and **VOTE ON-LINE** before 17th September 2018

at:

www.pickmyproject.vic.gov.au

The Wandong History Group's PICK MY PROJECT idea is to relocate and restore a 1920s hut from Mt Disappointment that housed internees during World War Two and later was used as a camp office for the Forestry Commission as a visitor information and exhibition space in the WHJ Memorial Park.

TO VOTE you need to:

- Live in Victoria and within 50km of Wandong Heathcote Junction
- Be over 16 years of age
- Register for Pick My Project and provide mobile phone verification to ensure voting security

Please help us by VOTING ONLINE. Wandong/Heathcote Junction residents and visitors need a new and exciting exhibition space, we need **YOUR** help to get it. No internet? Contact us and we will try to help you get your vote counted. This is a great opportunity for our community to get much needed infrastructure it all depends on **YOU!**

For further information Email: wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com

Phone: 0432 120736



For people without email or mobile wanting to vote call 1800 797 818 for assistance.

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Each issue we will talk to a local identity, this edition it's long time resident Maurice Scanlon.

What brought you to Wandong Maurice?

I came to Wandong in 1938, I was 4 years old my parents came to assist my grandparents farm on land they had bought, now known as Scanlon's Road.

What was farming like in those years?

Without the modern equipment of today it was tough. The property needed a lot of work, back then the soil was very poor, trees and bracken fern was in abundance and hordes of rabbits infested the property. With no water a dam and well had to be dug, water was carted from Epping to fill our well for household water. A drought that year followed by fires in 1939 and WW2 beginning made things really hard. My Grandparents returned to Croydon and Dad and Mum took over the farm, money was scarce, my parents were very resourceful selling wood, and the fruit and vegetables we grew. Cows were milked for the household. One old draught horse was used to clear trees and cultivate land to sow crops.

When did you start school?

I started in 1940 at Wandong Primary School, I walked the 2kms across the paddocks in all weather, sometimes the creek was difficult to cross. There was about 35 kids attending then. In 1946 a bus was available so I could attend the secondary part of my schooling at Seymour High School. My dream was to be a farmer, after gaining my leaving certificate I went to Dookie College to study Agriculture, achieving my dream three years later with a Diploma. While at Dookie I enjoyed playing ball sports, mainly footy, and cricket. Returning home I played footy for Wallan and I continued with cricket, to my credit, not bragging I played at Country Week for the association scoring a century, I retired after that. I played golf at Kilmore and also assisted in building the cricket pitch at the Wandong oval.

Life after College.

I used my knowledge to help Dad & Mum set up the farm to be more productive. Money was still very short. We grew crops and raised lambs and a few cattle. We stopped raising lambs due to the domestic dogs killing the sheep and continued with cattle. A lot was done with old machinery and tools until better equipment could be purchased. In 1958 we bought an old bulldozer, tractor and chainsaw, this made jobs a little bit easier. With the help of my father and Uncle a house was built to replace the original old home on the property.

What was the Social Life like in Wandong?

Saturday nights we attended dances mainly in Kilmore but other times in Wandong or at the other halls in Broadford or Wallan. Playing sport on the weekends.

How did you meet your wife Majorie?

I met Marjorie at a dance. We married in 1966. We have three children and seven grand children. Our children attended Wandong Primary School and Broadford High School. I served on both school councils for numerous years during their attendance.

You have been involved on many other committees in Wandong, can you elaborate?

I was Secretary of the Wandong reserve for 16 years. After a fire got out of control on my property, we realised the need to form a brigade of our own. In 1962 the first Wandong Bush Fire Brigade was formed, no vehicle was available so our family car was used with a slip on tank. Land was given later for the first fire station in Wandong Avenue until the current one opened in Rail Street in November 1990. I retired as Captain after 32 years. I was awarded a clasp at the Brigades 50 years of community service, with past members Allan and Des Ryan. I also spent 10 years on the Mitchell Shire Environment Committee.

Next Year is the 10th Anniversary of the Black Saturday Fires, what preparation do you do?

Being a farmer you prepare yourself and make the property as safe in case of these events. Several fires have effected us, the worst would have been the 2009 Black Saturday Fires, lots of shedding was lost and some cattle, we were very lucky to survive and save our home as many neighbours lost their's. My hands were badly burnt as a result and I was treated at the Kilmore Hospital.

Are you still farming today and do you ever holiday?

Yes I'm still farming, not thinking of retiring soon, my son Greg helps me out when needed. No holidays when farming especially when calving or during the hotter months. Sometimes. I have a weekend away at Leongatha to visit my daughter, if someone can watch the animals.



Maurice it's been a pleasure hearing about your life time at Wandong, so many stories I could share here, your dedication and commitment you and your family have given to Wandong, has certainly earned you the Australia Day recipient Award for Wandong. "Congratulations".

THE TRAVELLER'S REST HOTEL

(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.

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 Council 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 they 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, we will continue to monitor their activities as there is likely to be more 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 WW1 display next year although it will depend on the outcome of a grant application.

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 restore our heritage listed building, St Michaels church back to its former glory.



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 the 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 Dave on Mob: 0409 164660
Email: Mountview@ssc.net.au

WANDONG HISTORY GROUP OPEN DAY

Saturday, 13th October

10am - 4pm

at the

WANDONG PUBLIC HALL

Join us as we celebrate History Week
featuring a history and photo display
on the

"SAWMILLS OF MT DISAPPOINTMENT"

View a presentation from Len Lord who ran the
Whittlesea Sawmill and logged in the forest

Sausage Sizzle & Light refreshments available
Entry by Gold Coin Donation

DONATIONS

The Wandong History Group accepts donations of any Wandong/ Heathcote Junction related historical artefacts. All items will be kept and preserved for future generations.

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.

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