



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



## WHAT'S OLD

Issue 20 - December 2021

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### "CONGRATULATIONS" Allen & Karen on receiving the O.A.M. Award



L-R Shelley, Amira, Allen, Dylan & Norina.  
Grandson Dylan pinned the medal on Allen.



L-R Allen, The Hon Governor Linda Dessau & Karen, Allen pinned the medal on sister Karen  
A very proud mother Kath Christensen and Karen's partner Neil Mugavin looking on.



#### FROM THE EDITOR

This year, despite the challenges that Covid-19 has presented has flown by, as I write there is news of a new variant lets hope that we don't have the same challenges all over again with it. Last edition I mentioned the new bridge replacement for the doubled stacked trains that is being designed by ARTC (Australian Rail Track Corp) we were waiting for an environmental effects study to be published that was supposed to allay many of our fears over the project. The report has now been published and with only a few days to consider the report and make a submission the history group along with other groups have put a submission back to ARTC on the document provided. Unfortunately the document did not as promised enlighten us as to the impact of the new bridge at Wandong, some things we do know is that there are to be property acquisitions, that Pickett Walk will be destroyed and the pin oaks and other trees planted by the community will also be removed. ARTC are still refusing to show a plan saying it has not yet been done, however from what we know there is a lot of information out there that points to them having a good indication of what they are going to do. Also there are several areas of great historical significance that will be destroyed by this project. It is also disappointing to see that Mitchell Shire is not consulting the community about this despite having talks with ARTC, MSC tells us the talks are "in confidence" but ARTC refute that so we don't know who to believe. Please keep abreast of this, this project will have a big impact on Wandong and we need our townsfolk to be properly informed, remember its to late once its gone.

On a brighter note the restoration project for St Michaels church is coming along splendidly and Greg and his team are working at a cracking pace. We wont be finished by Christmas but should be shortly there after and we are so looking forward to moving back in and setting ourselves up and being able to welcome visitors.

We were saddened and shocked by the sudden passing of Allan Ryan, a true gentleman and such a great Wandong person he is deeply missed by his friends in the community and we extend our deepest sympathies to all of the Ryan family. ANZAC Day 2021 will be a lasting great memory for me of Allan when his grandson Daniel conducted our service with many Ryan family members present, it was a great day for Allan and he was so proud of Daniel, the family then had a family reunion after the service and by all accounts had a fantastic day. Hopefully a lovely memory for all the family to keep of Allan. He will be long remembered by so many, Vale Allan.

Karen Christensen.



# CHURCH RESTORATION



1. Prior to work starting.



2 . Scaffolding ready to be erected.



3. Bricks laid out in order as they were removed from the sacristy.



4. Bricks uncovered under porch landing.



5. New sacristy floor laid.



6. Rebuilding the sacristy.



# CHURCH RESTORATION



7. Roof being removed



8. Steps being removed for the new access ramp.



9. Preparing area for new access ramp.



10. Overseeing the works, archaeologists and builder.



# Clonbinane Rural Fire Brigade



Fuel reduction burns on private property will be prohibited soon; date will be published in local media. Even if it has just rained or if you deem it safe, the law and rules still apply that you are prohibited to burn off in the declared fire danger period without a permit. When fires are lit in the fire danger period it is an offence and the police will attend the scene. Some people are misguided into believing that it is OK to burn off because it is cool weather or because we have had recent rain.

## 2021 Clonbinane CFA Santa Run

Clonbinane CFA has organised for Santa to be on board for a Santa run through the streets of Waterford Park on Sunday night 19 December at 6PM. Due to the current Covid-19 situation, we are unable (Once again) to put on the sausage sizzle or hose games for the kids this year. We look forward to seeing all the kids standing outside their homes and waving to Santa. The fire truck with Santa will move slowly through the streets but will not be stopping.

Please support our efforts to make your Kids' Christmas special. By support, we simply mean come out and wave to Santa.

## Your Family's Fire Plan

Your ability to make good decisions will be impacted by many factors. The safest plan is to leave early. Use the FIRE DANGER RATING as a guide as to how a fire will react if one starts in your area. Clonbinane is in the North Central Region that is used for both weather and fire danger rating forecasts. Forecasted Code Red Fire Danger is fire weather that our homes are not designed or constructed to withstand in a fire.

A late decision to leave is a dangerous option. Smoke blanketed roads, blocked roads due to trees down, emergency vehicles or even a wind change that will change the direction of the fire may prevent your escape.

## State Forests and National Parks are closed on Code Red Fire Danger Days

Many of Victoria's parks and forests are bushfire prone areas. While they are great places to enjoy, during some weather conditions they are not safe places to be. Victoria has adopted the national system of Fire Danger Ratings. DELWP and Parks Victoria will close parks and forests (including state forests and national parks) in the relevant weather district for public safety. Also consider avoiding the forest whilst high winds are expected and/or during substantial rainfalls.



Visit Clonbinane CFA on Facebook for fire safety information. Clonbinane CFA does not post emergency warnings, fire danger warnings or fire weather. Go to the CFA webpage, CFA Facebook page or Vic Emergency App. for up-to-date emergency warnings and forecast information.

[For emergency bushfire information visit the CFA website](#)  
[www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)



*Emergency information is available directly on your phone by installing the Vic emergency app. Once you set up the app you will then need to set up your WATCH ZONE.*

**Please contact the brigade if you require any bushfire survival information.**

*Merry Christmas and a Safe, Happy New Year from Clonbinane CFA*

**All the best for a safe Christmas and New Year. Take your time on the roads, no need to rush. Concentrate; give your Christmas journey your full attention. – Captain John Mahoney**

