



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

“WHAT'S OLD”

Issue 20—September 2021

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FROM THE EDITOR

A new season but still more lockdowns have had to be endured, life has certainly taken us on a journey over the last 18 months. Hopefully this Covid –19 will soon be a thing of the past and our lives can all get back to some sort of normality soon.

The History Group has still been ploughing on with our projects, despite the frustrating delays in the processing of the Heritage permit for St Michaels Church restoration the permit has finally been issued. As I write the permits are all approved and we are ready to go, hopefully we will have a good start by the time this edition is out

We were very pleased to be asked by the Friends of Disappointment to be part of the unveiling of the plaque for the eight airmen who lost their lives on the mountain. The stories of these young men is so sad and particularly for the family of young Terence Hallinan who was not found until almost a year after the crash, how devastating for the family. The window for the event was small due to Covid and unfortunately all of the family members who had wanted to come were not able to, we have promised them that when the Covid situation is more stable and interstate travel is possible we will have them down for a more private service.

We have met with ARTC with regard to the impact the building of the new rail bridge will have on the historical areas of the town. We are not really happy with the approach by this organisation and will continue to ensure that when work commences important areas covered by the historical Seasoning Works site and offices and residence of Robert Affleck Robertson are maintained to the best of our ability.

Local people need to take an interest in the impact of this project on the town, there will be further opportunities to have you say as the plans for Wandong are revealed, people need to have their voices heard on this or the project will just go through and we will be stuck with the outcome for years to come.

HUME & HOVELL

The recent paper written by Martin Williams has corrected the journey of this famous expedition. The paper recently published in the Royal Historical Society of Victoria Journal has been peer reviewed and accepted as correct. This is a very important revelation for Wandong, Martins work proves that the expedition travelled up what is now Rail Street Wandong. 2024 will be the anniversary of the journey and we will be looking to ways we can commemorate and celebrate this important piece of local history. We would welcome any ideas and input on how this would look so please contact us either through our email or face-book page.

We look forward to the reopening of the Catholic Church when the restoration is complete, the event will most likely be early next year we will keep everyone up to date on this important development for Wandong Heathcote Junction.

Our AGM was cancelled due to the lockdown, we hope to get this done as soon as things reopen.

STAY SAFE Karen Christensen

CLONBINANE PARK

During the development of Australiana Colonies, the Clonbinane area was part of the Colony of N.S.W between 1788 and 1851. On July 1st 1851 Victoria was separated from N.S.W, an early mention of the name Clonbinane appeared in the Argus on September 29th 1848 in relation to claims of Leases of Crown Land. At that time a 10,400h (25,600 acre) run at Clonbinane was cited as a claim by Michael Heffernan, being located approximately 250 metres off the Clonbinane road. Clonbinane Park became home for Alexander McKenzie, he sold out to John McDonald who held the property for nearly seven years, when he passed Clonbinane to Malcom McKenzie. By 1860 John McCrae McKenzie had the property which he held for 13 years, selling the property to the London and Australian Agency Group. In April of 1883 Clonbinane Park returned to the McKenzie family. In 1890 this home was destroyed by fire.

FIRE AT CLONBINANE

Kilmore Free Press December 25th 1890

A fire originated in the children's bedroom at Mr. Kenneth McKenzie's residence, Clonbinane, on Saturday morning last, the result being the premises and contents were speedily consumed. Had it not been for the promptness of Mr Robert Sharkey, who first saw the fire, the chances were that some of the inmates would have been burnt. Much sympathy is felt with the family for the loss and inconvenience they have sustained.

As reported in the Broadford Courier March 1891, Mr A Mackay has secured the contract for the erection of the new homestead at Clonbinane Park for Mr Kenneth McKenzie. "Architect Mr R. Fennelly has designed the new residence it has been described as a handsome one and convenient in every respect. It will consist of brick and terra cotta, the contract amount being £1200."

Thomas G Scott another owner noted for holding nights of dancing, singing, and playing games, guests were in awe with the mansion, the well kept lawns, spacious rooms and the tower.

In 1901 after correspondence with the education department, the Secretary of lands was instructed to have surveyed the one acre of land in the Parish of Glenburnie offered by T.G Scott as the new site for State School 1653. the school was moved in the Spring of that year onto the main road to Clonbinane.

The Robertson Family bought Clonbinane Park in 1934, a family of three sons Dave, Jack and Robert and two daughters Dorothy and Heather. Heather married Charlie Halpin of Glenburnie Park. Jack enlisted in WWII, he was in the 22nd pioneer Battalion and was taken prisoner and spent some years in a POW camp until his return home.



CLONBINANE PARK HOMESTEAD

CLONBINANE PARK



Captain Athur Craven Jowett

In 1943 Captain Arthur Craven Jowett bought the property, he and his wife Evelyn had four children, Doreen, Eric, Humphrey and Edmund. When Arthur and Evelyn eventually moved to their Toorak home, Peter Warren came to Clonbinane in 1965 as manager of "Clonbinane Park" he and his wife Heather and baby son David lived in the homestead for some time. In later years when Arthur's son Edmund Jowett and wife Conchita came to reside in the homestead, they had a brick residence built on the opposite side of the road for his manager and family. Another son Dean was born to the Warrens while there. Peter was in Jowett's employ for about 10 years. Edmund and Conchita welcomed a baby girl in March 1974 and named her Evelyn after her grandmother. Cliff Williams came from Hawthorn to work for Jowett's about

1969. Their home was what had earlier been the shearers quarters. Other locals in the area also assisted in the running of this sheep property. Edmund Arthur Danyers Jowett passed away January 2012, the property remains in the ownership of Evelyn Jowett.



Edmund & Conchita Jowett



It was sad to see remains of the Clonbinane Park Homestead being knocked down, but inevitable as the remains of the building were dangerous, the once grand tower had already fallen in, so it was time to go. The shell of the building and its tower were finally demolished in May 2021. However the real loss occurred back in February 2009 when the building was damaged beyond repair by the Black Saturday Fires. Clonbinane Park is now being restored to the former existence as a sustainable grazing property.

DID YOU KNOW

That "Clonbinane Park" home of Edmund Jowett was used for filming scenes in the early part of the series "Anzacs" in 1983.



Taking a break in filming.

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 were very pleased to be asked to help the friends of Disappointment in the event around the installation of the plaque to remember the airmen lost at Mt Disappointment. As always events such as this need to be planned and executed to ensure that the memory of the service men is properly conducted. Due to Covid we were unsure up until a few days before if the event could even go ahead, but luckily we were able to run the event although the same night a new lockdown was ordered so we only just made it. It was disappointing that members of the airmen's families from interstate could not attend but we have promised them that once restrictions allow we will bring them to Wandong and take them to the plaque. Fortunately members of the Greasely and Langusch families did attend and they greatly appreciated the honour that was bestowed on their family members.

The following links will take you to videos of the day if you would like to see how it all went, Les Lewis the historian behind the stories gave very interesting talks on the plane crashes and this make up part of the videos.

https://youtu.be/c76opT7z_IJ

<https://youtu.be/dvJ1ODaSqP8>

<https://youtu.be/jhuJloWa5Qo>

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, Clonbinane related historical artefacts. All items will be kept and displayed sharing our past and preserving it for the future generations.

2020/2021 COMMITTEE

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

Committee Meetings will now be held bi-monthly on the first Thursday of the month 7.00pm at the Wandong Public Hall.

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