



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

# “WHAT’S OLD”

Issue 3 September 2017

Email: wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com

## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our third edition of “What’s Old. I hope your are enjoying our newsletter, and remember we welcome any ideas for articles that you may wish to see. The Mitchell Shire Council has recently passed the C113 Amendment which is a document that came out of the work that was done on the Heritage Gap Study for Wandong Heathcote Junction. As a result several new places have been added to the Heritage Victoria Inventory. The listing ensures that if any applications are received for these sites they must be examined for archaeological value before any destruction can occur, It does not mean that works are banned, contrary to some peoples beliefs.

I would urge anyone going within the vicinity of the Shrine of Remembrance to drop in and have a look at the John Charlton Memorial Window which is now on display there. The window was featured in our first edition and since then has been officially unveiled at the shrine by the Governor, Her Excellency Linda Dessau. Congratulations again to member Lynne Dore and team for all the hard work to achieve this goal, the window now stands as a memorial not just to John Charlton but all those who died in the Boer War.

History Week will be celebrated at the Wandong Public Hall on the 21st October with a display of the Rail and its impact on Wandong Heathcote Junction. Planning is now in full swing for this event. We are also working on the ANZAC 2018 display which will be a not to be missed event and will run from ANZAC day until the following Sunday to enable everyone to go through the exhibition.

Editor: Karen Christensen

## **THE DASH - Linda Ellis**

I read of a man who stood to speak,  
at the funeral of a friend,  
He referred to the dates on the tombstone,  
from the beginning...to the end.  
He noted that first came the date of birth,  
And spoke the following date with tears,  
But he said what mattered most of all  
Was the dash between the years.  
For that dash represents all the time  
That they spent alive on earth,  
And now only those who loved them  
Know what that little line is worth.  
For it matters not, how much we own,  
The cars...the house...the cash.  
What matters is how we live and love  
And how we spend our dash.  
So think about this long and hard.,  
Are there things you'd like to change?  
For you never know how much time is left  
That can still be rearranged.  
If we could just slow down enough  
To consider what's true and real  
And always try to understand  
The way other people feel.  
And be less quick to anger  
And show appreciation more  
And love the people in our lives  
Like we've never loved before.  
If we treat each other with respect  
And more often wear a smile,  
Remembering that this special dash  
Might only last a while  
So, when your eulogy is being read  
With your life's actions to rehash  
Would you be proud of the things they say  
About how you spent YOUR dash?

## GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Each issue we will talk to a local identity, this edition it's Clyde Riley of Heathcote Junction.

**Clyde and his wife Elizabeth came to Heathcote Junction and built a new house but there is a lot more to this story.**

Yes, the property we bought belonged to my grandparents, I spent my school holidays here.

**So where did you live as a child, tell us a bit about your past?**

I was born at the Royal Women's hospital, and my family lived around the Brunswick/Pascoe Vale area.

**Heathcote Junction must have been a huge adventure after living in suburbia.**

As kids we loved coming up here, getting away from the suburbs to the freedom of country life. Of course in those days my grandparents lived in what we call "The Ranch", the wooden cottage on the property..

**The Ranch has an interesting history.**

The little cottage is only two rooms with a skillion on the side. It was built by Arthur Smalley in about 1918 for his wife and 12 children.

**The Smalley family contributed greatly to the town, their many children attended the Wandong school and one son Edward taught there. Several of the children also enlisted in both WW1 and 2 so the walls of the little cottage could certainly tell some stories.**

We have fond memories from our families perspective, Elizabeth and I cherish the little cottage and look after it as we do our home.

**It's great that such an important piece of local history is being so well cared for. You built a new home higher up the hill.**

We purchased the land from the family in 1998 and started building the house soon after that. We lived in The Ranch for three months until the house was finished in 2001.

**So what childhood memories do you have of the area?**

We loved to go down to the railway line and watch the Spirit of Progress go by. We would pick up coal from the side of the railway line where the steam trains had dropped it and would collect pine cones from the pine trees around the station. There was no power or water laid on at The Ranch and no road in. To access the property there was a dirt track through from Rail Street. Everything had to be carried in by hand from the station when we came for holidays.

**You are retired now, what did you do for work?**

I worked up until I was seventy two, my job was a Histopathologist.

**Great title, what did that job involve?**

I studied cells and tissue samples for medical research.

**So how do you fill your days in now?**

Apart from obeying my wife, I am a member of the Wandong/Wallan Lions club, I go walking with the walking club each Friday morning, I do carpet bowls with U3A, after that I cut all our fire wood and look after the place.

**What do you love about living here?**

We are on ten acres, so we have room to spread out. We have plenty of gardens, and I do love my veggie garden. Its nice and quiet here, I love to sit back and relax and watch Elizabeth drive the tractor around cutting the grass!

**What do you feel is the biggest issue facing WHJ in the future?**

I hope that it wont change much over the next few years, we have most of the things we need available in the town, and we have close access to nearby towns for anything else. I hope it doesn't get much bigger, it will spoil the village atmosphere of the town.

**If you could change anything about WHJ what would it be?**

A traffic turning lane at the Heathcote Junction Railway crossing, and better public transport for those without a car. Access to Wallan or Kilmore is difficult for those who don't drive.

**Thanks Clyde its been great to learn a bit more about you, and your thoughts on Wandong Heathcote Junction.**



**Clyde & Elizabeth Riley**

## ORIGINS OF THE COFFEE PALACE

The temperance movement originated in the 19th century and urged for the reduction or prohibition of alcohol. Temperance societies were initially founded during the 1820s in the United States and England, and during the 1830s they emerged in Australia.

Various temperance groups were active in Australia, such as the Independent Order of Rechabites, the Band of Hope and the Women's Temperance Union. These movements aimed to educate the public about the dangers of drinking, and also campaigned for changes to the law, such as the introduction of six o'clock closing and the development of 'dry' suburbs. Temperance was also associated with social reforms, with the Women's Christian Temperance Union being actively involved realised that the public house performed a crucial service in providing food, accommodation and recreation as well as alcohol, and if they were to attract clients away from the pub they had to provide alternative venues for such needs.

Much of the success of the coffee palace movement was due to men like James Munro, politician, property tycoon and temperance leader. Melbourne needed new hotels and Munro was responsible for building many of the coffee palaces, including the Victoria in Collins Street (1880) and the Federal Coffee Palace (1888). After establishing the company that took over the Grand Hotel in 1886, Munro renamed it the Grand Coffee Palace and ceremoniously burnt its liquor licence at the official opening. Munro was director of the Grand, the Victoria and the Federal and held thousands of shares in these coffee palaces as well as those in Geelong and Broken Hill. Coffee palaces also spread to the suburbs and country towns, although they were nowhere near as large or ornate as those in Melbourne. By 1888 there were more than 50 coffee palaces in Melbourne alone.

## WANDONG'S COFFEE PALACE

Robert Affleck Robertson purchased the site on which he built the Coffee Palace from Patrick Morphett in 1889. It was about this time that Robertson's Timber and Brickworks were in full swing, and many visitors were coming to Wandong to inspect the various works. Robertson needed a place to entertain, rest and feed these potential investors and buyers of his products and reports in the Kilmore Free Press of visitors beginning their journeys to the forest after a night at the Coffee Palace are numerous. The Coffee Palace was described as a 14 roomed establishment managed by George Giles, it was also used as a boarding house for Robertson's employees. In 1902 the site was purchased by David Beath, (believed to be Robertson's financial backer) In 1904 the lease was taken over by Margaret Sims. Alexander Simpson acquired the Coffee Palace in 1913 and undertook major works, relocating two sections of the building to other lots as houses and the remaining section was turned into a bakery. In 1933 David Campbell purchased the business and the adjoining house (part of the original Coffee Palace) and continued the bakery business until 1944. The remnants of the building was demolished as the Kilmore Council deemed it to be dangerous. Bricks from the bakery oven were used at the school in a retaining wall.

**The Coffee palace Circa 1890**



**Margaret Sims**



**Dave & Heather Campbell**

## Did You Know?

In 1931 young Eric Maloney, (pictured below) drowned in a dam that was attached to the Terra Cotta Brickworks. Eric was only 13 years old and the nephew of Mr and Mrs Thomas, (proprietors of the Wandong General Store). Eric was bathing with friends when he got into difficulties, by the time he was rescued it was too late. Eric was laid to rest at the Wallan cemetery.



## Vale—William Henry Clarke

15/12/1915 - 16/06/1917.

The History group was saddened to hear of another passing of a long time local Bill Clarke. Bill and his wife Rita came to Wandong to run the General Store in 1966. The family retired to Kilmore East after selling the business. Rita passed away in 1997, Bill continued to live in his Kilmore East home until recently, however he did manage to reach and pass the Golden age of 100. Many of us went to school with the Clarke children, Peter, Joe, John, Dennis, Marylou and Gerard, we remember their time here fondly. Our condolences to the Clarke family.

## Donations

The Wandong History Group accepts donations of any Wandong/ Heathcote Junction related historical artefacts. Thanks to Clyde Riley for his generous donation of Railway memorabilia.

## BOOK SALES

There Was a Soldier.— 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— (Set of 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 contact the History Group

## 2016/2017 COMMITTEE

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

## DISCLAIMER

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



**Wandong History Group Inc**

**OPEN DAY**

**Saturday 21st October**

**10am - 3pm**

**at the**

**WANDONG PUBLIC HALL**

Join us as we celebrate History Week. Take a glimpse back in time with our displays on the Rail History of Wandong & Heathcote Junction.

**Sausage Sizzle-Tea/Coffee**

**available**

Gold coin donation