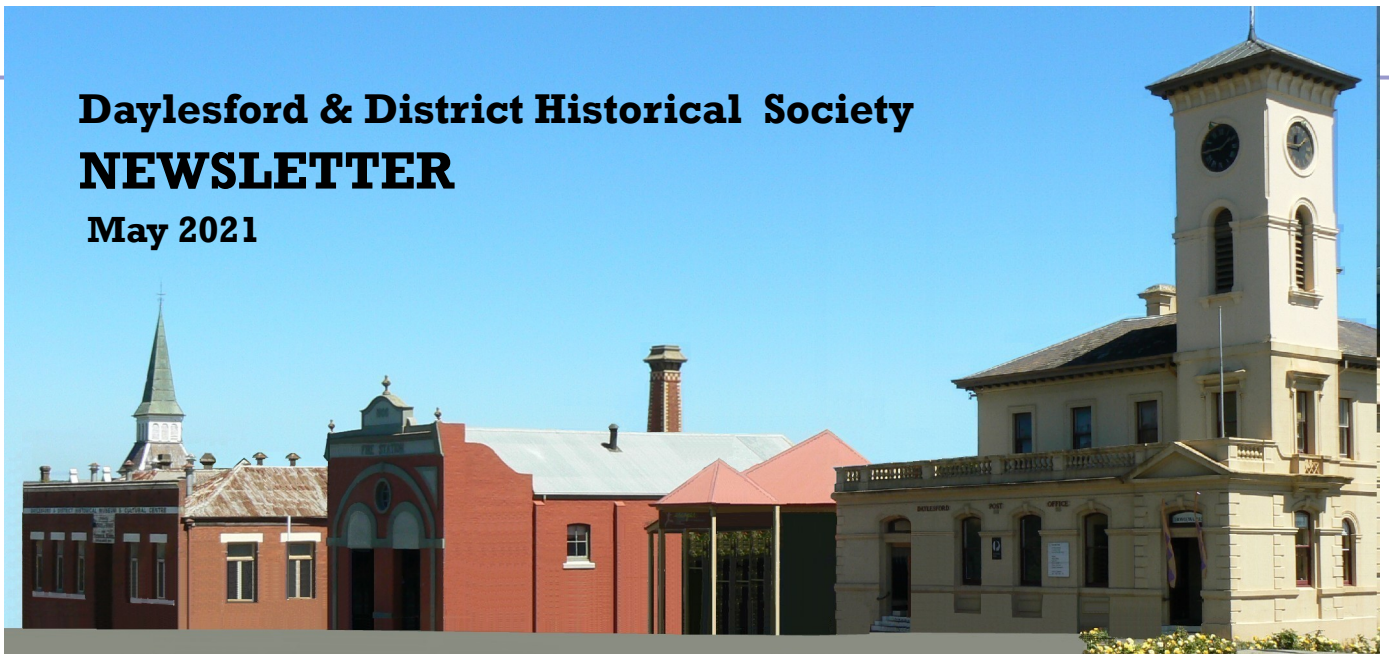


Daylesford & District Historical Society NEWSLETTER

May 2021



CHRIST CHURCH DAYLESFORD ARCHIVES by Frank Page

Christ Church is around 159 years old. Formerly Church of England it continues to serve what is now an Anglican congregation in Daylesford and surrounds. Being of such a venerable age the church has a wealth of records tracking the history of the town and district over these many years. From burials to baptisms, weddings to confirmations and everything in between. Familiar family names echo through the years, generation after generation.

These records are stored in a relatively small vault underneath the 1896 built chancel bequeathed by the local landowner and philanthropist William Edward Stanbridge. The vault is of such a size that only those of small stature can actually enter it. In recent years the vault has been subject to rising damp with concern that

the extensive records held there will be damaged. The 125th anniversary of W.E. Stanbridge's death was an opportunity for the church to initiate a commemorative weekend in April 2019. Stanbridge's

contribution as a community leader, gardener and most generous and visionary philanthropist is significant and was felt worthy of recognition.

.....Continued on Page 4

STOP PRESS

COMMUNITY

WIN

The following post appeared on the DEWLP facebook page on 19 May.

Did you know that the Daylesford Museum was originally built in the early 1890s and was used as classrooms by the School of Mines?

With its lengthy and rich history in the Daylesford community, it's important these types of buildings are preserved and maintained.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is investing \$280,000 in an upgrade project that will see extensive repair works undertaken to replace a leaky roof that is causing the building to deteriorate.

The grant awarded to the Daylesford Museum Reserve will ensure that members of the community and local groups, such as the band and historical society, can continue to use and enjoy this space. *Ed. More info as it comes to hand.*

CURATOR'S REPORT

by Gary Lawrence



accredited
museum

New museum display cabinets.

The museum is delighted to announce that our new museum display cabinets have arrived. This is a long-held objective, to use exhibition grade glass cabinets to showcase our collection. Many thanks for contributions from Hepburn Shire, former Hepburn Tourism, Florence Craigie bequest and all our volunteers who generated funds through our museum openings and exhibitions.

Historic Negatives

On Pages 10 and 11 you will see a collection of historic negatives. We are seeking information from our members who may know someone in the pictures or if you can name the team

Sylvia

The Society received a grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs which has enabled us to consolidate a lot of the material that we displayed during the centenary of World War One. The items on display, pictured



above, include Sylvia, resplendent in her new period dress. This cabinet is an example of those newly arrived. There are three albums of postcards depicting local soldiers of the district who lost their lives in WW1. Their background and service is recorded along with a photo. We also have a

photographic record of the Avenue of Honour trees planted in Daylesford with a brief description of the drivers behind the scheme. Members are invited to seek out this display to learn the fascinating story about Sylvia.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Barry Files



accredited
museum

Annual General Meeting

The much delayed Annual General Meeting was finally held on Sunday 14 March,.

It was quite strange with the Treasurer, Judy Files, delivering her report covering the financial year to 30 June 2020, almost nine month's after the end of the year.

Having closed our doors in March 2020, the financial impact covered a four month period. The current financial year will show the closure of the Museum to the public for a further six months July to December 2020. However, revenue did flow from book sales and research enquiries .

Since opening again in January 2021, visitor numbers have been very encouraging and membership fees have been coming in steadily.

All positions were filled at the election of officers, with Anne Tamblyn elevated to the role of Secretary following the resignation of Ian Marshall in 2020. The Society is indebted to Ian for 18 years of excellent service including his participation in putting our submission to MAP for accreditation.

Our former Assistant Treasurer, Joyce Orr, did not stand for re-election. Joyce

also has devoted many years to the Society in a number of roles. Both Ian and Joyce have had their service recognised by being presented with Life Memberships some years ago.

There are two new faces on the Committee, with Sue Nixon taking on the role of Assistant Secretary, and Liz Togni filling the role of Assistant Treasurer. The full list of positions appears on the back page

Volunteer Week

By the time you read this Newsletter, Volunteer Week will be over. But I believe that our doorkeeper roster co-ordinator Robyn, will have passed on heartfelt thanks to all our valued doorkeepers. We have another band of dedicated volunteers who regularly contribute in the Research area. We are always looking for more help particularly in the cleaning role. If you can help out please let us know. Special thanks to Alex who has done a sterling job in servicing the de-humidifiers on an almost daily basis as well as being an ace cleaner.

CHHA

Sadly, Tony O'Shea, passed away earlier this year. Tony was very active in the Central Highlands Historical Association, as well as being a stalwart of long standing with the Avoca Historical Society.

Brendan Walker, the editor of the CHHA Newsletter, paid a visit to Daylesford recently and did a feature story on our Museum.

Donors

Apart from donations to our collection, cash donations are gratefully accepted. There is a form on Page 13 that offers guidance on how to make a tax deductible donation.

Doorkeepers and Opening Hours

A number of doorkeepers will be away over winter so we will continue with only opening on Saturday between 11.00am and 3.00pm. We will wait until the warmer weather arrives then open on Sunday. We could always use more volunteers to help out with doorkeeping. Any newcomers are always supported by an experienced person.

CHRIST CHURCH DAYLESFORD ARCHIVES

by Frank Page continued from Page 1

This exercise provided a fascinating focus on the records held by the church. At the same time the threat to the records from damp and general deterioration was recognised.

Enter the Daylesford & District Historical Society and Gary Lawrence in particular, from whom we sought advice on what measures we could take to protect and record our archives. Gary has very patiently coached us on the fine art of preserving these irreplaceable records of the Church of England, now Anglican greater parish of Daylesford dating back to goldfields times.

No sooner had we started to work on the records than the wretched virus interrupted our activity. Various restrictions forced us to abandon the files and retreat to our safe bubbles.

Pleased to say we are now back and working again on the most amazing rich historical records of not only Christ Church, Daylesford but also St Mathews, Hepburn Springs other churches within the overall and original greater Daylesford parish? Some will know where they were and we are coming across a variety of rec-

ords which identify how vibrant they obviously were.

Our small team of Yvonne Deans, Marj Green, Jennifer Porter, Susan Priest and Frank Page is back in action with the extensive archive collection. We must salute Marj and her

recollection about my parents; Jean and Canon Cliff Page. We found a whole collection of Mothers Union material at a recent session and this included material from my mother Jean. Having Marj on hand is a real bonus for us. Marj of course is a volunteer at the Museum



living connection with all this history. After her long years Daylesford born and bred, her knowledge and memories are all-encompassing and to be frank (that's me!) highly entertaining. That we get distracted from the job in hand is par for the course but it certainly makes it all that much more fascinating.

For me, it is especially nice to hear the odd snippet of

as well where no doubt her local knowledge is doubtless equally valued. Thanks Marj.

In essence, our work involves cleaning the records of their up to 160 years or thereabouts of dust, dirt and many squashed silver fish! Those soft paint brushes are excellent for this job. We then methodically record each document or set on a spread sheet where coded

numbers are logged. We are also taking advantage of the fabulous new scanning device at the museum which will allow us to scan every document and retain them electronically. In future, with these records we will be able to easily identify particular records which will no doubt become a rich resource for people investigating their family history.

Every archives session reveals fascinating information. Who knew that the parish was so populated that we used to have our own Cricket and Football teams, dating back to the 1900's. There are two photos of both those teams and with lots of familiar Daylesford family names.



In 1909 the Christ Church Football Club were Premiers, ahead of Wombat Hill (second) and Hepburn (third). In addition to a very early photo of Christ Church. There is a lavishly costumed and elaborate

theatrical setting photo for some sort of production taken we believe at the Town Hall?

WALKING TOURS OF DAYLESFORD



If you have friends or relatives visiting from other parts, suggest a walking tour of Daylesford so they can soak up the history of the town and its buildings.

The tour generally takes one and half to two hours

starting outside the post office. Some buildings are accessed during the walk which not normally open to the public. The tour stops outside the Christ Church on the way down from the Wombat Hill gardens so there is a chance to see close up the cluster of churches nearby.

WALKING TOURS OF DAYLESFORD

Lynda Poke Mob. 0455 519 111 info@alicesjourneys.com

A MEMORABLE VISIT

by Jan Smith



A recent visit to Daylesford by Angie Robertson, who simply wished to place some flowers on her grandparents' grave, turned into a journey down memory lane.

Angie visited the Information Centre seeking to know the whereabouts of a guesthouse run by her grandparents, Edgar and Sadie Hart. Denise Robinson brought her in to the Museum where the location

of the guesthouse was easily found. It was later called Ambleside in Leggatt St. The Harts bought it in 1953 and ran it until Edgar died suddenly in 1955 while at a meeting regarding upcoming elections for Council, of which he had been Mayor. It is, at this stage, unknown whether Sadie continued running it as a guesthouse until she sold it in 1968.

A search of the family file for Angie revealed also the lo-

cation of a property which she remembered visiting as a small child. She remembered an old lady sitting close to a fire. Mary Josephine Tankard was Angie's great-grandmother who lived in Western Ave from 1917 until her death in 1969.

Angie's photo outside the old part of the house is shown here alongside one of her mother, Jennifer and Aunt Beverley.



Angie Robertson at what once was her great grandmother's house in Western Ave. 2021



Jennifer (Angie's mother) and Beverly Hart pictured at Mrs Tankard's house

WOMEN AT WORK AND IN BUSINESS

1870s NEWSPAPER ITEMS

By Gary Lawrence

Researching women's stories and experiences is much harder as the historic newspapers focused their attention on the men. The following advertisements reflect some activities undertaken by women in the Daylesford district.

DAYLESFORD TEA MART.
MRS. PROHASKY
 GROCER & PROVISION DEALER,
VINCENT-STREET
 The public will find this one of
The Cheapest Establishments
 IN THE DISTRICT.
SPLENDID POTTED BUTTER.
 A good assortment of Crockery.

MR. SPENCER wishes for a few Pupils to instruct in Music and French. Terms may be had on application. The quarter will commence on July 6.
 Wesleyan Parsonage,
 June 20, 1874.

WASHING! WASHING!!
MRS. SMIRL,
 Vincent-street North,
BEGS to intimate that she takes Family and Gentlemen's Washing on reasonable terms.
 UNEXCEPTIONAL REFERENCE.

MISS LANG
 Has JUST OPENED a large and well-assorted Stock of
WINTER DRAPERY,
 COMPRISING :—
 DRESSES,
 JACKETS,
 MANTILLAS,
 HATS,
 FLOWERS AND FEATHERS,
 RIBBONS,
 LACES,
 CALICOS,
 FLANNELS,
 HOSIERY, &c., &c
FANCY GOODS of ALL DESCRIPTIONS
 Hats cleaned, dyed, and altered to the New Shapes.

MRS. E. J. NELSON'S
Cleansing and Healing Ointment
 She can conscientiously recommend it to the public for curing the undermentioned diseases, viz :—
 Native Pock, Sore Heads, Scrofula, Eruptions of the Skin, and all kinds of Ulcers; Also, Burns, Scalds, Cuts, Chapped Hands, Sore Nipples, Broken Chibblains, Ringworms, &c. Also invaluable for sores, in Horses, Cattle, &c.
 Price, 1s and 1s 6d per box.
 To be had from Mrs E. Nelson, Stanbridge-street; or at Mr W Wright's and Mr. W Mercer's, Chemists, Daylesford.

Notice to the Public.
MR. JAMES BENNETTS begs to inform the public of Daylesford, that having obtained a Mangle, she earnestly solicits their support.
 Clothes fetched and returned.
 Raglan-street, Daylesford.

NOTICE.
ARRIVAL of WINTER GOODS
 AT
MISS MASON'S
 Drapery & Millinery Establishment
 FLANNELS, WINCEYS, CALICOS,
 MERINOS, TICKS, VELVETEENS,
 HOSIERY, AND FANCY DRESS STUFFS,
 IN GREAT VARIETY.
 ALSO,
The Newest Styles in Millinery,
 &c., &c., &c.
 ALL of which are MARKED in PLAIN FIGURES,
 and at
VERY MODERATE PRICES.
 Next Door to Mr Gorham's,
 VINCENT-STREET, DAYLESFORD

The House Committee of the Hospital and Benevolent Society met yesterday afternoon, and after some preliminary business proceeded to open tenders for supplies. The following were accepted:—Meat, F. W. Wood; bread, V. Perini; groceries, Jas. Maguire; butter and eggs, Mrs Mulligan. A few small accounts were passed for payment. The resident surgeon's report showed that during the week one patient had been admitted, none discharged, and one had died, leaving 16 patients in the institution.

WARDLE'S WATER

by Les Pitt

One of the most important ingredients on the Victorian goldfields was water. There are many newspaper reports of miners not having enough water to wash their gravel. The supply of water was a lucrative business. I have written before of the tumultuous life of Edward Wardle of Connells Gully, but recently I have found that he had been involved in an early water scheme that has gone almost unnoticed. Ted Wardle was the man who, in conjunction with two others, had dug the race from the beginnings of Kangaroo Creek in the Bullarto area to bring water to the diggings south of, and also, via the street drainage, supply water to Daylesford township.

This is the story of the Wardle-Amos water race, later to become the River Loddon and Tributaries Water Supply Company.

In the early 1860s the Victorian Government hastily decided to build reservoirs in the goldfields, and very quickly around 60 were built, some shoddily and some which have lasted until the present day. The reservoir built at Daylesford only lasted a short time, before it burst in 1861 leading to the deaths of Chinese miners downstream. The

idea of building a reservoir at Malmsbury took root at this time, but it would be well into the 1870s before it was completed. Wardle had submitted a plan in 1862 but it was lodged after the due date, and the job of constructing 64 miles of open channel aqueducts to Castlemaine went to Joseph Brady, the Engineer of the Bendigo Water Works Co. The Castlemaine goldfields were crying out for water. Wardle, with Mark Amos (Mining Surveyor from Fryerstown) saw the opportunity to make some money, and also to make the extraction of gold easier for the miners north of Daylesford. Perhaps they were trying to make the Malmsbury scheme look amateurish as it had come to a halt due to wet years and Government indecision. Spurred on by dry conditions in the early 1860s, the *Mount Alexander Mail* reported that an experienced Daylesford miner, Edward Wardle proposed an idea for supplying Castlemaine: "Wardle enjoys the prestige of being among the earliest and most successful caterers for the water consuming portion of the miners in his own district. As far back as the year 1857 Mr Wardle completed the race or aqueduct known by his name, and which traverses some of

the principal streets of Daylesford, after winding a tortuous course of about 30 miles from the starting point in the Blue Mountain" (MAM 7 October 1864:2b)

Also, in the *Mount Alexander Mail* in December 1865: "Although there are hundreds of acres of auriferous hills in this locality that will pay for being sluiced, no attempt has been made to bring water to bear on the ground referred to. A scheme is now propounded by Messrs. Wardle and Amos, which is in my opinion practicable, if the money can be obtained to carry on the works. The persons referred to contemplate taking their supply from the river Loddon, in the vicinity of Holcombe, and bringing it by a contour race to the heads of the various gullies at Fryer's Creek. They do not propose to dam the river, but to divert as much water as the race will carry while the river is running. As this stream runs, on the average, only for seven or eight months in the year, it will be for that period only that the sluicers will be enabled to work. While the water lasts, they contemplate both night and day work"

The story of this water race began in 1865. Trial surveys from either end determined the plan, and it was intended that the race should cross the Vaughan saddle at ground level, but Mr Mark

Amos, who surveyed the race, did not allow for human frailty. In the cutting of the race a lot of level was lost so that a tunnel [Rocky Gully, near Devils Road] was required to reach the north side of the range. Jon Leever of Castlemaine argues that the tunnel at Devils Gully was always intended, and was not an afterthought to correct the digger errors.

The race is 12 miles 26.8 chains long and cut with a fall of eight feet to the mile. It would have an elevation of about 250 feet above the Loddon Valley at Vaughan. At its upper end it takes water from the river just below the Kangaroo Creek junction, not far north of the township of Glenlyon. There were eleven flumes over valleys, including two over the river in the first mile. The total length of the flumes is about half a mile.

Not everyone was optimistic about the race. The Mining Surveyor before Amos was R.L.M Kitto and he reported: "The contracts have been let by the shareholders of Wardle and Amos's Water Supply Company, and some thirty workmen are engaged in connection therewith. This, as a private speculation, will, I doubt not, remunerate the shareholders; but for public purposes it is of little avail, seeing that not a tenth of the miners can possibly obtain a supply therefrom. (Mining Survey-

or's Report, Mar 1866, 64)

In December 1866 it was reported that: "The race which is being constructed by Messrs. Wardle and Amos, to bring water from the Upper Loddon to a portion of the Fryers Creek goldfield, is at a standstill. It appears that there is a want of funds to carry on the enterprise. If this work had been vigorously carried out, the company would undoubtedly have received a dividend by this"

Construction came to an abrupt halt for a short time until the awkwardly named "*River Loddon and Tributaries Water Supply Company*" was formed, with Amos and Wardle among the shareholders. One of the largest shareholders was a Chinese interpreter from Fryerstown Lee Henry Jac Gung, who held 100 of the 400 shares, an investment worth £550.

In Dec 1870 it was reported that the Company had completed the main and some branch races, and the entire scheme was nearly completed. The supply of water allowed 3 to 4 sluice heads to run free at the head of the main race, Rae's Hill. The whole work was considered to have been completed in a very satisfactory manner, the fluming being especially well constructed. The original flumes were constructed in timber but later they were replaced with large metal pipes many, many of

which are still there in place.

So, after five years, the race was completed and water flowed to the Fryerstown area. It was later directed to Vaughan after the now completed Coliban Water scheme was linked up with the Loddon River scheme. At one time Coliban water flowed south through Devils Tunnel, while Loddon water flowed north through the same tunnel.

The race itself was never a great success, and led to some chicanery regarding the ownership of the water particularly in Vaughan. The Coliban water scheme likewise was never a great success but it is still sending water to Castlemaine and towns to the north, whereas the Loddon Race has been idle since 1963, two years short of its 100th anniversary.

The River Loddon race is socially significant for its association with several important figures in the history of Australian survey and engineering. Edward Wardle was one of three civil engineers to submit formal plans to the Victorian Government for the Coliban System of Waterworks in 1863. His plan was rejected in favour of the winning design by Joseph Brady but the River Loddon race reveals the scope of his imagination in terms of water capture and transfer.

From the archives historic negatives revealed

A few of the 100s of negatives we have scanned for your enjoyment.



House built c1940 where Coles carpark is now corner Albert and Bridport Sts.

Nursing and medical staff at the Daylesford Hospital

c1945



Launching the new 1958 model Holden at Martyn's garage Vincent Street

**Trentham
Football
Club
1936**



**Team
name not
known
circa 1940-
50s
Can you
name the
team?**

**Lawn Tennis
Club members
circa 1950s**

**Can you identify
anyone?**



HELP US HELP YOU



We need your help

...to encourage others in the community to become members of the Historical Society.

Our membership is currently strong but we are striving to reach for an even wider engagement.

We encourage you to spread the word, lobby your friends and networks. More members will mean we have more capacity and confidence to tread new ground.

email: history@daylesford.net or

Phone 5348 1453

Donor – Please support the Daylesford & District Historical Society Inc.

As the financial year comes to a close please note that your museum has Tax Deductible Status, any donation over \$2 may be deductible. Receipt as such will be issued. A Donor Form is attached to this Newsletter see page 13

If you have any queries do not hesitate to contact us,

email: history@daylesford.net or ph. 5348 1453

Please support
Daylesford & District Historical Society Inc.

Donations to the Society are always welcome to ensure the continuation of our important work collecting, cataloguing, preserving, interpreting, and celebrating Daylesford & District's history & heritage. A receipt will be issued for all donations of at least \$2, which may be deductible for tax purposes. Donations help secure our future care, research and sharing of the local community history and heritage.

I wish to donate to the Daylesford & District Historical Society Inc.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mobile / Phone: _____

Email: _____

Amount of Donation: \$ _____

Cheque enclosed (payable to D&DHS)

Cash paid at Museum

Receipt No

Bank Transfer

Signature _____

Please return your completed form by:

Email: history@daylesford.net.au

Mail: Daylesford & District Historical Society, 100 Vincent St, DAYLESFORD 3460

THANK YOU!

Enquiries: Judy Files, Treasurer – 0419 325 495

ABN 94 876 895 453, Incorporation Number A13586

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Museum Opening Hours:
Weekends 1.30 pm-4.30pm.
1.30-4.30 Tue. Wed. School
Holidays & Public Holidays

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Vice-President (Jnr)	Les Pitt
Secretary	Anne Tamblyn
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NEWSLETTER

Daylesford & District Historical Society Incorporated
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