

# **BUNINYONG AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Reg. No. A0030085Y

Web Site <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~buninhis>

PO Box 98, Buninyong, Vic. 3357.

## **Newsletter**



*Ballantrae*, circa 1875, with members of the Coates family who lived there for many years.  
Copy of photo kindly donated by Peter and Yvette Hiscock

## **August 2012**

Our August Meeting takes place on Thursday 16 August, at 7.30m when we will celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. Peter Hiscock, our founding President, with his wife Yvette, have invited us to have our meeting at their historic home, *Ballantrae*, one of our earliest homes dating from the 1850s, and one of a handful of Buninyong buildings listed on the Victorian Heritage Register.

### **News**

It is with sadness that we record the death of R. John Scott on 13 June. John was born in 1917, son of Dr. Robert Scott, whose grandparents Andrew and Celia established their *Mount Boninyong* run in 1839. John farmed the Scotsburn property and now his

daughter Celia continues the family tradition. John and his wife Mary were great supporters of this society in its infancy.

We have gained a grant in conjunction with the Buninyong Progress Association to put plaques on the most significant buildings in the heart of the village. The grant comes from the Buninyong Branch of the Bendigo Bank, and we are very grateful for their support.

The long-awaited new Buninyong Supermarket in Learmonth St. opened in July with great fanfare, and is a great asset to the village. We will watch with interest the refurbishment of the old grocery store site.

On 7 July the Friends of the Buninyong Botanical Gardens presented a delightful luncheon at the Buninyong Town Hall, with garden writer Anne Lautreille giving a stimulating talk of a famous French garden. Peter Hiscock was Chairman of proceedings.

Sunday 29 July was National Tree Day, and the Upper Williamson's Creek Landcare Group organised a tree planting on Ogilvie Lane. Although a bitterly cold morning, the enthusiastic volunteers planted 700 trees and shrubs, then enjoyed a BBQ cooked by John Emery. It was great to see Don Ogilvie with his son and granddaughter as part of the team.

We hosted a visit from the Geelong Branch of the National Trust on Tuesday 31 July, when about 25 members held their meeting in Buninyong, then enjoyed lunch and a guided tour of the village with Anne Beggs-Sunter.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL QUERIES**

### **June-August 2012**

**BURRINGTON** - Herbert Henry was the tanner at Buninyong from 1860-2, when he purchased the Tannery site on 13 August 1860. From a descendant living in Gippsland, who visited us in July

**McGRATH** – Nathaniel from Northern Ireland married in 1859 and as a carpenter in Buninyong raised a large family. Three of his sons married the three daughters of Laurence Peake. Query from Queensland

**McHAFFIE**, Hunter – publican in the Napoleons area in 19<sup>th</sup> century. Related to Davies and Martin families. Query from ACT

**McKINNON** – Donald McKinnon, from Strath Inverness, Scotland, with his wife Flora immigrated to Victoria and settled in Durham Lead area in 1850s. Donald died in 1916, and is buried at Buninyong with his wife. Query from Buninyong,

**PRATER** – William and Ann, owners of Prater's Racecourse Hotel, Napoleons, until 1870s. William and Ann had no children, and Hunter McHaffie took over the licence to the hotel in 1883. Query from ACT

**REDFERN** – Thomas Redfern was a carter at Coleman's Springs. Buried at Buninyong with his wife and two daughters, Query from a descendant in NSW

**RICHARDS** – Elizabeth came from Cornwall via Cuba to Port Phillip with her husband to Victoria around 1852. She became a publican at the Victoria Hotel in the Enfield area in the 1870s and 1880s. Her son Samuel married Louisa Thornton at Spring Creek, near Dereel, in 1864. From a great, great grandson

**RYDER** – William Huxham Ryder was in Buninyong in 1854 when he signed a petition to keep the local police sergeant, and he also signed the petition for local government in Buninyong in 1859, the year he married Ann McGlone from Ireland. We have no further record of him, but know the couple divorced in 1861. She later moved to the Sago Hill-Haddon area.

**Anyone with information about these families is invited to contact the Secretary, Anne Beggs-Sunter, at [a.beggs-sunter@ballarat.edu.au](mailto:a.beggs-sunter@ballarat.edu.au)**

## **A New Twist to Buninyong Tannery**

Thanks to an email and a visit from a member of the Burrington family, we have some new information on the beginnings of the Buninyong Tannery, a very important enterprise in nineteenth century Buninyong.

On 13 August 1860 Herbert Henry Burrington purchased Lots 1,2,3,4, and 5 of Section 59A, the Buninyong Tannery site. Burrington came from a long line of tanners and curriers in Crediton, Devon, and had immigrated to Victoria in 1852. In around 1856, he established a tannery in Ballarat, between Sturt St. and Wendouree Parade. He sold this to James Lang, and established the tannery at Buninyong. A detailed report in the *Ballarat Star* of 9 January 1862 gives an excellent history of the Ballarat tannery and Burrington's involvement. The 1862 Buninyong Directory lists H Burrington as tanner, Learmonth St. In the same directory E. Cravino was listed as a currier in Learmonth St., Thomas Williams as a tanner in Warrenheip St., and John Kelsall and Tobias Mankey as fellmongers, suburban.

Early in 1862 the tannery was sold to Andrew Charles Davies, saddler, who had been in Ballarat and Buninyong since the early 1850s. Davies was in Buninyong in 1854. An Advertisement in the *Ballarat Times* of 21 October 1854 lists 'Davies and Sons, saddlers, harness makers and leather sellers, Lydiard St. and next to the Crown Hotel, Buninyong.' In the 1865 *Buninyong Directory*, Davies and Sons are listed as 'tanners', and George Coyle is the manager of the tannery in Learmonth St. Burrington's name does not appear. Burrington had moved on to other interests.

## **Princess Royal Hotel destroyed by fire 1908**

Thanks to Trove, we now have the precise date of the fire that destroyed the Princess Royal Hotel in Warrenheip St, on the block where the service station now stands. The fire was widely reported, even in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Here is a Victorian report:

*Broadford Courier*, 27 March 1908

Fire at Buninyong. NARROW ESCAPES. A fire occurred at Buninyong and destroyed the Princess Royal Hotel and four shops. Mrs. Tubridy, wife of the licensee of the hotel, had a very narrow escape. With her husband she occupied a room on the top story, and neither was awakened by the fire; but one of the sons

gave the alarm. Mr. and Mrs. Tubridy and the family had great difficulty in getting out of the premises. Mrs. Tubridy went back in to the burning building to get a cash box in the bedroom, and her escape by the stairs was cut off. The place was a mass of flames, when she burst open one of the upstairs windows and got on to the roof of the verandah. A number of firemen who saw her dangerous position improvised something to catch her, and she jumped from the roof of the verandah, escaping with some minor injuries. Mr. Unrau also had a narrow escape. He was awakened by the roaring of the fire, and upon opening the door of his room fire and smoke rushed in. He had barely time to get outside in his night attire.

## **Buninyong and District Community News –end of an era.**

On 9 August 2012 the Buninyong and District Community News celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Buninyong Golf Club. This was a time to pay tribute to the many volunteers who have gathered at the Old Library every month to collate, staple and distribute the newsletter around the township. From now on the news will exist in digital form, published on the Buninyong website, [www.buninyong.vic.au](http://www.buninyong.vic.au) This will create a problem for residents who do not have a computer. However we will ensure that a printed copy continues to be added to our complete set stored at the Court House. Jean Cusack will continue her task of indexing the news for our records.

### **COMING EVENTS**

16 August – Buninyong and District Historical Society meeting, 30<sup>th</sup> birthday at Ballantrae.

18 August – Market Day and Open House at the Society.

18 October- AGM

21-28 October is History Week. For programs and activities organised by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria see [www.historyweek.org.au](http://www.historyweek.org.au)

Sunday 21 October will be the Buninyong Come To Life Festival.