

BUNINYONG AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Reg. No. A0030085Y
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PO Box 98, Buninyong, Vic. 3357.

Newsletter



The Blue Bridge at Mount Doran, photographed in July 2009, showing the reinforcing works carried out by VicTrack in recent times, under the supervision of Heritage Victoria. The underside of the bluestone arch has been reinforced with steel, dramatically changing the appearance of the old bridge.

August 2009

Next meeting is Thursday 20 August 2009, at 7.30p.m. at the Court House History Centre. Once again we will concentrate on Heritage Issues, following the visit of Heritage Architect Brian Benson to Buninyong on 2 August. We need to prepare a list of heritage sites in the Moorabool Shire for the Heritage Study which is currently underway.

Membership News.

We are sad to have received the resignation of Pauline Holloway from the Society. Pauline moved into Ballarat a few years ago. We acknowledge the wonderful contribution that Pauline has made to local history over the years, particularly to recording the history of Lal Lal. She produced an invaluable history of Lal Lal for the 1988 Bicentenary. Pauline was also a regular volunteer at the Court House, and a fund of local knowledge.

But we are delighted to welcome a new local member in Jason Nitz, who has recently moved to Ballarat and works in the mining industry. It is great to have an expert in gold mining in our midst. Jason will be our speaker on the Imperial Mine at our October meeting.

We also welcome two new corresponding members – the Caligari family from Queensland, and Coral Walker-Smith from Western Australia.

Buninyong Primary School

We have been reassured that the School will not demolish the historic Police Court. The new classrooms and library will be built adjacent to the old building, and we hope to work with the school to find ways and means to restore the old building and use it as a possible historic resource centre. Member for Ballarat East, Geoff Howard, has been very helpful in our quest to preserve the historic building.

FAMILY HISTORY ENQUIRIES

July-August 2009

BENNETT – John was an early resident of Buninyong, one of only five marriages performed by Rev. Thomas Hastie in 1849. In May 1853 he appeared before the local court, and was listed on the first Electoral Roll in 1856 as a resident of Buninyong. He died in 1862 and was buried at Buninyong.

EGSPULER – Johann and Maria emigrated from Switzerland in 1854 and settled at Buninyong by 1861. Query from Sydney

FELSTEAD – Theo Felstead settled at Clarendon where he was a carpenter, and later selected land at Clarendon.

HALLAM - **John Clifford Hallam**, and his wife **Mary** (nee Graham) came to Burnt Bridge in approx 1854 from Tasmania. The death certificate of son John Clifford shows him being born at Buninyong in 1855. Daughter Mary Graham Hallam was born at Burnt Bridge on 18 March 1857 and registered in Buninyong. Occupation of the father JC senior is shown as 'Toll Collector'

HISCOCK – A descendant of Thomas Hiscock who has recently returned from NZ wrote enquiring about the mystery of Thomas Hiscock's gold cup, which he was awarded as the discoverer of gold.

HUNTINGFORD – Charles Huntingford was at Winters Hill in 1864, probably mining. He and wife Susannah raised a family in the area and he died in 1888. One member of the family, George, went to Leongatha in the 1890s.

HYNES – Joseph and Mary from County Clare settled near the Blue Bridge at Mount Doran and were registered there in the first Buninyong Shire rate assessment in 1863. Joseph selected land in the area, and was buried at Meredith in 1906. Query from Queensland,

KIRBY - John Kirby and his wife Ann were married at Buninyong by the Rev Thomas Hastie in 1853. John, a butcher in the district, was originally a Parkhurst Boy who arrived at Geelong on the *Joseph Somes* in 1847

NUNN – John Laverick Nunn settled in the Warrenheip area by 1860, when he contributed to the Buninyong Presbyterian Church building appeal. He died in 1875 at Dunnstown. From Jan Brooks, Cheltenham, Vic.

OXENHAM –Henry and Eliza established ‘Gloucester Gardens’ orchard at the foot of Mount Buninyong from 1865. Eight children born, but five died in childhood between 1866 and 1871. Son Samuel carried on the orchard and was a Shire Councillor at the end of the century. Query from Echuca.

PUBROOK/PULBROOK – John Pulbrook and Elizabeth Quick lived at Whim Holes from the late 1850s. to the 1870s. (There was a ‘Polbrooks Gully’ in the Enfield State Forest, according to the Napoleons Historical Society)

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT GAZETTES ON LINE.

There are so many wonderful sources appearing on the Internet. The latest is the Victorian Government Gazettes, from 1837 to 1997. Government Gazettes provide information about localities, local government initiatives, and appointments to public service jobs and community committees They have always been difficult to use in the printed form, because of the rather bizarre indexing. But now it is possible to enter the name of a locality, such as ‘Buninyong’, and get a long list of entries, such as the appointment of the postmaster, and then go to the appropriate page to read the entry. Wonderful! The address is <http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/>

GLEANINGS FROM THE *GEELONG ADVERTISER*

Generosity and Public Spirit

In 1847 when news of the Irish Famine reached Australia, the *Geelong Advertiser* co-ordinated an appeal for the Irish and Scotch Relief Fund. The *Geelong Advertiser* of 10 September 1847 published lists of subscribers to the fund, including 46 people who gave their contributions to the Learmonth Brothers at Buninyong, they themselves contributing £10. This was the same year they were working at establishing the Presbyterian Church and a bush boarding school at Buninyong, and Thomas became secretary of the school.

Learmonth Woolshed at Buninyong

While they had started planning the family mansion at *Ercildoun*, the brothers built possibly the biggest wool shed in Port Phillip in 1848. The *Geelong Advertiser* of 22 July 1848 carried a description of the woolshed, designed by Mr McCain, architect. It was 200 ft. by 40 ft., with the floor raised 10 ft. above the ground. It cost an estimated £800.

Gold Escort Established 1851

The government established an armed gold escort service from Buninyong to Geelong and Melbourne in October 1851. The service would run every Tuesday at 6.00 a.m. from Buninyong, arriving at Geelong by 4.00 p.m. An officer would be appointed to receive the gold and dispatch it, and the government would charge a fee of 1%, equating to £3 per ounce on washed gold. It was announced that the escort would take all care, but if gold was lost in transport, it bore no responsibility. (*Geelong Advertiser*, 1 November 1851)

Veitch's store to be moved

On 12 December 1851 a notice appeared in the *Geelong Advertiser* stating that as John Veitch had been obliged to 'remove his store, as it at present stands in the centre of the street, he was holding a sale at his store, including ironmongery, boots, pistols and saddles, all at town prices.

EXHIBITIONS WORTH A VISIT

The Great Collections exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ballarat is a must see for all history buffs. There are some fascinating items relating to our own bushranger, Captain Moonlite, alias Andrew Scott, the Anglican lay-reader at Mount Egerton in the 1860s. The exhibition is free, and on view until the end of August.

There is a lovely little exhibition at the Gold museum, curated by our own Doug Brady.

This unveils the history of the property Ercildoune, established by the Learmonth Brothers at the same time they were establishing their Buninyong Station from 1838. This exhibition is on view until October.

MOORABOOL SHIRE HERITAGE STUDY.

The Moorabool Shire is undertaking a Heritage Study of the whole of the Shire, under the expert supervision of Heritage Architects Wendy Jacobs and David Rowe. There will be a Community Workshop held at our Court House headquarters on Wednesday 16 September from 4.30p.m. to 6.30p.m. The consultants want to hear what we think is significant in terms of buildings, urban design, engineering infrastructure and landscaping.

NOTICE OF OCTOBER AGM

We are planning a rather different AGM this year. We will meet on Saturday 17 October at 2.00p.m. at the Court House History Centre, for our AGM and an address on the Imperial Mine from our new member, Jason Nitz, who works in the mining industry and has a keen interest in the history of gold mining. After Jason's talk, we will visit the Imperial site to inspect the gold monuments and the remains of the mine. Then back to the Court House for afternoon tea.

COMING EVENTS

Meeting, Thursday 20 August Court House History Centre, 7.30p.m.

Tuesday 25 August, Town Hall – 150th Anniversary of Buninyong Gardens Planning meeting, 7.15p.m., all welcome.

Buninyong Farmers' Market and Court House open, third Saturday of the month, 9.30a.m. to 1.30p.m.