

BUNINYONG AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Reg. No. A0030085Y

Web Site <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~buninhis>
PO Box 98, Buninyong, Vic. 3357.

Newsletter - February 2011



The Lal Lal Falls in full flood, 16 January 2011. This flow led to the announcement by Central Highlands Water in February 2011 that the Bungal Dam is almost full! This is a great relief to the group PALM – Friends of the Moorabool River, who have been deeply concerned about the loss of environmental flow to the river over many years. At long last, it seems that Nature has taken the initiative, and given us a positive environmental outcome.

Our first meeting of 2011 will take place next Thursday, 17 February, at the Court House History Centre. This will be a planning and ideas meeting

Congratulations to Vic Bradley, OAM.

In the Australian Honours Awards announced on Australia Day 2011, our own Vic Bradley was honoured with an OAM for his community service. Vic, aged 87, has been a long-time member of the Buninyong RSL, the Buninyong Senior Citizens, and the Buninyong Masonic Lodge. He had also been involved with sporting clubs

including the Buninyong Golf Club and the Buninyong Bowls Club. Involvement with the RSL has been very important. Driven by his service with the Australian Army during World War Two in Bougainville. Vic is very proud of his recent involvement with Mount Clear Secondary School, and his trip to Turkey and France in 2007 with school members. Vic has been a great contributor to the Buninyong and district community!

Goodbye and welcome to members

We would like to recognise the enormous contribution of Rex Harcourt, on his retirement from our Society. He has been our expert on Magpie, and a long term 'cricket tragic', who has made a great contribution to the Melbourne Cricket Club Museum of Sport, in particular writing about the first Aboriginal cricket tour of England in the 1860s. Rex donated a number of annotated maps on the Magpie area which have enriched our collection. Thank you Rex for a wonderful contribution to our Society, and to the history of Magpie.

Welcome to Jean Cusack of Buninyong, who has been a regular at our cataloguing mornings in 2010, indexing the Parish Plans of some of our country towns, including Durham Lead, Yendon, Lal Lal and Clarendon. Neil McCracken is busy translating Jean's work into our big database of historical names.

We also welcome as new members Jenny and Les Alderton of Corindhap. Les is pursuing post-graduate research in history at the University of Ballarat.

Vale to a long-term friend of the Society – Alexander Gordon Hale (1923-2010), youngest son of Edgar and Amy Hale. Alex was the grandson of George Hale, an early representative of local government in Buninyong. He studied at the School of Mines, and went on to a distinguished career as an industrial chemist in Sydney. But he never forgot Buninyong, and especially memories of playing tennis for Holy Trinity, and was a generous supporter of the new courts in Inglis St. Thanks to Derick Leather, the Hale boys from Sydney maintained a strong link to Buninyong.

Biographical Queries

ANDREWS – According to family records, Henry James Andrews and his wife Margaret ne Pollard were in the Buninyong area in 1847 when their son Alfred was born. The birth is not recorded with BDM. Query from the Gold Coast, Qld.

EMBLETON – George arrived from northern England in early 1854, and according to family tradition may have been at the Eureka Stockade. Married in Ballarat in 1856. Settled down at Durham Lead with a family of 10 children. Appear to have left the district in 1874. Query from Orange, NSW.

JONES – Robert Jones drowned in June 1871, and was buried at Buninyong. Was this a mining accident? Query from Balwyn, Vic.

MOORE – Richard Moore was a miller at Buninyong in 1857 when his daughter Emily Matilda was baptized by Rev. Russell of Buninyong Episcopal Church. In

1871 Richard and Priscilla Moore were living at Scotchman's Lead. Later descendants moved to Canada, from whence this request came.

MORRIS – John was a coalminer, born in Northumberland in 1824. He migrated to Adelaide in 1852 with his wife Margaret and a four year old daughter Isabella, as assisted immigrants. The family were at Scotchman's Lead in 1858 when their daughter Jane was born. It appears John was recruited to take up a position as fireman at the New Zealand Brunner mine in Westland, and he worked there for 29 years until his death in the Brunner Mine Disaster in 1896, which claimed 55 lives. His wife Margaret stayed in the Buninyong district, and died in 1900, at her home in Yarrowee. Query from New Zealand

PLATT – Henry Platt operated a private school in Scotsburn in the late nineteenth century, where he educated his own large family and the children of neighbours. Query from the Whitsundays of North Queensland., just before Cyclone Yasi hit! (For the record, our researcher was safe)

SMART –David Smart and his wife Margaret Anderson came to Australia in January 1853 on the *James Brown* as assisted immigrants. They had two children, James 10 and Euphemia 8. Supposed to have come to Buninyong soon after arrival.

THOMPSON – Joseph Thompson married Eliza Barbara Berkerly, daughter of an Irish doctor, and she died at Buninyong in 1874 of heart disease, aged 53. (Obituary in the *Argus*) Joseph was the publican at the Court House Hotel in Learmonth St., and he died in 1877, aged 62.

Any clues about these families, please contact the Secretary, a.beggs-sunter@ballarat.edu.au (NB It has been a great pleasure over the Summer holidays to be able to put some family members in contact, showing the value of this column in our newsletter.)

MarmalAshes

We are happy to support the MarmalAshes, a project that has attracted great media interest in recent weeks, even getting a mention in the prestigious London *Guardian*. Local cricket enthusiast Russell Luckock was the originator of the concept, following the loss of the Ashes by the Australian Cricket Team to England in January 2011. Russell's brilliant idea is to offer a contest from a team of 11 Marmalade makers from Buninyong to a team in Cumbria, England, for the MarmalAshes trophy for 'best Marmalade makers' The trophy will be stored permanently in the Court House of the Buninyong and District Historical Society.

Gentlemen's Sport in 1876

Further to the report in the last issue on coursing, I came upon the following description of an event in 1876.

On 19 April 1876 the *Ballarat Star* carried a report of a hunt at Burnt Bridge with Mr Clarke MLA.'s harriers. There was 'a cavalcade such as never before visited the district. There were buggies and carryalls filled with ladies and their knights, with

some 25 sportsmen on horseback, nearly all from the ‘ancient village’ and Clarendon... A hare was found in Mr Ealgeson’s paddock and was chased by half-a-dozen Kellsalls, a trio of Scotts, any number of Hedricks and Sellicks, with Master Hastie on *The Doctor* and Mr Whykes on *Butcher*. They chased the hare to the Blue Bridge, then back to Burnt Bridge and then through Kellsall’s paddock until they lost the hare in the Lal Lal Ranges. Host Mr Campbell of Burnt Bridge provided a ‘capital dinner’ at the end of the day. There were only three spills and no one was injured, and one dog was lost, for whom a reward was offered.

Interesting to notice that the reporter uses the term ‘the ancient village’ for Buninyong, and that the Rev. Hastie’s 20-year-old son was a member of the hunt, along with members of the Kellsall and Scott families.

Breaking the Drought!

The Summer of 2010-11 has proved the most amazing time for us in the Buninyong Shire, as for everyone in the South-East regions of Australia. The ‘La Nina’ weather pattern has seen unusually high dumps of rain in our region – in December 2010, in January and again in early February 2011. This has resulted in unprecedented flows in our important catchments – the Lal Lal Falls and the Moorabool River, which had been under terrible stress for the last few years. (Meredith had 145 mm of rain on 4 February 2011!) Our Gong in Buninyong had also been dry this time last year. Now, at the beginning of February 2011, it is absolutely full, and lapping the edge of Cornish St. The Gardens below are looking verdant – such a change in one year!

Losing our Agricultural Lands!

Buninyong is growing at an alarming rate! The boom in the City of Ballarat flows through to Buninyong, and that has very positive effects on institutions such as the Buninyong Primary School and the Recreation Reserve, with its cricket, tennis and football clubs.

But a really devastating result of the urban renewal of Buninyong has been the loss of our wonderful suburban farming lands on the outskirts of the old Parish boundary. In the 19th Century Jerr’s Jam Factory operated in Simpson Street, with intensive crops of fruits such as Gooseberries, Raspberries, Blackcurrants and Strawberries. Close by were the rich market gardens of the Attwood, Coxall and Little families – Cabbages and Cauliflowers sent every day to the market in Ballarat.

Now, sadly, all that rich agricultural land on the outskirts of Buninyong has been subsumed for residential development! Where once we had orchards and market gardens, in 2011 we have residential housing blocks. The Historical Society laments the loss of this rich agricultural land, and will mark its importance in our special exhibition this year to mark the botanical riches of Buninyong, and the 150th anniversary of the Botanical Gardens.

The MarmalAshes, which gained international press in February 2011, only highlights the issue. In the late 19th Century we had Kerr’s Factory operating in Buninyong,

making a wide variety of jams, and employing dozens of local people. In 2011, there is no local industry, but just the possibility of attracting media interest to a project that draws on nineteenth century history.

New Look to Buninyong Festival

The former Buninyong Gold King Festival has restyled itself as the Buninyong Good Life Festival, and from 2011 will be held on the last weekend of October. It is hoped that the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Buninyong Botanical Gardens can co-ordinate with the Festival.

COMING EVENTS

17 February General Meeting, Buninyong and District Historical Society. 7.30 p.m.

19 February Open House, Court House to 1.30 pm.

March – excursion to be planned.

April National Heritage Week 17-24 April

May – 7-8 May Ballarat Heritage Festival