



A group of ADHS Inc members at Daly's Cottage, Percydale. The only surviving, reasonably intact, remnant of a town which in the 1870s was larger than Avoca. It is listed on the Register of the National Estate, and is managed by the Avoca & District Historical Society under an agreement with the owners. We hope to be able to open it to visitors in 2010, with admission fees paid to the Daly's Cottage Restoration Fund.



Another activity of the ADHS Inc is the recently formed group "Friends of Avoca Cemetery", the purpose of which is to assist the Cemetery Trust with maintenance of the Cemetery and its records. Proceeds of "Walking Tours of the Cemetery" are deposited in the "Avoca Cemetery Restoration Fund". The above headstone commemorates Ah Kin Howqua who was licensee of the Percydale Hotel & Theatre in the 1870s and also Interpreter in the Avoca Court.

Amongst the treasures to be found in the Avoca Court House are the old newspapers. For many years Avoca boasted two local papers, each produced twice-weekly. They were the "Avoca Mail" and the "Avoca Free Press". Competition between them even extended to one suing the other for libel!

We have most issues from very early up to 1976 on microfilm, and we have a microfilm reader-printer. There are also around fifty years of hard copies in bound volumes, which are becoming fragile so they are not on open access. A grant from Pyrenees Shire paid for 30 reels of film, and we are encouraging members to each donate \$50 for another reel. Donors names are inscribed on the boxes in which they are stored, as well as acknowledgment in the Society's newsletter. Around a dozen members have responded to this request to date, and when we get a few more we will order films of those years we do not have.

Below is an extract from an 1872 Avoca Mail.

WHOLESALE

**Wine, Spirit, & Provision Merchants,**  
HIGH-STREET, AVOCA,  
AND AT  
CREEWICK, ST. MARKET-ST., MELBOURNE, & GUMERAK.

**PERCYDALE HOTEL AND THEATRE,**  
PERCYDALE.

**A. K. HOWQUA**

BEGS to thank the residents of Percydale and visitors from the neighborhood for their customary patronage since he opened the above house, and to inform them that it will be his constant aim to secure taste, comfort and convenience in the future.

*Best Wines, Spirits, and English Ales.*

**Good Accommodation for Travellers and Visitors**  
GOOD STABLING. MODERATE CHARGES.

The Theatre in connection with the above is large and commodious and has built expressly for theatrical performances, concerts, meetings, &c.

**"THE WEEKLY TIMES,"** 3d.

NOTICE  
MR. GEORGE STREET, 20 C  
London, E.C., has been appointed agent for the above Mail, and is enabled to receive advertisements and collect on behalf of the proprietors.

HEAPEST PAPER in AUSTRALIA. Contains Tales, Sketches, Scientific Articles, News, &c. especially for Ladies, Extracts from English and American Papers, Agricultural and Scientific News.

## Avoca & District Historical Society Inc.



### ❧ AVOCA COURT HOUSE ❧

85 High Street (Sunraysia Highway) Avoca  
(Ballarat end of town)

This building operated as a Court from 1859 to 1979, and is now the Headquarters of Avoca & District Historical Society Inc. It contains a local & family history resource centre, which is a "Place of Deposit" (POD) authorised by the Public Record Office of Victoria (PROV). Open Sundays 10.30am to 4.00pm free to members and \$5 per person to others. Open at other times by appointment with a "Special Opening Fee" which may vary according to size of group and purpose of visit. Telephone the President on (03) 5465 3744 or email [tonyoshea@inet.net.au](mailto:tonyoshea@inet.net.au)

**Avoca & District Historical Society Inc.**

Incorporation No. A5883

ABN 25 815 548 934

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

or **RENEWAL NOTICE**

(delete whichever does not apply)

Name.....

Address:.....

.....

Postcode..... Tel.....(BH)

.....(AH)

eMail.....

**Membership Category :**

Single \$20 Family \$25 \$.....

Corporate \$50 \$.....

Joining Fee \$5.00

Donation to Court House

Restoration Fund \$.....

Donation to Daly's Cottage

Restoration Fund \$.....

Donation to Avoca Cemetery

Restoration Fund \$.....

(Donations of \$2.00 or more are

tax deductible)

**TOTAL:** \$.....

For more information check out our website:  
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~adhs/ADHSMMain.htm>

**I/we hereby apply for membership / renewal of membership in the Society** (delete whichever does not apply)

**and I/we agree to abide by the Rules of the Society, a copy of which will be made available upon request.**

I am willing to receive my newsletter electronically, as a .pdf document Yes/No

I am interested in joining the "Friends of Daly's Cottage" group within the Society. Yes/No

I am interested in joining the "Friends of the Avoca Cemetery" group within the Society. Yes/No

Member's Interests (Optional):

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**I can assist the Society in the following ways:**

Can help at the Courthouse on Sunday

Mornings once monthly Yes/No

Can help at the Courthouse on Sunday

Afternoons once monthly Yes/No

Can help with occasional working bees at Daly's Cottage Yes/No

Can help with occasional working bees at Avoca Cemetery Yes/No

Can help with occasional working bees at the Avoca Court House Yes/No

For Corporate Member, name of person authorised to receive communications and exercise voting rights etc.....

**Please forward completed form with cheque or money order to:**

**Treasurer A.D.H.S. Inc. PO Box 24 Avoca VIC 3467**

**or by electronic funds transfer to:**

BSB 633-000 A/c No. 116634510  
Avoca & District Historical Society Inc.  
General A/c Bendigo Bank, and email the completed form to [tonyoshea@iinet.net.au](mailto:tonyoshea@iinet.net.au)

For office use only:

Date received by Treasurer:

...../...../.....

Cash/cheque/money order for

\$..... received.

Receipt No.....

First newsletter mailed to new member:

...../...../.....

Date received by Editor for database entry:

...../...../.....

The Society's records are in the old Avoca Court House, 85 High St., Avoca. It is open on the fourth Sunday of each month (except December) from 10.30am to 4.00pm or on other days by appointment.

**Contact the President, Tony O'Shea by email [tonyoshea@iinet.net.au](mailto:tonyoshea@iinet.net.au) or by telephone (03) 5465 3744.**