

Postal Address: PO Box 24 Avoca VIC 3467
eMail Address: tonyoshea@iinet.net.au
Telephone: (03) 5465 3744

Newsletter of the Avoca & District Historical Society Inc.
ABN 25 815 548 934 Incorporation No. A5883.
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~adhs/ADHSMain.htm>
President & Editor: Mr. Tony O'Shea
Vice President & Public Officer: Mrs. Jill Hunter
Secretary: Mrs. Edna Jarvis
Treasurer: Mrs. Dorothy Robinson
Research Officer: Tammy Hammond
Committee: All of the above, plus
Mrs. Elizabeth Williams, Mr. Harvey Wilkins &
Mrs. Mary Dridan

The ADHS Inc

Annual Garage Sale

is on again, on

Saturday, 19th February, 2011.

It will, for the second time, be held at 182 High Street, Avoca. We need more donated goods and helpers with sorting, pricing and displaying the items to best advantage. If you can spare a few hours during the preceding week, please email or telephone, using the contact details above. This is by far the Society's largest income source now that we have the ability to continue the event throughout the year, on various days when there are lots of visitors in town.

Avoca Court House now open on Wednesdays.

Our long-standing practice of being open on Sundays is being phased out, due to the fact that it seems to be no longer convenient for our volunteers, members or visitors. For the past few months we have been open only on the 4th Sunday, after many years of opening every Sunday. We have found a new Research Officer, Tammy Hammond from Waubra, who cannot attend on Sundays, but can attend on Wednesdays. She anticipates that most of her time during the initial few weeks will be devoted to familiarisation with what we have in our archives, and where it is stored. We hope that many members will find Wednesdays more attractive than Sundays, and can come regularly to help Tammy settle in to the job. The Court House will be open each Wednesday from 10am to 4pm, and for the time being also on the 4th Sunday (Avoca Market Day) from 10.30am to 4pm.



AVOCA

Sesquicentennial Celebrations

150 Years

“ It is proclaimed on this day, February the 6th 1861,
that Avoca be declared a township”

We are celebrating 150 years since Sir Henry Barkly, the Governor of Victoria, proclaimed Avoca as a township and on Sunday February 6th 2011 we extend an invitation to the community to join us for a morning of celebrations.

Join us at the Pyrenees Garden (northern end of High St) at 10am for the official plaque unveiling and commencement of the historical walk through the town. On the way the procession will be greeted by local business owners who will share stories of their building's history. The procession will make its way to the Court House for the official re-enactment of the proclamation and time capsule ceremony at 11am. Tea and scones will be served at the Court House and guests are invited to view the historical photographs and displays before wandering over to the Police Camp to view the old Power Magazine, lock-up and Police Residence.

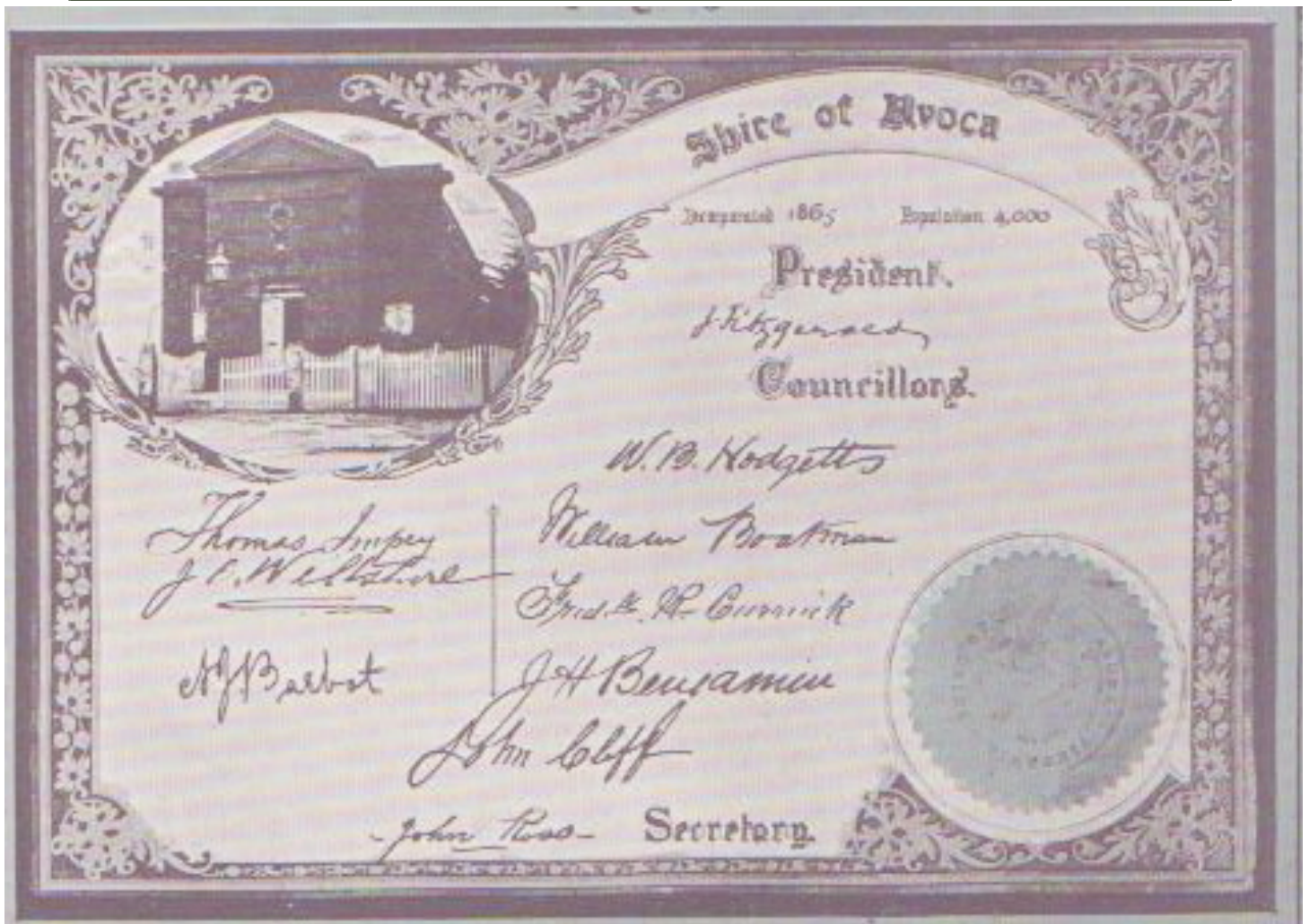
Celebrations will conclude with a traditional Picnic Basket Lunch at the Lions Park at 12:30. Please bring your own picnic basket lunch. Dressing in period costume is encouraged.

For more information head to www.avoca.vic.au



Avoca District
Historical Society





An extract from a booklet published in 1901 by the Municipal Association of Victoria to celebrate the Inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia. It was entitled "Addresses to His Royal Highness The Duke of Cornwall and York and to His Excellency the Governor-General from the Municipalities of Victoria". It contains a good image of the Avoca Shire Hall of the day, and the signatures of Councillors and the Shire Secretary.

First Research Client for 2011 at ADHS Inc.

We had scarcely opened the door and unfurled the flag on the flagpole at the front of the Avoca Court House on our first Wednesday when Malcom Bywaters and his young son Max from Launceston, Tasmania, arrived. As they were signing the Visitors Book, Cheryl Mallinson arrived. As we had 136mm of rain over the past three days and it was still raining, we expected few visitors.

Malcom is Director of the Academy Gallery, School of Visual & Performing Arts, University of Tasmania, and in his holidays from that position is researching for a PhD degree at Melbourne University. Part of his thesis will be devoted to a study of historic houses, and one of these is Watford House in Avoca, hence his visit to the Court House. Of even greater importance to our Treasurer is the fact that Malcom was sufficiently delighted with his visit to hand over \$100!!!

Members who attended our final meeting for 2010 will recall a discussion of the need to appoint a "Volunteer Co-ordinator" whose sole responsibility would be the recruitment and management of a team of volunteers to assist with the many different duties necessary in an organisation having no paid staff. One comment at that meeting was from a member who recalled having belonged to another history-related organisation which found itself encumbered with a Volunteer Co-ordinator who treated her charges so badly that they dropped out! Cheryl Mallinson was sufficiently enthused by Malcom's description of his Gallery's Volunteer Co-ordinator that she "volunteered" to undertake that role at ADHS Inc. Her offer was accepted with alacrity! The member who issued the above-mentioned warning is delighted with Cheryl's appointment, and promised to keep her in line.



Busy volunteers at work in the Research Room at the Avoca Court House on the first of our new Wednesday Open Days. Dorothy Robinson searching the Card Index System, Harcourt & Nonie Long working on indexing the Bird Diaries, and Cheryl Mallinson, newly-appointed Volunteer Co-ordinator. Tammy Hammond and Mary Dridan telephoned their apologies due to flood conditions at their respective homes in Amphitheatre and Waubra preventing their attendance.

A newspaper report from early last century, submitted by ADHS Inc Member Rosemary Hayes:

The Avoca Mail and Pyrenees District Advertiser 12 Oct 1900

“The marriage of John Cheesman the eldest son of Mr. John Cheesman of Barkly and Wilhelmina (Ena) Morrow, daughter of the late William Morrow, farmer, Navarre was celebrated at the residence of the Bride’s parents on Wednesday the 26 ultimo, the ceremony being performed by Rev. W.H. Geer, of Avoca. The bride who was given away by her eldest brother John Morrow, was dressed in white silk trimmed with lace with an unusual veil and orange blossom. The bridesmaids were Miss Kate Morrow, sister of the bride and Miss Agnes Cheesman, sister of the bridegroom who were also very prettily dressed in cream zephir trimmed with lace and wore gold mounted ruby and pearl broaches, gift of the bridegroom. Mr David Cheesman acted as best man. After the ceremony a few friends sat down to a sumptuous wedding breakfast provided by the bride’s mother, the bridal cake being the centre attraction.

After having partaken of the good things the Rev W. H. Geer who presided in a happy and humorous speech proposed the health of the newly married couple. The bridegroom suitably responded in a neat and appropriate speech, after which several other speeches were indulged in by friends present, congratulating the young couple on the step they had taken and wishing them long life and happiness. Last being the toast of the chairman, the young ladies present wished him many happy returns to the district for the same purpose as he was there for that day, after which the festivities were carried on in a merry mood, everyone present thoroughly enjoying themselves until the music and dancing began when our correspondent left, being too old to caper about.

The presents were costly and numerous, those already received were presents from the following: Father of the Bridegroom – cheque, Mother of the Bridegroom – cedar chest of drawers and a handsome illustrated family Bible, Ety Cheesman – sideboard, David Cheesman – nickel mounted Parisian bedstead, Willy Cheesman – drawing room table, Miss Agnes Cheesman – sofa, cake dish and pin cushion, Miss Nellie Cheesman – drawn thread pillow shams and side board cloth, Miss Alice Cheesman – hearth rug, fender and fire irons, Uncle William Cheesman – dresser and knives and folks, Mother of the bride – house linen and trousseau, Miss Morrow – silver tea pot, Miss Kate Morrow a pair of vases and drawn thread work, Messrs. J and A Morrow- a silver cruet, Mr W. Gibbins (Melbourne) a silver pickle jar, Mrs W. Gibbins, sister of the bride - album, plush cushions, pillow sham and pin cushions, Miss E. Gibbins (Taradale) half a dozen serviettes, Mrs E. Gibbins (Taradale) a set of mats and fancy work, Mr and Mrs Thomson (Heifer Station) a silver cruet, Miss Steel (Melbourne) a butter dish and knife.”

The photo below was taken from the Avoca Bridge 11.14am Friday, 14 January, 2011 after more than 9 inches of rain fell since Monday. The gazebo (centre) and toilet block (left) are in the Lions Park, which now occupies the site where the Avoca Baths was situated in 1865, alongside the group of pencil pines. The ADHS Inc Photo Collection has a photo of the baths, showing the pencil pines as much smaller; understandably as they were 146 years younger! They are in much better condition than other types of pines of similar age.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! There are numerous vacancies for people who believe that ADHS Inc performs a useful function in the community, and have a few hours each month to assist in some way. Please let us know which days and times would best suit you; also whether your preference would be to help at the Court House, at 182 High Street, at Daly’s Cottage, or at the Avoca Cemetery. There is a range of activities available at each of those places. Contact us via the telephone number or email address at the top of page 1 of this newsletter.



Meetings of the **Avoca and District Historical Society Inc.** are held approximately quarterly, and vary between excursions to places of interest and Guest Speaker occasions.

The Court House is open for research each Wednesday, plus the fourth Sunday of each month, excepting December, from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. It can be opened at other times by appointment.

As well as free entry to the Court House when open, members receive six Newsletters each year. Non-members are requested to pay \$5 entry fee on each visit to the Court House on Sundays, whether to carry out research with our assistance, or to view the current exhibition. Special Openings of the Court House can be

arranged on other days by appointment, for a fee of \$25.00, plus cost of any copying required. If you are travelling some distance, this is possibly more satisfactory, as you get our undivided attention to assist with your research. On open days you may be sharing our attention with a number of others. We regret having to advise that, until further notice, the Society is unable to accept requests for paid research.

Enquiries re guided tours of places of Historic Interest in the District, including the Avoca Cemetery, may be directed to the President, Tony O'Shea on (03) 5465 3744 or tonyoshea@iinet.net.au The Society charges a moderate fee for these services. Ask for a quote!

Membership Fees: \$20 single; \$25 family at same address; \$50 Corporate. Joining Fee \$5.00 Membership remains current for 12 months from date of joining. Donations of \$2 and over to the Court House Restoration Fund, the Avoca Cemetery Fund, or to the Daly's Cottage (pictured above) Restoration Fund are tax deductible. New membership or renewal of membership forms can be downloaded from our website; the address of which is near the top of page 1 of each edition of the newsletter.

If undelivered, return to
30 Boyce St Avoca VIC 3467

PYRENEES PIONEERS
Print Post Approved
PP332785/000014

**SURFACE
MAIL**

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA