



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. It may be inspected by appointment in return for a donation to the Daly's Cottage Restoration Fund, to which the owners contribute \$1,000p.a



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 plus the Talbot Leader on microfilm, and we have a microfilm reader. There are also around fifty years of hard copies in bound volumes, which are becoming fragile so they are not on open access.

The Society has entered an agreement with the National Library of Australia to fund the digitisation of the Avoca Mail. We have received donations of just over \$2,000 to date, which will pay for the first five years from 1863. This fund was kick-started by a donation of \$500 from our Society's founder, Helen Harris OAM, and others have contributed amounts ranging from \$20 to \$200. The first batch is expected to be live on Trove around mid-2015.

We have established a Memorial Wall in the oldest section of the Avoca Cemetery, to enable plaques to be affixed in memory of early citizens who are buried in unmarked graves. The wall was "unveiled" in February, 2015, by a descendant of an early Magistrate, Charles Warburton Carr. If you would like to arrange for a plaque in memory of an ancestor, please contact the Society to discuss the matter on either the phone number or email address given elsewhere on this leaflet.

Avoca & District Historical Society Inc.



❧ AVOCA COURT HOUSE ❧

85 High Street (Sunraysia Highway) Avoca

This building operated as a Court from 1859 to 1979, and is now the Archives & Museum 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 Wednesdays 10.30am to 4.00pm (except mid-December to end of January) **free to members** and \$5 per hour 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 Society on (03) 5465 3118 or email adhsinc@bigpond.net.au for details.

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 \$.....

(Plus \$5 per annum if you want your newsletter sent by post)

Joining Fee \$5.00

Donation to Court House

Restoration Fund \$.....

Donation to Daly's Cottage

Restoration Fund \$.....

Donation to Avoca Cemetery

Restoration Fund \$.....

Donation to Digitisation 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

If no, and you wish to receive your newsletter by post, you agree to pay an additional \$5p.a.

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): e.g. family names or localities you are researching -

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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

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.
Bendigo Bank, and email the completed form to: <adhsinc@bigpond.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 of database entry:

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

The Society's records are in the old Avoca Court House, 85 High St., Avoca. It is open each Wednesday (except from mid-December to 1st Wednesday in February) from 10.30am to 4.00pm., or on other days by appointment only and payment of a "Special Opening Fee" of \$30 for up to 2 hours. Contact the Society by email adhsinc@bigpond.net.au or by telephone (03) 5465 3118.