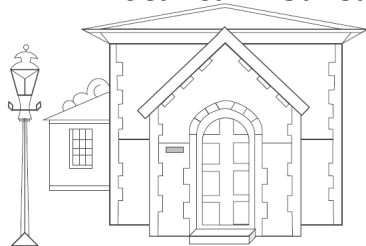


Avoca & District



Historical Society Inc

Est 1984

Avoca & District Historical Society Inc

Inc No. A 5883

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President's Report:

In March, 2020 we announced on our website and Facebook page that the **Courthouse would be closed until further notice**. In mid-June we announced via the same means that we would be open from 1st July, 2020 by appointment only. To date nobody has availed themselves of that opportunity. We have, however, noted an increased number of inquiries by telephone and email, apparently driven by the fact that more people are occupying their enforced leisure watching **"Who do you think you are"** on TV! As the Society's telephone is on diversion to the President's mobile telephone, he can monitor traffic on the Society's email address from home, and our Webmaster, Anne Young, passes on queries she receives via Facebook, we have gained an increase in paid research jobs, which is balancing the loss of revenue from visitors. From mid-April to early May the monitoring of phone and email traffic was conducted from the President's hospital bed, as he underwent heart surgery.

Another significant source of revenue for the Society is usually our monthly garage sale/op shop at 182 High Street, Avoca, which has not operated since March. Fortunately the only ongoing expense has been the electricity, which is normally equivalent to around 20% of the takings, but since there have been no takings since March, it is a drain on our funds. If this state of affairs continues for much longer, the Committee will need to consider closing it down, finding a new home for the merchandise, and thanking Peter Howell for his generosity in allowing the Society free use of the premises for almost 11 years.

As mentioned in the penultimate paragraph on page 1 of Edition 293, we have a backlog of maintenance work needed on the Courthouse, and we are gratified by the generous response by a number of members. However we still need more, and would remind our readers that their donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Tony O'Shea, 6th August, 2020.



\$5,000
\$4,500
\$4,000
\$3,500
\$3,000
\$2,500
\$2,000
\$1,500
\$1,000
\$500

Our New Focus for future fundraising is the

Courthouse Account

Due to the generous response from a number of members our Courthouse tally is \$1,565 YOUR DONATION will assist us with matching funding for possible grants to carry out future maintenance of the Courthouse. Donations \$2 + are tax deductible

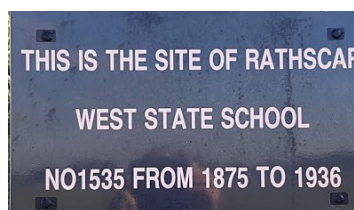
Avoca & District Historical Society supports the Avoca Community Arts & Gardens group at Gallery 127 at the historic Avoca Railway Station by providing displays of photographs, artefacts and memorabilia for display in the **History Room**.

Recently ADHS has featured towns and hamlets in the district and this month the display features Rathscar West, however due to Covid-19 restrictions Gallery 127 is closed. ...so we decided to include the stories & photos in our newsletter.



Rathscar West is located in the Pyrenees Shire and is 9km north of Avoca on the Avoca—Bealiba Rd. The town was located on the east side of the Avoca River and was surveyed in 1899. Gold was mined in the area and a new gold bearing reef was discovered in 1903. Buildings were few.

The state school was situated five miles from Avoca on the Natte Yallock Rd (Avoca—Bealiba Rd) on a triangular block of land, on the east side of the river, alongside the bank, and about a quarter of a mile from the Rathscar West Church.



The **Rathscar West State School**, built of bark and slabs was commenced in 1875. Some kind of residence existed because the first teacher, an Irish woman, Mrs Quillian lived there with her husband. She was a very educated migrant.

Other teachers were Miss M Williams, Miss Opie –1889-1900, Miss McDonald 1906, Miss Sadler, Miss Cameron, Miss Ainsworth -1914 (Mrs W.Mills), Miss Marshall (Mrs J Mills)., Miss Field, Miss Hardy, Mr Clifford, Mr McCallum-1930s, Miss Hawkins (Mrs Derrick) & Mr Munro.

The Departmental school building consisted of a classroom and two smaller rooms. These smaller rooms were meant for a residence but were only used as such, once, by Miss Cameron. When Miss Field was teaching at the school, the attendance was 30. Miss Field left the school to travel overseas to Canada, as an exchange teacher. She taught there, then later in England.



Rathscar West School, c 1903.

Miss Opie was responsible for planting pine trees around the school ground. Later these were noticeable for miles away. Among them were pepper trees, and natives, which can still be seen there today. Due to lack of pupil enrolment, the Rathscar West State School closed in 1936. It was relocated to the showgrounds in Maryborough.

The school's main building was a little smaller than some of the district schools of the era. It had a window in each wall and a small porch, as the entrance. There was a steel chimney, fireplace and a little store room at the rear. Above the window beside the porch was a wooden sign reading – "State School 1535"

Article from the Avoca Mail 27th April 1900—Miss Opie

Miss R. J. Opie, who has been head teacher of the State School at Rathscar West during the past eleven years, has been appointed to an assistant-ship in the North Melbourne school.

Miss Opie is a teacher who keeps herself abreast of the times, and no mechanical contrivance, or sciences apparatus which could be obtained has been spared; Miss Opie having purchased largely at her own expense, and it is believed that this school is the best school in the district.

Miss Opie was not long in winning the respect and cooperation of the parents and the children. It must be so gratifying to Miss Opie to realise that her exceptional ability as a teacher has been recognised by the Department, she being appointed to a school within the metropolitan area as a reward for special merit.

The parents and friends of the children entertained Miss Opie at a social on Tuesday 17th April 1900 last at which great regret was expressed for their loss and they wished her much success and happiness in her new spheres.

SPORTS: The school joined the **Pyrenees District School Sports Association** (P.D.S.S.A.) for their school sports in 1931. They competed until 1936 when the school closed and their school colors were light blue. In 1933, under the guidance of their teacher Mr Charlie McCallum the students won the **Cr S D Slater Shield** and there was great excitement the next day when young Alice Field was asked by Headteacher, Mr Mc Callum, to hang the shield in the school room – Alice had won 9 events in the sports.



In 2006 the PDSSA sports committee gathered historical information for the 75th anniversary celebrations and many people contributed a variety of great stories about the sports. Many also remembered the sporting feats of Alice Field in 1933.

After several phone calls we contacted Alice and she recalled the year her school, Rathscar West, won the sports in 1933. As her birthday was in June she was able to run and jump in the age below and above her age group.



Present at the 75th celebrations was the last Headteacher of Rathscar North State School No 2849, Mr Ron Carless

(Left), Ron shared many wonderful memories of his time in the district and as headteacher of one of the neighboring State Schools, Rathscar North.



Picnics: Community Picnics were not only social gatherings, they were an opportunity to raise much needed funds for the school so they could purchase equipment for the students.

Rathscar West ~ Picnic From Avoca Free Press & Farmers' & Miners' Journal Saturday 28th March 1914

At a meeting held recently the following gentlemen were appointed as the committee in conjunction with the Rathscar West State School:- Messers Job Mills, Geo Jolly, WA Jolly, JW Field, B Elliott, Theo Derrick and J Harbour.

The Rathscar West school grounds presented an animated scene on Wednesday afternoon last, the occasion being a picnic, which it is intended to make an annual fixture. There was a large attendance, visitors coming from Natte Yallock, Avoca and other places.

A hearty welcome was extended to all, and as everyone seemed on pleasure bent, both young and old had a very enjoyable outing. The umbrageous pines which surround the school lend a touch of charm to the environments; beneath these trees a number of seats were placed; choice refreshments were dispensed, the al fresco repast being highly appreciated. The young men of the locality prepared an excellent running track and the juveniles had some exciting contests. The principal race, the Sheffield Handicap, attracted quite a number of peds, Mr W Mills winning in nice style with Mr Tom Elliott runner-up. The young ladies race was won by Miss Annie Field, with Miss D Derrick second.



Games of all kinds were also indulged in, and the swings were liberally patronized. The school committee and ladies of Rathscar West are to be complimented on the success of the gathering; all worked in harmony and the proceedings passed off without a hitch. Miss Ainsworth, who is in charge of the school, also spared no pains to make the function the success it undoubtedly was. As the shades of evening commenced to fall, supper was partaken of, after which a pleasant hour was spent in games in the school room, the happy gathering breaking up at 9pm.

In common with many other parts of the State, this district is feeling the effects of the drought; the Avoca River is now merely a succession of water holes, and rain is badly needed to replenish the dams in the neighborhood.

(A bit like this photo taken in July 2020 !)

Rathscar West Methodist Church: The former (Upper) Homebush Methodist Church building was built about 1872 as a Wesleyan Chapel and it was known to exist on the Homebush site prior to January 1864. The brick church building was dismantled in 1928 and rebuilt, brick by brick at Rathscar West, about six kilometers away.

Note: The editor's Husband's great grandparents, Mr James Harris and Miss Annabella Mc Phee were married in this church when it was located in Upper Homebush. (Marg Pilgrim)



(Left) Brenda Elliott married Tony Aksionov in the Rathscar West Church and was one of the last local brides to be married in the church.



The church is now privately owned.

This is the site and remains of the Elliott house and out buildings in Rathscar West. At some stage this was also the Post Office. It operated from 1901 to 1933. B. Elliott



was the official postmaster from 1901 to 1921. At this time it had Receiving Office status. Mrs. M.A. Elliott was official postmistress from 1921 to 1922 Still a Receiving Office. Elizabeth Alice Elliott was official postmistress from 1922 to 1933. It was upgraded to Post Office status in 1927. Cancels of this post office are extremely rare. (The information regarding the Post Office was kindly supplied by Alex Stoneman)



Left: Mr Benjamin & Mrs Mary Ann Elliott are pictured with 10 of their 13 children in front of their house. Baby Lizzie (Elizabeth) is sitting on her mother's knee.

Mrs Joan Elliott who resides at Rathscar West, provided some of the photos and history of Rathscar West for this article. Her late husband Lance can be seen sawing a large tree trunk. Lance's father was Thomas Job and he is one of the 10 Elliott children pictured above.



Joan's 50th Birthday was celebrated in the Rathscar West Church before it was sold and became a private residence.



Left: Family celebrations for the Golden Wedding – 50th Anniversary for Mr & Mrs Helliard, seated in the middle of the photo.

Seated to the left is Mrs Swanton– Bridesmaid.

Standing far left is Rev Jack Long



Articles from the Avoca Free Press**Rathscar West ~ The Coming of Spring**

Avoca Free Press & Farmers' & Miners' Journal 20th Sept 1916



With the advent of Spring, the country in this locality presents a verdant and nice appearance. The past rains have brought the crops along well, and there is an abundance of feed for the stock, as the grass is growing luxuriantly.

With favourable conditions during the next month or two, the harvest should be a good one.

The lover of Nature can spend an interesting hour along the banks of the sinuous Avoca River. Hard by the Rathscar West State School, on the side of the high bank of the river the swallows are now building their nests.



Here, on this miniature cliff, these graceful birds hatch their little families year after year, without molestation, a fact which speaks well for the juveniles in the vicinity. The sight of so many fleet-winged swallows flitting here and there, is a pleasing one.



Now and again a gaily feathered kingfisher darts across the stream, and further along various birds are singing their lays, filling the air with melody. Other harbingers of the best season are visible everywhere, and the observant eye can see much that is beautiful at this charming spot. The huge umbrageous gums which skirt the rippling river are dark with foliage, making a pretty scene: wild flowers adorn the well-grassed slopes where the lambkin love to gambol, and in the midst of each delightful surroundings the time passes all too rapidly, and the visitor is loth to take his departure into the ordinary, commonplace world again.



COUNTRY NEWS – 1941 **BROOCH FOUND AFTER 24 YEARS**

Avoca— In 1917 Mrs E. A. Castleman, of Rathscar West, lost a gold brooch while walking through a paddock.

This week it was found by Mr Les Templeton, and it is now in the owner's possession.

The colours of the WW1 battalion of Mrs Castleman's brother, Pte W Burns, who was killed in the last war, were set in the brooch, and now after 24 years they look almost as good as new.

RATHSCAR. 24th Sept 1915 SUNDAY SCHOOL CONCERT.

A concert in connection with the Rathscar Methodist Sunday school anniversary celebrations was held in the church on Monday evening last. Owing to the recent heavy rains the attendance was not so large as usual. however, an excellent program was rendered and was much enjoyed. Rev. J. R. Currie presided.

The church was nicely decorated, and the large Sunday School banner looked very picturesque and striking, and adorned the building. Those willing workers who were responsible for the decorations are deserving of praise. The singing of the National Anthem concluded the concert. In consequence of heavy rains and the flooded condition of the creeks and roads, no services-on Sunday were held. As the preachers had to come from a distance, it was almost impossible for them to reach here that day. It is a long time since such floods were experienced. The water was over the hand-rails of the bridge, and the surrounding paddocks, covered with crops, were completely inundated, and looked like a series of pretty lakes. Large logs floating across the paddocks added greatly to the scene. In some places the loss, by the drowning of valuable sheep, is large, and the sufferers are deserving of much sympathy. In reference to the anniversary, this has been arranged to take place on the 3rd October. given fine weather.

RATHSCAR WEST 9th March 1917 A GOOD HARVEST .

Harvest operations are almost over and the yields, on the whole, have been good. The rain of week or so ago did a great deal of damage to wheat and stacks. Against this, of course, much good was accomplished, as the young grass is springing up: Everywhere, and the country around is clothed with a bright green grass. Many of the farmers are cultivating, and the soaking rain that started the weeds to grow. It will readily be seen that the time is opportune to kill the weeds.

METHODIST HARVEST FESTIVAL

The harvest festival in conjunction with the Methodist Church will be held on Sunday next. Special anthems by an enlarged choir will be rendered. and a good result is anticipated.

The following evening Rev. J.R. Currie will deliver his famous lecture entitled "Character Study". The tickets are selling well and much interest is centered in the event.

Another contribution to "Pyrenees Pioneers" by ADHS Inc Member Peter O'Halloran.

(The Editor would be delighted if a few more members could emulate Peter's example!)

The Curtis Ancestry – The Early Days. James Foulkes, Convict (Continued from Edition 293)

Returning to James Foulkes, it is now widely accepted that the conditions endured by prisoners held on the prison hulks were sub-human. Most of the prisoners had been tried and convicted of offences that, today, would hardly attract a bond or a community service order, let alone forced detention in such abominable circumstances to be followed by transportation to a foreign land to serve out a seven year sentence. I wasn't convinced that James Gammell had captured the true horror of the prison hulks so I went looking for some more examples of contemporary accounts. Conditions on board the floating gaols were appalling. The standards of hygiene were so poor that disease spread quickly. The sick were given little medical attention and were not separated from the healthy.

Gaol fever (a form of typhus spread by vermin) was a common affliction suffered by hulk prisoners and spread rapidly among them. Dysentery, caused by drinking brackish water, was also widespread. At first, patients, whatever their state of health, lay on the bare floor. Later, when their conditions worsened they might be given straw mattresses and their irons were removed. Many of the convicts sent to New South Wales in the early years were already disease ridden when they left the hulks. As a result, there were serious typhoid and cholera epidemics on many of the vessels heading for Australia.

One convict, James Hardy Vaux, described the conditions on the hulk **Retribution**:

Below: Hulk "Retribution"

We were confined in this floating dungeon nearly 600 men, most of them double ironed; and the reader may conceive the horrible effects arising from the continual rattling of chains, the filth and vermin naturally produced by such a crowd of miserable inhabitants, the oaths and execrations constantly heard amongst them....

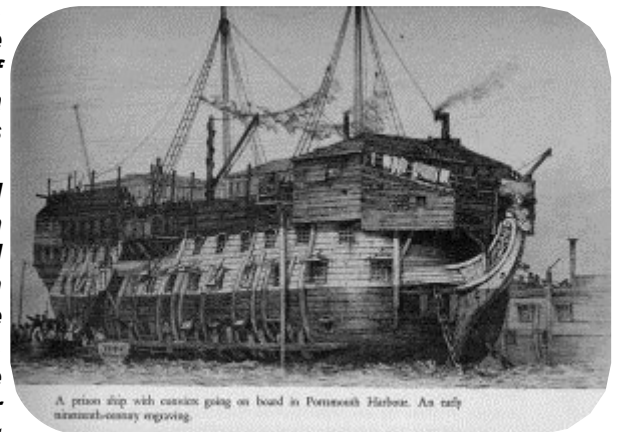
On arriving on board, we were all immediately stripped and washed in two large tubs of water, then, after putting on each a suit of coarse slop clothing, we were ironed and sent below; our own clothes being taken from us.... I soon met many of my old Botany Bay acquaintances, who were all eager to offer me their friendship and services, that is, with a view to rob me of what little I had; for in this place there is no other motive or subject for ingenuity. All former friendships are dissolved, and a man here will rob his best benefactor, or even messmate, of an article worth one halfpenny

The living quarters were very bad. The hulks were cramped and the prisoners slept in fetters. The prisoners had to live on one deck that was barely high enough to let a man stand up. The officers lived in cabins in the stern. The conditions on board were often worse than places like Newgate. Attempts by any prisoners to file away or knock off the chains around their waists and ankles led to frequent floggings, extra irons and solitary confinement in tiny cells with names like the 'Black Hole'.

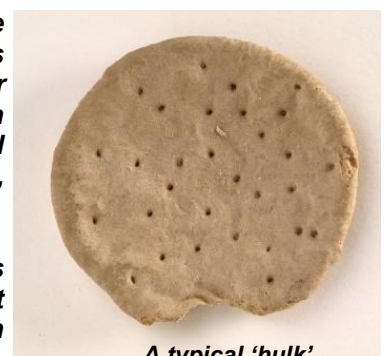
The men were poorly dressed as well as unhealthy. They were supposed to have a linen shirt, a brown jacket and a pair of breeches but the men who controlled the ships often pocketed the money the government had given for the clothes. The authorities were always keen to keep down the cost of the prisons.

They wanted to avoid giving prisoners a better life than the poor had outside the hulks. The quality of the prisoners' food was therefore kept as low as possible. The monotonous daily meals consisted chiefly of ox-cheek, either boiled or made into soup, pease and bread or biscuit: The biscuits were often mouldy and green on both sides! On two days a week the meat was replaced by oatmeal and cheese. Each prisoner had two pints of beer four days a week, and badly filtered water, drawn from the river, on the others.

Sometimes, the captain of a hulk would allow the convicts to plant vegetables in plots near the Arsenal. This attempt to add something extra to the poor diet of the prisoners depended on the goodwill, or otherwise, of the individual in charge.



A prison ship with convicts going on board in Portsmouth Harbour. An early nineteenth-century engraving.



A typical 'hulk' biscuit

Photo of Retribution MY EARLY PIONEERS AND THEIR LIVES By Frank Murray

James, like all prisoners who survived the hulk experience, and there were many who didn't, would have lived for the day of his transportation. Towards the end of March, 1830, the "Lady Feversham" had docked at Portsmouth and was being readied and provisioned to take the next batch of transportees to Australia.

After enduring the hell-hole of the "York" for so many months, the unknown prospect of a four-month voyage followed by seven years in a foreign land on the other side of the world would have seemed attractive to James and his co-felons notwithstanding the nature of the equally cruel treatment they were likely to experience. And so, James and the others selected for the voyage were warded down the gangway to the longboat for the last time. There was no need for the gaolers to push and prod them anymore. At last, this was an escape of sorts. From the dock they filed on board the "Lady Feversham". The sailing of a transportation vessel was usually preceded by a flurry of requests for money, clothing, tobacco, combs and mementos from any of the family that had come to farewell their unfortunate relative. Sometimes a convict's family could get a trifle to him but more usually not, for if they had money to spare, who would have turned to theft and fraud in the first place?

The "Lady Feversham" was quite a different vessel to the old wooden warships that were pressed into service as hulks. Although still not in the "clipper" class of the 1880s, ship design was progressing in that direction with more iron being used in the construction and the shape of the hull undergoing some radical changes to reduce draught and increase overall speed. According to Lloyd's Register, the "Lady Feversham" was a vessel of 430 tons, built at Whitby in 1827-28. Her construction was largely of timber, her hull was sheathed in copper and her frame incorporated iron standards and knees. Under full load her draught was seventeen feet. She had been re-sheathed in copper just prior to her 1830 voyage to Australia.

Captain Stephenson Ellerby was Master of the "Lady Feversham" while her Surgeon Superintendent was Andrew Douglas Wilson. Ellerby had taken over for this voyage from the previous Master Captain G Willis, and would remain with her until 1833.

The prisoners of the Lady Feversham came from many different parts of England and were held on various hulks before being embarked on the vessel. Most of the 180 prisoners had joined the ship on 29th, March, 1830. There is some inconsistency regarding the actual date that the ship set out from Portsmouth. Some sources claim that departure occurred on 8th April, 1830, while others claim the vessel left port on 3rd April. Given the nature of the sources, I am inclined towards accepting the Australian and British government sites that claim 3rd April as the departure date.

The "Lady Feversham" departed Portsmouth on 3rd April, 1830 and arrived in Port Jackson on 29 July, 1830, a voyage of 117 days. There were 180 male convicts aboard, seventy-two of whom were serving life sentences.

The "Lady Feversham" was one of eighteen convict ships to arrive in New South Wales in 1830. The guard on the ship consisted of two sergeants, two corporals and twenty five privates of the 17th Regiment under command of Lieut. Harvey of the 29th regiment.

In accordance with the usual practice, the Surgeon Superintendent Andrew Douglas Wilson kept a Medical and Surgical Journal from 1st March 1830:

'The cases contained in the journal are the whole which occurred in the ship during her passage to New South Wales, consequently the amount of sickness was not great. There were two deaths. The first died from the effects of having led a most dissolute and intemperate life; the other apparently from disease of the lungs. In some few cases where incipient appearances of scurvy presented themselves, I found the exhibition of the nitrates potasse as recommended by Mr. Charles Cameron, surgeon, to be uniformly efficacious and I consider the general good health of the convicts was greatly attributable to well ventilated and cleanly condition in which I was enabled to keep the ship.'

No ship was ever custom built to be a convict transport. Except for a few naval vessels, they were all converted merchant ships, fitted out with the necessary berths and security devices.

The prisoners' berths were usually arranged in two rows, each double height, that is, an upper and lower berth against the hull and a walkway down the centre. This usually worked out at four convicts in a wooden berth, six-feet square. Rarely was there more than six feet of headroom, and the only air came from hatchways, which were kept closed with thick grilles and heavily padlocked. As a result, ventilation was poor and even though the naval surgeons urged masters to fit wind sails over the hatches, these primitive air scoops failed to work just when air was most needed when the ship became becalmed in the suffocating heat of the doldrums.



In times of intense heat the pitch melted and dropped from the seams of the deck burning the prisoners as it fell. At such times, a convict's only thought was for water. Two pints were served out each day to each prisoner. A quart of putrid tepid liquid – it must have been a woeful sight to witness the poor thirsty souls gulp down this meagre allowance.

The convicts not only had to deal with the heat. The ships on these voyages were constantly meeting with squalls of wind, rain, lightning and the constant heavy rolling of the seas that for many days of the voyage meant being precluded from sitting at a table. During such inclement conditions, prisoners had to hold fast to boxes or any other sturdy infrastructure to avoid being thrown around.

The prisoners' food was coarse but sufficient except for the lack of greens. The staple was still brined beef, commonly referred to as "salt horse" – which, no doubt, some of it was. To protect against scurvy, the convicts were issued with lime juice, sugar and vinegar. As a bonus, they received a nightly half-pint of port wine to keep their spirits up. Charles Cozens, a convict diarist who was transported to Australia in 1840 aboard the "Woodbridge" described the ritual of this evening distribution which had been implemented in the 1820s, thus:

"For the purpose of exercising the men, and as preventative to disease, each man entered at one door on the quarter-deck, danced to the wine-cask, drank his allowance, and then danced off again round by the opposite doorway. The steps by the various performers formed altogether a very amusing ballet."

It was common practice for the prisoners' irons to be struck off once the vessel was in the blue water of the high seas although their bunks were fitted with chains and basils so that the convict fraternity could be restrained in any emergency. The surgeon superintendent would get the convicts on deck for fresh air and exercise as often as possible. At such times the prisoners would be engaged in holystoning the decks, swabbing and scrubbing and laundering and generally taking as much menial work off the crew's shoulders as discipline would allow.

The convicts were forbidden from carrying knives; all cutlery, except spoons being collected after each meal. They were allowed to have needles though, and the bones from their "salt horse" thus passing the tiresome weeks away creating scrimshaw – carved illustrations on the bones. In this way they created seals, toothpicks, tobacco stoppers and other ornaments out of the bones. Some of the more experienced men were quite expert in creating ring and brooches out of common buttons.



The convicts also fished, trolling hooks with strips of canvas greased with fat. Bonitos would grab them and be hauled like silvery finned flapping melons into the scuppers. They were eagerly eaten as were the sharks that followed patiently at the vessel's stern. For other amusement the convicts danced and sang and gambled for anything from tobacco to clothes. If there were no playing cards available they would make them by dismembering Bibles, much to the dismay of any travelling clergy man who happened to be aboard.

By the 1830s discipline on board ran smoothly. Floggings had largely disappeared except in the most extreme cases of misbehaviour. Mostly, offenders were put in irons for a few days or confined to a cramping box for a few hours. The length of the voyage had decreased considerably since the days of the First Fleet of 1788 when the passage took 252 days to reach Botany Bay.

By the 1830s most transports sailed the journey in less than 120 days, with some in less than 100. In those later times, vessels no longer needed to carry everything for the convicts' future survival, including several years supply of provisions. In any event, after 1820, most captains elected to follow a more direct route sailing direct to Rio and then following the most advantageous winds on offer, "ran down their easting" straight to the southern coast of Australia either dropping their convicts at Hobart or, as was the case with James's "Lady Feversham", sailing north to Sydney, non-stop.

To Be Continued in Next Newsletter—Arriving in Sydney.

Photo - "At Sea—The voyage and conditions on board " Victorian Crime and Punishment.

Financial Report for 2019-20: to be presented at the Annual General Meeting for approval—TBC**Avoca & District Historical Society Inc.****Financial Statement and Abridged Inventory for year ended 30 June, 2020****General Account Income**

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Balance brought forward	4,387	3,263	3,020
Membership subscriptions	2,350	2,530	2,040
Research charges	637	285	100
Garage sale/op shop	1,145	2,162	1,076
Donations, various	774	146	2,527
Copying fees charged	340	504	364
Sale of books, etc.	803	770	245
Visitors	465	500	302
Postage cost recovered	179	177	120
Digitisation project	610	1,093	695
Miscellaneous	135	466	1,000

Total Income \$11,824 \$11,896 11,489

Court House Account Income

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Balance brought forward.	1,126	1,306	1,453
Donations	180	147	787

Daly's Cottage A/c Income

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Balance brought forward	6,427	4,827	5,827
Donations	355	1,100	1,220

Cemetery A/c Income

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Balance brought forward	1,028	452	515
Donations	190	200	70

Digitisation A/c Income

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Balance brought forward	0	1,666	187
Donations	0	2,020	338
Grants	0	8,548	0

Abridged Inventory as at 30/6/2020

IT Equipment	16,100
Furniture	13,075
1917 Railways Louvre Van	2,000
Historical records & artefacts	89,000
Goods for sale	11,812
Miscellaneous	1,000
Total non-cash assets	\$132,987
Balance of bank a/c (General a/c)	1,760
Balance of bank a/c (Courthouse a/c)	1,565
Balance of bank a/c (Daly's Cottage a/c)	6,997
Balance of bank a/c (Cemetery a/c)	585
Balance of bank a/c (Digitisation a/c)	525
Cash on hand	157
Total cash assets	\$11,589
Liabilities	0
Net assets	\$144,576

General Account Expenditure

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Phone/Internet	1,201	1,299	855
Electricity	1,240	1,358	1,290
Australia Post	140	469	255
Water/Sewerage	939	472	878
Grass cutting 85 High St	520	400	550
Insurances/Rates	1,257	816	755
Stationery, Ink cartridges, etc	438	556	168
Replace split system in HH Room	0	0	2,560
Miscellaneous	37	554	1,003
Transfers to other accounts	725	2,952	1,415
Bank balance	3,263	3,020	1,760

Total Expenditure 11,824 11,896 11,489

Courthouse A/c Expenditure

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Building & Maintenance	0	0	1,400
Bank balance	1,306	1,453	1,565

Daly's Cottage A/c Expenditure

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Maintenance	1,975	0	150
Bank balance	4,863	5,927	6,997

Cemetery A/c Expenditure

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Maintenance	767	137	0
Bank balance	452	515	585

Digitisation A/c Expenditure

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
1869 Avoca Mail on Trove	0	1,000	0
Purchase of Scanpro etc	0	11,047	0
Maintenance of network	0	0	360
Bank balance	0	187	525

Comments on the Financial Statement

Closure of the Courthouse and the Garage Sale due to the Coronavirus Restrictions has resulted in a reduction of income, which will be no surprise to anybody! The percentage received electronically continues to rise, and is currently around 30% of the total. The majority of recipients of our newsletters are happy to receive them electronically, and this represents a considerable saving on postage costs.

It was pleasing to note that a number of members responded to our suggestion that they favour the Courthouse A/c in their donations this year, as its funds were insufficient to cover anticipated requirements. This needs to continue for several more years, to enable us to catch up on a backlog of maintenance.

The Courthouse phone & internet was due to be converted to the NBN at the time our shut-down occurred in March, and it was deferred until we re-open. The equipment required arrived via Australia Post and the unsealed carton is stored at the President's residence.



<http://avocahistory.net.au>

President : Mr Tony O'Shea
 Vice President : Vacant
 Secretary: Mrs. Jill Hunter
 Treasurer: Mrs. Dorothy Robinson
 Committee: All of the above, plus
 Mrs. Elizabeth Williams,
 Ms. Gayle Amore, Mrs Margaret Pilgrim
 Research Officer: Mrs. Dorothy Robinson.
 Editor: Mrs. Margaret Pilgrim.

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

Members receive three Newsletters each year and have free access to the Court house when open for normal hours. Non-member visits to the Court House are \$5 per hour, 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 \$30.00, 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.

Enquiries re guided tours of places of Historic Interest in the District, including the Avoca Cemetery & Daly's Cottage, may be directed to the President, Tony O'Shea adhsinc@bigpond.net.au

The Society charges a moderate fee for these services. Ask us for a quote!

Next Meeting : To be Confirmed

Our Newsletters are **Printed by Louise Staley, MP and funded by the parliamentary budget.**

Membership Fees:

~ **Joining Fee \$5.00**

~ **\$20 single**

~ **\$25 family at same address.**

These prices apply if you are willing to receive the newsletter via email; or plus additional \$5 if you want it sent via AustPost.

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, the Daly's Cottage Restoration Fund (pictured above) & digitization of Avoca Mail are tax deductible.

New membership or renewal of membership forms can be downloaded from our website, the address of which is at the top of page 1 of each edition .

If undelivered, return to
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