

BUNINYONG AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Reg. No. A0030085Y

Web Site <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~buninhis>

PO Box 98, Buninyong, Vic. 3357.

Newsletter

August-October 2014



St Peter and Paul's Church Buninyong; old and new September 2014

Next Meeting Thursday 16 October, 7.30pm, Buninyong Court House History Centre.

Annual General Meeting, with Guest Speaker Dr. Jan Croggon, Historian at Sovereign Hill, who will enlighten us about the local reaction to the declaration of war in 1914.

NEWS AND NOTES

We were very sad to learn of the death of **Alan Akers**, a founding member of our Society in 1982. Alan, as the partner of our founding Secretary Mary Akers, rendered great service to our emerging Society in looking after the sale of our very successful publications. I recall Alan's very much welcomed assistance at our displays at CHHA annual displays, and every ready welcoming smile. We remember Alan with affection and great regard for his contribution to our Society, and extend our sympathy to Mary.

On Saturday 20 September we celebrated the **90th birthday of Don Ogilvie**, who always visits us when we are open on the third Saturday of the month. As always, Don gave us some more precious oral history of his memories of Buninyong in the 1930s and 1940s.

On Sunday 12 October the **Scotsburn Union Church** had a wonderful celebration of its 130th anniversary., with an anniversary service followed by afternoon tea. A number of our members attended, and met many old residents of Scotsburn who returned for the occasion.

The long-running **Buninyong Farmers Market**, operating on the third Saturday of the month, ended in June, and will reappear as the Buninyong Village Market, operated by the Buninyong Good Life Festival, beginning on Sunday 26 October. This will be Festival Day in Buninyong, with activities centring on the Uniting Church grounds. We will be open on that day, and offer a walking tour of Buninyong at 11.00am.

The historic premises of **John Adams store** in Learmonth St, later known as Eames's store, was sold recently to a member of the Coxall family, and is being restored and renovated, ready for new retail uses. We hope that room for the very popular Lions Club Second Hand Book shop can be found in the renovated buildings.

We were contacted by the Principal of Buninyong Primary School, Bernie Conlan, who is keen to restore and reuse **the old police station building** in the school grounds. The school is seeking grants to allow this restoration, and has consulted with the City of Ballarat's Heritage Adviser. The brick building, which dates from 1857, was last restored in 1977, through the efforts of Beth Ritchie and Derick Leather, who was then President of the School Council. We strongly support this initiative.

We hosted a visit from CHHA members on Saturday 11th October.

Welcome to our newest member **Susan Pilbeam** of Mount Helen, who is studying cultural heritage management at Deakin University, and has prepared a report on caring for our collection.

We are now working on a project with the RSL to find information about the soldiers who served in World War One and had trees planted in the **Buninyong Avenue of Honor** in Learmonth St, planted in 1917.

New Developments are changing the face of our historic village. Kit O’Kane’s paddock in Learmonth St is being transformed into a new estate; two new infill buildings in Warrenheip St. have appeared, the Bowling Club has opened their new club building, St Peter and Pauls opened a new church, and the City Council has constructed a new children’s playground in Forest St. Recent changes to residential zoning by the State Government have caused much concern, with Minister Matthew Guy designating, against the recommendation of the Ballarat City Council, that Buninyong be zoned as a General Residential Zone, meaning that subdivisions as small as 300sq metres will be allowed. It is hoped that this regrettable decision can be quickly reversed to the neighbourhood zone, which restricts subdivision to 800 sq metres.

BIOGRAPHICAL QUERIES

ARKINS – Patrick was postmaster at Buninyong in the early 1860s. Query from NSW

FERGUSON – Henry and Jessie were married in Buninyong in the 1850s, and appeared to be living in the Buninyong area for many years. Henry was a miner in the Magpie—Hiscock’s area in the second half of the nineteenth century. There appear to have been a number of Ferguson families in the Buninyong area.

GRILLS –John Grills from Cornwall settled at Durham Lead as a miner in the 1860s, and with his wife Eliza raised their family before moving to Kamarooka in 1896.

PEERS- Charles Peers was recorded at Hardie’s Hill from 1864, and there is a Peers Lane in Durham Lead today. A number of Peers children attended the Durham Lead School in the 1890s.

PRENTICE – Alfred Leslie died in the Northern Territory in 1915. His death certificate gave his birth place as Buninyong. Unfortunately there is no record of his birth in official records. There was an Alfred Prentice boarding at Hastie’s school in 1854. Query from Genealogical Society of NT

SPEAK – Warren was a grocer in Warrenheip St, and Sunday School teacher at the Buninyong Methodist Church in the early-mid twentieth century. He was secretary of the local ANA for more than 42 years.

St. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church Buninyong: blending the old and the new in 2014

On 20 June 1853 a two acre grant of land was made to the Catholic Church in Buninyong. On 4 December 1853 Bishop James Alipius Goold visited from Melbourne and with the assistance of Father Downing and Father Hayes from Geelong laid the foundation stone for the church of St Nicholas of Tolentino. Progress was very slow, due to the small number of Catholics in Buninyong, but it was finally complete and dedicated to St Nicholas by Bishop Goold on 11 April 1858. It was designed by architects Shaw and Dowden of Geelong. It was built of brick, which was then rendered, and had a slate roof.

With a rapid growth on Buninyong's population in the early 21st century, the decision was made to build a new church to accommodate the growing congregation. Work on the new church commenced in May 2013, designed by Richard Falkinger AO, and has been responsible for refurbishing St Paul's Cathedral and St. Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne, St. Patrick's and St. Alipius in Ballarat. On 13 July 2014 Bishop Paul Bird opened the new church, with the grounds landscaped and the old temporary hall removed.

This building had been acquired from *Brim Brim* in 1985. The community decided to sell the tennis court land, and the land where the old Garibaldi Catholic church had stood, and obtain the building which became the Community House, dedicated at its opening in May 1986 to the Hayes family. This utilitarian building was a blot on the landscape, and it is a blessing that it has been removed in 2014, its useful community functions now relocated to the old church, which had some tender loving care extended to its fabric in the new building program. The solid plaster work repairing the old church was done by Tony McCarty, and the roof of the old church was cleaned by Ballarat Pressure Cleaning. The rendered walls also received a coat of paint.

The new church was built by S.J. Weir of Ballarat, with the project supervised by Leo Hayes of Ballarat East. The round structure is steel-framed, using compressed cement sheet which was then rendered. The effect is vaguely reminiscent of a French provincial style. The beautiful stained glass windows and altar were designed by Janusz and Magdalena Kuszbiński of Melbourne, whose abstract design incorporates Saints Peter and Paul into the glass on either side of the altar. The roof of the old church was cleaned by Ballarat Pressure Cleaning. Landscape consulting was provided by DHT (David Turley).

The beautiful stain glass window from above the altar of St. Mary's church at Clarendon, which was closed in March 2014 and sold in April 2014, has been incorporated into a doorway space that connects the old and new church.

Another Early Hotel?

From the *Geelong Advertiser*, 1853: where was this hotel?

Geelong Advertiser, 27 December 1853

MR T. C. RIDDLE Begg to apprise the public that he is authorised to dispose of, by Private Contract, ALL those premises situate in Cornish street, Buninyong, consisting of HOUSE, known as The Gold Diggers' Restaurant, containing 12 rooms, two of which are 21 feet long, with 9 stall stables, yard, out-houses, &c., together with the land enclosed the fixtures, furniture, and stock in trade, to be taken at valuation. Reserve, £1500. If not disposed of at an early date, the above will be put up to public auction. For further particulars, plans, &c., apply to the auctioneer.

T. C. RIDDLE. Geelong, 21st December, 1853.

Enhanced Buninyong Rail Services 1908? (from Neil McCracken)

The Buninyong Line operated principally for passenger services. There was a shopper's trip on a Friday night about 9.30 and a 'drunks special' on Saturday night about 11, or after all the shows had finished. All trains returned to Ballarat almost immediately. Running times were 20 to 30 minutes each way. No services were provided on Sunday.

The only time a train was seen in Buninyong one Sunday was many years ago [1908], when the Buninyong Church of England Choir made the finals of the South Street Eisteddfod held in Ballarat. The final was held on the Saturday evening, and Buninyong won! The 11 p.m. down was even a more raucous trip than usual, as the choir, their supporters and the train crew celebrated. The train roared down the 1 in 40 decline into Buninyong with the whistle screaming to wake the town up, but the driver in his excitement, forgot that he was supposed to stop at the bottom, and sailed out through the buffer stops into the street [Forest St]. The following morning, the sober churchgoing segment of Buninyong's population awoke to find a tank engine parked across the middle of the street.

COMING EVENTS

18 October - Open morning, Buninyong and District Historical Society. 9.00 to 1.00pm..

Sunday 26 October – Buninyong Good Life Festival, Uniting Church grounds.

Historical Walking Tour of Buninyong, starting at 11.00am. Open day at Court House.

Saturday 15 November – Open morning, Historical Society. 9.00 to 1.00pm..

November – Excursion to Scotchman's Lead mining sites, led by Doug

Saturday 29 November – State Election for new seat of Buninyong

Sunday 30 November – Spring Fling, Good Life Festival, with open gardens.

7 December – Carol service in old Black Lead Church, Napoleons and District Historical Society, 2.00pm.

18 December – Christmas meeting of Buninyong and District Historical Society.