

BUNINYONG AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Reg. No. A0030085Y

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

PO Box 98, Buninyong, Vic. 3357.

Newsletter



Navigators new World War One memorial unveiled April 2015

June 2015

Our June meeting takes place on Thursday 18 June at 7.30pm in the Court House History Centre. Our guest speaker will be Joan Luxemburg, curator of the exhibition 'The Inimitable Mr Meek' at the Art Gallery of Ballarat from 13 June to 9 August. James McKain Meek was an artist and eccentric, with a strong connection to early Ballarat, and some Buninyong connections too.

Trial Saw Mills Excursion 30 May

We had a very good excursion on 30 May, organised by Andy Lee from Yendon. On a cool late Autumn afternoon, we gathered on Shaw's Rd, at the bottom of Mount Buninyong, near the lagoon on Shillitoe's property. We then walked down the lane to the site of the Trial Saw Mills, and inspected the interesting remains of some old stone and brick buildings. We then returned to the intersection of Shaw's Rd. and Yendon No. 1 road, where we were able to enter a property which still retains a remnant of the tramway that led from the Trial Saw Mills to a depot near Mount Clear. Our afternoon ended most pleasantly at *Cairney Hill*, the former home of George Innes, 'King of the Splitters', who took up a pre-emptive run in 1844. The Maloney family purchased the fairly run-down property a few years ago, and have done a wonderful job of restoring the old house, and adding a very modern but sympathetic addition. Shaun Maloney comes from a dairy farming background, and delighted us with a demonstration of hand-milking his cow, and separating the cream. We enjoyed afternoon tea with beautiful scones and the best cream direct from the family cow.

Vale Frank Ritchie

Frank Ritchie died in April 2015, aged 88 years. We remember Frank as a very active member of the Friends of the Buninyong Gardens Group, especially the planting of trees outside the old Court House in Lal Lal Street. Frank served in the Royal Australian Navy during WW2, then became a secondary school teacher and with his wife Beth moved to the foot of Mount Buninyong in 1954, purchasing a block of Poynton's farm and building their lovely home and garden. Frank's civic interest led him to represent Buninyong on the Buninyong Shire Council from 1985 to 1988. He supported all Beth's efforts to preserve Buninyong's history. Anne Beggs-Sunter and Adrienne Schreuder attended the funeral of Frank at Mount Buninyong, and payed our respects to Beth. It was a wonderful celebration to the life of Frank Ritchie.

Biographical Queries

March 2015-June 2015

BOWER – Margaret Bower married Donald William Jackson in Buninyong in 1862.

BUTLER – Patrick and Bridget came from Kilkenny in 1853 and settled in the Navigators area, on Yankee Flat Rd. along with many relatives. From England. (This query led to a very fruitful exchange with other members of this extended family. By the way Anastasia Hayes, of Eureka fame, was a Butler from Kilkenny)

HOUSE – Thomas and Elizabeth came from Tasmania with five children circa 1854. Thomas was a stonemason and bricklayer, who had been transported to VDL in 1830. The family settled at Hard Hills, and were miners. Query Tasmania

EMERY –Robert was an ex-convict from VDL, released in 1850, who was in Buninyong from at least 1870 until his death in 1876. From Adelaide

MONK – James was a carpenter transported to VDL. He married in 1842, and had 11 children, the youngest born in Buninyong between 1855 and 1858. From New Zealand.

If anyone can help, please contact Anne at a.beggs-sunter@federation.edu.au

Index to the Buninyong Court of Petty Sessions

On 16 April we welcomed members of the Ballarat and District Genealogical Society who launched their new index to the Court Records (Series VPRS 296) in the Ballarat Public Record Office. The index covers the period 1855 to 1969. The index to complainants and defendants allows you to go to the Ballarat PROV (open Monday and Tuesdays) to consult the appropriate date of the hearing. It is proving valuable for family history requests, identifying the presence of people in Buninyong in the nineteenth century which has been made difficult because of the loss of the Borough Rate Books before 1900. The index has been published in electronic form, on a USB flash drive.

Navigators Avenue of Honour

Spurred by the centenary of the Gallipoli landing, the residents of Navigators decided to use the occasion to create a memorial to the 15 men from the locality who served in World War One. Of these, eight men died, much higher than the average casualty rate. 13 of the group were of Irish Catholic heritage, including well known families names of Butler, Donnelly, Brennan, Morris and Lyons. No memorials were constructed in 1917, as happened in nearby Yendon, because

of the growing opposition to the war after the Easter Rebellion in Dublin in 1916. Now the service of these men is perpetuated in an impressive marker, and 15 oak trees have been planted on the road leading up to the Recreation Reserve and the old Catholic Church and school of St. Augustine, which is now a community centre.

New Buninyong and District Newsletter

The Buninyong and District Community Association has taken over publication of the *Buninyong and District Newsletter*, and since April 2015 has been producing the newsletter in a high quality printed version which is available in local shops.

Scots Under the Southern Cross

A new book, *Scots Under the Southern Cross*, has been published which makes available a collection of papers presented at a symposium held at the Arts Academy of Federation University in 2014. The symposium celebrated the major exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ballarat called 'For Auld Lang Syne: Images of Scottish Australia from First Fleet to Federation.' Papers of special interest are Ian Clark and Fred Cahir's contributions of the interactions of early Scottish settlers with the Aboriginal population, and Anne Beggs-Sunter's paper on the Scots in Buninyong, highlighting the role of Rev. Thomas Hastie and the Scott family of Scotsburn in promoting the Presbyterian religion and education. The book, with many coloured reproductions, is published by Ballarat Heritage Services, and copies can be obtained from our Society for \$20.

COMING EVENTS

18 June BDHS June Meeting

22 June AGM of Friends of the Buninyong Botanical Garden

28 June (Sunday) – Buninyong Market day.

20 August – BDHS General Meeting