

BUNINYONG AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Reg. No. A0030085Y

Web Site <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~buninhis>
PO Box 98, Buninyong, Vic. 3357.

Newsletter

June 2012



Pauline Holloway and her granddaughter and Pat Dobbin at the Lal Lal Railway Station, 10 April 2012, celebrating the 150th anniversary of opening of the Geelong-Ballarat Railway.

Our June Meeting takes place on Thursday 21 June, at 7.30m pm at the Court House, Buninyong Town Hall. Our guest speaker is Joan Hunt, distinguished local historian, Churchill Fellowship holder and leading member of both the Royal Victorian Historical Society and the Ballarat Genealogical Society, who will enlighten us about her recent travels to the UK, and developments in retrieving family history information. Joan is a great speaker – don't miss her!

Geelong-Ballarat Railway 150th Anniversary

At our April Meeting we welcomed a number of visitors to hear an address by Anne Beggs-Sunter on the building of the Geelong-Ballarat railway between 1856 and 1862.

This followed a week of celebrations, which began with an official train from Geelong to Ballarat on 10 April, provided by Steamrail and pulled by a diesel engine. The train stopped at Lal Lal to take on local representatives, including Andrew Lee from Yendon who has been a passionate advocate of commemorating Yendon's part in the railway line. The Lal Lal Hall Committee put on a great display in the Lal Lal Hall, and on the following weekend the communities of Elaine, Yendon and Navigators all provided excellent displays and activities for visitors. We had an excursion on 14 April to visit our history friends at Meredith, Elaine, Yendon and Navigators, and appreciate their efforts to collect and present their history. Anne spoke to the Yendon History Group on 12 April, to the Buninyong and District Historical Society on 19 April, and to the Ballarat Mechanics Institute on 20 April. Our member Graham Gooding, as a member of Engineers' Australia, also played an important part in a wonderful re-enactment of a dinner at the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute on 14 April to celebrate the opening of the railway. Our Society also presents a special exhibition relating to the railway and Buninyong's part in discussions about the route. Special mention too to Patrick Hope, who provided exhibits to the Gold Museum exhibition celebrating the anniversary, and also to our display.

Amongst the visitors to our meeting on 19 April was Laurie McMaster, from Ballarat, who had been an important contributor to our celebrations of the centenary of the Buninyong Line in 1989. Laurie was also instrumental in saving the witness stand and seats from the old Buninyong Court House. Another visitor was Michael Menzies from Geelong, who chaired the committee of groups that organised the anniversary celebrations. All in all, a great week of celebrations.

Hastie Descendants visit Buninyong April 2012

On Sunday 1 April 2012 Louis Leake pulled up his campervan outside the Old Library. Liz Lumsden was on duty, and quickly discovered that here were special visitors. Louis is the great, great grandson of Rev. Thomas Hastie, and he had with him his young grandson Duncan Leake, the sixth generation of the Hastie family born in Australia. The Leake family came originally from NSW, for Louis's grandmother was Eleanor Fleming from the Hunter Valley, daughter of John King Fleming and Helen Hastie Fleming, who had married at Buninyong in 1866, and then travelled into NSW to manage properties in the west of NSW.

By happy chance I was in the Old Bluestone coffee shop when Liz alerted to the presence of Hastie descendants. Given my long interest in the family, I rushed to the Old Library to meet Louis and his young grandson Duncan, and take them to our Rooms to show them the gifts we received a few years ago

from another Fleming descendant – Nance Park Richards sent us the Rev. Hastie's snuff muff and some of his religious books, which we display in pride of place in our display cabinet.

Much happy discussion of Buninyong history, and then with the help of our member Mary Bunting, Liz and I were able to take the Leake family to the Uniting Church, and show them the wonderful stain glass windows and the place where Rev. Hastie had preached so many sermons.

It was a very special time to share with the Leake-Hastie family. We particularly liked the dedication of Louis to the education of his grandson in family history. It was wonderful to learn that the spirit of service to the community and to those in need was alive and well in the Leake family, for Louis told us that he had spent time in Africa working in a missionary capacity to improve the living conditions of the African people.

BIOGRAPHICAL QUERIES

February-June 2012

BUCK, Frederick – At Hiscock Lead between 1869 and 1873, when three children were born to him and wife Helen.

FERGUSON - Henry Ferguson from Stirling, Scotland, born 1835. Married Janet Robertson and they had 13 children. Migrated to Victoria in the 1850s. Henry appears in the first Rates for Buninyong Shire in 1863, at Scotchman's Lead, where he was probably mining. In 1879, Henry died at the age of 40, leaving a widow with a large family to support.

FIINDLAY - David McDonald Findlay and his wife Janet were married in Geelong in 1854 and settled at Scotchman's Lead. They had 10 children. David was killed in a mining accident at the Welcome Quartz Co. in 1873, leaving his widow with four young children.

GREENE John Francis, of Gordon, served as Councillor of North Riding for 20 years, and Shire President 1886-8. Licensee of Railway Hotel.

KILLMISTER – The Killmister family were early settlers in Buninyong with links to many local families

KING – Dennis King from County Carlow migrated to Victoria around 1856 and married Ann Cavanagh in Geelong in 1858. They settled at Elaine and had three children before Ann died in 1891. Denis married again and had another six children. Denis purchased land just south of the township of Elaine in 1873. Denis and Ann are both buried at Clarendon.

LECKIE family – at Magpie and Sebastopol 19th Century. James Leckie was Shire President of Buninyong Shire in 1885-6. James built *Blythwood Grange* in 1878, when he was manager of the nearby Prince of Wales mine.

McBAIN, David (1832-1911) from Kirkcaldy, Fifeshire, Scotland. With wife Janet at Durham Lead by 1857, where their daughter Annie was born. They had 16 children, and celebrated their Golden Wedding at Durham Lead in 1906.

McDONALD, Donald – arrived Durham Lead 1860s. Son Donald becomes Mayor of Coburg between 1919 and 1946

MORPETT – arrived at the Buninyong-Ballarat gold rush in 1851, and established a bakery.

PACKENHAM - Robert Edward Pakenham was killed in an accident from a fractured skull and died on 30 April 1869 at Buninyong East . He was married to Mary Elizabeth Pakenham and they had five children at the time of his death.

RIDLEY – John Ridley was a storekeeper at Buninyong in 1857 when his daughter Rebecca was born. No other trace of him in Buninyong area.

Anyone with information about these families is invited to contact the Secretary, Anne Beggs-Sunter, at a.beggs-sunter@ballarat.edu.au

Ballarat Heritage Festival, May 2012

The Ballarat Heritage Festival, on the Mothers' Day weekend in May, was a great success, with an estimated 14,500 visitors drawn to the area. We took a strong part in the weekend, with activities in Buninyong, and a stall in the Mining Exchange. It was a big demand on our members, but very rewarding. Special thanks to Neil McCracken, Helena Glass and Jeanette Skrokov, who put in long hours at the Mining Exchange, but harvested some lovely stories. Anne hosted walks around Buninyong on both days of the Festival, which were well attended. On a pleasing note for the Treasurer, we sold a lot of books!

Ogilvie Lane finally acknowledged!

It was a great pleasure to see that the City of Ballarat has finally acknowledged Ogilvie Lane as an important geographical feature in our landscape. It has been a long battle, promoted by our senior citizen Don Ogilvie, son of the last curator of the Buninyong Botanical Gardens. But at last the City of Ballarat has approved the naming of the lane that runs from Hastie's Springs, to the Midland Highway.

Capitalising on this naming, the Upper Williamson's Creek Landcare Group will conduct an indigenous tree planting event in Ogilvie's Lane on 29 July,

which is National Tree Planting Day. It will happen between 11.00am and 2.00pm. We hope Don Ogilvie will be there to share stories. Should be a great day. Don't miss it!

Robert Ogilvie (1821-1897) arrived in Buninyong in the early 1850s from Scotland. He was a ship's carpenter by trade. In 1855 he married the Rev. Hastie's Irish maid Ellen Cusack. Ellen had immigrated from Ireland and arrived at Geelong in 1852, where she was engaged as a servant by Rev. Hastie.

Robert subscribed to the Presbyterian Church fund in 1860, and his children attended the Buninyong Presbyterian School.

He purchased a small piece of land at the foot of Mount Buninyong, on the highway, and built a house there. He obtained the crown grant on 14 June 1871. The house is still standing

COMING EVENTS

June 21 – Buninyong and District Historical Society meeting

7 July - Friends of the Buninyong Botanical Gardens Luncheon, Buninyong Town hall, with guest Anne Lautreille.

29 July – Tree planting on Ogilvie Lane.

16 August – General Meeting of Buninyong and District Historical Society.

Reunion January 2012 – The 160th anniversary of the arrival of the *Zes Gesusters* which arrived at Geelong in 1853 will be held on 13 January 2013. Contact organiser Rob Newland at robnewland@yahoo.com.au