



INVERLOCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

ARBN – A33738Z ABN – 79 652 460 440 **ISSUE NO: 140**
Patron: Eulalie Brewster 03 5674 3012
President: Nancye Durham 03 5674 2796
Vice President: Patrica Williams 03 5674 1606
Secretary: Phyllis Hipworth 03 5674 2449
Treasurer: Elizabeth Catt 03 5674 1354
Correspondence Address: P.O. BOX 46, INVERLOCH 3996.

Next meeting: Please note that **our next** meeting day Wednesday April 22nd 2009 an **Excursion** has been planned. We will visit the Leongatha area where John Murphy from the Leongatha Historical Society will take us on a guided tour. The cost is \$12.00 and tickets may be purchased from Ruth Tipping. If you have any enquiries, it is suggested you contact Ruth who is co-ordinating the excursion. Morning tea will be provided, B.Y.O. lunch. The bus will depart from the V-Line stop, The Esplanade at 9.00 a.m.

Acquisition: Ghost Ports of Australia by Jeff Toghil, Published 1984. The donor was Kath Bendle, thank you Kath. The book has a chapter about Inverloch entitled “A Classic Little Outport”, and mention is made of ‘The Ripple’, The Rocket Brigade and its purpose, The State Coal Mine at Wonthaggi and the Martin Wieberg story of the theft and buried treasure.

Guest Speaker: At the March meeting we were pleased to welcome Doug Boston from Korumburra. Doug is a well known historian, and has spent all of his life in Korumburra. Doug spoke about the Jumbunna Coal Mine and illustrated his talk with excellent photographs and maps.

Doug explained that the mine was actually in the Jumbunna Creek a mile away from the railway siding where the coal had to be loaded. Therefore, there was a problem of transporting the coal from the mine to the railway siding. The hills and gorges were very steep, and so it was decided to construct an aerial carriageway using buckets. A series of wooden staunchions were erected on the track, attached was 1¼ thickness cable which was two miles in length and was driven by steam winches, thus transporting the buckets of coal. The system was built in 1894 by Austral Otis at a cost of £3285, estimated to be about \$10,000,000 today; but it was only used for two years. There were 70 buckets on the cable way, each carrying seven cwt. of coal and the total load on the cable was 15 tons. Doug showed a slide of the cableway, the only one in existence, and it can be seen in the book ‘The Land of the Lyrebird’.

The cableway was only partly successful, and had a few problems such as clamps slipping causing buckets to slide back down the cable. This was later rectified, however, in 1896 the cable became no longer necessary.

The remains of an old bucket were found in a paddock, partly embedded in a pine tree, and needed a chain saw to remove it. Other parts were found further down the valley. They were heavy and had to be towed up the hill attached to a rope behind a tractor.

After salvaging the bucket, and at a meeting with the Jumbunna Improvement Group, Doug suggested that the bucket be restored and put somewhere as a memorial to the miners. Eventually the project was completed and can be seen today in front of the Jumbunna Hall. A plaque was erected also, in memory of the miners who died in the mines.

The plaque names 16 coal miners killed in the Jumbunna mine, one of whom was only 14 years old. Joseph Tolson Doug’s grandfather, and also Ruth Tipping’s grandfather died in a rock fall and left a widow and five children. Doug’s mother and Ruth’s father were two of those children.

On the 23rd of November 2008, the Jumbunna community, friends and relatives gathered for the unveiling of the bucket and the dedication of the memorial plaque placed in honour of miners killed in the pursuit of coal.

Several hundred people attended on the day.

Many thanks to Doug for a marvellous talk and a fascinating visual presentation which helped to fix your talk firmly in our minds. It also gave us the opportunity to learn about another aspect of the coal mining era in our part of Gippsland. We wish you and the Korumburra Historical Society every success in the future.

Bass Coast Heritage Network Tour: - 28th March 2009. Seven members of the Inverloch H.S. took part in this tour. It was a most pleasant and successful day. Much was learned about Kilcunda Coal Fields and the town of Archies Creek.

Membership Subscription. Couples \$32.00 Single \$20.00 Newsletter only \$6.00