

Moama Cemetery

The Moama Cemetery Working Group is still looking for information about burials in any of the many unmarked graves at the Cemetery. A total of 681 plaques bearing the names of people who are buried in unknown unmarked graves at the cemetery, are now in place on the plinths. Besides these a number of plaques have been placed around the cemetery when the site of a grave is known.

If anyone can provide information about anyone known to be buried at Moama, especially in an unmarked grave, please contact:-

Anita Bartlett, PO Box 1343 Echuca 3564. or 0439 992 767

PAPERS PAST—100 YEARS

Riverine Herald 8th May 1925 **Bolting Horse.** - While Mr. A. Kent was driving in a jinker in the vicinity of his home yesterday afternoon, his horse bolted and he was thrown out of the vehicle. The horse continued on its way down High Street and across the Supreme Court Square, where Mr Manderson endeavoured to stop it, but seeing him coming around and went along Mr Hicks' corner and went along the Esplanade, the vehicle finally striking railway fence opposite the Echuca Club. The impact broke one of the shafts and a spring of the jinker and freed the horse, which galloped off in the direction of the Murray Bridge, where It was eventually caught. The surprising part of the occurrence is that, although the animal traversed the busiest part of High Street at full gallop no damage, as far as can be ascertained, was done to any other vehicle. Mr. Kent received a severe shaking, but was not otherwise injured.

Kyabram Free Press 30th June 1925

Tongala Fatality.

Boy Crushed Under Lorry Wheels. Frank Blake, the five and a half year old son of Mr Thomas Blake of Tongala, was at the Tongala railway station about 3.30 o'clock on Thursday afternoon with his father and brother. He climbed to the lop of a load of furniture stacked on his father's lorry, when the two horses attached became restive and began to move. The boy was precipitated to the roadway, falling ,under one of the wheels, which was locked. He was dragged along the road a distance of about seven feet. He lingered until 3 o'clock the following morning when the end came. Widespread sympathy is felt for the bereaved relatives. A coronial enquiry was opened and will be resumed tomorrow or Thursday. The funeral took place on Saturday

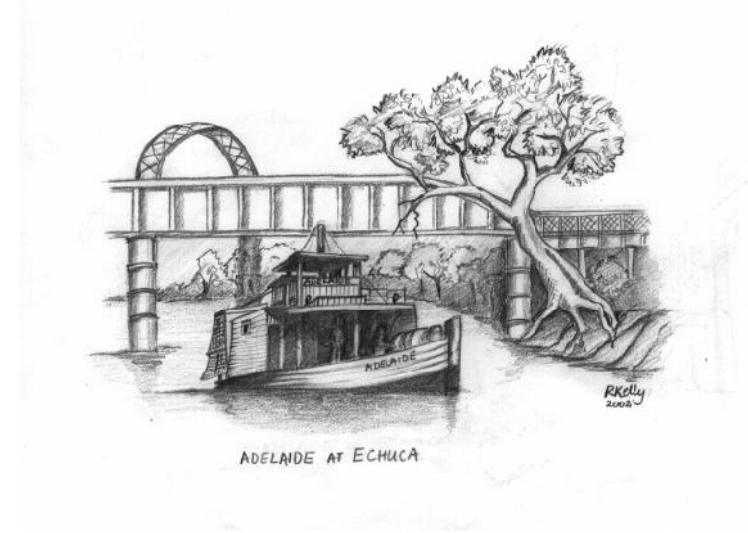
Kyabram Free Press 26th June 1925

Tongala Topics

Butter Factory Shares Subscribed. On Tuesday night the objective of the directors of the Tongala Dairy Company to place 2000 shares, to enable the erection of a butter factory to be proceeded with, was achieved, and it is expected that still further applications will applications will be received. Next week Messrs W. White (chairman of directors), W. Walter (director) and J. .McGilvray (manager) will proceed to Melbourne to place the claims of the company before the Government. Mr W. Cattanaach, chairman of the State Rivers Water Commission, has promised to urge assistance to the company if towns people supported the proposal to the extent of 2000 new shares. In the event of the required assistance being forthcoming a new building will be erected about 40 feet distant from the present cheese factory

Bridges & Branches

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Quarterly Newsletter
of the
ECHUCA-MOAMA FAMILY HISTORY
GROUP INC.

Echuca-Moama Family History Group Inc

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The Monthly Group Meeting is held at the Old Telegraph Station, 60 Chanter Street in Moama on the second Tuesday of each month, except January, at 1.30pm. **The Monthly Group Activity Session** is held from October to March, on the third Thursday at 7.30 pm, and April to September on the third Saturday at 1.30 pm. Venue Christ Church Anglican Echuca.

Excursions can replace the Group Activity Sessions.

The **Research Room** in the Old Telegraph Station, 60 Chanter Street in Moama is open and manned every Monday and Friday between 11.00am - 3.00pm, except on Public Holidays

At other times contact Janice 0404 872 524

Towns /areas covered by the EMFHG Inc

In Victoria: Ballendella, Bamawm, Barmah, Echuca, Echuca Village, Kanyapella, Kotta, Koyuga, Lockington, McEvoy's, Millewa, Nanneella, Patho, Piavella, Pine Grove, Restdown, Rochester, Roslynmede, Strathallan, Tennyson, Tongala, Torrumberry and Wyuna

In NSW Bunnaloo, Caldwell, Mathoura, Moama, Thyra and Womboota

The Editors welcome articles, notes, queries, book reviews, comments and any items of interest. Contributions to Bridges & Branches are accepted in good faith but the Echuca-Moama Family History Group Inc. or the Editors, do not accept responsibility for the accuracy of information nor for the opinions expressed. Items can be emailed to:-
ksdurrant1@bigpond.com or judysupercool@gmail.com

PAPERS PAST - 100 YEARS

The Herald 16th April 1925

Big City Scheme

Roofing Flinders St. Yards

Mr J. A. Smith's Plan - Considerable attention has been aroused by Mr J. A. Smith, at the Rotary Club luncheon yesterday, for the roofing in and utilisation as a building site of the Flinders St Railway Yards. Mr Smith put forward the idea as a solution of traffic problems, and a scheme of city improvement.

Elaborating his address yesterday for the Rotary Club Mr Smith pointed out today that the new gain to Melbourne would ultimately be £4,000,000. He considered that £1,000,000 would be enough to make a start.

The first part of the scheme to be put into operation should be the construction of building site along Flinders Street, over the railway yards. These should yield a profit to the city of £1,250,000 which could be utilised as it becomes available, for the continuation of streets over the railway yards to Batman Avenue. There would be an Avenue on the lower level, and one above it, on the level of Flinders Street. Spring St would connect direct to Swan Street and a lower level bridge, with Alexandra Avenue connecting the suburbs radiating from Richmond with those on the bay side.

80 Acres Available

Mr Smith said there was an area of 80

acres in the Flinders Street railway yards which soon or later, as a matter of economy, have to be utilised. The railways were already occupying far more land in the heart of the city that they could economically afford to do, and, Irrespective of any scheme for building over the yards, the time was not far distant when the activities in 60 of the 80 acres — carriage cleaning, painting, etc., — would have to be shifted further out of Melbourne. The 60 acres thus gained on the level of the current railway tracks would then be utilised for garage space, correct position for which was handy to the rail centre. This space, too, would be available for markets and other utilities.

The construction of bridges the Spring, Exhibition and Russell Streets to their logical outlet, would immediately relieve the traffic congestion in Swanston Street and Princes Bridge.

An idea of the value of the scheme could be gained from the fact that Spring St footages were worth £250 a foot and Swanston St footages at the corner £3,000 a foot. The frontages on the railway side of Flinders Street, at present worth nothing, would immediately the railway yards were roofed in, become worth values ranging between these two figures. The Batman Avenue frontage, Mr Smith pointed out, would make an excellent Town Hall Site in the most central of positions.

Mr. James Farrell, of the Pastoral hotel, is building two new shops, which, no doubt, will not be long without tenants.

In the Mathoura small debts court, George Alexander sued Thomas Jones for £1 for repairs to one wheel. After hearing the evidence of the complainant the police magistrate gave a verdict for the amount, with 5s costs.

Riverine Herald 12 July 1906

Cremation Ceremony

Last rites performed over Hindu Hawker

The Hindu hawker, Buddah Singh, who died in the Echuca District Hospital on Friday was accorded the funeral rites of his caste in the Echuca Cemetery on Saturday afternoon.

Some difficulty had been experienced in obtaining the necessary permission for the body to be cremated from the health authorities, but this was granted in time for the ceremony to take place at 3 o'clock.

But, for the uncertainty of time and place, the number of people attending would have been much larger; as it was, well over 200 people were present, including many women.

The ceremonial, though somewhat crude, proved interesting. Prior to the removal of the body from the hospital by Mr Esnouf, four countrymen of the deceased, prepared the site, in the south west corner of the cemetery, where no shadow might fall across the funeral pyre. A ton and a half of wood had been brought and positioned at the site to a depth of about 6 inches, to receive the coffin. On the arrival of the hearse the coffin was reverently laid on the wood and the majority of the remainder piled on top and around it. Part of a tin of kerosene, that had been brought for the purpose of assisting ignition, was poured over the timber, and the fire started. The coffin was quickly enveloped in

flames, and as the smoke ascended towards the heavens the four Hindus offered up prayers and made certain signs in conformity with the customs of their country.

The flames subsiding, more wood and kerosene were thrown on the burning mass, and the Hindu operating the kerosene tin had a narrow escape from being burned, a sudden change of wind driving the fire so that it scorched his clothes. When the skull of the corpse showered through the fire the chief of the Hindus poked it violently with a long redgum stick and threw more wood on it. At 6 o'clock, three hours after the commencement, the mourners retired to return yesterday morning to collect the ashes and secure the deceased's teeth. The ashes, with the bones ground up were placed in a bag and thrown into the Murray River, while the teeth were collected to be sent to his relatives in India.

The president and secretary of the cemetery trust, Messrs. Hart Hicks and W.M. Ponsford with Mr. A.E. Bartlett (deputy coroner) Moama where the deceased formerly resided were in attendance to watch the proceedings. As far as is known, this is the first cremation that has taken place in Echuca. *Riverine Herald, 3rd May 1926*

Moama Cemetery:- At the meeting of the Moama Council on Monday night the Council Clerk reported that the District Surveyor had found that the local cemetery fence was at one end encroaching six feet onto the Perricoota road. This did not matter as yet, but, in case it might be necessary at some future time to remove the fence, care should be taken that no interments were made near the fence as it now stands. The portion along which the fence encroaches belongs to the Presbyterian denomination.

President's Report

Welcome to our Winter edition of Bridges and Branches. During the last three months we have continued to have visitors at the research centre. Our advertisement in the Riv's Community Billboard section has contributed to this, as we are receiving phone calls about family history and requests for research. Janice is busy with research requests and provides detailed information for each inquiry. This is great publicity for our group.

The reorganization of the research library has been completed by Lorraine and Catherine, who have been working on it almost once a week since the beginning of 2024. The library was culled when we left the Murray Hotel during Covid. The biggest task was to organize the books into categories that were more streamlined, and put together a simple data base. This process was started before the flood in 2022, but was delayed for a year. This task was not a simple one, as it required librarian skills, patience and determination. This has been a mammoth task and we do appreciate your dedication.

Other tasks that are ongoing are the digitizing of the research files with Sue Shaw scanning them using our high-powered scanner. Wendy Hicks continues scanning the personal notices from a digital online copies of articles from three editions of the Riv each week.

So far this year we have had two Bunnings sausage sizzles and both were successful.

We have been offered two that we did not do because of the summer heat

and the problem of getting enough new volunteers to help out. Thank you to all the members who have volunteered to do these sizzles. The team always welcomes new sizzlers as it reduces the hours that the current sizzlers do, so if you have a few hours please contact John or myself through the groups hot mail. There will be another sizzle on August 31st.

Our monthly activities so far this year have entailed one excursion and three meetings in the Christ Church Echuca's Meeting Room. The meeting room is proving to be an ideal venue, and will be very appropriate for our mid-winter lunch in July as it has kitchen facilities, so do put the date on your calendar.

We are having a special event on Saturday August 16th as author Leo Kennedy will be speaking about his great grandfather Sergeant Michael Kennedy, who was murdered by Ned Kelly in 1878. The topic will be "The four policemen of Stringybark Creek".

Leo grew up on stories of the good deeds of the Stringybark Creek policemen. So do come along and bring family members or friends to listen to what should be a very interesting view of the real Ned Kelly. We really are trying to encourage members to attend more of our guest speaker activities, as some of them come a long way to speak and it reflects positively on our group if we are keen to listen to what they have to tell.

Please bring a plate of afternoon tea

Enjoy your researching

Judy McCleary

State School Reserve

State School Reserve :- That the planting of the State School reserve, is a desideratum is unquestionable . The lack of shade in the summer months is a source of constant vexation, if not positive injury to the children during the time of their mid-day recess as after the rooms have been occupied by them the whole morning, it is necessary that they should remain empty at the time of recess to allow for the noxious gasses being dispersed by the fresh air. The only shade now offered the children is the small strip thrown on the south side of the building, which, from the number of children congregating upon it from time to time, to escape the fierce rays of the noonday sun has become quite worn. During the hot weather the ordinary school boy's games are of necessity set aside, and every sheltered nook is sort out, and patronized by the children. The planting of the reserve with trees would be a boom to the scholars attending the school, the value

of which it would be difficult to estimate, but, apart from this, the improvement it would be to appearance of the town would be considerable. At present from its low-lying and bad condition, the block, portion of which is the school site, is anything but inviting and was somewhat disappointment at the little encouragement the head teacher of the school received from the Council when he applied for assistance to beautify what at present is an eyesore. Considering that the Council has laid down the rule to pay one half the cost of tree planting in the street, on the application of any ratepayer, the least they could have done was bear the cost of the guards as asked, or vote a sum that would have been a substantial help towards it. WE trust that this matter will be reconsidered by Council, and some more definite resolution arrived at than granting, "any spare tree guards".

Riverine Herald 25.June 1878

Coming Events

JUNE

Saturday 21st @ 1.30 pm Nicole Jenkins (Deniliquin River Boats)

July

Tuesday 8th @ 1.30pm Committee Meeting

Saturday 19th @ 1.30 pm Luncheon AGM

August

Tuesday 12th @ 1.30pm Monthly Meeting

Saturday 16th @ 1.30pm Guest Speaker Leo Kennedy, descendant of Sergeant Michael Kennedy who was killed at Stringy Bark Creek by the Kelly Gang

September

Tuesday 7th@ 1.30pm Monthly Meeting

Saturday 20th @ TBA Excursion - Cohuna Historical Society

October

Tuesday 7th @ 1.30pm Monthly Meeting

Thursday 16th @ 7.00pm Guest Speaker Sr. Cecilia Merrigan

Horticultural Society

A meeting of gentlemen was held in the Mayor's room at the Town Hall last night, for the purpose of establishing a Horticultural Society in Echuca. The following were present - The Mayor (Mr. Mackintosh) Messrs. W.W. Moore, Hartshorn, Butcher, Simonds, Gidley, and Breaden. Mr. Hartshorn was elected chairman, and Mr. Breaden secretary *pro tem*. The rules and other printed documents of the Victorian Horticultural Society were taken in to consideration. Mr. Moore argued that with only amateur gardeners, and without professional gardeners very little practical use could come of the association. Mr. Hartshorn suggested that the formation of the society would further the establishment of the cottage gardens, and that the society might offer prizes for flowers and plants in connection with the Agricultural Societies show. Mr. Gidley contended that one object of the society would be to promote a healthy rivalry in flower and plant growing, and the exchange of various cuttings and seedlings etc. Mr. Hartshorn considered that the chief benefit would be to stimulate the public to engage in amateur gardening. Mr. Gidley moved a resolution affirming the desirability of forming an association, to be called the "Echuca Horticultural Society". This was seconded by Mr. Simonds. Mr. Mackintosh said that there was no doubt the soil and climate was suitable for horticulture and floriculture, if the people were favorable to carry the project out. Mr. Butcher considered that even if the society were established on a small basis, it would progress. He remembered at one of the Agricultural Shows, prizes were offered for flowers, and a splendid floral exhibition resulted, which was quite an attraction. Very seldom outside Melbourne a better show of flowers was seen than that

held in the Temperance Hall last spring. He thought the society would be a great advantage, as members could exchange experience. Mr. Moore pointed out that the committee of the Horticultural Society of Victoria consisted of twelve professional and twelve amateur gardeners, so a deal of information could be obtained at such a society. Mr. Palmer stated that the formation of such societies had been productive of a vast amount of good in England, especially amongst the working class, who were stimulated to cultivate flowers and vegetables. The motion was put and carried unanimously. Mr. Moore moved that Messrs. Hartshorn, Gibley, Simonds, Lenne and the mover be a committee to draw up rules, three to form a quorum. This was seconded by Mr. Mackintosh and carried.

The meeting then adjourned till Thursday next, the subcommittee to meet on Monday to draft rules. Those present were enrolled as members. It was also decided to invite ladies to join the society. On the motion of Messrs. Gibley and Simonds, a vote of thanks was passed to the Mayor for granting the use of the room.

Riverine Herald 12th September 1879

Two weeks later the members met to adopt the rules of the Victorian Horticultural Society, which had been revised to suit local requirements. The annual fee should be:- gentlemen 10s. 6d.; ladies 5s.; life membership £5 5s.

The committee to consist of six members, four amateur and two practical gardeners, together with the president and vice-president.

(146 years later the Echuca Horticultural Society continues to be a very active society.)

The Way Things Were

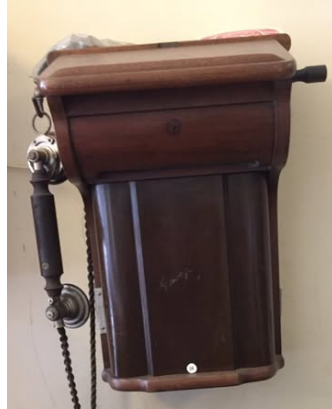
Of all the things in the house when I was young, I think that nothing has changed more than the telephone. Our telephone exchange was Womboota, which was manned by one couple who provided a 24 hours service every day. Some of the houses in the Womboota village, and most of the surrounding properties were connected to the exchange by about 32 single strands of wire, which were supported on makeshift poles. We lived about 20 miles from Womboota and shared our line with six other properties. The service was far from private with everyone on the line able to listen to any conversation on the line.

The telephone measured about 50cm by 30cm and was quite heavy, and was attached to the wall. The hand piece attached to a cord hung on one side, and on the other side there was a handle which was turned to call the exchange.

Each of the lines were numbered and Morse code was used to identify the properties with long and short rings replacing the dots and dashes. Our number was 24 H, (line 24, property H, the Morse code for H is 4 dots, or 4 short rings.)

I was always amazed that I could talk into the hand piece and someone 20 miles away could hear what I had said, with only a strand of wire connecting the two. Actually, I still find it hard to comprehend.

At the exchange the operator of the



Typical of the phone which was installed at Thule about 1925 and used until replaced by the automatic exchange, some 40 years later.

switchboard could connect you to other lines connected to the exchange, or for "Trunk Calls" to other exchanges further away. Now the phone can be held in your hand or put in your pocket, and by pressing a few buttons you can speak to someone on the other side of the world, and I had been amazed that I could speak to someone 20 miles away.

Not only that this is just the start of what this little gadget can do. You can send text messages, take photos, and play any number of games. It is a pocket street directory, a road map and gives you access to information on any subject which you fancy, and that is just the start.

Shirley Durrant

Looking forward to receiving, a wide variety of versions of your take on
"The way things were".

Growing up in Reservoir

Growing up in Reservoir 1950-1953 – the early years until we went to school

My twin sister and I were born 1948, at which time our parents were living in St David Street Fitzroy. When we were two years of age, along with a newborn sister, the family moved to a 2 bedroom War Service home Edwards Street Reservoir. The Government had built 50 war service homes in the middle of nowhere, for returning soldiers. At that time Edwards Street was the most northern street in our area of Melbourne. Our row of ten house faced open paddocks with three very large pine trees close by.

One of the mothers in the street would take the responsibility, to walk the group of kindy kids to the bus stop, at Edwards Park Lake, a distance of about a kilometre. As four year olds, that seemed like a long way. At the Edwards Park Lake, we were put on a bus by ourselves and the kinder teacher would meet the bus at Georges Road, about a 15 minute bus ride. Then the reverse happened at the finish of the kinder morning. One of my earliest memories was getting my foot caught in the running track of the steel rocking boat. Ouch!

On our walk to the bus stop we had to cross a bridge high above Edgar Creek, and to one side was the weir wall of the lake. The water was almost at street level on one side and Edgar Creek was about a drop of 10 metres on the other side. I once lost a hair ribbon, which the wind blew out of my long fair hair and into the creek below. I remember being devastated by the loss. Lost ribbons meant replacing two, as we were always dressed alike as twins, which was the custom of the day. I was the pink twin and Carolyn was the blue twin. Consequently, I did not wear pink as an adult for many years.

One time we came home from kinder to find Mum missing. She had been

bailed up in a nearby paddock by a goat and needed to be rescued.

In season fossicking for mushrooms was a common activity enjoyed by all, unless an angry animal turned up then we ran!

On another occasion, when walking alone from the bus to home, one of our hats fell on the ground and was quickly covered by ants. One of us stayed with the hat and the other walked to the nearby shop to get the shop keeper to come and help, which kindly he did.

Saturday night was hair washing night: then our hair was out up in rags to make it curly for Sunday School the next day.

Growing up in Reservoir 1953-1960 – Our primary school years

The three very large pine trees were often the "bases" for games of tiggy. There were lots of kids to play with, as most of the families had many children. We had enormous freedom spending most of our time outside until Mum called us for dinner. In the evenings, we had to be home when it got dark. We got up to all sorts of mischief and antics, undeclared on arrival at home. Mum was the disciplinarian, firm but fair. Not much got past her. My pet hate was when she sent me to pick a switch off the plum tree to receive a whack. Inevitably she would say "not big enough, get a bigger one". Picking the switch was the worst part of the discipline and she knew it. I remember Mum chasing my brother out the front gate. Of course he was much faster but Mum shouted after him "I'll be waiting here when you get back"

At the furthest reaches of our dared roaming, was an old run down house, which we call "The Witch's House", and we rarely dared go that far. Alongside the "Witch's House" was a long green dense hedge with spikes and red berries-a great place to hide from our parents and each other. It was also a good place to play kiss chasey with the boys.

The Merri Creek was at the end of our street, Edwards Street which was an unmade road, no footpaths, no street lighting, storm water or curbing. The Creek was a playground on its own. We always wore plastic sandals so as not to cut our feet. There was a tip the other side of the creek so most things we wanted we scrounged from there. We made humpies or hide outs, and dammed the Creek to make a swimming hole. We played hidey. We nearly drowned my brother one year trying to float him down the Creek on a mattress, which promptly absorbed the water and sank.

Twice a year we would build a bonfire on the open paddock: nights that adults and children enjoyed without any major accidents. Each street built a bonfire and part of the pre-bonfire fun, was to sneak up on the other bonfires and steal the best stuff they had to burn. Of course, they were doing the same to our bonfire!!

During these years, without a refrigerator, the ice-man delivered ice to the house. For many years Harry the milkman, with his horse and cart delivered the milk. As we got a little older we were allowed to jump onto the back running board and ride along, while Harry ran the milk to the front porch of each house.

The area was only sewered in the late 1960's so the 'Pan Man', Mr Pickering would visit weekly wearing his distinctively crook hat, and change the pan in the out side 'dunny'. Toilet paper was expensive so Dad drilled a hole through the old telephone book, threaded a wire through it and hung it on a nail. Very scratchy!! You had to crumple it around in your hands to make it soft enough to use.

Our primary school, Reservoir West, was nearly as far away as the kinder, and we walked every day, often accom-

panied by Mrs. Horwood from next door, who walked very quickly. We sometimes had to run to keep up with her. There was no fresh bread on Mondays. We were give 1/3p (one shilling and 3 pence) to buy our lunch. My favourite was a piece of fish and some hot chips which was 1/1½p. There was big trouble if I spent the change. The money went to school in a brown paper bag with the details written thereon. Miss Youl, our crabby grade 3 teacher, was the only teacher to give me a slap across the knuckle with a ruler...still not sure why? She also instilled into us our times tables for which I am forever grateful. We used to sing them. Milk was delivered to the school in little bottles and was often warm by the morning tea time. Sometimes we had straws that were flavoured. To this day I am not a milk lover!

We grew up with wonderful caring neighbours who interchanged as parents when required. Mrs Miller taught us piano – or at least she tried and I regret not taking it more seriously. We were lucky enough to have a family piano. It was a treat to go into the Horwood household next door because they always had a tin of Malt which was a sweet sticky treat eaten by the spoonful. The Noonan family lived on the other side and were the first ones to get a TV. They had 5 children. On a Sunday evening if we were fed and bathed we went to their home to watch Disneyland. Mrs Connor was a large jolly woman whose husband Bill Connor was a councillor and served as Mayor of Preston 1963-64 and 1974-75. They had two boys and a girl. Peter was rather handsome!! Mr & Mrs Walters had one daughter Sandra. Mr Walters was an alcoholic and died early, but Vera lived a long and healthy life. The ladies used to meet once a month for lunch and did that for many years, even after some had moved away. When they were too

Grandma's Shopping Basket

My grandmother was Bessie Hardie Vinecombe. She was born on the 2nd June 1893 at Echuca, and her parents were George Vinecombe and Alison Smart Smith. Soon after she was born they moved to Cow Creek near Barham, NSW, and Bessie spent most of her life in the Barham area. Her father was a shearer come farmer, and her mother was a milk maid. Grandma was an accomplished violinist. She met and married my grandpa, William Henry Simpson 1897 - 1986, in 1929 at Corowa, where they lived for about seven years. Grandpa worked at Waggeragong, a 614-hectare property at Urana, near Corowa, they had four children Ronald Simpson 1930 – 1976, Jean Elizabeth Simpson 1931 – 2019, Alison Mary Simpson 1932 – 2019 and Alan William Simpson 1934 – 2015.

Grandma and Grandpa also played in a band at woolshed dances around the district, Grandma on the violin and Grandpa on the press button piano accordion, or the banjo. They moved back to Barham in about 1939, where Grandpa took up the Managers job at Widderin station out at North Barham in 1946. The children grew up there. Grandma did not have a stove so she cooked in camp ovens in holes in the ground, Uncle Ron used to tell us that the best fruit cake she ever made was cooked in a cake tin inside the camp oven, in a hole in the ground. They shifted to a farm on Cincotta road, where they had a citrus orchard, and she had a wood stove there. She made rock buns which were wonderful, and there

was always plenty of them, as she had a baking day every week. After the fresh ones were made, all the older ones were put in tins for the cats. They loved Grandma's rock buns too. There were two lots of cats, one lot at the house and another lot at the dairy. The cats were always fed at milking time, and they were all good mousers.

I have Grandma's shopping basket, and often look at it and compare the size of it, to today's shopping bags. I wonder what little shopping Grandma did, and wonder what she put in it, as things like flour, sugar and tea, were bought in bulk, so her goods might have been cotton for sewing, or maybe spices for cooking. She made all her own clothes and later on she had a treadle sewing machine. All her sheets and pillow slips were always patched ones, and most were patched with the calico bags that the flour and the sugar came in, because they still had the brand names on them, so maybe she got more calico, in case she ran out. She may have even got some golden syrup or some treacle. They grew all their own vegetables and meat, such as sheep, chooks, and pigs. What they did not have they would swap with Mr. Cincotta next door. There was always a rooster or a turkey fattened up for Christmas dinner. Grandma always cooked the best roast potatoes in the camp oven in the wood stove. They moved into Koondrook in the late 60's. Grandma passed away 12.02.1974, in Barham, NSW, and she is buried in Barham cemetery.
Sue Shaw

. Except when learning to swim, it's good to start at the bottom.

A Veteran Nurse, Echuca Lady's Experiences

Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson, whose remains were conveyed to their last resting place in the Echuca Cemetery on Tuesday afternoon, may very well be described as having been one of the pioneers of the state of Victoria. She was a native of Armagh, Ireland, and came to Australia on board the sailing ship *Black Eagle*, landing at Geelong, in 1858. Soon afterwards Mrs. Wilson entered the nursing profession, and qualifying at the Melbourne Hospital was appointed to the matron of the Western Gaol, Melbourne, where she had charge of the women prisoners in the early days of the settlement of the metropolis. The late Mrs. Wilson had a very retentive memory, and her brother Mr. W. Murray, of Echuca, in latter years often spoke of recording the experiences of her long life of 86 years. This, unfortunately, she did never carry out. She, however, spoke of having seen Burke and Wills leave Melbourne on the ill-fated expedition of exploration in

which they lost their lives. Another striking incident which the deceased lady recalled was of extraordinary floods in Melbourne on which occasion she sailed along Elizabeth Street in a dinghy. Mrs. Wilson, in the course of her career, had filled the office of matron of the Bendigo Asylum, the Heathcote Hospital, the Dunolly Hospital, and Horsham Hospital, of which she was the first nurse in charge. Subsequently Mrs. Wilson was matron of the Echuca District Hospital. She retired nearly 40 years ago, and since then had lived privately in Yarra Street. The late Mrs. Wilson was the eldest of a family of fifteen children. A rather curious incident in this connection is that her brother, Mr. W. Murray, was born after his sister had left Ireland, and he saw her for the first time when he came to Australia as a grown man. *Riverine Herald Thu. 11th April 1918*

Fire in Heygarth Street

Shortly before seven o'clock last evening, the fire-bell tolled out its alarm, and it was found that a wooden tenement in Heygarth street, occupied by Mrs. Clancy, as a dressmaker's and fancy goods establishment and servant's registry office, was in a mass of flames. The house being entirely composed of wood, was consumed with marvelous rapidity, and in about twenty minutes time only charred timber remained. Nothing whatever was saved, and all that could be done was to get two little children, who were in bed, safely away. The fire brigade turned out promptly,

but their efforts were neutralized by an insufficient supply of hose. The members worked well, but from the first it could be seen that it was useless to attempt to save the house, and their attention was then confined to preventing the fire from spreading next door to Mr. Snell's bakery establishment, in which efforts they were successful. By the timely arrival of water-carts, and buckets being forthcoming, the fire was contained to the house in which it originated. *Riverine Herald 8th July 1878*

old to drive one of the family would step up, helping to keep the group together. They were all good cooks so it was a treat to go to lunch with them.

Our parents were originally from the Open Brethren Community in West Brunswick. When we moved to Reservoir the Regent Baptist Church became the family church. We attended Church, Sunday School and Christian Endeavour on a Sunday. We also belonged to Girls and Boys Brigade. These were very similar to Scouts and Guides but were connected to a church. Christmas Boys Brigade attended camps at Yarra Junction, at which Dad was one of the cooks. It was a great occasion to which young people came from all over Victoria.

It was also where I met my husband George years later.

Growing up in Reservoir - 1960s Plus – Our High School years

In the early 60's, the government was looking for a place to build a new high school in our area. We told them about the paddocks north of our homes, and eventually that became the site of Lake-side High School, some distance from the actual lake. The school grew with an intake each year. When we, the twins and the eldest in our family of seven children, went to high school, we were in the second intake. As the school was

not yet completed, we spent the first year being taught in various church halls in the area, and the teachers travelled from hall to hall in various locations around Reservoir and Broadway. There was very little room to play so hopscotch was a favourite recess activity.

In the second year of the school's life, we proudly went into our new school on Remembrance Day - 11th November 1960. Our new school was only a few hundred metres from home and we could walk to and fro.

Girls Brigade was held on a Thursday Evening and a group of us local girls would travel by bus to Regent returning home in the dark. The bus still terminated at the lake. On the odd occasion when we missed the bus we had to walk all the way home, the scariest pathway was being alongside the Reservoir Lake Park which was very dark. We had lots of fun activities, learned life skills and often competed against other companies. I remember our leader Marj Crawley talking to us about drugs. She told the group that 1 in 14 people would become addicted to drugs. There were 14 in our group and I was determined that it would not be me. We have one close friend from those days and Lois Geary never forgets our birthday. *Anita Bartlett*

I remember :

Riding my bike for miles, parents unaware of where I was, just be home before dark

Collecting tadpoles in the local creek

Playing in the street, hardly ever in our back garden or anyone else's.

Listening to serials on the radio

Drinking warm milk at school – UGH

Skiping rope games, swap cards, jacks, and marbles

Collecting stamps

Catherine Murnane

Unfortunate Accident

On Saturday evening an accident occurred opposite the Wesleyan Chapel, Torrumbarry, which though fortunately not fatal has resulted in very serious results. Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Robison were returning home in their waggonette and had reached the spot indicated, when, through the intricate nature of the road, the various stumps, and the darkness of the night, they experienced great difficulties in picking their way. Suddenly one of the wheels was caught by a stump and such was the force of the collision that

Mrs. Robison was thrown out of the vehicle. Her dress caught the lamp and thus broke her fall and probably saved her life. She was picked up in an insensible state and carried to her home where it was found that her left side was much bruised. She is now slowly recovering, but still complains much and has to be lifted in and out of bed. The state of the road in this locality should form the subject of consideration by the Shire Council, for it is simply disgraceful.

Riverine Herald 3rd July 1878

A Man Should Keep in Touch with the Misses!

The recent case of a one-time Deniliquin resident named William Ebenezer Reed illustrates what may happen to a bloke in Australia. He was a horse-breaker, and in 1898 went from New South Wales to outback Queensland, leaving behind him a wife and some house and land property. Perhaps time passed quickly with William Ebenezer, or perhaps the work he found to do in rural Queensland was so strenuous that he was left no time to think of anything else. Anyhow, 16 or 17 years passed and nobody in Deniliquin ever heard of him or from him. Then somebody presumed his death, and asked the Law to do likewise. And, after due formality the Law proved willing, and issued letters of Administration in the estate. Then as the property was about to be sold, Reed, who knew nothing of

what had been done, reappeared at Deniliquin.

Also Mrs. Reed, whom her husband, on his side, had also supposed dead, came up from Melbourne and said he was genuinely her long lost husband. Finally, after some more legal proceedings, with more costs and court charges at the expense of Reed's estate, the letters of administration were cancelled, and the owners of the property made alive again. Two morals seem to hang to the story. The first is that casual property owners should look in on the misses oftener than once in seventeen years. The other is that no Australian court should pronounce a bush worker dead until his corpse is put in as an exhibit. *The Australian Worker (Sydney NSW) Thu. 14 January 1915*

Every parent should remember that one day their children will follow their example instead of their advice.

The Ship, *Loch Ard*.

The *Age* reports that:- A malicious rumor to the effect that the *Loch Ard* had been lost on King's Island gained currency yesterday; but we are happy to say it had no foundation in fact, and however unfortunate that ship may have been, Captain Robertson is too skillful a navigator to get in such a predicament with the winds and weather that had lately prevailed. To relieve any anxiety in the minds of those interested in the vessel, it may be mentioned that she left Port Phillip Heads at 4.20 pm on the 14th instant, under the charge of Mr. Pilot Bowen, who, with several friends of Captain Robertson, remained on board until an total of some seven or eight miles made. The vessel then hauled close on a wind on the port tack, with wind from the N.E., so it was perfectly evident to those that had just left the ship that it was Captain Robertson's intention to go through the Straits so as to make the promontory about daylight on the following morning. The wind afterwards hurled further to the north, therefore doing away with all probability of *Loch Ard's* being anywhere near King's Island.

Bendigo Advertiser 18th November 1874

It was just four years later that the *Loch Ard* sailed from Gravesend on the 1st March 1878, at the start on its journey to Melbourne, with Captain George

Gibb in command, and a crew on 37 with 17 passengers. It carried a mixed cargo which included a quantity of building materials and exhibits for the International Exhibition which was being held to mark the opening of the opening of the Exhibition Building in Melbourne in 1880.

On the 1st June on a calm morning in thick fog, just off Mutton Bird Island, near Port Campbell, the *Loch Ard* struck rocks. Because of damage to the deck the lifeboats were not able to be launched, and the ship went down quickly. Just two people, were able to make it to the shore, Thomas Pearce, a 17 year old apprentice and Eva Carmichael, an Irish emigrant, who was travelling with her family.



Graves of some of the passengers and crew of *Loch Ard*, near Loch Ard Gorge

A majolica ware Minton Peacock was found floating in its packing case, and is now at the Flagstaff Museum in Warrnambool.

Information from Wikipedia

The Vice-Regal Cat. Dies of a Broken Heart

Pansy, the pet cat of Miss Daphne Davidson, daughter of the State Governor, has died of a broken heart, as the result of exclusion from Australia. The cat was sent to Fiji to friends of Sir Walter Davidson, but it continued to fret for its mistress, refused food, and slowly wasted away. *Riverine Herald 4 April 1918*