

PORT FAIRY POST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT FAIRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. 7 NO 1

MARCH—APRIL 2018

Inc. Number A0016131A

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MEETING DATES

No General Meeting in March

Tuesday 10 April 2018

General Meeting 7.30 PM

Saturday 21 April 2018

WVAHS Annual Meeting hosted
by Port Fairy

Regular Working Party Tasks,
Monday Mornings from 10 AM

Usual Museum Times 2 to 5 PM on
Saturday and Wednesday, (last
entry 4.30 PM); 10.30 AM to 12.30
PM on Sunday (last entry 12 Noon).

PFHS President's Report from Judith Kershaw

It is my pleasure to present a report on the activities of the Port Fairy Historical Society for the year 2017-2018. In many ways the past year has been a very busy and challenging one, despite some events, such as the Pioneer Dinner and Community Market Stalls, not being held.

The plan for seven general meetings, with a winter recess, has met with approval; while the committee met formally on five occasions. Guest speakers Jeanette Robertson, Lorraine Smith, Roger Haldane and David Kelson were excellent, with a later visit to David's exhibition of Nestle memorabilia a most interesting Society outing. Two lunches held in July and December were well attended, and provided an opportunity for some of our eight new members to socialise with more established members. Our volunteers were invited to afternoon tea at Charlie's on East; always an enjoyable event, it is a small token of appreciation to our valuable contributors.

Four members attended the Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies' AGM weekend in Stawell; other members attended workshops at the Melbourne Museum; and a successful stall was conducted at the Port Fairy Agricultural Show.

We have continued to host bus tours and school visits, with several repeat visits. Requests for family history information have kept our researchers busy, and changing exhibitions provide much work for the curators. Volunteers' mornings on Mondays have averaged eight members with three extra photograph specialists adding to the numbers. Five members have continued on Thursday afternoons, for two years now, to sort, cull and refile many documents in the archives. It is gratifying to see dedicated workers turning up week after week.

The newsletter, *The Port Fairy Post*, is now sent by email to ninety-six members, while fourteen are posted and eight hand delivered, mainly to older members. Thank you to Graeme Kershaw and contributors; and to Andrea Lowenthal and Anne McLean who continue to work with the web site and update the Face Book page. This communication is essential, and much appreciated.

At the same time as routine occupations, several projects have required much paperwork, and the end could be in sight in some instances. Our Collection Manager, Lynda Tieman has been responsible with the committee for reviewing policies, and developing new ones, for the Society's reaccreditation early in 2018. It will be twenty years since the Society was in the first group accredited in May 1998. It is a commendable effort to maintain standards over such a long period.

The Society's latest publication, *The Lighthouse Keeper and the One-armed Cricketer*, by Richard Patterson, will be launched by local author Jock Serong, on 15 February. Again much time has been spent researching and preparing for the printers. Thank you to the Publishing Committee.

Continued, page 2

President's Report Continued

The new Archives Facility, planned to be built behind the courthouse, could start in September 2018, subject to finance and permits. Peter Grenfell has undertaken this project, with much time spent trying to ascertain the extent of the land controlled by Heritage Victoria. The answer surprisingly is: *None!* Changes were made in May 1998 so that only the courthouse building, and anything physically attached to it, is Heritage business. Plans to gain finance are now under way.

Another project, set up by Anne McLean and presented to the committee, was to make the external appearance of the museum more attractive. Six trees have been removed, including two that over-shadowed the front of the building. The museum is now more obvious to passers-by, and the sun brightens the facade. The next step in progress is to obtain seating at the front of the building, a new sign clearly stating Museum and Archives, and painting.

A major exhibition called *Icons of Port Fairy* is planned to open in August 2018 for five months, using rarely seen objects from our own collection, and from other galleries. The questionnaires from the lending parties are unbelievable, but need responses if the Society is to receive the objects requested. During research, a number of famous Australians have been found to have been born or lived in Port Fairy, and will be featured. Another project requiring dedication from the members working to achieve success.

The Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies AGM weekend will be held on 21/22 April 2018, hosted by the Port Fairy Society. This event is shared around the fifty member societies, and it is twelve years since Port Fairy last played host. Hopefully, there will be a good attendance from other areas, and I encourage our members to take part in the meetings, and to attend the dinner with guest speaker on the Saturday evening. This weekend has already been organised.

Some work goes on quietly in the background, and I would like to congratulate Glen Foster for his efforts in developing three games based on the history of Port Fairy, Portland and Warrnambool. Originally board games, they are now available on our web site under the heading *Education*, and are easy to follow. Thank you to Glen for his entry in the Community History Awards.

To everyone who contributes to the welfare of our Society: the hardworking and loyal committee members in their various roles, the volunteers on duty, and the working groups who conserve and preserve our heritage, thank you for your contributions, and for making the role of president such a satisfying position.

CURATORS REPORT 2017

From Lynda Tieman

This year has been very busy in the back rooms of the Museum. We have achieved much on Volunteers Monday, with 7 to 10 people working at the regular jobs of filing, scanning, and sorting and data entry. During the week archive sorting, photograph recognition and cataloguing is done. Photo recognition is very important and takes a lot of research by our three sleuths. Research in this regard means talking to people who may remember events or the people photographed. No names on photographs may make the process in some cases hopeless. One branch of my family has a very handsome album full of old photos and only the people in two of those photos can now be identified so thank-you Jan, Heather and Carol for your enthusiasm in this task.

The Archive sub-committee has almost finished sorting through our archive files and is now working at removing excess paper in the family research files. Although many items in our collection have been converted to newer technology we still have quite a large collection of film that requires transferring to newer media. We have now devised a way of keeping Place of Deposit collections such as the Apex Club, Folk Festival and Fire Brigade intact and readily accessible. An amazing amount of work has been completed and although there is more to do it has been a great year. Thank-you to Judith, Margaret, Patricia and Anne.

Jan and Peter Grenfell have been scanning negatives provided to the Historical Society by the Heritage Committee some years ago into our catalogue. These are photographs taken in the 1980's of historic buildings in Port Fairy. This proved to be quite a task as some of the strips of negatives have been placed in different pages and Monday mornings sometimes required much lively discussion regarding house locations! Peter decided to start photographing businesses and their owners and from this will come an exhibition around Easter. This is a great addition to our collection and he has had to return to some of the shops because of changes in ownership and sometimes names. Thank-you Jan and Peter.

Some displays have been changed but not as many this time as we are working toward some much larger exhibitions this coming year. We removed "Invitation to the Ball", "Guardians of the Village" and "Fill the Gaps", and replaced them with "Needles and Pins" and "Baths and Bathing Boxes" and The Woolen Mills and SEMCO annexes.

Curator's Report Continued

Two temporary displays were prepared one of railway schematics for visiting railway buffs and one regarding Captain Robinson showing his dress coat at the Button Show in the Drill Hall.

A beautiful cabinet made to store gramophone rolls was donated to the Society so the Gramophone was added. "Spot the Dogs", "George/March" and "Story of a Store" have remained. The long running ANZAC exhibition will be removed after 25th of April to make room for an exhibition which will take up most of the exhibition space in the main rooms. This will be called "Icons of Port Fairy" relating many stories of objects and people originating in Port Fairy. This will hopefully be an eye opener to those who take our history for granted.

I thank Richard Patterson for providing the ideas and research for this upcoming exhibition.

Jeanette Robinson is still working on our numerous databases to set up new ones and update established ones. The Victoria collection is still being added to with Anne uploading object information as they are catalogued and Marie and Jeanette responsible for the photographs.

Gary is keeping up with our local newspaper collection and Jeanette is updating the database to track our hardcopies.

Acquisitions are still being received and we thank the donors for passing their precious objects into our keeping.

Thanks also go to Marten and Angela for sorting the many legal books received from Jamie Tait and finding appropriate homes for them.

This coming year is going to be quite challenging as accreditation with Museums Aust.(Vic) is due, we have our "Icons" exhibition to prepare and our new archive facility is planned.

Thank you to all members who have helped us with their expertise in repairing things, researching information and cleaning tasks.

Thanks also to our President and hard working committee members who dedicate their time to the preservation of our local history and the continuing success of our Society, and last but not least thank- you to my very capable assistant Margaret Collins and the Volunteer Day group.

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

From Lyn Brown

In 2017 the archival duties have been performed by many of our volunteers - the Monday morning volunteers, the Thursday afternoon ladies, the group looking after our extensive photograph collection, and Tony Hutchinson and myself, concentrating on the research queries.

Although once again research requests have decreased from other years we were still extremely busy. Both Tony and I were away for most of the winter and therefore quite a few research queries were waiting for us on our return. I must thank Richard Patterson for his help over this time in answering some of the queries, especially the more specialized requests.

I have met with various families over the year, from all over Australia and New Zealand, looking for information on their ancestors, and it amazes me still, that so many people have a connection to our small town. One woman, I met recently, had visited Port Fairy since she was a child, and it was only when she looked into her family history she found her ancestors had actually lived here in the mid 1800's. She was so excited as she had always felt a strong bond with Port Fairy.

Thank you to Tony for his work in family research. Thank you to Lynda Tieman and Judy Kershaw in leading the volunteers in many of the archival tasks carried out. Thank you to the rest of the committee for their support.



**William Webb Mayor of Port Fairy
1869-1882-1883-1892-1901-1903-1905**

Amongst items put on Victorian Collections by our volunteers

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

FINANCE REPORT TO THE PFHS ANNUAL MEETING 13 FEBRUARY 2018

OVERALL FINANCIAL SUMMARY

31 December 2017		31 December 2016	
ANZ Operating Account	9,501.93	ANZ Operating Account	7,259.79
ANZ Term Deposits	165,063.92	ANZ Term Deposits	166,031.00
TOTAL	174,565.85	TOTAL	173,290.79
Net Income	1,275.06	Net Income	4,732.54

Figures include a \$5,000 transfer - Term Deposit to Operating Account

Income and Expenditure for the year to 31 December 2017

Income	Jan - Dec 2017	Jan - Dec 2016
MEMBERSHIP	1,215.00	1,945.00
ADMISSIONS	4,335.50	5,049.05
RESEARCH	652.00	725.00
SALES OF BOOKS AND DVDS	2,026.00	2,843.93
PHOTOCOPIING	81.45	28.00
DONATIONS	208.30	249.85
MERCHANDISING AND FUND RAISING	509.50	781.00
PIONEER DINNER (NET)		191.20
BANK INTEREST	4,036.05	3,558.21
HIRE BY THE FOLK FESTIVAL	1,000.00	
Total Income	14,063.80	15,371.24

Expenses	Jan - Dec 2017	Jan - Dec 2016
MUSEUM EXPENSES AND ARCHIVES	739.94	1,091.40
BOOK AND DVD PURCHASES	380.00	184.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS	255.80	357.40
INSURANCE	1,761.34	1,889.90
EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE	355.93	365.82
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	2,447.40	627.08
CLEANING	1,502.50	1,482.00
ANNUAL RENT	110.00	110.00
ELECTRICITY	1,448.14	1,508.14
TELEPHONE	755.92	660.31
WATER AUTHORITY CHARGES	480.81	646.89
POSTAGE	291.00	363.99
INTERNET SERVICES	450.34	479.88
PRINTING AND STATIONERY	1,218.87	618.34
OTHER PAYMENTS	530.75	253.55
Total Expenses	12,788.74	10,638.70

The December report to the General Meeting showed a rare need to use over \$3,000 of reserve funds, because of some larger expenses, but also because there has been a significant reduction in income. There is little room for reduction in expenses. For the future we need to find ways to increase income.

Larger expenses included servicing of our Scan Pro equipment (\$1,155), printing 5,000 postcards (\$741.40) and removal of trees at the Courthouse (\$600).

Other Payments were afternoon tea for workers \$187, school history prizes (2x\$50), photographs \$25, (it also includes petty cash advance \$218.75).

Graeme Kershaw, Treasurer

Newsletter Editor Report

Front pages intend to keep up with news on activities of the Society with following pages giving glimpses of Port Fairy History.

I have again used much of my material from the Belfast/Port Fairy papers 150, 100 and 50 years ago; sometimes with related expansion found on "the web".

Contributions from others are always appreciated and they provide welcome variety.

Regular items from Richard Patterson have been a highlight. "The Boarding School Bay Tragedy", "Three Hermits", "The F. I. S. Endeavour", "When the War Came to Port Fairy", "Port Fairy and the Boer War", "M. V. Port Fairy", "Herbert 'Cockatoo' Maddick", and "Port Fairy's Weather" - all thoroughly researched with great writing skills. Look for "Escaping Death" and "Lobster Pots and Greenery" in the March issue.

Thank you to Andrea Lowenthal for her research based on a stroll through the Port Fairy Cemetery; and to Joan Powling for her memories of Pam Bruce. Anne McLean gave us access to her details on hopes to improve the courthouse.

Thank you also to all who have found and provided the photographs that we have been able to use.

President Judith Kershaw gave us comment headed "Port Fairy's Disappearing History", and a review of a new book by Pam Marriot titled Top Dog of the West. She organises much that is shown in "news and notes", and wrote the tribute to Victor Gillatt. She is a very good proof reader and my copy always needs her help.

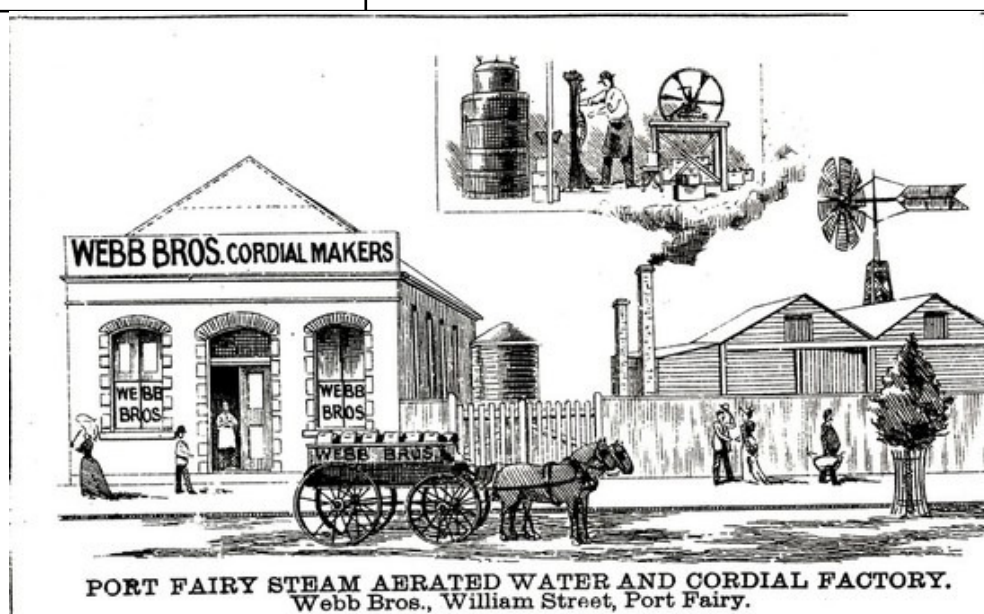
Production costs are kept down because most of the newsletters go out through Email. Please give us Email address details to use. The run of about 25 "hard copies" is being produced through our home printers.

Graeme Kershaw

Also an item put in by our volunteers to the material gathered on Victorian Collections

POSTCARD

William Webb's Cordial Factory was described in this item as operating from 1887.



Another contribution from Richard Patterson with comment on the Centenary of Victoria in 1934

Lobster Pots and Greenery

In 1934 there was dismay in Port Fairy about how the town was being marginalised, first, by being left off the itinerary of travel companies organising tours of the Western Districts and, then, by being omitted from any of the meaningful celebrations of the Centenary of Victoria that were planned for November.

In March it was reported that local Centenary Committee was assuming that Prince George (the future Duke of Kent) would visit the town in November on his way from Portland to Melbourne, even though no official confirmation had been received. But it soon became clear that a royal visit was out of the question, given that Prince George and Princess Marina had decided to marry in London on 29 November. Then, in July, a Back-to-Port Fairy Celebration, also planned for November, was abandoned, its Secretary, F. W. Pettingill, resigning along with E. Morton, the honorary organiser of the Centenary Celebrations.

Before he left, Morton had advised the Centenary Council that Port Fairy wanted no part of the official celebrations and would be organising its own events, in October, as befitted the oldest town in the state.

On 6 August the *Gazette* printed a letter from Pettingill who said that, 'Apparently Port Fairy's fame has extended throughout the length and breadth of the Commonwealth, and after the Centenary Celebrations we will pat our chests and say, "Alone we did it". I have received from the borders of Queensland the following verse printed in a Sydney newspaper recently'.

Proudly Aloof

(Allegedly slighted by the Centenary Committee, Port Fairy has cut adrift from the main plan, and will hold a centenary of its own.)

Our virtues unrequited,
Our dignity so slighted,
You need not think us blighted -
Superior, we smile!
Aloof amid our scenery,
Our lobster pots and greenery,
We'll hold our own Centenary
In fairy frolic style!
Not sordid and not squalid,
Our ancientsry is solid -
You go to Valladolid!
We'll hold an Eisteddfod -
A circus and some races,
And games and paper-chases,
And smack your silly faces
With a (figurative) cod!

The poem appeared in *The Sun* in a satirical column entitled *The Moving Picture Show* which the newspaper had been running since 1912 and had been created by the journalist Adam Cairns McCay.

Adam's brother, Delamore William McCay, inherited the column from his brother and was editor of *The Sun* between 1924 and 1934, when he was appointed Editor-in-Chief of Associated Newspapers. Delamore married Frances Eva Macpherson at **Port Fairy** on 18 June 1911 and it is not inconceivable that he was the poem's author, given that he was especially noted for his verse.

"Law and Order" features in current debate. Richard Patterson takes the discussion back to the 1880s

Escaping Death

Criminal sentencing policy is a controversial issue today, with some politicians advocating mandatory sentencing and much of the judiciary resisting what is seen as an attempt to curb its discretionary powers. In the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries there were few fixed stars in the judicial firmament, although both murder and rape were consistently regarded as capital offences. However, some local cases illustrate how this tended to work in practice.

On 26 July 1890, in what the newspapers referred to as the 'Port Fairy Outrage', Mrs. Ann Wharton was attacked on the Rosebrook Road at Koorongah as she was driving to Port Fairy. A dray that was passing in the opposite direction was carrying timber scaffolding spars which became entangled in the wheels of her buggy. When Mrs. Wharton, described as 'an aged woman' and about 60 years old, got down from the buggy to sort out the problem, she was attacked and, in all probability, raped. By the time help arrived, she was described as being in an exhausted state. A doctor who examined her could find no evidence of external injury, but Mrs. Wharton died a week later.

Thomas Pemberthy, a thirty-three year old man who had earlier been drinking in the Kirkstall Hotel, was charged with 'wilful murder' and, although Mrs. Wharton, on her death bed, was unable positively to identify him, she did say that he resembled her attacker in appearance and assured her solicitor, E. W. Powling, that 'You need not be afraid that you have the innocent man'.

At a sitting of the Supreme Court in Warrnambool, Pemberthy was found guilty of manslaughter rather than murder - presumably on the grounds that the offence was not premeditated - and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. In passing sentence, the judge, Mr. Justice Holroyd, said, '... without warning you attacked her owing, I believe, to your having drunk yourself to such a state that you lost control over the violence of your temper'. The *Portland Guardian* adjudged the sentence 'exceedingly light taking into consideration the brutal nature of the offence'. Pemberthy's prison record shows that he was released on 1 February 1896, only five-and-a-half years after his conviction.



Thomas Pemberthy (From PRO site)

Two years earlier, two apparently similar cases had vastly different outcomes. On 14 March 1888, Sophia Presnell, a young woman of 19 from Hamilton, gave birth to an illegitimate son and, some time later, threw his body into the River Moyne at Port Fairy. The body was found on 22 March at Goble's flour mill. From a serious injury to his skull, the child appeared to have been brutally murdered. Dr. Stanton examined the body and concluded that the head wound had been inflicted before the body was put in the river: the child had not drowned.

Sophia Presnell's story was that she had been carrying the child, wrapped in an old dress of her sister's, beside the Moyne when she collapsed in a swoon from exhaustion and the child hit his head on some rocks, killing him. She then threw the body in the river. Dr. Stanton allowed that this would explain the condition of the body that he had examined. In April 1888, Sophia was charged with unlawfully endeavouring to conceal the child's birth and was sentenced to three months' gaol at Hamilton.

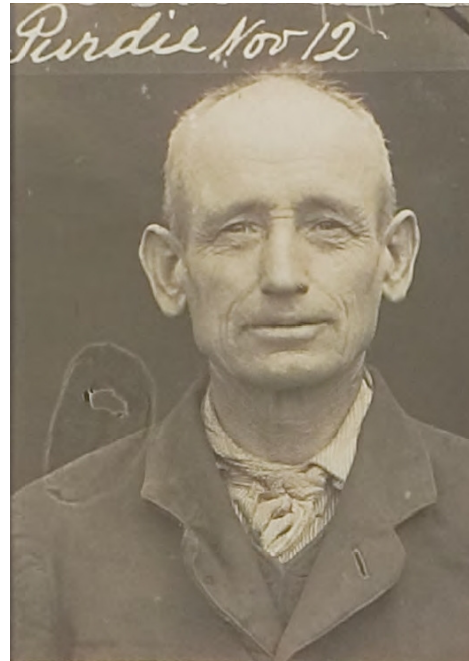
Just a few months later, in September 1888, another young woman, Mary Ellen Kempton, aged 20 and just 4 feet 11 inches in height, was charged with the murder of her illegitimate child at Portland in August.

The child was found floating face down in a dam. Kempton said that the baby had died in her arms and that, being frightened, she had thrown the body into the water. The *post-mortem*, however, suggested that the child had died from drowning, although there were no marks of violence upon the body. Kempton said that the child, which had always been delicate, had had a coughing fit and had died; indeed, that it had 'inherited her cough'.

However, an examination found that the baby was of 'full average size and well nourished'. The Crown Prosecutor asked the jury 'Was it credible that if the child had died as the prisoner had alleged – whilst in her arms – that she would have thrown the corpse into a water hole?', a question that was equally pertinent in Sophia Presnell's case. Far from receiving a three month sentence for concealment, Mary Kempton was sentenced to death by Mr. Justice à Beckett at Hamilton Supreme Court, although the jury requested mercy. Within three weeks the death sentence had been remitted and she was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. In 1890 Mary was released from prison, but only because she was fast dying of tuberculosis – 'her cough'.



Mary Ellen Kempton (PRO site)



John Purdie
(PRO site)

On 5 May 1908, the Chief Justice, Sir John Madden, sentenced John Purdie to death at the Port Fairy Supreme Court after the latter was found guilty of committing an 'unnatural offence' on a 10-year-old boy at Woolsthorpe. Evidence was heard from the boy, his father, three of his school mates, Constable Smedley, a widow and Dr. Forsyth. Purdie was defended by E. W. Powling. The jury needed only seven minutes to reach its verdict. In the following month the sentence was commuted by the Executive Council to seven years' imprisonment. Purdie was released in November 1913 having served just five-and-a-half years.

These cases were far from uncommon; the judiciary shrank from applying the death sentence other than in the most outrageous cases. As early as 1856, one newspaper was moved to comment: 'Now a days there is a very popular antipathy to the practise of capital punishment; and, unless in cases where very determined premeditation is proved, there will always be found one or two out of the twelve who will hold for the lesser finding of "manslaughter"'.

What surprises us is the idea that seven years' imprisonment – or five-and-a-half years with time off for good behaviour – was seen as a fitting substitute for the ultimate penalty. But as we stare into the eyes of these unfortunates, courtesy of the Public Record Office of Victoria's files, it is impossible not to think how traumatising even a short time in Pentridge or Melbourne Gaol would have been, locked outside the real world in a harsh and monotonous regime. And yet, is that a flicker of a smile on Purdie's lips? Is this a man who has escaped death and recognises his good fortune?

Port Fairy Gazette

1918

4 April 1918, page 2

ABORIGINES BOARD.

Messrs H. S. Bailey, H. J. Campbell, James Cameron, M.L.A. (representing the Victorian Aborigines Board), together with Mr Parker, the Board's secretary, will visit Port Fairy on Friday (to-morrow), April 5, for the purpose of inspecting and reporting as to the future use of the Framlingham and Lake Condah Aboriginal reserves, and arranging for the transfer of the aborigines from such reserves to the central station at Lake Tyres. -

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The full column that follows was published by the newspaper later on page 2 of the 4 April edition.

A Vanished Race

In view of the visit of the Aborigines Board this week to Framlingham and Condah, some interesting stories might be told of the aborigines which abounded in large numbers round Port Fairy up to the fifties. The Port Fairy tribe (or "Peek Whunraong"- kelp lip) was once a most numerous body, whose territory (according to Mr James Dawson, author of "Australian Aborigines") extended "along the sea coast from the mouth of the Hopkins river to nearly half way between Port Fairy, and Portland, thence to Dunmore, Tarrone Swamp, Kirkstall, Koroit, Woodford, Allansford, Framlingham and down the Hopkins river to the sea."

On the present common, about Killarney, was a favourite camping ground, and thereabout frequent tribal battles were witnessed by the early whalers and residents of the pioneering times. The last pitched battle took place in 1854, just beyond Mahony's farm, and some fierce fighting was then indulged in, and witnessed by quite a number of white folks without interference.

On the sand hummocks in that vicinity, hundreds of skeletons have been unearthed during the past twenty years, the winds off the ocean disturbing the scanty covering of the native graves. Occasionally skulls have been picked up with waddy-marks plainly indicated; one, indeed (which was for a long time in possession of a local resident, but afterwards coveted and taken away by a captain of one of the steamers trading to Port Fairy), having a hole about the size of a florin knocked clean out on the crown of the head.

Corroborees were of frequent occurrence, and the weird appearance of the lime-ribbed, half-nude natives dancing and contorting, to the dismal intonations of the voice, and the slapping of a kind of drum by the lubras, was as diabolical as can be conceived. The last corroboree in this neighbourhood took place at Yambuk, when a gathering of the remnants of the Port Fairy tribe was summoned in September, 1859. It culminated in a drunken orgy and a free fight.

The early settlers had some trouble with the blacks, and the slaughter of a few occasionally was thought lightly of by numbers of the land owners. I have heard some of the old blacks talk of the brutal treatment some of their fellows were subjected to, one very intelligent man telling me of how his mother was shot down, and he, as a piccaninny, frightened to move from the scrub to which he had escaped for fear of similar fate. This was in a mission of revenge by the whites for the loss of a bullock which had been killed by the natives - as he said.

The little value placed upon the lives of the black fellows can be judged by an incident which occurred very near Port Fairy, the principal being a Scotchman, well known in the early days. He had a native working for him as shepherd, and, missing some sheep, he was determined to keep watch. He caught a black fellow red handed killing one of his animals, his own native being privy to the theft. He called out to them, and, without compunction, shot one dead, remarking to the second man, in reply to his declaration of innocence, whilst loading his rifle, "Wait a wee, me cullen; I'll ha'e ye baith," and, without further ado, despatched the second. No wonder the blacks evinced dislike to the whites when such treatment was extended to them

For years, several fine specimens of aboriginals dwelt about the town in mia mias built near the race-course; and in the Blackwoods; and old residents will well remember Johnny Kell, Sou'wester, Billy Wallaby, a noted thief (whom I once saw climb the jail wall and escape, to hide himself in the rocks at Boarding School Bay, only to be re-captured); Jimmy Cain, and George Green; whilst the mimicry of Jimmy Hyde and Billy Youl drew many a "tixpenna" from the knots of people who were daily amused by their imitations of the peculiarities of prominent residents, Messrs W. Rutledge, Michael O'Reilly, C. H. Macknight and Horace Flower, were especially caricatured by these natural born pantomimists, often to the amusement and the exaction of the coins wanted from the parties themselves.

The murder by George Green of his lubra, in 1860, caused a great stir amongst the blacks, and the white population demanded his punishment; but George, an athletic fellow of six feet or more, escaped from the hands of the law, and was allowed to remain hidden until the affair blew over. He was a long time away from this colony, having migrated to New South Wales, and became insane, but, a few years ago he returned, and was resident at Framlingham Aboriginal Station, but under another name, I believe.

Today there are but few of the descendants of the Port Fairy tribe remaining, and retribution will assuredly await the early authors of their too speedy decimation.

The hummocks from Boarding School Bay to the high hills near the target, give evidence of that locality being a favourite native camping ground; for the hundreds of tons of shells heaped up on the hills, and the stone ovens which, until recently, were to be seen in the valleys between, betoken the presence there in time past of hordes of native feasters. Even in the early days of the whites, it was no uncommon thing to see the lubras fishing among the rocks for crays and, mutton fish, and the success of their labours was an occasion of envy to the boys and lads who would be trying their luck with indifferent results.

A Mrs Dunlop endeavoured to befriend the natives, and established a home on Griffiths Island, where up to 1833 she resided, and had a number of blacks living with her.^{note 1} She tried to educate them, but with indifferent success, and vacated the two-storied mansion under Saddle Hill, disappointed and poorer. The lady was of an adventurous character, and her whaleboat voyages, even as far as Portland rowed by natives, were of frequent incidence.

I am reminded of an event where her boatmen were of some service in a dilemma. The South-West Passage was a favourite bathing place, and one summer evening, a solicitor named Thomson was enjoying a swim when a large shark questioned the right of his presence in its domain. His nearest way of escape was to swim on to the island, which he did, reaching land exhausted and frightened. To return to the mainland, he dare not, so he remained all night among the rushes on the island, Mrs Dunlop, astir at daylight, observed from her balcony the nude figure hiding in the rushes and despatched her dusky attendants to ascertain the cause; whereupon they manned the whaleboat and Mr Thomson crossed to recover his clothes and go to his home.^{note 2}

Mr and Mrs James Dawson, in later days, befriended the natives in a most humane and commendable manner, and earned their respect and confidence in a marked degree.

Notes

1. 1. 1833 is too early. J. W. Powling, *Port Fairy, The First Fifty Years*, published 1980, page 22: "After John Griffiths went back to Launceston, his house on the Island was occupied by the enigmatic Mrs Dunlop who, until 1853, maintained some kind of mission on the Island, trying with inconspicuous success, to educate the blacks. This adventurous lady had a whale boat, rowed by six red-shirted, white-trousered aborigines, in which she frequently made trips as far as Portland."
2. The account of Mr Thomson's encounter with the shark is described in very similar words by Powling on page 22.

Have we changed over 150 years?
This poem was on Page 2 of the
BELFAST GAZETTE
on 5 March 1868

WHAT YOUNG LADIES TALK ABOUT

BY HOWARD PAUL

When girls in little groups converse
At home, at ball, or out,
I often wonder what the dears
Can find to talk about;
One thinks the subjects limited
Their interest to win-
As, take for interest politics,
They do not care a pin
What party is in present power,
Conservative or Whig,
And if the funds be up or down,
They do not care a fig.

And yet they smile and chat away-
It's not of grain or hops;
It's clear their mind's not running on
The failure of the crops.
It is not weather they discuss,
It may be fine or wet.
Nor sporting, not the latest odds-
For ladies rarely bet;
And yet their little tongues run on,
With pleasure there's no doubt-
Their eyes quite sparkle in their glee,
What do they talk about?

Perhaps 'tis fickle Fashions change
That occupies their hours;
Viewing laces, silks, brocades-
Or pictures, music, flowers,
And last night's play, or last night's ball,
Have all to be confessed-
To criticise the toilettes there
"How so and so was dressed"
Or else the op'ra and its gems
Of melody and grace,
Yet, stay, it might be, too - who knows?
The tenor's handsome face?

A sudden revelation comes!
How dull I've been no doubt,
I've hit upon the theme at last,
I'm sure I've found out.
They talk of "t'other sex of course;"
Of what "he thinks" and then-
Of how "my darling Harry is
The pink and pearl of men!"
Then LOVE then MARRIAGE, happy state!
Come, ladies fair, speak out,
Confess and clear this matter up,
That's what you talk about!

From 5 and 12 March

1868

WILLIAM SANDERSON

Begs to inform the public of the Port
Fairy District that he is now letting
Horses and Buggies for hire at the
following low rates:-

From Belfast to Warrnambool,	S	P
Two horses and a buggy	18	0
Ditto, one horse and a buggy	12	0
From Belfast to Koroit, ditto	10	0
From Belfast to Yambuk ditto	10	6
Saddle horses, for Warrnambool	7	6
Full stabling 5s per night; stabling on hay 3s per night; feed of oats 1s, bait on hay, 1s.		

COMMERCIAL HOTEL

Livery & Letting Stables
Bank Street, Belfast

ANDREW C. TURNER, begs to
inform his numerous friends in the
District; Squatters, Farmers,
Commercial Travellers and others that
he has taken the above Stables, to
which he has made extensive
alterations and additions.

Abbotts' new best double and
single seated Buggies, with or without
hoods; also Express Wagons always
ready for hire.

*Covered sheds for vehicles left in
the yard.*

Horses broken to Saddle and
Double and Single Harness, and
guaranteed quiet when given up.
Breaks and tackling of the very best
description.

**Steam to Melbourne Portland
and Warrnambool**

Steamer WESTERN, 300 tons, W.
Lucas Commander, sails for Melbourne
and Warrnambool every FRIDAY;
Portland every Wednesday.

	Cabin	Fore Cabin
Passage to Melbourne	£3 10s 0d	£1 15s 0d
" Warrnambool	12. 0	7. 0
" Portland	15. 0	10. 0

Return tickets available for one
month from date of issue. To and from
Melbourne, cabin £5.5s; steerage £2.12s.6d.

Passengers are requested to obtain
their tickets at the office, Steam Packet
Wharf, previous to going on board. A
boat will leave the Steam Packet Wharf
for conveyance of passengers to the
steamer on the day of sailing at 11
o'clock, a.m., free of charge.

Odd Fellows' Hall
Belfast

Tuesday 17th March

**GRAND
ENTERTAINMENT**

BY THE

**CHRISTY
MINSTRELS**

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE BELFAST
HOSPITAL AND BENEVOLENT ASYLUM

PROGRAMME:

Overture	---	Amateur Christys
Opening Chorus	---	Amateur Christys
Willie, my brave	---	Mr. F. Sloley
Yeh yah yoh	---	Mr. J. Oldfield
I long for my home in Kentock	---	Mr. G. Oldfield
Hot Corn	---	Mr. F. Merton
Just After the Battle	---	Mr. J. Bull
Big Bulldog (new)	---	Mr. J. Oldfield
Sweet Evilina	---	Mr. F. Sloley
The Irishman's Shanty	---	Mr. F. Merton

CHAMPION CLOG DANCE

Mr. F. MERTON

BALLAD—Mr. G. OLDFIELD

Mr. J. Oldfield, the Constitutional
candidate, will address the Electors of
Belfast.

BALLAD—Mr. F. SLOLEY

SONG & DANCE 'JERSEY PRIDE'
Mr. F. MERTON

To be followed by the side-splitting
Nigger Sketch entitled

THE SMART BOY

The Smart Boy	---	Mr. J. Oldfield
Manager	---	Mr. G. Oldfield
Musician	---	Mr. J. Jackson

BALLAD—Mr. F. MERTON

The whole to conclude with the new and
original much-provoking farce entitled:

GINGER BLUE;

OR THE EGYPTIAN MUMMY

Ginger Blue	---	Mr. J. Oldfield
Captain Fitzmaurice	---	Mr. G. Oldfield
Paddy Flynn	---	Mr. F. Merton
Dr. French	---	Mr. C. Hawthorn
Artist	---	Mr. J. Jackson
Capt. Aubray	---	Mr. F. Sloley
Miss Seraphin French	---	Mr. J. Bull

Doors open at half-past seven o'clock,
to commence at eight precisely.

Reserved Seats 3s., Back ditto 2s.

Mr. F. Merton, Stage Manager

1968

8 April 1968

PORT FAIRY MAYOR DIES

News of the death of the Mayor of the Borough of Port Fairy, Cr Earnest Paul Guyett, late on Friday night came as a great shock to the people of Port Fairy. Cr Guyett, who was aged 72 was in his fourth successive term as Mayor of Port Fairy. - - -

The late Cr Guyett was first taken ill about a fortnight ago and had to cancel a number of his civic appointments. - - -

During the time he had been a councillor and Mayor of the Borough of Port Fairy Cr Guyett displayed great drive and enthusiasm in civic affairs and never lost an opportunity to advance and publicise Port Fairy. - - -

[Cr Brophy was Mayor for the rest of Cr Guyett's term.]

Pioneer Dinner on April 27

It is several years now, since the Port Fairy Historical Society held its first Pioneer Dinner, and during this time, it has gained a great deal of publicity for the town throughout the State, and has had many well known personalities as guest speakers.

This year the annual dinner will be held in the Glaxo Social Club Hall on Saturday, April 27, 1968, when the guest speaker will be the well known historian, Mr Weston Bate. - - -

The title of Mr Bate's address will be "Making the Documents Talk". His address will be illustrated with slides. - - -

Dinner bookings at \$2 per person can be made with Mr A. G. Hill, 29 Sackville St, Port Fairy, phone 3. Early bookings are advised.

18 April 1968

Over 600 Players at Bowls Tournament

Port Fairy Bowling Club's annual tournament played over the four days of the Easter holiday was probably the most successful ever held. Record entries were received.

On Good Friday the Club had 198 players and its ability to accommodate such a large number is conclusive proof that more and more bowlers are playing in the tournament each year.

[Other entries were 160 on Saturday for the Pairs, 128 on Sunday for Mixed Fours, 128 on Monday for the Men's Fours.]

The Gazette

PORT FAIRY

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22 April 1968

Old Folks' Home Favoured

Following recent discussions between representatives of the Board of Management of the Port Fairy Hospital and the Hospital and Charities Commission, it appears likely that efforts will be made to build an old folks' home in Port Fairy. - - -

It was felt that perhaps the building of an old folks' home in Port Fairy would be preferable to a geriatric wing. For a geriatric wing State finance was required, of which there was none available. However in the case of an old folks' home Commonwealth finances would be available.

[On the same page figures on numbers of Port Fairy and district residents who were over 60 were highlighted. For 1966 Port Fairy had 422, 16.6% of a population listed at 2579 in 1967.]

25 April 1968

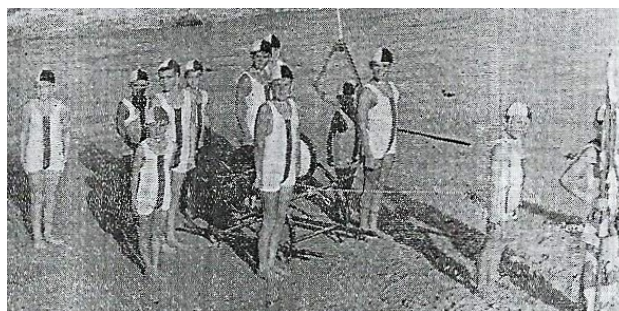
Move to Change Date of Show

The 1969 Port Fairy Show could be held the weekend before the Warrnambool show, instead of the week after, as it has been for some years. - - -

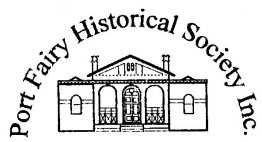
In support of his motion Mr Farley said that it was a severe disadvantage to clash with the Colac show each year. - - -

29 April 1968

LINE-UP OF THE "NIPPERS"



Pictured above are the youthful members of the recently formed Port Fairy Nippers Surf Life Saving Club. The Club owes much of its formation and activity to Mr Ray Stokie, who has spent much time with the nippers. The boys are Ken Sproal, Garry Stokie, Barry Sproal, Daryl Fitzgibbon, Peter Lane, Shane Hearn, Philip Logan, Wayne Stokie, Tony Sutherland, Allan Dempsey, Ashley Solomon and Rory Quigley.



PO Box 152, Port Fairy 3284

PORT FAIRY POST