

PORT FAIRY POST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PORT FAIRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. 9 NO 1

MARCH—APRIL 2020

Inc. Number A0016131A

President: Andrea Coney
0457 777330
Vice President: Peter Grenfell
5568 3004
Secretary: Anne McLean is on leave
Interim Secretary Graeme Kershaw
Treasurer: Graeme Kershaw
5568 2791
Family Research: Lyn Brown
5568 1266
Collections Manager: Lynda Tieman
5568 1432
Committee Members:
Margaret Collins 5568 2339
Carol Heard 0418 567437
Virginia Mack 0423 634 918
Heather Templeton 5568 1515
Debra Walker 5568 2781
Jan Willey 0427 340762

Museum and Archives:

30 Gipps Street, Port Fairy, 3284

Website:

www.historicalsociety.port-fairy.com

Phone: (03) 5568 2263

Email:

pfhsmuseumandarchives@gmail.com

Post to: P O Box 152

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS ON AN EVENTFUL YEAR

Retiring president Judith Kershaw, with new president Andrea Coney



The Annual Meeting this year saw some important changes for the Society. After very many years Judith Kershaw and Angela Syme stood down from the Committee. The reports at the meeting, copied in the pages to follow, include some recognition of their work as President, Secretary, and in other key roles, for the past 25 years.

The Committee had a renewed energy last year when three new members were added to the committee. This should continue because new President, Andrea Coney, will also have support from another two new committee members in Virginia Mack and Debra Walker who have been showing their value in work for the Society.

We have appreciated the skills and enthusiasm that Secretary, Anne McLean, brought to her role. Because of ongoing family commitments Anne has had to take leave and Graeme Kershaw will stand in as Secretary/Treasurer in the interim.

The Newsletter report from Graeme Kershaw included argument that the Newsletter Editor position should be relatively short term with review due after his five years in which he appreciated the challenge, and support given by members. The Committee has asked Richard Patterson to become the Editor. We have been enjoying many items from Richard in recent years and we look forward to the changes he will bring from the next issue of the Port Fairy Post.

MEETING DATES

General Meetings

No meeting for March 2020

[Folk Festival]

Tuesday 14 April 2020

7.30 PM at the Museum

Regular Working Party Tasks, Monday
Mornings from 10 AM.

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

Presented to Port Fairy Historical Society Members on Tuesday 11 February 2020

Annual Finance Report for 2019

OVERALL FINANCIAL SUMMARY

31 December 2019		31 December 2018	
ANZ Operating Account	8,691.39	ANZ Operating Account	35,488.78
Term Deposits, ANZ & Bendigo	173,834.69	Term Deposits	154,304.74
TOTAL	182,526.08	TOTAL	189,793.52
Net Income	-7,267.44		

Income and Expenditure for the year to 31 December 2019

Income	Jan - Dec 2019	Jan - Dec 2018
MEMBERSHIP	1,750.00	1,490.00
ADMISSIONS	8,653.70	4,857.00
RESEARCH	1,143.00	1,078.00
SALES OF BOOKS AND DVDS	5,355.85	4,513.23
DONATIONS	68.05	410.85
MERCHANDISING AND FUND RAISING	171.50	23.50
BANK INTEREST	4,543.13	4,553.65
OTHER INCOME	187.20	802.70
GRANTS	32,895.00	13,959.90
Total Income	54,767.43	31,688.83
	Less Grants 21,872.43	Less Grants 17,743.28

Expenses	Jan - Dec 2019	Jan - Dec 2018
MUSEUM EXPENSES AND ARCHIVES	93.44	1,023.85
BOOK AND DVD PURCHASES	5,518.75	3,522.20
SUBSCRIPTIONS	308.00	276.90
INSURANCE	1,681.55	1,893.94
EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE	10,195.65	2,730.47
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	237.65	558.30
CLEANING	511.65	2,036.00
ANNUAL RENT	110.00	110.00
ELECTRICITY	1,346.08	1,662.42
TELEPHONE	1,102.35	1,126.55
WATER AUTHORITY CHARGES	648.07	647.63
POSTAGE	348.05	353.05
INTERNET SERVICES	0.00	27.50
PRINTING AND STATIONERY	668.28	287.35
BANK CHARGES FOR EFTPOS	233.35	
OTHER PAYMENTS	226.00	205.00
BUILDING NEW ARCHIVE BUILDING	38,806.00	
Total Expenses	62,034.87	16,461.16

Grants 2019

For the new Archive Resource Building we received grants from Pacific Hydro, \$10,000, and Uebergang Foundation, \$1,000 in 2018. In 2019 Moyne Shire provided \$19,403, and Bendigo Bank \$2,000 to bring the grant total to \$32,403 towards the \$38,806 building cost.

A PROV grant of \$8,492 helped to provide most major furniture items for the new building.

The Department of Defence provided \$3,000 towards the \$4,031 printing costs of "Port Fairy Wars".

Work done on new museum displays, and some emphasis on promotion, has seen a welcome increase in admissions receipts. A decision to use volunteers for most cleaning at the museum has resulted in a useful saving. We have also been in negotiation with Moyne Shire on insurance and the Shire has offered a significant reduction for 2020 and beyond.

Graeme Kershaw
Treasurer

President's Report to AGM 2020

It is my pleasure to present the Port Fairy Historical Society's report to the Annual General Meeting for 2020. There have been many great achievements this year, and as always, a few challenges.

The stand-alone Archives Facility was completed in April, and its internal fittings added later after the Society received over \$8000 from the PROV. I must commend members who have worked consistently to reach our goal, especially Peter Grenfell who wrangled the necessary paperwork, liaised with Moyne Shire, tradesmen, Heritage Victoria, and supervised funding.

At the same time, re-accreditation with Museums Australia (Vic.) was due in late 2018, and ran well into 2019. This is always a demanding and time consuming process, and Lynda Tieman has been the leader of this work. Our Society was in the first group of organisations to be granted accreditation in May 1998, so being re-accredited for another five years, makes 25 years of top museum practice. Lynda, thank you for your efforts during this time.

Following the AGM in 2019, we have recruited members to form two committees aimed at making our museum easier to run; and to spread the responsibility for the collection, and presenting new exhibitions, across a range of people. So far this plan has worked very well, and fresh ideas have proved invaluable.

Lynda will elaborate on the exhibitions themselves in her report; and Graeme will provide the financial details resulting from these activities.

The exhibitions held in the last 12 months have been very successful, and, partly due to marketing support from the Tourist Association and the Visitor Information Centre, particularly with the Vintage Weekend and the Great Victorian Bike Ride, have brought in more people and more income. Thank you to those organisations, and to the wonderful work by members.

Donations of history books from the estates of Victor Gillatt and Tim Reeves prompted a successful Book Sale during the Vintage Weekend. Other donations of books from author Pamela Marriott, and from the family of the late Stan Evans have also been greatly appreciated.

The Society received a grant from the Department of Veterans' Affairs to publish Richard Patterson's book, "Port Fairy's Wars", which was launched by author Jock Serong on 25 October at the Museum. This publication has been selling well.

Family Research has continued with consistent and reliable work by Lyn Brown and Tony

Hutchinson. Significant donations have been given by appreciative customers, and payment for research is more often paid by direct bank deposit. The Museum now offers EFTPOS service for cashless visitors.

The general meetings have been well patronised, and speakers, including Ron Cashmore with underwater films and tales of exploring the caves and stacks along the Shipwreck Coast, Kate Donelan on retiring to Port Fairy, and establishing the University of the Third Age, and Neil Thomas on the adventures of growing up near Port Fairy, have been excellent. The two lunches in July and December were most enjoyable, and attracted good numbers. Our excursion to Macarthur, including the courthouse museum, and Budj Bim (Mt Eccles) was something different, and very interesting.

School visits by children, some as young as Grade 1, continue, while the VIC staff suggestion that bus tours might include a visit to the museum has boosted income.

Work sessions on Monday mornings and on Thursday afternoons continue to cover essential processes at the museum, as well as creating a great work atmosphere and camaraderie amongst members. The work done by members of the photograph group has allowed the Society to present external displays at the opening of the Wharf Restaurant, memory albums for residents at Moyneyana House, and the community discussion regarding 'East Beach Old Landfills' being held by Moyne Shire later this month.

At this AGM, I will have completed my fourth term as president, and 25 years on the committee, so now it is time to move on and to let others take their turn. It is always an honour to be chosen to take on official positions such as president, secretary, treasurer, collection manager or archivist; but success, or otherwise, is dependent on the support and assistance from all members; and in this matter I have been very fortunate. I must pay tribute to Angela Syme, who is also retiring from the committee at this meeting, after many years of service including three years as president. Thank you very much, Angela.

Thank you to vice-president Peter Grenfell, secretary Anne McLean, treasurer and newsletter editor Graeme Kershaw, collection manager Lynda Tieman, family research officer Lyn Brown, all other members of the committee, and indeed to all members, for your dedication and support for the continuation and success of the Port Fairy Historical Society. Congratulations and thank you to those who are prepared to form the new committee for the coming year; our Society is in good hands.

Thank you. Judith Kershaw 11 February 2020.

COLLECTION MANAGER'S REPORT 2019

From Lynda Tieman

We have had an amazing year as has already been alluded to in the first reports and so much has been achieved. Volunteers Monday and Archive Thursday usually sees 7 to 10 people working in the museum. Regular jobs of filing, scanning, data entry, family research files have finished being sorted, exhibition work, photograph recognition and cataloguing is done, so, thank you and well done Judith, Jan, Heather T, Carol, Richard, Debra, Andrea, Patricia, Anne, Heather D, Angela, Peter, Jan, Jeanette and Bev for your enthusiasm in these tasks.

Jan and Peter Grenfell have continued scanning the photographs as the girls catalogue them. We still need to get them on to Victorian Collections but we need to put a team together who can data entry and find the information on the history of the photograph. We have had a few more inquiries this year regarding more information on items we have already posted.

This year we hosted "Submerged" a travelling exhibition on a set of panels provided by the Australian Maritime Council and worked on by many historians around Australia including Marten Syme. We supplemented this with shipwreck relics from our own shipwrecks and Ron Cashmore provided us with video footage taken underwater of the Schomberg and the Socrates. This remained for 6 weeks.

The Powling room was used to display photographs and information regarding the early river and harbour works.

The Courtroom was then returned to its original courtroom scene.

The JB Holden and Millie Peacock displays remain as there is much interest in Millie regarding her status as the first woman in Victorian State Parliament. A bit of trivia about Millie of recent times is that hers is one of the four names chosen for the tunnel boring machines to be used in the Metro Tunnel Project in Melbourne. Joan Kirner, Alice Appleford and Meg Lanning being the others.

During the winter the exhibition committee cleared the courtroom and had lights installed at the back of the courtroom in preparation for the new Exhibition "Port Fairy In the Fifties" featuring the fashions, accessories and toys of the era and the Lillian Powling Photographs of our town taken around that time.

A roundel was used to display a small separate exhibition on the National Service camps in Port Fairy. Some of the photographs used were also taken by Lillian Powling. This new exhibition was to coincide with the Vintage Weekend in September and was a great success bringing more people into our museum than ever. The committee also ran a mammoth book sale over that weekend to clear a lot of surplus historical books we had accumulated the results of which can be seen in the bank balance.

The introduction of Eftpos has been a positive step as visitors can gain entry and also buy books without having to find cash to do so.

A board was set up showing photographs of soldiers for the launch of the book "Port Fairy's Wars".

The Great Victorian Bike Ride stopover in November was an opportunity to get people into our museum and Hester Woodrup was asked for memorabilia regarding Graham's record breaking rides. Calling it "Think You Have Ridden Far?" the end result was amazing and brought so many people into the museum that we asked Hester if we could keep it up over the Christmas period and even on its closing day we had people in the museum who came particularly to see it. We greatly appreciated Hester's help.

In December we hosted a Digitisation Project offered by the Victorian Collection team to better the photographs and images that appear on the Victorian Collection site. We were one of seven museums offered this opportunity and nine of our members took part. We offered this chance to Koroit and one of their members also attended. The workshop was held over 2 days and we learnt a lot about photographing objects and the scanning of photos. Hence the museum has purchased a small light box and a new scanner.

The latest exhibition "Folk Festival and its Life Force" is our nod to the volunteers that run the Folkie and those that love the festival so much they retire here to be close to the venue, it will be open during the festival, another strategy by the exhibition committee to invite more people into the Museum.

Jeanette Robinson is still working on our numerous databases. One new database had to be created. This will now take the place of the main index system and make it easier to find all information regarding any subject or photograph that is held by us. Thanks Jeanette, there is a lot of brain gymnastics involved.

Gary and Jeanette are keeping up with our local newspaper collection so that we can track our hardcopies.

The new Archive facility has now been fitted out and shelving will be numbered as we change our indexes and move items. Volunteers will be needed for this move so that the many books and papers that will be stored there can be easily found.

Our library is to be consolidated into one area. This will then leave room for many of our objects to be housed within the main building.

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

Thank you to all members who have helped us with their expertise in repairing things, researching information, sorting, cleaning, typing and database skills. Thanks also to the exhibition group who worked hard at making our exhibitions popular with the public.

Thanks to the hard working committee members for meeting the many challenges we have faced this year and who dedicate their time to the preservation of our local history and the continuing success of our Society, and also thank you to my very capable assistant Margaret Collins and the Archive and Volunteer Day groups.

A very special thanks this year to Judith who has now completed 26 years as a member of the Society taking up roles as President, Secretary, Newsletter Editor and committee member. Judith is taking a step back but has assured us that she will continue to be a working member. We are in a better place thanks to your many years of hard work and the friendship you have shared with us all. Well done Judith.



A display featuring some Port Fairy Folk Festival items has been set up in the Museum with an aim to gather more material for a bigger display next year.

A break from our usual practice will see the museum open during the festival (6 to 9 March) and visitors will be asked to give us festival memories, perhaps from the start in 1977.

This trophy celebrated the award of the Tourism Hall of Fame in 1995 after the new Port Fairy committee (from 1992) was named as Top Festival for three years.

FAMILY RESEARCH REPORT

February 2020

Once again in 2019 the archival duties have been carried out by many of our volunteers. On Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons, especially, there are a number of people carrying out various tasks – cataloguing, filing, inputting information, etc. With the completion and furnishing of our amazing storage facility, moving resources is another task in its early stages.

Tony Hutchinson and I concentrate on the research queries and try to answer them as soon as possible. Because I am overseas a lot, and away caravanning for a few months, this can be difficult but with our current email system, it is easy for me to reply and explain why there may be a delay in the research. Most people are very understanding and don't mind waiting that bit longer. If it is something that needs to be done quickly there are usually people about who can handle it. Like last year, our research income has increased by a small margin.

The majority of our queries come from emails but a lot of the people then make an appointment to meet me and they are usually captivated by Port Fairy and their ancestor's part in the early history of the town. Some of the queries come from people who have visited the Museum and wish to delve further into their own history.

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

LYN BROWN

Members of our working groups have been active entering details of photographs and artifacts on the Victorian Collections data base. At 23 February we had 3813 records shown in the catalogue for Port Fairy Historical Society. This was one, listed as a recent addition.



PFHS Newsletter Editor's Report 11

February 2020

It has been my privilege to have the responsibility for the Port Fairy Post for the past five years. I have enjoyed the challenge.

With our renewed museum displays, and development of the new archives facility, there have been rich sources of news to add to stories about our usual activities. Richard Patterson again provided some major articles and the launch of his new book, "Port Fairy's Wars", in October, provided extra copy. I have tried to encourage articles from others and Margaret and Eric Smith provided two pages for the May newsletter.

Thanks again to those maintaining the PFHS website and Facebook pages. These, together with the increasing number of entries that our members have placed on Victorian Collections, continue to provide much accessible material for our members and others. These are alternative sources of information, and can supplement anything we can feature in the newsletters.

I have continued to write about half the newsletter pages from my research into copy from the Port Fairy Gazette 150, 100 and 50 years ago. My selections attempt to paint pictures of the life and language at those times, and include cover of major issues and events.

In 1869 progress on the harbour works was the major issue. A court case involving Michael O'Reilly was apparently not unusual, and the lead up to the 1872 Education Act was being debated.

Controls to limit spread of the devastating influenza pandemic featured for much of 1919. There were problems that arose trying to accommodate the return of ex-service men, and to honour their service. Anzac day was established as a national holiday. News featured a major seaman's strike, attempts to establish a sugar beet industry, and an apparent belief that all aborigines could be moved to Lake Tyres. Locally, establishing an all-night telephone service, and improvements to the gas lighting on the streets, were noted.

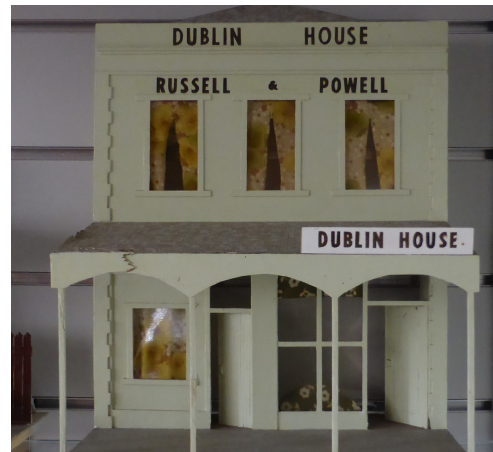
In 1969 sewerage was the major issue and work started in April. Amongst the news, approval of Tatra on River as a licensed restaurant, erosion on the Eastern foreshore, pressure for a Port Fairy History to be written, a need for tourism to be recognised in our publicity, registration for national service, and 18 year olds to be given the vote.

I have previously stated a belief that the appointment of the Newsletter Editor should be for a short term. The material I have selected reflects my interests and understanding of the role, and there are other ways to highlight Port Fairy History. I will ask the Committee to review the appointment for next year.

Please accept my thanks to members for the encouragement and support so willingly given during my time as Editor.

Graeme Kershaw

A new display at the front of the museum is about the streetscape from the 1890s and it brings back some small models of business places that were made by Allan Mewkill who joined the Society in 1969.



PORT FAIRY GAZETTE 1920

29 March 1920

AN UP-TO DATE HOMESTEAD

Great improvements have been recently carried out at the Chocelyn Homestead to the order of Mr P. H. Lock, and his residence is now one of the most up-to-date in the Western district. Electric light has been installed throughout from the well known "Delco-Light" system, and includes electric irons, kettles, fans, etc. One great feature of this system is an electric pump which works automatically from the 'Delco-Light' plant. Pipes are laid from the pump to porcelain basins, lavatory basins, enamel sinks, wash troughs, etc., with the dairy.

The value of the whole scheme is enhanced by its simplicity, and in its operation by turning off and on of taps. When the taps are turned off the electric pump cuts off automatically. Beside the advantage of giving 50lbs pressure at every tap, this system does away with unsightly elevated tanks and noisy windmills. Hot water is supplied throughout to all the points concerned and to all hot water rails. Great improvements have also been effected by a most up-to-date sewerage system. Another convenient innovation is in the installation of electric bells and telephone. --

[The "Delco-Light" system, introduced in USA in 1916, used a generator and lead-acid batteries with 32 volt distribution.]

MELBOURNE SMOKERS' PLIGHT

Victoria is experiencing a cigarette famine. Only small quantities are being supplied to the retail trade, and distribution among hotels has ceased for the time. It is asserted by retailers that men as a rule smoke more than they ever did. "There appears to be no limit to the demand for a fag", one said today, "and now that the habit of smoking cigarettes has got such a hold on the women it is not difficult to understand the shortage. The very fact that smokes are dearer now than they were 12 months ago seem to have little effect on their appetites."

19 April 1920

SKELETON DUG UP

On Saturday afternoon, Mr James Moore was engaged digging out a ferret in a borrow in Mr J. Powell's paddock, when he came across a human skeleton, which was covered with a piece of galvanised iron. The skull was brought by the digger to Mr H. Dyson for inspection, and the latter concluded it was that of an aboriginal, the formation being round and the bone thick. The teeth were in a very good state of preservation.

8 April 1920 HOLIDAY VISITORS

Never at any time in the history of the place were there so many visitors in Port Fairy during the Easter holidays—from Good Friday till Easter Tuesday, there being quite an exodus on the latter day. The warm weather of last week was a contributing factor to induce so many people to spend their holidays at the seaside, and for four days the beaches, gardens, battery hill, Griffiths Island and wharf were dotted with visitors. Local anglers had their patience tried in endeavouring to get sufficient fish to make a meal or two, but several visitors were more fortunate in getting sufficient supplies for themselves and friends.

12 April 1920 LOCAL POST OFFICE

Last December, there were 8 persons employed at the local post and telegraph office. Today, there are 6. If the public are inconvenienced in the future (and no doubt they will be), it is to be hoped that a list of complaints will be catalogued in order that the Borough Council may be able to make proper representations (through Mr A. S. Rodgers, M.H.R.), to the Postmaster General on the subject.

22 April 1920 THE WEATHER

"It is a pity such beautiful days do harm," remarked a Yambuk farmer yesterday. The continued dry weather, frosty nights, and absence of feed are the harmful effects he alludes to. Adding that "live stock are going to pieces, but we can console ourselves with the fact that things are far worse in other parts of Victoria. Things were never so far backward in the Yambuk district."

26 April 1920 BEER "BLACK" IN BALLARAT

At the close of the day's labour on Monday about 100 employees at the Ballarat Railways Workshops met and carried a resolution which declared beer to be "black" and pledged those present to abstain from drinking beer until the former price of 3d a glass was reverted to. It was complained by the speakers that while the price had expanded to 5d the size of the drink had shrunk materially, and thus the "working man who liked his beer" was hit in a two-fold fashion.

29 April 1920 SEASIDE ASSOCIATION'S POSITION

The Seaside Association incurred a very heavy debt in erecting the men's bathing boxes at the South Beach, and, as the contractor had to be paid the Association borrowed the money, and now has an overdraft. The donations from business people who get all the benefits from the Association being in existence are wretched. Some give a few shillings, others nothing. It is suggested that the Association be wound up.

From **The Belfast Gazette in 1870**

Work on the harbour to allow ships to come up the river was a main interest in 1870 and we even have a poem to celebrate it. The need for a pure water supply was being stressed as a major problem. Deaths from drowning and falls from horses were not uncommon.

3 March 1870

THE HARBOUR WORKS

A VISION floats before me now, I see it in my rest,
That success shall illumine our path, and this shall be the test—
That all we have already done declares the simple fact,
We must succeed if we proceed with judgement, prudence led.

All honour to those noble men who did originate the scheme
By which, with aid of nature's laws, to navigate the stream,
To attract the flags of commerce that teem from shore to shore,
And give work to scores of labor's sons that idly stood before.

Push on these vast improvements—the making of our town—
Let every son of Belfast now assist the work to crown,
The historian of Victoria shall yet refer with pride
To those who manned our gallant ship at the turning of the tide.

THETA

**Valuable Freehold Building Allotments
for sale in Belfast**

SATURDAY 5TH MARCH, 1870

S. MACGREGOR & CO.

HAVE received instructions to sell by auction at
their Sale Yards, William street, Belfast, on
Saturday 5th of March,

40 BUILDING ALLOTMENTS situated in
Belfast East, each containing $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre,
fronting Griffiths street, and adjoining the
Botanical Gardens.

Reference to the title apply to E.G. Yorke, solicitor, Belfast.

► In submitting the above to public competition, the
auctioneers would beg to draw attention of the public more
especially of the working classes to this very desirable
opportunity of obtaining a freehold, as it is but seldom that an
opportunity for obtaining a freehold occurs in Belfast.

Terms—liberal, declared at sale.

31 March 1870

FREE LIBRARY.--The public will be glad to learn that
an attempt is about to be made to establish a free library
in this town. We understand a munificent offer of a
large number of volumes has been made by Sir
Redmond Barry, on condition that his gift is
supplemented by the public. The want of a library of
reference has long been felt in this town, and the present
offer affords an opportunity of establishing one. It will
seem from advertisements that a meeting of the
members of the Mechanics Institute is convened for
Tuesday evening next to consider the question.

31 March 1870

DEATH FROM DROWNING.—On Tuesday morning
a fatal accident occurred to a man named Henry Brown,
while cray fishing in one of the rocky inlets near the
Racecourse paddock. The deceased, and James Harding
went out about half past nine o'clock to fish. They had a
small flat bottomed boat, which to persons
unaccustomed to boating was somewhat dangerous.
After fishing some time, and taking a considerable
quantity, a roller broke near the boat at the time Harding
was hauling in the net, and a small quantity of water
was shipped. Deceased apparently expecting a capsize,
leaped into the water. The boat then filled, and Harding,
thinking that the deceased could swim, from his
jumping into the water, made for land, which was
distant only about eight or ten yards. He clung to the
rocks, but was twice washed back by the drawback.
When he reached the land he was quite exhausted. On
looking for the deceased he saw his body lying in about
twelve feet of water.

The alarm was given, and intelligence brought into town
of the accident, when the police, and Mr J. Lee went out
immediately to the scene of the occurrence. Mr Lee at
once dived in and brought the body to shore. It was
taken to the Union Inn, where an inquest was held
before Dr Jermyn, and a jury, the same afternoon. The
following verdict was returned:- "That the deceased was
on the 29th day of March, 1870, accidentally drowned
while crayfishing."

TOWN WATER SUPPLY

Editorial Thursday April 7th 1870

The question of a water supply for the Borough,
apathetic in this matter as the corporation may be,
cannot be longer ignored. The sufferings of the
inhabitants of this town for want of one of the first
necessaries of life have been during the past two
months most intense.

In the most favourable seasons the inhabitants
have only the limited supply which drains from the
roofs of their dwellings, stored in casks or small
tanks, and which, after a few weeks drought are
either altogether exhausted or become impure
through stagnation. The few fortunate persons who
have large underground cisterns have so many
claims upon their generosity that their possession
has entailed no little inconvenience, and placed
them in such a position that expect persons who
expend money in improving their properties should
not be exposed to.

WATER SUPPLY EDITORIAL CONTINUED

A precarious supply of muddy water has been obtained from wells, but in many instances this is unfit for culinary purposes. We have the authority of Dr. Scott that because of the porous nature of the soil here, well water is absolutely poisonous, impurities percolating through the sand without hindrance. To the use of this poisonous fluid large numbers of the residents of Belfast have been limited for some months past.

We have brought this question before the notice of the Borough Council repeatedly, and occasionally some effort has been made to secure a water supply, but nothing has been accomplished. The cost of securing an ample water supply, together with the supposed unwillingness of the ratepayers to submit a water rate, have always formed a plausible excuse for inaction.

We hold that the health of the ratepayers is as much a matter for the consideration of our Borough Council as the forming and metalling of the streets, and to preserve the health of the people is a matter of impossibility without an abundant supply of pure water.

The question has been repeatedly asked where can a water supply be obtained? It is not long since the Health Officer of the Borough, Dr. Jermyn, submitted a scheme which, at all events, was worthy of investigation. It was to construct a dam near the Belfast East bridge, to answer the two purposes of keeping the Lagoon always full of water and of furnishing a supply for the use of inhabitants of the town.

There is another plan, which at first sight, appears also feasible, and is perhaps even preferable to that suggested by the Health Officer - it is to form a reservoir at the Moyne Falls and by means of pipes to bring the water to the town. We believe there is a report on this subject by Mr. Christopherson in existence, but has never been acted upon. There can be no doubt that this question is of vital importance, and that our Borough Council will consult the interests of the ratepayers by taking it up in earnest.

April 7, 1870

THE AURORA AUSTRALIS.--A very brilliant phenomenon was observed in the southern skies on Tuesday evening last. Shortly after dark a redness was observed over the sea, and it was first thought to be the reflection of a ship on fire. From this time to about 11 o'clock, streaks of light blue, white and crimson shot out at short intervals from the horizon to the zenith, exchanging every few seconds. At one time the reflection of deep red was so strong as to colour every visible object for a considerable distance. It was the most brilliant aurora we ever witnessed.

FATAL ACCIDENT.--On Saturday last Mr. Hugh McPhail, shoemaker, formerly a resident of Belfast, but for some time past living at Koroit, met with an accident, by a fall from his horse, which has terminated fatally. The deceased had been to Warrnambool and was returning to Koroit at about seven in the evening. When near to Dennington he was thrown from his horse, and next morning was found lying on the road in a state of insensibility. It is a melancholy fact and one which does not speak very highly for the humanity of the district, that the unfortunate sufferer was allowed to remain nearly seventeen hours lying on the road, in that time being seen and passed by many people.

About eleven o'clock on Sunday morning Mr. John Baillie passed the spot where he was lying, and he hastened to give information to the deceased's friends and the police to procure assistance. Police constable Gordon - - - went immediately to Dennington, and found him lying on the road. On raising his head, he asked for water, but never spoke afterwards. He was conveyed home and lingered till the following Tuesday morning. An inquest was held the same day, when a verdict was returned to the effect that the deceased came by his death by a fracture of the base of the skull, caused by a fall from his horse.

14 April 1870

WATER SUPPLY.--A few days ago several gentlemen visited the Moyne Falls, the site of the proposed water supply for this town. It was apparent at a glance that a reservoir of twenty acres in extent with a great depth could be made, by an embankment of about two chains, with nearly 100 ft fall to the town. The pipes would only be about seven or eight miles long. The Borough Council will perhaps look to this matter.

EAST BEACH OLD TIP INFORMATION SESSIONS

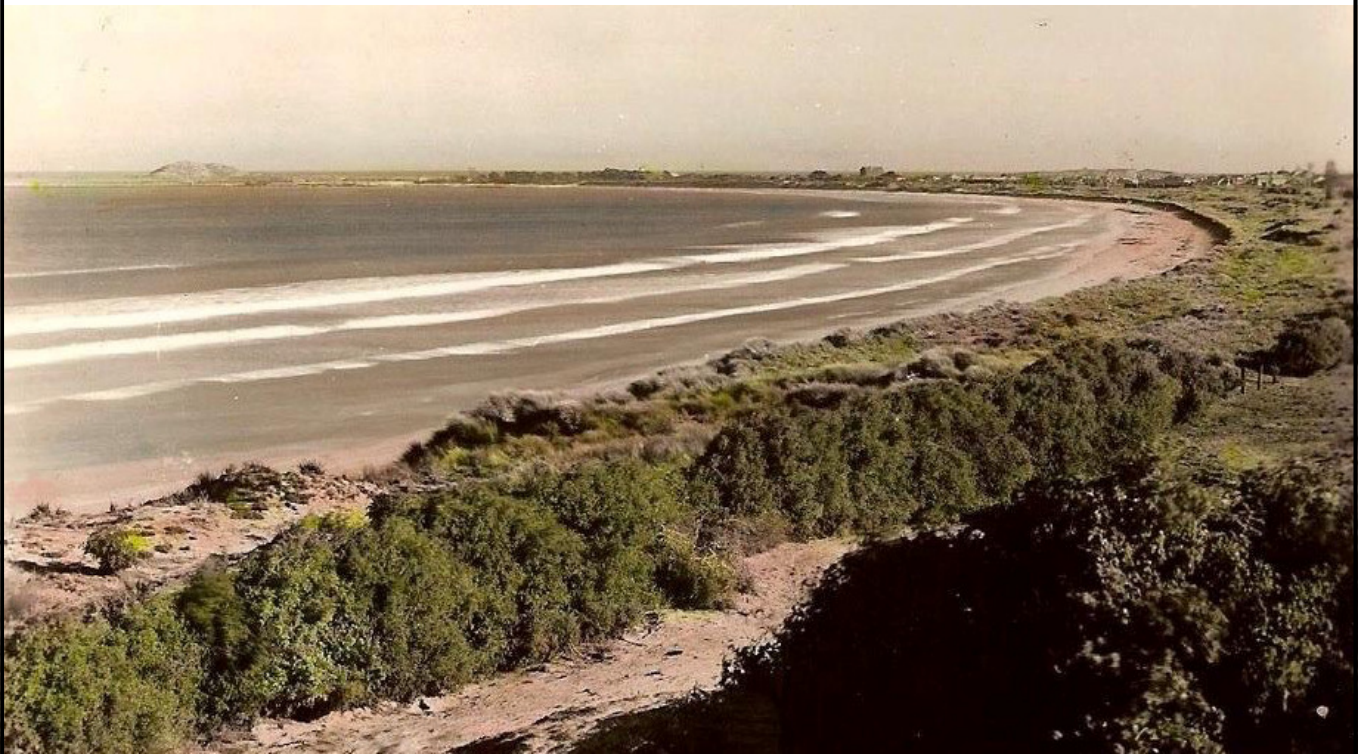
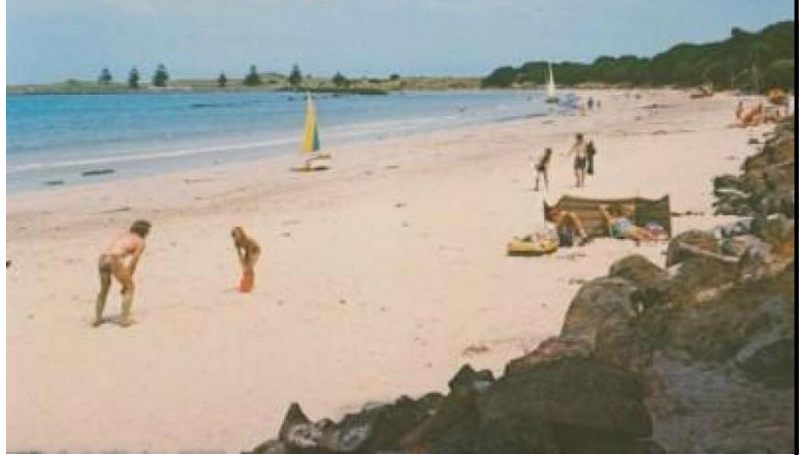
Moyné Shire has an allocation of Government money to manage the risks associated with the two old landfill sites at East Beach Port Fairy and held an information session on 21 and 22 February. The Historical Society was asked to provide some photographs for the information sessions and Carol Heard, with others, sourced photographs showing past images of the East Beach, together with some graphic images of the tip works that created the risks that have to be managed.

From the top:

Part of a tourist postcard, date needed.
(No groynes, 1960s or earlier?)

Early East Beach. Almost no development on the dunes, no pine trees, the 3 story mill on Gipps Street near the wharf is central.

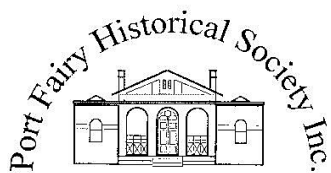
Two views from the 1970s, The semi-circle hut housed the surf club.



EAST BEACH TIP SITE 1980'S

It was conveniently close to town, and we made good use of it. The notice will remind many of us that fires were common. The depth of the excavation shows how big the problem will be if coastal erosion forces removal of the remaining rubbish.





30 Gipps Street, Port Fairy
PO Box 152 PORT FAIRY 3284
Telephone: 03 5568 2263 Email:
pfhsmuseumandarchives@gmail.com

PORT FAIRY POST