

Extract from:

"The Exhibition Visitors' Daily Programme"

Monday 27th December 1880

"Boxing Day Amusements"

"To those who have not yet made up their minds where to spend the day, we would suggest a trip to the Doncaster Tower, which is one of the most delightful drives out of Melbourne, and has been justly termed the "Derbyshire of Australia". Some particulars respecting this charming spot, and how to reach it, will be found in our 'Visitors Guide' on page 3."

Doncaster Tower: The drive to this charming spot is one of the most delightful drives out of Melbourne, and being situated within such easy distance (10 miles), it is a most favourite resort of picnic parties. It has a spacious Hotel and paddock, (the former of which has a large Ballroom capable of holding from three to four hundred persons) for the accommodation of

visitors. The view here obtainable is one of the most magnificent in the Colony and embraces a most extensive range of scenery, reaching from Matlock Ranges, on the east to the Bunninyong and Warrenheip Ranges on the west, and from Mount Disappointment on the North to Bass's Straits on the south; whilst 800 feet below the summit of the tower lies the Bay. The route to Doncaster is through Kew. Open Daily Admission 1s."

Also recommended on this day was:

Intercolonial Cricket Match
Victoria v New South Wales
On Melbourne Cricket Ground
Admission 1s. Stand 1s extra.

Quote of the Day was:

If you desire to be released from a rash promise of marriage, breathe vows of love continually after eating onions.

From Hal Williams. Pres. Camberwell Historical Society,

**Doncaster-Templestowe
Historical Society Inc.**

Single Membership \$ 15.00
Family Membership \$ 25.00
Donation from existing Life Members
Life Memberships will be suspended.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month in Schramm's Cottage in Rieschiecks Reserve, Victoria Street Doncaster. A quarterly Newsletter is included with membership. The Newsletter is published in March, June, September and December.

Website: www.vicnet.net.au/~dthsoc/

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Visits to Schramm's Cottage

As well as school visits, many local and regional groups enjoy a visit to our cottage to learn about the history of the district and relive the past.

Recently, Greg Hamilton and Deslea Reynolds welcomed the Women's Friendship Group to our precinct. After a short talk by Greg on the history of the area and cottage, the ladies wandered around the grounds and out buildings to their heart's content and at their leisure. The verdict of the group was most favourable and many said that they would return with their families. The Brighton Antique Club mustered 25 people who enjoyed morning tea at the Cottage and toured the buildings and grounds the following week. These people also praised our work in caring for the house and garden so well and many of the exhibits brought

back memories of the past for many of the visitors, who declared the day a resounding success.

On Melbourne Cup Day 2007, the Mercedes Benz Car Club had a Cup Picnic at the Cottage. It was a lovely spring day and the members enjoyed a BBQ lunch on the lawns. Many people wandered through the gardens and the house. Everyone said that it was a delightful venue for their annual gathering. We are always very happy to open the Cottage to groups whom we know appreciate the attractive surroundings and may let others know we are available for group gatherings.



March

2008

Member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Incorporation Number: A 232045

Park Orchards Revisited

We were fortunate during 2007, to receive some material on Park Orchards, which had been collected and researched by Graeme Tamme, a Park Orchards resident. Having a long time interest in the history of the Park Orchards district, Graeme has gathered together many maps, charts and photos, with special emphasis on the wartime period, when the Australian Army used the Park Orchards Chalet as a wireless station.

It may be worthwhile to review some of the information we have on Park Orchards, in the light of the additional material we have gained.

In the 1850's land in Warrandyte was sold and Francis McDonnell, Charles Heape, Mark Marks and Euphemie Falconer purchased the land which became Park Orchards. We now have a map, which shows the allocation of land to these buyers. Henry Croker bought 718 acres, which was in the centre of Park Orchards, in the 1870's and we now have in possession a copy of the 'Certificate of Title' of this land purchase. This land was not developed, and during the depression of the 1890's remained unused until the early years of the twentieth century when, after the recovery, it was once more sold.

The Petty family was among the early pioneers of Doncaster. Tom Petty, a very successful orchardist, decided to develop land as orchards in Park Orchards.

In 1902 Tom and Eliza Petty bought 559 acres in the Park. We now have a copy of a 'Certificate of Title' showing part of the land sale to Eliza Petty in 1902. Tom Petty successfully ran his orchard in Park Orchards for many years as well as owning nineteen different properties in the Doncaster area. He died in 1922.

The various families in the Park formed a small community and in 1913 William Sell bought Park Orchards in partnership with Eva and Minnie Gibb. Thanks to Graeme Tamme, we now have a copy of the 'Certificate of Title', showing this land sale.

The Gibb and Sell partnership continued until 1925 when Mr Australis Sharp and John Taylor, who were timber merchants in South Melbourne purchased 559 acres of Park Orchards and soon began the "Park Orchards Country Club Estate." This was an idea to create a family enclave, very exclusive and healthy, even to the extent of erecting private gates at the entrance to

the Park. The estate did not find investors and with the advent of the 1930's depression many unpaid for lots reverted to the estate. However, prior to this major setback, some of the amenities of the country club were built. A football ground, croquet lawn and tennis courts were built and the clubhouse was erected.

This was in the style of a Spanish Mission with white stucco walls and



Ringwood North, Victoria 1943-05-04.
General view of Park Orchards Chalet which is used as
Administrative Headquarters of Land Headquarters
Heavy Wireless Group.

(continued over page...)

arches, complete with a ballroom. Now in our possession we have a copy of "Golf Courses of Victoria" 1935 which describes, with photos of the Chalet interior and exterior and the preparation of the Golf course.

At the commencement of World War 2, the Australian Army was searching for a remote and safe area to set up a radio reception centre.

Park Orchards was considered to be suitable for this purpose and in 1942 the Commonwealth of Australia agreed to pay Australis Sharp and John Taylor compensation for the acquisition of the land and Chalet to be used as Army Headquarters. We now have in our possession copies of these documents plus a plan of the camp set up to house the 400 personnel who moved into the area. The Army paid for electricity and water mains to be extended to Park Orchards. The Heavy Wireless Group functioned at the Chalet headquarters until the end of the War. The Chalet building ballroom was used for recreation and dances, and concerts were held there. Thanks to Mr Tamme, we now have a large number of photos of wireless operators at work during this period.

After the War, when the Army left the area, the sportsgrounds were used for their intended purpose. The tennis courts and golf courses were popular with residents and eventually, the Chalet building was sold and became a restaurant and function venue in the 1950's.

We are most grateful to Graeme Tamme for their wonderful collection of previously unknown material on Park Orchards, which will be added to our archives. The growth of our collection depends on the results of research done by members of the public interested in aspects of our local history and we commend Mr Tamme for his work and generosity.



A Tribute to the Tullys

Two of our most loyal and hardworking members are moving to the country early in 2008.

Marg and Tom Tully have been stalwarts of our Historical Society for many years, and whenever work was to be done, they were always the first to volunteer. Marg is to be thanked for the myriad roles she played in our group. Always to be found preparing and cleaning up supper at our monthly meetings, and who will forget the wonderful fruit punch Marg and Gwen made for our Annual Garden Party? Marg prepared many of our lovely floral arrangements, for various functions and the Christmas Party decorations set up by her were most appreciated. At working bees both the Tullys played a prominent part and they were both full of practical ideas for improvements to our catering arrangements for functions.

Marg was appointed the person responsible for the purchase and mailing of greeting cards to sick members and also to those people who donated items to our society. She also took on the task of registering donated material on our artifact card system. These functions were carried out most assiduously and promptly and her keenness will be sorely missed within the Historical Society.

Tom was often called upon for information on the early days in Doncaster, being a member of one of the prominent orcharding families and often examined old equipment on our behalf. Ever present at working bees and at preparation and putting away of chairs, drinking glasses etc at our social functions, we thank Tom for his great efforts over the years.

All our members wish Marg and Tom great happiness and contentment in their new life, residing in Maryborough and we join in thanking them both for their long time loyalty and devotion to Schramm's Cottage and our Society.

Au Revoir!

Judith Leaney



MENZIES COMMUNITY AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Two of our Historical Society members were honoured by receiving Australia Day awards for their active community service.



Our Treasurer, John Boylett, has distinguished himself as a key member of the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, serving on the Board of Management. As a long time member of our society, active at working bees, he has recently taken on the task of our Treasurer, and is doing a fine job in that role.

Bill Ling, our Social Secretary, also was a recipient of a Menzies Award. In addition to his sterling work as organiser of our social events, Annual Garden Party and resident garden expert. Bill is a stalwart of a local Probus Club and a Church worker over a long period.

Also Bronwyn King, wife of our member Roger King received her award for work for the East Doncaster Baptist Church.

We congratulate these members on their well-earned awards, and praise their selfless contributions to our local community, which without the dedication of such people would be a lesser place.

~ Revised ~

Due to error and changed circumstances the following are the dates for Committee Meetings and Working Bees for 2008

Committee Meetings for 2008

Wednesday February 27th

Wednesday April 30th

Wednesday June 18th

Wednesday August 20th

Wednesday October 22nd

All held at 4pm at Schramm's Cottage

Working Bees for 2008

Saturday March 15th

Saturday May 17th

Saturday July 19th

Saturday September 20th

Saturday November 22nd

All commence at 9.15am. Due to special events, we may need to schedule other clean-up days.

DONCASTER & TEMPLESTOWE DIARY 2008

March 5th

General Meeting. Our speaker Adele Thompson will speak on "The First Fleeters" as a descendant.

March 15th

Working Bee at Schramm's Cottage - 9:15am.

March 21st

Easter 2008.

April 2nd

General Meeting.

April 30th

Committee Meeting at Schramm's Cottage - 4pm.

May 7th

General Meeting

May 17th

Working Bee at Schramm's Cottage - 9:15am.

June 4th

General Meeting

Melbourne's Early Cemetery

Dr Celestina Sagazio, of the National Trust spoke to us on the fascinating history of the first Melbourne Cemetery on the Queen Victoria Market site. The first burial was held in 1836, only the following year after the founding of Melbourne. Some of the very earliest headstones were made of wood, being mostly illegible after the passage of years.

This was the first cemetery in the Southern Hemisphere to be divided into religious denominations - Presbyterian, Catholic, Church of England etc with smaller areas laid aside for Jews and Quakers. There was even a section for Aborigines. By 1849, the original cemetery was inadequate for Melbourne, which was growing rapidly, and a new cemetery was established by an Act in 1850 and the first burial took place in May 1853. This cemetery was arranged like a public park with attractive trees and shrubs, placed attractively around curved pathways and restful pavilions.

The famous botanist Ferdinand von Mueller prepared many thousands of plants for the cemetery as the grounds were added to as needed in the nineteenth century.

The old cemetery closed in 1917, but was only open to plot holders for the last few years prior to that date.

Over the years there were many juicy scandals involving administrators and many famous people are buried in the grounds - Burke and Wills, the Australian explorers, Frederic (Federici) the famous Princess Theatre ghost, John Price, the infamous penal administrator, Walter Lindrum, in a grave in the shape of a billiard table, Peter Lalor and politicians James Scullin and Arthur Calwell.

Celestina presented her material very professionally and interspersed her talk with many amusing anecdotes of early Melbourne and its eccentric characters. She conducts Full Moon tours of the cemetery throughout the year, which would be well worth attending for all interested in early Melbourne history.

Congratulations!

Gwen and Laurie Reilly celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on St Valentines Day.

A happy marriage lasting 60 years.

Our very best wishes to you both!

