



Useful Knowledge

THE MAGAZINE OF THE
MECHANICS' INSTITUTES OF VICTORIA INC.

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IT'S HAPPENING AT THE HALL

On the morning of 22 May 2020 there was a session on 'TownHalls' on **ABC Radio 774** for the morning Talk Back Hour. The topic had been initiated by **Alan McLean** who had just written a book about the Rushworth Town Hall [see Book Review].

The session canvassed a whole range Hall related happenings: management, via the keeper of the keys; activities, roller skating, dances, debutante balls, and 'life'; music – Billy Thorpe and the Aztecs, The BeeGees, etc.; food, with groaning tables laden with goodies for supper at the Saturday night dances; and the keg in a ute out the back of the Hall, where the men could 'unobtrusively' get a drink. Then there those who took the trouble to measure exactly to the foot, where drink could be consumed from the Hall, much to the chagrin of the local men in blue.

As we hopefully move out of the pandemic phase, it would to think that things could be really again **Happening at the Hall** by November.

SOLAR PANELS ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS PROJECT

On the 21st of May the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, **Lily D'Ambrosio** announced a package of projects relating to renewable energy including \$9.2 million for the installation of solar energy systems on public buildings across Victoria.

The Solar on Public Buildings project covers all of Victoria except Gippsland which benefited from a pilot project in 2017-19 and may fund up to 250 solar systems across the state.



*Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy
Picture: Minister's Facebook [Lily D'Ambrosio]*

The project targets Crown land volunteer committees with limited capacity to raise capital and realise the benefits of investing in solar. Typical sites will be Mechanics Institutes, recreation reserves and public halls.

Local government committees, buildings on private land and those with a significant level of financial support from government will not be eligible.

The program will be managed by a DELWP team that includes a Project Officer for each Region to manage engagement with volunteer committees and locally based installers. Each site will be assessed to determine the optimum system size that will best offset the site's energy use and reduce the cost of energy.

Eligible committees will be notified of the commencement of the program in the next few weeks.

Prepared by Mick Dortmans, DELWP

Coming Events - MARK YOUR CALENDAR



2020

OCTOBER

1-MIV Architectural Drawing Completion-entries close

1-31 - Royal Historical Society of Victoria – History Month

21-22 – American Membership Libraries Group AGM – Salem Athenaeum, Salem, Mass

NOVEMBER

1-30 - It's Happening at the Hall Month – At a Hall near you

8 - Arthurs Creek Mechanics' Institute – Garden Walk

TBA- MIV AGM

TBA- MIV Architectural Awards Announced

DECEMBER

TBA - Friends of Castlemaine Library 'Amazing' Book Sale

2021

OCTOBER

8-10 - Mechanics' Institutes Worldwide 2021 – Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh

MIV'S EVENTS CALENDAR mivic.org.au/events

Member Institutes: email through details of your events, or public events being held at your Institute, both big and small to the Secretary: theruralstore@bigpond.com. Let us help you promote your events.

2027

TBA-Bicentennial Mechanics Institutes in Australia

ANA CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

Next year the Australian Natives' Association is planning a series of celebratory events with tree plantings and plaque unveilings at key sites associated the history of the Association. Formed in Melbourne in April 1871, the ANA had a profound impact on the move to Federation.

The ANA issued numerous badges one of which featured 'My Country First' on an outline map of Australia, headed by an upturned boomerang 'Protect Its Industries' and at the base was an inverted boomerang which carried 'Buy Its Goods'.

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Victorian PRAHRAN
History MECHANICS'
Library INSTITUTE

The MIV would like to acknowledge the support of our 'home' the Prahran Mechanics' Institute.

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MIV Contacts

PRESIDENT:

Bron Lowden

VICE PRESIDENT:

Steven Haby

SECRETARY:

Jim Lowden - theruralstore@bigpond.com

TREASURER:

Gary Bester - treasurer@mivic.org.au

MIRC AND PLAQUES:

Judith Dwyer - mirc@mivic.org.au

ALL OTHER MATTERS AND ENQUIRIES:

theruralstore@bigpond.com

Editorial

Our Halls, Libraries, Markets, Museums, etc have been now shut for several months and the financial impact on all these times will be significant by way of lost revenue. We have not been able to quantify the actual loss sustained but it is considerable and will continue to be so given mandatory social distancing. Even more so there has also been the severed connectivity within the various 'Institute' communities.

We recently came across an article where the Maffra Mechanics' Institute had been used as an 'Auxiliary Hospital' during the 1918-19 Spanish Flu epidemic. Thankfully the COVID-19 crisis, although it has had similar financial impact, it has not had anywhere near the same casualty rate of an estimated 12,000-15,000 deaths during 1918-20.

However with the words of the late and great **Vera Lynn** ringing in our ears we must be positive and 'We will meet again'. Released in 1939 at the outbreak of World War II, *We'll Meet Again* proved to be one of the great morale boosting songs of the War, constantly aired on BBC radio. And whilst it took six years until Victory Europe in May 1945 and Victory Japan in August 1945, the blue birds continued to circle over the White Cliffs of Dover and the Lyrebirds mimicked in the Dandenongs.

We must be steeled and persistent and we are reminded of the message of one of the world's most dedicated graffiti artists, **Arthur Stace**. Born in Redfern, Sydney to a poverty stricken family, he took to petty crime to survive. By aged fifteen, he was gaoled as an alcoholic and after release was again involved in crime. He enlisted for World War in 1916 and served in France as a stretcher-bearer. Returning home in 1919 he was discharged to his former lifestyle.

In 1930 Arthur was inspired to take the pledge and then in the 1930s he took to 'shouting eternity through the streets of Sydney'. He started his daily ritual at 5am and would chalk 'Eternity' on the street pavements for the arriving workers to see. On being accosted by the Police, Stace always claimed he 'had permission from a higher source'. He continued his 'street mission' up until almost the time of his death on 30 July 1967, when he bequeathed his body to the University of Sydney. A brass plaque was unveiled to his memory in 1977 with 'Eternity' in his copperplate style.

We trust it will not be an eternity until we meet again, but in the meantime keep safe and well and we will be back opening our **Halls for All** which the Mechanics' Institute Movement has done since it started in Edinburgh in 1821.

*Keep Smiling through,/ Just like you always do, Till the
blue skies drive the dark clouds far away.*

**Albert Rostron 'Ross' Parker (1914-74)
and Hughie Charles (1907-95)**

Housekeeping

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

With this magazine is your membership renewal and we hope you will be able to again renew your membership in these trying times. This year will be critical, for we hope to be able negotiate annual untied Council grants **for all Halls** by way of the Report of the Panel on Local Government Rating which is presently before the Minister. Another project we have lobbied for is that Solar Panels for Halls is to be rolled out across Victoria.

We are also pushing ahead with **The Hall With It All** model that will empower all Hall managers with a single source for Hall upgrades, by way of detailed and costed modules.

**Our Direct Deposit details are:
MIV, Westpac, Prahran BSB 033-0888
Acc. No. 135380.**

If the magazine is being received by the wrong person please let us know who it needs to be sent to. Can we also please have an up-to-date email address so as we can keep you posted of future items of interest and events.

ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING COMPETITION

The aim is to record as many Institutes as possible across Victoria, particularly those in danger of demolition. This Competition requires a current architectural rendering of elevations and ground plans of an existing Institute. The prize is \$500, with five prize of \$100 each.

Conditions:

1. Collaborative projects will be accepted.
2. All work must be the original research or drawing of the submitter or submitters.
3. No electronic submissions will be considered and all physical material submitted will become the property of the Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria Inc., but copyright will remain with the author/s.
4. The Judges decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

5. Applications close: 'Architectural Drawing' Section on 1 October 2020. Prizewinners will be announced at the Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria Inc. Annual General Meeting in November 2020.
6. Entries must reach: Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria Inc, Box 1080, Windsor, Vic 3181 by the specified date.

MARKETS PLEASE

MIV has so far produced Directories for its Libraries and Museums and it is now looking towards producing one on the Markets, which are held in, around or for a Mechanics' Institute and/or Their ilk.

Please let us have details of your Market, including its: logo; site; history; frequency; times; specialties; live music; unique features; and of course contact details for stall bookings.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We would like to hear from any persons with IT, Library, Journalism, Secretarial, Event Planning, Research to assist us with the day to day operation of MIV. We cannot offer any money but you will be helping to assist us in our vital work in showcasing Mechanics' Halls, Libraries, Museums, Markets, Dance Venues, etc.

NEWS PLEASE

Let us have your news on the Hall, its history and more importantly its people. Email this through with a couple of pics to: theruralstore@bigpond.com. Submission deadline for the next edition is 14 October 2020 .

MAGAZINE ROUND

Tick after reading and pass it on

- President.....
- Vice-President.....
- Treasurer.....
- Secretary.....
- Committee (insert your name)
-
-
-
-

BUS TOUR TO BAW BAW SHIRE (PART TWO)

On the morning of Sunday, 13 October 2019 we assembled in the Berwick Mechanics' Institute for the Annual Bus Tour, again ably organised by Committee member **Judith Dwyer**. Titled 'The Mechanics' Institutes of the Baw Baw Shire and the Scenic District of the Shire's North-West' the tour was to provide much of interest and inspiration. **Helen Davey** of Bunyip River Bus Lines was to be our able coach captain and knowledgeable commentator.

In the previous issue we detailed our visit to **Warragul Museum, Rokeby Mechanics' Institute** and **Neerim Junction Mechanics' Institute**. From there we moved on through undulating country to **Jindivick Mechanics' Hall** where we were greeted by **Faye Parker, Nicky Cadzow** and **Janet Simmonds**.

The district was first settled in the 1860s by Joseph Jackson after whom Jacksons Track was named. The area was surveyed in 1875 by District Surveyor Michael Callanan. The land was cleared and the timber was milled and the district became noted for its dairying and cheese production. Today's **Jindi Cheese** continues that long tradition.

Little wonder historians become confused. The Drouin Post Office opened on 5 April 1876, and it was renamed Jindivick in July 1878 and changed to Drouin West several months later. Jindivick Post Office opened again in March 1880 and was renamed Tarago, after the River, in 1888. The third Jindivick Post Office opened in September 1889 and finally closed in 1994. In the local Aboriginal dialect, Jindivick means 'burst asunder'.

The Jindivick Mechanics' Hall was built in 1886 by James Whitten and his nephew Mr Wallace at a cost of about £200. It was opened on 20 May 1886 by AC Groom MLA, followed by a concert and at 'About ten o'clock the room was cleared for dancing, which was kept up with spirit until daylight to the music of two violins, played by Mr [John] Palmer and Mr [Edmund] Ramsden, sometimes assisted by the piano.'

The Ramsden family provided the secretarial duties of the Institute in the early days. The residence of Hall Secretary, Charles Sayce, was burned down during the 1898 bushfires and the Institute records were destroyed. The MUIOOF

Lodge opened a Branch in the Hall on 30 September 1898 'when there was a crowded house'.

Tennis was started on the Hall Reserve around 1903 when a team was sent to Neerim South. Initially it played neighbouring towns until it joined the Neerim District Tennis Association. A stalwart of the Club was Stan Holt, who served the Club for fifty years, with a break in service away at World War I. In 1974 the colas courts were replaced with a cement base and new fencing and night lighting was installed.

A Library had been conducted in the building from the start. In 1888 there were 164 books in the Library which opened between 3-4.30pm on Fridays. By 1894 the number of books had increased to 500 and opening hours were 1.30-4pm on Tuesdays, Thursday and Fridays. It had 525 books in the library in 1903. Mrs Freyer was elected Librarian in September 1915. The Library ceased to exist in the late 1950s.

An honour board and book were placed in the main hall of the Mechanics' Institute 'in memory of all those brave lads who went from Jindivick to fight for King and country'. The board was made by JHW Palmer from blackwood grown on his own property [Thorncliffe]. Names of Jindivick's sons who served in the two world wars have been listed in the book.'



Jindivick Mechanics' Hall

The fiftieth anniversary of the building of the Hall was celebrated with a Back to Jindivick in October 1936. At that time the Memorial Gateway, dedicated to the pioneers, was opened by local MP Matthew Bennett, MLA. The plaque carries the wording: 'A Tribute to the courage, faith, and enduring labours of the pioneers. "Nothing in the ages old/ Could braver histories unfold/ Than this bush story yet untold."/ Erected in 1936, the 50th year of this hall.' Mr A Edney, whose father Walter had built the first store in

Tarago in 1875, addressed the gathering on the early history of the district. The district electricity switch-on was held in the Hall on 23 August 1938.

Badminton was started by the **Jindivick Men's Club** in the Hall in 1946 and competed in the Neerim District Competition and the Mid-Gippsland Association from 1952.



Interior Jindivick Mechanics' Institute

The **Jindivick Club**, formed in 1948, was to have a profound effect on Hall life and a Sub-Committee comprising Wal Emery, Stan Holt and Jack Notman was put in charge of indoor activities. These included table tennis, badminton, basketball and indoor bowls and the first big night was staged in the Hall on 12 June 1948. The Club also coordinated Council of Adult Education activities in the Hall and CAE provided books and performers for several years. The Club ceased in 1961.

Further Hall extensions between 1951 and 1955 were undertaken by Mr Butterworth of Drouin and this involved construction of the side gallery, and lengthening and widening the stage.

The Jindivick Progress Association was formed in 1908 and was behind every major advancement of the community and had consistently met in the Hall. The Association arranged for specialist agricultural speakers to come to Jindivick and talk to local farmers. In 1953 the Association amalgamated with the Mechanics' Institute Hall Committee.

The kitchen and supper room were added in 1974 by K Roberts. Over the years the Hall has been well used for Masonic and Church purposes. The Scouts and Guides also met there.

The Jindivicks take their custodianship of their Hall very seriously noting their legacy down through the years. In 1986 a further plaque was erected '1886-1986/ A century of service/ They strove that we might thrive/ We thrive so you derive.'

The Hall has a significant collection of framed

photographs hanging around the walls along with a collection of Freemason and sporting memorabilia.

Today the Hall is a busy place showcasing the district's main themes of country food, arts and crafts and bush plant nurseries. The Hall hosts the annual **Gippsland Rare and Unusual Plant Fair** in April and this normally attracts some twenty stall holders.



Billiard Room, Jindivick Mechanics' Institute

The Jindivick Progress Association obtained a grant in 2018 to install a full-size billiard table and an Alcock slate-based table has now been installed. Hall activities are showcased on the website: www.jindivick.org.au proclaiming it "A beautiful place to be"

The **Labertouche and District Community Centre** was our next stop. We were briefed inside the original hall by **Trevor Ottrey, Mick Henry** and **Jim Armstrong**. This extensive complex is located on a large block of land which houses an oval and the Country Fire Authority base. Located in south Gippsland, 13 km from Longwarry. The district was named for Irish-born engineer Peter Paul Labertouche. The Labertouche Post office opened in 1876 and the Labertouche State School No. 2471 opened on a five acre site in 1882. The School burned down in 1906 and it reopened in a rented room adjacent to the Post office. The local community erected a new School house on the original site and the School was reopened there in 1907 and remained in use until it closed in 1927 and the building was shifted to Warragul West.

The School 'temporarily' reopened in the Hall in 1937 and it was not until 1951 that it reopened on the School site and was later supplemented by other portables as numbers increased. It was still operating in 2019.

Early district meetings were held either in the nearby Labertouche School or Trinca's Hall. In September 1916 under the heading 'District –

Labertouche. There not being a public building in the district, the residents are anxious to erect a hall. With that object in view, it has been decided to hold monthly dances.'

The Hall was built of timber and opened in 1923 on a site donated by John Alcorn. It has been progressively added to over the years by way of an extension to house badminton courts and the toilets and a commercial kitchen. It has had Church – Anglican, Methodist and Seventh Day Adventist – use. It has also been much used by the very successful Badminton Club and Welfare Club.

In November 1925 under the heading 'Alteration of Building in which Poll will be taken in the Subdivision of Drouin. Prescribed Polling Place of Labertouche. The Poll is to be taken at the Labertouche Mechanics' Institute in lieu of State School No. 2471 as was previously advertised.' The 'Labertouche (Mechanics' Hall)' was again listed as a polling venue in September 1946 and similarly also in June 1949.

Some time in the 1920s a timber skillion kitchen was added to the north end of the Hall along with a brick chimney. In January 1928 'volunteers had a hard fight to prevent the flames attacking the Labertouche Hall, situated on the outskirts of Longwarry. Fortunately there was a cleared space about the hall and it was saved after a fight.' The Hall was reclad in brick in the 1950s, commencing with the reconstruction of the skillion supper room.

A momentous event was celebrated in the Hall on 9 July 1954 when a pumping unit was handed over to the Labertouche Fire Brigade on the occasion of it being registered with the Country Fire Authority as the 1000th Brigade in Victoria. CFA Chairman JRC Plante attended for the occasion. Today the former CFA shed carries a distinctive 'Welcome to Labertouche' sign surrounded by stylised botanical illustrations. A planter box is at the base of the sign.

In the 1950s and 1960s the Hall was also used by the Melbourne Bushwalkers, who in conjunction with weekend walks, staged occasional Saturday night dances, sometimes in fancy dress. In 1959 a Public Meeting was held with a view to extending the Hall. This was to be an extension to the south and worked commenced in May 1961 and it was re-opened in September

1961. These extensions included the badminton court to the south, but also kitchen facilities and toilets were added to the west of the existing Hall.



Labertouche and District Community Centre

The Hall records were burnt in a fire at the Secretary's residence in the 1960s.

Two tennis courts, which were built in the 1960s, initially had strong summer support. However by the early 2000s they were not being used and the fences were pulled down. In 1983 an extension to the north provided for another badminton court and removed the chimney. Consequently the Hall can now seat 250 for events. The kitchen was upgraded to commercial standard in the 1990s. During the 2009 February Bushfires the Hall was used as a recovery centre and three portable buildings were donated by the Lions Club. Post the 2009 bushfire five acres were acquired north of the Hall and were subsequently transferred to the Department of Environment, Land and Water – Crown Lands Section.

Solar panels were installed on the roof of the Hall in 2012.

To the north end of the Hall, but in a separate steelclad building is the Community Centre complex which was opened in April 2014. This comprises a large room and with round table seating for one hundred with a basic kitchen unit in the north-east corner of the room, with toilet facilities accessed in the other corner.

Joining this room to the north is a well resourced meeting room capable of seating fifty around aggregated tables. This is equipped with internet and Wi-Fi. A defibrillator is also located here. Abutting this to the north is the Men's Shed which has a well resourced workshop, with benches and equipment arrayed along the east wall. This opened in December 2013. The Bendigo Community Bank sponsored the purchase of a heavy duty wood splitter and the

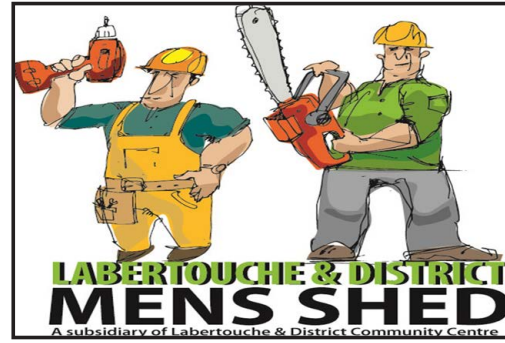
Shed now sells firewood as a fundraiser. Built in 2017-18 and located to the west of the Community Centre complex is 12mx25m shed structure which comprises an undercover barbecue and pizza oven, which is in closed in the western end and has a painted mural across the wall. This was painted by several community members. Wall cladding continues for the first five metres from the western end. The rest comprises tables with bench seating on a concrete base. Adjacent to the south of this is a fenced in and equipped Children's Playground. Separated from this and about three hundred metres to the north is the CFA shed which houses two trucks and equipment. Also to the north is an oval which has been progressively developed for cricket use since 2016 and is now loaned to other clubs at Jindivick and Longwarry.



Bushfire Memorial, Labertouche and District Community Centre

At the entrance to the Hall is the Labertouche Bushfire Memorial. This comprises an 8 metre circular memorial space. Three segments of the elliptical stone wall are located to the north and have integrated timber bench seating. A memorial plaque is incorporated into the central wall segment which carries the wording 'Bunyip Ridge Fire/ Black Saturday/ 07.02.2009'. The circular paved area has a disc set in plaque which represents a stylised burnt tree, in slate blue-grey. Flagpoles are located to west and east ends of the wall and three large granite blocks 'enclose' the southern perimeter.

The Labertouche and District Community Centre Inc. has a distinctive multicoloured logo which features 'a community of people'. Badminton has been played since 1949 and in 2019 four senior and four junior teams were fielded in the local competition. A large 'Winners' board is on the north end wall of the Hall. In 2019 the Community Centre complex was the



Logo of Men's Shed, Labertouche and District Community Centre

central meeting point for: **Men's Shed; Ladies Friendship Group; Precinct Services; Labertouche Badminton Club; Labertouche Landcare; Labertouche Seniors Group; Labertouche Primary School Council; and Labertouche and District Church.**

The Complex hosts the: **Annual Bushfire Commemoration Day; New Year's Dance; Australia Day Cricket Match;** and annual **Gardivalia Art Show**, which showcases local flora in art and is part of the Shire of Baw Baw's Shire-wide Festival of events.

A truly amazing hire venue for all types of activities:

www.labertouche.com.



The Historic Garfield Picture Theatre

Our final and 'surprise' stop was at Garfield which was originally called Cannibal Creek. It was later named in memory of James Garfield, a United States President, who had been assassinated in 1881. Cannibal Creek Post Office opened on 1 May 1886 and was re-named Garfield in 1887. It is located on the busy Melbourne to Traralgon Railway Line. At the **Garfield Picture Theatre** we were greeted by owners **Fred and Sue Perez**. The Theatre was built by Martin O'Donohue and it was opened with a Grand Ball in December 1924. The 800 seat auditorium is on one level and it was finally closed to film screening in January 1974. After a period being used as a furniture store, it was purchased Fred and Sue in 1999.

Then came the major restoration which finally led to its reopening in July 2016 as a theatre venue.

Over coffee and a biscuit we had a rare treat of being entertained by an accomplished Country and Western duo **Sue Parrish** and **Patrick Wakefield**. Their bracket started with a rendition of *Good Hearted Woman*, followed by a mouthorgan interlude; *Brown Eyes* and *Seven Spanish Angels* was succeeded by a mouthorgan and flute duet; then came *Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain*, *She Was Morning*, *Galway Girl* and a tin whistle item, which concluded the very enjoyable session. Then we purchased their CD, which makes for very pleasant listening. Back on board and as the bus pulled away Fred, Sue, Patrick and Sue waved us 'Goodbye', a very nice touch. The Garfield Picture Theatre specialises in Tribute Shows and hires the venue for private functions, weddings, filming or recording, and meetings. Check out their website: garfieldpicturetheatre.com.au

And what became of the Garfield Mechanics' Institute? It was in existence in 1889 and in August 1890 there was 'a dastardly attempt to burn down the Mechanics' Institute at Garfield' but the fire was 'extinguished before much damage had been done'. In 1904 a new site was purchased, architect JH Walker designed the new building and contractor Ingebert Gunnulson went to work on the 45ft x 25ft structure.

It was officially opened in November 1904 with a concert of 'a high-class nature'.

The Hall was well used until it was engulfed by fire on 15 April 1937. The fire had started in the

supper room at around 1.30am and everything was destroyed save some military equipment which was stored in a back semi-detached shed. The Hall was insured for £400 and its contents £100.

The 'Back to Garfield Celebrations' in May 1937 generated a good profit and the new Hall, which cost around £800, was opened in September 1937 by Matthew Bennett MLA. In March 1954 a Civic Ball was held to celebrate the visit of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip to Warragul. The hall was decorated with flags and bunting and lit with special lighting effects. The Royal duo were not present but Les Cochrane, MLA and most Shire councillors were there to see Miss Elvie Cameron crowned as Ballerina of the Ball.

In September 1983 a fire, caused by an electrical fault, resulted in damage to the Hall which was then scheduled to undergo renovations in mid-February. In February 1984 a fire consumed the building which was attributed to arson. The Hall was at this stage owned by Council and was insured for replacement value.

This was subsequently be replaced by a new building on a different site to be known as the Garfield Community Centre and it was officially opened in March 1987.

Finally we arrived safely back at Berwick and all agreed it was a most enjoyable and worthwhile day on tour.

And again a big 'Thank you!' to **Judith Dwyer** for planning and organising this most enjoyable day. And also to the various generous hosts that we met on the drive around Baw Baw Shire.



The Historic Garfield Picture Theatre

SAVING OUR LINKS TO THE PAST (AND OUR HOPE TO SAVE THEM FOR THE FUTURE) - MIKE MCCAUSLAND

So much was done by previous generations to create local Institutes all over Australia, their buildings and their contents. It has been the task of our generation to preserve their work and give it currency.

Over the last four years Friends of the Launceston Mechanics' Institute in Tasmania have spent hundreds of hours compiling a catalogue of the thousands of books and periodicals preserved in the now-defunct Institute's heritage collection – 14,288 titles, to be precise as calculated by the National Library of Australia's bibliographic database.

The most significant element in this achievement by a team of professional librarians volunteering their time and skills was that the Collection was made available to researchers world wide through Trove. And there have been queries from Australian and overseas scholars pursuing their interest in rare works, because the LMI managed to preserve from its working library from 1842 to 1945 numbers of books that have elsewhere been lost.



About 10% of the collection (according to an independent significance assessment conducted in 2015) is unique in Australia, and a few works are rare indeed, even internationally.

So it was with consternation that we found that the National Library had generated a financial arm, Trove Collaborative Services, to conduct many of its publicly-accessed activities, including the maintenance of its bibliographic database. Which mean that all libraries that are covered by its services are to be charged significant fees to access them.

For many large institutional libraries that update their listings as they add and cull items, and offer inter-library loan services, such a charge recovers costs by users paying for these services. It's a part of the financial framework that State, university, hospital and corporate libraries

employ. However, when applied to a closed, remnant, heritage collection of the kind FOLMI has catalogued, and to many other locally-based volunteer organisations that are preserving sets of books and other items important to their communities, it's a major imposition. For those of us who exist only on the financial contribution their members make, the burden would be prohibitive.

So far the decision made in July last year to remove the listing of collections whose managers do not pay the annual fee has not been carried out. No doubt the suspension of so much business under COVID restrictions has contributed to this stay of execution. This is likely to be temporary, and it's hard to imagine Government agencies being allowed to be lenient once normal operations recommence under still greater public financial constraints. *If you're concerned, as FOLMI is, for the permanency of ANBD and Trove listing of your collection, let us know. Mike McCausland (mmccaasl@yahoo.com) or contact Useful Knowledge.*

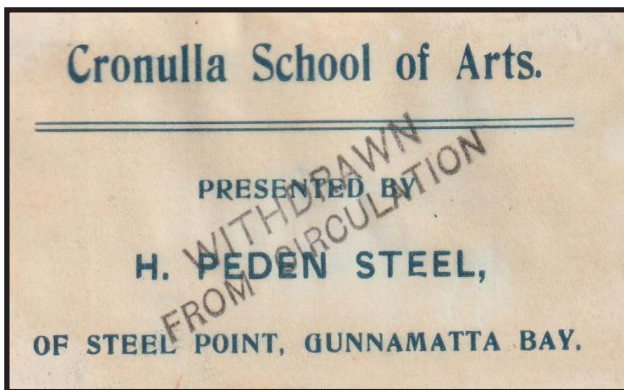


The National Library of Australia has its genesis in the Commonwealth Parliament Library established in Melbourne in 1901. After being relocated to Canberra in 1923 it assumed two collections Commonwealth National Library and Commonwealth Parliament Library.

The two entities were separated by the *National Library Act* of 1960 and the National Library of Australia opened in 1968.

The NLA launched its pioneering Pandora website in 1996 and is a world leader in digitizing records. To this was added Trove in 2010 which among other things lists collections held by other libraries and institutions.

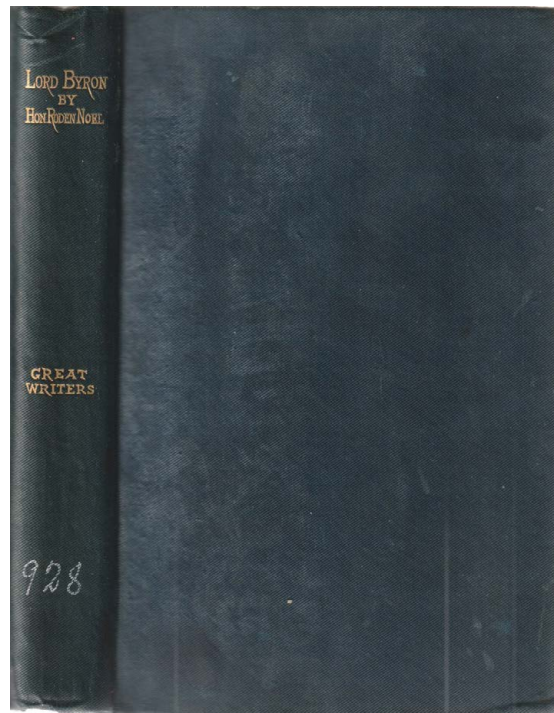
H. PEDEN STEEL AND THE CRONULLA SCHOOL OF ARTS



As a bookplate collector with a thirst for understanding the history of libraries in the period before public libraries sprang up everywhere, I naturally hoover up, at secondhand dealers and book fairs, any old book with some indication that it once had a home in a mechanics institute or school of arts library.

These books now generally reside in piles on my study floor awaiting my further attention and the possibility I may extract a story from them, if I can find somewhere to place that story. Although I am from Sydney, and my story is a Sydney one, it does relate to a school of arts, and *Useful Knowledge* demonstrates a catholic enough taste by accepting stories about such institutions from all over Australia, and in fact, from around the world.

A few years ago I acquired at a book fair a copy of *Life of Lord Byron*, written by The Honourable Roden Noel, published in London in 1890 by Walter Scott, of 24 Warwick Lane, in their 'Great writers' series. Marks of provenance abound in it, and hopefully in chronological order, they comprise: on the half title the initials **H.P.S.**; on the inside front cover a simple engraved bookplate lettered Hugh Peden Steel His Book with the crest and motto



'Ferro non furto'; on the front free endpaper a typographic bookplate worded Cronulla School of Arts. Presented by H Peden Steel, of Steel Point, Gunnamatta Bay; and the circular rubber hand stamp Cronulla School of Arts.

What links Steel and the Cronulla School of Arts? Hugh Peden Steel (1865-1944) was the third son of Dr Robert Steel, minister of St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Macquarie Street, Sydney and his wife Mary, née Allardyce. He undertook studies at the University of Sydney, was articled to the law firm of Griffith, Evan, Bussell, Jones and admitted as a solicitor in the Supreme Court of New South Wales on 15 December 1888. In those days of relative youth, Steel wrote poetry

and also in 1888 his *A crown of wattle* was the first book published by the newly established Angus & Robertson. Other verse was published in the contemporary newspapers including 'Near Parramatta. An idyll' in the *Australian Town and Country Journal* of 31 July 1886, 'Bygone days' in the *Sydney Mail and NSW Advertiser* of 1 January 1887, and 'Triolet' in the *Centennial Magazine* issue of July 1889; whilst his poem 'At Christmastide' was recited at the St Stephen's Church 1888 Choir Christmas

Recital. I have another of Steel's books, acquired at the 2005 University of New South Wales Book Fair: Augustus J C Hare, *Walks in Rome*, published in London in 1893 by George Allen, with the abovementioned crest bookplate.

On 9 April 1890 Hugh Peden Steel married Ada Katherine Rutherford (1864-1940) of Bathurst in the Anglican Cathedral of that city and by 1896 they were living at 'Wyrrewarre', Jersey Road, Strathfield. In 1903 the Steels bought from the Holt-Sutherland Estate land release on Gunnamatta Bay three lots amounting

to over five acres for a 'seaside residence'. They called this property 'Steel Point', and on its sale and further subdivision in 1920 it was referred to as the Steel Point Estate, Cronulla.

Steel demonstrated an early interest in civic affairs; whilst undertaking his articles in 1887, he was one of the movers in the formation of the Articled Clerks' Association. He was for many years honorary secretary and later president of the Strathfield Golf Club, and after buying land at Gunnamatta Bay became closely involved with the Cronulla Beach Surf Life Saving Club and the Cronulla School of Arts.

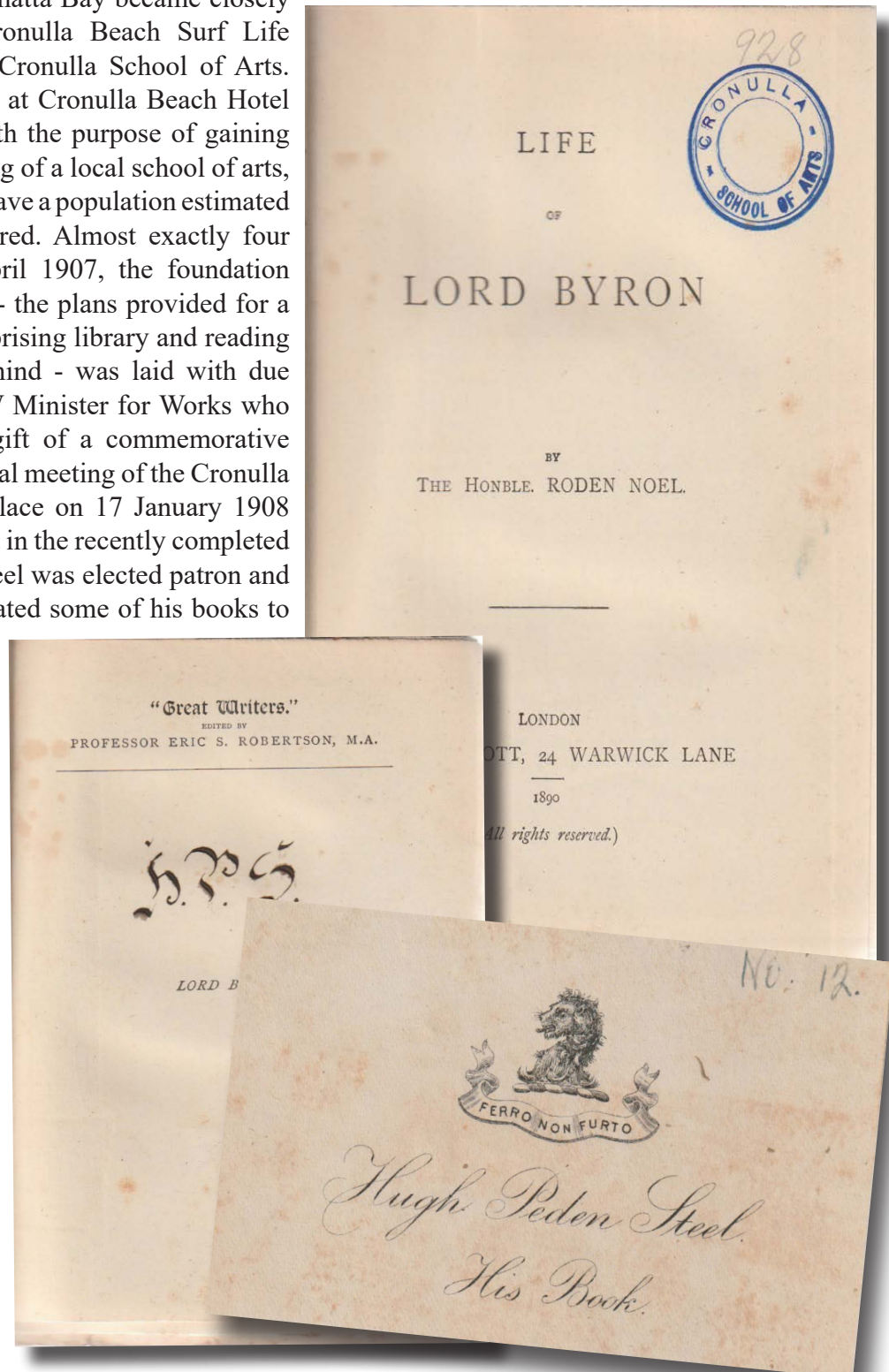
A meeting was held at Cronulla Beach Hotel on 21 March 1903 with the purpose of gaining support for the founding of a local school of arts, the village at the time have a population estimated to be about one hundred. Almost exactly four years later, on 13 April 1907, the foundation stone of the building - the plans provided for a wooden building comprising library and reading rooms with a hall behind - was laid with due ceremony by the NSW Minister for Works who was thanked with a gift of a commemorative silver trowel. The annual meeting of the Cronulla School of Arts took place on 17 January 1908 and was able to be held in the recently completed building; Mr Peden Steel was elected patron and it is likely that he donated some of his books to the School of Arts around that time.

A larger brick building was constructed in 1912 for the School of Arts and is still in existence, serving as the headquarters and performance space of Arts Theatre Cronulla (founded in 1946 as the Cronulla School of Arts Dramatic Society). The original weatherboard building went through a number of commercial and public uses and was demolished in 1955.

Acknowledgements: I wish to thank Helen McDonald, Local Studies Librarian, Sutherland Shire Council, for her assistance with historical information.

References are available from the author,

Dr Mark Ferson, New Australian Bookplate Society, at m.ferson@unsw.edu.au



Bonnie Doon Library Wedding - MARY-ANNE EGAN

Colour reverberated and the excitement rang out from the Bonnie Doon on Saturday 28th December when two chefs from Melbourne decided to tie the knot in Bonnie Doon choosing the Old Library as their Marriage Ceremony venue.

Even last minute rain could not dampen the spirits of all in attendance. Friends and family swathed the Library in colour to honour the beautiful bride **Anila Gorkhali** who confessed to chasing her groom **Shawn Davies**. Reflecting Nepalese custom the Groom, his attendants and family were welcomed warmly and greeted outside the Library by Anila's parents and brother who applied the Tika to their foreheads symbolising auspicious blessing for good fortune, and a happy and healthy, long life. They were then offered a flower and were greeted respectfully with the customary Hindu 'Namaste' gesture in recognition of and honouring the divine spark within each of us. This threefold offer of hospitality and celebration greeting was offered also to each of the Bridesmaids, the Flower Girl and finally the Bride.

Once inside the Library the excitement of all was evidenced in their engagement in the ring warming ritual and the enthusiastic cheering and applause throughout the ceremony shattering any previously held idea that Libraries are places of quiet.

Celebratory Mangal Dhoon Sur Sudha instrumental music played in the background as the bride's parents and male relatives left the Library following the exchange of Marriage Vows and exchange of rings thereby allowing the Groom the customary honour and space of

claiming the Bride as his wife by applying the Sindoor to Anila's upper forehead.

The vermilion powder used marked the bride as a married woman and Shawn deftly responded to the coaching offered by the family females.

Family and friends eagerly formed a guard of honour once outside the Library showering the newlyweds with love in the form of bubbles before many photos were taken around the Community Centre grounds. A short stroll to the newly opened Bounty Restaurant in Bonnie Doon took all to the fine food and festivities which followed.

It had been a long held hope of mine to celebrate a Marriage in the beautiful Old Library which has hosted so many wonderful community celebrations. This event surpassed my expectations and being invited to wear and then being dressed in a vibrant blue sari was just so special. It was the perfect venue for this unique celebration of yet another page turning in the story that is the Old Library.

Mary-Anne Egan of Gatherings and Reflections assists people to Celebrate Life in all its Diversity through their experiences of Life, Love and Loss.

The Bonnie Doon Free Library was built in 1931 and moved to the 'new' town in 1954 to facilitate the building of Lake Eildon. Saved from demolition in 2011, the Library was then moved to its present site. As far as is known this was the first wedding held in the Library. Further bookings can be made on (03) 5778 7722.



THE TALLAROOK PHOENIX - LIBBY WEBSTER

Yesterday we cleared out the container that had all the remnants of the hall, immediately post fire. Anything they thought would be of values was literally thrown in there and has been sitting locked up for 2 years.

Much to my absolute delight – the MIV plaque was the one thing, that is a treasure, that has survived and was saved.

I am so thrilled to report that the rebuild is amazing. The builder is doing an incredible quality job, I can't wait to show it to you.

The Architecture is strong – reliving all the important features of our beloved hall in a modern interpretation.

Designed by **Ric Zen** of Zen Architects, North Fitzroy, the construction is being undertaken by the insurer-appointed Bay Builders of Oakleigh, in association with Imparta Engineers.



TALLAROOK REBUILDS

Since the disastrous fire on the night of 5 May 2018 Tallarook has continued on with their regular monthly Farmers’ Market beside the Tallarook Railway Station. That was up until COVID hit earlier in the year. Post Lock Down 1, their opening June 2020 Market ‘was amazing’. Now the curtain has come down again.

However all has not been totally quiet on the old Tallarook Street site and a new Hall, bigger and better than ever has been rising.



20/05/2019 10:29 AM



zen
ARCHITECTS

138 St. Georges Rd. North Fitzroy, Vic. 3068
ph (03) 9482 3504
fax (03) 9482 3514
email info@zenarchitects.com
web www.zenarchitects.com

CONTEXT PLAN
PROPOSED RE-BUILD TO:
TALLAROOK MECHANICS INSTITUTE

Drawing No: 1807 S001
Revision No:
Scale: 1:500
First Issued: 05.02.2019
Drawn By: LR & SB

THE LITTLE RIVER MECHANICS' INSTITUTE & FREE LIBRARY INC.

The Little River Mechanics Institute Library has introduced three related community information projects in 2020 ...

“Welcome to Little River” ... a local information kit ... funded by the Library. We promoted this ‘hard copy’ package with a series of morning teas for newcomers in January & February, with the assistance of the Primary School Parents & Friends Association, Lions Club & our Little River Railway Station Revival Group.

“Sixty Sites in Little River” ... a heritage map for residents & visitors to get to know the district & our history & to encourage use of our Library & History Society collections. This publication is jointly funded for 2020-21 by the Wyndham & Geelong Councils & was launched on May 9.

“Across the Werribee Plains” ... our on-line heritage event on Saturday May 9 celebrated Little River’s distinctive landscape & heritage with a focus on the Australian Heritage Festival 2020 theme “Our heritage for the future”. This event was run jointly by the Community Landcare Group & Library, funded by Wyndham Council. The aim of these initiatives is to contribute to Little River as a welcoming community & to build a stronger sense of place. They are funded by Wyndham Council as part of the Community Identity, Inclusion & Connectedness Program & by the City of Greater Geelong as a celebration of Community Arts, Culture & Heritage.

“SIXTY SITES IN LITTLE RIVER” HERITAGE MAP

“Sixty Sites in Little River” was produced jointly by the Little River Mechanics Institute Library & the Little River Historical Society for the local community & our visitors. We will include copies in the Library “Welcome to Little River” kit for new residents from now on. “Sixty Sites” was formally launched on Saturday May 9th by **Cr Tony Hooper**, Portfolio Chair, Arts Culture & Heritage, City of Wyndham, with additional comment from **Cr Kylie Grzybeck**, Deputy Mayor, City of Greater Geelong & **Les Sanderson**, President, Little River Historical Society.



Little River’s oldest living resident, an ancient River Red Gum, believed to be some 600 years old. Picture Peter Jones.

Stage 1 ...

At this stage the map is intended as a list & guide without detailed background information & is intended to encourage use the resources of the Library & Historical Society. We have started a “Sixty Sites Resources” loose leaf folder to list references & some of the material behind the map & will display this in the library when we re-open. We acknowledge that Stage 1 has been generously funded by the City of Wyndham with a Neighbourhood Grant.

Stage 2 ...

We now continue into Stage 2 of the project, funded by Greater Geelong with an Arts, Culture & Heritage Grant, 2020-21. We will revise the map as necessary after feedback from the community ... so are interested to hear any comments & suggestions, including ways we can extend it. We will have “Sixty Sites” reprinted in 2021 & will consider ways it can be sustained after that ... at the discretion of the Historical Society & Mechanics Institute.

“Sixty Sites in Little River” will be available ... free ... from the Little River Historical Society & Mechanics Library when we re-open. E-mail copies can be requested from peterjonesarts@gmail.com. The map is best printed on A3.

*Contributed by Lynne Morse, Peter & Sue Jones,
Honorary Librarians Facebook: [littleriverlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/littleriverlibrary)
Email: peterjonesarts@gmail.com*

Mechanics' Institute Remnant Libraries

The recent discovery of a quantity of books at Tarnagulla that once belonged to the long closed Tarnagulla Mechanics' Institute led us to compile of following list of remnant Institute libraries that still exist. Some are held by other Institutes, Public Libraries or are in storage. Collections range in size from a few books to several thousand. In all they represent some 42,000 volumes. A sampling shows some interesting finds of considerable age that had been donated to Institutes by subscribers or former subscribers.

Five notable remnant libraries that still exist in their original rooms are at: Briagolong; Digby; Eaglehawk; Linton; and Stanley.

Maybe you can add to and comment on the following draft, list: Amphitheatre Mechanics' Institute (est. 1901); Anakie-Staughton Vale Public Hall (1905); Ararat Mechanics' Institute (1859); Bagshot Public Hall and Free Library (1909); Bairnsdale Mechanics' Institute (1874); Ballarat Mechanics' Institute (1859); Ballarat East Mechanics' Institute (1870); Benalla Mechanics' Institute (1869); Bendigo (Sandhurst) Mechanics' Institute (1854); Berwick Mechanics' Institute (1862); Bessibelle Mechanics' Institute (1908); Bonnie Doon Mechanics' Institute (1897); Briagolong Mechanics' Institute (1874); California Gully Mechanics' Institute (1883); Castlemaine Mechanics' Institute (1855); Chiltern Athenaeum (1850s); Clunes Free Library (1862); Dean Mechanics' Institute (1890); Digby Mechanics' Institute (1867); Eaglehawk Mechanics' Institute (1868); Epsom Mechanics' Institute (1922); Fawcett Mechanics' Institute (1882); Footscray Mechanics' Institute (1857); Fryerstown Mechanics' Institute (1863); Geelong Mechanics' Institute (1842); Gobur Mechanics'

Institute (1887); Golden Square Workingman's Club (1883); Hallston Mechanics' Institute (1886); Kilmore Mechanics' Institute (1854); Kyneton Mechanics' Institute (1855); Lakes Entrance Mechanics' Institute (1907); Lancefield Mechanics' Institute (1868); Learmonth Mechanics' Institute (1863); Linton Mechanics' Institute (1864); Little River Mechanics' Institute (1910); Long Gully Mechanics' Institute (1869); Maldon Athenaeum (1863); Malmsbury Mechanics' Institute (1862); Melbourne Athenaeum (Mechanics') Library (1839); Mollongghip Mechanics' Institute (1903); Mount Best Mechanics' Institute (1909); Nagambie Mechanics' Institute (1873); Narracan East Mechanics' Institute (1877); Port Fairy (Belfast) Mechanics' Institute (1860); Prahran Mechanics' Institute (1854); Rainbow Mechanics' Institute (1910); Rushworth Mechanics' Institute (1861); Scarsdale Mechanics' Institute (1865); St Arnaud Mechanics' Institute (1867); Stanley Athenaeum (1863); Talbot Mechanics' Institute (1870); Tarnagulla Mechanics' Institute (1858); Toora Mechanics' Institute (1886); Wandiligong Athenaeum (1877); Warrnambool Mechanics' Institute (1853); Wedderburn Mechanics' Institute; and Whorouly Library Hall (1907).



Mrs James in the Eaglehawk Library. Picture Eaglehawk Heritage Society



Briagolong Mechanics' Institute which still houses its Library.

When the current crisis passes we will be looking for volunteers to help us list the contents of the various libraries that presently do not have listings or those that require further survey.

We are preparing a template that could be computer-based so they will be in a standard and hopefully in a future searchable format. This could provide a couple days of a pleasant stay in country Victoria.

FUTURE PHOENIXES

The horrendous fires that roared on the east coast of New South Wales last year and early this year left three Hall casualties. Thankfully they are all in the process of planning a rebuild and we wish them well in their progress to a re-opening.



Rappville Public Hall. Picture The Evans Head News

The first to be burned was the **Rappville Hall** in the Mid North Coast region.

The area was originally known as Six Mile Big Swamp and attracted early timbergetters and then dairy farmers. Rail reached the area in 1904 and the township was officially named for businessman **Henry Valentine Rapp**. Rapp built the first Hall around 1908 and it was used by the community until he sold it and it was then demolished in 1925. The new Hall was built on the site reserved for a School of Arts by **Mr Farrow** and it was opened in 1927. It had long use as film screening site by Penn's Touring Talkies. A supper room was added in 1937 for which the Rappville Younger Set raised money. Besides School use the Junior Farmers Club also staged activities in it. Electricity was turned on to the Hall in 1955 and a Golden Jubilee Ball was held in 1977. Trusteeship of the Hall was passed to Council in the 1980s. The Hall was totally destroyed in the Busbys Flat fire on 8 October 2019 and the Honour Rolls and memorabilia collection was lost.

Further south in the Bega Valley was the **Kiah Hall**. This was then in version three. The first Hall was built around 1900. The next Hall was built on a different site by storekeeper **CT Bennett** for the community and opened 1912 and appears to have been later purchased by the community. This was condemned on 7 May 1947 by way of a notice in the *NSW Government Gazette*. The Hall was then demolished, but not before the piano was retrieved and placed in storage. **Mrs Bertha**

Switzer offered a block of land next to the Catholic Church and in a move led by **Jim McMahon** the new Hall was built largely with volunteer labour. A keg on the stump was the reward for the team at the sawmill who milled the donated logs.

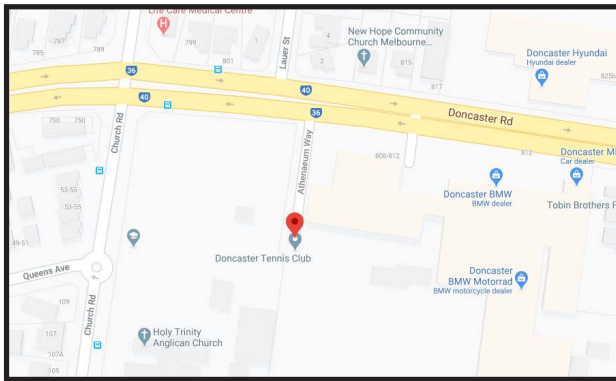
The Hall was opened in October 1957 and blanket was taken around the Hall during the evening and people three donations on to it. When the amount was added up it was found that the Hall had been opened 'debt free'. Following the gala 30th anniversary celebrations in 1987, there were considerable renovations, similarly in conjunction with the Hall's 50th anniversary celebrations in 2017. The Hall burned down on 4 January 2020.



Wandella Hall prior to destruction

Also in the Bega Valley was the **Wandella Hall**. The move to build a hall appears to have started when **Alfred Cansdell** offered a site for a School of Arts. Ultimately a site was made available by **Thomas Tarlinton** in exchange for the former location. The Wandella School of Arts, a 50ft x 22ft hall structure, was opened in June 1909. War 'Send Offs' and 'Welcome Homes' culminated with the unveiling of a captured German machine gun in 1921. The Hall, Church and School were destroyed by fire in 1926. Replaced in 1935 it had continued use until it was closed in 1980. This spurred the community to action and fundraising enabled an upgrading and resulted in the Hall being re-opened in 1985. A World War II Honour Roll was unveiled in the Hall in 1988. An upgrade of the toilet facilities saw the installation of a self-composting toilet in 2016. The Hall burned down on 31 December 2019, but the toilet block survived and has since had a stand alone water tank added and solar panels on the roof.

Where They Stood - DONCASTER ATHENAEUM AND FREE LIBRARY (EST. 1871)



The Doncaster Athenaeum Hall site in 2020.

The Melbourne suburb of Doncaster is located 15km east of the CBD rising to a height of 120 metres on the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges. It was part of **Frederic Unwin's** 5120 acre Special Survey of 1841. The area was settled in the 1860s by predominantly German settlers who established orchards. The area was originally known as Waldau and the settlers established a Lutheran Church and School. It remained an orchard area up until the 1970s.

In 1866 a Band of Hope was formed in Doncaster and this led to the construction of the Hall. Part of the Hall site was purchased from the Crown and a further acre was donated by **Alfred Octavius Hummel** in 1870. The Institute opened on 29 November 1871 with **Pastor Max von Schramm** as MC when 'A concert was given by a number of ladies and gentlemen from Melbourne.' The design is attributed to **Thomas Edward Serpell** and it was constructed of grey rendered brick, the windows had rounded heads, and it was roofed in corrugated iron. It was used as community centre and had an early well-used



The Doncaster Athenaeum Hall site in 2020.

Picture courtesy of Rob Dunlop

reference library which by 1872 had 1075 books.

In 1897 a new building was built in front the original building. The Hall was renovated and enlarged in 1914 to include a stage, ante-rooms, Lodge and supper rooms. The Hall could then seat 250. In 1915 the Committee of Management voted to make the Hall available as a 'hospital for wounded soldiers'. The outcome is not known.

The granite pillars were added to the Hall front in 1921 to commemorate the area's World War I soldiers. It was a film venue from the late 1920s until at least 1964, when it was transferred to Council.



Doncaster Athenaeum, before 1971, when the front portion was removed.

Picture courtesy Pam Baragwanath

The Box Hill Doncaster Regional Library Service was formed in 1961 and the library purpose was taken away. The front of the building was removed for the widening of Doncaster Road in about 1971. It was then that the granite pillars and Honour Roll were transferred to the Doncaster RSL Hall, further east along Doncaster Road.

It was a youth dance site in the 1970s which featured the band Arctic Myth and it was used by the Elderly Chinese Citizens Club from the 1980s-2001.

Council sold the site into private ownership and the Hall was demolished in July 2001. The site was subsequently used for a car dealership. The site was again bulldozed in 2014 to make way for a larger car dealership.

Around Victoria's Institutes

This column is comprised of contributed articles and those written 'in house'. Whilst care has been taken to ensure dates and facts, the scant history of Institutes makes it an impossible task to verify these. If you find a date, spelling or fact incorrect, let us know and we will publish amendments in our next issue. We have not provided references for any of these articles (as their sources can be longer than the stories!), but we would be happy to send out notes we hold on Institutes if requested. Our newsletter is also indexed to enable histories of various Institutes to be aggregated over time.

ACHERON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (EST. 1914)



The Acheron folk are testing the water for expressions of interest for a hopefully 'Post Isolation Survival Dinner' on 10 October 2020. 'Bring casserole and dessert per couple to share & BYO drinks'. Dress for the occasion is 'Survival'. The cost/donation is \$25 per adult and \$10 per child under 14. If you are interested call **Anita** on 0428 360 886. Further, with funds sorely depleted, they have a special going on Dobson's Potatoes a 10kg box for \$35.00. Orders to **Jan Fallon** on 0419 871 483. Collection will be at the Hall between 2-4pm on Saturday, 1 August.



BENALLA COSTUME & KELLY MUSEUM (EST. 1983)

The ABC's popular rural television program **Landline**, in March of this year, featured the story presented by **Tim Lee** of the legendary Indian hawker the indomitable **Siva Singh** who was based at Benalla. A small dark skinned Punjabi Sikh, Singh had arrived in Victoria in 1897 voted in three previous elections and had his name struck off the Electoral Roll because of the White Australia Policy in 1915. Described in the press as 'an Aboriginal native of Asia', Singh was 'very angry and kicked up ructions' and took the matter to Court, where the case was dismissed and he was ordered to pay costs, although Mr Singh was classed as 'a natural-born British subject'. Ten years later his claim was vindicated and upheld in the High Court of Australia. By that time he had a sizable farm at Benalla and was a well respected member of the Australian Sikh community. He died in 1954.

The Benalla Community comparatively recently came into the possession of his hawker's van. Secreted away in small compartments were some of his personal possessions. A team has been painstakingly restoring the van and hope to put in on public display in the future.



BONNIE DOON LIBRARY (EST. 1897)

The Bonnie Doon Community Centre, which occupies the former School site and buildings, is a busy place. The adjoining oval and barbecue attracts visitors from 'off the street'. Others drop into the office for tourism information or inquire about local history. The busy office is managed by paid part-time staff and volunteer members. Regular Centre users include: The Line Dancers;

Computer Clinic; Youth Group; and UFO, now known as Busy Hands. There is also a series of annual one off events: International Women's Day; Men's Night; Spice of Life Cooks; Harmony Day; Bike Ride and Picnic; and the now well-attended and promoted Family Fun Night.

The Library Room is also well used for meetings, talks, and even for a recent wedding. Its growing library, which holds a range of local reference books, is increasingly used. A fact that would please the late **Edie Hearle**, the long-time Librarian whose portrait adorns the wall.

BUNINYONG FREE LIBRARY (EST. 1859)



All 'roads' appear to lead to and from the Buninyong Free Library building in the recent Buninyong and District Historical Society's publication *Buninyong Heritage Walks*.

Described as being 'an excellent resource for walkers'. The booklet includes a short history of Buninyong, three self-guided walks around the township and some scenic drives in the district.

It is accompanied by historical notes, photos and several full-colour maps. It is available from, you guessed it, the Buninyong Free Library at a cost of \$5 per copy.

CASTLEMAINE PIONEERS AND OLD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC. (EST. 1880)



The newsy missals from **Wilson Bunton** appear monthly with the state of the Castlemaine weather and local landscapes and snippets from 100 years and 50 years ago, along with offbeat stories.

But there is also serious business and most notably was the cancellation of the **Transport Exhibition** which was scheduled for 19-21 March, for which members had eagerly awaited and the cancellation of their 140th celebrations.

They have recently purchased 'an iconic' 6ft x 4ft photo of a Castlemaine Street scene, with several Committee members stumping up cash to make this possible and to keep the picture in Castlemaine. If you would like to be part of the 'crowd funding' and have your name put in the donor's book contact castleminepioneers@gmail.com.

The genesis of the Faulder Watson Hall was in one issue. The header date was 1 December 1894 with the byline 'Pioneers and Politics at Castlemaine' and reads 'The Patterson Government some time ago granted the Pioneers & Old Residents Association a valuable block of land adjoining the post office, for the purpose of erecting a hall. Mrs Faulder Watson of South Yarra, a former old resident of Castlemaine, who donated £250 towards the erection of the hall, laid the foundation stone today with much ceremony, being presented with handsome silver trowel and silver mounted mallet for the purpose, and also with the gold medal of the association. Speeches were made... At the conclusion of the ceremony the president (Cr Yandell) banqueted the visitors and members'. Website: castlemaine-pioneers.org

CLUNES FREE LIBRARY (EST. 1862)



The Clunes Free Library Committee of Management under the Chairmanship of **Graeme Johnstone** is progressing the reinstatement of the building to public use. A 'Friends of the Clunes Free Library' has been formed and their efforts are bearing fruit,

with one 'Friend', **Jack Laan**, regularly cutting the grass on the 1200 square metre Reserve.

A Conservation Plan was commissioned in 2018 from **RBA Architects** which was partly funded by Federation University. The COM has also been pressing ahead with funding priorities, of which a new kitchen is vital, since the old one was demolished during recent internal renovations. After submitting applications to Federal, State and Local Government, in late 2019 advice was received that one application for \$12,000 had been successful to help fund a new kitchen installation.

Another study recently commissioned is to build an economic case for the ongoing and increased use and availability of the Clunes Free Library Hall as part of the renaissance of Clunes as a Booktown and tourism destination.

Necessarily 'the lights were off' during the Annual Book Town Festival which had to be cancelled in May. Normally the Library would host book stalls.

EMERALD MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (EST. 1904)



The Hills Hub, erected on the site of the former Emerald Mechanics' Institute, was quietly opened for business on 20 April 2020. Erected at a cost of \$8.1 million, funding came from: Cardinia Shire, \$5.97 million; Australian Government (National Stronger Regions Fund), \$1.5 million; Victoria Government (Growing Suburbs Fund), \$1.5 million; and Dandenong Ranges Community Bank, in association with the Easter Dandenong Ranges Project Group \$250,000. It concludes twelve years of community action.

Built on the edge of Worrell Reserve, the striking two-storey structure was designed by Mantric Architecture and built by Melbcon.

The spacious foyer features a mural of the Emerald Mechanics' Institute building. The complex comprises: arts/performance space; hall;

meetings rooms; consulting suite; commercial kitchen; lounge areas, with tea stations; conference and training rooms; and public accessible toilets (during opening hours). A covered walkway joins the Hub to the existing Library and abuts the undercover Reading Garden.

Early tenants include: Emerald Men's Shed; Emerald U3A; Emerald Village Association; Hills She Shed; and Puffing Billy Toy Library.

A Hills Hub Place Maker has been hired to promote and manage the facility.

FAWCETT PUBLIC HALL AND FREE LIBRARY (EST. 1882)

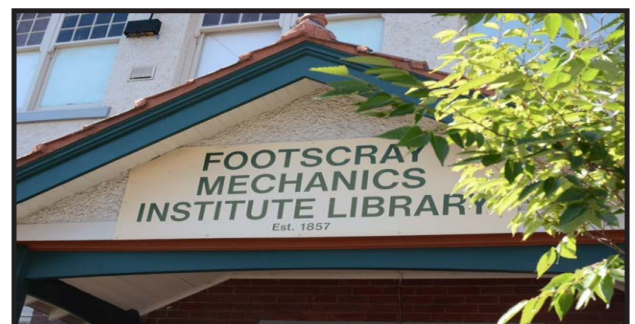


Like all Halls that rely on hirings to meet their basic overheads, Fawcett has been badly affected. They have had to cancel all bookings since 24 March and are reluctant to take major bookings which bring in their greatest revenue. No doubt they are looking towards 2022, when hopefully the pestilence will have passed, and they will be able to celebrate their 140th anniversary in true style, perhaps even with an Old Time Ball. After sunrise, a breakfast could be served for the all night party goers.

We really like their Logo with the wording Spring Creek Free Library and the tantalising No. 696 in the centre, and wonder what that book title was/is. Fawcett also has an interesting timeline on their website worthy of emulation.

www.fawcethall.org.au

FOOTSCRAY MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (EST. 1857)



Footscray and its new Librarian, **Cameron Borg**, can't wait to reopen. With the new Reading Room, with daylight streaming in its now cleaned windows, it is indeed a most welcoming place.

www.footscraymechanicsinstitute.org.au

LABERTOUCHE PUBLIC HALL (EST. 1910)



The team at Labertouche & District Community Centre are powering ahead with different projects on the go as advised. The first is to expend a Latrobe Valley Authority grant of \$110,000 on the upgrade of the original Hall complex which has to be finished by November. The second is to 'renovate the oval' for Ladies' Cricket and other sporting use of nearby clubs, notably Jindivick. This will involve levelling of the oval, work on a pitch, installation of goal posts, and provision for parking. These works are being financed by a \$50,000 Neighbourhood Enhancement Grant from Baw Baw Council. www.labertouche.com

LILYDALE ATHENAEUM (EST. 1882)



Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre Company Chair **Alan Burrows** advised on 27 April 2020 that 'Due to the current situation with COVID-19, The Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre Company Inc. has decided to cancel the remaining productions for 2020. Looking realistically at the situation in Australia regarding COVID-19, the Board at the theatre have reluctantly decided that this is the best course of action'. Refunds or transfer of

membership to next year can be applied for. 'Do nothing and your ticket purchases will be regarded as a grateful donation to the company'. In the meantime we await the 'the exciting news to share with you in the future'. www.lilydaleatc.com

MALMSBURY MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (EST. 1862)



Malmsbury Historical Society's June newsletter details the precautions for conducting an Annual General Meeting in these current precarious times. The necessity for payment of subscriptions by bank transfer or by mail and the quarantining of such documents before physical access. Prior registration for meeting with contact details and again the necessity to quarantine such documents and proxies not received by email. Indeed trying times.

Dr Sue Walter contributes an article 'Filling the Gaps – Rating Malmsbury's Town Hall' and highlights the performance and diligence or lack thereof, of various Town Clerks in how site ownership and rating were recorded. This is followed by a probing article 'Peace With Pestilence' reproduced from the State Library of NSW, SL magazine, Summer 2018-19 by **Alison Wishart**. Published at the time of the centenary of the Spanish Flu Epidemic it details the horrendous spread of the flu in Sydney and the need to provide temporary hospital accommodation. Sydney-born soldier, camelier and author **Major Oliver Hogue 'Trooper Bluegum'** did not make it home and died in London in March 1919.

STANLEY ATHENAEUM (EST. 1863)

The arrival in Stanley in June 1890 of this impressive *Philips' Imperial Atlas of the World* from England would have been as exciting and equivalent to the arrival of 'Google maps'. It created a 'window on the World' and has obviously been frequently visited, well used and

loved by the Stanley community during its life of 120 years in the library.

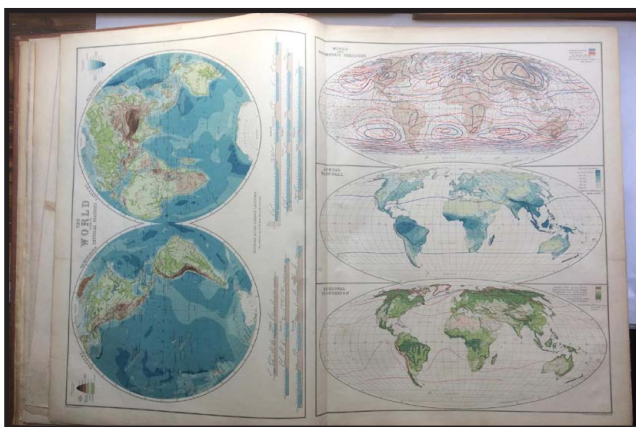
The '**Around the World in Eighty Maps**' exhibition tells the story of how the atlas arrived at the library, how Robert Craig is instrumental in the purchase of this significant volume, that reflected the aspirations of the newly elected library committee and their vision and optimism for the library and Athenaeum for the future, buoyed by the prosperity of Victoria and the reign of 'Marvellous Melbourne'.

The 'series of eighty maps illustrating every aspect of geographical science', with its lofty ambitions was based on engravings from 'original drawings compiled from the latest works of eminent travellers and explorers'. The 'Philips' Imperial Atlas of the World' at the Stanley Athenaeum is a rarity, being one of only two known copies in public collections in Australia and one of eight copies in worldwide collections.

Researchers **Chris Dormer** and **Ali Rowe** have unearthed the background to the atlas, the people who made it happen and the story of its journey into the 21st century. '**Around the World in Eighty Maps**' Features the text, books and photographs to bring the story alive, and is curated by Ali Rowe M.A. who designed the interpretive panels and exhibition layout.

'Around the World in Eighty Maps' will be launched in early July 2020. (Watch the Facebook page for more details.)

Visit the exhibition at the Stanley Athenaeum and Public Room, Main Street, Stanley. Open every Friday & 4th Saturday each month from 10am to 12.30 pm or by appointment, contact: 0458 606 922 or 03 5728 6702



'Philips' Imperial Atlas of the World' Cover Photograph Stanley Athenaeum Collection.



TRENTHAM MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (EST. 1878)

Hepburn Council have recently resolved to develop the Community Hub on and around the Trentham Mechanics' Institute building and have commissioned a form of architects to come up with a design concepts. The Trentham Hall holds many community memories and the original timber building still sits behind the more recent brick façade.

WARRANTYTE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (EST. 1882)



In the true spirit of the theatre, which is one of the Warrandyte Institute's seven groups, the show must go on. Similarly, the June edition of their newsletter *The Artful Dodger* has appeared, 'with a closing date for contributions of 25th of each month to [editor] **David Tynan**'. We read of the postponement of their production of *Calendar Girls* until, later in the year and the possibility of AR Gurney's 1989 *Love Letters: A Play in Two Parts*, where actors actually read from the script, with a minimal amount of actor movement.

The roof leak hopefully has been 'permanently' fixed with the replacement of three sheets of iron. 'The amazing' **Callum** who has been Hall caretaker 'on steroids' for the last couple of years has been 'let go' and replaced by **Fia Clendinnen**.

The Artful Dodger, defined as a 'Printed handbill full of tidings from the WMI&AA' concludes with a well thought through COVID-19

PROTOCOL and worthy of emulation by other Hall managers. Check it out at www.warrantyehallarts.asn.au

YANDOIT MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (EST. 1881)



Located near Daylesford, activities of the small community hall have necessarily been very

limited in recent times. However, they are faced with an inevitable upgrade of their amenities and necessary works on the exterior of the brick hall.

The Hall was gutted in the 1969 bushfires and the roof and interior were reinstated and opened in 1971. Since 2016 the Hall has had a well-used Community Library, located in cupboards in the undercover porch. The Committee is presently working on ways they can leverage works and celebrate the 140th anniversary of the Institute and the 50th anniversary of the re-opening of the Hall during 2021.

We wish **Carlene Sartori** and her team well and we look forward to hearing more of likely events.

The Wonderful World of Mechanics Institutes

UNITED KINGDOM

LIVERPOOL MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (EST. 1823)



The North Shore College, Colombo, Sri Lanka

On 26 May 2020 Liverpool John Moores University signed a memorandum of understanding and cooperation with the Northshore College of Science and Technology in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The agreement was signed by **Professor Ian G Campbell**, Vice-Chancellor and CEO on behalf of John Moores University and **Professor Nalaka Jayakody**, Vice Chancellor and CEO on behalf of Northshore. The major areas of cooperation will be in Engineering, Technology, Computing and Science. John Moores has its genesis in the Liverpool Mechanics' Institute established in 1823 and is named for the philanthropist Sir John Moores (1896-193) who established the Littlewoods retail and pools empire. John Moores currently has 25,000 students from around 100 countries.

USA

LA JOLLA ATHENAEUM MUSIC AND ARTS LIBRARY (EST. 1884)



In 2010 La Jolla undertook the management of a community murals project for the city and that included selecting sites and artists for the project. Initially we were surprised to see a whole wall with a mural and then there were more as we moved around LaJolla. Now La Jolla has produced a lavish book of their thirty murals. The book contains two essays 'La Jolla Views' by Susan Morgan and 'Reframing a Community: Murals of La Jolla' by G James Daichendt, along with notes on the artists and a map of locations. The 2 April launch had to be postponed but the book is available for purchase at ljathenaeum.org/murals-book. Website: muralsoflajolla.com LaJolla has also taken to Zoom to conduct its art classes with good effect.

Website: ljathenaeum.org

AUSTRALIA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

GAWLER INSTITUTE (EST. 1857)

Early in the life of South Australia the town of Gawler was singled out as special.

It was the only town apart from Adelaide that Colonel Light surveyed. Light anticipated in 1836 that the first route settlers would take out of Adelaide would be north through Gawler, 42km away. It wasn't until copper was discovered at Kapunda in 1842 and then Burra that the route to Port Adelaide made Gawler a hub for farming and the mining industries.

Walter Duffield in 1848 made the first move to establish an institute, but it didn't get underway until October 1857 when a 'Pioneer Committee' met at J Martin's cottage and decided to rent a room in the Globe (now Kingsford) Hotel at 32 Murray Street. The lecture and concert to launch the cultural organisation was attended by 250 people. The following year the group, as the Gawler Institute, moved into part of the newly built Odd Fellows Hall, one of the first to affiliate with the SA Institute.

This Institute began with flair. A monster picnic, fete and concert for the opening on March 8 1859 attracted 12 wagons, many party carriages, horsemen and a special train from Adelaide. Gawler's shops were closed and some 800 people came to enjoy the merry-go-round, archery, three simultaneous cricket matches, stalls and a brass band. The Institute banner carried the motto *Tis good to be merry and wise*.

To mark its second anniversary the Institute ran a competition for the best patriotic song, with a prize of 10 guineas and another 10 guineas for music to go with it. Caroline Carleton won from 96 entries with the words for the *Song of Australia* and the prize for the music was won by Carl Linger. For the next year a prize of 200 guineas was offered for the best history of SA and for the fifth anniversary it was a brass band competition. The following year a special train was arranged for the large Adelaide contingent travelling to the choir competition.

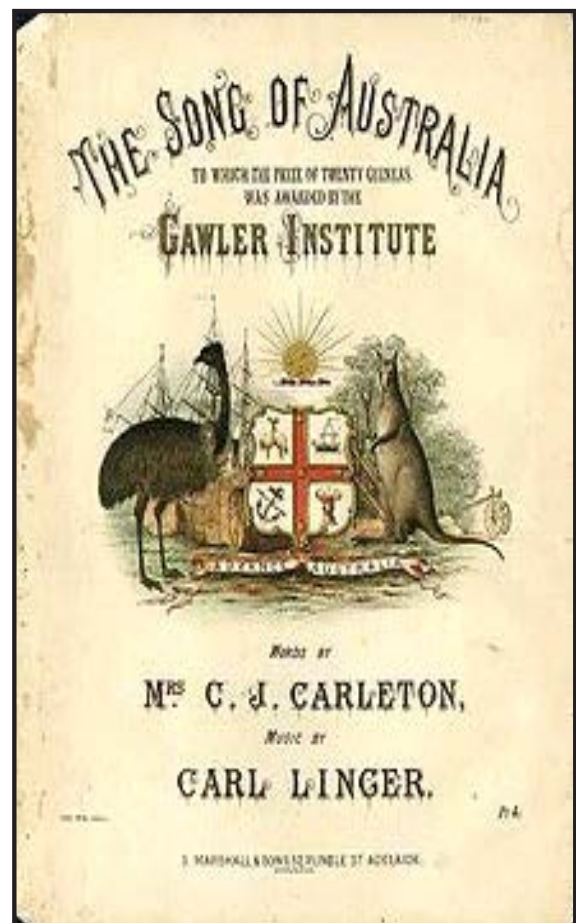
The seventh anniversary, advertised as a Fancy Fair, was a 'masterpiece of organisation and enterprise'. Again trains from Adelaide

brought choirs, pleasure seekers and dignitaries for a back-to-Gawler celebration, a bazaar, a dancing booth, an auction, a lottery, theatre, a highland piper, a Temple of Fortune, a Cave of Mystery, a maypole, German games, a brass band for dancing, Burton's Celebrated Circus, a whirligig and swings for the children. Gawler was now referred to as 'The Colonial Athens'!

The Institute soon had 200 subscribers and 2,000 books, a Reading and Debating Society and a museum. At the end of the 1860s it was time to erect its own building. A site was donated, a huge art lottery raised £1,000, twenty prominent citizens pledged a bank guarantee for the loan of £1,000, and the Government contributed another £1,000. The foundation stone was laid on 13 April 1870 and the building opened the next year. The three-storeyed building cost around £5000, with the library and reading-room on the ground floor, the main hall and museum on the second floor, and a smoking room in the basement.

The 1870s saw German and music classes offered, a Mutual Improvement Society, a

Cover for the 1877 sheet music



Physiological Society, dancing and dressmaking classes and a chess club. The Institute rooms were used by the Druids, a whist club, a Juvenile Singing Society, a circus in 1871, and for skating. Like its motto, Gawler Institute covered all bases.

In the 1890s the Institute became a branch of the Adelaide School of Design, offering more classes - in shorthand, typing, bookkeeping, elocution, mineralogy, geology and technical English. The Institute initiated a union of Literary Societies that included nine societies from neighbouring towns or churches, and began a Union Parliament in 1900.

Under the dedicated watch of librarian James Beasley, who served in that role 1890-1933, the Institute thrived. In 1907 membership had reached 400 and more than 10,000 volumes were in the library. Open daily from 9 to 9, the reading-room was used by an average of 150 people every day!

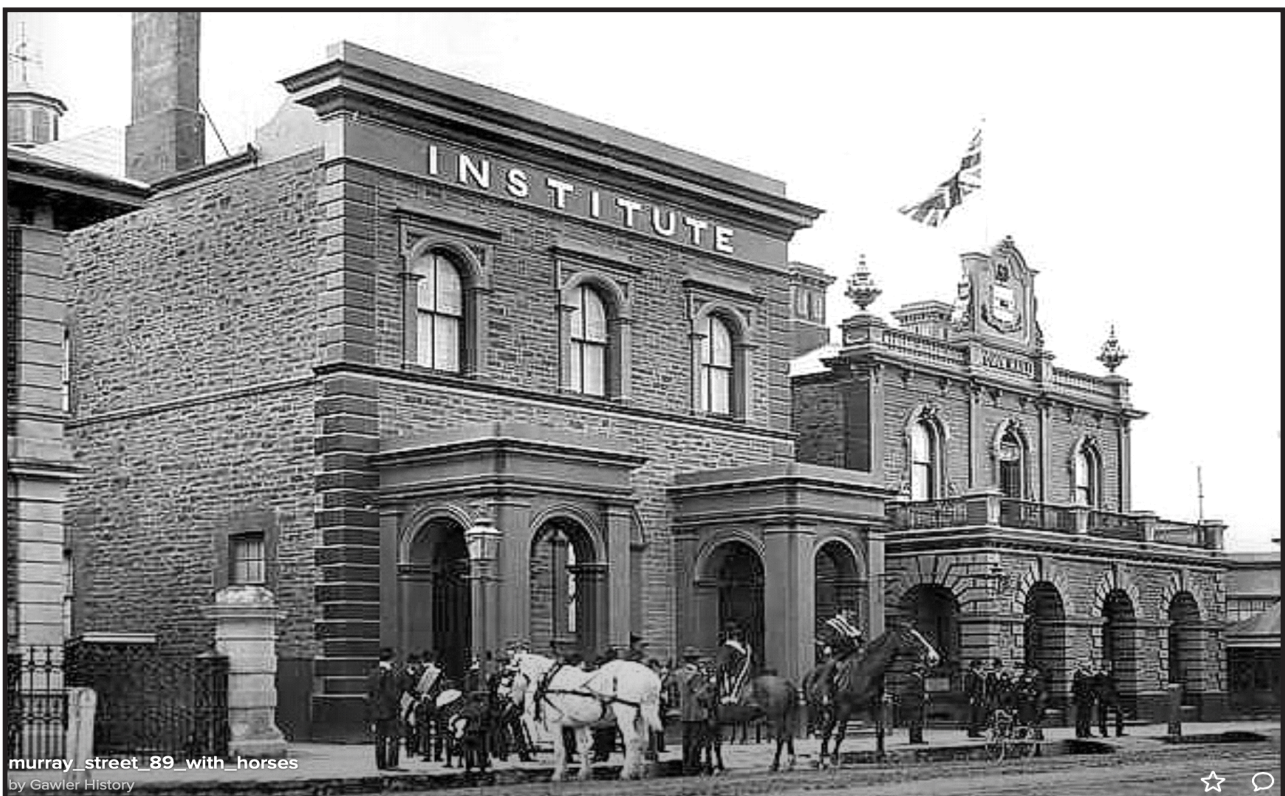
From 1935 Gawler Institute was organising its own Eisteddfod competitions. Held over ten days in April it had sections in singing, impromptu speeches, humorous recitals and dialogues, elocution, dancing, violin, piano and fife. The following year there were more than 500 entries with a Baby Competition as a new attraction and the next year ballroom dancing contests were organised. Gawler

could not be accused of being highbrow!

Other initiatives were an essay competition in 1934 with awards for four primary and four secondary students, and a three-penny lending service in 1936. With State Government support for local councils to take over institute libraries, the Gawler Council took over the institute in 1985. The library became the Gawler Public Library, the original reading-room was restored, and the building connected to the Town Hall next door. In 1987 it opened branches in nearby Freeling and Greenock. From 1989 a Gawler Institute Hall Committee initiated, promoted and managed community activities (including heritage) in the hall for the Council. Since 2013 the Gawler Public Library has continued the Institute's tradition of an annual competition, now for short stories or poetry. April 2019 saw the completion of a \$15 million renovation and integration of the Town Hall with the Institute building, to form the Gawler Civic Centre. The 150th anniversary of the Institute building was to be celebrated in April this year. A new Cultural Heritage Centre now organises exhibitions and cares for the Institute's records, art and artefacts. It's well worth a visit!

Contributed by Joelle Hancock, Researcher, Adelaide

Gawler Institute in 1889, next to the Town Hall



murray_street_89_with_horses
by Gawler History



TASMANIA

LAUNCESTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (EST. 1842)

Without a building to maintain or promote, our Friends group has put their efforts into the books and periodicals that were preserved from the historic collection, and the records that were generated in the 103 years of the Institute's existence.

Volunteers have been working for some five years on indexing the Institute's correspondence – some of it from visiting notables such as the explorer **Count Strzelecki**, governor and explorer **Sir John Franklin**, & novelist **Anthony Trollope** – and tracing through the to-and-fro of letters, some of the Institute's more dramatic episodes.

The early years from 1842 to 1850 were particularly tenuous, with attacks from a local newspaper which libelled its founders, among others (and paid handsomely to the victims in court for the privilege).

Donations of books and the construction of a Reading Room gave the fledgling Institute a temporary home, until in 1860 – with little help from Government – members generated enough funding to construct a grand building, the finest in the town at that date.

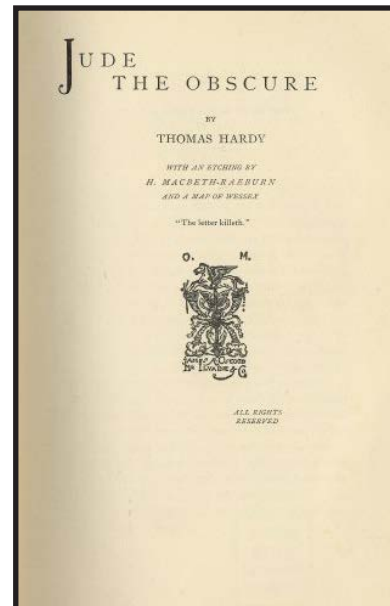
Immediately it became the site of rivalries, with, for instance, the elocution teacher **Rev. Ewing** and the music teacher **Mr Sharp** coming to blows over a classroom and both being banned from entry for six months.

There was a revolt from many members over the conduct of dancing classes near the Reading Room, which were afterwards also banned for some time. Efforts to silence the chiming of the town clock during concerts were in vain.

Parts of the fabric of the building began to fall off less than a year after its opening, and attempts to sue the architect failed. So the Board of Management began what became a

series of fund-raising drives to repair, and later renovate, enlarge and enhance the façade and interior fittings to provide the town, later the city, with a handsome Hall and a major Library.

The Ladies Committee was instrumental in financing these advances, and although the Board of Management remained strictly a male affair, large numbers of women became members, thereby boosting subscriptions to the Library. With their increasing importance the emphasis in book buying shifted from educating 'mechanics' with non-fiction to entertaining a wide range of readers with fiction. Not that everybody accepted this eclecticism; *Jude the Obscure*, for instance was taken off the shelves after a scandalised (male) member wrote a letter of complaint. A sub-committee was formed to vet all new titles.



As thousands of books entered the Library, space became critical. As early as 1890 a new Museum was built by the Municipal Council to house the rapidly expanding collection of artefacts and paintings which left more room for books. Renamed the Launceston Mechanics' Institute & Public Library, the institution



rapidly expanded services to readers, often forced to squirrel away its tens of thousands of volumes in repurposed rooms and hallways.

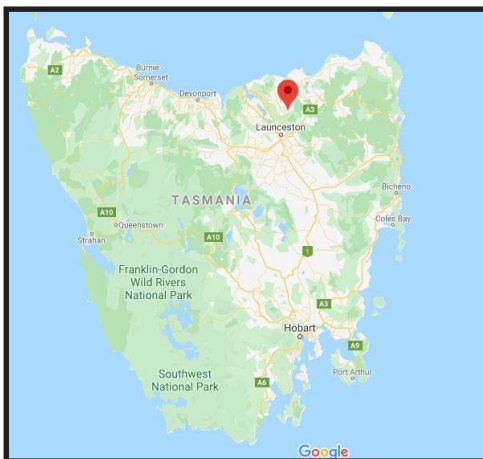
Despite its decaying, and often repaired, building, the Institute's managers embraced modernisation. It was one of the first public buildings in Launceston to install gas lighting, and when a local hydro-electric power station was built in 1895, it converted to the new source.

Under its two major Librarians, **Alex Johnston** and **Joe Forward**, both of whom served more than 40 years apiece, it established a reputation as a well-organised and professionally-run institution.

In 1934, the Munn-Pitt Report into Australian libraries cited it as 'the finest outside the capital cities', and in 1943 **Kenneth Binns**, the Commonwealth's Principal Librarian, described Launceston

Public Library as 'probably the best subscription library now surviving in Australia.' Forward was elected President of the Tasmanian Libraries Association shortly afterwards, and guided the Institute's final transition to a Free Public Library run by the City Council in 1945. The Launceston Mechanics' Institute was no more, and its building was demolished in 1971.

*Contributed by Mike McCausland,
Friend of Launceston Mechanics' Institute.*



LILYDALE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE (EST.1881)

Lilydale is the centre of a farming district 28 kms north-east of Launceston, Tasmania. It was known as 'Upper Piper' until 1887. The Mechanics' Institute or Hall in Lilydale which was erected in 1886 seems to have been used mainly as a meeting place.

Launceston newspaper reports of news from Lilydale tell us that the Mechanics' Institute or Hall was used for meetings of the Tankerville Road Trust, the local Board of Health, teas as part of Sunday School Anniversaries for different denominations, recitals, dramatic entertainments, a wedding reception, speeches by members of Parliament, fundraisers in aid of the Presbyterian Manse and other causes. These activities occurred between 1888 and 1907. There is no mention in newspaper reports of the Mechanics' Institute having any books or particular educational programs.

There was an organ, and also a piano. A new organ was 'kindly given by Mrs Gibson' in 1890.

Lilydale became a municipality in 1908 and at an early Council meeting, a letter was read from Mr FF Kowarzik offering the Mechanics' Hall for municipal purposes for £100. The letter was to be acknowledged but no further information on this offer is available.

The local RSL later had a Memorial Library which appears to have been for members only and the Lilydale School had its own library too.

In 1936 the Lilydale Council received a letter from the Recorder of Titles, saying that '... the old hall site at the corner of the Lilydale main road and the Lalla road containing an area of 6.5 perches, was taken out in a deed on 22 November 1886 in the names of John George Mather, Presbyterian clergyman of Scottsdale, John Jacob Miller, the elder, of Upper Piper's River, farmer, also Frederick Ferdinand Kowarzik and Edmund Kowarzik of the same place, farmers for the M.I. Association. The four trustees are now dead, and the old hall was removed many years ago. It is presumed that M.I. Association stands for Mechanics' Institute Association. The old hall was the centre for the Sunday School picnics, when the whole district used to take an afternoon off to be present. The games were held in the paddock across the road, formerly owned by the late Mr. L. Bardenhagen, and now portion of Mr. Fred Kelp's property.'

It wasn't until after World War Two that a public library, part of the State Library in Tasmania, was established in Lilydale.

Contributed by Prue McCausland



SYDNEY MECHANICS' SCHOOL OF ARTS

Indeed we live interesting times but the themes of adaptation and survival are ever present in the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts activities. In this 'distancing' time, the Board, along with the membership, has embraced alternate service delivery and new technologies to leverage membership. This may even provide an opportunity for 'distance' membership in the future with greater availability of e-books, e-magazines, live streaming of lectures and delivering 'e-films'.

The increase in the use of e-books has increased by 'almost four hundred per cent'. There has also been a similar increase the use of e-magazines which are available to read on the same day of publication. The newly adopted Beamafilm, which provides access to a large library of feature films and documentaries, has received an even greater increase.

The online 'Click and Collect' service was well supported and this kept 'hard copy' readers with regular supplies of books.

The Library re-opened on 1 July, at which the 'Click and Collect' service ceased. Initially it was scheduled for three days a week Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 9.30am-2pm. Ten members were allowed in the Library at any one time for a period of twenty minutes. After which there would be five minute break of cleaning and preparation for the next group.

Cuthbert's the SMSA's coffee/tea point will be closed and newspapers will not be available. Computer access was allocated in ten minute

brackets.

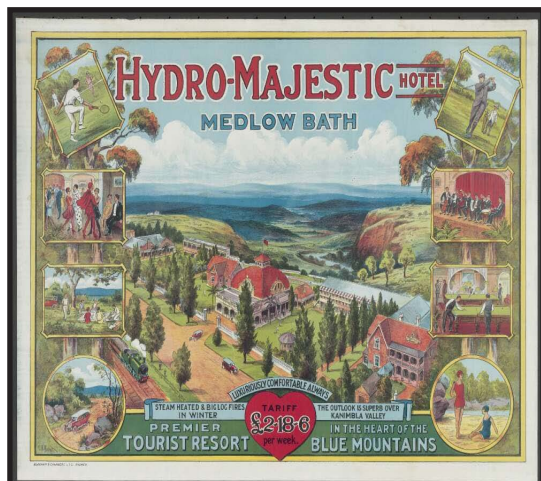
The Film Group still 'meets' on line and similarly 'Virtual Talks' have been delivered online. A couple that took our fancy were: 'From the Majestic to the Mundane' and 'Sleep Tight was Dr Camilla Hoyos'.

The first, with travel historian **Richard White** surveyed the history and range of minerals spas across Australia, which featured the Hydro-Majestic Hotel at Medlow Bath in the Blue Mountains.

Set up by retail giant Mark Foy in 1904, with no expense spared on its lavish decor, it became the flagship of Australia's spa culture. A German doctor supervised the hydrotherapy clinic and the availability of phone in every room and Turkish coffee were some of the perks that attracted the rich and famous through into the 1950s.

For the mundane there was a trip to the Helidon Spa Pool in Queensland for a swim. This was once described as the nation's largest swimming pool, but is alas no more, and is now a housing estate.

After a decline for a few decades Spa Resorts and towns are again on the ascendancy, notably at Daylesford in Victoria and also a revival at the Majestic.



The second talk was delivered by **Dr Camilla Hoyos**, a sleep researcher that firstly defined what sleep is, its benefit to our overall wellbeing, healthy brain ageing and dementia prevention. smsa.org.au

Mechanics' Institutes Resource Centre

The following books and documents have been added to our growing collection at the Prahran Mechanics' Institute. Each can be read on the premises, but they are not for loan. Kindly book with Prahran prior to your attendance.

Clunes Free Library: Conservation Study – RBA Architects Gift of Clunes Free Library

The Cultural Legacy of the Mechanics' Institute Movement in the North of England – Eve Hartley. Gift of the Author

A Window on Wily: Williamstown Mechanics' Institute and Free Library 1854-1968 – Cyril Curtain. Gift of the Author

*If These Walls Could Talk...History of the Noble Park Hall – Dawn Dickson
Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria purchase*

*Twyford Hall and Theatre Complex Cost Benefit Analysis: Social and Financial Perspectives – Econtext Economics and Allied Consulting
Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria purchase*

Linton Public Library: Conservation Management Plan – Wendy Jacobs and Dr David Rowe.

Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria purchase

*Yeungroon Hall 1892-1992 – John Lanyon, Marion Watts and Frances Lanyon.
Gift of Pam Baragwanath*

Ballan Mechanics' Institute & Free Library Inc. Masterplan 2002-2012 – Committee of Management. Gift of Pam Baragwanath



DIGITISING MYRNIONG

Organisations keep Minutes of meetings to record the decisions made. They also stand as a record of an organisation's activities. In the past the Minutes of the local Mechanics' Institute were often recorded by the local paper.

The latest addition to the MIRC digital archives are the Minutes of the Myrniong MI. They are hand-written in a bound Minute Book and cover the years 1963 to 2002.

The Minutes of a Hall Committee may not have the drama of a newspaper report, but remain a record for posterity of the contribution of committee members to the success of a hall and its value to the community.

The Myrniong Minutes reflect discussions common to most hall committees. Decisions relating to hall charges, planning and organizing working-bees, prioritizing maintenance, discussing insurance options, attracting new

members, preparing grant applications. There are fund-raising dinners, old-time balls, trivia nights, and sausage sizzles to organize.

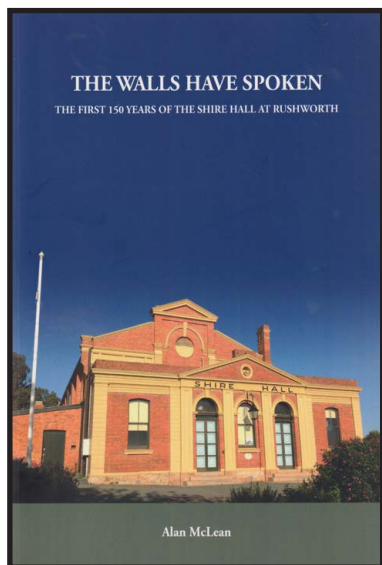
The hall is a popular venue for community events - for funerals, farewells to long-standing residents, golden wedding anniversaries, and kitchen teas.

Special events at Myrniong included the Bacchus Marsh players variety concerts.

The Minutes finish as work is underway on a major refurbishment and building extensions for new toilets. The committee had successfully applied for and received grant money to bring the hall up to the needs and expectations of a growing community.

In the years from 2002, the Myrniong Hall has continued as a valued community resource. Minutes are no longer hand-written, but typed and stored (including back-ups) on a computer.

Books Reviews



THE WALLS HAVE SPOKEN: 150 YEARS OF THE RUSHWORTH TOWN HALL

- Alan McLean.

Paperback, perfectbound. 206 pages, Colour and black and white illustrations. 210x300mm. 9780646810621. (Pascoe Vale: Author, 2020).

Rushworth, 150km north Melbourne, is a goldrush town established in 1853. It was named by poet Richard Henry 'Orion' Horne.

It became the administrative centre of the Shire of Waranga in 1865. It set out to build its own administrative headquarters in 1867 and a design submitted by Bendigo architects Vahland and Getzschman won the contract and it was built by Whroo contractor TP Price.

The foundation stone was laid on 25 July 1868, with the usual parchment history, coins of the realm and reportedly a bottle of wine inserted in the cavity. Shortly after this the stone was dislodged and the contents were removed by 'some scoundrel' according to one report, whereas another described the thief as 'some sneaking reptile'. The stone was duly relaid and the building opened on 5 March 1869. Extensions were completed in 1883.

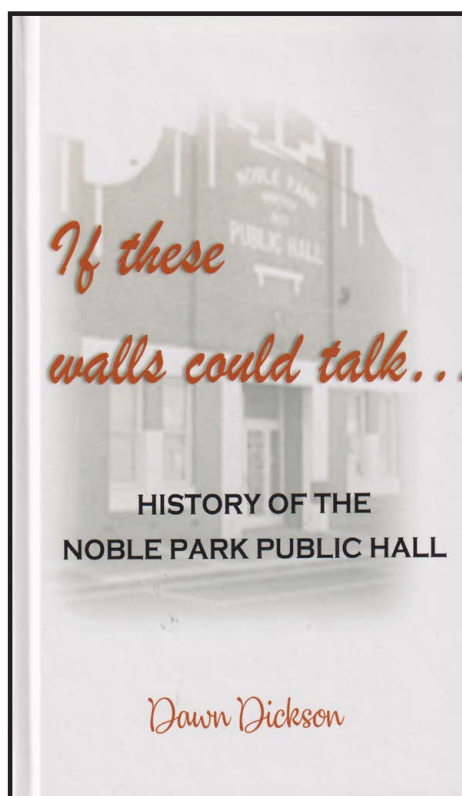
From the outset the Town Hall was pressed into service for: fundraisers; community meetings; travelling troupes; Scottish events; band rehearsals; life events, balls and dances; concerts; film screenings; local choral and music recitals; and horticultural shows.

The move to build new Shire Offices started in the 1950s and these were opened in 1961.

The building was added to the Heritage Register in 1978 and taken over a community Committee of Management in 2000.

Author Alan McLean takes us through the Hall's history decade by decade, skillfully providing newspaper descriptions predominately from local newspapers. To these he has added explanatory introductions and random footnotes. An interesting range of pictures and/or advertising facsimiles adds extra value and interest to this well produced book.

Available from Alan McLean, 0412 143 660. \$24.00, plus \$16.00 postage.



IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK...HISTORY OF THE NOBLE PARK PUBLIC HALL

-Dawn Dickson.

Hardbound. 91pages, black and white illustrations.145 x 210.mm 9780646802534.

Businessman and developer Allan Frank Buckley bought 1000 acres of land 25km south-east of Melbourne in 1909. He named the subdivision Noble Park, after his second son Noble Sidney Douglas 'Nobby' Buckley and set about subdividing it into rural and residential lots. A one acre site was gifted for a Hall/School and

this was built in 1911 and a Tennis Club courts were established nearby. After the purpose-built School was erected in 1912, also on donated land, the Hall was passed to three trustees to become the Noble Park Mechanics' Institute. The new Noble Park Institute and Public Hall was erected in 1925. It was fitted with a bio-box and had two shops in its front. In Depression times saw it taken over by Council. Revived by the community in 1957 the existing Hall was supplemented by the AJ 'Paddy' O'Donoghue Annexe in 1981.

Council involvement in the early 2000s saw the matter resolved in the Supreme Court in 2005 in favour of the Trustees as Landlord and Council as Lessor. A new AJ 'Paddy' O'Donoghue Centre was built alongside the 1925 Hall and opened in 2006. The Trust still exists and meets periodically and conducts an annual meeting in July each to account for its trusteeship and elect trustees. Dawn Dickson, the author, is well qualified to write this racy read for she is the descendant in a long line of family involvement in the Noble Park Public Hall. After being Hall Secretary in the 1970s, she became a Trustee in 1980.

With an engaging text the author takes us through the ups and lows of the Hall history and the groups that operated in it and that were formed in it. Dance has been featured since the outset as did film. Activities to support ex-servicemen and 'Mugs' concerts supported the unemployed during the Depression. During World War II Sunday night community singing sessions were staged for the Comforts Fund. Post-World War II events in the Hall saw each returned serviceman received a Gladstone bag and each servicewoman and travelling rug. A World War II Honour Board was unveiled in 1948.

In 1947 tennis star Frank Sedgman gave an exhibition match at the Hall-based courts for his overseas tour fund and took away £50 from a collection. Tennis coach Mick Sweetnam started coaching clinics on the courts in the late 1960s, in which the Noble Park State School participated.

After regaining full control of the Hall in 1957 the community came on board to support a massive fundraising campaign to bring the down-at-heel building back into full use. Mrs

Alwyn Stone hired the Hall in the 1960s for occasional Saturday night dances and once in the Hall no one was allowed outside! A popular duo was the youthful Olivia Newton-John and Pat Carroll. Other Saturday night use was film, which continued into the 1980s, when Council regulations closed them. A childcare centre operated in the Hall and tennis clinics operated outside. In the meantime, in 1971, a Ladies' Auxiliary had been formed to stage street stalls. In the 1974 Hall-stalwart and Trustee Paddy O'Donoghue started the Koala Gymnastic Club to engage youth, instructors were appointed, and this still runs engaging scores of youth in its activities.

Named for the late Paddy O'Donoghue, the Community Centre opened in 1980. Bob Hawke launched aspiring politician's Terry Norris' local campaign in the Hall in 1982.

The Hall complex was central to the Noble Park 75th Anniversary celebrations in 1984.

The next year Pavel 'Mad Max' Marinof came to Noble Park smashing through a police blockade whilst firing at police. The Hall became the 'command centre' for the dragnet that combed the Noble Park area which was in 'lockdown'. It was not until February 1985 that 'Mad Max' was discovered at Wallan where he was killed in an exchange of gun fire. It was around this time that fire gutted the Public Hall and a lot of the records were destroyed.

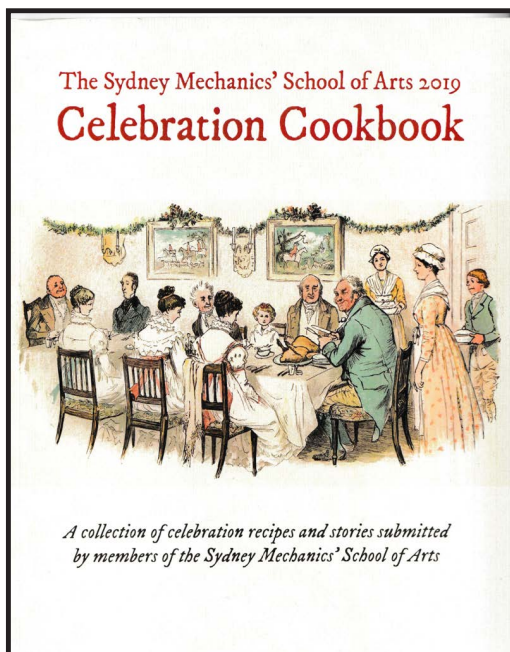
The new Paddy O'Donoghue Community Centre opened in 2006, with local MPTim Holding and a youthful Daniel Andrews photographed with several trustees on that occasion.

Eccentric local residents and the dread possum in piano also received mention as amusing Hall-related happenings. Similarly there is mention of the Trustees who have given selflessly of their time, talents and money down through the years.

This book, which is a great read, tells the Hall story for future generations, to remind them that they have a great legacy to pass on. Indeed 'This building belongs to the residents of Noble Park. Protect It!' as a 1957 poster proclaimed. Its story will ring true for all Hall managers.

We will let the late Paddy O'Donoghue have the final say 'we must all travel the whole road, from start to finish, as one compact whole, without breaking up into leaders and outsiders. Unity is strength, no organisation

has a monopoly to the way forward'. Available from: Dawn Dickson, 7 Lawrence Court, Cranbourne North, V 3977. Email: dawn_dickson@bigpond.com. \$7.00, plus postage \$7.50.



SYDNEY MECHANICS' SCHOOL OF ARTS 2019 CELEBRATION COOKBOOK: A collection of celebration recipes and stories submitted by members of the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts – Winsome Allen and Lesley Scanlon, eds.

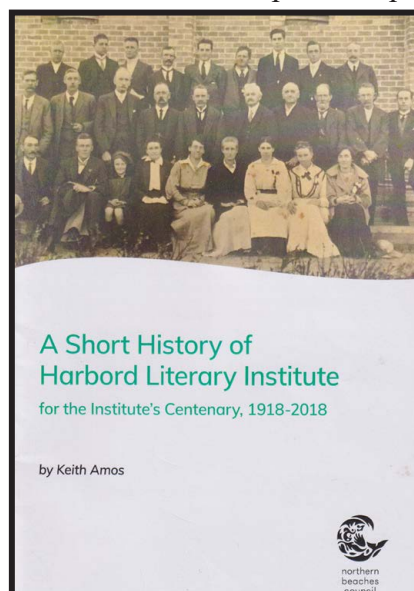
Paperback, perfectbound. 98 pages, colour and black and white illustrations. 210x250mm. (Sydney: Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 2020).

This is truly a fascinating book with a recipe to suit everyone's taste. It is well designed with historic prints, engravings and line drawings and on the rear cover are two youngsters seemingly singing outside an open window.

This publication is most worthy of an Institute that is 'Making a Difference through Learning'. The Christmas Cake Recipe from **Athena Harris Ingall** carries the annotation 'A recipe that brings back memories of my grandmothers, Molly Crowe and Lydia Harris, both of whom were extraordinary cooks. The recipe is derived for their recipes for Christmas cake'. And for the indulgent, there is the recipe for Rum Balls, by an unstated author, with the annotation 'This recipe is continually evolving. I'm always trying to make it more chocolatey or more alcoholic!'

Included at the back of the book is the *Recipes: Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 500 George Street, Sydney. Recipes contributed by members of Australia's oldest lending library.* This slim volume was first published in 1983 and reprinted in 1990 in its original format of typewriter font accompanied by line drawings of an un-named artist. The 1983 booklet finishes with a quaint advertorial which in part reads 'The Sydney School of Arts Library [sic] has fiction to suit ever taste. Approximately forty new titles are added each month. The same number in paperback are also added... The annual subscription fee is only \$5.00, which entitles the member to 4 books (1 new)... The Library hours are: Monday-Friday 8.45am-6pm; Saturday 8.45am-11.30am.'

Available from: Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW 2000. Tel: (02) 9262 7300. Cost: \$20, plus \$10 postage.



A SHORT HISTORY OF THE HARBORD LITERARY INSTITUTE FOR THE INSTITUTE'S CENTENARY 1918-2018

– **Keith Amos.** Paperback, saddlestitched. 24 pages, illustrated. 145x210mm. (Harbord: Northern Beaches Council, 2018).

This Institute started its life as the Freshwater Literary Institute, promoted by the local Progress Association and Railway League from 1912 and actively supported by the Freshwater Surf Life-Saving Club. It was one of some 140 Institutes that were established across Sydney as the result of the *Trustees of Schools of Arts Enabling Act* of 1902. Like many pre-war Institutes they did not get their own buildings until after World War I.

Built on a Crown Land site granted in 1915, with active community fundraising, the Institute was opened in 1918. It received its new appellation of Harbord in 1923, named for Miss Judith Harbord, the sister-in-law of the Lord Carrington, Governor of NSW. It was used for early silent movie screening from 1920-25, periodic crownings of the Queen of Harbord which raised money for local projects, and a final 'Welcome Home' of soldier Surf Club members in 1920. In addition to the weekly dances run the Violet Club there were also other entertainments.

The Fire Station opened next door to the Institute in 1925.

The Institute was extended in 1936 and also included a kitchen and space for the Library. The meeting room became the home of several fraternal Lodges, Church groups, Labour League and RSL. The State School also held regular functions in the Hall. Post-World War ration tickets were distributed from the Hall and the Baby Health Centre took over the Fire Station building in 1949. A Pre-School opened in a new annexe building in 1959 and at the same time title to the property was passed to Council.

Other Hall facilities constructed in the area meant the Library could expand into the Hall space. In accordance with standards of 'A place for Public Entertainment' the building was renovated in 2011. The building was also the subject of a heritage overlay in 2011, thus averting any further proposal for demolition. The kindergarten still operates in the building as does the Library which is largely run by volunteers.

The author, Dr Keith Amos, a retired Sydney University of Technology lecturer was born at Harbord. He has left us with a well-researched and very readable history of one of the hardy survivors of Sydney's suburban Schools of Arts.

It is well illustrated with contemporary plates and is a model for future Institute histories Available from: Library Unit, Northern Beaches Council on application.

IN HARMONY- Sue Parrish and Patrick Wakefield. CD. 16 tracks, vocal and instrumental. Those who travelled on the Shire of Baw Baw Mechanics' Institutes' Bus Tour late last year will clearly remember the musical interlude to which we were treated to at the Garfield Picture Theatre. Some may have even purchased the CD *In*



Harmony, which is a sixteen track compilation of Celtic and other popular folk tunes and is very easy on the ears. It is the work of Gippsland duo, Manchester-born Sue Parrish and Bairnsdale-born Patrick Wakefield. They have been playing to Halls, Pubs, Senior Citizens for the past twenty years. In addition to vocalising, they play a range

of musical instruments including the flute and harmonica. Like all performing artists work had 'dried up', but they recently did a very successful Zoom show for the Berwick Folk Club. Available from: Patrick Wakefield 0408 253 656. \$10 posted.

SELF-COMPOSTING TOILETS

Where water is scarce and drainage from a septic tank can be problematic it could be worth considering the installation of a self composting toilet system. We came across this system when researching the story of the Wandella Hall. They have a two unit system one unisex and a unit for the disabled all of which are accessed by a ramp.

A wash basin is external to the individual toilets. This is in a stand alone building which was accessed from the Hall via a walkway which could be undercover. This requires an electricity source which could be via solar panels and a water supply of say a 500 litre tank which could be fed from the roof of the structure or connected to mains supply.

Virotech has been in business since 1987. They can assemble a kit to your needs, based on usage, and whether it is indoor or stand alone. Kits, which can also include buildings, are easy to assemble for the handyman and/or plumber. Check out the website: virotech.com.au or phone 1800 979 676 for more information.

Our People



We welcome **Cameron Borg** as the new Librarian at Footscray Mechanics' Institute. It has been a rather bumpy start with COVID-19 and re-opening to the public yet to fully become reality. Cameron has been a librarian for around twenty years, most recently at Hobsons Bay. Cameron grew up in Rockhampton and besides books his passion is punk rock music, not only playing it but also writing about it. Of his dozen or so publications, the most notable appears to be on the *Screamfeeder's* lead singer and guitarist *The Complete Recordings of Tim Steward (1987-2015)* published in 2017. Cameron runs the publishing house Moonlight Publications, which has published several volumes of his poetry, and he edits and/or contributes to electronic magazines.



The University of Dundee's Chancellor, **Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell** has recently been named in *The Times* 2020 list of 'seven most important but little-known British female scientists'. Born in Lurgan Northern Ireland, Dame Jocelyn has been a career astrophysicist and an active Quaker. She was also part of the research team that won

the 1974 Nobel Prize for Physics, but was not one of the recipients. Her research has been widely acclaimed and published. Dame Jocelyn was named Chancellor of Dundee in 2018.



We note in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours, the award of the Order of Australia Medal to Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria Committeeman **Felix Gerald Meagher**. The award is 'For service to Celtic music and dance'. Felix has had long association with the Port Fairy Folk Music Festival and is co-founder of the Lake School of Celtic Music and Dance at Koroit in 1999. He is also a performer in and manager of the band Bushwahzee which has toured widely, particularly to schools. Felix also composed the music and co-wrote *The Man They Call the Banjo* with Dennis O'Keefe and has recently written and produced *Barry versus Kelly*. He has also recently completed two new shows *The African Prince* and *Runaway Priest* and is working on a comedy *Adventure Before Dementia*.

Congratulations to Felix on a well deserved award and thank you for your contribution to MIV.



Bega Valley's Wandella Hall could not have had a greater champion than **Joy Masterson**. Her

father was on the Committee and she joined the Committee about fifty years ago, became Secretary shortly after, and only recently stepped down from that role. Joy celebrated her twenty-first birthday in the Hall and has seen many celebrations there since. The destruction of the Hall on 31 December 2019 by bushfire was a blow, but the show must go on. The only thing that survived the inferno was the new toilet block, and she was there to see this reconnected to a new water supply and the solar panels installed on the roof. The Hall site has recently been cleared early one morning and Joy was there to make sure all was in readiness for building the new Hall. Indeed Joy by name and joy by nature and we wish her all the very best for the opening of the new Wandella Hall



Professor Ian G Campbell took up the position of Vice-Chancellor at Liverpool John Moores University in October 2019. Prior to that he had been Deputy Vice-Chancellor at University of Hertfordshire for six years after having come from London's Brunel University as Pro-Vice-Chancellor. Ian is Professor of Physiology, with a thirty year interest in the physiology of individuals and sports injuries.



We note the recent election to the membership of the Professional Historians Association of

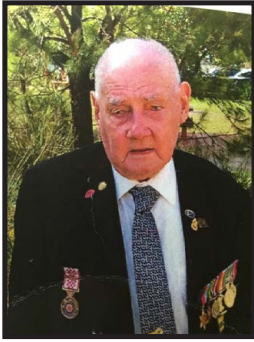
Victoria of **Dr Sue Walter** of Malmsbury and quote from their magazine 'Susan Walter is an Agricultural Scientist and long-term research co-ordinator of Malmsbury Historical Society. She recently completed a PhD on the bluestone quarries and stoneworkers of Malmsbury [with Federation University].... Susan is currently working on a landscape and mining history for the Malmsbury District Landcare Group project and has contributed a chapter on Victorian bluestone to *Global Heritage Stone: Worldwide Examples of Heritage Stones* to be published around October this year [auspiced by the Geological Society, London as publication No. SP486 at around GBP120].



We note the difficult role of Interim Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dundee, **Professor David Maguire**. David moved into his role on 1 February for a period of seven months. Since then has had the oversight of taking the University online to his students at their place of residence. His experience will be common to many and will have a longterm effect on how educational programs are delivered into the future, although London's Birkbeck have been involved in distance education for many years. Previous to Dundee, David had been Vice-Chancellor at the University of Greenwich from 2011-19. His expertise is in computer mapping and geographic information systems and he has published widely in that area.

"ONLY A LIFE LIVED FOR OTHERS IS
WORTH LIVING"
ALBERT EINSTEIN (1879-1955)

Wale



Harold Muir served as a trustee of the Christmas Hills Mechanics' Institute for over 45 years. His great-grandfather, Benjamin Smith, was an early member of the Institute after moving to Christmas Hills in 1865.

He established a local abattoir that provided food for the workers building the Maroondah aqueduct.

Smith's daughter, Maria, married David Muir, an overseer on the aqueduct project and together they began a bakery as well as farming the land. Their family worked in the bakery and were involved with the Mechanics' Institute.

One daughter, Jean, was Harold Muir's mother. Born in 1924, Harold also farmed the family land. When he was 19 years old, he saw service in the RAAF in the Second World War and was a member of the local CFA for over 54 years. He became a trustee of the Christmas Hills Mechanics' Institute in 1973 making it four generations of his family's involvement.

In 1975 the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works secured a large portion of his land to construct the Sugarloaf Reservoir. Harold continued farming his remaining land until 2006. He saw additions to the Christmas Hills Mechanics' Institute Hall in 1985 after which it was named the Harold Muir Hall in his honour, but the original hall fell into disrepair over the years and Harold spent time and money keeping it active and seeking grants for its maintenance.

Success came in 2010 with a major rebuild and Harold donated some artefacts of his family's past as an historical display. The Christmas Hills Mechanics' Institute Hall was again a community centre.

Harold relinquished his trusteeship in 2019,

shortly before his death. He was 94 years old. Harold is survived by his wife Sherrill and is fondly remembered by his many friends in Christmas Hills and beyond. *Rest in Peace Harold Muir. The phrase of American conservationist John Muir (1838-1914) seems apt 'The sun shines not on us, but in us'.*

We note the passing on 29 May 2020 of **Bruce George Draper**, a former esteemed Committee Member of the Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria and of the Arthurs Creek Mechanics' Institute. Always the gentleman, we will miss his wise counsel, erudite knowledge, generous support and dry sense of humour.



The painting on the Order of Service to celebrate his life was by Alex Emorovski

Born at Heyfield in Gippsland's forest region in 1941, to James Chester, a mounted police trooper, and Beatrice, nee Jullyan, Bruce attended local schools. There he joined the Scouts, and in 1957 became a Queen's Scout and this involvement in Scouting continued for the rest of his life. Notably he was involved in multicultural Scouting and even learned to understand Russian. He visited numerous Jamborees both in Australia and abroad.

Bruce entered the Royal Australian Naval College as a Cadet Midshipman in 1957 at aged fifteen and whilst at Jervis Bay he received colours for Athletics in 1957, Australian Football in 1959 and the Shelley Cup for boxing in 1960. In 1959 he was a member of the RANC Central Australian Expedition. He graduated in 1960 with 'Officer' rank and was awarded First Prize for History. In 1961 Bruce

commenced Phase III Midshipman training at the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. There he gained colours in athletics, with prowess in discus, javelin and shotput and was runner-up in the light middle weight boxing.

He was invited to join the Raleigh Society of Explorers and participated in the Royal Naval Colleges' 'Norped '61' four-day ski and climbing expedition to Jostedalbreen Glacier, Norway. During this time Bruce developed a liking for Norwegian food and the music of Edvard Grieg. In 1962 he competed in the First Inter-Services Colleges' Ski-Race at St Moritz, Switzerland and climbed the Matterhorn.

In 1964 Bruce was appointed to HMAS *Snipe* which was engaged in patrol and surveillance work in Malaysian waters. There he encountered gun running terrorists who were prepared to defend themselves by fire. The following year he took command of the Daring Class Destroyer HMAS *Duchess* escorting the HMAS **Sydney**, loaded with troops, to Vung Tau in Vietnam.

Bruce married Mary Joyce Tyler in 1966 in the Welch Regiment Chapel, Llandaff Cathedral, Wales, and they went on to have three children, Catherine, Jeremy and Nicholas. Mary introduced him to her Welsh and Scottish roots.

On retirement from the Navy, Bruce joined McPhersons Ltd and completed a four year Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration. Later he joined International Harvester as Director of Human Resources when during the 1970s and 1980s Union wage claims sometimes became confrontational, and then the repute of Bruce as a boxer, stood him in good stead. Again at BF Goodrich he negotiated with Unions this time to develop enterprise bargaining. His calm and reassuring manner, combined with sage advice was a welcome presence in times of dispute.

He retired in 1996 and went live at Arthurs Creek. From there he travelled widely overseas on several occasions and spent time walking in France, Ireland, Scotland and England. He always believed in the drinking of natural water from streams, although this wisdom was questioned when he found that he had partaken of the natural waters downstream from an Irish site where numerous pilgrims had washed their feet. However he was saved for having kissed the Blarney Stone.

Bruce also walked extensively in Gippsland's

forests and at Wilson's Promontory, notably with the Ben Cruachan Walking Club and the Friends of the Prom. Whilst driving or walking, he chose not to take the straight route but wanted to explore the alternative back roads.

He had a love of the works of CJ Dennis and AB 'Banjo' Paterson and was widely read in the subjects of history, biography, gardening, scouting and natural history. Humour from Jimmy Bancks' Ginger Meggs cartoons, The Goon Show or Gilbert & Sullivan made him laugh.

Anytime was a good time for a 'wee' pack of chocolate Teddy Bear Biscuits, a Tim Tam biscuit or a chocolate Big M.

A commemorative service was held at St George's Peace Church, East Ivanhoe and was conducted by the local minister the Rev. John Sanderson, who is also a military chaplain. The interment appropriately took place at Arthurs Creek Cemetery, where Bruce and Brownyn had calculated that the Draper and Reid families buried there had notched up 340 years of history.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Catherine, Jeremy, Nick and their families and his long-time friend Bronwyn Hodges, nee Reid. May he Rest in Peace.

Bruce was a prolific writer on a range of subjects, based on meticulous research. Of interest are his histories of the: Arthurs Creek Mechanics' Institute; Hazelglen Hall; and Doreen Hall and Recreation Reserve. Some of his work can be seen on his website: upthecreekvictoria.com.au

For the above information we thank Bruce's daughter Catherine and her memoir can be seen at 'Vale Bruce Draper – From Boxing to Books: A Lifetime of Community Service' on the above website.

We omitted to mention the passing of former Committee member and 'father' of the Mechanics' Institute's of Victoria plaques program, **Paul Felix Ollivier Permezel**. An engineer by training, Paul designed and guided us through a torturous production route until we found our current supplier Glassmetal Industries of Moolap at Geelong. Paul passed away at the Epworth Hospital on 4 March 2018, aged 93, in the presence of his family. Our sincere sympathy to his wife of sixty-two years, Ruth and children Louise and Bruce.

Community Page

RECIPE

Australian farmers and manufacturers, many of which are Institute volunteers and supporters, deserve your custom. Hopefully the purchase of Australian grown and made products will help reward them.

BOXTY BREAD

A traditional Irish recipe.

Ingredients:

450 grams potatoes, raw and grated
 450 grams potatoes, cooked and mashed
 350 grams plain flour
 10 grams baking powder
 1 teaspoonful of salt
 120 grams butter, softened

Method:

1. Squeeze as much moisture as possible from the raw grated potatoes using a clean muslin cloth.
2. Combine raw potato, mashed potato, flour, baking powder, salt and butter.
3. On to a well floured surface, turn out mixture and divide into four equal portions.
4. Roll out each portion into a round about 6mm thick and mark surface into four portions.
5. Using a greased baking tray, place the four portions.
6. Cook in an oven at 180 degrees C for forty minutes.
7. Divide each portion into four and serve hot with butter.

SPOT THE BAKER'S DOZEN REFERENCES IN USEFUL KNOWLEDGE NO. 52

1. Which Institute is selling potatoes as a fundraiser?
2. What is the closing date for the MIV Architectural Drawing Prize?
3. Who passed away on 18 June 2020?
4. Who published the *Celebration Cookbook*?
5. Which Institute is being rebuilt at present?
6. What method of electricity generation is being rolled out across Victoria?

7. Who climbed the Matterhorn in 1962?
8. Which Institute awarded a prize of 'twenty guineas' for *The Song of Australia*.
9. What is the name of the Tasmanian Institute featured in *Wonderful World*?
10. Who owns the Garfield Picture Theatre?
11. What is the subject of the featured recipe?
12. Where is Yandoit?
13. Which MIV Committeeman received the OAM?

SPOT THE BAKER'S DOZEN REFERENCES IN USEFUL KNOWLEDGE NO. 51 - ANSWERS

1. Neerim Junction Mechanics' Hall; 2. 1 August 2020; 3. Henry Handel Richardson; 4. Benalla Costume and Kelly Museum; 5. Professor Philip Candy; 6. In the Library of the Lilydale Athenaeum; 7. Garvoc Hall; 8. 'By Hammer and Hand All Arts do Stand'; 9. Rokeby Mechanics' Institute; 10. Peechelba; 11. January 2018; 12. Corinne Brewis; 13. Count von Horn.

Odd Spot

SOUTHAUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE
 FOLMI's Mike McCausland has been trawling through the archive of Launceston Mechanics' Institute correspondence held at Queen Victoria Museum and Gallery in Launceston. He came across an exchange of letters with the South Australian Institutes Association of North Terrace Adelaide in September 1926.

'They were organising an Interstate Conference for 7 and 8 October 1926 to which, it seems, most senior librarians in the country were invited. It looks like it's the first of such, suggested by Sir William Sowden, ex-President of the Public Library Board of South Australia. It looks like the initiation of a national association of librarians, but coming under the banner of Institutes'. Mike concludes 'I am not sure how aware you are of this initiative, but thought you might be interested in another link in our joint cultural past'.

Ideas and Opportunities

COVID-19 INFORMATION

We are all in this together and we all have a part to play to promote hygiene and distancing.

Electronic Copies of the Poster can be had by emailing COVID-19@dhs.vic.gov.au. These can be printed out and laminated and hung in prominent places in your Hall, Library, Museum or at your Markets.

COST A PROJECT

There is every likelihood of there being funding opportunities by way of economic stimulus packages. The funding emphasis will be on 'ready to go' projects which could have funding of up to say \$50,000. This could fund a kitchen upgrade, self composting toilet block, Hall restump, electrical or plumbing upgrade, an AV package, etc. But the critical thing is that it has been costed and ready to roll. Go to it and the Best of Luck.

CHALK AND CHEESE NIGHT

In these times of social distancing and even lockdowns it could be worth putting on special night where you canvas ideas for the way forward. Send out an email calling for ideas. Consolidate those ideas into a single document and then broadcast email it. Invite all recipients to chop up some cheese and add a drink of their choice to spend some time on the list in the comfort and safety of their own homes. After which the annotated lists can be returned and rated to take the ideas forward. You might even be able to Conference the meeting via Zoom.

DRAW A PLAN

Whatever you do you, whether it be for a grant or even hiring your hall, will need a ground plan of your Hall and site. You can start with an aerial and then do an outline from that. Do a scale drawing with window and door measurements, size of stage, loading access. You can even take this a step further by doing an inventory of tables, chairs, crockery, glassware and cutlery which is available for use.

INVITE YOUR NEIGHBOURING HALLS FOR A DRINK

It would be good to think that regional Hall groups could be established to network and occasionally meet. They could share information and visit one another on key events. We are reminded of Institute visits by train in England to visit neighbouring Institute events, before Thomas Cook came up with the same of group tours in the 19th Century. In the interim why not reach out to them with an email of your latest upgrade, experience with contractors or suppliers, and anything you would like to buy, sell or swap.

A BOOK SHELF

We mentioned this before, but it is worth repeating, the idea of installing a bookshelf in your hall with an honour system of lending. You might to have a locked reference section for local history, flora and fauna, and perhaps titles by local authors.

BOOKBINDING ANYONE?

Over the years many people found their way to the firm of Irwin & McLaren in Richmond for their bookbinding work, but that firm has now closed after almost century of operation. Some of their staff have set up a bookbinding unit within the firm of Bambra Press at Port Melbourne. Andrew can be contacted on (03) 8698 3233 to give a quote on any new or restoration work you may require.

ZOOM IN

This is a conference program that has been widely used for meetings during the 'lock down' time. Training sessions are being held on-line. Email teamzoom@zoom.us for an invitation to join a session.

BUY LOCAL
BUY AUSTRALIAN
