



Nepean Historical Society  
Sorrento

# *The Nepean*

Vol 14 Number 3 September 2019



## **NEPEAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.**

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[www.nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au](http://www.nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au) Photo: see pp.3 & 4



**Sorrento Steam Tram** - NHS Photograph Collection

*Nepean Historical Society acknowledges and pays respect to the Boon Wurrung/ Bunurong people, the traditional custodians of these lands and waters.*

## OUR COVER STORY

On a recent visit to Port Augusta, I had decided to investigate the mention, in 'Tram to Sorrento' by A.P. Winzenried, of a Baldwin locomotive like those used in Sorrento from 1890 to 1921, 'preserved for many years on the railway station platform' in that South Australian town. It was no longer there, but I talked to people who remembered it, and in Quorn, at the South end of the Flinders Ranges, in the fine old station building, now an information centre and one-room museum, found the painting on the front of this edition and took the photo to share with you. I was also given contact details for the museum manager, Lisa Southon, who sent on lots more information, summarised below.

Built in 1886, the loco was imported by a contractor for use in the building of the Palmerston- Pine Creek Railway, and then by South Australia (later Commonwealth) Railways, from 1890. Locally named 'Sandfly', being small and fast-moving, the engine was on show in retirement at Port Augusta from 1960 to 1982, then Keswick Passenger Terminal, Adelaide from 1984. By 2004 it was displayed at Darwin Passenger Terminal and after restoration ended up at Leo Izod's 1934 QANTAS Hangar at Parap, Darwin, and was still there in 2017. Pity we don't have one here in Sorrento! Our own two tramway locomotives went for use in the timber industry near Noogee and seem to have left no trace, and the only other surviving Baldwin known, 'Kia Ora' is/was at Bassendean, W.A.

*Janet South, Roving Researcher*

Notes: The photograph is shown by permission of the Quorn Museum. The painting is by C.A. Peters, 1st Year Railway Fitter, 1980, in acrylic. For real railway buffs, many technical details are available.

# President's Report

**Spring is nature's way of saying Let's Party.**

**- Robin Williams**

As we say goodbye to the Winter cold and look forward to warmer months it is worth examining where we've been and where we're heading.

The year of 2018-19 was a most satisfying one, with things at The Museum rolling along nicely and much to be thankful for.

Membership of the Society was up a little despite losing a few Members to the advancing years.

The 'Friends of The Sorrento Museum' reached its first full year target of fifty, and I am confident will succeed in its current aim of doubling this figure.

Museum attendance was down a little (5%), most particularly over the hot Summer months, but our Annual History Month Display, 'Who Was George?' (Coppin) was a great success.

The Museum itself received a much needed upgrade with new lighting in the two display halls. Some long awaited maintenance was also conducted. The 'Extension' continues to be pushed for.

'Hell Ship' at The Quarantine Station was a critical success and was a fabulous promotion for The Museum. It even managed to make a small profit, despite receiving no outside support. We are currently looking at doing something else at The Quarantine Station late this November.

A major research project this year has been our contribution to the Shire's 'Stage 3 Heritage Review' and I commend Janet for her work on this. We now have some small funding to continue this research.

Our accounts are in good shape and we will make a small surplus on the financial year.

The most pressing problem we currently face is the ageing and retirement of Volunteers. It is getting increasingly difficult to 'man the desk' on the days The Museum is open. Despite what some might think, this is not an onerous task, and with our mentoring program, it is simple to help for a couple of hours every few months. I ask that you consider this over the coming year.

I thank you, the Members, Supporters and the Committee for your contribution to our Society over the past year and look forward to working with everyone over the coming Seasons. See you at the AGM.

Clive Smith  
President

# Nepean Historical Society Inc.

ABN No. 43 013 015 648

(Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 2012)

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at the  
Sorrento Museum  
Mechanics' Institute  
827 Melbourne Road, Sorrento

**Friday 4 October 2019 at 8 pm.**

### **AGENDA**

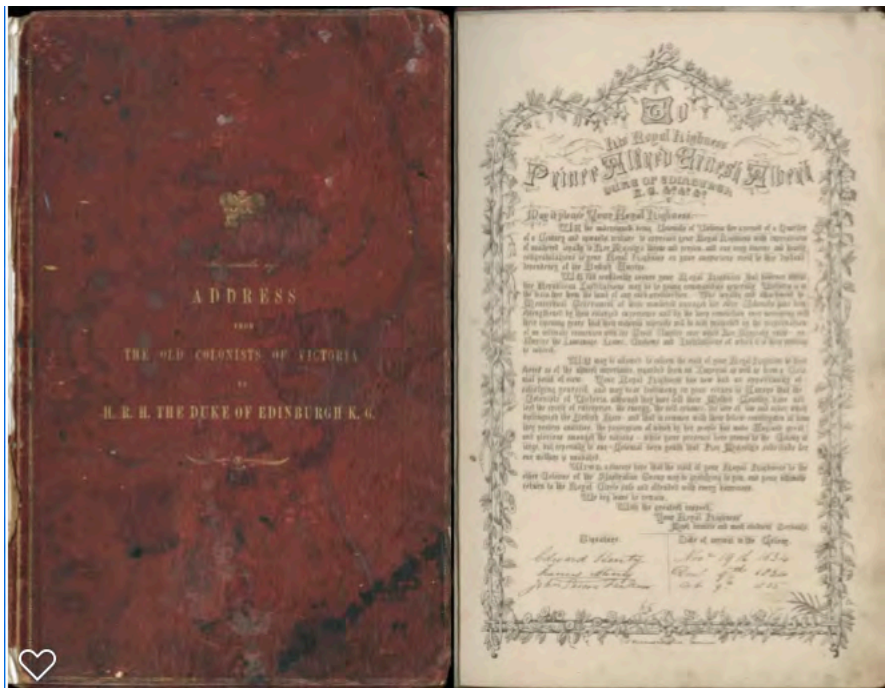
1. Present: Signing of attendance book
  - 1.1 Apologies
  - 1.2 Proxies
2. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Friday 5 October 2018 [Minutes tabled]
3. Action arising from the Minutes
4. Receipt and consideration of the Annual Report of the Committee on the activities of the Association during the preceding financial year [Document tabled]
5. Receipt and consideration of the Financial Statements of the Association for the preceding financial year [Document tabled]
6. Confirm or vary amounts of Annual Subscription and joining fee as per Rule 12.
7. Election of Office Bearers and Members of Committee  
Positions declared vacant: President, Vice President, Treasurer & Secretary, and six Ordinary Committee members
8. Close of Meeting

### **Supper**

*Val Stieglbauer Secretary*

# FACSIMILE OF ADDRESS TO H.R.H THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH and K.G. FROM THE OLD COLONISTS OF VICTORIA

In November 1867, H.R.H. Prince Alfred K.G., the second son of Queen Victoria, visited Australia. During his time in Melbourne he was presented with a loyal address signed by 839 Colonists who had resided in Victoria for a minimum of 25 years. Beside each signature was the date of their arrival. The presentation was handsomely bound in red morocco with an inscription in gold lettering and the address and Prince Alfred's reply, as well as the signatures, were on quality vellum paper. Facsimiles of the volume were available for the signatories to keep and a few extra copies were available for purchase at one guinea. The lithograph was then destroyed.



In July this year, the Nepean Historical Society was contacted by Mrs Cynthia Emery whose grandfather-in-law was one of the signatories who received a copy in 1868. Over its lifetime of 151 years in the family the cover had deteriorated badly. Cynthia was concerned that the document should be housed in an environment where it would be properly preserved and the NHS was the fortunate recipient.

Signature.	Date of arrival in the Colony.
Edward Henry	Nov <sup>r</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup> 1834
Francis Henry	Dec <sup>r</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> 1834
John Pascoe Fawcner	Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup> 1835

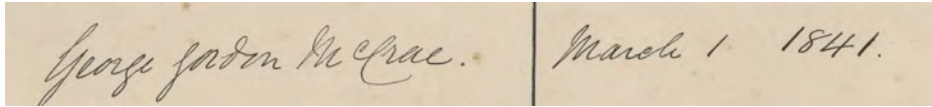
The names of a number of early pioneers connected to our area can be clearly read and Annette Buckland has found that **Edmund Elliget** was the uncle of Walter Francis Elliget whose son, Walter James was married at St John's Sorrento and **Joseph Ankers Marsden** was the father of John Hudson Marsden who designed the Sorrento Post Office.

Edmund Elliget	September 1841
Joseph Ankers Marsden	March 1841

**George White** arrived from Tasmania with his family as an 8-year-old and it is his son, the Wood Merchant and Carrier, after whom George Street Sorrento is named. **John Pascoe Fawcner** spent time in our area as an 11-year-old at the Collins 1803 Settlement and in 1835 was one of the founders of Melbourne.

Geo White	March 1839
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**George Gordon McCrae**, poet and artist, was the eldest son of Georgiana and Andrew McCrae. He spent eight of his formative childhood years on his parents' property on Arthurs Seat where he was drawn to the indigenous people and the local fauna and flora.

A photograph of a piece of aged, light brown paper. On the left side, there is a handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "George Gordon McCrae.". To the right of the signature, separated by a vertical line, is the date "March 1 1841." also written in dark ink.

I have sought expert professional advice about how the document should be stored and have been reassured that NHS is doing the right thing.

*Bergliot Dallas August 2019*

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

We welcome the following new members to the Society and look forward to seeing them at functions and meetings:

**Jonathan & Helen Bartley, Jennifer Sitch  
and Mitchell & Susan Smith**

Thank you to all of you who have paid their membership renewal fees so promptly. We appreciate your continued support.

And many thanks to those who have made a donation. I will be sending out tax receipts shortly.

*Val Stieglbauer*

*Membership Secretary*

### **VALE PENNY MEULEMAN**

We were sad to hear of the recent death of long-time member Penny Meuleman, a stalwart on the museum roster, who also provided us with a wealth of both verbal and written information on the Kirwood and Ritchie families to whom she was related. She will be missed.



## SITUATIONS VACANT



### NEPEAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY VOLUNTEER GUIDES

Our Society has recently obtained from PARKS VICTORIA a one-year Tour Operator Licence for the Mornington Peninsula National Park (from Point Nepean to Cape Schanck). At present we plan only to continue covering from Sorrento to Point Nepean, while we look for additional active people to join our team.

If you are interested in history, are willing to learn, have good communication skills, and enjoy walking outdoors, then you've covered most of the talents required. On average, you may be asked to assist with one tour every 2-3 months, lasting 1-2 hours, always with another guide.

Please look at the list of our current tours below. If you like what you see, but are a bit hesitant, do get in touch to discuss further, and come along to a tour, to help decide if this is the sort of voluntary work you would like to be part of. Check our Nepean Historical Society website, too!



#### Available Tours:

Sorrento Museum and Watts' Cottage  
1803 Collins Settlement Site Historic Area.  
The Forts of Point Nepean  
Sorrento Back Beach History



#### Contact details:

By Email to me at [natasha.wicks20@gmail.com](mailto:natasha.wicks20@gmail.com)

Or Telephone to Bergliot Dallas on 5982.0502

*Natasha Wicks, Tours Co-ordinator*

## August General Meeting

At our August monthly meeting, we heard an interesting talk on the paddle steamers, given by Ian Thomson, Secretary of the Peninsula Ship Society based at Hastings. A third generation Marine Engineer, Ian sailed with the Australian National Line after gaining his Chief Engineer's Certificate, and later became a Commonwealth Marine Surveyor and Examiner of Engineers. He told us about the different companies formed over time to provide transport around Port Phillip, the work the steamers were built for, and how long they lasted, with photographs to illustrate the story, finishing up with great film footage of the paddle steamers serving Sorrento.



*Ian Thomson with Annette Buckland*

*Photo: NHS Collection*

Annette Buckland

## HOW TIMES CHANGE!

"The town next to Portsea is Sorrento. It is almost as high on the prestige ladder but more heavily steeped in history. Fortunately, the council here has insisted that all new development in the main street must be in the local style.

Shops must be built from timber or stone. None of this aluminium, extruded brick or fibreglass for them. The town is recreating its architectural style and is gradually becoming a more attractive tourist destination."

*Extract from an article in the 1990 Home Directory Magazine*

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Recent additions to the library

**Good Men and True: The Aboriginal Police of the Port Phillip District 1837-1853.** Marie Hansen Fels 363.209FEL

**Gateway to Port Phillip Bay.**

Joan Bognuda and Leslie M Moorhead 994.52BOG

**Coast: the artists' retreat: Cape Schanck to Point Nepean**

Danny Lacy 704.943LAC

**Fromelles & Pozieres - In the trenches of Hell**

Peter Fitzsimons 940.427FIT. Donated by Peter Munro, and  
inscribed by the author 'To the Sorrento boys KIA [Killed in Action]

*Sally Payne, Librarian*

### PROMOTIONAL STREET STALLS

Volunteering to work on the Street Stalls is the most flexible volunteering job in Sorrento! If you are feeling that "it is time to give back" but are wary of making a commitment, then we have the volunteering answer for you! Is fun, is good.

### COMING STALLS

**Blairgowrie Saturday** 7th September

**Sorrento Saturday** Saturday 28th September

**Blairgowrie Saturday** Saturday 19th October

**Sorrento Saturday** Saturday 26th October

**Blairgowrie Saturday** Saturday 23rd November

*Jan Weston*

## COMING EVENTS

Our meetings are usually held on the first Friday of the month [unless otherwise notified], in the Mechanics' Institute at the corner of Melbourne & Ocean Beach Roads Sorrento.

Free and open to all - Tea or Coffee afterwards by donation

You are welcome to join us for dinner prior to meetings  
at 6.15 pm at Sorrento & Portsea RSL Club,  
1-33 Hurley Street, Sorrento [off George Street].

Committee meetings are usually held on the fourth Monday of the month.

Friday 6 September at 8 pm

Monthly General Meeting

Speaker: Annette Buckland

*Our genealogy expert will describe her research into the signatories to the 1867 address to the H.R.H.Duke of Edinburgh [see page 5].*

Monday 23 September

NHS Committee Meeting

Friday 4 October at 8 pm

**Annual General Meeting**

see p.4 for details

Monday 28 October

NHS Committee Meeting

Friday 1 November at 8 pm

Monthly General Meeting

Speaker TBA

Monday 25 November

NHS Committee Meeting

Friday 6 December at 8 pm

End of Year Party.

SAVE THE DATE

# NEPEAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

## Committee 2018-2019

PRESIDENT: Clive Smith   VICE-PRESIDENT: Joy Kitch

SECRETARY: Val Stieglbauer   TREASURER: Clive Smith

OTHER MEMBERS: Annette Buckland, Marie Clark,  
Jenny Nixon, Mark Peasley, Janet South

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### Other NHS volunteer positions:

Archivist & Research Officer: Janet South

Collection & Displays: Joy Kitch

Cataloguer & Indexer: Bergliot Dallas

Map Curator: Mark Peasley

Librarian: Sally Payne

Photograph Curator: Maggie Broadhead

Volunteers Co-ordinator: Annette Buckland

Street Stalls & Bookshop: Suzanne Edginton & Jan Weston

Tours: Natasha Wicks

*The Nepean* Editor: Janet South

The Nepean Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the support of:



Disclaimer: Opinions expressed in *The Nepean* are not necessarily those of the Society, whose stated values are non-sectarian and non-political.

