



Colac & District  
Family History Group Inc.

# Coladjins

Inc. No. A0022664A ABN 29618437272

Autumn 2017 Issue 100



1914-1918



## YEO STATE SCHOOL

In 1870, three years after the Yeo - Yeodene locality was settled, the residents applied to have a Common School established. Thomas Gleeson was the first teacher in a school temporarily located in the home of Mr Ackland, while funds were raised to erect a school building. The school was erected in 1872 on land donated by Mr Meredith and the Board of Education had granted £52 towards the total cost of £90.

In May that year an advertisement appeared in *The Argus*. "WANTED a qualified unmarried male TEACHER for the Yeo School 1114". John Camm was appointed as the teacher and the school opened with an attendance between seventy and eighty pupils, including children from the Prosser, Williams, Meredith, Clarke and McCready families.

Just three years later the *Colac Herald* reported on the "very dilapidated state of the school". There were gaps in the floor boards and the building wasn't lined. The article also stated: "The children have been nearly

perished during these cold winter months, several having been laid up in consequence."

The school was closed in 1897 after twenty-five years of operation, due to the depleted pupil numbers.

In 1912 a new school (pictured above) opened on a site donated by Cr John Hancock. Originally named Yeo, the name was later changed to Yeodene.

Miss Daphne Elizabeth (Bessie) Jones was transferred from Mortlake in September that year to take up the role of teacher and ten year old Stanley J W Allen, (back row, far left) son of John Thomas Allen and Mary Delarue was one of the older students.

In 1924 Bessie married Joseph Meredith from Lightwood Park Yeo and remained in the district until her death in 1972 aged 83.

Sadly, four years previously, when Stanley Allen was just 17 years old, he suffered an accident while riding a pony and leading another. Stanley sustained a fractured skull and died the following day.

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## COMMITTEE

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House Cleaning Colac. Dog Wash Colac  
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**Ph: (03) 5232 1506**



## EASTER



The History Centre  
**WILL BE CLOSED**

Good Friday 14th April  
Easter Sunday 16th April  
Easter Monday 17th April - Open 1:30 to 4:30  
Normal hours resume Tuesday 18th April

## OPENING HOURS

Monday & Tuesday 10:00am to 2:00pm  
Thursday, Friday & Sunday 1.30pm to 4.30pm  
Closed Public Holidays  
Out of hours opening by arrangement  
A \$10 fee applies

*We wish everyone a  
Happy and Safe Easter*



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Almost Forgotten Project**  
**Pre-1900 Burials in the Colac Cemetery**  
Email: [almostforgotten1900@gmail.com](mailto:almostforgotten1900@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/almostforgotten1900](http://www.facebook.com/almostforgotten1900)

## OUR PIONEER STORIES WRITING COMPETITION

Entry Forms available from the History Centre or by emailing [secretary@colacfamilyhistory.org.au](mailto:secretary@colacfamilyhistory.org.au) or they can be downloaded from the website  
Competition closes 4 August 2017

## QR CODE

Click on this Quick Response code to check out the latest on our website.



## IMPORTANT DATES TO MARK ON THE CALENDAR

<b>TUESDAY 25 APRIL</b>	<b>ANZAC DAY</b> Crosses with the names of all of the local men who died in 1917 in World War 1 will be placed in the rose garden, Colac War Memorial.	
<b>SUNDAY 7 MAY</b>	<b>WORKSHOP - ORGANISE YOUR FAMILY REUNION</b> This workshop covers every aspect of organising a successful family reunion. Ph or T: 0400 055709 E: treasurer@colacfamilyhistory.org.au Booking Required	
<b>MONDAY 8 MAY</b>	<b>ANNUAL MOTHERS' DAY RAFFLE</b> Tickets and donations for the Mothers' Day raffle are due to be returned to the History Centre. The raffle will be drawn at the May General Meeting.	
<b>TUESDAY 9 MAY</b>	<b>GENERAL MEETING 2:30 PM</b> Guest speaker. Drawing of the Mothers' Day raffle. Followed by a light afternoon tea. Come along and bring a friend. Everyone welcome.	
<b>WEDNESDAY 10 MAY</b>	<b>RED ROCK DISTRICT STORIES</b> Launch of the website and the presentation of the oral histories to the Public Records Office of Victoria, the funding body. More details on page 5.	
<b>TUESDAY 16 MAY</b>	<b>LAUNCH OF "OUR PIONEER STORIES" COMPETITION</b> We are proud to announce "Colac & District Pioneer Stories" competition. The launch will be 2:00pm 16 May at the History Centre. All Welcome.	
<b>THURSDAY 15 JUNE</b>	<b>WINTER NEWSLETTER</b> The Winter edition of Coladjins will be ready for collection. Please submit any stories or articles for the Spring newsletter by the end of May.	
<b>TUESDAY 8 AUGUST</b>	<b>GENERAL MEETING 2:30 PM</b> Final arrangements for "Weekend of Family History" and update on major projects Followed by a light afternoon tea. Everyone Welcome.	
<b>FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER</b>	<b>WEEKEND OF FAMILY HISTORY</b> Mini Writers' Festival for Family Historians Researching & publishing your family history	
<b>SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER</b>	<b>VAFHO FAMILY HISTORY EXPO</b> Local, national and international exhibitors with advice and products to assist with your research	
<b>SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER</b>	<b>HISTORICAL WALKS, CEMETERY TOURS, FAMILY REUNIONS</b> A day full of Family History Activities	
<b>TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER</b>	<b>FINAL GENERAL MEETING FOR 2017 2:30 PM</b> Guest speaker, afternoon tea. Review of Weekend of Family History, Writers' Festival and combined VAFHO & C&DFHG Expo.	



## *Almost Forgotten* Pre-1900 Burials in the Colac Cemetery



### NOT FROM COLAC BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

*Not all of the people who are buried in the Colac Cemetery have actually lived in the district. Research has shown that some people who died at the Colac hospital and were subsequently interred in the Colac Cemetery were transferred from Camperdown and other areas, possibly because of superior facilities at the time. Others were visiting or passing through the district and met with accidents or drowned, the burial taking place in Colac the following day.*

*Thomas Fairbairn had lived in Portland and Hamilton and in the later years of his life, Gippsland. After a serious accident near his home, he was transferred to Melbourne, where he died and his remains were brought to Colac by train to be interred in the Colac Cemetery. Lorraine Black from Colac Writers' Guild, with the help of research from two Family History Group members has compiled his story.*

**T**homas Fairbairn, son of Thomas Fairbairn and Helen Brown, was born in 1817 in Selkirk, Scotland. He was a cousin to Thomas Carlyle, a noted writer of that time, and brought up by his uncle.

Thomas married Margaret Jackson in 1844 and they had three children; Thomas, born in London in 1845, Ann, born c1848 in Hull and Margaret, born 1851 in Islington, London. The family immigrated, arriving in Victoria on October 9, 1852 on the 'Dominion'. The next four children were born at Belfast (Port Fairy), John 1854, Robert 1856, Frances 1858 and Edward 1861.

A stonemason of some talent, Thomas built St Andrews Presbyterian Church at Port Fairy and the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches in Hamilton.



*The former St Andrews Presbyterian Church Port Fairy erected by T Fairbairn in 1854 to replace an earlier wattle and daub church of 1843. Photo: Heritage Victoria*

He also discovered and was contracted to quarry building stone for the Melbourne Museum.

Thomas brought a property of three hundred and nineteen acres at Yinnar, in Gippsland and on July 21, 1879 a clearing sale of work plant and equipment, and household furniture and effects was held at Griffin Street., by H W Thirkell.

It was at Yinnar, late in 1887, that Thomas Fairbairn 'whilst driving home in his buggy from the railway station, and when within a few yards of his property, Yinnar, was thrown from his seat, through the wheels going into a rut and was so badly hurt in his spine that the upper part of his body was quite paralysed.' He was sent to Melbourne 'where he lingered for ten days and then died with Christian resignation'.

Two of Thomas and Margaret's daughters had married men living in the Colac district, which is perhaps why Thomas was interred in the Colac cemetery. The Gippsland property was left to two of his sons.

Margaret died just two years later in 1899 and they are buried together in the Colac Cemetery.

*Our research has also shown that there are also several Colac people memorialised on headstones in the Colac Cemetery, who had died and were buried elsewhere yet are recorded as, and believed to be, buried in Colac. Death Certificates that have been donated or purchased for the "Almost Forgotten" project are helping to establish accurate information about our cemetery.*

# RED ROCK DISTRICT STORIES

**T**he Red Rock District Stories project, which has been conducted throughout the last three years, has reached the final stages. During that time, more than forty people have shared their memories, photographs and stories handed down through the generations. The project, a combined initiative of the Red Rock District Project Association and the Colac & District Family History Group, was made possible by a Public Records Office of Victoria Local History Grant and Bendigo Bank Community Funding which enabled the purchase of lapel microphones for the interviews.



*From left: Margot Griffiths, Merrill O'Donnell, Helene Bell, Mary Doran, Rosemary Richardson and Gary Richardson. Missing from photo, Rob Baillie and Deb Baillie*

The organising committee consisted of Helene Bell, Margot Griffiths, Rob & Deb Baillie, Garry & Rosemary Richardson, Mary Doran and Merrill O'Donnell. Each member has been involved in sourcing the interviewees, recording the interviews and the transcription process. Rob Baillie has undertaken all of the technical work.



*Rob Baillie who recorded and edited more than 30 hours of stories, sorts through the CDs that will be distributed to the Public Records office, local and State libraries.*

The variety of stories have provided a delightful snapshot of the lives of people who grew up, or spent time in the small localities surrounding the iconic Red Rock. These include school days, socialising, working, friends and neighbours and humorous anecdotes about various incidents that happened over the years.

A celebration will be held to mark the end of the project and to unveil a web-page where snippets of the stories will be made accessible.

Story-tellers, relatives, friends and the general public are invited to attend RRRTAG on Wednesday, 10th May from 10am to 12pm. Entry will be by ticket only and tickets are available by contacting Merrill on 0400 055709 or email: [merrillo@bigpond.net.au](mailto:merrillo@bigpond.net.au).

Cost of entry is a gold coin donation and all proceeds will go to the gallery.



# BUCKLEY'S HOPE

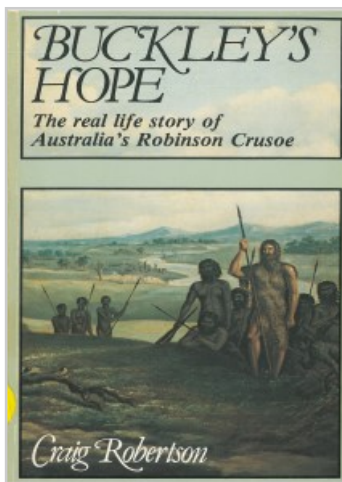
THE REAL LIFE STORY OF AUSTRALIA'S ROBINSON CRUSOE

Author - Craig Robertson -1980

Reviewed by Robyn Currie

## Did history and historians treat William Buckley well?

Author Craig Robertson has read nearly all written references to Buckley's life and created "essentially a work of fiction" called *Buckley's hope; the real life story of Australia's Robinson Crusoe*. The story is supported by an excellent glossary explaining many of the aboriginal words used and a four page list of supporting references.



Whilst still in the militia in England after having fought in Holland in his early 20s, William Buckley was accused and charged of receiving stolen goods. He was eventually sentenced and deported to New South Wales landing in Port Phillip. In 1803 Buckley and two friends ran away from

Sorrento in the Port Phillip district. After separating from his friends, he spent the next thirty two years living among the indigenous people of south western Victoria. He learnt their language, their way of life and "enjoyed a better diet and better health" than his fellow countrymen. Once he returned to live with the white settlers he worked in various jobs and roles, which all needed his diligence and generosity of spirit until 1856 when he died in an accident in Hobart at the age of 76. The authorities in England granted him a pardon but did not assign him a plot of land, his one great desire.

But why was this tall dark man treated so badly? After reading Robertson's account of William's life, I think many people in positions of authority, including John Fawcner and many squatters, disliked the fact that he came from the working class and was an ex-convict, although pardoned. They did not respect the fact that he had learnt the languages and customs of the local aboriginal tribes, that he had learned to mediate between individual tribes as well as between the kulin and the white settlers and that he had learned many skills of the bush and survival. Yet they used him in these roles when it suited them.

I enjoyed reading about his wanderings from Beangala (Indented Heads) to Karaaf (Bream Creek) to Mangowak (Aireys Inlet) to Pomborneit and the Otways. He befriended and became the brother of Torraneuk, a Wothowrong tribesman. I was disturbed to read of the violence that different tribes acted upon each other as well as the lack of respect many of the settlers had towards the aborigines.

This is a well researched book and tells a warm story of a man who endured in hard conditions, who cared for and looked after others even though there were many times in his life when he was alone and treated unjustly.

*Buckley's hope; the real life story of Australia's Robinson Crusoe*, Craig Robertson, 1980.

Copy available for loan from the library to members of the Colac Family History Group.



Robyn Currie has recently returned to Colac to live after many years away from the district. Since commencing volunteering with our group, Robyn has undertaken the task of sorting through and re-categorising the books in our library and has recently been elected to the committee. We welcome new volunteers and appreciate the new skills and fresh perspective they offer.

# COLAC WEEKEND OF FAMILY HISTORY

## FRIDAY OCTOBER 20TH TO SUNDAY OCTOBER 22ND 2017

### VAFHO FAMILY HISTORY EXPO



Organisation for the Family History Expo is in full swing, even though it is several months away. We are excited at the diversity of the exhibitors who will be showcasing their products and sharing their expertise.

If anyone would like to become involved in any aspect of the weekend or would like to be an ambassador, or volunteer in another capacity we are keen to hear from you. There are a variety of tasks, both public and behind the scenes and training and information sessions for volunteers will be held leading up to the weekend.

We are also keen to work with other local groups and organisations to make the most of the opportunities that the weekend will bring.



### ORGANISE YOUR FAMILY REUNION WORKSHOP

Presented by Colac & District Family History Group Inc. Colac & District Family History Group Inc. will be conducting a workshop on how to organise your family reunion! You will learn how to select a small organising group, set the date, choose an appropriate location and venue, who to invite and what tools you will need to make your reunion a success.

**Colac Otway Performing Arts and Cultural Centre,**  
**Cnr Rae and Gellibrand Streets, Colac**  
**7 May**  
**Sunday 2pm-4pm**  
**Adult \$10**  
**Bookings Required: 0400 055 709,**  
**treasurer@colacfamilyhistory.org.au**  
**www.colacfamilyhistory.org.au**

### WRITING COMPETITION

A **Writing Competition** in conjunction with the October Weekend of Family History celebrations will be officially launched at the History Centre, Tuesday 16th May at 2pm. All welcome.. The competition is open to all age groups. To enter you will need to write a story about a person who was born prior to 1900 and lived all or some of their life in the Colac district.

**OUR PIONEER STORIES**

**Inaugural Writing Competition**  
 Colac & District Family History Group Inc

Do you have an interesting ancestor?  
 Are you interested in our history?  
 Or do you just like writing?

Enter a story in **OUR PIONEER STORIES**  
 Writing Competition

You can submit a story about one of your ancestors who lived in the Colac district or any pioneer from the district. Research and information available.

All entries will be published in **OUR PIONEER STORIES**  
 Colac & District Pioneers  
 1st Edition

**ENTRY IS FREE**

**CASH PRIZES TO BE WON**

**ALL ENTRIES PUBLISHED in "Our Pioneer Stories"**

Please complete and return to:  
 media@colacfamilyhistory.org.au  
 Mail to: Our Pioneer Stories  
 C&DFHG PO Box 219  
 Colac 3250  
 Or in person at: History Centre  
 COPACC during opening hours  
 Phone: Merrill on 0400 055709

You can write about a member of your own family or a district pioneer of your choice, or we can help you select someone. There is research available on hundreds of people that could be used for this purpose. The story can cover a person's life history or a specific time in their life. Entry is free and there are cash prizes to be won. Stories from 400 to 1000 words will be accepted and an independent panel will act as judges. Entry forms are now available from the History Centre. The competition closes on Friday 4th August and Winners will be announced at the Family History Writers' Festival, Friday 20th October 2017.

# EARLY DAYS OF FARMING

BY LESLEY J. HUNT

*Sometimes when we are going through papers and items left by a family member after they die, we come across some hidden treasures. Liz Spence found these memories recorded by her father about his early farming life and has kindly shared them with us.*



*Lesley Joseph Hunt 1907 - 1993*

**M**y earliest recollection and experience of dairying began before the First World War. My parents at that time lived alongside the old creamery house at Ondit. It was beside the creamery which belonged to the Colac Dairying Company. The creamery was used by the local farmers who delivered their milk to the depot by horse drawn wagons to be separated by giant separators. The cream was then taken to the Colac factory to be made into butter. The skim milk was taken back to the farms to be used for feeding pigs and calves. This depot closed just before the First World War when the farmers were able to buy their own separators and produce their own cream at home. Cream stands were then built at intervals along the roads, the farmers then left their cream on these stands to be picked up and taken to the Colac factory to be made into butter. I think it was just after the war that the first motor trucks were used for the transport of cream.

During this period most of the cows were milked by hand but there were a few milking machines

starting to make their appearance. They were the old bucket type and powered by stationary engines. Some of the earliest settlers in the Ondit district were the families of Calvert, Gainger, Gray, Allen, Craig, McKenzie, Morrissey, Maloney, Johnstone, Friend, Wisbey, Collins, Darmody, Spratt and no doubt many more I cannot bring to mind.

When we lived at Ondit my father was the rabbitier on the Calvert estate of Gnarwyn which covered a lot of this area at this time. My Mother used to milk half a dozen cows; they grazed on the old Colac to Cressy railway line which ran on the opposite side of the road to the old Ondit Creamery. Two trains a day used to run on this line and four on Thursday.

After the war we moved to a farm at North Cundare, we delivered our cream still by horse to a stand near the old bridge on the Woody Yallock Creek to be taken to a depot on the north side of Beeac. From there it was taken to the Colac factory. During these times cattle were allowed to graze on the roads after receiving a numbered badge from the shire council. These badges hung around the cow's neck. Quite a lot of cattle were lost to cattle duffers who operated at this time.

We moved to Weering in 1922 to another farm where we combined dairying with onion growing. After ten years we moved to South Dreeite on to a larger farm. This was during the depression when we got as little as seven pence a pound for butter. The greatest battle in these parts was to keep down the thistles and rabbits, not to mention the snakes. We had a pack of thirteen dogs to try and control the rabbits. Most of the thistles were in the rocks and could not be cut so during the spring we had to don leather gloves and pull the thistles by hand.

Shortly after this war broke out, and after four years in the army, I came back to Colac and grew onions at Cororooke and North Cundare.

Later I brought a farm at Kawarren where I milked cows, grew potatoes, cut wood and split posts until I retired from dairying in 1961.

I still believe the man on the land has the best and most healthy way of life.. **Lesley J. Hunt**

*If you have letters or jottings that you would also like to share, we want to hear from you. Please contact us by email, mail or phone. All contact details are on page 2.*



## AUNTY BECKIE WAS A REGISTERED MIDWIFE AFTER ALL NO: 2470

### A DELIGHTFUL STORY BY DIANA MCGARVIE



I recently attended at the Family History Centre, “Researching Nurses and Midwives” presented by Suzie Zada. My particular interest being the possibility of gaining further details of my mother’s great aunt, Rebecca Bailey.

The family tradition was, although without formal training, she successfully performed her duties of midwife in our local community between 1880’s and 1920’s, as well as maintaining her private home as a “Maternity home”. After the Midwives’ Act of 1901, these workers were required to be registered formally, and the early ones are recorded in the Victorian Gazette. This is where I found Aunty Beckie’s No. 2470.

As recorded in Dr A E Brown’s “One Quiet Life” (pp.151-2) there were several ladies operating similarly in the town, and were known as “Gamps,” apparently somewhat disparagingly, and their establishments as “Gamps’ Homes”. According to Chamber’s English Dictionary dated 1898, the name “Gamp” was a reference to Sarah Gamp, “a tipling monthly nurse in Dickens’ “Martin Chuzzlewit.” However, a study of many birth certificates of the era reveals that often a “Gamp” and a doctor were present, which would surely indicate a satisfactory relationship. Dr Brown also acknowledges that they were well respected in the town, and a means of decreasing the doctors’ workload.

Rebecca Sarah FOLEY was born in Tasmania in 1859, daughter of Henry (a former convict) and Sarah (née CHICK). Her mother died in 1863 when she was 4 and her brother, Charles 7. After Henry retired in 1867, they moved to Melbourne, and lived with his sister and husband at a hotel in Sandridge (now Port Melbourne). Henry died in 1870, and the aunt became their guardian.

Rebecca, aged 20, married James BOWEN, in 1878, at St Patrick’s Cathedral in Melbourne. Their marriage certificate describes them as “Lady and Gentleman”. My mother said it was an arranged union.

A son, James, was born in Carlton in 1883 and her husband James died in 1887 in Melbourne. Needing means of supporting James and herself, she set up her cottage in Connor St, Colac as a maternity home, opposite what was then, the Infectious ward of the public hospital. She had very few facilities in this 4-roomed dwelling, with kitchen and laundry tasks being carried out on the veranda at the back. She provided accommodation for young mothers before and after their confinements, many being residents from the rural areas of the Otways.

In 1891, Rebecca remarried, Thomas BAILEY, several years her elder, he died in 1910, so again she was alone. Her son, James, married locally, but separated from his wife and returned to live with his mother for a time. He ran a tobacconist and hairdresser business in Colac, and travelled to Melbourne weekly by train to purchase stock. This ended abruptly, when, he failed to return. Aunty never heard from him again.

My mother, Nancy Foley, was born at Aunty’s in 1918, as were many of her siblings. Her eldest brother, Arthur, in 1905, was of very low birth weight and needed to be wrapped in cotton wool and kept warm by the open wood oven.

Mum has memories of visiting Aunty Beckie, (after her retirement), enjoying the cool retreat in her darkened, but spotlessly clean dining room on hot afternoons after school. She would serve thinly sliced bread & butter (the finest Mum had seen) for afternoon tea. She’d had much practice, no doubt, caring for her hungry pregnant/nursing mothers.

My grand-mother, also in Colac, and Aunty were very good friends, more like a mother/daughter relationship. They would visit each other often, and Nan missed her greatly when she and the family moved to Melbourne in 1939.

Rebecca died in 1943, at the age of 84, after a life of hard work and service to the community, with its challenges and setbacks. She is buried in the Colac Cemetery, and until now her grave has remained unmarked. My family and I are in the process of doing so.

*Diana McGarvie*

## MEMBERS' INFORMATION

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**C**r Chris Potter, Mayor of Colac Otway Shire, presided over the AGM which was held on February 14. Joan Rowlands was elected to the role of President for one more year and Norma Bakker and Merrill O'Donnell as Secretary and Treasurer. Robyn Currie was elected as a new member of the committee and joins Liz Spence, Jill Judd, Diana McGarvie and Margaret Thomas.

#### TWO RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED

##### 1. CHANGE OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP TO \$20

In order to simplify membership of our group and to bring it into line with the Historical Society, it was decided to change the annual membership to \$20 per person.

Currently there are four categories of membership, single and joint, full and concession. It was felt that \$20 was a reasonable amount for an annual membership fee, which includes full use of the group's resources and discounted access to photocopying, printing and some events, such as workshops and a quarterly newsletter.

##### 2. RECIPIENTS OF PRINTED NEWSLETTERS TO COLLECT OR COVER POSTAGE COSTS

The second resolution was that all recipients of newsletters by mail will be asked to provide 4 x stamped, addressed DL envelopes, or \$5 to cover the cost of postage and stationery. Alternatively they can collect newsletters from the centre. Newsletters will be printed and ready for distribution quarterly by the 15th of the month, in March, June, September, and December.

## Mothers' Day Raffle

Our **Mothers' Day** raffle provides important funding for the day to day operations of the Family History Group and special projects. Members are asked to provide either a small item for the hamper or a cash donation to put towards a voucher to accompany the prize.



Tickets will be provided to all local members, to be returned by Monday, 8th May

**Thank you for your support**

### ANZAC DAY

Once again this year we will be placing crosses around the rose garden to commemorate the men who died in the Great War, 100 years ago. There will be more than 100 crosses with individual names and dates of death on them, dedicated to Colac and district servicemen who died in 1916.

Beryl Clissold has been busy getting the crosses ready for Anzac Day and will be at Memorial Square shortly after 4am with a team of volunteers to put the crosses and candles in place. If you are going to the Dawn Service this year, take some time to look at the crosses. It is a humbling experience to realise how many young men from a small town perished in just one year.



### MISSING BOOKS - CAN YOU HELP?

The Family History Group has built a substantial collection of books relevant to people researching their family history in the Colac and surrounding districts.

Unfortunately it appears that the **Warrnambool Pioneer Registers, Volumes 1 & 2** have been borrowed or taken from our library and not returned. The library is a valuable resource for members and visitors and we urge anyone who has these books, to please return them.

Also a **Scrapbook** containing the **Early History of the Colac Genealogical Society** was shown to some members recently and is now missing. This item is irreplaceable and it is vital that it is returned to the Family History Group archives.

## VISITORS & NEW BOOKS

Joyce Crook from England wanted to visit the district where her uncle, Charles Henry Sharp had lived for a few years before enlisting in the AIF in the First World War. Good friends Pam & Eddie Hayhurst and Carol Prescott also from England, made the trip with Joyce.



From Left: Pam Hayhurst, Carol Prescott, Joyce Crook and Eddie Hayhurst

After visiting the history group, the party drove to Red Rock to view the district where Charles had spent his time in Australia.

Jill Borch recently visited friends and relatives in Colac and was spending time at the History Centre when she heard a familiar voice. Beverley Steele, a relative was donating a copy of her new book about the Riches family. Jill was thrilled to be the first to purchase a copy.



Jill, left with Beverley

Beryl "Madge" Sprague spent several years of her childhood in the Otways and attended Beech Forest School. Her family were on a trip down memory lane when they called into the history centre recently. Madge's young brother was a baby when he died and is buried at the Wyelangta Cemetery and she has memories of the log truck having to take the little coffin from their home because it was not accessible by any other transport.



Madge, 94, with her family and the Beech Forest School in 1935 with Madge in the back row and Cliff Young nearby

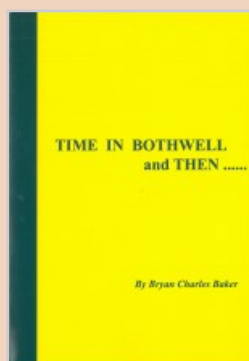
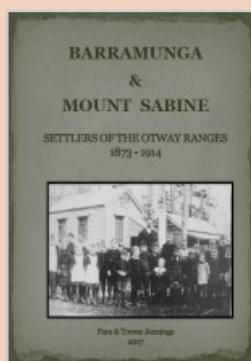
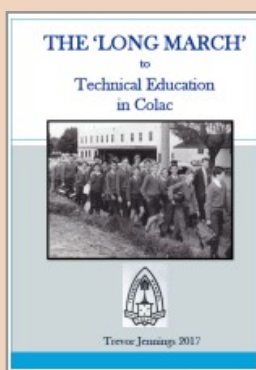
any other transport.

Canadian Catherine Ward, nee Scupin spent most of her life believing that her father, Frederick Scupin, was an Englishman. Research by son-in-law Schuyler Boll uncovered that he had been born and raised near Colac and that there were still relatives in Australia. The family were recently in Colac and while here, visited the cemetery and the graves of several relatives who lived in the district, including her grandmother, Caroline Scupin nee Brooks.



From Left: Stephen Brooks, Catherine Ward, Stephanie and Schuyler Boll. Colac Herald photo

## NEW BOOKS AT THE HISTORY CENTRE



**Hot off the press!** Three new books have been donated to our Family History collection: **TIME IN BOTHWELL and THEN...** A history of the Baker family, by Bryan Charles Baker; **THE FAMILY OF ROBERT AND LEAH RICHES** by Beverley Steele and ... Also there are two new books soon to be released by Pam and Trevor Jennings that will be available for sale soon from the History Centre. **THE LONG MARCH to Technical Education in Colac** and **BARRAMUNGA & MT SABINE, Settlers of the Otway Ranges 1873 to 1914**

## MEMORIES...



### RIVERNOOK HOUSE

The popular Rivernook House, Princetown, has made a record. On Saturday, December 24, eight four-in-hand coaches (with two travelling cans of luggage) ran the line from Timboon to the Gellibrand, conveying no less than seventy-four visitors. Fishing in the vicinity has been all that could be desired, large hauls of bream, trumpeter, salmon trout, mullet and blackfish having been taken. The most successful in landing large baskets, both from the sea and river, principally bream and trumpeter, have been the following:- Messrs. E.G. WOLLASTON, H.W. FIGGIS, D. ANDERSON, C.E. WRIGHT, H.W. PYVIS, F. DAVIES, H.E. COOK – Ballarat; P. BRITNELL, W.P. GAY, T. HUDSPETH, R. HUDSPETH, F.C. NEEDHAM, N. PLAISTED, C. PLAISTED, H. SIM, P. SIM – Melbourne; W. WILKS, Cyrus GLOVER, SEELEY and LEITCH. Golf, tennis and cricket have pleasantly filled up portions of time since Christmas.

On Saturday last “Melbourne and Geelong” played cricket against “Ballarat and Rivernook,” fifteen a side, such old veterans as FIGGIS, WOLLASTON and GLOVER joining in the game, while Charlie WRIGHT (captain of the last-named side) fully maintained his reputation as a wicket keeper. The match resulted in a tie, each team scoring 179. The Rivernook pitch is turfed, with buffalo grass on surface, and is neatly kept.

*The Cobden Times, Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> January, 1905*

## Thanks to these organisations for their ongoing support

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