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Treasurer Liz Chambers: 03 52314572 **Annual Membership fee: \$20.00 per person – due in May.**

Historical Society Meetings are held monthly on the 4th Wednesday at 7.30pm, except in January, also during winter on the 4th Saturday at 1.30pm.

Open Hours for the public at COPACC History Centre: Thursday, Friday and Sunday 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Working Bees at the History Centre are on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays - 10.00am to 12.00 midday.

Forthcoming Meetings/Events -

- Wednesday May 25th 7.30 pm CDHS - Annual General Meeting - please attend to show your support of the Society, + bring an item for "Show & Tell".

- Saturday June 25th 1.30 pm CDHS - Guest Speaker: Keith Walsh re family business – Walsh Electrical.

- Saturday July 23rd 1.30pm CDHS - Guest Speaker: Alan Doyle – Murray Street Businesses of my Family – Central Stores-Morrison, Butchery-Hills & Thomas, Spendlove the Shoeman, Union Club Hotel-Marks.

- Saturday August 13th at 10am Geelong & District Historical Association at Birregurra – (Quarterly Meeting)

- Saturday August 27th 1.30 pm To be arranged.

A Note from the President

The article by Dawn Peel in this issue of the newsletter outlining the beginnings of the Kanyana Festival almost 50 years ago, follows on from the screening of the 30 minute 16mm colour film, which was shown at our March meeting. In order to preserve this valuable archive, filmed by the Colac Camera Club, we have submitted an application to the Colac-Otway Shire Community Funding Programme to have the film professionally prepared and converted to DVD before next years Kana Festival.



Thanks go to those members who assisted in hosting 88 Grade 3 and 4 school children in early May at the History Centre. Another group of 67 school children are coming at the beginning of June. With so little history currently being taught in our schools I believe this is a valuable contribution we can make towards fostering an interest in our local history.

On Saturday 14th May, in conjunction with the Family History Group, we hosted the quarterly meeting of the Geelong & District Historical Association. The discussion centred on the use of websites and social media to raise the profile and reach of our societies and publicise projects we might be undertaking. Our website point of contact has been through a link to the Shire website. However, the Shire recently launched a brand new website, and our contact information has vanished completely. We need to remedy this situation as soon as possible.

At Left: Member John Knight with Colac School Children

Meetings Report-

Wednesday March 23rd

A 16mm film of the 1958 Kanyana Festival was shown. This proved to be an interesting insight into Colac of the late 50's. A continuous computer slide show of the Bard Brucker Kanyana photos gave another insight into past Kanyana Festivals.

Wednesday April 27th

Robert Wuchatsch. Robert, a member of our Society, spoke about the historical background of his Pirron Yallock property and the controversy around the spelling of the word Stony/ey. Should it be Stonyford or Stoneyford ?

Robert also gave an insight into the dry stone walls of the Stonyford area, the Stonyford Hotel, the coming of the railways, World War 2 entrenchments in the Stoney Rises and many other interesting details of the area.

What Has Been in the News?

Colac Herald, 2016

February 3rd **Festival features sewing machines.** Sewing machine collectors Wayne and Judi McKail will showcase part of their impressive collection at the *Colac annual Heritage Festival* on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th. They have more than 500 sewing machines, but will only bring 80 to Colac, concentrating on the Singers. A major attraction would be an 1880 mother of pearl industrial cornely chain stitch embroidery machine once owned by a professional cornely embroiderer in Melbourne. She is reported as embroidering some of the garments for ice-skaters Torvill and Dean when touring Australia.

February 26th **Unveiling of cultural wall to attract crowd.** There is to be an unveiling of a very colourful story-wall painting at the *Youth Health Hub* created by Aboriginal artist Fiona Clarke and her husband Kenneth McKean. A sensory garden at the *Neighbourhood House* would also be opened in Colac on Saturday 27th. Colac Area Health's board of directors and Corangamite Catchment Management Authority will host a community gathering on the weekend to celebrate and engage the region's indigenous community including the showing of "Putuparri and the Rainmakers" film.

March 7th **Anchor buried in lake for decades.** Two children discovered a century-old anchor 300 metres from the shore of dried- up Lake Colac. Colac Otway councillor Chris Smith researched at the *Colac and District Historical Society* and found that the "*Dorothy*" was one of two boats brought to Colac in the early 1900's as a tourist attraction opening in January (1912). However the venture failed and the "*Dorothy*" sat idle on the lake before sinking. The Colac Herald reported that the ship's sinking could have been a result of "*mischievous local youths*" who swam out to the boat and opened its sea cocks. It was blown up by the council in the 60's. Mr Smith has now led a team to salvage the large anchor. He hoped the anchor would be restored and displayed along the foreshore.

Wednesday March 9th **Dorothy's past unearthed.** This historic boat started its life on the Gippsland Lakes at Lake Tyres. A team of horses towed the steamer boat from Geelong. The *Dorothy's captain - John Burgess* wrote to the Colac Herald saying the move took three weeks and broke three bridges and a few of the trolley's wheels collapsed. He said that when launching the Dorothy into the lake it got stuck and they had to wait for an anchor and heavy rope to winch the boat to deeper water. The winching took six days. He put the opening as January 1912. The owners employed a string band to attract people to take a ride but just as business began to build, WW1 commenced. When the captain returned from service in 1918 he found the boat had sunk. The council wanted the wreck removed when the lake's water began to recede in 1960 and the boat was revealed. When the council had the boat detonated all of it was removed from the lake and only the propeller was kept as a memento and is on display at *Colac's yacht club*.

March 19th **Salt lake turns orange.** Dry conditions and dunalliella salina, a salt-loving alga are likely causes of lake Corangamite's pinkish-orange water, with a salt crust around the foreshore. The alga species produces beta carotene which also grows in carrots and is used as a natural food colouring in other countries. Lake Corangamite is Australia's largest permanent saline lake, covering about 230 square kilometres when full and its name is Aboriginal for "bitter" or salty.

April 1st **Going ...Going...Gone.** Drought has continued to deplete Lake Colac and lake historian John Martin declared it was empty this week.

April 1st **Colac cancer centre receives first clients.** Colac's cancer treatment centre has opened its doors and accepted its first patients, relieving them of a 150-kilometre return trip to Geelong. Colac Area Health Foundation's community campaign –the Long Road Appeal raised more than \$300,000 to make this possible. The centre opened on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Geelong's Andrew Love Centre's visiting oncologist Doctor Madhu Singh visits on Wednesdays to administer chemotherapy. Supportive therapies are given on other days.

April 8th **Jewellers celebrate diamond anniversary.** Woods Jewellers celebrates its 60th anniversary next week. Robert Woods wonders if his father John would have imagined his family business still going six decades after he first opened its doors in Murray Street Colac. Robert Woods' son Ben is also a watchmaker and a talented jeweller while his daughter Amanda had a specific interest and expertise in gems. Other people involved in the business are Robyn Woods, Mandy Vickers, Carla Marshall and Deborah Osborne. Woods Jewellers has developed a strong relationship with watchmakers Seiko and Citizen since they opened in Australia.

April 13th **St Brendan's Heritage Day-District trip down memory lane.** More than 300 people visited Cororooke's St Brendan's precinct of Catholic Church and school buildings which were open to the public on Sunday 10th.

Six buildings at Coragulac were open to them and a morning mass began the festivities which included tours, lunch, afternoon tea, live music and children's activities.

April 14th 2016 . **The Age. Leading Victorian father-and-son doctor's pass on within three days.** A belated tribute appeared in the Age Newspaper to *GP and surgeon Keith Torode 28-4-1923--6-8-2015*. He attended Carey Grammar and then Melbourne University to study medicine as soon as he was 17, graduating in 1944.

He married Dorothy (Polly) Pollock in 1947 and did a locum in Colac then joined a senior GP, Dr Bill Nance in 1946. "His passion was surgery, including orthopaedic, general, ear, nose and throat, obstetrics and gynaecology." In 1958 Keith and Polly built a family home on the edge of Lake Colac where they raised 5 children and their proximity to Colac Yacht Club stimulated a love of sailing by first teaching himself the skills and he also built several sailing boats. Keith became commodore of the Colac Yacht Club. When his interest changed to farming he purchased a bush farm at Kawarren in 1971 then relocated to Yeo, overlooking Lake Colac where he developed a Murray Grey stud. On moving to Highton in 2000, Keith purchased a yacht and sailed from the Geelong Yacht Club. He died aged 92." Keith was very committed to the community of Colac- as a city boy he always said that coming to Colac was the best thing that happened to him. In Colac, Keith had the opportunity to serve the community through medicine and yachting." He passed this commitment on to his children and it "was most evident in his son Ian", also a doctor, who unexpectedly passed away three days after his father.

April 15th Colac Herald. Indigenous support pledge. Colac health officials have pledged to work with the *Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative* helping indigenous people. A memorandum of understanding was signed by Colac Area Health chief executive officer Geoff Iles and Wathaurong chief officer Rodney Jackson. About 240 Aboriginal people lived in Colac and district and Aboriginal health workers and a lot of other community activities such as justice and youth services would work from Colac Area Health buildings.

April 18th Cancer Centre titles honour supporters. Colac's new cancer treatment facility-*the Frank Minchinton Centre*, takes its name from the late Weeaprouinah potato farmer who donated \$150,000 to the centre's development. A treatment room inside the centre is named the *Margaret Tann Treatment Room* to show recognition for a \$75,000 donation from Mrs Tann's estate. *Mr Norm Tann* officially opened the centre on Saturday 16th. The cancer centre has opened in less than two years due to an "outstanding level of community support and understanding". The public Long Road Appeal reached its goal of \$250,000 in eight months.

April 18th Crosses honour fallen soldiers. The Colac and District Family History Group is co-ordinating a special tribute to the region's fallen First World War soldiers for the second year running by preparing more than 100 crosses. Each cross will feature a soldier's name and the date on which he died. The tribute recognises 100 years since they died and the crosses will be placed in the rose bed at Colac's Memorial Square before Colac's Anzac Day dawn service on April 25th.

April 22nd. Cemetery flag project unfurls for Anzac Day. Cemetery workers will place 825 Australian flags next to the graves of returned Australian servicemen and women buried at *Colac Cemetery*. Also 70 flags next to the graves of returned Australian servicemen and women at *Beeac*, *Warncoort* and *Whoorel cemeteries*. Colac Cemetery won the Community Service category at the 2015 Colac Otway Business Awards for its efforts with this inaugural project. Cemeteries are a visual link to history and the flags will be on display until April 29th.

April 29th Wanda's history now revealed, taken from the Colac Herald's OPINION- LETTERS- a response by *Norman Houghton* to a correspondent's query about the history of the steam boat Wanda that plied the waters of Lake Colac before the "*Dorothy*". In 1901, 2 Colac business men, A Miller, merchant and W. McIntosh, dentist, purchased the Wanda then working on the Yarra river as a pleasure cruiser. It had 2 cabins and could carry 70 passengers. The vessel was steamed to Geelong then by jinker to Colac and launched into Deans Creek and manoeuvred over the bar into the lake in November 1901. Afternoon and evening cruises were offered and hourly trips during school holidays. A canvas canopy was erected over the full length of the vessel for weather protection and shade and musical entertainment was provided, but an application for a liquor licence was refused. The vessel did not work during winter and it was tied at the jetty in 1904 when it was swamped during a violent storm and sank to the bottom, damaging the hull. The water logged wreck gradually broke up, leaving the boiler as a navigation nuisance near the jetty. It was removed in 1913 by the Colac Yacht Club to create clear water near its jetty, which was then adjacent to the boatshed.

April 29th. Sailors celebrate club's history. About 150 past and present members of the **Colac Yacht Club** gathered at the clubhouse to celebrate their 135th anniversary. 500 photos from the club's history were on display and yachts from past eras sat on the lawn in front of the clubhouse. (Not enough water to float them in Lake Colac since 2003.) Five club life members and 1987 world Laser sailing champion Stuart Wallace spoke during the Celebratory dinner. Colac Yacht Club veterans included *Rex Armitage*, *Dianna Cowan*, *Gwenda Evans*, *Geoff Hunter* and *Pat Shelton*; they planted a melaleuca tree in front of the clubhouse. Past and present commodores included *John McKenzie*, *Peter Stephens*, *Geoff Hunter*, *Tony McKenzie*, *Ian Lane*, *Stephen Cartwright*, *Mike Halloran*, *Daryl Langdon*, *Pam Cuthbertson*, *Chris Parker*, *Toni Cuthbertson* and *Ken Coulson*.

***Colac & District Historical Society members** have devoted window space in the History Centre during April/May, to a large display of Colac Yacht Club memorabilia as part of the club's 135 years anniversary celebrations.

THE FIRST KANYANA FESTIVAL

By Dawn Peel

In May 1957 the Mayor of Colac, Cr Stalker, called a meeting of local organisations and began by saying that 'Colac was the Metropolis of the South-West' and that holding a festival week would advertise the town and district.

There was a good response to this idea. At the next meeting, held in August, 1957, many organisations were represented and it was decided that a festival would be held between 1 and 10 March 1958, culminating over the Labour Day holiday weekend and would be 'designed to give Colac a week of fun, sports, displays, music, drama – in fact all sorts of entertainment rolled into ten days to help one forget the cares and worries of the everyday world'. It would be called *Kanyana*, a suggestion submitted by Helen McMahon of Armstrong Street and believed to mean 'a meeting of the people'. It was hoped that this first ten days of festivity would 'become the forerunner of even bigger and better Kanyanas in future years'.

No effort was spared with the advertising. As well as the local press, 3CS radio was well used, with the hourly time signals being followed by 'Its Kanyana time in Colac', as well as paid advertisements and a quarter-hour weekly session for 7 weeks prior to the event. Publicity was given by Russ Tyson on the ABC. The Regent Theatre screened a publicity slide. There were roadside posters on the major garages and service stations, while Mr R. Saddler organised for six 8 foot by 2 foot posters to be carried by road transports between Colac and Melbourne for some weeks prior to the festival. By arrangement with the PMG outwards mail from Colac Post Office was suitably post-marked during the month of February. A letterhead was designed and used on all outwards correspondence, while letter seals, some 10,000 of them, were distributed to business houses for affixing to outgoing mail. One thousand window posters were printed, and displayed by shopkeepers and businesses, while one large such poster (window available courtesy of Mr Gilbert), advertised most of the events of the week. One thousand car window stickers were distributed.

The first Kanyana was a brilliant success. Nineteen events were listed in the official programme. Every imaginable organisation seemed to offer some activity. The Junior Chamber of Commerce brought Pixie Town - a mechanical, electrically operated puppet show 60 feet by 10 feet and much in demand over Australia and New Zealand - which was set up in Foy-Billson's department store. Winifred Nance Kindergarten conducted a fun carnival, day and night, at the corner of Gellibrand Street and Johnstone's Lane - with a merry go round, train, lucky envelopes, hoop-la, spinning wheels and other attractions including pony rides and competitions for the children. The Historical Society mounted an exhibition in the library on the Memorial Square. There was an exhibition of paintings by Mrs Glover Fleay and John Gardner. Other groups to offer activities included the CWA, the Camera Club, the 3CS Sunshiners Club which mounted a floral Carpet in the 3CS auditorium, the Yacht Club which held its annual Regatta over the holiday weekend, the Colac Musical Appreciation Circle, the Salvation Army which gave a band recital in the Botanic Gardens, the Badminton Association, the Colac Cricket Club, the Apex Club, the Water Ski Club which staged a speedboat carnival, and the Kennel, Poultry and Cage Bird Club. There was a Highland Gathering, a model aeroplane display, a car rally, a golf tournament, various dinners with speakers drawn from outside the town, a dance in the Rowing Club rooms, and a grand Kanyana Ball.

One feature has left lasting memories with those who participated. A massed display by district schoolchildren was held on the Wednesday, with that afternoon declared a public holiday for the whole shire – so that the public could 'watch the magnificent tableau at the Western Oval'. The official programme predicted that: *one of the features of the children's display will be the opening tableau which will comprise letters 20 yards long and eight children abreast making the word Kanyana. Fronting the word will be a boomerang made by children in the infant departments. ... The public can be assured that they will have the privilege of viewing something they will not see again for a number of years.*

Well they were right about that! It was unlikely that the planners, organisers and participants in this event, which involved over 3000 children, would have been in a hurry to repeat it. The logistics were overseen by specialists from the Education Department. Each school had practised its part separately and there had been one rehearsal, but those who took part on the day have few memories of the overall effect the display was designed to produce. It worked as planned but the participants memories are more of the costumes they were asked to wear and the discomfort of the day. It was a very hot afternoon and the children had little or no access to water. Marjorie Morkham remembers that: 'we children participated in a pageant at the Western Oval – sort of flag or arm movements in a pattern like you see at old Olympic Games or 1954 visit by the Queen. We were dressed in sort of white pyjamas' The red cummerbunds that many of the boys wore 'like pirates' were a feature which has remained in Norman Houghton's memory. He recalled: 'We had a pirate hat (made of cardboard) painted black with the skull and crossbones on the front plus a small wooden sword painted white to do the thrusting with at the right time. I can't remember anything else. I suppose none of it made sense to us as we were in the middle and could not see the overall result.'

No doubt the spectators also found it to be a long hot afternoon.



AT LEFT – Marjorie Morkham recalls: The library had a float in the parade which was a little cameo of fairy tale characters. Several children, 2 or 3 on each side of the back of a small truck, peeked out from an oval cut out like a picture frame. Those children held a ribbon and the ground crew walked along holding the other end of the ribbon. I was Prince Charming in blue satin pants, my sister Patricia was the pieman that Simple Simon met. Seen here is Patricia holding her tray of 'pies'- in reality rock cakes made by her grandmother – to be thrown to spectators. *(Photo used with permission of Patricia Campigli nee Morkham)*

The Kanyana Street Procession held in Murray Street on the final Monday 'was almost a mile long', leading people to the gardens and so to the activities on the lake. As a culmination of the week there was an evening barbecue and street dancing in Gellibrand Street near the SEC corner with everyone invited to 'join in the fun and the finale of what is hoped to be an outstanding week of gaiety and festivity'. This

concluding event, the Kanyana committee stated in its report, 'was almost killed by the enthusiasm of the large number attending'.

The 1958 Kanyana did prove to be 'a first', as over the years the festival became a landmark event on the Colac calendar. It would later devolve into our Kana weekend of today.

Our society holds the minutes of the inaugural Kanyana committee, from which the information in this article is drawn, a selection of programmes from later festival weeks, and access to a large number of photographs taken in subsequent years by Colac Herald photographer Bela Bard-Brucker. These all provide a window onto our community over the last 60 years, with their mentions of long past clubs, activities and businesses. One year chosen at random, 1979, can illustrate this. In 1979 Kanyana week included a theatre restaurant presented by the Colac Players in the Victoria Hall, Provan's Mechanical Museum and the Rossmoyne Arts and Craft Centre were both open, Colanda parents ran a fete, Rostrum held a public

speaking event, lunch hour concerts entertained people in the memorial square, a 'Fleece to Fashion' parade was organised by the Quota Club, and a motor show took place at the showgrounds. The first Historical Centre was the venue for the 'Sunday Painters Exhibition' presented by the Colac and District Historical Society Auxiliary for many years and largely organised by the society secretary Nancy McGarvie, supported by the president Jack McGarvie and a band of helpers from the auxiliary.

The original Kanyana committee sponsored a photographic record of the 1958 carnival week, which was made by members of the Camera Club. It covered nearly every function during Kanyana and the committee planned the production of a '30 minute colour film of Colac's first Kanyana [which] will be completed and screened on every available opportunity'. One such opportunity came nearly 60 years later when members of the Colac and District Historical Society were able to see this film at our 2016 March meeting. Our viewing of the film evoked much discussion and many memories.



ABOVE - The Western oval showing the large "KANYANA" and Boomerang signs which were made up from school students standing in formation. The students assembled on the Wednesday afternoon of the week-long first Kanyana Festival in March 1958. This was certainly a remarkable accomplishment for Colac's time, especially for a once only rehearsed assembly of over 3,000 school students. The event was not only captured on camera, but also showcased and saved, which survives today as mentioned - on 16mm film.

(Image from Historical Society files – photocard 363).

Many of our members have been involved, not just in the first Kanyana but in various roles in the festival over the following years. It would make a valuable contribution to our collection, as well as adding significantly to the recorded history of the area, if members were to donate any spare memorabilia, or, more importantly, to write down their own recollections of Kanyana.

Perhaps some members would prefer to speak to a committee member who could take notes about special memories. If you are able to help in any of these ways, any contributions may be left in the top drawer of the cataloguers' filing cabinet, from where they will be listed and then filed as an addition to the Kanyana archive.

“THE BIG ANCHOR” **and THE DRYING LAKE ADVENTURE -**

5th March 2016 - *By Craig Pink*

A chance to see an anchor, believed to be from the former S.S. “Dorothy” being removed from Lake Colac on Saturday 5th March 2016 was certainly an exciting day some of us will not forget in a hurry. However, upon first sighting the anchor (*as per photo below*), one immediately has the thought that it is way too big to be the Dorothy’s original anchor.

The most feasible explanation is even now well proven by former “Dorothy” Captain – John Burgess – who at the time of the “Dorothy” removal in November 1961, was Harbour Master at Currie, King Island.

Captain Burgess’ first command was the “Dorothy” on Lake Colac, his own reminisces in the Colac Herald of 1st December 1961 clearly state that when the “Dorothy” was finally launched in January 1912 (*in the vicinity of today’s Yacht club area*) “*it got stuck in the mud ...*” “*we had to send to Melbourne for a big anchor and some heavy rope ...*” - his own words stated. Upon arrival of the heavy anchor and rope “*we dropped the anchor into the deep water about 150 yards out and with a crab-winch on the “Dorothy’s” deck after about six days we successfully pulled the vessel into the water”.....* Former Captain Burgess also goes on to clearly say that once the “Dorothy” was mobile, they pulled up the anchor and headed down off the yacht club wharf (*the site of today’s Rowing Club – see page 9 of previous newsletter*), and put down a permanent mooring in the deeper water – this is quite clearly the site of the anchor which was removed from the lake bed on 5th March this year (2016).



AT LEFT – Saturday 5th March 2016, the anchor in question just removed from Lake Colac, outside the Rowing Club foreshore area. A broken cable still attached to the anchor was part of a given up salvage process from the November 1961 removal of the Dorothy hull.

Whilst the Dorothy was certainly not large enough to carry this anchor, it also had no means to lift an anchor this size up on its deck, and if the anchor was hung over the side, at least half the anchor would have dragged in the water.

BELOW - at Left – Looking back to the foreshore some 300 yards offshore where the old mooring site of the Dorothy was.

BELOW – The smoke stack (*funnel*) sits in the mud, spot on beside the former Dorothy site. The mooring anchor some distance further out. (*The funnel remains have since been removed*).





ABOVE – Showing the outline of a smaller boat around the 16 to 18 foot length which is embedded in the mud, a distance out from the Lake Colac Rowing Club. Many copper nails can still be seen in the wreckage. Several other wreckages can also be seen throughout the area out from the Lake Colac Rowing Club.



ABOVE – With some water at this point still in the middle of the lake, 10 year old Zac Barwise from Beeac was amazed to find a 20hp outboard motor, which was quite some distance out on the drying mud. The end of March saw Lake Colac dry all but for a few drains and a few underground springs showing a wet patch on the surface.



AT LEFT – Another of several boat wreckages remaining out from the Rowing club area to the east - pictured is an end section, which is of rather heavy wooden construction/ materials and covered deeply over in mud.

Numerous remains of timber debris lay on the lake bed, along with various other remains scattered over the dry lake area. Many boats over the years carried a weight, which was easier to throw over the side to hold the boat while the likes of fishing for redfin. Cogs, railway line, flywheels, all sorts of weights/scrap steel remained on the lake bed in the form of these weights, which were removed in the weeks following the removal of the large mooring anchor, and will hopefully end the hazard of debris/obstructions. Hopefully the lake refills to previous levels in coming years.

THE VICTREE WASTE BURNER

The VICTREE mill was installed in 1968 to cut, air dry and value add Beech Forest softwoods. The Plant then turned out 10,000 cubic metres annually and rising each year thereafter to reach near 50,000 cubic metres. This produced a lot of off cuts, shavings and sawdust. At that time there was no on-sell market for this material, so it was burnt.

The EPA (*Environment Protection Authority*) specified certain standards for how to burn wood waste and this burner was an approved design for large volumes. Bennet's mill at Birregurra had a similar burner.

NOT the nose cone of rocket

• IT looks vaguely like the nose-cone of a rocket, but it's a waste burner at the Victree Products timber mill under construction at Irrewarra.

The burner stands 63 feet high and is 50 feet in diameter at the base. Pre-fabricated in New South Wales, it was assembled on the site at the mill.

The burner will take all waste products from the mill, including sawdust, bark and waste timber,

which will be fed into it by a conveyor belt.

A fire burning continuously will be controlled by the shutters visible around the base of the burner.

It is claimed there is virtually no fire risk, as a screen over the top traps sparks, soot and any burning material.

AT LEFT – Colac Herald September 16th 1968, the photo on back page appeared with this writing, explaining about the newly installed waste burner at the VICTREE sawmill.

By the 1980's the wood waste market started to develop in earnest and the waste could be sold to makers of manufactured boards and the like, but even so, VICTREE continued to produce more waste than it could sell so still needed a burner.

In 1995 VICTREE, in an association with AKD developed export markets for waste wood and formed Softwood Plantations Exporters for the Japanese and Chinese markets. SPE commenced its first shipment from Geelong in 1997.

By this time there was no need for the burner at Irrewarra so it was closed and removed.

(text - thanks to Norman Houghton).



Smoke stack at Victree timber mill

AT LEFT – The VICTREE waste burner as it appeared in the "Colac and The Otway's Victoria" publication brochure in 1985. This view is looking to the west/south west direction.



CRAIG'S CONUNDRUM

LAST ISSUE ANSWER - The former sawdust burner at the old VICTREE timber mill site on the Princes Highway at Irrewarra, as taken in September 1968 – see further explanation about its life and use on previous page -

ABOVE AT LEFT - Why is this child playing on the newly laid railway line ??

(If you really need a clue, it's outside a railway station).

The date is – July 1972.

ANSWER – NEXT ISSUE.

COLAC and DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ROSTER 2016 - 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Thankyou.

Month	Thursday	Friday	Sunday
JUNE 2016	2 nd D. Missen 9 th I. Barlow 16 th G. Splatt 23 rd J. Knight 30 th L. Spence	3 rd C. Pink 10 th G. Bray 17 th E. Chambers 24 th R. Osborne	5 th A. McIntosh 12 th D. Cowan & M. Facey 19 th B. McDonald 26 th M. Facey & D. Cowan
JULY 2016	7 th D. Missen 14 th I. Barlow 21 st G. Splatt 28 th J. Knight	1 st C. Pink 8 th G. Bray 15 th E. Chambers 22 nd M. Saddlier 29 th L. Spence	3 rd A. McIntosh 10 th D. Cowan & M. Facey 17 th B. McDonald 24 th M. Facey & D. Cowan 31 st L. Spence
AUG 2016	4 th D. Missen 11 th I. Barlow 18 th G. Splatt 25 th J. Knight	5 th C. Pink 12 th G. Bray 19 th E. Chambers 26 th M. Saddlier	7 th A. McIntosh 14 th D. Cowan & M. Facey 21 st B. McDonald 28 th M. Facey & D. Cowan