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 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.

Website address: colachhistoricalsociety.org.au

**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 - 10.00 am-12.00 midday.

Please note that the Colac History Centre will close on Friday 16th December for Christmas & New Year break and re-open Thursday 19th January.

Forthcoming Events.

Wednesday November 23rd.

7.30pm Meeting -Speaker Alan Willingham - "Two Scots in Victoria", the Architecture of Davidson & Henderson.

Tuesday December 6th

7.00pm Joint Christmas Dinner with the Family History Group at Baronga Motor Inn.

Wednesday January 25th

7.30pm Executive Planning Meeting –all members are welcome to attend.

February 4th & 5th

Colac Heritage Festival - Colac Showgrounds.

Saturday February 11th

10.00am Geelong & District Historical Association Meeting– Geelong Heritage Centre & Library Tour.

Wednesday February 22nd

6.00pm BBQ & Meeting at Coragulac House – Tour to follow - financial members only.



A Note from the President.

As 2016 draws to a close, may I take the opportunity to thank the dedicated group of volunteers who are the public face of the society, researching, answering queries, maintaining and cataloguing our collections, window displays, library etc.

Key to much of the historical research conducted by visitors to the History Centre is our complete microfilm record of the Colac Herald which celebrates 150 years next month. We recently received an offer of a fully guaranteed Scanpro 2000 microfilm reader, PC and software with direct access to a printer, complete with installation and tuition for less than half price. At our October meeting it was resolved to purchase the machine.

Adding to our documented history is Norman Houghton's latest book 'God's House' documenting the many churches past and present throughout the Colac Otway Shire. Norman has donated a copy to our library and the book can be purchased at the History Centre.

The Birregurra Historical Society is also to be commended on their recent publication 'Warncourt and Mt Gellibrand History'.

We received a most interesting email from renowned Australian opera singer Joan Carden A.O., O.B.E. (Pictured at right)

I am the only child of Frank Carden, a former owner of Victoria Hall, 52 Murray Street, Colac. In the 1950's as a young girl, I used to sing in the hall at special occasions with well-known bands such as Graeme Bell's etc., my father engaging prominent bands for weekly dances he held there. He also ran a sweets shop in the foyer which fronted Murray Street, which was on one side of the entrance hall and a cobblers was on the other at the time.



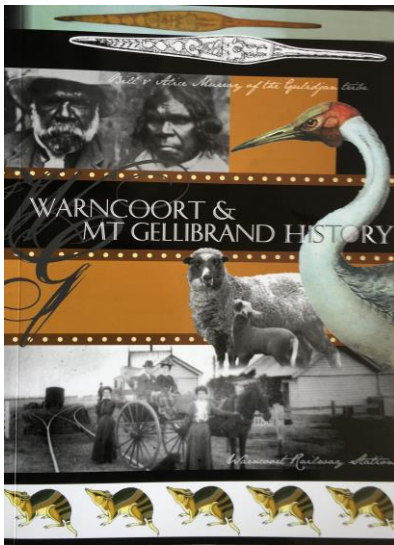
I remember one picture of Dad standing on the stage on New Year's Eve in front of the band, throwing out to the dancers who packed the hall, streamers with which to celebrate the turn of one year into the next.

I subsequently studied singing in England in the 1960s and had an international career as an opera and concert singer, returning to Melbourne in 1969 with husband and 2 daughters, moving to Sydney in 1977 as a leader of Opera Australia, from which I retired in 2003.

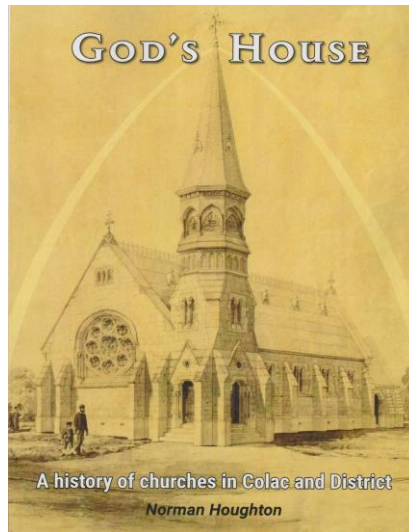
Victoria Hall was only rarely used after my father's death in 1967, valued for probate at \$80,000 yet sold 20 years later for only \$25,000, meanwhile let to Dickins the Grocers. Victoria Hall's details may already be known but I thought I should provide some insight for the records.

Sincerely, Joan Carden, A.O., O.B.E., D. Univ (S.U.T.), D. Univ (A.C.U.)

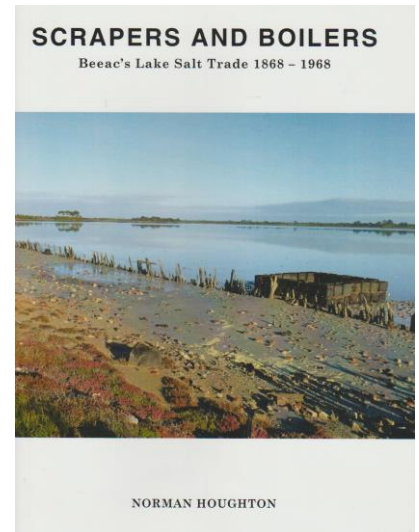
IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS - Three new book releases which can be purchased from the Colac History Centre



Warncoort Book \$35



God's House \$45



Scrapers & Boilers \$15
(Beeac's Salt Trade)

Meetings Report-

September 28th **John Callahan-** Topic- **Early settlers in the district.** *Edward Snell* having had experience as an engineer, architect and artist came to Australia in 1849 and illustrated his diary with very good sketches of areas visited. He walked from Adelaide to Victoria during the gold rush period. He built the first railway from Geelong using sleepers contracted from Apollo Bay. *The Callahan family* had interest in Paraparap Station. The *Clyde Company* had 130,000 acres at Golf Hill and Terrinallum running 58,000 sheep. Phillip Callahan selected 2,000 acres at Barwon Downs and was the first person to grow flax in Victoria and to use a milking machine in 1909.

October 26th **Arthur O'Neill-** Topic- **Australian Patriotism.** An interesting talk on badges exhibiting a double-sidedness to patriotism. 1. A badge sold on Australia Day in Adelaide depicting a bull dog gnawing the German flag. 2. A township of close-knit people of German origin in South Australia was called Sedan and the badge they made to commemorate Australia Day in 1918 did not display an Australian flag nor a union jack. 3. Other badges depicted St Patrick's Day-Kadina 1919, Shamrock Day, Australia Day-Clare 1917, Australia Day 1917 with a rising sun, Union Jack and a red Australian flag, Australia Day 1918 depicting a fighting woman "For Liberty" and others.

What Has Been In The News?

Colac Herald-

September 19th **Ocean Road towns on landslide watch.** A 35 metre crack threatens to create a major landslide near Wye River and Separation Creek forcing the closure of the Great Ocean Road between Lorne and Skenes Creek. Authorities assessed what, if anything they could do to prevent further devastation on the fragile coastline, which was just starting to recover from last year's Christmas Day bushfires.

Flood clean-up for iconic hall. Volunteers have been mopping up Colac's iconic "log cabin" scout hall, after the Barongarook Creek flooded, filling the hall with mud and damaging electrical equipment. Colac has had more than 100 millimetres of rain so far in September.

October 3rd School demolition underway. Demolition of the former *Colac High School* is underway as the State Government prepares the land for disposal with the exception of the 1912 office and quadrangle. The government is yet to confirm if it will give part of the land to the council for the community's use or if it plans to sell all the land at Colac West.

October 12th Club celebrates 40th anniversary. The *Otway Four-Wheel-Drive Club* will celebrate the milestone at the Carlisle River Recreation Reserve in November; a family orientated club founded in 1976. They have covered a lot of country including the Simpson Desert, Orbost and the High Country, the Grampians, Mt Cole and the Big Desert, Victoria. They have volunteered with Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to clear and maintain tracks throughout the Otways. Club President *Eric Bennett* said they had about 20 members who enjoy camping trips, fishing and the great outdoors. **Club founder relives fun for four decades of driving.** *Dennis Bunting* was a founding member along with *Peter Marshall, John Learey, and Robin Walter*. Friendships were formed getting to know the Otways and learning how to conserve tracks.

October 14th Pupils farewell iconic oak tree. *Colac West Primary School* will lose its iconic oak tree which has provided pupils with shade for more than 90 years. An arborist believed the 120 year old tree was unsafe and the school arranged contractors to cut it down. The tree was there when the school opened in 1923 and it features in the school logo. Pupils and staff will sadly miss the big oak tree which has provided shade and shelter in both summer and winter. They hope to make a piece of furniture or a sculpture from the wood and they would plant a tree in place of the oak.

October 21st. Tributes flow for collector. *Mr Merv Brunt*, well-known vintage truck collector and generous supporter of the Colac community died on October 18th aged 81. His friend *Jack Le Griffon* said he hopes Merv's vintage truck collection worth millions of dollars will remain in Colac as a lasting legacy. Colac's Rotarians had helped Mr Brunt open a truck museum on Clark Street in 2014 featuring 40 restored trucks including 3 which are more than 100 years old. He had donated a 1926 Albion truck as Colac memorabilia to the National Transport Hall of Fame in the Northern Territory. *What will happen to the collection now is the big question for Colac?*

Old pie van returning to flower show. *George Glover's grey Holden panel van* would be an attraction at the Warrion Flower Show this year. People from the Warrion area knew Mr Glover well because of his delicious pies that he baked himself and then sold from the back of his iconic 1955 FJ Holden panel van. He sold pies at St Brendan's and Alvie Consolidated School as well as at local football games and stores.

Ondit man *Russell Riches* accidentally found the same van at Werribee on the Trading Post in 1983 and spent 6 years restoring the van.

Work progresses on Otway refuge. Construction of the *Lavers Hill Community Fire Refuge* is on track for completion in 2017. The purpose built refuge is included in the design of the town's new fire station, co-located with Ambulance Victoria and the SES, along with additional features including communications facilities. The roof would include 60 kilogram fire-rated hebel panels beneath a metal deck roofing and the walls will be steel stud walls. This is the fifth Community Fire Refuge to be built in Victoria as a last-resort shelter option during a bushfire. The land was donated to council by the Pitt family.

October 28th Petrol station changing hands. *Riordan Fuels* has taken over ownership of *Dillon's Colac LP Gas and Fuel Centre* and plan to open a convenient Shell fuel stop for local customers in December 2016. Riordan Fuel owner *Robert Riordan* had a strong connection to Colac and district where he grew up. Dillon's has been the only independent locally owned service station in Colac serving over 50 years.

November 7th Wind farm creating interest. It is a 44 turbine, \$275-million project at Mt Gellibrand under developer Acciona which could employ 100 workers to begin next year. Constructors to be involved in building tracks, excavation and foundations, and electrical installation including laying underground and overhead cabling and building substations. Acciona believes this investment will drive economic activity in the Colac region as well as providing more than \$80,000 to local community and sporting organisations since 2012.

October 31st Colac Otway Voters elect 4 new faces and have re-elected 3 former councillors. Highest first-preferences went to Chris Smith-2,018; Terry Woodcroft-1,360; Joe McCracken- 1,068; Stephen Hart-1,046 followed by Chris Potter, Kate Hanson and Jason Schram.

Rabbit virus trials across Colac region. The Federal Government will trial new rabbit virus RHDV1K5 next year to reduce rising rabbit populations at Bambra, Birregurra, Jancourt East, Lorne and Tanybryn. The myxoma virus was released in the 1950s and Rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus in 1995.

November 11th Colac picks its Mayor. New councillor *Chris Potter* is mayor of Colac Otway Shire Council for the next 12 months and *Stephen Hart* is his deputy.

COLAC WINDMILL-MAKER – ERNEST JONES

By Craig Pink

Born in Essex, England in 1868, Ernest Jones arrived in Australia as a child, along with his parents who settled in to life in Victoria. Ernest went on to be educated and trained in Mechanical Engineering, and was employed with several well-known firms in Melbourne.

Around the year 1890, and being about 22 years of age, Ernest Jones shifted to Colac where he settled well into the local rural lifestyle of the surrounding area. He became a business partner with local Colac brothers Archie and George Bryan, who were still in the early stages of getting into the commercial manufacture of windmills.

A reference later in the year of 1892 confirms Ernest Jones as a business partner with Archie and George Bryan. Although George Bryan took all the publicity for the windmill display at the 1891 Colac Show, it was Archie Bryan who showed the commitment to get to the initial stage of commercial manufacture, and also far beyond those early years.

The business of the three partners traded as “BRYAN & JONES” from at least late 1892, (*some later publicity shows “BRYAN BROS. & JONES”*). The “Bryan & Jones” windmill display at the 1892 Colac Show competed for sales alongside the already proven “Robert Brown” windmill from Beeac, as well as the much larger and more established “Alston” windmill, which at that time was still manufactured at the business’s originating township of Warrnambool.

In August 1893, George Bryan dissolved his partnership in what was at the time termed “BRYAN BROS. & JONES”. At the same time, Percival Brett became a partner in the business, which then traded as “BRYAN JONES & BRETT”. The Colac-based business was by now established at its Gellibrand Street premises, and also tackled everyday general engineering tasks of the period. The quality of the “Bryan Jones & Brett” windmill soon became well known, the 1893 Geelong Show display being one of their earlier successful demonstrations.

NOTICE is hereby given that the partnership heretofore carried on by George Bryan, Archie Mark Bryan, and Ernest Jones, as Bryan Brothers and Jones, of Colac, in the colony of Victoria, millwrights, has this day been dissolved by mutual consent as far as the said George Bryan is concerned. The business will in future be carried on by the said Archie Mark Bryan and Ernest Jones, and Percival Brett, of Colac, blacksmith, who has this day been admitted into the partnership under the style of “Bryan, Jones, and Brett,” who will receive and pay all debts due to and owing by the late firm.

Dated the 10th day of August, 1893.

GEORGE BRYAN.
ARCHIE MARK BRYAN.
ERNEST JONES.
PERCIVAL BRETT.

Witness—J. F. BROSE, clerk to Mr. T. W. Hancock, solicitor,
Colac. 8646

THE TRADERS COMPANY LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that the creditors of the above-named company are required, on or before the 30th day of September, 1893, to send their names and addresses, and the particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the undersigned, James Henry Riley, of 424 Little Collins-street, Melbourne, the liquidator of the said company; and if so required, by notice in writing from the said liquidator, are, by their solicitors, to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

AT LEFT - The departure of George Bryan from the business - as stated in *The Victorian Government Gazette* of 18th August 1893. George Bryan went on to have other business ventures and interests of his own - a few well-known ones being plans/ideas of how to have a reliable water supply (such as to the Colac Botanic Gardens) and a patent for a washing machine.... However, it was still the kindness of his brother Archie that bailed George out of trouble throughout his life.

Their 1894 Colac Show display showcased two models of the “BRYAN JONES & BRETT CYCLONE WINDMILLS” – being of 7ft and 9ft wind wheel diameter. The 7ft model was capable of pumping up to 300 gallons of water per hour, the larger 9ft wind wheel model capable of up to a 400 gallons per hour water pumping capacity (*when suitable conditions prevailed*). The *Bryan Jones & Brett Cyclone Windmills* were also “Patented by a self-regulator which as the wind

becomes too strong throws the wheel out of gear (off the wind) and thus saves it from destruction.

This was still relatively early times for the conventional fixed vane (sail) wind wheel and pivoting tail style of windmill design that we know so well today. The earlier designs did not use a rotating head so the tail could rotate to position the wind wheel for the right direction of wind, but instead used complicated linkages and pivots that turned the vanes on the wind wheel much like venetian blinds - and did not use a pivoting tail as the main governing device which we are so accustomed to today. These linkages and pivots were rather complicated and obviously prone to premature wear and destruction, which required frequent and rather expensive maintenance. The Bryan Jones & Brett windmill made by this time was certainly well proven, and stood the test of time for its simplicity and longevity.

In April 1897, Percival Brett retired from the partnership of “Bryan Jones & Brett”, leaving Archie Bryan and Ernest Jones left as the sole partners, which then reverted to the earlier trading name of “BRYAN & JONES”. Ernest Jones dissolved his partnership in what had previously been known as “BRYAN & JONES” in mid August 1898. Ernest then went into business in his own right, and became well-known over the ensuing years for the reliability of his own manufacture of “ERNEST JONES” windmills in Colac.

NOTICE is hereby given that the PARTNERSHIP heretofore existing between ARCHIE MARK BRYAN and ERNEST JONES (trading as BRYAN AND JONES) of Gellibrand street, Colac, Millwrights, has been DISSOLVED as from the 13th day of August, 1898. The said ERNEST JONES Retires from the Business, which will in future be carried on by the said ARCHIE MARK BRYAN and THOMAS PEARCE BRYAN at the same address and under the style or firm of BRYAN BROTHERS, and all Debts and Moneys Due by, and Owing to, the late Partnership will be Paid and received by the said Archie Mark Bryan and Thomas Pearce Bryan.

Dated this 13th day of August, 1898.

E. JONES.

THOS. P. BRYAN.

A. M. BRYAN.

Witness—THEO. W. HANCOCK.

THEODORE WILLIAM HANCOCK, Murray Street, Colac, Solicitor for the said parties.

ABOVE - Ernest Jones departed the business in August 1898 - as shown by this *Colac Herald* advert. The "BRYAN BROS" trading name started at this point, and is still very well-known even today - well over 100 years on.

(Advert from Historical Society files - *Colac Herald* collection)

NOTICE TO FARMERS OF COLAC AND DISTRICT.

ERNEST JONES

Has started on his own account in the
MANUFACTURE

OF

HIGH-GRADE

WINDMILLS.

HAVING BOUGHT
MODERN MACHINERY AT GREAT
EXPENSE FOR THE

MANUFACTURE OF THE SAME,

I intend to turn out nothing but

FIRST-CLASS WORK,

And ALL ORDERS entrusted to me will
have my careful and prompt attention.

NOTE ADDRESS—

E. JONES,

GELLIBRAND STREET (opposite Rail-
way Station),
COLAC.

ABOVE - Ernest Jones advert from *Colac Herald* - 4th October 1898 – early days of being in business in his own right. Note the address in Gellibrand Street opposite the railway station. To be sure clientele knew of the change to business trading and address, this advert appeared for some time after Ernest Jones went into business in his own right. (Advert from Historical Society files - *Colac Herald* collection)



J. M. Arnest

Colac

MR. ERNEST JONES.

AT LEFT – Portrait of Ernest Jones, which appeared in the publication "*The Cyclopaedia Of Victoria*" in 1901/2. The publication was also "*deemed worthy to send a copy back to forebears in England, to tell of their success here in the colony*".

(Image from Historical Society files - *The Cyclopaedia Of Victoria* 1902 edition)

Ernest Jones married Jessie Fulton in 1898. Jessie was the third daughter of William and May Fulton of Colac East. Ernest and wife Jessie's first child Alma, was born in 1899. Jessie died in Colac from pneumonia in late August 1901, just six weeks after their second child Ernest Cuthbert Jones was born. Ernest Jones carried on with the manufacture of windmills, calling his "*THE JONES IDEAL STEEL WINDMILL*".

"*The Jones Ideal Steel Windmill*" went on to use a simple but

very effective self-oiling mechanism, which used a small cast sump around the open crank bearings. This was of comparable design to the steel ring oil slinger concept used on drive shafts of the era which drove anything from saw benches, overhead shearing machinery, to overhead drive shafts in blacksmiths' shops - and to larger factories.

Although more expensive to cast/machine and assemble, Ernest's idea of the self-oiling mechanism for the open crank bearings meant that less frequent maintenance was supposedly required, in turn giving longer service life.

Ernest Jones also went on to make his own design of open-gear windmills. These were better suited where more power was required to draw water up from deeper bores, compared to smaller systems such as those on the side of a dam, which did not have to draw water from a great depth.

On the evening of Friday 7th January 1910, part of Ernest Jones' rented business premises in Manners-Sutton Street was burnt to the ground. The blacksmith shop next door of Mr. Perkins was narrowly saved, but only due to the extra strenuous exertion of the firemen throughout the evening.

In November 1910, Ernest Jones had a clearing sale where he not only sold up his business plant/equipment, but also sold his house and land fronting Hearn Street. When sold and settled, Ernest Jones and family left the Colac area.

His contribution to Colac's earlier industry by his windmill design/manufacture is a legacy which remains alive today, and is still formally acknowledged by the known surviving windmill examples, some even dating right back to the early "Bryan Jones & Brett" era.

A good example of an Ernest Jones windmill stood for several decades amongst the front yard displays of Provan's Mechanical Museum at Colac West. The Nelson windmill (including the self-oilers concept) made at Beeac in small numbers (pre-1950s) was also a very close copy of the Ernest Jones windmill design.

AT RIGHT – Ernest Jones' advert from *Colac Herald* 12th December 1904. Note the address of Gravesend Street; the next shift was to Manners-Sutton Street. Ernest also took on several agencies of the era - as can be seen by the advert. (Advert from Historical Society files - *Colac Herald* collection)

ERNEST JONES,
WINDMILL MANUFACTURER and ENGINEER,
GRAVESEND STREET, COLAC.

Agent for International Harvester Company of America's Farm implements, including—

M'Cormick Binders	Grain Fertilizers
Mowers	Hay Rakes
Oliver Ploughs	Zig-zag Harrows
Grain Crushers	Chaff Cutters
Scarifiers	Horse Works
Spring Tooth Cultivators	Disc Harrows and Ploughs
Hand Onion Seeders	One and Two-wheeled Hoes
Planet (junr.) Garden Tools	Root Pulpers
Svea Cream Separators—the Best Skimmer on the Market.	

NOTE THE ADDRESS—
ERNEST JONES,
GRAVESEND STREET,
COLAC.

COLAC.
WEDNESDAY, 16th NOVEMBER.
On the Premises, Manners Sutton Street, at Two p.m.
CLEARING-OUT SALE of STOCK-IN-TRADE, of a Windmill Manufacturer, Machinery, &c.

J. G. JOHNSTONE & CO., under instructions from Mr Ernest Jones, who is leaving the district, will SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION—
The Whole of the Machinery and Stock-in-trade used in carrying on the Business of a Windmill Manufacturer, comprising as follows:—

3 Horse-Power Gas Engine (Otto Crossley), Iron Curbing Machine, Drilling Machine, Tinmen's Rollers, Pipes and Fittings, Brass Taps and Unions, Galv. Plain and Corrugated Iron, Black Sheet Iron, Black Angle Steel, Tinned Steel and Tinned Plates, Milk Can Handles, Pair Blacksmith's Bellows, Grindstone, Bar Iron and Steel, Spring Steel and Tool Steel, Shafting Hangers, Pressed Steel, Wood Split Pulleys, Cast Pulleys and Brackets, Solder and Spirits of Salts, 1 9-Foot Windmill (20 ft Galv. Angle Steel Tower, new), 12 Foot Wheel and Works, 1 9-Foot Geared Wheel and Works, and Sundries.

No Reserve. Terms Cash.

ABOVE - Ernest Jones' clearing sale notice from *Colac Herald* – 11th November 1910. The Otto Crossley 3hp engine would have been expensive at the time, and certainly right up with then current technology of the era. (Advert from Historical Society files - *Colac Herald* collection)



ABOVE – Ernest Jones windmills on display at Melbourne show, September 1910 - just several months before Ernest sold up and left the Colac District. (An original image from *The Weekly Times*, courtesy - Hugh Sloane)

Everard Browne – The Cororooke Squire

By Norman Houghton

Cororooke House had several owners and occupiers with the most noteworthy being John Robertson and Everard Browne. The Browne period for the mansion from 1894 to 1920 was the most exciting and vibrant and is worth an historical look.

Everard Browne was born in Penrith, NSW, in 1864 as the son of Thomas Alexander Browne (1826-1915), pastoralist, police magistrate and gold commissioner. Browne senior is best known as the novelist 'Rolf Boldrewood' who wrote 'Robbery Under Arms'.

Young Everard trained as a Mineral Assayer in Melbourne and probably worked in Victorian mines for a few years until 1886 when he travelled to Broken Hill to be in on the initial rush there. He worked and invested in mines here and had a particular interest in the Junction Mine with brothers Tom and Gerald. In 1888 he was temporarily in Tasmania for the rush at the Zeehan mines. Browne resided at Broken Hill for several years and made a name for himself as a shrewd investor and a competent wheeler and dealer in all matters mining.

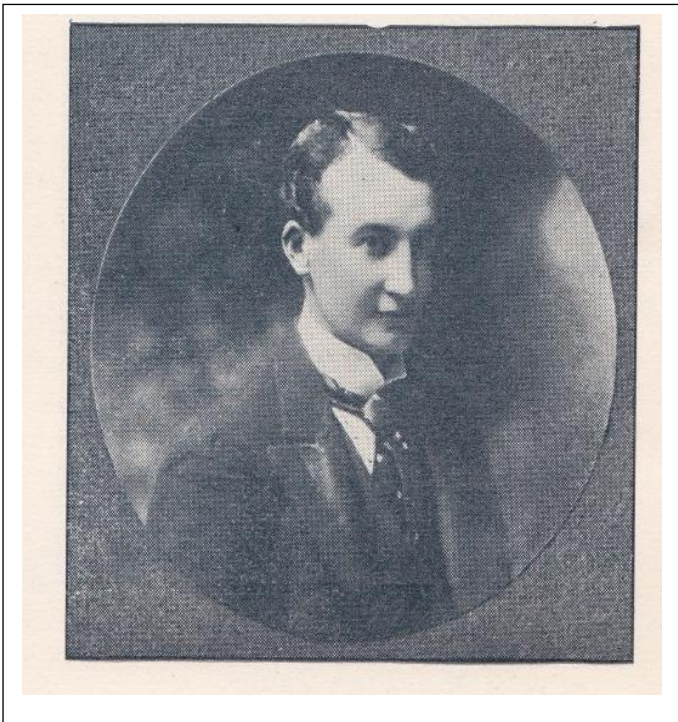
There is a Broken Hill yarn recounted about Browne's time there. Browne was small but powerfully built and it was reported that he once *'trounced "Smiler" Steles to a palpitating mass of blood and bruises in a Broken Hill hotel for a breach of hospitality in connection with a theatrical mining article written by Smiler on a more or less wild-cat silver mine. Disguising himself as a newly-arrived American travelling for pleasure, Smiler gained access to the workings of a big disputable mine, and on it wrote a scorching article. Everard Browne, a working director of the mine, sought out Smiler for a few days, and eventually ran him to earth in a small hotel tap-room. Browne ordered the room to be cleared, and after accusing Smiler of all sorts of things, bogged in. Browne didn't have it quite all his own way but Smiler was a week in a private hospital'*

Browne quit Broken Hill in 1892 when he, his uncle Silvester Browne and another man, moved to the new rush at Coolgardie in Western Australia and bought Bayley's Reward mine from the original prospectors. Thus Browne was directly concerned in the first gold discoveries in WA.

In private life the Browne brothers had all the right connections in the pastoral world and moved in salubrious circles. Everard married Muffie Chirnside of Werribee Park and Muffie's sister married John Calvert of Irrewarra. Everard's brother Tom married the daughter of the WA Governor.

When introduced for the first time the Brownes would politely say *'Don't forget the 'e'*.

By 1893 Browne had made his money in mining and travelled to England for a 12 months sojourn in the Old Country. On his return in 1894, probably on advice from the Calverts, he acquired Cororooke House and 600 ha surrounding it from Mrs. J. H. Connor (the Robertsons long gone by then).



AT LEFT – Everard Browne portrait depicting him as a young man, probably from his Broken Hill days.

Browne made extensive improvements and substantial additions to the place, some say trying to emulate the Chirnside pile at Werribee Park where his wife had grown up. Enhancements included a new wing with a tower, ornate entrance and the provision of electric lighting and sewerage.

Browne expanded the building by about a third so that in its full form it was 30 rooms comprising a drawing room, dining room, ballroom, breakfast room, bathroom, several bedrooms, vestibule, maid's room and sitting room plus a substantial kitchen. The grounds had been laid out and planted by the Robertsons but Browne made some improvements here to enhance the spacious lawns, flower beds and the choice Australian, English and

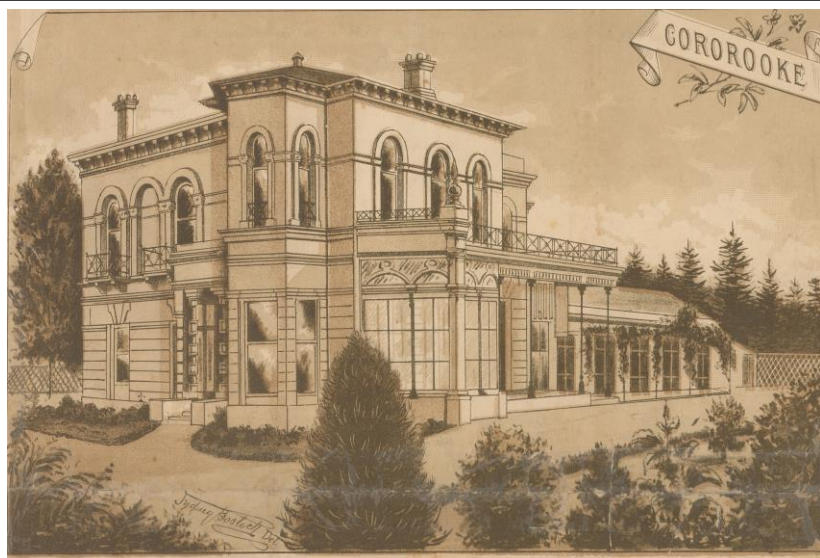
ornamental trees. The local boast (made by others rather than the Brownes) was that the house was one of the finest country residences in Australia.

The house was expensive to run, requiring several domestic staff, groomsman, gardener and used 200 tonnes of firewood per year for heating. The house was furnished with the best available.

Items included a Grand piano by Collard & Collard of London, a full size fiddleback blackwood billiard table by Alcock, Grandfather clock by Maple & Co London with Westminster chimes in a rosewood cabinet, another grandfather clock in dark oak case, a Louis XV escritoire and book case, a massive walnut carved hall seat, a heavy English Oak dining table with massive carved legs and two carvers to match, 12 oak dining chairs of unique design and upholstered in beautiful green velvet. The office and library furniture comprised armchairs, settees, blackwood office table and book case, black oak writing bureau, cabinets, table and tall grandfather chair. Other items included a rosewood cabinet gramophone and a walnut roll top desk. The bedroom suites were in rosewood and white enamel purchased from Maple & Co, London and W. Rocke Melbourne, with bedsteads to match.

Art works included a range of oil paintings, water colours, steel engravings and sporting pictures by M. Gawan, Giles, Garguillo, Thomas Blinks, Rowlandson, Alf Strutt, Clackner, Hardy, Braunclement, Priou, G. Hicks, Messonnier, Alf Lucas, Frank Paton, Pollard, Alkin, Havell, P. Brinkworth, Morgan, Rossetti and Frederique Vallot.

Browne was an early motorist at Colac (circa 1910 or maybe a little later), using two imported luxury cars of the day that included a 16 HP Delauney Belville purchased by brother in law Chirside in Paris and a 10 HP Minerva, double seater, holding six persons.



AT LEFT – Cororooke House as originally built and maintained by the Robertsons. It was a stylish and fashionable pile suitable for the family's needs in living and hosting guests as well as entertaining. The house was in this condition when sold to Browne in 1894.



AT LEFT – Cororooke House as developed and expanded by Everard and Muffie Browne. There is a substantial new wing on the left hand side, complete with turret and conservatory. The expanded floor plan enabled the Brownes to fill the house with their hunting trophies and entertain on a lavish scale.

Browne was an enthusiastic field shooter, as was his wife, and Cororooke House was adorned with 23 Royal Stag heads and one boar's head, most of these trophies shot by shot by Muffie.

By 1900 or so Browne was a stalwart of the Colac Polo Club, established much earlier and which club had its field on The Hill property. The No. 1 Team for Colac in Browne's time usually comprised Browne with the Robertsons, Calverts and Winter Irvings. He was involved with the Colac Cricket Club as a Committee member and star player and also had a stint as Committee member and President of the Pastoral & Agricultural Society. He clashed with the old guard of the P&A in 1902 and 1903 regarding the Society bringing itself up to date and chose to resign as President after seeing he could get nowhere.

He ran a large herd of dairy cows, some 400, on the share system (on several farmlets within the outer boundaries of his land) and was the CDC's biggest individual supplier for some years. In 1904 he sold most of the herd to concentrate on developing a small, top class herd of 75 cows which was based on imports of several English shorthorns 'of the milking strain'. His daughter Gwynned also developed a small herd of about a dozen milkers and

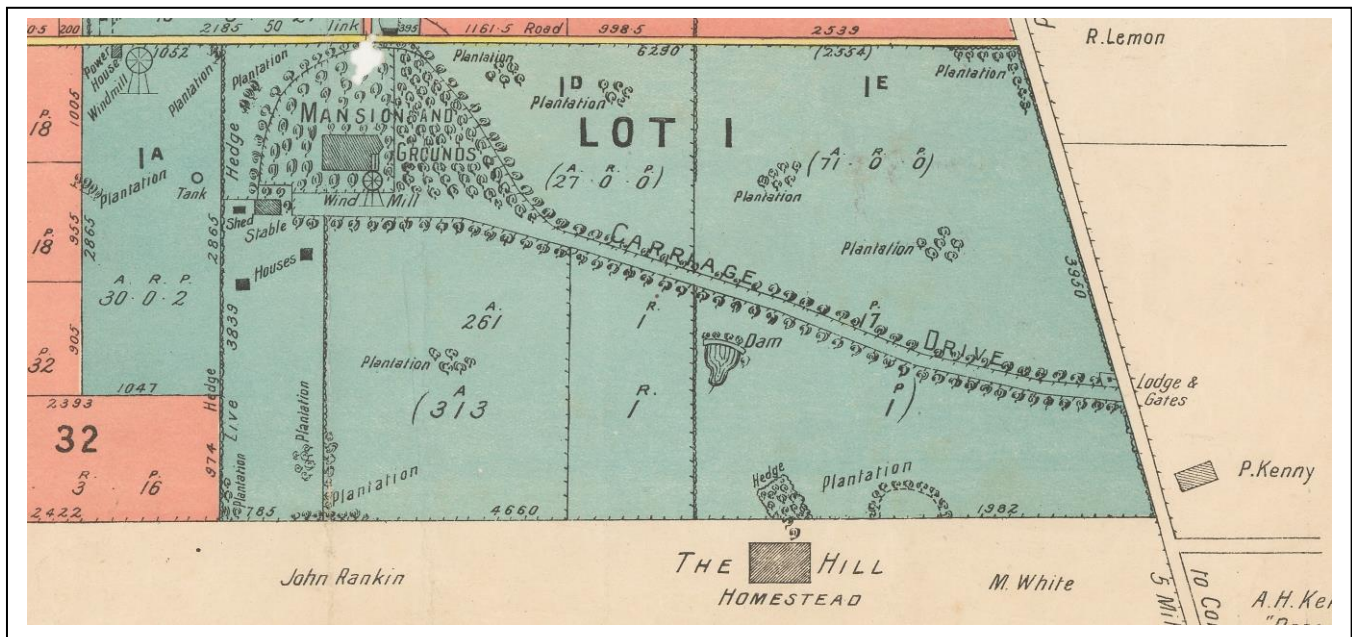
prize bulls. Browne's other interest was in horses. He maintained a stable of polo ponies and also bred thoroughbred racehorses. He had occasional wins in metropolitan races with his Cororooke steeds.

In 1910 Browne subdivided about 400 ha of his property into numerous farmlets to cash in on increasing land values in the area but retained substantial lands around the homestead so that its environment and long tree-lined driveway was not affected.

By 1915 or so he became less active in town and district affairs, resigning several posts, and doing likewise in sport as he was then aged 51 years. Polo ceased soon after World War One broke out in 1914 so that was the end of the sport at a local level.

Browne and his extended family of Calverts and Chirnsides cultivated vice-royalty and Cororooke House was the host stay place for Governors and Governors General from time to time in the period 1895 to 1913. The Governor General visited more than once, mostly staying about one week, but over the summer of 1904 the GG used the house for over a month while Browne was absent overseas.

These vice regal stays included Polo Matches between the Colac No. 1 team and a Governor General's side. The presence of these worthies in Colac explains why out of the way places such as Beech Forest could attract a State Governor to the annual pic-nic races there for several years on end.



ABOVE – Survey plan showing the grounds and general layout of the Cororooke House Estate at the time Browne put the property on the market. The stately tree lined driveway led to the formal garden surrounding the house. (Image from Historical Society - Sale poster files)

In April 1919 Browne had a serious accident when he fell out of a wagonette while proceeding along Dennis Street, Colac, landed on his head and had the vehicle run along his entire body and head, fracturing his skull. Luckily for Browne the accident happened near the intersection with Gellibrand Street, so Dr Brown from the nearby Derrinook hospital was immediately on the scene to render aid and convey his patient to the hospital. Browne was in a bad way for some time but apparently recovered from the injury although the trauma probably affected his outlook and interest in Colac affairs. Later in the year he decided to cut up Cororooke and move on. He said at the time that his land was too valuable for growing grass and could be put to better use.

Cororooke House and its 200 ha of land were put up for auction early in 1920 and sold in their entirety. As part of the clearance Browne cleaned out the mansion library collection and donated the books to the Colac Library. Browne and his wife quit Colac on completion of the sale and moved to England. The couple took up residence in London where Browne died in May 1926, aged 62 years. Muffie survived him by several years, passing on in London in 1934.

Cororooke House was purchased from the Brownes by J. Lang of Eurack and the Lang family resided there for many years. Occasionally Mrs. Lang opened the grounds and house for fund raising events for Cororooke sporting clubs. The Lang's departed about the time of World War Two and the house was later demolished, it being in poor repair, subject to wall cracking and far too large for economic residency in a changed world.

The Kenny family later erected a farmhouse close to the site of the former *Cororooke House* and named their dwelling *Cororooke House* as a fitting reminder of the site's former glories. The name was carried on in the 1980s when *Derry and Faye Craig* bought the property and built their house on the site of the mansion. A chandelier from the former Cororooke House is a working display in the Colac History Centre.



CRAIG'S CONUNDRUM

LAST ISSUE ANSWER -

(at left) - view looking north west to what is today's Rhys Evans business premises at 311-315 Murray Street. The large glass area of today's showroom frontage covers most of where used cars are in this view taken in February 1970. The building at left remains today, along with the large brick building at centre which is Rhys Evans workshop area.

AT LEFT – Can you recognise this central Colac view from the mid-1970s. (If you need a clue - yes that's the hospital at left of photo).

ANSWER – NEXT ISSUE.



COLAC AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ROSTER 2016/17 - 2.00 PM – 4.00 PM

Month	Thursday	Friday	Sunday
December	1 st D. Missen 8 th I. Barlow 15 th G. Splatt	2 nd C. Pink 9 th G. Bray 16 th E. Chambers	4 th I. McIntosh 11 th D. Cowan & M. Facey
January	19 th G. Splatt 26 th J. Knight	20 th E. Chambers 27 th M. Saddlier	22 nd M. Facey & D. Cowan 29 th L. Spence
February	2 nd D. Missen 9 th I. Barlow 16 th G. Splatt 23 rd J. Knight	3 rd C. Pink 10 th G. Bray 17 th E. Chambers 24 th M. Saddlier	5 th A. McIntosh 12 th D. Cowan & M. Facey 19 th B. McDonald. 26 th M. Facey & D. Cowan