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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: colachistoricalsociety.org.au

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

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

Please note that articles printed in this Society Newsletter are subject to Copyright.

Forthcoming Events.

May 25 th	7.30pm – AGM Speaker Barbara Minchinton – ‘Money & Madams’
June 23 rd	1.30pm – Lindsay Hulm – Colac Baker
July 28 th	1.30pm – John Knight – View collections at John’s home
August 25 th	1.30pm – to be arranged
August 11 th	10.00am – 12.30pm GDHA Meeting at Colac History Centre

A Note from the President –

Donations of artefacts, photos and documents relevant to Colac and District are always welcome.

Late last year we were given an ornate sliver trowel which was used by and presented to Thomas Butcher on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the second Methodist Church in Murray Street on 3rd November 1873. The trowel was donated by his grandson Michael Butcher. This church was later demolished and a new brick church built on the corner of Grant and Skene Street – now a funeral parlour. The Regent Theatre (now RSL) was built on the former site.

Early this year we were given a well preserved anchor by Sid Rosevear. This anchor was found in 1945 buried in Lake Colac by Sid, his brother Les, together with Graeme and Neil McGarvie some distance out from the Colac Rowing Club. The lake level was quite low at that time and the anchor has had pride of place in Sid’s front garden ever since. Given its size, shape and location, Norman Houghton believes it would have belonged to one of the pleasure boats that operated on the lake between 1880 and 1920. It is unlikely to be from the ‘Dorothy’ or ‘Wanda’. Perhaps the current Lake Colac development project could be an opportunity to incorporate this anchor and the extra-large anchor unearthed in 2016, in a foreshore feature commemorating the pleasure boats that once sailed the lake.

Guest Speaker: March 28th

Lorraine Smith – “Journey of a Lost Manuscript”.

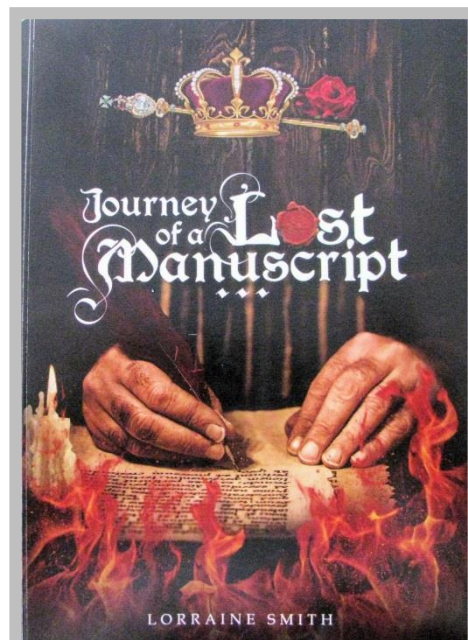
A very old parchment was discovered inside an old copy of “Alice in Wonderland” in Lorraine’s second-hand bookshop in Warrnambool. It was hard to decipher as words were written in Old English in faded ink on vellum and was dated 1583! It turned out to be a title deed for the transfer of land in a Northern England village. How did this old manuscript get from England to Australia? This was a mystery which Lorraine set out to solve.

Unravelling 450 years of history led Lorraine to Gilderstone in Yorkshire, Korumburra in Victoria and to many other places and people in Australia. "The Story of Morley" by George Wood, 1916, was also found on the shelves of her bookshop and a photograph included therein helped to authenticate the manuscript as the same deed found in the book in her shop.

Lorraine's talk was entertaining and informative. Strange things have been found in other second-hand books when used as book marks such as paper money, post cards, dockets, leaves and letters but nothing as old as this one. All Historical members present appreciated the talk and the overhead slides. It certainly created much interest among those present.

Some data from the Western Historian No 202- a newsletter of the Western Victorian Association of Historical Societies Inc.

In 1953 Historical Societies existed in a few country towns in Western Victoria, *Colac being one*, and very few communities had a written history of their town or area. Usually a town centenary aroused an interest in the past and older citizens were asked for their memories. By 1970 there were 40 to 50 Historical Societies in Western Victoria. Most of the towns had produced a town history and some had acquired a small shop or office in their town where important items and files could be stored or displayed. Assets to be kept included Cemetery records, Shire rate books, School rolls, records from the First and Second World War, early photographs of towns and surrounds, objects such as clothes, furniture and relevant personal family items, newspapers, cuttings of interest and on microfiche- Victorian Births, Deaths and Marriage records from 1854 onwards. Thanks to subsidies from State Government, State Libraries, business and private bequests and dedicated fund raising, societies have been able to purchase reader printers and computers etc.



NB- Colac and District Historical Society members worked extremely hard to raise funds to establish their purpose-built Historical Centre - which was a real credit to those early members. The attractive brick building opened in 1972. In the same year the 1889 Colac Court House was demolished, and a new Court House was officially opened. Sadly, the Colac City Council later required the land which the Historical Centre was on to build COPACC, and the original purpose built Historical Centre was demolished. However, as compensation, Society members were given space in the new building to set up their files, library, display cabinets and the use of a store room, though it is too small. As well as being available to the public, the facilities are used at least twice a year by local school children who listen to a talk given by a well-dressed, whiskered gentleman wearing a top hat. They ask questions and they like to have time for hands-on experiences with old time typewriters, pedal organ, hip bath and a commode. This space in the History Centre is shared with the Colac and District Family History Group where new technology is being well used for data collection and research.

What has been in the Colac Herald news (Nothing much of historical interest to report for this issue.)

Saturday 12th May – A BLAST FROM THE PAST – Steam powered locomotive R711 visits – As 14 years had passed since a steam powered locomotive had visited Warrnambool, local Warrnambool train enthusiast Eddie White had been attempting for some time to get a steam train back to Warrnambool. As a last attempt, and as a way to celebrate 25 years since West Coast Railway started, Eddie ended up paying out the \$30,000 it cost to run the 67 year old steam powered locomotive from Melbourne to Warrnambool and return for the day. Hardly considered a gamble, tickets sold out at such a rate he could have sold over twice the 220 places available, but only wanted to recoup his money to break even. Steam powered locomotive R711 was scheduled to leave Southern Cross station at 8.45am, arriving Geelong at 10.15am, Colac at 11.50am, Warrnambool at 1.25pm, departing for Melbourne at 6.50pm. The 6 restored passenger carriages used dated from the 1940s, 50s and 60s, some from the former "Spirit of Progress". Steam powered locomotive R711 was built in Glasgow in 1951, its restoration was one of many achievements by privately owned West Coast Railway in their time running the Melbourne to Warrnambool railway passenger service from September 1993 to August 2004. Locomotive R711 came from the park at Bendigo, and after a full restoration to not only working condition, but with extensive uprates to its power output, locomotive R711 achieved regular steam powered runs from Southern Cross Station to Warrnambool and return in the evening from November 1998 (in non-fire danger periods).

"Colac Show Needlework of 100 years"

By Alan Doyle – March 2018



Needle work is not exactly a common pastime in modern life, but 100 years ago it was very much an important part of family life. It was a task that was predominantly a woman's job. Each family relied on their women to make or mend various pieces of clothing and house hold products. This basic life skill was generally passed down to their children, mainly daughters. Such tasks included the making of clothes, curtains, cushions, lacework, knitting of socks and jumpers etc., as well as the upkeep of the made product.

Over time, it was these simple day to day life necessities that were impressive handmade pieces of art that was to be displayed at many shows. Needlework had a show classification of "Fancy Work". The Colac Pastoral and Agricultural show would have had a vast array of Fancy Work items decorating one of their pavilions, which would have looked awe inspiring with such colour and unique designs. Judging of the work was extremely difficult as, perfection was sort by all entrants.

Colac – Coming Competitions, *Ballarat Star*, Tuesday 7 May 1907 - page 6.

WOMEN'S WORK EXHIBITION.

It is proposed to hold an exhibition of women's work at Colac in a few months' time. Fancy work of all kinds is now popular, and the exhibits which have been displayed at various shows in Colac have proved that the district possesses very many expert needlewomen. The district is to be well canvassed for entries, and the exhibition should prove both interesting and educational.

The following article describes the type of day and how preparing such items for show must have been for most women of this period.

Camperdown Chronicle, Tuesday 1 December 1914 - page 4.

FANCY WORK

The needlework exhibits always commands every attention from the ladies. There is perhaps more time spent in preparing articles for exhibition in these classes than for any other section in the show. Imagine the hours and hours occupied in the preparation of handmade work, such as trayclothes, cushions, crochet lace, etc., and the eye straining and headaches suffered, and the wonderment brought about next morning as to what caused the eyestrain and headache. This work is generally done when all the other numerous duties in the household are completed, and necessitates at the men would call overtime in order to get it through. However, no success can be accomplished without effort and Saturday's display showed that no efforts had been spared on this occasion. The exhibits, on the whole, were classed by many ladies, quite capable to criticise as to their merit, as simply beautiful, and really all seemed well worthy of recognition, but of course the committee is not yet prepared to provide so liberally in prizes. The quality of the exhibits in most of the classes was so well to perfection, that the judge, Mrs. Morrison, of Colac, had no easy task set her in making the awards. There were upwards of sixty entries in the section, and the exhibits occupied the major portion of the space in the pavilion. Mrs. W. N. Wanchhope, of Oakleigh, Mrs. A. J. McDougal, of the metropolis, and Mrs. E. N. Thomas, of Colac, were among the successful exhibitors.

FANCY WORK (open).	
Collection of White Fancy Work, 6 varieties.—Miss J. Eves 1, Mrs W. N. Wauchope 2.	
Colored Table Cover, worked with silk.—Miss J. Eves 1, Mrs H. L. Chant 2.	
Table Cover, with crochet lace and corners.—Miss A. Riddell 1, Mrs W. N. Wauchope 2.	
Piece Eyelet Work.—Miss A. Riddell 1, Mrs W. N. Wauchope 2.	
Table Centre, white.—Mrs E. N. Thomas 1, Miss E. Edgar 2.	
White Linen Embroidered Tray Cloth.—Mrs E. N. Thomas 1, Miss J. Eves 2.	
Punch-work Table Centre.—Miss M. McDonald 1, Mrs H. L. Chant 2.	
Duchesse Set, white.—Miss E. Edgar 1, Mrs W. House 2.	
Table Centre, worked with colored silk.—Mrs W. N. Wauchope 1, Miss J. Eves 2.	
Supper Cloth.—Mrs E. N. Thomas 1, Mrs W. H. Feddersen 2.	
Embroidered Night Dress.—Miss C. Gwynne 1, Miss E. Edgar 2.	
Washable Cushion Cover, worked with cotton.—Miss J. Eves 1, Mrs E. N. Thomas 2.	

Typical results from the show.

Note: Only first and second placements listed.

Colac Herald, Monday 26 March 1917 - page 3.

Shown below is the handmade needlework of Mrs. Grace Thomas, who had entered her work as Mrs E. N. Thomas of 13 Hearn Street, Colac. Grace was an extensive show exhibiter and also acted as a judge in the Fancy Work section at many shows within Victoria. She was credited with first awards totalling 400 before her death in 1934 (aged 60).



Colac Show entry – Supper Cloth c1917.

Note the show name tag in upper RH corner

Article from family collection

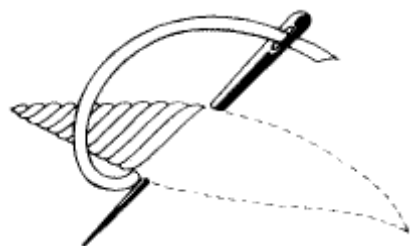


Expanded view of detail

This surviving Supper cloth show piece is made from linen, measuring 1080mm (3' 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ") x 1080mm (3' 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ") with an outside boarder of 100mm (4"). The purple boarder with mitred corners is machined to the cloth, which has been embroidered and decorated with a floral design of satin stitched flowers and leaves. The infills are dyed with green and purple.

The hours of work involved in creating this cloth are unknown.

Satin stitch is a form of embroidery that lends itself to fill large sections of colour. Generally it is done with the material being secured tautly in a hooped frame with the drawn design displayed. The design is visualised and drawn by the needle working artist. A back stitch is done following the outline and then followed by the satin stitching over the outline in a series of flat stitches, which produces a slightly raised area.



Satin Stitch method.

Image from:

<http://roycedavids.blogspot.com.au/2011/09/basic-embroidery-stitches-satin-stitch.html>



Various needlework styles and designs, by exhibiter Grace Thomas.

Articles from family collection

Unfortunately these images don't do justice to the needlework shown.

PETER THE BROLGA - AN UNUSUAL PET of the 1920s

Contributed by Brenda Carew

Would you believe that our noble bird the Brolga, or Native Companion, was once a favoured pet of my Grandmother, Mary Ann Carew, of Eurack ?

Way back in the early 1920s my father Jack, whilst hunting out on the Plains, captured an abandoned Brolga chick. It was almost dead from starvation and thirst. He caught the little creature and carefully placed it in the inner pocket of his coat for safe keeping until he returned home in the late afternoon.

It is not known what sort of reception my father received back at home, when he removed from his pocket and presented to his mother, a very small brolga chick. Presumably there was amazement, admiration and consternation combined. No doubt the family looked sympathetically at the little creature. What would become of it ?

Could it survive away from its parents and natural environment ? What would it eat ? Brolgas are seed eaters – but what selection do they need for survival ?

What took place in the first instance that evening is not known. What it was fed, how it was fed and how often, how much water it was given were all guesswork. Whatever the administrations all went well and the next morning a much stronger chick emerged from the night-box.

It is known, however, that grandmother got a dried rabbit skin and turned it inside out, so that the cosy fur was on the inner side. Into this she placed the chick every night for warmth, until it outgrew the rabbit skin. This shows how young and small the brolga was when it first arrived into her care.

With tireless dedication and devotion the little creature survived and grew strong and tall and very elegant. He became known as Peter. A common sight around the Carew farm, (perhaps an uncommon sight), was a fully grown brolga strutting around regally wherever he chose to be.

He became very attached to Grandmother, who had kindly saved him from the grip of death. Peter spent many days by the wheelchair at the crippled lady's side.

Upon a wave of her walking stick, and the command of "Dance, Peter, dance" the graceful bird would leap high with wings outstretched and prance for her enjoyment, trumpeting loudly as he did so. Many onlookers were astounded and enthralled by his most gracious performance.

A favourite trick of Peter's was the element of surprise. Often when the menfolk were deeply engaged in their work, perhaps mending harness or tending to the onion weeding they were frequently startled by a fast, sharp peck on their backsides. Peter had silently strutted up behind them and his sharp eye had been attracted to the shiny brass buttons on their trousers. His curiosity satisfied, he would move on again.

Peter was known to bail up any strangers who happened to visit the farm – especially children. There were frequent occasions when youngsters yelled loudly for help. Upon investigating the adults would find the children in a shed, door closed and Peter on guard outside.

This majestic bird lived many happy years at Eurack.



ABOVE – Peter the Brolga again – writing on photo says – "Native companion at Carews"

AT LEFT - Peter the Brolga with Mrs Murnane & Mrs Carew – taken at Eurack.

Recollections of Old Colac

Part one of a series - By a Veteran Colackian (Patrick Danaher)

No. 1 Article from Colac Reformer - 19th July, 1884

It was in the spring of 1852 when I saw Colac first. I had reached Cameron's Hill, and unconsciously paused on its brow for an instant to view the glorious prospect mapped out before me. My eyes flitted from the woodland to the lakes, to the Warrions, and further still to Mount Elephant, the Cloven Hills, and the Linton ranges in the distance.

How well do I remember now the pleasure it afforded me to gaze upon the beautiful picture that was spread before me, traced by nature's artistic hand. Exquisite! What a charming subject is here unfolded for a landscape painter, was the current of my thoughts as I finished this brief survey of land and water, forest and plain, hill and dale, and so deeply impressed was I with the splendid scenery thus suddenly encountered, that to this day recollection carries me back with vivid force to that time when Colac first burst upon my view. It was a very rainy season, one of the wettest that has visited the district, and a person imbued with a love of adventure might also have fancied that he could have guided a canoe from Winchelsea to Colac, the country for miles around, as far as the eye could penetrate, being studded with pretty lakelets glittering in the rays of Old Sol.

In approaching the township itself, I was struck with a few signs of architectural skill to be noted. There were only a few huts to mark the settlement, nothing to deserve the name of a cottage, excepting Mr H Murray's residence (the remains of which are still to be seen in a paddock a little to the east of Mr A Chapman's house, contiguous to the Barongarook Creek), and the 'Crook and Plaid', a well-known place of public entertainment at the corner of Murray and Queen streets. It was not so long ago since the pub was removed, owing perhaps to the rapid rise in the locality, for the building could not be considered as presentable enough to occupy front rank now-a-days. It was licensed by the late Mr Harker, a jolly Boniface, one of the best of good natured men, belonging to the fine old school, and possessed of money or no money, the hungry traveller found a ready welcome at his table, and was never turned unsatisfied away.

A blacksmith's shop, standing where Mrs M'Cure's store now is, a pound keepers hut situated this side of the residence of Mrs Dr Rae's residence, Chapman's store, the old court house at the back of the present Post Office, and Lyon's Hotel on the east of the creek, just at the rear of Darby's store, were nearly all the inhabitations that the town could boast of. Taking a line from Cameron's Hill down to the lake and onto Dean's Creek, and still further westward to Mr Rand's house at Larpent, thence as far as the Gellibrand River, constituted the late Mr H Murray's run. Over that vast extent of country, excepting the town alone, scarcely a face could be seen except that of a solitary shepherd or splitter. There were no fences to stop the huntsmen, then. Nothing but the dead logs, the brushwood, and the scrub were visible, the view being unrestricted. It was rare fun to mount a speedy, sure-footed horse, and wildly chase the kangaroo, which were very numerous about the racecourse and the sand hills, or to assist at the muster of wild cattle out of the forest, and rarer still, to bear a hand at the drafting yards.

It was nothing uncommon in those days to be politely assisted by a wild beast to a landing on the top rail of the stockyard, and I can assure your readers very glad, in faith, a fellow was if he found he had accomplished the involuntary ascent without a gore, a scratch or torn inexpressibles.

The favourite amusement of the manhood of the district was hunting the kangaroo, which bounded about with freedom in the midst of foes eager for their destruction. Greyhounds were not dreamed of then, but a breed of strong, hardy and swift kangaroo dogs was to be found on every station. I will unravel a yarn in which these four-footed pets prominently acted, as I heard it related:- A certain overseer, and subsequently a successful business man in the town, on one occasion while looking after cattle, rounded up a mob of kangaroos. He was accompanied by a pair of capital dogs of a kind I have already alluded to, and was well-mounted. His dogs selected an 'old man' for their legitimate prey, and gave pursuit for a burst of about two miles. The gentleman followed in hot haste, and found it hard work to keep in sight of pursuers and pursued. At length the 'old man' caved in, turned his back to a tree and showed fight in a threatening manner, the dogs lying down panting and exhausted in front of him. The huntsman came up with all speed, and aimed a blow with his whip handle at the head of the marsupial; whilst the whip was in the air the kangaroo turned, grasped him by the waist and then unhorsed him, and a tug of war commenced. Fortunately the gentleman had a pocket knife with him, which quickly found its way into his hand, or the consequences might have been serious.

The old red kangaroo was a regular powerful six-footer, and it required more than ordinary skill to give him his quietus. It is the practice of these animals whenever attacked that they grasp their antagonist and make for the nearest waterhole, and drown him. However, the huntsman was victorious, escaping the otherwise not over agreeable fate in store, and brought the skull home as a trophy of his valour.

No. 2 Article from Colac Reformer, 23rd July, 1884

The sudden discovery of gold at Castlemaine, Ballarat, and other places, with the enormous quantities found on the surface by the first comers, took the colony by surprise. The news was quietly blazed abroad, and electrified the world.

A few Colac men chanced to be among the pioneers on the goldfields, and their return with four or five hundred pounds a man, made those who stayed home feel very small, and many an envious glance was cast at the heroes who had achieved success in the hunt for the valuable mineral. After finding out that the tales told of the marvellous finds possessed some substantial basis, it is scarcely to be wondered at that the gold fever set in with resistless strength, and carried men to the diggings whether they would or no. The excitement wrought is indescribable. All were eager to amass wealth in the shortest possible time, and in this district very little was the change from steady business life apparent. In a little time kangaroo hunting was given up for gold hunting, and some, if not most of the old Colackians, were lucky and very successful diggers.

I remember once being in Eureka when three or four parties from Colac simultaneously arrived. They fixed their camp near mine, and one company of four or five men camped under an old man gumtree. They did so, I suppose for shade or shelter, but it nearly cost them their lives. A storm came on during the night, and a large branch fell on end right on the tent in which the men were resting. It passed down through the canvas and between two of the sleepers under the same blanket and sunk fully eighteen inches into the ground. The men seemed thankful to Providence for their lucky escape. The old Colackians were generally jolly fellows, and loved an innocent spree whenever opportunity offered. They were good natured to the backbone, and were as ready to share a glass with a friend or a traveller as they were to sit down to a good dinner. After a couple of days inspection of the ranges, the goldseekers generally set upon some likely spot in a gully, and began to sink, working like niggers until the bottom was reached. Then the anxious and earnest operation of washing began, some with tin dishes, a few with spade and tub, and others with a cradle. And Oh! What a thrill of delight would pass through the digger's heart when he saw the colour of gold in the wash dirt, or nuggets at the bottom of the tub.

I was hard at work one day sinking a shicer, when a well-known Colackian came to my claim and exclaimed, "Well, mate, down below there, how are you getting on?" He then said, "It is no use whatever sinking there, there's no gold there I tell you, I'll go higher up." And higher he went, to a knoll in the centre of the gully, like a small island in a stream. Nobody thought of sinking there before, though scores were sinking all round it. He worked until he got down about six feet, and then he could sink no deeper without help. He applied to his old mates for assistance. One of them remarked "What's the use of sinking up there, why don't you come down here." "I tell" says Bill "the gold is there, man, and if you do not come and help me to sink that hole, I'll give the claim to the first man I can." They ultimately did help him to put down the shaft, and in three weeks they obtained a thousand pounds a man, and then made tracks for Colac, to spend the money as good men and true.

There was another lot from Colac working in this creek at the same time, who were very lucky. They consisted of a father, his sons, and a son-in-law. They secured a good dollop of gold, and carried it off to Colac in an ole iron pot, with some tallow over it, in order to deceive the bushrangers. Almost everybody came to see the pile, high and low, rich and poor, good and bad and the indifferent. A 16 stone man tried to lift that old iron pot from the floor onto the table, and it put him to the pin of his collar to do so. The cottage in which this feat was performed is still in existence (now pulled down, 1926). I heard it related that a well-known squatter not a hundred miles from Colac, came to see this wonderful pot, and at first sight he fell head and ears in love with it. "I'll tell you what's the matter," said he to the captain of the party, "you just make me a present of that pot of gold, and I'll make you a present of my station, stock, lock and barrel, sheep, cattle, horses, land and everything. I'll just walk out and you can walk straight in.

"Well" said the captain, "it ain't a bad offer at all by no manner of means, but I'll just tell you what I think. I believe my gold is worth more than your station".

Lucky for the estate owner the offer was refused, for the property at the present time is worth many a pot of gold, bigger by far than the one which caused so much sensation.

- PART 2 CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE

Animal Stories –from the Colac Herald

By Norman Houghton

Continued from previous issue -

1960. A cat in Thomas Street gave birth to four kittens in a hen's laying box. When the hen returned she adopted the kittens as her own and put them under her. She tried to teach them to eat wheat by demonstrating scratching etc. The cat tries to get with her kittens and when she sits on the kittens the hen sits on the cat. When the cat leaves the hen takes over.

1960. A four years old mongrel cattle dog from Don Dunstan's farm at Tomahawk Creek got lost at Finley, NSW, on a shooting trip. The dog had never been off the farm but 18 days later the dog turned up at the farm, so had covered the 300 miles in that time.

1960. J. Ryan's farm of 182 acres at Pirron Yallock on Lake Corangamite has 122 acres flooded. The cows have to swim across water up to 10 ft deep to be milked and they are led by Queenie, the dominant cow.

1960. A pig kidnaps puppies at Eurack. Farm dog Lassie had nine pups the same time as a sow had piglets. The piglets died so the sow grabbed all the pups and nursed them. Whenever the dog retrieved her pups the sow took them back. Eventually the dog took the pups up into a haystack but the sow wrecked the stack and got the pups back. Farmer Jim Lemon says the pups are doing well.

1961. Warrion boy Cyril Cust had open heart surgery in 1959. He was miserable after the operation so a nurse suggested giving him a white angora rabbit from the nearby Baker Research Institute. From the moment the rabbit named Snowdrop joined Cyril his condition improved. When Cyril went home Snowdrop did too. Snowdrop recently died of myxo.

1962. Two male pigeons have assumed the role of mothers to bantam chicks at Barongarook on Doug Barry's place. The racing pigeons pushed the setting bantam hen off a batch of eggs in the hen pen. The eggs hatched a few days ago and the pigeons acted as mothers. The chicks were mystified of the practice of the pigeons attempting to feed them from beak to beak until the chicks managed to persuade the pigeons that they preferred to feed themselves chicken style. The pigeons allow the chicks to sit under them.

1962. A local baker raises calves as a hobby. He reared a Jersey heifer from one month to 15 months and then sold it. Recently he visited the farm and the heifer recognised him, came up and placed her front legs on his back as they used to play in her calf days.

1962. Recently while Mr Morris was selling birds at the Central Mart he offered a young parrot in a cage. Bidding was a bit slow but using his best auctioneering technique Mr Morris called 'Come on now, who will offer a couple of pounds for this fine bird. He's only young and just learning to talk. That will give you an opportunity to teach him anything you want'. 'Shut your bloody mouth' piped up the bird before anyone could offer a bid.

1962. Eight by four months old calves in a paddock beside the lake at Balintore on Hayes' property were blown into the lake by a gale. Six of them drowned but two swam 1.5 miles to emerge at Meredith Park. The drowned ones washed up at same place.

1962. Cororooke farmer Bill Neave says one of his ducks laid a giant egg that had another egg inside, shell and all.

1964. Some pigs were marooned at Eddie Hole's property on an island in the Barwon River at Winchelsea due to floods. A breeding sow moved away from the pen to have 11 piglets before the floods and the piglets are now stranded. The sow spends her time swimming back to her pen for her feed, then returning to her piglets.

1964. Mr and Mrs K. Coulson of Alexander St have a pet cockatoo 60 to 70 years old.

1965. Robert Gladman found 26 articles in the stomach of one of his fowls. Articles included brass screws, nuts, washers, a terminal from a spark plug, several brass objects, gravel and one small copper coin.

1965. Mrs N. Williams of Scott St was mystified by the nightly appearance of various kitchen utensils under the letter box at the front gate. Articles included a kitchen jug, breakfast bowls and dishes, saucepans etc.

After a few days of this one of the neighbours spied Williams' seven year old kelpie 'Dusty' walking along the street bearing a casserole dish in his mouth. Dusty was then locked in at night and the thefts stopped.

1965. Farmer Dorman at Deans Marsh finds an electrocuted flying fox on his property. He says it is rare to see these at Deans Marsh. He has been in the district for 40 years and seen lots of flying squirrels but never a flying fox. This one was a grey hided fruit bat with a wing span of 2 ft 9 ins and weight of 1 lb. 6oz.

1965. Twin foals have been born to registered Clydesdale owned by Archie Mclean at Scotts Creek. Believed to be the first twins born in Australia to a registered Clydesdale.

1965. Blackie the hen in L. Westwood's, Armstrong Street backyard teamed up with a rabbit named Biggsie. At first the two fought a lot but now they share the yard and food and frolic and sleep together.

1965. Ian Denning of Gellibrand hit a cricket ball over a paddock fence at Warrion. A cow picked it up and wandered off. Bill Olney, cow hand, had to chase it and force it to release the ball from its mouth.

1969. The Rourke family of Forrest have a cat that is 22 years of age. Called Hoppy and its diet is mince steak. In response, the Balotti family at Apollo Bay claim a cat that is 24 years old. The cat was born on 16/9/1945 in Melbourne and came to Apollo Bay with the family. The cat is deaf and arthritic but remains fit and active. He lost his teeth at age 12 but eats finely cut steak and drinks plenty of water.

1970. A three year old jersey cow gives birth to triplets at the Johanna farm of George Evans. The triplets are all heifers but have different markings and shades of red in their coats and different eye and muzzle pigment patterns. They were conceived through artificial insemination so were probably from fertilisation of three eggs at a single service. Triplet calves are as rare as twin foals. (THE END).

DILLON'S MURRAY STREET SERVICE STATION

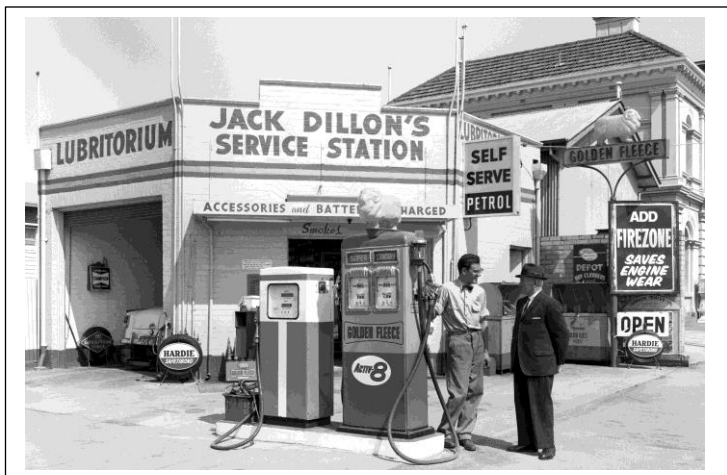


ABOVE – June 1965 view of Dillon's service station at No. 2 Murray Street, as viewed from Queen Street looking across to (No. 1 Murray Street just out of view), No. 3 in view, next to left is Victoria Motor Garage, Victoria Hotel, and ANZ Bank at far left.

(All 3 Dillon's Images in this issue – from Society files - Bela Bard Brucker collection)



ABOVE – Demolition under way of Dillon's Service Station in August 1967, the premises was quite small, especially the workshop, which is why it became too small for the growth in the demand of the era. As the sign on wall stated - business has moved ← 100 yards (to corner of Queen/Bromfield Streets), where the premises still remains operational today as a Shell fuel outlet.



CRAIG'S CONUNDRUM

LAST ISSUE ANSWER –

AT LEFT – Dillon's Golden Fleece Service Station on the corner of Murray/Queen St., as it stood in September 1963. The Post Office can be seen at rear, which still stands today. By the later 1960s the business had not only outgrown these premises, but the busy traffic flow also caused concerns – see more photos on previous page.



AT LEFT - Can you pick the location of this once popular "SPORTING" venue in the centre of Colac as shown in this later 1960s view ?. The fountain is also of interest, and still stands today at the same "location".

**ANSWER
NEXT
ISSUE**

COLAC AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ROSTER 2018 - 2.00 PM – 4.00 PM

Month	Thursday	Friday	Sunday
JUNE	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 C. Pink	3 rd A. McIntosh 10 th G. Knox 17 th B. McDonald 24 th L. Spence
JULY	5 th D. Missen 12 th I Barlow 19 th G. Splatt 26 th J. Knight	6 th C. Pink 13 th G. Bray 20 th E. Chambers 27 th M. Saddlier	1 st A. McIntosh 8 th G. Knox 15 th B. McDonald 22 nd L. Spence 29 th R. Missen
AUGUST	2 nd D. Missen 9 th I. Barlow 16 th G. Splatt 23 rd J. Knight 30 th R. Missen	3 rd C. Pink 10 th G. Bray 17 th E. Chambers 24 th M. Saddlier 31 st C. Pink	5 th A. McIntosh 12 th G. Knox 19 th B. McDonald 26 th L. Spence