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Annual Membership fee: \$20.00 per person - **Renewals Due In May.**

Historical Society Meetings held monthly on 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 7.30pm, except in January, also during *winter* on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at 1.30pm.

News/Updates/Information - Website : [colachistoricalsociety.org.au](http://colachistoricalsociety.org.au)

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

*Working Bees at the History Centre are held on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of month – 10.00 am - 12.00 midday.*

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



### **Forthcoming Events -**

History Centre will be closed from 4pm Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December reopening at 2pm Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January  
November 28<sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm - Meeting - Speaker Heather Threadgold – *Aboriginal Stone Sites*.

December 4<sup>th</sup> – 6.30pm – Christmas Meal with Family History Group – Baronga Motor Inn – Bookings Essential

January 23<sup>rd</sup> – 1.30pm - Bus Tour to 'Turkeith' – Bookings Essential (Subject to no total fireban)

February 9<sup>th</sup> - 10am - Meeting -Geelong Group Historical Societies at Geelong –Speaker-WIKIMEDIA

February 27<sup>th</sup> - 7.30pm - Meeting – Speaker Alan McLean – '*Mystery at Moonlight Head – Fiji shipwreck 1891*'

March 30<sup>th</sup> – Swan Hill – Weekend AGM of Western Victorian Historical Societies

### **A Note from the President –**

Margaret Birtley has started her work on cataloguing the Johnstone Collection and will offer a training workshop in the New Year for members who would like to assist as volunteers with the project. Meanwhile, there is a preliminary task with which she welcomes voluntary assistance: it involves numbering the pages of books in the Collection that currently lack pagination. If you'd like to help with this task, please drop in to the History Centre on **Friday 23 November at any time between 11 am and 4 pm** - Margaret will be there to show you what's involved. If you can't attend on that date, or you have not received this newsletter in time, please contact Margaret on 0418 814 957 or by email ([mb@margaretbirtley.com.au](mailto:mb@margaretbirtley.com.au)) to register your interest with her and receive further information.

We will again be conducting a bus excursion for members and friends on Wednesday January 23, 2019 to the historic property 'Turkeith'. The current owners Tim and Mary Ann Holt have generously offered to host the visit to their historic home and Guilfoyle designed garden incorporating dry stone walls. A visit to Mt Gellibrand, Acciona Wind Farm, will also be included followed by afternoon tea. Further details will be advised at the November meeting.

I must apologize to readers for an error I made when dating the death of J G Johnstone for the author of the article about his chair. It seems more likely that the chair belonged to his father John Johnstone who died in 1912. J G Johnstone died much later in 1932.

Another note-worthy event was the opening this month of the newly constructed Colac Police Station. Images used by the architects in the reception area are from our collection. One particular image of early Murray Street in 1905 is magnified to a mural of 3.5 metres x 1.5 metres.

### **Recent Speakers**

**August:** Dawn Peel presented an illustrated address of the early homes in Colac and surrounds. She firstly gave an insight on the earliest dwellings and their owners. She then showed the grander homes built by the pastoralists and Colac professional people in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was interesting to note that whereas the grander Colac homes of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were built by doctors and other professionals, the substantial homes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century were more likely built by those involved in commerce and industry.

**September:** Alan Fleming spoke on the WW1 Chocelyn Soldier Settlement. He outlined the many challenges that the 18 single men and 8 families faced on their arrival in the 1920s. He explained why some prospered and others failed, which was the experience of most similar settlement schemes after WW1. Additional finance was required to purchase livestock; equipment and build simple milking sheds to hand milk 17 to 30 cows. They lived in a hut or tent and faced many challenges including strict Government regulations and a dramatic drop in the price of butterfat. The Closer Settlement Board took payments as a direct deduction from the dairy factory and often little was left to cover living expenses.

Mr Fleming published a book titled '*Soldier Settlement Subdivision on the Chocelyn Estate 1920*', which was launched at a reunion of descendants of the former settlers when a memorial plaque was unveiled on May 6, 2012.

**October:** Peter Hynes, grandson of R P Hynes, spoke of his association as a pharmaceutical chemist since 1903. The first shop was opened near Bilson's in Murray Street and in 1907 he moved across the street and constructed a brick building at 184 Murray Street, with the façade of coloured cement and a centre panel of bright red tiles. Laird and Barlow were the architects. Business was carried on there by his son Eddie Hynes. Prior to the business being sold in 2002, Peter Hynes operated from a new building at 56 Corangamite Street, Colac.

### **What has been in the Colac Herald news?**

**August 15<sup>th</sup> 2018- Woodcrafters open new shed.** It is based at Colac Showgrounds and comes after 35 years since the club's beginning and has had many moves between temporary workshops including the old High School.

**September 19<sup>th</sup> - New market draws thousands.** A crowd of up to 3,000 people ensured the success of the Rotary Club of Colac's first community market at the Colac Showgrounds. Brad McLeod was the market coordinator, mentored by Vicki Jeffrey. There were 80 stall holders and it will be held monthly on the third Sunday.

**September 24<sup>th</sup> - School Offer.** Colac Otway Shire Council looks set to take over a majority of the former Colac High School site. The State Government had previously agreed to hand 2.5 hectares of the school grounds to the shire but not the iconic building. Another 4 hectares was on offer for \$280,000 for community purposes. Colac High School closed in 2009 following its merger with Colac College to form Colac Secondary College. Suggested use is for soccer.

**October 17<sup>th</sup> - Business Reorganisation.** Colac's Holt's Mowers and Saws owner Gail Holt thanked the community for its continued support over 42 years. Colac Central Tyre and Auto would take over their sales, service and repairs of Husqvarna, Greenfield and Masport products. Holt's gun shop will continue trading.

**October 22<sup>nd</sup> - Officers ready to move into new two-story police station.** Colac has a new state-of-the-art police station which has taken over a year to build further north than the present outdated site in Queen Street at a cost of \$11.47 million dollars. A photo from the Colac Historical Society collection taken in 1905 of Murray St Colac will be a feature transposed onto a glass window in the office.

**October 22<sup>nd</sup> - Wall construction to start.** State Government contractors will begin constructing a \$900,000 rock armour wall at Apollo Bay. Winter storm surges badly eroded the foreshore. It will be a 240-metre basalt rock wall. The Great Ocean Road is important for local use and for tourism in the town.

**October 26<sup>th</sup> - New era for police after opening.** Police Minister Lisa Neville officially opened Colac's new police station with a crowd of about 80 district residents, emergency services workers and community leaders. Local Gulidjan woman Ebony Hickey gave a welcome to country and uncle Brett Clarke conducted a smoking ceremony and spoke about Indigenous Cultural law. The former police station was opened in the 1930s.

**November 9<sup>th</sup> - Station's demolition begins.** Colac's former police station is set for demolition except for a heritage-listed bluestone cell, which is part of the original building.

**November 9<sup>th</sup> - State honour for campaigner.** Colac's Diane Wright was honoured at Palliative Care Victoria with a Life Membership award. Diane has been a trailblazer in paving the way for innovation in regional palliative care by establishing Anam Cara House Geelong in 2007 and Anam Cara House Colac in 2011 both offering "home-like" care in a hospice.

**November 12<sup>th</sup> - A lack of volunteers sinks Truck Museum.** Colac's former Merv Brunt truck museum in Clark Street will stay closed to the public due to a lack of support by volunteers, disappointing museum campaigner- Otway Shire Councillor Jason Schram.

**November 14<sup>th</sup> - New Ambassador for Colac's Races.** Colac Turf Club's Christmas Races ambassador is born and raised Colac entrepreneur Zoe Hudgell.

**November 14<sup>th</sup> - Funding Restored.** Colac Foodbank chair Cr Chris Smith said the announcement to restore the funding for foodbank was good news. Colac Foodshare assisted almost 9000 people in 2017.

**November 14<sup>th</sup> - 100 Year Anniversary of Armistice Day.** Relatives of fallen Colac and district WW1 soldiers gathered to share their stories at Colac RSL.

**November 16<sup>th</sup> - New Mayor for Shire.** Colac Otway Shire's new mayor is Jason Schram, father of three and a lifetime Colac resident. Jason narrowly defeated Cr Potter at the mayoral election.

**November 19<sup>th</sup> - Crossing works for Railway Line.** Rail Projects Victoria will upgrade five Colac district level crossings as part of works to prepare the Warrnambool line for a fifth daily service.

*“A newsletter is a printed report containing news (information) of the activities of a business (legal name; subscription business model) or an organization (institutions, societies, associations) that is sent by mail regularly to all its members, customers, employees or people, who are interested.” Wikipedia*

## Our newsletter – a good news story

The first *Newsletter* of the Colac and District Historical Society was published in August 1970, under the presidency of Mr J. McGarvie. The co-editors were Mrs G. Cowan and Mrs W. Peel. (We married ladies were still referred to by our husband's initial in those days.) These early publications, which consisted mainly of news from the previous meeting and notices of future events, appeared in the purple print produced by early spirit duplicators. Soon however we acquired a second-hand Gestetner duplicator, and President Jack McGarvie would don a grey dust coat and spend a day each month wrestling with it in the workroom of the Historical Centre. The original copy, often with hand-written articles, would have been collected and taken to Miss Bronwen Bassett who for many years typed the stencil from which the newsletter was printed.

The report of the 1972 annual meeting showed that 29 members had been in attendance, and that the newsletter was circulated to 105 members. These were posted to members, with it being the McIntosh and McGarvie families who did much duty in preparing them to be mailed. Mrs Dorothy Garnet became editor in 1974, and later editors included Mrs Margaret Friend, Mr Ian McIntosh, Mr Jack McGarvie and Dawn Peel. Heather Knight had a ten-year stint from 1993 to 2003, and for many years, before Ellise Angel became editor in 2013, the newsletter came from the Chambers household, with president Keith being ably assisted by Elizabeth in compiling and producing it.

For many years the newsletters were produced monthly. More recently they became quarterly publications, a format found to support more research articles. Our most recent edition ran to ten pages. We have moved with the times, too, with many of our members now receiving an electronic copy of the publication via email – a long way from those first editions from an old spirit duplicator. The electronic publication made it possible to add colour to illustrations, and in August 2018 the paper issue, Volume 48 Issue 3, also used colour for the first time.

Volume 43 No. 4, of September 2012, introduced the letterhead currently in use. An initiative of the then president, Gwenyth Knox, a choice was made from several submissions. The design represents the forest, lake and plains which form the environment against which our district story has been played out. By 2015 this was joined by a new logo which still heads our publication – and based on an image of the district's iconic war memorial.

Hard copies of all our newsletters are in our library. Diana Cowan and Margaret Facey spent many Sunday afternoons on duty over the years filing these, and updating the index to the articles, which is kept in a ring-binder folder beside the newsletters. A great deal of earlier work on the index was done by Jack McGarvie and by Gladys Hester. Craig Pink has brought this index up to date and plans to add references to the latest articles each quarter. In addition to this he has recently completed a computer index to all the newsletters, which can be easily searched in relation to various terms, personal names and subjects - another aid to locating the many valuable and distinctive contributions which have been made over the last 48 years.

The publication now reaches well beyond our members. Complimentary copies are exchanged with other societies. Selected editions can be down loaded from our website at <http://colachistoricalsociety.org.au> A copy of each edition is required, by law, to be lodged with the State Library of Victoria, and with the National Library of Australia. We have come a long way from that first purple roneoed sheet.

Dawn Peel

# **TRIP TO THE WESTERN FRONT**

April/May 2018 - by Carolyn Haas – nee Wood

As I was about to write this article, I received my copy of Royalauto which contains an excellent feature story on the area which I visited on my trip to the Western Front to take part in the Dawn Service at Villiers-Bretonneux.

The Cobber Statue which is located between two cemeteries is very moving when the story behind it is explained. One wounded soldier called to his fellow soldier, asking not to be left behind, whereupon the soldier hoisted him on his shoulders, risking his own life. A feat which was common.

There is also a photo of Hill 60 which is now a pretty spot but 100 years ago, was the scene of explosions leading to the current undulation. The day of our visit was a perfect spring day, with the sun shining and the blossom floating on a slight breeze. Not a hint of the earlier ugliness except for the uneven ground and the partly obscured entrance to underground bunkers. It is easy to understand why so many soldiers have no known graves when you see the depth and width of some of the bomb craters, as large as many dams in Australia.

The reason for my visit was to see the area where my Great Uncle, Charles Harold Butcher, was killed. He has no known grave, but is remembered with a headstone in the family grave in the Beeac cemetery and his name engraved in the Menin Gate along with thousands of others. He was twenty years old.

The Menin Gate is built on the spot where a break in the ramparts of the tow was used by the troops to march through, and contains the names of all those who have no known grave. A Last Post Service is held at six o'clock each evening and is well attended.

The tour group consisted mainly of people who had a Military background or had family who had served in the Great War. We visited many Cemeteries in Belgium and France, Museums and had lectures on board from a retired Naval Commodore (Peter Martin) who with six hour-long lectures explained the build-up to the war. Some of the group questioned some of the facts and after further study, were often found to be correct.

We were in Villiers-Bretonneux, which is not a large place on the day of the opening of the new Monash Museum, but only those who had a special invitation were able to visit. We visited the museum above the local school which was rebuilt with funds from the children in Victoria and contains carvings made by John Grant's students at Daylesford Technical College.

Red poppies are our symbol of Remembrance, but in France it is the cornflower. The locals had placed swathes of red poppies, blue cornflowers and white so that all were represented, along the roadside in the village. I had not realised that the Battle at Villiers Bretonneux took place on the third anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli.

I was shocked to see many small cemeteries and the number which were marked as unknown. I had envisaged several large cemeteries, but there are many. Some are just a few graves amid the beautifully tilled soil of a farm, and others are quite large. All are beautifully kept. The headstones on some are quite poignant. One is of a boy who was not quite sixteen when he was killed. Another was of a 23 year old Captain who had a Military Medal and two bars, the equivalent of three Military Medals.

The tour was extensive and we visited Fromelles, John McRae site at Essex Farm Cemetery, Pheasant Wood Cemetery, VC Corner Australian Cemetery, Polygon Wood, Tyne Cot Cemetery, Pozieres, Thiepval Memorial and Australian Corps Memorial at Le Hamel. The Flanders Field Museum in Ypres is located in the Cloth Hall which was rebuilt as was the rest of the city destroyed during the conflict. The Cathedral and the Cloth Hall were originally built in the fourteenth century, but it is not obvious that they have been rebuilt.

I had the impression that the economy of the region has been stimulated by the many visitors to the region and that the locals are very aware of the many lives lost to protect their country.

Lest We Forget.



'Cobber' Statue – Courtesy War Museum



Memorial Villiers Bretonneux – Photo Carolyn Haas

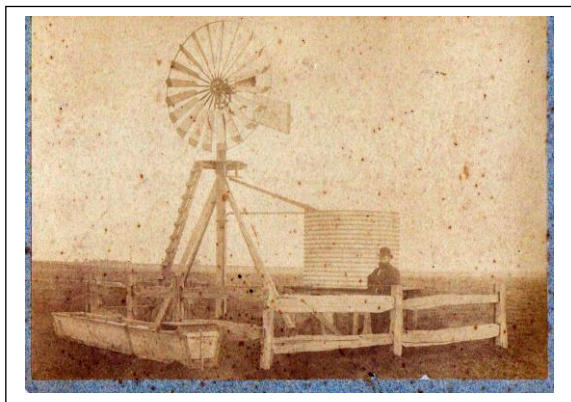


# LEWIS JONES OF BEEAC – ENGINEER/MACHINIST & WINDMILL MAKER

By Craig Pink

**E**arly Beeac identity Lewis Jones was born in the mid-1850's in Wales, and came to Australia in the late 1870's where he settled in Victoria. Lewis then settled into life at Beeac and from the late 1880's leased premises from Mark Jacob. Surviving records show Lewis shifted around a few sites at Beeac, he operated as an Engineer for many years on the east side of Main Street Beeac. One known premises was on the east side of the main street and in close proximity to the current brick Catholic Church. This was across the road from the old Public Hall/Danaher's Hotel which were popular in Beeac's earlier times. Beeac originally started more at this southern end of today's township, as the years went by and the population grew, the town spread further northward.

As well as being able to competently undertake any machining & engineering task given to him, Lewis Jones also very successfully made windmills from at least the early 1890's. The early Lewis Jones windmill design used several unique features which only became common place quite some years later even with larger competing brands some distance away in neighbouring towns. Part of these improvements included early attempts to overcome the all too frequent failure of the associated connecting parts to crankshaft and swivel in the upper pump rod shaft. Lewis's mechanism of pivots had the result of spreading the load over several points, which took considerable load off the main connecting rod attachment at crankshaft, this idea extended service intervals considerably. Lewis's idea of having the crankshaft offset from centre line also helped with other design shortfalls of typical early windmill designs. Lewis's offset crankshaft also helped to overcome other problems such as associated with getting the wheel to swing in and out of the wind. The vertical plane of the tail also helped with this, and also governing the speed in strong winds which saw many early windmills simply fall to pieces. Due to the lengthy process of having castings poured from wooden moulds out of town some distance away, Lewis Jones' early windmills used as much blacksmithing/forging as possible.



**AT LEFT** - An early Lewis Jones windmill design which was erected on John McDonald's property "Viewlands", situated ½ mile south east of today's Beeac golf course. Mounted on a wooden tower erected around 1891, this was the latest up to date new, modern, efficient way to pump water of the era. Inventive efforts such as those from Lewis Jones made conveniences like a modern design windmill affordable for more and more farmers of the era.

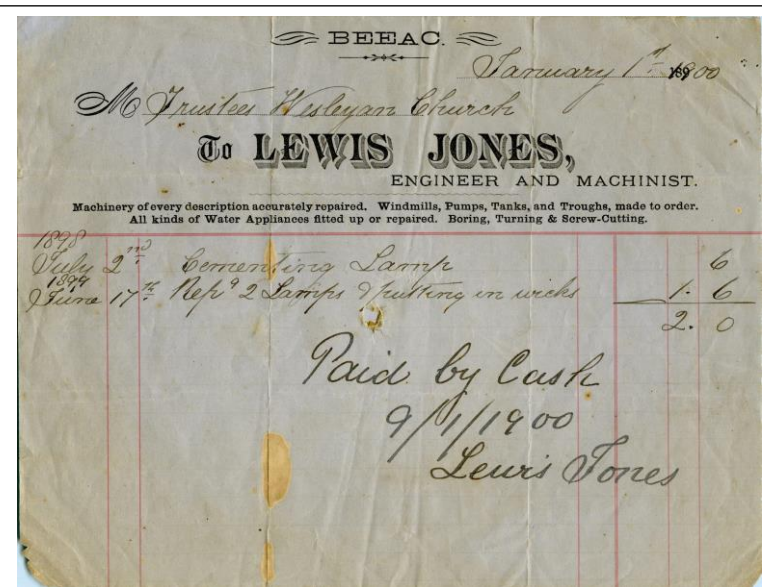
This windmill featured the early attempts of the offset crankshaft, overcoming much of the troublesome early swivel and crankshaft attachment. The pivoting lever mechanism of this style also made for an adjustable pump rod stroke which could increase the power produced, depending on the depth the water was pumped from. Although the windmill pictured has not survived, an identical model was restored by local Beeac retired engineer - Dick Shinnars, which was finished in time for display at Beeac's 150 year celebrations in 2010. The windmill can be viewed at Beeac's Heritage Windmill Park display in the centre of Beeac - as part of Beeac's early history which showcases Beeac's six former windmill makers.

Photo kindly supplied by Ailsa Sims, Geelong.



**ABOVE** - This centre crank hub is 100% consistent with the windmill photo above, along with at least seven other remaining hubs which have been found.

**AT RIGHT** - Lewis Jones invoice dating from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1900. This invoice was promptly paid on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1900, with Lewis Jones' signature evident at bottom. A surviving Lewis Jones docket from 1893 also shows the exact same heading template at top.



Surviving records show Lewis Jones never married and carried on business as an engineer at Beeac in leased premises into the early 1920's. He appears to have had a small "dwelling" either attached or situated close by.



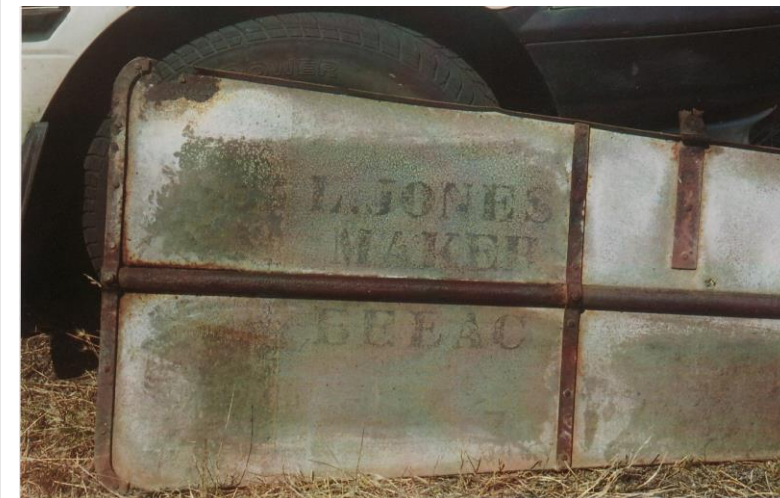
**AT LEFT** – Close up of the Lewis Jones windmill in as found condition before being restored in 2010 for the Beeac Heritage Windmill Park by Dick Shinner.

**AT RIGHT** – Close up - the crankshaft offset from centre line can be clearly seen.

Note how as much forging as possible was used. The completed restoration was part of the display for the Beeac 150 years celebrations in 2010. (Both photos by – C. Pink)



The later design Lewis Jones windmill proved so popular and reliable it was the basis of the pattern chosen by Jack Hall when he ventured into windmill manufacture some years after Lewis Jones retired.



**AT LEFT/BELOW** – One of the later style Lewis Jones windmills made at Beeac. Once this tail was sprayed with diesel it clearly revealed the old stencil markings which clearly read –

**L . JONES  
MAKER  
BEEAC**

Photo by G. Splatt.

Lewis Jones stayed at Beeac until he died in premises at Weston Street, Beeac on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1925 after a short illness. He is buried at the Beeac Cemetery in a marked grave and was aged 69 years.

**COLAC HERALD MARCH 20<sup>th</sup> 1925** - Front page – Beeac –

*The death of Mr Lewis Jones has removed an old identity of 40 years from the district. The late Mr Jones was noted for the thoroughness of his work, and was never known to turn out an inferior job. He was much esteemed.*

No connection has been found to link Lewis Jones of Beeac to Ernest Jones of Colac, who also made windmills. Ernest Jones started off in 1892 in partnership as "Bryan & Jones", traded as "Bryan, Jones & Brett" from 1893 to 1896, after mid-1898 Bryan & Jones went their separate ways which is where the very well-known name of "Bryan Bros" originated from in Colac. Ernest Jones then made windmills in the original premises (recently Rodger Bros truck tyre bay in Rae St.). For a number of years a restored example of a Colac made Ernest Jones windmill could be seen as an exhibit in the front yard of Provans' Mechanical Museum, Colac West.

Material source – Beeac Heritage Windmill Committee





# Recollections of Old Colac

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

No. 6 Article Colac Reformer, 20<sup>th</sup> August, 1884

## Land Sales (Continued)

After that eventful day in Camperdown, which actually made land owners of so many of us, selection here and throughout the colony went on occasionally with more or less spasmodic action until the passing of the Act 1869, which is within the recollection of almost every person of the present day, and will be duly recorded by the historians for the information of future generations.

## Visit of the Duke of Edinburgh

I will now proceed to place before my readers an account, in my own simple way, of another circumstance which occurred in [1867]. This was the arrival in the colony of his Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, second son of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, who has graciously given her Royal name to this adopted country of ours.

When it was made known that HRH had set foot on board the Galatea, really bound for these southern shores, and actually on his way to pay us a visit, what were we to do? How were we to receive him? Were the questions asked. Every town in the colony, and every newspaper too, were similarly perplexed, and this dilemma not only assailed Victoria, but all the colonies. Australian loyalty, however, rose equal to the occasion, and right well showed the people of the home country that it knew to welcome a Royal guest. Emblems, flags, banners, and bannerettes, were prepared in every imaginable colour, red, white and blue, and green being conspicuous. The rose, thistle and shamrock too, were to the front, vying with one another to make a brilliant display, even the audacious little varmint, the shamrock, peeping out from the band of Paddy's caubeen, as assertive and demonstrative in its loyalty as the most gaudily emblazoned device. As I jot down from memory alone, and not from notes taken at the time, if I be guilty of any inaccuracy I trust consideration will be extended to me. I believe the "Argus" took the lead in advising inhabitants as to the best manner of receiving the Duke, and suggested to the people in all places along the line of route over which His Grace was to pass, to form themselves into Royal Reception Committees, each to consider in its own way, the most suitable mode of according a welcome.

Colac happened to be one of the places to be visited, and the townspeople appointed its Reception Committee. And what is more, a Colac man was selected by the Melbourne R R Committee, including I believe, all the members of both Houses of Parliament, with the Governor at their head, to tool the Prince's coach and four spanking and stylish greys, which by various stages drew it over the colony wherever the Royal visitor choose to travel. That was something for any Jehu to be proud of, and Colac was proud of it, too, the driver's family was proud of it, and "himself" (Scott) was proud of it, for no man knew better than "Old Son" how to handle a set of leather ribbons and a whip, than "Old Son" did. Peace to his ashes. We had a Reception Committee in Colac, and your humble servant was a member of it, and Mr Youngerjohn (John Chapman), and Mr J V Bartlett, and W W, as colleagues. We were all important fellows then, I can tell you. It was no small distinction to be a member, and so at the meeting from which the committee were chosen, you proposed me, and got someone to second you, and I in return proposed you and got someone to second me, and so on, until all, or nearly all who were at that meeting, and some who were not, were placed on the Royal Reception Committee.

Well, the management met, and seriously considered what was to be done, one suggested the giving of a champagne dinner, another favoured a procession, but so many diverse opinions ruled, until at length everything proposed was rejected. Bless you, we were all up to snuff, to use a common saying, all versed in royal manners and royal customs and royal ways, and knew everything about the Throne, although not one in a hundred of us ever laid eyes on a royal personage before, yet we knew all about royalty, and were likewise acquainted with what would please and what would displease royalty. And what was more, we expected when we met him, he would come and shake hands with every one of us, and enquire after the health of our wives and our sons and daughters, and our uncles, & c. down to our most distant relations. That's what we anticipated. But what came to pass, say you? Have a little patience and I will tell you. We, at least made up our minds that the Prince would stay a night with us, partake of a good dinner, and make a speech afterwards, containing reference to the Royal Mother, whom we all so loved and revered, and lots of other things besides, and so spending a jolly night together. That's what we expected. Now, as to what we actually did with this pleasant prospect in view.

We appointed ourselves as hereinbefore related, to collect subscriptions to pay expenses of reception, and money poured into us like water; everybody was liberally inclined those days, and no one dared refuse assistance. If he did, he'd be looked on as a rebel or a Fenian immediately. I have my list by me yet, and it amuses me even yet to read it over. Some of them on it are thriving, well-to-do business men, and tradesmen in our midst; others are gone to that

bourne whence no traveller returns. We further arranged that the Shire Council, as a matter of course, should take precedence, and that they should procure a beautiful illumined address to be read by the president and presented to the Prince, in that magnificent building, the Shire Hall. A local draper was to procure a grand piece of Turkey carpet, reaching from the centre of the road where the royal carriage was to draw up, into the building, the visitor to walk on. Some confusion arose in the council as to what should be said to the Prince after the reading of the address, and as to what the Prince would say to the council when the address was handed to him. It was next arranged for the erection of a gallery where the new Bank of Victoria is going up, for the school children. The boys were to be dressed in their best Sunday togger, and the girls arrayed in white, and a singing master provided to teach them to sing "God save the Queen", as soon as the carriage drew up and the Prince made his appearance. Men, horses, and drays were dispatched to forest for spars and ferns to erect a grand arch from Marshall's corner across the main street to the Post Office. Men worked day and night at it in order to have it completed just as the Duke reached Cameron's Hill. All sorts of royal mottoes were worked on this magnificent arch, superintended by Mr Youngerjohn, and among them were neatly inserted with roses, flowers and thistles, and shamrocks, the words, "Welcome to Colac", "Hail Victoria", "Victoria the Good", and such like. Some of the sentences were printed on red calico in black letters, and when the arch was completed the structure and surroundings certainly looked beautiful, and a great triumph for the artist, who devised and superintended the arrangements.

The next order issued by the committee, if I remember rightly, was that every house, cottage, and hut in the township should be whitewashed and decorated, and made to look all smiles and joy on that November (December, it should be) day. The forest was searched for miles around for big poles, and the longest whip-sticks I ever saw found their way out of the Colac woodland to bear our flags of every hue, all to prove, as clearly as any problem in Euclid, our ultra-loyalty.

But the greatest display made, after all, was due to the cavalcade, on which immense pains were exercised. I have already apprised you that we had our reception committee an offshoot of an English aristocratic house, whom I have named in passing W W, a genial fellow, a bon vivant, well known as a tender father, a good citizen, and a loyal subject, and although we all knew so much, yet we agreed unanimously, incredible though it may seem, that he being the only man among us who knew anything of military tactics, should be dubbed "Colonel". We gave our colonial power to issue a proclamation to all loyal subjects of Her Royal Majesty, who by hook or by crook, could provide a horse, saddle and bridle, to fall into the cavalcade on a certain day to meet and welcome HRH and titled attendants to Colac.

#### **No. 7 Article Colac Reformer, August 27, 1884**

The discovery of gold in Victoria in 1851 did not create a bigger sensation than the arrival in Hobson's Bay of HRH, in 1867, and not only in Melbourne, but the whole colony became half frantic with excitement. All sorts of amusements were devised and arrangements made to carry them out, so that the Prince and his gentle companions might enjoy themselves. When it was ascertained that HRH was to pay a visit to the Western District our enthusiasm rose to the English pitch. On his journey westward the Duke rested at Geelong, where he was right hospitably entertained, and the next day made Barwon Park. Before proceeding on his journey to Colac he had a pop at the bunnies, which occupied the forenoon, and after lunch he made tracks for Colac, which was sighted about five o'clock in the afternoon.

The morning of that day saw us all busy in making preparations for the fray. At the invitation of our colonel, horsemen poured into Colac from every direction. I did not count them, but I suppose we mustered 150 strong, all kinds of horses, from Clydesdale to the Timor and Shetland being represented in the cavalcade, and all classes of men, too, from the rough splitter to the humbug dandy, dressed in his best buckskin polished tops and shining spurs, plaited bit and stirrup irons, and brand new creaking saddle. Our colonel selected three or four of us, the day previous to assist him in keeping order, terming those who thus rendered help, lieutenants or aides-de-camp. I forget which. He taught us also to sit like military men in our saddles, with our toes well in to the horse's shoulders, but not too much, heels below the stirrup irons, body and head erect, and the eye in a line with the knee and the point of the toe. I don't think Corrigan, Hales or Chifley beat that description. Our horses were likewise taught to champ their bits and arch their crests, although we had neither Pelham nor curb, and to walk, trot and canter alternately at the word of command, I can't say now at this distant period whether in after days our steeds ever forgot their lessons, but the riders never did. The Victoria Hotel was the starting point, and our colonel took great pains to match both men and horses, and marshall us into something like order. At length we got away and into line, and the order to march issued, and we walked, trotted and cantered very decently until we reached Harker's reserve, where we halted, and resolved to await there the arrival of the Royal party. The day was very sultry, a scorching hot wind blowing from the north-west, making men and horses feel uncomfortable, there being no shade at hand under which we could stow ourselves away from the heat of a penetrating sun.

After two or three hours feverish waiting, a panic arose among the crowd and we resolved to go as far as Mt Gellibrand. So we resumed our march and arrived about two o'clock at the reserve in front of Bleak House (Beal's),



and we resolved not to budge one inch from this until the Duke came. We put in the time cracking jokes and spinning yarns until about 4 o'clock, when we perceived a carriage in the distance, accompanied by about half a dozen troopers, and then the cry was heard, "Here comes the Duke".

Our colonel immediately gave orders to line up fronting the road. We quickly got into our saddles and up we came as regular as a trained regiment of cavalry. We fully expected and, in fact, we were led to believe that the royal carriage would pull up to admit of a parley, and the driver of the vehicle who knew us all made an effort to do so, but was nudged in the side by one of the Royal visitors and told to drive on, and on he did drive, sure enough, at the rate of 15 or 16 miles an hour, and we were no more noticed by Royalty than if we had been so many sheep grazing in a paddock at the side of the road. We followed on, however, and the pace soon became very warm, those riding heavy horses quickly falling back, and only those who happened to be mounted on a bit of blood could keep close to the carriage in front of us. Before we reached Dennis' gate some amusement was caused by one of the crowd, who rushed to the front of the cavalcade. I cannot say what his idea was, but he rode there in spite of the efforts of the escort to send him to the rear. There in front he would ride, and he did so, like an American Indian, sometimes in front of the saddle, sometimes behind it, now on one side of the horse's neck, then on the other, with one leg over the saddle, and another under the horse. The escort would now and then make a rush at the horseman to stop his antics, but they had as much chance of accomplishing the feat as they had of fetching the moon. The capers he cut no doubt amused the party, until he disappeared in one of the side streets of the town.

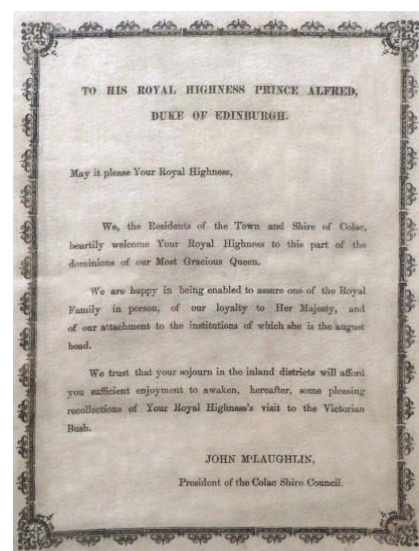
When the Royal party reached the bridge the excitement of the crowd who were assembled from all parts of the district, became very intense, and with the waving of hats and handkerchiefs, people rushed in front of the Duke's conveyance, and the cheering and Hip Hip Hurrahing which followed, Colac never heard before or since. Everybody was confident HRH would stop to hear the children sing "God save the Queen"; the Shire Council expected he would walk on the Turkey carpet into the Shire Hall to receive their illumined address; and the Reception Committee were sure he would say something handsome to them. But did he stop for these things? No, nothing of the kind occurred at all. The pretty scenes anticipated were soon cruelly dispelled. The coachman was not allowed to pull up, but was ordered to drive on, and he did not draw rein until he reached "The Hill", where the Duke was put up for the night. Well might the crowd stand agape! The council, with the president at its head, ready to read the beautiful address which he held in his hands, were dumbfounded, and for a few minutes nobody knew what to do or what to say. The children and their parents, too, felt greatly disappointed at no recognition being made of their efforts to please, and the expense incurred. There must have been a photographer in the crowd, taking notes and photos for the Melbourne "Punch", and all the papers that appeared in Colac on the Friday following were bought up and destroyed.

As soon as we recovered our breath, we adjourned to the Victoria Hotel, had a drink, and then felt a little cooler, but still very indignant. But after some deliberation it was decided to send up a deputation to "The Hill" to demand from the Prince an explanation of his conduct. What HRH said to the deputation, I believe, remains a mystery, but it is certain they returned very much crest-fallen. The crowd broke up into small parties, making all sorts of comments, and one old man was heard to say to his wife, "Bless ye Betsy, I thought I'd see a fine portly gentleman dressed in beautiful clothes and decked out with diamonds and gold, and jewellery of all sorts, but bless'ee he was only dressed in a suit of tweed just like old Tom, and he beant a bit better looking than he beant".

A well-known resident of the Larpen remarked to some of our principal men that evening, "Look here, me boys, I'll bet any of you a new hat, HRH will stop at my house tomorrow, and will come in and have a drink with me". And I heard it related after that HRH did so. The Victoria Hotel did a roaring trade that evening, for our loyalty was fast cooling down to zero, and we wanted to warm it up a bit with a bit of brandy and soda. The Englishmen took it very calmly; the Scotchman

said, "Eh, mon, nothing the like o' it", The Irishman muttered something like, ... The Frenchman said, "Sacré", and strove to pull down the beautiful arch, but the Englishman wouldn't let him. The German, rubbing his hands with glee, said something like, "Ach mein gubbling".

..... The End



**ABOVE** – The original Address Scroll as was to be presented to the Duke of Edinburgh on his 1867 visit to Colac. This original scroll was donated to the Society in 1975.



## CRAIG'S CONUNDRUM

LAST ISSUE ANSWER –

**AT LEFT** – The former NATIONAL TYRE SERVICE premises located on the south west corner of Gellibrand and Bromfield Streets, as it appeared in the mid-1960's. In August 1979, the business and premises (then trading as Dunlop Tyre Service) was sold to Rodgers Bros. Colac Tyre Service Pty Ltd, and was amalgamated into Rogers Bros existing business. The building was then used to store tyres etc.... and was eventually demolished. Western Insurance Brokers occupy the corner site today.



**AT LEFT** - Now we know the location of this former NATIONAL TYRE SERVICE premises in Central Colac, this November 1972 Bela Bard Brucker image (facing Gellibrand St. to left of image) shows pigs freely running about the tyre fitting bay - was this common ?

And Why ?

(A clue – it's Monday evening)

**ANSWER NEXT ISSUE**



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

**Please Note:** History Centre Closed from 4pm Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
Reopening 2pm Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Month	Thursday	Friday	Sunday
<b>December 2018</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> D. Missen 13 <sup>th</sup> I. Barlow	7 <sup>th</sup> C. Pink 14 <sup>th</sup> G. Bray	2 <sup>nd</sup> A. McIntosh 9 <sup>th</sup> G. Knox 16 <sup>th</sup> B. McDonald
<b>January 2019</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> G. Splatt 24 <sup>th</sup> J. Knight 31 <sup>st</sup> R. Missen	18 <sup>th</sup> E. Chambers 25 <sup>th</sup> M. Saddlier	20 <sup>th</sup> B. McDonald 27 <sup>th</sup> L. Spence
<b>February 2019</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> D. Missen 14 <sup>th</sup> I. Barlow 21 <sup>st</sup> G. Splatt 28 <sup>th</sup> J. Knight	1 <sup>st</sup> C. Pink 8 <sup>th</sup> G. Bray 15 <sup>th</sup> E. Chambers 22 <sup>nd</sup> M. Saddlier	3 <sup>rd</sup> A. McIntosh 10 <sup>th</sup> G. Knox 17 <sup>th</sup> B. McDonald 24 <sup>th</sup> L. Spence