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Established 6th February 1950 - Incorporation No. - A00245414U

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

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

News/Updates/Information - Website: 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 - dates & times advised.

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

We Thank Contributors for This Issue: Ellise Angel, Alan Doyle, Norman Houghton and Neil McMillan.

Forthcoming Events -

Wednesday February 24th - Meeting & BBQ - 6.30pm. Venue 'Airdrie' 25 McDonald Street, Colac

Wednesday March 24th - General Meeting - 7.30pm. Speaker Lynton Evans – 2nd Generation Colac business owner.

Wednesday April 28th - General Meeting - 7.30pm.

NOTE – All events (including Roster opening hours) may be subject to change due to the possibility of changing COVID-19 restrictions.

A Note from the President -

Congratulations to our valued member Norman Houghton OAM on his Australia Day Award – see page 2.

2021 will again commence activity with a 6.30pm BBQ tea prior to our 24th February meeting at 'Airdrie', 25 McDonald Street. Our grateful thanks to the owners Fred & Mary Slade for allowing us to visit the stately home built in 1890 for J G Johnstone, which they have lovingly restored.

I hope the History Centre can re-open to the public on the 4th March - the old roster of volunteers has been printed on the back page. I hope that others can make themselves available to spread the load as the year unfolds.

For the past 2 years Jennifer O'Donnell has been carefully researching 'Coragulac House' and its various owners since its construction by the Robertson family. The book 'Coragulac House' is to be launched at the Colac Uniting Church at 3pm on Sunday March 21st. **Colac & District Historical Society members are invited but bookings must be made due to COVID-19. RSVP to Jenny O'Donnell on 0407 536666 or jennnn3040@gmail.com.**

Significantly, the venue, Colac Uniting Church has a magnificent stained glass window donated by the Robertson family and the church bluestone was quarried at Coragulac.

We are also delighted to be receiving 2 books 'Decent People' and 'An Accidental Engineer' written by retired Colac educated civil engineer David Jellie who spoke to us in 2019. Both these books will add greatly to the written account of Colac's history and the families which were part of our past.

Norman Houghton OAM



Norman Houghton OAM

The Colac & District Historical Society congratulates our esteemed member Norman Houghton on his recent award for his services to community history. The many books he has researched and written on Colac and Otway history not only provide an invaluable record, but also foster an interest in our local history by their readers.

Norman is also very generous in freely sharing his research knowledge with other historians. Quite often research enquiries directed to our Society are answered promptly because Norman will tap into his data for us. This happens when finding the answer within our own records proves difficult and time consuming. This past year Norman has voluntarily spent many tedious hours indexing the recently digitised Johnstone collection of maps and sale posters.

Members who were present when he spoke at a meeting in 2019 will not forget his colourful account of the clothing requirements and physical effort he puts himself through to battle blackberries and leeches. This demonstrated his dedication to ensure his maps and plans of lost sawmills and railways in the Otways forest were accurate. Our Society is but one of the historical societies in Geelong and the Otways who have benefitted from mentoring and voluntary assistance generously provided by Norman Houghton.

What has been in the Colac Herald news?

November 11, 2020 - Relief and joy as Colac district centres re-open as they emerge from COVID-19.

November 13 - Colac honours veterans. COVID-19 meant a smaller event than usual as the Colac RSL, sub-branch hosted a brief service at the Memorial Square for Remembrance Day. November 11 was originally called Armistice Day, the date when hostilities stopped on the Western Front in 1918. It was changed to Remembrance Day after the Second World War to acknowledge all people who died in battle.

November 13 - Historic names added to city's War Memorial. Nearly 70 forgotten names of servicemen killed in battle have been added on a plaque to Colac's WW1 Memorial which is 96 years old. Included are Norman Bartlett of Beeac, Frank Gannon from Murroon, John Urquhart from Colac and Stanley Brooks who worked at Corunnun.

November 18 - New thylacine search is on. Farmers and others who potentially sight suspect predators in the Otways can now test nearby water sources for DNA traces of this elusive animal. The Tasmanian Tiger was declared extinct in the 1980s, 50 years after the last confirmed animal died in captivity.

November 18 - Cool concept to protect bats. Sprinklers will help bats at Colac Botanic Gardens keep cool through the worst of the summer heat. Sprinklers will be installed in the tree canopy to protect thousands of resident grey-headed flying foxes during heatwaves in Colac.

November 20 - Tower Anger. Firefighters will gather today to fight against the CFA's plans to close one of Colac District's fire-spotting towers which is on Mt Gellibrand. Health and safety concerns were stated for the closure. But locals believe the tower was vital for fire spotting in the grassy plains to the North of Colac.

November 20 - COVID response praised. A Parliamentary inquiry into Victoria's COVID-19 contact tracing system has praised Colac Area Health for its response to Colac's two coronavirus outbreaks. Two campaigns engaging with the public were called "Keep Colac Safe" and "Let's get back to None." Drive-through testing was set up and positive cases were monitored. CAH has worked closely with the Australian Lamb Company. The Colac community quickly adopted masks and self-lockdown was practised a fortnight before the rest of the state, as well as contact tracing.

November 23 - Plea for Action- Save our Tower. More than 50 people attended a rally at Mt Gellibrand including CFA volunteers and politicians demanding action. One suggestion is to create a new tower by stacking large shipping containers on top of each other on top of Mt Gellibrand to replace the old tower.

November 30 - Silent night, streaming night. Colac City Band will preserve 74 years of tradition when it hosts its annual Carols by Candlelight event this year despite unprecedented challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic. Just band members at their Lake Colac band room will be the feature in this virtual only live-stream event.

December 11 - Reprieve for fire lookout post. The CFA will partially re-open Mt Gellibrand's fire tower instead of decommissioning it. Remedial work will allow the safe use of the tower under limited weather conditions. 1000 people had signed a petition to stop its closure.

December 16 - Shop sells to metro buyer. Colac's former Victoria Hall building has sold at auction for \$685,000. It had received a new floor and roof in recent years and has been occupied by Treasure Hunters.

January 18, 2021 - Church celebrates 150 years. Birregurra Christ Church opened in 1871 thanks to Charles Sladen and Davenport Bromfield and will be celebrating with a 10am service and a BYO picnic in the church grounds.

January 20 - Lake's water quality faces more scrutiny. New signs on the foreshore of Lake Colac warn people not to swim in the lake 48 hours after rain because of recent tests showing high levels of bacteria at the foreshore and at Meredith Park on the North side. The problem according to an environmental scientist is the load of nutrients

entering the lake from agricultural sources, thus it is critical to eliminate direct stock access. Others say salinity is rising because the lake is so shallow.

January 27 - Historic day for rail historian. *Norman Houghton* has spent 5 decades documenting Colac district's history and publishing numerous books about rail history. He was born in Colac and is an archivist with a passion for history. Norman has been awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his service to community history, which has included professional and voluntary work with local history societies dating back to the 1970s.

January 29 - Lease signed after long hiatus. Colac's iconic Botanic Gardens Cafe may reopen in mid-March says its new owner, Teghan Fraser, who was head chef of the previous café which closed 12 months earlier. The café will employ people of all abilities. The building was home to the garden's curators from 1927, replacing a previous cottage.

February 1 – COVID-19 History Mural. Gellibrand's Dorthe Koorn has transferred a hall in her house into a mural documenting her COVID-19 experience. Dorthe started the wall in April 2020, when she drew a grid on the wall in her back hallway. Each day she wrote the number of COVID-19 cases in Victoria, any deaths, and what she and her family had done that day. The project had received positive feedback on Facebook.

February 3 – Avid card player celebrates 100th. Margaret Toulmin celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends including the Cressy Cards Club where she is a keen competitor. Margaret played an important role as a plane spotter at Cressy during WW2, and has three surviving children, 10 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

February 5 – Clarity over authorities' roles. A Lake Colac advocate and Colac's MP say lake management has fallen through the cracks of bureaucracy. Meanwhile, new councillors are keen for their first meeting with the lake's Co-ordinating Committee. Lake management became a focus of public discussion in recent weeks due to council erecting signs advising people not to swim in the lake 48 hours after rain, because of bacteria levels. The council is responsible for public health as well as managing the foreshore from west of the city to Flaxmill Road and also Meredith Park. Some of the other key authorities included in the management of Lake Colac include- CCMA, DELWP, Parks Victoria, The Victorian Fisheries Authority and the State Government.

February 5 – City endured highest rate of COVID-19. The Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, of which Polwarth MP Richard Riordan is deputy chair, tabled its 508-page report into the Victorian Government's response to the second wave of COVID-19. The report revealed that Colac's COVID-19 outbreak was the largest per-capita in Australia. The report also stated that the Colac community's response to the initial outbreak was an example to the whole state, with key actions successfully replicated at other regional centres to help suppress the second wave of COVID-19 in 2020.

February 8 – Authority pushes for carp virus. Victoria's fisheries authority says it is the lead agency responsible for commercial and recreational carp fishing in the state, and that there are also plans to put native fish into Lake Colac. The article came after the Colac Herald contacted the VFA for clarity over its role in carp monitoring and management in Lake Colac. The VFA's responsibility also includes advocating for the release of the carp virus under the Commonwealth led National Carp Control Plan. There are currently two commercial fishers in Lake Colac who regularly reduce numbers of carp through permitted commercial fishing.

LATEST BOOK RELEASE

By Norman Houghton

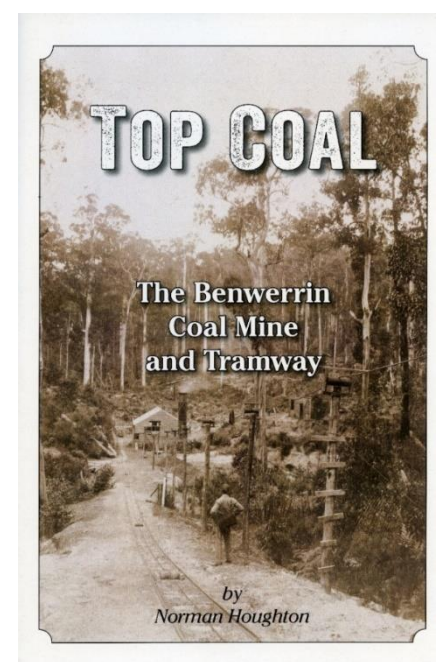
Yet another very informative book has recently been released by Norman Houghton, which covers in great detail not only in text, but also in illustrations and informative maps titled – **TOP COAL - The Benwerrin Coal Mine and Tramway.**

Consisting of 32 pages, the book covers the discovery of the initial coal deposit in 1896 by Bambra farmer Mr. W. Box, situated some nine kilometres south east of Deans Marsh.

With the first commercial coal extracted in 1897, the book details all of the ups and downs, including an interesting tale of the Colac businessmen syndicate.

The Benwerrin coal mine was worked until 1949, when it closed due to several reasons - among them being water entering and also a rival mine with a better coal seam. This rival mine which had opened several kilometres away to the east of Deans Marsh also had improved prospects. It is estimated that over the life of the Benwerrin coal mine it cut out a total of over 11,000 tonnes of coal.

Copies available from the Society for sale at \$22 each (postage extra)



Recollections of holidays at Carlisle River

**By Neil McMillan
Ringwood East**

Our camping spot was in a perfect setting. The Gellibrand River was almost black with tannin as it wound around our camping site in an inverted U shape. The river bank was lined with tall white trunked gum trees which gave us shade from the hot sun and the grass in the paddock was lush and green.

Back behind the camp was a dirt road which ended at an old trestle bridge. The wooden planks laid across-ways wobbled and clunked as you walked over them.

On the other side of the bridge the farmer's land stretched up to the edge of the thick forest, the tall stringy-bark gums and low scrub forming a natural barrier to all but the wildlife who lived unmolested within its bounds.

Early one morning we could hear a man's voice quietly echoing across the silence of the valley. Over the bridge to the right, the farmer was walking in the plough furrows, calling gently to his large, old Clydesdale horse as it drew a small metal plough slowly and purposefully up and down over the rich, dark river-plain soil in lines not so straight between the river and the boundary wire fence. Dad, Graeme and I walked over to witness the workings and listen to the farmer's instructions as they made their turns at the end of each row. As they made a turn near us, Dad asked the farmer if Graeme and I could ride on the horse's back. The farmer replied "yes" so Dad lifted us both up high onto the back of this wonderful animal. We clung tightly to the mane and to one another as this huge horse continued on his path up the slope to the fence line then, turning slowly, took us back down the slope stopping at the turn where Dad was waiting. With much regret we slid off this wonderful horse into Dad's arms and landed on the newly turned soil.

At the top right-hand corner of the paddock was a structure made from narrow tree trunks and covered on three sides and topped with corrugated iron. It was just tall enough for the farmer to enter and only wide enough to accommodate one cow at a time. The farmer sat there on his handmade three-legged stool each morning just after daylight milking his four cows whatever the weather. There was little protection from the wind and rain so the farmer sat close to the cow with his back against the wall managing to keep dry but not warmer. On clear days the forest trees nearby shaded the sun from his workplace, and kept the frost on the ground well into the late morning.

Each morning as soon as we were dressed, Dad, with either Graeme or I, or both, would go up across the newly ploughed field to the milking shed with our tin billycan to get our daily supply of fresh, warm, creamy milk straight from the milking bucket. Walking back across the furrowed ground with the billy full of milk was no easy feat.

The cows grazed in the paddock directly across the river from our camp site. In the late afternoon as we sat waiting for tea we would watch the rabbits, and the occasional wallaby, hopping around in amongst the cows neither being worried about the other.

Every morning as soon as it was light and the men had got the fires going again, Dad and Stewie would take their rifles and go rabbiting and be back with the days catch before breakfast.

We would often wake to the faint sounds of rifle shots echoing through the valley. Dad & Stewie were both pretty good shots and very seldom came back empty handed.

One morning Dad asked me if I would like to go with them. An immediate 'yes', a quick scramble to finish getting dressed then into my gumboots and off we went.

They went the usual way over the old wooden bridge, turned to the left and followed along the edge of the river to the spot opposite where they went fishing before turning to the right across the paddock.

A water pipeline from a distant reservoir cut through the paddock before disappearing into the forest heading for some unknown town water supply. The 60cm water pipe stood on an upright concrete base about one and a half metres tall and blocking off my sight from the rest of the paddock.

As we approached the pipeline Dad gave me strict instructions to be very quiet.

Dad lifted me up so I could see over the top.

Rabbits!!!! Thousands of them!!!

“Old Resident’s Critique of “Izaak” – Colac Herald 13 March 1888”

This article was in reference to Izaak’s column “The History of Colac – Chapter IV – FOUNDING OF COLAC – APPEARANCE OF THE TOWN – THE FIRST HOTEL – PROGRESS OF EVENTS”, printed in The Colac Herald on 2nd March 1888, page 3.

THE HISTORY OF COLAC (TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD)

Sir – The very interesting articles by your clever contributor “Izaak” on the rise and progress of Colac have been read, no doubt, by all interested in the place, but in his last contribution there is an omission which I venture to supply. I refer to the corner block on which the Royal Hotel now stands, and where our respected Shire Councillors have found a habitation and a home. The corner in question belonged for a long time to Mr. Thomas Hill, who owned so many blocks scattered about in different parts of the township, and the block in question was in the market for £300, which it was worth at the time. We had then residing amongst us a Mr. James, or as he was always called, Dr. James, for he practised as a “botanical doctor”, as the term is. He was a character and no mistake, and in the course of his wanderings to and fro on the face of the earth, had visited almost all parts of the globe. He took along with him a large stock of dried herbs and plants, and when he had “physiced” people and got in a little money, then he moved on to another place. However, he seemed well pleased with Colac, and the “move on” which had always been the order of the day with him, was abandoned for that of “rest and be thankful.” He determined to stop here and put up a public house, and the block in question for that purpose. As the “Doctor’s” means were very limited, how it was to be got neither he nor anybody else knew, even though credit were stretched to the utmost limits of human forbearance. However the old fellow in the course of his explorations in the forest, came across some lime beds and burnt his own lime,

and with the aid of a bricklayer who had unfortunately, through a logging accident lost one arm. They got a one-storied structure about 9 feet high between them; the “Doctor” declaring when taxed with the smallness of the place, that it had doubled his back to get that up, and had he put up a bigger one, it would have broken it altogether. A roaring trade was done at first, a vast deal of liquid sold, and a great many drunkards made, the “Doctor” avowing that it was a race between him and the Rev. Hugh B-- over the way, as to which of them was leading most men downwards or upwards; the “Doctor” affirming, that there were people wicked enough to say, that he was doing more harm with rum glass than he could undo with the physic bottle. However, the old fellow was, of course, deeply in debt when he started, and he never cleared himself, and subsequently Mr. Martin Anthony bought the whole place, intending to put another story on it, but careful inspection proved that the structure was so flimsy, that if new work were piled on the old, the whole affair would come to the ground with a crash, and consequently the old “Doctor’s” place was pulled down, and he resumed his wanderings, and left Colac, but there are still some residents here who remember how freely the old fellow used Cayenne pepper for his patients, though he certainly never needed any doses himself, for a more irritable or peppery old fellow never lived, and he certainly at times lived in a very hot atmosphere, and his neighbours had to breathe it, when he could not always get his own way.

Yours & c.,

OLD RESIDENT.

Colac, March 12th, 1888.

Bibliography:

- Colac Herald, 2 March 1888, page 3 - The History Of Colac Chapter IV – FOUNDING OF COLAC – APPEARANCE OF THE TOWN
- THE FIRST HOTEL – PROGRESS OF EVENTS
Colac Herald, 13 March 1888, page 3 - The History Of Colac (To The Editor Of The Herald).
(Contributed by Alan Doyle)

GHOST TOWNS

By Norman Houghton

The Colac region, like any other, has been subject to the ups and downs in the economic cycle. The aftermath of change and catastrophe has left abandoned, devastated and gutted communities. Ghost towns.

The prime ghost towns have been sawmill communities in the Otways. In the period from the 1880s to the 1940s it was usual to cut and mill logs on site in the bush. Around the mills were a collection of houses, huts, meal rooms, blacksmith shop, stables, store sheds etc.

The largest of these settlements was Henry's No 1 mill in the West Barwon Valley, some 11 kms from Forrest. The mill supported a population of around 100 persons and was a complete township. It possessed a range of full size houses, numerous huts, boarding house and meal room, billiard room, school and general store/post office. The mill set up comprised the sawmill itself plus blacksmith, stables and chaff shed. The mill operated from 1901 to 1927 and on closure the entire site was stripped of equipment and buildings.

There were two other elaborate settlements. One was at Armistead's mill at Kennett River from 1940 to 1977 where a mini township of 17 dwellings was established to house 60 persons. Armistead had no choice in the matter as there was virtually nothing at Kennett River when he established the mill. On closure the site was stripped and later revegetated to obliterate most of the traces. At Pile Siding, near the Knox Access Road corner and a short distance from the sawmill, Keith King & Co built 12 full size houses along the Lavers Hill road in 1951 as a means to provide for, and retain, labour in what was a tight market. These houses were fully occupied for eight or nine years while the mill operated. When the mill moved to Barongarook these dwellings were unoccupied and through to 1965 were either demolished or relocated when all were gone.

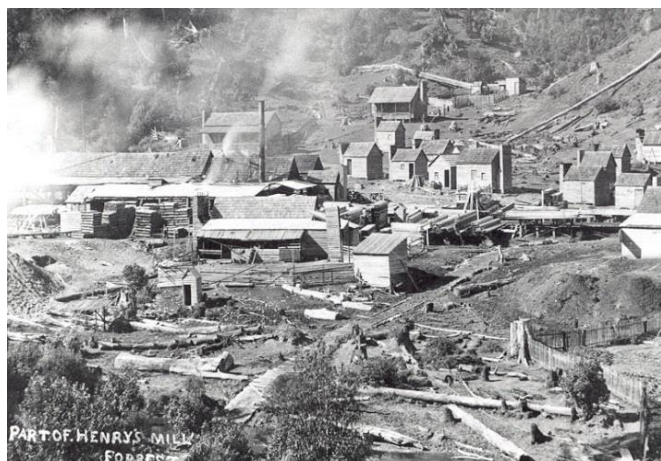
No other mill settlements were as large as the above three but several comprised a range of houses and huts plus boarding house, stables, blacksmith and chaff shed as well as the mill plant and associated buildings. These sites included Knott's at Arkins Creek (with 12 single mens' huts) and the No.3 at Wyelangta, the Box Mill and Smedleys at Olangolah, Northern Timber Co at Lavers Hill, the Elliott Mill at Apollo Bay (several full size houses and a school), Sharps at Turtons Track and Lorne, Sandersons at Noonday Creek and the West Barwon, Haydens at Thompson Track, Curtis and Gail Clearings, Mackies on and in the Mackie Creek valley and Henrys at Carisbrook and Nettle Creeks. Mills with associated housing a little distance away on main roads were the Western Timber Co at Stalker and Sharps at Tanybryn (plus a tennis court).

There are several what might be called ghost localities, formerly farming areas that usually had a post office, telephone exchange, public hall and school that have been compulsorily swallowed by water and forestry reserves. They are now covered in timber and include Aire Valley, Olangolah, Olangolah East, Lardners, Webster Hill, Banool and parts of Wyelangta.

Other areas have simply been wasted due to changing times and better roads and these include Benwerrin, Wymbooliel, Gerangamete, Crowes, Charleys Creek, Banool, McDevitt and Yuulong.

Shrinking or shrunk settlements due to economic and social forces in action are evident and these include Dreeite, Eurack, Warrion, Alvie, Cressy, Nalangil, Swan Marsh, Beech Forest, Barramunga and Irrewillipe.

BELOW – View of the Henry No. 1 Sawmill and immediate surrounds. Mill plant is the dominating feature - behind it and to the sides are residential dwellings. The huts are for the single men. (Both images – N. Houghton)



BELOW – The Henry No. 1 Sawmill - The settlement for the married couples and families was immediately north of the main mill area - it was called Port Arthur. The school was also situated here. All of this disappeared when the sawmill burnt down in 1927, the buildings dismantled and the area returned to bush.



James Corbet - Beeac Blacksmith/Wheelwright and Windmill Maker

Part of a series covering Beeac's six windmill makers – by Craig Pink

History records one of Beeac's pioneer Windmill makers "Mr. James Corbet" as being born on board the Ship "Allen Kerr" on its voyage from England to Australia in 1841. James Corbet married Jane McPherson at Geelong in 1863 - no children appear to have been born to the marriage.

The first known of James Corbet in the local area was at Cressy, this being in the late 1860's where he leased land, shortly followed by trading in the locality of Cressy as a Blacksmith. As well as living in the Cressy area and trading as a Blacksmith at this time, James also had as much as 50 acres of land in the area which he worked.

James Corbet came to the Beeac area around 1886, where he leased 194 acres of land from Alex Armstrong (Alex lived at Warrnambool and had a lot of land leased out.) The same year (1886) James' mother died, she was buried at the Beeac Cemetery, so it is likely James' parents were in the area some time before this, and likely lived with James and his wife Jane in their later years. (James would have been around 45 years old in 1886)

In 1888, James increased his lease to 400 acres, in 1889 James also leased 50 acres from Alf Pink, which in 1890 James bought from Alf. This land was situated 1 Km north of Beeac and was later named as "Corbett" Road, which headed east from the main road to Cressy. Soon after, James started up a Blacksmith business on this site. (south east corner of main road frontage)

It is likely James learnt some blacksmith skills even in the years before being in the Cressy area, and although the blacksmith business started near Beeac around 1890, it is thought the Corbet windmill manufacture did not start until some years later. There are several reasons for this, including the availability of tools and machinery for the manufacture of windmills becoming readily available to purchase at a more affordable price in the era of reference. The earlier Corbet windmills certainly had wooden parts, especially the stand and the tail.

Of the surviving Corbett windmills, it appears at least 2 basic size castings of the double crank model were used over the years of manufacture (presumably produced elsewhere from a casting foundry to James' patterns). The Corbet single crank design also has 2 distinctly different size main castings. In both double and single crank designs the size and strength of the wind wheel increased slightly, with the use of the 4 main castings pretty much staying the same.

For some unexplained reason there is a left and right tail on the larger casting type, but it must be remembered this was early days of local manufacture, and the Corbet windmills were made in a small wooden shed with only the basics of the period to work with - it was never a large manufacture concern. A single crank model was also made, of which several are also known to have survived.

BELOW - The single crank casting as shown at left is the most common of the surviving Corbet windmills – the Whytcross Corbet windmill and also the Corbet single crank 10 *feet* wind wheel model at the Beeac Windmill Park which are both pictured on next page are both this style of single crank casting, but vary in size. The Middle + Right show the variation of the Corbet double crank style castings Although not all complete, at least 12 Corbet windmills have been located locally.



AT RIGHT – A Single *Crank* Corbet Windmill shown in its original form on the Whytcross property (formerly Jones), situated on the south side of the Beeac Dreeite road. This smaller size Corbet windmill was purchased second hand from the Simpkin family at Beeac, and was installed and kept in repair for many many years by the Whytcross family. This Corbet windmill was originally fitted with a wooden tail, the wooden style stand can also be quite clearly seen. This installation is typical of all that was needed for the shallow bores in the area. This windmill also survives in preservation today. (Image originally from the late Vincent Whytcross)



Corbet windmill manufacture would be termed as being made from 1890's to around 1919 when James Corbet retired. It is also known that James Corbet's wife used to "strike" for him whenever a big job came in, (this meaning she would hit the hammer on anvil etc) - James would show with a small hammer the place for her to hit - a small very light tap would mean a soft hit, the higher he lifted his small hammer meant the harder she was to hit. James' wife died in 1912 - it is known that she also spent time at the Kew Asylum (Melbourne) in 1896 (Colac Herald, March 3rd 1896 - notes and events page 2).

James Corbet's parents were - John and Sarah, Sarah died aged 81 on 14/12/1886, this would be soon after the first appearance of James Corbet in the Beeac area. His Father John died aged 84 on 20/12/1891, and is buried with his wife in Church Of England at Beeac Cemetery, (note also that writing on grave appears with one "T" in Corbet) Other Siblings of James appear to be - Agnes Corbet born 1844, Andrew Corbet born 1846 (could be Sons of Andrew at James' Funeral ?.) Elizabeth Corbet born 1850- (all 3 seem to have been born at Newtown/Geelong.)

The Colac Herald reported the following of James Corbet's death - COLAC HERALD May 18th 1921-
Corbet James on the 17th May at his residence - Beeac. James Martin in his 80th Year. (on page 4).

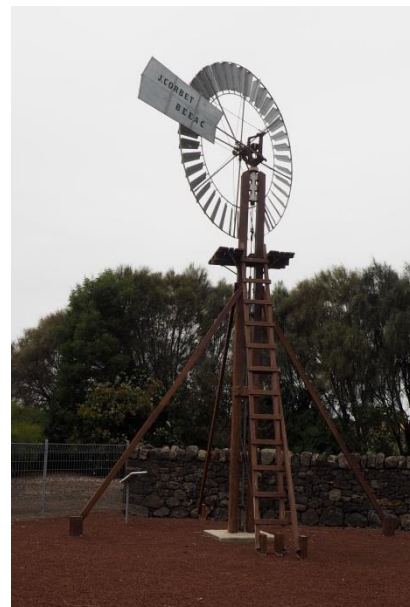
Below is Obituary of James Corbet from Colac Herald, May 20th 1921 –

One of the oldest and most highly respected residents of Beeac in the person of Mr. James Corbet, died on Tuesday. Deceased was one of nine Children who were born at sea on the voyage to Australia, and [James] was the only one to survive the voyage. He had resided in Beeac for about 36 Years and followed his trade there up till about two years ago, being a first class Wheelwright and Blacksmith. The Funeral took place yesterday afternoon and was well attended. The following gentlemen supported the Pall :- Messers. D. Smith, D. Corbet, H. Hester, H. Salmon, A. Orrock, J. J. Darcy, J. Hester, and W. Missen, and the Coffin was carried by Messers G. Coster, J. Corbet, W. Corbet, and A.H. Smith. The Rev. F.L. Trevor conducted the Burial service and Mr. T. W. Sharrow had charge of the Funeral arrangements.

BELOW - The Windmill Park at Beeac in its early days of construction before the opening for 150 years of Beeac in 2010. Two Corbet windmills on display were always part of the original plan to acknowledge the six windmill makers at Beeac.



AT RIGHT – Single crank Corbet windmill with ten feet diameter wind wheel on display at the Beeac Windmill Park. The wooden stand is typical of the era and also the simplicity of the original construction. (Both images by C. Pink).



A SPECIAL INVITATION!

RUSSELL'S

Spotless, Spot-Cash Butchery.

TRUE TO LABEL

Murray Street, Colac.

'PHONE 23.

An open invitation is extended to you, personally, to inspect the
Cleanest and Most Perfectly Equipped Butchery Establishment in
Colac

Opening, Thursday, November 13th, 1924.

Quick Stop, Honest Weight System of Weighing, which
Protects your Pocket.

Rat Proof. Fly Proof. Germ Proof Butchery.
I BUY THE BEST, AND SELL THE BEST.

I Purchased the Highest Priced
Heifer in Colac last week.

I Purchased the Highest Priced
Sheep in Colac this week.

Nothing but the Best is good enough for me, and it is your support
that enables me to offer you the best at Lowest Cut Prices

'Twill make your mouth water to see all the meat,
Displayed in this shop, so hygienic and sweet.

Continuous Satisfaction is assured to every Customer. The
Primest Cuts are always available. The smallest order or the
largest order is equally appreciated.

"Children—Yes, and Grown-ups too
Russell's Meat is good for you,
Avail yourself of this advice
You buy My Meat—I'll Cut the Price."

Quick Service, Pleasing Attention and CLEANLINESS, at
Russell's Murray Street, Colac.

BROWN & HOLMES, PRINT, COLAC



CRAIG'S CONUNDRUM

LAST ISSUE ANSWER – C. early 1980's view of the Bank of New South Wales building on South East corner of Corangamite/Murray St. This bank was originally built by J. D. McBride in 1926. Demolition started around mid-1984 when this prime corner site made way for part of the very budget conscious looking "Murray Square" development which remains on this corner site today.

(Image from Doug Kirkman collection)



AT LEFT – Can you pick where this Central Colac building is, and what was the old, long established Colac business in this building, which was still there when this image was taken with its new modernised frontage in the early to mid-1980's.?

If you really need a clue – you can see it still very much standing today if you look from the corner out the front where the old bank was in above image. (Of course a different business resides there nowadays).

ANSWER NEXT ISSUE

COLAC AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ROSTER 2021 2.00 PM – 4.00 PM – Thankyou

Month	Thursday	Friday	Sunday
March	4 th D. Missen 11 th R. Osborne 18 th G. Splatt 25 th J. Knight	5 th C. Pink 12 th G. Bray 19 th E. Chambers 26 th M. Saddlier	7 th G. Knox 14 th B. McDonald 21 st I. Barlow 28 th G. Knox
April	1 st D. Missen 8 th R. Osborne 15 th G. Splatt 22 nd J. Knight 29 th R. Missen	2 nd Closed - Easter 9 th G. Bray 16 th E. Chambers 23 rd M. Saddlier 30 th C. Pink	4 th Closed - Easter 11 th B. McDonald 18 th I. Barlow 25 th G. Knox
May	6 th D. Missen 13 th R. Osborne 20 th G. Splatt 27 th J. Knight	7 th G. Bray 14 th E. Chambers 21 st M. Saddlier 28 th C. Pink	2 nd A. McIntosh 9 th G. Knox 16 th B. McDonald 23 rd I. Barlow 30 th G. Knox