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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 on 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 and Alan Salmon.

Forthcoming Events:

Please note that these events are subject to Covid 19 restrictions

Saturday August 28 at 1.30pm – General Meeting

Speaker - Luke Phillips 'Exploring Local History with a Metal Detector'

Wednesday September 22 at 7.30pm- General Meeting

Speaker- Mark Beasley –'Linkages with Geelong History Centre following new management of Colac Library.'

Wednesday October 27 at 7.30pm - General Meeting

Speaker – Darren Allan – 'History of Colac District Cycling'

A Note from the President –

Although unable to hold the July meeting, our activities have mostly continued despite the uncertainty that Covid 19 presents.

As COPACC celebrates 20 years, the Society has had to adapt to change following the removal of the purpose built Historical Centre, and transfer to the COPACC building.

It has taken 19 years to install a controlled atmosphere system for the archives storage room. This year we have gratefully received \$3934 Shire Community Grant for a container to more safely and securely house important items. These artefacts of local historical importance cannot be displayed in the History Centre due to lack of space.

Three of the statements from the Draft Colac-Otway Community Vision 2050 are:

1. Promote sustainable tourism
2. Make our Shire a destination, not a gateway
3. Build and manage infrastructure assets to provide enjoyment for our growing community needs

As a progressive provincial centre, we cannot achieve these aims without a purpose built Museum and Art Gallery to promote and celebrate our rich and diverse history.

Nothing of this nature appears to have been addressed in the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025.

Council is seeking comments on the Draft Vision by September 10.

AGM May 26 - President's Annual Report 2020-21

2020-21 will be remembered as a year of minimum activity with the History Centre shut down for the majority of the year.

Although meetings were held in November and February the History Centre did not reopen to the public until March.

However, linkage with our membership was maintained through the quarterly newsletter and special thanks go to Craig Pink for his efforts in garnering and writing well researched articles with assistance from Dawn Missen and Ellise Angel. We are fortunate to have some excellent contributors.

We also published 'Plaques of Colac' written by Dawn Peel and reprinted 'Dreeite'. Sales of books continue to be strong with excellent support from Blanes Newsagency and more recently Cowlick Bookshop.

I look forward to the new year with enthusiasm since near normality has returned. Guest speaker at our March meeting was Lynton Evans and a 'Know your History Centre' meeting in April highlighted opportunities and deficiencies.

I am optimistic that our grant applications for a new container to be located in the shire Depot will be successful. The need to properly store and catalogue museum material that cannot be displayed is essential. Likewise, the overloaded costume room and cluttered unlabelled showcases have been an ongoing concern. I am delighted that different members have indicated an interest in tackling these issues.

The librarians Helen Paatsch and Robyn Currie of Family History Group continue to look at ways our libraries can best be integrated and utilised for research purposes.

The latest duty roster contains new names and I wish to thank those who have faithfully served over many years and wish to be relieved of this duty, whilst welcoming those who offer their service for the first time.

I think there is a need to update our procedural manual to help our rostered volunteers feel more comfortable dealing with enquiries whether they are for research, membership or book sales.

Many like myself are frightened by unfamiliar technology and I think a detailed step by step manual could encourage more people to open the guest computer to access digital material and use the Scan Pro to scan the Colac Herald microfilm. Unless you use these machines regularly it is hard to remember what to do.

May 2021 sees a return to a full program of activity. A recent school visit was a positive sign. Despite lockdown research inquiries continued via the website.

Thanks to all who have contributed throughout the year, office bearers, committee members and all those who have assisted in many ways.

Tonight we recognise an outstanding contribution over many years by Norman Houghton and have pleasure in awarding him Life Membership of our Society.

Finally, it is with sadness we note the death of Life Member, Author and stalwart of the Society Ida McIntosh.

Robert Missen – President

What has been news in the Colac Herald?

April 30, 2021- Council achieves carbon neutrality. Colac Otway is set to become one of the first rural municipalities in Victoria to achieve carbon neutrality by spending \$26,000 on emissions offsets to reach its target which it set in 2010. They will replace inefficient globes and gas heaters for Bluewater pools, install solar panels and buy 100 per cent green power.

May 12- Council completes stage one lighting project. New street lights are in place at Elliminyt on Queen Street between Aireys and Slater Streets to improve safety and encourage fitness for locals.

May 17-Data reveals dire state of Colac Otway homelessness. It is the highest in the state and the shire misses out on government funding for crises accommodation, social housing and affordable housing.

May 17- Community welcomes K Hub. K Hub workers, Colac Otway Shire mayor *Kate Hanson*, councillors and retail bosses attended the official opening on Friday 14th of K Hub in the building previously leased by Wesfarmers to Target. Colac community launched a petition while Cr Hanson and former mayor *Jason Schram* lobbied hard for the previous company to stay in the Colac building.

May 28- COVID limits return. Colac and district has returned to strict COVID restrictions as state health authorities battle to contain a Melbourne virus outbreak. The 7-day lockdown included Regional Victoria despite there being no

positive cases reported outside of Melbourne of the Indian virus strain. There are only 5 reasons to leave home, masks must be worn everywhere, and no public gatherings allowed. Childcare centres to remain open but schools to practice remote learning.

May 31- Demand for vaccines surges at Colac clinic. Colac Area Health's COVID 19 vaccination clinics have been fully booked within 24 hours of opening their bookings. The COVID 19 testing clinic is at the Connor Street blue room.

June 2- Trout releases continue. Lake Colac's once-in-a-generation fish restocking plan is nearing completion with another truckload of rainbow trout, with the total introduction of 10,000 catchable fish.

June 21- Radio news program needs a fresh voice. *Rosemary Goodall* is a coordinator and reader for OCR FM's Talking Newspapers segment. She has been doing it for about 20 years, but it is now time to find a new volunteer.

June 21- Twinnies' tale told at COPACC. A new colourful, interactive and engaging exhibition opened at Colac's arts centre, featuring a tale about Paula and Bridgette Powers, a pair of wildlife rescuers with links to Colac. The twins had adopted the late *Cliff Young*, marathon runner, as their honorary grandfather. After his death in 2003 they donated his ultramarathon cup and collection of memorabilia to the Colac and District Historical Society Centre at COPACC. The colourful exhibition was created by Otway's artist *Brian Worsley*.

June 25- State award for Colac doctor. Otway medical Clinic's *Dr Peter "Justin" Madden* retired after 45 years in his career and has now received the 2021 Victorian Rural Health Award for Outstanding Contribution by a rural GP. His career covered obstetrics, anaesthetics, emergency service, skin medicine, dermatology and aged care.

June 30- RSL marks 100th anniversary. The original charter for Colac's RSL branch was signed on July 1, 1921, and met in its Hesse St. Memorial Rooms, later moving into the old Regent Theatre on Murray Street. Due to COVID 19 restrictions a large-scale celebration cannot be held but there will be a display of RSL documents, historical photographs and mementos.

July 2- Events mark library shift. The Geelong Regional Library Corporation will host a range of events and activities to celebrate the transition of Colac Otway Shire's libraries to the corporation. These libraries and services include Colac Community Library and Learning Centre, Apollo Bay Library and Colac Shire's outreach services. Councillor *Stephen Hart* from Colac Otway Shire was welcomed to the GRL library board.

July 2-Marginal move. Polwarth boundary change impacts political climate as it loses thousands of voters on its western and northern edges including communities like Terang, Lismore, Skipton and Mortlake as well as Torquay and Jan Juc.

July 2- Towns change electorate. Apollo Bay, Birregurra, Forrest, Lorne and Winchelsea residents will be voting for different MPs in the next Federal Elections as they have been moved from Corangamite into Wannon.

July 2- Marvels emerge from salt lake. A plane salvage crew has marvelled at the condition of recovered parts of a CAC *Wirraway* aircraft that has spent 70 years submerged in Lake Corangamite. Salvage diver *Rod Knights* leads a team of volunteers who have retrieved parts of the plane in good condition. He hopes to lift and restore the plane.

July 14- Black spot fix. Another crash at the controversial Ballarat Road roundabout at Colac East in heavy fog which made it hard to see the speed signs. It was the third crash in 3 months. Regional Roads of Victoria have assured council that additional safety measures are about to be made.

July 16- Real estate surge amid city exodus. Colac and district house prices are among the fastest growing in the state. Colac's median price topped \$400,000 for the first time.

July 21- COVID keeps region closed. Colac and district will remain in lockdown for a further week as concerning coronavirus transmission rates continue across Victoria. The shutdown will then last at least 12 days.

July 21- Changes afoot in fuel sector. As one petrol station goes down in the west, another prepares to rise in the east. Crews have demolished the decommissioned BP service station on the corner of the Princes Highway and Rossmoyne Road at Colac West which closed in 2017. A new facility is to be built on Draper's Road on the eastern side of Colac for petrol and café-food. It will be the eighth fuel fill-up in Colac!

July 28- Opening up. Kids return to school as footy and netball resume. Schools set to reopen today as Victoria eases out of lockdown, but masks remain in place. Colac Area Health has seen a surge in testing in the past 2 weeks.

July 30- Let there be land. Development plan released for huge housing growth. A plan to release about 500 lots of desperately needed residential land in Colac is coming closer to fruition. Colac Otway Shire councillors voted unanimously to put the Colac West Development Plan up for 4 weeks of public comment.

August 6- Colac Show called off. Show organisers have had to cancel the event for a second-straight year due to uncertainty over COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions.

August 9- Cemetery Hedge. Hearn Street section of iconic Colac Cemetery hedge to be removed and replaced due to encroaching on footpath.

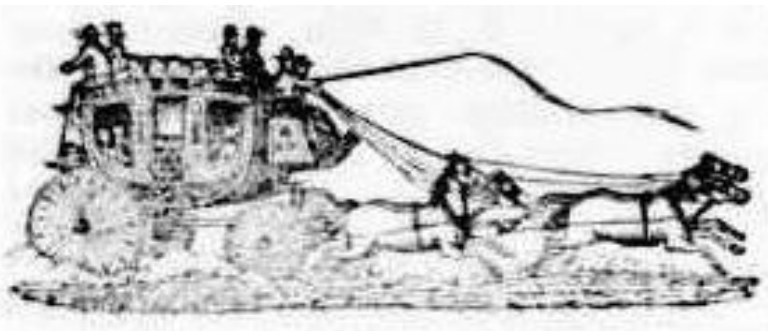
August 11- New Principal for Colac Secondary College. Shane Elevato faced baptism of fire due to Covid 19 causing schools to close this week.

Haymes Paint Shop Changing Ownership. After 26 years Dale Goodacre is relinquishing ownership to Hammonds Paint Group.

A Stagecoach Trip to Colac - 1873

Alan Doyle – June 2021

Travelling again to Colac to visit the Colac History Centre for some research and I'm cruising along the newly built duplication of highway, from Geelong to Colac. The car is on cruise control, sitting and travelling smoothly at 100 kmh. The air conditioner is on and my favourite music is being played on my selected iPod playlist. A very nice environment for travelling, in just under one hour from Geelong.



One's mind drifts, and starts to wonder how others in the past had made their way to Colac and what the town was like upon their arrival? An article from the Geelong Advertiser, 20th October 1873 describes such a trip. The author travelled to the delightful and growing town of Colac, aboard a stagecoach. A trip that would endure a travel time of about six hours. This was four years before the railway would finally come to Colac in 1877.

Geelong Advertiser, 20th October 1873, page 4

COLAC

Although the distance from Geelong cannot be termed formidable, there are not a few who have spent many happy years near the seaport, indulged in many an excursion by land and water, spent pleasant hour picnicking on the banks of the creeks and rivulets that mingle with the briny waves of the Pacific and Bass's Straight, yet strangely have omitted a visit to Colac and some of the most magnificent scenery of the whole Western district. Believing that health, pleasure, commerce, and, better still friendly feelings are promoted, as the field for legitimate recreation is more widely developed, and the treasures of the district have but to be whiskered abroad to make them valued by traveller and tourist, a slight sketch of the country in which His Excellency the Governor has of late been rustivating needs no introduction or apology. A ride of half-a-dozen hours in one of the stage coaches brings the traveller in sight of Lake Colac, with the township whose name it bears, prettily situated on the green banks of the southern shore. On the comforts or discomforts of the journey it is needless to expatiate: every traveller of the slightest experience, knows full well, how much his pleasure may be promoted or curtailed by a little wholesome preparation against probable eventualities. If the weather is fine, he must indeed be blind, who can fail to extract enjoyment from the beautifully varied panorama unfolded during the first portion of the journey from town. Fields of waving grain, vineyards, orchards, and sweet-scented hedges line the way. "These are the Rhine-lands of Victoria; there are the valleys and vineyards, all but the river." Was the exclamation of one who had spent his youthful hours amidst the loveliest scenery of Europe, as he passed the Waurin Ponds a few days ago. Long before Winchelsea is reached the aspect of the country is changed. The quality but adapted for sheep grazing and

moderately timbered plains stretch out for many miles on either side of the road. Farms are comparatively few, and many miles of territory is divided in the hands of few proprietors. But although the grass is poor, sheep appear to thrive well upon it, and the cross-breeds on Mr. Bullivant's leasehold have but to be seen to be admired, because of their excellent condition and weight of fleece. At Winchelsea the Barwon is again crossed by a substantial blue-stone bridge, the boast of the shire council, and a monument of the constructive abilities of the engineer. Birregurra is the next little township, but it can be seen from the distance to the left, while Mount Gellibrand, skirted with green crops, proclaiming the homes of the selectors, covered with pasture but bare of timber, rises above the plains to the right. Forty-six miles have been travelled when Colac is reached, about 3 in the afternoon. Previously, before reaching Winchelsea, the traveller has had an opportunity of seeing Lake Modewarre, with its reeds and rushes; but as he approaches Colac a succession of mirror-lakes to the right of the road attracts his attention, till at length a magnificent sheet of water, that at first sight might be mistaken for Corio Bay becalmed, arrives in view. This is Lake Colac, one of the most extensive and prettiest freshwater lakes in the Australian colonies. Dividing the velvety slopes from the transparent lake, which is in placid movement, like an oval mirror, reflects the hills in its bosom, laved by ripples and lashed by waves alternately, is a white sandy beach-so smooth, even, and regular that it might be compared to a broad carriage drive. Behind the lake are the Warrion Hills – three in number – frowning dark and grimly as the clouds sail past, or revelling in the sunshine in shades of the greenest hue. Colac itself has already been described as built along the banks of the lake; but a glance at the new and old township enforces

the conviction that, although it can boast of a main street nearly two miles in length, moderately studded with shops and dwellings, it is but yet in its infancy. Carpenters and masons are busily at work daily enlarging it, township allotments are in eager demand, suburban lands are rapidly increasing in value, and signs are not wanting to show that the township is on the threshold of an era of prosperity, such as up till lately its most far-seeing inhabitants probably little dreamed of. A long continuous chain of timber-clad hills in the back-ground hide from view the more rugged Cape Otway Ranges, whose dense scrub forms an almost impenetrable barrier along the coast. Green patches and white cottages peering through the foliage prove that the pioneers of settlement are rapidly selecting these hills for their homes. Beneath the deep soil on their surface valuable free-stone quarries have been developed, and the new commodious store erected by Mr. Adam Rea bears evidence of the value of the material for building purposes. Here and there the roads of the township are intersected with streams of clear water, and the channels are a series of rivulets in consequence of the drainage towards the lake of the elevated lands referred to. The result of this natural irrigation operation on a deep fertile soil is to give the gardens and paddocks of the cottagers, as well as the spacious lawns around, a most luxuriant aspect. The principal streets and country roads are well made, and, save where the metal has been recently spread, such a thing as loose stones is unknown. The material used is of good quality, the bluestone being obtained from Cameron's Hill, convenient to the township. Instead of

converted into 2½ or 3-inch metal, it is converted into 2-inch metal; the proper gauge is vigorously enforced, and to this the engineer, Mr. Bartlett, attributes the fact that the surface rapidly binds, and no loose metal remains. At the intersections of the streets and roads there are pen crossings, but these are no impediment to traffic, for the wide level centres render the jolting of vehicles, however rapidly driven, almost a matter of impossibility. The footpaths are generally formed, and, near the central position of the town, gravelled. They are well elevated above the roadway, and the kerbs are maintained with substantial blocks of sawn-timber. This, while cheaper than stone, answers the purpose



Adam Rea's Western Stores (c1870-1873).

Author's family collection

admirably, and give the street – a very neat appearance. Prominent among the public buildings are several churches, situated at a respectable distance from each other, and, unlike many similar edifices in Geelong, modestly retired from the business allotments. The old town is divided from the new by a creek nearly as wide as an ordinary canal, to which a native name has been applied. On the west banks the land is elevated, overlooks the old town, and here the new one has been surveyed. Although but of recent growth, it possesses some fine public buildings – hotels and stores. At the corner of the bridge is the Public Library, a neat wooden edifice, tastefully constructed, but scarcely substantial or commodious enough for the population. This is a favourite rendezvous for residents and visitors during their leisure hours. The librarian is affable, intelligent, and evidently well up in his duties; hence the success of this institution need occasion no surprise. The National Bank is a plain but massive square building, destitute of anything like ornamentation. In size, it may be compared to some of the principal hotels which frown down on the one storied buildings



The National Bank of Australasia (c1864–1869).

SLV image – Identifier H2004.55/5

NOTE: This bank was replaced by the present remaining National Bank building in 1887.

around them. The Post and Telegraph Office is a comfortable looking wooden building, perpetually undergoing repair, and the other business places are of moderate size, constructed of brick, stone, or

engine. The engine is at present used for pumping water to various parts of the factory, but it is intended to use it for a variety of purposes shortly. The yard where cattle is slaughtered communicates with the



Post Office, Shire Hall and Telegraph Hotel (c1860–1869).

SLV image – Identifier H2004.55/2

NOTE: These buildings have since been replaced by the present old Post Office, former shire offices and the Central Colac Hotel.

weatherboards. The saw mills are not very distant, and timber is cheap and plentiful; hence wooden shops predominate, and most of the private houses are built of weatherboards. It is said that as much as £500 was recently given for a small corner allotment in the main street, and the land on which a new Wesleyan church is being built cost £300. The house, in the occupation of Father Neylon, the Roman Catholic priest occupies undoubtedly, the prettiest site for a residence in the neighbourhood. It overlooks from an elevated mound the lake, the township, and an extensive tract of country. A short distance beneath, is the house of the Presbyterian clergyman, a less pretentious edifice. Among its manufacturing establishments, the township boasts of a flourmill, a tannery and Meat Preserving Works. The latter, is on the outskirts of the town, and consists of a series of big wooden houses, plainly built, with good steep roofs, and well ventilated. An inspection of the interior shows that all the necessary appliances and facilities for carrying on preserving operations on an extensive scale are provided. The cooking is done in boilers and pans heated by steam, supplied from the boiler of an

kitchen where the carcasses are slid along rafters. Along the fowl-house a long table is arranged, in front of which a number of boys are kept employed all-day-long plucking the feathers of all kinds of wildfowl, and converting, the skins of black swans into material for the manufacture of snowy white muffs and bras. The tinsmiths' room is a little factory in itself, for it contains new presses and every kind of application for turning out air-tight canisters with ease and rapidity. When the works are in full operation, which it is to be regretted, they are not at present, rabbits form the great staple and are boiled down in thousands. Vegetables are employed for making all kinds of soups, but strange to

say, notwithstanding the fine character of the soil, these have had to be obtained in large quantities from Geelong, and Mr. Farrington, the manager, has had to commence gardening on his own account. The Botanical Gardens are very pleasantly situated on the southern boards of the lake. They are well fenced, and although only a few years laid out and planted, the trees and shrubs seem to have made good progress and the foundation of what, by the expenditure of a little labour and money, may be rendered one of the prettiest reserves in the district, has been laid. When in future years the iron horse binds the town and country more intimately than at present one can imagine what a favourite spot this will eventually become for picnics. That visitors, old or young, will be able to enjoy themselves may well be believed, for the view of the lake, twenty miles in circumference, and the country and hills around it, is something magnificent. It is in the fine tract of surrounding country that Colac excels as one of the prettiest and most fertile districts in the colony, but the description of this deserves another and a separate article.



Western Meat Works

CDHS photo card collection (image 379)

IRREWARRA ESTATE WORLD WAR 1 SOLDIER SETTLEMENT SCHEME 1920

(Continued from previous issue) - By Alan Salmon and Craig Pink

Mid-November 1926 saw a serious outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia occur amongst some of the dairy cows on the Irrewarra Soldier Settlement Estate. Two cows and a bull on Hugh Mewha's block and five cows on Alex Mewha's holding had to be destroyed by Government Inspector Mr A. W. Bethune, and Shire Inspector Mr A. E. Langhorne.

The stock had been purchased from outside the district about two months previously, and six farms had to be quarantined. As the farms affected were on both sides of the main Colac-Beeac Road, the inspectors deemed it necessary to fence off the road. About two miles of the Colac-Beeac Road was fenced off - having a gate at each end. No stock were permitted to travel along the road from the Ondit railway station and to the south to what was known as the "Sand Road". The inspectors did everything they could to prevent the spread of the disease, with around 200 cows affected by the quarantine. In order to clear up the outbreak, the Agricultural Department valued and purchased the remaining six head of cattle belonging to Alex Mewha, and also ten from Hugh Mewha. These cattle were destroyed at the abattoirs, and compensation paid under the Cattle Compensation Act.

Mainly due to the culling of the cattle by the Agricultural Department, early-March 1927 saw the outbreak declared eradicated. The quarantine was lifted, and the fences and gates were removed on the Colac-Beeac Road. The neighbouring farms of Charles Buchanan, William Howe, David Jerrerd, William Robinson and George Silver which had also been quarantined, were now open again with no restrictions to their normal operations and movements.

By early 1927 there was an estimated 1200 soldier settlers on land from Werribee to the South Australian border. It was also estimated at this time that nearly half of the original WW1 soldier settlers in the Colac district had abandoned their original allotments.

When Mark Hager left in late May 1927 to reside in Geelong, a farewell social was organised and well attended. A travelling rug and a case of pipes were given on behalf of the Irrewarra Soldier Settlers.

Norman Robilliard, another of the original soldier settlers from May 1920 on the Irrewarra Estate left the district in 1927 - this was partly due to the ill-health of his wife.

January 1928 saw the Irrewarra Cream Co. announce the closing of the Irrewarra creamery and obtaining supplies elsewhere (some sourced in the Alvie district). Several canvassers had also been busy around this time seeking fresh milk supplies for Melbourne in the area, but the Irrewarra farmers had already been "bitten" twice. Two concerns had been previously started, which the Irrewarra settlers had supported whole-heartedly, only to find that when the businesses were well-established, they would turn the suppliers down. They would make arrangements for their supplies at more convenient sources elsewhere, leaving the Irrewarra farmers high and dry for an outlet for their fresh milk or cream.

A 1928 report stated an area of 21,681 acres had been purchased by the Closer Settlement Board in the Colac Shire at a cost of £523,220, providing farms for 200 men, also stating that had the areas allotted been about a third larger, there would have been very few failures.

BORIC ACID IN CREAM

October 1928 saw the Irrewarra Cream Co. Pty Ltd, with its head office at Flinders Street Extension, Melbourne, fined £10 for allegedly having sold cream containing boric acid. Managing director Mr Hubert Farrall stated that his factory manager was supplied with turmeric paper to test cream for boric acid, which was at times added by the farmer, and that every precaution was taken to detect the illegal adulteration. Previous convictions against the company for similar breaches were also admitted – such as a £2 fine in June 1928.

Reginald Harrison, another of the original soldier settlers from May 1920 on the Irrewarra Estate left due to ill health in 1930. They had to employ labour on the Irrewarra land due to his wife's failing health, and also his own ill health. In the end their finances failed, and they shifted to live in Geelong.

On 21st March 1931, Irrewarra Cream Co. managing director Hubert Farrall was killed in Australia's first major airline disaster. Hubert was one of six passengers aboard the three-engined Avro Ten aeroplane "Southern Cloud" which disappeared in rough weather whilst on its way back from Sydney - Hubert returning on the flight from a business trip. The crashed aeroplane remained undiscovered until 1958, when a worker on the Snowy Mountain Scheme came across the wreckage by chance.

Late October 1935 saw Mr and Mrs Edsall farewelled by the Irrewarra residents when they left the district to reside in Geelong. Charles Edsall had been amongst the first batch allotted on the Irrewarra Estate from May 1920.

SUMMARY OF IRREWARRA ESTATE WW1 SOLDIER SETTLERS 1921 to 1935

LOT	SURNAME/CHRISTIAN NAMES	ACRES	YEAR	SUCCEEDING NEW OCCUPIERS
9	TONKIN - HERBERT WEYMOUTH	101	1920	NIBLETT - ALFRED HENRY 1925
10	NIBLETT - SILAS WHITE	100	1920	-
11	COLLYER - LESLIE ROY	97	1920	COLLYER - VIVIAN LEONARD 1927
12	McASEY - WALTER	93	1920	-
13	RYAN - HENRY LAWRENCE	115	1920	-
13*	NOLAN - DANIEL	80	1920	-
13A*	NICHOLS - PETER JOHN	76	1920	-
14	WESTBURY - ROBERT HENRY	162	1920	-
15	RIDGEWAY - WILLIAM JOSEPH	130	1920	COLE - ARTHUR ALBERT 1926
16&10*	MORRIS - FRANK KITT	132	1920	SMALL - ALEXANDER 1920
17	HARDLEY - HERBERT	111	1920	VAGG - WILLIAM 1924
18	HARDLEY - DOUGLAS	81	1920	#MARTIN - EDWARD 1923
19	MARTIN - HERBERT	80	1919	-
20	EDSALL - CHARLES VINER	84	1920	-
21	BURNETT - WILLIAM ABRAHAM	75	1920	-
22	PLATT - CHARLES HALFORD	75	1920	-
23	FISHER - ALBERT CHARLES	76	1920	#MEWHA - ALEXANDER JAMES 1926
24	BUCHANAN - CHARLES	78	1920	-
25	HOWE - WILLIAM HENRY	80	1920	-
26	MEWHA - HUGH JOHNSTONE	80	1920	-
27	SILVER - GEORGE	70	1920	-
28	BRENNAN - HERBERT JOSEPH	71	1920	ROBINSON - WILLIAM ROY FRANCIS 1923
29	JERRERD - DAVID EDMUND	74	1920	#COWLEY - WILLIAM HENRY 1929
30	VAGG - FRED	73	1920	HOSE - KENNETH 1923 PROSSER - DAVID STEWART 1931
31	LUCAS - CLAUDE DOUGLAS	73	1920	#LLOYD - ARTHUR MICHAEL 1927
32	NICOL - ARCHIBALD CAMERON	71	1920	-
33	ROBILLIARD - DE JERSEY NORMAN	71	1920	#DOWNEY - ANNIE VICTORIA 1927
34	ELBOURNE - ARTHUR JAMES	71	1920	-
36	COLLINS - GEORGE JAMES	85	1920	-
37	CROFT - WILLIAM FREDERICK	85	1920	-
38	GREAGEN - EDWARD ARTHUR	111	1920	#PARK - DAVID 1923
39	WRAIGHT - HARRY THOMAS	100	1920	-
40	CARMODY - THOMAS JOSEPH	125	1920	CORBEN - ARTHUR FREDERICK 1923 #DODS - JAMES 1927
41	MACKAY - DANIEL	175	1920	-
42	ATKIN - WILLIAM CLAUDE	138	1920	-
43	STEPHENS - THOMAS SISSONS	160	1920	-
44	HUNTER - TALBOT JOHN	160	1920	-
45	MAY - JAMES WHAN	150	1920	-
46	McNEILL - JOHN LISSAMAN	163	1920	MACKAY - DAVID JOHN 1920
47	ALEXANDER - THOMAS	161	1920	GEORGE - WILLIAM JOHN 1926
48	SMALL - DAVID ARCHIBALD	126	1920	-
49	EASON - EDWARD	126	1920	-
50	CURRINGTON - ALLAN HENRY	125	1920	-
51	BANNISTER - WILLIAM	175	1920	#BANNISTER - NELLIE 1921
52	CLARKSON - ERNEST EDWARD	160	1920	ENGLAND - STANLEY CLIFTON 1923
53	HARRISON - REGINALD EDWARD	140	1920	-
54	HITCHINGS - EDWARD CHARLES	130	1920	-
55	DAILEY - STANLEY ARCHIBALD	99	1920	-

NOTES - (* means Parish of Ondit) (# means settler did not do WW1 service)

The "succeeding new occupiers" at right of columns only shows those coming new to the Irrewarra Estate - not settlers already there that shifted allotments.

AT RIGHT - CDC trucks at Wilson St Colac factory in mid-1930s. By this time the majority of the Irrewarra farmers supplied the CDC - certainly a much more reliable and regular seasonal income for their farming operations.

(Image from Society files - Dairying Collection)



AT LEFT - In August 1932 Hubert Farrall's wife *Elsie May Farrall* carried on part-ownership after the death of her husband - The Irrewarra Co. trading name retained, with capital of some £3,000 in £1 shares. - The Argus (Melbourne) 30th August 1932.

NEW REGISTRATIONS.
 Farrall-Hayward Irrewarra Co. Pty. Ltd. Registered office, Flinders Street Extension, Melbourne. Objects: To acquire the business carried on under the name of Irrewarra Cream Co. Pty. Ltd. Capital, £3,000 in £1 shares. Names subscribed to memorandum:—*Harry Hayward, one share; *Elsie May Farrall, one share.

Some returned soldiers also put in one or more applications for an allotment over the years of the Irrewarra Estate soldier settlement, but never got an allotment. Alexander Nelson was one of these - he applied for lot 46 in the original May 1920 applications, but was refused, and the allotment was granted to John McNeill. John surrendered his lease at the end of 1920 - It was next allotted to David Mackay. Alexander Nelson was very keen to take up an allotment, but was one of those who missed out twice.

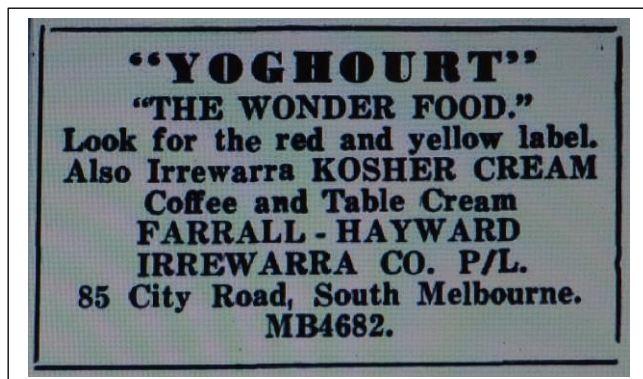
The 1930s saw the majority of the remaining farmers on the Irrewarra Estate have larger blocks as they took over smaller holdings of those that had given up and left.

Mr and Mrs Claude Atkin left the district in mid-1939 when Claude took up the position of assistant engineer to the Shire of Benalla. Claude had been a very active worker for the soldier settlers and the district, and the couple were given a chiming mantel clock and a travelling rug on behalf of the Irrewarra settlers.

Milking machines, milk coolers and many other modern conveniences went on to make the farming much less labour-intensive, and of course tractors replacing horses - also the later convenience of the refrigerated milk vat with bulk milk pick-up direct from the farm.

BELOW - The Irrewarra name traded on through the early 1970s in Melbourne with the continuation of the Farrall-Hayward Irrewarra Co. P/L. No connection can be found to Irrewarra after the 1928 closure of the Irrewarra Creamery - possibly some Irrewarra farmers may have had shares, or sent cream by rail to the Irrewarra Co. in Melbourne in the years after the Irrewarra Creamery closure in 1928. Source -The Jewish Herald (Melbourne) 30th December 1955.

BELOW - Early 1980s view of the old Irrewarra Creamery which was built in 1925 - the original size is unknown. The building and land was sold around 1939 - its next life saw it renovated as a dairy to milk cows. With the left side of the building fallen down in recent years, the right half remains standing 600 metres north of the railway line on the Colac-Beeac Road at Irrewarra. (Image from Society files - Dairying Collection)



Another room was added to the Irrewarra primary school in 1960, it closed in 1994 and the both rooms were shifted to Beeac where they were refurbished and they remain part of the Beeac Primary School - the original Irrewarra school building from 1923 remains at the Beeac primary school and in use still today.

Three family names still live and farm on the Irrewarra Estate land today - Hitchings, Mackay and Martin. Calvert's have a bakery on the site of the old homestead block at Warrowie Road, Irrewarra.



AT LEFT - One of several *surviving* dairies from the early 1920s soldier settler days at Irrewarra - this one the first dairy just north of the Irrewarra railway line on the Colac-Beeac Road. This dairy got a new lease of life in the early to mid-1970s with a conversion to become the much less labor-intensive herringbone style dairy, which then lasted through to the 1980s. (C. Pink image)



LAST ISSUE ANSWER

This former Bilson's store changed to a Myer store on this site from early 1967. It traded as Myer until it reopened as a Target store in April 1973. Target traded here until late April 2021 when it was rebranded and became K hub in mid-May 2021 –



AT LEFT – Do you recall what this image shows - Nowadays most call the current building in the vicinity of this former building “The Cow Shed”.

If you really need a clue – some of us would remember going up the side to the office (shown) of this building to give them their annual payment (membership) - that was long before things got all complicated and computerised. And if you're really stuck – the date is November 1960.

ANSWER NEXT ISSUE

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

Please Note: This roster is subject to the possibility of any Coronavirus restrictions that may be in force

Month	Thursday	Friday	Sunday
SEPTEMBER 2021	2 nd D. Missen 9 th L. Spence 16 th G. Splatt 23 rd J. Knight 30 th R. Missen	3 rd C. Pink 10 th G. Bray 17 th E. Angel 24 th M. Saddlier	5 th R. Osborne 12 th G. Knox 19 th N. Ryan 26 th I. Barlow
OCTOBER 2021	7 th D. Missen 14 th L. Spence 21 st G. Splatt 28 th J. Knight	1 st C. Pink 8 th G. Bray 15 th E. Angel 22 nd M. Saddlier 29 th R. Missen	3 rd R. Osborne 10 th G. Knox 17 th N. Ryan 24 th I. Barlow 31 st H. Paatsch
NOVEMBER 2021	4 th D. Missen 11 th L. Spence 18 th G. Splatt 25 th J. Knight	5 th C. Pink 12 th G. Bray 19 th E. Angel 26 th M. Saddlier	7 th R. Osborne 14 th G. Knox 21 st N. Ryan 28 th I. Barlow