

‘White Cliffs’

Journal of

THE RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April-May-June 2014

President: Prue Found 5985 5657

Secretary: Pauline Powell. 5985 2797

Treasurer: Danny Jennings 5985 2231

PO Box 65 Rye 3941

<http://ryehistoricalsociety.weebly.com> index.html

Meetings – 8pm, Fourth Monday of each month

Rye Primary School Library

Visitors welcome.

Enter from Collingwood Street



World War 1 Memorial. Rye foreshore.

Our first general meeting for 2014 was held in February and it was well attended. We are always very sorry when members are no longer able to attend our meetings, as their input is much appreciated. However, our daily lives can become very busy and challenging and we have to adjust.

We have continued working with the Mornington Peninsula Shire's oral history project, and now Phil Cain has been interviewed along with Ern Jennings and Dick Rowley. Sharing stories and memories is an important part of preserving our history. I would like to encourage any member to share their story, either by giving a short talk or by writing a short piece for the newsletter. Last year, we were all delighted to hear Phil Grinter tell of his experiences as a merchant seaman. We can learn a lot by listening!

We are currently working with the Shire, the Rye Primary school and the State Education Department to determine the best way of preserving the second oldest building in Rye, the old Schoolhouse. As you are aware, the building needs major structural repairs, and part of one wall is propped up at the moment awaiting an engineer's report outlining the structural repair priorities. Once we have this report, we can get quotes for the work. The new Principal at the school, Mr. Wayne Lovie, is very supportive and he appreciates the value of the historical society in our community.

The Local History Network project "Postcards of the Peninsula" will have its official opening on the Queen's Birthday weekend in June at the Nepean Historical Society. This has been a major project and the travelling exhibition will be stationed at different locations between Sorrento and Melbourne. Each historical society has chosen a postcard and artefacts and has produced a DVD of photographs with narration. Our postcard depicts holidays in Rye, Flinders has chosen guesthouses and Somerville has the apple industry. The other societies have also chosen very interesting topics and it will be well worth visiting the exhibition. More details will be available on our website or from a committee member.

Prue Found

Congratulations to our members Bill Barnett and Joe Pavone who have recently been elected President and Secretary respectively of Probus Club of Rye Whitecliffs.

Sunday 18th May A new **MEMBERS' DAY** is organised for Sunday 18 May in the Old Schoolhouse from 2.30 to 4.30 pm. The committee would like to show the members the items we have acquired, and to also thank those who contribute by doing duty on Sundays, help with cataloguing and working bees and work on our market stalls. There are some members who do not come to meetings (perhaps you do not like to go out at night), live in the city, or just 'don't get around' to calling in on a Sunday. Please bring a friend with you – we are proud of our little museum and want to show it to as many as possible. Refreshments will be served during the afternoon. Our President Prue Found looks forward to welcoming you all.

Saturday 24 May A reminder that the annual **WOMEN IN RYE** luncheon this year is on Saturday 24 May at the Rye Hotel, Main Sail Room 1 pm. \$40. There is a lift for people who find it difficult to climb the stairs. Let's get a couple of tables together to celebrate our involvement in our town. Friends very welcome \$40 includes lunch, entertainment, silent auction and raffle. Please contact Prue ASAP if you wish to attend – tickets are selling fast!

Friday 4th July The **ANNUAL NEPEAN/RYE LUNCHEON** at the Rye Hotel on Friday 4 July is on again – please keep the date free, always an interesting guest speaker and a delicious meal

History Trivia Afternoon. Wayne & Jill are organising a History Trivia Afternoon at the Rye RSL on a Sunday in August. Further details will be announced in coming months. Plenty of time to start your research!

The Grange After an invitation from 'The Grange' home in Rosebud West, Ern Jennings and Pauline Powell went one afternoon in March to talk with the residents. They took some photos of Rye which were displayed on the large screen. The best part was talking with the people – just sitting beside individuals and hearing of their lives, some were able to converse better than others. We think it a worthwhile thing to do again, and in other homes in the area



Market Stall display of native plants

The Society has conducted three information and fundraising stalls this year raising a total of \$772 .00 The first at the Australia Day celebrations on Sunday 26th January and then at the Rye Rotary markets the 1st March and 5th April. The Society is very fortunate to have a supporter, Simon Davies, who has offered to keep us supplied with Australian native plants for sale at our stalls, and they have proved to be a great success. Simon's hobby is the cultivation of native plants from his own cuttings and collected seeds.

Lists of his plants have been circulated to members by email and will soon be available on the Society's web page. Orders may be placed with the editor at <bernlor@alphalink.com.au>.



The grand staircase at Barwon Park

Wednesday 26th February. We had a full bus as twenty-four of our members and friends travelled to the historic mansion, **Barwon Park** at Winchelsea. A very enjoyable and informative day was had by all. Built in 1871 for Thomas and Elizabeth Austin the 42-room blue-stone mansion and stables are largely in their original condition. Special thanks to Wayne and Jill Bastow who organised the day and made sure that we all returned safely.

Oral History. The oral history interview of our member Phil Cain took place during February, completing the three nominations submitted to the Local History Officer Sally Robins. Dick Rowley and Ern Jennings were interviewed before Christmas. We will now have enough experience to conduct our own interviews of some of our older residents and create our own oral history library.

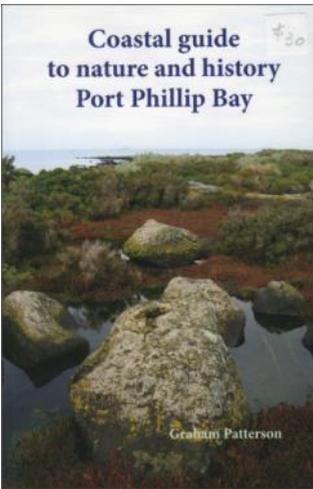
Volunteers wanted. As discussed at our last general meeting we are looking for volunteers who would be able to assist on a regular basis with a small job. Every Sunday that the Old School House is open an A frame sign is displayed at the corner of Lyons Street and Point Nepean Road. This is to advise the public where the Old Schoolhouse is located and that the room will be open from 2pm to 4pm when our members are on duty.

It is not always practicable for the members on duty to attend to that sign as it is necessary for it to be placed there during the morning and some of the afternoon volunteers do not live close by and would have to make two trips. We are looking for anyone who would be willing to put the sign in position at approximately 10am and then pick it up after 4pm each Sunday. This would suit someone who lives close to the town centre. If several volunteers could be found it could be rotated on a monthly basis.

Maybe a member knows of someone who would be willing to assist the Society with this job. It is important that the public is aware where our rooms are and when they are open. For the past many years this job has been attended to by just two members. If you can assist or know of someone who might be willing to help, contact our secretary Pauline on 59852797 or Bernie on 59852001.

Vale. Norma McMillan. Norma, a familiar and most elegant lady of Rye passed away at the age of 94. Norma in later years went to meet friends with the aid of her 'walker' at the local coffee shops most days of the week. She and her husband Hec came to Rye in the early 50s when they lived in Lyons Street, and Hec managed the McDonald's farm. Always interested in people, and with a friendly smile Norma was loved by everyone. Our condolences are extended to her sons Garry and David, and her grand children and great grand children

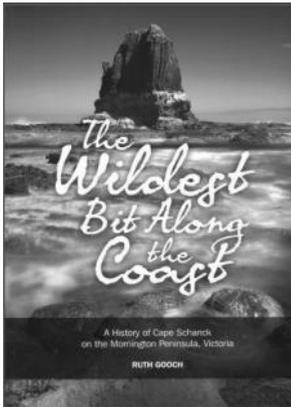
Vale Arthur Dark. Long time Rye residents were sorry to learn of the death of Arthur Dark on 30 March, just two weeks short of his 90th birthday. Only last year he completed and published his story 'My Memories of Rye' and gave a substantial number of copies to the Society. He grew up in Rye, went to school here, was in the RAAF during WW2 then came home to later work with his father and Bruce Armstrong in a carrying business. After Bert and Bruce retired Arthur and his wife Val went into partnership with Bruce's daughter Judy Stokes and her husband Jack. After the business was sold Arthur and Val went to a farm in Kotupna. Val predeceased him and we extend our condolences to his three sisters – Grace Phillingham, Valda Brown and Helen Powell.



“Coastal Guide to nature and history” – Port Phillip Bay

by Graham Patterson.

This book contains general walking and safety advice, Aboriginal and European history, coastal animals and plants, landforms and management. Graham has walked all 260 Km of Port Phillip Coast over 15 years. He has completed about three quarters of the State’s entire coast. We have copies for sale at \$30. A good book to take on holidays for reference.

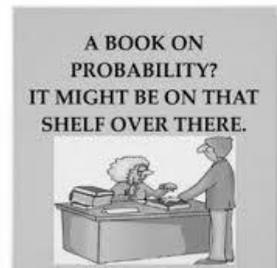
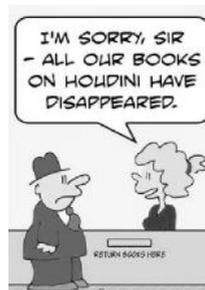
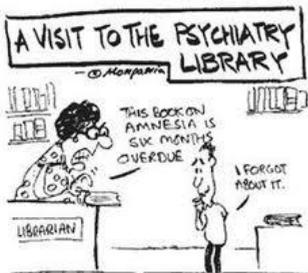


“The Wildest Bit Along the Coast” – A history of Cape Schanck on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria

by Ruth Gooch.

The book tells lively stories of the early settlers - the best and luckiest profited from their sheep and cattle to become gentlemen farmers. Life for fishermen was dangerous and hard but oysters and crayfish were bountiful. Early shipping was hazardous but the lighthouse eventually promised safe passage. Members may borrow from our library.

All books in our library are available for our members and may be accessed most Tuesday mornings or Sundays between 2pm and 4pm. Please record all borrowings and returns in the book provided



The combined Nepean & Rye Historical Societies Australia Day luncheon was held at the Rye Hotel on the 26th January. The Guest speaker was Professor Stuart Macintyre. Stuart Macintyre was educated in Melbourne and undertook doctoral studies in history at Cambridge. Since 1990, he has been the *Ernest Scott Professor of History* and in 2002 was made a *Laureate Professor of the University of Melbourne*. He is currently a member of the Advisory Council of the Australian Research Council. The balance of the address given by Professor Macintyre will be completed in the next newsletters.—

“Thank you for that generous introduction. I want first to acknowledge and pay my respect to the people and elders of the Boonerwung people of the Kulin nation, and also to express appreciation to the Nepean and Rye historical societies as we meet on this southerly spit of Australia. Australia does not lend itself to easy pronunciation. We put the stress on the second syllable and leave the remainder to look after itself – **Astra’yer**. And we smile at those such as Queen Elizabeth who try to enunciate all the components, **Orstralia**.

The Europeans who moved out across the oceans and into this region made landfall from the seventeenth century at some extremities of Australia. They marked a large area on their maps with the Latin phrases *Terra Australis Incognita* or sometimes *Terra Australis Nondum Cognita*. *Terra* means the land, *Incognita* unknown; *Nondum* expresses greater confidence as it means not yet. *Australis* is an adjective derived from the Latin word for the south, *Auster*. Hence this was the unknown southland. Unknown to Europeans, of course, but known intimately by the people who entered it some 50,000 years ago by means of the Timor sea and spread rapidly to occupy the whole of the landmass.

Given their long occupation of Australia, longer by far than the inhabitants of the islands on the north-west coast of Europe who raised a flag at Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788 to proclaim possession, it is little wonder that the celebration of Australia Day has to negotiate sensitivities. Hence the recall by Aldi of that tee-shirt bearing the message ‘Australia, Est. 1788’. It was Matthew Flinders, the English naval officer who sailed around Australia in 1802-3 and published an account in his book, *A Voyage to Terra Australis*, who suggested the term be converted to Australia, a word he described as ‘more agreeable to the ear’. Since there is no record how this man from the English midlands pronounced the word, we can only conjecture at why he thought it agreeable.

His suggestion was taken up in 1817, nevertheless, by Lachlan Macquarie, the Governor of New South Wales, and when Macquarie was buried on

the island of Mull in his ancestral Scotland in 1824, the name of Australia was inscribed on his tomb. While New South Wales was the official name for the colony, Australia was in common usage – and in turn applied to the new colonies of Western and South Australia. It was Macquarie who declared 26 January a public holiday in 1818, beginning an annual custom of official celebrations on what was known as Anniversary Day. The early observance of Australia Day carried a political meaning. It was a festival of the former convicts, the emancipists as they were known, who had served their sentences and were now making their lives in the new land, seeing it as a place of opportunities denied to them back in Britain.

Macquarie's term as governor was notable for his encouragement of these emancipists, who were shunned by those colonists known as the exclusives – the officers and free settlers who took up large land grants, enjoyed privileges and wanted nothing to do with the criminal classes. The exclusives thought of the colony as their own; Macquarie, on the other hand, believed it should be open to all. The very fact that he sat at the banquet table with emancipists to celebrate Anniversary Day ensured the exclusives stayed away.

Macquarie is notable also for his attempts to restrain abuse of Indigenous people. He established a mission for the education of Aboriginal children, instituted an annual gathering or Congress from 1814 at which food, tobacco, clothing and blankets were distributed, presented breastplates to Aboriginal men as markers of their authority. If none of these overtures stemmed the violent dispossession, they were at least evidence of a white conscience.

Anniversary Day on the 26th of January had no relevance for the colonies other than New South Wales. In the course of the nineteenth century they turned their own foundation days into public holidays. We marked Separation Day, the first of July 1851 when Port Phillip District was separated from New South Wales and named Victoria. But if Victorians wished to lay claim to a foundation day, it would probably be the 9th of October – which falls opportunely between the Grand Final and the Spring racing carnival. For it was on the 9th of October 1803 that Lieutenant-Colonel David Collins of the Royal Marines entered Port Phillip Bay on Her Majesty's Ship *Calcutta* and established a settlement just up the road from here at Sullivan's Bay.

Many of you will know more about it than me, but let me attempt a brief summary for those who don't. In early 1803, when London decided to establish a new settlement on this corner of the mainland, the existence of Bass Strait had only recently been ascertained. It had the advantage of

cutting a week or more off the sailing time from England (as previously ships had to navigate around the south coast of Tasmania). The problem was that French ships had also been exploring the Strait and war with France, Britain's great rival, was about to resume. So the decision to send 300 convicts and 50 marines was intended to forestall an interloper. The timing of this decision was unlucky. It was not until January 1803 that a naval officer sent from Sydney found the Yarra River, and pressed beyond its swampy lower reaches to the more inviting prospects around Dight's Fall. News of his discovery had not reached London when Collins departed. He was under instructions to get cracking, so Sullivan's Bay it was, even though the soil seemed poor, the timber scrubby, the water brackish. Collins unloaded his stores and human cargo, had the convicts build a jetty, clear a square, put up a battery and magazine, build huts and plant gardens.

Sullivan's Bay was conceived as a temporary settlement, but efforts to find a better one were unsuccessful. Collins sent a naval officer and surveyor round the Bay, yet they failed to spot the entrance of the Yarra and encountered hostility from the Wurrinjeri people, who seemed more numerous and threatening on the northern shore. He thought he would need a stronger force to defend the settlement, which in any case was unlikely to support itself, so he sent message to Governor King in Sydney suggesting that the settlement be moved. The Governor agreed and early in 1804 these early colonists abandoned Victoria for Tasmania. During their brief occupation twenty convicts escaped. Twelve were recaptured, one shot, and the remaining seven lost – except for one, William Buckley, who reappeared when white men again settled at Port Phillip after living for 31 years among the Wathaurang people.

So ends my history lecture. I've inflicted it on you in the belief that history has a place in and on Australia Day. As the celebration of anniversaries has increased in frequency and as they have expanded into major events and public spectacles, it would seem that their historical content has diminished. The public authorities that organised the Australian Bicentennial and the various State sesquicentenaries in the closing decades of the last century were expected to put an emphasis on celebration; too much critical reflection on the foundational event could only arouse controversy. The marketing manager who organises the centenary of a sporting club will no doubt announce a team of the century at a lavish black-tie dinner, but will anyone be able to remember – will anyone care – how the club began?

Just as the exclusives refused to accept the presence of emancipists in

early New South Wales, so those who orchestrate the commemorative anniversaries that are so prominent a feature of the public calendar shun the disreputable. They want a congenial, affirmative past, a story sanitised of mistakes and false beginnings, one that celebrates success and achievement, encourages patriotic pride. ‘Celebration of a nation, let’s make it grand’, ran the Bicentenary jingle. ‘Be proud West Australians, be proud of what you’ve got’ was WA’s equivalent.

Historians regard such exhortations with suspicion. They are uncomfortable with projecting the present onto the past. The convicts who were released from confinement in the holds of the First Fleet and brought ashore in January 1788 were English, Irish, Scots and Welsh exiles. Some indeed were African-Americans. When they stood squinting in the harsh light of Sydney in high summer to hear Governor Arthur Phillip read his proclamation on 26 January 1788, they did not put aside their nationalities for an Australian one, nor did they think they were creating a new nation. Phillip and the other leading figures in the colonial venture, including Macquarie, were career officers with prior service in the Americas, India and other parts of the British empire who would return after this tour of duty to Britain. Here, I can detect you thinking, is a typical instance of the quibbling academic. Those responsible for the public celebration of historical anniversaries are not interested in such arcane distinctions. Commemoration is a form of monumental history, not academic history, and the professional historians who keep raising objections to its simplified and selective narrative of national achievement are missing the point.

Yet even monumental history cannot function without historians. If Australians are to be drawn into public commemoration, if they are to feel interest in foundational events, then they need to know of the exemplary figures and formative episodes that make up the national story. ‘What sort of country doesn’t know the name of its own first prime minister?’ was the question asked by the body responsible for celebrating the Centenary of Federation in 2001. It is common to lament the low level of such knowledge, and those who do so usually point the finger of blame at history teachers. How is it that young people can spend ten or more years in school and emerge ignorant of the basic facts of Australian history? A satisfactory answer to that question would have you nodding off into your coffee cups or calling for stronger drink, so I’ll mention only some of the reasons.

First, until the recent introduction of the national history curriculum, most students had no classes in history. Rather, they were given fragments of it in primary school and then dealt with select topics in a secondary school subject called studies of society and environment. Second, only a fortunate

minority had the advantage of learning history with a trained history teacher. Third, even this fortunate minority found Australian history boring.

We know from research carried out by my colleague Anna Clark, who conducted extensive interviews with teachers and students across the country, that these students were excited by their encounter with the ancient world, medieval Europe, the Renaissance and modern history. Such studies were rich and challenging. But the teachers and students told Anna Clark that nothing ever happened in Australian history: it was dreary, repetitive and unimaginative; too many governors and explorers, too drab and parochial.

It was for this reason that the new national history curriculum adopted a framework of world history. When the curriculum authority asked me to start the process with a paper suggesting how we should teach history, I argued that we will understand Australian history better if we appreciate the long history of other places and other peoples.

We often hear talk of the Indigenous occupation of this continent as unique in its undisturbed longevity, and it was; but we can see the distinctive characteristics of Aboriginal Australia more clearly if we know more about the peopling of other continents; equally, we will better appreciate Aboriginal ecology and culture if we know more about how and why agriculture, towns and writing developed in other places.

And the same applies to the penal settlement of Australia as part of a much larger process of European expansion, to our migrant experience and much else. 50 million Europeans emigrated to other parts of the world in the nineteenth century, and the great majority of those who crossed the Atlantic Ocean before 1815 did so involuntarily.

I wrote my paper in 2008 and there was broad support for this approach. The development of the curriculum extended over the following four years. It was directed by a statutory organisation with a board made up of representatives of the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments. It oversaw an iterative process of submissions, consultations, workshops and conferences that provided constant feedback. It employed the curriculum writers, more than a dozen of them for history, who produced successive drafts until the final version that is now being taught.

To be continued next journal...

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The recent proposal for the Mornington Peninsula to become a separate state calls to mind the great border dispute between South Australia and Victoria.

The east boundary of the state of South Australia (1836) was a proclaimed boundary in that it was nominated to be the meridian 141° East of Greenwich. Generally state and international boundaries are chosen to coincide with geographical features such as rivers, mountain ridges etc. In this case there was nothing to define the border on the ground. It was therefore necessary to mark the boundary on the ground.

In 1839 New South Wales Government surveyor Charles James Tyers (1806–1870) established a reference point consisting of an arrow marked by stones at the mouth of the Glenelg River in the southeast corner of South Australia. There he made observations and determined the point to have a longitude of $141^\circ 01' 23''$.

There were a number of ways to achieve this but the method adopted was to observe the chronometer time of meridian passage of the Sun at the Sydney Observatory and then the time of meridian passage of the Sun at the Glenelg reference point. The difference in time (with some corrections) giving the difference in longitude between the two places.

Longitude (Glenelg reference point) =
 longitude(Sydney Observatory) – observed longitude difference

Unfortunately the assumed longitude of the Sydney Observatory was incorrect by about 3 km ($0^\circ 01' 30''$). In addition the theodolites and chronometers in use at the time did not have the required precision. Thus the longitude determined for the reference point base station was in error by at least 3 km plus or minus smaller additional distance errors due to poor equipment and observation uncertainties.

Tyers value of the adopted longitude was contested by others and eventually recalculated to be $141^\circ 02' 03''$.

The procedure was to then calculate how far west to set out the proposed 141° east meridian. Wade and White adopted an offset of 2.960 km.

Distance = $(141^\circ 02' 03'' - 141^\circ)$ radians \times radius of the earth ≈ 3.8 km.

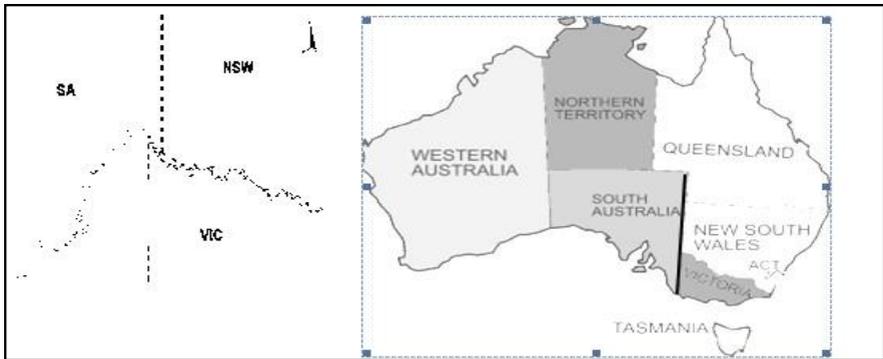
It was not until 1847 that SA Government surveyor Edward Riggs White (1817 – 1853) met with the assistance of his NSW counterpart Henry Wade (1810 – 1854) at the Glenelg River reference mark to set out what in fact was to be the “incorrect” boundary.

Together they surveyed north from the coast for 199.29 km, ending the survey at Wade’s Termination Point on 3 July 1847, just north of the present day Bordertown.

Some time later on the 2nd August 1849, White continued the survey north from Wade's Termination Point. White stopped the first section of his survey on 8th October 1849 at a point approximately 8 kilometres northeast of Peebinga.

In 1850, White resumed surveying and continued north from his 1849 stopping place and erected a stone cairn overlooking the Murray River on 18 December 1850.

The boundary was marked with timber pegs supported by mounds of soil. Soon after completion a severe firestorm destroyed all the pegs and the mounds were blown away. Nothing remained of the years of hard surveying. It did not help that the fieldnotes and plans of the survey could not be found.

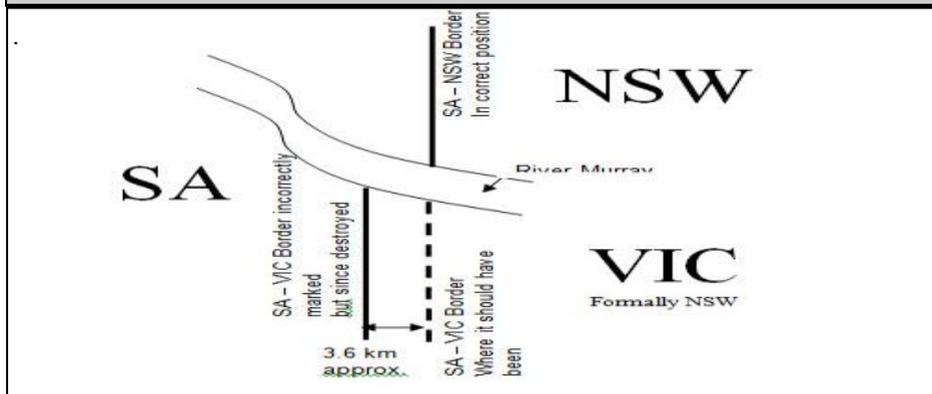


Consider the border between South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria as marked by a bold line on the above map. On enlargement the border is actually stepped as shown

The portion of the border common to NSW was surveyed much later and was marked as correct as possible considering the equipment and methods that were available at the time.

A partial remeasurement of the “incorrect boundary” some 3 km inside South Australia. This loss of territory sparked a legal battle that took more than 60 years before a High Court decision ruled that the boundary between the two States was the boundary as originally pegged. Even though it was not the meridian 141° East of Greenwich. This resulted in a forfeiture of more than 1,300 square kilometres of territory from South Australia to Victoria

In 1914 the South Australian government successfully appealed to the United Kingdom Privy Council and was awarded the equivalent of \$430,000 as compensation for the loss.



It is hard to imagine how the surveyors of the time survived. They worked in appalling conditions far away from civilization and in abominable weather. As if the lack of water was not bad enough, they had to contend with insects, coastal scrub, sand dunes, mallee scrub and swamps. At one stage the survey hands deserted the party and left the poor surveyor to continue on unaided. The lack of water was a serious problem; so much so at one stage Wade had to drink the stinking blood of his dead horse in order to survive.

The effect of such conditions is born out by the untimely deaths of White at 36 and Wade at 44, soon after completion of their survey stints in the field.

The respective Surveyor Generals of the two states are presently reviewing the situation and plan to remark the boundary in its incorrect position. This will most probably be done using GPS.

Reference

A very comprehensive account of the saga of the lost border is given in: *The Disputed Country – Australia’s lost border* by Bob Dunn

Videos (Comedy)

Google “**Serviceton land claim**” ; Today Tonight Adelaide “**West End Draft – Reclaim**” – Paul Swan “**West End Draft: Reclaiming Serviceton**”

John Bertacco

Licensed Surveyor

Formerly Senior Lecturer, RMIT

As part of our fund raising activities our Society is now offering a range of excellent quality Australian native plants for sale to members and friends. The plants are supplied to the Society by our long term supporter Simon Davies who grows plants from his own collection of seeds and cuttings.

The plants are all for sale for the one price of \$4.50 and may be purchased at our Rye Saturday market or purchased direct from

Clarrie Jennings and Sons Garden Supplies Melbourne Road Rye.

There was an interesting article in a recent issue Southern Peninsula News where columnist Matt Vowell has a regular section “**100 Years Ago This Week**” It was referring to a destructive ti-tree fire at Chelsea and the use of fire-resistant plants. Amongst our native plants there are four available that are recognised as fire-resistant. They are identified on the sheets emailed to all members

From the pages of the Mornington Standard, 28 February 1914

THE recent destructive ti-tree fire at Chelsea has had the effect of leading to some interesting investigations by Mr T. S. Hart, head of the Creswick Forestry School, with the object of ascertaining how danger from such out-breaks may be averted in the future. Mr Hart made the results of his observations public at a meeting of the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, in a paper entitled Some Coastal Plants: Their Shelter and Fire Danger. Ti-tree, he said, had many times demonstrated its danger as a highly inflammable plant, but to eradicate it from the seashore would lead only to sand becoming a great nuisance. Vegetation was necessary to keep the sand in place, and to protect habitations from its being piled against them. There were native plants of a fire resisting character which could affect this, notably the coast wattle, the sea berry, and Boobialla. At one place at Chelsea, where the coast wattle was growing, he noticed the fire had considerably lessened, and he had come to the conclusion that the danger of fire in such areas could be considerably decreased by encouraging the natural growth of such plants. There was no reason why they could not be planted in strips among the ti-tree to a sufficient width to check a fire. Thus a diversified scrub, much more pleasing to the eye than pure ti-tree, would be produced, and the requirements of shelter and sand binding be at the same time secured. Boobialla would take first place, as it was easily grown and would carry foliage to the ground. There was no reason why paths through the scrub or fire breaks should not be bordered with these fire-resistant plants..

Meetings and Guest Speakers.

- Monday 28th April** General Meeting. Guest Speaker Wayne Bastow.
Private Ernie Myers. KIA France 1916
- Monday 26th May** **General Meeting.** Guest speaker to be announced.
- Monday 23rd June** **General Meeting.** Guest speaker to be announced.

Coming Events

- Saturday 3rd May.** **Stall Rye Rotary Market**
- Sunday 18th May** **MEMBERS' DAY Old Schoolhouse**
- Saturday 24 May** **WOMEN IN RYE LUNCHEON.**
- Saturday 7th June** **Stall Rye Rotary Market**
- Friday 4th July** **ANNUAL NEPEAN/RYE LUNCHEON**

Last Friday of the month. Rye RSL Happy Hour. 5-6pm

Home Page. <http://ryehistoricalsociety.weebly.com/index.html>

Several past issues of our newsletter may now be viewed in color on the Society's website. Google '*Rye Historical Society*'. Members may like to send our newsletter on to friends or review past editions. Go to our site and then click on 'Newsletters' then click on the 'Download File' icon. The latest newsletter will be uploaded within a couple of weeks of it being posted.

'The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help.'" Ronald Reagan.

Catch a man a fish, and you can sell it to him. Teach a man to fish, and you ruin a wonderful business opportunity.' Karl Marx

'A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices.' William James.