

‘White Cliffs’

Journal of

THE RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April May June

2015

President: Prue Found 5985 5767

Secretary: Pauline Powell 5985 2797

Treasurer: Danny Jennings 5985 2231

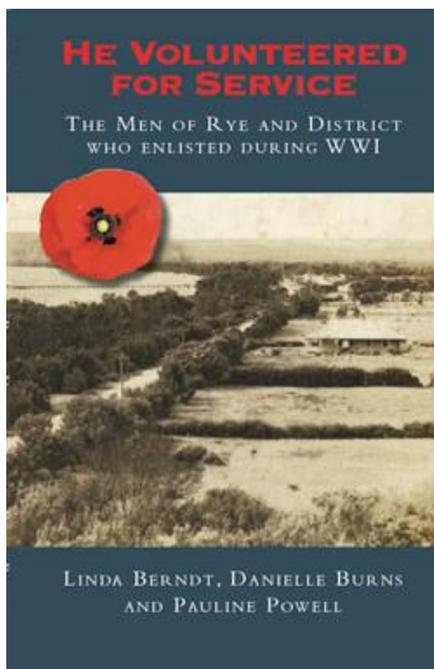
PO Box 65 Rye 3941

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

Meetings – 8pm, Fourth Monday of each month

Rye Primary School Library

Visitors welcome. Enter from Collingwood Street



‘HE VOLUNTEERED FOR SERVICE’ page 6

The year ahead promises to be a busy one, as we continue to promote the importance of protecting the history of our town. So much of our history is lost as suburbs spread and developments expand. The protection of significant buildings is fraught with difficulties, especially financial constraints. Rye has a long history of hard working families with a strong sense of community. As you are aware, the old schoolhouse is in need of repair, and we are trying to get more assistance from the Education Department.

The Local History Network, under the direction of the Local History Officer, is working on a local history website. This will provide a lot of information about each of the historical and heritage groups in the Mornington Peninsula Shire, and will enable interested people to get in touch with the societies.

Research is an important function of a history group and it can be very interesting and rewarding. Our research team has put a lot of time and enthusiasm into the Anzac Centenary publication, which will be launched on Anzac Day and be available for purchase.

Thanks to all members involved in the many ways that support the work of the Society. There is a lot to be done and we appreciate any offers of help.

Prue Found

Vale -William 'Bill' O'Brien

A well loved member and true gentleman Bill died on 25 February aged 81 years. He and Alice were original members and participated fully in our activities - attending meetings, opening the room on Sundays, always ready for working bees and market stalls. Their families moved to Rye many years ago, they married in Rye and lived nearly all of their 60+ years of married life in Valley Drive, moving in the last years to The Village Glen. A stalwart of the community Bill was a carpenter, working for various builders over time mainly with Thomson Bros. Bill was on the School Committee at Rye and served time as Secretary. A Life Member of Rye Tennis Club he was responsible for organising the building of the original Clubhouse and supervising all the working bees in the 1960s. He was President in 1966 and served for 30 years on the committee. In 1984 he headed the group extending the clubhouse to the fine building it is today. Many members attended his funeral service in Rosebud, with the numbers attending showing the love and esteem in which he was held. We extended our sympathy to Alice and her family on behalf of all members.

Vale - Pamela Dawson

Pam died on 2 March. She was a member for many years and with her bright personality and friendly manner was a willing worker and volunteer on our many stalls, sausage sizzles and at functions. Pam attended our February meeting but left before the supper as she was unwell. A celebration of her life was held at Sorrento Golf Club on Friday 13 March where many Society members attended and conveyed condolences to her daughter Robyn and son Peter.

Australia Day Luncheon As we have done for the last few years Rye, and Nepean Historical Society, hosted the luncheon at the Rye Hotel with Dorothy Houghton. Over 70 guests attended to hear a most entertaining address by **Prof Robert Pascoe**, Dean Laureate and Professor of History at Victoria University. Robert explained how football had played a large part in Melbourne's development in the suburbs from the early days of the game. Parklands around the city and through the suburbs had been reserved from the beginning and people used them for recreation. Matches were always played on Saturday afternoons, with the fans fiercely loyal to their teams who had different make-ups - North Melbourne and Richmond were Catholic, Essendon - Protestant, and Melbourne University had a large percentage of doctors and were patriotic - 39 members enlisted in WW1 and 12 did not return. Even in the 50s and 60s players were placed in businesses eg banks, milk bars, grocers etc in the suburbs for which they played. Of course you were either with, or totally against Collingwood - still the same today.



Prof Robert Pascoe with Prue and Joy Kitch

Australia Day Bus Tour Due to popular demand this year the Society conducted two bus tours of Rye and places of interest. Many thanks to McCrae Busline who once again supplied the bus and to John Hazledine who conducted the tours.

Volunteers 310 volunteer hours in 2014 were worked by those who opened the room on Sundays and the group on Tuesday mornings. We are looking for more members to help in various capacities as we extend our collection and activities. Please contact us at meetings or by phone as listed on the front of the newsletter.

Women in Rye The Annual 'Women in Rye' Luncheon will be held on Saturday 23 May at the Rye Hotel. We will be booking a table for the Society and will remind members at a later meeting.

The Johnston Collection. A visit to the Johnston Collection at East Melbourne has been organised for Friday 19th June.. The bus (Max 16) will depart Rye RSL at 8am for a 10am tour. Light lunch at your own expense at the coffee shop at The Pullman opposite the MCG. Cost \$55 includes bus and tour. The Collection is the legacy of **William Robert Johnston** (1911-1986) an antique dealer and collector of beautiful things. He loved objects that were unusual and visually arresting. Contact Wayne 59857535.

National Trust Homes. On Wednesday 28th October we will be visiting two National Trust Homes, **The Heights** and **Barwon Grange**. The trip will include lunch at The Heights and a ferry trip across to Geelong. Cost and travel details will be available in the next newsletter.

Barwon Grange is an elegant intact brick villa, built in 1855 for merchant Jonathan Porter O'Brien who had emigrated from Liverpool. The architecture is Picturesque Gothic Revival with steep gables and unusual decorative timber bargeboards and verandah parapet. The interior contains early Victorian antique furniture and objects collected according to an 1856 auction inventory. The garden, with lawns sloping towards the Barwon River, is reconstructed with plant species derived from 19th century catalogues.

The Heights Built in 1855 for Charles Ibbotson, this unique per-fabricated home (the largest of its kind in Victoria) was home to three generations of the one Geelong family. The interior features renovations completed in the late 1930s reflecting that era's contemporary taste. Many of the older outbuildings, including the 1850s blue-stone groom's cottage, the water tower, the extensive stable complex and an unusual dovecote all in original condition. Contact Wayne 59857535.

Welcome to our new members - we hope you enjoy your time with us.

Mechelle Cheers, Rye
Julie and David Elder, Rosebud West
Vivienne and David Johnson, Rye

The Progressive Dinner was lovely. Savouries at Pauline's, with help from Norma and Lesley; after which we moved on to Jill and Wayne where we had a very attractive main course of beef or salmon served with vegetables, prepared, cooked and served by their daughter Sally and friend Katie. We finished with Prue and Mark - with home made delicious (naturally) desserts of chocolate ripple cake, pavlova, cheese cake and crème caramel - followed by coffee. We had a most enjoyable evening talking with other members.

Congratulations Two of our members were stars at the Red Hill Show. Wendy Ellis entered 25 jars of jam for which she was awarded 12 firsts and 9 seconds. She also received a special award for achieving the most points in her section. Well done Wendy! Her daughter received a first and second in the knitting section. Wendy Jennings received a first with her king size candle wicking quilt - Well done again - perhaps there is something in the name. **Remember** - We sell delicious home made jams and marmalades from Wendy's kitchen - available at the Old Schoolhouse each Sunday between 2 and 4pm, and at monthly meetings, the 4th Monday of the month at 8 pm.

Market Stalls Our last market stall for the season was held on Easter Saturday raising the sum of \$320. The total for the three stalls this year including the Australia day bus tour is approximately \$900.00 Due to the problem of inclement weather which we experienced last year consideration is being given to holding street stalls in the future. Many thanks to Wendy and Simon Davies for their continued support with jams and native plants. Many thanks also to those who have given up their time on those sometime very cold Saturday mornings.



Easter Saturday at the Rye market

Sausage Sizzle Our next Sausage Sizzle which is our major fundraiser for the year will be held Saturday 17th October. Volunteers please, a sheet will be available at general meetings in the coming months.

St Kilda or Saint Kilda St Kilda was named by Lieutenant-Governor LaTrobe after a small vessel called the Lady of St Kilda. The St Kilda was a yacht owned by Colonel Acland, and was wrecked near the Red Bluff. For many years the official name (Place Name Register) for St Kilda was Saint Kilda. In recent times the register has been changed to St Kilda. However Saint Kilda still exists for historical purposes. There is also a possibility that the place was named after St. Kilda, a small island on the west coast of Scotland.

JB

In 1914, the situation in Europe was tense. Secret alliances, internal politics, and the desire to grow empires had built up distrust and dislike between many of the European powers. All it would take was one international event and Europe would be at war.

Events in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914 with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie changed the world forever. The domino effect reached Australia and consequently Rye when the United Kingdom declared war on Germany on 4 August (9am on Wednesday 5 August Melbourne time) and as a result Australia was at war.

Nearly 100 years later research began on the known men of Rye who enlisted for service in preparation for the 100th commemoration events surrounding World War 1. These men were listed on the school's Honour Board and in a photographic honour board originally housed at the Mechanics Institute.

The Rye Historical Society began researching about 3 years ago to learn a little more of each man's story and along the way several more names were added to the list as having connections to Rye. These were 25 young men who volunteered for King and Country. Men, who had been born, lived, attended school or worked in Rye.

Service records were accessed, battalions researched, family histories compiled and as a result '*He Volunteered for Service - The Men of Rye and Districts who enlisted during WW 1*' was born.



Clarence Cecil

Some of the names are familiar such as **Myers, Purves, Jennings and Cain**. Others such as **Burnside, Cecil, Perrin, McMeikan and Connop** are less well known.

The Williams family of "Eastbourne" in west Rosebud sent five grandsons with connections to Rye to serve their country. Step-brothers **James Dixon Thompson** and **Gordon Carleton** enlisted. Carleton was the cousin of **Billy Hill** who in turn became the brother in law of **Barney Cain**. Barney became the brother in law of **Philip Edmonds**. Family connections were rife when research was undertaken.



Walter Purves



Sam Lucas

Gordon Carelton was at the Gallipoli landing on April 25th 1915, wounded after reaching the beach he was evacuated to Malta.

Several men enlisted but were discharged as being medically unfit. **William Jordan** became ill during initial training because he had to sleep on wet, cold ground.

Jack Albress was a guard at the Langwarrin Internment camp.

William Darley, an officer was court-martialled for being AWOL.

James Dixon Thompson went AWOL in South Africa, living under an alias for nearly two years before being sent home to Australia.

Billy Hill left Australia as a Soldier Boy, aged just 17.

Each and every one of these men had their lives changed forever. Shell shock, trench fever, illness and disease were common. These fellows survived heat, extreme cold, trench war-fare in a time very different from our own. These are our boys and their stories are important to the story of Rye being the place it is today.

He Volunteered for Service' will be launched on Anzac Day by the Hon Greg Hunt at the Rye RSL during the luncheon after the Anzac service. Books available the next day at the Old Schoolhouse, normal time 2 - 4 pm . \$20. Posted \$30.

Linda Berndt.

A valuable aid to the historical study of an area is the use of aerial photography. Aerial photography is taken from aircraft flying at various altitudes with photographic cameras pointing downwards (vertical photography).

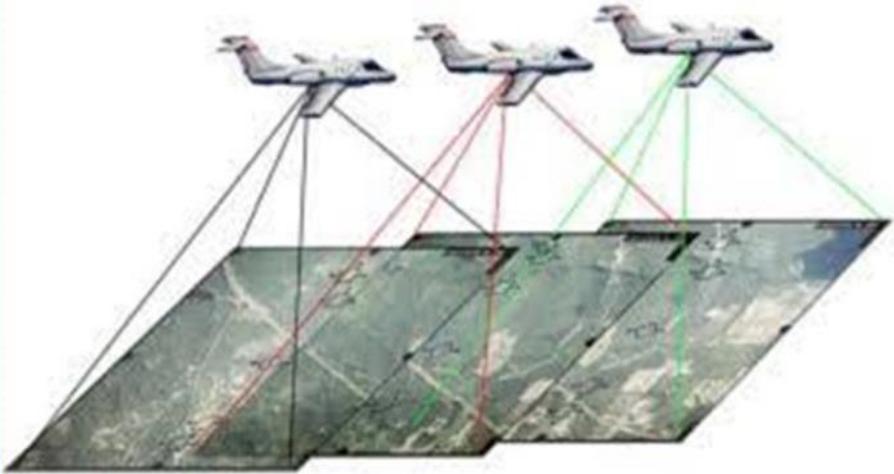


Diagram showing how vertical photography is taken with successive photos with 60% overlap.

Aerial Photography provides a bird's eye view of the earth's surface and is used in a variety of applications such as mapping, planning, tourism, landcare and environmental studies. It equally is useful in historical studies of how development has taken place over a number of years. Where photos are taken with an overlap (60%) it is possible to view them with a stereoscope to obtain a three dimensional image. Use of this feature is the basis of modern mapping and height measurement by surveyors and cartographers.

The state government has been actively acquiring aerial photography since the 1940s and it is available at a cost in either digital or print formats. In between World Wars I and II, aerial photography was a new and important technology to assist more accurate land mapping and management. A comprehensive series of aerial photography of Victoria, begun by the RAAF in the late 1930s and completed by others, was initiated to compile the first comprehensive set of (inch to a mile) mapping for Victoria.

Comparatively new aerial photography, year 2004 to present day is available via the Coordinated Imagery Program (CIP) web page, while archived aerial photography from 1940s to 1994, is distributed as Vicmap Imagery via the Vicmap Data Service Provider (DSP). The majority of photographs are black and white, with colour starting around the 1970s. There are two types of aerial photography available: traditional vertical photography flown for mapping and low level obliques or side views of metropolitan landmarks.

It has been general practice to fly the metropolitan area every two years and rural areas every five years. In addition there is special project photography and photography carried out by large mining operations. The historic aerial photography library is available for public viewing at the Land Victoria Aerial Photography storage facility situated at 57 Cherry Lane, Laverton, 3028. Phone: (03) 8368 5411. A computerized index of the aerial photographs enables easy searching to identify the required prints. It is possible to obtain photographic prints and digital copies blown up to required scale. A guide to aerial photography resources, covering Melbourne and Victoria, is also available via the University of Melbourne Library Map Collection.

Multispectral aerial imagery

Multispectral aerial imagery sensors capture image data at different frequencies across the electromagnetic spectrum. Filters or instruments that are sensitive to particular wavelengths separate the wavelengths. This can include light from frequencies beyond the visible light range, such as infrared. Multispectral aerial imagery enables the extraction of additional information that the human eye fails to capture with its receptors for red, green and blue.

For example the near infrared spectrum can be used to gather information relating to vegetation and applications where the warmth of a body distinguishes it from its surroundings. Multispectral imagery has a wide range of applications, such as: the detection of: stress in trees or crops, soil salinity, weeds, invasive species, and land disturbance mapping etc. The local council uses aerial photography to monitor the progress of structures, detection of illegal structures and to check areas where trees may have been removed.

Photo Mosaics

A photo mosaic is a compound photograph created by stitching together a series of adjacent pictures of a scene to produce what appears to be a continuous image. The then Department of Crown Lands and Survey took many years to carefully cut and mosaic these photos into a systematic photo base series for Victoria. Aerial photo mosaics provide a snapshot of what Victoria was like in the late 1940s to mid 1950s and is now available for free. Anyone with a particular interest in a place in Victoria can see what it was like over six decades ago. There is not a complete coverage of Victoria and concentration is mainly confined to built up areas. Unfortunately, the Peninsula area is not included.

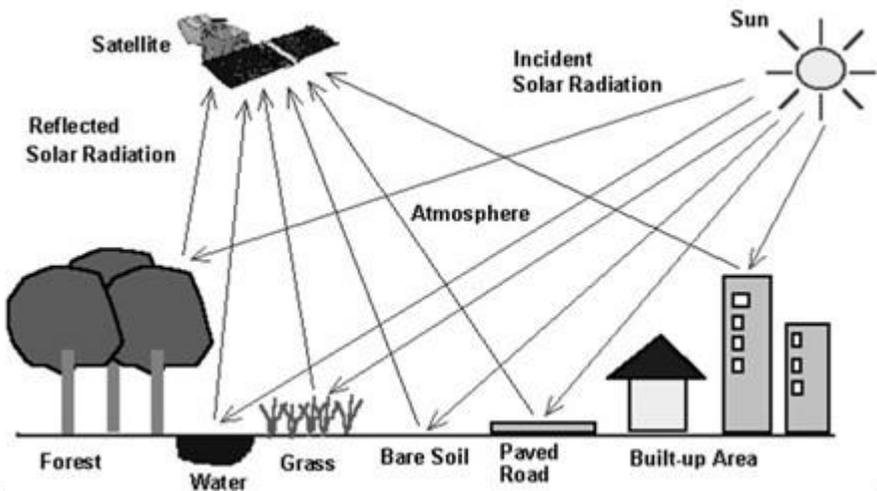


Diagram illustrating how sunlight is reflected from objects on the earth's surface.

Spectral Signatures

Features on the Earth's surface reflect, absorb, transmit, and emit electromagnetic energy from the sun. Special digital sensors have been developed to measure all types of electromagnetic energy as it interacts with objects. The ability of sensors to measure these interactions allows us to measure features and changes on the Earth. Across any range of wavelengths, the percent reflectance values for landscape features such as water, sand, roads, forests, etc. can be plotted and compared. Such plots are called "spectral signatures."

Differences among spectral signatures are used to help classify remotely sensed images into classes of landscape features since the spectral signatures of like features have similar shapes and tones. Infrared photography is of particular use in historical (archeological) studies. For example, where there are objects such as old walls immediately below the terrain surface, the heat retained by the rock mass during sunlight will show up in contrast with the surrounding landscape in early morning photography. This feature would be very useful in historical studies to detect the position of hidden structures which lay beneath overburden. Different terrain features have their own pattern shape, tone particular spectral signature Thus if the spectral signature of say a marijuana crop is known, it is possible to use a computer to interrogate a digital image to expose all areas on the digital image that have a similar signature, and so identify marijuana crops. Mining companies have successfully used such methods for the location of minerals, clays and different types of soils.

Summary

The availability of photographic imagery can offer the historian the possibility of viewing the change in land use over time, the changes in coastal boundaries, and the location of old building features long lost beneath the earth's surface.

John Bertacco

Congratulations Rye Historical Society committee member **John Bertacco**, a regular contributor to our newsletter was recently inducted into the **Hall of Fame** of the Clayton District CC. This is only one of four given in the 90 years history of the Club. His cricket playing days spanned 60 years during which he played over 700 games In that time he scored over 7200 runs and took over 1000 wickets. John played 33 years for Clayton CC and 25 years for East Malvern CC. He is a Life Member of both clubs.



The Contour Map of the Mornington Peninsula 1891 The Society has recently acquired a vintage map of the Mornington Peninsula from Peter Collins who grew up in Rye. The map entitled: **Contour Map of Mornington Peninsula**, is dated **December 1891** and was specially prepared for use by the Department of Defence by Surveyor General Alexander Black. There appears to be 3 editions of this work. Preliminary investigation indicates there are few copies still in existence. It is in three colours; red for the 20 foot (6 m) contours, green for vegetation and black for general topographic detail. The map shows roads and road names, bridges, sites of lime kilns, areas under cultivation, and swamp areas.

One interesting feature is the demarcation of the Old Telegraph Line from the Bay along Boneo Road (Flinders/Dromana Road) down to the Signal Station at Cape Schanck. The map extends from Point Nepean to Arthur's Seat, and the scale shown on the map is: Scale: ½ mile to one inch or 1:31680. The displayed dimensions measured 66 x 89 cm., indicating the actual dimensions to be approximately 70 x 100 cm.

T. Slater lithographed it at the Department of Lands and Survey. T. E. M. McGuaran was the Government Printer at the time. These dimensions do not seem to coincide with the editions recorded in the State Library. The contours were surveyed using the method of plane tabling. It must have taken many months and manpower to accomplish. Surveyor, Alexander Black (1827-1897), was born at Arndilly, Banffshire, Scotland. He was educated as a land surveyor and completed his articles in Aberdeen.

He arrived in Port Phillip on 10 December 1852 at the height of the gold rush and worked for a number of years for the State Government before succeeding Alexander Skene as Surveyor-General on 1 July 1886, holding that post until his retirement in May 1892. Black died at his home, Hammerdale, Alma Road, St Kilda, on 13 March 1897 and was buried at the St Kilda cemetery. Little is known of T. Slater.

The map is truly interesting in that it portrays many of the existing cultural details of the landscape that existed towards the end of the 19th century and is a very good example of the results of field surveying and cartography.

John Bertacco



A Family History Hughes Road Sorrento is not in the Rye Historical Society's area of interest but it does have a historical connection to an early Rye family. William Hughes and Catherine Hughes arrived in Australia in 1854 with their eight children. Their eldest son William married in Sandhurst and then followed the gold trail to Donnelly's Creek and Walhalla before arriving Sorrento circa 1872 with his young family. There he soon established himself as a limeburner and business man. He had two sons William and James.

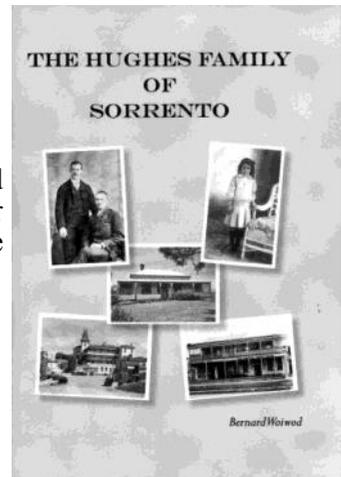
James Hughes married Julia Cain, the daughter of Joseph Cain and grand daughter of Owen and Sarah Cain the early settlers in Rye. They lived in a limestone home in Hughes Road Sorrento, named after the family. James had a lime kiln near the Ocean beach at the end of Hughes Road. On the 16th July 1910 Julia Hughes died giving birth to her fifth child Mabel Elizabeth. James Hughes already had four children under the age of 10 years and was unable to bring up the new baby and Mabel was put into the care of Julia's sister Margaret.

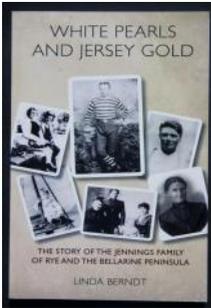
Margaret (Maggie) was married to John Francis Watts a son of early Sorrento settlers John Francis Watts and Jane Skelton. and they lived in the family home Killarney on the Cain property near Canterbury Jetty Road. Mabel was never to live in the family home in Hughes Road as her father remarried and moved to Gippsland with her siblings, leaving her in the care of Maggie and Jack Watts. Mabel and was to live with them till her marriage in 1928. Mabel attended the Rye State School and first enrolled there in 1916.

Research into background of the Hughes family of Hughes Road shows that they were very much involved in the early development of Sorrento as lime burners and businessmen.

The Hughes Family of Sorrento

The story of the Hughes Family researched and written by the Society's Newsletter Editor Bernard Woiod is available for sale in the Old Schoolhouse.



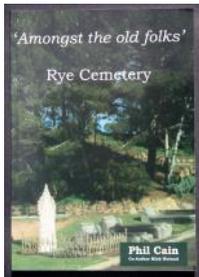


The Australian chapter of the Jennings family of Rye and the Bellarine Peninsula began in 1848 in Geelong with the marriage of teenagers John Jennings and Phoebe Dickman. Now, in 2014, the family the family has grown to 1300 descendants living throughout the world.

White Pearls and Jersey Gold

by **Linda Berndt**

\$30.00

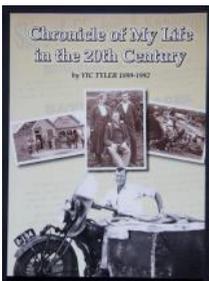


For many years now the author, Phil Cain, has lead tours of Rye's hilltop Cemetery amongst, as he puts it '*the old folk he once knew so well*'. It's indeed a proud tradition that Phil follows in that his father before him served as trustee for 51 years, as well as grand uncles before then.

Amongst the old folks. Rye Cemetery

By **Phil Cain**

\$25 members 20.00

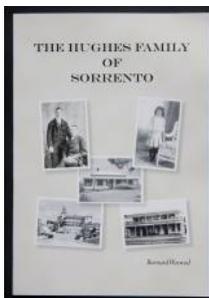


Vic Tyler 1899-1992 spent the greater part of his life in Rye. He was born in St Kilda and when nine years old he moved to Jubilee near Walhalla. He arrived in Rye in 1916 where he became a carpenter and builder.

Chronicle of my life in the 20th Century'

By **Vic Tyler**

\$20

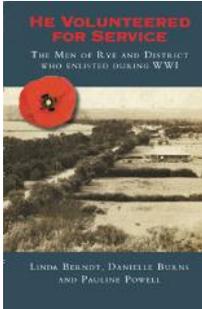


William and Catherine Hughes arrived in Australia in 1854 with their eight children. Their eldest son William married in Sandhurst and arrived in Sorrento with his young family in 1872. William's son James married Julia Cain and so began a connection with Rye.

The Hughes Family of Sorrento

by **Bernard Woiod**

\$15.00

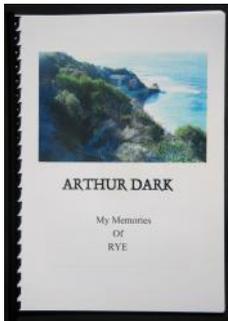


In 1914, the situation in Europe was tense. Secret alliances, internal politics, and the desire to grow empires had built up distrust and dislike between many of the European powers. The story of the young men of Rye who went to World War I

He Volunteered for Service by

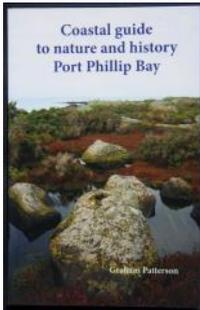
Linda Berndt, (chief researcher and writer)

Danielle Burns and Pauline Powell \$20.00



Arthur Dark was born in Rye in 1924. His father Bert Dark married Eleanor Annie Cain and so became connected with most of the early settlers of Rye. Arthur's story tells of the families involved in Rye changing from the small fishing village to what it is today.

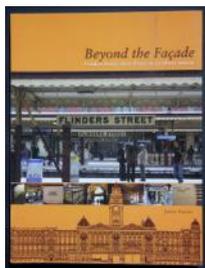
***Arthur Dark. My memories of Rye* \$10.00**



Do you love walking along the beach? Would you like to delve deeper into nature and history? Do you live near Port Phillip or Western Port? Do you visit the Mornington Peninsula, the Bellarine Peninsula or Phillip Island?

***Coastal guide to nature and history
Port Phillip Bay***

By Graham Patterson \$30



This story of the Flinders Street Railway Station takes the reader into all those hidden rooms and halls that catered for clubs and organisations that few of us ever knew existed.

Beyond the Façade. Flinders Street, more than just a Railway Station
by Jenny Davies \$50

Meetings and Guest Speakers.

Monday 27th April Hon Neil Pope, will give an illustrated talk on his time as Administrator of Norfolk Island.

Monday 25th May To be announced.

Monday 22nd June John Vertigan. Former Melbourne radio personality.

Coming Events

The Johnston Collection	19th June
Sausage Sizzle	17th October
The Heights and Barwon Grange.	28th October
Rye RSL Happy Hour. 5-6pm	Last Friday of the month.

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.

"Lexophile" is a word used to describe those who have a love for words, such as "you can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish", or "to write with a broken pencil is pointless."

When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.

The batteries were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

Police were called to a day care, where a three-year-old was resisting a rest

The short fortune teller who escaped from prison was a
small medium at large. .