

We have all enjoyed a much-earned break from commitments over the past months, but the start of a new year will hopefully see us all well rested and enthusiastic.

2014 was a busy year for the committee and for those members who support the Society in so many ways. Our monthly meetings have been well attended, and we have enjoyed some very interesting speakers.

Promoting the Society in the community is ongoing, with the intention of attracting new members. Although plenty of people have shown interest in local history, they are reluctant to commit to supporting the Society through attending meetings or functions.

The "Postcards of the Peninsula" travelling exhibition has been a great success, and is a credit to our local history officer, Sally Robbins. The DVD will soon be made available for the societies to show in their rooms.

Our theme for History Week was "Toys of Yesteryear" which will remain until October. We had hoped for more visitors to the museum to see this exhibition as it is lovely seeing the old toys and games and remembering times gone by. Do try and visit the museum whilst the toys are there, especially if you can take visitors.

The old schoolhouse does look rather sad at the moment, with the temporary hoarding, waiting for the repair works to start. A lot of time has been spent with builders, heritage architects and advisors, but we are still waiting for permission from the Education Department to go ahead. One would think they would be delighted that a community group was willing to arrange to have the work done for them. We will be pursuing this permission as soon as possible so that the work can commence.

We have planned some interesting speakers for this coming year and we have organized a progressive dinner, another historic homes bus trip, and a visit to the Johnson Collection in East Melbourne.

We will continue to meet on the last Friday of the month, hopefully our luck in the raffles will pick up again.

I would like to wish all members and their families a happy, healthy and safe year ahead, and I look forward to your company and support in 2015.

Prue Found

Market Stalls. The Society conducted stalls at the Rye Rotary market in September, October, November and December but unfortunately the weather has not treated us very kindly on each occasion. Thought will be given to moving to a more protected location but at present we will persevere and continue this year with our stalls on the first Saturday in February, March, April and May. The primary purpose of the stalls is to promote the Rye Historical Society and the sale of our historical publications. We thank Wendy for her jams and Simon Davies for his native plants which continue to raise funds for the Society.

Christmas Breakup. Our Christmas breakup was celebrated by some 40 members at Stoney's Room at the Rye RSL on the 24th November last. All enjoyed the iconic film "Dinner For One."

Australia Day 26th January. As part of the Australia Day celebrations this year the Society as well as an Information Stall on the foreshore will conduct a bus tour of Rye for visitors. Cost \$5.00. We thank McCrae Bus Lines once again for their generous donation of their bus and driver. The flag raising will be at 5-30pm followed by a concert. Helpers will be required from 1pm till 5-30pm. Please ring Norma Cornish (5985 2157) if available to go on the roster on the day.

Sausage Sizzle. The sausage sizzle in October was again a great success and the sum of \$1584 was raised. Many thanks to all the cooks and helpers on the day.

Progressive Dinner. A progressive dinner is planned for Saturday 28th March. It will start at Pauline's before moving to Jill & Wayne's and finishing at Prue's. Full details will be available at the next general meeting or as bookings are made. Cost is \$25 per person and BYO alcohol. There is a limit of 30 persons and payments to be made to Danny Jennings by 20th March.

ERRATA - In the last edition within the story of St Andrew's Church Rye it was stated that the Sanctuary Light was donated in honour of Dorothy Houghton's 90th birthday in 1910, this should read 2010. Incidentally, Dorothy celebrated her 95th birthday on New Year's Day. One of our Life members, we are pleased to see her about after being not so well during the year.



'Cliff House' c.1914, the Sullivan home, was on the east corner of Napier Street and Point Nepean Road.



'Gracefield' Hotel built 1875, demolished 1927. Rye Hotel is on the same site.



Jim Sullivan loading wood at Rye Pier

GRACE SULLIVAN MEMORIAL



Rye Mechanics Institute and Free Library 1896-1948. Rye Civic Hall is on same site.



Grace Sullivan



Rye State School, Empire Day 1914. Building shown was replaced by present room in 1923

Grace, the daughter of James and Frances Ellen Sullivan of the pioneer Rye Family was born in 1901. She attended Rye School from 1907 going on to become sewing mistress. She was very popular and one of her duties was to take the girls for swimming at the beach. In 1921 she contracted pneumonia and died three weeks before her 21st birthday. The school children and parents started an appeal to build this bathing box for the school. Concerts and various events were held to raise money. Sand from the beach was mixed with cement to form the walls. There were two rooms, one for the boys and one for the girls. Rye School children used it to the 1950s.



Opening c.1925. School Committee secretary James Rowley pictured with the students

Rye Historical Society, Inc.
The Old Schoolhouse, Rye Primary School, Collingwood Street
Open Sundays 2pm-4pm < <http://ryehistoricalociety.weebly.com/>



School children at the beach 1919 with Grace Sullivan at back, second from right.

The Grace Sullivan plaque on the Ranger's Office on the foreshore had faded and become unreadable over the years. It has now been completely refurbished with extra pictures and information.

Sunday Roster 2015 The Sunday roster for 2015 has been emailed to members involved. If you have not received your copy or unable to download the file please contact Bernie and a hard copy will be available. Several members have reduced the number of Sundays they are available so we are always looking for new volunteers. It is only for two hours about every eleven weeks or longer if we have more starters. New members would have an experienced member to be with them so if you are willing to assist contact Pauline (59852797) or Bernie (59852001).

The Weeroonas 1878 & 1886 A study of naval records shows that there were also two other much smaller vessels of the name Weeroona. The Weeroona. Cutter, 3 tons. Driven ashore at St Kilda, Port Phillip, 10 May.1878 and the Weeroona. Cutter, 17 tons. Lost at St.Kilda, Port Phillip, 1886. Very little information appears to exist on these two ships. The writer would be grateful for any further information that some member may know. Can you help?

John Bertacco. (59888487)

As part of the Remembrance Day 2014 memorial service the Rye Historical Society unveiled a plaque on the Rye Civic Hall. The plaque names the 25 men of Rye and District who enlisted in World War 1. Those named qualified in at least one of three requirements – to have been born in Rye, gone to school at Rye or lived in Rye prior to enlistment. The unveiling was by Casey Cain, son of Owen B 'Barney' Cain, whose name is on the plaque. The Rev Fr Nick Wallace read a poem, followed by a prayer for all those who have served then and since.

The original Mechanics Institute was the place where the community farewelled the boys who had enlisted, where dances and concerts were held to raise money for the War Effort, and also a place where they were welcomed home. The original building was burned down in 1949, and the present fine hall is on the same site. Money from the Federal Government '100 Years of Anzac' program was granted for this plaque. A book, to be published and launched on Anzac Day, will detail the lives of the twenty five men and their service.



Casey Cain

A land parcel, which has a sea boundary, is referred to as having an ambulatory boundary. An ambulatory boundary being one which is continually changing position and shape due to the effects of natural occurrences as erosion, sand build up, flooding, tidal changes, and global warming. The results can be accretion (where the owner gains land) and diluvion (where the owner loses land).

According to the doctrine of accretion, the owner of a parcel which has a sea boundary can apply to have his sea boundary amended to accord with that defined at the time of application. The doctrine of accretion requires any change to be slow and imperceptible over time and that the owner must not interfere with the changes by erecting fences, retaining walls or artificially deviating the course of the sea boundary. The legal boundary between tidal waters and adjacent land is generally accepted as being the High-Water Mark (Mean High Water Mark) (HWM).

To be recognized in law, changes in a water boundary must be 'gradual' and 'natural'. Land below the high-water mark belongs to the Crown and is held in trust for public purposes. It is interesting to note that the NSW and Queensland governments, back in the 1860s proclaimed that the sand area of a beach is owned by the Crown and the boundary of a land parcel starts where the area comprises vegetation. In addition Crown Grants issued in Victoria and NSW specifically states the Crown owns all minerals (including sand).

To determine High Water Mark, if possible, would require many observations taken over a long period (19 years). This would be impractical in the case of a boundary dispute. The behaviour of an ambulatory boundary can be considered as being made up of three components.

1. Predicted movements

The height position of the sea can be predicted from the position of the sun, moon and planets. The prediction being based on cycles of 19 years resulting from tide gage measurements over more than 100 years. Also scientists claim that they can predict the change in height of the sea from mathematical models of the effect of global warming. As this is basically a mathematical observation, and although it is gradual and imperceptible, it can be argued that it should not be considered a random occurrence and so should not be part of the accretion/diluvion equation..

(A gage is an instrument used to measure magnitude or position; gages may be used to measure the elevation of water surface, the velocity of flowing.)

2. Random movements

This can be generated due to the effects of erosion, sand build up, flooding, tidal changes, component. If this is slow and imperceptible then it is the true component that must be considered responsible for the accretion/diluvion change.

3. Artificial changes

Finally there is the effect of artificial or man made changes. These include the effects of dredging, erection of wharfs, groins, piers, bollards, and other seaside structures.

The effects of these can be slow and imperceptible but they are generated by interference and so do not satisfy the accretion/diluvion requirement. Generally these effects take place over a relative short time and so are not slow and imperceptible.

Conclusion

It can be seen that it is not easy to establish what could be considered as satisfying the accretion/diluvion requirement. It would be more practical to accept the sea title boundary as the position defined by the line where the sand ends and the vegetation commences. As a consequence the Crown would be the owner of the sand portion of the foreshore.



Picture

Melbourne Age
August 27, 2014

‘Controversial bollards
installed on a prime
stretch of Portsea beach’

Vale Nell Arnold - One who had a long association with Rye through her schooldays and then during her retirement, Nell passed away in her sleep after Christmas. She had reached the grand age of 103 years and 9 months. She was the only surviving pupil to have been at the school when the 1875 building was demolished, the children then had school in the Mechanics Institute until the new building was ready at the end of 1923, now our own Old Schoolhouse. Nell was instrumental in compiling '*Rye - A Book of Memories*' published for Victoria's 150th Anniversary in 1985. She and her sister Lilian both served in the WAAAF in WW2 and their medals were given to the Society a few years ago. She had been in an Aged Care home in Burwood for about three years (she celebrated her centenary while still in Rye) and although with hearing and seeing difficulties she managed to join others in discussions until about 12 months ago. Her funeral was held in Melbourne on 6 January.



Nell Arnold. 1911-2015

A story that Nell told was at the end of WW1 Nell, her mother, sister and a brother were visiting her maternal grandparents and can remember when the soldiers returned from the war they brought with them an epidemic of pneumonic influenza. As it was very contagious her father decided to drive the horse buggy up from Bennison to take the family home, so they would avoid travelling on the train, thus avoiding contact with any returning soldier. Today a car would not take much more than about 45 minutes but then it was well after dark on the second day when the family finally arrived home. they stayed the first night in Leongatha and Nell's one lasting memory of the trip was the buggy lamps making a small island of light in the dark forest of tall mountain ash they passed through in the hills just before arriving home the second night.

Nell then goes on to describe the family's move to Rye.

The house was much larger than the old wooden cottage we had at Bennison. It was only over the road from the beach, walking distance from the school but a five mile ride from the farm. We children of course, found the beach wonderful and spent much time on it. There were many new things to explore. We learned to swim and scoured the beach for shells and all sorts of exciting things. We explored the rock pools at Whitecliffs and watched as large ocean liners went in and out. We learned to distinguish cargo ships from passengers. We learned what the passengers ate by picking up menus that floated up, having been thrown overboard. There were new wildflowers. I found some strange ones called greenhoods under the tea tree and small pink ones everywhere. There was so much to interest us then.

There were places where once there had been cottages which had been occupied by lime burners. Lime burning had been the main industry of the earliest Rye settlers but had then been abandoned. At these sites there was usually a chimney still standing, arid traces of a garden with blue Periwinkle growing wild and Aloes here and there and bits of broken crockery, usually willow pattern china telling the story of earlier inhabitants. After the lime burning ceased, wood cutting and fishing became the main industry so that when we arrived there were piles of cut firewood stacked by the pier waiting to be shipped to Melbourne where it was used to fire the bakers' ovens.

Rye was a small place then. Our house was the second last on the Western end of the town and there were five or six houses between us and the hotel. The old hotel was still standing at the time but was demolished and rebuilt in 1927. The store, was on the corner of Napier Street, and on the other corner, was Cliff House, the home of the Sullivan family. There were a few houses down Napier St and along Nelson St.

Continued over.

The Post Office was in a house on the corner of Lyons St and was run by Mrs. Hill. No mail was delivered. There was no electricity and no reticulated water supply.

Transport was very infrequent during the winter months with only what was known as the Service Car running to Melbourne, and the steamer, the Reliance calling once a week. In summer two paddle steamers, the Hygiea and the Weeroona came around the bay to Queenscliff, Sorrento, Dromana and back. They did not call at Rye but passengers would come to Sorrento and a little bus, run by Tommy Short, a well-known Rye character, would bring them the rest of the way. Tommy was also the local photographer, played the fiddle for the dances and lived on the top of a hill overlooking the whole town.

Harry and I were the only ones to start at the school. This was an old and very small building and the teacher was a reliever, a Miss Johnson, who had been at Strzelecki when I had been there some time before. She was soon replaced by a full time teacher; Mr. Van Nooten. It was a Primary School only. There were no Secondary schools on the Peninsula at that time. The education system at the time was for compulsory attendance to Merit Certificate, usually to the age of fourteen. Children were then allowed to leave.

Not long after we started, the old school was demolished and a new one built. This involved school being held in the hall while the new building was being built. The polished dance floor of the hall was covered with a layer of hessian so to sweep the floor meant removing all the desks. Needless to say that did not happen often and gradually a good supply of dust accumulated under the hessian.

The new school was a small concrete building to accommodate fifty children. It still stands but is now surrounded by a large school to accommodate 500. As I was the only one left of those who had been students when the old school was opened, at age 92 I was a guest at the opening of the new one in 2003. I liked school and always did well and soon passed all the others, including Harry. I took the Merit Examination at the end of my 12th year instead of the 14th and so had completed the Primary School program. There was no Secondary School on the Mornington Peninsula so if I was to continue I would need to go away and board somewhere. The teacher made some suggestions about applying for a scholarship offering to let me stay at the school where he would coach me for it. I went back to school in the New Year.

Extract from Nell Arnolds *Rye -A Book of Memories*

The spread of the ti-tree in the wake of the rabbit invasion gave rise to a new industry. Melbourne bakers found that the ti-tree wood was ideal for heating their ovens as it gave a quick flashing heat and burned to a fine, clean white ash.

Once more the ketches were operating and in 1918 there was another bullock team on the road. This was owned by Mr Andrew Ball and his expert driver was Mr David Swan of the very early days. Mostly however, the horse and wide tyred drays were used. Mr James Sullivan of Rye was the chief employer of labour in the wood industry. The men were paid so much per ton cut and stacked.

The wood was cut an exact 2ft 6ins length and each length had a V cleft in one end and a chisel point at the other as cutters became very skillful at cutting through a branch with just two swings of the axe. There were a number of old men employed, as well as the younger men, probably the oldest was Mr John Dillon - who was one of the men who jumped ship out in the channel and came ashore in a tub, or so the story goes. This old man in his 80th year, lived in a small wooden cottage on the highway, next to where the "Marbella" flats are today, and would walk about two miles to his spot for the day and cut an average of two tons daily.

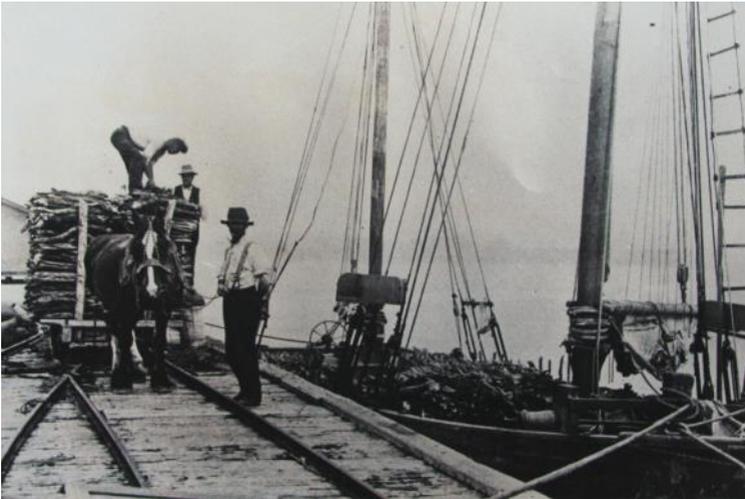


From left. Jim Sullivan, David Swan, John Dillon.
On top Norman Hall and a young Bob Rowkey

Continued over

A branch rail from the pier was used to transport the wood out along the pier and it was a common sight to see many tons of wood stacked there awaiting shipment. Mr Sullivan was practically the last to ship wood from here - a cargo that ended up along the high water mark. It had been a week of wild weather from the north and the 'Ivian' and 'Gertrude' had sheltered over Queenscliff way. When the weather appeared to have moderated the 'Ivian' slipped over to Rye and loading had begun. The weather looked ominous and a storm from the west looked like breaking any moment, but the 'Ivian', moored to the weather side of the pier had only two trolley loads of wood to complete her cargo and so the skipper hung on though he felt anxious.

Loading was pushed on with great speed but it was not to be, the wind came out of the west at gale force and the 'Ivian' without auxiliary power, was pinned to the wharf. The huge seas that built up prevented an anchor from being put out so that a winch might haul her clear. She took a tremendous battering for hours from seas that occasionally swept clean over the wharf. Eventually it was one such sea that carried her up and crashed her hull down on the wharf. The 'Ivian' practically burst open and her cargo went out of her in a maelstrom of white water. Some time later her wreck was dynamited to clear it away from the pier. This marked the end of the wood trade. Wood continued to go by road but the industry was finished - the bakers had turned to electricity.



Jim Sullivan loading wood for Melbourne

**Colonial Secretary's Office
Melbourne 10th Jun 1853**

Firewood for lime-burning purposes having become scarce in the neighbourhood of Point Nepean His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to direct the publication of the undermentioned description of the boundaries of the area within which the timber has been reserved for lime-burning purposes, and consequently that it will not in future be permitted to anyone to cut or remove either timber or firewood from the said land for any other purpose. .

By His Excellency's-Command,
W. LONSDALE.

**DESCRIPTION OF A RESERVE FOR TIMBER FOR
LIME-BURNING PURPOSES SITUATED IN THE
VICINITY OF POINT NEPEAN.**

Commencing at the mouth of Parmeal Creek bearing west 1 mile 45 chains from the main peak of Arthur's Seat, and bounded on the north by the waters of Port Phillip Bay, extending to Point Nepean ; ON the south-west and south by Bass's Strait to Cape Schanck; from that Cape by the aforesaid Strait to the Estuary of Barker's Creek; on the east by that Creek bearing northerly to a point near Barker's Station, intersected by the Melbourne Road; "thence by that Road to its junction with the Melbourne and Point Nepean Road and a line to the commencing point, bearing north-west about 10 chains.

Actual Calls Received At The Public Golf Course In Amherst,USA

Golf course, may I help you?

Caller: What are your green fees?

Staff: 38 dollars.

Caller: Does that include golf?

Golf course, may I help you?

Caller: Yes, I need to get some information from you.
First, is this your correct phone number?

Golf course, may I help you?

Caller: Yes, I'd like to get a tee time tomorrow between
12 o'clock and noon.

Staff: Between 12 o'clock and noon?

Caller: Yes.

Staff: We'll try to squeeze you in.

On Thursday last a large number of parents and others assembled at the school to bid farewell to the head teacher, who has been in charge here for about six years. Presentations were made to him by the Progress Committee, of a case of pipes, and by the children, of a tobacco pouch. This last was by Joe Cain, who said, "Mr. Van Nouten had taught them many things, but not the art of speechmaking," to which the master replied, "that he could not teach what he had not learned himself."

*

Mrs. Van Nouten also received presents of a silver cake dish and flower vases. The two young Vans were not forgotten, and they were presented with a fountain pen each.

"Van," as he is generally called, will be much missed here, as he took an active part in everything that was suggested for the welfare and advancement of our villiage. He was secretary of the Progress Committee for a considerable time, and a member of the tennis and cricket clubs, at both of which games he is an expert. We could do with a few more of his sort here. Mr. Van Nouten leaves, with our good wishes, to take up a position on the staff of the Technical Collage at Caulfield. His successor will be Mr. Martin. who comes from the Western district.

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*

Good progress is being made in the erection of the new hotel, and summer visitors will find a new attraction at Rye, which is becoming more popular every season.

===== 1927

* Note. Correct spelling is 'Van Nooten'

Mornington Standard 20th May 1905

RYE. The season now being over and all the visitors having taken their departure, the township is dull, and if it was not for the usual loading of timber and lime crafts the place might almost be compared to "sleepy hollow." The repairs to our jetty have not yet been commenced, but, it is hoped, the contractors will soon make a start in this direction, as it is not considered that the jetty is in a safe condition for horse traction. Many of the piles are in a very dilapidated state. The telephone has been erected and connected with the post office, and will no doubt be much appreciated by the residents of this locality.

Mornington Standard 24th August 1907

RYE. The weather is at last getting a little settled and the wood crafts will soon, be able to load by the jetty, which they have been unable to do for some time past. Considerable surprise and indignation has been expressed by the principal residents at the fact of football being allowed to be played in the School ground, on a Sunday-during Church Service and immediately close to the residence of the teacher. Measures should be taken to stop this hateful practice, and representations ought to be made to the Minister of Education, begging his influence in not allowing the school ground to be used for this purpose on any pretext whatever. It is reported that the Board of Advice will take action in the matter.

The Argus. 11th Feb. 1926

DROWNING OF TWO SEAMEN. Attempt at Rescue Commended.

MORNINGTON Wednesday - Mr D Macfarlan J P held an inquest touching the deaths of John Howard aged 26 years, and James Draper aged 47 years who were drowned while bathing off the Rye jetty on Saturday, February 6. A verdict of accidental drowning was returned. Mr McFarlan strongly commended the heroic conduct of Edward Glover the third engineer of the dredge Matthew Flinders, who fought hard to save the drowning men and had an exceedingly narrow escape from drowning. After giving the alarm Glover collapsed from exhaustion and had to receive medical attention. The conduct of John and Maurice Olsen, fishermen of Rye, who recovered the bodies, was also highly commended. John Olsen recovered the body of John Howard in 12ft of water. The deceased were single men, employed as seamen on the dredge Matthew Flinders.

Meetings and Guest Speakers.

Monday 23rd February speaker - President RHSV and President Federation of Australian Historical Societies - Assoc Prof Don Garden - "Port Phillip Bay and the Mornington Peninsula - A taste of Environmental History".

Monday 23rd March speaker - Graham Patterson, author of *Coastal Guide to Port Phillip Bay* - "Historic Highlights of Port Phillip Coast".

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

Coming Events

Monday 26th January Australia Day. Stall & Bus Tour

Saturday 7th February Market stall Rye foreshore

Saturday 7th March Market stall Rye Foreshore

Saturday 4th April Market stall Rye Foreshore

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.

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

LOUIS: Because George still had the axe in his hand.....