

‘White Cliffs’

Journal of

THE RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January-February-March 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



Fordham’s Kiosk Rye 1920s

Story page 6

We have had a very busy time over the past few months, with both committee and general members contributing their time and energy to the Society. Our monthly meetings have been well attended and we have enjoyed some very interesting speakers.

The theme for History Week in October was “Honouring Our history” and we have been actively doing just that. A new display in the museum gives us some insight into the lives of early families in Rye, and we were fortunate to enjoy an open house day at Bimblehurst. The Mornington Peninsula Shire has been undertaking an oral history program with the local historical societies. Our members Ern Jennings and Dick Rowley were interviewed and their memories of Rye have been recorded.

The sausage sizzle and the monthly markets have helped with our finances, which is most important as we head towards the repair of the old schoolhouse.

The history board on the Post office wall is a valuable addition to the public face of the Society and it has created a lot of interest. It is so important to promote the Society, as volunteer numbers in all community groups continue to fall.

Our social gatherings have been very enjoyable, with our Christmas party and Friday night drinks finishing off the year.

I would like to wish all members and their families a very happy, healthy and safe New Year.

Prue Found

LOCAL HISTORY NETWORK

The LHN is co-ordinated by Sally Robins, the Local History Officer who is employed by the Shire to assist and promote the groups involved in local history on the Mornington Peninsula. Sally has been working most recently on a draft for the Local History Website so that all societies and their details can be accessed through the MP Shire website. A History Trail brochure is almost ready for printing and this will be further developed into an APP for use on iphones.

A travelling exhibition titled “Postcards of the Peninsula” is being developed as a result of Sally applying for, and receiving a grant from Museums Victoria. Each Historical Society was asked to nominate a theme for their town, and we chose “Holidays in Rye”. Display cases in the shape of suitcases containing written information, photos and memorabilia will be set out in these cases. All of these cases will form the exhibition and will be on show in about seven locations from Sorrento to Melbourne. The launch of this project will be in June, and more details will be available to us closer to the date.

Prue Found



Interior of Barwon Park Mansion

Day Trip to Barwon Park Winchelsea Wednesday 26th February.

Barwon Park, built in 1871 for Thomas and Elizabeth Austin is a majestic 42 room bluestone mansion and stables set in a sweeping rural landscape. This majestic 42-room bluestone mansion and stables is largely in its original condition, resonating with the glory of Victoria's pastoral heritage. The property has been owned by only two families, the Austins and the Batsons, and was left to the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) by Sydney Batson.

The bus will depart Rye RSL at 8.15am, for the 9am ferry to Queenscliff then to Barwon Park. Our tour commences at 11am. The cost for non National Trust members is \$68.50 which includes entry fee and a boxed lunch. There are still four seats available on the 24 seater bus. For further details contact Wayne Bastow 59857525. **Payments to Danny Jennings by the 7th February.** The bus will return to Rye at approximately 4pm

Sunday Volunteers. A new Sunday roster for 2014 has been circulated. Thank you to those who have again volunteered and also to those who have volunteered in the past and are unable to continue in 2014.

The Post Office has always been prominent in Rye. In the official records of 1858 T W Courtney was listed as Postmaster at Tootgarook, possibly operating from the Tootgarook Common School situated where St Andrew's Church now stands. The town's name was proclaimed Rye in 1861 and the Rye Post Office became known as such in 1870. By this time it was in the residence of George Mitchell in Napier Street – he was the Postmaster and also Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths. After many moves this busy Rye Post Office was built and opened in 1988 with Norman Watson as Postmaster. During the 150th anniversary in 2011 of the gazetting of Rye as a town the Local History Officer of the Mornington Peninsula Shire, together with Rye Historical Society designed a 'History Board' which was unveiled by the Governor of Victoria at the Rye Primary School. Although prominent not everyone passes it, so the Rye Historical Society sought permission from the Postal Manager Ms Vicki Jessep and the Regional Area Manager, to place a board at the Post Office. This was granted and is at the front door for all to read. Paid for by the Historical Society it is visible to all in the community including our many visitors.



Photo shows Prue Found, President Rye Historical Society, Vicki Jessep, Rye Postal Manager, and staff Andrea and Ivy.

Australia Day 2014. The times for the celebrations in Rye have changed for 2014. As Australia Day falls on a Sunday our stall will be up and ready for trading by 2 pm. The Historic Tour of town will commence at 3pm. The flag raising will be held at 5 pm and the concert will conclude at 9.30 pm.

Sausage Sizzle and Stalls. Once again a very successful sausage sizzle was held at Bunnings on October 19th last year. The sum of \$1430 was raised. Foreshore markets were held in November and December the Open Day at Bimblehurst proceeds were \$903.

Nell Arnold. Pauline Powell visited Nell Arnold in early December. Nell now resides in a retirement home in Burwood and will be 103 in March. Although she cannot see or hear as well as she used to, she is vitally interested in everyday affairs, and the Rye Historical Society. She was keen to hear what we are doing and said she would like to still receive the newsletter, so that will be sent from now on and someone will read it to her.

Welcome to new members. Associate Prof Don Garden and Dr Wendy Garden. Don Garden is an environmental historian who now works as a consultant historian after teaching at the University of Melbourne for many years where he now holds honorary positions. He is immediate Past President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies.

Congratulations One of our Life Members, Dorothy Houghton MBE, celebrated her 94th birthday on New Years Day. Congratulations to her on this further milestone.

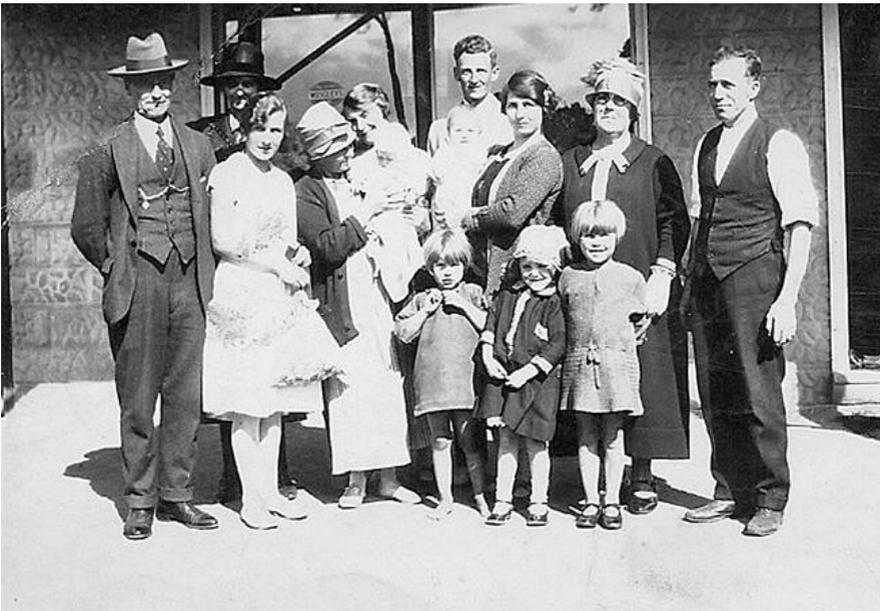
Oral History During last year Sally Robins, the Local History Officer of the Shire organised a specialist group to conduct Oral Histories with two or three people nominated by the eight Historical Societies. We nominated Dick Rowley, Ern Jennings and Phil Cain. Before Christmas Dick and Ern had been interviewed, and hopefully Phil will have his early in 2014. The interview takes an hour (stipulated by the Shire) and eventually when transcribed the interviewee will receive a written text, and a CD (or DVD if they consented to a video recording), as will the Historical Society. Both said it was a very interesting exercise and searching questions were answered. The interviewer took various information on their families and other details with them to help with the writing. We look forward to receiving these documents, and plan to do more of our own interviews of older residents.

One Sunday in October 2013 a lady from Buderim Queensland was brought into the Museum by her daughter. This lady was Amy Rahilly nee Fordham who came with her family to Rye in 1924. Her father John built a store to conduct a mixed business on the corner of Point Nepean Road and Hygeia Streets, this stands today as the Produce Store.

Originally a kiosk where the sides lifted up to expose a shelf, where ice creams, drinks and hot water were sold in the summer seasons, John built the new store making all the bricks himself. He also planted the pine trees that stand on the foreshore opposite. A number of photos, some of which we had not seen before, were brought on a 'stick' and now are awaiting cataloguing. These all taken in the 1920s and early 30s are a wonderful addition to our collection.

The Fordhams sold to Ann Hall who soon after married Claude Jennings, they became the parents of Ern Jennings.

Thanks are due to Tony and Shirley Howard who were on duty that day – Tony rang around to eventually find Norma Cornish who contacted Alan Woollard, he came down to copy the photos, and was most interested in the stories Amy was able to tell. We will have the history of her time in Rye to publish in a further issue.



Fordham family in front of store 1920s

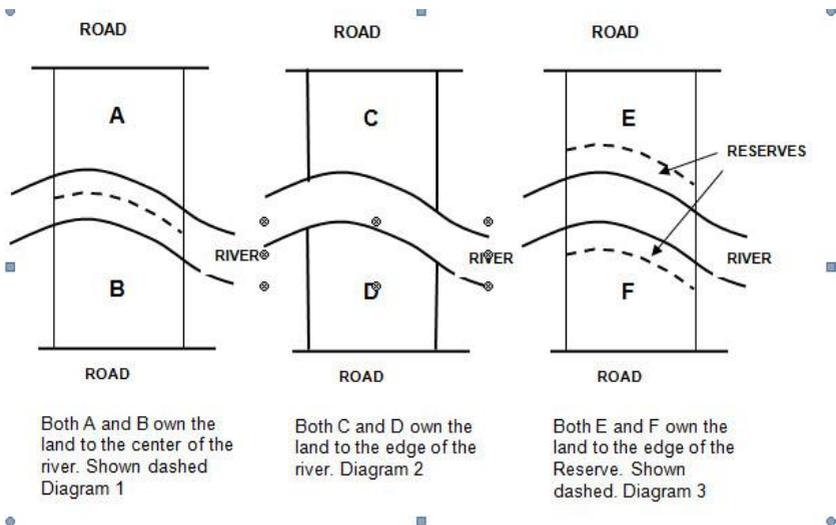
By John Bertacco.. Licensed Surveyor. Formerly Senior Lecturer RMIT.

In recent time a number of cases have been in the news regarding river and sea frontage boundaries as shown on certificates of titles and the efforts of the land owners to extend their occupation down to the waters edge and so denying the general public access to the water way.

In the early days of settlement in Victoria, Crown land was usually sold to the edge of lakes, rivers, creeks, streams, and the shoreline of the sea. Many grants were sold to the centre of the stream. Although significant parts of the frontages to Bass Strait and Port Phillip Bay were sold, most frontages, both marine and inland, were reserved over the years for public purposes.

Initially, where a river boundary was shown on a title, the interpretation was the owner owned the land to the centerline of the stream. The water remained in the ownership of the Crown. See Diagram 1.

In time, the interpretation was changed to ownership up to the waters edge. See Diagram 2. And finally, the Crown introduced a one-chain reserve between the title boundary and the waters edge. The reserve was essentially for public purposes. See Diagram 3.



In the case of sea frontages, the sea boundary was usually based on the edge of the water as defined by a particular tidal mark

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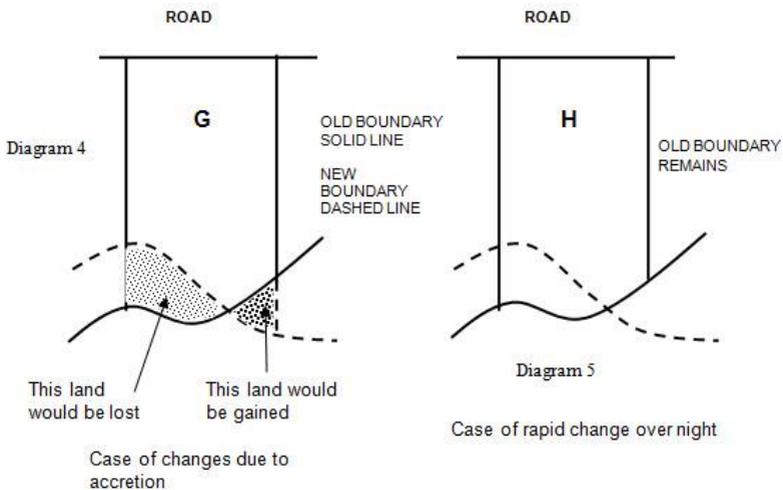
As it is predicted that global warming will result in changing sea levels and as a consequence different tidal levels some unique situations are likely to arise. In general the treatment of river and sea boundaries are considered for two particular cases. These boundaries are not generally defined by measurement but rather they are plotted to scale from maps existing at the time of the original survey.

Case 1

Where a water boundary changes over time, in gradual but imperceptible steps, the extent of ownership changes to agree with the new position of the water boundary. This is referred to as the doctrine of accretion and diluvium. Thus there may be some gain and there may be some loss. The law accepts this and considers it to be fair. See Diagram 4

Case 2

Should the change be sudden and overnight, then the original position of the water boundary stays. If a violent flood wrenches the watercourse suddenly but permanently into a different direction so that a substantial and recognizable change in the boundary has taken place, then the doctrine of accretion does not apply. Neither does it apply if the changes are man-made. See Diagram 5.



Where a river reserve has been set aside, the position of the reserve remains even though the waters edge may have changed. See diagram 6.

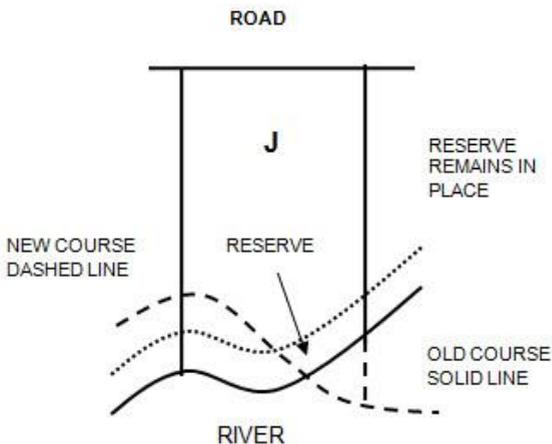
In the case of foreshore and tidal rivers, in the absence of contrary evidence, the boundary of land adjoining the sea lies at the top of the foreshore, the land lying between the high and low water-marks of a mean average tide between spring and neap tides.

In the absence of evidence to the contrary the foreshore is owned by the Crown.

The boundary may move gradually, as the line of the high water mark moves naturally over the years, and even more so with the effects of global warming. However, in the case of a sudden substantial accretion of land or conversely an encroachment by the sea, the ownership of the area of land affected will not change.

As in the case of non-tidal rivers and streams, a change as a result of human intervention will not alter the position of the boundary.

It should be emphasized that the above guideline discusses the doctrine of accretion in broad terms only, and in practice the facts of each individual case should be considered separately.



Case of rapid change overnight but reserve stays as it was

Diagram 6

Sullivan Bay 1803

When the early settlers occupied Sullivan Bay in 1803, one of the first things that had to be done was to establish a time system which we will call Clock Time. On 17th October 1803, Commander of the expedition, Colonel David Collins, proclaimed the following working hours:

“ From Sunrise in the Morning until noon, excepting half an hour at eight: and from one o’clock until sunset”

The question is how was the time of day, Clock Time, established?

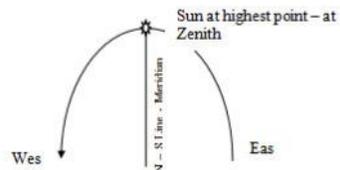
It was possible that Daniel Woodriff , Captain of the Calcutta, may have provided time either from the ship’s chronometer or from the results of lunar distance observations. This was apparently done at the Sydney settlement in 1788.

In both cases the results were unlikely to be accurate as precise chronometers were rare and expensive and lunar distance observations (1767–1850) depended on tedious calculations (using logarithms) and the uncertainty of angular readings with a sextant.

It should be noted that Matthew Flinders of the Investigator, possessed the famous Larcum Kendall K3 chronometer in his survey of Port Phillip Bay in 1802, but it is not known if such a chronometer was available on the Calcutta. At the time, the most accurate, reliable timekeepers were pendulum clocks, but these proved erratic at sea because they got thrown off balance by the rolling waves and the variation in gravity. They were satisfactory on land.

Surveyor, George Prideaux Robert Harris (1775-1810), was part of the civil establishment allotted to Collins to form a settlement at Port Phillip. Harris would most likely have had the knowledge and necessary equipment to make Sun observations.

Alternatively the settlers probably found Local Solar Time (Sun Time), LST, 12:00 Noon, by placing a vertical stick on level ground and observing the behavior of the shadow cast by the Sun or they may have made use of a Sun Dial, whose interpretation is based on the same principle.



The sun being on the meridian or at its highest point when the shadow is shortest. See Figure 1.

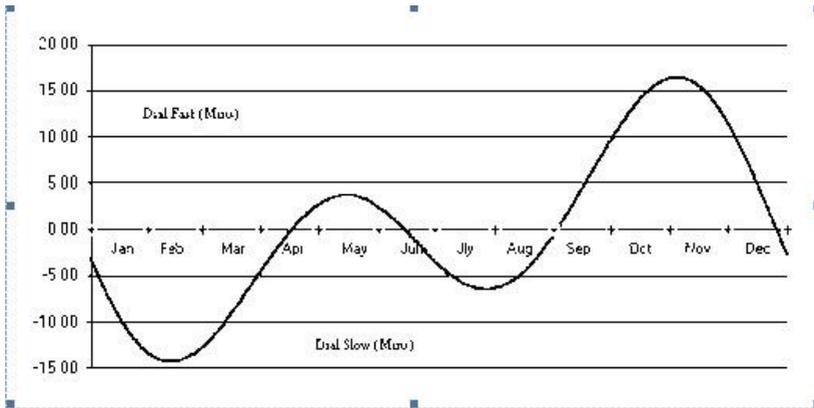
This occurs at Local Solar Time (Sun Time), 12:00 Noon.

The Sun's transit next day is not 24 hours later as the length of a solar day varies according to the time of the year.

The average of all the solar days for a year is used to give Clock Time for any time of the year.

Clock Time = Sun Time - E where E is the equation of time

A graph of the variation of the Equation of Time over a year was available from the Nautical Almanac, and so Sun Time could be corrected to give



Clock Time. See Figure 2

Graph of variation of Equation of Time over a year - Figure 2

So on a chosen day, the instant of the Sun's transit (Sun Time 12:00) was observed and at that same instant a pendulum clock (or other time device) was set to the corresponding Clock Time. For example: The value of E on 16th October 1803 was, -14 minutes 9 seconds.

So when the Sun was on the meridian that day the Clock Time would have been set at 12 hours 14 minutes 9 seconds. This then being the Clock Time adopted for the Settlement.

Note that Clock Time is only relevant to the place where the observation is made. A similar observation at a different longitude would give a different Clock Time.

Continued over

Melbourne Settlement

After the Melbourne settlement in 1835, the Williamstown Observatory was established at Point Gellibrand in 1853 at the suggestion of Government Astronomer R.L.J. Ellery (1827 – 1908). Its main function being to provide a time service for ship captains.

A time ball erected on a tower, visible from Hobson's Bay, was dropped each day at 1 p.m., enabling shipmasters moored offshore to correct their chronometers. See Photos 1 and

2.



Photos 1 and 2

The time ball tower at Williamstown -

**Source:
Museum Victoria –**



Because light travels much faster than sound visible signals enabled greater precision than audible ones, although audible signals could operate better under conditions of reduced visibility.

Simultaneously, telegraph signals activated time balls at Melbourne, Geelong and later Queenscliff. It is possible that the fall of the time ball at Queenscliff was visible from Sorrento, and used to regulate time for the southeast side of Port Phillip Bay, but there appears to be no evidence to support this.

A time ball was also established at the Melbourne Telegraphic Office, which was linked to the Melbourne Observatory. This was used by watchmakers and citizens to check their timepieces. In time the Observatory signals were used to control the clocks at the Post Office and Spencer and Flinders Street stations.

In 1854, ships captains complained about the visibility of the time ball, so the lighthouse at Williamstown was used to incorporate a time comparison system by which the lighthouse keeper would darken the lights at 7:58 pm and then turn them back at exactly 8:00 pm to give the true time.

The railways played an important role by sending hourly impulses via railway telegraph to stations on the main lines and daily signals to the smaller branch lines. Thus providing accurate time for the country areas. In time radio technology took over and the Williamstown timeball was discontinued (1926).

In 1990, a replica time ball mechanism was restored by the Point Gellibrand Rotary Club and is now operated by a computer, which drops a time ball each day at 1pm as when it was in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Under threat of subdivision and redevelopment the whole site was declared an historical site by the Premier, Steve Bracks, in 2000.

The Melbourne Observatory continued to be responsible for time in Victoria up until 1944.

Melbourne Observatory time was established using a unique transit telescope, known as the Great Melbourne Telescope. The telescope was used to carry out star observations and to provide a precise determination of Melbourne's longitude and Clock Time. See Photo 3.

Nevertheless, time throughout the state was not uniform. Many towns preferred to keep their clocks set to Local Sun Time. This meant, for example, that noon at Warrnambool was approximately 10 minutes later than at Melbourne.

After discussions in the early 1890s, the separate colonies agreed to establish three standard time zones, based on the times at set meridians of longitude.

Victoria adopted Eastern Standard Time on 1st February 1895 (10hrs east of Greenwich or longitude 150 degrees east), The system in use today.

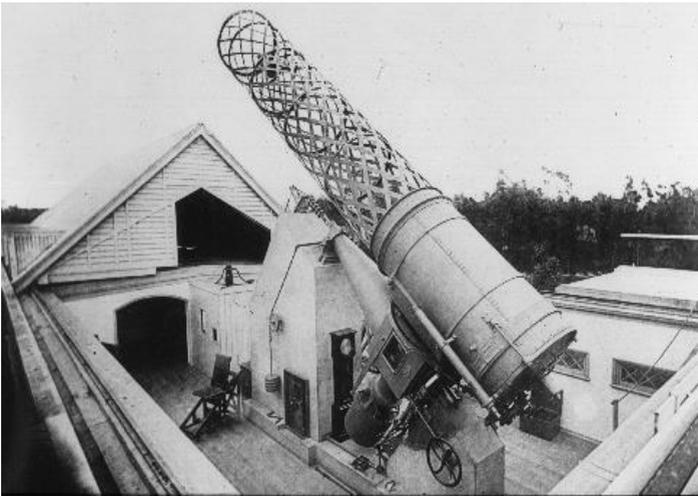


Photo 3. Great Melbourne Telescope, 1869. Source: Museum Victoria

South Bourke and Mornington Journal 21st April 1880

RYE JETTY. A deputation was introduced on Wednesday to the Commissioner of Customs by Mr J. Wallace, M.L.A. accompanied by Mr Gibb, M.L.A., in reference to getting the pier at Rye extended a further length of 400 feet beyond its present distance. It was represented that a good deal of revenue was received from Rye through there being lime kilns there. Very little money had, however, been spent on the district, although a great number of people had settled there. It was considered that the lengthening of the pier would facilitate more lime being sent to Melbourne. Mr Cuthbert said that the pier had been extended by a distance of 300 feet between the years 1878 and 1879, at a cost of £631 and, having regard to that fact and to the deficiency with which the Government would have to meet Parliament, he was afraid he could not promise to place a sum on the estimates to lengthen the pier again.

Mornington Standard 17th October 1903

RYE. In reply to a query in the STANDARD of the 19th September, the following particulars will doubtless prove of interest. The place was originally called Tootgarook, and is even now so called by the oldest inhabitants. The name was changed to " Rye" by the Government of the day, and so recognised by all succeeding Governments. The principal erection is the jetty which was first commenced by Mr John Campbell who contracted to execute the first part of the work which was satisfactorily performed. He is still living in the township. It is the longest on the south side of the bay and is principally used for loading the various crafts with lime and firewood. There are at least eleven vessels constantly trading to the port giving employment to a number of wood cutters, quarry men, lime burners, carters, &c., with 15 or 20 horses constantly at work conveying lime and firewood to the jetty. There is also a private tram. erected by Mr Benjamin Stenniken; who with Mr Jas. Purves. jun., are the two principal exporters of firewood to Melbourne. At least 200 tons are shipped every week by the above gentlemen, independent of the lime burnt at the kilns owned by Messrs Stenniken and Sullivan, and which can be computed at about three to four hundred bags weekly, not to mention a quantity of wool and dairy and farm produce. It is hoped that being in close proximity to the favourite watering place of Sorrento visitors will be induced to patronise the place in the

summer season, especially now that excellent accommodation will be available at the Gracefield Hotel and at Mrs Rowley's private boarding house at moderate charges. As the scenery about here is very attractive and an excellent and pretty beach, it is hoped by the residents that the council will always refrain from destroying the trees facing the beach, as they both protect and adorn the road which runs beside them.

Frankston Standard 22nd March 1945

RYE TOWN PLANNING AND PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

At the Flinders Shire Council the Rye Town Planning and Progress Association advised that the committee had met in accordance with the Council's requirements submitted in the letter of 9th ult. The committee now desires the Council to prepare plans and specifications for the following works in Rye: The Association is in accord with the suggestion that the improvement rate be used as interest to cover the proposed loan for the undermentioned works. In order to obtain the most beneficial results for Rye the committee propose that £1200 be expended by the Council from general funds as follows: Curb and form footpath, widen road from Dundas Street to Cliff Street and from Ozone Street to Lyons Street (in Pt. Nepean Road.) Name all streets and have signs all fixed; provide electric light for all streets; Bimble Avenue to be cleared and formed from Weir Street to Government Road; form fire breaks from Minogue's subdivision up to and including Government Road. Improvement rate estimated maximum £60, being sufficient interest to borrow £2300. Council to acquire property known as Mrs. Hill's (opposite Rye Post Office), and facing Pt. Nepean Road and Lyons Street. That plans and specifications be prepared for cleaning, grading, fencing and provision of water for the aforementioned property. Fence area suitable for a sports ground. Provision for four tennis courts, surfaced with liquid bitumen and fenced. Establishment of a bowling green. Balance of grounds to be grassed, planted with trees and shrubs to give a park-like effect. Planting trees in all streets, estimated at 1000 trees (flowering gums of various types.) Place six drinking fountains on Pt. Nepean Road.

Meetings and Guest Speakers

<u>Monday 20th January</u>	Committee meeting
<u>Sunday 26th January</u>	Australia Day Stall from 2pm
<u>Monday 24th February</u>	General Meeting. Guest Speaker Dale Kelly New Morn. Peninsula Shire Strategic Planner - Heritage
<u>Wednesday 26th February</u>	Day trip to Barwon Park Winchelsea
<u>Saturday 1st March</u>	Stall at Rye Market
<u>Monday 24th March</u>	General Meeting. Guest Speaker Janet Scarfe. 'Nurses of WW1 and WW2'
<u>Last Friday of the month.</u>	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.

What's in a name? "Here we are in a month named after the Roman god Janus, an appropriate personification of the start of the new year. This particular Roman god had two faces so that he could look ahead toward the future and back at the past at the same time. As we get rid of an old year and look forward to a new one, we all try to be a little like Janus. We know through experience what we did wrong and what we did right, and hope to do better this year. Some people make ambitious New Year resolutions; others just take a deep breath and hope for the best...."

Many people look forward to the New Year for a new start on old habits. -

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.

Good resolutions are simply checks that men draw on a bank where they have no account. *Oscar Wilde*