

‘White Cliffs’

Journal of

THE RYE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October – November– December 2014

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



History Week ‘Toys from our Childhood’ display at the Old Schoolhouse

A year seems a long time when you first set out a plan of things you want to get done and goals you want to achieve, but without fail, there is never enough time to get done all you had hoped to. The past year has been one of challenges and achievements, and as a society, we should feel well satisfied with what has been done. The success of any group lies in the commitment and enthusiasm of its members, and I believe the success of the Rye Historical Society is our strength as a team. We all have different skills and knowledge to contribute, but our common interest and our goal is the history of Rye and the promotion and preservation of that history. During the past year we have met together to enjoy some very interesting and enjoyable speakers, films and events. We have also met socially on a monthly basis at the RSL and we are renowned for our luck in the raffles.

The year started with our stall and history tour on Australia Day together with the luncheon co-hosted by the Rye and Nepean historical societies. We also co-hosted the annual mid year luncheon in July with Nepean, and heard a fascinating but tragic talk about Aboriginal servicemen. Twenty-four members and friends travelled to Barwon Park at Winchelsea in February and enjoyed this fascinating historic mansion.

May was a busy month with the “Women in Rye” lunch, a “Get to Know Your Museum” afternoon and the completion of the Oral History Project, which had been an ongoing project coordinated by the Local History officer Sally Robins. The Local History network has been working for the past two years on the “Postcards of the Peninsula” travelling exhibition. This exhibition was officially opened at the Nepean Historical Society in June and has been very successful. The contribution from Rye titled “Holidays in Rye” was most enjoyable. The Local History Network has also produced a new Mornington Peninsula Heritage Trail brochure, which will promote all the history and heritage groups on the Peninsula.

Research into the servicemen from Rye in World War 1 has been an important and time-consuming project as we were successful in gaining an Anzac Centenary Grant, which will fund a publication and a memorial plaque. Research over the past eleven years has resulted in an excellent publication by Linda Berndt to celebrate one hundred years of the Jennings family in Rye. Research can be a wonderful way of learning about the place you live in and the people who have lived and worked there. We have a great library in our museum and all members are encouraged to borrow the books and find something that piques their interest. I also encourage members to come forward and speak about their interests or write something for our newsletter.

When the weather permitted, we held our information and fund raising stall at the Rotary market on the foreshore from October through to March. We have

been very fortunate to have the support of a local volunteer Simon Davies who has propagated indigenous plants from seed and cuttings for our stall. We hope that our presence at these markets promotes our role in the community and promotes interest in locals and visitors.

We were saddened this year by the loss of Norma McMillan, Arthur Dark and Lesley Howard. Imagine the wonderful knowledge their combined age of two hundred and seventy-seven years would hold and the changes they saw in Rye in the time they lived here.

The restoration of the old schoolhouse has become a complex issue, with the changes of school principals, the clarification of funding issues, the details of leasing the building from the Education Department, the sourcing of advice from the Shire, a report from a heritage engineer, and quotes from specialist builders. We are working through these issues and have had communication with the Planning Minister and the Minister for Education. We are determined to preserve the second oldest public building in Rye, especially as there are few buildings with long histories left in Rye.

There are many people who work tirelessly to support our Society – sorting and cataloguing, data entering, making jams, organizing speakers, arranging social gatherings and outings, writing the newsletter, opening the museum, cooking sausages, researching, running stalls, writing letters and taking photographs.

We work as a team and every contribution is appreciated.

As president for 2014, I have had wonderful support from the committee and I thank you all for your enthusiasm and commitment.

I would also like to thank the Society members who attend the functions and events that we have organized over the past year and hope that you continue to support your Society throughout the following year.

Prue Found

Office bearers and Committee 2014-2015.

President Prue Found. **Vice President** Linda Berndt.

Secretary Pauline Powell. **Treasurer** Danny Jennings.

Committee. Norma Cornish, John Hazledine, Ern Jennings, Bernie Woiwod, Lynne Woollard, Wayne Bastow, Jill Bastow, Tony Howard, Shirley Howard, John Bertacco.



Christmas Breakup

Monday 24th November

Stoney's Room Rye RSL 6 for 6-30pm

Hot finger food & Drinks

Sweets & Coffee. \$25

Film 'Dinner for One'

Payment by October meeting.

Bookings Danny Jennings 59852231

September 6th Our first market stall after the winter break was held on the Rye foreshore on Saturday the 6th September. \$192 was raised on the cold and foggy morning. These stalls will continue on the 1st Saturday of the month till May 2015. We need more helpers to take a turn so if you can spare a couple of hours on any of those Saturday mornings it would be most appreciated. Please contact Pauline 59852797 or Prue 5985 5767.

October 11th The annual 'Bunnings Sausage Sizzle' this year is on Saturday 11 October, 8 am to 4 pm. John Hazledine has again organised the day with all the food and drinks. A roster has been drawn up, four helpers are needed for each session of two hours. If you were not at the September meeting and have two hours to spare on that day please ring 5985 2797 to choose a time to help. This is a great money raiser for the Society – with thanks to Bunnings for their service to the community

History Week 19th-26th October. As part of History Week to be held in October our Society will be setting up a display of toys and books and games from our childhood days and earlier. We are calling on all who have saved their own toys – most of which have special significance to each of us. Does anyone have a doll's pram/cot/basket, spinning tops, Matchbox/Dinky toys, books and comics, toy pedal car, rocking horse, toy yacht, small three wheel bike eg Cyclops, doll's house, dolls/dolls' clothes, any toys at all. Although this concentrates on one week, our display will continue for some time – you may request your item/s back at any stage. If you have any of these items you could loan, and/or, most importantly, you could join a display sub-committee.

Presentation In August the Hon Greg Hunt made presentations to each group in the area who were awarded Federal Government grants for the 100 Years of Anzac projects. Our application was combined with the Rye RSL as we had similar themes. We have designed a bronze plaque with the names, service numbers and battalions of the men from Rye who enlisted. This will be affixed to the Rye Civic Hall and unveiled (we hope) on Remembrance Day 11 November. The actual time will most probably be straight after the RSL service. The RSL is dedicating a plaque depicting the battlefields of WW1, affixed to a stone at the RSL in Nelson Street. All are invited to this service and unveilings, and we hope to invite as many of the descendants of these men that we can find. Pictured are John Hazledine, Greg Hunt, Max Loves, vice president Rye RSL, and Pauline Powell. President Prue Found presented the certificate to the members at the AGM in August. A book of the histories of the Rye men to be launched on Anzac day is being written, the research has been thoroughly done by Linda Berndt.



5000 Poppies From 2014 to 2018 Australia will commemorate the Anzac Centenary, marking 100 years since Australia's involvement in the First World War. The 5000 POPPIES project is for crafters who would like to contribute a handmade red poppy to be included in a field of 5000 poppies to be publicly displayed in Melbourne on ANZAC Day 2015. The 5000 poppies will be a community tribute recognising the service of Australian servicemen and women in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. There will be an initial display of the poppies in Fed Square in November 2014. for Remembrance Day

For patterns etc [google **5000 Poppies**](#) or contact Norma Cornish 598541257.

Historical Societies are all about research and it has never been easier than it is now with so many records available on the internet. With 'History Week' coming up in October what a good time to do a little research and maybe forward some matters of interest for this newsletter. Listed below are a number of web sites that will help you get started. You may be surprised at just what is available.

Members are invited to come to the Old School house of a Tuesday morning between 10am 12noon and assist in cataloguing and setting up the displays.

Seawinds Community Hub, 11a Allambie Ave, Rosebud West, Members available for research assistance. Visitor fee \$5.00. Email: <sp3940fh@gmail.com>

Bookings of up to an hour available. Printing available.

Internet Sites: there are more and more Australian and overseas sites coming online. Those listed below are just some of the ones I use most frequently.

Websites for Genealogists by Cora Nnm: a list of links to websites for research focusing on all states of Australia. Eg BDM, cemeteries, convicts, shipping and immigration. **www.coraweb.com.au**

Public Records of Victoria. (PROV) Located at 99 Shiel St, North Melbourne. Access the Collection then to Digitized Records and Online Indexes. The online indexes include a Teachers Database and Immigration indexes for Unassisted 1852-1923, Assisted 1839-1871 and Outward 1852-1861. To obtain more information about an entry, you need to visit the PRO in North Melbourne. **www.prov.vic.gov.au**

National Library of Australia. is the largest reference library of Australia, responsible under the terms of the *National Library Act* for "maintaining and developing a national collection of library material, including a comprehensive collection of library material relating to Australia and the Australian people." **Trove** is the place to search for all those old newspaper articles and photos. **https://www.nla.gov.au/**

National Archives of Australia: go to Research Family History then Record Search. This gives military and naturalization information. To follow up entries visit their office at the PRO. **www.naa.gov.au**

World War Two Nominal Roll: this index gives the service details of all people enlisted in the Second WW. **www.ww2roll.gov.au**

Ryerson Index: this is an index of contemporary Death Notices and Obituaries in Australian newspapers, mainly focusing on NSW. www.rootsweb.com/

Family Search (IGI): this is the Latter Day Saints site which contains the largest collection of genealogical data in the world. It is user friendly and can give great detail from overseas. There is not much Australian data. www.familysearch.org/

Free BMD: this is an index of births, deaths and marriages in England and Wales between 1837 and 1983. Not all counties have been completed but it is well worth a look. It is good for marriage dates if you know both partners' names. <http://www.freebmd.org.uk/>

State Library of Victoria: located at 328 Swanston St, Melbourne. There is a special Genealogy Centre within the library, but check the Newspaper and other collection as well. www.slv.vic.gov.au/

Genealogy Societies: there are two main groups: The Genealogical Society of Victoria (GSV) www.gsv.org.au/ and Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies (AIGS). <http://www.aigs.org.au/>

Ancestry: Ancestry acquires and digitises billions of historic records from around the world – from military service records to ships' passenger lists to census records and many others. www.ancestry.com.au/

Wikipedia is a free encyclopaedia, written collaboratively by the people who use it. It is a special type of website designed to make collaboration easy, called a **wiki**. Many people are constantly improving **Wikipedia**, making thousands of changes per hour.

History World. World history, timelines a quiz and much more. <http://www.historyworld.net/>

Trivia Afternoon Many thanks to Wayne and Jill for conducting the history trivia afternoon at the RSL on the 24th August. A very enjoyable time was had by all as we tried to remember all those events that we knew of but sometimes would not come to the surface.

Thank you Peter Munro, our September guest speaker, for a most interesting talk on the Boer war and the memorial at the Sorrento Cemetery.

Billy Albress played eight games for Richmond in the V.F.L. during the 1917 and 1918 seasons. At that time and for many decades afterwards, there was little money in it and most players worked all Saturday morning, requiring a rapid trip to the ground especially when playing away. Jock McHale was a boss at the Carlton and United Brewery and there was one celebrated occasion when he made a worker, who was due to play against Collingwood, remain at work later than usual on the Saturday morning. There were no two-hour warm ups in those days. It may have been because of tiredness that Billy never cemented a spot in the team.

By December, 1918, Billy, by occupation a combination of tanner and shearer was up near Yea. Billy was back in town by 1920 and was one of Port Melbourne's best players when they beat Essendon A's, earlier known as Essendon Town, 11-11 to 6-14. By Easter of 1921, Billy seems to have been working in the Western District, perhaps as a shearer again. It was time to test his athletic ability against the best in the country. At the Stawell Gift, he entered the Stewards' Purse, a race over the distance of 220 yards. He did well too, winning the seventh heat and the second semi final.

By the winter of 1923, Bill must have been working near the Murray River, as he was playing for Ebden Rovers. Was Bill working in a shearing gang? He competed at the Sale Athletic Carnival seven months later. He won the Longford Purse, a handicap race over 440 yards. Running off a mark of 22 yards and giving his competitors generous starts, he won his heat easily in 52 seconds. Despite strong opposition he won the final and collected the 30 pound purse. By the winter of 1924, Bill was again playing for Minyip.

Excerpt from "Australian football and disputes over the Anzac legend", a talk given in Richmond. by Prof. Robert Pascoe on 24-4-2009.

I spent my adolescence a few streets south of here, within earshot of the roar of the MCG crowd. One of my domestic jobs was to carry the slops of an elderly man, a retired waterside worker of West Indian descent, down to the backyard privy behind the mulberry tree. I can still remember the press of his chocolate-skinned hand as he gave me a two shilling coin as a thank-you. When he died I was bequeathed his upstairs bedroom. His name was Billy Albress. He played eight senior games in the last two years of the war, 1917 and 1918. Only Richmond and three other clubs, Carlton, Collingwood and Fitzroy, played on during the war.*

Billy Albress was a typical Richmond player. He was born locally, but of distinctly non-white background, and sport was his only means of earning some social mobility. He remained a waterside worker his entire life*, and died in his late sixties. He was “a Richmond six footer” (to borrow a phrase from Victoria Park), standing just five foot eleven inches, wiry and athletic. His brother and sister lived locally also, and he was part of a tight kinship group, he is described in the genealogical records as a “labourer”. No Albress served in the Australian military in the Great War.**

*Note- Pascoe has incorrectly stated the background of William as being West Indian, rather than of Cape Verde decent. William’s birth registration states he was born at Tootgarook. William’s brother, John, did enlist for service during WW1 but did not see active service. Billy worked in various occupations throughout Victoria.

The Albress Family from 1842

Rye in the early days had a large population of settlers from the Cape Verde Islands. Antonio Albress was born on Bona Vista Island c1842. In 1878 Antonio married Maria Bennett the daughter of Thomas Alexander and Eliza Bennett. It is Maria’s sister Eliza whose grave is the oldest in the Rye Cemetery. The couple had 10 children who attended Rye State School. The Albress children were talented in sport and music.

MORNINGTON AND DROMANA STANDARD 7-8-1909

Mr Albress of Rye died after undergoing an operation in Melbourne. He was interred in the Rye Cemetery. The late Mr A. Albress, was one of the oldest residents on the “Heads”. For many years he has been a well-known figure in Rye, Portsea, Sorrento and Dromana, where his cheery smile and a genial disposition endeared him to many. He was one of the pioneers of the district, his extended residence of over 40 years earning for him the distinction of one of the “Daddies” of the “Heads”, the future of which he regarded as of great promise. He was a native of Bona Vista, one of the Portuguese islands in the Cape Verde group, and was in his 68th year. He leaves a wife, four daughters and six sons to mourn his loss.

Research by Linda Berndt

When carrying out ancestral studies or tracing the successive ownership of properties, much information can be had from land ownership records. Some of the information may be available from council records but generally more complete information can be had from Titles Office records. Recent changes in ownership are usually straightforward but problems can arise where the Old Law or General Law system of land tenure is involved. Crown grants under the Old Law system ceased on 2nd October 1862, after which all Crown Grants were issued under the Transfer of Land Act (Torrens System).

The two systems are quite different in philosophy. Under Old Law land ownership commenced with a deed showing the owners name, occupation, and address. The possession of this deed was evidence of ownership and other than the possibility of the existence of adverse possession claims was indisputable. When some legal activity, such as a mortgage or granting of an easement, took place the deeds affecting the latter were attached to the original deed and kept by the owner forming what is termed a bundle of documents (chain of ownership). Although there was the provision to lodge a memo or memorial with the Registrar General, there was no obligation to do so. On subsequent change of ownership, example by a conveyance or result of carrying out the terms of a will, the deeds associated were then attached to the existing bundle to form the chain of ownership.

The new owner would take possession of the bundle of documents and no authorities need to have been notified. A problem arose when the subject land was subdivided, as it was not possible for the new owners to each take possession of the bundle of documents. This was overcome by the sub-divider keeping possession of the bundle and providing a letter to each owner that the bundle would be made available for any subsequent dealings. This was not entirely satisfactory as the original owner could vanish, die or leave the country and the bundle be lost or destroyed in the process. Also there was the possibility that transactions such as mortgages, covenants and creation of easements and even transfers of land could take place and details of which were not attached to the original bundle. The uncertainty of this arrangement and the possibility of lost documents required the establishment of an uninterrupted chain of 30 years of documents for a full verification of ownership. Even so some of the deficiencies mentioned above were still possible.

As a consequence, lending authorities were reluctant to lend money with such a dubious ownership as guarantee. Fortunately, the Torrens System (Transfer of Land Act) made provision for conversion from Old Law to the Torrens System. This usually required a survey, but could also be done by paper. That is, the Torrens title would be issued based on the written description (called metes and bounds) given in the original grant. As some surveys were dubious at the time it was possible that when the written description was plotted, the resulting figure was mathematically impossible. That is the figure did not close. Another drawback was the necessity to employ the possible costly services of an Old Law Title Searcher. In summary the requirement of a 30 year chain, the possibility of missing, lost or undisclosed documents together with uncertain geometry, was not a perfect system. It was left to Sir Robert Torrens to suggest a system, based on the transfer of ships, to remedy the situation.

The result was, that under the Torrens system, all dealings were lodged with a government authority (Titles Office). The documents being stored in a vast strong room. As a point of interest, during World War II, all documents were photographed with a 35mm camera and stored in the Beechworth Prison.

The result being the Government is the custodian of all documents and in effect guaranteeing title or proof of ownership. A small tax is charged on all transactions lodged (assurance fund). The system has been in operation for over 150 years and very few claims have been made on the fund.

For an excellent and informative treatise on Old Law searching, see Google search: Not that hard: **Victorian Land Memorials {Old General Law Titles}** by **Joan Hunt** Geelong & District Historical Association 12th February 2011

John Bertacco

Formerly Senior Lecturer RMIT

Note. We are pleased to welcome John to the committee of the Rye Historical Society.

12 ST ANDREW'S CHURCH – RYE'S OLDEST PUBLIC BUILDING

A local landmark, services have been held on this site since 1866 when Mr Glover rode down from Mornington. The first building on the site was built around 1855 as a school and called the Tootgarook Common School No 623. It became the school, community hall and church – Rye's original Civic Centre. Built of local limestone and wattle and daub with a thatched roof on the teacher's residence, it was unusable by 1875 when it was leaking badly and part of the wall fell down. It was rebuilt in 1882 using the original local limestone. In those early days both the Church of England and Presbyterian services were held there. It is classified by the National Trust of Australia (Vic). The original lectern now holds the visitor's book in the porch.



The old Church was extended in 1981 using Mt Gambier limestone. The atmosphere in the new church proved revolutionary compared with the old. Worshippers now gather around the altar table as God's family, priest and people together.

Striking features include two altar windows of St Peter and St Andrew given in 1925 by Misses B and M Stenniken in memory of the pioneers of Rye. Local leadlight artist Daryl Buchanan created two great mural windows depicting a multitude of Christian symbols, ancient and modern. The Christ Rex sculpture by Melbourne artist Eva Schubert was installed in 1984. The sanctuary furniture and the font are the work of former Church Warden Carl Feldtman and the church bell was donated by the Helm family. Behind the altar table the aumbry was donated by Revd Ray Kenny in memory of his wife Joyce, and a Sanctuary Lamp was given to mark the 90th birthday in 1910 of long time parishioner Dorothy Houghton. Other sacred memorial artefacts are valued and still used.

Building will start in the next few months on the new Parish centre. The hall built in 1960 by Vic Tyler (his last building) will be refurbished with new kitchen and storerooms, offices and toilets, and a new entrance foyer and tiled atrium will connect the hall with the 1981 church extension. This will be the administrative centre of the parish which includes St John's Sorrento, and this also with a National Trust classification, was built in 1873/4.

Interior showing two leadlight windows behind the altar.



Memorial Garden at north side of church

Phil Cain retires from the committee.

We were very sorry that Phil did not feel able to continue to be a member of the committee. A loyal and active member over many years, almost since formation, Phil with his wife Betty have been great contributors to the Society. With his knowledge of Rye's history, their development of the legendary Rye Cemetery Tours, the Australia Day historic bus tour, the publication of 'Amongst the Old Folks'- the history of the Rye Cemetery, and their diligent attendance to open the room on Sundays – their commitment has been outstanding, travelling from Mordialloc each time. Phil was awarded Life Membership in 2013. We hope to see them whenever they can make it down to Rye.

Receipts and Payments year ending 30th June 2014**RECEIPTS**

Memberships	1,0200.00
Donations	105.00
Trading Table	020.00
Supper	897.20
Market Stalls	138.4
Barwon Park Visit	1,250.40
Murder Mystery Functon	1,438.50
Bunnings Sausage Sizzle	1,215.00
Bimblehurst Function	1,412.50
Christmas Party and Raffle - Proceeds	911.25
Shire Promotional Grant	896.05
Rye Primary School Maintenance Contribution	5,000.00
	5,000.00
Total Receipts	<u>19,284.35</u>

PAYMENTS

Postage and Stationery	421.19
Newsletter Printing	262.09
Insurance	591.30
Book Purchases	132.50
Chnstmas Function - Costs	775.00
Barwon Park Visit	1,412.80
Murder Mystery Function	1,215.00
Historical Sign at Post Office	1,338.70
Hire and Purchase of Acropops	2,535.75
Shire Promotional Grant Expended	4,718.80
School Annual Licence Fee	550.00
Engineer's Report and Recommendations	3,300.00
Sundries	861.50
	.
Total Payments	<u>18,114.63</u>

Excess of Receipts over Payments for Year	1,169.72
Balance at Bank at Beginning of Year	6,767.03
Balance at Bank at End of Year	7,936.75

Term Deposits Bendigo Bank
A/c No. 1 (139566475)

Deposit Balance at Beginning of Year	\$8,250.55
Interest credited during Year	\$294.76
Deposit Balance at End of Year	\$8545.31

A/c No. (144372745)

Deposit Balance at Beginning of Year	\$5,330.69
Interest Credited during Year	\$216.66
Deposit Balance at End of Year	\$5,547.35

Honorary Auditor's Report

I have reviewed the attached Summary of Receipts and Payments for the Year ended 30 June 2014 and have examined the books and records from which it has been prepared. I have not performed a full formal audit but based on my review nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the above mentioned Summary does not present fairly the results of the Society for the period nor the balance of funds held at the bank as at that date. I have sighted original bank statements and the Deposit Advices issued by the Bendigo Bank as evidence of the amounts held and on deposit at 30 June 2014 .

John P Kellaway F.C.A. 6th August 2014

Definitions These fit so well they should be in a dictionary.

Adult: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

Beauty Parlour: A place where women curl up and dye.

Chickens: The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

Committee A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

Dust: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

Egotist: Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

Handkerchief: Cold Storage.

Inflation: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

Meetings and Guest Speakers.

Monday 27th October Guest speaker **Linda Berndt** will speak on the 25 men from the Rye district who enlisted in WW1.

Coming Events

Saturday 4th October Market stall Rye foreshore
Saturday 11th October Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings 8am to 4pm
History Week (19th –26th October) display will continue into the new year
Saturday 1st November Market stall Rye Foreshore
Monday 24th November Christmas breakup Rye RSL
Saturday 6th December 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.

Stop Press**AUSTRALIA DAY 2015**

On Monday 26 January the entertainment will start on Rye Foreshore at 2 pm. The Historical Society is able to conduct their usual stall on that day. As the flag raising with the speech by the Ambassador (as yet to be named) starts at 5 pm we will not have to be ready to sell until after 2 pm. We will need to erect the marquee and tables in the morning to have everything ready. Clowns will be performing from 2 pm and other entertainment will be bands Hotel California and The Vincents. Final details will be in the next newsletter in early January.