

## Korumburra and District Historical Society Inc.

### NEWSLETTER No. 30

March, April, May 2019

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Our program for the next three months is not yet in place. If members have any thoughts re speakers, please let Janet know, and please also be on the lookout for possible speakers.

Two of our much valued members have left us recently, Lynette Robertson is now living in Brisbane, and Wilma Walls has moved closer to her daughter and son at Chiltern. Wilma and Lyn have contributed much to us over a number of years, and we are missing them greatly.

Meetings during the next three months will be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>. March, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>. April and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>. May, starting at 7.00 p.m.

#### **We've had some enquiries:**

- From Dale Carroll from the Ceres Historical Society seeking information on vigneron families in their area. A number of families moved to this area hence his query.
- From Trevor Smith seeking information on High School trips to Tasmania in the 1963-5 timeframe.
- From Mike and Elaine Gorman; Mike is a descendant of Felix Larkin who for a number of years owned the Austral Hotel.
- From Virginia Polendakis re the store at Coal Creek.
- Lainie Grugan was looking for information on her forbear John Grugan, a miner at Korumburra in the late 1890s.
- Paul Crock asked whether anything was known about where his forbears lived. He has a connection to Francis Masson Bladin who had a distinguished war record. This man was born in Korumburra. Is anything known of where the Bladin family might have lived?
- From Alan Smith seeking information about Joe Kane and his family.
- From Bernie Edwards seeking information on the Ditterich family. Charles Ditterich was a butcher in Korumburra.
- "Woodbridge" property at Korumburra South. We have a wonderful photo of a log cabin on this property.

We can pass on any information that might be available, so if you are reading this and can add any information, let us know.

## **Arawata Milestones Weekend**

– Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 March – All welcome.

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>.** FROM 10.30 a.m. – Sunday School Hall. A cuppa available and you can wander around the exhibition of memorabilia and photographs from the founding families in the district.

FROM Noon – Old School ground. Bring your own lunch and drinks and join in the games and activities. Sausage sizzle available.

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>.** 10.00 a.m. Church celebration at Arawata Uniting Church. Morning tea followed by tree planting commemorating the milestones.

## **The Korumburra and Bena State Schools**

GREAT SOUTHERN ADVOCATE, 20<sup>th</sup>. February 1896

Our constant reference to the overcrowded state of the above schools, as will be seen by the following letter forwarded to the correspondent of the Board of Advice, Mr. Mission, is doing some service. We may expect shortly to have matters put on a proper footing.

BENA SCHOOL,

Education Department, Melbourne, February 10<sup>th</sup>. 1896

Sir,

With reference to previous correspondence concerning the erection of a school building on the site purchased at the above named place, I have the honor to state that the Public Works Department has been authorized to remove school building No. 2678, Mirboo North, with quarters to the place, and I have the site cleared and fenced. I have the honor Sir, to be your obedient servant, James Barge, Secretary.

*School at Bena prior to this time was conducted in a building which had been a coffee palace. The building from Mirboo north remained in use at Bena until 1921 when a new building was erected. Overcrowding at Korumburra had probably eased somewhat as the building from Clunes would have been in use from around mid May of the previous year.*

## **THE KORUMBURRA EXCURSION** Korumburra, Tuesday

From 'The Age', 15<sup>th</sup>. November 1893

Notwithstanding the threatening aspect of the weather this morning some 1,200 people availed themselves of the cheap excursion trip to-day to visit the coal centre. Up to noon showers of rain fell, but subsequently the weather cleared up, and although rather cold, the day was pleasant. Three special trains brought the visitors, and a special train from here carried those anxious to see the mine in operation to the works of the Coal Creek Proprietary Company, others walking along the line (the only passable road), whilst a considerable number sallied forth in quest of ferns, etc. and enjoyed

an al fresco luncheon in the scrub. Many of the visitors had been here on the occasion of the opening of the mine, and expressed themselves as much struck with the wonderful progress of the town since that time. The local hotel and coffee palaces were taxed to their utmost to-day to provide accommodation for the numerous visitors.

**KORUMBURRA** From 'The Australasian', 30<sup>th</sup>. April 1898

The very welcome rains, now amounting to over three inches for the month, together with tolerably warm weather, have at last clothed our hillsides with a mantle of green. Owing, however, to the large quantity of grass killed by the drought, our pastures are not so thick in the bottom as usual. Gloomy forebodings as to the possible severity of the winter are indulged in. Great numbers of our farmers have removed the majority of their stock to the plains below Outtrim where they will obtain a precarious existence for some time. A few houses are seen springing up on the old spots, and things will slowly begin to return to the pristine state – very slowly. I am afraid, seeing that the state of affairs is not such as declared by the Minister of Lands when he stated that the fires had put Gippsland forward several years. In the majority of cases the damage done exceeds enormously, the benefits conferred, and we have not only to recoup the loss of fencing, houses, barns,

etc., but have lost a whole season's income besides. Nevertheless, the average Gippsland selector is not one to sit with folded hands. The district itself will undoubtedly progress, although for a considerable time the present holders will find it a hard struggle. I am sorry to say it is probable that our noted local sheep breeder Mr. Adkins, will not be able compete at the great shows this year in Melbourne, owing to the considerable losses in his flock and the burning of all his sheds, paddock fences, etc. without which it is impossible to get sheep into show condition. Our local agricultural society was obliged to do away with its exhibition of stock for this year, no one having stock to show nor the leisure to prepare them had they wished.

*This is somewhat telling isn't it? The time, well it is just after the great fires, and we're hearing that it is still very dry. Then there is the thinking that the fires may have progressed development, or may not have.*

## **HISTORY OF THE ARAWATA CRICKET CLUB**

The History of the Arawata Cricket Club was written by Frank Harrison, dated April 1935.

There had been no cricket club at Arawata prior to 1935. The first football team was formed in 1914, they only played for one season and were premiers in the Korumburra Football Association. The club went into recess during World War 1 and was reformed in 1924. Tennis was also played

prior to World War 1 and also after the war, Arawata being premiers of Korumburra & District comp in 1930 and 1932. Social games of cricket were played against Strzelecki and Kardella in 1934, but a club was not formed until 1935.

The first meeting was held in the Arawata hall on 22<sup>nd</sup>. October 1935 and the Arawata Cricket Club was formed. Office bearers were J. Western president, F. Harrison secretary, R. Webb assistant secretary and treasurer, vice presidents F. Peters and J. Holland. Delegates elected were J. Western, F. Harrison and R. Ritchie.

The offer of Ranceby for use of their ground and matting for the first season was accepted. J. Western and J. Holland were elected captain and vice-captain respectively. In 1936 a ground was set up on Mr. C.J. Webb's paddock and a sand pitch was put down, the matting we bought from the Moyarra Cricket Club second-hand and this lasted until finances were good enough to allow to buy new. In the original team, J. Bryden had played with Horsley's Road, R. Webb with Kardella and E. Snooks with Foster, J. Holland in England, and J. Kelly had played with a team at Ivy Hill that was made up largely of Kellys and Langhams.

In 1937 a concrete pitch was put down. Mr. W. Bryden being the engineer in charge; various players donated bags of cement. Arawata never won a premiership but we were defeated in the final in 1945 after going through the season undefeated. The club reformed after the war and continued to play until 1970. In 1971 play was discontinued on the Arawata ground and the club amalgamated with Shellcot's Road.

I have many happy memories of our days playing cricket and the friends we made who have still been friends long after our playing days have finished. I think back on those delegates' meetings held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Morgan and the supper always provided by Mrs. Morgan. Later I think the meetings were held in the Arawata Hall. L. Wyatt was still playing when the club went into mothballs during the 1970-80 period.

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For more information please contact secretary, Janet Wilson, (5657 2267) [janet.wilson@dcsi.net.au](mailto:janet.wilson@dcsi.net.au) or P.O. Box 329, KORUMBURRA. Vic. 3950.

President: Mr. Bob Newton    Treasurer: Mr. Alwyn Michie    Archivist: Mr. Doug Boston  
We would be very pleased to welcome new members, so please consider joining us.