

Korumburra and District Historical Society Inc.

NEWSLETTER No. 33 Dec. 2019, Jan. & Feb. 2020

Where has the year gone to? Well gone it has and Christmas is very nearly upon us. We've got a couple of Christmas themed articles in this newsletter, one from 1890 and another from 1922. The roads into town in 1890 are described as just wide enough to admit a bullock wagon. Those were the days.

We'll have some time off from Tuesday afternoon workshops over Christmas and January: a little break and then back into it. The first meeting for 2020 will be on 7th. February at 7.00 p.m. i.e. 7,7.2.2020, just the first of all the twos.

Best wishes to all reading this for the Christmas season and may those wishes extend into the year 2020.

A challenge. We can discuss this at the next meeting, but you might like to get thinking about this now. There has been a message come to us from 'The Star' newspaper. They are wanting to know whether we could submit an article with 3-4 photos about an aspect of local history for publication. They are asking historical societies in the area about this, meaning that we would need to do perhaps two articles per year. There it is, do we have members who would like to take up this challenge?

Those of us who attended the Cath Ritchie Memorial with Erik Eklund speaking on the 1919 influenza epidemic came away with a greater understanding of the impact this worldwide event had in our area. Coming as it did at the end of WW1 it was perhaps overshadowed by the return to some form of normality after the war. Erik left us with the question as to how we would deal with such an event in the present time, a very different time indeed.

It is time to renew our memberships: \$15 for a single membership, and \$25 for a family membership. See the form attached for details.

One more thing. Olga is beavering away on the web site, and a facebook page. Those who have checked out her efforts are impressed with what she has done for us. It's all looking very splendid. Thankyou to Olga.

---oooOooo---

From the Weekly Times. Saturday 25 January 1890

KORUMBURRA, Jan 18

Christmas passed very quietly here. A picnic was held at Mr. Kelley's on Boxing Day. There was a good few people there, but the weather being so hot was against much sport. However, there is to be a tea-meeting, concert and dance at Korumburra public hall at the end of this month. Proceeds are to be expended in lining the hall, which, by the way, is a neat little building put up with money gathered among the settlers. It does duty as a school, church and hall.

Grass is still plentiful, but beginning to look somewhat brown, as lately there has been some very hot weather. I notice that the climate here is much drier than it was some years ago, owing, I suppose, to so much timber being destroyed. At one time it was thought that, owing to the grass being so long, the caterpillars would be very bad, but somehow they did not appear, consequently those who have saved a paddock for seed are for once rewarded, as often what would have been a good crop of grass-seed is destroyed by these pests. The principal grasses grown are cocksfoot, ryegrass, and clover.

Dairying and grazing are the principal occupations, nearly everybody having a nice herd of dairy cows.

The summer is getting away, but as yet I have not seen any work being done on the roads. The approaches to Korumburra township are very bad, being just wide enough to admit a bullock wagon, and if it is not made wider before the winter sets in it will be impassable.

The recent hot weather has caused many of those who have scrub to burn to set fire to it. Good burns are general, I think. Not so much scrub was cut last season, as many of the selectors have large areas of grass that takes them all their time to keep in order.

There are always questions. This time we wonder where was Mr. Kelly's property? 'A neat little hall'; was this Shepherd's building? The Mechanics' Institute Committee decided to build a hall 70x30 in February 1891, perhaps the need for a larger hall such as this had become evident?

---oooOooo---

From the Weekly Times, Saturday 23 December 1922

THE RIFLE - Korumburra Matches

Established last year, the Korumburra Club's annual Christmas prize meeting promises to become one of the most popular in the State. It enables numbers of metropolitan and country marksmen to combine shooting with a pleasant holiday trip. The prize-money offered for the various matches extending over two days (December 26 and 27) amounts to £150. In addition, the winner of the champion aggregate receives a gold medal valued at £3/3/.

In the past few months improvements have been made to the Korumburra range. The firing mounds have been increased to double the width, allowing the squad to follow to be down ready to carry on. This will greatly assist in getting through the shooting. The catering this year will be in the hands of the ladies committee of the club. Korumburra being so handy to Melbourne (only 70 miles), a big entry from the metropolitan clubs is expected. The road is in splendid order for motor traffic and a spin through by car would make an enjoyable trip. Competitors are expected, if possible to be on the range to make an early start on the morning of the first day, though they will be in time if travelling through by the morning train, provided they have previously arranged. Arrangements can be made for those desirous of returning on the Wednesday to get through in time to catch the train at 5 o'clock that evening. Programmes and entry forms may be obtained from either P.C. Petersen at Korumburra, or the secretary, W.C. Machonochie, Kardella P.O. Metropolitan riflemen may secure them from P.A. McGrath at the V.R.A. office, who will also receive entries.

The roads have improved!! But where was the rifle range?

---oooOooo---

Our member Libby Lambert has been making some discoveries that might prove helpful to others looking for family information. It is interesting to note that in the last little while we had a man come looking for information on his father who spent time in an orphanage. He too had been impressed by the help that he was able to receive from the records that they held. Thanks to Libby for her article.

Orphanages in Victoria.

I recently visited the Uniting Heritage Service in Melbourne with a friend researching a relative who had spent part of her childhood in the care of the Methodist orphanage in Cheltenham. The orphanage was located on the present site of the Southland shopping centre from 1891 - 1953.

The Uniting Heritage Officer, Catriona Milne had located the relatives' personal information from the children's home records and details of her movements from the committee meeting minutes. It included the locations of her 'in service' positions, and led to the finding of her birth certificate which had been unsuccessfully sought for some years.

This confidential service provided by Uniting Heritage Service is free for former residents or the relatives of residents who spent time in any former babies' and children's homes, hostels and holiday homes provided by the Uniting Church in Victoria. Uniting Manager, Heritage Services, Catriona Milne can be contacted on 03 8644 1531, email at catriona.milne@vt.uniting.org or write to her c/o Level 8 / 505 Lt. Collins Street, Melbourne, 3000.

She also explained that the former residents of Tally Ho Boys Village require assistance, as a large number of their records are missing, possibly burnt during a clear out in the 1980s. If you spent time at Tally Ho or know anyone who did (staff, holiday hosts etc.), who may have photographs, knowledge of or any other memorabilia items from Tally Ho that may help provide background and context for the people who resided there, please contact Catriona (details above). Similarly if you would like to request a search of their records for information relating to your past, you can do that.

Some other resources Catriona suggested to help in locating difficult to find birth details included :-

- The Royal Women's Hospital, Carlton, consult the 'Time of Birth Register' for children born in Carlton.
- Making a written enquiry to the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria at GPO Box 4332, Melbourne, VIC 3001 including all the information you have and explaining what names you have previously unsuccessfully searched.
- The Find and Connect Service in Victoria can provide history and information for former residents of babies' and children's homes, hostels and holiday homes in Victoria to 2016. They include information on children referred to variously as 'Forgotten Australians' and 'Former Child Migrants', members of the 'Stolen Generations', foster children, wards of the state and adopted children. Australian orphanages, children's homes and other institutions at 1800 16 11 09 Freecall: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, write to Suite 1 / 8 Bromham Place, Richmond, VIC 3121, email at info@openplace.org.au or see their website at <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/contact/victoria/>

- Libby Lambert.

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

President: Bob Newton Treasurer: Alwyn Michie Archivist: Doug Boston

Korumburra & District Historical Society Incorporated

A0034717Y ABN 76 768 108 144
P O Box 329 Korumburra 3950
Location King Street Korumburra

Membership Application/Renewal

I / We

Address:

Phone Nos:

Email:

I/we acknowledge that membership is conditional on my / our being financial members and as per the Constitution of Korumburra & District Historical Society Incorporated.

I/we wish to apply for Single/Family Membership of Korumburra & District Historical Society Incorporated. Please circle. A single membership is \$15, a family membership is \$25.

Signed Date

Should you wish to make payment via a bank transfer our bank details are as follows: BSB:063-515, Account Number: 1001-4263. Please include your name in the reference field to enable reconciliation of funds received.