

# Korumburra and District Historical Society Inc.

## NEWSLETTER No. 31      June, July, August 2019

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We will have meetings on the first Thursday of each month, starting at 7.00 p.m.

- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>. June. Doug Boston has a story to tell us of his memories of growing up at 66 Radovick Street, people there at the time, and some of those of later times too.
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>. July. Gary Knox will speak to us about Sunnyside. He says he has a bucket of things discovered with his metal detector. We're looking forward to hearing more of this.
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>. August. Doug Boston will put together a presentation which will cover recently received items that members might like to hear about. There is always something of interest to discover.

*Following are several articles discovered as we have attempted to find something of the establishment of the RSL in Korumburra. Then there is a report of a winter of earlier times, several items from 100 years ago, and a listing of enquiries that have come past since the last newsletter. We hope you enjoy these articles, and as always, we would welcome visitors to our rooms which are open on Tuesday afternoons for workshops, or please join us for a meeting, and enjoy hearing from our speakers.*

### **Father's Association – ANNUAL MEETING** Great Southern Advocate, 15<sup>th</sup>. April 1920

The annual meeting of the local branch of the Sailors' and Soldiers' Fathers Association was held in the Shire hall on Monday evening last, the president Mr. Joyce occupying the chair. The secretary's report showed a very satisfactory result of the work done by the association on behalf of the returned men, and the president briefly reported proceedings of the conference of sub-branches held in Melbourne, in February, which he has been deputed to attend. The election of officers for the ensuing term resulted as follows: President, Mr. R.R. Wilson; vice presidents, Rev. R.L. Reed and Mr. Nason; treasurer, Mr. W.A. Mackay; secretary, Mr. H.J. Wetherall; assistant secretary, Mr. W. Brown, committee, Messrs. Pam, Lyndon, Lillis, McClean, Bursey and Bates.

It was decided to hold a reunion of fathers and their wives at an early date, the arranging of which was left in the hands of the committee. The president referred to the approaching departure of Mr. Little, and on the motion of Messrs. Nason and Wetherall a minute was placed on the books of the high esteem in which Mr. Little was held, for the great interest he had taken in the association, and his untiring efforts for the welfare of returned soldiers.

### **Soldiers' Club Rooms – OPENED ON SATURDAY** Great Southern Advocate, 15<sup>th</sup>. April 1920

The Korumburra branch of the R.S.S.I.L.A. some time ago to have their own clubrooms in the town, and premises were subsequently purchased in Commercial street and altered to be suitable for the purpose mentioned. On Saturday afternoon last, Captain Brace, M.H.R. assisted by Mr. Downard, M.L.A. officially opened the club. Mr. W.H. Walters, president of the branch, occupied the chair and briefly introduced Captain Brace who was given a great reception. He opened his remarks by referring to the fact that he was generally late arriving at Korumburra, and jocularly shifted the blame over to Mr. Downard, remarking that if the state

members could not manage to keep the roads good on their constituencies one could not be expected to be punctual. He had many public functions to attend by virtue of his position, but the one that day gave him greater pleasure than most do. "Men, now you are clubbed together keep away from party politics." By doing this they could meet together in amicable conversations, and further, in the way of a soldier, viz. cleanly and honourably, the great objects of their association. On the other side the soldiers met each other on the footing of equality, and that was the spirit they wanted to foster here. The rooms were all that the most fastidious "digger" could desire, and he wished the club every success and prosperity, feeling sure that now that Korumburra had comfortable quarters their deliberations would be many and results thereof far reaching and beneficial to comrades elsewhere. Mr. Downard said the Korumburra soldiers were to be congratulated on their enterprise. These men were going to be the backbone of the district in which they resided and he hoped they would have better times. He wished them success in their venture.

Dr. J.S. Reed, in moving a vote of thanks to the parliamentary representatives for their attendance that afternoon, expressed the hope that the club rooms would be extremely useful to the men of the district.

Mr. C.E. Williams, in supporting Dr. Reed's remarks mentioned that while they were pleased that Mr. Downard had attended their opening ceremony, there was a feeling of comradeship in the presence of Capt. Brace. The effort made by the branch on Armistice day was responsible for their having been able to secure these premises, and it was to the people of Korumburra that they owed their thanks. They had put in a billiard table, but more furnishings were required and it was not unlikely that further appeals would have to be made to clear their liabilities. At the request of the chairman those present stood for a few moments with bowed heads as a mark of respect to those comrades who could not be with them. An adjournment was then made to the Mechanics' Hall where the ladies branch of the Red Cross provided afternoon tea. A short programme of songs etc. was gone through, as follows:- Overture, Miss McClean; song, Mrs. C.E. Williams; recitation, Mr. A.P. Lloyd; recitation, Mr. T.J. McInerney; song, Mrs. Williams.

During the proceedings addresses were delivered by Mr. Downard, Capt. Brace, and Mr. D. Cahill, vice president of the branch. The latter gentleman referred to the Anzac Day celebrations, particulars of which will be found elsewhere in this issue. The singing of the National Anthem brought a very enjoyable function to a close. The sum of £8 was received for admission to the hall.

## **A SNOWSTORM IN VICTORIA**

(Extract from a letter by Dr. Hearn at Outtrim).  
Geelong Advertiser, Friday 26th. July 1895)

"I awoke this morning about 7 o'clock hearing a terrible noise on the verandah, and on looking out of my window, the most glorious sight that I have ever seen met my eyes. The whole ground was covered with snow dazzlingly white, and all the fence rails and pickets were covered alike. The bullock wagons, usually so dirty, now appeared as if made of the purest and whitest crystal. Every log and stump, even the clothes lines and props, were covered in snow. The fencing wire was surrounded an inch thick with it, and there stood the horse also covered with snow, trying to get on to the verandah for shelter, but through walking about he had got a round lump of ice, about 5 inches thick, collected under each hoof, and couldn't stand up on the boards. Every tree, even to the twigs and leaves, even the

prosaic grindstones, in fact, every object which is usually dark was reproduced as one lovely picture in snow. The great big big gum trees and blackwood trees, looked like so man Prince of Wales' plumes as they bent over with the enormous weight of snow on their tops, many of which were broken off. The snow, which had been falling ever since midnight to a rich accompaniment of peal upon peal of thunder, continued in one beautiful downy shower until about one o'clock today. The flakes fell down in feathery crystals as large as half-crowns. Viewed from the back of the house, there stood every miner's hut and every fence outlined, every bush and twig, even the fancy wood-work on the verandah, a beautiful white picture. The road to Jumbunna wound round the snow clad mountain like a veritable glacier track in the Alps, the snow falling thicker and thicker and the miners going to work with their overcoats all hidden in one spotless white cloak of snow. Out we went, running like Cinderella down the now crystal steps, and stood on the hill above Beard's house, the snow crunching beneath our feet at every step. As the branches of the trees swung to and fro down would crash great lumps of snow that had settled on the twigs. We had to look mighty sharp not to get them on our heads. The whole ground far away on every side was covered with snow as much as 18 inches, and in places 2 feet and more deep. The line from Korumburra to Jumbunna was blocked. Every house roof had a coating six inches deep, and as it worked down it hung in long drooping icicles, then as the weight became too heavy down it would come with a crash, only to have its place taken within half an hour by another six inch coating. But to see the wagons and carts was simply beautiful; every wheel, the spokes and tyres, every ring and bolt, the shafts and traces, all apparently consisting of nothing but snow. The animals couldn't understand matters at all. Dogs were running about smelling everything, recognizing the shape but not the color; while the cats discreetly kept within doors and gazed solemnly through the windows, wondering what it all could mean; and as we looked out on the paddocks there stood the bullocks, each one backed into a tree on the sheltered side, trying to think what had become of the grass, for not a blade could they get, while farther on some horses were collected under the lee of a house, gladly devouring the dirty packing straw that someone had thrown to them. One unfortunate fowl that had been out visiting, on the previous day was making a brave effort to get home, but its feet simply went through the snow till it looked as if it were sitting, so at last it had to complete the journey by flying some ten yards at a time, until it reached its barn. It's no use, I can't describe the scene; but if I can get any photos, I'll send them down. On our way back from the ramble we started a snow ball, and before we had gone a hundred yards it was more than the two of us could roll. As we turned the corner into the main street we found all the inhabitants turned out into the road, a yelling hoard of snow ballers, all pelting one another as hard as they could go. One of them hit me a beauty right on the back of the neck, and it all ran down my shirt, so I just glanced round and spotted culprit in a minute, then loud and long were the cheers as I gathered up an armful of snow and followed him up with one ball after another, till he turned and ran for shelter. About midday the snow ceased and the sun shone out for a few minutes, then the effect was indescribable. It was dazzling, glittering white scene, which nearly blinded one, magnificent before, but now it surpassed all you could imagine. It was grand."

## 1919

Jan. Beginning of influenza epidemic, an epidemic felt throughout the world. The emergency hospital, set up at the school, closed in August.

19<sup>th</sup>. July Peace celebrations at Korumburra.

16<sup>th</sup>. Sept. Electric light power house severely damaged by fire.

### Enquiries:

- McInnes, McPherson and Kerr families at Korumburra. Colin William McInnes married Thelma Cornwall in Korumburra, probably at the Presbyterian manse.
- Hales family at Kongwak, Joseph Charles and James P. Joseph Charles served in WW1.
- James Reeve Golding, owner of a local bullock team.
- Clunies-Ross connection to 48 Bridge Street. There may also be a Witton connection.
- John Tweedie and son James Beggs Tweedie and families. John was a deputy of the Silkstone Mine and President of the Coal Creek Assoc.
- Railway line from Korumburra to Jumbunna taken up 1953, from Jumbunna to Outtrim taken up 1951.
- Simon Lorkin has been looking for family. His Lorkins have Fowles and Dorling connections.
- Salic surname in Korumburra.
- Enquiry seeking history of property at 29 Lower Gordon Street, also 1 Gordon Street.
- Influenza epidemic of 1919.

Our membership fees for the current year are \$15 single, \$25 family. 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 surname in the reference field to enable reconciliation of funds received. You can check your status as to membership any time.

For more information please contact secretary, Janet Wilson, (0409 248 603) [janet.wil@outlook.com](mailto:janet.wil@outlook.com) or P.O. Box 329, KORUMBURRA. Vic. 3950.

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