

Here we are at the time in a normal year that would see us organising to have an annual meeting in November. I've sent off an application that will give us room to move sideways a little; an extension of three months, for the time in which we need to have that meeting, and provide a financial report to the Department of Justice.

Bob has a contact who could help us to organise a Zoom meeting, and Marion has suggested an outdoor meeting in the warmer weather. Let's just see where we go from here.

Olga is working overtime on the Web Page, a blog, and on Facebook. These posts are reaching people we might not normally be able to be in touch with, all the more so in the times we are experiencing.

Have a look at our Web Page

You can't fail to be impressed about the presentation and content. It is absolutely engaging. You will find there information that I am including here for all members, but particularly those who don't have access to a computer.

THE MAKING HISTORY PROJECT:

We are inviting the community to help the Korumburra and District Historical Society make history. We have launched our online blog and are inviting people to submit photographs and blog articles. You can submit historical photographs, photographs of historical sites or photographs taken now to record a moment in time. We welcome any subject, people, buildings, or landscapes. We would also love to record this particular year in time, when we are all enduring the first worldwide pandemic in living memory. You could start a photo project on social distancing, signs on buildings, or people in face masks. You can write about a what you have been going through during the pandemic. Together it will make a fascinating record of this time in history for future generations in our region. All ages are welcome to submit! If you are interested please send an email to editor@korumburrahistory.com.au.

THINGS HIDDEN AND IN PLAIN SIGHT:

This project will concentrate of historical objects we walk past every day and don't pay attention to. Have you seen an interesting historical object around the district? Send us a photo. You can either ask the historical society a question which we will investigate, or submit your own blog about your historical object find. Please ensure you sent full sized photographs, the larger the better, and all ages are welcome to submit. Send to the e-mail address above.

Already there has been a nomination in the way of the old fire hydrants in the main street, and there has been some feedback on this.

I'm intrigued about the pole at the back of the service station at the top of the street. There is a pole there, on a significant lean, with wooden cross beams, and even some wires still attached, and left to hang free. There don't seem to be any more of these about. It even moves around in the breeze/wind, which has made me wonder what on earth it is doing still there.

There are questions about the '**Top of the Town**' building. When did it become known as this? What are its origins. Mr. William Nuttall is said to have built on this block in 1892, and there were three fires in the five wooden buildings in this section in January and February of 1898. Mr. Duncan Robertson had a grocery store there for many years, from as early as 1908 until the mid 1940s when it was taken over by Bill Fisher. He ran a hardware supply outlet and a cabinetry business there for many years. Many will have been in the building in the time it was the Chinese Restaurant, and in later times again Pattens on Bridge. Mr. Fisher rebuilt the building after he took over ownership in 1946.

What about your **ghost stories**? Have you any, or have people ever mentioned to you that they have heard stories of a presence in a building. These stories too can be sent to Olga at the address above.

Have we any members who remember a time when accommodation was provided at the **Middle Hotel**. You might like to think about this. This question comes from the owners of the hotel who would like us to help them with this question.

Our Seven Historical Wonders:

What would you say are the seven best historical sites in the former Korumburra Shire. October is History Month, and we thought it might be good to think on this question. Olga is going to put some nominations on the web page, complete with a means of voting for the most popular. You might like to suggest something that is not already on the list, as the list is by no means exhaustive.

I'll include a copy of the working paper that we have on the history of the Top of the Town. Please contact me if you can fill in any of the many gaps.

Janet Wilson, Secretary, Korumburra & District Historical Society.

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

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

'Top of the Town' its place in our history

We have some knowledge of the history of this building, but there is much detail needed to fill in the gaps. This document will give some detail, hopefully an accurate telling of the story; we would welcome more information or correction to any details that readers may be able to give us.

The first building on the site was the Temperance Hotel, a wooden structure of two storeys, built by William Nuttall in 1892. William Nuttall was among the first to purchase land in the town at the first land auctions held in 1888.

There were three fires which took place in 1898, two in January a third in February, that make it sound as if Mr. Nuttall's building was damaged and then completely destroyed. One report of the third fire gives the information that there were five buildings along the street, and that the fire all but destroyed all of these. Did Mr. Nuttall rebuild, or what happened next.

From about 1908 Duncan N. Robertson was in the building on this site. His stay was until 1946 when Bill Fisher went into the building, or onto the site, setting up a hardware and joinery business. Mr. Robertson died in 1945 .

Mr. Fisher pulled down the old wooden building and built the existing building. The bricks used were second hand, coming from the engine house and its chimney at the Austral coal mine. There are many buildings in the town and district built by Mr. Fisher.

During the 1940s Dr. Fairlie, a dentist occupied rooms in the upper part of the building.

There were pinball machines and pool tables on the ground floor during the mid to late 70s, perhaps into the 80s. Did Sam Nobile own the building at this time? In this time there were good fish and chips, and a sit down area as well, and there was a Chinese restaurant following this, but before the time of the Rainbow Palace.

Serafino's Pizzas were here for a time.

The Chinese restaurant 'Rainbow Palace' was in the building for a number of years.

An advertisement in 1996 finds Debbie's Curtains and Craft in the Top of the Town.

'Patten's on Bridge' was in the building until 2017. At this time the building was put up for auction.

The last business the building was the Korumburra Fish Kitchen.