

Korumburra and District Historical Society Inc.

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A couple of interesting things have appeared during the last month, and they might be of interest to members.

'The Age', Thursday, 1st. February 1894.

WANTS OF KORUMBURRA – THE CEMETERY QUESTION

Korumburra, Wednesday.

At a public meeting held last night to consider the cemetery question, some severe remarks were passed, regarding what appears to be the remissness of the Government in not providing a burial ground where so large a population is concerned. Almost daily deaths are occurring, and bodies have to be conveyed to Leongatha for burial. In some cases those concerned are not in a position to pay £1 to the Railway department for a special truck, and, there being no other mode of conveyance, bodies have to be carried on men's shoulders a distance of ten miles. Notwithstanding the fact that all known means have been employed with the object of hurrying on a settlement of the matter, departmental circumlocution have the way and the inconvenience still exists. Messrs. Joliffe, Futchter and Williamson were appointed trustees last night, and they are to endeavour to have the ground available for burials at as early a date as possible.

At the same meeting the necessity for more justices of the peace for the township was mentioned. At present there is only one J.P. and the amount of work necessarily arising from a population of nearly 3,000 is more than he should be expected to do. Petitions have been sent to the Minister of Justice praying that certain gentlemen should be appointed, but up to the present nothing has come of them, and the residents feel aggrieved at the inaction of the Government.

Peter Hudson tells his own story.

Among the many things that Peter Hudson did in his time, was that he stood for State Parliament in the Wonthaggi Electorate. The Great Southern Advocate of 17th. March 1927 reported on a speech he gave at the time, in which he told some of his personal history. His speech at the Mechanics' Hall in Korumburra was a long one, but his telling of his own history is of interest to us, as we can hear from the man himself. It is this part of the speech that is reproduced here.

"I am now going to tell you about myself. I have lived in Korumburra for over 35 years, and most of those present know me personally, or at any rate have heard about me. But to those ladies and gentlemen who do not know me, I am introducing myself tonight. My career among you has been an open book, and I may as well let you know that I intend to continue on in the future in the same course as I have followed in the past. So if you think that that course has been wrong, you can vote against me; but if, as I believe you will, come to the conclusion that I may be of use to you, I ask you to give me your honest support. It is therefore necessary that I should call your attention to some of the qualifications which I believe I possess for being a member of Parliament. It is, of course, necessary for a candidate for Parliamentary honors to have qualifications of some kind, even if they are only bad ones. Possibly I have as many bad qualifications as anybody else; but I have also some good ones. And if my good qualifications over-

balance my bad ones, then I submit I ought not to be considered to be outside the scope of civilization. During my residence among you I have always allied myself with local activities aiming at the good of the district, even when I had no intention of standing for election as a member. I have done this merely because I have had the good of the district at heart. I really like it. We have land here of good value, and what is more, we have people capable of working it. As many of you know, I have been connected with the local Agricultural Society for many years. Some people may of course, think that strange. They may say, "Why should a coal miner, or coal owner, take an interest in an agricultural society. What does he know about farming?" Such people may even add, "He has a lot of cheek to put himself forward as a farmers' representative!" Well perhaps I have. (Laughter). At any rate I can say this, that as regards the Agricultural Society I have often provided some of their best prizes. In addition, I have been connected with the dairying industry. I was appointed a representative to try and get them an agricultural college. My shire appointed me to the position. Do any of you want to know why? Well, possibly they knew very little about the business themselves and also thought that I did not. (Laughter). Anyway, I did my best in regard to the matter. Now, coming to myself, I may say that I have been connected with the coal mining business for many years and the company I am connected with has been one of the most successful that has ever worked in Victoria. It started out practically without any capital. It is a small company, but it is a peaceful one, and its miners are being paid the best wages and are also working under the best of conditions that exist in this State. I claim a large amount of credit for that, and if anyone can prove to the contrary, why I will retire from this contest tomorrow. You should know at once that I don't want to represent them properly. And as to my ability to represent labor, I think no better man than myself could be found. In the early part of my life I worked as a coal miner, and know the conditions under which the workers live, and now as a coal mine owner, I am trying to do the best I can for them. As you probably all know, I am the Farmers' and Country Party's endorsed candidate. The reason why I am permitted to carry their banner is because I believe in their policy.

He covers a lot of material in the speech, and it is what it is, an appeal to the voters of the area. His manner of speech and what he has to say, are none the less of interest.

Hopefully the new year will bring us an opportunity to meet, and conduct an annual meeting, which was due in November, but we do have some leeway. We can look forward to this time, and also to hearing more about QR codes and historical plaques. There has been considerable work going on in preparation for both of these initiatives.

Historical Plaques

Jane and Gerald Brocklesby are keen to get underway with a program of installing historical plaques around the town, and bring to this their enthusiasm, design and artistic talents.

There would initially be around ten plaques made, all uniform in size and design, each with a short story and including an early photograph of the building. The plaques would be placed on buildings considered to be of historical significance, mostly on Commercial Street. Among those considered are the Forman buildings, Top Hotel, Middle Hotel, Sutcliffe

buildings, The Borough, the old cinema site and Boston's Garage, with the permission of the owners of course.

The photograph on the plaque would illustrate the building as it was when first built. Where the original building no longer stands, the photograph and text will tell the story of the site and of the building that originally stood there. The cost of the plaques was an important issue and it was found that the etched aluminium product made by Bob Parry is very suitable. This will enable the preparation of the graphics to be done 'in-house'.

QR Codes:

We're getting something of a quick course in these aren't we what with Covid? All of a sudden they are everywhere.

The information on the plaques will not impinge on the QR code project. Scanning the QR code will offer comprehensive information about a great many sites; it will enable the user access to multiple photographs and text which will tell the story of Korumburra's history. The QR code path could be taken as a self guided walking tour. In addition to this it will enable a link to the Historical Society website.

QR codes are a unique pattern of tiny boxes that when read with a smart phone act as a quick link to a webpage. This means that we can connect a building to a page of information on our website by displaying a code in a shop window or on a fence. Some 200 potential sites around the town have been identified, but for the time being the project is concentrating on the material in the present historical walk brochure.

Everyone in the society can play a part in this project by undertaking research or sharing recollections. You may already be undertaking private research that would be relevant, or have a site that you would like to find out more about. Recollections are always valuable and these could either be written down or recorded orally. All contributions would be very welcome. Please get in touch with Marion Shuttleworth if you'd like to be involved. You can contact Marion at mshuttle@tpg.cocmc.au.

That's all pretty exciting really isn't it? Something of great interest to hear more about when we next meet. Olga has been very involved in working on the web site, and this is of great credit to her, and also to hear more of when we meet. Thankyou to Marion, Olga, Jane and Gerald for the work they are doing.

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

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