

We were able to meet for our March meeting at the soccer clubrooms in Richard Street. This provided a good big space where social distancing was the order of the day. Our next meeting will be at the shire meeting room adjacent to the library. There were some good stories and memories to share. It is quite amazing that when we stop to think, that there is information that each of us has as to our history, that we can share with the group.

**Next meeting: 7.00 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup>. April  
at the Meeting Room adjacent the Library**

There might still be some of us who need to renew our membership!  
\$15.00 for a single membership, \$25 for a family membership.

Alwyn will have his receipt book at the ready, or P.O. Box 329, Korumburra will find us.

You might like to draw on your memories and share them at the April meeting. We are all ready to soak up stories of the past, and hear recollections of earlier times.

Work is continuing with the plaque project, and we will be able to hear more on that at the meeting in April. Tony Lambides-Turner has completed work on an application for funding to help us with further digitisation of newspapers. Thankyou to Jane, Gerald and Tony for the time they are giving to these projects.

Australia's Heritage Festival takes place from 18<sup>th</sup>. April through to 19<sup>th</sup>. May this year. The theme is 'Our Heritage for the Future'. What can we do celebrate the heritage we have here? Is it that we launch the plaque project? Or is there something else?

There are some questions that the newsletter raises, and the couple of articles that follow might get you thinking of some other interesting things.

Great Southern Advocate, Friday 7<sup>th</sup>. July 1899. **KORUMBURRA  
FOOTPATHS.**

The article deals with "crossings which are in a most disgraceful condition". Premises mentioned are the FARMERS CLUB, KURRLE'S HOTEL, MR. HUCKELL (draper), MR. WRENCH, THE AUSTRAL HOTEL, and DR. JOYCE. The approach to the Farmers' Club approach was most disagreeable. The crossings of both roads at Kurrle's Hotel are despicable. The asphalted footpath opposite Mr. Huckell's has been saturated to such a degree that the top dressing is disappearing. The railway men crossing over to and on the footpath alongside Mr. Wrench's, at all hours of the night to attend their duties at the engine sheds have as much as they can do to keep their feet,

although at times they become inglorious figures in doing so. The crossing to the Austral, and the footpath near Dr. Joyce's, and again down Mine Road, to the level crossing wants speedy attention.

*What a great description of parts of the town this affords us, and it confirms locations too. Of course it is the case that with questions answered there are others asked.*

*(1) Where was the Farmers; Club?*

*(2) Where was Mr. Huckell located?*

*(3) Was Dr. Joyce's premises in the vicinity of the Austral Hotel?*

*We find out that:*

*(1) The Middle Hotel was already Kurrle's Hotel.*

*(2) There is at least some asphaltting, opposite Mr. Huckell's property.*

*(3) Wrench's business was at the top of Commercial Street at this time.*

*(4) We hear about the steady traffic to and from the railway sheds.*

*(5) There was the level crossing in Mine Road.*

*It was after all July in Korumburra, and we well know how wet and cold it can be, but with little in the way of footpaths, the situation seems to be dire.*

## **Our Streets**

Our member Tony Ware who lives in W.A. was interested in the Anglican Church calendar which has featured in the local paper, and about which we talked at the last meeting. Tony referred to Bob's book and his findings relating to Bourke Street, and had found an article which is very interesting. The Red Cross and Soldiers' Comfort Society used to collect donations around the town, and, Bourke Street came in at the bottom of the pile each time the results were published in the Great Southern Advocate. Then again he says, maybe it was a deprived part of town. For the two months, December 1916 to January 1917 the results were: Station Street, £3.19s., Commercial Street, £3.12s.6d., Gordon Street, £1., Bena Road, 19s., Lower Victoria Street, 15s.4d., Bridge Street, 13s., Guys Road 10s., Victoria and William Streets, 6s., and lastly Bourke Street 5s.

*This raises more questions doesn't it?*

*(1) There may have been less residents/homes in Bourke Street.*

*(2) Was this the extent of the streets in the town?*

*(3) Did you see Tracey Matthies' article in the local paper of 10<sup>th</sup>. March?*

**The Weekly Times** of Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>. January 1897 had a special inset that told of the businesses of six early Korumburra business people. Mr. Huckell who is mentioned earlier was one of these people.

**Giles Read and Isabella HUCKELL**

Mr. Huckell has been in the drapery business for many years and for six years was a partner in the business of Carter and Huckell of Chapel Street, Prahran.

He was very successful there and was able to retire from business altogether for about ten years. Like many others he was painfully involved in the interim period and was obliged to again enter into the old business. Four years ago he and his wife purchased the drapery and millinery business which had been carried on by Miss Davies in Korumburra for some time. The shop is situated on the rise in the main street and for a country business the stock is very extensive and comprises every branch of the business.

Millinery and dressmaking are carried on the premises. The dressmaking is supervised by a first class dressmaker from Robertson and Moffat's so that style and fit can be guaranteed to patrons. The business under the former proprietor, was an extensive one, but Mr. and Mrs. Huckell have added to it considerably. Theirs is a favourite shop for the farmers of the district who give the proprietors a good name for their obliging methods in business.

Nothing is too much trouble if a customer is to be suited and although such a large quantity of drapery is kept in stock, everything asked for is obtained if not in the shop. Mr. Huckell even now has a notion of extending his business by the purchase of more property.

The Huckells appear in the electoral roll for Korumburra, listed at Korumburra in 1903, with Giles listed as a draper. We find the couple at Euston Road, Malvern in 1916, Giles listed as a draper. Mr. Huckell died in Melbourne in 1921.

*There is a photo accompanying the article, showing the double fronted shop.*

- *We learn here that the Huckell business was 'situated on the rise', so, just where was this?*
- *The Huckells took over the business of Miss Davies. It would be interesting to know whether John Howell Davies who died in 1917 and had a business known as 'The White House' would have been connected to the earlier business of Miss Davies.*

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