



# Korumburra & District Historical Society

Newsletter March – April – May 2022 Issue # 49

## The Year Ahead

At the last meeting of 2021 the committee acknowledged the wonderful work undertaken to design and produce the historical plaques which are now in place in the Korumburra township. Despite Covid-19 disruptions, this is a significant achievement by the society during a difficult year... a credit to all involved!

In 2022 we plan to keep rolling with our current work, as well as looking at new initiatives, including seeking out ways to increase membership.

## Next Meetings

Due to the prevalence of Covid-19 it was decided to cancel our February meeting. Future meeting dates to be confirmed.

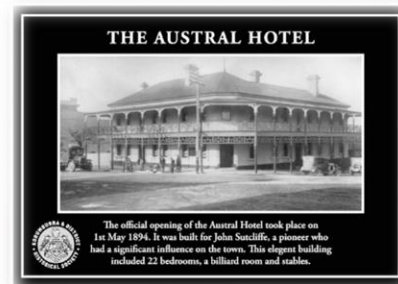
Due to the need to be flexible with our meeting dates we have decided that, rather than inviting outside speakers, who may have to make arrangements to travel some distance to our meetings, and perhaps having to cancel them, we are inviting members to come along to meetings and tell their stories, bring something to talk about, have a

topic to speak on, something that interests you in the way of our history. More details to come...

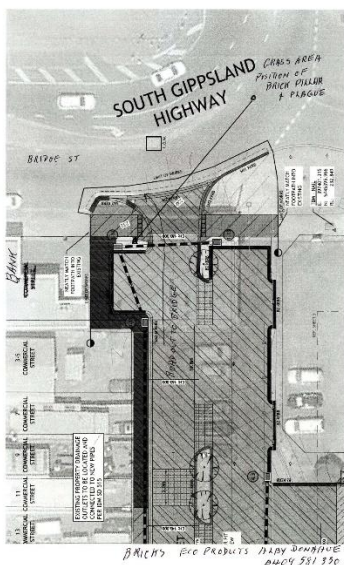
## Korumburra Historical Plaques Now in Place

The first phase of the Historic Buildings Program, undertaken during 2021 by the Korumburra & District Historical Society, has seen plaques for significant historical sites designed, produced and now installed in our district. You can find plaques at:

Austral Hotel,  
Korumburra Hotel, JB  
Automotive (Boston's),  
Alex Scott & Staff, Burra  
Barber, Sport First  
(Sutcliffe Building), Burra Hardware, and Korumburra  
Photos (Wrench's).



Or to view all plaques online visit our website ... click [here](#).



## Site Marking - Top of the Town by Doug Boston

I have made arrangements with the shire regarding the marking of the old building. The society asked the shire if we could put some memorial on the site in honour of the miners & the old building which was built in 1902 as a temperance hotel. Some of the bricks in the building came from the boiler chimney at the Austral Coal Mine. Many businesses have occupied the building over the last 100 years. Grocer, builder, dentist, fish shop, restaurant & others.

I met with William Garlepp, the Council's Senior Design Engineer, and we reached an agreement to locate a brick pillar made from the Austral bricks, it is to be located in a prominent position on the edge of the Bridge St. footpath at the Bridge St entrance to Little Commercial St. The shire will build the pillar ready for us to attach a plaque. The Society will supply & fix a plaque similar in design to the shop ones we have installed. A photo of the building and its history with recognition of the coal miners of the Austral would be appropriate.

## Find us on the Web:

- Facebook: [Korumburra Historical Society](#)
- Website: <https://www.korumburrahistory.com.au/>

**Historical Society's Rooms:** King St, Korumburra (below the Library). Check our website for opening hours. (Subject to change due to Covid-19).

## NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Contact: Janet Wilson, Secretary.

Ph: 0409 248 603 email: janet.wil@outlook.com

Or

Tony Lambides-Turner, President. Ph: 0419 218 341

email: tony.lambides@outlook.com

# From Newspapers of the Past

## Korumburra Mechanics Institute & Railway

*Great Southern Advocate, 22<sup>nd</sup>. May 1891. From our Correspondent.*

“It will be noticed by referring to your advertising columns, that the 2<sup>nd</sup>. day of June has been fixed upon for the opening of the Korumburra Mechanics’ Institute. This spacious edifice, measuring 70ft. x 30ft. in the clear, with two comfortable rooms attached, and constructed of hardwood and pine, is fast approaching completion. Considering that the structure has been erected in the short space of four weeks, volumes could not say more for the energy and dispatch of the contract of, Mr. Matthews, of Footscray. The execution of details, and workmanship throughout is of a high order of merit, fully satisfying the critical eye of the Clerk of Works, Mr. Eccles. In order to fittingly celebrate the great occasion, it is intended to hold a grand ball on the opening night. Everything that can be done to insure that the comfort of visitors will be carried out by the committee and Mr. Smith, the energetic secretary. The catering has been entrusted to our local confectioner, Mr. Weichart, than whom no one is better able to subdue the cravings of the inner man; and a trio of musicians is to be engaged in Melbourne, so that those who dearly love to pursue the glowing hours with flying feet, will be provided with a treat which they will recall

in after days with encomium, and dwell upon with feelings of pride intensified with pleasure.

The opening of the railway to Korumburra is looked forward to as an event in the progress of the township, and will, no doubt, at some future date, be bracketed in red letters with the starting of the machinery at the colliery.

The maiden tide of prosperity appears to be sweeping over the township at present. No doubt as with man, there is also a tide in the affairs of townships, which, taken at the flood, leads to fortune. During the week several allotments have been denuded of scrub, and in its stead houses are springing up with surprising rapidity.

The case of petitioners for severance from Woorayl and annexation to South Riding of Buln Buln is to be heard on 27<sup>th</sup>. inst. A meeting of the ratepayers is to be held at Korumburra and Arawatta next week, to select delegates to place the case clearly before the Minister, and, it is sincerely hoped, bring the cause to a successful close.”

## A House Warming in Korumburra

GREAT SOUTHERN ADVOCATE, 16TH. August 1928

“At the residence of Mr. and Mrs. L.E.C. Holmes a very pleasant and enjoyable evening took place on Friday, August 3rd. the occasion being a surprise party in the nature of an old time house warming to Mr. Holmes and family, who have recently moved into their new home.

The gathering comprises principally members of the Holmes family and near relatives, some of whom journeyed from Arawata.

The function served in no small measure also as a big family reunion, as practically every member of the family was present. It was pleasing to note that there were three generations of this popular family present, and each member enjoyed themselves to the full. Mr. Ed. Holmes appreciated the fact that he has a fine large ballroom in his new residence, as on this occasion it was quite the most favored room in the house, something like 50 people being assembled therein.

Dancing was indulged in until midnight, quite a feature of the function being the splendid music supplied by the Holmes Orchestra party, who were in specially good form with the piano saxophone, violin and flute. Modern dancing was discarded for a the time being in favor of old time methods of tripping the light fantastic. It was noticed that the musicians did not place any time limit on the various dances; it seemed a case of who would tire first.

It was good to see such a care-free, merry crowd on the floor, Songs were rendered at intervals and afterwards a splendid supper was partaken of.

The early dawn of Saturday morning was welcomed in with the singing of “Auld Land Syne,” and thus ended a well spent and truly pleasant evening.”

## Jumbunna Hotel

GREAT SOUTHERN ADVOCATE (Korumburra, Vic. : 1889 - 1906, 1914 - 1919, 1921 - 1940),

Thursday 20 September 1894, page 3

"JUMBUNNA HOTEL. - Mr. Kurrle, the proprietor of the newly-erected hotel at Jumbunna entertained about 50 of his friends at a banquet on Thursday evening last to celebrate the opening. Among those present were Messrs. R. S. B. Young, Radovick, Breton, Long, Horsley, Dr. McKenzie, Shiels, Gerrand, A. Mackay, Grant, S. Davies, and Eadie. The banquet room was splendidly laid out, and after full justice had been done to the good things provided, the following toasts were- proposed and responded to : — "The Queen," proposed by Mr.

Young ; " Parliament," proposed by Mr. Long, responded to by Dr. McKenzie; "The New Hotel and Host," proposed by Mr. S. Davis. Flemington, and supported by Messrs. Radovick and Eadie, responded to by Mr Kurrle "The Township and Mine," by Mr. Oliphant, and responded by Messrs. Long, Briggs, Gerrand, Horseley and Grant - The "Ladies" and "Press" brought a most enjoyable dinner to a conclusion, everything passing off with the greatest eclat. In the evening Mr. Kurrle gave a ball in. the Public Hall, which was largely attended."

Adam Cochrane is from 2 Lynn Street, Jumbunna (site of former Jumbunna Hotel). Adam has done some work on excavating the site of the Jumbunna Hotel. He is interested in getting guidance as to where to dig for more interesting finds. He has already uncovered the cellar. If you can contribute any information, please contact Adam: [adam.cochrane@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:adam.cochrane@education.vic.gov.au)

## Historical Society Enquiries - December to January

**The society continues to receive and respond to many enquiries for historical information.**

**Here's a list of the enquiries since December 2021.**

- Danial Anderson has been enquiring about the HOGAN, GARTON and MUNRO names. Frederick Garton served in WW1, as did Leslie Robert Hogan. Annie Munro and Leslie Robert Hogan married in 1921.
- Carol McCulloch wanted to know more about Mervis Burns GILBY born in Korumburra in 1910. He was the son of Florence Maud GILBY.
- Di Feldtmann is looking for information on Thomas JAMES and Mary Ann CHILD(e)S. She was wanting in particular information on Mary Jane James said to have been born on 28th. December 1868.
- Ron Freeman is seeking information on his FREEMAN family. Arthur Freeman was the son of Claremont Freeman and Edith May (nee Cruickshank).
- Christine Walker was seeking information on the history of the home at 8 Station Street, Korumburra.
- Sandra Wright is seeking information on Edith MILLER who died at Korumburra in 1908. Her daughter Esther married Charles HEENAN.
- Lisa Greenwood sent information on the ELLIOTT and SPENCE families.
- There was an enquiry about KORUMBURRA MOTORS, the business of Herbert C. DEANE.
- Barbara Knott sent the original agreement between her husband's father William George KNOTT and the STRZELECKI PRIORIETARY LIMITED.
- Mark Morris enquired about a brother of his grandfather, William MORRIS. He is seeking more information on this man who was a miner and a band master in the late 1890/early 1900s.
- Shirley Meredith enquired about her Grandfather John Thomson BLAIR, born in Korumburra in 1903.
- Lyn Mayer has enquired about the WALMSLEY family. She has sent family information which we will add to the archives.

## The History of Bands in the District

### Can you provide any information?

Janet Wilson has started a project looking at the history of bands in the district.

This has followed on from an enquiry about a local bandmaster, when Janet found we don't know a lot about bands in the area.

She is working through the newspapers at Trove, and there will be other sources, but if you can contribute any information, please contact Janet: janet.wil@outlook.com or phone: 0409 248 603

## New Book by Bob Newton on the history of the Finley Golf Club

Bob Newton, who has previously written a book on the history of the Korumburra Golf Club, has just finished producing a book on the history of the Finley Golf Club. Bob is one of our longtime and very active members. He has also written the book *Korumburra and District: Road Names and Places History* published in 2018, and is in the process of writing similar names and places books for other areas of South Gippsland.

We look forward to seeing this new publication when it's released in the near future!

## Newsletter Contributions

Do you have any contributions, feedback or suggestions for this newsletter?

Contact Rosemary Lyne, Newsletter Editor:  
denis.rosemary@gmail.com or 0429 171 832  
(leave a message or text if I don't answer)

*The Korumburra & District Historical Society acknowledges the Bunurong people as the Traditional Custodians of this land and their continued connection to land, sea, and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging*

### Committee

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