



Korumburra & District Historical Society

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**Korumburra and District
Historical Society Incorporated**

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Korumburra Community Hub
Little Commercial Street
Korumburra

Website

www.korumburrahistory.com.au

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Monthly Meetings

Public meetings of the Society are held
on the first Thursday of the month.
New members are welcome.

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From the Editors

We're well and truly into it after the break for Christmas and the holiday period.

Our first meeting for the year in February brought us an interesting photograph, and this issue contains a follow up to the discussions around that photograph. The men in white in the photograph were Druids and they are mentioned in an article 'Jubilee Celebrations at Korumburra' in this newsletter.

Our President Bob Newton told us about some interesting discoveries he is making in drawing together information on families of the district. Bob is enthusiastically continuing with this project.

Besides researching historical documents and photographs, an historical society needs to keep in mind the things that are going on around us that will become history in the future. And there is currently a hive of activity going on around us that is worth recording.

Besides the new Hub's appearance we can see the corner of Commercial and King Steets has now been cleared for the new supermarket. It certainly is strange to look out across this vacant space and it is rather sad to see the loss of some of the town's familiar buildings. It is pleasing to see the street trees are still there however, and hopes are that they will maintain their watch over the community for years to come.

VicTrack is still at work on the railway station site and hopefully the newly renovated goods shed will be put to good use soon. And the town street scape will soon be underway.

We are always on the look out for new members, and we welcomed three recently: **Kate Murphy, Kate Lance,** and **Susan Scally.** Annual subscriptions are now due for ongoing membership.

We hope you enjoy reading the articles we have been able to bring you in this issue.



The next meetings of the society will be held on Thursday 4 April and 2 May at 7.00pm in the Korumburra Hub building.

Visitors are always welcome, and we would really welcome new members.

We are more than happy to help people researching their families or seeking help in finding information on the history of Korumburra and the area of the former Korumburra Shire. Contact secretary@korumburrahistory.com.au. It would be good to make this contact to make an initial enquiry or to check that there will be people available at the Historical Society room.

Newsletter Contributions

Do you have any contributions, stories to share, or feedback for this newsletter?

Contact Janet Wilson, secretary@korumburrahistory.com.au



Opening a Door from 'Bonnie Vale' Moyarra

Compiled by Dennis Conn

The following narrative is founded in, and stems from experiences and memories, all of which were passed down to me from both my maternal grandmother, Jane Clark nee Matheson and my mother, Dorothy Ricardo nee Clark. The following memories and accounts of events by and large, are not to be found in the pages of *The Land of the Lyre Bird* however, they may at times make reference to some events mentioned in that book. It is more about the people who came and developed Bonnie Vale. Other than in the writings of the *Land of the Lyre Bird*, very little of their toil, achievements, contributions to the development of the dairy farming industry, local social history or changing landscape has been recorded. Most of this verbal history is now at risk of fading into the mists of time.

George Matheson in 1852. Photograph courtesy Lynden Matheson

The following has been compiled by Dennis, primarily from a verbal history of Bonnie Vale and its people, passed down to myself and siblings and now passed on to my husband and children. There are a number of items I now hold that add some measure of veracity to this narrative, such as the two paintings my great grandfather George Matheson had commissioned. His original oil paintings of both the Log Cabin, built by himself and the Bonnie Vale homestead with a view to the coastline. His personal first edition copy of *The Land of the Lyre Bird*, inscribed with his own hand written pen and ink signature and the words *Bonnie Vale May 1921*, that same book is stamped with the Bonnie Vale insignia, consisting of the two letters *B & V* intertwined and his original writing desk which he may have used in recording his recollections and experiences.

Val Conn nee Ricardo. 1 February 2024

Stored away at Whitelaw there is a large, heavy and ornate old door, still attached to its side panels, over mantel and wide doorstep. It is the original doorway entrance from the homestead at Bonnie Vale Moyarra. The door was purchased from the Berryman Family in the 1990's when they, the then owners of Bonnie Vale, demolished the old homestead in favour of a new brick home but kept the old door that was still in good order and was stored in an out building.

Today only a mere remnant of the 320-acre property selected by George Matheson in 1883 on the Korumburra – Wonthaggi Rd. at number 1095 remains, that being a replica of the original

gateway entrance to Bonnie Vale. Now situated on the south – east side of the main road just south of Hairs Rd, the replica gateway entrance to what is now a small acreage property. Bonnie Vale was so named in recognition of the Matheson's Scottish ancestry and still commands broad sweeping views southward over the Outtrim and distant plains to Inverloch and Bass Strait. George Matheson came from Clarendon near to Ballarat leaving his wife and first child, a baby son named John, with his parents John and Ann Matheson on their farm while he travelled to South Gippsland in a quest to find a property of his own. George was then thirty one years of age, his parents John and Ann had emigrated from the town of Dornoch in Scotland to Victoria in 1850.

My great grandmother Catherine Matheson nee Leng had grown up on her parent's citrus orchards at Irymple, where her family home still remains. The Lengs later gained some notoriety as the cultivators of the Leng Navel Orange. After selecting his property George Matheson cleared enough of the great forest on Bonnie Vale to establish some open pasture, sufficient to run a few Ayrshire dairy cows, fenced several paddocks and built a log cabin and a cow shed. His wife Catherine with their baby son, then came over from Clarendon by rail and then by horse from Drouin to Moyarra.

While living in the Log Cabin, as seen on page 268 in the *Land of the Lyre Bird*, the property was cleared of many of the trees and scrub forming the great forest that was covering the

land, leaving only a few patches of undergrowth and tree stumps. While George Matheson sought work off the property in order to make ends meet, he also continued to establish pasture on his own property. His wife milked the cows and made butter for sale as well as providing care for her growing family of children. Catherine would take her children along with her to the edge of the undergrowth or fence line, then placed her children in a hollow log while she gathered up the dairy cows, returned to the children, then drove the small herd back to a small milking shed, then milked them by hand.

Catherine bore a total of eleven children between 1883 and 1901, five boys and six girls, after six years of living in the log cabin they were able to move into their new homestead. As their family grew so too did the rooms of the homestead in order to accommodate them.

The remaining stumps of the giant eucalypt trees dotted the pastured landscape and the only way to remove them was to burn them after they had dried out. As long as the soil was dry enough, a fire lit in the centre of a stump would fan out through the root systems burning underground, all the while turning the wood into glowing red-hot ash. My grandmother Jane, as she grew older, had the job of bringing in the cows in to be milked. In so doing on one occasion, while walking over pasture she accidentally stepped upon an area that had a burning tree root system beneath it and her legs dropped into a hole of burning embers. All her mother could do was to cover her burns with

History Feature

butter, a then common remedy for burns. Gran carried the obvious scars that covered her legs for the rest of her life.

Catherine Matheson passed away suddenly four years after the birth of her last child in 1907 at the age of 46, she was laid to her somewhat premature but hard earned rest in the Outtrim Cemetery, only a short distance from her home. Some years later two of her daughters were also interred there, Georgina a spinster and Violetta who had married Alfred Barnes. George had his wife and daughter's graves fully covered, there are very few such graves in the Outtrim cemetery. Many years later two of the Matheson's grandchildren were interred beside them, they were, first an infant and then a teenager who drowned as the result of a boating accident at Inverloch.

George Matheson, was a man considered by many to have been a man before his time, he had through his initiative built up a highly productive dairy farm and a butter and cheese making business operated primarily by his own wife at first, then with the aid of family. He donated land upon which was built the Moyarra Presbyterian Church, opened in 1893 and destroyed by the bush fires of 1898. After the fire the church services were held in the log school house. My grandmother's bible presented to her as a token of remembrance from her Sunday School Class on her wedding day on the 6th of

May 1914 still exists. George Matheson made sure his children were well provided for while in his care, Bonnie Vale remained a financially viable enterprise, as he was quick to embrace new and innovative methods of dairy farming and land management.

Unfortunately, there was an enormous setback when in 1912, their dairy factory with its butter and cheese making plants, refrigeration plant along with it's contents were destroyed by a fire. No one was home when the fire broke out as the family had travelled down to Kongwak to attend a social event. The cause of the fire was never found and was thought to have been highly suspicious. One could only speculate as to the fire's cause, or why it may well have been arson.

George Matheson did not allow the two

greatest losses of his life on Bonnie Vale to overcome him, that of his wife, or their butter and cheese making plants. He and his family continued to strive toward improvements within the Dairy Farming Industry and their own local environment.

The age of mechanism had dawned and George Matheson invested heavily in the best available farm machinery and built silos for the storage of cattle fodder. The first in the district to have a motor car, a chain driven Galloway, imported from America and assembled by himself. Then later he upgraded to cars that were of a more modern vintage of the time, one of which had a shaft from the motor that could drive a belt driven circular saw bench, used for the sawing of fire wood.

Three of the Matheson sisters married three of the Clark brothers from Whitelaw, sons of

and did so to Charles Henry Clark at her Bonnie Vale home in 1914. Followed by her sisters, Harriet known as Hett, to Walter James (Jim) Clark also at Bonnie Vale in 1922, then Kate to Robert Clarence (Bob) Clark in 1926. My grandmother while growing up learnt from her father the art of making accurate predictions as to coming weather conditions, by the study of both sunrises and sunsets in conjunction with the phases of the moon. A valuable asset during her early married life when she and my grandfather lived on the lower end of Bena Rd. Korumburra, where they conducted a market gardening business.

Bonnie Vale had become the social centre of the Moyarra district and the Matheson Family hosted a large number of social events, catered for by the daughters of the family. In particular the pioneer gatherings, inviting not only pioneers

from the Moyarra district, but also pioneers from other areas of South Gippsland.

George Matheson and his contemporaries had the foresight and desire to leave for future generations, a record of their settlement within the great forests of South Gippsland. From their South Gippsland Pioneers Association they formed at first, a committee of nine people from Moyarra with George Matheson as the chairman, then followed a series of meetings held at Bonnie Vale. After a number



'Galloway' motor car with five of the Matheson girls in front of Bonnie Vale homestead circa 1912. Photograph courtesy Lynden Matheson

Henry and Elizabeth Clark. Elizabeth Clark gave birth to six sons and six daughters and with her last pregnancy gave birth to twins, a boy and a girl, making her family seven of each. The Matheson and Clark families shared mutual interests through their Scottish heritage and their Presbyterian religion. There were other business and more personal interactions with surrounding pioneer families. The Holmes Family of Arawata purchased George Matheson's first car the Galloway, then later used a part of its mechanism to drive a water pump. His youngest child and son also named George, married into the Adkins Family of Arawata, he married Miss Grace Adkins.

My Grandmother Jane, was the first of the three sisters to marry one of the Clark brothers

of successful gatherings of pioneers some from distant areas, it became necessary to extend the radius of scope of territory to be represented. Consequently, people from various districts were asked to assist, with the result that 15 members were elected as a new committee. The members were: G. Matheson, Chairman and Treasure Moyarra; J.W. Williams, Kongwak; R.N. Scott, Kongwak; R.J. Fuller, Bena; A.Gillam, Poowong; W.H.C. Holmes, Arawata; W. Mc Harg, Korumburra; A. Mc Lean, Moyarra; M. Halford, Korumburra; J. Western, Kardella; H. Dowel, Moyarra; T.J.Coverdale, Bena; W.M. Rainbow, Moyarra; A.W. Elms, Moyarra; F.P. Elms, Moyarra; Secretary.

As an inducement for people to write about their experiences, first on two subjects, virgin

History Feature



Welcome homecoming for James (son of George and Catherine) after serving and surviving all of W.W. I. Photograph courtesy Lynden Matheson

scrub and scrub cutting and picking up, a prize competition was advertised, there were a total of 28 papers on the two subjects entered. Circulars were printed and distributed among the pioneers in an effort to gather as much information as possible, in order to compile their book. Numerous photos were also passed to the committee, some of the monthly meetings were held in Korumburra, many more were held at Bonnie Vale. With the early pioneers continuing to contribute by writing down their recollections and experiences, their memories of settlement, along with other regional developments and the economic environment of their time.

Thus, Bonnie Vale became the birth place of what is now considered to be an iconic historical source of reference to the pioneer's settlement, toil, and development of South Gippsland, captured in word and picture. George Matheson and his contemporaries brain child had come to fruition when our pioneers first compiled their history of life in; *The Land of the Lyre Bird*.

The members of the committee formed to produce *The Land of the Lyre Bird* were the only pioneers who would receive a leather bound first edition of their book, unlike the other first editions that were bound in a thinner green coloured material, theirs were bound in a thick brown embossed leather outer cover. My great grandfather had also purchased a copy of the green covered first edition, his committee members only first edition was always to be seen upon my grandmother's mantel piece, regrettably its whereabouts are no longer known to us. His green covered first addition with his signature, as previously mentioned,

was found by us 101 years after having been signed. As recently as 2022 while on holiday we were looking through a second-hand book shop in regional Victoria when we had a goose bump moment. We found his green covered first addition, which seemed to whisper to us 'take me back to where I belong'. So it was that George Matheson's personal first edition ended its century long journey and returned to his descendants.

Fortunately, my great grandfather encouraged his daughter Georgina to take up photography. Georgina passed away at the very young age of 35 years leaving for the now widely cast descendants of George Matheson and his wife Catherine, a legacy of various and diverse subjects she had photographed at Bonnie Vale. Buildings both internal and external, family members and other towns and places in South Gippsland. Unfortunately, not all her photos have survived as some have been lost or maybe destroyed in some way. However, there have been enough seen to give an excellent and realistic view of early settlement and pioneer achievements in the *Land of the Lyre Bird*.

In later life my great grandfather took up the hobby of wood turning and produced a large array of wooden ornaments, bowls and walking sticks, three of the sticks he made we now have. After the sale of Bonnie Vale in 1923 to the Miles family they removed a section of the homestead to provide a home for one of their family members. They moved that section of the homestead south, approximately three hundred meters from the present gateway into Bonnie Vale. A timber home is still standing on a sharp

bend of the Korumburra – Wonthaggi Rd, within its walls there is remaining the basis of that home, a section from Bonnie Vale homestead. Upon his retirement my great grandfather moved to Leongatha and a home in Peart St. which is still standing. After a few more years he then moved to Geelong and into a home that is also still standing in Autumn Street.

George Matheson passed away at Geelong in 1941 aged 89 years, he had lived a long and fruitful life, he was brought back to South Gippsland to be interred beside his beloved wife Catherine in the Outtrim Cemetery. How ironic it is, that their final resting place along with several other pioneers in the Outtrim Cemetery Reserve, is now being encroached upon by stands of Eucalypt trees, including one highly endangered species. Trees that our pioneers over 140 years ago, strove to remove from the Land of the Lyre Bird.

An example of the religious convictions held by George and Catherine Matheson and family, is the poignant epitaph upon Georgina Matheson's grave, it reads as follows – 'Though thou hast called me to resign, what most I prize, it ne'er was mine'.

Today the only remaining tangible evidence upon our landscape, giving credence to George and Catherine Matheson's fortitude in a wilderness that was once the Land of the Lyre Bird is, the original brass name plate of Bonnie Vale and an out building at Moyarra, also the grave stones covering their resting place at Outtrim Cemetery, upon which is inscribed - 'Be ye also ready'.

The King Street 'Alp' Duplex

This piece was written and illustrated by Judy Ife. It is an observation of the duplex houses' Edwardian architectural style.

This picture shows an early view of the Alp duplex houses in King Street which were recently demolished to make way for the proposed IGA supermarket. It is interesting to note the sale yards in the background and the blacksmith's yard at the Commercial Street end. Interesting too are the street trees that have now grown to full size and are all that remain at the site.

Intriguing and unique, the mirror image duplex houses at 3 and 5 King Street are a fascinating part of the streetscape and story of Korumburra.

Viewing these properties, also termed maisonettes, there is a sense that you have transported to inner urban Melbourne. Their construction is in stark contrast to the freestanding weatherboard houses commonly built in Korumburra during those times. The decade of their construction was the 1920s when Edwardian or Federation was the popular architectural style.



Edwardian and Federation Styles (c 1901 and beyond) are largely similar with elements such as steeply gabled rooflines extending over verandahs, asymmetrical floorplans and tall multi-paned windows. However Federation houses embraced Australian themes. They are distinguished by features such as leadlight windows depicting native animals and flowers, or a sunrise motif on the gable, representing the birth of the new nation of Australia.

The First World War and the ensuing influenza pandemic resulted in a less opulent



form of domestic architecture. The Alp duplex houses display the more restrained period characteristics. Red brick construction is ornamented with stucco panelling. Roofs of terracotta tile completed with ornamental terracotta finials are typical of this style. Simple decorative areas of wooden fretwork finish the edges of the porch roofs. The prominent box bay window with its terracotta roof awning adds charm to the facade.

Significantly, on the front gables, the triangular section on the walls where the roof pitches intersect, we see the sunrise motifs. Depicted in wood, contrasting against the stucco panelling, the sunrise pattern is an integral feature. Two decades after the birth of Australia, and following the dawning of the ANZAC legend during WW1 (Australian troops wore badges featuring the sunrise motif), nationalism was celebrated in these houses.

The Alp Duplex Federation Houses are unique in the Korumburra streetscape.

A Research Project!!

We get many people coming into our room on a Tuesday afternoon, or emailing, asking if we have any information about their house.

It would be fantastic to set up a database of photos and other interesting facts about some of the older houses in our area.

Do you have any old photos that could be included? Maybe your parents or grandparents had photos of their old house.

Reach out to us either:

- in person on a Tuesday afternoon in our room at the Hub,
- on our Facebook page 'Korumburra Historical Society',
- or email secretary@korumburrahistory.com.au

Pioneers

'A Sensory Introduction to South Gippsland – 1878'

Another 'faction piece...fiction written around basic facts', about the Holmes family settling in Poowong.

By Linda Fisher

...'What have we done?' thought Emma, as she lay on her hard, dirt floor bed, listening to the unfamiliar sounds of the Australian bush. The thud and crash of the wallabies through the bush, the grunting of the monkey bears (koalas) high in the trees, the brightly coloured birds twittering and singing, and the scratching of the possums looking for food. Worst of all was the rustling amongst the undergrowth, of snakes, slithering around.

We have been here for a week, and it has hardly stopped raining. Winter doesn't even start for another couple of weeks.

The South Gippsland bush was rugged, trees were 300 feet tall, with the pathway to their clearing only wide enough for the horse, loaded with their belongings. The family had walked single file for a day to get there from the nearest civilization. Barely any daylight reached the ground through the trees.

Emma and the seven children, aged from 11 years, down to 15 months, had finally joined Lawrence in Australia, from New Zealand. They had arrived a month earlier than expected, so their new house wasn't completed.

'Castle Comfort', their home in Poowong, consisted of a stone wall with blankets hurriedly attached for walls and roof. Not much to protect them from the cold and rain. The scrub, ferns, nettles and logs came right up to the blankets, as Laurence had only been able to clear a small area.

As Emma lay dozing, she could smell the odour of damp woollen blankets, together with the ever present aroma of eucalyptus, combined with the smoke from the fire. A fire which was burning to keep her husband and older sons warm, where they slept outside.

Emma wondered what the future held for her family.

This is the second in a series where Linda puts her words to the real life adventures of her pioneer family, one of the first to settle in Korumburra.



'Castle Comfort'

'This is a photograph of an original painting of the first LC Holmes family home at Poowong. The painting was completed by teenager Will Holmes, the eldest son of LC and Emma Holmes, on a Sunday afternoon after return from Church. The original painting is still in existence (c.2007) and is painted on the cardboard back of a mirror.'

The Korumburra Fire Bell

By Bob Newton.



Pictured above is the former fire bell that is now located at the current Korumburra fire station, it was donated by the Coal Creek Coal mine company in 1896 when James Hardwick was the manager – it was surplus to their needs. After a meeting in Radovick's hotel a fire brigade was formed. The newly formed Fire Brigade station and tower was established at the top end of Main Road (later changed to Commercial Street).

The Coal Creek coal mine was located in the Ivy O'Neill Park in Mine Road, the Fire Brigade was relocated to Mine Road in 1963, where a siren was installed and the bell was no longer needed, thankfully the bell was saved by the brigade members, or this 123 year old history would not have been discovered after my research.

The Fire Brigade, in its infancy was equipped with the old hand reel which had to be pulled by the firemen to wherever a fire broke out. The efficiency of the brigade, however, was good, and many outbreaks were kept in check, otherwise the whole of the main street would have gone up in smoke.

Frank Kitchingman was one of its early captains, and Peter McGrath was secretary. The brigade conducted a sports meeting on the showgrounds on New Year's Day for a long time, and raised much of its finance by it. The woodchops were most popular at those meetings, and were contested by the best axe men in the district.



Stories from Bob Newton's Notebook

These stories are taken from historian Bob Newton's as yet unpublished book and are subject to copyright. They are not to be used without permission of the author.

A Miner's Lot

Harold Botsford first came to Korumburra in 1913 on a visit with a salvation army band, he returned three years later to serve his apprenticeship as a miner in the old Coal Creek mine. He was one of four miners who initially opened up the Cardiff mine, an extension of the Sunbeam and later he worked for many years in Peter Hudson's Austral coal mine. His wages when he first started at Coal Creek amounted to eight shillings a day—eighty cents in today's money.

In 1923 he was working with Bart Jackson on a coal cutter in the Austral coal mine. Mr Botsford was pulling the cutter blade out to oil it when it hit a chock and kicked on to him the still working cutter blade. It hacked into his stomach and legs, but for the power lead getting in the way of the blade and being severed to disconnect power, Mr Botsford could have been killed. Eighty-three stitches were needed to sew up his wounds and he spent 4 and a half months in the Jumbunna Road private hospital, there was no public hospital in those days.

For five and a half months he received the grand sum of twelve shillings per week compensation for his wife Elvie and himself, with an additional two shillings and six pence per week for each of his two children. His workmates chipped in to give him another two pounds per week to build up to his normal weekly pay. No help at all was received from the mine management. Peter Hudson had told him, 'you're young you'll get over it'.

When Mr Botsford felt he was fit enough to return to work, Hudson offered him a month's trial to see he was strong enough to again perform the hard work of a miner, there was no mention of pay for the trial period. Mr Botsford's workmates, and those in other district mines and at Wonthaggi, were prepared to strike if he was not paid. Hudson averted a showdown by paying him and reinstating him as a full-time miner. Following a further leg injury in 1936, Mr Botsford's wife insisted that he leave the mine before he was carried out.

He spent 20 years working in coal mines in Korumburra from 1916 to 1936, he hasn't many pleasant memories except for the friends he made and the loyalty he encountered from the men with whom he worked. He didn't have much to say about mine management, and it was the things he didn't say which left the impression that the early mine bosses were not as humane as the miners who worked for them.

Mr Botsford had been bandmaster for the Korumburra Salvation Army Band for 16 years, and he was able to obtain a bandmaster's position with the army in Melbourne. He recalled that the Korumburra Salvation Army band had 20 players when he left the town. They used to play three times every Sunday in most Streets in the town.

Mr Botsford was the oldest miner to return to the reunion held in 1981 when a miner's plaque was unveiled at the Coal Creek Historical Park. He was 85.

Advance Australia Fair, started in Changi Prison.

Quotes from Frank Rich on Changi

'Advance' was the National Anthem of POW's

Retired T V personality, Frank Rich said that Australian concert programs in the Changi Prisoner of war camp opened with Advance Australia Fair and concluded with God Save The King. He said, 'I was sitting alongside two English officers when one concert started: and as they resumed their seats one asked what the first tune was. The other said The National Anthem of the Ma-ori ol'chap'.

Then there was the time a Japanese guard came in during a rehearsal. On stage actors spoke their lines and occasionally added derogatory remarks about the Japanese in general and the guard in particular, when the actors gave way to a violinist, the guard walked to the stage and in English asked: 'Would you please play Silent Night, it is my favorite number'.

In the camp were two pith helmeted, moustached English officers, who had spent their army days in India, Mr Rich said they were Kipling characters, one, when asked how he was, would reply, 'Fair to Blooda'. They were all guts and not a brain between them, Their names were Major Dart and Major Nicholls. A sketch was built around them, so that nobody would fail to recognize them. The characters were named Major Fart and Major Pickles, the audience roared. Major Dart's only comment was, 'Jolly good show, I knew a couple of pukka sahibs in India like them'.

Frank Rich had a property at Tarwin Lower along with Michael Williamson. Williamson Road, Venus Bay was named after Michael and Gretta Williamson, local girl of Connie and Joe Janssen, married Michael Williamson's son. Ellen Avenue Tarwin Lower, was named after Joff Ellen, the locals did mix a bit with the Channel 9 crew that were involved in the establishment of the estate. Peter Van Dryden informed the author that Ellen Avenue was named after Joff Ellen, part of the, *In Melbourne Tonight* cast, a television personality during the 1960's and 1970's. Sydney Court Venus Bay, runs off Atherton Drive, it is believed to be named after Sydney Heylen, a son of Leslie Heylen. Sydney was a comedian in the early days of television, he worked with Michael Williamson—who developed land in Venus Bay.

Heylens Road, Nyora was located between Yannathan Road and Forest Drive and no longer exists—it is now included in McDonalds Track. The Road was named after Reginald Howard Heylen and Leslie Heylen. Leslie was a 1st WW soldier. The original Heylen house is still on the corner of Yannathan Road and McDonalds Track.

Jubilee Celebrations at Korumburra

(from Great Southern Advocate, Thursday 1st. July 1897)

Janet Wilson looks into Korumburra's long forgotten Jubilee Celebrations and reveals some surprising discoveries.

Saturday, the day of days for the above celebrations at Korumburra looked dismally on the outing, and at intervals discharged the watery elements on all who ventured out to take part in the proceedings. Punctually to time the procession, which was one of the great features of the movement, left the Baptist Church, headed by the Brass Band. By the time a great crowd had gathered in the chief streets through which the procession would pass, as it wound its way along it was at once voted a success. Messrs. Shegog, in a student's dress and McCowan, in kilts, were at the head of the procession after the band, while the secretary, Mr. Moore, on a little squat pony and arrayed as a court's jester, looked all that could be desired. Several members of the committee were nicely and becomingly attired in fancy dress, with darkened faces followed; while Messrs. Robinson and Story, gorgeously arrayed in costumes of the early centuries, outshone all beholders. Mr. Gillard, as a fire king, was sumptuously arrayed with his long flowing gown looking every inch a monarch. In the procession, the Korumburra Fire Brigade was undoubtedly the best turnout as a whole. Every one of the members was most fastidiously dressed in different colours, with tall hats made specially for the occasion, while the hose and reel of the local brigade were very nicely done up. The Druids in their long flowing beards and white gowns, turned out in large numbers, and made up one of the most imposing portions of the procession. Mr. Ross, in an Esquimaux dress, fairly puzzled everyone to identify him; but looked like the Wild Man from Borneo. So well was he disguised that when he was mounting his horse to join the procession, a large dog sighted and made for him. Quick and agile as he was the dog had some of his fur and a bit of his leg before he could make the brute understand he was not to be hunted. Mr. Burston, the well known butcher, had an excellent turnout – a gaily decked cart, one of the occupants nursing a small pig in it. Following close behind was a



The photograph above shows the procession as described in the article – the dog still has its eyes on the Wild Man of Borneo! The photograph below, taken in a different year clearly shows the Druids dressed in their white gowns.



Roman chariot, drawn by a horse with gaiters on. While one of the early descendants of Adam manipulated the handles of the chariot; another occupied a set therein and a third cur antics perched on a pack saddle on the horse. Then came the Settler's Return, a grotesque picture of what remained after a sojourn in the wilderness. A barber's turn out, in which everything was done while you waited, caused much amusement. Messrs. Little, Mitchell and Robinson well marshalled the display. Arriving

at the corner of Commercial Street, the unique gathering halted, and while the band played the National Anthem and the men remained with their heads covered, a tree to commemorate the auspicious reign of Her Gracious Majesty was planted by the President of the Shire. The procession quickly reformed and continued its march down the street to the excellent music provided by the two bands. So far the proceedings were a great success. At this time there must have been over 1000 persons in

the streets all anxious to take part in the day's enjoyment. Unfortunately, however no sooner was the end of Commercial street reached than the rain began to descend in copious showers, and continued almost uninterruptedly the whole day. Only about one half of the persons who came into the sports braved the elements and visited the ground during the afternoon.

On the grounds, Messrs. Little, Joyce, Moore, Gillard, Story, Lloyd, Robinson, Middleton, Mitchell and others worked hard to make the gathering a success, and it was a great pity the admirable arrangements made for the management of everything were so much interfered with by the inauspicious weather.

The fireworks display, which should have been held on the grounds, was transferred to the top of Commercial street, some splendid rockets being let off during the night. A torchlight procession marched through the town, and a concert under the chairmanship of Dr. Joyce, was afterwards held in the Mechanics' Hall. Whoever visited the ground during the day thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Although at roll call next morning there were many missing, still as it was Sunday, they were excused, and by Monday when they came to fill their accustomed places they bore traces of Jubilee celebrations held at Korumburra on the Saturday previous.

On Sunday afternoon the Korumburra Mechanics' Institute was crowded almost to suffocation to hear the hospital Sunday service in conjunction with the jubilee. The Rev. Mr. Filmer occupied the chair, and on the stage were the Revs. Reid and Grove, besides a very large united choir under the baton of Mr. A.P. Lloyd, while Mr. D.E. Davis presided at the organ, played the 'National Anthem' and was accompanied by all present, then followed by prayer by the Rev. Mr. Grove.

The 'Gloria' from Mozart's 12th. Mass was then given by the choir, who also gave 'In Splendour Bright', from 'The Creation', the recitative being taken by Mr. R. Jensen, and the trio by Miss Isona and Messrs. Jensen and Burnet 'All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name' and 'The Old Hundredth' were also sung. Fervent and inspiring addresses were delivered by the clergy present, and by Captain McCamish, of the Salvation Army, the band of which also gave two selections. The sum of nearly eight pounds was collected at the hall.

Bookshop

The following books are currently available for purchase from the Historical Society by contacting the Secretary by email: secretary@korumburrahistory.com.au

The Land of the Lyre Bird	\$40
The History of the Shire of Korumburra by Joseph White	\$15
A Gippsland Union, the Victorian Coal Miners Association 1893-1915 by P.D. Gardner	\$5
Coal Creek Miners Memorial, Compiled by Doug Boston & Janet Wilson	\$10

Membership Application

2023-2024

From 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024

I/we
Of (address)
Phone Nos
Email

Agree to comply with the Rules of Korumburra & District Historical Society Inc. and support the purposes of the Association.

Signed
Date

Fees are:

For 2023-24 Financial Year are:

- Single Membership: \$15.00 – entitled to one vote
- Family Membership: \$25.00 – entitled to one vote
- Corporate Membership \$50.00 – entitled to one vote

For direct deposit of Fees our account is:

Commonwealth Bank, Leongatha
BSB: 063 515 Account Number: 10014263

Please use your name and membership in the reference.

Either post this completed form to us at the postal address above or submit it online.

To submit online: scan and email this form to treasurer@korumburrahistory.com.au along with a copy of your bank deposit receipt.

The committee would like to know if you have any particular interest, experience or qualifications.

Website: www.korumburrahistory.com.au