
BELLARINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



New Committee of Management

At the Annual General Meeting on the 3rd October a new Committee of Management was elected. There were a few significant changes to our Executive. Genevieve Kelly has become our new President. Susan Saunders will be the new Vice President. Loris Phair is the new Secretary. Sue Wall continues as Treasurer. Congratulations to all. Four continuing Committee members round out the management group: Ann Hodgkinson, Gwenda Brehaut, Beth Ghiotti and Ann Cullen. Sadly, we farewelled Loz Stokes and Deb Seymour from our committee. Loz was thanked for her work as President over the past year.

This quarter was a little quieter than the last with most of our Fiftieth Anniversary Events now completed. We opened every Sunday with only one month's winter shut down in August. Nevertheless, there were still a number of activities during these months particularly involving our enthusiastic volunteers.

Geelong Vintage Car Club Visit. We had a second car club visit to the Museum with around 20 members visiting us one cold Sunday in July. They had a thorough look over our exhibits and were given a talk on the history of Drysdale. Several took copies of our Historic Driving Tour map before taking a short detour around the district before heading to a lunch in Ocean Grove. Thank you to Anne Cassar for helping out on the day.

During the August shutdown we had a **Volunteers Get Together** with lunch and tea tasting at Bellarine Providores in Drysdale. As well as a social meeting, two projects were introduced and volunteers were asked if they would like to participate. One involved a research project our member, Rochelle Wiltshire, was doing as part of her Master's degree. She was gathering information on how our members obtain and use historical information. We will be interested in hearing her results which may inform our activities in the future. Secondly, they asked if they would be interested in participating in a new project to write 2 to 4 booklets on Anne Drysdale and Caroline Newcomb, to replace *The Lady Squatters*, which is now out of print. More on this below.



Our August Get Together

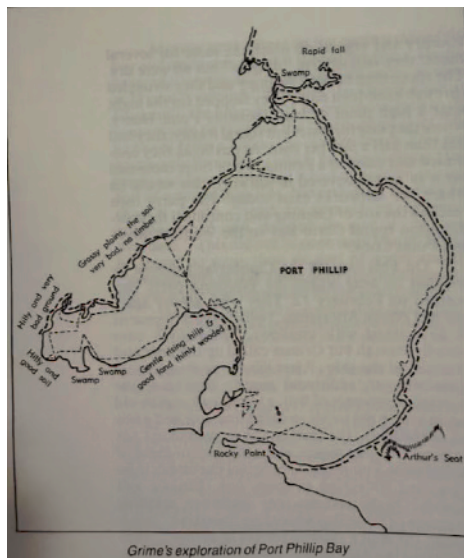
On the 23 August, we hosted another very successful **Fly On The Wall** session. Organised by Jenny Macauley, six writers read out two short stories each to a full house. One story appeared to have been written by an actual Fly on the wall, as it contained a very accurate recounting of the history of our Museum. It is attached to this email for your enjoyment.



Fly on the Wall

Drysdale and Newcomb: Retelling their Story. As mentioned above, we proposed to our volunteers the idea of writing some new booklets. There was considerable interest in being involved in a group to plan, research, write and edit these booklets with 14 members attending two information sessions on this project. Of these eight have committed to working it through. It was decided to commit to the first two booklets which will expand and replace the material in John Richardson's *The Lady Squatters*. These booklets will each be about the size of his and cover: Booklet 1: The Early Years [up to 1848/49, when they gave up the lease on Boronggoop]; Booklet 2: Coriyule and beyond [taking in the deaths of Anne and Caroline and the subsequent owners of Coriyule land]. We are now in the research phase, going through the available resources to extract the information needed for the first booklet. It is hoped to have

this booklet ready by the end of this year. One side benefit is that we will have another group of trained researchers among our volunteers.



Source: Ian Wynd, Balla-wein,
p. 4

Who was Charles Grimes? On the 27 September, Harry Roberts from the Geelong Historical Group gave a talk on the early discovery of Port Phillip Bay. Grimes arrived in the Bay in January 1803 on the *Cumberland*, captained by Lt. Charles Robbins. Robbins circled the Bay on water while Grimes and a small party circumnavigation it on land including the Bellarine Peninsula, moving in a clockwise direction. Grimes report to Governor King in Sydney was favourable of the land on the Peninsula but less so of that around the rest of the Bay. To forestall a possible French occupation, David Collins was dispatched to set up a convict settlement at Sullivan's Bay in April 1803 before they had received Grimes' report. Facing poor soil and lack of water, they left a year later. However, both William Buckley and John Pascoe Fawkner (as a child) were in this contingent, and later figured in the history of the area.

Ocean Grove Resources: We were contacted by the administrator of the estate of a local Ocean Grove resident who had a large collection of books, school records and scrapbooks on the history of Ocean Grove. They were offered to us. This has greatly expanded our collection on that part of the Bellarine. So if anyone is researching family or local history there, come and see what we have.



Barwon Heads Bridge under
construction 1927

A surprise visit to the Museum from Drysdale Primary School. One Thursday, Loz spotted a large group of schoolchildren walking down Princess Street. They were on an exploration walk of the town. Invited in to see the Museum, we had over 100 small children excitedly viewing our exhibits. They particularly liked the Judge's Chair, the photos of old ships, the olden day toys, and the school exhibit. The teacher assured us 'they'll be back'. Due to constraints on photographing children we cannot bring you the mass view but were allowed to take these cameos.



Children examining Gwenda's
Schools exhibit



Loz shows them our toy
collection

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT?

We are running a major fundraiser for the Museum in November. Join us for a fun filled afternoon at the Bellarine Historical Society Museum, 11 High Street, Drysdale on 8 November at 2 pm.

We have selected 10 mysterious objects from our collection. The Fly on the Wall group have written three possible origin stories for each item. One is True! You choose which one.

Followed by a magnificent afternoon tea. Prizes for those who get the most correct answers.

All funds raised go to the Society. Tickets \$15 available from:

<https://trybooking.com/DQIAI> OR email:
annhod712@icloud.com



Do you know what this
is?