

# the Black Sheep

Combined Journal of the East Gippsland Family History Group Inc. and the East Gippsland Historical Society Inc. May 2014: No. 84

Seeing double : is it  
Mr Stocks or Mr Furphy?

Walter Peeler, V.C

Remembering  
Charles Radford  
of "754"



## East Gippsland Family History Group Inc.

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OPENING HOURS

TUESDAY 10am to 4pm  
THURSDAY 10am to 4pm  
(up to 7.00pm when volunteers available)  
SATURDAY 10am to 12noon  
(except 2nd Saturday of month 10am to 4pm)  
Charges: Non members \$10 per day  
RESEARCH FEE \$25 minimum fee

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

Joining Fee \$5  
Ordinary Member \$30  
Extra Family Member (same address) \$15.00  
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Subscriptions due on 1 July in each year

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May 2014



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www.eastgippslandhistoricalsociety.com

### OPENING HOURS

WEDNESDAY 1pm to 4pm  
SATURDAY 1pm to 4pm  
SUNDAY 1pm to 4pm

### MUSEUM ADMISSION CHARGES

Adults \$5: Conc/Student \$4 :Children \$2  
The museum houses furnishings, artefacts, machinery and memorabilia of local history, *Calejero* log cabin c1880 and Union Bank coach house.

RESEARCH FEE \$10

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

Joining Fee \$5  
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### Cover:

A section of the Main Street of Bairnsdale giving a "close up" look at the detail of the image discussed on page 11.

*East Gippsland Historical Society image.*

# bethink . . . .

I really want to get away from doing “war history” related articles but every time I think we can have an issue of *Black Sheep* without such, someone finds something really interesting to put in! I am sorry you are just going to have to put up with it because I have no doubt that until we get over all the anniversaries that loom on the horizon there are going to many “timely” discoveries revealed.

For some time I have considered the worth of having basic research articles in *Black Sheep* as I (and others) have sadly noticed that we can all improve our research skills, and in doing so, have greater satisfaction from the effort.

Do you want “back to basics” research guides .... like dating photographs, searching a land title, using catalogues, the library system, etc? We have a library full of resources but they are not all in the computer room. Don’t be fooled into thinking that all the information on the microfilm and fiche and in the books has been “uploaded” somewhere in cyberspace for you to find it on the computer. And don’t be fooled into thinking that everything you read on *Ancestry* is correct either. Yes it is a wonderful place to start ..... but it is not where you should finish. *Ancestry* is only as accurate as the person who researched it in the first place and I personally think that the majority of it has been “appropriated” accordingly without regard to its accuracy.

Tony and I confirmed this ourselves with the article on Charles Radford in this issue. Looking at his trees (and there were a few) on *Ancestry* there was a lot of conflicting and wrong information. But if you look at the original Census, B.D.M and shipping records it can be sorted out.

I have experienced the same confusion in my own family history when, according to *Ancestry*, my great grandfather spent the majority of his life in the United States. The main problem with that is his diaries describe a full and busy life in rural New South Wales. Then this week a distant relative presented me the other side of the family that they had done from *Ancestry*. “Wasn’t it wonderful?” .... well actually no it wasn’t. There were five mistakes in the spelling of names in my immediate tree (that is me, my sister and parents). So why would I trust the rest of the printout? Even with a cursory glance I could see other errors. The same errors that have been appearing in the Hayes tree for some years if you only consult *Ancestry*. I am not saying that *Ancestry* is not a useful tool, but it is a tool, one of many, and not all the tools are in the same shed.

At the same time we were looking for Mr Radford, we fell over the 1962 Charter of the Richmond County Historical Society in Canada. (We were trying to work out the role of the British outpost at Richmond so of course we went to the historical society website). In part their

Charter reads

*“To discover and rescue from the unsparing hand of time the records which yet remain of the earliest history of Canada. To preserve while in our power, such documents as may be found amid the dust of yet unexplored depositories, and which may prove important to the particular history of this Province, County of Richmond and adjacent areas.”* It goes on to say the charter of the Richmond County Historical Society expressed the purpose for the founding of the society. To that end,

*an archive developed and grew with historical papers and documents of particular interest to Richmond County. These documents include paper records (letters, diaries, journals and other unpublished written materials); photographs and other visual records; maps, plans and architectural records; sound recordings and oral history tapes; printed material (eg. local newspapers, books) electronically stored data and the records of the Richmond County Historical Society.*

Fifty years later and it seems to me that this is one of the most succinct descriptions of the purpose of our societies as I for one believe (and hope) that there are still dusty unexplored depositories to find and lost records to find. And sadly, as is more often the case than not, history still is not held in the regard that it should be within the general community .

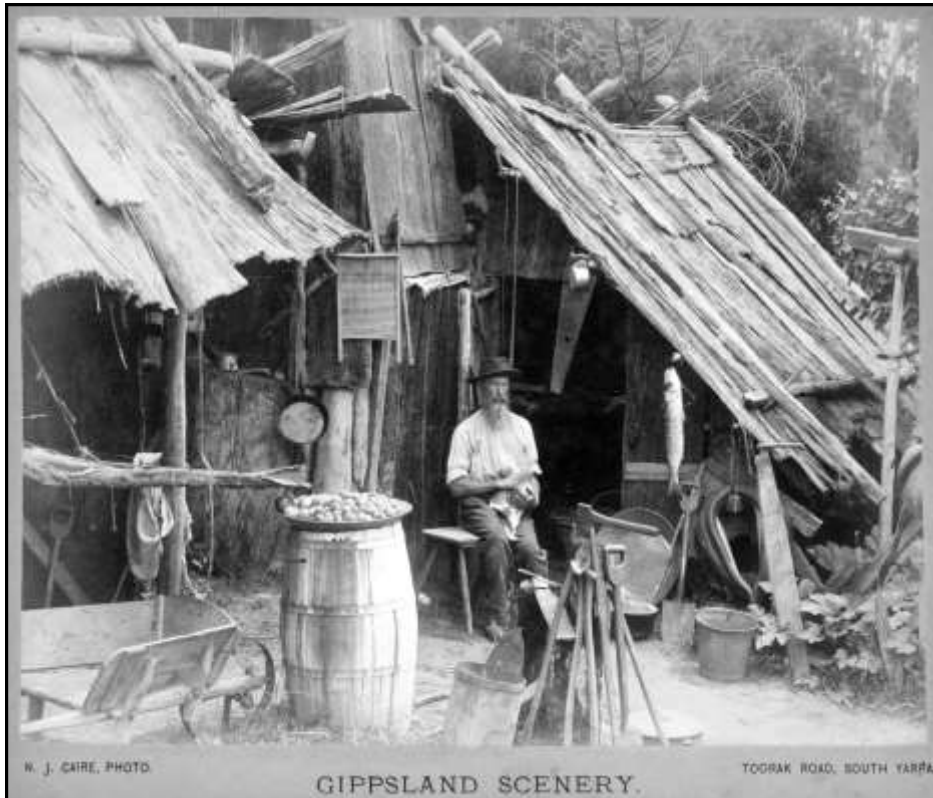
Debbie

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Congratulations on the new library, because it isn't just a library. It is a space ship that will take you to the farthest reaches of the Universe, a time machine that will take you to the far past and the far future, a teacher that knows more than any human being, a friend that will amuse you and console you -- and most of all, a gateway, to a better and happier and more useful life.

Isaac Asimov, Science Fiction Writer, 1920–1992  
on the opening of the Troy Public Library, Mississippi, 1971

# Seeing Double : Is it Mr Stocks or Mr Furphy?

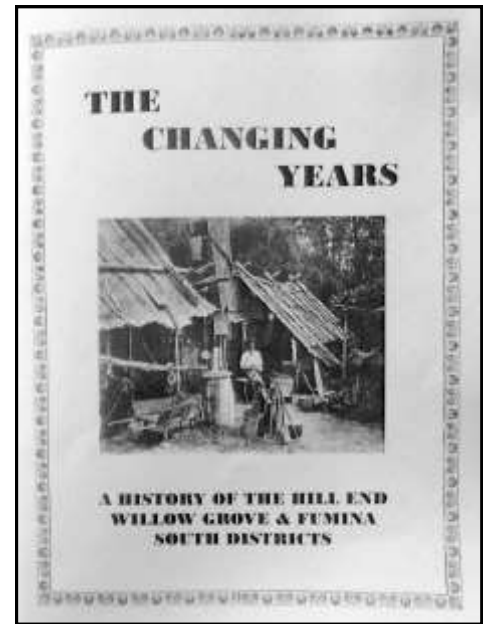


*The Nicholas Caire image with the original caption on the mount card..*  
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/version/182663873>, c1886

Those who have been involved in the history of East Gippsland for some time would probably be familiar with the Nicholas Caire image shown above. There's a copy of it in the museum collection and it has been used fairly extensively in local publications it would be fair to say. It's Mr Stock outside his hut at Croajingolong - right?

Well apparently not ..... as I was cruising around Ebay recently I noticed a Gippsland book up for sale - *The Changing Years: A history of the Hill End, Willow Grove and Fumina South Districts*, published c1972, and the front cover sports a copy of the image. Strange, I thought, why put an East Gippsland image on a West Gippsland publication? One of the images put up to support the sale was an open page spread including the same image again only this time I could zoom in and read the caption as "Furphy's Hut"

We know that Caire visited this region in early 1886 as he signed the visitor's book at Lake



mention of additional notes on the reverse of the image. It also describes him as "the owner of this property" one could presume from the notes on the reverse of the image.

While still confused, I believe that it is an East Gippsland image and rightly belongs in our collections, but can anyone cast light on how it is also labelled as "Furphy's Hut"? What collection has it labelled as such? And you might also note that the image on the cover is slightly larger than the Gippsland Scenery one. And just to confuse it a little more .... another copy of it in the State Library is printed in reverse!!

Tyers on the 2 February and took other images at Lake Tyers, Snowy River, Bairnsdale, Ramahyuck and around the Gippsland Lakes however, he was also in Warragul, Walhalla and further west and all over the rest of Victoria it would seem.

One of the copies digitised on Trove from the State Library of Victoria collection has the keyword "Stocks" and makes





# Walter Peeler, V.C.

TONY MEADE

Not many people would know that once we had a man living in Bairnsdale who was the recipient of the Victoria Cross and a real "hero". I came across this story while reading a copy of the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* from 1921. In November 1921 Walter Peeler and some of his fellow RSL members wrote a letter to the editor lamenting the lack respect paid by the people and officials of Bairnsdale for the ceremonies held on Armistice Day. It struck me that the sentiments expressed in this letter could equally be applied to today.

The returned men wrote:-  
"Sir, kindly allow us the undersigned who claim to represent at least the returned soldiers of this town and district, to place on record our heartfelt disgust at the celebration, or, commemoration of the signing of the armistice at Bairnsdale yesterday. Bairnsdale and district can proudly claim to have given of its best in young manhood to the great cause of liberty. By the sufferings of all and the deaths of many we are at present free citizens of the freest land on earth. Yet at the eleventh hour [on the eleventh day] of the eleventh month the time set apart by royal command for every true and loyal subject of the empire to honour the noble dead by two minutes cessation from daily labour or pleasure—two short minutes of absolute silence—what do we find in Bairnsdale? - "Business as usual". We readily acknowledge that a returned soldier did play "The Last Post" and that the town flag was flown "half mast". Also that many individual citizens did remove their hats during the two brief minutes. But no-one can claim that as far as the town is collectively concerned, any notice whatever was taken of the occasion. Why is this so? Do we wish to forget there ever was a



Walter Peeler, V.C.  
*from the Australian War Memorial website*

war, when the freedom of the whole world swung in the balance? Are we already forgetting those who lie buried on foreign shores? It is true that the schools individually ceased work and stood "at attention" for two minutes while they listened in vain for the strains of the "The Last Post". But how much better would it have been for all to have been assembled together, with the citizens of whom they are soon to form a part, to give thanks and keep the memory ever green of those who gave their all. Where were our councillors and all the leading citizens and businessmen? We are waiting anxiously to hear their excuse for not having made arrangements worthy of this day. In conclusion we would urge upon the Shire Councillors for them to accept the responsibility of all future arrangements in commemoration of this day, including the closing of business houses for the two minutes, on the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day of the eleventh month - Yours etc. W. Peeler V.C.  
R. Dunbar M.M.

H.G. Tinsley, President RS  
League Bairnsdale  
A. Lloyd, Vice President  
F.C. Yeates, Vice President  
W.R. Alfred, ex Secretary  
T. Inches, Secretary  
J.J. Barker  
J. Shannon  
C.R. Lewis  
K. Corney  
D. Wilson  
R. Head

**Lest We Forget"**

Walter Peeler VC was born at Mount Barker near Castlemaine in 1887 and grew up there on the family farm. His father was an orchardist and Walter worked on this farm for some time. Walter married Kathleen Emma Hewitt in 1907, (born England). He worked around Castlemaine and then Melbourne for a time and in 1916 he was in Leongatha when he enlisted in the A.I.F.

Peeler was assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pioneers Battalion as a Machine Gunner. He was shipped out to England on 6 June 1916 aboard the *HMAT Wandilla*. From his military records it is obvious that Peeler was a headstrong and rebellious man, however one that was held in high regard by his superiors even when they were court martialling him! On two occasions he faced court martial and shortly after one he was promoted. He also had several charges of AWOL as well as improper storing of a firearm but when it mattered it was obvious that Walter Peeler was a soldier through and through.

On 4 October 1917 Walter Peeler was with a group from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pioneers attached to the 37<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division's 10<sup>th</sup> Brigade when the attack on the Broodseinde Ridge commenced. Peeler was a Machine Gunner manning a Lewis Machine gun to provide protection from air attack.

# Research Enquiries

When the attack commenced Peeler saw that his gun was not required for air defence and there were a number of enemy snipers cutting down the advancing Australians. Peeler went over the top of the trenches with his machine gun on his hip. The Lewis machine gun weighs 28 lbs (13 kg), adding the weight of the ammunition canisters he would have been carrying 30 or 40 pounds with him.

The citation for his Victoria Cross from his War Record reads as follows. -: **“For most conspicuous bravery, when with a Lewis Gun, accompanying the first wave of the assault he encountered an enemy party sniping the advancing troops from a shell-hole. Lance-Corporal Peeler immediately rushed the position and accounted for nine of the enemy, and cleared the way for the advance. On two subsequent occasions he performed similar acts of valour, and each time accounted for a number of the enemy. During operations he was directed to a position from which an enemy machine gun was being fired on our troops. He located and killed the gunner, and the remainder of the enemy party ran into a dugout close by. From this shelter they were dislodged by a bomb, and ten of the enemy ran out. These he disposed of. This non-commissioned officer actually accounted for over 30 of the enemy. He displayed an absolute fearlessness in making his way ahead of the first wave of the assault, and the fine example which he set ensured the success of the attack against most determined opposition.”**

Peeler was slightly wounded in this exchange, then on the 12 October he received a severe gunshot wound to the right forearm. He was transferred to England, then after a brief transfer back to France he was returned to Australia in August 1918 where he remained until the end of the war. After the war Walter Peeler worked for the Lands Department as an Inspector for the Soldier

Settlement Board. It was this position that brought him to Bairnsdale for several years.

After his time in Bairnsdale Peeler moved back to Castlemaine and other areas in a number of jobs before he was appointed as the first Custodian of the Shrine of Remembrance in 1934. He held this position until he re-enlisted in the second AIF in 1940 having reduced his age from 54 to 40. Peeler served on the Libyan front until his unit was returned to Australia then to Singapore. He was captured by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore and spent the next three years as a Prisoner of War on the Burma Railway. On his return to Australia Walter Peeler took up his position at the War Memorial again and he remained in this job until his retirement in the early 1960s. When he returned to Australia he discovered that his son Donald had been killed by the Japanese on Bougainville Island.

Walter Peeler was a man who gave much to his country and it was a pleasure to learn of his story through a chance reading of the letter to the Editor of the *Bairnsdale Advertiser*.

As is often the case in researching this story I have come across a number of strange coincidences. Walter Peeler lived in Croydon in the 1920s and his son Donald was born there in 1925. Both my parents grew up in Croydon and may well have known the Peeler family. On a visit to the War Memorial in February I asked about Walter Peeler and whether there were any records or information as to his work there. The attendant inquired with the front office to find that I was the second person **that morning as Peeler's grandson** had been in and had only just left, however he did not leave his name or any contact information. Apparently the grandson had only recently found out that his grandfather was a VC winner. History is a fascinating pastime and I hope that our readers have enjoyed the story as much as I have.

Enquiries continue to pour in faster than our volunteers can handle them. Do you know anything about **the following .... if so, please** contact the group or enquirer direct.

EGFHG 572 SILVESTER DAVIS

George Nelson Silvester (1805-1881) married Sarah Critchley, Staffordshire, England. Arrived Victoria 1852, later selected Myrtle Point, Calulu. Daughter Mary married George Davis and daughter Sarah Jane married Daniel Davis who also selected land at Calulu.

Cherry Vrieze  
36 Lago Promenade  
Averly WA 6069  
[cherryvrieze@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cherryvrieze@yahoo.com.au)

EGFHG 573 WILLIS, ROSE, HOGAN, ARNOLD

William Walter Willis married Cecilia Rose 1856 and lived Mt Egerton. Their son John married Agnes Arnold and he died Bairnsdale 1906. Their children James, Rose Henderson, Cecelia Woodward and Agnes Simmon.

Daniel Willis  
122 Beaufort Caranballac Rd  
Stockyard Hill 3373

EGFHG 574 FINNEY

Living members of the Finney family sought by  
Beulah Bradley  
6357 South Gippsland Hwy  
Longford via Sale 3850

EGFHG 575 JACKSON

George Jackson had a run at Mountain Creek South, Snowy River in 1876 till 1880s. Looking for maps or land records. Also John William Baker and wife Margaret nee Jackson, Bairnsdale c1880-90 who was possible associated with the *Bairnsdale Advertiser*. Also **enquirer's grandfather Rev. John** Joseph Webb and wife Hilda. He was Methodist minister Bairnsdale 1924-28.

Barbara Boyle

# INVITATION

The Committee of the East Gippsland Historical Society wishes to invite members of the East Gippsland Family History Group to their

## 50th Anniversary Celebratory Luncheon

Saturday 14th June 2014  
12noon-2.00pm  
at the Bairnsdale Bowls Club  
Grant Street, Bairnsdale

Soup & Main  
\$20 members / \$25 non-members

RSVP 4.00pm Saturday 31 May 2014  
P: 5152 6363 or email [eghsoc@bigpond.com](mailto:eghsoc@bigpond.com)

Please be aware that this does clash with the Family History Group meeting commencing at 2.00pm with Guest Speaker local writer Barry Heard, but if you scamper from one to the other you'll make it !!



*The Mitchell Gardens Avenue of Honour that existed on the riverbank side.*

# EXHIBITION

Heritage Network East Gippsland invites  
all members to view the

**Living Memorial Exhibition**  
featuring  
**Avenues of Honour, Significant Trees and Her-  
itage Gardens of East Gippsland**

**Celebrating the role of trees and gardens  
in enriching our present  
and remembering our past.**

**East Gippsland Gallery**  
Nicholson Street, Bairnsdale  
**30 May—24 June**

## What's in a (street) name? Pt 3

President Tony Meade continues to eat his way through the streets of Bairnsdale and venturing ever closer to publication (or so he says) .....

**Further to Tony's plea for assistance in *Black Sheep 82*** here is a sample of some of the material that he has since collated.

### Gray Street

George Francis Seymour Gray was a nephew of Mrs John Davison Smith wife of the owner of the Lindenow Run. He selected land in the Moormung area and in 1868 was appointed as Valuer for the Shire of Bairnsdale. His wife was Caroline Box and they had two sons, Charles Clark Charnock Gray and Alured Seymour McArthur. Also his brother Frederick Skinner Gray was in Bairnsdale. C.M. Gray had land in Gray Street.

Gray Street is in West Bairnsdale between Wallace and Moroney Streets, it runs from Ballantine Street to Riley Street.

### Ross Street

Ross Street may have been named after WB Ross Watchmaker of the 1860s, AM Ross Surveyor c1866 or AW Ross the designer of the first council offices in Nicholson Street.

But more likely is that it was named after William Sinclair Ross an early miner, settler and councillor. He was Shire President from 1876 -1877 and 1888-1890. WS Ross was an early member of the Shire Council being elected when the council was extended to 9 members in September 1868. Ross had been selected to join a party led by AW Howitt in 1860 to prospect for gold in the area. They discovered gold at Crooked River. He selected land at Lindenow when it became available.

Ross was the manager of several mines as well as a proponent of early irrigation schemes that led to the building of the Glenaladale Weir.

### Smallman Street

Smallman Street ran from Ballantine to Riley Street, between Moroney and Ross Street. (now closed and subdivided into house blocks). R.C. Smallman owned the land on the West side of Riley Street from Smallman Street, Mennell Place is on the opposite side of Riley Street and was probably the western end of Smallman Street. Richard Crawford Smallman opened a branch of the Bank of Victoria in 1865 at Drevermann **and Cameron's store. Smallman's** held the Mibost Run at Sarsfield after Mathew McAlister from 1871 – 1885.

### McMillan Street

This street has existed in two locations. The first was in Mitchell Town (the southern section of Bailey Street from Main Street) and was named after Joanna Jane McMillan who married John Campbell Macleod, the son of Archibald Macleod. Miss McMillan came from *Strathavon* near Stratford before her marriage. John Macleod had little to do with the Bairnsdale run as most of his interests were

in the Stratford area. This street was renamed in the 1970s to Bailey Street to remove confusion about the name changing on the south side of the highway. Several streets on the south side were renamed at the same time.

The second McMillan Street is in East Bairnsdale off Hadfield Street. It may have been in recognition of Angus McMillan however this renaming appears to have happened around the same time as the street name was changed in the central business district. The original name of McMillan Street in East Bairnsdale was shown as Mitchell Street on a King and Heath map of 1951. At this time there also existed a second Mitchell Street (that still exists) in central Bairnsdale.

Tony is still seeking information on all Bairnsdale streets, but particularly Albert, Anderson, Charles, Combay, Dickeson, Enid, Georgia, Gordon, Grosvenor, Humphrey, Lawless, Macrae, McAuleys, McKenzie, Vivian, Walker, Wallace and Warde. You can leave a message for Tony at [ameade@bigpond.com](mailto:ameade@bigpond.com) or on 5152 1111.



*The junction of Forge Creek Road and Main Street, where now exists a major roundabout, when the Housing Commission residences were just starting to be built.*





### *The Great War in 3D*

This is an inspired publication that does what I have always thought possible but not seen done so well.

*The Great War in 3D* is a boxed set of a reproduction **stereoscope (metal ... not plastic!)** with reproduced cards and supporting explanatory book full of background information. It is all presented in a flip box for storage and presentation.

The stereoscope was hugely popular at the turn of the century. At the time, it was the ideal medium to experience both the devastation and daily life of World War I. With the 35 stereographic cards and viewer, readers can experience a unique and vivid glimpse into what it felt like at that time.

Some of the images included are very powerful and even more so when viewed in 3D. Most of the images are unfamiliar to Australian readers as they are predominately French, Russian, German, American and British with no ANZAC images included. As a result it gives a different perspective. Detailed descriptions of the scenes depicted in each

stereographic photograph are included on the back of each card, so the viewer will understand exactly what he or she is seeing. The image of the dead German found in the wire after a futile night raid on the British lines at Givenchy, December 1914 is particularly haunting.

The accompanying 175 page book compiled by Jean-Pierre Verny (a world-rekownned French historian, author and collector of World War I memorabilia) and Michael Stephenson, (consulting editor and military historian), is in full colour and enhances the experience with numerous excerpts from letters and first-hand accounts of soldiers.

In them, they describe everything from the mud in the trenches to the sound of shells hitting the icy snow to the scourge of rats that plagued them at night. With a chapter per year from 1914 to 1918, readers learn not only about the deadly battles that killed ten million soldiers but also the daily hardships fought in

the war to end all wars.

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**The metal folding viewer provided with the set is of impressive quality, ironically based precisely on the design of a WW2 era German viewer from the Raumbild book sets.**

It provides a brief history of war photography and an overview of the war from 1914 through to the Treaty of Versailles, including the European campaigns and naval battles, focusing mainly on the lives of the soldiers. Special chapters include

Christmas on the Front, comics from French illustrator Gus Bofa and British cartoonist Bruce Bairnsfather who served during the war, excerpts from letters of POWs, a section about living in the trenches, the earthen works, meals, medical care and more.

If there is someone in your family fascinated with war history then you would be hard pressed to find a better gift.

Published by Black Dog and Leventhal Publishers, New York, ISBN 978 1 57912 953 8, it is readily available at bookshops for RRP \$35.

## Yesterday's Headlines

Selected extracts of interest from newspapers courtesy of Trove.

24 May 1924 : *The Argus*  
BAIRNSDALE

The new motor train service to be opened on Monday will be commenced with a rail motor service between Bairnsdale and Orbost. The new motor train, which consists of one car and trailer, arrived here on Friday in charge of Mr W.M.Osborne, assistant chief mechanical engineer. At the invitation of the Railways Commissioners, about 30 residents of Bairnsdale participated in a trial run as far as Bruthen.

8 July 1882 : *Bairnsdale Advertiser*  
BAIRNSDALE SHIRE  
COUNCIL

.... It was agreed to change the name of the Punt Flat reserve to the Mitchell Gardens, and it was also determined that the members for the Central riding should report respecting the desirability of either erecting a new fence around the graves in the gardens, or to remove the remains of the persons buried there to the general cemetery.

6 February 1914

**When Eroni's circus was on its way** from Orbost the cage containing the lion over-turned near Sardine Creek, and went over a deep incline. The turn-out fell fully 400 yards, and, marvellous to state, when the men got to the bottom they found the horse uninjured and the lion still secure in his cage, the latter being practically undamaged.

23 April 1910  
BAIRNSDALE WATER  
SUPPLY.

**Fresh Water To-Day**  
The work of putting a sandbag weir across the Mitchell River, about half a mile below the pumping station, was completed yesterday afternoon, and soon afterwards Mr Wilson, the engineer of the Trust, was able to report an improvement in the purity of the water above the intake. Between five and six o'clock he reported that the pumps were "on fresh water," and that there would be a gradual improvement in the water in the mains during the night, he thought.

The indicators were that this forenoon or this afternoon it would be possible to have sufficient fresh water raised to scour out all the mains and get rid of the salt water. In case of an outbreak of fire it was necessary that the larger of the two tanks should be kept filled with salt water. The contents of this tank will be emptied to day, if possible. If these expectations should be realised, fresh water will be once more coursing through the mains, to the great joy of the large body of people who were so suddenly, and without any warning, deprived for so long of their ordinary water supply.

10 July 1915

### ACCIDENT

On Thursday morning, about 11 o'clock, Mr H.G. Tinsley, tinsmith, Bairnsdale, met with an accident on the Lindenow road, whilst riding his motor cycle. When near "Alexlea" he met a jinker being driven along the road, and as he approached it the driver, Mr. Tinsley states, swerved to the right. He endeavoured to pass on his right side, but came in contact with the shaft, which struck him across the face. His spectacles were smashed, and he was rendered unconscious for about three hours. Subsequently; he was brought home and received medical treatment, and is now quickly recovering, although he still suffers from his hurts. The motor cycle had the mud guards smashed and the handles twisted, in addition to other minor damages.

25 February 1911

### ANGLING

The second of a series of competitions arranged by the Gippsland Piscatorial Association was held on Thursday last, when about 14 anglers travelled by the *Pride of the Mitchell* launch to Eagle Point. The fish were out holidaying as well as those endeavoring to catch them, the total weight hooked being not more than 20lb., while the best individual haul was 4lb., obtained by Mr. L. Phillips. Fully half of the "sports" returned home without a fish. As the minimum weight of fish per rod had been fixed at 7lb. to declare a competition Thursday's fishing was declared no competition, and only a sweep stake of 5s was paid to the one with

## Fancy yourself as a sausage sizzler and seller?

A fundraising opportunity has become available to the group through *Bunnings Warehouse* through the selling of sausages (cooked ones that is!). If you fancy yourself as a "Masterchef" and can help out at the BKR (Bunning Kitchen Rules) please get in touch with either Tony or Martin so they remember you for next time. Now that we have all the gear required it is a relatively small amount of effort by a few helpers for excellent returns for the group. Over \$500 in our first effort thanks to those who jumped in on very short notice. .... tomato sauce and gloves supplied !!



## Got some spare time to give?

A reminder to all members, be they new or old, that your groups are always desperate for volunteers to help at the museum or either of the resource rooms. Don't let a "lack of knowledge" or fear of not knowing what to do stifle a new career path !!! It is enjoyable and "seasoned" members will assist all the way. Contact either of the Groups on open days. PS Ian is looking for a replacement Treasurer — any volunteers ?

# The Bairnsdale Open-Air Theatre



In the last issue of *Black Sheep* we printed a piece from the January 1914 edition of the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* about the new open-air theatre. A little more research on this and we are now able to also inform readers that Mr Adair's £1 prize would appear to have gone unclaimed. Adair had offered the prize for the "most suitable name" for the theatre, however the theatre only continued till the end of summer 1914 and all advertising was under the Bairnsdale Open-Air Theatre banner. One can imagine that there was quite a fierce competition between this and **Harry Payne's Theatre** which was also operating at this time. A dig in the EGHS collection produced the above image of the theatre.

A further dig around in Trove revealed more about the scene. An article on 26 May 1914 about Empire Day which reported ..... *after saluting the Union Jack, the children marched in procession, headed by their band of tiny musicians, down Main street to the South African Soldiers' Memorial. A wreath, made by the children, and bearing the inscription, "Lest We Forget" was placed on the monument, and the head teacher, Mr Gerrard, briefly addressed the assemblage. The juvenile band played the National Anthem, after which the*



*procession returned to the school and the scholars were dismissed for luncheon hour.*

So while the photographer's intent was to record the event

happening in the foreground, he has recorded a part of our transient local history. It makes one wonder how many other "backgrounds" hold secrets yet to be unlocked.

## Remembering Charles Radford of "754"

As we approach the 150th celebration of "754" it is timely that we look at Charles Radford whose name remains associated with the school 146 years after his appointment.

**"The Radford Prize", presented at Bairnsdale's 754 Primary School each year perpetuates the name of one of that school's greatest head teachers.**

Charles Radford was born on 3 May 1837 in Melbourne, Lower Canada, the son of Charles and Anne (nee Beeber). Lower Canada at this time was a British colony and Melbourne was roughly sixty miles east of Montreal, outside **Richmond in Quebec.** Charles' sister Harriet had been born two years earlier in Devonshire and it is unknown what took the family to Lower Canada at this time. The family remained there for about two years and returned to England by 1840 where his siblings were born and Charles was enrolled at the Bristol Cathedral School. Charles snr, Anne and their six children arrived in Victoria in 1853 on the *Try* when Charles jnr was 15 years old. He initially tried his hand at mining in the Talbot district before entering the teaching profession. After obtaining his teaching certificate his first appointment was to the Church of England School in Sandhurst on 1 October 1865. He was then 28 years old. In 1866 he married Isabel Dowding who was 22 years old but it was not to be a happy time for Radford. Charles jnr was born the

same year but sadly Isabel died within weeks of childbirth and baby Charles died when one month old.



Radford then married Rosabelle Reeves, a fellow teacher, two years later in 1868 and they were both appointed to Bairnsdale on 1 June 1868, when **'754' was just four years old.** Amos Brazier, a friend from his **Sandhurst days and Bairnsdale's** first Anglican minister appears to have been influential in the appointments with Michael Goold also being involved.

**Radford's second son, Allan's birth was registered at Lucknow in 1869 - the same year that his father died at Bendigo. Radford's mother and his sister Martha came to Bairnsdale**

around this time as Prestwood Martha Radford married Charles Colin Campbell Macleod in 1872. In 1887 his third (and last) son, Walter Arundell, was born and registered at Lucknow - the same year that his mother also died at Bairnsdale.

Radford was held in high esteem by various inspectors as being *a very superior teacher and an excellent head teacher; kind in his manner to the children, painstaking and taking a great interest in his school.* He retired as head teacher on 31 March 1894 when he reached retirement age **after 28 years' service.** After a short retirement he opened up a private school at the behest of former students who wished their children to be prepared for life under the guidance of Charles Radford. He continued teaching until poor health prevented him from doing so and he died in December 1901. At the time of his death one son was an accountant at the National Bank and the other was an assayer and metallurgist.

A memorial was erected to him in the entrance hall of the school. The Radford Prize was instituted two years later and awarded to the dux of the school until 1946, when it was abandoned. This award was revived in 1986 **when Radford's granddaughter, Miss Wilma Radford, presented the school with an honour roll to record the prizewinners.** He is permanently remembered in the naming of Radford Place.

*Much of the information in this article relating to Radford is "new research" and came about from a research exercise by myself and Tony for Black Sheep. For some time it has been a concern that new researchers have been using computer generated family history data that is handed to them "on a plate" without verifying and checking primary source documents. These are available elsewhere on other internet databases or in our library including our own microfiche records. For example, previously it had been assumed that Radford had been born in Essex as were some of his siblings. When we checked the actual marriage indexes and English Census records, his place of birth looked like Meboura, Lower Canada, which a number of researchers assumed even though no such place exists. We knew Lower Canada was correct as Radford had listed this as his place of birth for both his marriages on the Victorian indexes. When you consult an actual map of Lower Canada you can't find a Meboura but you will find a Melbourne, near Richmond that with more research, we found in the late 1830s was a bustling British outpost. Going back to the census records, it became obvious that the writing was actually Melbourne all the time. Similarly Radford's own obituary stated he came to Australia on the Clara Symes, but going back to the passenger lists you find that his uncle came on that ship and that he came with his family on the Try. Similarly his obit says he arrived in Bairnsdale 1873, however his son was born here in 1869. Don't take it at face value .... question it !*

# Family History Feast 2014

The eleventh annual Family History Feast hosted by the State Library of Victoria will be held at the Library on Monday 25th August from 10am to 4pm (to be confirmed) during Australian National Family History Month.

Family History Feast is a day of free information sessions for family history researchers. It includes the annual Victorian Association of Family History Organisations (VAFHO) Don Grant Memorial Lecture. The event showcases how the major Victorian

government agencies for genealogical research can assist those researching family history. This year the event will include:

- The State of Victoria
- The Victorian Registry of Births, Death and Marriages
- The Public Record Office
- The National Archives of Australian (Victorian Office)
- Immigration Discovery Centre, Immigration Museum, and

- The Victorian Association of Family History Organisations.

If you are planning to attend bookings are essential and open on Monday 14 July through the Public Record Office, Victoria.

The theme for this year is “**multicultural genealogy**”. Jenny Harkness will be delivering the annual Don Grant Memorial Lecture on *FamilySearch*. Check the State Library website closer to the event for booking and program details.

## Bairnsdale Cemetery Project

Currently we are trying to consolidate and work out just exactly where we are at with this project.

Whereas once we envisaged a CD of memorial photographs we are now investigating a combined cemetery register / headstone register / headstone image database all linked together but we want to get it right.

If you have contributed to this project in the past and have any of your images on your own computers we would appreciate copies of any available data so **that we don't go over what has already been done.**



Also, if you are prepared to help take photographs of the remaining areas, please let us know so that an area can be allocated and you receive a copy of the guidelines on how the images need to be taken.

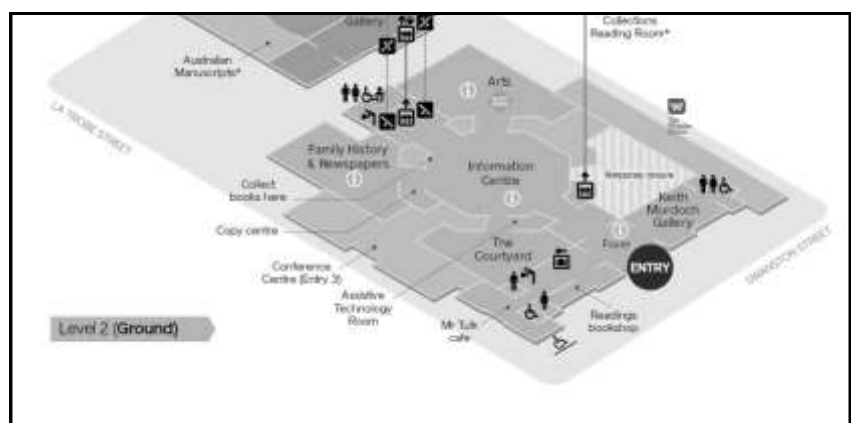
This project has been hanging over our heads for a little while now and it would be nice to get it completed.

Once we finish taking all the images, there will be a serious amount of checking to do on the input. This would be done at the rooms at designated times. If you feel you are able to contribute to this part your help would also be welcomed.

## Family History (Genealogy) and Newspaper Room, SLV

Members are reminded that the Combined Family History (Genealogy) and Newspaper Services room has reopened in the refurbished area adjacent the Copy Centre at the State Library.

Entering from the main front doors this is the rear left hand side of the building on Level 2 (which is ground level).





# Accession Register

Group purchases and donations continue to expand the EGFHG Library include these.

## *Data Disc (CD and DVD)*

*Domesday Records 1086 Yks, Dby, Ntt, Rut, Lin*  
*London Marriage Licences 1521-1869*  
*Balmain Catholic Cemetery Burial Records 1868-1902*  
*Census Reports of Ireland Co. Limerick 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1911*  
*Census Reports of Ireland Co. Louth 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1911*  
*Bairnsdale Advertiser 1932-1942; 1943-1954; 1955-1962; 1963-1970;*  
*1971-1972 (DVDs of the Group funded project)*  
*Port Jackson Convict Anthology*  
*Sunbury Cemetery*  
*Carlsruhe Public Cemetery Headstones, Kyneton Cemetery Headstones,*  
*Kyneton Lawn Cemetery Memorial Inscriptions*  
*Narracan Cemetery Photos Register Transcriptions*  
*Willow Grove Cemetery Information Photos*  
**Bowman's Forest Cemetery**  
*Small Cemeteries from the Past in South Gippsland:*  
*Woodside and Carrajung*

## *Publications*

*Sale Cemetery Historical Memories*  
*Balmain Catholic Cemetery & St Columbas Church/Parish Book 1857-1988*  
*Water Races and Tin Mines of the Toora District*  
*Ships from Scotland to Australasia 1820-1860*  
*Visionary Lives : 500 Biographies from the Brighton General Cemetery*  
*Vicroads Centenary*  
*The Peninsula Story: Sorrento and Portsea Yesterday*  
*The Mills Brothers of Port Fairy*  
*Of Yesteryear and Nowadays*  
*Wood Coffill (Katoomba) Burial Index 1916-1945 Vol. 1*  
*Wood Coffill (Katoomba) Burial Index 1946-1967 Vol. 2*  
*Blue Mountains Cemeteries Vol 4 Lawson Cemetery*  
*Blue Mountains Cemeteries Vol 6 Wentworth Falls Roman Catholic*  
*Blue Mountains Cemeteries Vol 7 Wentworth Falls, Presbyterian, Methodist,*  
*Church of Christ, Baptist and Independent*  
*Blue Mountains Cemeteries Vol 9 Springwood, Roman Catholic, Methodist,*  
*Columbarium and Ashes Garden*  
*Blue Mountains Cemeteries Historic Mount York Cemetery Hartley Vale*  
*Telephone Directory East Gippsland 2012/13*  
*The Streets of Hamilton Western Victoria Australia 2nd edition*  
*Naming Frankston Streets : The People and Their Stories*  
*Pioneers of the Pyrenees*  
*Colac and District Pioneer Register Pre 1900*  
*Colac and District Pioneer and Settlers Register Transcriptions pre 1920*  
*Greenmount Station and Cemetery*  
*The Tale of Jimmy Lee*

## *Maps*

**St John's Wood 1893: Old Ordinance Survey Map**  
*The West End 1870: Old Ordinance Survey Map*  
*Poplar 1914: Old Ordinance Survey Map*  
*Nicholson Ordinance Survey Inland Waterways Map of Great Britain*  
*Esso Grid Chart of the Gippsland Lakes*  
*Bendigo District Map (Royal Auto Club)*  
*Ballarat District Map (Royal Auto Club)*  
*Ballarat Map (Royal Auto Club)*

# In Memorium



## JANETTE FELSTEAD

Janette Felstead, who was descended from the Robinson family of Paynesville, died on 27 April, 2014 after suffering with deteriorating health over the past few years.

She joined the family history group in 1990 and was also a member of the historical society. She was also involved in the heritage network and the Paynesville Cemetery Trust and served on the committees of both societies. She was an outspoken and forthright representative on any committee which she was involved in and did not tolerate any BS.

As her husband Ewen said in her death notice in the *Advertiser* she was - *frightening, forceful, sympathetic, unflinching, just, compassionate, motherly, evenhanded, determined, generous, enduring and fair. These few words do not describe the forceful person who pursued justice and fairness before her own interests and did not flinch from tackling the toughest issues. Out of sight she helped many and strove to ease the lot of others. That forceful personality scared some, offended others and amused the rest.*

The combined sympathies of the two groups are extended to her family as her contribution will be missed.

# Family Tree Maker Workshop (and Proposed User Group)

BY MARTIN HOPKINS

The East Gippsland Family History Group hosted a successful workshop on the Genealogy computer program *Family Tree Maker (FTM)* on the 29th March. The workshop was conducted by the Victorian Genealogists Using Microcomputers Group (VicGUM). Held at the Bairnsdale Sports and Convention Centre the workshop introduced new users to the concepts of the program and then opened up the possibilities for genealogists to improve their studies by using the program in a host of different ways to discover, store and interpret their data.

The *FTM* database is produced by the Ancestry Company which also makes the popular television program *Who Do You Think You Are?* *FTM* is designed to integrate with the Ancestry databases which are held on massive servers in the town of Provo in Utah, U.S.A. however it can be used without needing to subscribe to this service and provides a flexible and powerful tool to assist users in their studies.

VicGUM provides a service to genealogists giving support on a number of different programs and as their name suggests they concentrate on the use of computers to research and store data. Their members include a number of highly skilled and experienced researchers who have over thirty years experience with computers and genealogy. They have successfully held workshops all over Australia on genealogy programs and are directly involved as developers of the programs for the software companies that produce them. Their experience is priceless when developing skills to utilise the programs.

President of the group Tony Meade was photographed with the presenters of the workshop John Donaldson and Doug Elms. John and Doug came from Melbourne to present the workshop and were pleased with the 31 participants who rolled up to be enlightened.



All of the participants were **impressed by the presenters'** knowledge and ability to impart their knowledge to the audience. Everyone learnt new skills and some had their understanding of the program drastically expanded. It was a very satisfied and informed audience that left the workshop to go home and use the new skills learned on the day.

EGFHG is considering the formation of a User Group for *FTM* that will assist local users in understanding and overcoming their problems with the program; if sufficient interest is received the group will start to meet in the next month or two, probably on a monthly basis or more often if required. Any interested users are encouraged to contact EGFHG on

5152 5590 or email [egfhg@egfhg.org.au](mailto:egfhg@egfhg.org.au). The Group's website is [www.egfhg.org.au](http://www.egfhg.org.au) and interested persons will be able to find more about the proposal in the near future on this site.

Any budding Family Historians that are interested in furthering their studies are encouraged to contact EGFHG either to join or visit the rooms at 21 Morgan Street Bairnsdale to have a look at the resources held there. EGFHG has one of the better resource facilities of regional genealogical groups and they are willing to help any beginners to get started on the Family History journey.

You do not have to be a member of the EGFHG to be a

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