

NEWSLETTER

July – August - September 2011

Volume Twelve Number Three



SKETCHLEY COTTAGE

Linking yesterday with tomorrow

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

They Were Here Vol 1	\$ 35
They Were Here Vol 2	\$ 40
War Memorials of the Port Stephens Area	\$ 25
Raymond Terrace History & Heritage	\$ 25
Marriages from the Gloucester Examiner & Raymond Terrace Examiner 1894 – 1926	\$ 15
Clearing Out Sales Raymond Terrace & Lower Hunter 1895 – 1930	\$ 15
Soldiers & Memorials of Seaham	\$ 25
Raymond Terrace Pioneer Register	\$ 30
Cemetery Master Index	\$ 25
Landholders & Others	\$ 15
Raymond Terrace Pioneer Cemetery Obituary Books Vol 1 1893 – 1915	\$ 5
Vol 2 1916 – 1925	
Vol 3 1926 – 1930, 1951 & 1953	

Buy any two volumes of Obituaries for \$45 or all three publications for \$65. Purchased individually the Obituary Books cost \$25.

We also have available for sale a large selection of publications not produced by the Society but covering the local district among them are:

Seaham School of Arts	\$ 15
Short History of Raymond Terrace	\$ 5
Wades Corn Flour Mill 1878-1902	\$ 10

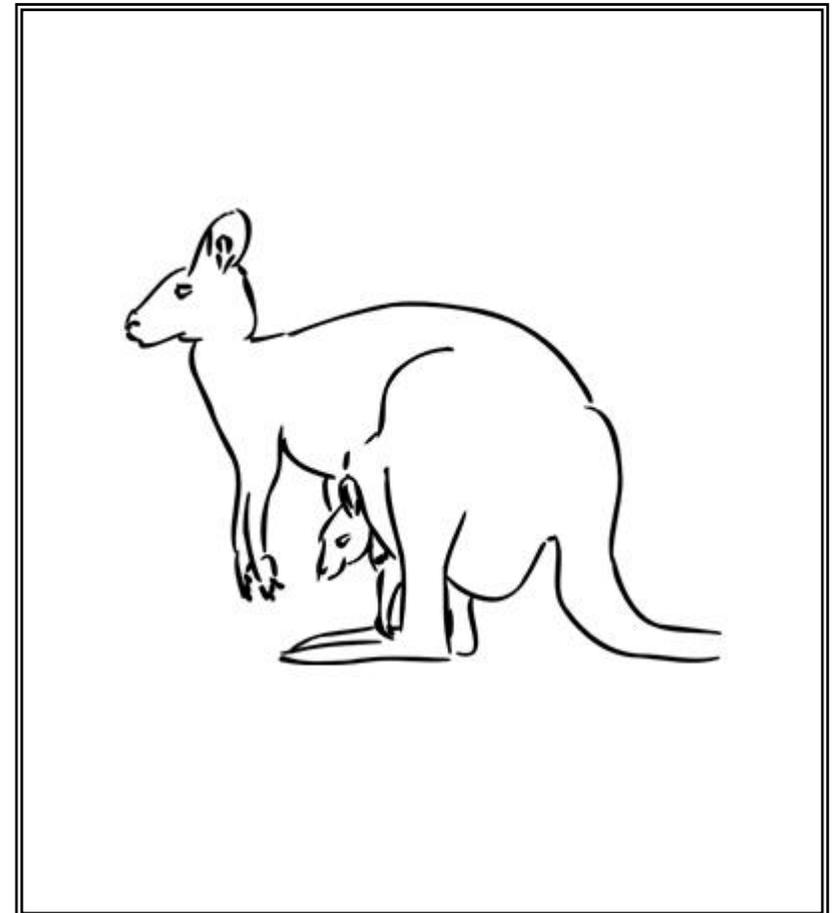
SKETCHLEY COTTAGE MUSEUM is located opposite Bettles Park, Raymond Terrace and is open to the public on Sundays 10am to 3pm other times by appointment. Bus groups are most welcome, please contact the Secretary to arrange a date and time.

The Society's **RESEARCH ROOMS** are located in the Port Stephens Library, cnr William & Port Stephens Streets, Raymond Terrace

Open Monday & Wednesday
9.30 am to 2 pm - other times by appointment

Membership of the Society is open to everyone with an interest in Local and Family History.

Joining Fee \$2.00 Concession \$15.00 Full Membership \$20.00
Family \$25.00 Monthly Meetings are held on the third Friday of the month at Senior Citizens Building, Raymond Terrace at 7.00 pm.



RAYMOND TERRACE & DISTRICT
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COMMITTEE: David Gunter Moira Saunderson	Laurel Young

DATES FOR THE DIARY

August	1	Committee Meeting
	19	General Meeting
September	5	Committee Meeting
	16	General Meeting
October	10	Committee Meeting
	21	General Meeting
	29	Market Day
November	7	Committee Meeting
	18	General Meeting – Christmas Meeting – bring a plate.



<http://www.dorothyparker.com/>

This poster is from a Greenwich Village street fair to benefit the Spanish Refugees Relief Campaign,

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THE WONDERFUL
KANGUROO,
FROM
BOTANY BAY,
(The only One ever brought alive to Europe)
Removed from the HAY-MARKET, and now exhibited at the LYCEUM,
in the STRAND, from 8 o'Clock in the Morning, till 8 in the Evening.

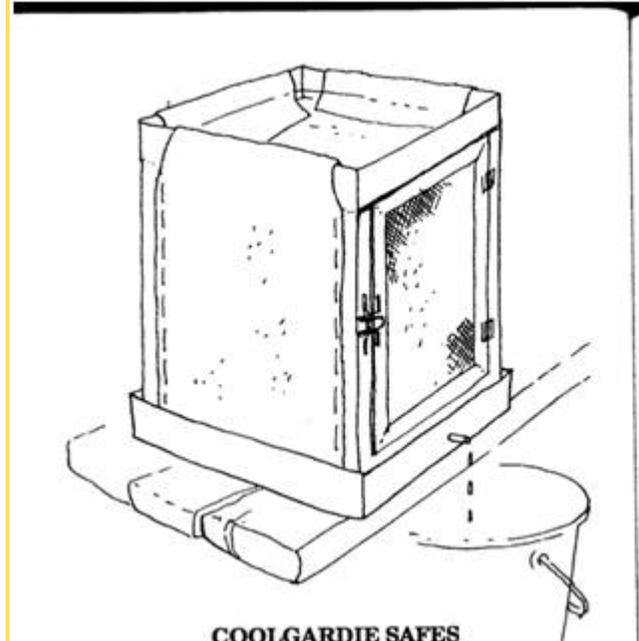
This amazing, beautiful, and tame animal, is about five Feet in Height, of a Fawn Colour, distinguished itself in Shape, Make and true Symmetry of Parts, different from all other QUADRAPEDS. Its swiftness, when pursued, is superior to the Greyhound: to enumerate its extraordinary Qualities would far exceed the common Limits of a Public Notice. Let it suffice to observe, that the Public in general are pleased, and bestow their Plaudits ; The Ingenious are delighted; the Virtuoso is taught to admire! Impressing the Beholder with Wonder and Astonishment at the Sight of this unparalleled Animal from the Southern Hemisphere, that almost surpasses Belief; therefore Ocular Demonstration will exceed all that Words can describe, or Pencil delineate.....Admittance, ONE SHILLING each.

This originally from a London handbill in the early nineteenth century. The picture was first published as an engraving in Captain Phillip's Voyage to Botany Bay (1789)

BITS and PIECES

- The roster for the opening of Sketchley Cottage has been able to be re-established. Thanks to all who are able to help out. This is the public face of the Society, and, as such is very important that we maintain its access to everyone in the community.
- The trivia Night was a lot of fun. Much hard work was put in by Peter and Glenys Francis in putting together the questions and organising the prizes. David Gunter was instrumental in suggesting the idea, and also putting together the questions. It was a close fought battle, coming down to a tiebreaker at the end to decide to winning team.
- The article provided by Mike Fibbins for the last newsletter has been well received by many of our readers. A number of people have commented to me of the quality and relevance of the piece. If there is anyone else within the Society who has an article to provide, it would be most welcome. Please email me any story that you have to contribute at clarkys@bigpond.net.au.
- The Market Day this year will be held on SATURDAY 29 OCT, at Sketchley Cottage. Start thinking about ways that you can support the Historical Society on the day, by donation of goods, your time, your ideas etc..... If you have some items, please contact a committee member so that they can be collected from you. Hope to see you there.
- Vicki Saunderson has resigned from the position of secretary. The pressures of work, and other commitments meant that she was unable to continue in the position. The Historical Society wishes to thank her for the contribution she has made throughout the year.





COOLGARDIE SAFES

Not so many years ago bush folk had only the Coolgardie safe to keep the milk and butter cool in, and for the most part it did its job remarkably well. There are many patterns of safes, but they all work on the same principle, which is to keep the air around the food cool by evaporating water.

The framework of the safe was made from galvanised iron, with simple hinged door and a wire latch, the whole affair being about 700 mm high. The top of the safe was made in the form of a reservoir and it sat in a shallow trap with a drip pipe attached to it.

The sides and back of the safe were made of towelling stitched to the frame by means of holes in the metal. This towelling extended right up the sides and over into the reservoir, which was filled with water.

The water saturated the cloth, and slowly soaked down through it, at the same time cooling the interior. When the water reached the bottom it dripped out through the small pipe and was caught in a bucket.

Every so often, depending on the wind and temperature, the reservoir would have to be refilled, and this was the sole amount of maintenance needed.

An inquest, was held at Mr. Ewens', Steam Ship Hotel, **Raymond** Terrace, on Saturday afternoon, 2nd November, before Mr. Shaw, coroner, on the body of William Gunn, who was drowned that day about eleven a.m. It appeared in evidence that the deceased was at work, in company with Neil Shaw, tarring the Opossum lighter, on the beach opposite the Terrace, and whilst at work a small boat belonging to the craft floated away. The deceased swam out with the intention of reaching the boat, and bringing it back; when about half way he called out to Shaw for assistance, who immediately sprang from the lighter and swam towards him, telling him to keep up for a minute, but before he reached the spot Gunn had sunk. Shaw dived, but was unable to see him in consequence of the muddy state of the river. Several boats came out, and Shaw got into one of them, stripped, and dived several times, bringing up mud each time, although at a depth of twenty-five to thirty feet. He was also joined by T. Craves and Mr. Cunninghame, who likewise stripped and dived. The body was found in about forty-five minutes, with grapnels, but life was extinct. The deceased was a young man, much respected, and leaves a wife and three children. Verdict: Accidentally drowned, whilst endeavouring to secure a boat that had drifted; with the following rider attached. "The jury wish to express their approbation of the exertions made by Neil Shaw, in his endeavours to save the deceased,"

(From another correspondent.)-To-day has been truly a day of accidents. On crossing in the punt this morning from **Raymond** Terrace to the Forest side of the river, on my way to Maitland, being only one man with the punt, I took hold of one of the handles to assist. We were both engaged at the one wheel. When nearly over, the handle caught the punt man, and lifted him up off the punt, stripping off his cloth, and inflicting a serious wound. He had to be taken over, as the attendance of a medical gentleman was required to stitch up the wound. Being a man advanced in years he will no doubt be longer in recovery. On my arrival at the punt, on my homeward journey, I heard the old yarn-the punt chain has again broken. No less a number than ten horses were waiting to cross, some of the owners having to perform a journey often to twelve miles after landing on the **Raymond** Terrace side of the river. Nothing injures the district more than such delay. The chain is completely worn out. I only wish that, those who stop business by such neglect had to wear a sharp piece of the old chain. I was very much grieved to find that Mr. William Gunn, while attending to the duties of his craft, was drowned. His boat getting adrift, he plunged into the river to recover the same, when he sank, and was not found for an hour, when life was extinct. His wife has lost a good husband, his children a kind father, and we have lost a townsman of which we could boast, and one which we could ill spare.

restraint and self-sacrifice and selfless love are generated and developed . . .

D. WATTS*

Moorebank

SOURCE: From *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 31 May 1948.

DRUDGERY IN THE HOME

A Woman Pleads For Leisure

To the Editor of the 'Herald'

Sir, — IS HOUSEWORK DRUDGERY? Of course it is, and every honest woman will admit it . . .

I want my husband to come home to a good meal and his slippers laid out, but I also want to be able to discuss or argue with him on current topics, to go to symphony concerts and the ballet, to have one holiday a year alone with him — in short not to be so fatigued by menial labours that I take no intelligent interest in what is going on in the world, lose my appreciation of music and books, and the romance that alone makes living with the same man year in, year out, bearable.

Give me communal laundries (what the eye doesn't see the heart doesn't grieve about), and nurseries, washing-up machines, electric polishers, and home deliveries, and I shall never nag my husband again.

ALL FOR LORD BEVERIDGE

Whale Beach

SOURCE: From *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 June 1948.

WEB SITES:

Some interesting web sites:-

1. Government Schools of NSW from 1848 –
www.governmentschools.det.nsw.edu.au
2. County Kildare Newspaper from 1880 – 1935
www.kildareobserver.nationalmicromedia.com/ko/
3. City of London Burials search www.cityoflondon.gov.uk then click on history and heritage
4. Historical Hospital Admission Records for children in British Hospitals 1852-1914 www.hharp.org

REPORT ON CANBERRA TRIP

Canberra Trip Report

Saturday 18 June 2011

We departed from Peter and Glenys's house at 7am.

We travelled via the Hume Highway to chilly Canberra.

The group visited the Australian War Memorial and enjoyed a guided tour.

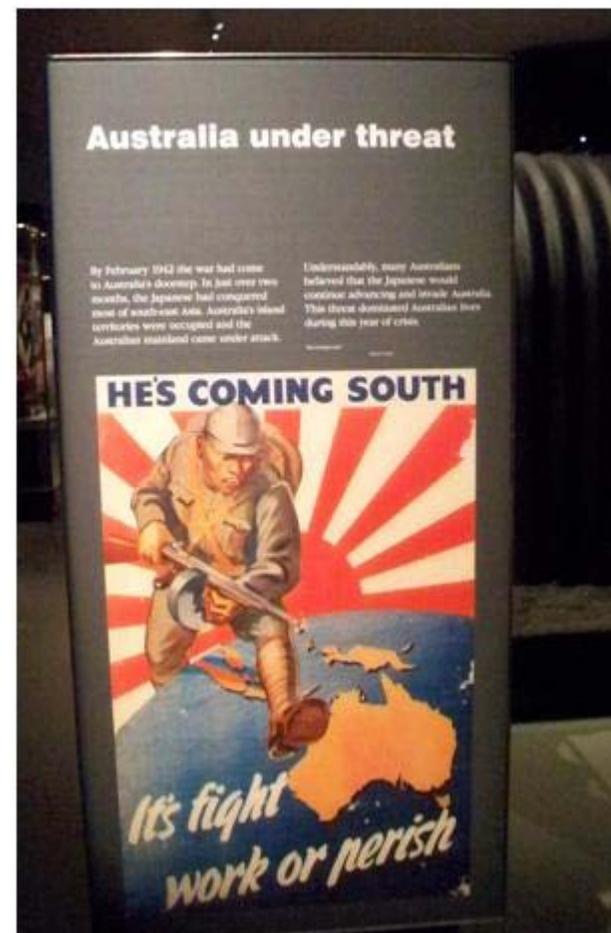


PHOTO BY TRISH HARRIS

A scrumptious dinner was had by all at the Ainslie Football Club.

Sunday morning, we toured the Irish Exhibition at the National Museum of Australia.

Also the history of certain Australian towns was on display on the first floor of the museum. For example Flemington Melbourne Cup, and Port Macquarie which was discovered by John Oxley.

A delightful weekend was enjoyed by all who were in attendance. A big thank you to Trish Harris for organising the event.

Written by David Gunter

PHOTO BY TRISH HARRIS



Is Housework Drudgery?

Home as a Hobby

To the Editor of the 'Herald'

LORD BEVERIDGE could not wish for a better proof for his assertion that the housewife is the greatest obstacle to any improvement in the task of housework than Western Australian 'Wife and Mother's' letter . . .

[She] loves her drudgery. It is her hobby. She scorns the idea of central heating, which does not give the same love (only is 10 times more efficient and cleaner); she cooks on an open fire like our romantic ancestors, and not on a cold-hearted gas stove. I hope she does not use a vacuum, but happily breathes in the dust. I hope she bakes her own bread and does not accept the standardised and loveless baker's bread.

Actually I agree with wife and mother. My home is my hobby, too. I take great pride in it. But my pride is not only in polished floors (and rough hands), open fire-places (and broken fingernails), the copper lit three times a week (and no time for reading or music). My pride is to make it a pleasant and interesting place to be in, and for myself to take part in its life — not only in its work.

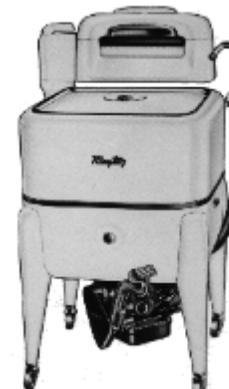
WIFE AND MOTHER

Mosman

SOURCE: From *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 May 1948.

. . . WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE AGES have found, in caring for a home, an emotional and aesthetic satisfaction, the absence of modern conveniences notwithstanding.

The evil at the core of the whole business of community housekeeping and community living is that they break up the home life in which self-



Following the story included in the September 2010 newsletter on the **Unification of Gauge** of the Australian Railway System, I was contacted by Dorothy Wedd, who said that she had some local documents and items that were relevant to the story.

Frank Brenan was the person instrumental in designing compound switches for mixed railway lines gauges which allowed trains to move from one gauge system to another smoothly, and with relatively little cost (compared with the cost of having to take up and replace huge sections of tracks, or change the features of rolling stock)

“On the 12th November 1915, a special invitation was issued by the N.S.W. Government to the Australian States to witness at Tocumwal on the Victorian border a practical test of Brennan's switches and Wilkin's system of application of fixed points for a change of common rail. The Governments of N.S.W., Victoria, Queensland and South Australia attended, numerous Ministers of Federal and State Governments, together with Members of Parliament, Railway Commissioners, officers of the Defence Department, and Railway Engineers. They were conveyed by special train from Sydney to Melbourne. The experiments were carried out on a specially laid track outside the station. The points

and crossings were designed by Mr. Chas. Wilkin, Consulting Engineer for the third rail system, to the N.S.W. Government, the whole being



THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES ARE TAKEN FROM “SUCH WAS LIFE – SELECTED DOCUMENTS IN AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL HISTORY VOL3 1914-1983” edited by RUSSEL WARD and JOHN ROBERTSON.

Aborigines count

The Liberal Party Prime Minister, Mr Harold Holt will be remembered best for two things – the dramatic manner of his death and his promotion of the ‘Aboriginal Referendum’ in May 1967. Citizens were asked merely to approve constitutional changes, to allow Aborigines to be counted like other people in Commonwealth censuses, and to give the Commonwealth power to make laws in respect of Aborigines. These changes made little, if any, immediate difference to the lives of the first Australians, but they were rightly seen by the voters as heralding a long-overdue ‘new deal’ for Aborigines.

RECORD YES ON SECOND ISSUE

Canberra, Sunday,

The sweeping majority of more than 10-1 in favour of the referendum on Aborigines yesterday was the biggest Yes vote in the history of Commonwealth referendums.

Only 9.03 per cent of the people voted against counting Aborigines in the census and allowing the Commonwealth to legislate for them.

The previous greatest majority was in a 1906 referendum which allowed Senate and House of Representatives elections to be held at the same time.

Then the majority for was four to one with all States in favour.

Despite the overwhelming majority vote on Saturday there were pockets of opposition to the Aborigines question, particularly in Western Australia, where the vote against was 18.56 per cent.

28 PER CENT

In the Western Australian electorate of Kalgoorlie more than 29 per cent of all votes cast opposed the proposal . . .

SOURCE: From *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 29 May 1967.

. Tests were made with the Brennan patent switches which formed a junction and which were completely signalled and interlocked. Trains of both States flew over the switches at close on 40 miles per hour without any indication of fault of any kind whatever.

Tests were then made on the turntable, when engines of both gauges, Victoria and New South Wales, were easily turned on the same turntable.

The demonstrations were highly successful, and the N.S.W. engineers were quite satisfied with the practicability of the inventions. Mr. Henry Hoyle, the Minister for Railways, who has taken the keenest interest in these tests, was congratulated on all hands on the energy he has displayed in bringing these demonstrations to a successful issue and proving beyond any doubt that the unification of the gauges can be accomplished on easy and economical lines.

It is to be hoped now that a means having been found whereby this great want can be remedied no time will be lost in giving effect to this much desired change. ”

Reprinted from The P.F.A. Quarterly Magazine, December, 1915

On visiting Monach Museum, I gathered the following information.

The Museum is in possession of a telegram that was sent from **Frank Brennan to his wife**, dated 12 Nov, 1915 saying

“Trial very successful – everything all right.”

Another Newspaper article at the Museum states

“Testing of Brennan’s Third Rail Device for overcoming the break of gauge difficulty was made at Thornley and Sons works at Sydenham. Comments were that they were greatly impressed by the invention”

From official Railway documents:

“BRENNAN’S PATENT COMPOUND SWITCHES FOR MIXED RAILWAY GAUGE

1913: Estimates of the cost of uniforming the 5’ 3” gauges of Victoria and South Australia with the standard gauge of 4’ 8 ½ “ by changing over the railway tracks is £7 million

: Estimate of the cost using Brennan’s method is £1.6 million

: Estimate of the cost of altering the whole of the 5’ 3” and 3’ 6” railways lines and rolling stock of the Commonwealth to 4’ 8 ½” gauge is £37 million

: Estimate by Brennan” method is £2.6 million.

A model coal truck, that was presented to Frank Brennan, by the Government of the day is held by the Museum, and contains this plaque:-

“A model of a Coal Truck -1915, that was presented to Mr Frank Brennan, the inventor and Patentee of the Compound Switches for Mixed Railway Gauges by the NSW Government in appreciation. Frank Brennan’s switches saved the State Governments of Australia millions of pounds.”

Thanks to Dorothy and Monty Wedd for their ongoing interest and the support that they give to the Historical Society.

By Faye Clark

QUOTES:

One of the things that people haven’t quite twigged to is that carbon dioxide is invisible, it’s weightless and it’s odourless, how are we going to police these emissions?” (2SM, 7 July 2011). Tony Abbott

The past is never fully gone. It is absorbed into the present and the future. It stays to shape what we are and what we do. Sir William Deane 1996

Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness.

Martin Luther King, Jr.