



Reflections

Newsletter of the
Phillip Island and District
Genealogical Society Inc.

Inc. No A0023887G

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November 2017

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In June 1997 Stuart Thomas, the founding editor of 'Reflections' and designer of our logo, resigned due to ill health. Yvonne Hancock, our secretary at the time, asked me to edit one edition until 'someone could be found to take on the job permanently'. Twenty years and eighty two editions later, that person has finally volunteered. Thank you to Genevieve Hayes who will be taking over as editor, starting with the February 2018 edition. Many thanks also to everyone who has sent me articles and items of interest over the years – I couldn't have done it without you.

Jan

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All meetings are held at our rooms, 56 Chapel St., Cowes

Saturday 25 November 2017 at 12 noon End of Year Lunch at the San Remo Hotel.

We need to know approximate numbers. To confirm, please RSVP by 23 November to piadgs@gmail.com with 'Xmas lunch' in the subject line or phone Genevieve on 0418 545 569. Also, let us know if you need assistance with transport.

Saturday 2 December 2017 Family Tree Maker User Group 1.15 for a 1.30pm start .

Cost: \$2.00 for members; \$5.00 for non-members

A short demonstration of the VICGum Instructional video and a look at the FTM2017 chart backgrounds and embellishments.

Share your problems and discoveries using the new version of FTM. Please RSVP by 30 November to piadgs@gmail.com with 'FTM' in the subject line for catering purposes and send any specific questions you may have as well.

Bring along your laptop, notebook or usb, but don't forget the GOLDEN RULE to back-up your work prior to the session

Thursday 26 January 2018 12 noon. Australia Day BBQ

Saturday 3 February 2018 Family Tree Maker User Group.

Further details closer to the date.

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE:

The rooms will close at 4 pm Thursday 21 December and reopen on Tuesday 10 January 2018.

AGM and BBQ 16 September 2017

Due to bad weather, the meal had to be moved inside, but everyone seemed to enjoy the day.



Outgoing President Sue Lilley, who is moving to Queensland, was thanked by Bob Hayes for her contribution to the group over a number of years

**YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2017 / 2018**

President: Bob Hayes

Vice President: Jan Andrews

Secretary: Malcolm Swaine

Treasurer: Bernie Billman

General Committee: Jean Dunstan

Genevieve Hayes

Duncan McPherson

REFLECTIONS OF EUROPE

by Duncan McPherson

November is generally a cheery sort of month for it brings some nurturing spring weather and the opportunity for an extra-long weekend and maybe a wager or sweep on the Melbourne Cup, plus it signals that Christmas is fast approaching as shops kick off the festive spirit festooned with bright, glittering adornments.

Just as everyone knows what happens on the first Tuesday on the month, equally most know the significance of the 11th of the month, Remembrance Day - a sombre occasion marked by genuine reflections.

While selling poppies on behalf of the RSL this year, my mind wandered back to a wonderful trip that my wife Cynthia and I enjoyed a few months earlier. We first travelled through Central Europe on a Trafalgar coach tour, then after a short sojourn in the Alsace wine region of France, we backed up with another Trafalgar tour of the Benelux countries - Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg.

It is impossible to tour these regions without being engulfed by the history and tragedy of the many conflicts that embroiled them. Indeed, that's part of their appeal. For me, a veteran of 12 years army service including Vietnam and many more ANZAC Days thereafter, the European theatres of the two world wars are something of a magnet. So, to be sitting outside the Cowes newsagency selling blood-red poppies after visiting Flanders Fields on the 100th anniversary of many famous WW1 battles was indeed a real privilege.

A couple of years ago, we revelled in a self-drive tour of Northern France and visited the Normandy landing beaches and the immaculately groomed Commonwealth war graves at Villers Bretonneux. However, on this trip with specialist guides, the experience was somewhat more absorbing. We went to the poignant Tyne Kot cemetery at Passchendaele – the largest of The British cemeteries with nearly 12,000 graves and to the Menin Gate at Ypres which bears the names of 55,000 missing soldiers with no known grave, including 6,000 Australians. We also visited US military cemeteries in Luxembourg City where General George Patton got his wish to “be buried with my men”, and the Ardennes Battle of the Bulge Memorial in Belgium.



At the Menin Gate with Colonel Scott Clingan, Assistant Defence Attache at the Australian Embassy in Paris.

The nightly commemoration at the Menin Gate attracts a huge attendance and I was very proud of Australia's lead role in the ceremony.

I was told that the number of Australians visiting Commonwealth War Cemeteries in search of fallen ancestors continues to grow year on year and provides an unparalleled sense of fulfilment.

Away from battles and memorials we also hit the tourist hotspots and soaked up cultural highlights in Poland, Hungary, Austria, the Czech Republic and Germany. Sightseeing in Beautiful historic cities, medieval towns, canal cruising, wining and dining, exploring fabulous castles, chocolate factories, galleries, museums, breweries and salt mines; we certainly were spoiled. That is not to forget the obligatory palaces and cathedrals which really are amazing repositories of construction technique and cultural wealth. But, selling poppies in November did draw my mind back to reflect on other places where we stopped like the infamous Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, the Belgium War Museum in Brussels, At Berlin's Brandenburg Gate complete with patched up bullet holes, the Reichstag Building, Checkpoint Charlie and other remnants of the Berlin Wall. A visit to the 1815 Waterloo memorial and battlefield in Belgium where the Duke of Wellington defeated Napoleon was another step back in time.

Of the capital cities, Warsaw really surprised us with its magnificent reconstruction of 'the old town' in the pre-War style. Meandering around there it was hard to imagine that the city was mostly flattened by constant German aerial bombing, artillery barrages and planned demolition in WW2. A trip to the Warsaw Ghetto and grim Jewish memorials was yet again, another sobering reminder of the horrors of Nazi occupied Europe.

On the brighter side, Luxembourg City was a real revelation. It is positively booming. Away from the scenic old fortified city, there's a burgeoning new suburb recently created to house

institutions of the European Union and banks that are now undermining the long-held Swiss monopoly.

The canal-based city of Bruges in Belgium was unique for different reasons. The centre of the city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and superbly preserved. No visible masts or TV aerials are permitted, nor are buses or heavy vehicles on the cobblestone streets and there are no fuel stations. All resupply is done by light commercial vehicles ferrying goods from transport hubs outside the city centre.

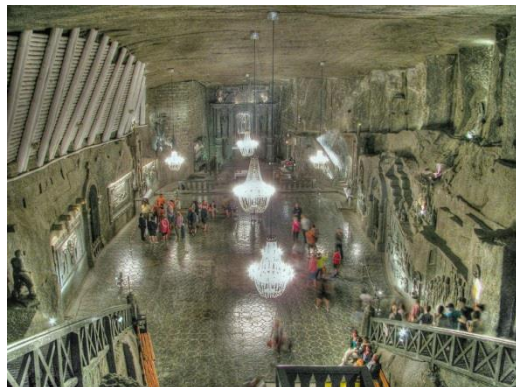
The German city of Trier on the banks of the Moselle boasts a captivating history and remarkable Roman ruins headlined by the Porta Nigra (Black Gate) and the Aula Palatina – a 67m long throne hall built in the 4th century for Roman Emperor Constantine and which incredibly is still in use today as a Protestant church.

When pressed, as I sometimes am for an opinion of my ultimate highlight amongst the myriad of Bohemian splendours, I can't go past the evening dinner cruise on the beautiful blue Danube in Budapest. The magnificently floodlit bridges, government buildings on the 'Pest' bank and Buda Castle plus Fisherman's Bastion on the 'Buda' side were absolutely spectacular. Similarly, Cynthia struggled to pick just one above all others but finally nominated the 700 year old Wieliczka Salt mine in Krakow. She thought the elaborate carvings and personal touches in the 287 kilometres of shafts at up to 327 metres deep, plus the mind-boggling underground chapel, and tavern, deserved top billing.

We followed well worn (and professionally arranged) footsteps through much of Europe and there's not one that we wouldn't retrace, all things being equal. Accordingly we thoroughly recommend the experience to anyone lucky enough to do something similar.



That's some reflection – the Hungarian Parliament building in Budapest.



The underground chapel in the Wieliczka Salt Mine in Krakow

Flies are another nuisance; they swarm in every room in tens of thousands and blacken the breakfast or dinner table as soon as the viands appear, tumbling into the cream, tea, wine and gravy with the most disgusting familiarity. But worse than these are the mosquitoes, nearly as numerous and infinitely more detestable to those for whose luckless bodies they form an attachment, as they do to most newcomers; a kind of initiatory compliment which I would gladly dispense with, for most intolerable is the torment they cause in the violent irritation of their mountainous bites

Louisa Meredith. Notes and Sketches of New South Wales

John Rose, Belchwood:

John Rose, Died Jan. 27. 1810, aged 10 years.
*Dr Friends and companions all,
 Pray warning take by me,
 Don't venture on the ice too far
 As 'twas the death of me.*

Anonymous, Whitby:

*Sudden and unexpected was the end
 Of our esteemed and beloved friend,
 He gave to all his friends a sudden shock
 By one day falling into Sunderland dock*

<http://shadowsofetime.co.nz>

A number of our members met at the R.S.L. on October 27 for a farewell dinner for Sue Lilley and her partner Horst. We wish them the best of luck in their new life in Queensland.



MORE FREE INTERNET SITES

New Zealand gravestone photos and newspaper transcriptions

<http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~ashleigh/>

Dundee Scotland records: numerous subjects www.fdca.org.uk/Dundee_Records.html

Find a will or probate document (England and Wales) 1858 -

<https://www.gov.uk/search-will-probate>

Will Calendars indexes for the District Probate Registries of Armagh, Belfast and Londonderry, 1858-1965; and view copy wills c.1858-1909.

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/search-archives-online/will-calendars>

PHILLIP ISLAND IN THE NEWS

PHILLIP ISLAND

Aerial Landing Ground

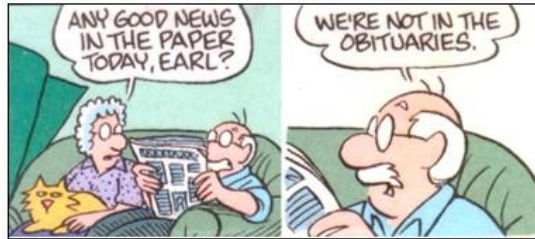
Although for quite a number of years aeroplanes have landed on Phillip Island, and efforts to have an aerial derby race round Phillip Island the absence of a licensed aerodrome precluded the holding of the race.

It was found that Cr. J. Grayden's paddock, where landings were made last visiting season, when the Matthew Aviation Co. conducted a daily passenger service from before Christmas till the end of January did not conform to the requirements of the Aviation Department.

A request was then made to the department for an officer to be sent to select a suitable landing ground, and Colonel Brinsmead and Lieut. McComb paid visits to various properties with the result that a paddock owned by Mr. Sambell about 3 miles distant from Cowes on the Main road leading to the Back Beach was selected. Being in a rough and uncleared state, much work has been put in during the winter to ploughing and sowing down in grass the selected site, and last week a private plane made the first landing, and the airmen expressed their satisfaction with things as they found them. Then last Saturday Lieut. McComb, of the Aviation Department paid an official visit of inspection, and has approved of the ground, and it will now be regarded a recognised aerodrome.

It is expected that this will be the means now of inducing many privately owned planes to visit the Island and so increase its popularity.

Frankston and Somerville Standard.
Saturday 3 January 1931



GRIFFITHS' POINT LICENSING COURT.

Before Messrs. F. Hare, P.M., D. Reid, and A. Stewart, J.S.P.

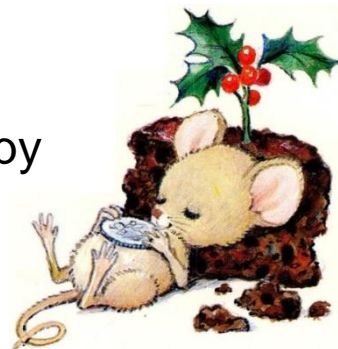
The following licenses were granted :— Francis Bauer, Isle of Wight Hotel, Cowes; James William Wood, Wood's Family Hotel, Cowes; John B. O'Meara, Bass Hotel, Bass; James Stephenson, Woolamai Inn, Bass; Thomas Bergin, Griffiths' Point Hotel, Griffiths' Point; Wm. Fraser, Pier Hotel, do.; J. Dickins, Grantville Hotel, Grantville; L. H. Williams, Victoria Hotel, Queensferry; A. Jansen, Prince Alfred Hotel, Grantville; James Carew, Kalcunda Hotel, Kalcunda. —A billiard-table license was granted to J. Dickins, Grantville.

No objections were made to any except that of James Carew, which was opposed by Senior Constable Taylor on the ground of applicant's intemperate habits. The Bench exacted a promise from Carew of more temperate behaviour in future, and the license was granted.

An application was made by Francis Bauer, of Cowes, for six stage carriage licenses, which was postponed to 23rd inst., to allow of the vehicles being examined and the number of passengers that each should carry determined.

South Bourke and Mornington Journal.
Wednesday 13 December 1882

Best wishes for a very merry
Christmas and a safe and happy
(and genealogically successful)
2018



IGA COWES

Anyone shopping at the IGA Grocery store in Cowes, please give our **Shopper Number 595** and all credits will go to the Phillip Island and District Genealogical Society Inc. It would be most appreciated by the Committee if you could spare a few points.