

# Reflections

Newsletter of the  
Phillip Island and District  
Genealogical Society Inc.

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Hello everyone, my first Reflections will be a mixed bag, I do hope that it provides some interesting reading for all of you.\_

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>17 March</b>	<b>Recording Family History with Linda Starke</b>
<b>7 April</b>	<b>Family Tree Maker User Group Discussion</b>
<b>21 April</b>	<b>Brick Wall Discussion</b>
<b>13 August</b>	<b>Rate Books Launch</b>

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## 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

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH 25 NOV 2017 at San Remo Hotel**



**AUSTRALIA DAY 25 January 2018**

Due to uncertain weather, we spent the time inside, everyone was very comfortably seated & enjoyed a lengthy chat.



## PAST NEWS ROUNDUP

## Progressive Cowes

### TWO NEW BUILDINGS OPENED.

#### Hospital and Guest House.

Two important events in the life of Cowes, Phillip Island, occurred in happy circumstances on Saturday afternoon, when the Warley Bush Nursing Hospital, presented to the island by Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Thompson, residents of Cowes, and the newly erected Continental Guest House were officially declared open. Both functions were witnessed by a large number of people, including about 80 who travelled to the island from Melbourne for the occasion. The hospital was opened by the president of the Bush Nursing Association (Lady Mitchell), and the ceremony at the Continental was performed by Sir James Barrett. In the evening the visitors from the city were entertained at dinner by the directors of Continental Pty. Ltd. at the guest house.

Warley Hospital is ideally situated for its purpose. Accommodation is provided for six patients, and an operating theatre, with modern appliances, including a 600-candle power lamp, presented by the manager of the Cyclone Fencing Pty. Ltd. (Mr. Chambers), is provided.

#### PUBLIC SPIRIT OF RESIDENTS.

In introducing Lady Mitchell, Mr. E. V. McHenry, a member of the hospital committee, said that the idea to establish the hospital originated at a meeting of the Cowes Branch of the Australian Women's National League. Realising the need of the island for a hospital, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson agreed to purchase Warley if the residents undertook to furnish and equip it. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson bought the property at a cost of nearly £2,000, and as the result of donations and a canvass of the island a substantial sum was received towards the maintenance of the institution. Since the hospital was established the receipts, including the £200 donation from the Edward Wilson ("The Argus") Trust, had been £628 5/9, and the credit balance in the bank was £414 2/4.

#### "FINE SENSE OF CITIZENSHIP."

Lady Mitchell said that not only Cowes, but the whole of Victoria, was under a debt of gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Thompson for their generosity and fine sense of citizenship. She hoped that many other people would follow their example. Very little sympathy was to be felt with the view of people who said that what was good enough for the past generation was good enough for the present generation itself. It should be regarded as a debt of honour to the

generation itself. It should be regarded as a debt of honour to the memory of the early settlers to do all that could be done for their descendants. She knew of no better way of paying the debt of honour than by making provision to care for the health of the families of the people in the country.

Lady Mitchell read a letter from His Excellency the Governor (the Earl of Stradbroke) and the Countess of Stradbroke, expressing regret at their inability to attend the opening ceremony, and wishing the hospital every success. Lady Mitchell said that Lady Stradbroke also had personally asked her to convey her good wishes.

Sir James Barrett said that the formation of such hospitals pointed the way to the solution of the medical problem throughout the country. Hospitals of the kind would in time be built in all parts of the State.

In acknowledging thanks expressed to himself and Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Thompson said that he was very pleased with the way the residents had subscribed towards the maintenance of the hospital for the first year. He was confident that they would continue their support.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the visitors adjourned to The Continental, where the chairman of directors (Mr. M. Bleechmore) presented Sir James Barrett with an engraved silver key, and asked him to declare the guest house open.

Sir James Barrett, in performing the ceremony, praised the enterprise of the company in providing such modern and comfortable accommodation for visitors to the island. The guest house, he said, would furnish a standard for similar houses in all parts of the State.

#### PHILIP ISLAND AS A SANCTUARY.

In proposing the toast of "The Continental," at the dinner in the evening, Sir James Barrett referred to the natural advantages of Phillip Island. These, he said, probably were not equalled in any other part of the world. Among the many attractions were the mutton birds, which were to be found at about a dozen places along the coast. Unfortunately the mutton birds were doomed unless the foxes were wholly destroyed, and the rabbits kept under control.

#### SUGGESTED NEW SHIRE.

Sir James Barrett asked whether it was not time that Phillip Island managed its own affairs, and had its own shire council. If it did, he said, all of its problems would become more easy of solution.

In responding to the toast, Mr. Bleechmore said that conditions on Phillip Island were wholly favourable to the formation of a separate Shire Council. While it remained portion of a shire with headquarters on the mainland nothing of advantage would be done. Once the new shire was established, the creation of the reserve would become easier. The taking of the eggs of mutton birds should be stopped, otherwise the birds would gradually be exterminated.

The sum of £8 16/3 was collected for the funds of the hospital during the evening.

#### GUEST HOUSE.

In the planning of the Continental, says the "Argus," several features of Indian and American bungalow construction have been adopted. The guest house is close to Cowes Jetty, and is only a few yards from the beach. It is a one-story building, containing 42 bedrooms, and has a verandah 100 feet long in front. At each end, the verandah is 12 feet wide, and in the centre its width is 20 feet. The floor is polished for dancing, and folding glass doors lead on to the verandah from an artistically furnished, paneled lounge. The livingroom will accommodate 100 persons. The boarding house regulations under the Health Act demand that 60 square feet shall be provided for each person, but in this building 80 square feet has been allowed for each person. A hot water service has been installed, and hot and cold showers and baths are available at all times of the day. Modern sanitation has also been provided. Lawns are to be planted in front of the building, and other features will be tennis courts, a croquet lawn, bowling green, and clock putting green. All but the bowling green will be ready for use at Christmas. The cost of the building, furnishings, and land was nearly £20,000.

In responding to the toast, Mr.

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AND FROM FACEBOOK



**Anne Therese Courtney** ▶ **Pioneers Victoria**

4 hrs · 🌐



For the Family History Buffs, we all know what it is like, scrambling through the blackberries, trying to read what is written on old Grave stones.....

Three Irishmen, Paddy, Sean and Seamus, were stumbling home from the pub late one night and found themselves on the road which led past the old graveyard.

"Come have a look over here," says Paddy, "It's Michael O'Grady's grave, God bless his soul. He lived to the ripe old age of 87."

"That's nothing," says Sean, "here's one named Patrick O'Toole, it says here that he was 95 when he died."

Just then, Seamus yells out, "Good God, here's a fella that got to be 145!"

"What was his name?" asks Paddy.

Seamus stumbles around a bit, awkwardly lights a match to see what else is written on the stone marker, and exclaims, "Miles, from Dublin."

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### **MORE FREE INTERNET SITES**

An interesting blog showing how to use the Ryerson Index.

<http://theindepthgenealogist.com/introducing-ryerson-index/>

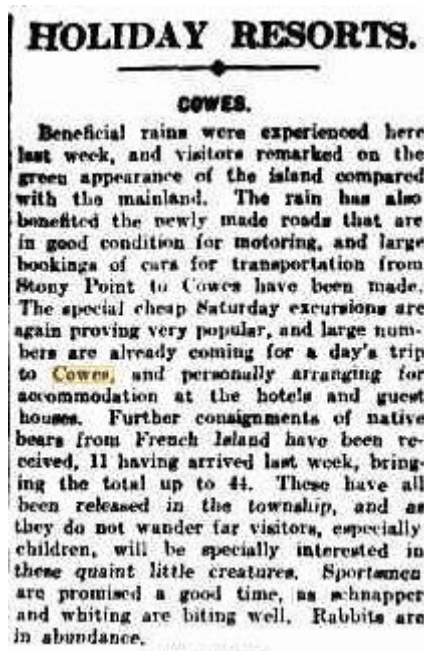
Also a list of pages on Facebook for Australian history and genealogy.

<https://www.lonetester.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Facebook-Genealogy-Australia-2017-12-29.pdf>

Thank you to Elaine Alexander for this information



## PHILLIP ISLAND IN THE NEWS



The Argus Wednesday 29 December 1926

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Those wonderful rabbits are still in abundance as my front garden shows.

WE support The Genealogical Society of Victoria inc.  
who through our membership are able to provide

RESEARCH

LIBRARY BOOKSHOP  
ASSISTANCE

EDUCATION



We are able to access the valuable resource of

GENEALOGICAL INDEX OF NAMES which is a valuable tool for  
researching in Victoria.

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### 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.

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