

Nibbles: In this issue of Nibbles ... Our blast from the past is about Parker's Cottage which first appeared in an article written by our noted historian Lindsay Braden and was then rewritten for our October 1995 newsletter. But first of all the quiz ...

Quiz: Try your luck at these questions. The answers are towards the end of this issue (no peeking).

Q.1. Which three events occurred on November 11th ?

Q.2. In which year was gold first discovered near Ballarat in Victoria?

Q.3. What was the value of the coin known as the florin?

Q.4. The longest official place name in Australia is Mamungkukumpurangkuntjunya Hill. What state is it in?

Q.5. In which year was Vegemite officially launched?

Parker's Cottage: What a pity Anglesea has lost so much of its early structures because of fire. Lindsay Braden, our (then) Historical Society researcher, gave us a pen picture of the home built by the man who gave his name to Parker Street. Mr Parker was a leading Geelong ironmonger whose well known business could be seen at 54 Moorabool Street. In 1886 he purchased one of George Noble's blocks on the west side of the river and built a cottage there named "Marguerite House." William Parker used this lodging as a rental investment and occasionally occupied it during the popular New Year period. It would seem that his interest in the area came through his sister, Alice Jackson, who owned and ran the first Anglesea Hotel. Although the cottage did not appear on the Shire of Winchelsea's rate books until 1889, a once only advertisement in the Geelong Advertiser of the 19th January 1887 advised that a comfortable furnished cottage was to let at Anglesea River and to apply at William Parker's Ironmonger Shop in Geelong.



This small never to be repeated announcement was completely successful, as over the years, apparently by word of mouth, many of Anglesea's pioneering holiday-makers stayed at Parkers. They then "sussed" the area out before acquiring one of Noble's acre blocks for a future getaway cottage.

The three bedroom double-fronted holiday abode occupied a one acre space which fronted today's Parker Street just below McMillan's Blink Bonnie. All the material for this cottage would have been carted across the soft sand at the river mouth, as the bridge did not exist at that time. It was placed to enjoy the magnificent scenery on the coast towards Pt Addis and the Port Phillip Heads. This beautiful view was eliminated by tall trees planted by some of our early families further downhill; no thought given to the future!

"What happened to the cottage?" you may well ask. "Marguerite House" was burnt to the ground by a bushfire. Whereas it was saved from the disastrous 1908 fire, it was not so lucky with the calamitous one of 1919, which fanned by a northerly wind swept downwards into the valley and raced across to the seaboard. A nearby neighbour who witnessed the cottage's demise described it as "going up like a matchbox." Just one year previously William Parker had sold the property to Mrs Elizabeth Appleton, sister of Annie McMillan in Blink Bonnie next door. Although the Geelong Advertiser reported that the structure would be rebuilt almost immediately, it never eventuated. The fire-cleared land was later sold to a well known Geelong solicitor who, during 1955, subdivided it into eight sites just west of today's Peter Avenue. As a matter of interest, Elizabeth Appleton was the wife of William Thomas Appleton, after whom Melbourne's "Appleton Dock" is named.



William Parker was a prominent member of the Geelong Football Club. He retired to Fischer Street Torquay, died in 1928 aged 79, and is buried at Mt Duneed. (A&DHS Newsletter October 1995)

Resale Shed Reopening: We have just received word that the Resale Shed will open shortly. However, there will be some changes. Each shift will need to be three people. Each person will need to be briefed on the new safety rules and taught how to use the eftpos machine, which I believe is not difficult. There will be a morning and an afternoon shift when our members serve people wishing to purchase items from the resale shed. The resale shed is one of our main sources of income and we need to raise as much money as possible towards our rebuilding project. If you can assist at the resale shed on a Saturday please let one of the committee members know. We usually get rostered on once a quarter. (Jan Morris)

Annual General Meeting: This year we intend to hold the AGM on Sunday December 6th 2020 via zoom from 2:00pm. Annual reports are attached to this email. All committee positions will be declared vacant. If you wish to nominate for a committee position, complete the attached nomination form and either email it or post it back to the appropriate address listed above. To date, nominations have been received for the following Committee positions:

President: Jan Morris

Vice President: Karl Jacklin

Secretary: Karl Jacklin

Treasurer: Chris Guerow

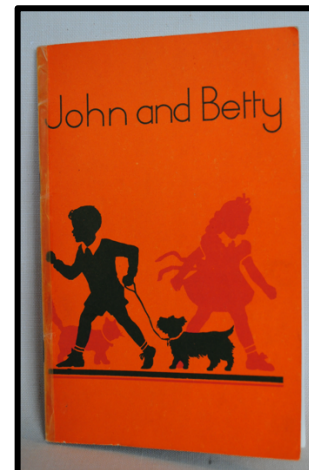
Committee: (of which there are five additional positions). Nominations have been received from Jim Tutt, Keith Hornibrook, Susan Clarke and Barry Davidson.

You will be notified by email of the zoom link closer to the date of the meeting. If you are not able to join the meeting by zoom, History House will be opened for up to 10 members in strict accordance with the Shire's isolation guidelines. Only 2020 financial members will be eligible to vote.

Family History Update: No Xmas raffle this year. Regrettably we are unable to hold our major fundraising event this year, and there will be no Xmas get-together. At least you are spared the annual quiz! However, the good news is that we are planning the resumption of our program of speakers and excursions from next February (COVID restrictions permitting) so check out the forthcoming edition of the Inverloch Log for details. (Susan)

Victorian Education Department Readers: Who doesn't remember these readers? These books are in our collection with other Victorian Education Department Readers in the First, Second etc. series. We regularly receive queries from visitors to our Victorian Collections site from grandparents who want to know if they can buy them for their grandchildren!

John and Betty was the earliest reader for little ones, with all colour illustrations. Playmates was the Victorian readers first book with black and white, and a few colour, illustrations. Holidays was the Victorian readers second book. A set of teaching flash cards with single words and sentences went with John and Betty - these resources are missing unfortunately. Playmates and Holidays were the only reader for the year. The readers have soft cardboard covers and were published 1951 - 1953. (Susan Clarke)



Answers to the Quiz: Q.1 Armistice signed ending World War 1 (1918); the dismissal of Gough Whitlam as Prime Minister (1975), the execution of Ned Kelly (1880). Q.2 1851 Q.3 Two shillings (or 20¢) Q.4 South Australia Q.5 1923

The month of November:

November 17, 1558 - Queen Elizabeth I ascended the throne of England at the age of 25, reigning until 1603 when she was 69. Under her leadership, England became a world power, defeating the Spanish Armada, and witnessed a golden age of literature featuring works by William Shakespeare, Edmund Spenser and others.

November 17, 1869 - The Suez Canal was formally opened after more than 10 years of construction.

November 19, 1863 - President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address during ceremonies dedicating 17 acres of the Gettysburg Battlefield as a National Cemetery. Although many in attendance were at first unimpressed with Lincoln's two-minute address, his words came to symbolize the definition of democracy itself.

Historical Jokes:

1. Last night on "Dancing with the Tsars" Peter and Catherine were Great but Ivan was Terrible.
2. Why did Karl Marx dislike Earl Grey tea? Because proper tea is theft.
3. How did the Ancient Romans cut their hair? With a pair of Caesars.